



# Module 3: Distributions of random variables

## Lecture 7: Continuous Random Variables

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# Overview

**Table 1:** Supplementary Reading

| Topics                   | Relevant Ch |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Continuous Distributions | OIS: 3.5    |

RbE = R by Example

OIS = OpenIntro Statistics

# Continuous Distributions

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# Introduction

- As mentioned previously in lectures, there are two fundamentally different types of random variables:  
**discrete random variables** a variable whose value is obtained by counting  
**continuous random variables** a variable whose value is obtained by measuring
- We have already seen **discrete** probability distributions (Bernoulli, Binomial, Hypergeometric, and the Poisson).
- We can now extend the concepts from last lectures to **continuous** random variables.
- Many of the formulas in the discrete case will replace the summation  $\sum$  by integration  $\int$  for the continuous case.

# Review

- A **discrete** random variable maps the sample space to finite or countably infinite set (a list in which there is a first element, a second element, etc.)
  - eg. the number of times we switch a light-bulb on and off before it dies,  $X = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$  (the support of  $X$  is countably infinite)
- A **continuous** random variable maps the sample space to an uncountable set
  - An example a continuous RV would be the lifetime of a lightbulb  $X = \{x : x \geq 0\}$
- If the support of a random variable is an entire *interval* of numbers is not discrete.

# Continuous RV Examples

Other examples of continuous rv include:

- the depth measurements at randomly chosen locations or a lake. Note that  $X$  could assume any value between the minimum and maximum depths of the lake.
- The pH level in a compound. In this case, the set of all possible values is the interval  $[0, 14]$ .
- The lifetime of a lightbulb which has support  $[0, \infty)$ .

Recall notation:

- $x \in [0, 1] \implies 0 \leq \underline{x} \leq 1,$
- $x \in [0, 1) \implies 0 \leq \underline{x} < 1,$
- $x \in (0, 1] \implies 0 < x \leq \overline{1},$
- $x \in (0, 1) \implies 0 < x < \overline{1},$

# Continuous RV

- It could be argued that measurements such as height, weight, and temperature are, in practice, are discrete due to the limitations of our measuring instruments.
- In a sense this is true. We are constantly ‘discretizing’ continuous heights to the nearest centimetre, weights to the nearest tenth of pound, temperature to the nearest half Celsius, for example.
- However, continuous models are often easier to deal with and provide a good approximate real-world situations.

# Continuous RV

- Take for example our example for the depths of a lake. If we measure to the nearest meter, we can plot the discrete distribution of using a histogram.
- The height of each bar represents the proportion of the lake whose depth is (to the nearest meter) is equal to the integer on the corresponding  $x$ -axis.
- Measuring to the nearest centimetre, we would get a similar plot, only now we would have more so-called ‘bins’ (i.e. we would be discretizing our  $x$ -axis into more discrete intervals).
- If we extend this to some infinitesimally small measurement, we would eventually get a smooth histogram, akin to a curve. See next slide for a visual. . .

Discrete RV pmf  $P(X=x) = f(x)$

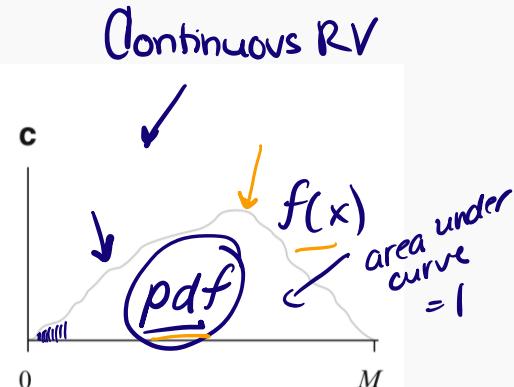
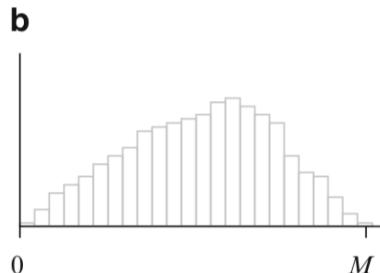
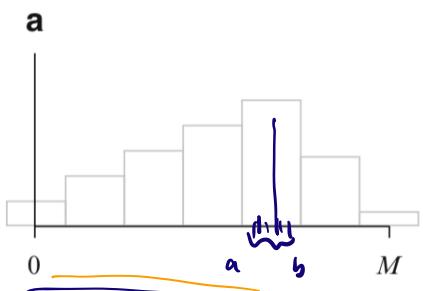


Figure 4.1 (a) Probability histogram of depth measured to the nearest meter; (b) probability histogram of depth measured to the nearest centimeter; (c) a limit of a sequence of discrete histograms

- Note that the heights of the rectangles need to sum to 1.
- Similarly, the area under the smooth curve must also be 1.
- The smooth curve pictured in Figure 4.1(c) exemplifies a *continuous probability density function or pdf/PDF*.

# Definitions

## Definition 1 (probability density function (pdf))

A function with values  $f(x)$ , defined over the set of all real numbers, is called a **probability density function (pdf)** of continuous random variable  $X$  if and only if

$$P(a \leq X \leq b) = \int_a^b f(x)dx.$$

for any real constants  $a$  and  $b$  with  $a \leq b$ .

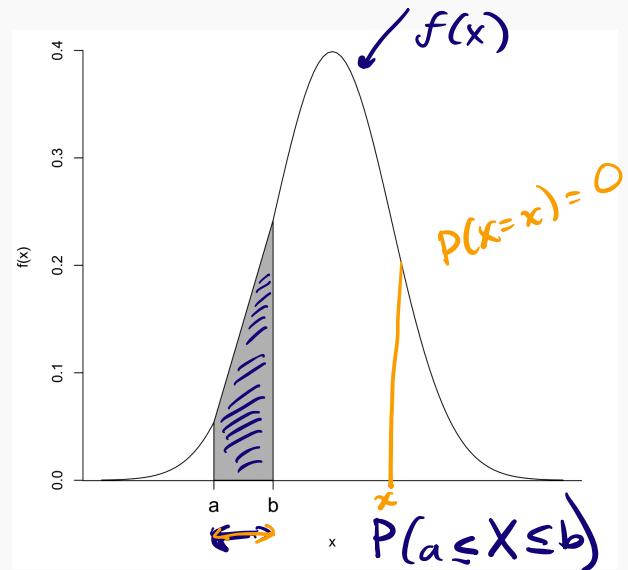
Note that  $f(x) \neq P(X = x)$ .

It is only once we integrate, that we get probabilities

# Graphical presentation of probability densities

A pdf  $f(x)$  integrated from  $a$  to  $b$  (with  $a \leq b$ ), gives the probability that the continuous RV will take on a value on the interval  $[a, b]$ .

- $P(a \leq X \leq b)$  is represented by the shaded region below  $f(x)$  and within  $[a, b]$
- $f(x)$  is often referred to as the *density curve*
- N.B. the  $P(X = x) = 0 \forall x$



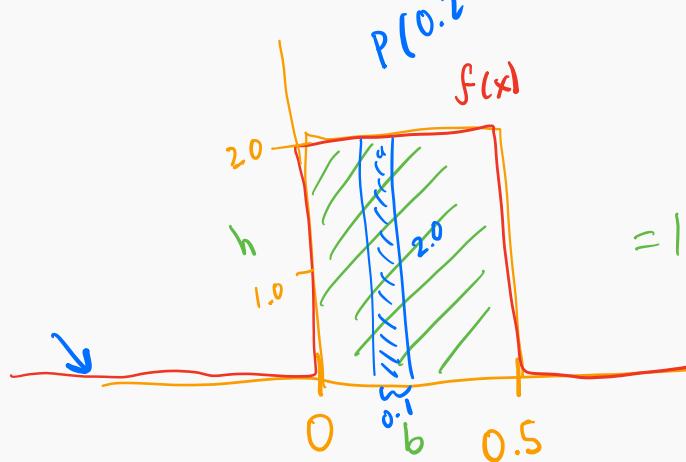
The last point may seem surprising, however, if we think of probability as the area under a curve, then it begins to make sense.

# From Discrete to Continuous RV

## Properties of pdf

A function can serve as a probability density of a continuous random variable  $X$  if its values,  $f(x)$ , satisfy the conditions

- (1)  $f(x) \geq 0$ , for  $-\infty < x < \infty$ .
- (2)  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)dx = 1$ .



area rectangle =  $b \times h$   
 $1 = 0.5 \times h$   
 $\Rightarrow h = 2$

$$\begin{aligned}P(X < 0.3) &= \int_{-\infty}^{0.3} 2 dx + \int_0^{0.3} 2 dx \\&= \int_{-\infty}^0 2 dx + \int_0^{0.3} 2 dx\end{aligned}$$

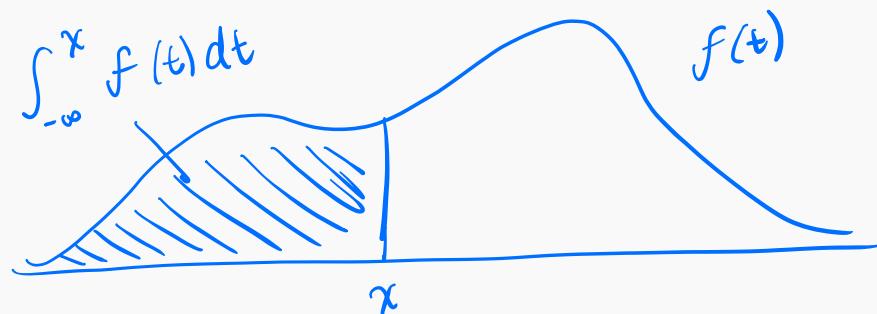
# Cumulative distribution function (cdf)

Just as with pmf, we can also define a cumulative distribution function (CDF) that defined  $P(X \leq x)$

## Definition 2 (Cumulative distribution function (cdf))

For a continuous random variable  $X$  that has the probability density (or pdf) at  $t$  as  $f(t)$ , the **cumulative distribution**, of  $X$  is given by

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(t)dt, \quad \forall -\infty < x < \infty.$$



# Visualization of cdf for a continuous RV

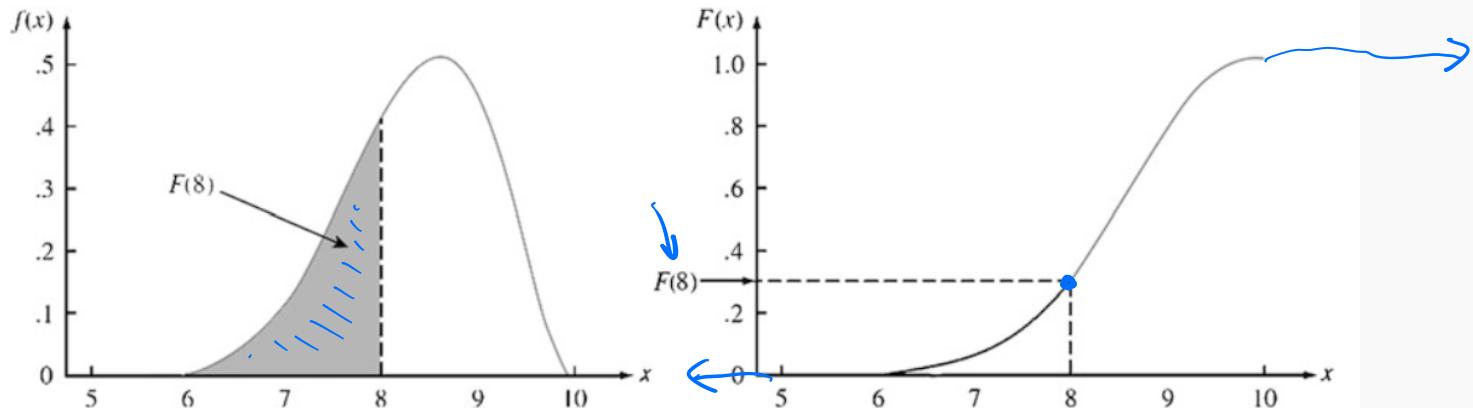


Figure 4.5 A pdf and associated cdf

**Figure 1:** Taken from Devore, J. L (2016). *Probability and Statistics for Engineering and the Sciences*

# Probabilities

For  $X$  a continuous random variable, the following hold:

$$P(X = \underline{x}) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x,$$

$$\boxed{P(X \leq 8) = P(X < 8) + P(X = 8)}$$

$$P(X \leq x) = P(X < x) = F(x) \quad \text{for all } x,$$

$$\rightarrow P(a \leq X \leq b) = P(a < X \leq b) = P(a \leq X < b) = P(a < X < b)$$

