Chapter 4: Distributions of random variables

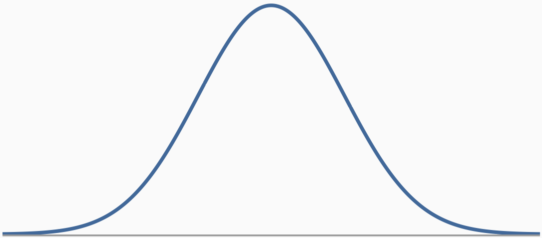
OpenIntro Statistics, 4th Edition

Slides developed by Mine Çetinkaya-Rundel of OpenIntro.

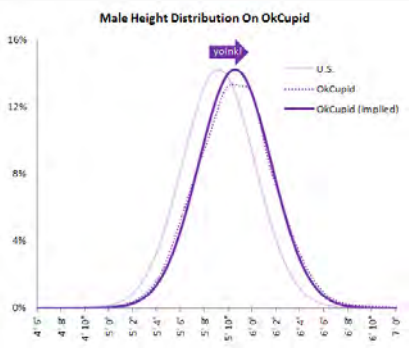
Normal distribution

Normal distribution

- Unimodal and symmetric, bell shaped curve
- Many variables are nearly normal, but none are exactly normal
- Denoted as $N(\mu, \sigma) \rightarrow$ Normal with mean μ and standard deviation σ



Heights of males



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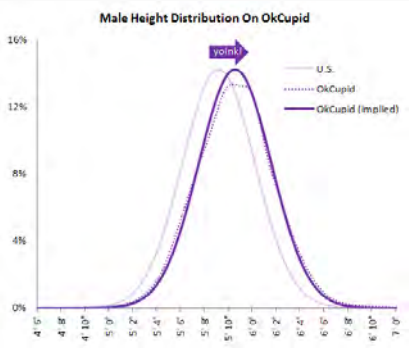
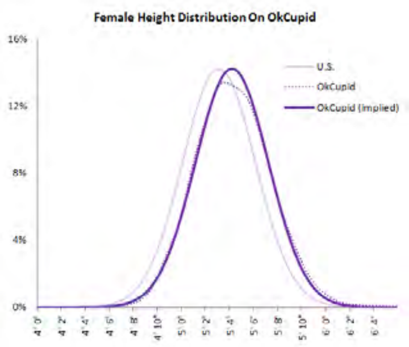


"The male heights on OkCupid very nearly follow the expected normal distribution – except the whole thing is shifted to the right of where it should be. Almost universally guys like to add a couple inches."

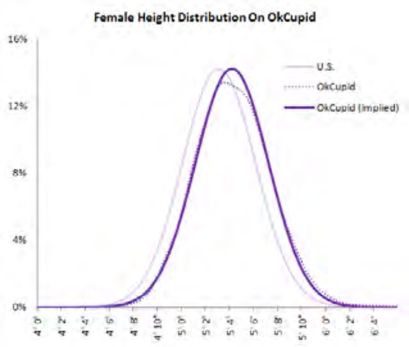
"You can also see a more subtle vanity at work: starting at roughly 5' 8", the top of the dotted curve tilts even further rightward. This means that guys as they get closer to six feet round up a bit more than usual, stretching for that coveted psychological benchmark."

http://blog.okcupid.com/index.php/the-biggest-lies-in-online-dating/

Heights of females



Heights of females



"When we looked into the data for women, we were surprised to see height exaggeration was just as widespread, though without the lurch towards a benchmark height."

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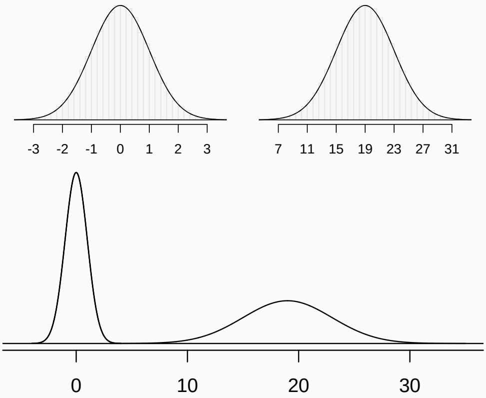
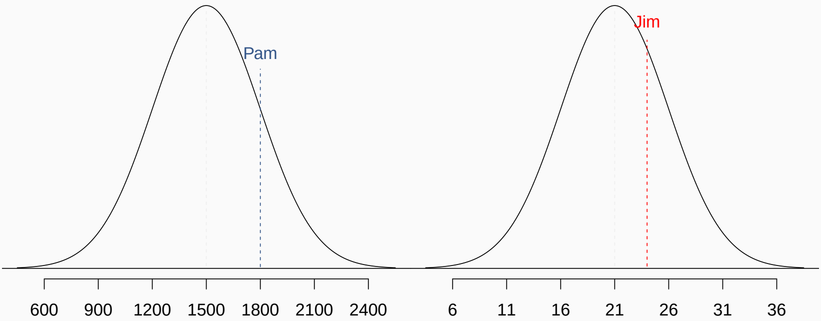
Normal distributions with different parameters

