

Handy Transformations -

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[a + bX] &= a + b\mathbb{E}[X] \\ \text{Var}(a + bX) &= b^2 \text{Var}(X) \\ \text{SD}(a + bX) &= |b| \text{SD}(X) \\ \text{Cov}(a + bX, c + dY) &= b \cdot d \cdot \text{Cov}(X, Y)\end{aligned}$$

Set Algebra:

- **Union** -  $A$  or  $B$ ;  $A \cup B$ .
- **Intersection** -  $A$  and  $B$ ;  $A \cap B$ .
- **Complement** - not  $A$ ;  $A^C$ .
- **Difference** -  $A$  but not  $B$ ;  $A \setminus B$
- **Disjoint Events aka. mutually exclusive** - events  $A$  and  $B$  are disjoint if they don't share any outcomes in common (i.e.,  $A$  and  $B = \emptyset$ ).
- **Subset** -  $A \subseteq B$

**Trial** - a repetition of a random experiment/process. Trials're independent: none gives information about the others; are stable: results could have appeared in any order.

**Outcome** - a possible result of a trial.  
**Sample space** - the set of all possible outcomes. Often denoted as  $S$ .

**Event** - a set of outcomes of an experiment (i.e., a subset of the sample space).

**Probability** - is a long run proportion of an outcome in repeated trials.

- Probabilities act as “targets” of estimation
- Proportions based on data “estimate” probabilities. Would approach probabilities if observe infinite trials.

Formally,  $A \mapsto \mathbb{P}(A), \mathbb{P}(A) \in [0, 1]$  A probability  $\mathbb{P}(\cdot)$  on a sample space  $S$  is a function that assigns a number between 0 and 1 to all events,  $A$  in the sample space (i.e., any possible subset of the sample space) and subject to three requirements (axioms):

1.  $\mathbb{P}(S) = 1$ : probability of *something* in the sample space happening is 1
2.  $\mathbb{P}(A) \geq 0, \forall A$
3.  $A$  and  $B = \emptyset$  ( $A, B$  disjoint)  $\Rightarrow \mathbb{P}(A \cup B) = \mathbb{P}(A) + \mathbb{P}(B)$

- More takeaways
- $A \subseteq B \Rightarrow \mathbb{P}(A) \leq \mathbb{P}(B)$
  - $A, B, C$  are pairwise disjoint  $\Rightarrow \mathbb{P}(A \cup B \cup C) = \mathbb{P}(A) + \mathbb{P}(B) + \mathbb{P}(C)$
  - $\mathbb{P}(A \cup B) = \mathbb{P}(A) + \mathbb{P}(B) - \mathbb{P}(A \text{ and } B)$

**Joint Probability** -  $\mathbb{P}(A \text{ and } B)$  is the joint probability that events  $A$  and  $B$  occur.

**Conditional Probability** -  $\mathbb{P}(A|B) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(A \text{ and } B)}{\mathbb{P}(B)}, \mathbb{P}(B) > 0$  the probability of observing event  $A$  if (given that) one has observed  $B$ . Bear in mind:  $\mathbb{P}(A|B) \neq \mathbb{P}(B|A)$

**Product Rule** -  $\mathbb{P}(A \text{ and } B) = \mathbb{P}(B) \cdot \mathbb{P}(A|B)$ .

**Independent Events** -  $A$  and  $B$  are independent if  $\mathbb{P}(A \text{ and } B) = \mathbb{P}(A) \cdot \mathbb{P}(B)$ ; one event happening doesn't affect the probability of the other event happening. Can easily deduce that  $\mathbb{P}(A|B) = \mathbb{P}(A)$  and  $\mathbb{P}(B|A) = \mathbb{P}(B)$ .

Independence and Disjointness are **NOT** synonyms.

- Independent  $\Rightarrow \mathbb{P}(A \text{ and } B) = \mathbb{P}(A) \cdot \mathbb{P}(B)$
- Disjoint  $\Rightarrow \mathbb{P}(A \text{ and } B) = 0$ . Disjoint events are extremely dependent: If one event occurs, the other cannot.

**Random variable** - a numerical function on a sample space with probabilities. (Think as a scoring mechanism.)

- Input: an outcome in the sample space
- Output: a number

**Discrete RVs** - only countably many values are possible

**Continous RVs** - can take on uncountably infinitely many values

**Probability Distribution Function (PDF)** -

$\mathbb{P}_X(x) = \mathbb{P}(X = x)$  is the probability that the random variable  $X$  takes on the value  $x$ . I really hate  $\mathbb{P}_X(x)$  this styling, so only  $\mathbb{P}(X = x)$  moving forward.

