# Ch4. Distribution of Quadratic Forms in $\boldsymbol{y}$

#### 1 definition

**Definition 1.1** If A is a symmetric matrix and y is a vector, the product

$$\boldsymbol{y}' \boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{y} = \sum_{i} a_{ii} y_i^2 + \sum_{i \neq j} a_{ij} y_i y_j$$

is called a quadratic form. If  $m{x}$  is n imes 1,  $m{y}$  is p imes 1, and  $m{A}$  is n imes p, the product

$$\boldsymbol{x}' \boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{y} = \sum_{ij} a_{ij} x_i y_j$$

is called a bilinear form.

Note: y'Ay = y'A'y, so if let B = (A + A')/2, then B' = B (symmetric) and y'By = y'Ay. Thus, to study a quadratic form y'Ay, we always assume that A is symmetric, A' = A.

#### 2 Mean and Variance of Quadratic Forms

**Theorem 2.1** If y is a random vector with mean  $\mu$  and covariance matrix  $\Sigma$  and if A is a symmetric matrix of constants, then

$$E(\boldsymbol{y}'\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{y}) = tr(\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}) + \boldsymbol{\mu}'\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{\mu}.$$
(1)

PROOF: Since  $\Sigma = E(y-\mu)(y-\mu)' = E(yy')-\mu\mu'$ , i.e.,  $E(yy') = \Sigma + \mu\mu'$ . Since y'Ay is a scalar, it is equal to its trace. We have

$$E(\mathbf{y}'\mathbf{A}\mathbf{y}) = E[tr(\mathbf{y}'\mathbf{A}\mathbf{y})]$$
  
=  $E[tr(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{y}\mathbf{y}')]$   
=  $tr[E(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{y}\mathbf{y}')]$   
=  $tr[\mathbf{A}(\Sigma + \boldsymbol{\mu}\boldsymbol{\mu}')]$   
=  $tr(\mathbf{A}\Sigma) + \boldsymbol{\mu}'\mathbf{A}\boldsymbol{\mu}.$ 

Note that since y'Ay is not a linear function of y,  $E(y'Ay) \neq E(y')AE(y)$ .

**Example 2.1** Show that the sample variance

$$s^{2} = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_{i} - \bar{y})^{2}$$
<sup>(2)</sup>

is an unbiased estimator of the population variance.

PROOF: Since the numerator of (2) can be written as

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2 = \boldsymbol{y}' (\boldsymbol{I} - \frac{1}{n} \boldsymbol{J}) \boldsymbol{y},$$

where J = jj' and  $j = (1, 1, \cdots, 1)'$ . Thus for use in (1), we have  $A = I - \frac{1}{n}J$ ,  $\Sigma = \sigma I$ , and  $\mu = \mu j$ . Hence,

$$\begin{split} E[\sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \bar{y})^2] &= tr[(\boldsymbol{I} - \frac{1}{n}\boldsymbol{J})(\sigma^2\boldsymbol{I})] + \mu \boldsymbol{j}'(\boldsymbol{I} - \frac{1}{n}\boldsymbol{J})\mu \boldsymbol{j} \\ &= \sigma^2 tr(\boldsymbol{I} - \frac{1}{n}\boldsymbol{J}) + \mu^2(\boldsymbol{j}'\boldsymbol{j} - \frac{1}{n}\boldsymbol{j}'\boldsymbol{j}\boldsymbol{j}'\boldsymbol{j}) \\ &= \sigma(n - \frac{n}{n}) + \mu^2(n - \frac{1}{n}n^2) \\ &= (n - 1)\sigma^2. \end{split}$$

Therefore

$$E(s^2) = \sigma^2.$$

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Theorem 2.2 If  ${\boldsymbol y}$  us  $N_p({\boldsymbol \mu}, \Sigma)$ , then

$$var(\boldsymbol{y}'\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{y}) = 2tr[(\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{\Sigma})^2] + 4\boldsymbol{\mu}'\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{\mu}.$$
(3)

PROOF: See Searle (1971, P. 57).

