

L13: The Binomial distributions

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

L13: The Binomial distributions

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a Binomial

Normal approximation of a binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

Today's objectives

- ▶ Introduce the binomial distribution
- ▶ What kinds of outcomes follow a binomial
- ▶ Understanding the probability space for a binomial
- ▶ What is the theoretical distribution for binomials
- ▶ discuss exact vs. cumulative probabilities for the binomial
- ▶ introduce some R code for binomial distributions

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

Other types of outcomes

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

We've now seen how we can use a normal probability distribution to help us evaluate continuous variables.

What about expected values(probabilities) for all the outcomes that have only 2 possibilities

The binomial setting and binomial distributions

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

- ▶ An elementary school administers eye exams to 800 students. How many students have perfect vision?
- ▶ A new treatment for pancreatic cancer is tried on 250 patients. How many survive for five years?
- ▶ You plant 10 dogwood trees. How many live through the winter?

What are the common threads to each of these questions?

- ▶ Something is done n number of times.
- ▶ The outcome of interest for each question is categorical (binary - two levels)

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

Binomial Distributions

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

Binomial Distributions

L13: The Binomial distributions

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a Binomial

Normal approximation of a binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)



- ▶ Bernoulli Random Variable: The variable must assume one of two possible mutually exclusive outcomes
- ▶ Each trial of the BRV results in either a success or failure of the event happening
- ▶ Derived from the experiment: counting the number of occurrences of an event in n independent trials
- ▶ Random Variable: X = number of times the event happens in the fixed number of trials (n)
- ▶ Parameters
 - ▶ n = number of trials
 - ▶ p = probability of success (event happening)

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a Binomial

Normal approximation of a binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle (Bonus material)

- ▶ The n observations are independent. Knowing the result of one observation does not change the probabilities assigned to other observations
- ▶ Each observations is either a “success” or a “failure” (usually noted with 0 or 1). These terms are used for convenience.
- ▶ The probability of success, call it p is the same for each observation.

$$P(0 \cup 1) = P(0) + P(1) = 1$$

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

Example 1

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

A researcher has access to 40 men and 40 women and selects 10 of them at random to participate in an experiment. The number of women selected can be represented by X . Is X binomially distributed?

- Read the question carefully. What is the probability of selecting a woman when there are 40 individuals. If a woman is chosen, what is the probability of selecting a woman the second time?

Example 2

A pharmaceutical company inspects a simple random sample of 10 empty plastic containers from a shipments of 10,000. They are examined for traces of benzene. Suppose that 10% of the containers in the shipment contain benzene. Let X represent the number of containers contaminated with benzene. Is X binomially distributed?

- ▶ Issue: Each time you sample one bottle, it affects the chance that the next bottle will be contaminated. However given that the population is size 10,000 and the sample size is 10, the effect of one sample's success status on the next bottle's success status is negligible.
- ▶ Here the distribution of X is *approximately* Binomial:

$$X \sim \text{Binom}(10000, 0.10)$$

where \sim is read as “approximately distributed as”.

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a Binomial

Normal approximation of a binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle (Bonus material)

If X has the binomial distribution with n observations and probability p of success on each observation, the possible values of X are 0, 1, 2, ..., n . If k is any one of these values,

$$P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$$

- ▶ Read $\binom{n}{k}$ as “ n choose k ”. It counts the number of ways in which k successes can be arranged among n observations.
 - ▶ The binomial probability is this count multiplied by the probability of any one specific arrangement of the k successes.

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

Binomial Distributions

**Sampling distribution of
binomial**

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

Sampling distribution of binomial

Definition: sampling distribution

A **sampling distribution** is shown as the distribution (with a histogram) of a **sample statistic** after taking many samples.

The distribution of the number of successes across many samples is called the **sampling distribution** for X . with mean $\#$ successes denoted by \bar{x}

The distribution of the proportion of successes across many samples is called the **sampling distribution** for p with mean proportion successes denoted by \hat{p}

[Binomial Distributions](#)[Sampling distribution of binomial](#)[Example Trial of 2](#)[Example trial of size 10](#)[Binomial probability in R](#)[Mean and Variance of a Binomial](#)[Normal approximation of a binomial](#)[Linking to Pascal's triangle \(Bonus material\)](#)

Binomial approximation when N is much larger than n

Binomial Distributions

**Sampling distribution of
binomial**

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

Choose a simple random sample of size n from a population with proportion p of successes. When the population size (N) is much larger than the sample, the count X of successes in the sample has approximately the binomial distribution with parameters n and p .

