

Learning Journal Unit 7

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MATH 1280: Introduction to Statistics

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October 26, 2023

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We are given a normally distributed random variable X with $\mu = 100$ and $\sigma = 15$.

1. Find $P(X > 120)$.

$$P(X > 120) = \text{normalcdf}(120, 100, 100, 15) \approx 0.0912$$

2. Find k such as $P(X < k) = 0.98$. Interpret your result.

To find k such as $P(X < k) = 0.98$, we need to find that the Z -score corresponding to a probability of 0.98 using a standard normal table, which is approximately 2.05.

$$z = \frac{(k - \mu)}{\sigma}$$

Therefore, we can rewrite the above equation as:

$$\frac{(k - \mu)}{\sigma} \approx 2.05$$

Multiplying both sides of the equation by σ and adding μ to both sides, we get:

$$k = \mu + \sigma * 2.05 = 130.75$$

Interpretation:

The value of k , which is approximately 130.75, is the cutoff point such that the probability of X being less than k is 0.98. This means that about 98% of the data falls below this value, and only about 2% of the data lies above it. For instance, if X represents mass of students in pounds, then a mass 130.75 pounds or less would be considered to be in the 98th percentile. This means that 98% of students are weighing less than 130.75 pounds. The value of k can also be interpreted as 2.05 standard deviations (2.05σ) above or to the right of the mean $\mu = 100$.

3. Find the two values where the middle 50% of the distribution of X lie.

$$1 - 0.50 = 0.50$$

The tails of the graph of the normal distribution each have an area of 0.25.

Find k_1 , the 25th percentile, and k_2 , the 75th percentile ($0.25 + 0.50 = 0.75$).

$$k_1 = \text{invNorm}(0.25, 100, 15) \approx 89.88$$

$$k_2 = \text{invNorm}(0.75, 100, 15) \approx 110.12$$

Therefore, the middle 50% of the distribution of X lies between 89.88 and 110.12.