

Cumulative density function (CDF) Percent point function (PPF) in Excel, R and Python

For distribution functions commonly used in inferential statistics (confidence intervals, tests) : Normal, Student, Chi-Squared, Fisher-Snedecor.

Ricco Rakotomalala



Calculation of CDF and PPF in inferential statistics

Calculations of the quantiles and cumulative distribution functions values are required in inferential statistics, when constructing confidence intervals or for the implementation of hypothesis tests, especially for the calculation of the p-value.

Functions available in different tools allow us to obtain these values. We do not longer need to use statistical tables.

- ➔ Via **Excel** statistical functions (new functions are available from Excel 2010)
- ➔ Via **R**'s statistical functions provided by the “stats” package (directly accessible)
- ➔ Via **Python**'s statistical functions provided by the “scipy” package
`import scipy.stats as stats`



NORMAL DISTRIBUTION

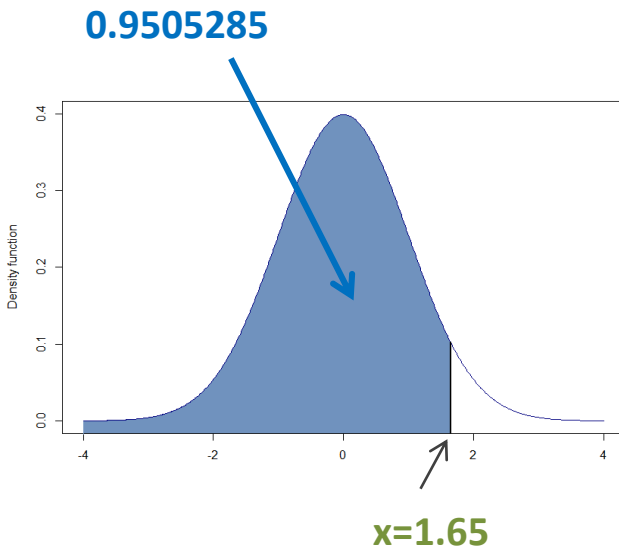


CDF of the **standard normal distribution** ($\mu = 0$ and $\sigma = 1$).

Probability of less than $x = 1.65$ is equal to **0.9505285**

Probability density function

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right)^2}$$



TRUE for the CDF. If **FALSE**, we have the value of the density function. Required.

EXCEL

`NORM.DIST(1.65, 0, 1, TRUE)`

($\mu = 0$) and ($\sigma = 1$). Required settings.

`NORM.S.DIST(1.65, TRUE)` For the standard normal distribution.

R

`pnorm(1.65, mean = 0, sd = 1, lower.tail = TRUE)`

($\mu = 0$) and ($\sigma = 1$). Default.

TRUE: probabilities are $] -\infty ; q]$.
Default.

Python

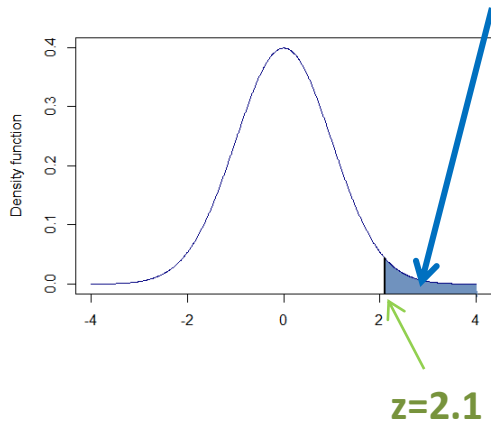
`stats.norm.cdf(1.65, loc = 0, scale = 1)`

($\mu = 0$) and ($\sigma = 1$). Default.



Calculation of the **p-value** for the **standard normal distribution** in a **right tailed test**. The probability of more than $z = 2.1$ is equal to **0.01786442**

p-value = 0.01786442



EXCEL

1- NORM.S.DIST(**2.1**, TRUE)

R

1 - pnorm(**2.1**)

pnorm(**2.1**, lower.tail = FALSE)

Probabilities are $[z; +\infty[$

Python

1 - stats.norm.cdf(**2.1**)

