

## Confidence Interval for Variance of a normal distribution

Suppose  $X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} \text{Normal}(\mu, \sigma^2)$  with both  $\mu$  and  $\sigma^2$  unknown.

(a) We have previously stated that  $\frac{(n-1)S^2}{\sigma^2} \sim \chi_{n-1}^2$ , where  $S^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2$ . Explain in a sentence or two why this is a pivotal quantity for  $\sigma^2$ .

(b) Use the pivotal quantity from part (a) to find a 2-sided confidence interval for  $\sigma^2$ . At this point we are not working with a sample of observed data so your interval endpoints should be random variables.

Hint: Note that if  $\frac{1}{5} < \frac{1}{4} < \frac{1}{3}$ , you can take the reciprocal of all three terms if you also reverse the direction of the inequalities:  $5 > 4 > 3$ .