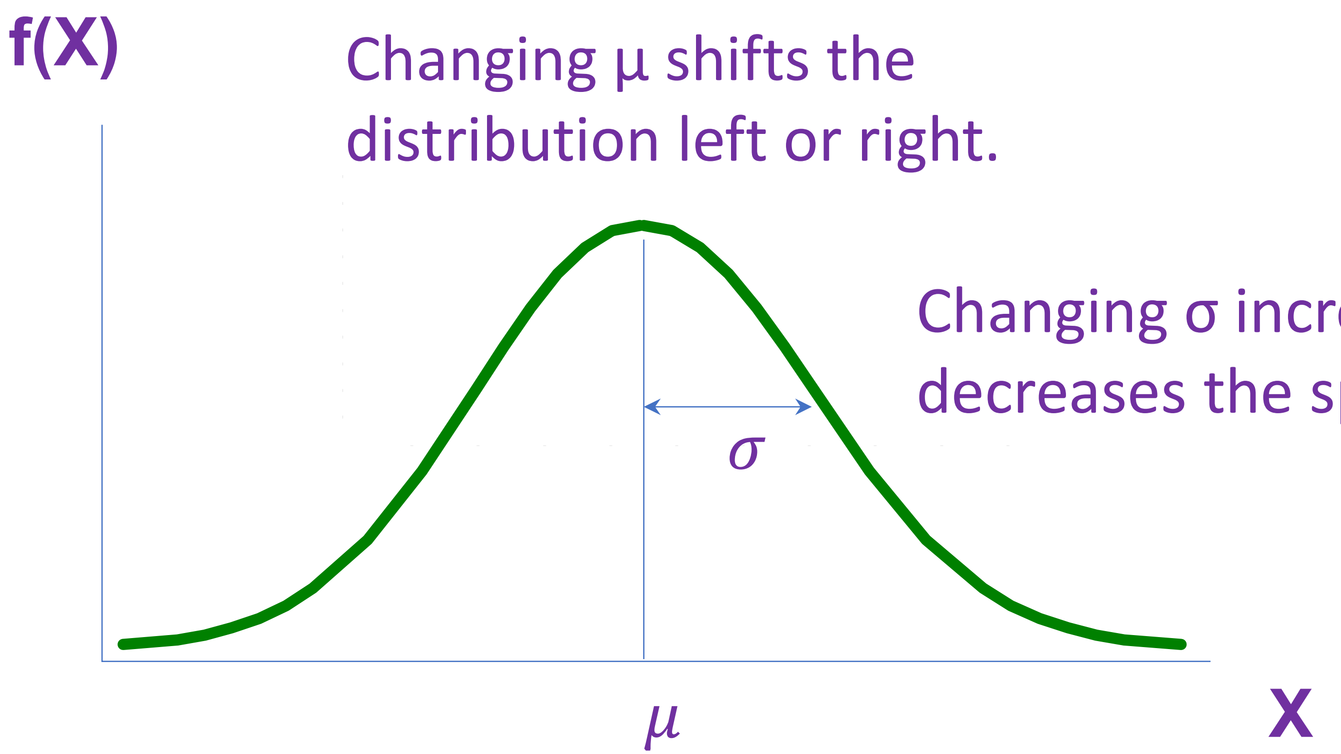
Continuous Probability Distributions

The Normal Distribution

Normal Distribution, also called Gaussian Distribution, is one of the widely used continuous distributions existing which is used to model a number of scenarios such as marks of students, heights of people, salaries of working people etc.



The Normal Distribution: as mathematical function (pdf)

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\boxed{\sigma}\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\boxed{\mu}}{\sigma}\right)^2}$$

This is a bell shaped curve with different centers and spreads depending on μ and σ

<u>Note constants:</u>
π=3.14159
e=2.71828

The Normal PDF

It's a probability function, so no matter what the values of μ and σ, must integrate to 1!

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma})^2} dx = 1$$

Normal distribution is defined by its mean and standard dev.

