

We can now establish the desired result.

THEOREM 2. *If X and Y are independent observations on the same unimodal random variable, then $X - Y$ is unimodal.*

We prove the theorem in three parts.

PART I. If X has as possible values only finitely many integers, the theorem is an immediate consequence of the preceding one. The a 's are taken to be the probabilities of the successive possible values of X . Since $P(X - Y = k) = S_k$ for k a positive integer, and since $X - Y$ has a distribution symmetric about 0, the theorem follows.

PART II. Let the possible values of X now be numbers of the form $r\Delta$, where $\Delta > 0$ and r is any integer. For simplicity we may assume 0 to be a mode. For every positive integer s , define

$$X'_s = \begin{cases} X & \text{if } |X| \leq s, \\ 0 & \text{if } |X| > s, \end{cases} \quad Y'_s = \begin{cases} Y & \text{if } |Y| \leq s \\ 0 & \text{if } |Y| > s. \end{cases}$$

That $X'_s - Y'_s$ has a unimodal distribution is an immediate consequence of Part I. But since $P(X'_s - Y'_s \neq X - Y) \rightarrow 0$ as $s \rightarrow \infty$, we see that $X - Y$ must also have a unimodal distribution.

PART III. Now suppose X has a density f , with mode at m . For each positive integer s , define

$$X''_s = [(X - m) \sqrt{s}] / \sqrt{s},$$

where $[u]$ denotes the greatest integer less than u . The cumulative distribution G''_s of $X''_s - Y''_s$ cannot ever differ from G by more than a quantity which tends to 0 as $s \rightarrow \infty$. However, G''_s is unimodal, by Part II. If G were not unimodal, we could find $\epsilon > 0$, $\Delta > 0$, and $u - \Delta > 0$ such that $G(u - \Delta) + G(u + \Delta) + \epsilon < 2G(u)$, which would yield a contradiction.

REFERENCE

- [1] K. L. CHUNG, "Sur les lois de probabilité unimodales," *C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris*, Vol. 236 (1953), pp. 583-584.

NOTE ON A THEOREM OF LIONEL WEISS¹

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1. Introduction. In a recent paper [1] it was pointed out by Lionel Weiss that the class of sequential probability ratio tests is complete in a very strong sense. The purpose of the present note is to show how this result can be derived from a

Received 2/8/54.

¹ This paper was prepared with the partial support of the Office of Naval Research.