

# Statistics and Exploratory Data Analysis

Marcin Chlebus, Damian Zięba

Faculty of Economic Sciences  
University of Warsaw

Lecture 1

# Organization Issues

- The goal of this class is to provide you with **theoretical knowledge** concerning basic concepts used in statistics and explanatory data analysis as well as **tools for its implementation** (using R)
- Each meeting will consists of 3-4 parts:
  - 8 minutes presentation of an article
  - Theoretical lecture
  - Practical examples in R
  - Exercises (own work)
- Your presence is **mandatory**
- In order to pass the course you need to:
  - **pass a written open book exam (80% of final grade)**
  - **in groups of 3 - present results from an article of your choice, in which methods presented at the course were used (20% of final grade)**
- Class materials will be available for you on the Google Drive.



# What is statistics and why to study it?

- Statistics is a collection of methods which help us to describe, summarize, interpret, and analyse data (Heumann, 2016)
- Statistics can be seen in everyday life (e.g. unemployment rates, political party support, football scores, stock indexes, etc.)
- Statistics is used not only to inform us but also to influence us:
  - *„There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies and statistics”*
  - *„Statistics don’t lie, but liars use statistics”*
- Efficient and intelligent use of statistics will help you to better understand and interpret everyday processes (not only in your professional career!)

# What is EDA and why it is important?

- EDA was promoted by the statistician John Tukey in his 1977 book, “Exploratory Data Analysis”.
- **EDA is a necessary step before any more complex analysis of data** (e.g. econometric model).
- It helps to formulate hypotheses, choose the appropriate model, verify its assumptions.
- EDA involves a mix of both numerical and visual methods of analysis.

# Basic concepts

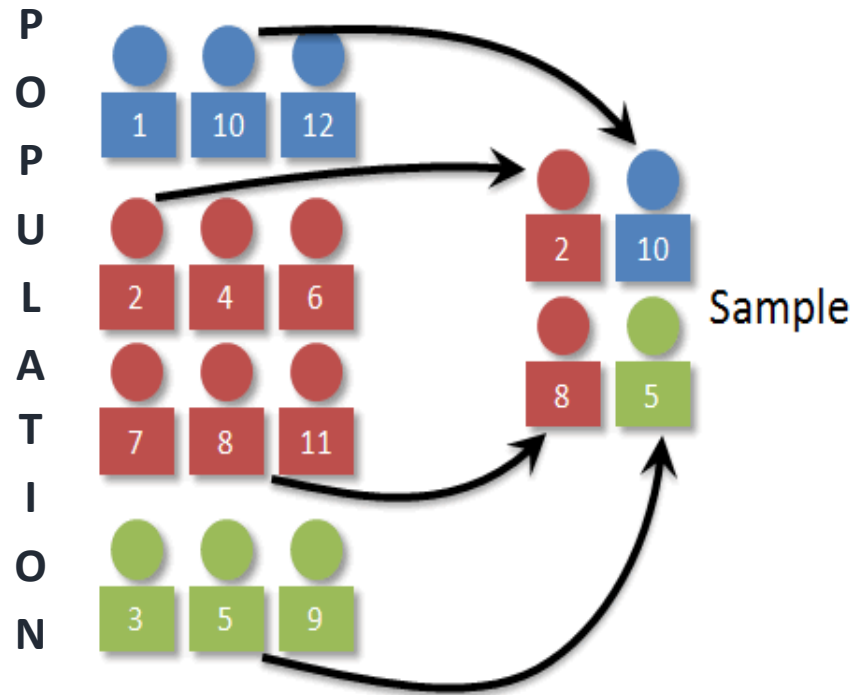
- **Observations ( $\omega$ )** - units in which we measure data (e.g. persons, cars, days, households, countries, etc.)
- **Population ( $\Omega$ )** – the collection of all units/observations
- **Sample ( $\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_n$ )** - a selection of observations. A sample is always a subset of the population:  $\{\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_n\} \subseteq \Omega$
- **Variables ( $X$ )** – features of observations (e.g. grades, sex, color, location, etc.).  $X$  takes a value of  $x$  for each observation  $\omega \in \Omega$ , and the number of possible values is contained in the set  $S$ .

$$X : \Omega \rightarrow S$$
$$\omega \mapsto x$$

# Basic concepts

A number that summarizes variation in the whole population

PARAMETER



STATISTICS

A number that summarizes variation in the subset of a population (sample)