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

Example Trial of 2

Smoking status

In 1987, 29% of the adults in the United States smoked cigarettes, cigars, or pipes.

Let Y be a random variable that represents smoking status.

- ▶ $Y = 1$, an adult is currently a smoker
- ▶ $Y = 0$, an adult is not a current smoker

The two values of Smoking status are mutually exclusive and exhaustive.

What is the probability a randomly selected person is a smoker? $P(Y=1)$

What is the probability a randomly selected person is a non-smoker? $P(Y=0)$

Smoking status

Suppose that we randomly select two individuals from the population of adults in the United States.

The random variable X represents the number of persons in the pair who are current smokers.

First Person(Y_1)	Second Person (Y_2)	Probability	Number of Smokers (X)
0	0		0
1	0		1
0	1		1
1	1		2

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a Binomial

Normal approximation of a binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle (Bonus material)

Smoking status

Suppose that we randomly select two individuals from the population of adults in the United States.

The random variable X represents the number of persons in the pair who are current smokers.

First Person (Y_1)	Second Person (Y_2)	Probability	Number of Smokers (X)
0	0	$(1 - p) \times (1 - p)$	0
1	0	$p \times (1 - p)$	1
0	1	$(1 - p) \times p$	1
1	1	$p \times p$	2

Remember that we can multiply to get the probabilities here because the events are independent

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a Binomial

Normal approximation of a binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle (Bonus material)

Smoking status

Recall that for one trial, $P(\text{event}) + P(\text{no event}) = 1$

So $P(\text{smoker}) + P(\text{not smoker}) = 1$

We know $P(\text{smoker}) = 29\%$ so :

$1 - 0.29 = 0.71$ (probability of non smoker)

Calculate by hand using a table

If 29% of US adults smoked, $p=0.29$, what are the values of these probabilities?

The random variable X represents the number of persons in the pair who are current smokers.

First Person (Y_1)	Second Person (Y_2)	Probability	Number of Smokers (X)
0	0	$(.71) \times (.71) = .5041$	0
1	0	$.29 \times (.71) = .2059$	1
0	1	$(.71) \times .29 = .2059$	1
1	1	$.29 \times .29 = .0841$	2

Notice here that the sum of column 3 is $= 1$

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

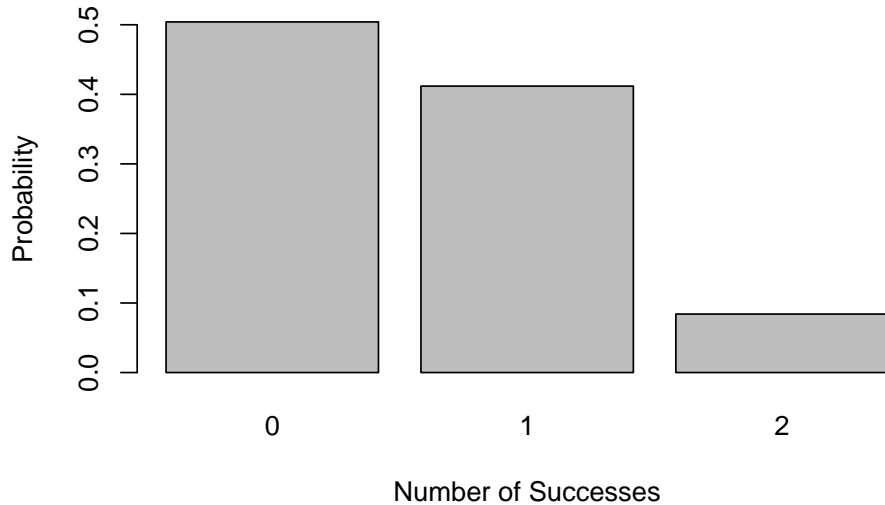
Mean and Variance of a Binomial

Normal approximation of a binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle (Bonus material)

Probability distribution for 2 selected individuals

Probability Distribution



Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a Binomial

Normal approximation of a binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle (Bonus material)

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

In the binomial distribution the sum of all probabilities of potential outcomes equals 100% (1.0)

If you have a certain number of events with probability of success (p),

What is probability that X occurs at least once $P(X \geq 1)$?

$$P(X \geq 1) = 1 - P(X = 0)$$

If you have a certain number of events with probability of success (p),

what is probability that X occurs fewer than twice $P(X < 2)$?

$$P(X < 2) = P(X = 1) + P(X = 0)$$

Binomial Probability Distributions: for n trials

What if we are interested in the expected outcomes if select a larger group of individuals? It starts to get cumbersome to write out that table by hand. The general expression of the probability distribution of a binomial random variable X where x is the number of successes in a sample of size n .

$$P(X = x) = \binom{n}{x} p^x (1 - p)^{n-x}$$

where $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ and $x = 0, 1, \dots, n$.

