

\article{
 \presentation{Outline
 χ^2 distributions}}

\allowframebreaks]Introduction

This material comes primarily from [] [Chapter 6]rice07.

Here, we introduce several important distributions that arise from transformations applied to normal distributions. Many of these distributions form the basis of traditional statistical inference procedures that are taught in introductory statistics courses. They are very useful in practice due to the central limit theorem: with enough observations, the limiting behavior of nearly any random variable follows a normal distribution.

\allowframebreaks] χ^2_ν Distribution

The first distribution we will consider is the χ^2_1 (Chi-square with 1 degree of freedom).

Definition: χ^2_1 distribution If Z is a standard normal random variable, then $X = Z^2$ is called the chi-square distribution with 1 degree of freedom. We typically use the notation $X \sim \chi^2_1$ (in LaTeX: \chi).

The pdf of χ^2_1 Let X follow a χ^2_1 distribution. Then, the pdf of X is given by

\article{
 \presentation{There are a few ways to show this is the case, and was one of the early examples we saw in Chapter 2. For practice, let's derive the probability density function of $X = Z^2$, where Z is a standard normal random variable. Recall the standard normal density is:

Lemma 6.1: Independent Normal RVs Let X and Y be normally distributed random variables. Then X and Y are independent if and only if $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$.

The above statement can be proved using the factorization theorem, and considering the MGF or pdf of a bivariate normal distribution. Recall that for most distributions, independence implies $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$, but not the other way around.

It turns out that the normal distribution is the only distribution that has this property.

Theorem 6.1: Independence of Deviations Let X_1, \dots, X_n be iid $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ random variables. Then, \bar{X}_n is independent of $X_i - \bar{X}_n$ for all i .

Proof. First, note that \bar{X}_n is normally distributed. Using Lemma 6.1, all we need to do is argue that the deviations are independent.

$$= \text{Cov}\left(\sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{n} X_j, X_i\right) - \text{Cov}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{n} X_i, \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{n} X_j\right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{n} \text{Cov}(X_i, X_i) - \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{n^2} \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j)$$

$$= \frac{\sigma^2}{n} - \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=j}^n \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j)$$

$$= \frac{\sigma^2}{n} - \frac{1}{n^2} (n\sigma^2) = 0.$$

Thus, by Lemma 6.1, \bar{X}_n is independent of $X_i - \bar{X}_n$ for all i .

Corollary 6.1 If the X_i are iid $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$, then \bar{X}_n is independent of the sample variance S^2 , defined by

First recall from one of our homework problems that S^2 is an unbiased estimate of σ^2 : $E[S^2] = \sigma^2$ (Note that S^2 is an unbiased estimator of σ^2 because $E[S^2] = E[\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2] = \sigma^2$).

From Theorem 6.1, if the X_i are normally distributed, then \bar{X}_n is independent of the vector $(X_i - \bar{X}_n)_{i=1}^n$. Because S^2 is an unbiased estimator of σ^2 , it follows that S^2 is independent of \bar{X}_n .

Theorem 6.2 If the X_i are iid normal, then $(n-1)S^2/\sigma^2$ has a chi-square distribution with $n-1$ degrees of freedom.

Proof. First recall how we defined the χ^2_n distribution. First, if we square a standard normal $Z \sim N(0, 1)$, then $Z^2 \sim \chi^2_1$.

and therefore

The sample variance

allowframebreaks=0.8]References and Acknowledgements

Compiled on using Rversion 4.5.2.

Licensed under the http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial license.

We acknowledge https://jeswheel.github.io/4450_f25/acknowledge.html students and instructors for previous versions of this document.

Acknowledgments

Compiled on using Rversion 4.5.2.

Licensed under the <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial license

We acknowledge https://jeswheel.github.io/4450_f25/acknowledge.html students and instructors for previous versions of this document.