$E(X)=\mu =$ $$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma})^2} dx$$

$Var(X)=\sigma^2 =$ $$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x^2 \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma})^2} dx) - \mu^2$$

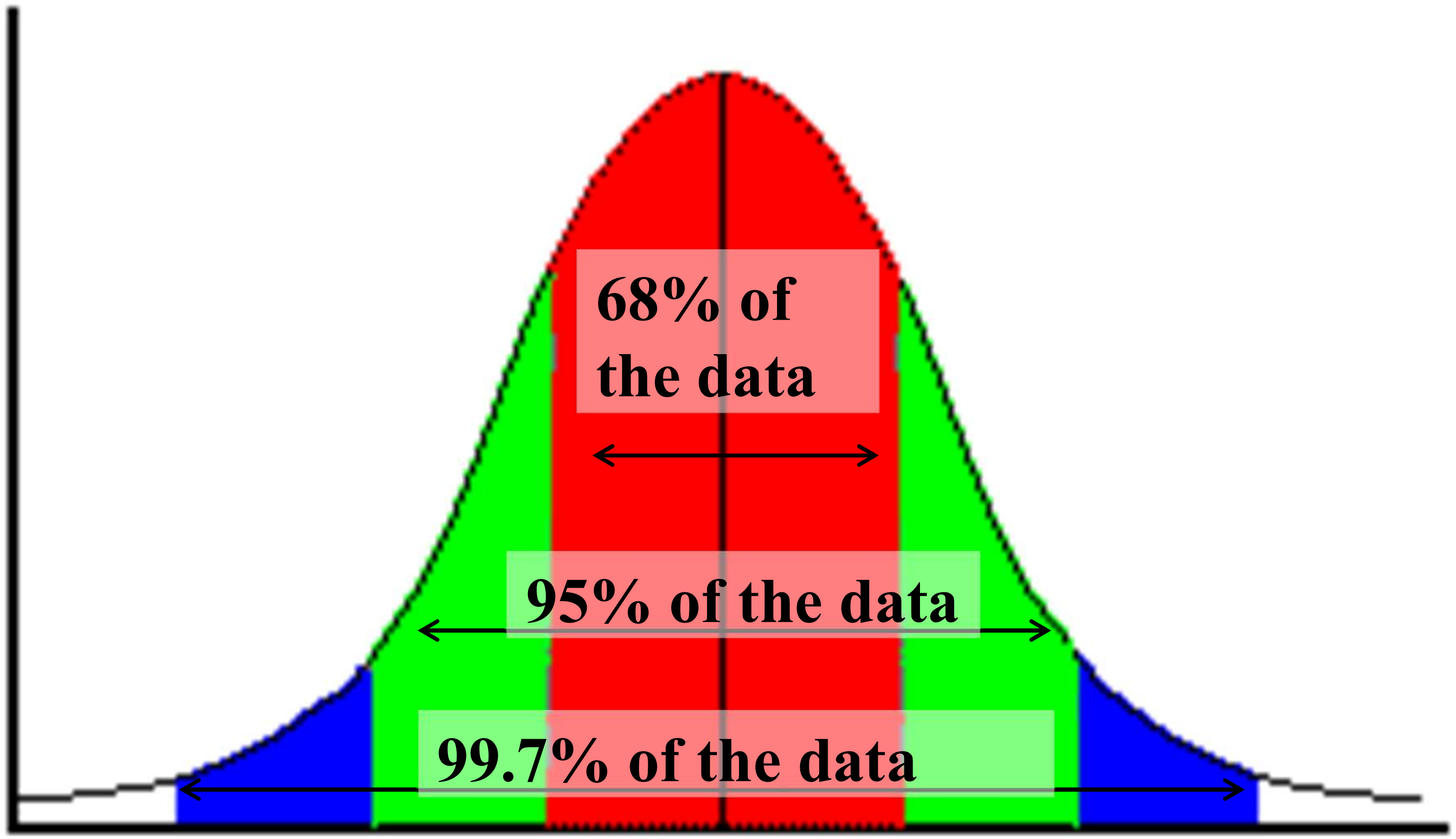
Standard Deviation(X)=σ

The moment generating function of a normal distribution with respect to origin is $$e^{\mu t+\frac{1}{2}t^2\sigma^2}$$

**The beauty of the normal curve:

No matter what μ and σ are, the area between $\mu-\sigma$ and $\mu+\sigma$ is about 68%; the area between $\mu-2\sigma$ and $\mu+2\sigma$ is about 95%; and the area between $\mu-3\sigma$ and $\mu+3\sigma$ is about 99.7%. Almost all values fall within 3 standard deviations.

