

Chapter 2: Probability (Sections 3, 4, and 5)

Introduction to Statistics

- 1 Sampling from a small population
- 2 Random variables
- 3 Continuous distributions

Sampling with replacement

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$$Prob(2^{nd} \text{ chip } B | 1^{st} \text{ chip } B) = \frac{3}{10} = 0.3$$

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1st draw: 5  , 3  , 2 

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$$\begin{aligned} Prob(1^{st} \text{ chip } B) \cdot Prob(2^{nd} \text{ chip } B | 1^{st} \text{ chip } B) &= 0.3 \times 0.3 \\ &= 0.3^2 = 0.09 \end{aligned}$$

Sampling with replacement (cont.)

- When drawing with replacement, probability of the second chip being blue does not depend on the color of the first chip since whatever we draw in the first draw gets put back in the bag.

$$Prob(B|B) = Prob(B|O)$$

- In addition, this probability is equal to the probability of drawing a blue chip in the first draw, since the composition of the bag never changes when sampling with replacement.

$$Prob(B|B) = Prob(B)$$

- *When drawing with replacement, draws are independent.*

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$$Prob(1^{st} \text{ chip } B) \cdot Prob(2^{nd} \text{ chip } B | 1^{st} \text{ chip } B) = 0.3 \times 0.22 \\ = 0.066$$

Sampling without replacement (cont.)

- When drawing without replacement, the probability of the second chip being blue given the first was blue is not equal to the probability of drawing a blue chip in the first draw since the composition of the bag changes with the outcome of the first draw.

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- *When drawing without replacement, draws are not independent.*
- This is especially important to take note of when the sample sizes are small. If we were dealing with, say, 10,000 chips in a (giant) bag, taking out one chip of any color would not have as big an impact on the probabilities in the second draw.

Practice

In most card games cards are dealt without replacement. What is the probability of being dealt an ace and then a 3? Choose the closest answer.

- (a) 0.0045
- (b) 0.0059
- (c) 0.0060
- (d) 0.1553

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In most card games cards are dealt without replacement. What is the probability of being dealt an ace and then a 3? Choose the closest answer.

- (a) 0.0045
- (b) 0.0059
- (c) **0.0060**
- (d) 0.1553

$$P(\text{ace then 3}) = \frac{4}{52} \times \frac{4}{51} \approx 0.0060$$

1 Sampling from a small population

2 Random variables

- Expectation
- Variability in random variables
- Linear combinations of random variables
- Variability in linear combinations of random variables
- Recap

3 Continuous distributions

Random variables

- A *random variable* is a numeric quantity whose value depends on the outcome of a random event
 - We use a capital letter, like X , to denote a random variable
 - The values of a random variable are denoted with a lower case letter, in this case x
 - For example, $P(X = x)$
- There are two types of random variables:
 - *Discrete random variables* often take only integer values
 - Example: Number of credit hours, Difference in number of credit hours this term vs last
 - *Continuous random variables* take real (decimal) values
 - Example: Cost of books this term, Difference in cost of books this term vs last

Expectation

- We are often interested in the average outcome of a random variable.
- We call this the *expected value* (mean), and it is a weighted average of the possible outcomes

$$\mu = E(X) = \sum_{i=1}^k x P(X = x_i)$$

Expected value of a discrete random variable

In a game of cards you win \$1 if you draw a heart, \$5 if you draw an ace (including the ace of hearts), \$10 if you draw the king of spades and nothing for any other card you draw. Write the probability model for your winnings, and calculate your expected winning.

