The Box Model

Sampling Data | Chance Variability

STAT5002

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Sampling Data

Topic 5: Understanding chance and chance simulation

Topic 6: Chance variability

Topic 7: Central limit theorem

Outline

Box model

Random draws

Sum of random draws

Averages of random draws

The box model

Statistical models

A model is a representation of something which

• Is **simpler** but at the same time captures the **key features** of the original.

Data obtained "in real life" is generated (in general) by quite complicated processes.

Statistical models are models for data-generating processes:

- They are much simpler than the "real" data-generating process but
- (Hopefully) they capture the key features, at least in terms of the random variability of the data.

For example, the normal curve is a model.

The box model

- The **box model** is a very simple statistical model.
- ullet A collection of N objects, e.g. tickets, balls is imagined "in a box".
 - For example, here is the box for a die



- Each ticket bears a number let's deal with only numerical data here.
- ullet We can take a **random sample** of a certain size $oldsymbol{n}$ from the box.
 - The sampling may be with or without replacement.
- What does a random sample is taken mean exactly?
 - A sample of the appropriate size is taken in such a way that each possible sample is equally likely.

Random draws

Single random draws (samples of size n=1)

If a single draw is taken, then each object in the "box" has an equal chance of being picked. If we *completely* know the contents of the box, we can write down the chance of each possible value.

We let X denote the random draw:

- This represents the "value we might get"
- ullet X can take different values with different probabilities/chances.

The **distribution** of X is a **table** with two "columns":

- ullet Each possible value x that X can take (note the capitalisation!) and
- The corresponding probability/chance of that value.

Simple examples (Box 1)

For example, suppose X is a random draw from the following box (box 1):

There are then three possible tickets: $\boxed{1}$, $\boxed{2}$ and $\boxed{3}$ and each has (equal) chance of $\frac{1}{3}$ of being picked, so:

$$P(X = 1) = P(X = 2) = P(X = 3) = \frac{1}{3}$$
.

Here we write $P(\cdot)$ to denote the "probability" or "chance" of each event.

The distribution of X is

Non-equal chances (Box 2)

We can have box models where the different possible values are not necessarily equally likely.

For the box (box 2)

if each "ticket" is equally likely, we have

$$P(X=1) = \frac{1}{6}, \quad P(X=2) = \frac{2}{6} = \frac{1}{3}, \quad P(X=3) = \frac{3}{6} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

X then has distribution

$$x$$
 1 2 3 $P(X=x)$ $\frac{1}{6}$ $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{1}{2}$

Larger box example

Consider the box defined by the file y.dat in the R code below:

```
1 y = scan("y.dat")
2 y

1 [1] 3 4 5 6 7 8 4 5 6 7 8 9 5 6 7 8 9 10 6 7 8 9 10 11 7 8 9 10 11 12
2 [31] 8 9 10 11 12 13 4 5 6 7 8 9 5 6 7 8 9 10 6 7 8 9 10 11 7 8 9 10 11 12
3 [61] 8 9 10 11 12 13 9 10 11 12 13 14 5 6 7 8 9 10 6 7 8 9 10 11 7 8 9 10 11 12
4 [91] 8 9 10 11 12 13 9 10 11 12 13 14 10 11 12 13 14 15 6 7 8 9 10 11 7 8 9 10 11 12
5 [121] 8 9 10 11 12 13 9 10 11 12 13 14 10 11 12 13 14 15 11 12 13 14 15 16 7 8 9 10 11 12
6 [151] 8 9 10 11 12 13 9 10 11 12 13 14 10 11 12 13 14 15 11 12 13 14 15 16 12 13 14 15 16 17
7 [181] 8 9 10 11 12 13 9 10 11 12 13 14 10 11 12 13 14 15 11 12 13 14 15 16 12 13 14 15 16 17
8 [211] 13 14 15 16 17 18
```

What is the chance that a single draw from this is less than 8?