<http://faculty.elgin.edu/dkernler/statistics/ch01/1-4.html>

# Basic concepts

**Observations:**  
students

**Variables:** courses they  
participated in, grades

STUID	STUNAME	COURSENUM	GRADE
S1010	Burns,Edward	MTH103C	A
S1010	Burns,Edward	ART103A	B
S1002	Chin,Ann	ART103A	A
S1002	Chin,Ann	MTH103C	B
S1002	Chin,Ann	CSC201A	F
S1020	Rivera,Jane	MTH101B	A
S1020	Rivera,Jane	CSC201A	B
S1001	Smith,Tom	HST205A	C
S1001	Smith,Tom	ART103A	A

**Sample:**  
4 students

**Population:**  
students

# Types of variables

- **Qualitative** - variables which take values that cannot be ordered in a logical or natural way (e.g. sex, color, name of a political party, taste, etc.)
  - it is common to assign numbers to qualitative variables for practical purposes in data analyses
  - Such variables are usually stored in R as **factors**
- **Quantitative** - variables which take values which can be ordered in a logical and natural way (measurable quantities, e.g. price, size, length, height, weight, etc.)
  - Such variables are usually stored in R as **integers** or **numeric**



# Types of variables

- **Discrete** - variables which can only take a finite number of values.

All qualitative variables are discrete; quantitative variables can be discrete.

- **Continuous** - variables which can take an infinite number of values.

Informally, continuous variables are variables which are “measured rather than counted”.

# Scales

- **Nominal scale** - the values of a nominal variable cannot be ordered.  
Example: gender (male–female)
- **Ordinal scale** - the values of an ordinal variable can be ordered but the differences between these values cannot be interpreted in a meaningful way.  
Example: education level, satisfaction level.
- **Continuous scale** - the values of a continuous variable can be ordered and the differences between these values can be interpreted in a meaningful way.  
Example: the height/length/weight.
  - Interval (with arbitrary 0 - temperature) and ratio (with 0 means nothing - distance) scales

# Variables vs. Random variables

- Random variable is a mathematical concept, which helps us to view the collected data as an outcome of a **random experiment** (e.g. tossing a coin, randomly asking people about their grades, etc.) and that helps us to draw **conclusions formulated based on sample about the population of our interest**.

**Random variable** is thus a variable whose value **is determined by a chance event**.

- Formally (recall from the Probability Theory):

Let  $\Omega$  represent the sample space of a random experiment, and let  $R$  be the set of real numbers.

A random variable is a function  $X$  which assigns to each element  $\omega \in \Omega$  one and only one number  $X(\omega) = x$ ,  $x \in R$ , i.e.

$X : \Omega \rightarrow R$ .

- Random variables may be discrete (e.g. the number of heads/tails in tossing a coin) or continuous (age of randomly selected individuals).

# The distribution of a random variable

- To infer about the distribution of a random variable we may consider **probability distribution**, which is a set of probabilities defined for all the possible outcomes of a random variable.

Discrete variable	Continuous variable
<p>Probability functions are denoted as <math>p(x)</math> and known as <b>probability mass functions</b> (pmf)</p> <p>For a function <math>p(x_k) = P(X = x_k)</math> to be a pmf of <math>X</math>, it needs to satisfy the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) <math>0 \leq P(X = x_i) \leq 1</math></li><li>2) <math>\sum_i^n P(X = x_i) = 1</math></li></ol>	<p>Probability functions are denoted as <math>f(x)</math> and are known as <b>probability density functions</b> (pdf)</p> <p>For a function <math>f(x)</math> to be a pdf of <math>X</math>, it needs to satisfy the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) <math>f(x) \geq 0</math> for all <math>x \in R</math></li><li>2) <math>\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(x)dx = 1</math></li></ol>

# Cummulative distribution function (CDF)

- For both discrete and continous variables we can also define **cummulative distribution function (cdf)**.
- The cdf shows the probability that a random **variable will be less than or equal to a specific value** for all possible values of that variable:  $F(x) = P(X \leq x)$
- The cumulative distribution function is represented as:
  - **discrete random variable**: the sum of the probabilities of the specified outcome and all prior outcomes for each and every possible outcome
  - **continous random variable**: an integral over the pdf:  $F(X) = \int_{-\infty}^t f(t)dt$

# Empirical (i.e. observed) cdf

- The empirical cumulative distribution function is the estimator for the population's cumulative distribution function, which contains all the characteristic of the population.
- It is often interpreted as a graph of a **cumulative frequency**.