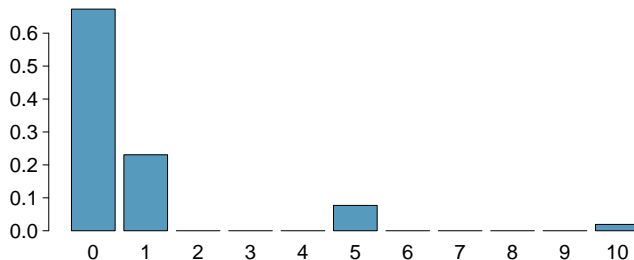
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Event	X	$P(X)$	$X P(X)$
Heart (not ace)	1	$\frac{12}{52}$	$\frac{12}{52}$
Ace	5	$\frac{4}{52}$	$\frac{20}{52}$
King of spades	10	$\frac{1}{52}$	$\frac{10}{52}$
All else	0	$\frac{35}{52}$	0
Total			$E(X) = \frac{42}{52} \approx 0.81$

Expected value of a discrete random variable (cont.)

Below is a visual representation of the probability distribution of winnings from this game:



Variability

We are also often interested in the variability in the values of a random variable.

$$\sigma^2 = \text{Var}(X) = \sum_{i=1}^k (x_i - E(X))^2 P(X = x_i)$$

$$\sigma = \text{SD}(X) = \sqrt{\text{Var}(X)}$$

Variability of a discrete random variable

For the previous card game example, how much would you expect the winnings to vary from game to game?

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X	$P(X)$	$X P(X)$	$(X - E(X))^2$	$P(X) (X - E(X))^2$
1	$\frac{12}{52}$	$1 \times \frac{12}{52} = \frac{12}{52}$	$(1 - 0.81)^2 = 0.0361$	$\frac{12}{52} \times 0.0361 = 0.0083$
5	$\frac{4}{52}$	$5 \times \frac{4}{52} = \frac{20}{52}$	$(5 - 0.81)^2 = 17.5561$	$\frac{4}{52} \times 17.5561 = 1.3505$
10	$\frac{1}{52}$	$10 \times \frac{1}{52} = \frac{10}{52}$	$(10 - 0.81)^2 = 84.4561$	$\frac{1}{52} \times 84.4561 = 1.6242$
0	$\frac{35}{52}$	$0 \times \frac{35}{52} = 0$	$(0 - 0.81)^2 = 0.6561$	$\frac{35}{52} \times 0.6561 = 0.4416$
		$E(X) = 0.81$		

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		$E(X) = 0.81$		$V(X) = 3.4246$
				$SD(X) = \sqrt{3.4246} = 1.85$

Linear combinations

- A *linear combination* of random variables X and Y is given by

$$aX + bY$$

where a and b are some fixed numbers.

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- The average value of a linear combination of random variables is given by

$$E(aX + bY) = a \times E(X) + b \times E(Y)$$

Calculating the expectation of a linear combination

On average you take 10 minutes for each statistics homework problem and 15 minutes for each chemistry homework problem. This week you have 5 statistics and 4 chemistry homework problems assigned. What is the total time you expect to spend on statistics and physics homework for the week?

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$$\begin{aligned}E(5S + 4C) &= 5 \times E(S) + 4 \times E(C) \\&= 5 \times 10 + 4 \times 15 \\&= 50 + 60 \\&= 110 \text{ min}\end{aligned}$$

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- The standard deviation of the linear combination is the square root of the variance.

Note: If the random variables are not independent, the variance calculation gets a little more complicated and is beyond the scope of this course.

Calculating the variance of a linear combination

The standard deviation of the time you take for each statistics homework problem is 1.5 minutes, and it is 2 minutes for each chemistry problem. What is the standard deviation of the time you expect to spend on statistics and physics homework for the week if you have 5 statistics and 4 chemistry homework problems assigned?

Calculating the variance of a linear combination

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$$\begin{aligned}V(5S + 4C) &= 5^2 \times V(S) + 4^2 \times V(C) \\&= 25 \times 1.5^2 + 16 \times 2^2 \\&= 56.25 + 64 \\&= 120.25\end{aligned}$$

Practice

A casino game costs \$5 to play. If you draw first a red card, then you get to draw a second card. If the second card is the ace of hearts, you win \$500. If not, you don't win anything, i.e. lose your \$5. What is your expected profits/losses from playing this game? Remember: profit/loss = winnings - cost.