Binomial Combinations: How many combinations of n people give x successes?

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

$$\binom{2}{0} = \frac{2!}{0!(2-0)!} = 1$$

$$\binom{2}{1} = \frac{2!}{1!(2-1)!} = 2$$

**remember that $0! = 1$

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

So for 1 success in 2 individuals ($n=2$, $x=1$) where 29% are smokers ($p=0.29$)

$$P(X = x) = \binom{n}{x} p^x (1 - p)^{n-x}$$

$$P(X = 1) = \binom{2}{1} 0.29^1 (1 - 0.29)^{2-1} = 0.4118$$

Binomial Probability Distributions

We can use the formulas as shown to calculate the probability of a given number of successes from a binomial by hand

Or we could use R with 'dbinom(#successes,size,probability of success)'

This function calculates the probability of observing x successes when $X \sim \text{Binom}(n, p)$

```
dbinom(1,size=2,prob=0.29)
```

```
## [1] 0.4118
```

let's look further at sampling distributions using our container example. . .

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a Binomial

Normal approximation of a binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle (Bonus material)

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

Example trial of size 10

Sampling distribution of a count in R

First, set up a large population of size 10,000 where 10% of the containers are contaminated by benzene. We call benzene a “success” since it is coded as 1. We can see that 10% of the containers are contaminated and 1000 bottles are “successes”

We simulate these data:

```
container.id <- 1:10000
benzene <- c(rep(0, 9000), rep(1, 1000))
pop_data <- data.frame(container.id, benzene)
```

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a Binomial

Normal approximation of a binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle (Bonus material)

Sampling distribution of a count in R

```
# Calculate the population number of bottles contaminated by benzene and the  
# population mean proportion  
pop_stats <- pop_data %>% summarize(pop_num_successes = sum(benzene),  
                                     pop_mean = mean(benzene))
```

```
pop_stats
```

```
##      pop_num_successes pop_mean  
## 1                1000      0.1
```

Sampling distribution of a count in R

Take a sample of size 10 from the population. Note that 10 is much smaller than 10,000.

- ▶ How many contaminated bottles are we expecting in the sample?
- ▶ Given that we sample 10, what is the full range of possible values we could see for X , the number of successes and p the proportion of successes?
- ▶ Which values are most likely?

```
# first sample
set.seed(1)
sample_data <- pop_data %>% sample_n(10)
sample_data %>% summarize(sample_num_successes = sum(benzene),
                          sample_mean = mean(benzene))
```

```
##      sample_num_successes sample_mean
## 1                        1          0.1
```

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a Binomial

Normal approximation of a binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle (Bonus material)

Sampling distribution of a count in R

We only took one sample, and got 2 successes for a sample mean of 20%. Is that usual or unusual?

To see what is most likely, we need to imagine repeatedly taking samples of size 10 from the population and calculating the sample number of successes and proportion of successes for each sample.

For the next few slides, we focus on the sampling distribution for X .

Sampling distribution of a count in R

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

The embedded code takes 1000 samples each of size 10.

It then calculates the mean sample proportion and number of successes for each sample and stores all the results in a data frame.

You don't need to know how the code works.

Sampling distribution of a count in R

Here are the first rows of the data frame we made on the previous slide. Each row represents an independent sample from the population.

```
head(many.sample.stats)
```

##	sample_proportion	sample_num_successes	sample.id
## 1	0.1	1	1
## 2	0.1	1	2
## 3	0.1	1	3
## 4	0.3	3	4
## 5	0.2	2	5
## 6	0.1	1	6

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a Binomial

Normal approximation of a binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle (Bonus material)

Sampling distribution of a count in R

We want to know: Of the 1000 samples, what percent observed 0 contaminated bottles? What percent observed 1 contaminated bottle? And so on. We can use dplyr functions to calculate this and plot the results in a histogram.

```
aggregated.stats <- many.sample.stats %>%  
  group_by(sample_num_successes) %>%  
  summarize(percent = n()/1000)
```