## Proposition 1

$$\text{Compliment Rule} \quad P(A) = 1 - P(A^c)$$

Let  $X$  be a continuous rv with pdf  $f(x)$  and cdf  $F(x)$ . Then for any number  $a$

$$= 1 - \underbrace{P(X \leq a)}$$

$$\underbrace{P(X > a)} = 1 - F(a) \quad \text{for all } x$$

and for any two numbers  $a$  and  $b$  with  $a < b$ ,

$$P(a \leq X \leq b) = F(b) - F(a) = \int_a^b f(x)dx,$$

# Visualization of Proposition 1

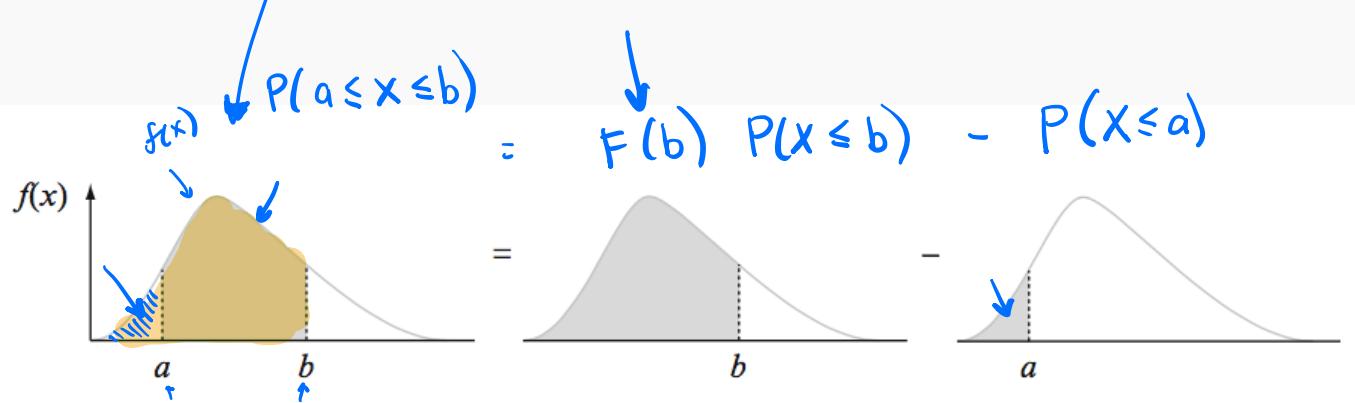


Figure 4.8 Computing  $P(a \leq X \leq b)$  from cumulative probabilities

Figure 2: Taken from Devore, J. L (2016). *Probability and Statistics for Engineering and the Sciences*

## Example 1

Find the constant  $c$  for the following pdf:

$$f(x) = 2x \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1$$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{elsewhere} \\ cx & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

Aside:

We know

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = 1$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^0 0 dx + \int_0^1 cx dx + \int_1^{\infty} 0 dx = 1$$

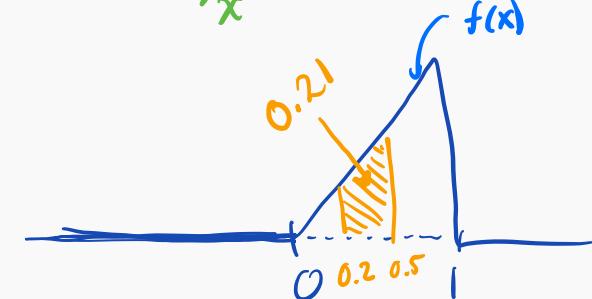
$$\frac{cx^2}{2} + \text{cons} \Big|_0^1 = 1$$

$$\frac{c(1)^2}{2} + \text{cons} - \left[ \frac{c(0)^2}{2} + \text{cons} \right] = 1$$

$$\frac{c}{2} = 1 \Rightarrow$$

$$\boxed{c=2}$$

| $f(x)$   | $\int f(x) dx$                      |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| $x^n$    | $\frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1} + \text{cons}$ |
| $e^x$    | $e^x + \text{cons}$                 |
| $\ln x $ | $\ln x  + \text{cons}$              |
| $f(x)$   |                                     |



## Example 1 (cont'd)

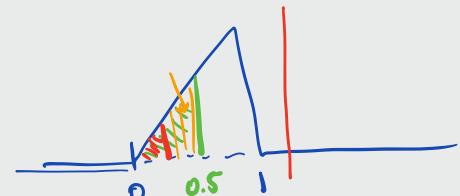
Find  $c$  and  $P(0.2 < X < 0.5)$  using the pdf from Example 1.

$$\begin{aligned} P(0.2 \leq X \leq 0.5) &= \int_{0.2}^{0.5} f(x) dx \\ &= \int_{0.2}^{0.5} 2x dx \\ &= \left. \frac{2x^2}{2} \right|_{0.2}^{0.5} \\ &= (0.5)^2 - 0.2^2 \\ &= 0.21 \end{aligned}$$

## Example 2

The pdf of a continuous variable  $X$  is given below. Find  $F(x)$ , the cdf of  $X$ , and  $P(0.2 < X < 0.5)$  using the cdf.

$$f(x) = 2x \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1$$



$$\begin{aligned} F(x) &= P(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(t) dt = \int_0^x 2t dt \\ &= t^2 \Big|_0^x = x^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$P(0.2 < X < 0.5) = F(0.5) - F(0.2)$$

$$= 0.5^2 - 0.2^2$$

$$= 0.21$$

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ x^2 & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 1 & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

## Clicker Question

Which of the following calculate the  $P(X > 0.4)$

- a)  $F(0.4)$
- b)  $1 - F(0.4)$
- c)  $\int_{0.4}^{\infty} f(x)dx$
- d)  $\int_{\infty}^{0.4} f(x)dx$
- e) option b) and c)
- f) None of the above

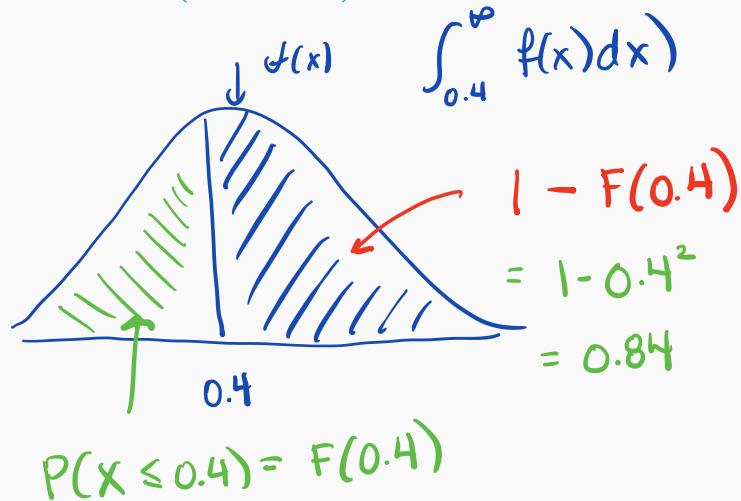
### Calculating probabilities using the cdf

Notice that once the cdf has been obtained, any probability involving  $X$  can easily be calculated without integration!

# Clicker Question

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- b)  $1 - F(0.4)$
- c)  $\int_{0.4}^{\infty} f(x)dx$
- d)  $\int_{\infty}^{0.4} f(x)dx$
- e) option b) and c)
- f) None of the above



## Calculating probabilities using the cdf

Notice that once the cdf has been obtained, any probability involving  $X$  can easily be calculated without integration!

- Recall: for  $X$  discrete, the pmf is obtained from the cdf by taking the difference between two  $F(x)$  values.
- In the continuous case, rather than taking the difference we take a derivative.

## Proposition 2

If  $X$  is a continuous rv with pdf  $f(x)$  and cdf  $F(x)$ , then at every  $x$  at which the derivative  $F'(x)$  exists,  $F'(x) = f(x)$ .

## CDF to PDF example

### Example 3

Let  $X$  be a continuous rv with cdf given by (cont'd from Ex. 2):

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{for } x < 0 \\ x^2, & \text{for } 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 1, & \text{for } x > 1 \end{cases}$$

Note that  $F(x)$  is differentiable except at  $x = 0$  and  $x = 1$  (where the graph has sharp corners). Since  $F(x) = 0$  for  $x < 0$  and  $F(x) = 1$  for  $x > 1$ ,  $F'(x) = 0 = f(x)$  for such  $x$ . For  $0 < x < 1$ :

$$F'(x) = f(x) = \frac{d}{dx} x^2 = 2x \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1$$

### Definition 3

Let  $p$  be a number between 0 and 1. The  $(100p)$ th percentile of the distribution of a continuous rv  $X$ , denoted by  $\eta(p)$ , is defined by

$$\downarrow \quad p = F[\eta(p)] = \boxed{\int_{-\infty}^{\eta(p)} f(y)dy} \quad (1)$$

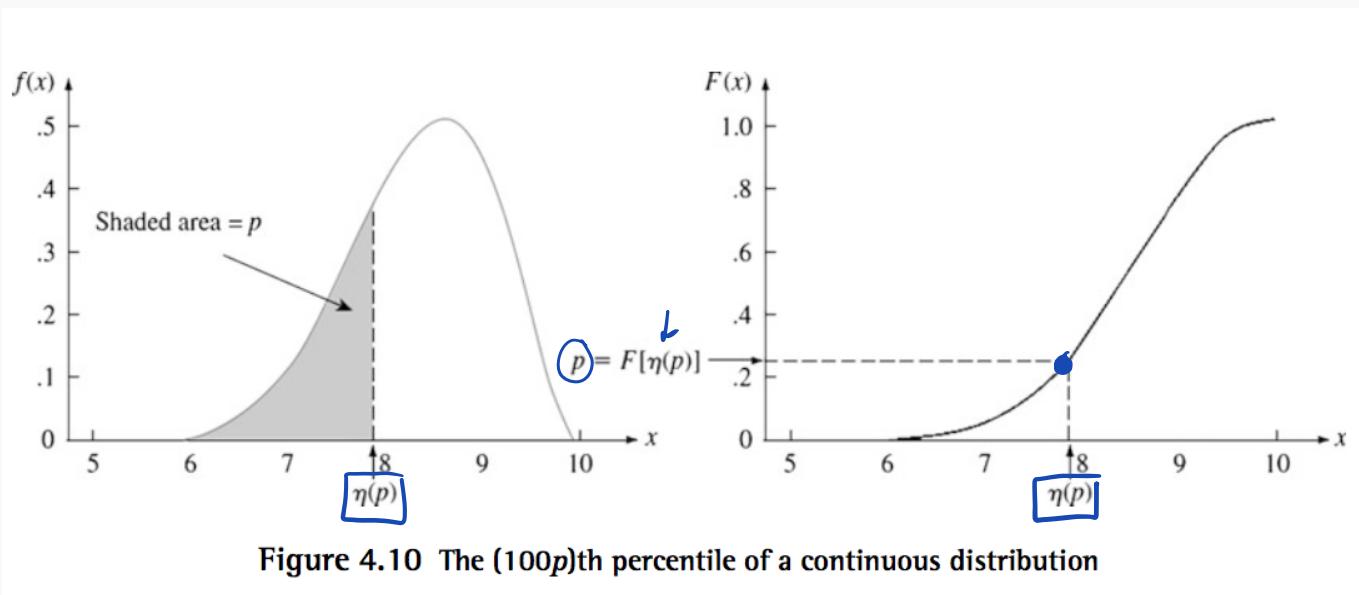
### Definition 4 (median)

The median of a continuous distribution, denoted by  $\tilde{\mu}$ , is the 50th percentile, so  $\tilde{\mu}$  satisfies  $0.5 = F(\tilde{\mu})$ . That is, half the area under the density curve is to the left of  $\tilde{\mu}$  and half is to the right of  $\tilde{\mu}$ .

$$0.5 = F[\eta(0.5)] = P(X \leq \eta(0.5)) = 0.5$$

$\underbrace{\eta(0.5)}$   
 $\tilde{\mu}$

- According to Eq. (1),  $\eta(p)$  is that value on the measurement axis such that  $100p\%$  of the area under the graph of  $f(x)$  lies to the left of  $\eta(p)$  and  $100(1 - p)\%$  lies to the right.
- Thus  $\eta(.75)$ , the 75th percentile, is such that the area under the graph of  $f(x)$  to the left of  $\eta(.75)$  is .75.



**Figure 3:** From Devore, J. L (2016). *Probability and Statistics for Engineering and the Sciences*

# Percentile Example

## Example 4

The distribution of the amount of gravel (in tons) sold by a construction supply company in a given week is a continuous rv  $X$  with pdf

$$f(x) = \frac{3}{2}(1 - x^2) \quad \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 1$$

The cdf of sales for any  $x$  between 0 and 1 is

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ \frac{3}{2} \left( x - \frac{x^3}{3} \right) & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 1 & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

Find the 50th percentile. (aka median)

?  $\hat{\mu}$

$$p = F\left[\frac{n(p)}{\tilde{\mu}^3}\right]$$

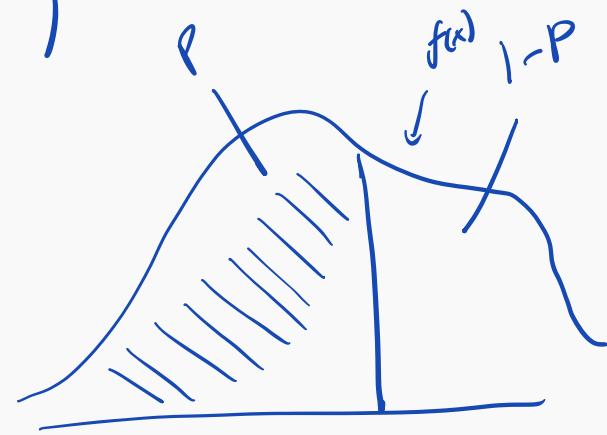
$$0.5 = \frac{3}{2} \left( \tilde{\mu} - \frac{\tilde{\mu}^3}{3} \right)$$

$$1 = 3\tilde{\mu} - \tilde{\mu}^3$$

$$\tilde{\mu}^3 - 3\tilde{\mu} + 1 = 0$$

... math

$$\tilde{\mu} = 0.347$$



$$p = F(n(p))$$

If the distribution remains the same from week to week, then in the long run 50% of all weeks will result in sales of less than .347 tons and 50% in more than .347 tons.

# Symmetry

- A continuous distribution whose pdf is symmetric has median  $\tilde{\mu}$  equal to the point of symmetry.
- That is, half the area under the curve lies to either side of this point.