68-95-99.7 Rule



68-95-99.7 Rule in Math terms…

$$\int_{\mu-\sigma}^{\mu+\sigma} \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \bullet e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma})^2} dx = .68$$

$$\int_{\mu-2\sigma}^{\mu+2\sigma} \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \bullet e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma})^2} dx = .95$$

$$\int_{\mu-3\sigma}^{\mu+3\sigma} \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \bullet e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma})^2} dx = .997$$

Example

- Suppose GATE scores roughly follows a normal distribution in the Indian population of college-bound students (with range restricted to 200-800), and the average score is 500 with a standard deviation of 50, then:
  - 68% of students will have scores between 450 and 550
  - 95% will be between 400 and 600
  - 99.7% will be between 350 and 650

The Standard Normal (Z): "Universal Currency"

The formula for the standardized normal probability density function is

$$p(Z) = \frac{1}{(1)\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\frac{Z-0}{1})^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{2}(Z)^2}$$

The Standard Normal Distribution (Z)

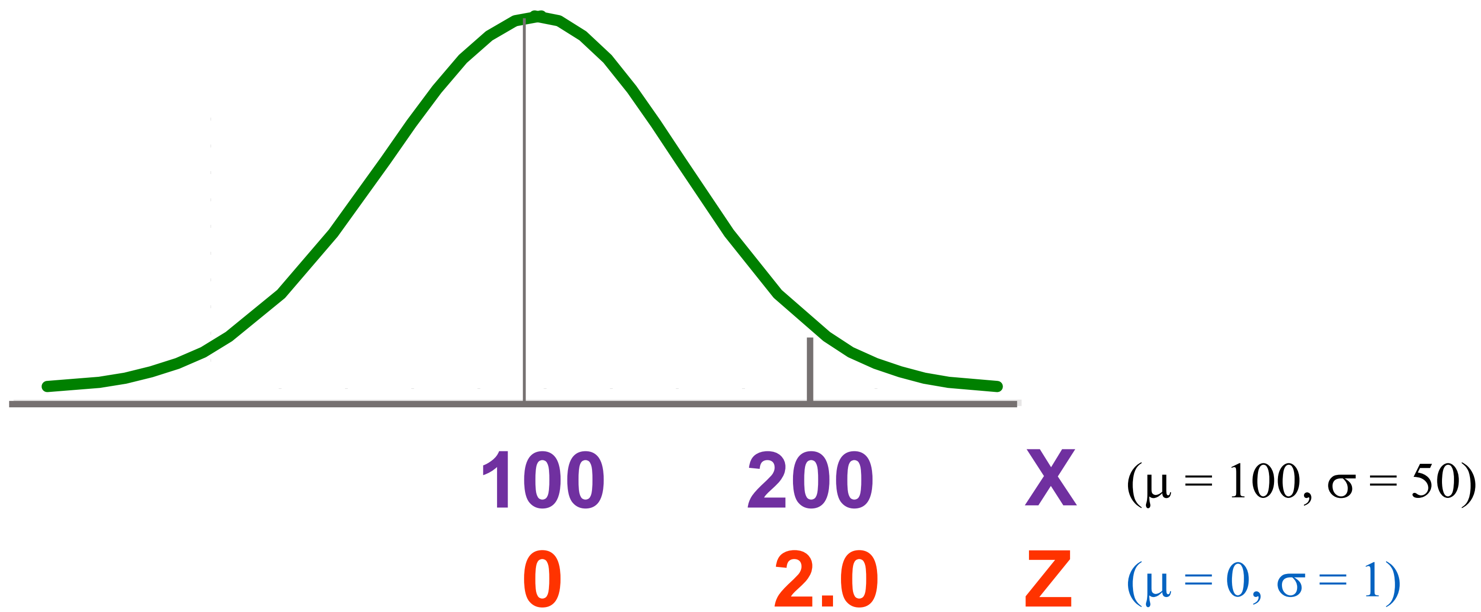
All normal distributions can be converted into the standard normal curve by subtracting the mean and dividing by the standard deviation:

$$\boxed{Z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma}}$$

Somebody calculated all the integrals for the standard normal and put them in a table! So we never have to integrate!

Even better, computers now do all the integration.