Sampling distribution of a count in R

```
aggregated.stats
```

```
## # A tibble: 5 x 2
##   sample_num_successes percent
##               <dbl>    <dbl>
## 1                   0    0.366
## 2                   1    0.395
## 3                   2    0.186
## 4                   3    0.046
## 5                   4    0.007
```

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

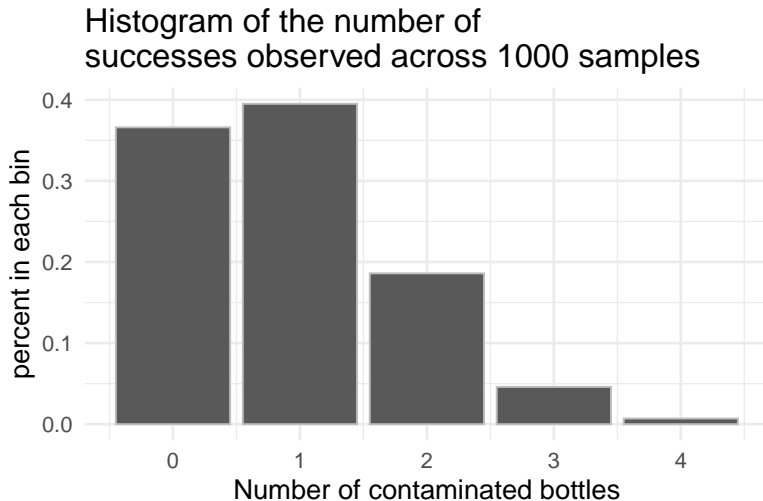
Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

Sampling distribution of a count in R



Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a Binomial

Normal approximation of a binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle (Bonus material)

Sampling distribution of a count in R

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

As we will see in a moment, this histogram *approximates* the shape of the binomial distribution with $n = 10$ and $p = 0.1$. Observing one success is the most likely outcome. Why is that?

Worked probabilities, $x = 0$

We sampled $n=10$ bottles where the probability of success on any one pick is 10%.

- ▶ What is the chance of observing zero contaminated bottles?
- ▶ This means the first bottle is not contaminated and the second bottle is not contaminated, and ... and the tenth bottle is not contaminated

$$P(X_1 = 0 \text{ and } X_2 = 0 \text{ and...and } X_{10} = 0)$$

$= P(X_1 = 0) \times P(X_2 = 0) \times \dots \times P(X_{10} = 0)$, using the multiplication rule for independent events

$$= (0.90)^{10}$$

$$= 0.3486784 = 34.9\%$$

Worked probabilities, $x = 1$

- ▶ What is the chance of observing exactly one contaminated bottle?
- ▶ Suppose that the first bottle was contaminated, then all the rest had to be not contaminated. What is the probability of observing this specific sequence of events?

$$\begin{aligned} &P(X_1 = 1 \text{ and } X_2 = 0 \text{ and } X_3 = 0 \text{ and...and } X_{10} = 0) \\ &= P(X_1 = 1) \times P(X_2 = 0) \times P(X_3 = 0) \dots \times P(X_{10} = 0) \\ &= (0.1)^1 (0.90)^9 \\ &= 0.03874205 = 3.87\% \end{aligned}$$

But we're not done. This is only one specific way of observing exactly one contaminated bottle. What is another way? How many ways are there to observed exactly one contaminated bottle when there are ten bottles?

Worked probabilities, $x = 1$

There are ten ways to observe exactly one contaminated bottle:

- ▶ 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0
- ▶ 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0
- ▶ 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0
- ▶ 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0
- ▶ 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0
- ▶ ...
- ▶ 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1

Worked probabilities, $x = 1$

Remember

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

$$\binom{10}{1} = \frac{10!}{1!(10-1)!} = 10$$

Worked probabilities, $x = 1$

Each of these ten ways has the same probability of occurring.

$P(\text{observed exactly 1 contaminated bottle}) =$

$P(\text{1st bottle is contaminated, and rest are not OR 2nd bottle is contaminated, and rest are not})$

$= (0.1)^1(0.9)^9 + (0.1)^1(0.9)^9 + \dots + (0.1)^1(0.9)^9$, using the addition rule for
disjoint events

$$= 10 \times (0.1)^1(0.9)^9$$

$$= 0.3874205 = 38.7\%$$

Worked probabilities, $x = 1$

We can check our calculations using the `dbinom()` function in R.

```
dbinom(x = 1, size = 10, prob = 0.1)
```

```
## [1] 0.3874205
```

This is exactly the answer we obtained.

