

Appendix K

The F Distribution

The F distribution is an asymmetric distribution that has a minimum value of 0, but no maximum value. The curve reaches a peak not far to the right of 0, and then gradually approaches the horizontal axis the larger the F value is. The F distribution approaches, but never quite touches the horizontal axis.

The F distribution has two degrees of freedom, d_1 for the numerator, d_2 for the denominator. For each combination of these degrees of freedom there is a different F distribution. The F distribution is most spread out when the degrees of freedom are small. As the degrees of freedom increase, the F distribution the F distribution is less dispersed.

Figure 1.1 shows the shape of the distribution. The F value is on the horizontal axis, with the probability for each F value being represented by the vertical axis. The shaded area in the diagram represents the level of significance α shown in the table.

There is a different F distribution for each combination of the degrees of freedom of the numerator and denominator. Since there are so many F distributions, the F tables are organized somewhat differently than the tables for the other distributions. The three tables which follow are organized by the level of significance. The first table gives F values for that are associated with $\alpha = 0.10$ of the area in the right tail of the distribution. The second table gives the F values for $\alpha = 0.05$ of the area in the right tail, and the third table gives F values for the $\alpha = 0.01$ level of significance. In each of these tables, the F values are given for various combinations of degrees of freedom.

In order to use the F table, first select the significance level to be used,



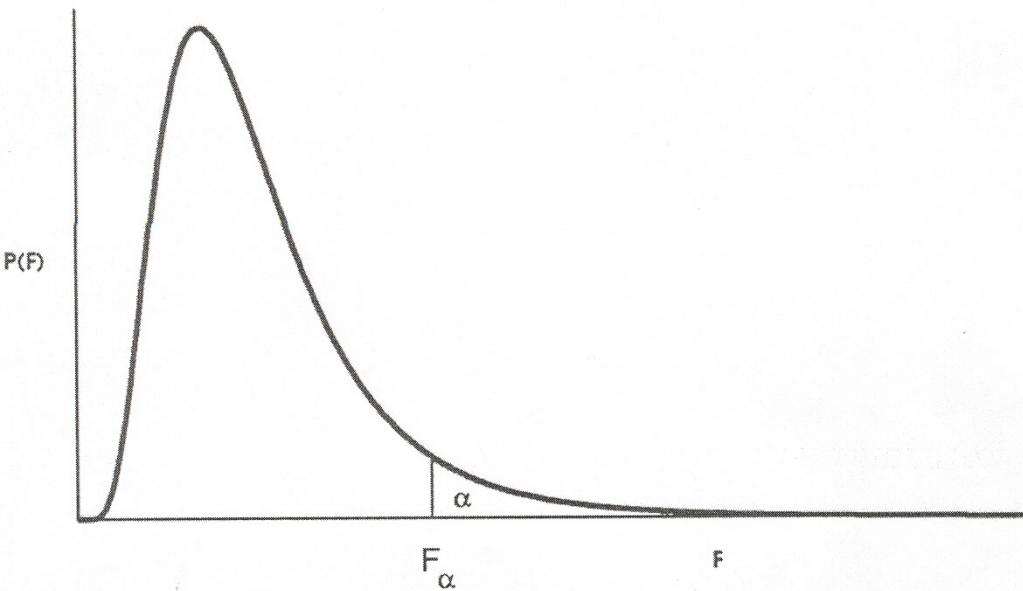


Figure K.1: The F distribution



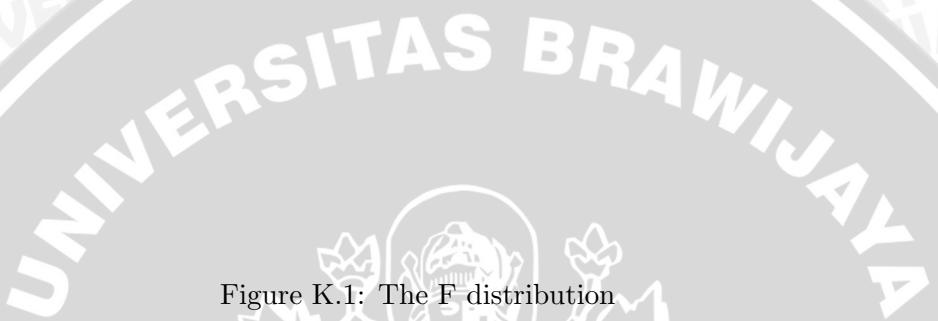


Figure K.1: The F distribution

and then determine the appropriate combination of degrees of freedom. For example, if the $\alpha = 0.10$ level of significance is selected, use the first F table. If there are 5 degrees of freedom in the numerator, and 7 degrees of freedom in the denominator, the F value from the table is 2.88. This means that there is exactly 0.10 of the area under the F curve that lies to the right of $F = 2.88$.

