

Some relations between standard distributions

Notation from distributions handout. Some relations are recorded there too.

Relations to the normal

1. If Z is $N(0, 1)$, then Z^2 is χ_1^2 .

2. If $Z \sim N(0, 1)$ is independent of $W \sim \chi_\nu^2$, then

$$T = \frac{Z}{\sqrt{W/\nu}} \sim t_\nu,$$

i.e. has a t-distribution with ν degrees of freedom.

3. If Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_n are independent $N(0, 1)$ r.v.'s, then

$$Z_1^2 + Z_2^2 + \dots + Z_n^2 \sim \chi_n^2.$$

4. If X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are independent $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ and $\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_1^n X_i$ then

$$\bar{X} \sim N\left(\mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n}\right).$$

5. If X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are independent $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ then

$$\frac{(X_1 - \bar{X})^2 + (X_2 - \bar{X})^2 + \dots + (X_n - \bar{X})^2}{\sigma^2} \sim \chi_{n-1}^2$$

and it is independent of \bar{X} .

6. If X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are independent $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$,

$$\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_1^n X_i \quad \text{and} \quad S^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_1^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2$$

then, combining 2, 4 and 5,

$$T = \frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{\sqrt{S^2/n}} \sim t_{n-1}.$$

7. If $W_1 \sim \chi_{\nu_1}^2$ and $W_2 \sim \chi_{\nu_2}^2$ with W_1, W_2 independent, then

$$F = \frac{W_1/\nu_1}{W_2/\nu_2} \sim F_{\nu_1, \nu_2},$$

i.e. has F-distribution with ν_1, ν_2 degrees of freedom.

8. From 1, 2 and 7 above, if $T \sim t_\nu$, then $T^2 \sim F_{1, \nu}$.

Other relations

1. If $X \sim \text{Ga}(a, b)$ then $\lambda X \sim \text{Ga}(a, b/\lambda)$. In particular (with $a = 1$) if $X \sim \text{Ex}(b)$ then $\lambda X \sim \text{Ex}(b/\lambda)$.
2. If $X_i \sim \text{Ga}(a_i, b)$ and are independent, then

$$\sum X_i \sim \text{Ga}\left(\sum a_i, b\right).$$

In particular ($a_i = \nu(i)/2$, $b = 1/2$), $X_1 \sim \chi_{\nu(1)}^2$, if $X_2 \sim \chi_{\nu(2)}^2, \dots, X_n \sim \chi_{\nu(n)}^2$ and are independent, then

$$X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n \sim \chi_{\nu(1)+\nu(2)+\dots+\nu(n)}^2.$$

3. If $Y_i \sim \text{Po}(\mu_i)$, independent then

$$\sum Y_i \sim \text{Po}\left(\sum \mu_i\right).$$

4. If $Y \sim \text{Po}(\mu)$ and μ is large then $Y \sim \text{N}(\mu, \mu)$ approximately.