

Variance Stabilizing Transformation

"We already know why we need such a transformation."

Suppose X_1, \dots, X_n is a sequence of r.v.'s
s.t. $\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \mu) \xrightarrow{d} Z \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ where $\sigma^2 = h(\mu)$

We seek a transformation $g(\cdot)$ so that $g(\bar{X}_n)$ has a variance which is functionally free of its mean value.

Choose continuous $g(\cdot)$ that has continuous first derivative $g'(\cdot)$

Using the mean value theorem of calculus on $g(\bar{X}_n)$

$$g(\bar{X}_n) - g(\mu) = (\bar{X}_n - \mu) g'(\theta_n)$$

$$|\theta_n - \mu| \leq |\bar{X}_n - \mu|$$

We have

$$\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \mu) \xrightarrow{d} Z \Rightarrow \bar{X}_n \xrightarrow{P} \mu$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta_n \xrightarrow{p} \mu.$$

$$\Rightarrow g'(\theta_n) \xrightarrow{p} g'(\mu) \quad \text{s.t.s.t.}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{g'(\theta_n)}{g'(\mu)} \rightarrow 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{n} (g(\bar{X}_n) - g(\mu)) &= \sqrt{n} (\bar{X}_n - \mu) \cdot \frac{g'(\theta_n)}{g'(\mu)} \cdot g'(\mu) \\ &\rightarrow z \cdot g'(\mu). \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Thm: } \sqrt{n} (g(\bar{X}_n) - g(\mu)) \xrightarrow{d} z \cdot g'(\mu) \sim N(0, \{g'(\mu)\}^2 \sigma^2)$$

We are considering this because we thought μ and σ^2 are functionally related.

$$\sigma^2 = h(\mu)$$

So we are looking for a transformation $g(\cdot)$ s.t.

$$\{g'(\mu)\}^2 h(\mu) = \text{constant.}$$

i.e. the function $g(\cdot)$ is obtained
by

$$|g(\mu) = \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{h(\mu)}} \cdot d\mu.$$

Hogg and Craig p. 251 - 252

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

$$g(\bar{X}_n) \sim N\left(g(\mu), [g'(\mu)]^2 \frac{\sigma^2}{n}\right) \quad n \text{ large}$$

or

$$\frac{g(\bar{X}_n) - g(\mu)}{\sqrt{[g'(\mu)]^2 \frac{\sigma^2}{n}}} \sim N(0, 1) \quad n \text{ large}$$

Ex 1: Poisson data.

$$E[X] = \lambda \quad \text{Var}(X) = \lambda$$

$$\therefore h(x) = x$$

find the transformation.

$$\begin{aligned} g(x) &= \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{h(x)}} dx = \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} dx = \int x^{-1/2} dx \\ &= 2x^{1/2} = 2\sqrt{x}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So } 2(\sqrt{X_n} - \sqrt{\lambda}) \xrightarrow{d} \frac{Z}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \sim N(0, 1^2)$$

Note: $g'(\lambda) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}}$

$$\{g'(\lambda)\}^2 = \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

$$\text{So } \{g'(\lambda)\}^2 \cdot \sigma^2 = 1$$

Ex 2: χ^2 data $E[X] = n$ $\text{Var}(X) = 2n$.

$$\therefore h(x) = 2x$$

Find the transformation.

$$\begin{aligned} g(x) &= \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{h(x)}} dx = \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{2x}} dx = \int (2x)^{-1/2} dx \\ &= (2x)^{1/2} = \sqrt{2x} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So } (\sqrt{2X_n} - \sqrt{2n}) \xrightarrow{\frac{d}{\sqrt{2n}}} \frac{Z}{\sqrt{2n}} \sim N(0, 1^2).$$

Note $g'(n) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$

$$\{g'(n)\}^2 = \frac{1}{2n} \quad \text{So } \{g'(n)\}^2 \cdot 2n = 1$$

Ex 3: laboratory situation. $E[X] = \mu$, $\text{Var}(X) = k\mu^2$

$$\therefore h(x) = kx^2$$

find the transformation.

$$\begin{aligned} g(x) &= \int \frac{1}{h(x)} dx = \int \frac{1}{kx^2} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{k} \int \frac{1}{x} dx = \frac{1}{k} \ln(x) \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} (\ln(x_n) - \ln(\mu)) \xrightarrow{d} N(\sqrt{k}\mu, 1)$$

$\sim N(0, 1^2)$

Note: $g'(\mu) = \frac{1}{k\mu}$

$$\{g'(\mu)\}^2 = \frac{1}{k\mu^2}$$

So $\{g'(\mu)\}^2 \sigma^2 = \frac{1}{k\mu^2} \cdot k\mu^2 = 1$

Exercise: Binomial (n, p) data.

Consider $Y_n = \frac{X_n}{n}$

$$E[Y_n] = p \quad \text{Var}(Y_n) = \frac{p(1-p)}{n}$$

$$\therefore h(y) = \frac{2(1-y)}{x}$$

We want a transformation:

$$g(x) = \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{h(y)}} dy = \dots$$

Exercise: Exponential (θ) $f(x) = \frac{1}{\theta} e^{-x/\theta} \quad x > 0$

$$E[X] = \theta \quad \text{Var}(X) = \theta^2$$

$$\therefore h(y) = y^2$$

We want a transformation:

$$g(x) = \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{h(y)}} dy = \dots$$

$$g(x) = \int \frac{\sqrt{x}}{\sqrt{y(x-y)}} dy = \sqrt{x} \arcsin \sqrt{y}$$

$$\text{So } \sqrt{x} (\arcsin \sqrt{y_0} - \arcsin \sqrt{y_1}) \xrightarrow{d} z \sim \frac{\sqrt{x}}{\sqrt{y_0 - y_1}} \sim N(0,1)$$

$$g(x) = \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{h(x)}} dx = \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} dx = \int x^{-1/2} dx$$

$$= \frac{x^{-1/2+1}}{-1/2+1} = \frac{1}{1/2} \log x$$

$$\text{So } \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} + \frac{1}{\theta} \right) \xrightarrow{d} z/\theta \sim N(0,1)$$

$$(\log x + \log \theta) \xrightarrow{d} z \log \theta \sim N(0,1)$$

$$\{g'(\theta)\} = \frac{1}{\theta}$$

$$\frac{1}{\theta^2} \cdot \theta^2 = 1$$