Theorem 2.3 If  ${\boldsymbol y}$  is  $N_p({\boldsymbol \mu}, \Sigma)$ , then

$$cov(\boldsymbol{y}, \boldsymbol{y}' \boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{y}) = 2\Sigma \boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{\mu}.$$

PROOF: See Rencher and Schaalje (2008, pp.110).

Corollary 2.1 Let  ${\boldsymbol{B}}$  be a  $k \times p$  matrix of constants, then

$$cov(By, y'Ay) = 2B\Sigma A\mu.$$

**Theorem 2.4** Let  $v = \begin{pmatrix} y \\ x \end{pmatrix}$  be a partitioned random vector with mean vector and covariance matrix as follows,

$$E\begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{y}\\ \boldsymbol{x}\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\mu}_y\\ \boldsymbol{\mu}_x \end{pmatrix}, \quad cov\begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{y}\\ \boldsymbol{x}\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \Sigma_{yx} & \Sigma_{yx}\\ \Sigma_{xy} & \Sigma_{xx} \end{pmatrix},$$

where y is  $p \times 1$ , x is  $q \times 1$ , and  $\Sigma_{yx}$  is  $p \times q$ . Let A be a  $q \times p$  matrix of constants. Then

$$E(\boldsymbol{x}'\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{y}) = tr(\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{yx}) + \boldsymbol{\mu}'_{x}\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{\mu}_{y}.$$

PROOF: Exercise of students.

**Example 2.2** Show that the population covariance  $\sigma_{xy} = E[(x - \mu_x)(y - \mu_y)]$  can be estimated by the sample covariance

$$S_{xy} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y}),$$

where  $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), \dots, (x_n, y_n)$  is a bivariate random sample from a population with means  $\mu_x$  and  $\mu_y$ , and covariance  $\sigma_{xy}$ .

## **3 Noncentral Chi-square Distribution**

**Definition 3.1** Suppose that y is  $N_n(\mu, I_n)$ . Then v = y'y is distributed as a noncentral  $\chi^2$  distribution with n degrees of freedom and noncentrality parameter  $\lambda = \mu'\mu$ , i.e.,

$$v \sim \chi^2(n, \lambda).$$

When  $\lambda = 0$ , v is distributed as a central  $\chi^2$  distribution, i.e.,  $v \sim \chi^2(n)$ .

**Theorem 3.1** If v is distributed as  $\chi^2(n, \lambda)$ , then

$$E(v) = n + 2\lambda,$$
  

$$var(v) = 2n + 8\lambda,$$
  

$$M_v(t) = \frac{1}{(1 - 2t)^{n/2}} e^{-\lambda [1 - 1/(1 - 2t)]}.$$

PROOF: See Graybill (1976, p.126).

The  $\chi^2$  distribution has an additive property:

**Theorem 3.2** If  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k$  are independently distributed as  $\chi^2(n_i, \lambda_i)$ , then  $\sum_{i=1}^k v_i$  is distributed as  $\chi^2(\sum_{i=1}^k n_i, \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i)$ .

#### **4** Noncentral F Distribution

**Definition 4.1** If u is distributed as a noncentral chi-square,  $\chi^2(p, \lambda)$ , while v remains a central chi-square,  $\chi^2(q)$ , with u and v independent. Then

$$z = rac{u/p}{v/q}$$
 is distributed as  $F(p,q,\lambda)$ ,

the noncentral F-distribution with noncentrality parameter  $\lambda$ , where  $\lambda$  is the same noncentrality parameter as in the distribution of u.

The mean of the distribution is

$$E(z) = \frac{q}{q-2}\left(1 + \frac{2\lambda}{p}\right).$$

# **5** Noncentral t Distribution

**Definition 5.1** If y is  $N(\mu, 1)$ , u is  $\chi^2(p)$ , and y and u are independent, then

$$t = \frac{y}{\sqrt{u/p}}$$
 is distributed as  $t(p, \mu)$ ,

the noncentral t-distribution with p degrees of freedom and noncentrality parameter  $\mu$ .

Note if y is  $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ , the noncentrality parameter becomes  $\mu/\sigma$ , since  $y/\sigma$  is distributed as  $N(\mu/sigma, 1)$ .

