



Simulation Basics

Jeffrey Leek, Assistant Professor of Biostatistics
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Important simulation functions

Distributions

- `rbeta`, `rbinom`, `rcauchy`, `rchisq`, `rexp`, `rf`, `rgamma`, `rgeom`, `rhyper`, `rlogis`, `rlnorm`, `rnbinom`, `rnorm`, `rpois`, `rt`, `runif`, `rweibull`

Densities

- `dbeta`, `dbinom`, `dcauchy`, `dchisq`, `dexp`, `df`, `dgamma`, `dgeom`, `dhyper`, `dlogis`, `dlnorm`, `dnbinom`, `dnorm`, `dpois`, `dt`, `dunif`, `dweibull`

Sampling

- `sample(,replace=TRUE)`, `sample(replace=FALSE)`

rfoo functions generate data

Normal

```
args(rnorm)
```

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

```
NULL
```

```
heights = rnorm(10,mean=188,sd=3)
```

```
heights
```

```
[1] 192.2 192.0 187.5 188.0 189.2 190.1 187.4 185.1 187.4 187.7
```

rfoo functions generate data

Binomial

```
args(rbinom)
```

```
function (n, size, prob)
```

```
NULL
```

```
coinFlips = rbinom(10,size=10,prob=0.5)
```

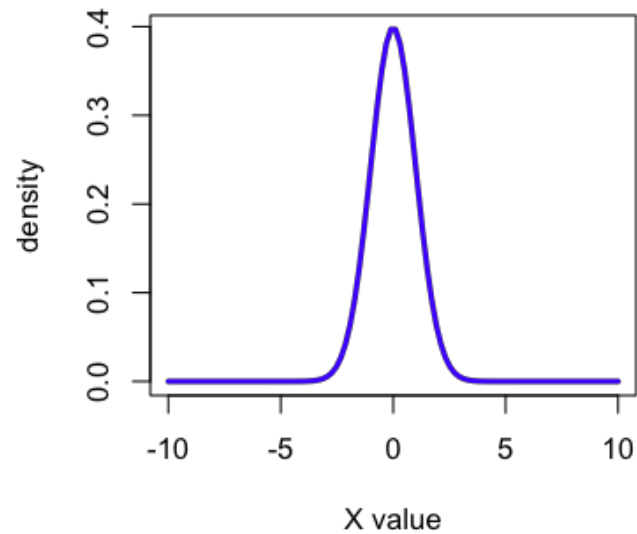
```
coinFlips
```

```
[1] 6 4 6 7 5 6 6 3 3 7
```

Example distribution: Normal

Normal Distribution: $N(\mu, \sigma)$

- $X \sim N(0, 1)$



dfoo functions calculate the density

Normal

```
args(dnorm)
```

```
function (x, mean = 0, sd = 1, log = FALSE)
```

```
NULL
```

```
x = seq(from=-5,to=5,length=10)
```

```
normalDensity = dnorm(x,mean=0,sd=1)
```

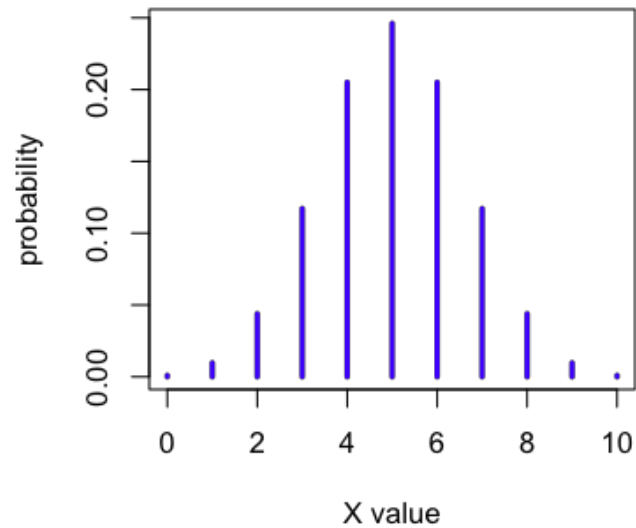
```
round(normalDensity,2)
```

```
[1] 0.00 0.00 0.01 0.10 0.34 0.34 0.10 0.01 0.00 0.00
```

Example distribution: Binomial

Binomial distribution: $Bin(n, p)$

- $X \sim Bin(10, 0.5)$



dfoo functions calculate the density

Binomial

```
args(dbinom)
```

```
function (x, size, prob, log = FALSE)
```

```
NULL
```

```
x = seq(0,10,by=1)
```

```
binomialDensity = dbinom(x,size=10,prob=0.5)
```

```
round(binomialDensity,2)
```

```
[1] 0.00 0.01 0.04 0.12 0.21 0.25 0.21 0.12 0.04 0.01 0.00
```


Sample draws a random sample

```
args(sample)
```

```
function (x, size, replace = FALSE, prob = NULL)  
NULL
```

```
heights = rnorm(10,mean=188,sd=3)  
heights
```

```
[1] 190.5 187.8 184.4 187.0 189.5 189.5 183.6 192.5 188.6 188.1
```

```
sample(heights,size=10,replace=TRUE)
```

```
[1] 187.8 188.1 183.6 187.8 187.0 188.6 184.4 187.8 190.5 190.5
```

Sample draws a random sample

```
heights
```

```
[1] 190.5 187.8 184.4 187.0 189.5 189.5 183.6 192.5 188.6 188.1
```

```
sample(heights,size=10,replace=FALSE)
```

```
[1] 189.5 189.5 188.1 183.6 187.8 187.0 184.4 188.6 192.5 190.5
```

Sample can draw according to a set of probabilities

```
heights
```

```
[1] 190.5 187.8 184.4 187.0 189.5 189.5 183.6 192.5 188.6 188.1
```

```
probs = c(0.4,0.3,0.2,0.1,0,0,0,0,0,0)  
sum(probs)
```

```
[1] 1
```

```
sample(heights,size=10,replace=TRUE,prob=probs)
```

```
[1] 184.4 187.0 187.8 190.5 187.0 190.5 190.5 190.5 187.0 190.5
```

Setting a seed

Setting a seed ensures reproducible results from random processes in R

```
set.seed(12345)  
rnorm(5,mean=0,sd=1)
```

```
[1]  0.5855  0.7095 -0.1093 -0.4535  0.6059
```

```
set.seed(12345)  
rnorm(5,mean=0,sd=1)
```

```
[1]  0.5855  0.7095 -0.1093 -0.4535  0.6059
```

For more information

More on distributions in R

<http://cran.r-project.org/web/views/Distributions.html>

Computing for Data Analysis

[Simulation in R](#)