

The quadratic $\varphi = 1$ has solutions

$$(10) \quad \nu = \frac{3x \pm \sqrt{x^2 + 8}}{4}.$$

As ν is known to be greater than x , only the positive sign in (10) need be considered. The result so obtained is everywhere greater than x , and positive for all $x > -1$, giving the result

$$R_x < 4/\{3x + \sqrt{8 + x^2}\}, \quad x > -1.$$

4. A corollary on the weight function in probit analysis. The function

$$\psi(x) = e^{-x^2} / \int_{-\infty}^x e^{-t^2} dt \int_x^{\infty} e^{-t^2} dt$$

is well known as the weight function in probit analysis. From tables it is obvious that ψ is a decreasing function of x^2 . Hammersley [5] has given a rather complicated proof of this result, and has remarked on the apparent lack of a simple proof. In fact

$$\begin{aligned} \psi'(x) &= \psi(x)\{\nu(x) - \nu(-x) - 2x\} \\ &= 2x\psi(x)\{\lambda(x') - 1\}, \quad \text{where } -|x| \leq x' \leq |x|, \end{aligned}$$

by the Mean Value Theorem, and, since ψ is positive by definition, the result follows immediately from (3) above.

REFERENCES

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ON A DOUBLE INEQUALITY OF THE NORMAL DISTRIBUTION¹

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In this note we shall extend certain results of R. D. Gordon and Z. W. Birnbaum concerning bounds for the normal distribution function.

Received 1/7/52, revised 8/23/52.

¹Work sponsored in part by the Office of Naval Research.

Gordon [1] obtained the inequalities

$$\frac{x}{x^2 + 1} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} \leq \int_x^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}t^2} dt \leq \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} \quad \text{for } x > 0.$$

Birnbaum [2] improved Gordon's lower bound, obtaining the inequality

$$\frac{\sqrt{4 + x^2} - x}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} \leq \int_x^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}t^2} dt \quad \text{for } x \geq 0.$$

It was pointed out by Feller [3] that

$$\int_x^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}t^2} dt \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} \left\{ \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{x^3} + \frac{1 \cdot 3}{x^5} + \dots + (-1)^k \frac{1 \cdot 3 \cdot \dots \cdot (2k - 1)}{x^{2k+1}} \right\},$$

where for $x > 0$ the right side is an upper bound when k is even and a lower bound when k is odd. It is evident that Feller's expression does not constitute an improvement of the bounds of Gordon and Birnbaum when $0 < x < 1$. The following theorem gives new bounds for

$$\int_x^\infty (1/\sqrt{2\pi}) e^{-t^2/2} dt.$$

THEOREM:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} - \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{e^{-x^2}}{4}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} &\leq \int_x^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}t^2} dt \leq \frac{1}{2} + \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2}}{x\sqrt{2\pi}} - \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{e^{-x^2}}{2\pi x^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad \text{for } x \geq 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2}}{x\sqrt{2\pi}} + \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{e^{-x^2}}{2\pi x^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} &\leq \int_x^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}t^2} dt \leq \frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{e^{-x^2}}{4}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad \text{for } x \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

For the case $x \geq 0$ the lower bound exceeds that of Birnbaum for some x and is exceeded by it for other values of x . The upper bound is an improvement on the result of Birnbaum and Gordon for all x . The inequalities for $x \leq 0$ are of course obtainable immediately from the relation

$$\int_x^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}t^2} dt = 1 - \int_x^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}t^2} dt.$$

The proof of the theorem will consist in proving two lemmas and then combining the results. In what follows we shall use the notation

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} \quad \text{and} \quad F(x) = \int_x^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}t^2} dt.$$

LEMMA 1. $(2F - 1)f \geq F(1 - F)x$ for $0 \leq x < \infty$ with equality at 0 and ∞ .

PROOF. Let $g = (2F - 1)f - F(1 - F)x$. Then,

$$(1) \quad g' = 2f^2 - F(1 - F), \quad g'' = -4xf^2 + (2F - 1)f.$$

It may easily be shown that g is continuous with derivatives of all order, $g(0) = g(\infty) = 0$, and $g'(0) > 0$. From this we see that unless g is nonnegative for all positive x , there exists a minimum x_0 for which $g(x_0) < 0$. Now, from (1) and

the definition of g , we have $g'' < F(1 - F)x_0 - 4x_0f^2 < -2x_0f^2 < 0$, which is impossible. Hence, g is nonnegative for all positive x , which completes the proof.

LEMMA 2. $F(1 - F) \geq \pi f^2/2$ for $0 \leq x < \infty$ with equality at 0 and ∞ .

PROOF. Let $h = F(1 - F) - \pi f^2/2$. Then,

$$(2) \quad h' = f(1 - 2F) + \pi x f^2, \quad h'' = f^2(\pi - 2 - 2\pi x^2) - x f(1 - 2F).$$

It may be shown that h is continuous with derivatives of all order, $h(0) = h(\infty) = 0$, $h'(0) = 0$, and $h''(0) > 0$. Let y_0 be an extremum of h . Then, from (2) $h'' = f^2(\pi - 2 - \pi y_0^2)$ at the point y_0 . Hence, $y_0 \leq (\pi - 2)^{1/2}/\sqrt{2}$ if y_0 is a minimum and $y_0 \geq (\pi - 2)^{1/2}/\sqrt{2}$ if y_0 is a maximum, so that if a minimum and a maximum both exist, the minimum must precede the maximum. In view of this circumstance it is evident from the above mentioned properties of h , h' and h'' that a minimum cannot exist, and therefore that h is nonnegative for all positive x .

The results of Lemmas 1 and 2 can be rewritten respectively as

$$(3) \quad \left(F + \frac{f}{x} - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \geq \left(\frac{f}{x} - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + \frac{f}{x},$$

$$(4) \quad \left(F - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \leq \frac{1}{4} - \frac{\pi}{2} f^2.$$

For $x \geq 0$ the upper bound of the theorem is obtainable from (3) and the lower bound from (4).

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- [1] R. D. GORDON, "Values of Mill's ratio of area to bounding ordinate of the normal probability integral for large values of the argument," *Ann. Math. Stat.*, Vol. 12 (1941), pp. 364-366.
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CORRECTION TO "SOME NONPARAMETRIC TESTS OF WHETHER THE LARGEST OBSERVATIONS OF A SET ARE TOO LARGE OR TOO SMALL"*

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This note calls attention to the fact that Theorem 4 of this paper (*Annals of Math. Stat.*, Vol. 21 (1950), pp. 583-592) is only partially correct. The results $\lim_{\Phi \rightarrow -\infty} P_1(\Phi) = 0$ and $\lim_{\Phi \rightarrow -\infty} P_3(\Phi) = 1$ as well as the monotonicity properties

* Received 1/29/52, revised form 9/19/52.