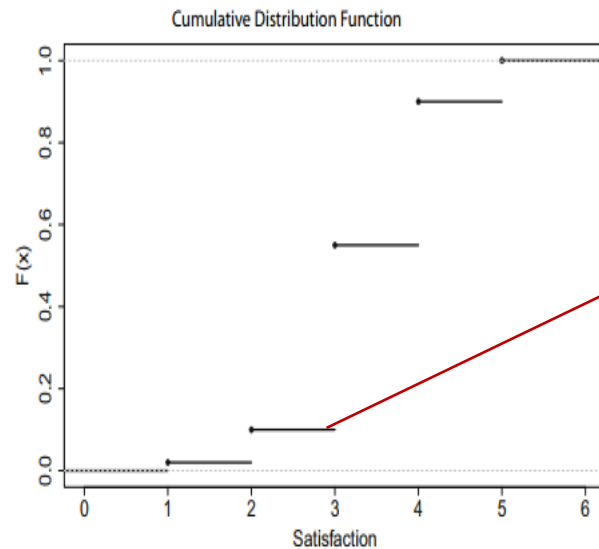
# Example: discrete random variable

Suppose there are 100 randomly selected consumers who were asked about their overall level of satisfaction with the quality of pizza on a scale from 1 to 5 based on the following options: 1 = not satisfied at all, 2 = unsatisfied, 3 = satisfied, 4 = very satisfied, and 5 = perfectly satisfied. Their answers are as follows:

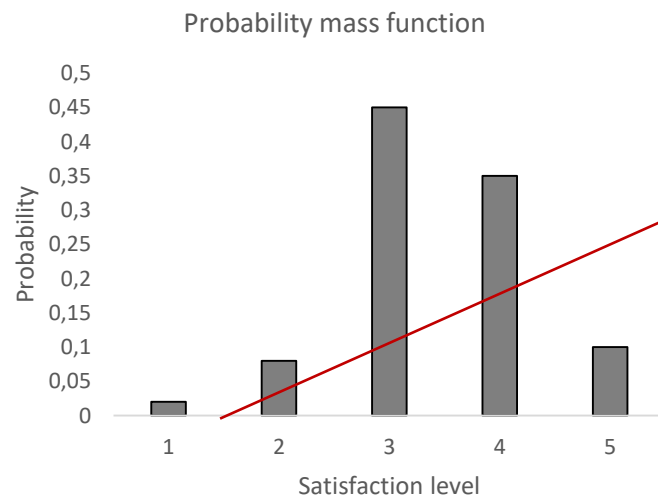
Satisfaction level ( $x_i$ )	1 = not satisfied at all	2 = unsatisfied	3 = satisfied	4 = very satisfied	5 = perfectly satisfied
N	2	8	45	35	10
$P(X=x_i)$	2/100	8/100	45/100	35/100	10/100
$F(X)$	2/100	10/100	55/100	90/100	100/100

The sum of the probabilities of the specified outcome and all prior outcomes for each and every possible outcome

# Example: discrete random variable



Probability that consumers are not satisfied with pizza is 10%:  
**10% of consumers are not satisfied with the pizza**

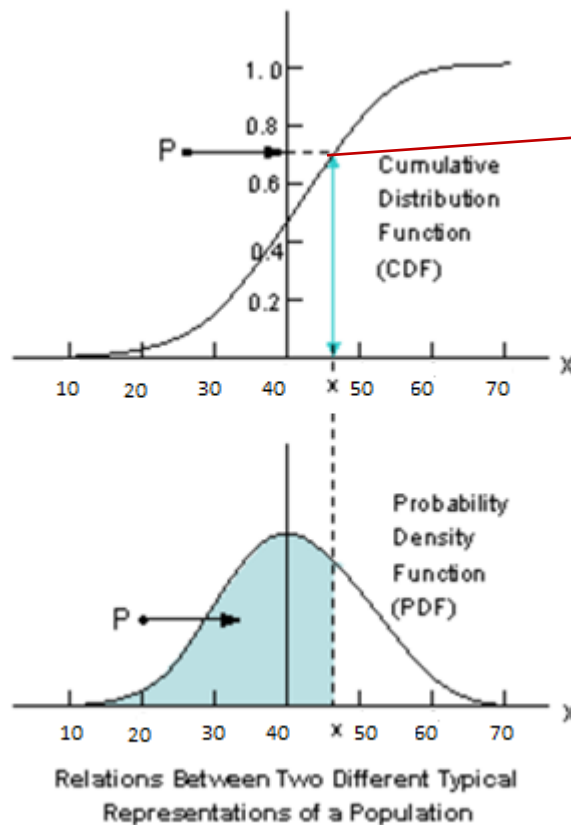


Probability that consumers were „not satisfied at all” is 2% and the probability that consumer were „unsatisfied” is 8%.



# Example: continuous random variable

Suppose there are 100 randomly selected consumer who were asked about their age.



Probability that consumers are at most 47 years old is 70%:  
**70% of consumers are 47 or younger.**

Source: <https://home.ubalt.edu/ntsbarsh/Business-stat/opre504.htm>

# PDF and CDF in R

## Exercise 1:

Use data on consumers' satisfaction and age from the file „pizza.csv”.