Find the proportion less than 8

Use the frequency table

```
1 table(y) # note: first two rows below are only labels: the 'real' output is the third line

y
3  4  5  6  7  8  9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
1  3  6 10 15 21 25 27 27 25 21 15 10  6  3  1

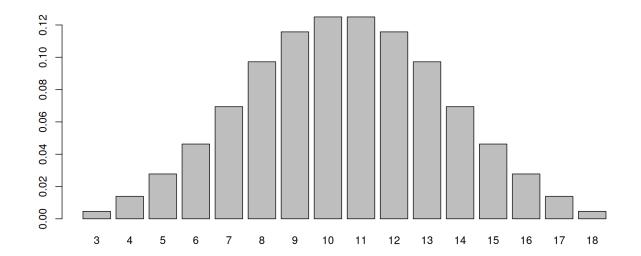
1 sum(table(y)) # gives total freq, i.e. size of the box

[1] 216
1 length(y) # same as above

[1] 216
1 round(100 * table(y)/length(y), 1) # chance for getting each ticket (in percentage)

y
3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13  14  15  16  17  18
0.5  1.4  2.8  4.6  6.9  9.7 11.6 12.5 12.5 11.6  9.7  6.9  4.6  2.8  1.4  0.5
```

1 barplot(table(y)/length(y))



- 1 sum(y < 8) # the vector 'y<8' is of length 216, with TRUE=1 and FALSE=0 if each value <8 or ≥8
 [1] 35
 1 sum(y < 8)/length(y)
 [1] 0.162037
 1 mean(y < 8) # mean of a vector of 0's and 1's is the *proportion* of 1's
 [1] 0.162037</pre>
 - The chance of drawing a value less than 8 is $\frac{35}{216} pprox 16\%$.
 - Note: 35 = 1 + 3 + 6 + 10 + 15 (the frequencies of 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 respectively).

Histogram, normal curve

- In some situations, we may not know the *exact* contents of the box, but we might have access to some approximation.
- For example, what if the histogram of the box has a normal shape?
- In that case, knowing only the mean and SD of the box, we can approximate *proportions*, and hence chances of getting different values.
- Firstly note the mean and SD for our example y:

```
1 mn.y = mean(y)
2 mn.y

[1] 10.5

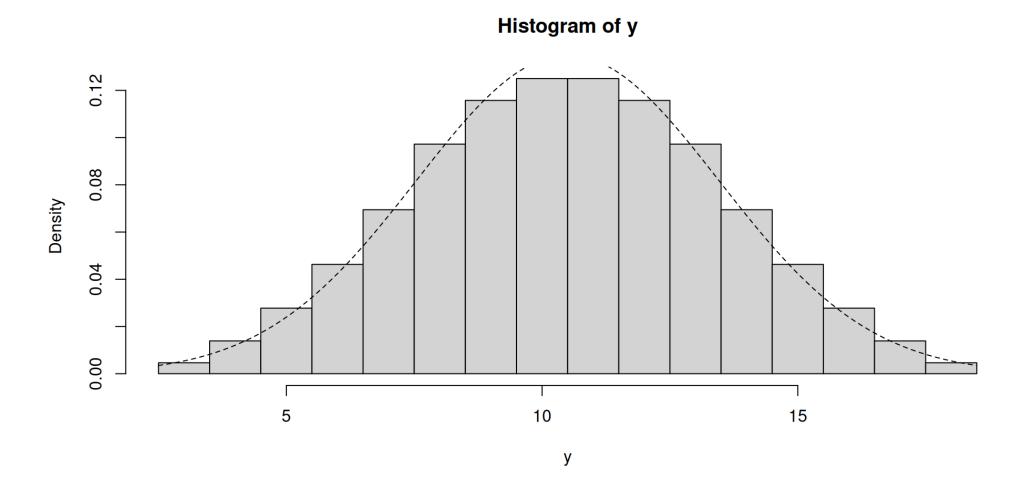
1 SD.y = sqrt(mean((y - mn.y)^2))
2 SD.y

[1] 2.95804
```

Note: box is a population

```
1 br = (2:18) + 0.5
2 br # this gives rectangles centred on each integer 3,4,...,18
[1] 2.5 3.5 4.5 5.5 6.5 7.5 8.5 9.5 10.5 11.5 12.5 13.5 14.5 15.5 16.5 17.5 18.5

1 hist(y, breaks = br, pr = T)
2 curve(dnorm(x, mn.y, SD.y), add = T, lty = 2) # lty=2 gives a dashed line
```