μ: mean, σ: standard deviation

$N(\mu = 0, \sigma = 1)$ $N(\mu = 19, \sigma = 4)$



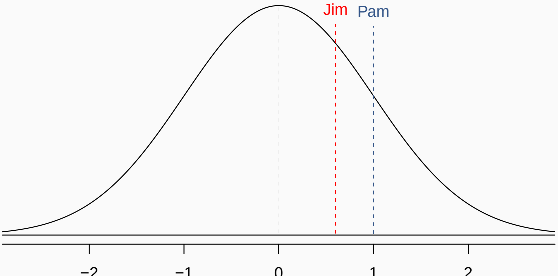
SAT scores are distributed nearly normally with mean 1500 and standard deviation 300. ACT scores are distributed nearly normally with mean 21 and standard deviation 5. A college admissions officer wants to determine which of the two applicants scored better on their standardized test with respect to the other test takers: Pam, who earned an 1800 on her SAT, or Jim, who scored a 24 on his ACT?



Standardizing with Z scores

Since we cannot just compare these two raw scores, we instead compare how many standard deviations beyond the mean each observation is.

- Pam's score is $\frac{1800-1500}{300} = 1$ standard deviation above the mean.
- Jim's score is $\frac{24-21}{5} = 0.6$ standard deviations above the mean.



Standardizing with Z scores (cont.)

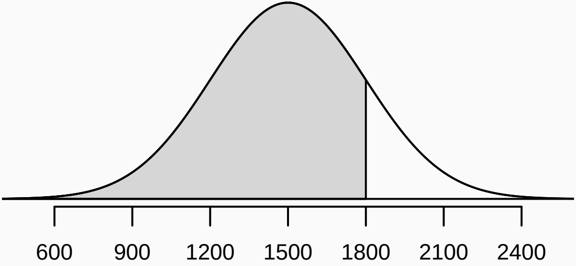
- These are called *standardized* scores, or *Z scores*.
- Z score of an observation is the number of standard deviations it falls above or below the mean.

$$Z = \frac{observation - mean}{SD}$$

- Z scores are defined for distributions of any shape, but only when the distribution is normal can we use Z scores to calculate percentiles.
- Observations that are more than 2 SD away from the mean ($|Z| > 2$) are usually considered unusual.

Percentiles

- *Percentile* is the percentage of observations that fall below a given data point.
- Graphically, percentile is the area below the probability distribution curve to the left of that observation.



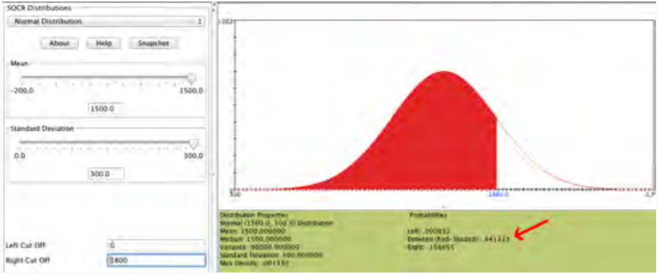
Calculating percentiles - using computation

There are many ways to compute percentiles/areas under the curve:

- R:

```
> pnorm(1800, mean = 1500, sd = 300)
[1] 0.8413447
```

- Applet: *https://gallery.shinyapps.io/dist_calc/*



Calculating percentiles - using tables

	Second decimal place of Z									
Z	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.09
0.0	0.5000	0.5040	0.5080	0.5120	0.5160	0.5199	0.5239	0.5279	0.5319	0.5359
0.1	0.5398	0.5438	0.5478	0.5517	0.5557	0.5596	0.5636	0.5675	0.5714	0.5753
0.2	0.5793	0.5832	0.5871	0.5910	0.5948	0.5987	0.6026	0.6064	0.6103	0.6141
0.3	0.6179	0.6217	0.6255	0.6293	0.6331	0.6368	0.6406	0.6443	0.6480	0.6517
0.4	0.6554	0.6591	0.6628	0.6664	0.6700	0.6736	0.6772	0.6808	0.6844	0.6879
0.5	0.6915	0.6950	0.6985	0.7019	0.7054	0.7088	0.7123	0.7157	0.7190	0.7224
0.6	0.7257	0.7291	0.7324	0.7357	0.7389	0.7422	0.7454	0.7486	0.7517	0.7549
0.7	0.7580	0.7611	0.7642	0.7673	0.7704	0.7734	0.7764	0.7794	0.7823	0.7852
0.8	0.7881	0.7910	0.7939	0.7967	0.7995	0.8023	0.8051	0.8078	0.8106	0.8133
0.9	0.8159	0.8186	0.8212	0.8238	0.8264	0.8289	0.8315	0.8340	0.8365	0.8389
1.0	*0.8413*	0.8438	0.8461	0.8485	0.8508	0.8531	0.8554	0.8577	0.8599	0.8621
1.1	0.8643	0.8665	0.8686	0.8708	0.8729	0.8749	0.8770	0.8790	0.8810	0.8830
1.2	0.8849	0.8869	0.8888	0.8907	0.8925	0.8944	0.8962	0.8980	0.8997	0.9015

Six sigma

"The term *six sigma process* comes from the notion that if one has six standard deviations between the process mean and the nearest specification limit, as shown in the graph, practically no items will fail to meet specifications."

$$6\sigma$$

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six_Sigma

Quality control

At Heinz ketchup factory the amounts which go into bottles of ketchup are supposed to be normally distributed with mean 36 oz. and standard deviation 0.11 oz. Once every 30 minutes a bottle is selected from the production line, and its contents are noted precisely. If the amount of ketchup in the bottle is below 35.8 oz. or above 36.2 oz., then the bottle fails the quality control inspection. What percent of bottles have less than 35.8 ounces of ketchup?