- Create the pdf and cdf functions for variables satisfaction and age.

Based on pdf and cdf answer the questions:

- What is the probability that the consumers are younger than 40?
- What is the share of the consumers that are younger than 40?

# Cummulative distribution function (CDF)

„What are the chances that  $X$  takes some subset of values?”

- The event that  $X$  is less than or equal to  $b$  but not less than or equal to  $a$  is the event that  $X$  is greater than  $a$  and less than or equal to  $b$ .
- By the difference rule for probabilities:
$$P\{a < X \leq b\} = P(\{X \leq b\} \cap \{a \leq X\}) = P\{X \leq b\} - P\{X \leq a\} = F(b) - F(a)$$
- We can compute the probability that a random variable takes values in an interval by subtracting the CDF evaluated at the endpoints of the intervals.

# PDF and CDF in R

## Exercise 1 con't:

Use data on consumers' satisfaction and age from the file „pizza.csv”.

- Create the pdf and cdf functions for variables satisfaction and age.

Based on pdf and cdf answer the questions:

- What is the probability that the consumers are younger than 40?
- What is the share of the consumers that are younger than 40?
- What are the chances that the consumers are between 20 and 40 years old?

# The most common distribution functions

Discrete	Continuous
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bernoulli distribution</li><li>• Binomial distribution</li><li>• Geometric distribution</li><li>• Poisson distribution</li><li>• And more (e.g. negative binomial distribution)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Normal distribution</b></li><li>• Log-normal distribution</li><li>• Gamma distribution</li><li>• Chi-square distribution</li><li>• Student's t distribution</li><li>• And more (e.g. exponential distribution, Cauchy distribution)</li></ul>

# Bernoulli distribution

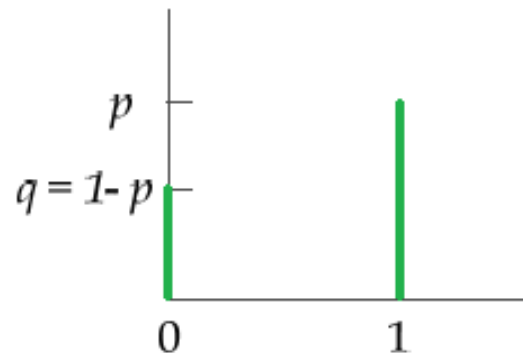
The Bernoulli random variable takes value 1 with success probability  $p$  and value 0 with failure probability  $q = 1 - p$ .

The pmf is given by:

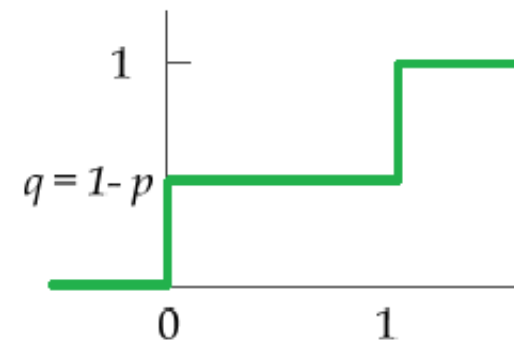
$p$  for  $k=1$

$q$  for  $k=0$

Probability mass function



Cumulative distribution function



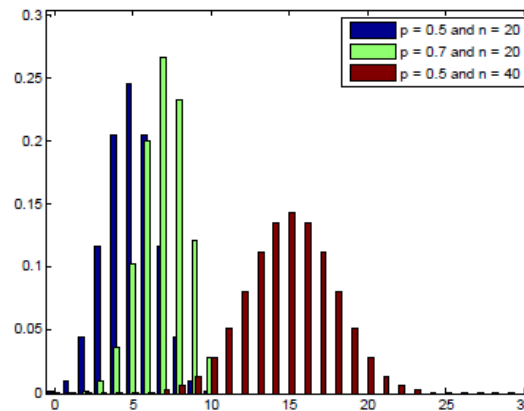
# Binomial distribution

The binomial distribution describes obtaining  $k$  successes in  $n$  experiments (e.g. obtaining  $k$  heads in  $n$  tossing of coin)

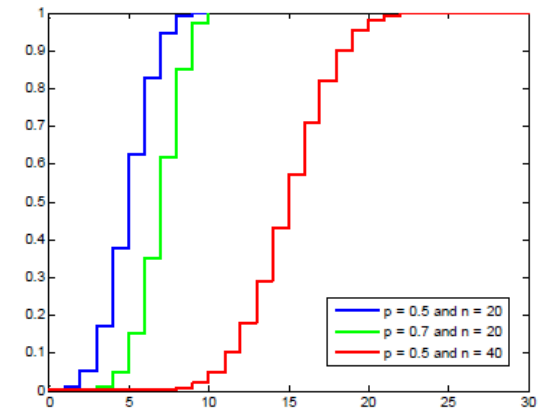
The pmf is given by:

$$P(X = x) = \binom{n}{x} p^x (1 - p)^{n-x}$$

Probability mass function



Cumulative distribution function



# Binomial distribution

## Exercise 2: Binomial distribution

Calculate the probability of obtaining 0 heads in 4 coin tossing.