Normal approximation

We can find the "area" to the left of 8, for a normal curve with the same mean and SD:

```
1 pnorm(8, mn.y, SD.y) # not a bad approximation, but a bit big
[1] 0.1990124
```

Compare this to the "true" value of 16%

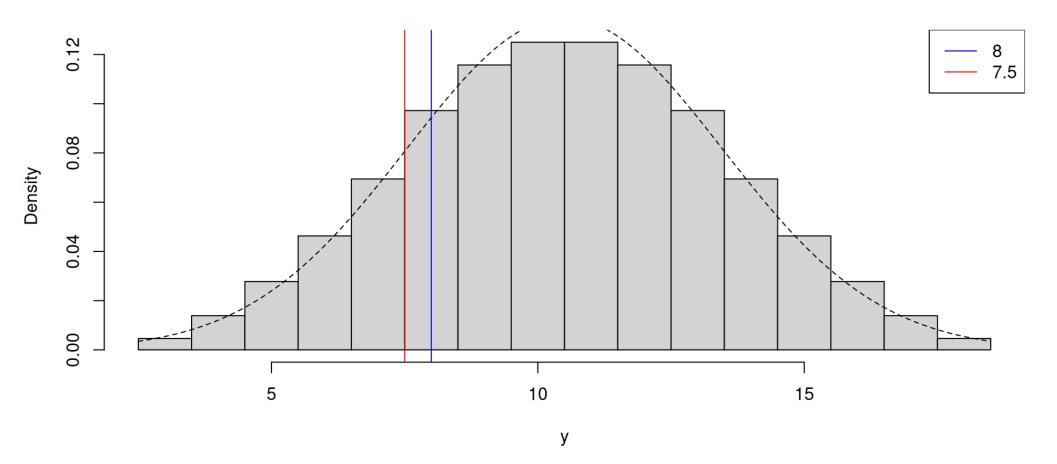
Non-examinable: Note that a better approximation is obtained if we get the area to the left of 7.5:

```
1 pnorm(7.5, mn.y, SD.y) # much closer to the true value!
[1] 0.1552472
```

This works because the values in the box are whole numbers, and the area under the rectangles we want is actually to the left of 7.5 (see the histogram repeated on the next slide):

```
1 hist(y, breaks = br, pr = T)
2 curve(dnorm(x, mn.y, SD.y), add = T, lty = 2) # lty=2 gives a dashed line
3 abline(v = 8, col = "blue")
4 abline(v = 7.5, col = "red")
5 legend("topright", leg = c("8", "7.5"), lty = c(1, 1), col = c("blue", "red"))
```

Histogram of y



New interpretation of mean and SD of box

When we are taking a random draw X from a box, we see that the mean and SD of the box have a new, special interpretation.

We call the mean of the box the **expected value** of the random draw:

• We write this as E(X).

We call the SD of the box the **standard error** of the random draw:

• We write this as SE(X).

Random draw = Expected value + Chance error

The random draw may be "decomposed" into two pieces:

$$X = E(X) + [X - E(X)] = E(X) + \varepsilon.$$

- The first part E(X) is not random.
- All randomness is included in the chance error ε , which is itself a random draw from an **error box** (a box with mean zero).
- **Example**: a random draw X from the box (box 1)

(which has mean 2) may instead be thought of as $X=2+\varepsilon$ where the chance error ε is a random draw from the error box

Standard error

- The **standard error** is the "root-mean-square" of the error box.
 - Measures the "size" of the errors in some sense.
- It is a measure of "random variation".
- For two different random draws, the one with the larger SE is likely to differ from its expected value by a larger amount.

Sums of random draws

New interpretation of mean and SD

We have introduced the concepts of

- ullet A random draw X from a box;
- Its expected value E(X);
- Its standard error SE(X).

The expected value and standard error are not "new" things;

Rather, they are new interpretations of old things.

Is it really "worth the effort" to introduce these new names for these things are already know about?

• The expected value and standard error become very useful when we have more than one draw.