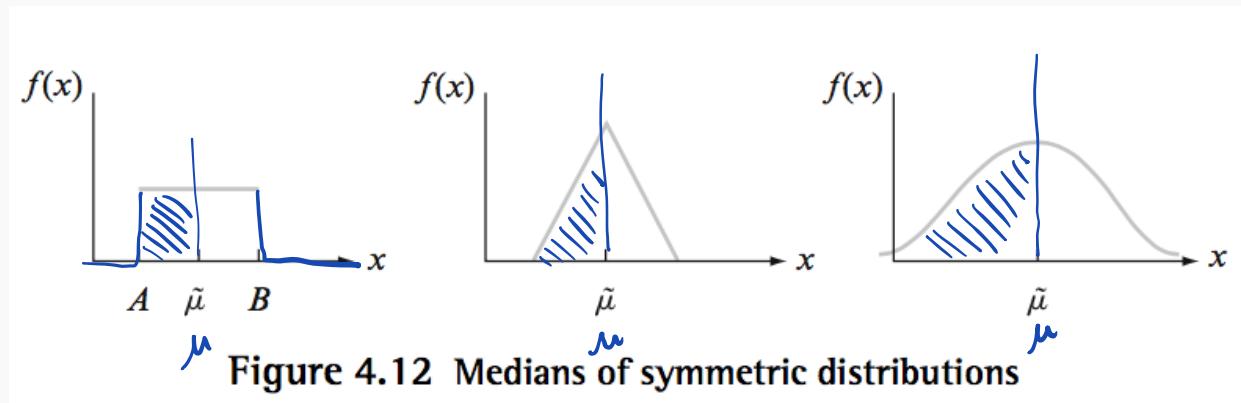


Figure 4: From Devore, J. L (2016). *Probability and Statistics for Engineering and the Sciences*

# Expected Value & Variance

## Definition 5

discrete  $E[X] = \sum_{x} x P(X=x)$

The expected value of a continuous RV is defined as follows;

$$\mu = E[X] = \left[ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xf(x)dx \right]$$

$$E[g(X)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x)f(x)dx$$

where  $f(x)$  is the pdf of  $X$ .

# Expected Value & Variance

## Definition 5

*The expected value of a continuous RV is defined as follows;*

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xf(x)dx$$

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x)f(x)dx$$

*where  $f(x)$  is the pdf of  $X$ .*

When the pdf  $f(x)$  specifies a model for the distribution of values in a numerical population, then  $\mu$  is the population mean, which is the most frequently used measure of population location or center.

# Useful shortcuts

## Definition 6

The variance of continuous RV  $X$  is

$$\text{Var}[X] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu)^2 f(x) dx$$



As before we have the following shortcuts for linear combinations of rv  $X$  and for our calculation of Variance:

- 

$$\mathbb{E}[aX + b] = a\mathbb{E}[X] + b$$

- 

$$\text{Var}[aX + b] = a^2 \text{Var}[X]$$

Shortcut

- 

$$\text{Var}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X^2] - (\mathbb{E}[X])^2$$

## Example 5

Find  $\mathbb{E}(X)$  and  $\text{Var}[X]$  for a random variable  $X$  with pdf:

$$f(x) = 2x \quad \underline{\text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 1}$$

$$\mu = E[X] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) dx = \int_0^1 x \cdot 2x dx = \frac{2x^3}{3} \Big|_0^1 = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(X) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu)^2 f(x) dx \\ &= \int_0^1 \left(x - \frac{2}{3}\right)^2 2x dx \\ &= \int_0^1 \left(x^2 - \frac{4}{3}x + \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^2\right) 2x dx \\ &= \int_0^1 \left(2x^3 - \frac{8}{3}x^2 + \frac{8}{9}x\right) dx \\ &= \left[\frac{1}{2}x^4 - \frac{8}{9}x^3 + \frac{4}{9}x^2\right]_0^1\end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} - \frac{8}{9} + \frac{4}{9} = \frac{1}{18} = 0.\dot{0}\dot{5} = 0.055555\dots$$

Verify this  
w/ shortcut

## Example 6

The pdf of weekly gravel sales  $X$  is given below. Find  $\mathbb{E}[X]$

$$f(x) = \frac{3}{2}(1 - x^2) \quad \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 1$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mu = E[X] &= \int_0^1 x \frac{3}{2} (1 - x^2) dx \\ &= \frac{3}{2} \int_0^1 x - x^3 dx \\ &= \frac{3}{2} \left[ \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^4}{4} \right]_0^1 \\ &= \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4} \right) = \frac{3}{8} = 0.375\end{aligned}$$

*Aside*  
 $\tilde{\mu} = 0.347$

If gravel sales are determined week after week according to the given pdf, then the long-run average value of sales per week will be 0.375 tons.



## Example 6

Find the  $\text{Var}(X)$ . =  $E[X^2] - (E[X])^2$

$$\begin{aligned} E[X^2] &= \int_0^1 x^2 \frac{3}{2} (1-x^2) dx \\ &= \frac{3}{2} \int_0^1 x^2 - x^4 dx \\ &= \frac{3}{2} \left[ \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^5}{5} \right]_0^1 \\ &= \frac{3}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{5} \right] \\ &= \frac{3}{15} = \frac{1}{5} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_x^2 = \text{Var}(X) &= E[X^2] - (E[X])^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{5} - \left( \frac{3}{8} \right)^2 = \frac{19}{320} = 0.059 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{sd}(x) &= \sqrt{\text{Var}(x)} \\ \sigma_x &= 0.244 \end{aligned}$$

# Exercises I

**Exercise 1** The pdf of a continuous variable  $X$  is given by

$$f(x) = cx^2 \quad \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 2$$

where  $c$  is constant.

- Find  $c$ .
- Find the cdf  $F(x)$ .
- What is  $P(1 \leq X \leq 1.5)$ ?
- Find  $\mathbb{E}[X]$ .
- Find  $Var[X]$ .

## Exercises II

**Exercise 2** The cdf of a continuous variable  $X$  is given by

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - e^{-x} & \text{if } x > 0 \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases}$$

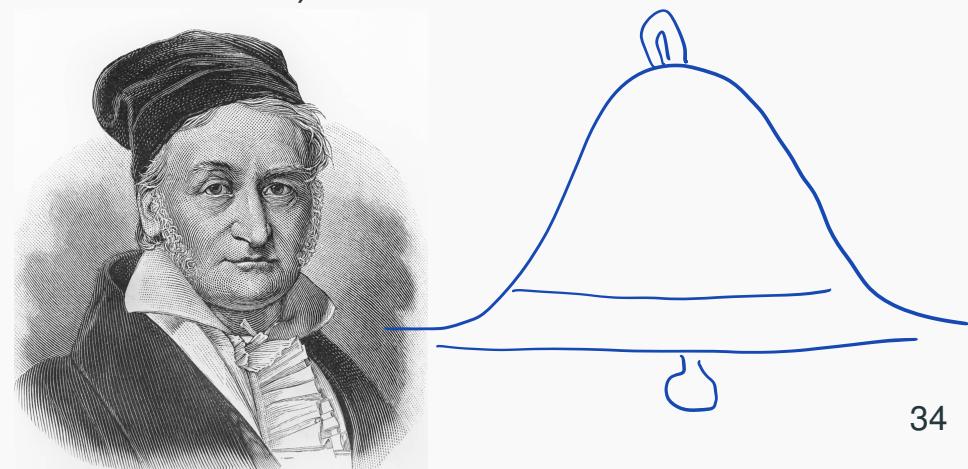
- What is  $P(X \leq 2.6)$ ?
- What is  $P(1 < X < 4)$ ?
- Find the pdf  $f(x)$ .

# The Normal Distribution

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# Background

- The normal distribution is the most frequently used continuous probability distribution.
- Many measurements can be well approximated by a normal distribution.
- The normal distribution is characterized by a bell-shaped curve.
- The normal distribution is also called the Gaussian distribution (after Johann Carl Friedrich Gauss).



# PDF of the Normal Distribution

$$X \sim N(\mu, \sigma)$$
$$X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$$

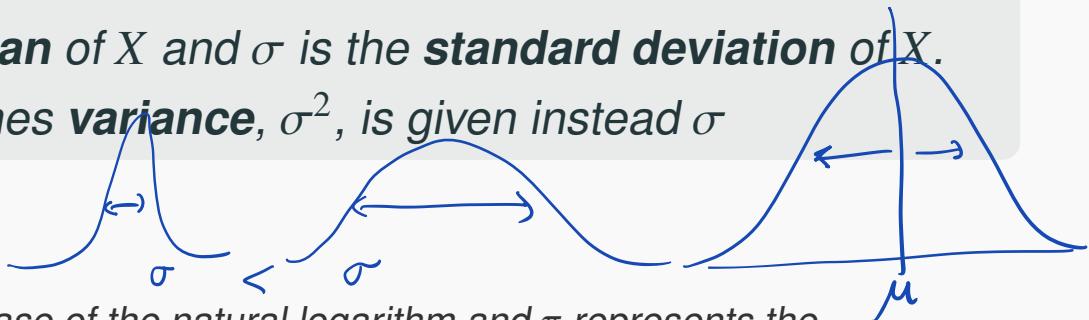
**Definition 7 (Gaussian (Normal) Distribution)**

If a rv  $X$  follows a normal distribution with parameters  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$ , then we write  $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma)$ , and the pdf of  $X$  is

$$f(x; \mu, \sigma) = \frac{1}{\sigma \sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-(x-\mu)^2/2\sigma^2} \quad -\infty < x < \infty, \quad (2)$$

where  $\mu$  is the **mean** of  $X$  and  $\sigma$  is the **standard deviation** of  $X$ .

Note that sometimes **variance**,  $\sigma^2$ , is given instead  $\sigma$

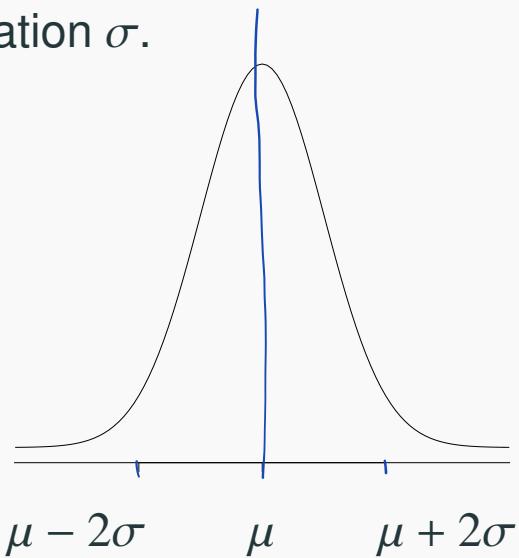


**Note:**  $e$  denotes the base of the natural logarithm and  $\pi$  represents the mathematic constant with approximate value 3.14159. Sometimes I will write  $e^x$  as  $\exp\{x\}$ .

$$e^x \quad \exp\{x\}$$

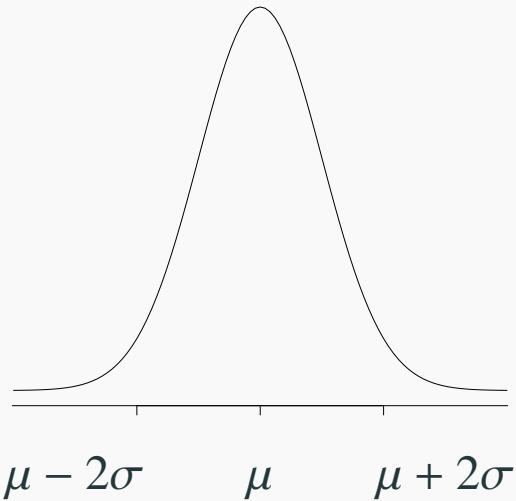
# Normal Distribution I

- The normal distribution is usually characterized by its mean  $\mu$  and standard deviation  $\sigma$ .



# Normal Distribution I

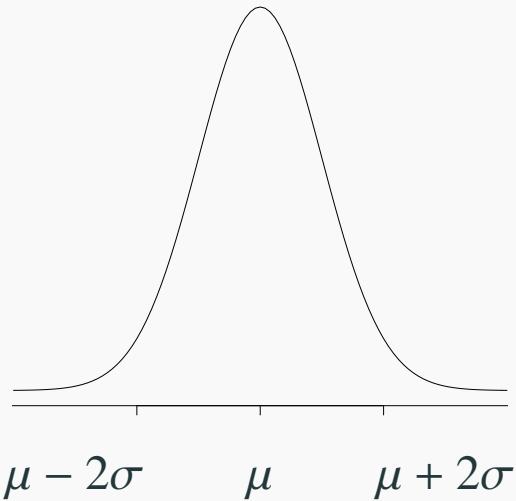
- The normal distribution is usually characterized by its mean  $\mu$  and standard deviation  $\sigma$ .



- The normal distribution is symmetric about the mean.

# Normal Distribution I

- The normal distribution is usually characterized by its mean  $\mu$  and standard deviation  $\sigma$ .



- The normal distribution is symmetric about the mean.
- 95% of the density of the distribution lies within  $\approx$ two (1.96 to be precise) standard deviations of the mean.

- It can be shown that  $E(X) = \mu$  and  $Var(X) = \sigma^2$ , so the parameters are the mean and the standard deviation of  $X$ .
- We can see the variants of  $f(x; \mu, \sigma)$  for several different values of  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$  in the figure below.