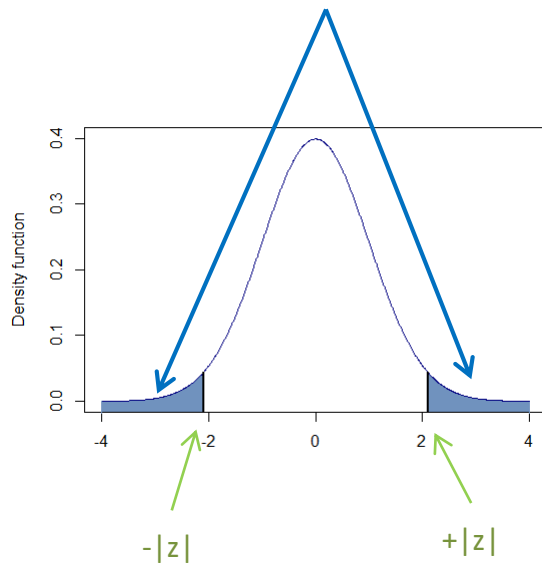
stats.norm.sf(**2.1**)

↑
sf = 1 - cdf



Calculation of the **p-value** for **the standard normal distribution** in a **two-tailed test**. The probability of more than $z = 2.1$ in absolute value is equal to **0.03572884**

$$\text{p-value} = 2 * 0.01786442 = 0.03572884$$



EXCEL

$$2 * (1 - \text{NORM.S.DIST}(2.1, \text{TRUE}))$$

R

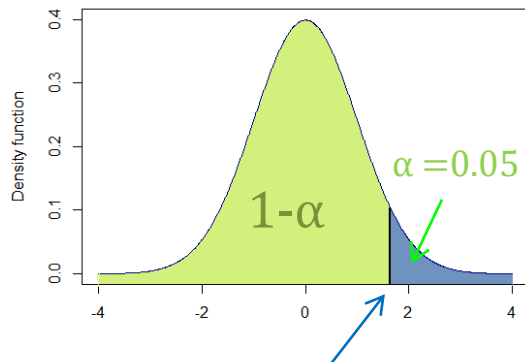
$$2 * \text{pnorm}(2.1, \text{lower.tail} = \text{FALSE})$$

Python

$$2 * (1 - \text{stats.norm.cdf}(2.1))$$



PPF (q) of **the standard normal distribution** for
the probability $(1 - \alpha) = 0.95$



$q = 1.644854$

EXCEL

`NORM.INV(0.95, 0, 1)`

`NORM.S.INV(0.95)`

R

`qnorm(0.95, mean=0, sd = 1, lower.tail=TRUE)`

`qnorm(0.05, mean=0, sd=1, lower.tail=FALSE)`

Python

`stats.norm.ppf(0.95, loc = 0, scale = 1)`



Generating random numbers from standard normal distribution

$$\mathcal{N}(\mu=0, \sigma=1)$$

`RAND()` returns an evenly distributed random real number greater than or equal to 0 and less than 1.

EXCEL



`NORM.S.INV(RAND())`

R

`rnorm(n=1, mean=0, sd = 1)`



Number of values to return. If ($n > 1$), we obtain a vector of values.
Required.

Python

Initialization of the generator. If `random_state = integer`, the values obtained are reproducible. Optional.

`stats.norm.rvs(loc=0, scale=1, size=1, random_state = none)`



Number of values to return. If ($size > 1$), we obtain a vector of values. Optional.



Approximations of the standard normal cumulative distribution function. Some “basic” formulas for ($x > 0$)

$$\Phi_1(x) = 1 - \frac{e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(\frac{0.4361836}{1 + 0.33267x} + \frac{-0.1201676}{(1 + 0.33267x)^2} + \frac{0.9772980}{(1 + 0.33267x)^3} \right)$$

(https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loi_normale)

$$\Phi_2(x) = 0.5 + \frac{1}{2} \left\{ 1 - \frac{1}{30} \left[7e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} + 16e^{-x^2(2-\sqrt{2})} + \left(7 + \frac{1}{4}\pi x^2 \right) e^{-x^2} \right] \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

(<http://mathworld.wolfram.com/NormalDistributionFunction.html>)



$$\Phi_1(1.65) = 0.9494966$$

$$\Phi_2(1.65) = 0.9505364$$

(Excel, R and Python → 0.9505285)



STUDENT'S T-DISTRIBUTION



CDF of Student's t-distribution with k ($k > 0$) degrees of freedom.

Probability of less than $t = 1.5$ with $k = 10$.

