

# Three data types: continuous, counts and coin flips

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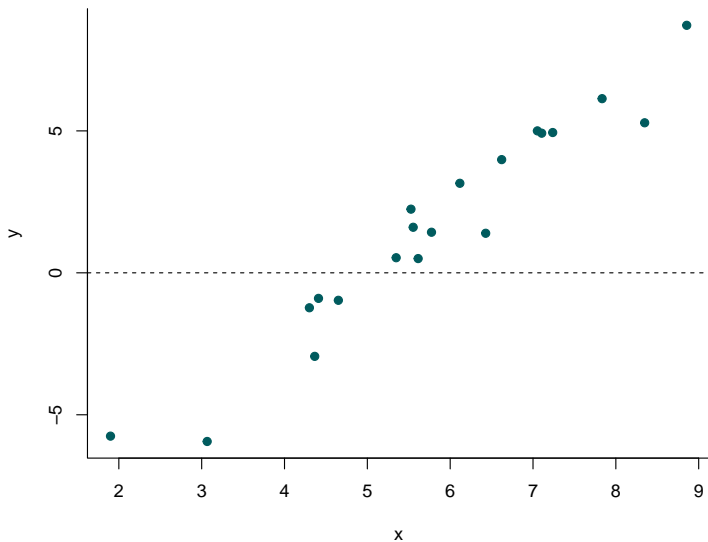
# Outline

1. Data types

2. Probability distributions

3. Explanatory variables

# Describe some features of the response data $y$

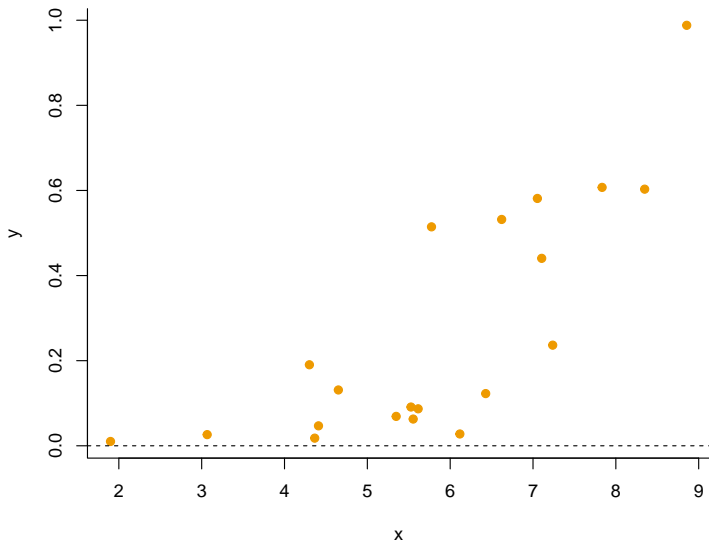


# Describe some features of the response data $y$

## Continuous data

- Response  $y$  is continuous, e.g.,  $y = 1.25$  possible
- Response can be positive or negative (on the real line)
- Apparent positive linear relationship with continuous variable  $x$
- **Example**  $y$  could be a change in water height

# Describe some features of the response data $y$

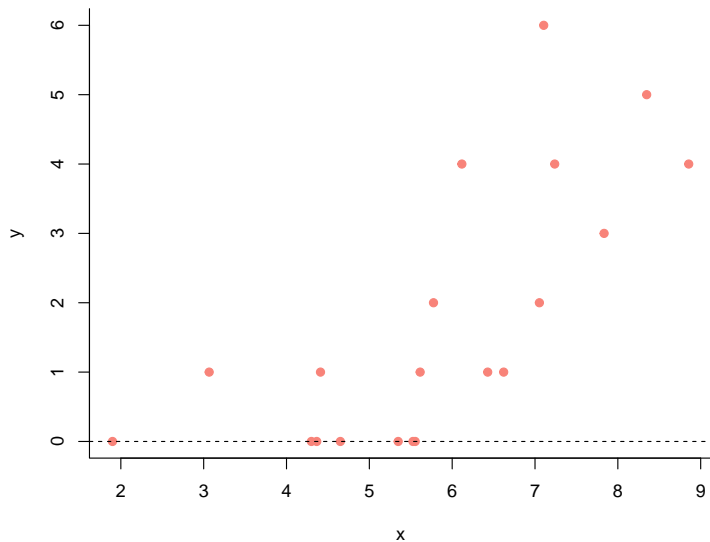


# Describe some features of the response data $y$

## Positive continuous data

- Response  $y$  is also continuous, e.g.,  $y = 0.25$  possible
- Response can only be positive (on the positive real line)
- Apparent positive non-linear relationship with continuous variable  $x$
- **Example**  $y$  could be mass of individuals
  - Discuss what values mass/weight of a fish could be

