

Ch8 Sampling distributions of estimators

Let $X_1, \dots, X_n | \theta$ be an iid random sample from $f(x|\theta)$ for unknown $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$. We consider an estimator $\hat{\theta}$ for θ .

1. We aim to quantify how likely it is that the observed value of $\hat{\theta}$ will be close to the true parameter θ , prior to sampling.

Compute $P(|\hat{\theta} - \theta| < .01)$, and see whether it is close to 1.

2. We aim to construct an interval around our estimate that is likely to contain the true value of θ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{point estimate} & & \text{interval estimate} \\ \hat{\theta} = 2.3 & \rightarrow & 2.2 < \theta < 2.4 \end{array}$$

To resolve these goals, the dist. of $\hat{\theta}$ is required!
 ↑
 "sampling dist. of $\hat{\theta}$ " Ch 8.1

Particularly, we study sampling dist. of two estimators:

$$\bar{X}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \quad \text{and} \quad T' = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2 \quad \begin{matrix} \text{Ch 8.2} \\ -8.4 \end{matrix}$$

We study how to construct a confidence interval
 Ch 8.5

"Unbiased" Ch 8.7

"C-R lower bound" Ch 8.8.

} evaluating
the performance
of $\hat{\theta}$.

Ch8.1 Sampling distribution of a statistic

a function of X_1, \dots, X_n

Definition. Let T be a statistic, $T(X_1, \dots, X_n)$. The distribution of T is called the sampling dist. of T .

↙ (conditioned on θ in general)

Notation: $E_\theta[T] = E[T|\theta]$: mean of sampling dist. of T .

EG $X_1, \dots, X_n | \theta \sim$ iid normal θ, σ^2 , where θ is unknown and σ^2 is known.

Consider $\bar{X}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ to estimate θ .

Recall from Ch5.6, a linear combination of X_1, \dots, X_n (normally distributed) is also normally distributed.

$$E[\bar{X}_n] = E\left[\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right] = \frac{1}{n} E\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right] = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n E[X_i]$$

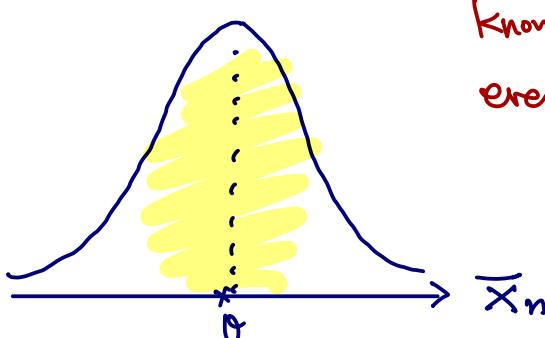
$$\stackrel{\text{id}}{=} \frac{1}{n} n E[X_i] = E[X_i] = \theta.$$

$$\text{Var}[\bar{X}_n] = \text{Var}\left[\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right] = \frac{1}{n^2} \text{Var}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right] \stackrel{\text{indep.}}{=} \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}[X_i]$$

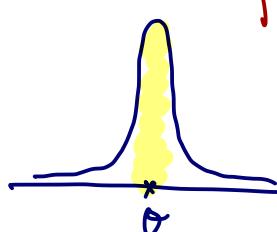
$$\stackrel{\text{id}}{=} \frac{1}{n^2} n \cdot \text{Var}[X_i] = \frac{\text{Var}[X_i]}{n} = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}.$$

~~+ Cov()~~

⇒ Sampling dist. of $\bar{X}_n \sim \text{normal } \theta, \frac{\sigma^2}{n}$



know the performance of \bar{X}_n
even prior to sampling!



EG [Lifetimes of Electronic Components] $X_1, X_2, X_3 | \theta \sim \text{iid exponential } \theta$

$$\text{MLE of } \theta = \hat{\theta} = \frac{1}{\bar{X}_3} = \frac{3}{\sum_{i=1}^3 X_i}$$

Ch5

$$\sum_{i=1}^3 X_i \sim \text{gamma } 3, \theta \Rightarrow \theta \sum_{i=1}^3 X_i \sim \text{gamma } 3, 1$$

\uparrow

$$E[\sum_{i=1}^3 X_i] = \frac{3}{\theta}, \quad E[\theta \sum_{i=1}^3 X_i] = \theta \times \frac{3}{\theta} = 3 = \frac{3}{1}$$

