STAT 515 Lec 12 slides

Confidence interval for the mean when variance unknown

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These slides are an instructional aid; their sole purpose is to display, during the lecture, definitions, plots, results, etc. which take too much time to write by hand on the blackboard. They are not intended to explain or expound on any material.

Recall: If $X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{ind}}{\sim} \text{Normal}(\mu, \sigma^2)$, then

$$\bar{X}_n \pm z_{\alpha/2} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$$

is a $(1 - \alpha) \times 100\%$ CI for μ.

But what if we don't know σ?

Using $\bar{X}_n \pm z_{\alpha/2} S_n / \sqrt{n}$ is okay if n is large, but not if n is small...

Sampling distribution of "studentized" mean

If $X_1, \dots, X_n \overset{\text{ind}}{\sim} \text{Normal}(\mu, \sigma^2)$, then $\dfrac{\bar{X}_n - \mu}{S_n/\sqrt{n}} \sim t_{n-1}$.

In the above, t_{n-1} represents the t-distribution with $n-1$ degrees of freedom...

The t-distributions

The probability distribution with pdf given by

$$f(x) = \frac{\Gamma(\frac{\nu+1}{2})}{\nu\pi\Gamma(\frac{\nu}{2})}\left(1 + \frac{x^2}{\nu}\right)^{-\frac{\nu+1}{2}}, \quad \text{where } \Gamma(z) = \int_0^\infty u^{z-1}e^{-u}du,$$

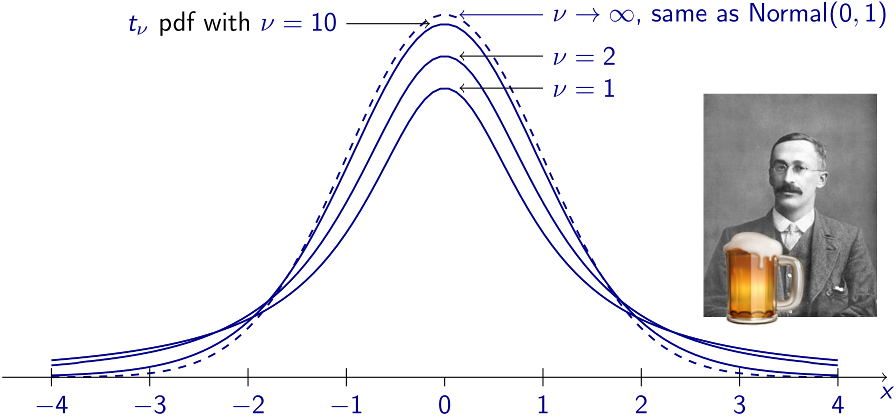
for $\nu > 0$ is called the *t-distribution* with *degrees of freedom* ν.

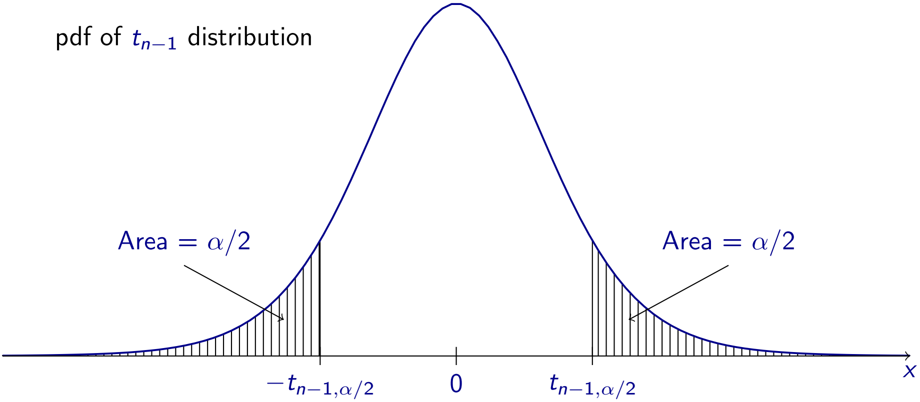
For a random variable T with this distribution we write $T \sim t_\nu$.

How to build a t_ν random variable

If $Z \sim \text{Normal}(0,1)$ and $W \sim \chi^2_\nu$ are independent rvs, then

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


t_ν pdf with $\nu = 10$
$\nu \to \infty$, same as Normal$(0,1)$
$\nu = 2$
$\nu = 1$
−4
−3
−2
−1
0
1
2
3
4
x



Can use function `qt()` or a `t-table` to look up the values, e.g.

$$t_{19,0.025} = \texttt{qt(.975,19)} = 2.093024$$
$$t_{19,0.005} = \texttt{qt(.995,19)} = 2.860935.$$