Worked probabilities, $x = 2$

What is chance of observing exactly two contaminated bottles?

Following the same line of thinking, suppose that the first two bottles were contaminated. The chance of this happening is:

$$(0.1)^2(0.9)^8 = 0.004303672$$

But how many ways are there to observe exactly two contaminated bottles?

Worked probabilities, $x = 2$

Remember

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

$$\binom{10}{2} = \frac{10!}{2!(10-2)!} = 45$$

You could write out all the possibilities like last time, but there are a lot more!

Worked probabilities, $x = 2$

Note: we can get our calculators or R to perform this calculation for us. On our calculator, we need the button $\binom{n}{k}$, pronounced “n choose k”, and asks how many ways are there to have k successes when there are n individuals? In R we need the function `choose(n, k)`

```
choose(10, 2)
```

```
## [1] 45
```

There are 45 ways to observe exactly two contaminated bottles when you have ten bottles observed.

Make sure you can also perform this calculation on your calculator!

[Binomial Distributions](#)[Sampling distribution of binomial](#)[Example Trial of 2](#)[Example trial of size 10](#)[Binomial probability in R](#)[Mean and Variance of a Binomial](#)[Normal approximation of a binomial](#)[Linking to Pascal's triangle \(Bonus material\)](#)

Worked probabilities, $x = 2$

To get the probability of observing exactly 2 contaminated bottles, because all of the possible combinations are equally possible, we can multiply 45 by the probability of observing the first two bottles as being contaminated:

$$45 \times (0.1)^2(0.9)^8 = 0.1937102 = 19.4\%$$

Check using R:

```
#fill in during class
```

All of the combinations with 10 bottles

Each of these is written as $\binom{10}{k}$, where k is 0, 1, 2, ..., 10. This is known as the **binomial coefficient**.

Let's compute `choose(n, k)`, for $n=10$, and $k=0, 1, 2, \dots, 10$:

##	[,1]	[,2]	[,3]	[,4]	[,5]	[,6]	[,7]	[,8]	[,9]	[,10]	[,11]
## [1,]	1	10	45	120	210	252	210	120	45	10	1

Notice the symmetric structure of `choose(n, k)`. Why is it symmetric?

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

Recal from lecture 15:

If X has the binomial distribution with n observations and probability p of success on each observation, the possible values of X are 0, 1, 2, ..., n . If k is any one of these values,

$$P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$$

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

Binomial probability in R

Binomial probability in R using `dbinom()`

- ▶ Recall for Normal distributions we used `pnorm()` to calculate the probability *below* a given number.
- ▶ For discrete distributions we can calculate the probability of observing a specific value. For example, we can ask: What is the probability that exactly 3 of the ten bottles were contaminated when the risk of contamination was 10%?
- ▶ `dbinom()` is used to compute *exactly* 3

```
dbinom(x = 3, size = 10, prob = 0.1)
```

```
## [1] 0.05739563
```

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a Binomial

Normal approximation of a binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle (Bonus material)

Binomial probability in R using pbinom()

- ▶ Recall for Normal distributions we used `pnorm()` to calculate the probability *below* a given number.
- ▶ For our Binomial, we can also ask, what is the probability that 3 or less of the ten bottles were contaminated when the risk of contamination was 10%?
- ▶ `pbinom()` is used to compute 3 *or less*

```
dbinom(x = 3, size = 10, prob = 0.1)
```

```
## [1] 0.05739563
```

```
pbinom(q = 3, size = 10, prob = 0.1)
```

```
## [1] 0.9872048
```

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

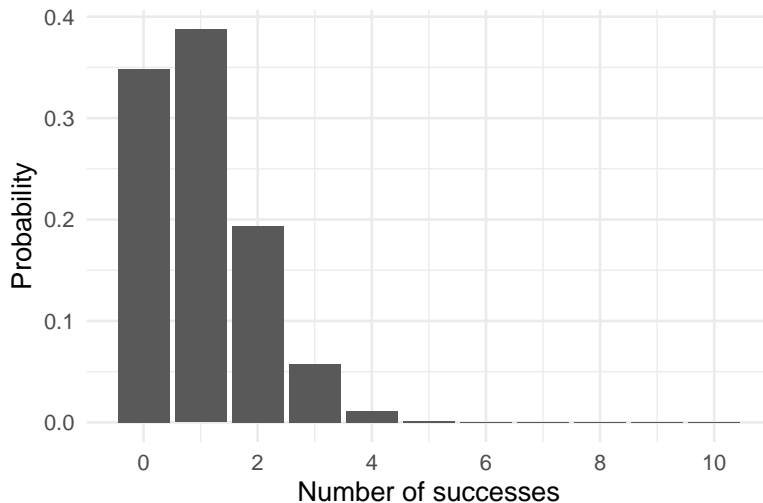
Mean and Variance of a
Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