When the significance level is $\alpha = 0.05$, use the second F table. If there are 20 degrees of freedom in the numerator, and 5 degrees of freedom in the denominator, then the critical F value is 4.56. This could be written

$$F_{20,5;0.05} = 4.56$$

That is, for 20 and 5 degrees of freedom, the F value that leaves exactly 0.05 of the area under the F curve in the right tail of the distribution is 4.56.

For the $\alpha = 0.01$ level of significance, the third F table is used. Suppose that there is 1 degree of freedom in the numerator and 12 degrees of freedom in the denominator. Then

$$F_{1,12;0.01} = 9.33.$$

An F value of 9.33 leaves exactly 0.01 of area under the curve in the right tail of the distribution when there are 1 and 12 degrees of freedom.

d_2	1	2	3	4	d_1					9
					5	6	7	8	9	
1	39.86	49.5	53.59	55.83	57.24	58.2	58.91	59.44	59.86	
2	8.53	9.00	9.16	9.24	9.29	9.33	9.35	9.37	9.38	
3	5.54	5.46	5.39	5.34	5.31	5.28	5.27	5.25	5.24	
4	4.54	4.32	4.19	4.11	4.05	4.01	3.98	3.95	3.94	
5	4.06	3.78	3.62	3.52	3.45	3.40	3.37	3.34	3.32	
6	3.78	3.46	3.29	3.18	3.11	3.05	3.01	2.98	2.96	
7	3.59	3.26	3.07	2.96	2.88	2.83	2.78	2.75	2.72	
8	3.46	3.11	2.92	2.81	2.73	2.67	2.62	2.59	2.56	
9	3.36	3.01	2.81	2.69	2.61	2.55	2.51	2.47	2.44	
10	3.29	2.92	2.73	2.61	2.52	2.46	2.41	2.38	2.35	
11	3.23	2.86	2.66	2.54	2.45	2.39	2.34	2.3	2.27	
12	3.18	2.81	2.61	2.48	2.39	2.33	2.28	2.24	2.21	
13	3.14	2.76	2.56	2.43	2.35	2.28	2.23	2.20	2.16	
14	3.10	2.73	2.52	2.39	2.31	2.24	2.19	2.15	2.12	
15	3.07	2.70	2.49	2.36	2.27	2.21	2.16	2.12	2.09	
16	3.05	2.67	2.46	2.33	2.24	2.18	2.13	2.09	2.06	
17	3.03	2.64	2.44	2.31	2.22	2.15	2.10	2.06	2.03	
18	3.01	2.62	2.42	2.29	2.20	2.13	2.08	2.04	2.00	
19	2.99	2.61	2.40	2.27	2.18	2.11	2.06	2.02	1.98	
20	2.97	2.59	2.38	2.25	2.16	2.09	2.04	2.00	1.96	
21	2.96	2.57	2.36	2.23	2.14	2.08	2.02	1.98	1.95	
22	2.95	2.56	2.35	2.22	2.13	2.06	2.01	1.97	1.93	
23	2.94	2.55	2.34	2.21	2.11	2.05	1.99	1.95	1.92	
24	2.93	2.54	2.33	2.19	2.10	2.04	1.98	1.94	1.91	
25	2.92	2.53	2.32	2.18	2.09	2.02	1.97	1.93	1.89	
26	2.91	2.52	2.31	2.17	2.08	2.01	1.96	1.92	1.88	
27	2.90	2.51	2.30	2.17	2.07	2.00	1.95	1.91	1.87	
28	2.89	2.50	2.29	2.16	2.06	2.00	1.94	1.90	1.87	
29	2.89	2.50	2.28	2.15	2.06	1.99	1.93	1.89	1.86	
30	2.88	2.49	2.28	2.14	2.05	1.98	1.93	1.88	1.85	
40	2.84	2.44	2.23	2.09	2.00	1.93	1.87	1.83	1.79	
60	2.79	2.39	2.18	2.04	1.95	1.87	1.82	1.77	1.74	
120	2.75	2.35	2.13	1.99	1.90	1.82	1.77	1.72	1.68	
inf	2.71	2.30	2.08	1.94	1.85	1.77	1.72	1.67	1.63	