# Describe some features of the response data $y$



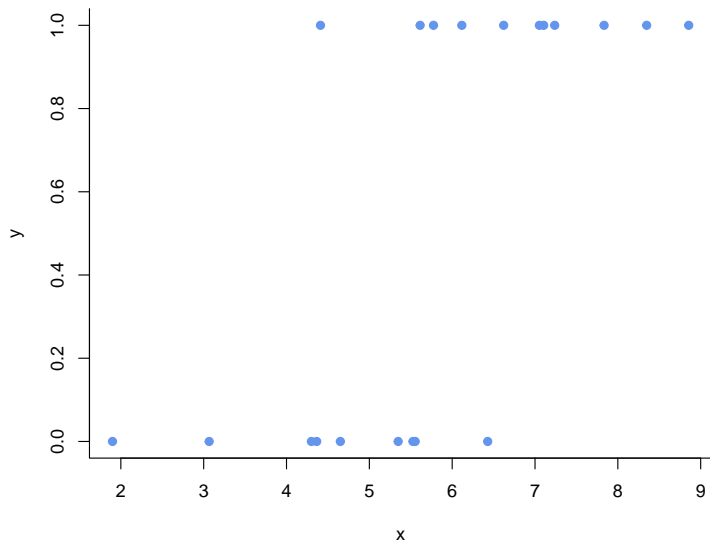
# Describe some features of the response data $y$

## Count data

- Response  $y$  is a count (discrete), e.g.,  $y = 1.25$  impossible
- Response can be zero or a positive integer
- Apparent positive non-linear relationship with continuous variable  $x$
- **Example**  $y$  could be an organism count per unit area (abundance)
  - Discuss what values of abundance are possible



# Describe some features of the response data $y$



# Describe some features of the response data $y$

## Binary data

- Response  $y$  can be either a 1 or a 0 (or other binary categories, e.g., on/off)
  - Often it is a sum of positives out of a given number of trials, e.g., total number of heads in 10 coin flips
  - Key thing is that for any one flip there can only be 2 outcomes
- Apparent positive non-linear relationship with continuous variable  $x$
- **Example**  $y$  could be maturity status (mature/immature) for an organism
  - Discuss other binary data examples

# Outline

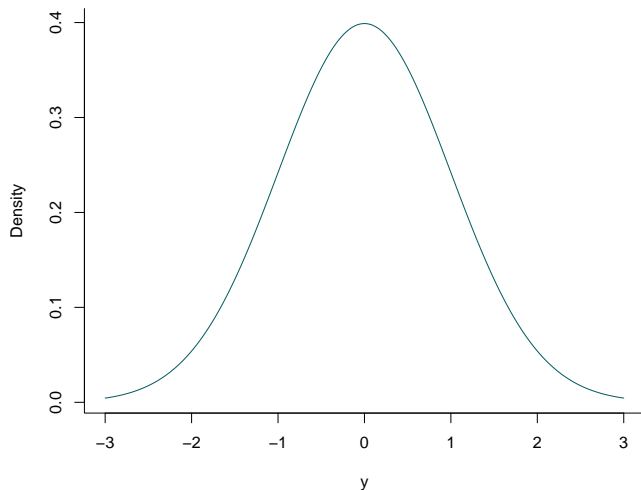
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# Probability distribution

A function that describes the probabilities associated with possible outcomes for an experiment (think of the response  $y$ )

# Continuous probability distributions

## Normal distribution



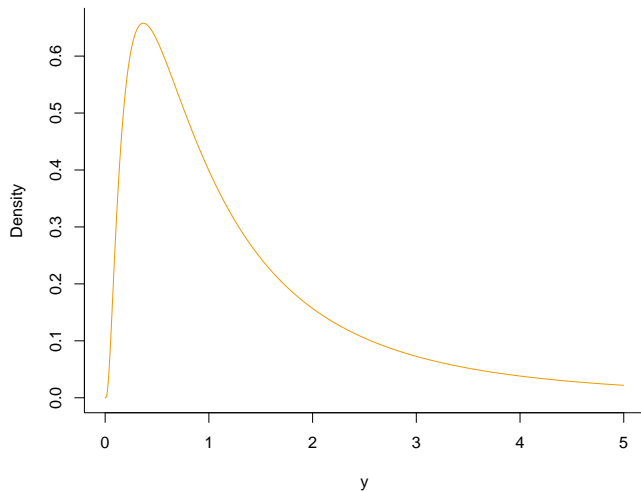
# Continuous probability distributions

## Normal distribution

- Distribution is continuous, e.g.,  $y = 1.25$  possible
- Positive or negative values possible (on the real line)
- Governed by two parameters: mean  $\mu$  and variance  $\sigma^2$
- Write:  $y \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$