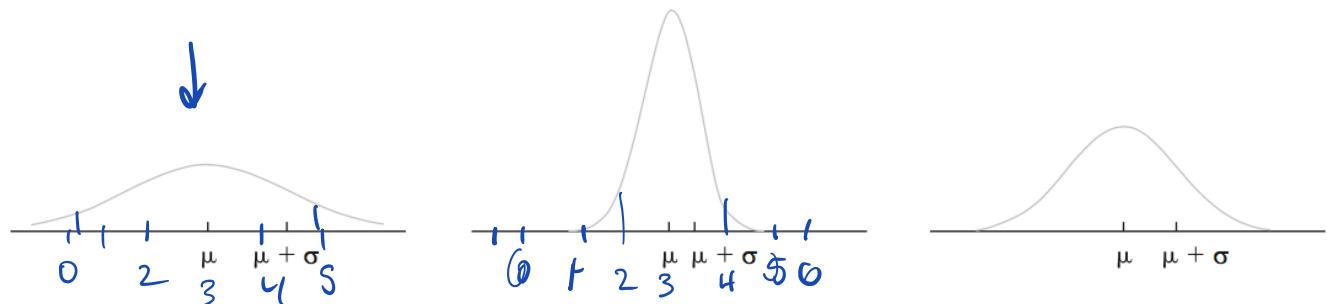


Figure 4.13 Normal density curves

**Figure 5:** From Devore, J. L (2016). *Probability and Statistics for Engineering and the Sciences*

- Each density curve is symmetric about  $\mu$ , and bell-shape (the center of the bell is both the mean and median).

- Large values of  $\sigma$  yield density curves that are quite spread out about  $\mu$ , i.e. a fatter squashed bells like the one seen on the left of Figure 5.
- Small values of  $\sigma$  yield density curves with a high peak above  $\mu$  and most of the area under the density curve quite close to  $\mu$ , i.e. a pointer bells like the one seen in the middle of Figure 5.
- Thus a large  $\sigma$  implies that a value of  $X$  far from  $\mu$  may well be observed, whereas such a value is quite unlikely when  $\sigma$  is small.

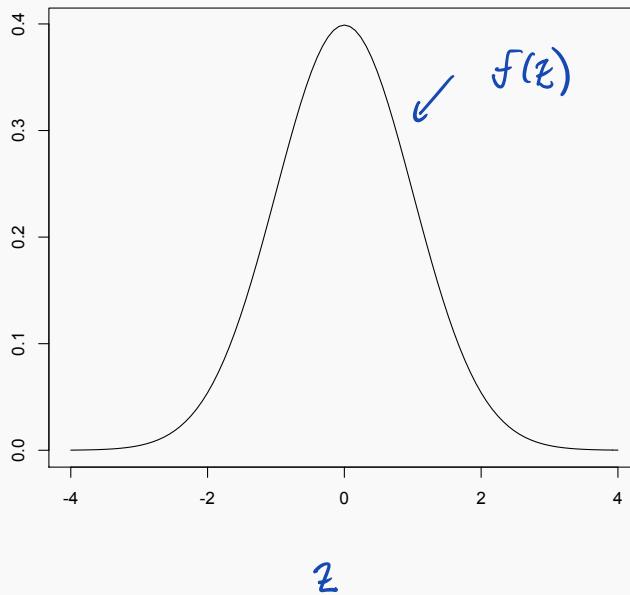
- The normal or Gaussian distribution in Eq (2) cannot be integrated directly To obtain the  $P(X \leq x)$  when  $X \sim \text{Normal}(\mu, \sigma)$  we need to integrate:

$$\int_{-\infty}^x \frac{1}{\sigma \sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-(x-\mu)^2/2\sigma^2}$$

- None of the standard integration techniques can be used to evaluate this expression.
- In order to find probabilities, we need to approximate the area under the curve using numerical approximation.
- While you will see in labs how computer programs like R can be used to find  $P(X \leq x)$ , on paper, we need to first transform  $X$  into a so-called standard normal distribution.

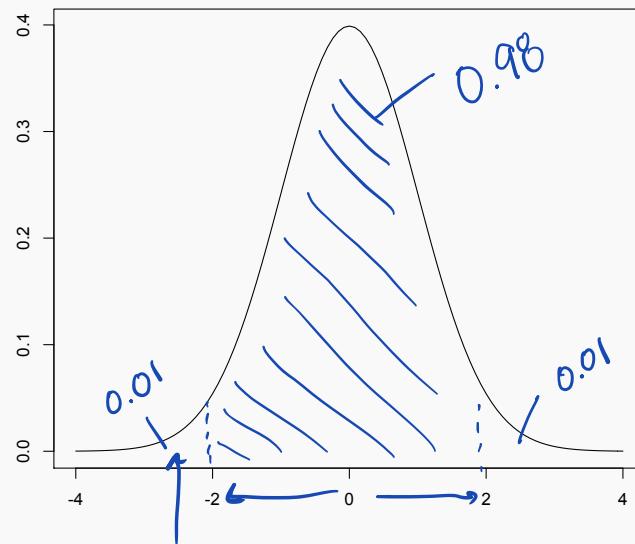
# Standard Normal Distribution

- The **standard normal distribution** is a special case of the normal distribution when the mean ( $\mu$ ) is 0 and standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) is 1.  
 $Z \sim N(\mu=0, \sigma=1)$



# Standard Normal Distribution

- The **standard normal distribution** is a special case of the normal distribution when the mean ( $\mu$ ) is 0 and standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) is 1.



- 95% of the density of the distribution (the area under the curve) lies between  $\pm 1.96$ .

- It is standard convention to use the rv  $Z$  when defining a standard normal; hence,  $Z \sim \text{Normal}(\mu = 0, \sigma = 1)$  or simply  $Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$  or  $Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1^2)$  if we are quoting variance instead of standard deviation.
- on part directly in  $\mathbb{R}$*

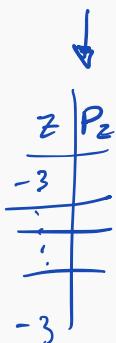
$$P(\cancel{X} \leq 3) \leftarrow$$

- Integration of the following has to been done numerically and summarized in what we sometimes refer to as *standard normal tables*

$$P(Z \leq -1.96)$$

$$\downarrow f(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}z^2} \text{ for } -\infty < z < \infty$$

$$P(Z \leq z)$$



- Note: we can always transform a normal distribution to a standard normal distribution.

$$\downarrow X \sim N(\mu, \sigma) \rightarrow Z \sim N(0, 1)$$

# Normal Distribution

## Theorem 1

Let  $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$  and  $Z \sim N(0, 1)$ , then

$$Z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma}$$

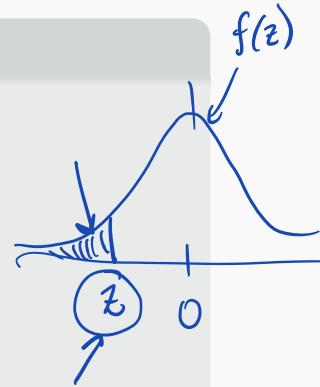
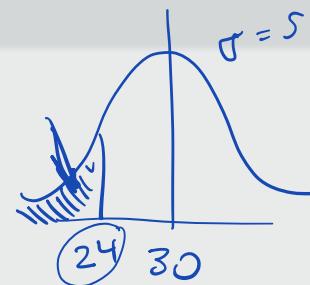


# Normal Distribution

## Theorem 1

Let  $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$  and  $Z \sim N(0, 1)$ , then

$$Z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma}.$$



This transformation is referred to as **standardization**.

- Therefore, to compute  $P(X \leq x)$  we can use the fact that

$$P(X \leq x) = P\left(Z \leq \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}\right) = P(Z \leq z),$$

and then consult the standard normal tables. These tables store the value of  $P(Z \leq z)$  for many values of  $z$ .

# Normal Distribution

## Example 7

*Consider the example of the height of women in Ireland, which we assume is normally distributed with mean 1.62m and standard deviation 0.11m.*

- The median and mode of the height of women is 1.62m.
- Theoretically, the proportion of women shorter than 1.52m is the same as proportion of women taller than 1.72m.
- 95% of women are between 1.40m and 1.84m tall

# Normal Distribution

## Example 7

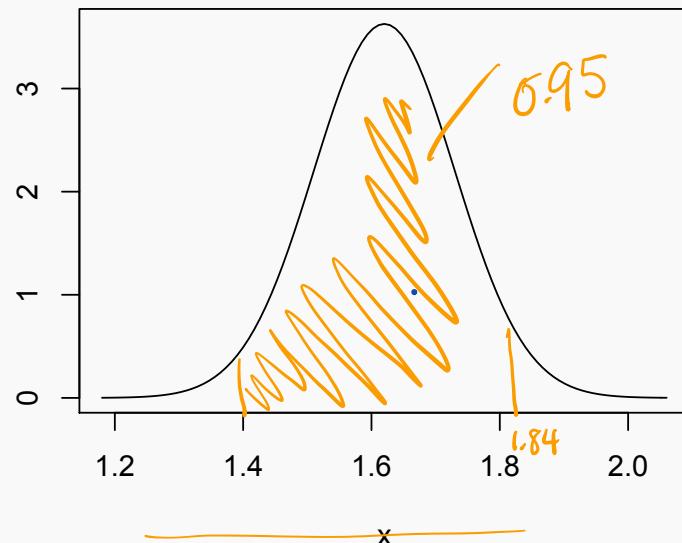
Consider the example of the height of women in Ireland, which we assume is normally distributed with mean 1.62m and standard deviation 0.11m.

$$\mu \pm 2\sigma \rightarrow$$

$\downarrow$   
1.96 \*

$$1.62 + 1.96(0.11) = 1.84$$
$$1.62 - 1.96(0.11) = 1.40$$

- The median and mode of the height of women is 1.62m.
- Theoretically, the proportion of women shorter than 1.52m is the same as proportion of women taller than 1.72m.
- 95% of women are between 1.40m and 1.84m tall



# Normal Distribution

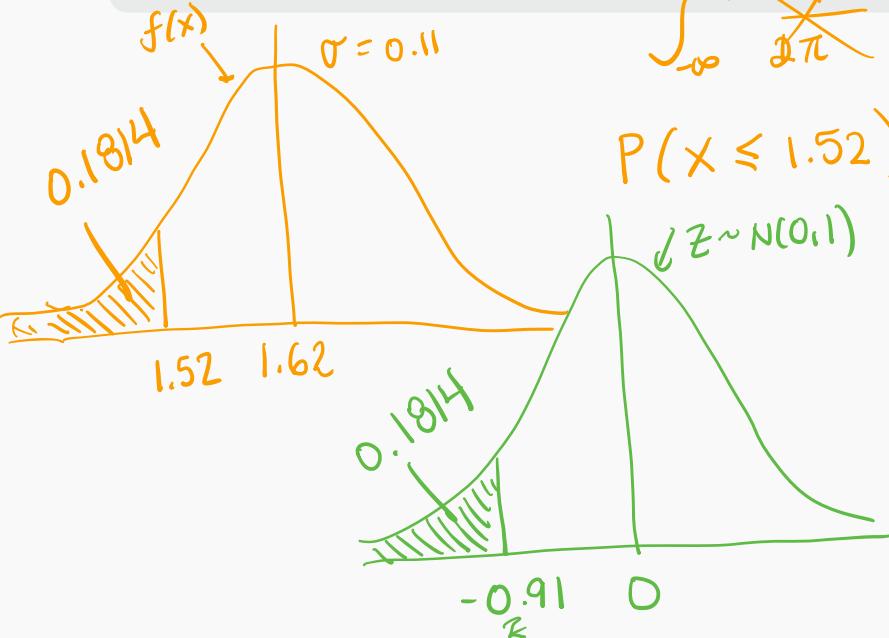
Let see some examples of how we use Z-Tables to find probabilities

$$X \sim N(1.62, 0.11^2)$$

$N(1.62, 0.11^2)$ ?

## Example 7 (Ex 7 cont'd)

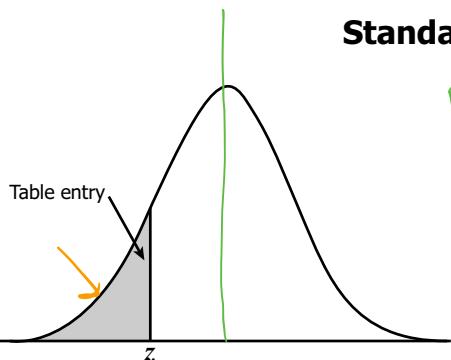
Find the probability that a randomly selected woman in Ireland is shorter than 1.52m



$$\int_{-\infty}^{1.52} f(x) dx$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(X \leq 1.52) &= P\left(Z \leq \frac{x - \mu_x}{\sigma_x}\right) \\ &= P\left(Z \leq \frac{1.52 - 1.62}{0.11}\right) \\ &= P\left(Z \leq -0.91\right) \\ &= 0.1814 \end{aligned}$$

## Standard Normal Probabilities

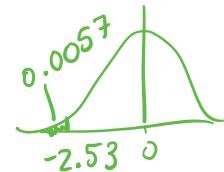


$$P(Z \leq z) = F(z)$$

(-)ve

Table entry for  $z$  is the area under the standard normal curve to the left of  $z$ .