(a) A loss of 10¢

(b) A loss of 25¢

(c) A loss of 30¢

(d) A profit of 5¢

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(c) *A loss of 30¢*

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(d) A profit of 5¢

Event	Win	Profit: X	$P(X)$	$X \times P(X)$
<i>Red, A♥</i>	500	$500 - 5 = 495$	$\frac{25}{52} \times \frac{1}{51} = 0.0094$	$495 \times 0.0094 = 4.653$
<i>Other</i>	0	$0 - 5 = -5$	$1 - 0.0094 = 0.9906$	$-5 \times 0.9906 = -4.953$

$$E(X) = -0.3$$

Fair game

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Do you think casino games in Vegas cost more or less than their expected payouts?

If those games cost less than their expected payouts, it would mean that the casinos would be losing money on average, and hence they wouldn't be able to pay for all this:

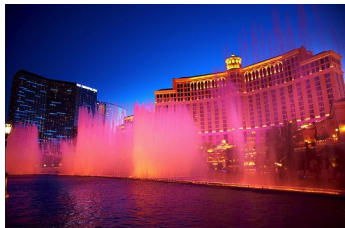


Image by Moyan.Brenn on Flickr http://www.flickr.com/photos/aigle_dore/5951714693.

Simplifying random variables

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$$\begin{aligned} E(X + X) &= E(X) + E(X) \\ &= 2E(X) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(X + X) &= \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(X) \text{ (assuming independence)} \\ &= 2 \text{Var}(X) \end{aligned}$$

$$E(2X) = 2E(X)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(2X) &= 2^2 \text{Var}(X) \\ &= 4 \text{Var}(X) \end{aligned}$$

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$E(X + X) = E(2X)$, but $\text{Var}(X + X) \neq \text{Var}(2X)$.

Adding or multiplying?

A company has 5 Lincoln Town Cars in its fleet. Historical data show that annual maintenance cost for each car is on average \$2,154 with a standard deviation of \$132. What is the mean and the standard deviation of the total annual maintenance cost for this fleet?

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Note that we have 5 cars each with the given annual maintenance cost ($X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + X_4 + X_5$), not one car that had 5 times the given annual maintenance cost ($5X$).

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$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + X_4 + X_5) &= \text{Var}(X_1) + \text{Var}(X_2) + \text{Var}(X_3) + \text{Var}(X_4) + \text{Var}(X_5) \\ &= 5 \times V(X) = 5 \times 132^2 = \$87,120 \end{aligned}$$

Adding or multiplying?

A company has 5 Lincoln Town Cars in its fleet. Historical data show that annual maintenance cost for each car is on average \$2,154 with a standard deviation of \$132. What is the mean and the standard deviation of the total annual maintenance cost for this fleet?

Note that we have 5 cars each with the given annual maintenance cost ($X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + X_4 + X_5$), not one car that had 5 times the given annual maintenance cost ($5X$).

$$\begin{aligned} E(X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + X_4 + X_5) &= E(X_1) + E(X_2) + E(X_3) + E(X_4) + E(X_5) \\ &= 5 \times E(X) = 5 \times 2,154 = \$10,770 \end{aligned}$$