$P(\hat{\theta} \text{ is within 10% of } \theta | \theta)$

$$= P\left(\left|\frac{\hat{\theta}}{\theta} - 1\right| < .1 \mid \theta\right) = P\left(.9 < \frac{\hat{\theta}}{\theta} < 1.1 \mid \theta\right)$$

$$= P\left(.9 < \frac{3}{\theta \sum_{i=1}^3 X_i} < 1.1 \mid \theta\right) = P\left(\frac{3}{1.1} < \frac{\theta \sum_{i=1}^3 X_i}{3} < \frac{3}{.9} \mid \theta\right)$$

$\sim \text{gamma } 3, 1$

$$\approx P(2.73 < \theta \sum_{i=1}^3 X_i < 3.33)$$

$$\approx P(\theta \sum_{i=1}^3 X_i < 3.33) - P(\theta \sum_{i=1}^3 X_i \leq 2.73)$$

$$= "p\text{gamma}(3.33, 3, 1)" - "p\text{gamma}(2.73, 3, 1)"$$

$$= .6465628 - .5136956$$

$$= .134 \text{ (no matter what } \theta \text{ is)}$$

\uparrow low because of small sample size ($n = 3$).

Ch8.2 Chi-square distributions

$X_1, \dots, X_n \sim \text{iid normal } \mu, \sigma^2$

The sample mean $\bar{X}_n \sim \text{normal } \mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n}$. Ch8.1

The sample variance $S^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2 \sim ?$

The sampling distribution of S^2 is related to Chi-square distributions.

Definition. The gamma $\alpha = m/2, \beta = 1/2$ distribution is called the

χ^2 dist. w/ m df if $\forall m > 0$. gamma $\propto \beta$

$$f(x) = \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{\frac{m}{2}}}{\Gamma(\frac{m}{2})} x^{\frac{m}{2}-1} e^{-\frac{1}{2}x}, x > 0, \Rightarrow f(x) = \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} x^{\alpha-1} \cdot e^{-\beta x}, x > 0.$$

Note.

χ^2 dist. w/ 2 df $\stackrel{d}{=} \text{gamma } 1, \frac{1}{2} \stackrel{d}{=} \text{exponential } \frac{1}{2}$.

Theorem. If X is χ^2 with m df, then

$$E[X] = \frac{m/2}{1/2} = m \quad \text{Var}(X) = \frac{m/2}{(1/2)^2} = 2m.$$

$$\psi(t) = \left(\frac{\frac{1}{2}}{\frac{1}{2}-t} \right)^{\frac{m}{2}} = \left(\frac{1}{1-2t} \right)^{\frac{m}{2}}, t < \frac{1}{2}.$$

Proof. Use the fact that if $Y \sim \text{gamma } \alpha, \beta$, then $E[Y] = \frac{\alpha}{\beta}$, $\text{Var}[Y] = \frac{\alpha}{\beta^2}$,

$$\text{and } \psi(t) = \left(\frac{\beta}{\beta-t} \right)^\alpha, t < \beta.$$

↖ unknown.

EG $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim$ iid normal μ, σ^2 , where μ is known.

$$X_i \sim \text{normal } \mu, \sigma^2.$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{X_i - \mu}{\sigma} \sim \text{standard normal.}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{(X_i - \mu)^2}{\sigma^2} \sim \chi^2 \text{ w/ 1 df.}$$

Since X_i 's are independent,

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(X_i - \mu)^2}{\sigma^2} \sim \chi^2 \text{ w/ } n \text{ df. (when } \mu \text{ is known)}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2}{\sigma^2} \sim \chi^2 \text{ w/ } n-1 \text{ df (when } \mu \text{ is unknown)}$$

Ch8.3

EG $X_1, X_2, X_3 \sim$ iid normal 0, 1. What is the distribution of $\frac{1}{2}(X_1 + X_2)^2 + \underline{X_3^2}$?

$$\frac{1}{2}(X_1 + X_2)^2 = \left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(X_1 + X_2) \right\}^2 \sim \chi^2 \text{ w/ 1 df. } \sim \chi^2 \text{ w/ 1 df}$$

dist. of $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(X_1 + X_2) \sim \text{normal } 0, 1$

- $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(X_1 + X_2)$ is a linear combination of two independent normal X_1 and X_2 . \Rightarrow it is also normally distributed!
- $E\left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(X_1 + X_2)\right] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}E[X_1 + X_2] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(E[X_1] + E[X_2]) = 0$
- $\text{Var}\left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(X_1 + X_2)\right] = \frac{1}{2} \text{Var}[X_1 + X_2] = \frac{1}{2} \left[\text{Var}[X_1] + \text{Var}[X_2] + 2\text{cov}(X_1, X_2) \right] = \frac{1}{2}(1+1+0) = 1.$