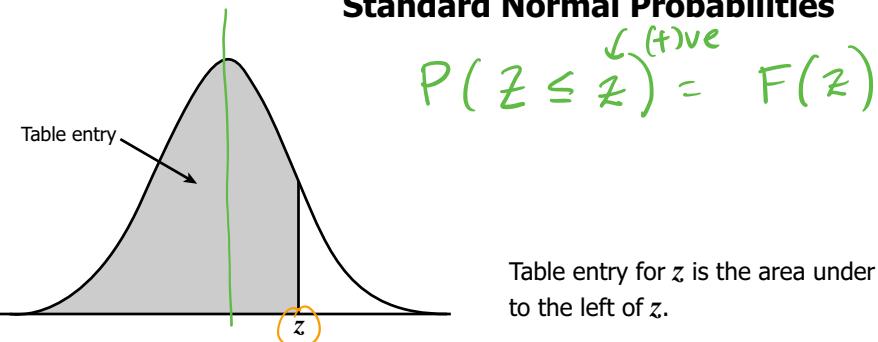
$\checkmark P(Z \leq -2.53) = 0.0057$



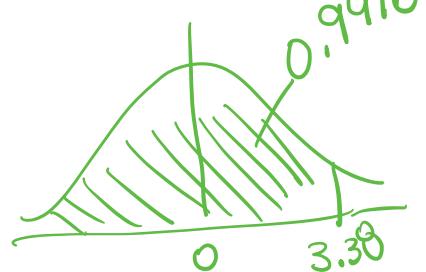
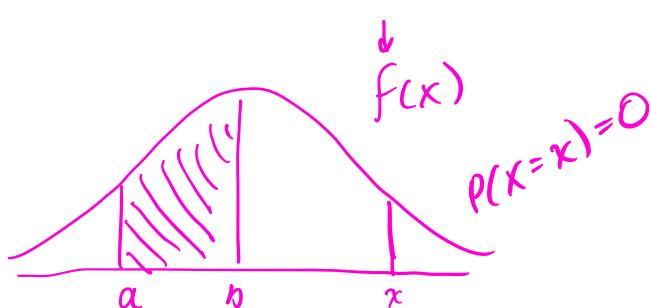
| $z$  | .00   | .01   | .02   | .03   | .04   | .05   | .06   | .07   | .08   | .09   |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| -3.4 | .0003 | .0003 | .0003 | .0003 | .0003 | .0003 | .0003 | .0003 | .0003 | .0002 |
| -3.3 | .0005 | .0005 | .0005 | .0004 | .0004 | .0004 | .0004 | .0004 | .0004 | .0003 |
| -3.2 | .0007 | .0007 | .0006 | .0006 | .0006 | .0006 | .0006 | .0005 | .0005 | .0005 |
| -3.1 | .0010 | .0009 | .0009 | .0009 | .0008 | .0008 | .0008 | .0008 | .0007 | .0007 |
| -3.0 | .0013 | .0013 | .0013 | .0012 | .0012 | .0011 | .0011 | .0011 | .0010 | .0010 |
| -2.9 | .0019 | .0018 | .0018 | .0017 | .0016 | .0016 | .0015 | .0015 | .0014 | .0014 |
| -2.8 | .0026 | .0025 | .0024 | .0023 | .0023 | .0022 | .0021 | .0021 | .0020 | .0019 |
| -2.7 | .0035 | .0034 | .0033 | .0032 | .0031 | .0030 | .0029 | .0028 | .0027 | .0026 |
| -2.6 | .0047 | .0045 | .0044 | .0043 | .0041 | .0040 | .0039 | .0038 | .0037 | .0036 |
| -2.5 | .0062 | .0060 | .0059 | .0057 | .0055 | .0054 | .0052 | .0051 | .0049 | .0048 |
| -2.4 | .0082 | .0080 | .0078 | .0075 | .0073 | .0071 | .0069 | .0068 | .0066 | .0064 |
| -2.3 | .0107 | .0104 | .0102 | .0099 | .0096 | .0094 | .0091 | .0089 | .0087 | .0084 |
| -2.2 | .0139 | .0136 | .0132 | .0129 | .0125 | .0122 | .0119 | .0116 | .0113 | .0110 |
| -2.1 | .0179 | .0174 | .0170 | .0166 | .0162 | .0158 | .0154 | .0150 | .0146 | .0143 |
| -2.0 | .0228 | .0222 | .0217 | .0212 | .0207 | .0202 | .0197 | .0192 | .0188 | .0183 |
| -1.9 | .0287 | .0281 | .0274 | .0268 | .0262 | .0256 | .0250 | .0244 | .0239 | .0233 |
| -1.8 | .0359 | .0351 | .0344 | .0336 | .0329 | .0322 | .0314 | .0307 | .0301 | .0294 |
| -1.7 | .0446 | .0436 | .0427 | .0418 | .0409 | .0401 | .0392 | .0384 | .0375 | .0367 |
| -1.6 | .0548 | .0537 | .0526 | .0516 | .0505 | .0495 | .0485 | .0475 | .0465 | .0455 |
| -1.5 | .0668 | .0655 | .0643 | .0630 | .0618 | .0606 | .0594 | .0582 | .0571 | .0559 |
| -1.4 | .0808 | .0793 | .0778 | .0764 | .0749 | .0735 | .0721 | .0708 | .0694 | .0681 |
| -1.3 | .0968 | .0951 | .0934 | .0918 | .0901 | .0885 | .0869 | .0853 | .0838 | .0823 |
| -1.2 | .1151 | .1131 | .1112 | .1093 | .1075 | .1056 | .1038 | .1020 | .1003 | .0985 |
| -1.1 | .1357 | .1335 | .1314 | .1292 | .1271 | .1251 | .1230 | .1210 | .1190 | .1170 |
| -1.0 | .1587 | .1562 | .1539 | .1515 | .1492 | .1469 | .1446 | .1423 | .1401 | .1379 |
| -0.9 | .1841 | .1814 | .1788 | .1762 | .1736 | .1711 | .1685 | .1660 | .1635 | .1611 |
| -0.8 | .2119 | .2090 | .2061 | .2033 | .2005 | .1977 | .1949 | .1922 | .1894 | .1867 |
| -0.7 | .2420 | .2389 | .2358 | .2327 | .2296 | .2266 | .2236 | .2206 | .2177 | .2148 |
| -0.6 | .2743 | .2709 | .2676 | .2643 | .2611 | .2578 | .2546 | .2514 | .2483 | .2451 |
| -0.5 | .3085 | .3050 | .3015 | .2981 | .2946 | .2912 | .2877 | .2843 | .2810 | .2776 |
| -0.4 | .3446 | .3409 | .3372 | .3336 | .3300 | .3264 | .3228 | .3192 | .3156 | .3121 |
| -0.3 | .3821 | .3783 | .3745 | .3707 | .3669 | .3632 | .3594 | .3557 | .3520 | .3483 |
| -0.2 | .4207 | .4168 | .4129 | .4090 | .4052 | .4013 | .3974 | .3936 | .3897 | .3859 |
| -0.1 | .4602 | .4562 | .4522 | .4483 | .4443 | .4404 | .4364 | .4325 | .4286 | .4247 |
| -0.0 | .5000 | .4960 | .4920 | .4880 | .4840 | .4801 | .4761 | .4721 | .4681 | .4641 |

$P(Z \leq -0.91) = 0.1814$

## Standard Normal Probabilities



| $z$   | .00   | .01   | .02   | .03   | .04   | .05   | .06   | .07   | .08   | .09   |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| + 0.0 | .5000 | .5040 | .5080 | .5120 | .5160 | .5199 | .5239 | .5279 | .5319 | .5359 |
| 0.1   | .5398 | .5438 | .5478 | .5517 | .5557 | .5596 | .5636 | .5675 | .5714 | .5753 |
| 0.2   | .5793 | .5832 | .5871 | .5910 | .5948 | .5987 | .6026 | .6064 | .6103 | .6141 |
| 0.3   | .6179 | .6217 | .6255 | .6293 | .6331 | .6368 | .6406 | .6443 | .6480 | .6517 |
| 0.4   | .6554 | .6591 | .6628 | .6664 | .6700 | .6736 | .6772 | .6808 | .6844 | .6879 |
| 0.5   | .6915 | .6950 | .6985 | .7019 | .7054 | .7088 | .7123 | .7157 | .7190 | .7224 |
| 0.6   | .7257 | .7291 | .7324 | .7357 | .7389 | .7422 | .7454 | .7486 | .7517 | .7549 |
| 0.7   | .7580 | .7611 | .7642 | .7673 | .7704 | .7734 | .7764 | .7794 | .7823 | .7852 |
| 0.8   | .7881 | .7910 | .7939 | .7967 | .7995 | .8023 | .8051 | .8078 | .8106 | .8133 |
| 0.9   | .8159 | .8186 | .8212 | .8238 | .8264 | .8289 | .8315 | .8340 | .8365 | .8389 |
| 1.0   | .8413 | .8438 | .8461 | .8485 | .8508 | .8531 | .8554 | .8577 | .8599 | .8621 |
| 1.1   | .8643 | .8665 | .8686 | .8708 | .8729 | .8749 | .8770 | .8790 | .8810 | .8830 |
| 1.2   | .8849 | .8869 | .8888 | .8907 | .8925 | .8944 | .8962 | .8980 | .8997 | .9015 |
| 1.3   | .9032 | .9049 | .9066 | .9082 | .9099 | .9115 | .9131 | .9147 | .9162 | .9177 |
| 1.4   | .9192 | .9207 | .9222 | .9236 | .9251 | .9265 | .9279 | .9292 | .9306 | .9319 |
| 1.5   | .9332 | .9345 | .9357 | .9370 | .9382 | .9394 | .9406 | .9418 | .9429 | .9441 |
| 1.6   | .9452 | .9463 | .9474 | .9484 | .9495 | .9505 | .9515 | .9525 | .9535 | .9545 |
| 1.7   | .9554 | .9564 | .9573 | .9582 | .9591 | .9599 | .9608 | .9616 | .9625 | .9633 |
| 1.8   | .9641 | .9649 | .9656 | .9664 | .9671 | .9678 | .9686 | .9693 | .9699 | .9706 |
| 1.9   | .9713 | .9719 | .9726 | .9732 | .9738 | .9744 | .9750 | .9756 | .9761 | .9767 |
| 2.0   | .9772 | .9778 | .9783 | .9788 | .9793 | .9798 | .9803 | .9808 | .9812 | .9817 |
| 2.1   | .9821 | .9826 | .9830 | .9834 | .9838 | .9842 | .9846 | .9850 | .9854 | .9857 |
| 2.2   | .9861 | .9864 | .9868 | .9871 | .9875 | .9878 | .9881 | .9884 | .9887 | .9890 |
| 2.3   | .9893 | .9896 | .9898 | .9901 | .9904 | .9906 | .9909 | .9911 | .9913 | .9916 |
| 2.4   | .9918 | .9920 | .9922 | .9925 | .9927 | .9929 | .9931 | .9932 | .9934 | .9936 |
| 2.5   | .9938 | .9940 | .9941 | .9943 | .9945 | .9946 | .9948 | .9949 | .9951 | .9952 |
| 2.6   | .9953 | .9955 | .9956 | .9957 | .9959 | .9960 | .9961 | .9962 | .9963 | .9964 |
| 2.7   | .9965 | .9966 | .9967 | .9968 | .9969 | .9970 | .9971 | .9972 | .9973 | .9974 |
| 2.8   | .9974 | .9975 | .9976 | .9977 | .9977 | .9978 | .9979 | .9979 | .9980 | .9981 |
| 2.9   | .9981 | .9982 | .9982 | .9983 | .9984 | .9984 | .9985 | .9985 | .9986 | .9986 |
| 3.0   | .9987 | .9987 | .9987 | .9988 | .9988 | .9989 | .9989 | .9989 | .9990 | .9990 |
| 3.1   | .9990 | .9991 | .9991 | .9991 | .9992 | .9992 | .9992 | .9992 | .9993 | .9993 |
| 3.2   | .9993 | .9993 | .9994 | .9994 | .9994 | .9994 | .9994 | .9995 | .9995 | .9995 |
| 3.3   | .9995 | .9995 | .9995 | .9996 | .9996 | .9996 | .9996 | .9996 | .9997 | .9997 |
| 3.4   | .9997 | .9997 | .9997 | .9997 | .9997 | .9997 | .9997 | .9997 | .9998 |       |

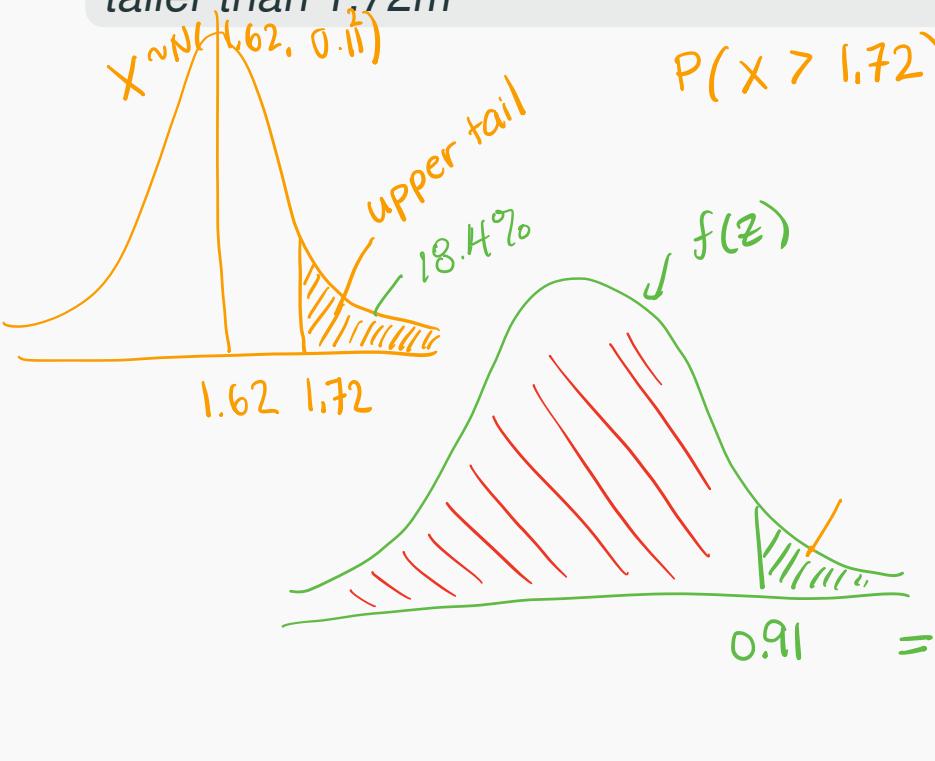


# Normal Distribution

"standardizing"