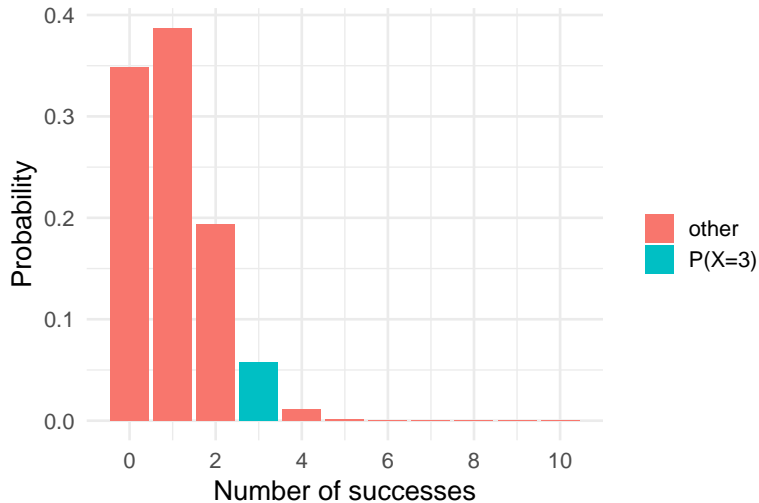
Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

Histogram of binomial probabilities

This histogram shows the probability of observing each value of X . That is, it shows the $P(X = x)$, for x in $0, 1, 2, \dots, 10$, when $X \sim \text{Binom}(n = 10, p = 0.1)$

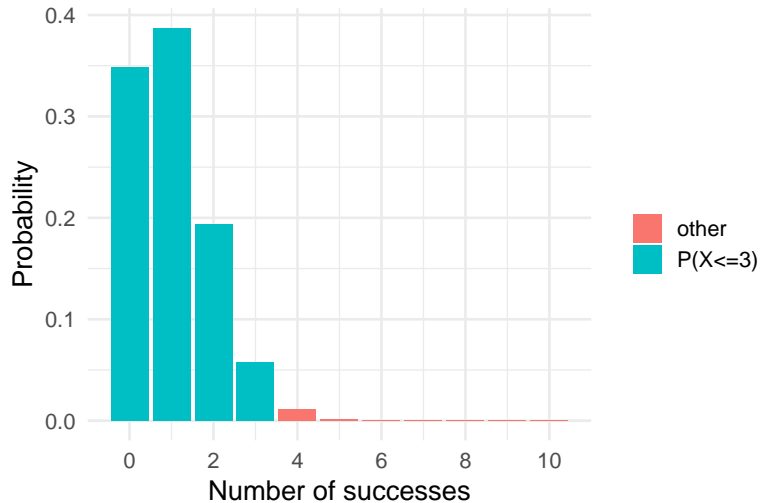


Exact discrete probability, graphed



```
dbinom(x = 3, size = 10, prob = 0.1)
```


Cumulative discrete probability, graphed



```
pbinom(q = 3, size = 10, prob = 0.1)
```

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

**Mean and Variance of a
Binomial**

Normal approximation of a
binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

Mean and Variance of a Binomial

Binomial mean and standard deviation

If a count X has the binomial distribution with n number of observations and p as the probability of success, then the population mean and population standard deviation are:

$$\mu = np$$

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

Binomial Distributions

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Example of mean and SD calculations

Recall our example of the number of bottles contaminated in benzene, where $X \sim \text{Binom}(n = 10, p = 0.1)$.

$$\mu = np = 10 \times 0.1 = 1$$

$$\sigma = \sqrt{np(1-p)} = \sqrt{10 \times 0.1(1-0.1)} = 0.9487$$

Thus, we **expect** to find one container contaminated with benzene per sample, on average. The standard deviation can be thought of, very roughly, as the expected deviation from this mean if you were to take many random samples.