Sum of two random draws

Consider the two boxes (box 1 with equal chance to get each ticket)

- The first box has mean 2 and SD $\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}[(-1)^2+0^2+1^2]}=\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}pprox 0.816$.
- The second box has mean 5 and SD

$$\sqrt{rac{1}{4}[(-3)^2+(-1)^2+1^2+3^2]}=\sqrt{5}pprox 2.236\,.$$

- ullet Suppose we are going to take a random draw from each, X from the first box, Y from the second box, in such a way that each possible pair of values is equally likely.
- What is the behaviour of the (random) sum S=X+Y?

All possible pairs/sums

• There are 12 possible pairs:

$$(1,2), (1,4), (1,6), (1,8),$$

 $(2,2), (2,4), (2,6), (2,8),$

Table of all possible pairs and their sums

Sample	Sum
(1,2)	3
(1,4)	5
(1,6)	7
(1,8)	9
(2,2)	4
(2,4)	6
(2,6)	8
(2,8)	10
(3,2)	5
(3,4)	7
(3,6)	9
(3,8)	11

Single random draw from a "bigger" box

• Thus getting a random pair (X,Y) and forming the sum S=X+Y is **equivalent** to a *single random draw* from the bigger box (box 1)

• What are the mean and SD of this "bigger" box?

Using outer()

• The R function outer () forms a two-way array by applying an operation to each pair of elements from two vectors:

```
1 bx = c(1, 2, 3)
 2 by = c(2, 4, 6, 8)
 3 bs = outer(bx, by, "+")
 4 bs
    [,1] [,2] [,3] [,4]
[1,] 3 5 7 9
[2,] 4 6 8 10
[3,] 5 7 9 11
 1 mean(bs) # mean
[1] 7
 1 mean((bs - mean(bs))^2) # population variance
[1] 5.666667
 1 sqrt(mean((bs - mean(bs))^2)) # population SD
[1] 2.380476
```

Expected value and standard error of the sum

- ullet So we have that E(S)=7 and $SE(S)=\sqrt{5+rac{2}{3}}pprox 2.38$.
- Note that we have

$$7 = E(S) = E(X + Y) = E(X) + E(Y) = 2 + 5$$
.

We also have

$$5 + \frac{2}{3} = SE(S)^2 = SE(X+Y)^2 = SE(X)^2 + SE(Y)^2 = \frac{2}{3} + 5$$
.

- So in this case we have
 - expected value of sum is sum of expected values;
 - → squared SE of the sum is the sum of the squared SEs
- These results hold quite generally.

Sum of two random draws.

• Consider two boxes (box 1)



ullet Suppose we are going to take a random draw from each: X from the first box, Y from the second box, in such a way that each possible pair of values is equally likely.

All possible sums

- ullet There are MN possible sums, we may arrange them in a two-way array with M (horizontal) rows and N (vertical) columns.
- Noting that $\sum_{i=1}^M x_i = Mar{x}$, we may write the column sums below the line:

• The sum of column sums is

$$\underbrace{Mar{x}+\cdots+Mar{x}}_{N ext{ terms}}+M(y_1+\cdots+y_N)=NMar{x}+MNar{y}\,.$$

• Thus the average of all possible sums is

$$\frac{\text{sum of all possible sums}}{\text{no. of all possible sums}} = \frac{NM\bar{x} + MN\bar{y}}{MN} = \bar{x} + \bar{y} = E(X) + E(Y) \,.$$

That is,

$$E(S) = E(X + Y).$$

Aside: Computing formula for SD

ullet For a list of numbers x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_M , the square of the SD may be written as

$$SD^2 = rac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^{M} (x_i - ar{x})^2 = \left(rac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^{M} x_i^2
ight) - ar{x}^2$$

the "mean square minus the square of the mean".

ullet To see why, recall that $\sum_{i=1}^M x_i = Mar{x}$ and so:

$$egin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{M} (x_i - ar{x})^2 &= (x_1^2 - 2ar{x}x_1 + ar{x}^2) + \dots + (x_M^2 - 2ar{x}x_M + ar{x}^2) \ &= (x_1^2 + \dots + x_M^2) - 2ar{x}(x_1 + \dots + x_M) + ar{x}^2 + \dots + ar{x}^2 \ &= \sum_{i=1}^{M} x_i^2 - 2ar{x}Mar{x} + Mar{x}^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{M} x_i^2 - Mar{x}^2 \end{aligned}$$