Probability density function

$$f_k(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{k\pi}} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{k+1}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{k}{2}\right)} \left(1 + \frac{t^2}{k}\right)^{-\frac{k+1}{2}}$$

TRUE, cumulative distribution function. If FALSE, returns the probability density function. Required

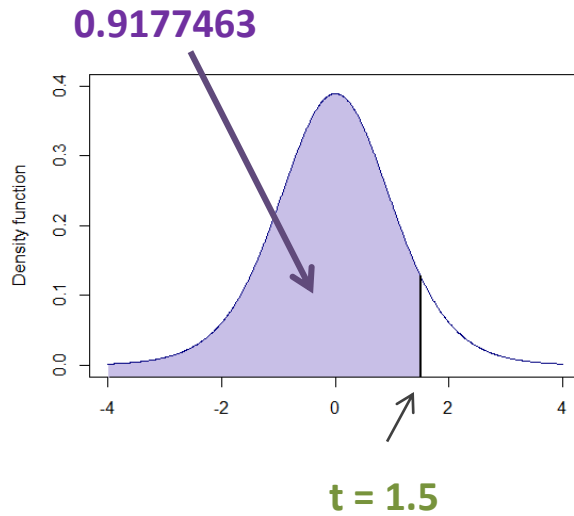
EXCEL



T.DIST(1.5,10,TRUE)

1 - T.DIST.RT(1.5,10)

← We can use also the probability of more than $t = 1.5$



R

pt(1.5,df=10,lower.tail=TRUE)

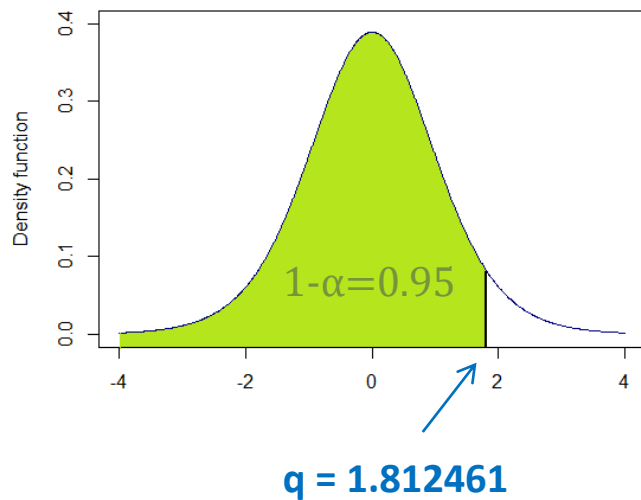
1 - pt(1.5,df=10,lower.tail=FALSE)

Python

stats.t.cdf(1.5,df=10)



PPF (q) of the Student's t-distribution with $k = 10$ degrees of freedom for the probability $(1 - \alpha) = 0.95$



EXCEL

`T.INV(0.95,10)`

R

`qt(0.95,df=10,lower.tail=TRUE)`

`qt(0.05,df=10,lower.tail=FALSE)`

Python

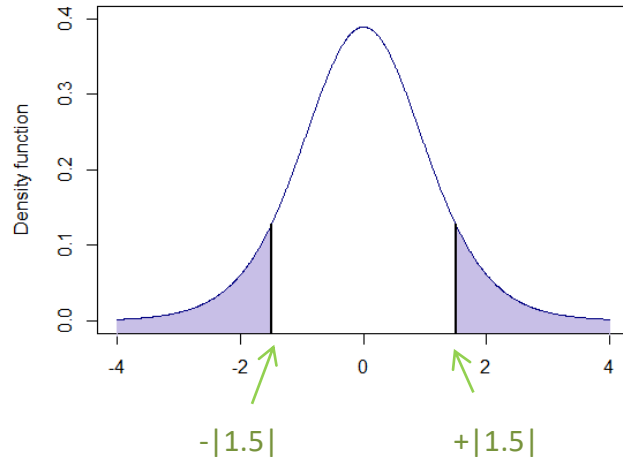
`stats.t.ppf(0.95,df=10)`



CDF and PPF for two-tailed Student's t-distribution.

EXCEL provides two specific functions.