What are the chances of receiving more than 3 heads in 4 coin tossing?



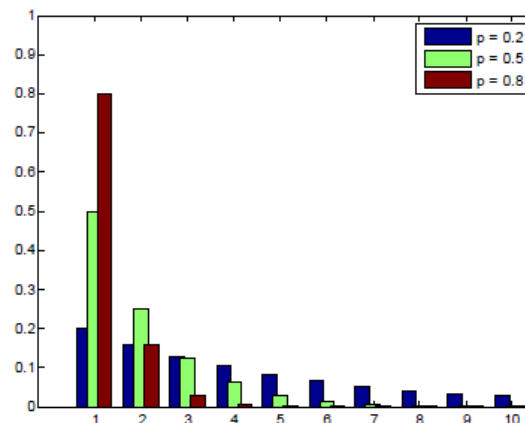
# Geometric distribution

The geometric distribution describes distribution of time between the successes of successive independent Bernoulli trials (e.g. the number of coin tossing needed to obtain a head; the number of dice rolls needed to obtain 1)

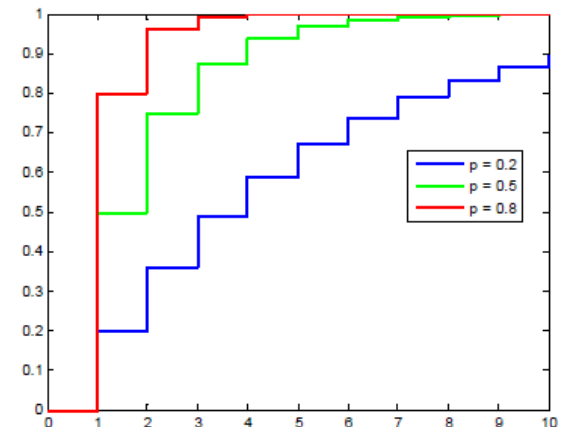
The pmf is given by:

$$(1 - p)^{k-1} p$$

Probability mass function



Cumulative distribution function



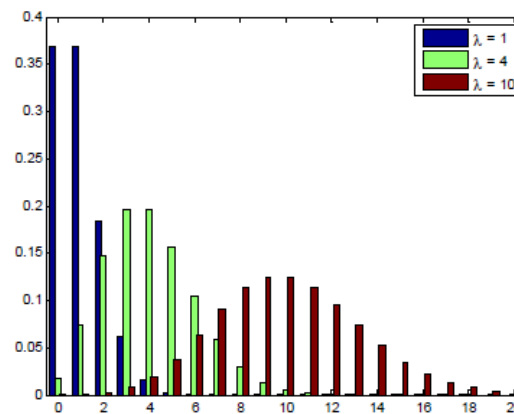
# Poisson distribution

The Poisson distribution describes the probability that  $k$  events occur in a fixed time period, assuming that they appear at random with a rate  $\lambda$  (e.g. the number of phone calls to a call center per minute, the number of spelling mistakes made while typing a page of a text)

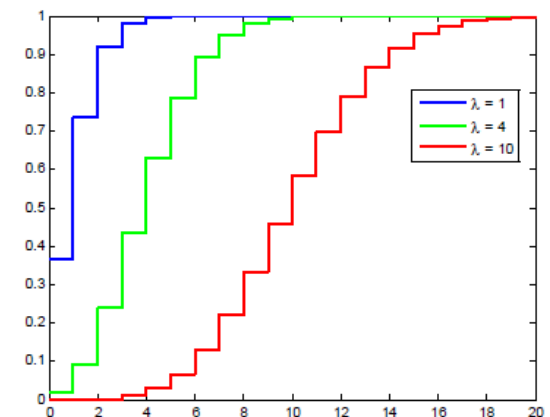
The pmf is given by:

$$\frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^k}{k!}$$

Probability mass function



Cumulative distribution function



# Poisson distribution

## Exercise 3: Poisson distribution

Consider a population of raisin buns for which there are an average of 3 raisins per bun, i.e.  $\lambda = 3$ .

The number of raisins in a particular bun is uncertain;  
the possible numbers of raisins are 0, 1, 2, . . .