Easy way to compute SD in R

• The computing formula above can be used to write a quick-and-easy R function to compute the (population) SD of a list of numbers.

```
popsd = function(x) {
pop = sqrt(mean(x^2) - (mean(x)^2))
return(pop)
}
```

• Let's try it out:

```
1 x = 1:10

2 x # this list has mean 5.5

[1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1 sqrt(mean((x - 5.5)^2))

[1] 2.872281

1 popsd(x)

[1] 2.872281
```

Not Examinable: SE of a sum

- ullet It is possible to deduce the SE of our general sum S=X+Y.
- We do so by first working out the mean-square of the bigger box of all possible sums.
- ullet Write each squared sum $(x_i+y_j)^2=x_i^2+2x_iy_j+y_j^2$ in an array and add over columns:

Not Examinable

• The sum of squares (of all possible sums) is then

$$egin{aligned} N \sum_i x_i^2 + 2 M ar{x} (y_1 + \dots + y_N) + M (y_1^2 + \dots + y_N^2) \ &= N \sum_i x_i^2 + 2 M N ar{x} ar{y} + M \sum_j y_j^2 \,. \end{aligned}$$

ullet Since there are MN possible sums, the mean square is

$$rac{1}{M}\sum_i x_i^2 + 2ar xar y + rac{1}{N}\sum_j y_j^2\,.$$

Not Examinable

ullet Since mean of all possible sums is ar x + ar y, the squared SD of all possible sums is

$$\underbrace{\frac{1}{M} \sum_{i} x_{i}^{2} + 2\bar{x}\bar{y} + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j} y_{j}^{2} - \underbrace{(\bar{x}^{2} + 2\bar{x}\bar{y} + \bar{y}^{2})}_{sq. of mean}}_{mean sq.}$$

$$= \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i} x_{i}^{2} - \bar{x}^{2} + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j} y_{j}^{2} - \bar{y}^{2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i} (x_{i} - \bar{x})^{2} + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j} (y_{j} - \bar{y})^{2}$$

$$= SE(X)^{2} + SE(Y)^{2}.$$

That is,

$$SE(S)^{2} = SE(X)^{2} + SE(Y)^{2}$$
.



Random samples with replacement of size n=2

A special case of our general sum is where we have a single box (box 1)

$$x_1 x_2 \cdots x_N$$

but take two random draws with replacement.

- This means each of the N^2 possible pairs $(x_1,x_1),\ldots,(x_1,x_n),\ldots,(x_n,x_1),\ldots,(x_n,x_n)$ is **equally likely**.
- ullet This is where both boxes are (effectively) the same, so E(X)=E(Y) and SE(X)=SE(Y).
- If we write the mean of the box as μ and the SD of the box as σ , then the sum S of the two random draws has
 - $\to E(S) = 2\mu$
 - $\rightarrow SE(S) = \sqrt{2}\sigma$.

Random samples of size n

- We may easily extend the results to any $n \geq 2$.
- Suppose
 - ightharpoonup We have a box with mean μ and SD σ ;
 - \rightarrow We are going to take a random sample of size n from the box with replacement;
 - \rightarrow So each possible sample of size n is equally likely.
- Let us write
 - \rightarrow The random draws as X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n ;
 - \rightarrow The sum as $S = X_1 + \cdots + X_n$;
 - o The sample average as $ar{X}=rac{S}{n}=rac{1}{n}(X_1+\cdots+X_n)=rac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n X_i$.
- What are the expected value and standard error of both S and $ar{X}$?

The sum S

- ullet We may extend our results from n=2 easily.
- Each single draw has the same behaviour.
- ullet X_1 (the first draw) is a single random draw and so has
 - $\to E(X_1) = \mu$
 - $SE(X_1) = \sigma$.
- The same is true for each other draw.
- Expected value of sum is sum of expected values:

$$E(S) = E(X_1 + \dots + X_n) = E(X_1) + \dots + E(X_n) = \underbrace{\mu + \dots + \mu}_{n \text{ terms}} = n\mu.$$

• Also,
$$SE(S)^2 = SE(X_1)^2 + \cdots + SE(X_n)^2 = n\sigma^2$$
, so $SE(S) = \sigma\sqrt{n}$.