# Positive continuous probability distributions

## Lognormal distribution



# Positive continuous probability distributions

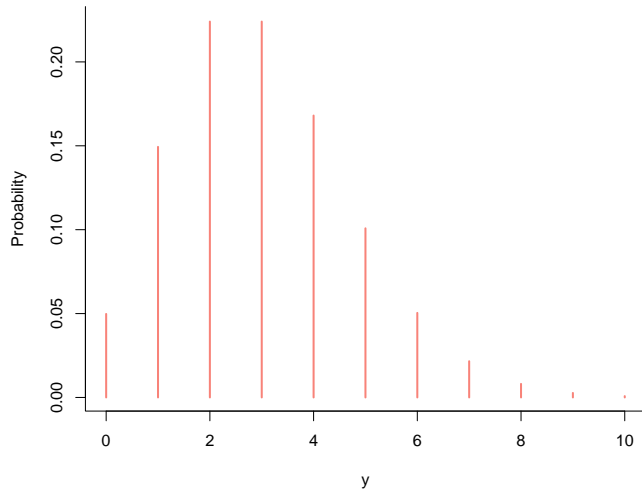
## Lognormal distribution

- Distribution is continuous, e.g.,  $y = 1.25$  possible
- Only positive values possible (on the positive real line)
- Governed by two parameters: mean  $\mu$  and standard deviation  $\sigma$  (both on log scale)
- Write:  $y \sim \text{Lognormal}(\mu, \sigma)$



# Count probability distributions

## Poisson distribution



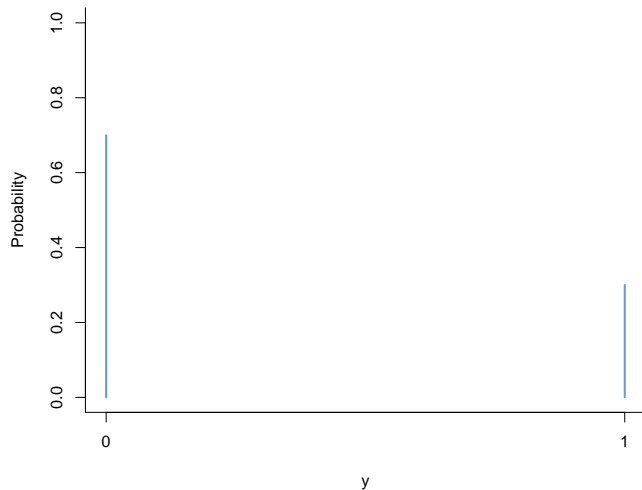
# Count probability distributions

## Poisson distribution

- Distribution is discrete, e.g.,  $y = 1.25$  impossible
- Distribution is only positive at zero and positive integers
- Governed by one parameter: rate  $\lambda$  (e.g., density)
  - Discuss rates in relation to counts
- Write:  $y \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda)$

# Binary probability distribution

Binary (Bernoulli) distribution



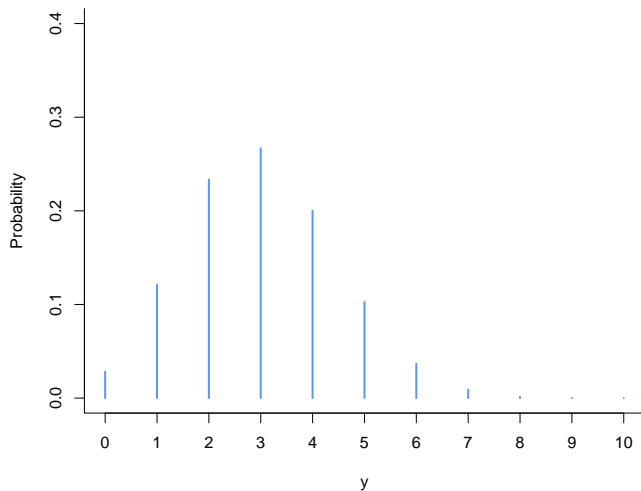
# Binary probability distribution

## Binary (Bernoulli) distribution

- Distribution over 0 or 1 (or other binary categories) only
- Governed by parameter: probability of success  $p$  (e.g., probability of being mature)
- Think: coin flip but coin not necessarily fair
- Write  $y \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$

# Binomial probability distribution

## Binomial distribution



# Binomial probability distribution

## Binomial distribution

- Distribution over  $\{0, 1, \dots, n\}$  only
- Governed by 2 parameters: number of trials  $n$  (think: number coin flips) and probability of success  $p$  on any trial
- Write  $y \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$

Note: Binomial is the sum of Bernoulli trials

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# Explanatory variables<sup>1</sup>

Often a goal of an experiment or observational study is to relate observed response values to explanatory variables, e.g.,

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- ...

We would like to explore/model the relationships between the response and explanatory variables

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