

Lecture notes for STA 321 for day 4 by R. Yoshida

1 Sec 6.3: The central limit theorem (part II)

Now we define the other convergence of a sequence of random variables.

Definition 1 (Convergence in distribution). *A sequence of random variables Z_1, Z_2, \dots is said to converge in distribution to a random variable Z if*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_n(x) = T^*(x)$$

for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$ where $F_n(x)$ is the cdf of Z_n and $F^*(x)$ is the cdf of Z .

We notate this as

$$Z_n \xrightarrow{d} Z.$$

Example 2. *Suppose we have a line (queue) of a service at a cafe shop. Let X_i be the waiting time for the i th person to get a coffee. Suppose X_1, \dots, X_n be iid random variables with $\mathbb{E}(X_i) = \mu$ and $\text{Var}(X_i) = \sigma^2 < \infty$. Then we can estimate the rate of waiting time by $1/\bar{X}_n$. Note that the central limit theorem says $\sqrt{n} \cdot (\bar{X}_n - \mu)/\sigma$ is distributed the standard normal distribution for large n .*

Theorem 3 (Delta Method). *Suppose Y_1, \dots, Y_n form a sequence of random variables and let Y be a random variable. Let $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$ and let a_1, \dots, a_n be a sequence of positive numbers where $a_i \in (0, \infty)$. Let α be a differentiable function with continuous variable such that $\alpha'(\theta) \neq 0$. Then*

$$a_n [\alpha(Y_n) - \alpha(\theta)] / \alpha'(\theta) \xrightarrow{d} Y.$$

Corollary 4. *Let X_1, \dots, X_n form a sequence of iid random variables with $\mathbb{E}(X_i) = \mu$ and $\text{Var}(X_i) = \sigma^2 < \infty$. Let α be a differentiable function with continuous variable such that $\alpha'(\mu) \neq 0$. Then,*

$$\frac{\sqrt{n}}{\sigma \alpha'(\mu)} [\alpha(\bar{X}_n) - \alpha(\mu)] \xrightarrow{d} Z,$$

where Z is distributed according to the standard normal distribution.

Proof. Applying the previous theorem



Example 5. *Go back to the example...*

Now we do the computation.