Since $\frac{1}{2}(X_1 + X_2)^2$ and X_3^2 are independent,

$$\underline{\frac{1}{2}(X_1 + X_2)^2} + \underline{X_3^2} \sim \chi^2 \text{ w/ 2 df}$$

Ch8.3 Joint distribution of the sample mean and sample variance

Theorem. Suppose that $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim \text{iid normal } \mu, \sigma^2$ where μ and σ^2 are unknown. Then,

$$1. \quad \text{sample mean} \quad \bar{X}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \sim \text{normal } \mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n}, \text{ and } \text{sample variance} \quad S^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2 \sim \frac{\sigma^2 \bar{X}^2}{n-1}$$

$$2. \quad \bar{X}_n \text{ and } S^2 \text{ are independent.}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bar{X}_n & 1 & 5 \\ S^2 & .5 & .4 \end{array}$$

We make use of orthogonal matrices for the proof!

Definition. An $n \times n$ matrix A is orthogonal if $A^T = A^{-1}$, where A^T is the transpose of A .

Consider orthogonal transformation $\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{AX}$, where $\mathbf{X} = [X_1, \dots, X_n]^T$ and $\mathbf{Y} = [Y_1, \dots, Y_n]^T$ are n -dimensional random vectors, where \mathbf{A} is an orthogonal matrix.

Fact 1. Orthogonal transformation preserves the squared length.

Fact 2. If $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim \text{iid standard normal}$, then $Y_1, \dots, Y_n \sim \text{iid standard normal}$.

Proof.

EG $X_1, \dots, X_n | \mu, \sigma^2 \sim$ iid normal μ, σ^2 . If the sample size n is 10, determine the value of the following probability

$$P\left(\frac{\widehat{\sigma^2}}{\sigma^2} \leq 1.5\right) = P\left(\frac{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2}{\sigma^2} \leq 1.5\right)$$

$$= P\left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2}{\sigma^2 n} \leq 1.5\right)$$

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2 \sim \chi^2 \text{ w/ } n-1 \text{ df}} \Rightarrow \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2}{\sigma^2} \sim \chi^2 \text{ w/ } n-1 \text{ df.}$$

$$= P(Y \leq 15), \quad Y \sim \chi^2 \text{ w/ 9 df.}$$

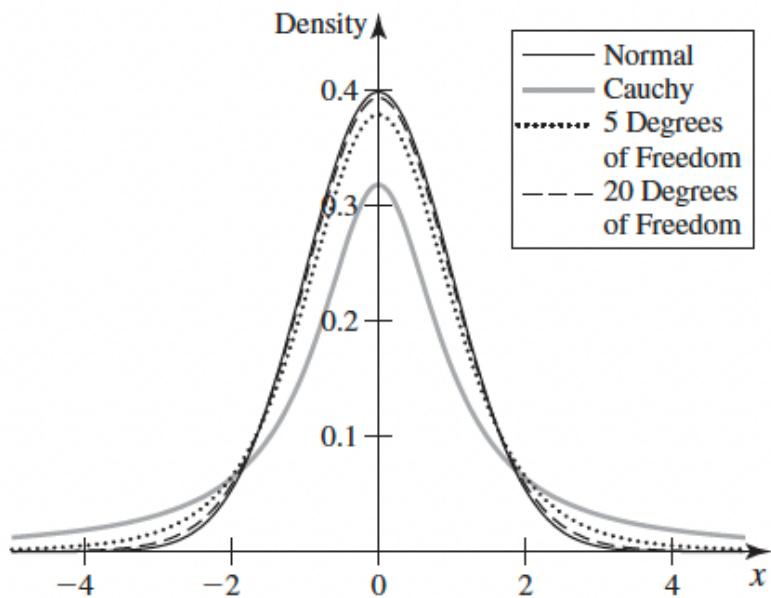
= "pchisq(15, 9)" in R

≈ .909.

Ch8.4 The t -distributions

Definition. Consider two independent random variables Z, Y such that

The distribution of $X = \frac{Z}{\sqrt{Y}}$ is called the _____.



Facts:

* t with 1 df is _____.

* The mean of t with m df exists when $m > 1$. $E[X] =$

* The variance of t with m df exists when $m > 2$. $Var[X] = m/(m - 2)$

* t with m df is approximately standard normal if m is _____.

* t with m df only have moments up to $k < m$. So the mgf does not exist.

Theorem. Suppose that $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim$ iid normal μ, σ^2 . Then,

where $\bar{X}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ and $\sigma' = \left[\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2}{n-1} \right]^{1/2}$.