## **6** Distribution of Quadratic Forms

**Theorem 6.1** Let  $\boldsymbol{y}$  be distributed as  $N_p(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \Sigma)$ , let  $\boldsymbol{A}$  be a  $p \times p$  symmetric matrix of constants of rank r, and let  $\lambda = \frac{1}{2}\boldsymbol{\mu}'\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{\mu}$ . Then  $\boldsymbol{y}'\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{y}$  is  $\chi^2(r,\lambda)$  if and only if  $\boldsymbol{A}\Sigma$  is idempotent.

PROOF: (sufficiency). If  $A\Sigma$  is idempotent, y'Ay is  $\chi^2(r, \lambda)$ .

Since  $\Sigma > 0$ , we have  $\Sigma = B^2$  where  $B = \Sigma^{1/2}$  is nonsingular and symmetric. Let R = BAB, R is symmetric and of rank(R) = rank(A) = r. (Multiplication by a nonsingular matrix does not change the rank.)

Since  $\boldsymbol{A}\Sigma$  is idempotent, we have

 $R^{2}B = BABBABB = BA\Sigma A\Sigma = BA\Sigma = BABB = RB,$ 

thus,  $R^2 B B^{-1} = R B B^{-1}$  and  $R^2 = R$ , R is idempotent. Therefore, there exists an orthogonal matrix Q such that

$$oldsymbol{R} = oldsymbol{Q}' egin{pmatrix} oldsymbol{I}_r & oldsymbol{O} \ oldsymbol{O} & oldsymbol{O} \end{pmatrix} oldsymbol{Q} = oldsymbol{P}' oldsymbol{P},$$

where  $oldsymbol{P} = egin{pmatrix} oldsymbol{I}_r & oldsymbol{O} \end{pmatrix} oldsymbol{Q}.$ Let  $oldsymbol{x} = oldsymbol{P} oldsymbol{B}^{-1} oldsymbol{y}$  be a linear transformation of  $oldsymbol{y}$ ,

$$E(\boldsymbol{x}) = \boldsymbol{P}\boldsymbol{B}^{-1}\boldsymbol{\mu} = \boldsymbol{\theta},$$

$$cov(\boldsymbol{x}) = \boldsymbol{P}\boldsymbol{B}^{-1}cov(\boldsymbol{y})\boldsymbol{B}^{-1}\boldsymbol{P}' = \boldsymbol{P}\boldsymbol{B}^{-1}\boldsymbol{B}\boldsymbol{B}\boldsymbol{B}^{-1}\boldsymbol{P}' = \boldsymbol{P}\boldsymbol{P}' = \boldsymbol{I}_r.$$

Hence,  $x \sim N_r(\theta, I_r)$ . By definition,  $x'x \sim \chi^2(r, \lambda)$  with the noncentrality parameter

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{2} \theta' \theta = \frac{1}{2} \mu' B^{-1} P' P B^{-1} \mu = \mu' B^{-1} B A B B^{-1} \mu = \mu' A \mu.$$

Since

$$x'x = y'B^{-1}P'PB^{-1}y = y'Ay,$$

the proof is completed.

The proof for the necessity can be found in Searle (1971, pp.57-58).

**Corollary 6.1** If y is  $N_p(O, I)$ , then y'Ay is  $\chi^2(r)$  if and only if A is idempotent of rank r.

**Corollary 6.2** If  $\boldsymbol{y}$  is  $N_p(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \sigma^2 \boldsymbol{I})$ , then  $\boldsymbol{y}' \boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{y} / \sigma^2$  is  $\chi^2(r, \boldsymbol{\mu}' \boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{\mu} / 2\sigma^2)$  is and only if  $\boldsymbol{A}$  is idempotent of rank r.

**Example 6.1** Consider the sample variance

$$S^{2} = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_{i} - \bar{y})^{2},$$

where  $y_i \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ . In the matrix form, it is can be written as

$$S^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \boldsymbol{y}' (\boldsymbol{I} - \frac{1}{n} \boldsymbol{J}) \boldsymbol{y},$$

where  $I - \frac{1}{n}J$  is idempotent and of rank n - 1. We next find  $\lambda$ ,

$$\lambda = \boldsymbol{\mu}' \boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{\mu} / (2\sigma^2) = \mu^2 [\boldsymbol{j}' \boldsymbol{j} - (1/n) \boldsymbol{j}' \boldsymbol{J} \boldsymbol{j}] / (2\sigma^2) = 0.$$

Therefore,  $y'(I - \frac{1}{n}J)y/\sigma^2 = (n-1)S^2/\sigma^2$  is distributed as  $\chi^2(n-1)$ .

