9.17 Suppose that $X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n$ and $Y_1, Y_2, \ldots, Y_n$ are independent random samples from populations with means μ_1 and μ_2 and variances σ_1^2 and σ_2^2, respectively. Show that $\overline{X} - \overline{Y}$ is a consistent estimator of $\mu_1 - \mu_2$.

9.18 In Exercise 9.17, suppose that the populations are normally distributed with $\sigma_1^2 = \sigma_2^2 = \sigma^2$. Show that

$$\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n}(X_i - \overline{X})^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{n}(Y_i - \overline{Y})^2}{2n - 2}$$

is a consistent estimator of σ^2.