Central Limit Theorem with Exponentials and Applied Inference with ToothGrowth Data

Thomas Ljungberg Kristensen 2025-10-02

Overview

In this project, we use simulations in R to study the distribution of averages of exponential random variables, illustrating the Central Limit Theorem (CLT). We then analyze the ToothGrowth dataset, performing exploratory analysis and statistical inference to investigate the effect of supplement type and dose on tooth growth in guinea pigs.

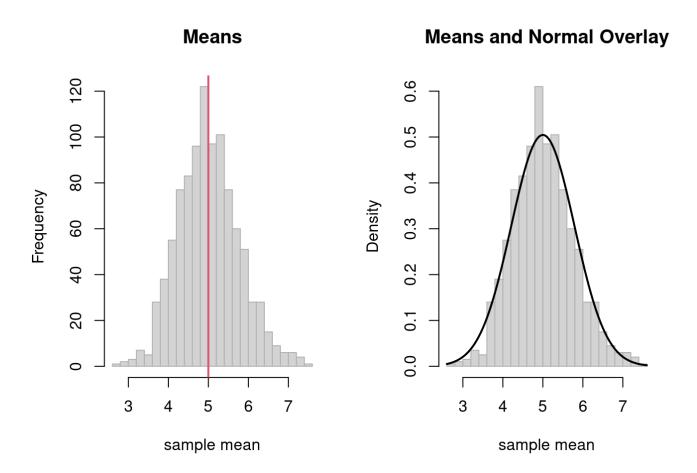
Part I — Simulation: Exponential and the CLT

The simulation is set up as the exponential distribution with rate 0.2 and 40 observations. See appendix for more details

This shows that the theoretical mean is 5 and simulated mean of sample means is 5.013. Theoretical variance of the mean is 0.625 (and sd 0.7906); simulated variance is 0.5771 (and sd 0.7597).

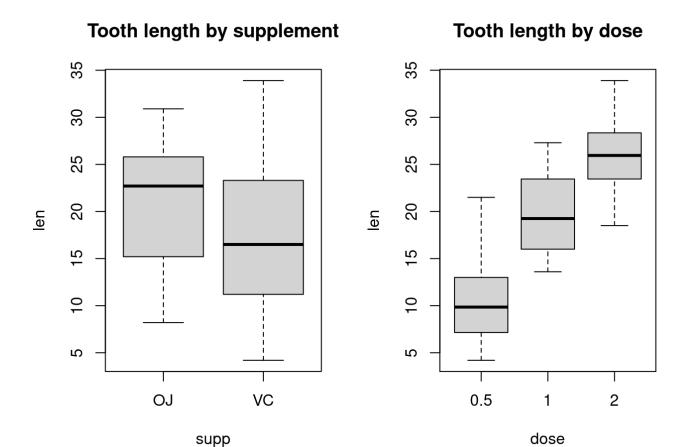
The following figures (see appendix for more information) shows

- 1. How variable the sample is (via variance) and compare it to the theoretical variance of the distribution,
- 2. Show that the distribution is approximately normal



Part II — ToothGrowth: EDA and Inference

Plotting the ToothGrowth data, see figures or the appendix for more details, shows that length increases with dose but supplement only appears to do modest changes.



Using the Welch t-test to determine p-value and confidence intervals for tooth growth by supplement (see appendix for details)

P-value = 0.0606. 95% Confidence interval for (OJ – VC) difference: [-0.17, 7.57].

And p-values and confidence intervals for pairwise comparison for tooth growth by dose, see appendix for details

```
## $`0.5 vs 1`
## [1] -11.983781 -6.276219
## attr(,"conf.level")
## [1] 0.95
##
## $`1 vs 2`
## [1] -8.996481 -3.733519
## attr(,"conf.level")
## [1] 0.95
##
## $`0.5 vs 2`
## [1] -18.15617 -12.83383
## attr(,"conf.level")
## [1] 0.95
```

```
## p(0.5 vs 1) p(1 vs 2) p(0.5 vs 2)
## 1.268301e-07 1.906430e-05 4.397525e-14
```

Assumptions

We are assuming that the observations are independent.