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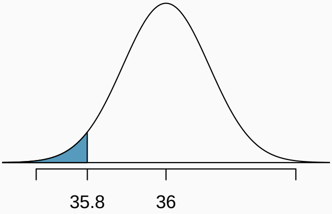

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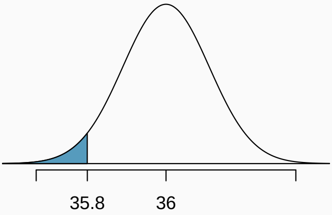

$$Z = \frac{35.8 - 36}{0.11} = -1.82$$

Finding the exact probability - using R

```
> pnorm(-1.82, mean = 0, sd = 1)
[1] 0.0344
```

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```
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```

OR

```
> pnorm(35.8, mean = 36, sd = 0.11)
[1] 0.0345
```

Practice

What percent of bottles pass the quality control inspection?

(a) 1.82%

(b) 3.44%

(c) 6.88%

(d) 93.12%

(e) 96.56%

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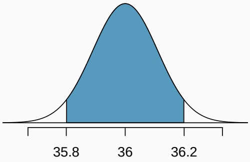

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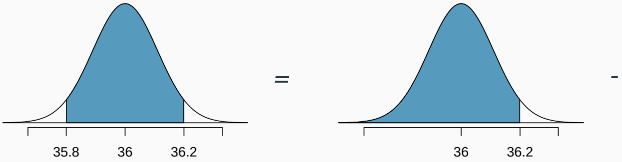

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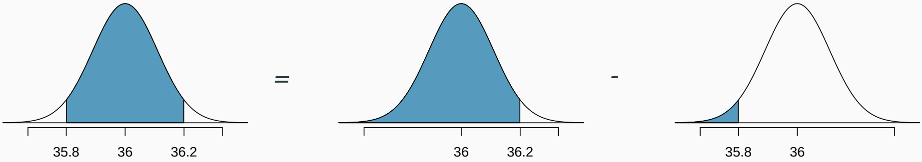

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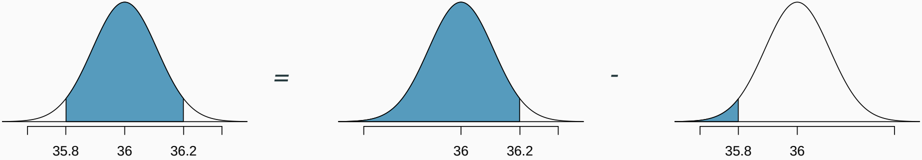

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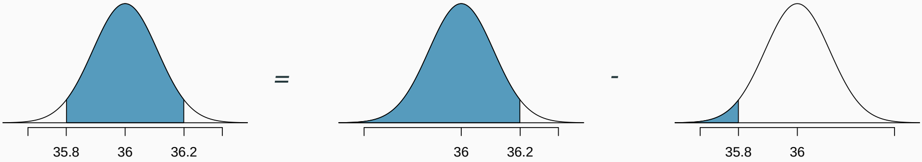

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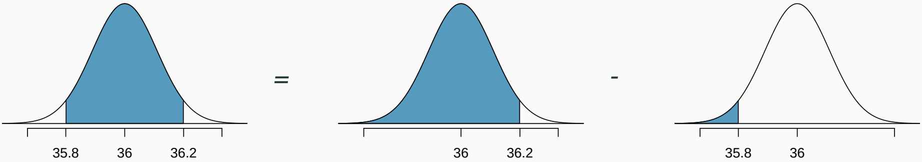

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$$Z_{36.2} = \frac{36.2 - 36}{0.11} = 1.82$$

$$P(35.8 < X < 36.2) = P(-1.82 < Z < 1.82) = 0.9656 - 0.0344 = 0.9312$$

Finding cutoff points

Body temperatures of healthy humans are distributed nearly normally with mean 98.2°F and standard deviation 0.73°F. What is the cutoff for the lowest 3% of human body temperatures?

