

STA286 Lecture 21

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a quick note— n “large enough” in the Bernoulli(p) special case

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We'll revisit this issue when the time comes to discuss ways to evaluate the empirical accuracy of a normal approximation.

more normal-based “sampling distributions”

The main focus will be on \bar{X} and friends, because the most common statistical problem is to make statements about an unknown population mean μ and \bar{X} will be used as the guess.

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but typically σ is also unknown, and $\sqrt{S^2}$ will be used as *its* guess.

the distribution of the sample variance S^2 - I

First we'll consider the distribution of Z^2 when $Z \sim N(0, 1)$.

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The integrand is a $N\left(0, \frac{0.5}{0.5-t}\right)$ density, so the integral equals 1, leaving

$$M_{Z^2}(t) = \left(\frac{0.5}{0.5-t}\right)^{0.5}$$

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Theorem: If X and Y are independent with $X \sim \chi_n^2$ and $X + Y \sim \chi_{n+m}^2$, then $Y \sim \chi_m^2$.

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Conclusion: $\frac{n-1}{\sigma^2} S^2 \sim \chi_{n-1}^2$

the t distributions - I

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It turns out it is possible to derive the density of:

$$T = \frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{S/\sqrt{n}}$$

the t distributions - II

The density $f(t)$ of T is primarily nice to look at:

$$f(t) = \frac{\Gamma[(\nu + 1)/2]}{\Gamma[\nu/2]\sqrt{\pi\nu}} \left(1 + \frac{t^2}{\nu}\right)^{-(\nu+1)/2}$$

where ν is called the “degrees of freedom” and in this case is $n - 1$. You can think of $n - 1$ as having been “inherited” from the denominator of T .

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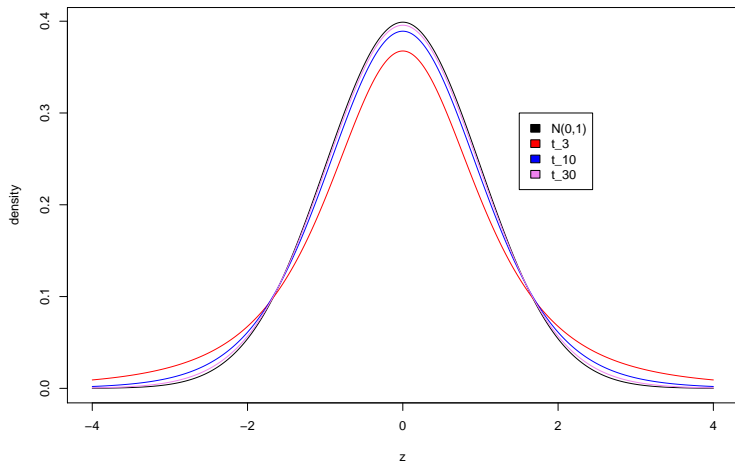
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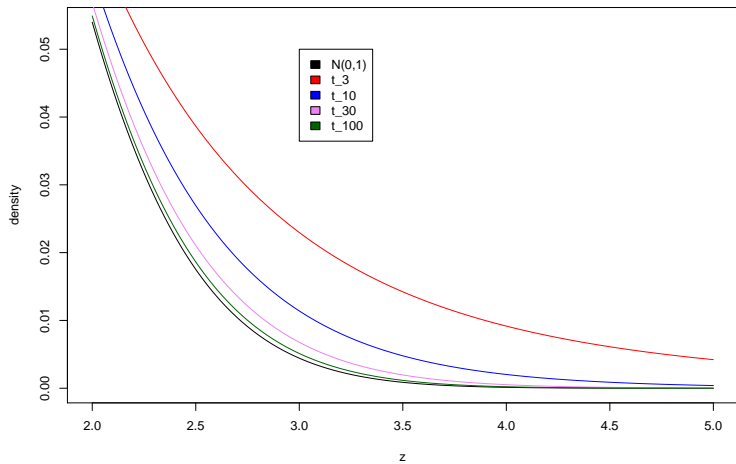
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- ▶ ... in other words *as the sample size gets large, T starts to look like $Z \sim N(0, 1)$*
- ▶ no anti-derivative, so a table of t probabilities needed on tests.

overall pictures of t_ν



pictures of t_ν in the “tail”



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The density is nasty, etc.

pictures of some F distributions