**Properties of PDFs** - any function that satisfies the following conditions is a probability distribution function of a Discrete random variable:

1.  $\mathbb{P}(X = x) \geq 0, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$  (for any real number)
2.  $\mathbb{P}(X = x) > 0$  for values that the random variable  $X$  can actually take on
3.  $\mathbb{P}(X = x) = 0$  for values that aren't possible for the random variable  $X$
4.  $\sum_x \mathbb{P}(X = x) = 1$

**Expected Value** -  $\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_x x \cdot \mathbb{P}(X = x)$

**Variance** - a probability weighted mean of the possible squared deviations.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(X) &= \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X])^2] \\ &= \sum_x (x - \mathbb{E}[X])^2 \cdot \mathbb{P}(X = x) \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X^2] - (\mathbb{E}[X])^2\end{aligned}$$

**Standard Deviation** -  $\text{SD}(X) = \sqrt{\text{Var}(X)}$

**Given  $Y = g(X)$  and  $X$ 's PDF** -

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[Y] &= \sum_x g(x) \cdot \mathbb{P}(X = x) \\ \text{Var}(Y) &= \sum_x (g(x) - \mathbb{E}[g(X)])^2 \cdot \mathbb{P}(X = x)\end{aligned}$$

**RVs with only 2 outcomes** - (not necessarily Bernoullis yet) Suppose RV  $X$ 's PDF is:

$$\begin{cases} \mathbb{P}(X = a) &= p \\ \mathbb{P}(X = b) &= 1 - p, \text{ then:} \\ \mathbb{P}(X = \text{all other values}) &= 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[X] &= ap + b(1 - p) \\ \text{Var}(X) &= (a - b)^2 p(1 - p) \\ \text{SD}(X) &= |a - b| \sqrt{p(1 - p)}\end{aligned}$$

**Bernoulli Random Variable** - aforementioned

when  $\begin{cases} a &= 1 \\ b &= 0 \end{cases}$ . If  $X \sim \text{Bern}(p)$ , then:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[X] &= p \\ \text{Var}(X) &= p(1 - p) \\ \text{SD}(X) &= \sqrt{p(1 - p)}\end{aligned}$$

- **Variance maximized when  $p = 0.5$**
  - **Variance minimized when  $p = 0$  or  $1$**
- Useful for tracking how many successes happen in  $n$  independent trials.

**Binomial Problems** - following must hold:

1. Constant success probability  $p$  and failure probability  $(1 - p)$ .
2. Fixed total number of trials:  $n$
3. trials are **independent**
4. Only two outcomes of interest (success or failure) on each trial
5. **Want to find the probability of observing  $k$  successes among the total number of  $n$  trials.** (Order doesn't matter.)

$$\mathbb{P}(k \text{ successes in } n \text{ trials}) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n - k}$$

**Combination** - how many ways to choose  $k$  out of  $n$ :  $\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n - k)!}$ .

**Binomial Distribution** -  $X \sim \text{Binom}(n, p)$

where  $X$  is an RV tracking the number of successes in  $n$  independent trials with success probability  $p$ .  $X$ 's PDF:

$$\forall k \in \{0, \dots, n\}, \mathbb{P}(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n - k}$$

Attn:  $X$  here is not for one single trial!.

- A **Bernoulli RV**: useful for one trial's success/failure.
- A **Binomial RV**: useful for total number of successes.

**Binomial as the Sum of Bernoullis** -  $n$  independent Bernoulli RVs each with the same success probability  $p$ :  $\forall i \in 1, \dots, n, X_i \sim \text{Bern}(p)$ .

Define  $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ , then denote

$$S_n \sim \text{Binom}(n, p) \quad \text{Binom}(1, p) = \text{Bern}(p)$$

**Joint Distribution of 2 RVs** - the probability that 2 RVs simultaneously take on 2 values.

$$\forall x \in X, \forall y \in Y \quad \mathbb{P}(X = x, Y = y)$$

**Marginal probability distribution** - can be found given with the joint PDF:

$$\mathbb{P}(X = x) = \sum_y \mathbb{P}(X = x, Y = y)$$

**Z-Score of a Random Variable**  $X$  -

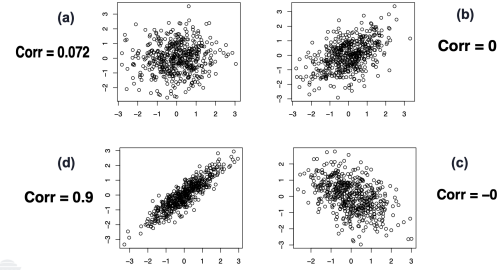
$$Z(X) = \frac{X - \mathbb{E}[X]}{\text{SD}(X)}$$

$\mathbb{E}[Z(X)] = 0$  and  $\text{SD}(Z(X)) = 1$   
**Correlation Between RVs  $X$  and  $Y$**  - “average of the product of z-scores”

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Corr}(X, Y) &= \mathbb{E}[Z(X) \cdot Z(Y)] \\ &= \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\text{SD}(X) \cdot \text{SD}(Y)}\end{aligned}$$

- $\text{Corr}(X, Y)$  is unit-free.
- **$\text{Corr}(X, Y)$  doesn't exist if either  $\text{SD}(X) = 0$  or  $\text{SD}(Y) = 0$**  (can't divide by 0!).
- Correlation is guaranteed to **lie between +1 (perfect positive correlation) and -1 (perfect negative correlation)**. Hence  $\text{Corr}$  is more commonly used than Covariance.