Proof.

EG. $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim$ iid normal μ, σ^2 , and $n = 16$. Find a number c such that $P(\bar{X}_n \leq \mu + c\sigma') = .95$.

Ch8.5 Confidence intervals (CIs)

Let $X_1, \dots, X_n | \theta$ be an iid random sample from $f(x|\theta)$ for unknown $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$.

We consider an estimator $\hat{\theta}$ for θ , and based on $\hat{\theta}$, we aim to construct an interval which is expected to contain the true value of θ .

Definition. Let $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ be a random sample from $f(x|\theta)$ for unknown θ . Let $A(\mathbf{X}) \leq B(\mathbf{X})$ be two statistics such that

Then $(A(\mathbf{X}), B(\mathbf{X}))$ is called a _____.

EX7. We are interested in estimating the average calorie content of all beef hot dogs. A random sample was taken, and data on the calorie content of $n = 20$ hot dog brands are given in the textbook. From the data, $\bar{x}_{20} = 156.85$, $\sigma' = 22.64$.

We assume that $X_1, \dots, X_{20} | \mu, \sigma^2 \sim$ iid normal μ, σ^2 , both unknown.

Theorem. Suppose that $X_1, \dots, X_n | \mu, \sigma^2 \sim$ iid normal μ, σ^2 , both unknown. Then, an (exact) $100\gamma\%$ confidence interval for μ is

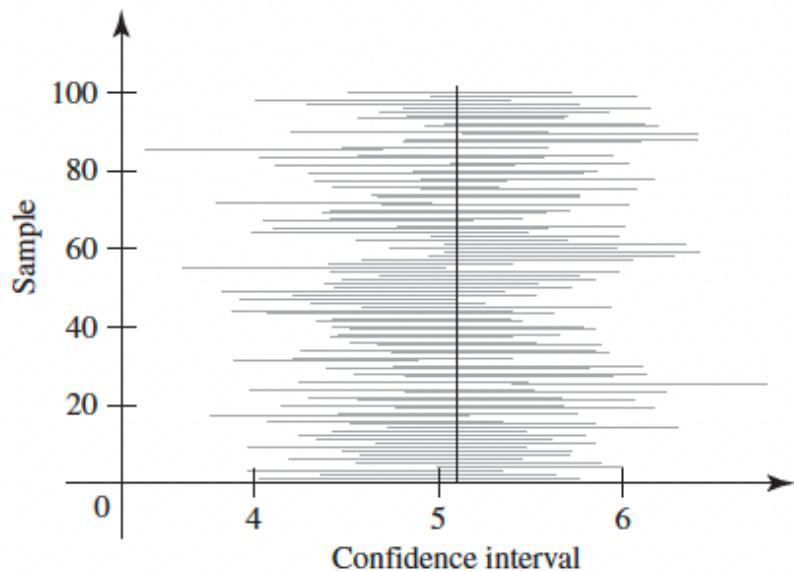
where T_ν is the CDF of a t distribution with $n - 1$ df.

EX7. Construct a 95% confidence interval for μ .

Interpretation (EX7)

We are _____ confident that the population mean content μ across all brands is between _____ and _____.

Confidence level $100\gamma\%$ means the long-term success rate of the method.



We expect that intervals constructed this way capture the true value of the parameter $100\gamma\%$ of the time.

EG. Suppose that $X_1, \dots, X_n | \mu, \sigma^2 \sim$ iid normal μ, σ^2 , both unknown. Find an (exact) $100\gamma\%$ confidence interval for σ^2 .

EG [Lifetimes of Electronic Components] $X_1, X_2, X_3 | \theta \sim$ iid exponential θ .
Find an upper bound on θ .

Ch8.7 Unbiased estimators

The quality of an estimator can be discussed in many ways.

Definition. Suppose that $X_1, \dots, X_n | \theta \sim \text{iid } f(x|\theta)$. An estimator $\delta(\mathbf{X}) = \delta(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ is _____ for $g(\theta)$ if

EG $X_1, \dots, X_n | \theta \sim \text{iid}$ such that $E_{\theta}[X_1] = \mu$.

