

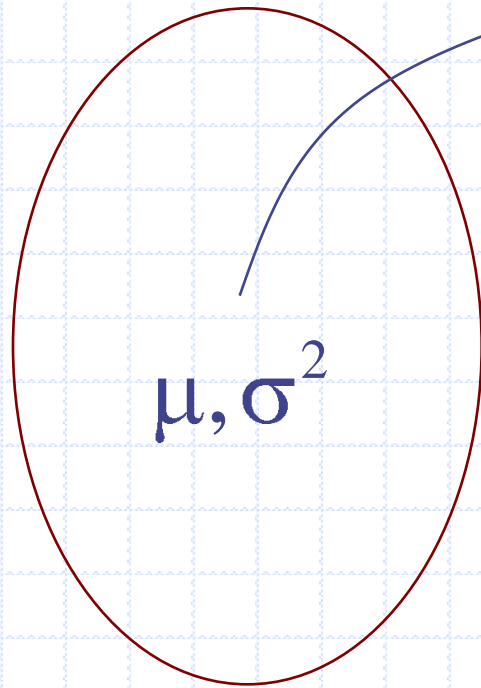
Sampling from a (normal) population

Basics

- ◆ I assume you are familiar with the basic problem of estimating the mean from a (normal) population, given a random sample.
- ◆ Imagine you have a random sample from a (normal) population with mean μ and variance σ^2 .

Set up

(normal) population



$$x_i \quad n$$

$i=1$

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{n}$$

is used as an estimator for μ

Properties of estimators

- ◆ What are the properties of the sample mean, \bar{x} , as an estimator of the population mean, μ ?
- ◆ Please, note that estimators are random variables (they depend on the random sample!).

Properties of estimators

1. The sample mean is an unbiased estimator of the population mean, μ .

$$E(\bar{x}) = \mu$$

2. The precision of the estimator, as given by its variance, is:

$$Var(\bar{x}) = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}$$

Properties of estimators

3. If the population is normal, then

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

A result than can be used to perform hypothesis testing on μ .

Properties of estimators

4. Otherwise, we can get an approximation, based on the Central Limit Theorem,

$$\sqrt{n} \frac{\bar{x} - \mu}{\sigma} \xrightarrow{d} N(0,1)$$

Hence,

$$\bar{x} \overset{aprox}{\sim} N\left(\mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n}\right)$$

Hypothesis testing

- ◆ Note that, unless σ^2 is known this additional population parameter will have to be estimated before we can use the above result for hypothesis testing.
- ◆ What we are going to see in the course is basically an extension of this basic set up.