Going from the sum to the average

- So the "box of all possible sums" has mean $n\mu$ and SD $\sigma\sqrt{n}$.
- How about the box of all possible (sample) averages?
- ullet The box of all possible averages is obtained by taking each possible sum and dividing it by n.
- This has the effect of
 - \rightarrow dividing the mean by n;
 - ightharpoonup also dividing the SD by n.

The sample average $ar{X}$

• We thus obtain immediately that for the average $ar{X} = rac{S}{n} = rac{X_1 + \dots + X_n}{n}$,

$$E(ar{X}) = rac{E(S)}{n} = rac{n\mu}{n} = \mu\,;$$

- ullet So the "bigger box" of all possible sample means has average equal to the "population mean" μ ;
 - this is not surprising.
- As for the standard error we have

$$SE(\bar{X}) = rac{SE(S)}{n} = rac{\sigma\sqrt{n}}{n} = rac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$$
 .

Example: 6-sided die

- Consider rolling a fair 6-sided die.
- In this case each of the numbers 1,2,3,4,5,6 are equally likely.
- This is equivalent to a random draw from the box (box 1)

which has mean $\mu=3.5=rac{7}{2}$, mean-square $rac{1+4+9+16+25+36}{6}=rac{91}{6}$ and thus SD

$$\sigma = \sqrt{rac{91}{6} - rac{49}{4}} = \sqrt{rac{182 - 147}{12}} = \sqrt{rac{35}{12}} pprox 1.71 \, .$$

Rolling the die 3 times: Sum of rolls

- Suppose we roll the die ("independently") 3 times.
- What is the random behaviour of the sum of the values of the three rolls?
- Let X_1, X_2, X_3 denote 3 random draws with replacement from the box

ullet Then the sum of the 3 rolls $S=X_1+X_2+X_3$ has $E(S)=3\mu=rac{21}{2}=10.5$ and

$$SE(S) = \sigma \sqrt{3} = \sqrt{rac{35}{12} imes 3} = \sqrt{rac{35}{4}} = rac{\sqrt{35}}{2} pprox 2.958\,.$$

• The box of all possible sums here is exactly the dataset y.dat from earlier in the lecture!

Rolling the die 3 times: Average of rolls

- What is the random behaviour of the average of the values of the three rolls?
- ullet Writing $ar{X}=rac{X_1+X_2+X_3}{3}=rac{S}{3}$, we have

$$E(\bar{X}) = \frac{E(S)}{3} = \frac{3\mu}{3} = \mu = 3.5$$

and

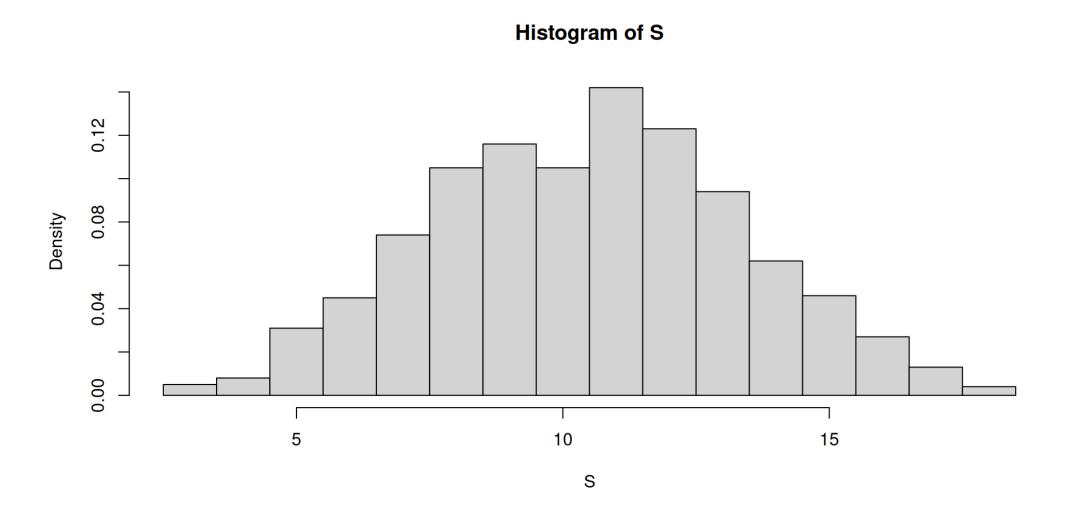
$$SE(ar{X}) = rac{\sigma}{\sqrt{3}} = \sqrt{rac{35}{12} imes rac{1}{3}} = \sqrt{rac{35}{36}} = rac{\sqrt{35}}{6} pprox 0.956 \, .$$