Calculate the probability of finding exactly 2 raisins in a bun.

What are the chances of finding more than 3 raisins in a bun?

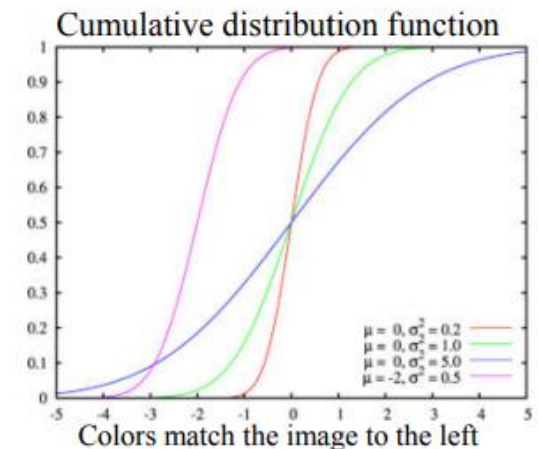
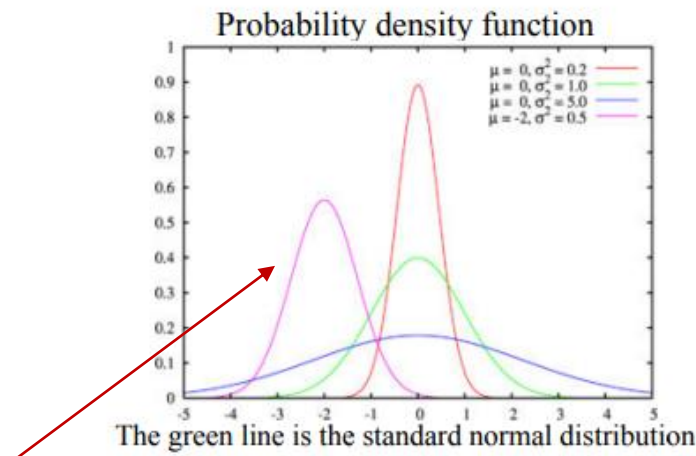
# Normal and standard normal distribution

Normal distribution is also known as Gaussian distribution and is denoted by  $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ .

When  $\mu=0$  and  $\sigma^2=1$  it is known as st.normal distribution.

The pdf is given by:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$



The „bell curve”

# Normal and standard normal distribution

## Exercise 4: Normal distribution

Consider a farmer who sells apples in wooden boxes.

The weights of the boxes vary and are assumed to be normally distributed with  $\mu = 15$  kg and  $\sigma^2 = 9/4$  kg<sup>2</sup>. The farmer wants to avoid customers being unsatisfied because the boxes are too low in weight. He therefore asks the following question:

- What is the probability that a box with a weight of 10 to 15 kg is sold?

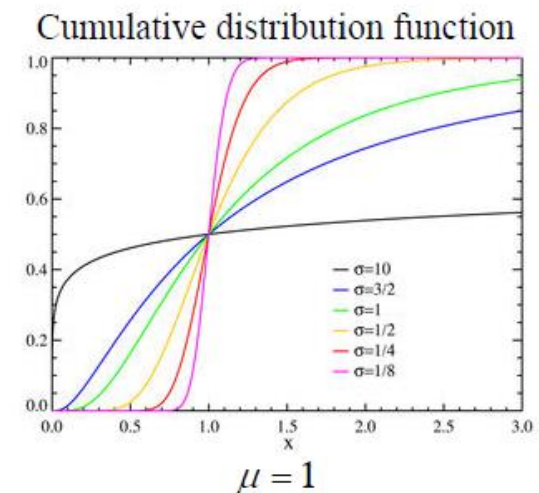
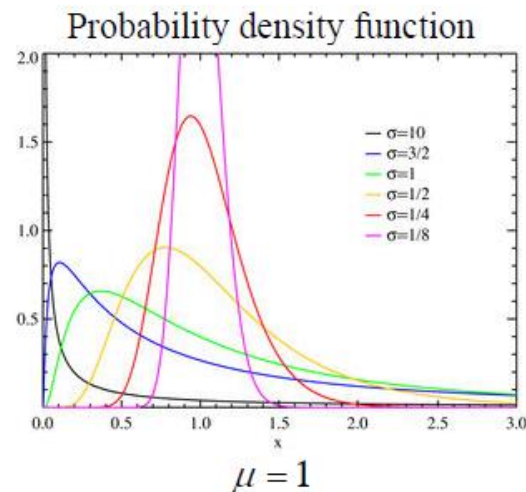
Answer this question by making relevant calculations and by using pdf and cdf graphs.

