

# What are the four main functions for the Chi-Square distribution in R and how are they used?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The Chi-Square distribution is a statistical tool used to analyze categorical data and test for associations between variables. In R, there are four main functions for the Chi-Square distribution: `dchisq`, `pchisq`, `qchisq`, and `rchisq`. The `dchisq` function calculates the probability density function, which gives the probability of obtaining a specific value or range of values from the Chi-Square distribution. The `pchisq` function calculates the cumulative distribution function, which gives the probability of obtaining a value less than or equal to a given value from the Chi-Square distribution. The `qchisq` function calculates the quantile function, which gives the value at a given probability level from the Chi-Square distribution. Lastly, the `rchisq` function generates random numbers from the Chi-Square distribution. These functions are used to perform various statistical tests, such as the Chi-Square goodness of fit test and the Chi-Square test for independence. They are also used to calculate confidence intervals and perform hypothesis testing in research and data analysis.

## The Chi-Square Distribution in R: `dchisq`, `pchisq`, `qchisq`, `rchisq`

This tutorial explains how to work with the Chi-Square distribution in R using the following functions:

**`dchisq`:** returns the value of the Chi-Square probability density function.  
**`pchisq`:** returns the value of the Chi-Square cumulative density function.  
**`qchisq`:** returns the value of the Chi-Square quantile function.  
**`rchisq`:** generates a vector of Chi-Square distributed random variables.

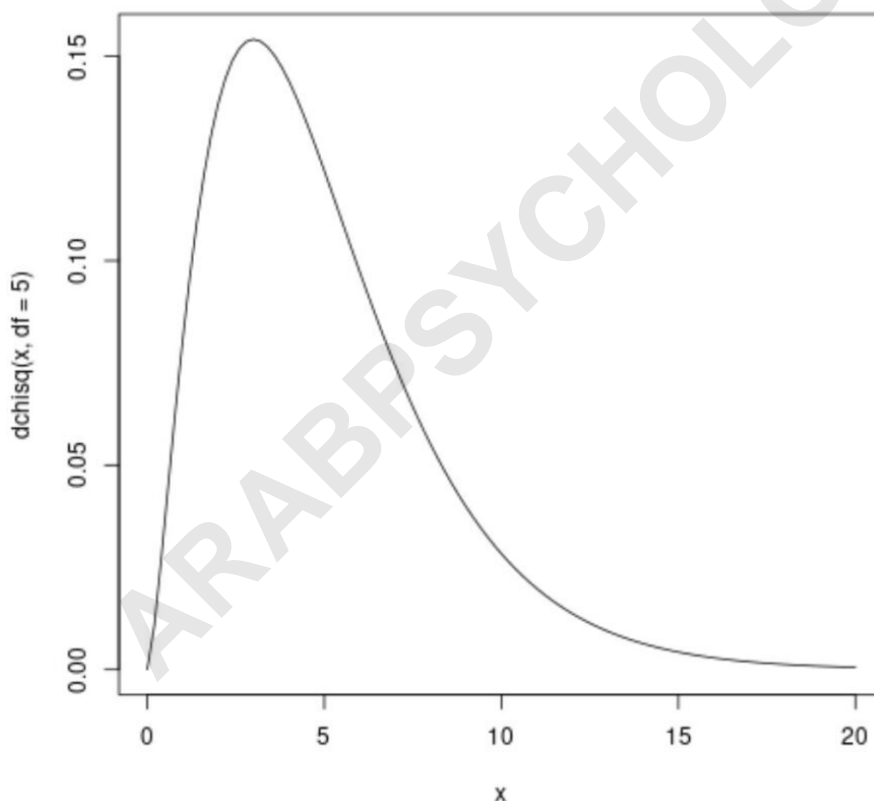
The following examples show how to use each of these functions in practice.

### `dchisq`

We often use the `dchisq()` function with the `curve()` function to plot a Chi-Square distribution with a certain number of degrees of freedom.

For example, we can use the following code to plot a Chi-Square distribution with 5 degrees of freedom:

```
#plot Chi_Square distribution with 5 degrees of freedom  
curve(dchisq(x, df=5), from=0, to=20)
```



The x-axis shows the values of a Chi-Square test statistic and the y-axis shows the corresponding value

of the probability density function.

**Related:**

`pchisq`

We often use the `pchisq()` function to find the that corresponds to a given Chi-Square test statistic.

For example, suppose we perform a and end up with a test statistic of  $X^2 = 0.86404$  with 2 degrees of freedom.

We can use the `pchisq()` function to find the p-value that corresponds to this test statistic:

```
#calculate p-value for given test statistic with 2 degrees  
of freedom
```

```
1-pchisq(0.86404, df=2)
```

```
0.6491964
```

The p-value turns out to be 0.6491964.