Correlation Examples



**Covariance Between RVs  $X$  and  $Y$**  - “average of the product of the centered variables”. Necessary for assessing variability of sums of RVs (e.g. portfolios).

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Cov}(X, Y) &= \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X]) (Y - \mathbb{E}[Y])] \\ &= \text{Corr}(X, Y) \cdot \text{SD}(X) \cdot \text{SD}(Y)\end{aligned}$$

- $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$  has funny units: product of the  $X$  and  $Y$  units.
- **$\text{Cov}(X, Y)$  always exists.** If SDs are 0,  $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$
- $\text{Cov}(X, X) = V(X)$
- **If  $\text{SD}(X) > 0$  and  $\text{SD}(Y) > 0$ , then  $\text{Corr}(X, Y)$  and  $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$  have the same sign.**

**Expected Value of RVs summed** - is regardless of RVs' joint distribution:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[X + Y] &= \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y] \\ \mathbb{E}[X + Y + W] &= \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y] + \mathbb{E}[W] \\ \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right] &= \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}[X_i] = \mathbb{E}[X_1] + \dots + \mathbb{E}[X_n]\end{aligned}$$

Variance of of RVs summed -

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(X + Y) &= \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y) + 2\text{Cov}(X, Y) \\ \text{Var}(X + Y + W) &= \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y) + \text{Var}(W) \\ &\quad + 2\text{Cov}(X, Y) + 2\text{Cov}(X, W) + 2\text{Cov}(Y, W) \\ \text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i) + 2 \sum_{i < j} \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j)\end{aligned}$$

Have to consider the covariance of all possible pairs:  $X_i$  and  $X_j$ .

- If  $\text{Corr}(X, Y)$  increases, then  $\text{Var}(X + Y)$  increases.
- If  $V(X) = V(Y)$ , then  $\text{Var}(X + Y)$  is maximized when  $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$  is maximized.

**Uncorrelated RVs** - if  $\text{Corr}(X, Y) = 0$ . Equivalently, they are uncorrelated if  $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0, SD(X) > 0, SD(Y) > 0$

**Variance of Uncorrelated or Independent RVs summed** -

$$\text{Var}(X + Y) = \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y)$$
$$\text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i)$$

No change in expected value's formula.

**Independent RVs** -

$$\forall x, y, \mathbb{P}(X = x, Y = y) = \mathbb{P}(X = x)\mathbb{P}(Y = y)$$

Independence implies uncorrelatedness: if two RVs  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then they are uncorrelated.

$$\text{Independence} \Rightarrow \text{Corr}(X, Y) = 0 = \text{Cov}(X, Y)$$

But uncorrelated RVs can be dependent!

**(iid) Independent and Identically Distributed RVs** - for a collection of iid RVs  $\{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$ :  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$

$$\mathbb{E}[X_i] = \mu$$
$$\text{Var}(X_i) = \sigma^2$$
$$SD(X_i) = \sigma$$

**Sum of iid RVs** -  $S_n = X_1 + \dots + X_n$ :

$$\mathbb{E}[S_n] = n \cdot \mu$$
$$\text{Var}(S_n) = n \cdot \sigma^2$$
$$SD(X_i) = \sqrt{n} \cdot \sigma$$

**Central Limit Theorem (CLT)**

If  $\{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$  are iid with expected value  $\mathbb{E}[X_i] = \mu$  and variance  $\text{Var}(X_i) = \sigma^2 < \infty$ , then as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ :

- $S_n \sim \mathcal{N}(n \cdot \mu, \sqrt{n} \cdot \sigma)$
- $\text{Mean}_n \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}})$

If  $n$  is large enough (heuristic:  $n > 30$ ), we can calculate probabilities for the sum and mean of RVs by using the normal distribution.

