

Confidence Intervals for the μ w/ variance unknown.

Focus on the normal model $N(\mu, \sigma)$ w/ both parameters unknown, but w/ target parameter μ

Theorem. In the above setting, let $\bar{Y} = \frac{1}{n} (Y_1 + \dots + Y_n)$

and

$$Q^2 = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2$$

Then,

- $\bar{Y} \sim \text{Normal}(\text{mean} = \mu, \text{sd} = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}})$
- $Q^2 \sim \chi^2(df = n-1)$
- \bar{Y} and Q^2 are independent

Goal: Confidence interval for μ .

Idea: Use

$$\frac{\bar{Y} - \mu}{\frac{S}{\sqrt{n}}}$$

$$\text{w/ } S^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \bar{Y})^2$$

as a pivotal quantity.

$$\frac{\frac{\bar{Y} - \mu}{\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}}}{\frac{S}{\sigma}} = \frac{Z}{\sqrt{\frac{S^2}{\sigma^2}}} = \frac{Z}{\sqrt{\frac{Q^2}{n-1}}}$$

$\sim N(0,1) \sim Z$

t-distribution.

Def'n. A Student t-distribution w/ k degrees of freedom is the dist'n of the random variable

$$T = \frac{Z}{\sqrt{\frac{Q^2}{k}}}$$

w/ • $Z \sim N(0,1)$

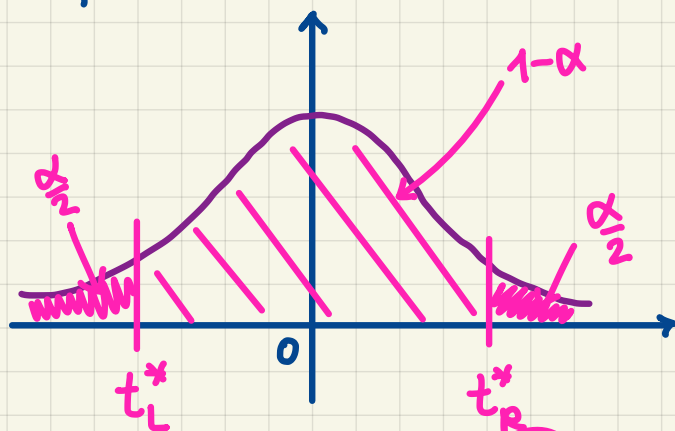
• $Q^2 \sim \chi^2(df=k)$

• Z and Q^2 are independent

We write

$$T \sim t(df=k)$$

To construct a confidence interval w/ the confidence level $1-\alpha$.



$$-t_L^* = +t_R^* = t^*$$

$$t^* = qt((1+C)/2, df=n-1)$$

$$t^* = qt(1-\alpha/2, df=n-1)$$

$$C = 1-\alpha$$

$$TP\left[-t^* \leq \frac{\bar{Y} - \mu}{S/\sqrt{n}} \leq t^*\right] = 1-\alpha$$

$$TP\left[-t^* \cdot \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}} \leq \bar{Y} - \mu \leq t^* \cdot \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}}\right] = 1-\alpha$$

$$P \left[\underbrace{\bar{Y} - t^* \cdot \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}}}_{\hat{\theta}_L} \leq \mu \leq \underbrace{\bar{Y} + t^* \cdot \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}}}_{\hat{\theta}_R} \right] = 1 - \alpha$$

$$\mu = \bar{Y} \pm t^* \cdot \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}}$$

pt. estimate

std error

critical value

Problem 16.9. (20 points)

A random sample of size 10 is drawn from a normal distribution with both mean and standard deviation unknown. The generated sample has the sample mean $\bar{y}_{10} = 14$ and the (unbiased) estimate of the variance $s^2 = 25$.

(i) (10 points) Construct a (symmetric) 90%-confidence interval for μ .

(ii) (10 points) Construct a (symmetric) 90%-confidence interval for σ^2 .
Hint: Remember that you know the distribution of $(n-1)S^2/\sigma^2$.

Critical value t^* of the t-dist'n w/ $df = 10-1=9$.

$$t^* = qt(0.95, df=9) = 1.833$$

$$\mu = 14 \pm 1.833 \cdot \frac{5}{\sqrt{10}}$$



$$Q^2 = \frac{(n-1)S^2}{\sigma^2} \sim \chi^2(df=9)$$

$$\chi_L^2 = qchisq(0.05, df=9) = 3.325$$

$$\chi_R^2 = qchisq(0.95, df=9) = 16.92$$

The confidence interval is

$$\left(\frac{9.25}{\chi_R^2}, \frac{9.25}{\chi_L^2} \right)$$

$$= \left(\frac{225}{16.92}, \frac{225}{3.325} \right)$$