We can also confirm this is correct by using the .

`qchisq`

We often use the `qchisq()` function to find the Chi-Square critical value that corresponds to a given significance level and degrees of freedom.

For example, we can use the following code to find the Chi-Square critical value that corresponds to a significance level of .05 with 13 degrees of freedom:

```
qchisq(p=.95, df=13)
```

```
22.36203
```

The critical value turns out to be 22.36203.

We can also confirm this is correct by using the .

```
rchisq
```

We often use the `rchisq()` function to generate a list of  $n$  random values that follow a Chi-Square distribution with a given degrees of freedom.

For example, we can use the following code to generate a list of 1,000 random values that follow a Chi-Square distribution with 5 degrees of freedom:

```
#make this example reproducible  
set.seed(0)
```

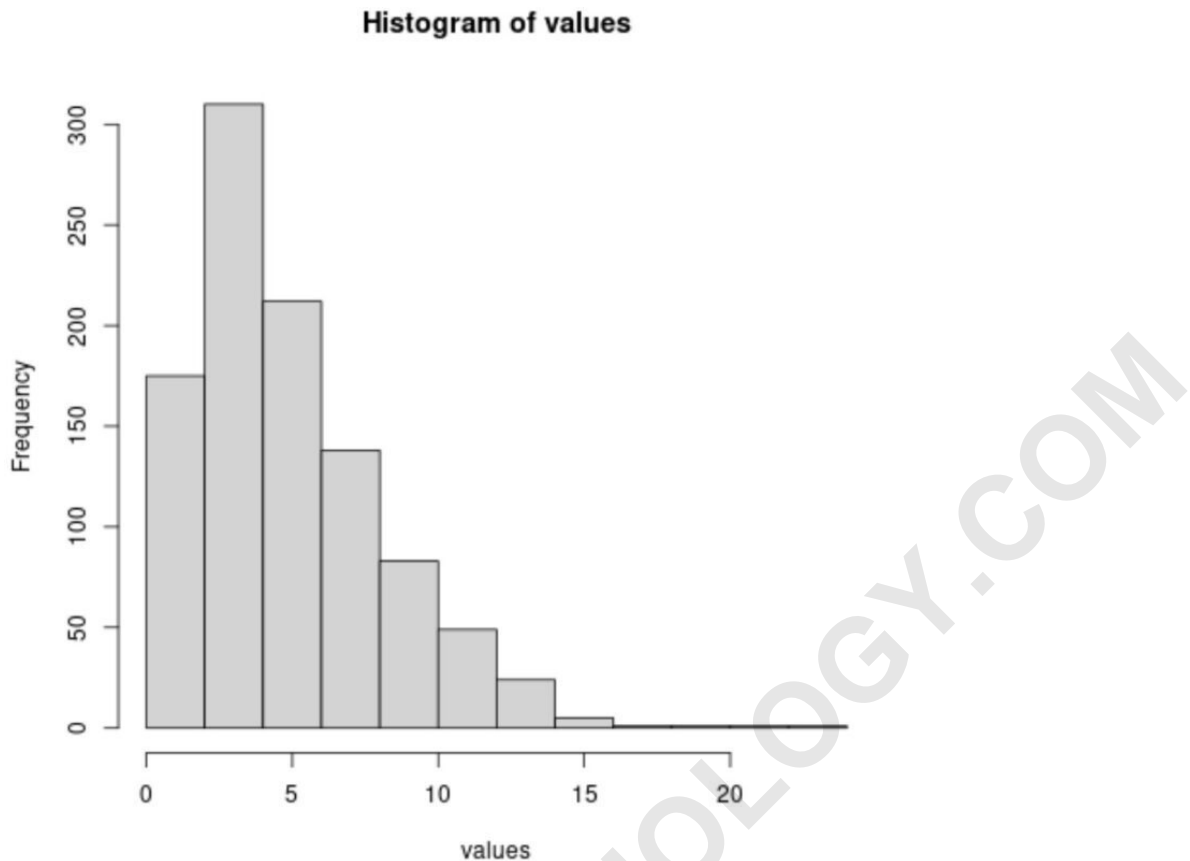
```
#generate 1000 random values that follow Chi-Square  
dist with df=5  
values <- rchisq(n=1000, df=5)
```

```
#view first five values  
head(values)
```

```
8.369701 3.130487 1.985623 5.258747 10.578594  
6.360859
```

**We can also use the hist() function to generate a histogram to visualize this distribution of values:**

```
#create histogram to visualize distribution of values  
hist(values)
```



**The x-axis shows the data values and the y-axis shows the frequency of those values.**

#### **Additional Resources**

**The following tutorials explains how to work with other distributions in R:**