

ESTIMATES FOR GLOBAL CENTRAL LIMIT THEOREMS¹

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1. Introduction. Let ξ_1, ξ_2, \dots be independent random variables having the same d.f. (distribution function) $F(x)$. Thus, for each $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

$$(1.1) \quad \Pr\{\xi_k \leq x\} = F(x), \quad -\infty < x < \infty,$$

where $F(x)$ is a real monotone increasing function for which $F(-\infty) = 0$ and $F(\infty) = 1$. Let $\phi(t)$, defined by

$$(1.2) \quad \phi(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{itx} dF(x), \quad -\infty < t < \infty,$$

denote the c.f. (characteristic function) of $F(x)$. We suppose that

$$(1.3) \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x dF(x) = 0, \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 dF(x) = 1,$$

so that $F(x)$ has mean 0 and standard deviation 1.

The d.f. $\tilde{F}_n(x)$ and the c.f. $\tilde{\phi}_n(x)$ of the sum $\xi_1 + \xi_2 + \dots + \xi_n$ are such that $\tilde{\phi}_n(x) = [\phi(x)]^n$ and hence

$$(1.4) \quad [\phi(t)]^n = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{itx} d\tilde{F}_n(x).$$

The d.f. of the combination

$$(1.5) \quad \frac{\xi_1 + \xi_2 + \dots + \xi_n}{n^{1/2}}$$

is then $\tilde{F}_n(n^{1/2}x)$ and we denote this by $F_n(x)$. Its c.f. is $[\phi(n^{-1/2}t)]^n$, that is,

$$(1.51) \quad [\phi(n^{-1/2}t)]^n = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{itx} dF_n(x).$$

The hypotheses (1.3) imply that the formulas (1.3) hold when $F(x)$ is replaced by $F_n(x)$. A special case of the central limit theorem asserts that, for each individual x in the interval $-\infty < x < \infty$,

$$(1.6) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_n(x) = \Phi(x)$$

where $\Phi(x)$ is the Gaussian d.f. defined by

$$(1.61) \quad \Phi(x) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{1/2}} \int_{-\infty}^x e^{-u^2/2} du.$$

For an exposition of the above facts, see Cramér [2].

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