## Example 7 (Ex 7 cont'd)

Find the probability that a randomly selected woman in Ireland is taller than 1.72m



$$P(X > 1.72) = P\left(Z > \frac{1.72 - 1.62}{0.11}\right)$$

$$= P(Z > 0.91)$$

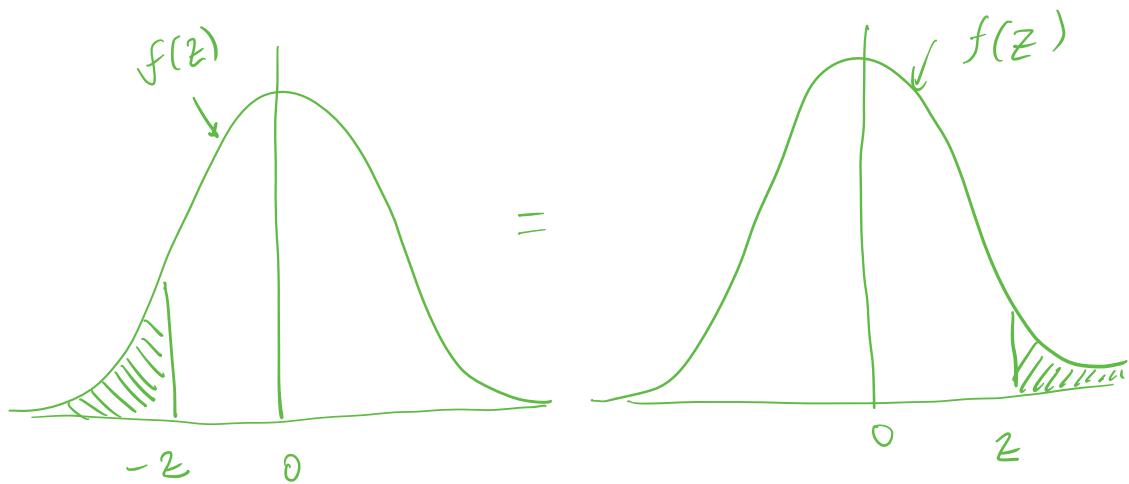
$$= 1 - P(Z \leq 0.91)$$

$$= 1 - 0.8186$$

$$= 0.1814$$

$$f(z)$$

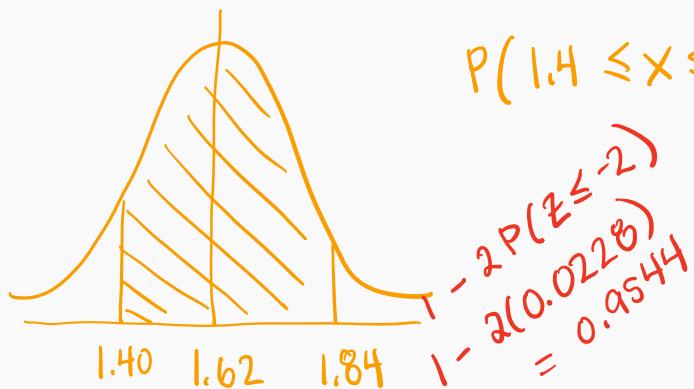




$$P(Z \leq -z) = P(Z \geq z)$$

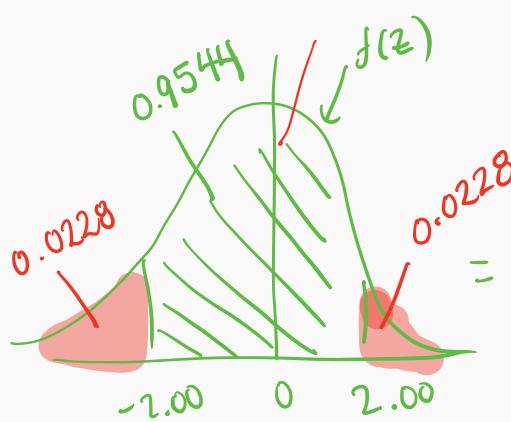
## Example 7 (Ex 7 cont'd)

Find the probability that women are between 1.40 and 1.84 meters tall.



$$P(1.4 \leq X \leq 1.84) = P\left(\frac{1.4 - 1.62}{0.11} \leq Z \leq \frac{1.84 - 1.62}{0.11}\right)$$

$$= 1 - 2P(Z \leq -2)$$
$$= 1 - 2(0.0228) = 0.9544$$

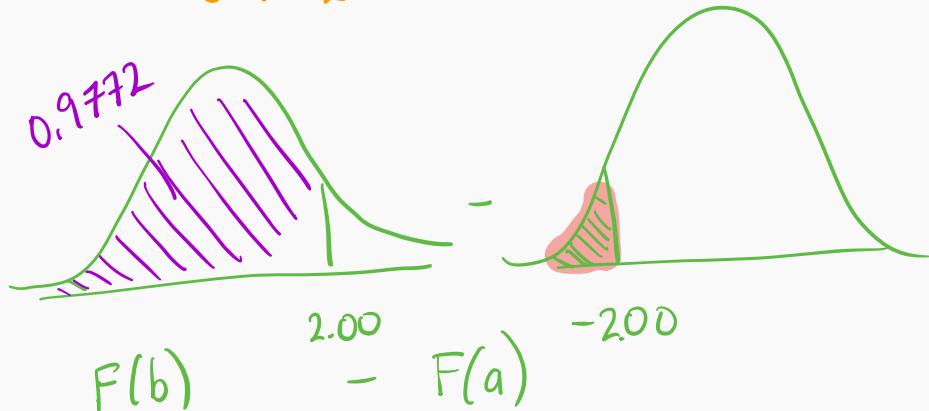


$$P(a \leq Z \leq b)$$

$$= P(-2.00 \leq Z \leq 2.00)$$

$$= P(Z \leq 2.00) - P(Z \leq -2)$$

$$= 0.9772 - 0.0228 = 0.9544$$

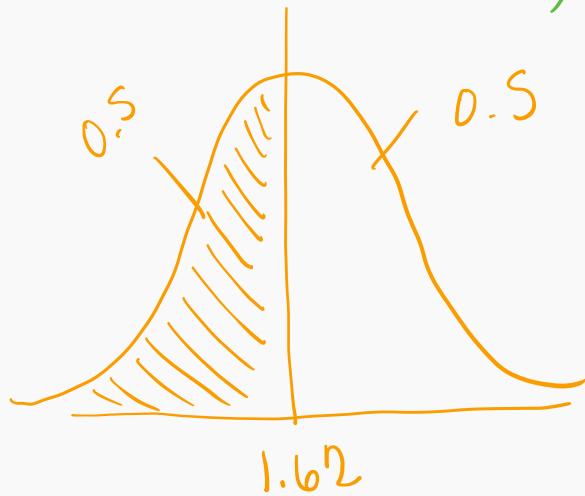


## Example 7 (Ex 7 cont'd)

Find the median height of women in Ireland.

$$F(\eta(0.5)) = 0.5$$

$$P(X \leq \tilde{\mu}) = 0.5$$



$$P(Z \leq \frac{\tilde{\mu} - 1.62}{0.11}) = 0.5$$

$$P(Z \leq 0) = 0.5$$

$$\frac{\tilde{\mu} - 1.62}{0.11} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\tilde{\mu} = 1.62}$$

## Exercises

**Exercise 1** The height of women in a particular region follows a normal distribution with mean 1.55m and standard deviation 0.17m.

- What proportion of women are smaller than 1.61m?
- What proportion of women are taller than 1.8m?
- What proportion of women are between 1.45m and 1.61m tall?

**Exercise 2** The wingspans of the males of a certain species of bird of prey form a normal distribution with mean 162.50cm and standard deviation 6.0cm. What is the probability that the wingspan of a randomly selected male will exceed 170cm?

## **Other Special Continuous Distributions**

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# Other Special Continuous Distributions

- While the normal distribution does well to model many natural phenomenon, for many practical situations, we will require a distribution that is *not* symmetric.
- A family of pdf's that yields a wide variety of skewed distributional shapes is the gamma family.
- Before describing this family, we first need to introduce a function that plays an important role in many branches of mathematics . . . the gamma function.

# The Gamma Function

## Definition 8

*The gamma function is defined as*

$$\Gamma(\alpha) = \int_0^{\infty} x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x} dx.$$

gamma( $\alpha$ )

# The Gamma Function

## Definition 8

*The gamma function is defined as*

$$\Gamma(\alpha) = \int_0^{\infty} x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x} dx.$$

## Theorem 2

*Using integration by parts, we can show that, for  $\alpha > 1$ ,*

$$\Gamma(\alpha) = (\alpha - 1) \Gamma(\alpha - 1),$$

## Theorem 3

$$n! = n \times (n-1) \times \dots \times 2 \times 1$$

*When  $\alpha$  is a positive integer, it follows that*

$$\Gamma(\alpha) = (\alpha - 1)!$$

## Proof for Theorem 2

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Gamma(\alpha) &= (\alpha-1) \Gamma(\alpha-1) \\
 \Gamma(\alpha) &= \int_0^\infty x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x} dx \\
 u &= x^{\alpha-1} & dv &= e^{-x} dx \\
 du &= (\alpha-1)x^{\alpha-2} dx & v &= -e^{-x} \\
 &= -x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x} \Big|_0^\infty + \int_0^\infty e^{-x} (\underbrace{\alpha-1}_{\uparrow}) x^{\alpha-2} dx \\
 &= 0 - 0 + (\alpha-1) \boxed{\int_0^\infty e^{-x} x^{\alpha-2} dx} \\
 &= (\alpha-1) \Gamma(\alpha-1)
 \end{aligned}$$

IBP  
 $\int_a^b u dv = uv \Big|_a^b - \int_a^b v du$

## Proof for Theorem 3

Proof by Induction

Base case:  $\Gamma(1) = \int_0^\infty e^{-x} x^{1-1} dx = \int_0^\infty e^{-x} dx = [-e^{-x}]_0^\infty = 1$

Induction step  $\Gamma(n) = (n-1) \underbrace{\Gamma(n-1)}_{\text{Thrm 2}}$

$$= (n-1)(n-2) \underbrace{\Gamma(n-2)}_{\text{Thrm 2}}$$

$$= (n-1)(n-2)(n-3)\Gamma(n-3) \quad \text{Thrm 2}$$

$$= \dots$$

$$= (n-1) \cdot (n-2) \cdot (n-3) \cdots (1) \cdot \Gamma(1)$$

$$= (n-1)!$$

# The Gamma Distribution

## Definition 9

If  $X$  follows a **gamma distribution**, then

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\beta^\alpha \Gamma(\alpha)} x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x/\beta} & \text{for } x > 0, \alpha > 0, \beta > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$X \sim \text{gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$

$$f(x; \alpha, \beta)$$

$$E[x] = \mu_{\text{center}}$$

# The Gamma Distribution

## Definition 9

If  $X$  follows a **gamma distribution**, then

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- $\mathbb{E}[X] = \alpha\beta.$

# The Gamma Distribution

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- $\mathbb{E}[X] = \alpha\beta.$
- **Exercise 3** Show  $\text{Var}[X] = \alpha\beta^2$  [Hint: let  $y = x/\beta$ ].

Show  $\mathbb{E}[X] = \alpha\beta$ .

$$E[X] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) dx$$

$$= (\text{1}) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \underbrace{\frac{1}{\beta^\alpha \Gamma(\alpha)}}_{\text{constant}} x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x/\beta} dx$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \underbrace{\frac{\alpha\beta}{\alpha\beta}}_{\text{constant}} \underbrace{\frac{1}{\beta^\alpha \Gamma(\alpha)}}_{\text{constant}} x^\alpha e^{-x/\beta} dx$$

$$= \alpha\beta \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \underbrace{\frac{1}{\beta^{\alpha+1} \Gamma(\alpha+1)}}_{\text{constant}} x^{(\alpha+1)-1} e^{-x/\beta} dx$$

$$= \alpha\beta \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \underbrace{\frac{1}{\beta^{\alpha+1} \Gamma(\alpha+1)}}_{f(x)} x^{(\alpha+1)-1} e^{-x/\beta} dx$$

$$= \alpha\beta \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx$$

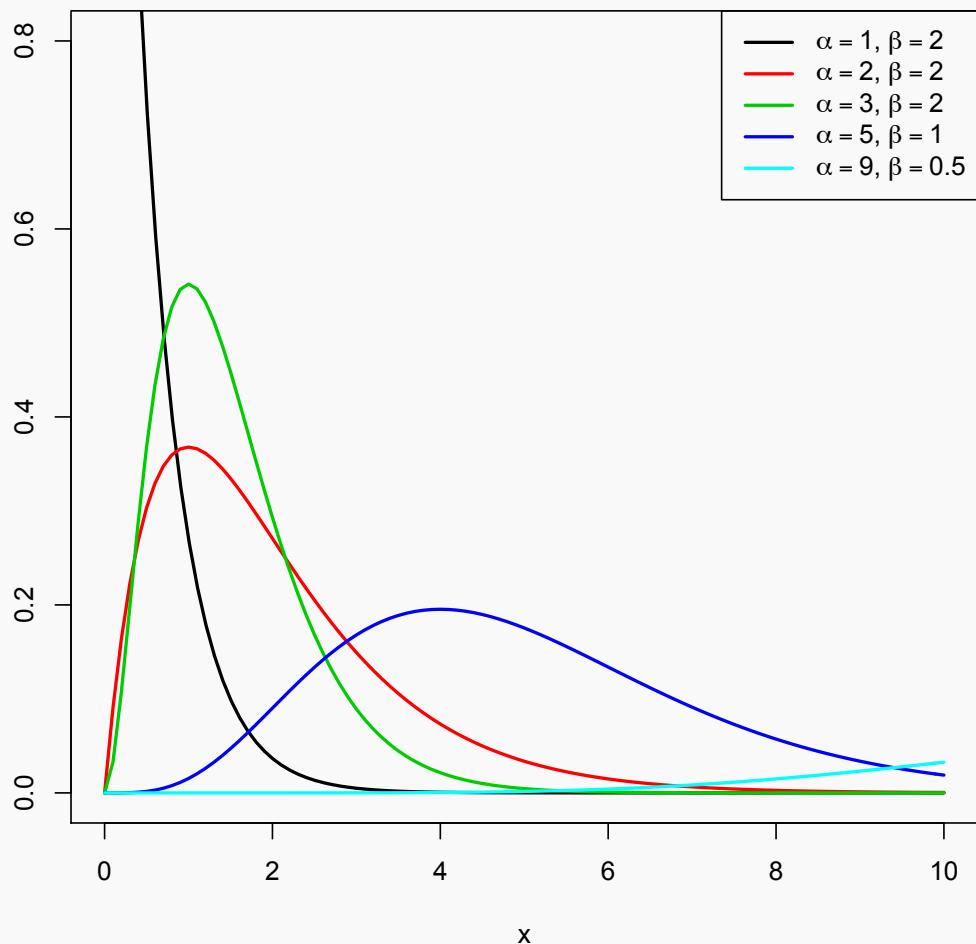
Thrm 2  $\Gamma(\alpha) = (\alpha-1)\Gamma(\alpha-1)$

$\boxed{\Gamma(\alpha+1) = \alpha\Gamma(\alpha)}$  \*

PDF gamma  
dist RV with  
 $\alpha+1, \beta$



**Show**  $\mathbb{E}[X] = \alpha\beta.$



# The Exponential Distribution

The exponential distribution is a special case of the gamma distribution, with  $\alpha = 1$ .

