

# Normal Distribution and Discrete Populations

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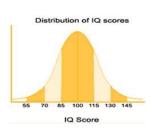
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#### Normal Distribution and Discrete Populations

- Normal distribution is often used as an approximation to the distribution of values in discrete population.
- o In such situations, extra care should be taken to ensure that probabilities are computed in an accurate manner.

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- o Intelligence Quotient (IQ) in a particular population (as measured by a standard test) is known to be approximately normally distributed with  $\mu = 100$  and  $\sigma = 15$ .
- What is the probability that a randomly selected individual has an IQ of at least 125?



ระดับ	ไอคิว	ร้อยละ		
อัจฉริยะ	>144	0.13		
ปัญญาเลิศ	130-144	2.14		
เหนือค่าเฉลี่ย	115-129	13.59		
สูงกว่าค่าเฉลี่ย	100-114	34.13		
ค่อนข้างต่ำ	85-99	34.13		
คำกว่าค่าเฉลี่ย	70-84	13.59		
คาบเต้น	55-69	2.14		
คำ	<55	0.13		

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#### Example 4.19

#### **Solution**

 $\circ$  Letting X = the IQ of a randomly chosen person, we wish

$$P(X \ge 125)$$
.

- The temptation here is to standardize  $X \ge 125$  as in previous examples.
- o However, the IQ population distribution is actually discrete, since IQs are integer-valued.

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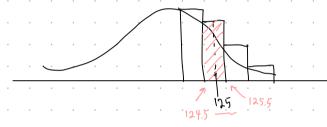
กานนลใน พาแปรมีฟ X เป็น 10 ของผลอนี้มิกฎีมเลือ

p(X > 125) -> nj Standardize

**イ. シ. 125** 

\$ (.7 . . ) . 1.67 . Jamso

เนื่องจาก IQ เป็นอนาต์ม > msแจกแจงประหากรเอง IQ เป็นแบบ ไม่ตอเนื้อง (Discrete) Normal Curue PoilumsUs: and Histogram Poilullou Tamoingo



Isique un Prisuls: mulha (Approximating)

$$P\left(\frac{X-M}{6} > \frac{125-100}{15}\right) \approx P\left(\frac{X-M}{6} > \frac{124.5-100}{15}\right)$$

0.0475 & 0.0516

$$1-P(Z<1.67)\approx 1-P(Z\leq 1.63)$$

o So normal curve is approximation to a discrete probability histogram, as pictured in Figure 4.24.

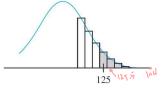


Figure 4.24 Normal approximation to a discrete distribution

- o Rectangles of histogram are centered at integers, so IQs of at least 125 correspond to rectangles beginning at 124.5, as shaded in Figure 4.24.
- o Thus we really want the area under the approximating normal curve to the right of 124.5.

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## Example 4.19

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

$$Z = \frac{124.5 - 100}{15} = \frac{24.5}{15} = 1.63333$$

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$$Z = \frac{124.5 - 100}{15} = \frac{24.5}{15} = 1.63333$$
 
$$Z = \frac{125 - 100}{15} = \frac{25}{15} = 1.66666$$

○ Standardizing this value (124.5) gives  $P(Z \ge 1.63) = 0.0516$ , whereas standardizing 125 results in  $P(Z \ge 1.67) = 0.0475$ .

z	.00	.01	.02	.03	.04	.05	.06	.07	.08	.09
1.6 1.7	.9452 .9554	.9463 .9564	.9474 .9573	.9484 .9582	.9382 .9495 9591	.9594 .9505	.9406 .9515	.9418 .9525	.9429 .9535	.9441 .9545

- o Difference is not great, but the answer 0.0516 is more accurate.
- $\circ$  Similarly, P(X = 125) would be approximated by area between 124.5 and 125.5, since area under normal curve above the single value 125 is zero.

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cont'

• Correction for discreteness of the underlying distribution in Example 19 is often called a **continuity correction.** 

o It is useful in the following application of normal distribution to the computation of binomial probabilities.

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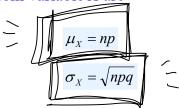


# **Approximating Binomial Distribution**

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#### **Approximating Binomial Distribution**

o Recall that mean value and standard deviation of binomial random variable X are



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#### **Approximating Binomial Distribution**

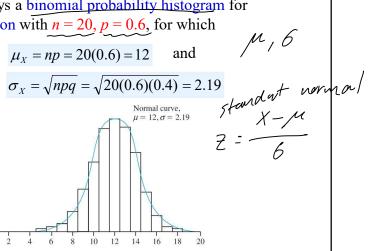
Figure 4.25 displays a binomial probability histogram for binomial distribution with n = 20, p = 0.6, for which

.20 -

.15

.10 .05

$$\mu_X = np = 20(0.6) = 12$$
 and



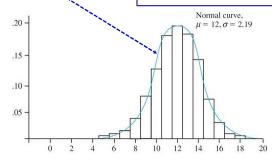
**Figure 4.25** Binomial probability histogram for n = 20, p = 0.6 with normal approximation curve superimposed

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#### **Approximating Binomial Distribution**

Normal curve with this  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$  has been superimposed on probability histogram.