# 7 Independence of Linear Forms and Quadratic Forms

**Lemma 7.1** A symmetric matrix A, of order n and rank r, can be written as LL' where L is  $n \times r$  of rank r, i.e., L has full column rank.

**PROOF:** 

$$oldsymbol{PAP}' = egin{pmatrix} oldsymbol{D}_r^2 & oldsymbol{O} \\ oldsymbol{O} & oldsymbol{O} \end{pmatrix} = egin{pmatrix} oldsymbol{D}_r \\ oldsymbol{O} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} oldsymbol{D}_r & oldsymbol{O} \end{pmatrix} \\ oldsymbol{O} & oldsymbol{O} \end{pmatrix} = egin{pmatrix} oldsymbol{D}_r \\ oldsymbol{O} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} oldsymbol{D}_r & oldsymbol{O} \end{pmatrix} \end{pmatrix}$$

for some orthogonal  $oldsymbol{P}$ , where  $oldsymbol{D}_r^2$  is diagonal of order r. Hence

$$oldsymbol{A} = oldsymbol{P}' egin{pmatrix} oldsymbol{D}_r \ oldsymbol{O} \end{pmatrix} egin{pmatrix} oldsymbol{D}_r & oldsymbol{O} \end{pmatrix} oldsymbol{P} = oldsymbol{L} oldsymbol{L}'$$

where  $L' = \begin{pmatrix} D_r & O \end{pmatrix} P$  of order  $r \times n$  and full row rank; i.e., L is of full column rank. Note also that although LL' = A,  $L'L = D_r^2$ . Also, L' is real only when A is non-negative definite, for only then are the non-zero elements of  $D_r^2$  positive.  $\Box$ 

**Theorem 7.1** (linear and quadratic) Suppose  $\boldsymbol{B}$  is a  $k \times p$  matrix of constants,  $\boldsymbol{A}$  is a  $p \times p$  symmetric matrix of constants, and  $\boldsymbol{y}$  is distributed as  $N_p(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \Sigma)$ . Then  $\boldsymbol{B}\boldsymbol{y}$  and  $\boldsymbol{y}' \boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{y}$  are independent if and only if  $\boldsymbol{B} \Sigma \boldsymbol{A} = \boldsymbol{O}$ .

PROOF: (sufficiency)  $B\Sigma A = O$  implies independence.

From the lemma, A = LL', where L is of full-column-rank.

 $B\Sigma A = O$  implies  $B\Sigma LL'L(L'L)^{-1} = O$  i.e.  $B\Sigma L = O$ .

Therefore  $cov(By, y'L) = B\Sigma L = O$ . Hence, because y is normal, By and y'L are independent. Consequently By and y'Ay are independent.

(necessity): the independence of By and y'Ay implies  $B\Sigma A = O$ .

The independence property gives  $cov(By, y'Ay) = 2B\Sigma A\mu = 0$ . Hence  $2B\Sigma A\mu = 0$ , and since this is true for all  $\mu$ ,  $B\Sigma A = O$ , and so the proof is complete.  $\Box$ 

**Example 7.1** Consider  $s^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} y' (I - \frac{1}{n}J) y$  and  $\bar{y} = \frac{1}{n} j' y$ . By theorem 7.1,  $\bar{y}$  is independent of  $s^2$  since  $j' (I - \frac{1}{n}J) = O$ .

**Theorem 7.2** (quadratic and quadratic) Let A and B be symmetric matrices of constants. If y is  $N_p(\mu, \Sigma)$ , then y'Ay and y'bBy are independent if and only if  $A\Sigma B = O$ .

PROOF: (sufficiency)  $A\Sigma B = O$  implies independence.

