

Statistics, Fall 2025 - Practice Session 4

Interval Estimation

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Problem 1

Let $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^n$ be a random sample such that $X_i \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$, where σ^2 is an unknown parameter. Calculate the shortest confidence interval for σ given some significance level α .

Problem 2

Suppose that a random sample $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^n$ follows a density

$$f(x; b) = bx^{b-1} \mathbb{1}_{[0,1]}(x)$$

Find the symmetric $(1 - \alpha)$ confidence interval for b .

Problem 3

Suppose a random sample $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^n$ follows the Geometric distribution with parameter p . For $n \rightarrow \infty$, find the $(1 - \alpha)$ confidence interval of p .

Notes

- The CDF $F(X)$ of any random variable X is distributed as $F(X) \sim U(0, 1)$
- If $X_i \sim \text{Exp}(c)$, then $\frac{2}{c} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \sim \chi^2(2n)$
- The probability mass function of the Geometric distribution with parameter $1 - p$ is

$$(1 - p)p^x \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{N}_0}(x)$$

- If $\{X_i\}_{i=1}^n$ and $X_i \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$, then

$$(n - 1) \frac{S^2}{\sigma^2} \sim \chi(n - 1)$$

where S^2 is the sample variance.