

STA 371G Outline

Spring 2015

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Office Hours: Monday Wednesday 5:00-6:30 PM. You are welcome to come by my office at other times.

Wednesday, January 21

Topics:

- Introduction
- Probability
- Random variables
- Probability distributions

Monday, January 26

Topics:

- Mean, variance and standard deviation of a random variable
- Add a constant to a random variable
- Multiply a random variable by a constant
- Conditional, joint and marginal probabilities
- Independent random variables, sum of independent random variables
- Continuous random variables
- Probability density function: area under the curve represents probability
- Standard normal distribution $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$
- Standard normal calculations in Excel: NORMSDIST, or in R: pnorm (type “?pnorm” in R for help).

Reading Assignments:

If you are not familiar with the topics discussed in class, you are recommended to read:
pp. 156-168, 189-195, of Data analysis and decision making, 4th edition
or

pp. 196-206, 225-231 of Data analysis and decision making, 3rd edition

To learn more about these topics, you may further read:
Chapters 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, and 2.5 of OpenIntro Statistics, 2nd edition

Wednesday, January 28

- Normal distribution $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$
- Understand the meaning of the standard deviation σ in a normal distribution: $P(\mu - \sigma < X < \mu + \sigma) = ?$ and $P(\mu - 2\sigma < X < \mu + 2\sigma) = ?$
- Normal calculations in Excel:
NORMSDIST, NORMDIST
NORMSINV, NORMINV
or in R:
pnorm, qnorm (type “?pnorm” and “?qnorm” in R for help).
- Plot a normal distribution in Excel and R
- Example: Testing at ZTel, we will make an Excel spreadsheet for calculations

Reading Assignments:

To get familiar with the normal distribution, you are recommended to read:
pp. 211-215, 217-225 of Data analysis and decision making, 4th edition
or
pp. 247-250, 253-260 of Data analysis and decision making, 3rd edition

You may further read:
Chapters 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.4 and 3.1.5 of OpenIntro Statistics, 2nd edition