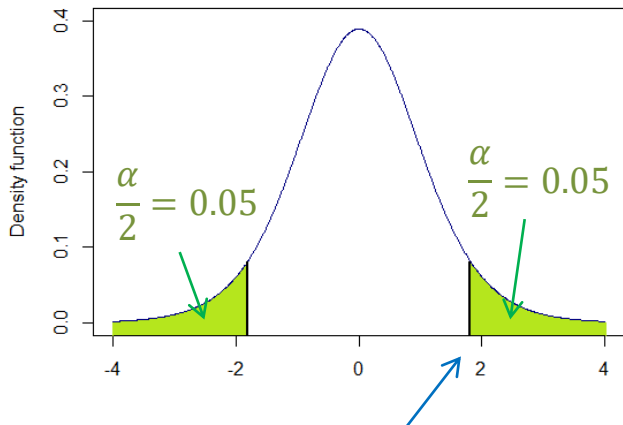
$$\text{p-value} = 2 * 0.08225366 = 0.16450733$$



ABS() "absolute value" function. Essential if the test statistic takes a negative value.



$$\text{T.DIST.2T}(\text{ABS}(1.5), 10)$$



$$\text{T.INV.2T}(0.1, 10)$$



$$\alpha = 0.1$$

$$q = 1.812461$$



CHI-SQUARED DISTRIBUTION

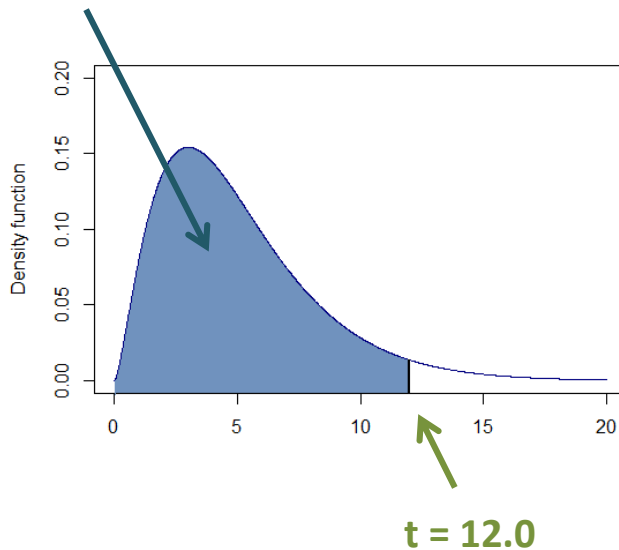


CDF of the **CHI-SQUARED** distribution with **k** ($k > 0$) degrees of freedom.
Probability of less than $t = 12.0$ with $k = 5$.

Probability density function of χ^2

$$f_k(t) = \frac{1}{2^{\frac{k}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{k}{2}\right)} t^{\frac{k}{2}-1} e^{-\frac{t}{2}}$$

0.9652122



TRUE, cumulative distribution function. If FALSE, returns the probability density function. Required

EXCEL

CHISQ.DIST(12.0,5,TRUE)

1 - CHISQ.DIST.RT(12.0,5) We can use also the probability of more than $t = 12.0$

R

pchisq(12.0,df=5)

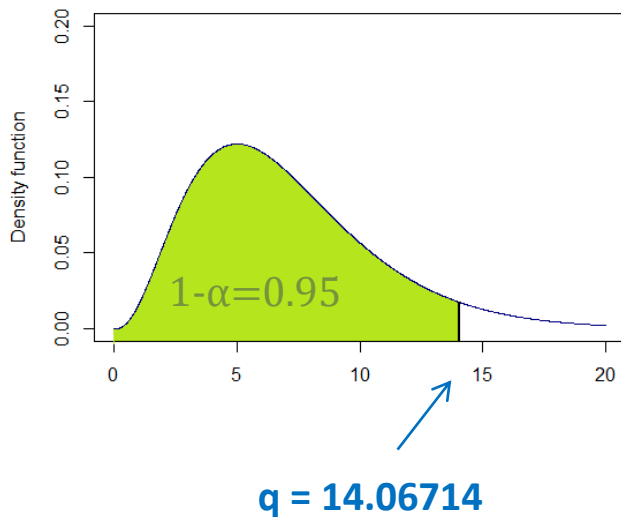
1 - pchisq(12.0,df=5,lower.tail=FALSE)

Python

stats.chi2.cdf(12.0,df=5)



PPF (q) of the chi-squared distribution with $k = 7$ degrees of freedom for the probability $(1 - \alpha) = 0.95$



EXCEL

CHISQ.INV (0.95,7)