# Log-Normal distribution

If  $Y$  has a normal distribution, then  $X=\exp(Y)$  has a log-normal distribution (the same is true: if  $X$  has a log-normal distribution, then  $Y=\ln(X)$  has a normal distribution); (e.g. household consumption, income)

The pdf is given by:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(\ln(x)-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$



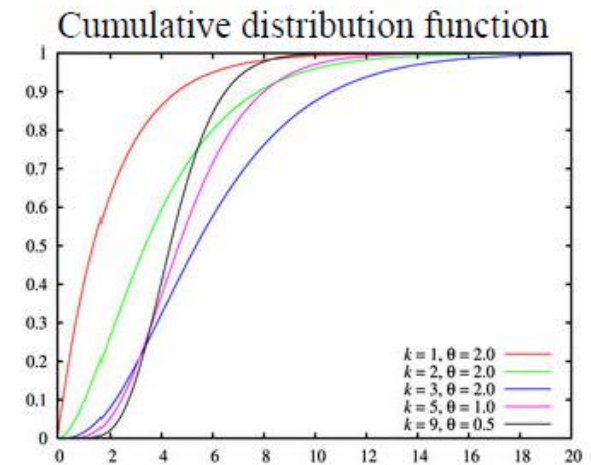
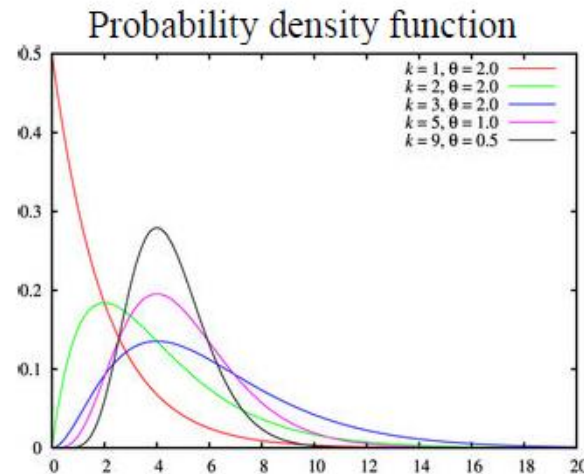
# Gamma distribution

The gamma distribution is denoted by  $\Gamma(k, \lambda)$  (e.g. the number of telephone calls which might be made at the same time)

The pdf is given by:

$$f(x) = x^{k-1} \frac{e^{-x/\theta}}{\theta^k \Gamma(k, \lambda)}$$

Where  $\theta$  and  $k$  are parameters  
( $\theta > 0$  scale,  $k > 0$  shape)



# Chi-square distribution

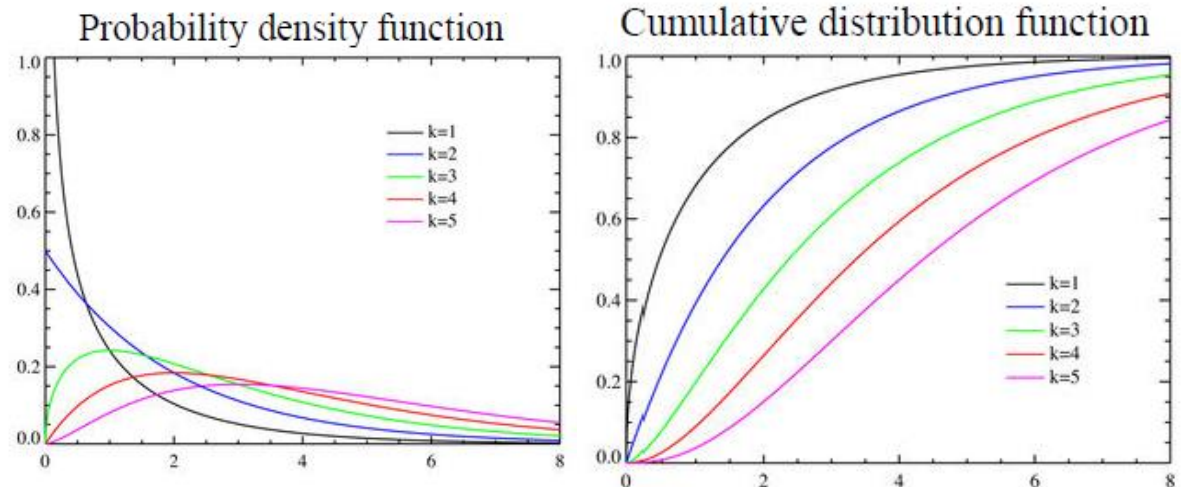
Chi-square distribution is a special case of a gamma distribution where  $k=v/2$  and  $\theta=2$

It is one of the most widely used probability distributions in inferential statistics (goodness of fit test, independence etc.)