**Emperical Rules under CLT** -

- 50% of the time,
  - $S_n$  will fall within  $n\mu \pm \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{n}\sigma$
  - $M_n$  will fall within  $\mu \pm \frac{2}{3}\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$
- 68% of the time,
  - $S_n$  will fall within  $n\mu \pm \sqrt{n}\sigma$
  - $M_n$  will fall within  $\mu \pm \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$
- 95% of the time,
  - $S_n$  will fall within  $n\mu \pm 2\sqrt{n}\sigma$
  - $M_n$  will fall within  $\mu \pm 2\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$
- 99.7% of the time,
  - $S_n$  will fall within  $n\mu \pm 3\sqrt{n}\sigma$
  - $M_n$  will fall within  $\mu \pm 3\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$

**Sampling and Confidence Intervals**

- Confidence Interval** - contains an unknown (population) quantity at some specified sampling frequency.
- Confidence intervals **do not** depend on population size, but only on sample size.
  - For a given sample size, can be very precise with low confidence or very imprecise with high confidence.
  - 2x the precision requires 4x sample size; 3x the precision requires 9x sample size.

Wording matters...

- OK: "I am 95% confident the interval [a,b] contains the true population proportion"
- OK: "There is a 95% probability the interval [a,b] contains the true population proportion"
- Not OK: "There is a 95% probability the true population proportion lies in the interval [a,b]"

**Confidence Level (L) to c -**

$$c = \text{qnorm}(p = \frac{(1+L)}{2}, \mu = 0, \sigma = 1)$$

(find the value  $c$  such that the area under  $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$  is  $p$ )

confidence level	$L$	$c$
90%	0.9	1.65
95%	0.95	1.96
99%	0.99	2.58

**For a population mean** - Given sample size  $n$ , sample average  $\bar{x}$ , and sample standard deviation  $s$ , we are X% confident the true population mean lies in the interval:

$$\bar{x} \pm \left(c \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}\right)$$

"MOE":  $\left(c \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}\right)$

**For a population proportion** - Given sample size  $n$ , sample proportion  $\bar{p}$ , and **standard deviation in the population to be 0.5**, we are X% confident the true population mean lies in the interval:

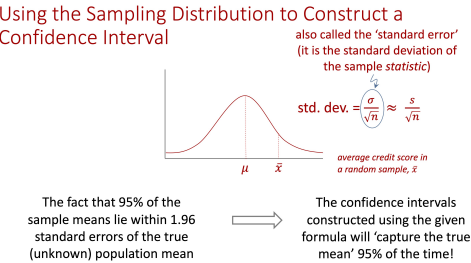
$$\bar{p} \pm \left(c \frac{0.5}{\sqrt{n}}\right)$$

"MOE":  $\left(c \frac{0.5}{\sqrt{n}}\right)$

**Important assumptions:**

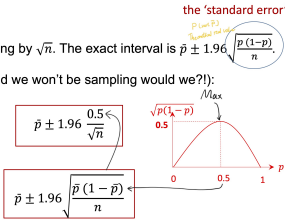
- Sample is random
- Sample is large enough ( $n > 30$ ) for CLT
- The worst possible standard deviation in the population to be 0.5

**Sampling Distribution** - is well approximated by  $\mathcal{N}(\mu = \text{true population parameter}, \sigma = \frac{\text{population SD}}{\sqrt{n}})$ , based on CLT.



**Similar Analysis for Proportions**

- When outcomes are binary, the standard deviation of observations in the population equals  $\sqrt{p(1-p)}$ .
- We get the standard error by dividing by  $\sqrt{n}$ . The exact interval is  $\bar{p} \pm 1.96 \sqrt{\frac{\bar{p}(1-\bar{p})}{n}}$ .
- But since we don't know  $p$  (if we did we wouldn't be sampling would we?):
  - We can take a conservative approach and assume  $p = 0.5$ .
  - Or, an approximate approach by assuming  $p = \bar{p}$  to get the practical alternative,



**Sampling Errors** - the sample-to-sample variations due to pure chance. MOE and confidence intervals quantify this uncertainty well.

**Non-Sampling Errors** - (some examples)

- Selection Bias: happens when each member of the population does not have the same chance of being selected.
- Response/Non-response Bias: happens when some fraction of the individuals surveyed don't respond for reasons related to what's being asked in the survey

**R Distribution Functions**

- p** ("probability"): cumulative distribution function ("what is the probability above or below a cutoff?")
- q** ("quantile"): inverse CDF ("what value do we find at, say, 80% of the way to the maximal value?")
- d** ("density"): density function (gives us the "height" or y-value of distribution for a particular z-score - mainly useful in plotting)

# Exactly  $k$  successes in  $n$  trials given success probability  $p$

```
dbinom(k, size=n, p=p)
```

#  $k$  or more successes in  $n$  trials given success probability  $p$

```
sum(dbinom(k:n, size=n, p=p))
```

# Probability of this value or less

```
pnorm(value, mean, sd)
```

# Probability of this value or greater

```
pnorm(value, mean, sd, lower.tail=FALSE)
```

# Highest value associated with a given percentile

```
qnorm(percentile, mean, sd)
```