$$\text{Bias} = E_{\theta}[\delta(\mathbf{X})] - g(\theta)$$

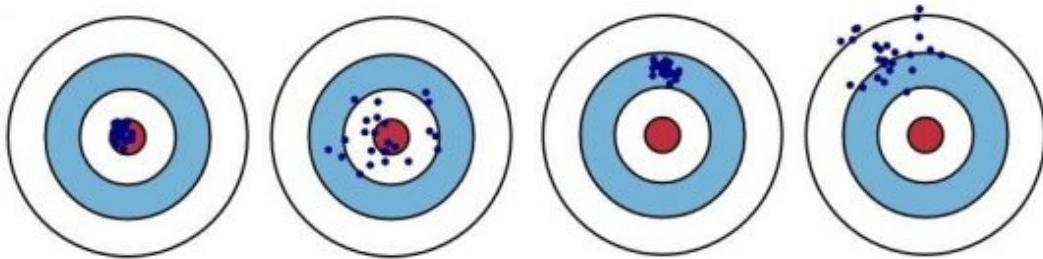
Bias $\neq 0 \Rightarrow \delta(\mathbf{X})$ is _____ for $g(\theta)$.

EG[Lifetimes of Electronic Components] $X_1, X_2, X_3 | \theta \sim \text{iid exponential } \theta$.

EG $X_1, \dots, X_n | \boldsymbol{\theta} = (\mu, \sigma^2) \sim$ iid such that $E_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}[X_1] = \mu$ and $\text{Var}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}[X_1] = \sigma^2$

Consider $\sigma'^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2$ and $\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2$. Which one is unbiased?

We want our unbiased estimator to have a small variance!



Corollary.

In many problems, there exist biased estimators that have smaller MSE than every unbiased estimator.

EG. Suppose that $X_1, \dots, X_n | \mu \sim \text{iid normal } \mu, 1$. Consider the form of $\delta_c(\mathbf{X}) = c\bar{X}_n$, where $0 < c < 1$. Find c that yields the smallest MSE.

Ch8.8 Fisher information

A method for measuring the amount of information a random variable or random sample carries about an unknown parameter.

Definition [Fisher Information in a Random Variable]

Let X be a random variable whose distribution is $f(x|\theta)$ such that (*)

- $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}$ is an open interval.
- the support $X = \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid f(x|\theta) > 0\}$ is the same $\forall \theta \in \Omega$
- $\lambda(x|\theta) := \log f(x|\theta)$ is twice differentiable w.r.t. θ .

The Fisher information $I(\theta)$ in X is defined as

Check the support

normal μ, σ^2

Bernoulli p

uniform $[0, \theta]$

Theorem. Under the conditions (*) (that typically apply with say Ch5 special distribution),

EG. $X|p \sim \text{Bernoulli } p, 0 < p < 1$

EG. $X|\mu \sim \text{normal } \mu, \sigma^2, \mu \text{ unknown and } \sigma^2 \text{ known.}$

Definition [Fisher Information in a Random Sample]

Let $X_1, \dots, X_n | \theta$ be a random sample from $f(x|\theta)$, and let $f_n(x_1, \dots, x_n | \theta)$ be the joint distribution of $X_1, \dots, X_n | \theta$. Assume (*), and let

The Fisher information $I_n(\theta)$ in the random sample X_1, \dots, X_n is defined as

There is a simple relation between the Fisher information $I_n(\theta)$ in the entire sample and the Fisher information $I(\theta)$ in a single observation X_i .

Theorem.

Proof.

EG $X_1, \dots, X_n | p \sim \text{iid Bernoulli } p, 0 < p < 1 \Rightarrow I_n(p) =$

EG $X_1, \dots, X_n | \mu \sim \text{normal } \mu, \sigma^2, \mu \text{ unknown and } \sigma^2 \text{ known} \Rightarrow I_n(\mu) =$

Fisher information can be used to determine a lower bound for the variance of an arbitrary estimator of the parameter θ .

Cramer-Rao Lower Bound. Let $T = r(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ be a statistic with finite variance and define $m(\theta) = E_\theta[T]$. Assume that $m(\theta)$ is a differentiable function of θ . Then

$$\text{Var}_\theta(T) \geq$$

Corollary. If T is unbiased for θ , then $\text{Var}_\theta(T) \geq$

Proof.

Theorem [Asymptotic distribution of an MLE] Suppose the MLE $\hat{\theta}_n$ solves $\lambda'_n(x|\theta) = 0$ and λ''_n and λ'''_n exist. Then, the asymptotic distribution of $\sqrt{nI(\theta)}(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta)$ is the standard normal distribution.

Note

Definition. An estimator T is called _____ for its expected value $m(\theta)$ if its variance achieves the Cramer-Rao lower bound.

EG $X_1, \dots, X_n | \theta \sim$ iid exponential with rate θ

EG $X_1, \dots, X_n | \theta \sim$ iid Poisson with mean θ