Although probability histogram is a bit skewed (because  $p \neq 0.5$ ), normal curve gives a very good approximation, especially in the middle part of picture.



Area of any rectangle (probability of any particular *X* value) except those in the extreme tails can be accurately approximated by the corresponding normal curve area.

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0.95 0.99

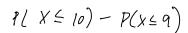
.000 .000

.003

000. 000. 000.

 $\mu = 12$   $\sigma = 2.19$ 

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# Approximating Binomial Distribution

For example,  $P(X = 10) = B(10; 20, 0.6) - B(9; 20, 0.6) = 0.245 - 0.128 \in 0.117$ .



whereas area under the normal curve between 9.5 and 10.5 is

 $P(-1.14 \le Z \le -0.68) = 0.1212.$ 

.983 995

z	.00	.01	.02	.03	.04	.05	.06	.07	.08	.09
-0.6	.2743	.2709	.2676	.2643	.2611	.2578	.2546	.2514	.2483	.245
-1.1	.1357	.1335	.1314	.1292	.1271	.1251	.1230	.1210	.1190	.1170

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10 1.000 11 1.000

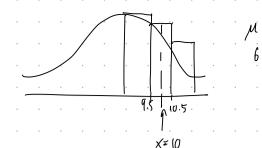
1.000

1.000

1.000

.999

1.000



$$P(9.5 \le X \le 10.5) = P\left(\frac{9.5 - 12}{2.19} \le 2 \le \frac{10.5 - 12}{2.19}\right) = P(-1.1415 \le 2 \le -0.6849)$$

$$= P\left(\frac{7}{2} \le -0.6849\right) - P\left(\frac{7}{2} \le -1.1415\right)$$

$$= P\left(\frac{7}{2} \le -0.6849\right) - P\left(\frac{7}{2} \le -1.1415\right)$$

$$= O(2.68) - O(-1.14)$$

$$= O(2.443 - 0.127)$$

$$= O(2.1212) - O(117)$$

$$= O(1212) - O(117)$$

#### **Approximating Binomial Distribution**

o More generally, as long as binomial probability histogram is not too skewed, binomial probabilities can be well approximated by normal curve areas.

 $\circ$  It is then customary to say that X has approximately a normal distribution.

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#### **Approximating Binomial Distribution**

#### **Proposition**

- $\circ$  Let X be binomial random variable based on n trials with success probability p.
- o Then if binomial probability histogram is not too skewed, X has approximately normal distribution with  $\mu = np$  and  $\sigma = \sqrt{npq}$

In particular, for x = possible value of X,

$$P(X \le x) = B(x, n, p) \approx \begin{pmatrix} area \ under \ normal \ curve \\ to \ the \ left \ of \ x + 0.5 \end{pmatrix} = \Phi\left(\frac{x + 0.5 - np}{\sqrt{npq}}\right)$$

○ In practice, approximation is adequate provided that both  $np \ge 10$  and  $nq \ge 10$ , since there is enough symmetry in underlying binomial distribution.

- o Suppose that 25% of all students at a large public university receive financial aid.
- Let X be the number of students in a random sample of size 50

who receive financial aid, so that 
$$p = 0.25$$
.

Then  $\mu = 12.5$  and  $\sigma = 3.06$ .

np > 10 O Since  $np = 50(0.25) = 12.5 \ge 10$  and  $nq = 50(0.75) = 37.5 \ge 10$ , the approximation can safely be applied.

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Example 4.20  $P(X \le x) = B(x, n, p) \approx$  area under normal curve to the left of x + 0.5



o Probability that at most 10 students receive aid is

$$P(X \le 10) = B(10;50,0.25) \approx \Phi\left(\frac{10 + 0.5 - 12.5}{3.06}\right) = \Phi(-0.65) = 0.2578$$

z	.00	.01	.02	.03	.04	.05	.06	.07	.08	.09
-0.6	.2743	.2709	.2676	.2643	.2611	.2578	.2546	.2514	.2483	.2451

o Similarly, probability that between 5 and 15 (inclusive) of selected students receive aid is

$$P(5 \le X \le 15) = B(15;50,0.25) - B(4;50,0.25)$$

$$\approx \Phi\left(\frac{15.5 - 12.5}{3.06}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{4.5 - 12.5}{3.06}\right) = \Phi(0.98) - \Phi(-2.61) = 0.8320$$

o Exact probabilities are 0.2622 and 0.8348, respectively, so approximations are quite good.