Confidence interval for mean of a Normal population with σ unknown

Let $X_1, \dots, X_n \overset{\text{ind}}{\sim} \text{Normal}(\mu, \sigma^2)$. Then a $(1-\alpha) \times 100\%$ CI for μ is

$$\bar{X}_n \pm t_{n-1,\alpha/2} \frac{S_n}{\sqrt{n}}.$$

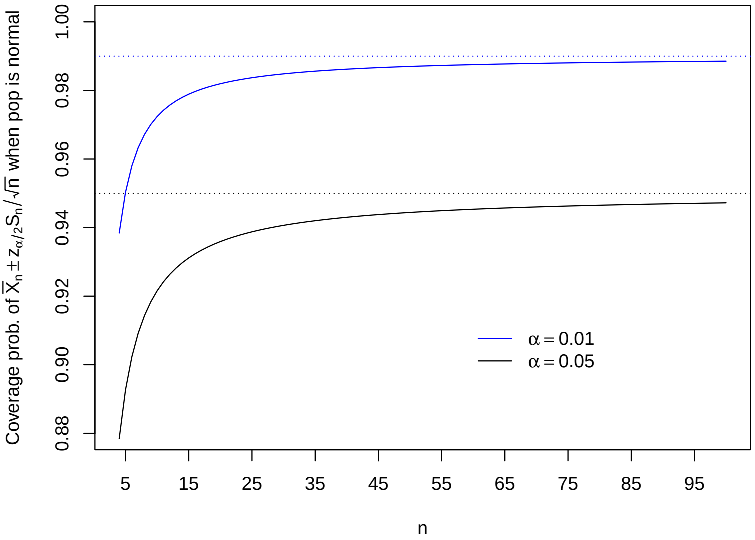
Discuss: How to obtain the above formula.

Exercise: These are the commute times (sec) to class of a sample of students.

1832	1440	1620	1362	577	934	928	998	1062	900
1380	913	654	878	172	773	1171	1574	900	900

1. Make a Q-Q plot to check Normality of the population.
2. Construct a 95% confidence interval for the mean commute time of all students.
3. Construct a 99% confidence interval for the mean commute time of all students.
4. What if the intervals $\bar{X}_n \pm z_{\alpha/2} \cdot S_n/\sqrt{n}$ are used? How are they different?

```
X <- c(1832,1440,1620,1362,577,934,928,998,1062,900,
       1380,913,654,878,172,773,1171,1574,900,900)
qqnorm(X)
Xbar <- mean(X)
Sn <- sd(X)
n <- length(X)
alpha <- 0.05
tval <- qt(1-alpha/2,n-1)
lo <- Xbar - tval * Sn / sqrt(n)
up <- Xbar + tval * Sn / sqrt(n)
```


Coverage prob. of $\overline{X}_n \pm z_{\alpha/2} S_n/\sqrt{n}$ when pop is normal
1.00
0.98
0.96
0.94
0.92
0.90
0.88
$\alpha = 0.01$
$\alpha = 0.05$
5
15
25
35
45
55
65
75
85
95
n

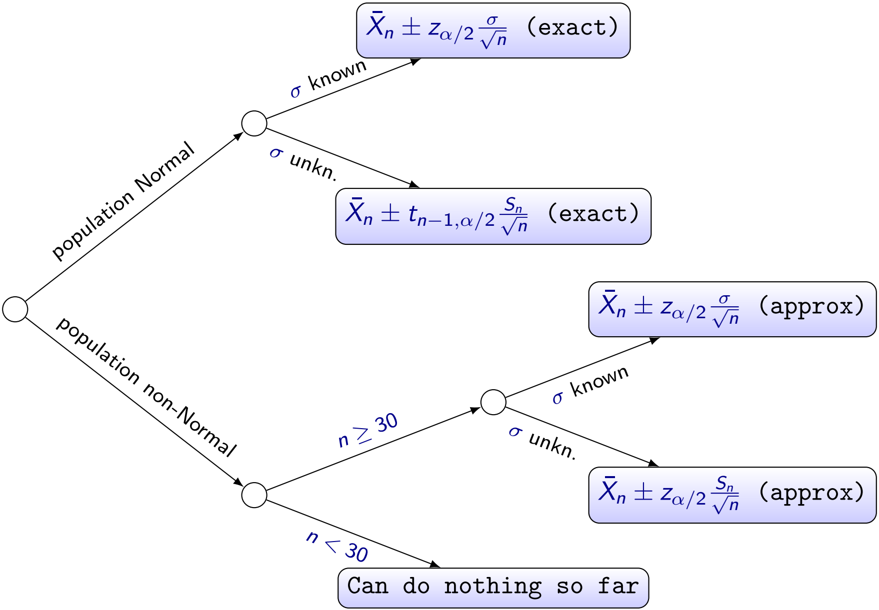
CI for mean of non-Normal population with σ unknown

Let $X_1, \dots, X_n$ be a rs from a pop. with mean μ, and with $\mu_4 < \infty$, then

$$\bar{X}_n \pm z_{\alpha/2} \cdot \frac{S_n}{\sqrt{n}}$$

is an approximate $(1 - \alpha) \times 100\%$ CI for μ when n is large (≥ 30, say).

In the above $\mu_4 = \mathbb{E}|X_1|^4$. This limits the heavy-tailedness of the population.


$\bar{X}_n \pm z_{\alpha/2}\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$ (exact)
σ known
σ unkn.
$\bar{X}_n \pm t_{n-1,\alpha/2}\frac{S_n}{\sqrt{n}}$ (exact)
population Normal
$\bar{X}_n \pm z_{\alpha/2}\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$ (approx)
population non-Normal
σ known
$n \geq 30$
σ unkn.
$\bar{X}_n \pm z_{\alpha/2}\frac{S_n}{\sqrt{n}}$ (approx)
$n < 30$
Can do nothing so far