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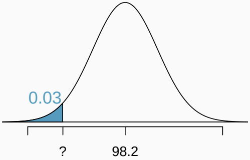

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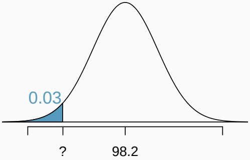

$$P(X < x) \quad = \quad 0.03 \rightarrow P(Z < \text{-}1.88) = 0.03$$

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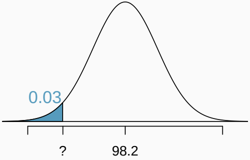

$$P(X < x) \;=\; 0.03 \rightarrow P(Z < -1.88) = 0.03$$

$$Z \;=\; \frac{obs - mean}{SD} \rightarrow \frac{x - 98.2}{0.73} = -1.88$$

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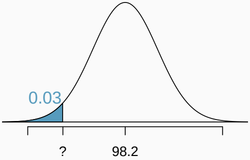

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P(X < x) &= 0.03 \rightarrow P(Z < -1.88) = 0.03 \\
Z &= \frac{obs - mean}{SD} \rightarrow \frac{x - 98.2}{0.73} = -1.88 \\
x &= (-1.88 \times 0.73) + 98.2 = 96.8^{\circ}F
\end{aligned}
$$

```
> qnorm(0.03)
[1] -1.880794
```

Mackowiak, Wasserman, and Levine (1992), *A Critical Appraisal of 98.6 Degrees F, the Upper Limit of the Normal Body Temperature, and Other Legacies of Carl Reinhold August Wunderlick.*

Practice

Body temperatures of healthy humans are distributed nearly normally with mean 98.2°F and standard deviation 0.73°F. What is the cutoff for the highest 10% of human body temperatures?

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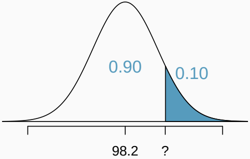

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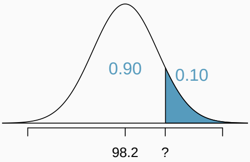

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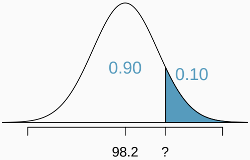

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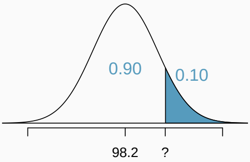

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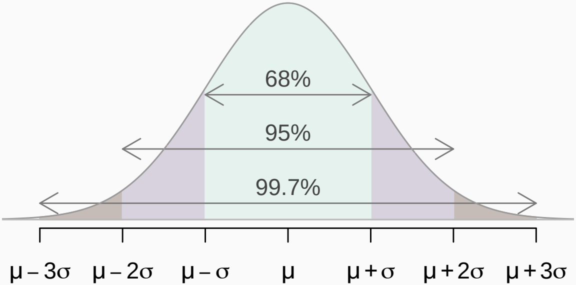
x &= (1.28 \times 0.73) + 98.2 = 99.1
\end{aligned}
$$

68-95-99.7 Rule

- For nearly normally distributed data,
  - about 68% falls within 1 SD of the mean,
  - about 95% falls within 2 SD of the mean,
  - about 99.7% falls within 3 SD of the mean.
- It is possible for observations to fall 4, 5, or more standard deviations away from the mean, but these occurrences are very rare if the data are nearly normal.



Describing variability using the 68-95-99.7 Rule

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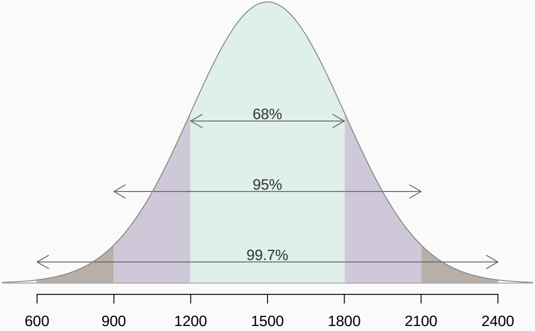
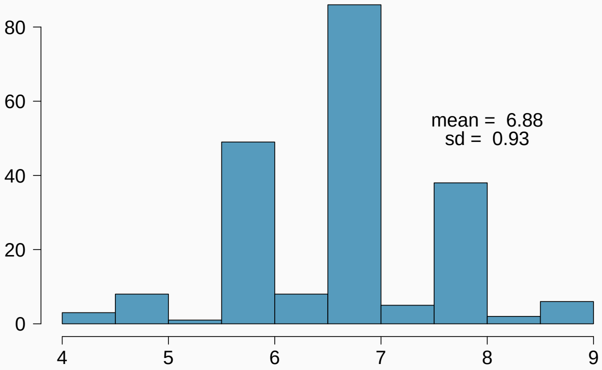
SAT scores are distributed nearly normally with mean 1500 and standard deviation 300.

- ~68% of students score between 1200 and 1800 on the SAT.
- ~95% of students score between 900 and 2100 on the SAT.
- ~99.7% of students score between 600 and 2400 on the SAT.