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#### **Exponential Distributions**

The family of exponential distributions provides probability models that are very widely used in engineering and science disciplines.

์ ตัวอย่างเช่น

- ปัญหาในระบบแถวคอย เวลาในการให้บริการและช่วงห่างระหว่างการเข้ามารับบริการของลูกค้า
- ความน่าจะเป็นที่ผลิตภัณฑ์ยังคงทำงานได้
- ความน่าจะเป็นที่ผลิตภัณฑ์จะเกิดการพังของอุปกรณ์หรือเครื่องจักรก่อนช่วงเวลาที่กำหนด
- อายุการใช้งานของอุปกรณ์

#### **Definition**

*X* is said to have an **exponential distribution** with parameter  $\lambda$  ( $\lambda > 0$ ) if the pdf of *X* is

$$f(x;\lambda) = \begin{cases} \lambda e^{-\lambda x} & x \ge 0\\ 0 & otherwise \end{cases}$$
 (4.5)

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- $\circ$  Some sources write the exponential pdf in the form  $(1/\beta)e^{-x/\beta}$ , so that  $\beta = 1/\lambda$ .
- $\circ$  Expected value of an exponentially distributed random variable X is

$$E(X) = \int_0^\infty x \lambda e^{-\lambda x} \, dx$$

o Obtaining this expected value necessitates doing an integration by parts.

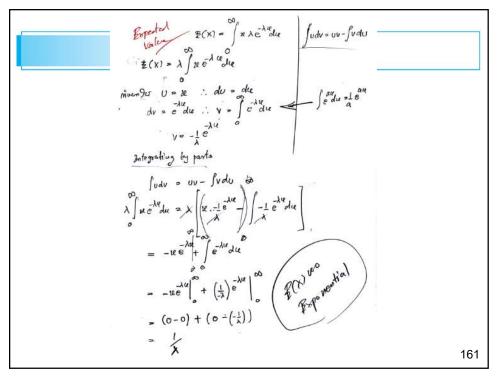
The variance of X can be computed using the fact that

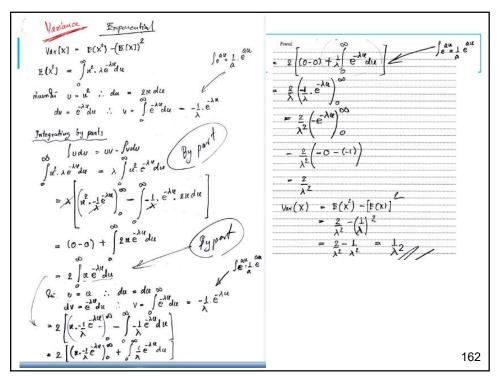
$$V(X) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2$$
.

 $\circ$  The determination of  $E(X^2)$  requires integrating by parts twice in succession.

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#### **Exponential Distributions**

The results of these integrations are as follows:

$$\mu = \frac{1}{\lambda}$$
  $\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$ 

Both the mean and standard deviation of the exponential distribution equal  $1/\lambda$ .

Graphs of several exponential pdf's are illustrated in Figure 4.26.

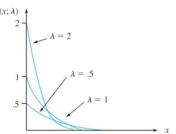


Figure 4.26 Exponential density curves

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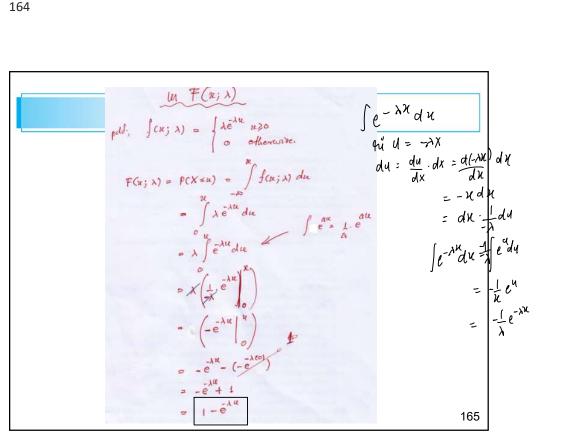
The exponential pdf is easily integrated to obtain the cdf.

$$F(x; \lambda) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ 1 - e^{-\lambda x} & x \ge 0 \end{cases} \qquad \lambda = 0 \cdot [0 \mid \emptyset]$$

$$[-e^{-\lambda x}]$$

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MPa: MegaPascals

The article "Probabilistic Fatigue Evaluation of Riveted Railway Bridges" (*J. of Bridge Engr.*, 2008: 237–244) suggested the exponential distribution with mean value 6 MPa as a model for the distribution of stress range in certain bridge connections.