Demonstration

• Let us simulate 3 rolls of a 6-sided die 1000 times, and look at the corresponding 1000 sums and averages of each triplet.

```
1  d = 1:6
2  S = 0  # empty vector to catch the sums
3  for (i in 1:1000) {
4     rolls = sample(d, size = 3, replace = T)
5     S[i] = sum(rolls)
6  }
7  mean(S)

[1] 10.467
1 sd(S)
[1] 2.916748
1 popsd(S)
[1] 2.915289
```

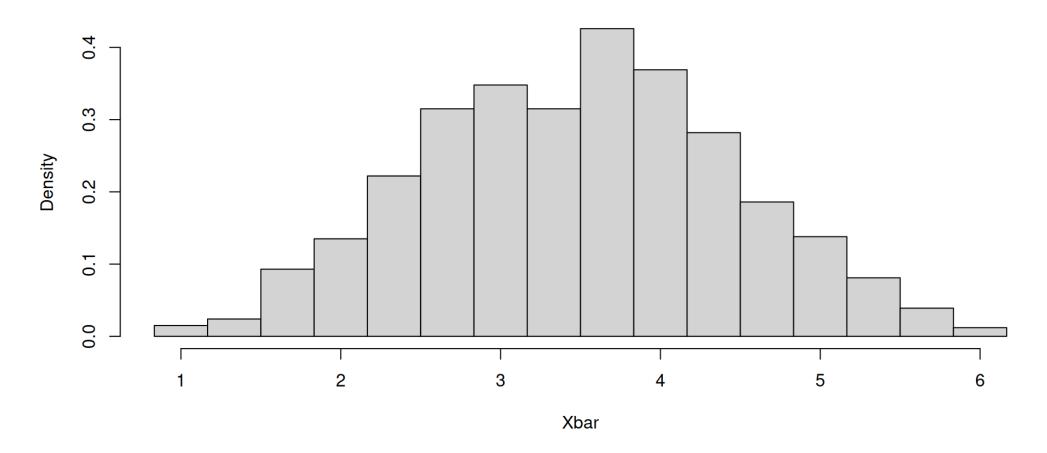


Note these proportions are *close* to (but not *exactly* equal to) the corresponding proportions in y.dat.

Averages

```
1 Xbar = S/3
2 mean(Xbar)
[1] 3.489
1 sd(Xbar)
[1] 0.9722493
1 popsd(Xbar)
[1] 0.9717631
```

Histogram of Xbar



Same shape as for the sums, but centred on 3.5 and less spread-out.

Closing remarks: n getting larger

- ullet We have seen that for n random draws (with replacement) from a box with mean μ and SE σ
 - ightharpoonup the sum of draws S has $E(S)=n\mu$ and $SE(S)=\sigma\sqrt{n}$;
 - o the average of the draws $ar{X}$ has $E(ar{X})=\mu$ and $SE(ar{X})=rac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$.
- ullet What happens to the SE of each as n gets bigger?
 - ightharpoonup for the sum, $\sigma\sqrt{n}$ gets larger **but**
 - for the average, $\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$ gets **smaller**.
- In particular, for the average $ar{X}$, the random variability about $E(ar{X})=\mu$ gets less as the sample size n increases.

Summary of box model formulas

Box Model	Expected Value E(X)	Standard Error SE(X)
Mean of draws	mean of the box	$\frac{\text{SD of the box}}{\sqrt{\text{number of draws}}}$
Sum of draws	number of draws $ imes$ mean of the box	$\sqrt{\mathrm{number\ of\ draws}} imes$ SD of the box