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F Values for $\alpha = 0.05$

d_2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	161.4	199.5	215.7	224.6	230.2	234.0	236.8	238.9	240.5
2	18.51	19.00	19.16	19.25	19.3	19.33	19.35	19.37	19.38
3	10.13	9.55	9.28	9.12	9.01	8.94	8.89	8.85	8.81
4	7.71	6.94	6.59	6.39	6.26	6.16	6.09	6.04	6.00
5	6.61	5.79	5.41	5.19	5.05	4.95	4.88	4.82	4.77
6	5.99	5.14	4.76	4.53	4.39	4.28	4.21	4.15	4.10
7	5.59	4.74	4.35	4.12	3.97	3.87	3.79	3.73	3.68
8	5.32	4.46	4.07	3.84	3.69	3.58	3.50	3.44	3.39
9	5.12	4.26	3.86	3.63	3.48	3.37	3.29	3.23	3.18
10	4.96	4.10	3.71	3.48	3.33	3.22	3.14	3.07	3.02
11	4.84	3.98	3.59	3.36	3.20	3.09	3.01	2.95	2.90
12	4.75	3.89	3.49	3.26	3.11	3.00	2.91	2.85	2.80
13	4.67	3.81	3.41	3.18	3.03	2.92	2.83	2.77	2.71
14	4.60	3.74	3.34	3.11	2.96	2.85	2.76	2.70	2.65
15	4.54	3.68	3.29	3.06	2.90	2.79	2.71	2.64	2.59
16	4.49	3.63	3.24	3.01	2.85	2.74	2.66	2.59	2.54
17	4.45	3.59	3.20	2.96	2.81	2.70	2.61	2.55	2.49
18	4.41	3.55	3.16	2.93	2.77	2.66	2.58	2.51	2.46
19	4.38	3.52	3.13	2.90	2.74	2.63	2.54	2.48	2.42
20	4.35	3.49	3.10	2.87	2.71	2.60	2.51	2.45	2.39
21	4.32	3.47	3.07	2.84	2.68	2.57	2.49	2.42	2.37
22	4.30	3.44	3.05	2.82	2.66	2.55	2.46	2.40	2.34
23	4.28	3.42	3.03	2.80	2.64	2.53	2.44	2.37	2.32
24	4.26	3.40	3.01	2.78	2.62	2.51	2.42	2.36	2.30
25	4.24	3.39	2.99	2.76	2.60	2.49	2.40	2.34	2.28
26	4.23	3.37	2.98	2.74	2.59	2.47	2.39	2.32	2.27
27	4.21	3.35	2.96	2.73	2.57	2.46	2.37	2.31	2.25
28	4.20	3.34	2.95	2.71	2.56	2.45	2.36	2.29	2.24
29	4.18	3.33	2.93	2.70	2.55	2.43	2.35	2.28	2.22
30	4.17	3.32	2.92	2.69	2.53	2.42	2.33	2.27	2.21
40	4.08	3.23	2.84	2.61	2.45	2.34	2.25	2.18	2.12
60	4.00	3.15	2.76	2.53	2.37	2.25	2.17	2.10	2.04
120	3.92	3.07	2.68	2.45	2.29	2.17	2.09	2.02	1.96
inf	3.84	3.00	2.60	2.37	2.21	2.10	2.01	1.94	1.88