Number of hours of sleep on school nights



- Mean = 6.88 hours, SD = 0.92 hrs

  72% of the data are within 1 SD of the mean: 6.88 ± 0.93

  92% of the data are within 1 SD of the mean: $6.88 \pm 2 \times 0.93$

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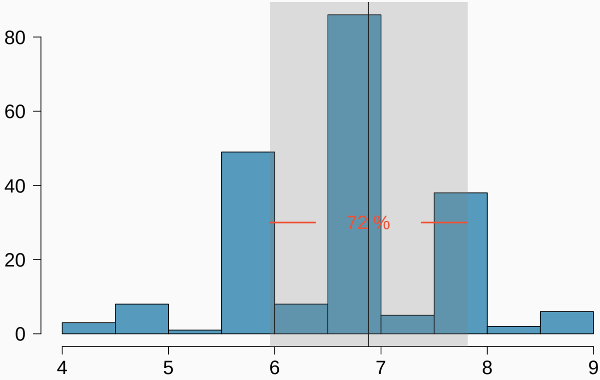

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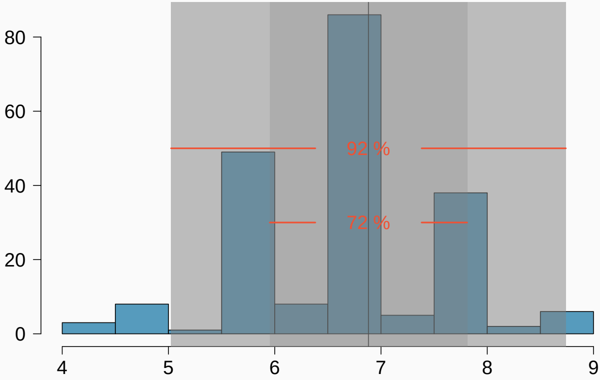

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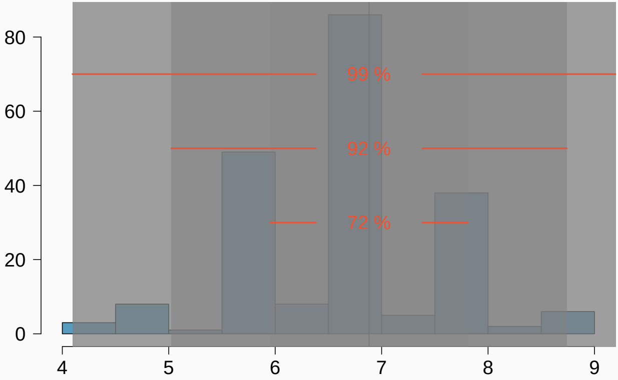

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Practice

Which of the following is <u>false</u>?

(a) Majority of Z scores in a right skewed distribution are negative.

(b) In skewed distributions the Z score of the mean might be different than 0.

(c) For a normal distribution, IQR is less than $2 \times SD$.

(d) Z scores are helpful for determining how unusual a data point is compared to the rest of the data in the distribution.

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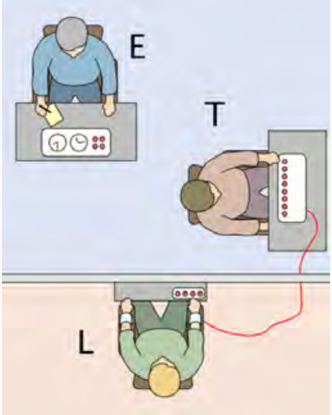
Geometric distribution

Milgram experiment

- Stanley Milgram, a Yale University psychologist, conducted a series of experiments on obedience to authority starting in 1963.
- Experimenter (E) orders the teacher (T), the subject of the experiment, to give severe electric shocks to a learner (L) each time the learner answers a question incorrectly.
- The learner is actually an actor, and the electric shocks are not real, but a prerecorded sound is played each time the teacher



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:
Milgram_Experiment_v2.png

Milgram experiment (cont.)

- These experiments measured the willingness of study participants to obey an authority figure who instructed them to perform acts that conflicted with their personal conscience.
- Milgram found that about 65% of people would obey authority and give such shocks.
- Over the years, additional research suggested this number is approximately consistent across communities and time.

Bernouilli random variables

- Each person in Milgram's experiment can be thought of as a *trial*.
- A person is labeled a *success* if she refuses to administer a severe shock, and *failure* if she administers such shock.
- Since only 35% of people refused to administer a shock, *probability of success* is $p = 0.35$.
- When an individual trial has only two possible outcomes, it is called a *Bernoulli random variable*.

Geometric distribution

Dr. Smith wants to repeat Milgram's experiments but she only wants to sample people until she finds someone who will not inflict a severe shock. What is the probability that she stops after the first person?

$$P(1^{st}\ person\ refuses) = 0.35$$

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... the third person?

$$P(1^{st}\ and\ 2^{nd}\ shock,\ 3^{rd}\ refuses) = \underset{0.65}{\underline{S}} \times \underset{0.65}{\underline{S}} \times \underset{0.35}{\underline{R}} = 0.65^2 \times 0.35 \approx 0.15$$

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$$P(9\ shock,\ 10^{th}\ refuses) = \underbrace{\underset{0.65}{\underline{S}} \times \cdots \times \underset{0.65}{\underline{S}}} \times \underset{0.35}{\underline{R}} = 0.65^9 \times 0.35 \approx 0.0072$$

Geometric distribution (cont.)

Geometric distribution describes the waiting time until a success for *independent and identically distributed (iid)* Bernouilli random variables.

- independence: outcomes of trials don't affect each other
- identical: the probability of success is the same for each trial

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Geometric probabilities

If p represents probability of success, $(1 - p)$ represents probability of failure, and n represents number of independent trials

$$P(success\ on\ the\ n^{th}\ trial) = (1 - p)^{n-1}p$$

Can we calculate the probability of rolling a 6 for the first time on the 6^{th} roll of a die using the geometric distribution? Note that what was a success (rolling a 6) and what was a failure (not rolling a 6) are clearly defined and one or the other must happen for each trial.

(a) no, on the roll of a die there are more than 2 possible outcomes

(b) yes, why not

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(a) no, on the roll of a die there are more than 2 possible outcomes

(b) *yes, why not*

$$P(6 \text{ on the } 6^{th} \text{ roll}) = \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^5 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right) \approx 0.067$$

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But how can she test a non-whole number of people?

Expected value and its variability

Mean and standard deviation of geometric distribution

$$\mu = \frac{1}{p} \qquad\qquad \sigma = \sqrt{\frac{1-p}{p^2}}$$

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- Dr. Smith is expected to test 2.86 people before finding the first one that refuses to administer the shock, give or take 2.3 people.
- These values only make sense in the context of repeating the experiment many many times.

Binomial distribution

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The probability of exactly one 1 of 4 people refusing to administer the shock is the sum of all of these probabilities.

$$0.0961 + 0.0961 + 0.0961 + 0.0961 = 4 \times 0.0961 = 0.3844$$

Binomial distribution

The question from the prior slide asked for the probability of given number of successes, k, in a given number of trials, n, ($k = 1$ success in $n = 4$ trials), and we calculated this probability as

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The *Binomial distribution* describes the probability of having exactly k successes in n independent Bernouilli trials with probability of success p.

Counting the # of scenarios

Earlier we wrote out all possible scenarios that fit the condition of exactly one person refusing to administer the shock. If n was larger and/or k was different than 1, for example, $n = 9$ and $k = 2$:

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...

SS*R*SS*R*SSS

...

SSSSSSS*RR*

writing out all possible scenarios would be incredibly tedious and prone to errors.

Choose function

The *choose function* is useful for calculating the number of ways to choose k successes in n trials.

$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$$

Calculating the # of scenarios

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$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$$

- $k = 1$, $n = 4$: $\binom{4}{1} = \frac{4!}{1!(4-1)!} = \frac{4\times3\times2\times1}{1\times(3\times2\times1)} = 4$

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- $k = 2, n = 9$: $\binom{9}{2} = \frac{9!}{2!(9-1)!} = \frac{9\times8\times7!}{2\times1\times7!} = \frac{72}{2} = 36$

Note: You can also use R for these calculations:

```
> choose(9,2)
[1] 36
```

Properties of the choose function

Which of the following is false?

(a) There are n ways of getting 1 success in n trials, $\binom{n}{1} = n$.

(b) There is only 1 way of getting n successes in n trials, $\binom{n}{n} = 1$.

(c) There is only 1 way of getting n failures in n trials, $\binom{n}{0} = 1$.

(d) There are $n - 1$ ways of getting $n - 1$ successes in n trials, $\binom{n}{n-1} = n - 1$.

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(d) *There are $n - 1$ ways of getting $n - 1$ successes in n trials, $\binom{n}{n-1} = n - 1$.*

Binomial distribution (cont.)

Binomial probabilities

If p represents probability of success, $(1-p)$ represents probability of failure, n represents number of independent trials, and k represents number of successes

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

Which of the following is not a condition that needs to be met for the binomial distribution to be applicable?

(a) the trials must be independent

(b) the number of trials, n, must be fixed

(c) each trial outcome must be classified as a *success* or a *failure*

(d) the number of desired successes, k, must be greater than the number of trials

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A 2012 Gallup survey suggests that 26.2% of Americans are obese. Among a random sample of 10 Americans, what is the probability that exactly 8 are obese?

(a) pretty high

(b) pretty low

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(a) $0.262^8 \times 0.738^2$

(b) $\binom{8}{10} \times 0.262^8 \times 0.738^2$

(c) $\binom{10}{8} \times 0.262^8 \times 0.738^2$

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(c) $\binom{10}{8} \times 0.262^8 \times 0.738^2 = 45 \times 0.262^8 \times 0.738^2 = 0.0005$

(d) $\binom{10}{8} \times 0.262^2 \times 0.738^8$

The birthday problem

What is the probability that 2 randomly chosen people share a birthday?

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Exactly 1! (Excluding the possibility of a leap year birthday.)

The birthday problem (cont.)

What is the probability that at least 2 people (1 match) out of 121 people share a birthday?

The birthday problem (cont.)

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Somewhat complicated to calculate, but we can think of it as the complement of the probability that there are no matches in 121 people.

$$P(no\ matches) = 1 \times \left(1 - \frac{1}{365}\right) \times \left(1 - \frac{2}{365}\right) \times \cdots \times \left(1 - \frac{120}{365}\right)$$

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&= \frac{121! \times \binom{365}{121}}{365^{121}} \approx 0
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&= \frac{121! \times \binom{365}{121}}{365^{121}} \approx 0 \\
P(at\ least\ 1\ match) &\approx 1
\end{aligned}$$

Expected value

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Among a random sample of 100 Americans, how many would you expect to be obese?