By the lemma, we have A = LL' and B = MM', where each of L and M have full column rank. Therefore, if  $A\Sigma B = O$ ,  $LL'\Sigma MM' = O$ , and because  $(L'L)^{-1}$  and  $(M'M)^{-1}$  exist this means  $L'\Sigma M = O$ . Therefore

$$cov(\boldsymbol{L}'\boldsymbol{y},\boldsymbol{y}'\boldsymbol{M}) = \boldsymbol{L}'\Sigma\boldsymbol{M} = \boldsymbol{O}.$$

Hence, because y is normal, L'y and y'M are independent. Consequently y'Ay = y'LL'y and By = y'MM'y are independent.

(necessity) the independence implies  $A\Sigma B = O$ . When y'Ay and y'By are independent, cov(y'Ay, y'By) = 0, so that

$$var(\boldsymbol{y}'\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{y} + \boldsymbol{y}'\boldsymbol{B}\boldsymbol{y}) = var(\boldsymbol{y}'\boldsymbol{A}\boldsymbol{y}) + var(\boldsymbol{y}'\boldsymbol{B}\boldsymbol{y}),$$

i.e.,

$$var(y'(A + B)y) = var(y'Ay) + var(y'By).$$

Applying equation (3) to all three terms in this results leads, after a little simplification, to

$$tr(\Sigma A \Sigma B) + 2\mu' A \Sigma B \mu = 0.$$

This is true for all  $\mu$ , including  $\mu = 0$ , so  $tr(\Sigma A \Sigma B) = 0$  and on substituting back gives  $2\mu' A \Sigma B \mu = 0$ . This in turn is true for all  $\mu$ , and so  $A \Sigma B = 0$ . Thus theorem is proved.  $\Box$ 

**Example 7.2** To illustrate theorem 7.2, consider the partitioning of  $\sum_i y_i^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - y_i)^2$ 

$$ar{y})^2+nar{y}^2$$
 , i.e.,  $m{y}'m{y}=m{y}'(m{I}-rac{1}{n}m{J})m{y}+m{y}'(rac{1}{n}m{J})m{y}.$ 

If  $\boldsymbol{y}$  is  $N_n(\mu \boldsymbol{j}, \sigma^2 \boldsymbol{I})$ , then by theorem 7.2,  $\boldsymbol{y}'(\boldsymbol{I} - \frac{1}{n}\boldsymbol{J})\boldsymbol{y}$  and  $\boldsymbol{y}'(\frac{1}{n}\boldsymbol{J})\boldsymbol{y}$  are independent if and only if  $(\boldsymbol{I} - \frac{1}{n}\boldsymbol{J})(\frac{1}{n}\boldsymbol{J}) = \boldsymbol{O}$ .

**Theorem 7.3** (Several quadratic forms) Let  $\boldsymbol{y}$  be  $N_n(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \sigma^2 I)$ , let  $\boldsymbol{A}_i$  be symmetric of rank  $r_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$ , and let  $\boldsymbol{y}' \boldsymbol{A} \boldsymbol{y} = \sum_{i=1}^k \boldsymbol{y}' \boldsymbol{A}_i \boldsymbol{y}$ , where  $\boldsymbol{A} = \sum_{i=1}^k \boldsymbol{A}_i$  is symmetric of rank r. Then

(1) 
$$m{y}'m{A}_im{y}/\sigma^2$$
 is  $\chi^2(r_i,m{\mu}'m{A}_im{\mu}/2\sigma^2)$ ,  $i=1,2,\cdots,k$ , and

(2)  ${m y}'{m A}_i{m y}$  and  ${m y}'{m A}_j{m y}$  are independent for all i
eq j, and

(3)  $m{y}'m{A}m{y}/\sigma^2$  is  $\chi^2(r,m{\mu}'m{A}m{\mu}/2\sigma^2)$ 

if and only if any two of the following three statements are true:

- (a) each  $A_i$  is idempotent,
- (b)  $A_i A_j = O$  for all  $i \neq j$ .
- (c)  $oldsymbol{A} = \sum_{i=1}^k oldsymbol{A}_i$  is idempotent.

or if and only if (c) and (d) are true, where (d) is the following statement:

(d)  $r = \sum_{i=1}^{k} r_i$ .