It is often used to model the **time until next event** for processes like those arising from a Poisson distribution.

## Definition 10

If  $X$  follows an **exponential distribution**, then

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\beta} e^{-x/\beta} \quad \text{for } x > 0,$$

for  $\beta > 0$ . From the results from the gamma distribution,

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \beta$$

$$\text{Var}[X] = \beta^2.$$

# Alternative Parameterization for the Exponential Distribution

On the previous slide the exponential distribution was parameterized by its mean  $\beta$ .

Alternatively, it can be parameterized by its rate parameter  $\lambda$  via the probability density function

$$f(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}, \quad \text{for } x > 0, \text{ with } \lambda > 0.$$

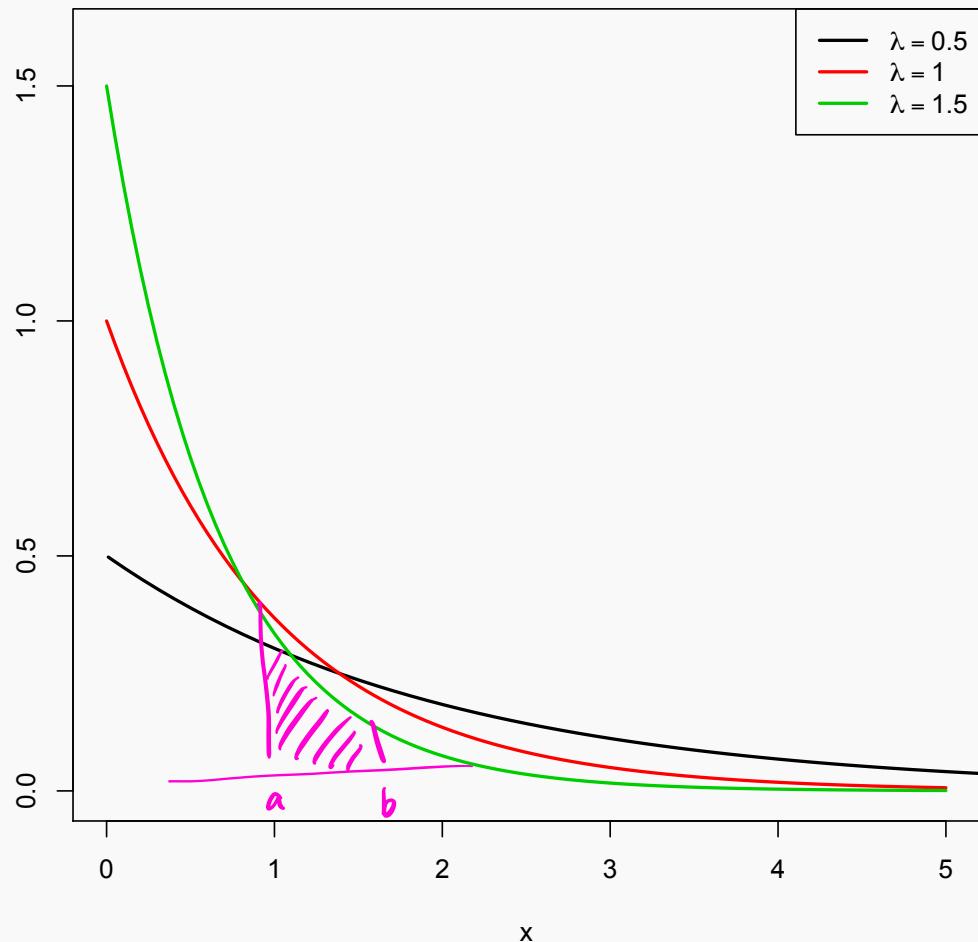
Note that  $\lambda = 1/\beta$  so it is often called the inverse scale parameter.

Using this parameterization, our mean and variance would be:

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

$$Var[X] = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}.$$

$$\begin{array}{l} X \sim N(\mu=7, \sigma=3) \\ \rightarrow X \sim N(\mu=7, \sigma^2=9) \end{array}$$



## Example 8

Based on data collected from metal shredders across the US, the amount of extractable lead in metal shredder residue has an approximate exponential distribution with mean 2.5mg/liter. What is the probability that:

$$\beta = 2.5$$

- (a) The amount of extractable lead in one liter of metal shredder residue is less than 4.5mg?
- (b) The amount of extractable lead in one liter of metal shredder residue is greater than 2mg?

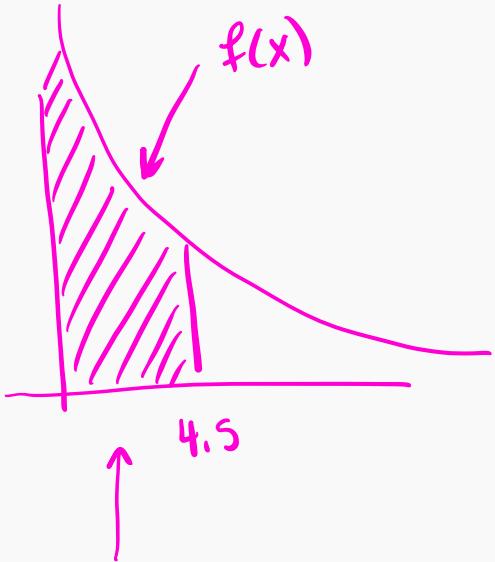
a)  $X \sim \text{Exp}(\beta = 2.5)$

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x)$$

$$P(X < 4.5) = P(X \leq 4.5)$$

$$P(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(t)dt$$

## 8 part (a)



lower.tail = TRUE

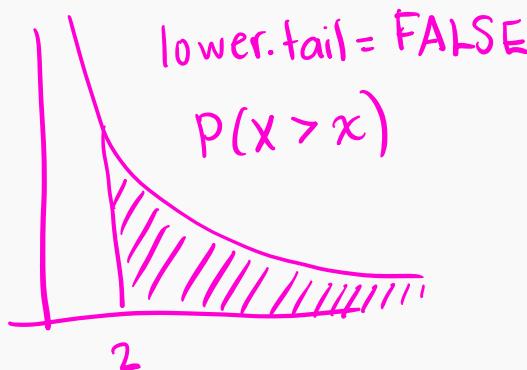
$$F(x) = P(X \leq x) = 1 - e^{-x/\beta}$$

$x > 0, \beta > 0$

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(X < 4.5) &= \int_0^{4.5} \frac{1}{\beta} e^{-x/\beta} dx \\
 &= -e^{-x/\beta} \Big|_0^{4.5} \quad \frac{1}{\beta} - \frac{e^{-x/\beta}}{\beta} \\
 &= (-e^{-4.5/\beta}) - (-e^{-0/\beta}) \\
 &= 1 - e^{-4.5/\beta} \\
 &= 1 - e^{-4.5/2.5} \\
 &= 0.835
 \end{aligned}$$

\* See lab to calculate in R

## 8 part (b)



$$\begin{aligned}
 P(X > 2) &= \int_2^\infty \frac{1}{\beta} e^{-x/\beta} dx \\
 &= -e^{-x/\beta} \Big|_2^\infty \\
 &= 0 + e^{-2/2.5} \\
 &= 0.449
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(X > 2) &= 1 - P(X \leq 2) \\
 &= 1 - F(2) \\
 &= 1 - [1 - e^{-2/2.5}] = e^{-2/2.5} = 0.449
 \end{aligned}$$

# The Beta Distribution

## Definition 11

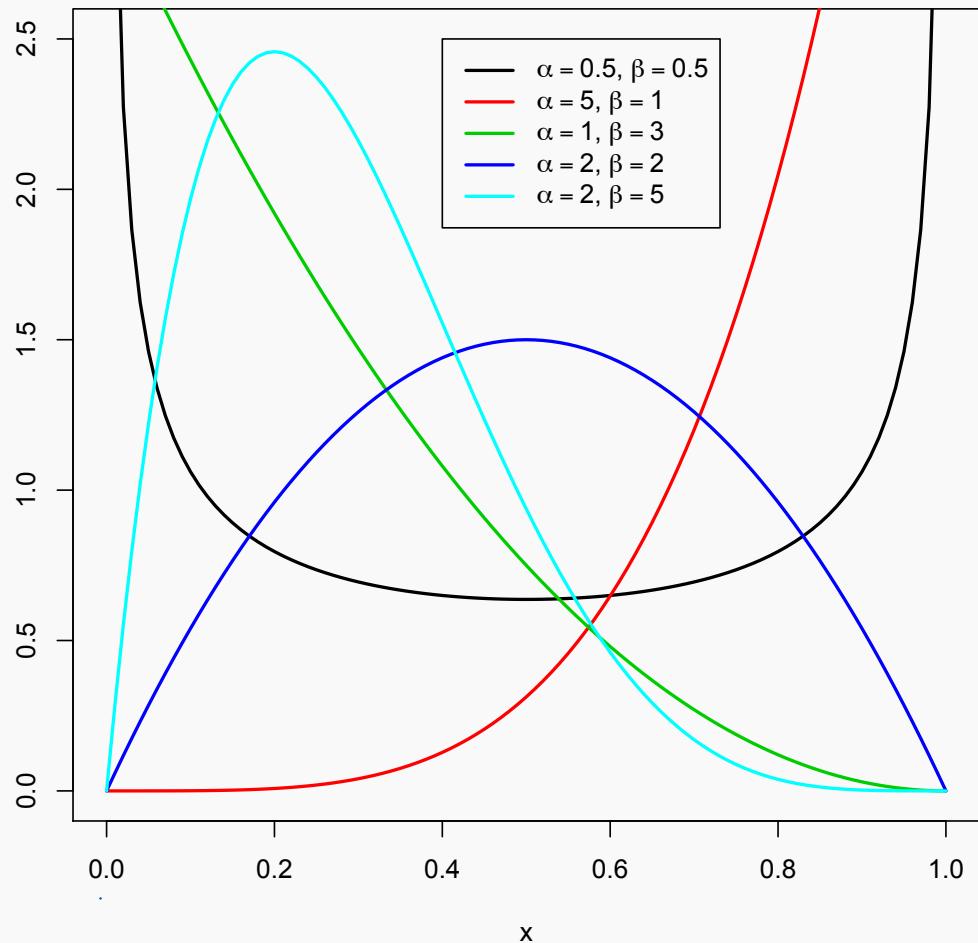
If  $X$  follows a **beta distribution**, then

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)} x^{\alpha-1} (1-x)^{\beta-1} & \text{for } 0 < x < 1, \alpha > 0, \beta > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \beta}$$

$$Var[X] = \frac{\alpha\beta}{(\alpha + \beta)^2(\alpha + \beta + 1)}$$

Since the Beta Distribution is restricted between 0 and 1, it is often used to model proportions.