Conclusions

For the CLT simulation, we see that means of 40 exponentials center near 5 with variance \approx 25/40, and their distribution is approximately normal.

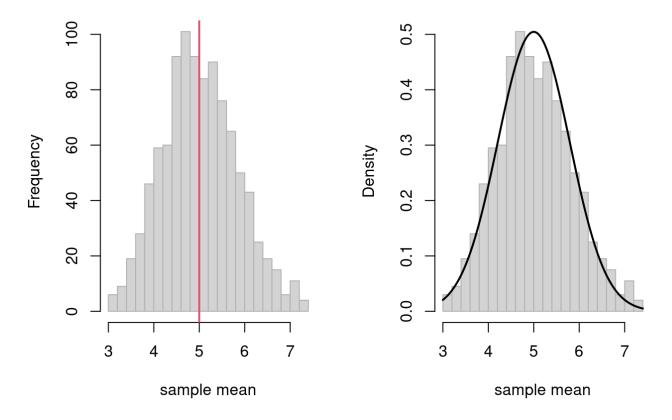
For ToothGrowth, we see strong, statistically significant dose effect on tooth length but the supplement effect is smaller and context-dependent.

Appendix

Data - Part I — Simulation: Exponential and the CLT

```
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
hist(means_exp, breaks=30, main="Means of 40 Exponentials (n=1000)", xlab="sample m ean", border="gray70")
abline(v = theo_mean, col=2, lwd=2)
hist(means_exp, breaks=30, freq=FALSE, main="Means of 40 Exponentials with Normal 0 verlay", xlab="sample mean", border="gray70")
curve(dnorm(x, mean=theo_mean, sd=theo_sd), add=TRUE, lwd=2)
```

Means of 40 Exponentials (n=1000ans of 40 Exponentials with Normal C



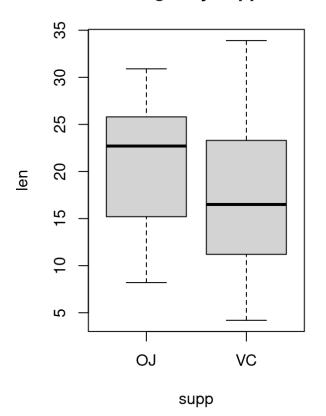
Data Part II — ToothGrowth: EDA and Inference

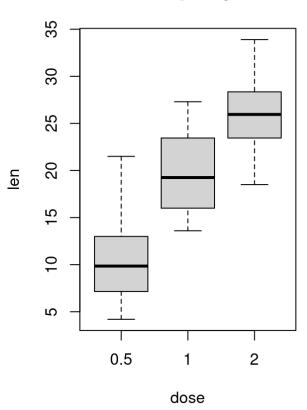
```
data(ToothGrowth)
TG <- ToothGrowth</pre>
```

```
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
boxplot(len ~ supp, data=TG, main="Tooth length by supplement", ylab="len")
boxplot(len ~ dose, data=TG, main="Tooth length by dose", ylab="len")
```

Tooth length by supplement

Tooth length by dose





```
TG$dose <- factor(TG$dose) # treat as factor

t_05_1 <- t.test(len ~ dose, data=subset(TG, dose %in% c(0.5,1)))
t_1_2 <- t.test(len ~ dose, data=subset(TG, dose %in% c(1,2)))
t_05_2 <- t.test(len ~ dose, data=subset(TG, dose %in% c(0.5,2)))</pre>
```

```
## $`0.5 vs 1`
## [1] -11.983781 -6.276219
## attr(,"conf.level")
## [1] 0.95
##
## $`1 vs 2`
## [1] -8.996481 -3.733519
## attr(,"conf.level")
## [1] 0.95
##
## $`0.5 vs 2`
## [1] -18.15617 -12.83383
## attr(,"conf.level")
## [1] 0.95
```

```
c(p(0.5 vs 1)=t_05_1p.value,
  `p(1 vs 2)` =t_1_2$p.value,
  `p(0.5 vs 2)`=t_05_2$p.value)
```

```
## p(0.5 vs 1) p(1 vs 2) p(0.5 vs 2)
## 1.268301e-07 1.906430e-05 4.397525e-14
```

02/10/2025, 10:19 7 of 7