The pdf is given by:

$$f(x) = x^{\frac{v}{2}-1} \frac{e^{-x/2}}{2^{v/2} \Gamma(v/2, 2)}$$

Where  $v$  is known as „degrees of freedom”





# Student's t distribution

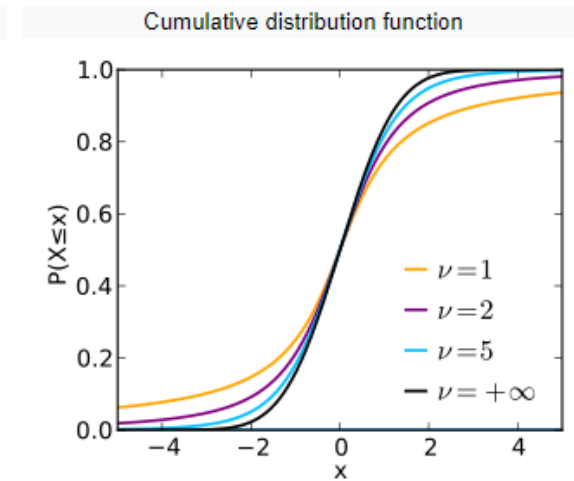
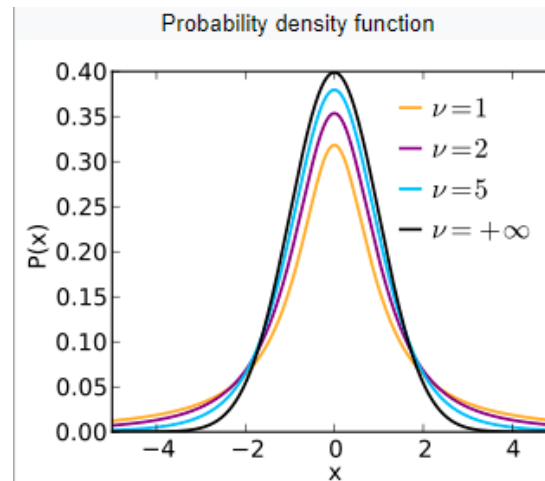
The distribution arises when estimating the mean of a normally distributed population in situations where the sample size is small and population standard deviation is unknown.

It is the basis of the popular Student's t between two sample means (more on that soon!)

The pdf is given by:

$$f(x) = \frac{\Gamma((\nu+1)/2)}{\sqrt{\nu\pi}\Gamma(\nu/2)} (1 + x^2/\nu)^{-(\nu+1)/2}$$

Where  $\nu$  is known as „degrees Of freedom”



# Student's t distribution

## Exercise 4: Student's t distribution

Display the Student's t distributions with 1,2,4 and 30 degrees of freedom and compare it to the normal distribution.

# Distributions in R

**We will use R to fit the distribution to some data.**

## **Exercise 6:**

Create 1000 random sampling from log-normal distribution.  
Verify the values of the parameters of the distribution.

## **Exercise 7:**

Use data on air quality available in R.

Use variable describing temperature in New York and fit its distribution assuming:

- (1) normal distribution;
- (2) log-normal distribution;
- (3) gamma distribution.

# Distributions in R

Distribution	Functions			
Discrete	CDF value	PMS/PDF value	Inverse CDF - $F^{-1}$	Generating random samplings from a given distribution
<b>Binomial</b>	pbinom	dbinom	qbinom	rbinom
<b>Beta</b>	pbeta	dbeta	qbeta	rbeta
<b>Poisson</b>	ppois	dpois	qpois	rpois
<b>Geometric</b>	pgeom	dgeom	qgeom	rgeom
<b>Hypergeometric</b>	phyper	dhyper	qhyper	rhyper
<b>Negative Binomial</b>	pnbinom	dnbinom	qnbinom	rnbinom
Continuous				
<b>Normal</b>	pnorm	dnorm	qnorm	rnorm
<b>Log Normal</b>	plnorm	dlnorm	qlnorm	rlnorm
<b>Gamma</b>	pgamma	dgamma	qgamma	rgamma
<b>Chi-Square</b>	pchisq	dchisq	qchisq	rchisq
<b>Student t</b>	pt	dt	qt	rt
<b>Cauchy</b>	pcauchy	dcauchy	qcauchy	rcauchy
<b>Exponential</b>	pexp	dexp	qexp	rexp
<b>F</b>	pf	df	qf	rf

# Bibliography

Christian Heumann, Michael Schomaker Shalabh „Introduction to Statistics and Data Analysis With Exercises, Solutions and Applications in R”, Springer 2016: Chapters 1&8

Thank you for your attention

Time for practice!