## Example 9

Let  $X \sim \text{beta}(\alpha = 3, \beta = 2)$ . What is  $P(X < 0.6)$ ?

$$P(X < 0.6) = \int_0^{0.6} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha) \cdot \Gamma(\beta)} x^{\alpha-1} (1-x)^{\beta-1} dx$$

Thrm 1  $\alpha = \text{integer}$

$$\Gamma(\alpha) = (\alpha - 1)!$$

$$\Gamma(5) = 4!$$

$$\Gamma(3) = 2!$$

$$\Gamma(2) = 1!$$

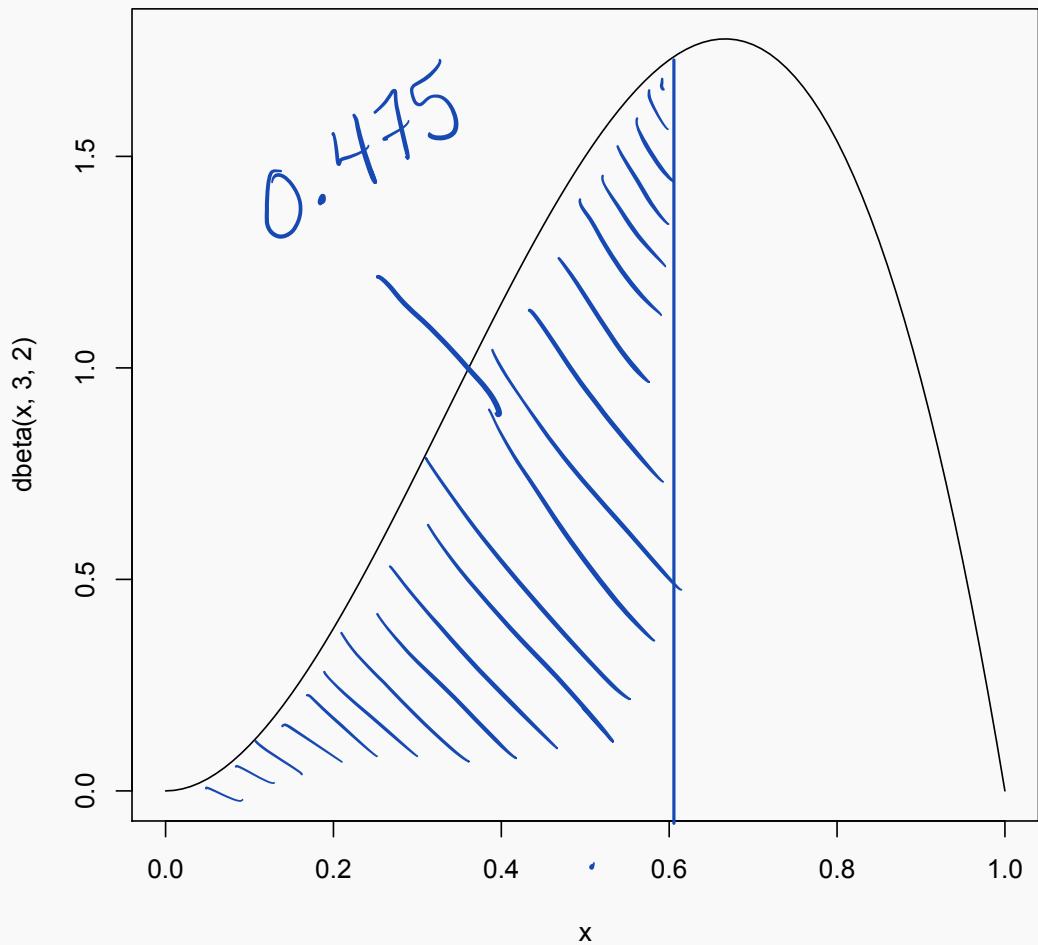
$$= \int_0^{0.6} \frac{\Gamma(5)}{\Gamma(3)\Gamma(2)} \cdot x^{3-1} (1-x)^{2-1} dx$$

$$= \int_0^{0.6} \frac{4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1}{2 \times 1 \times 1} \underbrace{x^2 (1-x)^1}_{\text{dx}} dx$$

$$= 12 \int_0^{0.6} x^2 - x^3 dx$$

$$= 12 \left[ \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} \right]_0^{0.6}$$

$$= \dots = 0.475$$



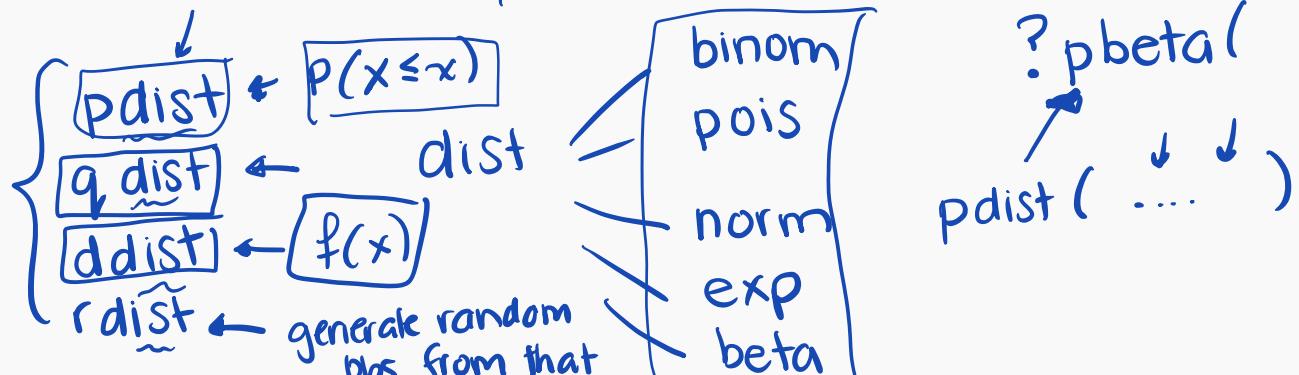
## Example 10

In a particular province, the proportion of highway sections requiring repairs in a given year follows a beta distribution with  $\alpha = 3$  and  $\beta = 2$ .

- (a) What is the probability that, in a given year, less than half of highways sections in the province require repair?

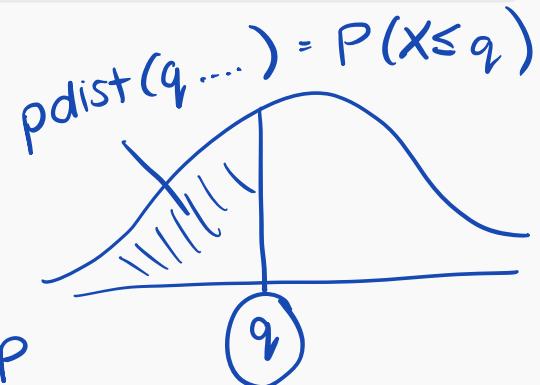
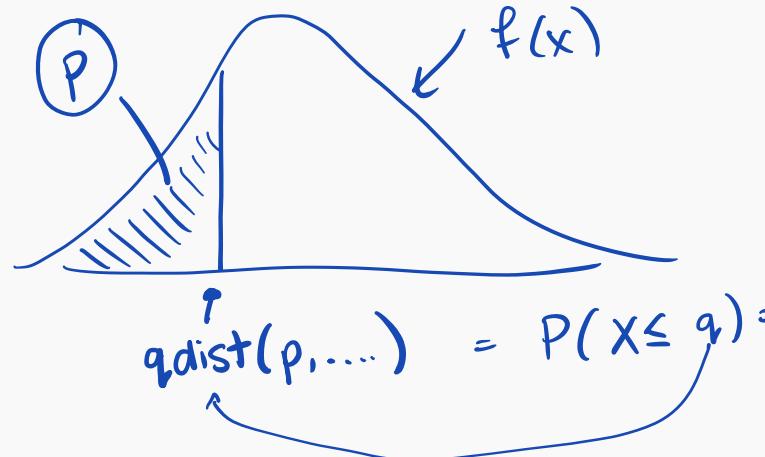
$$(a) P(X < 0.5) = \dots \text{ exercise} = 0.313$$

$$(b) E[X] = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \beta} = \frac{3}{3+2} = 0.6$$



## Example 10 (cont'd)

- (b) What percentage of highway sections would you expect to require repair in a given year?



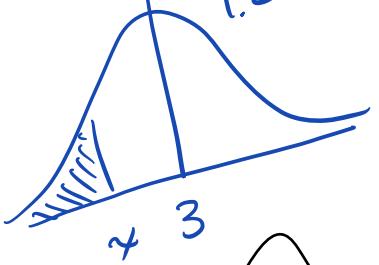
$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\beta} e^{-x/\beta} = \frac{1}{1.1} e^{-2/1.1}$$

$\text{dexp}$

$\text{dexp}(2, \text{beta} = 1.1)$

$P(X \leq x) \neq P(X < x)$  discrete.

$P(0,1)$



$$Z \sim N(0,1)$$

### Standard Normal Probabilities

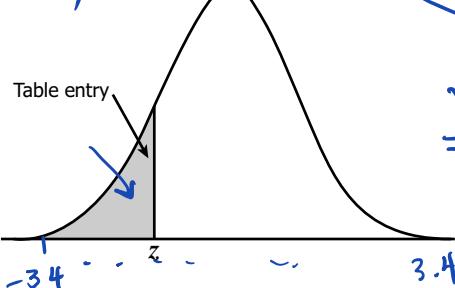


Table entry for  $z$  is the area under the standard normal curve to the left of  $z$ .

$$\begin{aligned} P(X \leq x) & \text{ pnorm} \\ \Rightarrow P(Z \leq z) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} N(\mu, \sigma) \\ N(\mu_1, \sigma^2) \\ X \sim N(3.01, 1.2^2) \end{aligned}$$

| $z$  | .00   | .01   | .02   | .03   | .04   | .05   | .06   | .07   | .08   | .09   |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| -3.4 | .0003 | .0003 | .0003 | .0003 | .0003 | .0003 | .0003 | .0003 | .0003 | .0002 |
| -3.3 | .0005 | .0005 | .0005 | .0004 | .0004 | .0004 | .0004 | .0004 | .0004 | .0003 |
| -3.2 | .0007 | .0007 | .0006 | .0006 | .0006 | .0006 | .0006 | .0005 | .0005 | .0005 |
| -3.1 | .0010 | .0009 | .0009 | .0009 | .0008 | .0008 | .0008 | .0008 | .0007 | .0007 |
| -3.0 | .0013 | .0013 | .0013 | .0012 | .0012 | .0011 | .0011 | .0011 | .0010 | .0010 |
| -2.9 | .0019 | .0018 | .0018 | .0017 | .0016 | .0016 | .0015 | .0015 | .0014 | .0014 |
| -2.8 | .0026 | .0025 | .0024 | .0023 | .0023 | .0022 | .0021 | .0021 | .0020 | .0019 |
| -2.7 | .0035 | .0034 | .0033 | .0032 | .0031 | .0030 | .0029 | .0028 | .0027 | .0026 |
| -2.6 | .0047 | .0045 | .0044 | .0043 | .0041 | .0040 | .0039 | .0038 | .0037 | .0036 |
| -2.5 | .0062 | .0060 | .0059 | .0057 | .0055 | .0054 | .0052 | .0051 | .0049 | .0048 |
| -2.4 | .0082 | .0080 | .0078 | .0075 | .0073 | .0071 | .0069 | .0068 | .0066 | .0064 |
| -2.3 | .0107 | .0104 | .0102 | .0099 | .0096 | .0094 | .0091 | .0089 | .0087 | .0084 |
| -2.2 | .0139 | .0136 | .0132 | .0129 | .0125 | .0122 | .0119 | .0116 | .0113 | .0110 |
| -2.1 | .0179 | .0174 | .0170 | .0166 | .0162 | .0158 | .0154 | .0150 | .0146 | .0143 |
| -2.0 | .0228 | .0222 | .0217 | .0212 | .0207 | .0202 | .0197 | .0192 | .0188 | .0183 |
| -1.9 | .0287 | .0281 | .0274 | .0268 | .0262 | .0256 | .0250 | .0244 | .0239 | .0233 |
| -1.8 | .0359 | .0351 | .0344 | .0336 | .0329 | .0322 | .0314 | .0307 | .0301 | .0294 |
| -1.7 | .0446 | .0436 | .0427 | .0418 | .0409 | .0401 | .0392 | .0384 | .0375 | .0367 |
| -1.6 | .0548 | .0537 | .0526 | .0516 | .0505 | .0495 | .0485 | .0475 | .0465 | .0455 |
| -1.5 | .0668 | .0655 | .0643 | .0630 | .0618 | .0606 | .0594 | .0582 | .0571 | .0559 |
| -1.4 | .0808 | .0793 | .0778 | .0764 | .0749 | .0735 | .0721 | .0708 | .0694 | .0681 |
| -1.3 | .0968 | .0951 | .0934 | .0918 | .0901 | .0885 | .0869 | .0853 | .0838 | .0823 |
| -1.2 | .1151 | .1131 | .1112 | .1093 | .1075 | .1056 | .1038 | .1020 | .1003 | .0985 |
| -1.1 | .1357 | .1335 | .1314 | .1292 | .1271 | .1251 | .1230 | .1210 | .1190 | .1170 |
| -1.0 | .1587 | .1562 | .1539 | .1515 | .1492 | .1469 | .1446 | .1423 | .1401 | .1379 |
| -0.9 | .1841 | .1814 | .1788 | .1762 | .1736 | .1711 | .1685 | .1660 | .1635 | .1611 |
| -0.8 | .2119 | .2090 | .2061 | .2033 | .2005 | .1977 | .1949 | .1922 | .1894 | .1867 |
| -0.7 | .2420 | .2389 | .2358 | .2327 | .2296 | .2266 | .2236 | .2206 | .2177 | .2148 |
| -0.6 | .2743 | .2709 | .2676 | .2643 | .2611 | .2578 | .2546 | .2514 | .2483 | .2451 |
| -0.5 | .3085 | .3050 | .3015 | .2981 | .2946 | .2912 | .2877 | .2843 | .2810 | .2776 |
| -0.4 | .3446 | .3409 | .3372 | .3336 | .3300 | .3264 | .3228 | .3192 | .3156 | .3121 |
| -0.3 | .3821 | .3783 | .3745 | .3707 | .3669 | .3632 | .3594 | .3557 | .3520 | .3483 |
| -0.2 | .4207 | .4168 | .4129 | .4090 | .4052 | .4013 | .3974 | .3936 | .3897 | .3859 |
| -0.1 | .4602 | .4562 | .4522 | .4483 | .4443 | .4404 | .4364 | .4325 | .4286 | .4247 |
| -0.0 | .5000 | .4960 | .4920 | .4880 | .4840 | .4801 | .4761 | .4721 | .4681 | .4641 |

## Standard Normal Probabilities

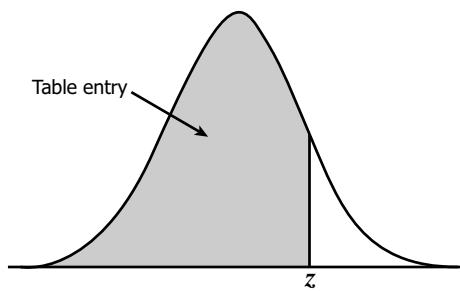


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