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Thursday, March 25th 2021  
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Wk 8, Th

Topic:: Student t distributions

Read:: Lock5 6.4 - 6.6

Comparing P-values with alpha is akin to comparing standardized score with critical  $z^*$

Ex.)  $H_0: p = 0.25$ ,  $H_a: p \neq 0.25$  modify  $H_a: p < 0.25$

Sample of size  $n = 150$ ,  $\hat{p} = \frac{28}{150} \sim \text{Norm}(0.25, 0.0354)$   $\mu \quad \sigma$

(a) What is the standardized test statistic?

est.  $SE_{\hat{p}} = \sqrt{\frac{p_0(1-p_0)}{n}} = \sqrt{\frac{(0.25)(0.75)}{150}} = 0.0354$

$$Z = \frac{0.187 - 0.25}{0.0354} = -1.78$$

not using continuity correction:  $\frac{28}{150} = 0.187$

using continuity:  $\frac{28.5}{150}$

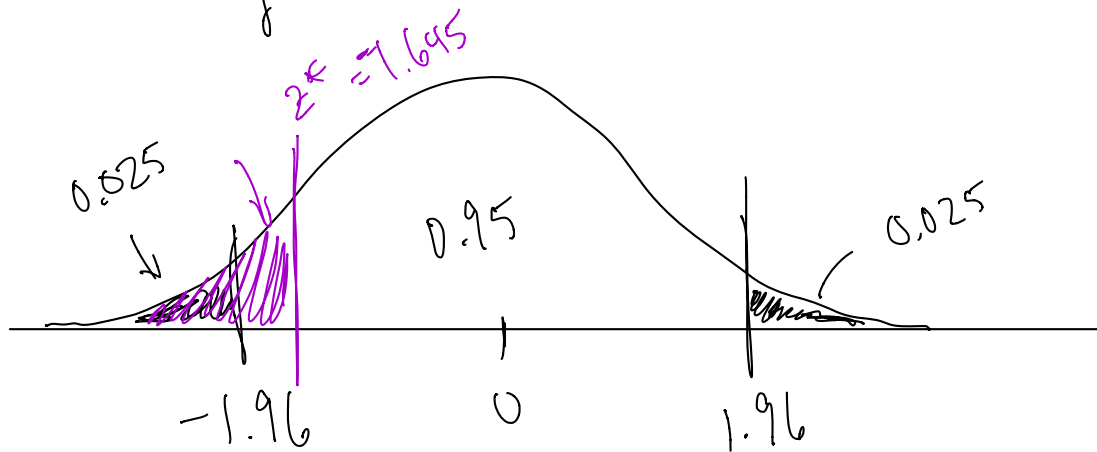
(b) What is the  $z$ -critical value for significance level  $\alpha = 0.05$ ?

$$z^* = 1.96$$

Variant

positive critical val.  
negative " "

$$\begin{array}{r} 1.96 \\ \hline -1.96 \\ \hline \end{array}$$



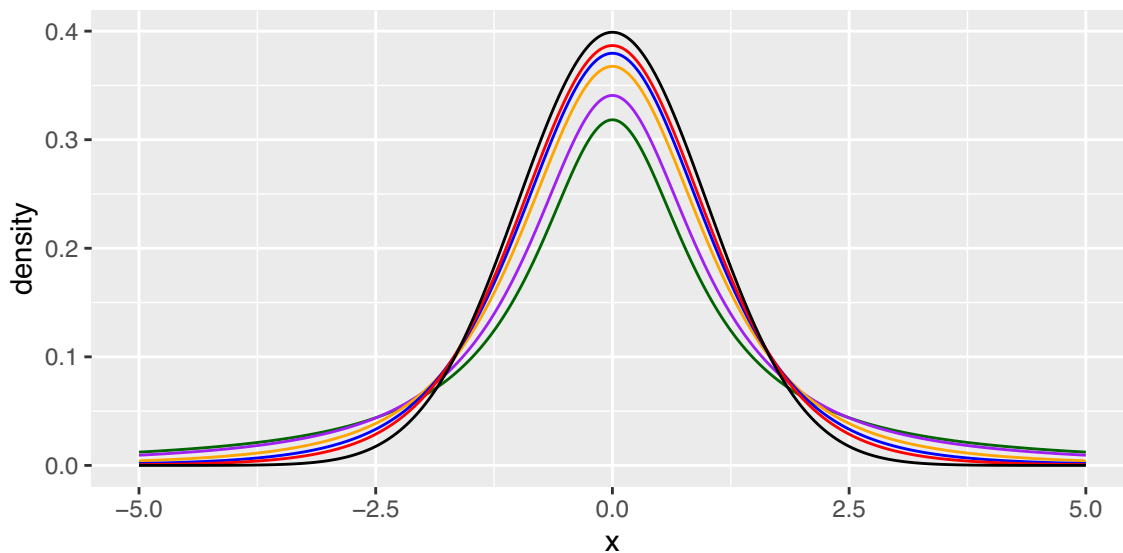
reject if in  
a left-tail  
that comprises area 0.05