Let's assume that this is in fact the true model. Then



$$E(X) = 1/\lambda = 6$$
 implies that  $\lambda = 0.1667$ .

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#### Example 4.21

cont'd

The probability that stress range is at most 10 MPa is

= 0.811

$$P(X \le 10) = F(10; 0.1667)$$

$$= 1 - e^{-(0.1667)(10)}$$

$$= 1 - 0.189$$

$$F(x; \lambda) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ 1 - e^{-\lambda x} & x \ge 0 \end{cases}$$

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Example 4.21 
$$F(x; \lambda) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ 1 - e^{-\lambda x} & x \ge 0 \end{cases}$$

cont'd

The probability that stress range is between 5 and 10 MPa is

$$P(5 \le X \le 10) = F(10; 0.1667) - F(5; 0.1667)$$

$$= (1 - e^{-0.1667(10)}) - (1 - e^{-0.1667(5)})$$

$$= (1 - e^{-1.667}) - (1 - e^{-0.8335})$$

$$= 0.246$$

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- Exponential distribution is frequently used as a model for distribution of times between occurrence of successive events, such as
  - customers arriving at a service facility or
  - calls coming in to a switchboard.

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#### **Exponential Distributions**

#### **Proposition**

- o Suppose that the number of events occurring in any time interval of length t has a Poisson distribution with parameter  $\alpha t$  (where  $\alpha$ , rate of event process, is expected number of events occurring in 1 unit of time) and that numbers of occurrences in nonoverlapping intervals are independent of one another.
- Then distribution of elapsed time between occurrence of two successive events is exponential with parameter  $\lambda = \alpha$ .

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$$p(x;\lambda) = \frac{e^{-\lambda}\lambda^x}{x!}$$

Although a complete proof is beyond the scope of the text, the result is easily verified for the time  $X_1$  until the first event occurs:

$$P(X_1 \le t) = 1 - P(X_1 > t) = 1 - P$$
 [no events in  $(0, t)$ ]

$$= 1 - \frac{e^{-\alpha t} \cdot (\alpha t)^0}{0!} = 1 - e^{-\alpha t}$$

which is exactly the cdf of the exponential distribution.

$$F(x; \lambda) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ 1 - e^{-\lambda x} & x \ge 0 \end{cases}$$

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#### Example 4.22

- $\circ$  Suppose that calls are received at a 24-hour "suicide hotline" according to a Poisson process with rate  $\alpha = 0.5$  call per day.
- $\circ$  Then the number of days X between successive calls has an exponential distribution with parameter value 0.5, so the probability that more than 2 days elapse between calls is

$$P(X > 2) = 1 - P(X \le 2)$$

$$= 1 - F(2; 0.5)$$

$$= e^{-(0.5)(2)}$$

$$= 0.368$$

$$F(x; \lambda) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ 1 - e^{-\lambda x} & x \ge 0 \end{cases}$$

The expected time between successive calls is 1/0.5 = 2 days.

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Another important application of the exponential distribution is to model the distribution of component lifetime.

A partial reason for the popularity of such applications is the "memoryless" property of the exponential distribution.

Suppose component lifetime is exponentially distributed with parameter  $\lambda$ .

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#### **Exponential Distributions**

After putting the component into service, we leave for a period of  $t_0$  hours and then return to find the component still working; what now is the probability that it lasts at least an additional t hours?

In symbols, we wish  $P(X \ge t + t_0 \mid X \ge t_0)$ .

By the definition of conditional probability,

$$P(X \ge t + t_0 | X \ge t_0) = \frac{P[(X \ge t + t_0) \cap (X \ge t_0)]}{P(X \ge t_0)}$$

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### **Exponential Distributions** $F(x; \lambda) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ 1 - e^{-\lambda x} & x \ge 0 \end{cases}$

But the event  $X \ge t_0$  in the numerator is redundant, since both events can occur if  $X \ge t + t_0$  and only if. Therefore,

$$P(X \ge t + t_0 | X \ge t_0) = \frac{P(X \ge t + t_0)}{P(X \ge t_0)} = \frac{1 - F(t + t_0; \lambda)}{1 - F(t_0; \lambda)} = e^{-\lambda t}$$

This conditional probability is identical to the original probability  $P(X \ge t)$  that the component lasted t hours.

o Thus distribution of additional lifetime is exactly the same as the original distribution of lifetime, so at each point in time the component shows no effect of wear.

o In other words, the distribution of remaining lifetime is independent of current age.

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