

# Introduction

(Module 1)

Statistics (MAST20005) & Elements of Statistics (MAST90058)

Semester 2, 2022

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### Aims of this module

- Brief information about this subject
- Brief revision of some prerequisite knowledge (probability)
- Introduce some basic elements of statistics, data analysis and visualisation

## 1 Subject information

### What is statistics?

Let's see some examples. . .

### Examples

- Weather forecasts: [Bureau of Meteorology](#)
- Poll aggregation: [FiveThirtyEight](#), [The Guardian](#)
- Climate change modelling: [Australian Academy of Science](#)
- Discovery of the Higgs Boson (the 'God Particle'): [van Dyk \(2014\)](#)
- Smoking leads to lung cancer: [Doll & Hill \(1945\)](#)
- [A/B testing](#) for websites: Google and 41 shades of blue

### Wei's examples

- Astronomical time-series classification
- Causal inference

### Damjan's examples

- Genome-wide association studies
- Web analytics
- Skin texture image analysis
- [Wedding 'guestimation'](#)

## Goals of statistics

- Answer questions using *data*
- Evaluate *evidence*
- Optimise *study design*
- Make *decisions*

And, importantly:

- Clarify *assumptions*
- Quantify *uncertainty*

## Why study statistics?

“The best thing about being a statistician is that you get to play in everyone’s backyard.” —John W. Tukey (1915–2000)

“I keep saying the sexy job in the next ten years will be *statisticians*... The ability to take data – to be able to understand it, to process it, to extract value from it, to visualize it, to communicate it’s going to be a hugely important skill in the next decades...” —Hal Varian, Google’s Chief Economist, Jan 2009

## The best job

U.S. News [Best Business Jobs](#) in 2022:

1. Medical and Health Services Manager
2. Financial Manager
3. *Statistician*

CareerCast (recruitment website) [Best Jobs of 2021](#):

1. *Data Scientist*
2. Genetic Counselor
3. *Statistician*

## Subject overview

### Statistics (MAST20005), Elements of Statistics (MAST90058)

These subjects introduce the basic elements of *statistical modelling*, *statistical computation* and *data analysis*. They demonstrate that many commonly used statistical procedures arise as applications of a common theory. They are an entry point to further study of both *mathematical* and *applied* statistics, as well as broader data science.

Students will develop the ability to fit statistical models to data, estimate parameters of interest and test hypotheses. Both classical and Bayesian approaches will be covered. The importance of the underlying *mathematical theory of statistics* and the use of *modern statistical software* will be emphasised.

## Joint teaching

MAST20005 and MAST90058 share the same lectures but have separate tutorials and lab classes. The teaching and assessment material for both subjects will overlap significantly.

## Subject website (LMS)

- Full information is on the subject website, available through the Learning Management System (LMS).
- Only a brief overview is covered in these notes. Please read all of the info on the LMS as well.
- New material (e.g. problem sets, assignments, solutions) and announcements will appear regularly on the LMS.

## Computing

- This subject introduces basic statistical computing and programming skills.
- We make extensive use of the [R statistical software environment](#).
- Knowledge of R will be *essential* for some of the tutorial problems, assignment questions and will also be examined.
- We will use the [RStudio](#) program as a convenient interface with R.

## Staff contacts

### Subject coordinator / Lecturer

Dr Damjan Vukcevic <[damjan.vukcevic@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:damjan.vukcevic@unimelb.edu.au)>

### Lecturer

Dr Wei Huang <[wei.huang@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:wei.huang@unimelb.edu.au)>

### Tutorial coordinator

Dr Rekha Mathur <[rekha.mathur@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:rekha.mathur@unimelb.edu.au)>

*See the LMS for details of consultation times*

## Discussion forum

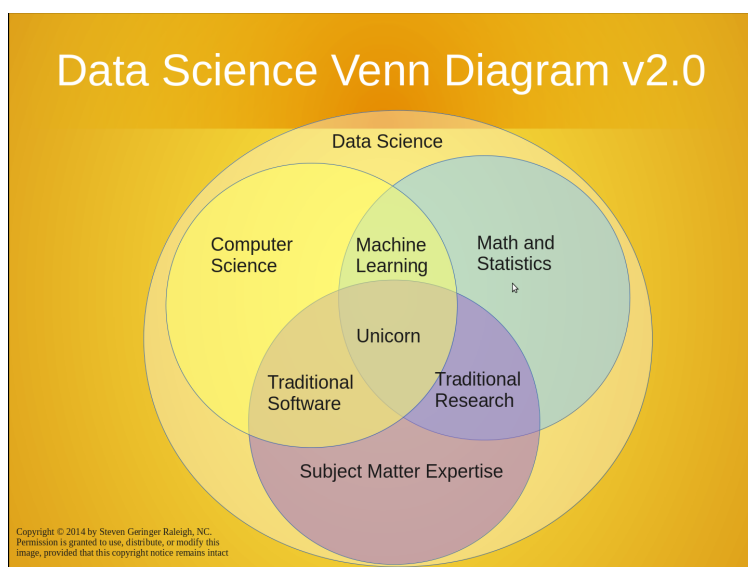
- Access via the LMS
- Post any general questions on the forum
- Do *not* send emails by emailing staff
- You can answer each others' questions
- Staff will also help to answer questions

## Student representatives

Student representatives assist the teaching staff to ensure good communication and feedback from students.

See the LMS to find the contact details of your representatives.

## What is Data Science?



Data science is a 'team sport'

Read more at: [Data science is inclusive](#)

## How to succeed in statistics / data science?

- Get experience with *real data*
- Develop your computational skills, *learn R*
- Understand the *mathematical theory*
- Collaborate with others, *use the discussion forum*

## This subject is challenging

- It is mathematical
  - Manipulating equations
  - Calculus
  - Probability
  - Proofs
- But the ‘real’ world also matters
  - Context can ‘trump’ mathematics
  - More than one correct answer
  - Often uncertain about the answer

## Diversity

In 2017: 341 students

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60%	Bachelor of Commerce
24%	Bachelor of Science
6%	Master of Science (BSc Informatics)
10%	8 other degrees/categories

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What are your strengths and weaknesses?

## Get extra help

- Your classmates
- Discussion forum
- Consultation times
- Textbooks
- [Oasis](#)

## Homework

1. Log in to the discussion forum
2. Install [RStudio](#) on your computer
3. Start reading the [R introduction and reference guide](#) before week 2

## Tips

The best way to learn statistics is by **solving problems** and ‘**getting your hands dirty**’ with data.

We encourage you to attend all lectures, tutorial and computer labs to get as much practice and feedback as possible.

Good luck!

## 2 Review of probability

### Why probability?

- It forms the mathematical foundation for statistical models and procedures
- Let's review what we know already...

### Random variables (notation)

- *Random variables* (rvs) are denoted by uppercase letters:  $X, Y, Z$ , etc.
- *Outcomes*, or *realisations*, of random variables are denoted by corresponding lowercase letters:  $x, y, z$ , etc.

### Distribution functions

- The *cumulative distribution function* (cdf) of  $X$  is

$$F(x) = \Pr(X \leq x), \quad -\infty < x < \infty$$

- If  $X$  is a continuous rv then it has a *probability density function* (pdf),  $f(x)$ , that satisfies

$$f(x) = F'(x) = \frac{d}{dx}F(x)$$
$$F(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(t) dt$$

- If  $X$  is a discrete rv then it has a *probability mass function* (pmf),

$$p(x) = \Pr(X = x), \quad x \in \Omega$$

where  $\Omega$  is a discrete set, e.g.  $\Omega = \{1, 2, \dots\}$ .

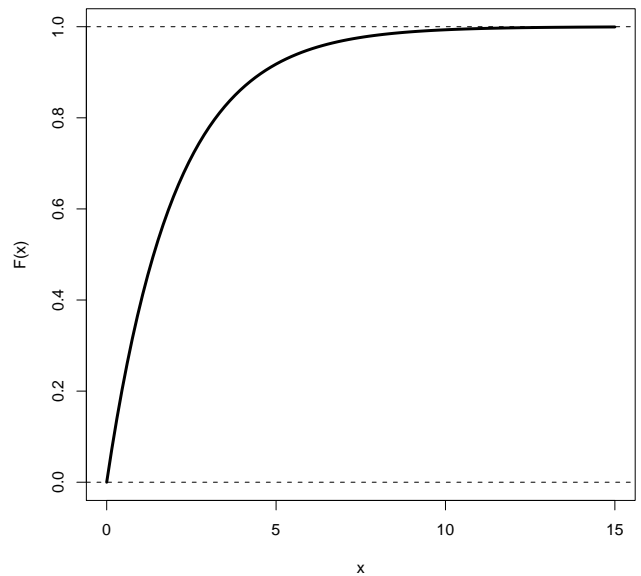
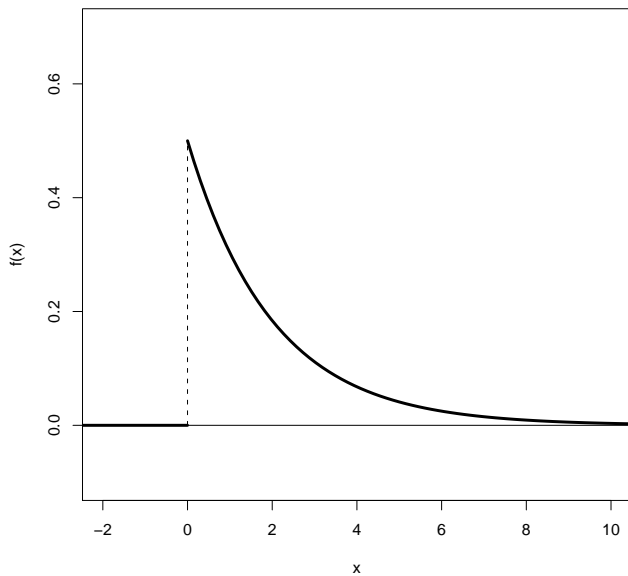
- $\Pr(X > x) = 1 - F(x)$  is called a *tail probability* of  $X$
- $F(x)$  increases to 1 as  $x \rightarrow \infty$  and decreases to 0 as  $x \rightarrow -\infty$
- If the rv has a certain distribution with pdf (or pmf  $p$ ), we write

$$X \sim f \quad (\text{or } X \sim p)$$

### Example: Unemployment duration

A large group of individuals have recently lost their jobs. Let  $X$  denote the length of time (in months) that any particular individual will stay unemployed. It was found that this was well-described by the following pdf:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}e^{-x/2}, & x \geq 0, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



Clearly,  $f(x) \geq 0$  for any  $x$  and the total area under the pdf is:

$$\Pr(-\infty < X < \infty) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2} e^{-x/2} dx = \frac{1}{2} \left[ -2e^{-x/2} \right]_{-\infty}^{\infty} = 1$$

The probability that a person in the population finds a new job within 3 months is:

$$\Pr(0 \leq X \leq 3) = \int_0^3 \frac{1}{2} e^{-x/2} dx = \frac{1}{2} \left[ -2e^{-x/2} \right]_0^3 = 0.7169$$

**Example: Received calls** Add WeChat powcoder

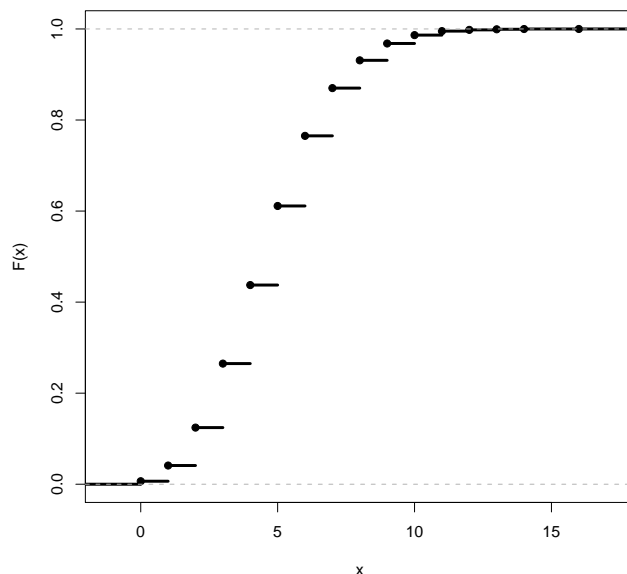
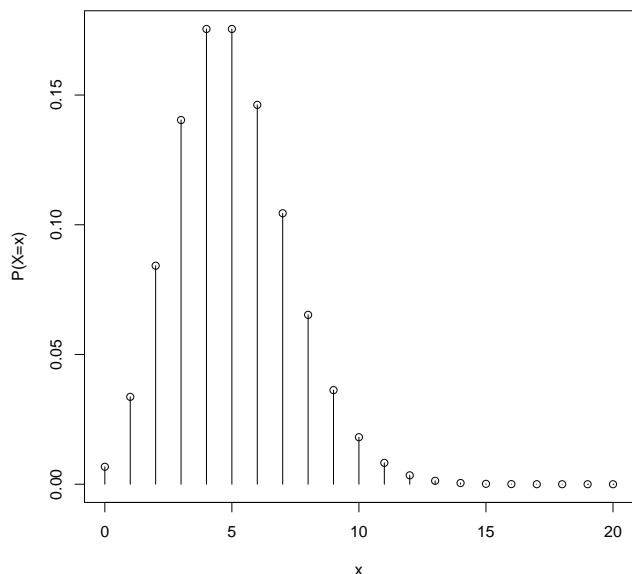
The number of calls received by an office in a given day,  $X$ , is well-represented by a pmf with the following expression:

