

13. **Single hypothesis test**, p.6 (p.19). A particular property, x , (e.g. height, temperature, longevity, etc.) of a healthy population is a random variable with known mean and variance μ and σ^2 . The central limit theorem asserts that, regardless of the distribution of x , the mean, \bar{x} , of a large random sample of size N is normally distributed with mean μ and variance σ^2/N . Given an observed value of the sample mean, \bar{x}_{obs} , we want to test the hypothesis that the population is healthy:

$$H_0 : \bar{x} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2/N) \quad (17)$$

We will reject H_0 if \bar{x}_{obs} is an implausible value, conditioned on H_0 . Specifically, we reject H_0 if, conditioned on H_0 :

$$\text{Prob} \left(\left| \frac{\bar{x} - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{N}} \right| > \left| \frac{\bar{x}_{\text{obs}} - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{N}} \right| ; H_0 \right) \leq \alpha \quad (18)$$

where α is a 'level of significance'. If H_0 holds and if the sample is statistically random, then the distribution of $\frac{\bar{x} - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{N}}$ would be standard normal, $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. Let $\Phi(z)$ denote the cumulative probability distribution (CPD) for $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. The problem is that we are unsure that the sample is truly random: statistically independent measurements from the same population. Thus we are unsure that the true distribution of $\frac{\bar{x} - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{N}}$, call it $F(\cdot)$, is actually $\Phi(\cdot)$. We represent this uncertainty with the following info-gap model in which we introduce a simplifying assumption that the distributions are symmetric around the origin:

$$\mathcal{U}(h) = \left\{ F(z) : F(-\infty) = 0, F(\infty) = 1, F(z) = 1 - F(-z), \frac{dF}{dz} \geq 0, |F(z) - \Phi(z)| \leq h \right\}, \quad h \geq 0 \quad (19)$$

- (a) We have an observed value of the sample mean, \bar{x}_{obs} . Suppose that eq.(18) holds based on this observation, implying that we should reject H_0 . How much can the distribution of $\frac{\bar{x} - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{N}}$ deviate from $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ without changing this decision? That is, derive the robustness as a function of the rejection threshold, α .
- (b) In contrast to part 13a, suppose that we have observed a sample mean, \bar{x}_{obs} , for which eq.(18) does not hold, implying that we should accept H_0 . Derive the robustness as a function of the rejection threshold, α .