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Binomial

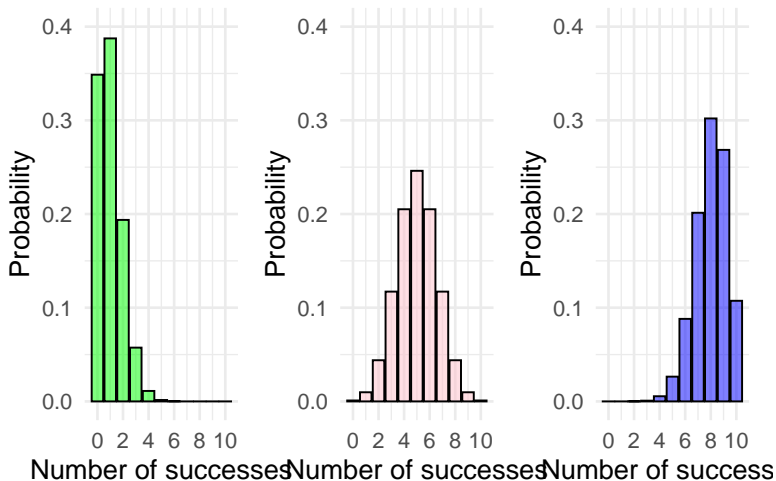
**Normal approximation of a
binomial**

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

Normal approximation of a binomial

Histogram of binomial probabilities with different values for p

Here we have $n = 10$, and $p = 0.10$ (green), 0.5 (pink), and 0.8 (blue)



Histogram of binomial probabilities with different values for p

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of binomial

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How does the shape change when the probability is closer to .5?

What do you think happens when n gets larger?

An approximation to the binomial distribution when n is large

Imagine a setting where $X \sim \text{Binom}(n = 2000, p = 0.62)$. Then:

$$P(X = k) = \binom{2000}{k} 0.62^k (1 - 0.62)^{2000-k}$$

And:

$$P(X \leq k) = \sum_{i=0}^k \binom{2000}{i} 0.62^i (1 - 0.62)^{2000-i}$$

If you were asked to calculate this by hand for, say, $k = 100$, it would take a very long time.

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of binomial

Example Trial of 2

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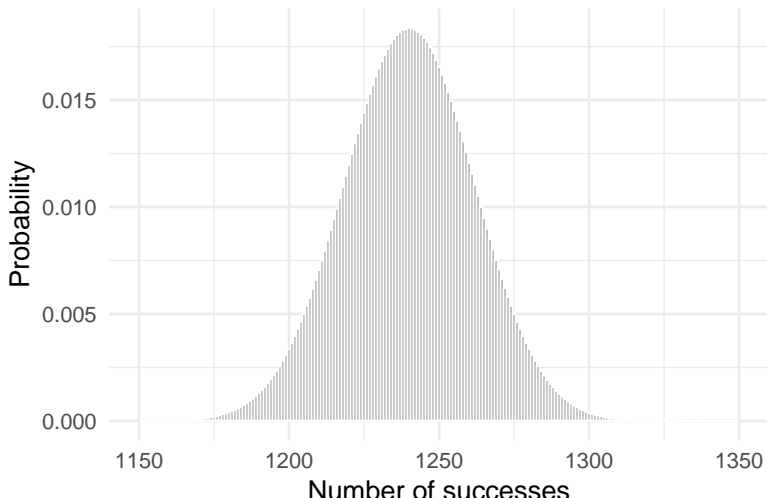
Normal approximation of a binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle (Bonus material)

An approximation to the binomial distribution when n is large

Consider the probability distribution for $P(X = k) = \binom{2000}{k} 0.62^k (1 - 0.62)^{2000-k}$

What shape does this remind you of?

[Binomial Distributions](#)[Sampling distribution of binomial](#)[Example Trial of 2](#)[Example trial of size 10](#)[Binomial probability in R](#)[Mean and Variance of a Binomial](#)[Normal approximation of a binomial](#)[Linking to Pascal's triangle \(Bonus material\)](#)

An approximation to the binomial distribution when n is large

The previous graph is unimodal and symmetric. Let's calculate μ and σ :

$$\mu = np = 2000 \times 0.62 = 1240$$

$$\sigma = \sqrt{np(1-p)} = \sqrt{2000 \times 0.62 \times (1-0.62)} = 21.70714$$

How much data is within 1 SD of the mean?

