

article;

presentation; [Outline](#)

$\chi^2$  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

They are very useful in practice due to the central limit theorem: with enough observations, the limiting behavior of ne

[[allowframebreaks] $\chi^2$  Distribution

The first distribution we will consider is the  $\chi_1^2$  (Chi-square with 1 degree of freedom).

Definition:  $\chi_1^2$  distribution If  $Z$  is a standard normal random variable, then  $X = Z^2$  is called the chi-square distribution

We typically use the notation  $X \sim \chi_1^2$  (in LaTeX: `\chi`).

The pdf of  $\chi_1^2$  Let  $X$  follow a  $\chi_1^2$  distribution. Then, the pdf of  $X$  is given by

article; There are a few ways to show this is the case, and was one of the early examples we saw in Chapter 2. For pra

By definition,  $X$  has the same distribution of  $Z^2$ , where  $Z$  is a standard normal.

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 the vector  $(X_i - \bar{X}_n)_{i=1}^n$ . First, note that  $\bar{X}_n$  is normally distributed. Using Lemma 6.1, all we need to do is argue that the deviations are uncorrelated with  $\bar{X}_n$ .

$$\begin{aligned} &= \text{Cov}\left(\sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{n} X_j, X_i\right) - \text{Cov}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{n} X_i, \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{n} X_j\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \text{Cov}(X_i, X_i) - \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{1}{n^2} \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) \\ &= \frac{\sigma^2}{n} - \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=j}^n \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) \\ &= \frac{\sigma^2}{n} - \frac{1}{n^2} (n\sigma^2) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

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

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  $\sigma^2$ :  $E[S^2] = \sigma^2$  (Note that  $S^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2$ ). 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 a function of this vector,  $\bar{X}_n$  and  $S^2$  are independent.

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.

First recall how we defined the  $\chi_n^2$  distribution. First, if we square a standard normal  $Z \sim N(0, 1)$ , then  $Z^2 \sim \chi_1^2$ .

and therefore

The sample variance

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](https://jeswheel.github.io/4450_f25/acknowledge.html) students and instructors for previous versions of this presentation.

## 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/4450f25/acknowledge.html> *students and instructors for previous version software*.