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- Easy enough, $100 \times 0.262 = 26.2$.
- Or more formally, $\mu = np = 100 \times 0.262 = 26.2$.
- But this doesn't mean in every random sample of 100 people exactly 26.2 will be obese. In fact, that's not even possible. In some samples this value will be less, and in others more. How much would we expect this value to vary?

Expected value and its variability

Mean and standard deviation of binomial distribution

$$\mu = np \qquad \sigma = \sqrt{np(1-p)}$$

Expected value and its variability

Mean and standard deviation of binomial distribution

$$\mu = np \qquad\qquad \sigma = \sqrt{np(1-p)}$$

- Going back to the obesity rate:

$$\sigma = \sqrt{np(1-p)} = \sqrt{100 \times 0.262 \times 0.738} \approx 4.4$$

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- We would expect 26.2 out of 100 randomly sampled Americans to be obese, with a standard deviation of 4.4.

Note: Mean and standard deviation of a binomial might not always be whole numbers, and that is alright, these values represent what we would expect to see on average.

Unusual observations

Using the notion that *observations that are more than 2 standard deviations away from the mean are considered unusual* and the mean and the standard deviation we just computed, we can calculate a range for the plausible number of obese Americans in random samples of 100.

$$26.2 \pm (2 \times 4.4) = (17.4, 35)$$

An August 2012 Gallup poll suggests that 13% of Americans think home schooling provides an excellent education for children. Would a random sample of 1,000 Americans where only 100 share this opinion be considered unusual?

(a) No

(b) Yes

	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor	Total excellent/ good
	%	%	%	%	%
Independent private school	31	47	13	2	78
Parochial or church-related schools	21	48	18	5	69
Charter schools	17	43	23	5	60
Home schooling	13	33	30	14	46
Public schools	5	32	42	19	37

Gallup, Aug. 9-12, 2012

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(a) No

(b) *Yes*

$$\mu = np = 1,000 \times 0.13 = 130$$

$$\sigma = \sqrt{np(1-p)} = \sqrt{1,000 \times 0.13 \times 0.87} \approx 10.6$$

http://www.gallup.com/poll/156974/private-schools-top-marks-educating-children.aspx

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Method 1: *Range of usual observations:* $130 \pm 2 \times 10.6 = (108.8, 151.2)$

100 is outside this range, so would be considered unusual.

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100 is outside this range, so would be considered unusual.

Method 2: *Z-score of observation:* $Z = \frac{x - mean}{SD} = \frac{100-130}{10.6} = -2.83$
100 is more than 2 SD below the mean, so would be considered unusual.

http://www.gallup.com/poll/156974/private-schools-top-marks-educating-children.aspx

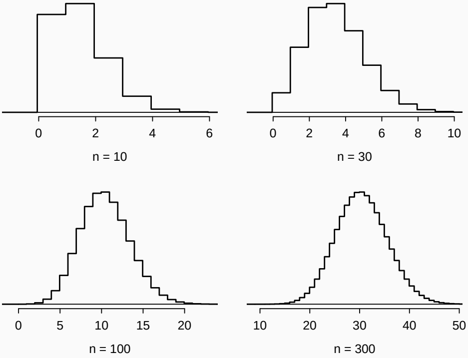
Shapes of binomial distributions

For this activity you will use a web applet. Go to *https://gallery.shinyapps.io/dist_calc/* and choose Binomial coin experiment in the drop down menu on the left.

- Set the number of trials to 20 and the probability of success to 0.15. Describe the shape of the distribution of number of successes.
- Keeping p constant at 0.15, determine the minimum sample size required to obtain a unimodal and symmetric distribution of number of successes. Please submit only one response per team.
- Further considerations:
  - What happens to the shape of the distribution as n stays constant and p changes?
  - What happens to the shape of the distribution as p stays constant and n changes?

Distributions of number of successes

Hollow histograms of samples from the binomial model where $p = 0.10$ and $n = 10$, 30, 100, and 300. What happens as n increases?



Low large is large enough?

The sample size is considered large enough if the expected number of successes and failures are both at least 10.

$$np \geq 10 \qquad \text{and} \qquad n(1-p) \geq 10$$

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$10 \times 0.13 = 1.3; 10 \times (1 - 0.13) = 8.7$

Below are four pairs of Binomial distribution parameters. Which distribution can be approximated by the normal distribution?