1240 \pm 1 SD gives the range {1218.293, 1261.707}

Thus, we can use R to add up all the probabilities between $X = 1218$ and $X = 1262$ to give an approximate guess to the area 1 SD from the mean:

This code cycles through the probabilities to add them up

#students, no need to know how to write this code.

```
cumulative.prob <- 0
```

```
for(i in 1218:1262){
  cumulative.prob <- cumulative.prob + point.probs.2k[i]
}
```

```
cumulative.prob
```

```
## [1] 0.6994555
```

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a Binomial

Normal approximation of a binomial

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How much data is within 2 SD of the mean?

1240 \pm 2 SD gives the range {1196.586, 1283.414}

Thus, we can use R to add up all the probabilities between $X = 1197$ and $X = 1283$ to give an approximate guess to the area 1 SD from the mean:

This code cycles through the probabilities to add them up

#students, no need to know how to write this code.

```
cumulative.prob.2 <- 0
```

```
for(i in 1197:1283){
  cumulative.prob.2 <- cumulative.prob.2 + point.probs.2k[i]
}
```

```
cumulative.prob.2
```

```
## [1] 0.9547453
```

► You could also perform the check for 3 SD

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

Mean and Variance of a Binomial

Normal approximation of a binomial

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The Normal approximation to Binomial distributions

From the previous calculations, you might see that the shape looks Normal and that the distribution nearly meets the 68%-95%-99.7% rule. Thus, it is approximately Normal.

This means that you can use the Normal distribution to perform calculations when data is binomially distributed with large n .

Example calculation of the Normal approximation to the Binomial

Suppose we want to calculate $P(X \geq 1250)$ using the Normal approximation.

```
# write the Normal code
```

```
1- pnorm(q = 1250, mean = 1240 , sd = 21.70714)
```

```
## [1] 0.3225149
```

Check how well the approximation worked:

```
# write the binomial code and see how well the approximation is
```

```
1 - pbinom(q = 1249, size = 2000, prob = 0.62)
```

```
## [1] 0.3313682
```

Normal approximation for binomial distributions

Suppose that a count X has the binomial distribution with n observations and success probability p . When n is large, the distribution of X is approximately Normal. That is,

$$X \sim N(\mu = np, \sigma = \sqrt{np(1-p)})$$

As a general rule, we will use the Normal approximation when n is so large that $np \geq 10$ and $n(1-p) \geq 10$.

It is most accurate for p close to 0.5, and least accurate for p closer to 0 or 1.

Normal approximation with continuity correction

This approximation can be improved a tiny bit!

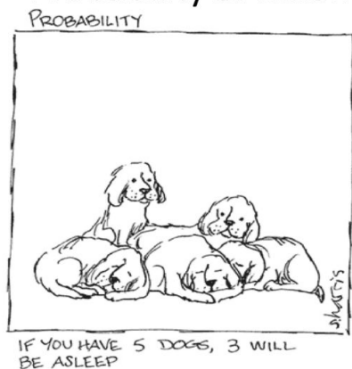
As you know, counts can only take integer values, but continuous data can take any real value. The proper continuous equivalent to a count is the interval around the count with size 1. For example, the continuous equivalent to a 1250 count is the interval between 1249.5 and 1250.5. Thus, we should compute $P(X \geq 1249.5)$ rather than $P(X > 1250)$ for an even more accurate answer.

This correction makes a bigger difference when n is small.

```
1- pnorm(q = 1249.5, mean = 1240 , sd = 21.70714)
```

```
## [1] 0.3308222
```


Comic Relief



L13: The Binomial distributions

Binomial Distributions

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Example Trial of 2

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Normal approximation of a binomial

Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)

Binomial Distributions

Sampling distribution of
binomial

Example Trial of 2

Example trial of size 10

Binomial probability in R

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Binomial

Normal approximation of a
binomial

**Linking to Pascal's triangle
(Bonus material)**

Linking to Pascal's triangle (Bonus material)

An aside: Pascal's triangle

$$\begin{array}{c} \binom{0}{0} \\ \binom{1}{0} \binom{1}{1} \\ \binom{2}{0} \binom{2}{1} \binom{2}{2} \\ \binom{3}{0} \binom{3}{1} \binom{3}{2} \binom{3}{3} \end{array}$$

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Example Trial of 2

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Mean and Variance of a Binomial

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An aside: Pascal's triangle

1
11
121
1331

TED ed Video about Pascal's triangle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMriWTvPXHI>