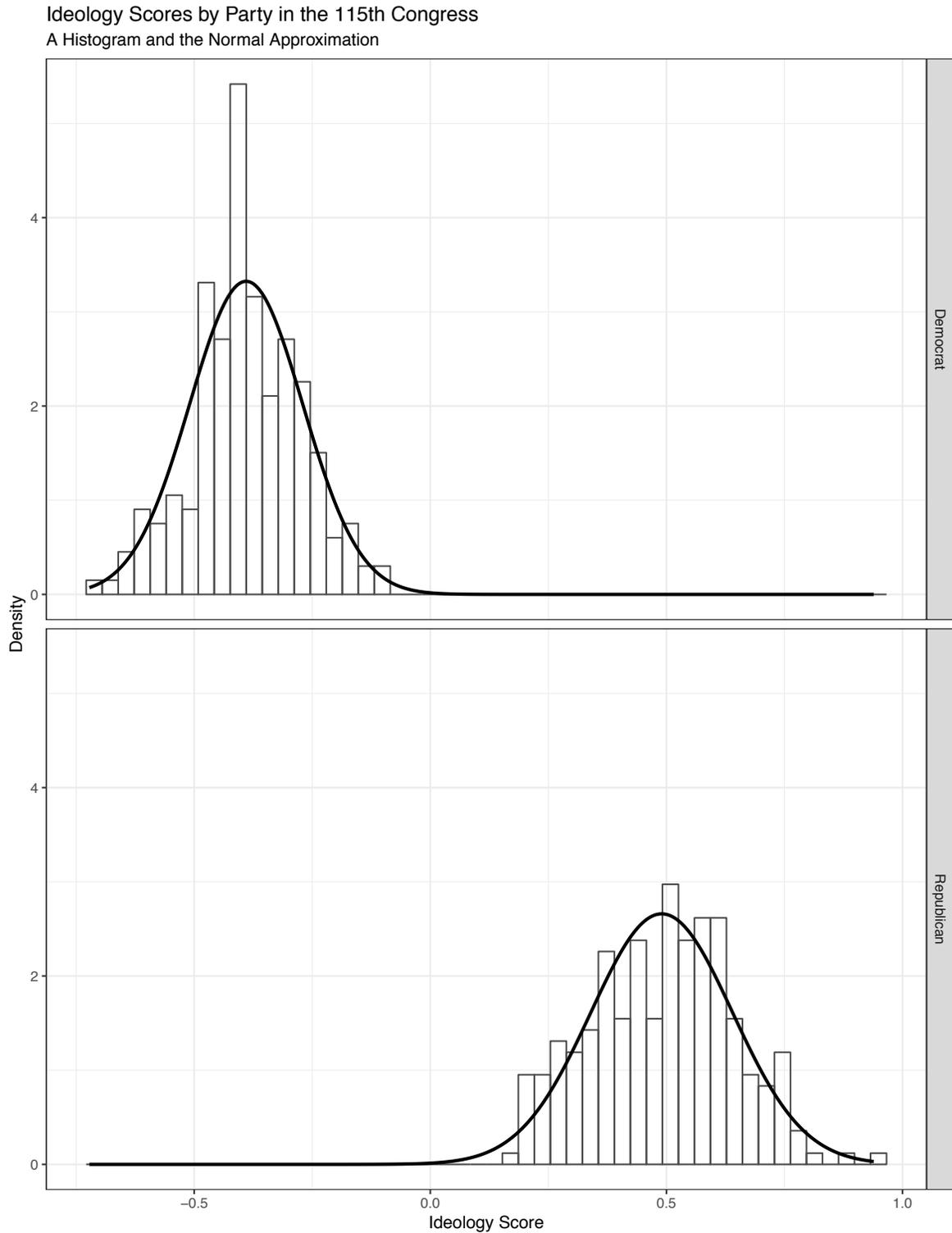


# The Ideology of Party Leadership in the U.S. House

Using the Normal Approximation

The plots above show the distribution of the ideology scores for the Democratic and Republican members of the 115th Congress along with the normal approximation.



The table to the right provides the average and SD for each party.

Use the information in the table to the right and in the histograms above to answer the following questions:

Party	Statistic	Value
Democrat	Average	-0.39
Democrat	SD	0.12
Republican	Average	0.49
Republican	SD	0.15

- What *should* party leaders look like? (One normative criterion might be responsiveness—that policy should respond to public opinion.) Should party leaders be...
  - ideologically extreme members of their party,
  - ideologically moderate members of their party,
  - or ideologically moderate members of the legislature?
- By inspecting the histograms, estimate the percentage of Republicans more conservative than each Republican leader. Similarly, estimate the percentage of Democrats more liberal than each Democratic leader. Fill these percentages in to the table below (in the “Inspect Histogram” column.)
- Based on the histograms above, do you think the normal approximation will work better for Republicans or Democrats? About what size errors do you expect for each party (e.g., 1-2%, 5-10%, 10-20%, etc.)?
- Use the normal approximation to re-answer Question 1 (i.e., estimate the percent of each party more extreme than their leadership). Fill these percentages into the table (in the “Normal Approx.” column).
- Who are the most extreme leaders within each party? The most moderate? Overall, which party’s leadership is more extreme (relative to other members of their party)?

Member	Party	Position	Ideology	Percent More Conservative or Liberal		
				Inspect Histogram	Normal Approx.	Actual
Paul Ryan	Republican	Speaker of the House	0.56			
Kevin McCarthy	Republican	Majority Leader	0.46			
Steve Scalise	Republican	Majority Whip	0.56			
Cathy McMorris Rodgers	Republican	Conference Chair	0.43			
Nancy Pelosi	Democrat	Minority Leader	-0.49			
Steny Hoyer	Democrat	Minority Whip	-0.38			
Jim Clyburn	Democrat	Assistant Democratic Leader	-0.46			
John Lewis	Democrat	Senior Chief Deputy Minority Whip	-0.59			