$$p(x) = \frac{e^{-5} 5^x}{x!}, \quad x \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\},$$

where  $x! = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot \dots \cdot (x-1) \cdot x$  and  $0! = 1$ . For example,

$$\Pr(X = 1) = e^{-5} 5 = 0.03368$$

$$\Pr(X = 3) = \frac{e^{-5} 5^3}{3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} = 0.1403$$



To show that  $p(x)$  is a pmf we need to show

$\sum_{x=0}^{\infty} p(x) = p(0) + p(1) + p(2) + \dots = 1$

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Since the Taylor series expansion of  $e^z$  is  $\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} z^i / i!$ , we can write

$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-5} 5^x}{x!} = e^{-5} \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{5^x}{x!} = e^{-5} e^5 = 1$

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**Moments and variance**

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- The *expected value* (or the *first moment*) of a rv is denoted by  $\mathbb{E}(X)$  and

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_{x=-\infty}^{\infty} x p(x) \quad (\text{discrete rv})$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) dx \quad (\text{continuous rv})$$

- Higher moments*,  $\mu_k = \mathbb{E}(X^k)$ , for  $k \geq 1$ , can be obtained by

$$\mathbb{E}(X^k) = \sum_{x=-\infty}^{\infty} x^k p(x) \quad (\text{discrete rv})$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X^k) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^k f(x) dx \quad (\text{continuous rv})$$

- More generally for a function  $g(x)$  we can compute

$$\mathbb{E}(g(X)) = \sum_{x=-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) p(x) \quad (\text{discrete rv})$$

$$\mathbb{E}(g(X)) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) f(x) dx \quad (\text{continuous rv})$$

Letting  $g(x) = x^k$  gives the moments.

- The *variance* of  $X$  is defined by

$$\text{var}(X) = \mathbb{E} \left\{ (X - \mathbb{E}(X))^2 \right\}$$

and the *standard deviation* of  $X$  is  $\text{sd}(X) = \sqrt{\text{var}(X)}$

- “Computational” formula:  $\text{var}(X) = \mathbb{E}(X^2) - \{\mathbb{E}(X)\}^2$

### Basic properties of expectation and variance

- For any rv  $X$  and constant  $c$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}(cX) = c\mathbb{E}(X), \quad \text{var}(cX) = c^2 \text{var}(X)$$

- For any two rvs  $X$  and  $Y$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}(X + Y) = \mathbb{E}(X) + \mathbb{E}(Y)$$

- For any two *independent* rvs  $X$  and  $Y$ ,

$$\text{var}(X + Y) = \text{var}(X) + \text{var}(Y)$$

- More generally,

$$\text{var}(X + Y) = \text{var}(X) + \text{var}(Y) + 2 \text{cov}(X, Y)$$

where  $\text{cov}(X, Y)$  is the *covariance* between  $X$  and  $Y$

### Covariance

- Definition of covariance:

$$\text{cov}(X, Y) = \mathbb{E} \{ (X - \mathbb{E}(X))(Y - \mathbb{E}(Y)) \}$$

- Specifically, for the continuous case

$$\text{cov}(X, Y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mathbb{E}(X))(y - \mathbb{E}(Y)) f(x, y) dx dy$$

where  $f(x, y)$  is the bivariate pdf for pair  $(X, Y)$ .

- “Computational” formula

$$\begin{aligned} \text{cov}(X, Y) &= \mathbb{E} \{ (X - \mathbb{E}(X))(Y - \mathbb{E}(Y)) \} \\ &= \mathbb{E}(XY) - \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y) \end{aligned}$$

### Correlation

- If  $\text{cov}(X, Y) > 0$  then  $X$  and  $Y$  are *positively correlated*
- If  $\text{cov}(X, Y) < 0$  then  $X$  and  $Y$  are *negatively correlated*
- If  $\text{cov}(X, Y) = 0$  then  $X$  and  $Y$  are *uncorrelated*
- The *correlation* between  $X$  and  $Y$  is defined as:

$$\rho = \text{cor}(X, Y) = \frac{\text{cov}(X, Y)}{\text{sd}(X) \text{sd}(Y)}, \quad -1 \leq \rho \leq 1$$

- When  $\rho = \pm 1$  then  $X$  and  $Y$  are perfectly correlated



## Moment generating functions

- A *moment generating function (mgf)* of a rv  $X$  is

$$M_X(t) = \mathbb{E}(e^{tX}), \quad t \in (-\infty, \infty)$$

- It enables us to generate moments of  $X$  by differentiating at  $t = 0$

$$M'_X(0) = \mathbb{E}(X)$$

$$M_X^{(k)}(0) = \mathbb{E}(X^k), \quad k \geq 1$$

- The mgf uniquely determines a distribution. Hence, knowing the mgf is the same as knowing the distribution.
- If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent rvs,

$$M_{X+Y}(t) = \mathbb{E}\{e^{t(X+Y)}\} = \mathbb{E}\{e^{tX}\} \mathbb{E}\{e^{tY}\} = M_X(t)M_Y(t)$$

i.e. the mgf of the sum is the product of individual mgfs.

## Bernoulli distribution

- $X$  takes on the values 1 (success) or 0 (failure)
- $X \sim \text{Be}(p)$  with pmf

$$p(x) = p^x(1-p)^{1-x}, \quad x \in \{0, 1\}$$

- Properties:

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = p$$

$$\text{var}(X) = p(1-p)$$

$$M_X(t) = pe^t + 1 - p$$

## Binomial distribution

- $X \sim \text{Bi}(n, p)$  with pmf

$$p(x) = \binom{n}{x} p^x (1-p)^{n-x}, \quad x \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$$

- Properties:

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = np$$

$$\text{var}(X) = np(1-p)$$

$$M_X(t) = (pe^t + 1 - p)^n$$

## Poisson distribution

- $X \sim \text{Pn}(\lambda)$  with pmf

$$p(x) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!}, \quad x \in \{0, 1, \dots\}$$

- Properties:

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \text{var}(X) = \lambda$$

$$M_X(t) = e^{\lambda(e^t - 1)}$$

- It arises as an approximation to  $\text{Bi}(n, p)$ . Letting  $\lambda = np$  gives

$$p(x) = \binom{n}{x} p^x (1-p)^{n-x} \approx e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!}$$

as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and  $p \rightarrow 0$ .

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## Uniform distribution

- $X \sim \text{Unif}(a, b)$  with pdf

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{b-a}, \quad x \in (a, b)$$

- Properties:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(X) &= \frac{(a+b)}{2} \\ \text{var}(X) &= \frac{(b-a)^2}{12} \\ M_X(t) &= \frac{e^{tb} - e^{ta}}{t(b-a)}\end{aligned}$$

- If  $b = 1$  and  $a = 0$ , this is known as the uniform distribution over the unit interval.

## Exponential distribution

- $X \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$  with pdf

$$f(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}, \quad x \in [0, \infty)$$

- It approximates “time until first success” for independent  $\text{Be}(p)$  trials every  $\Delta t$  units of time with  $p = \lambda \Delta t$  and  $\Delta t \rightarrow 0$
- Properties:

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$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(X) &= 1/\lambda \\ \text{var}(X) &= 1/\lambda^2\end{aligned}$$

$$M_X(t) = \frac{\lambda}{\lambda - t}$$

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- It is famous for being the only continuous distribution with the *memoryless property*:

$$\Pr(X > y+x \mid X > y) = \Pr(X > x), \quad x \geq 0, \quad y \geq 0.$$

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## Normal distribution

- $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$  with pdf

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}, \quad x \in (-\infty, \infty), \quad \mu \in (-\infty, \infty), \quad \sigma > 0$$

- It is important in applications because of the Central Limit Theorem (CLT)
- Properties:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(X) &= \mu \\ \text{var}(X) &= \sigma^2 \\ M_X(t) &= e^{t\mu + t^2\sigma^2/2}\end{aligned}$$

- When  $\mu = 0$  and  $\sigma = 1$  we have the *standard normal distribution*.
- If  $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ ,

$$Z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma} \sim N(0, 1)$$

## Quantiles

Let  $X$  be a continuous rv. The  $p$ th *quantile* of its distribution is a number  $\pi_p$  such that  $p = \Pr(X \leq \pi_p) = F(\pi_p)$ .

In other words, the area under  $f(x)$  to the left of  $\pi_p$  is  $p$ :

$$p = \int_{-\infty}^{\pi_p} f(x) dx = F(\pi_p)$$

- $\pi_p$  is also called the  $(100p)$ th *percentile*
- The 50th percentile (0.5 quantile) is the *median*, denoted by  $m = \pi_{0.5}$
- The 25th and 75th percentiles are the first and third *quartiles*, denoted by  $q_1 = \pi_{0.25}$  and  $q_3 = \pi_{0.75}$

### Example: Weibull distribution

The time  $X$  until failure of a certain product has the pdf

$$f(x) = \frac{3x^2}{4} e^{-(x/4)^3}, \quad x \in (0, \infty).$$

The cdf is

$$F(x) = 1 - e^{-(x/4)^3}, \quad x \in (0, \infty)$$

Then  $\pi_{0.3}$  satisfies  $0.3 = F(\pi_{0.3})$ . Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} 1 - e^{-(\pi_{0.3}/4)^3} &= 0.3 \\ \Rightarrow \ln(0.7) &= -(\pi_{0.3}/4)^3 \\ \Rightarrow \pi_{0.3} &= -4(\ln 0.7)^{1/3} = 2.84. \end{aligned}$$

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### Law of Large Numbers (LLN)

Consider a collection  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  of independent and identically distributed (*iid*) random variables with  $\mathbb{E}(X) = \mu < \infty$ , then with probability 1 we have

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \rightarrow \mu, \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

The LLN ‘guarantees’ that long-run averages behave as we expect them to:

$$\mathbb{E}(X) \approx \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i.$$

### Central Limit Theorem (CLT)

Consider a collection  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  of iid rvs with  $\mathbb{E}(X) = \mu < \infty$  and  $\text{var}(X) = \sigma^2 < \infty$ . Let,

$$\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i.$$

Then

$$\frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}$$

follows a  $N(0, 1)$  distribution as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

This is an extremely important theorem! It provides the ‘magic’ that will make statistical analysis work.

### Example

Let  $X_1, \dots, X_{25}$  be iid rvs where  $X_i \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda = 1/5)$ .

Recall that  $\mathbb{E}(X) = 5$ .

Thus, the LLN implies

$$\bar{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{E}(X) = 5.$$

Moreover, since  $\text{var}(X) = 1/\lambda^2 = 25$ , we have

$$\bar{X} \approx N\left(\frac{1}{\lambda}, \frac{1}{n\lambda^2}\right) = N\left(5, \frac{5^2}{25}\right)$$

Is  $n = 25$  large enough?

### A simulation exercise

Generate  $B = 1000$  samples of size  $n$ . For each sample compute  $\bar{x}$ . The continuous curve is the normal  $N(5, 5^2/n)$  distribution prescribed by the CLT.

Sample 1:  $x_1^{(1)}, \dots, x_n^{(1)} \rightarrow \bar{x}^{(1)}$

Sample 2:  $x_1^{(2)}, \dots, x_n^{(2)} \rightarrow \bar{x}^{(2)}$

$\vdots$

Sample B:  $x_1^{(B)}, \dots, x_n^{(B)} \rightarrow \bar{x}^{(B)}$

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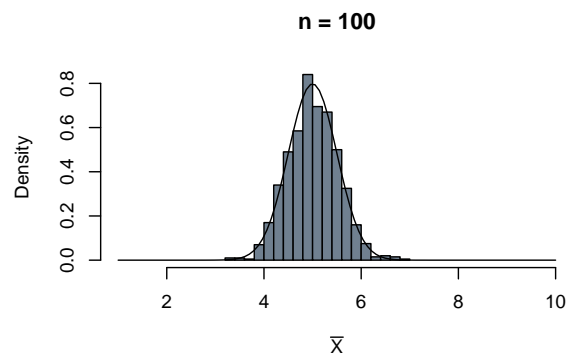
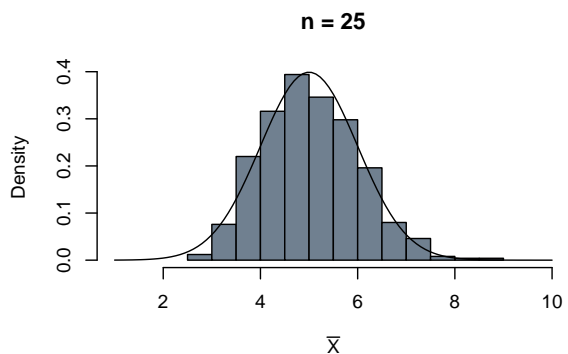
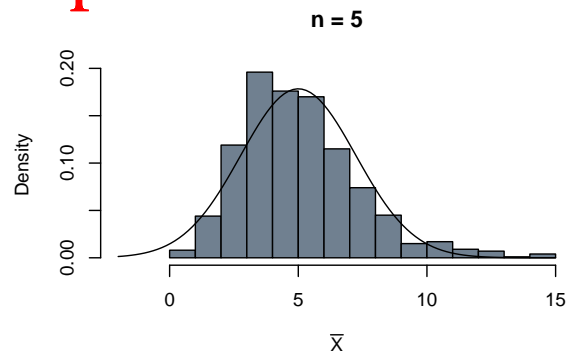
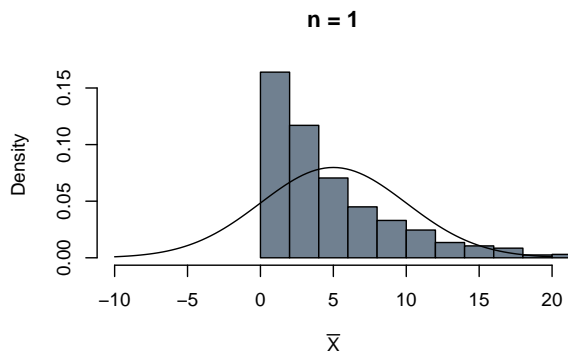
Then represent the distribution of  $\{\bar{x}^{(b)}, b = 1, \dots, B\}$  by a histogram.

### A simulation exercise

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The distribution of  $\bar{X}$  approaches the theoretical distribution (CLT). Moreover it will be more and more concentrated around  $\mu$  (LLN). To see this, note that  $\text{var}(\bar{X}) = \sigma^2/n \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

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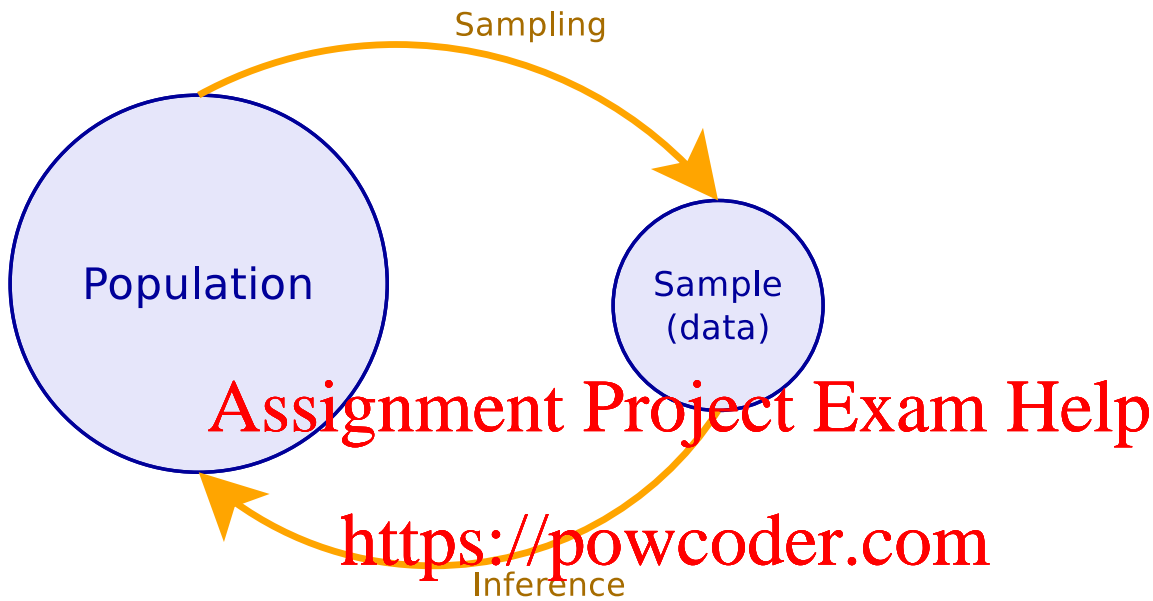
### Challenge problem

Let  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_{25}$  be iid rvs with pdf  $f(x) = ax^3$  where  $0 < x < 2$ .

1. What is the value of  $a$ ?
2. Calculate  $\mathbb{E}(X_1)$  and  $\text{var}(X_1)$ .
3. What is an approximate value of  $\Pr(\bar{X} < 1.5)$ ?

## 3 Descriptive statistics

Statistics: the big picture



Example: Stress and cancer

- An experiment gives independent measurements on 10 mice
- Mice are divided in control and stress groups
- The biologist considers two different proteins:
  - Vascular endothelial growth factor C (VEGFC)
  - Prostaglandin-endoperoxide synthase 2 (COX2)

Mouse	Group	VEGFC	COX2
1	Control	0.96718	14.05901
2	Control	0.51940	6.92926
3	Control	0.73276	0.02799
4	Control	0.96008	6.16924
5	Control	1.25964	7.32697
6	Stress	4.05745	6.45443
7	Stress	2.41335	12.95572
8	Stress	1.52595	13.26786
9	Stress	6.07073	55.03024
10	Stress	5.07592	29.92790

## Data & sampling

- The *data* are numbers:

$$x_1, \dots, x_n$$

- The model for the data is a *random sample*, that is a sequence of iid rvs:

$$X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$$

This model is equivalent to random selection from a hypothetical infinite *population*.

- The goal is to use the data to learn about the distribution of the random variables (and, therefore, the population).

## Statistic

- A *statistic*  $T = \phi(X_1, \dots, X_n)$  is a function of the sample and its realisation is denoted by  $t = \phi(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ .
- Note: the word “statistic” can also be used to refer to both the realisation,  $t$ , as well as the random variable,  $T$ . Sometime need to be more specific about which one is meant.
- A statistic has two purposes:
  - Describe or summarise the sample — *descriptive statistics*
  - Estimate the distribution generating the sample — *inferential statistics*
- A statistic can be both descriptive and inferential, it depends on how you wish to use/interpret it (see later)
- We now introduce some commonly used descriptive statistics...

## Moment statistics

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$$\text{Sample mean} = \bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i = \frac{23.59}{10} = 2.359$$

$$\text{Sample variance} = s^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2 = 3.98761$$

$$\text{Sample standard deviation} = s = \sqrt{3.98761} = 1.9969$$

These are ‘sample’ or ‘empirical’ versions of moments of a random variable

*Empirical* means ‘derived from the data’

## Order statistics

Arrange the sample  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  in order of increasing magnitude and define:

$$x_{(1)} \leq x_{(2)} \leq \dots \leq x_{(n)}$$

Then  $x_{(k)}$  is the  $k$ th *order statistic*.

Special cases:

- $x_{(1)}$  is the *sample minimum*
- $x_{(n)}$  is the *sample maximum*

For the example data,

$$x_{(1)} = 0.52, \quad x_{(2)} = 0.73, \quad \dots, \quad x_{(10)} = 6.07$$

What is  $x_{(3.25)}$ ?

Let it be 0.25 of the way from  $x_{(3)}$  to  $x_{(4)}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}x_{(3.25)} &= x_{(3)} + 0.25 \cdot (x_{(4)} - x_{(3)}) \\&= 0.96 + 0.25 \cdot (0.97 - 0.96) \\&= 0.9625\end{aligned}$$

In other words, define it via **linear interpolation**.

Exercise: verify that  $x_{(7.75)} = 3.6480$

Why do this? It allows us to define...

## Sample quantiles

General definition ('Type 7' quantiles):

$$\hat{\pi}_p = x_{(k)}, \text{ where } k = 1 + (n - 1)p$$

Special cases:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Sample median} &= \hat{\pi}_{0.5} = x_{(5.5)} = \frac{1.26 + 1.53}{2} = 1.395 \\ \text{Sample 1st quartile} &= \hat{\pi}_{0.25} = x_{(3.25)} = 0.9625 \\ \text{Sample 3rd quartile} &= \hat{\pi}_{0.75} = x_{(7.75)} = 3.6480\end{aligned}$$

Also:

*Interquartile range* =  $\hat{\pi}_{0.75} - \hat{\pi}_{0.25} = 2.685$   
 $\hat{\pi}_{0.25}$  and  $\hat{\pi}_{0.75}$  contain about 50% of the sample between them

Note: Type 7 quantiles are the default in R, but there are many alternatives! Don't worry too much about the differences between them. We will discuss this in a bit more detail later in the semester.

## Some descriptive statistics in R

```
> x <- round(VEGFPC, digit = 2)
> x
[1] 0.97 0.52 0.73 0.96 1.26 4.06 2.41 1.53 6.07 5.08
> sort(x)      # order statistics
[1] 0.52 0.73 0.96 0.97 1.26 1.53 2.41 4.06 5.08 6.07
> summary(x)   # sample mean & sample quantiles
  Min. 1st Qu.  Median    Mean 3rd Qu.    Max.
0.5200 0.9625  1.3950  2.3590  3.6475  6.0700
> var(x)      # sample variance
[1] 3.98761
> sd(x)       # sample standard deviation
[1] 1.9969
> IQR(x)      # interquartile range
[1] 2.685
```

## Frequency statistics

Can also define empirical versions of pdf, pmf, cdf

Will see in the next section...

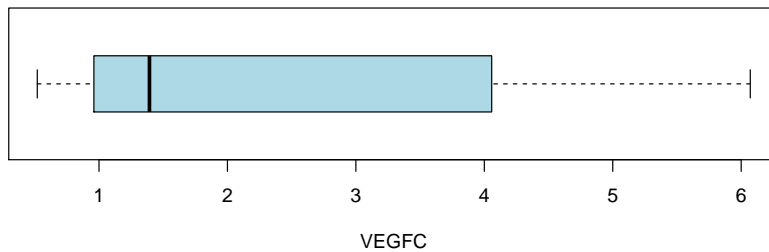
## 4 Basic data visualisations

### Box plot

Graphical summary of data from a single variable

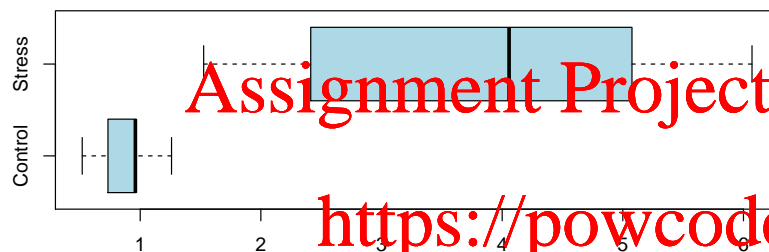
Main box:  $\hat{\pi}_{0.25}$ ,  $\hat{\pi}_{0.5}$ ,  $\hat{\pi}_{0.75}$

‘Whiskers’:  $x_{(1)}$ ,  $x_{(n)}$  (but R does something more complicated, see tutorial problems)



Convenient way of comparing data from different groups

### Example: VEGFC (Stress vs Control)



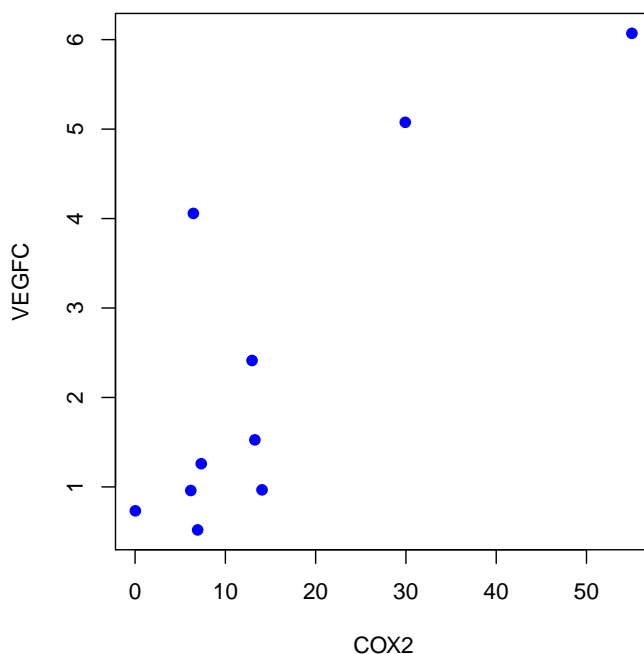
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### Scatter plot

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For comparing data from two variables (usually continuous)





## Empirical cdf

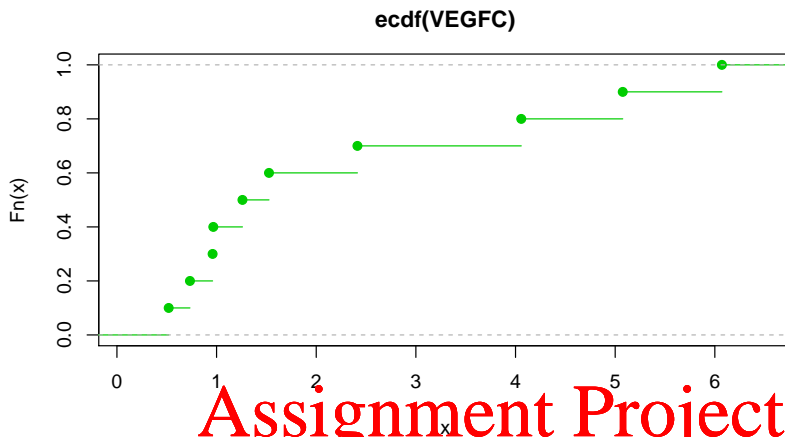
The *sample cdf*, or *empirical cdf*, is defined as

$$\hat{F}(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n I(x_i \leq x)$$

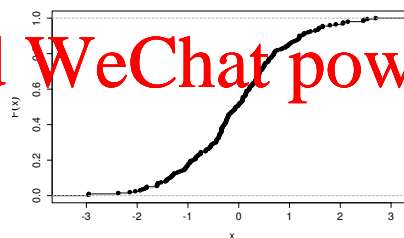
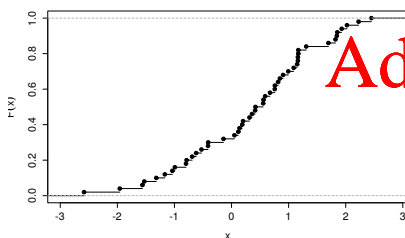
where  $I(\cdot)$  is the indicator function ( $I(x_i \leq x)$  has value 1 if  $x_i \leq x$  and value 0 if  $x_i > x$ ).

For example, for the previous data,

$$\hat{F}(2) = \frac{1}{10} \sum_{i=1}^{10} I(x_i \leq 2) = \frac{6}{10} = 0.6$$



It has the form of a discrete cdf. However, it will approximate the cdf of a continuous variable if the sample size is large. The following diagram shows cdfs based on  $n = 50$  and  $n = 200$  observations sampled from a standard normal distribution,  $N(0, 1)$ .

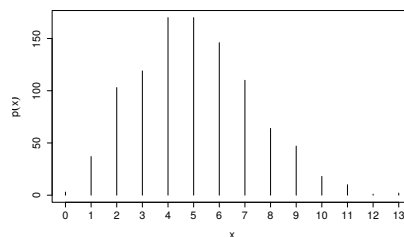
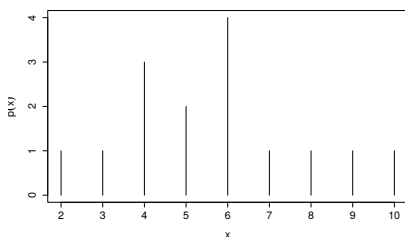


## Empirical pmf

If the underlying variable is discrete we use the pmf corresponding to the sample cdf  $\hat{F}$

$$\hat{p}(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n I(x_i = x)$$

For example, the following shows  $\hat{p}(x)$  of size  $n = 15$  from  $Pn(5)$  (left) and the true pmf  $p(x)$  of  $Pn(5)$  (right)



## Histograms and smoothed pdfs

If the underlying variable is continuous we would prefer to obtain an approximation of the pdf. There are several approaches that can be used:

1. *Histogram*,  $\hat{f}_h$  ( $h$  is the bin length). First divide the entire range of values into a series of small intervals (bins) and then count how many values fall into each interval. For interval  $[a, b)$ , where  $b - a = h$ , draw a rectangle with height:

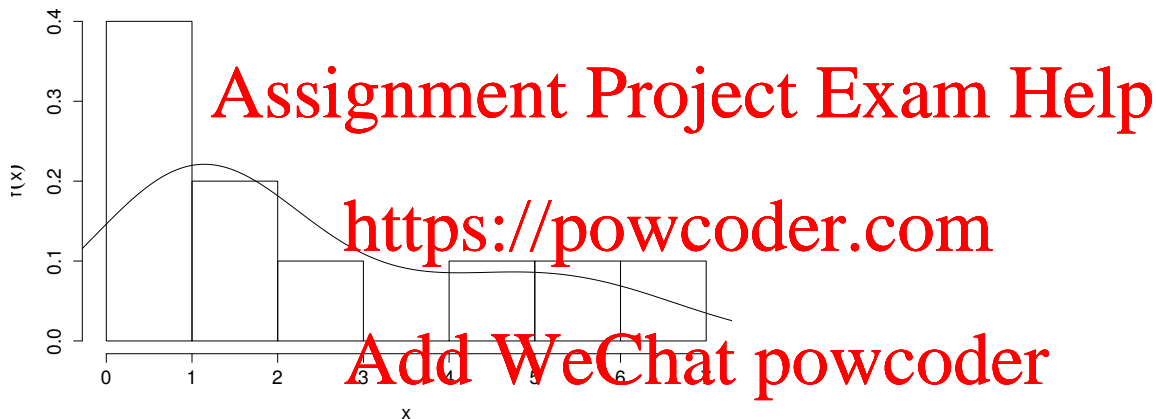
$$\hat{f}_h(x) = \frac{1}{hn} \sum_{i=1}^n I(a \leq x_i < b)$$

2. *Smoothed pdf*,  $\hat{f}_h$  ( $h$  is the 'bandwidth parameter'),

$$\hat{f}_h(x) = \frac{1}{hn} \sum_{i=1}^n K\left(\frac{x_i - x}{h}\right),$$

where  $K(\cdot)$  is the *kernel* (a non-negative function that integrates to 1 and with mean zero) and  $h$  is a parameter that controls the level of smoothing.

### Example: VEGFC

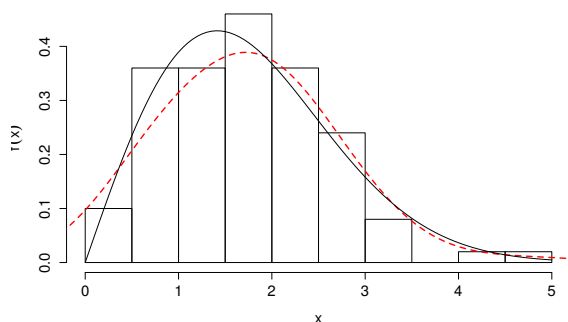


### Simulated data

Consider  $n = 100$  observations from the Weibull distribution with pdf

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2}xe^{-(x/2)^2}, x > 0$$

True density (solid black curve), smoothed pdf (red dashed curve)



## Quantile-quantile (QQ) plots

- For comparing the similarity of two probability distributions
- We plot their quantiles against each other (as a scatter plot)
- Typically, we compare data against a theoretical distribution
- The points in the plot are  $(\hat{\pi}_p, \pi_p)$
- **Note:** some people plot these the other way around:  $(\pi_p, \hat{\pi}_p)$
- One axis shows the data, written here as sample quantiles:

$$\hat{\pi}_p = x_{(k)}, \quad \text{where } p = \frac{k}{n+1} \quad (\text{'Type 6' quantiles})$$

for  $k = 1, \dots, n$

- Other axis shows corresponding quantiles for a theoretical distribution:

$$\pi_p = F^{-1}(p) = F^{-1}\left(\frac{k}{n+1}\right)$$

- The points in the plot therefore are,

$$\left\{ x_{(k)}, F^{-1}\left(\frac{k}{n+1}\right) \right\}.$$

### Example: VEGFC

Is the sample from an exponential distribution with cdf  $F(x) = 1 - e^{-\lambda x}$ ?

Sample quantiles (data):

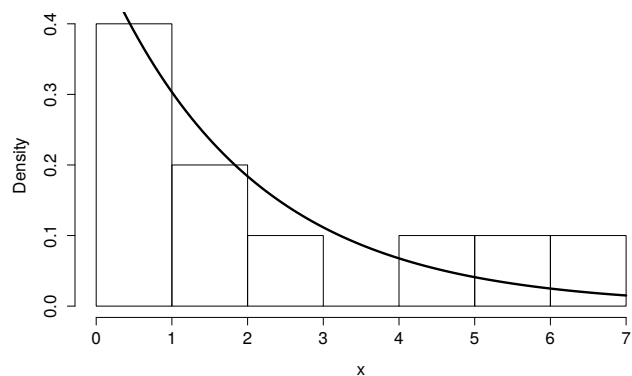
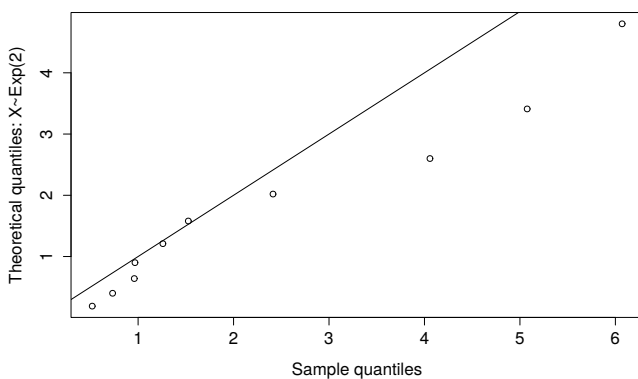
$$x_{(1)} = 0.52, x_{(2)} = 0.73, \dots, x_{(10)} = 6.07$$

Theoretical quantiles:

$$F^{-1}(p) = -\ln(1-p)/\lambda \quad (\text{e.g. set } \lambda = 0.5)$$

$$1/(10+1) = 0.09, 2/(10+1) = 0.18, \dots, 10/(10+1) = 0.91$$

$$F^{-1}(0.09) = 0.19, F^{-1}(0.18) = 0.40, \dots, F^{-1}(0.91) = 6.87$$



The right tail of the sample does not quite match the theoretical model (tail of the sample distribution is heavier).

## Normal QQ plots

If  $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ , then  $X = \mu + \sigma Z$ , where  $Z \sim N(0, 1)$ . Therefore, if the normal model is correct

$$x_{(k)} \approx \mu + \sigma \Phi^{-1}\left(\frac{k}{n+1}\right)$$

where  $\Phi(z) = P(Z \leq z)$  is the standard normal cdf.

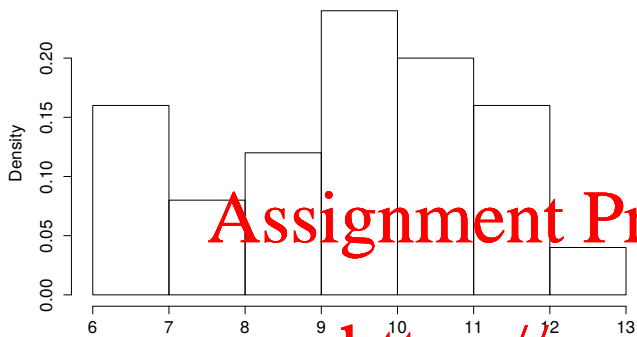
So, if we plot the points

$$\left(\Phi^{-1}\left(\frac{k}{n+1}\right), x_{(k)}\right), \quad k = 1, \dots, n$$

the result should be a straight line with intercept  $\mu$  and slope  $\sigma$ . The values  $\Phi^{-1}(k/(n+1))$  are called *normal scores*.

### Example: simulated data

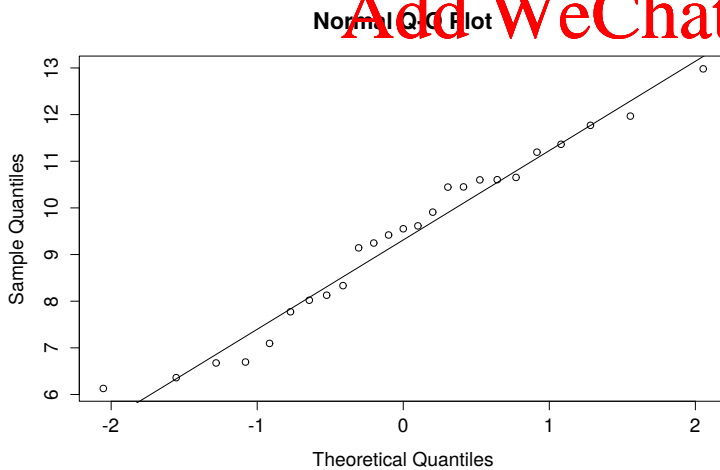
Consider 25 observations from  $X \sim N(10, 2)$ . The histogram is not very helpful:



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But the QQ plot is much clearer:



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