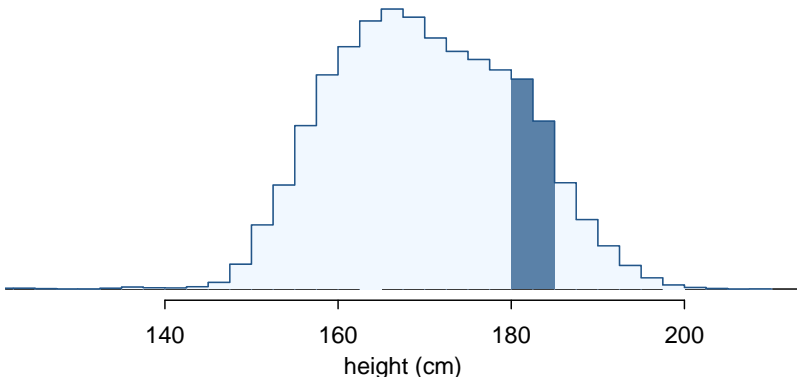
$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + X_4 + X_5) &= \text{Var}(X_1) + \text{Var}(X_2) + \text{Var}(X_3) + \text{Var}(X_4) + \text{Var}(X_5) \\ &= 5 \times V(X) = 5 \times 132^2 = \$87,120 \end{aligned}$$

$$SD(X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + X_4 + X_5) = \sqrt{87,120} = 295.16$$

- 1 Sampling from a small population
- 2 Random variables
- 3 Continuous distributions
 - From histograms to continuous distributions
 - Probabilities from continuous distributions

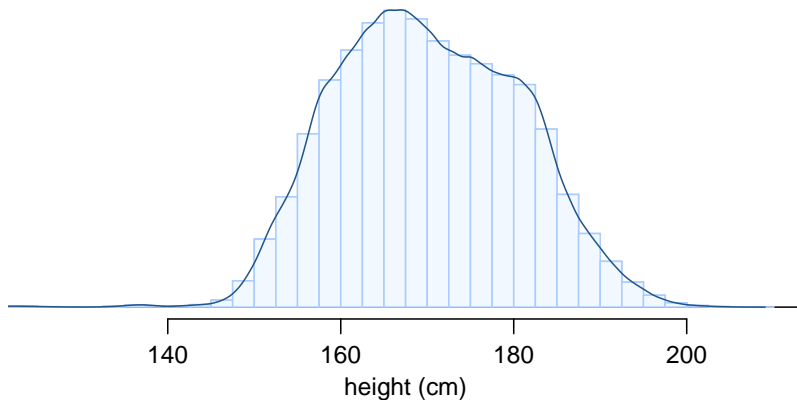
Continuous distributions

- Below is a histogram of the distribution of heights of US adults.
- The proportion of data that falls in the shaded bins gives the probability that a randomly sampled US adult is between 180 cm and 185 cm (about 5'11" to 6'1").



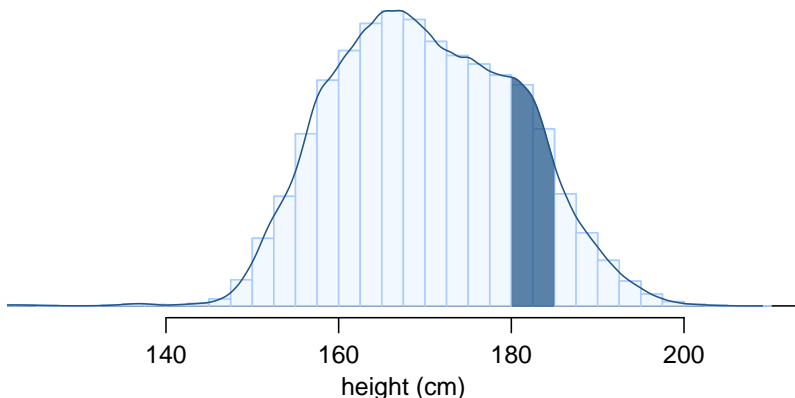
From histograms to continuous distributions

Since height is a continuous numerical variable, its *probability density function* is a smooth curve.



Probabilities from continuous distributions

Therefore, the probability that a randomly sampled US adult is between 180 cm and 185 cm can also be estimated as the shaded area under the curve.



By definition...

Since continuous probabilities are estimated as “the area under the curve”, the probability of a person being exactly 180 cm (or any exact value) is defined as 0.