## Student $t$ -distributions

Plotted below are the

- $t$ -distribution with  $df = 1$  (dark green)
- $t$ -distribution with  $df = 1.5$  (purple)
- $t$ -distribution with  $df = 3$  (orange)
- $t$ -distribution with  $df = 5$  (blue)
- $t$ -distribution with  $df = 8$  (red)
- standard normal distribution  $\text{Norm}(0, 1)$  (black)

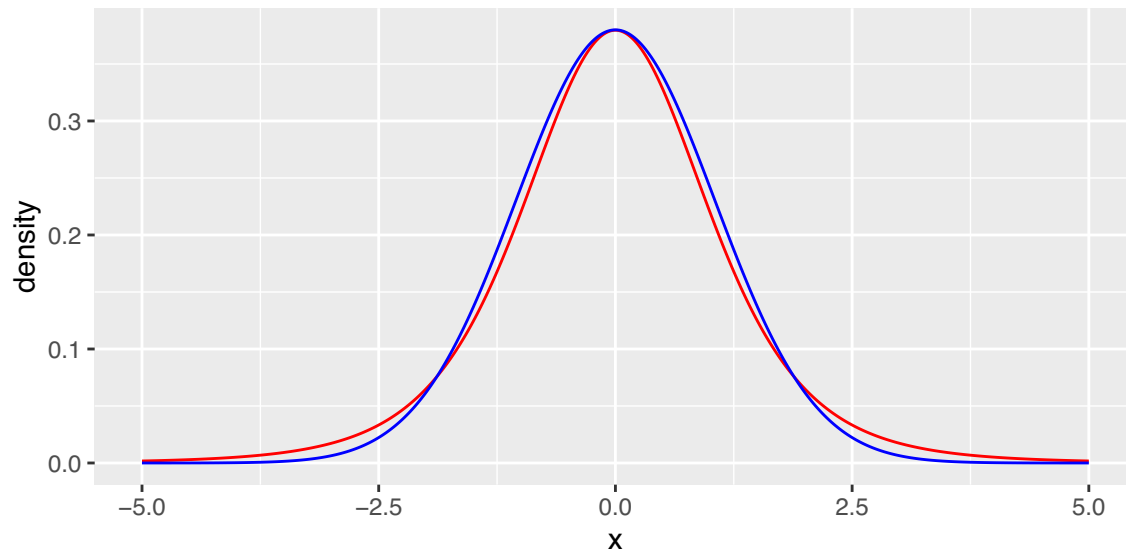
```
gf_dist("t", df=1, xlim=c(-5,5), color="darkgreen") %>%
gf_dist("t", df=1.5, xlim=c(-5,5), color="purple") %>%
gf_dist("t", df=3, xlim=c(-5,5), color="orange") %>%
gf_dist("t", df=5, xlim=c(-5,5), color="blue") %>%
gf_dist("t", df=8, xlim=c(-5,5), color="red") %>%
gf_dist("norm", xlim=c(-5,5), color="black")
```



Next is a

- $t$ -distribution with  $df = 5$  (red)
- normal distribution  $\text{Norm}(0, 1.05)$  (blue)

```
gf_dist("t", df=5, xlim=c(-5,5), color="red") %>%
gf_dist("norm", params=list(mean=0, sd=1.05), xlim=c(-5,5), color="blue")
```



A new distributional family:  $t$ -distributions

- symmetric, bell(?)-shaped
- centered on 0
  - just a single parameter: degrees of freedom (df)
  - Note: These are NOT just normal distributions with mean=0
- df must be positive, but can be noninteger
- increasingly like standard normal as df rises
  - peak isn't quite so high
  - more area in the tails
- have (on strength of CLT) been
  - of mind that sampling/bstrap/null/randomization distributions are normal
  - using  $z^*$  critical values (std. normal dist) corresp to level of confidence

$$n \geq 30$$

Q: What if we thought a  $t$ -dist with df=15 served as better model?

1. Say we have  $\bar{x}$  as 15.87, and estimated SE=2.15.

$$\bar{x} = 15.87$$

$$SE_{\bar{x}} = 2.15$$

If we want to use  $t$ -dist model with  $df=11$ , what is a 95% confidence interval for  $\mu$ ?

$$\bar{x} \pm ME$$

or

$$15.87 \pm (2.201)(2.15)$$

$\uparrow$   
pt. est

$$t^* = qt(0.975, df=11)$$

Practice obtaining critical  $t^*$ -values for other levels of confidence

$$t^* = ? \quad \text{if } 90\% \text{ CI w/ } df=11$$

$$qt(\underline{0.95}, df=51) \quad 78\% \text{ CI w/ } df=51$$

2. Say we have  $\bar{x}$  as 15.87, and estimated SE=2.35.

If we want to use  $t$ -dist model with  $df=11$ , what is the strength of evidence against the null hypothesis when

$$H_0: \mu = 20, \quad H_a: \mu < 20$$

$$t = \frac{15.87 - 20}{2.35} = -1.76$$

What if, instead,  $df=38$ ?