(a) $n = 100, p = 0.95$

(b) $n = 25, p = 0.45$

(c) $n = 150, p = 0.05$

(d) $n = 500, p = 0.015$

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(a) $n = 100, p = 0.95$

(b) $n = 25, p = 0.45 \;\; \rightarrow 25 \times 0.45 = 11.25; 25 \times 0.55 = 13.75$

(c) $n = 150, p = 0.05$

(d) $n = 500, p = 0.015$

An analysis of Facebook users

A recent study found that “Facebook users get more than they give”. For example:

- 40% of Facebook users in our sample made a friend request, but 63% received at least one request
- Users in our sample pressed the like button next to friends’ content an average of 14 times, but had their content “liked” an average of 20 times
- Users sent 9 personal messages, but received 12
- 12% of users tagged a friend in a photo, but 35% were themselves tagged in a photo

Any guesses for how this pattern can be explained?

http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2012/Facebook-users/Summary.aspx

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Power users contribute much more content than the typical user.

http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2012/Facebook-users/Summary.aspx

This study also found that approximately 25% of Facebook users are considered power users. The same study found that the average Facebook user has 245 friends. What is the probability that the average Facebook user with 245 friends has 70 or more friends who would be considered power users? Note any assumptions you must make.

We are given that $n = 245, p = 0.25$, and we are asked for the probability $P(K \geq 70)$. To proceed, we need independence, which we'll assume but could check if we had access to more Facebook data.

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$$
\begin{aligned}
P(X \geq 70) &= P(K = 70 \text{ or } K = 71 \text{ or } K = 72 \text{ or } \cdots \text{ or } K = 245) \\
&= P(K = 70) + P(K = 71) + P(K = 72) + \cdots + P(K = 245)
\end{aligned}
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This seems like an awful lot of work...

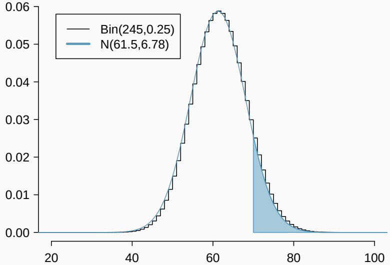
Normal approximation to the binomial

When the sample size is large enough, the binomial distribution with parameters n and p can be approximated by the normal model with parameters $\mu = np$ and $\sigma = \sqrt{np(1-p)}$.

- In the case of the Facebook power users, $n = 245$ and $p = 0.25$.

$$\mu = 245 \times 0.25 = 61.25 \qquad \sigma = \sqrt{245 \times 0.25 \times 0.75} = 6.78$$

- $Bin(n = 245, p = 0.25) \approx N(\mu = 61.25, \sigma = 6.78)$.



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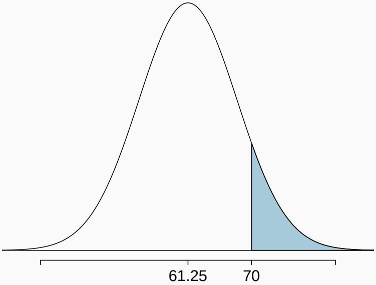

$$Z = \frac{obs - mean}{SD} = \frac{70 - 61.25}{6.78} = 1.29$$

$$P(Z > 1.29) = 1 - 0.9015 = 0.0985$$

```
> pnorm(1.29)
[1] 0.9014747
```

The normal approximation breaks down on small intervals

- The normal approximation to the binomial distribution tends to perform poorly when estimat- ing the probability of a small range of counts, even when the conditions are met.
- This approximation for intervals of values is usually improved if cutoff values are extended by 0.5 in both directions.
- The tip to add extra area when applying the normal approximation is most often useful when examining a range of observations. While it is possible to also apply this correction when computing a tail area, the benefit of the modification usually disappears since the total interval is typically quite wide.

Negative binomial distribution

Negative binomial distribution

- The *negative binomial distribution* describes the probability of observing the k^{th} success on the n^{th} trial.
- The following four conditions are useful for identifying a negative binomial case:
  1. The trials are independent.
  2. Each trial outcome can be classified as a success or failure.
  3. The probability of success (p) is the same for each trial.
  4. The last trial must be a success.

  Note that the first three conditions are common to the binomial distribution.

Negative binomial distribution

P(k^{th} success on the n^{th} trial) = $\binom{n-1}{k-1} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$,
where p is the probability that an individual trial is a success. All trials are assumed to be independent.

A college student working at a psychology lab is asked to recruit 10 couples to participate in a study. She decides to stand outside the student center and ask every 5^{th} person leaving the building whether they are in a relationship and, if so, whether they would like to participate in the study with their significant other. Suppose the probability of finding such a person is 10%. What is the probability that she will need to ask 30 people before she hits her goal?

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Given: $p = 0.10$, $k = 10$, $n = 30$. We are asked to find the probability of 10^{th} success on the 30^{th} trial, therefore we use the negative binomial distribution.

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Binomial vs. negative binomial

How is the negative binomial distribution different from the binomial distribution?

Binomial vs. negative binomial

How is the negative binomial distribution different from the binomial distribution?

- In the binomial case, we typically have a fixed number of trials and instead consider the number of successes.
- In the negative binomial case, we examine how many trials it takes to observe a fixed number of successes and require that the last observation be a success.

Practice

Which of the following describes a case where we would use the negative binomial distribution to calculate the desired probability?

(a) Probability that a 5 year old boy is taller than 42 inches.

(b) Probability that 3 out of 10 softball throws are successful.

(c) Probability of being dealt a straight flush hand in poker.

(d) Probability of missing 8 shots before the first hit.

(e) Probability of hitting the ball for the $3rd$ time on the 8^{th} try.

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