CHISQ.INV.RT (0.05,7)

R

qchisq(0.95,df=7)

qchisq(0.05,df=7,lower.tail=FALSE)

Python

stats.chi2.ppf(0.95, df=7)



FISHER-SNEDECOR DISTRIBUTION



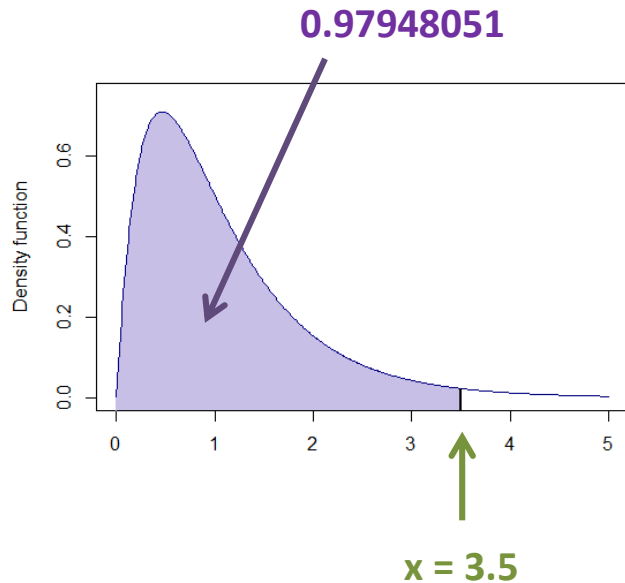
CDF of **F-distribution** with **d1** ($d1 > 0$) and **d2** ($d2 > 0$) **degrees of freedom**.

Probability of less than **x = 3.5** with (**d1 = 4**, **d2 = 26**).

Probability density function

$$f(x) = \frac{\left(\frac{d_1 x}{d_1 x + d_2}\right)^{\frac{d_1}{2}} \left(1 - \frac{d_1 x}{d_1 x + d_2}\right)^{\frac{d_2}{2}}}{x B\left(\frac{d_1}{2}, \frac{d_2}{2}\right)}$$

B() is the [beta function](#)



TRUE, cumulative distribution function. If FALSE, returns the probability density function. Required

EXCEL

`F.DIST(3.5,4,26,TRUE)`

`1 - F.DIST.RT(3.5,4,26)`

We can use also the probability of more than $x = 3.5$

R

`pf(3.5,df1=4,df2=26)`

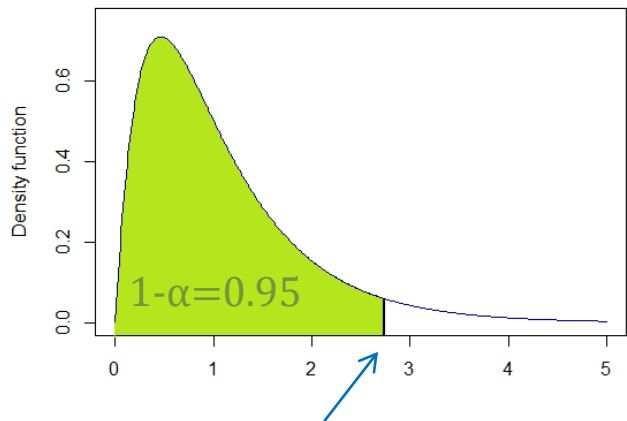
`1 - pf(3.5,df1=4,df2=26,lower.tail=FALSE)`

Python

`stats.f.cdf(3.5,dfn=4,dfd=26)`



PPF (q) of the F-Distribution with ($d1 = 4$, $d2 = 26$) degrees of freedom for the probability $(1 - \alpha) = 0.95$



$q = 2.742594$

EXCEL

`F.INV(0.95,4,26)`

`F.INV.RT(0.05,4,26)`

R

`qf(0.95,df1=4,df2=26)`

`qf(0.05,df1=4,df2=26,lower.tail=FALSE)`

Python

`stats.f.ppf(0.95,dfn=4,dfd=26)`



References



Scipy.org – Statistical functions (scipy.stats)

<https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/reference/stats.html>

Microsoft – Excel Statistical Functions

<https://support.office.com/en-us/article/Statistical-functions-reference-624DAC86-A375-4435-BC25-76D659719FFD>

R Tutorial – Basic Probability Distributions

<http://www.cyclismo.org/tutorial/R/probability.html>

