

M378K: February 28th, 2025.

The $\chi^2(n)$ -distribution.

If $Y \sim N(0,1)$, then

$$W = Y^2 \sim \chi^2(df=1)$$

Its density is

$$f_W(w) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi w}} e^{-w/2} \mathbb{1}_{(0,\infty)}(w)$$

Its mgf is

$$m_W(t) = (1-2t)^{-1/2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-2t}}$$

Example. $Y_1 \sim N(0,1)$, $Y_2 \sim N(0,1)$ independent

Set $W = Y_1^2 + Y_2^2 \sim \chi^2(df=2)$

Let's get its mgf.

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow: m_W(t) &= m_{Y_1^2}(t) \cdot m_{Y_2^2}(t) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-2t}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-2t}} = \frac{1}{1-2t} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{\frac{1}{2} - t} \end{aligned}$$

From the HW, we know that $W \sim E(\tau=2)$.

So, $\chi^2(df=2)$ is the same as $E(\tau=2)$.

Def'n. The χ^2 -dist'n w/ n degrees of freedom is the dist'n of the sum

$$W = Y_1^2 + Y_2^2 + \dots + Y_n^2$$

where $Y_i \sim N(0,1)$ for $i=1..n$ and independent.

We write

$$W \sim \chi^2(n) = \chi^2(df=n)$$

Note:

$$m_W(t) = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-2t}} \right)^n = (1-2t)^{-\frac{n}{2}} = \left(\frac{1}{1-2t} \right)^{\frac{n}{2}}$$

Problem. Let $Y \sim \chi^2(df=5)$.

Find $TP[1.145 \leq Y \leq 12.83] = ?$

→: Tables: $TP[Y \leq 12.83] - TP[Y \leq 1.145] =$
 $= 0.975 - 0.05 = 0.925$

R. $pchisq(12.83, df=5) - pchisq(1.145, df=5) =$
 $= 0.9250188$ \square

The Gamma Distribution.

Def'n. A random variable Y is said to have the **gamma distribution** w/ parameters $k > 0$ and $\tau > 0$, if its mgf is of this form

$$m_Y(t) = \left(\frac{1}{1 - \tau t} \right)^k.$$

We write $Y \sim \Gamma(k, \tau)$

Note:

$$\begin{aligned} E[Y] &= k \cdot \tau \\ \text{Var}[Y] &= k \cdot \tau^2 \end{aligned}$$

Q: Say that $Y \sim \Gamma(1, \tau)$. Do you know another name for it?

$$Y \sim E(\tau) \quad \text{☺}$$

Q: Say that $Y \sim \Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}, 2\right)$. What's another name for it?

$$Y \sim \chi^2(n) \quad \text{☺}$$

Q: $Y_1 \sim \Gamma(k_1, \tau)$, $Y_2 \sim \Gamma(k_2, \tau)$ independent

$$Y_1 + Y_2 \sim \Gamma(k_1 + k_2, \tau)$$