Math Statistics Semiweekly HW 3

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Question 1

Problem: Suppose that in the Calculus II classes at Utgard University, the mean score on the final exam is a 74% with a standard deviation of 10%. In a class of 100 students, assuming that they are randomly chosen, what is the probability that the mean score is at least 76%?

Solution: First note that we expect test scores to have a normal distribution. As such, each of the i.i.d. 100 sampled scores S_i should have the following distribution:

$$S_i \sim \mathcal{N}(.74, .01)$$

*note that since $\sigma = .1$ we have that $\sigma^2 = .01$.

Now recall that the sum of normal RVs is itself a normal RV whose mean is the sum of the summands' mean and whose variance is the sum of the summands' variance. In this case we have $\mu = 100 * .74$ and $\sigma^2 = 100 * .01$ since all S_i are distributed i.i.d.:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{100} S_i = S \sim \mathcal{N}(74, 1)$$

And so our desired probability is given below:

$$P\left(\frac{1}{100}S \ge .76\right) = P\left(S \ge 76\right)$$

$$= 1 - P\left(S \le 76\right) \qquad \text{(complement)}$$

$$= 1 - F_S(76) \qquad \text{(def. of cdf)}$$

$$= 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{76 - 74}{1}\right) \qquad \text{(unit normal RV)}$$

$$= 1 - \Phi(2) = \Phi(-2) \qquad \text{(complement of unit RV cdf)}$$

$$\approx 0.02275 \qquad \text{(unit normal table lookup)}$$