Comparing X and Z units



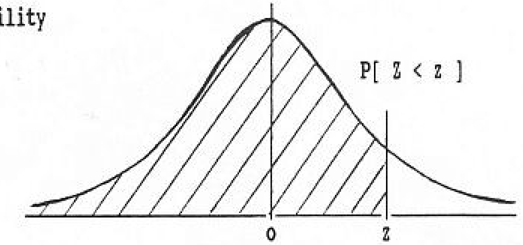
What is the area to the left of Z=1.51 in a standard normal curve?

STANDARD STATISTICAL TABLES

1. Areas under the Normal Distribution

The table gives the cumulative probability up to the standardised normal value z i.e.

$$P[\, Z < z \,] = \int_{-\infty}^{z} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp(-\tfrac{1}{2}Z^2)\, dZ$$



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	0.5159	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	0.7854
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	0.8804	0.8830
1.2	0.8849	0.8869	0.8888	0.8907	0.8925	0.8944	0.8962	0.8980	0.8997	0.9015
1.3	0.9032	0.9049	0.9066	0.9082	0.9099	0.9115	0.9131	0.9147	0.9162	0.9177
1.4	0.9192	0.9207	0.9222	0.9236	0.9251	0.9265	0.9279	0.9292	0.9306	0.9319
1.5	0.9332	0.9345	0.9357	0.9370	0.9382	0.9394	0.9406	0.9418	0.9429	0.9441
1.6	0.9452	0.9463	0.9474	0.9484	0.9495	0.9505	0.9515	0.9525	0.9535	0.9545
1.7	0.9554	0.9564	0.9573	0.9582	0.9591	0.9599	0.9608	0.9616	0.9625	0.9633
1.8	0.9641	0.9649	0.9656	0.9664	0.9671	0.9678	0.9686	0.9693	0.9699	0.9706
1.9	0.9713	0.9719	0.9726	0.9732	0.9738	0.9744	0.9750	0.9756	0.9761	0.9767
2.0	0.9773	0.9778	0.9783	0.9788	0.9793	0.9798	0.9803	0.9808	0.9812	0.9817
2.1	0.9821	0.9826	0.9830	0.9834	0.9838	0.9842	0.9846	0.9850	0.9854	0.9857
2.2	0.9861	0.9865	0.9868	0.9871	0.9874	0.9878	0.9881	0.9884	0.9887	0.9890
2.3	0.9893	0.9896	0.9898	0.9901	0.9904	0.9906	0.9909	0.9911	0.9913	0.9916
2.4	0.9918	0.9920	0.9922	0.9924	0.9927	0.9929	0.9931	0.9932	0.9934	0.9936
2.5	0.9938	0.9940	0.9941	0.9943	0.9945	0.9946	0.9948	0.9949	0.9951	0.9952
2.6	0.9953	0.9955	0.9956	0.9957	0.9959	0.9960	0.9961	0.9962	0.9963	0.9964
2.7	0.9965	0.9966	0.9967	0.9968	0.9969	0.9970	0.9971	0.9972	0.9973	0.9974
2.8	0.9974	0.9975	0.9976	0.9977	0.9977	0.9978	0.9979	0.9980	0.9980	0.9981
2.9	0.9981	0.9982	0.9982	0.9983	0.9984	0.9984	0.9985	0.9985	0.9986	0.9986

z	3.00	3.10	3.20	3.30	3.40	3.50	3.60	3.70	3.80	3.90
P	0.9986	0.9990	0.9993	0.9995	0.9997	0.9998	0.9998	0.9999	0.9999	1.0000

Z=1.51

Z=1.51

Area is 93.45%

Example

- For example: What's the probability of getting a math SAT score of 575 or less, μ=500 and σ=50?

$$\boxed{Z = \frac{575 - 500}{50} = 1.5}$$

$$\boxed{\therefore P(X \leq 575) = \int_{200}^{575} \frac{1}{(50)\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\frac{x-500}{50})^2} dx \longrightarrow \int_{-\infty}^{1.5} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{2}Z^2} dz}$$

Yikes!

But to look up Z= 1.5 in standard normal chart → no problem! = .9332

Practice problem

If birth weights in a population are normally distributed with a mean of 109 oz and a standard deviation of 13 oz,

a. What is the chance of obtaining a birth weight of 141 oz *or heavier* when sampling birth records at random?

b. What is the chance of obtaining a birth weight of 120 *or lighter*?

Answer

a. What is the chance of obtaining a birth weight of 141 oz *or heavier* when sampling birth records at random?

$$\boxed{Z = \frac{141-109}{13} = 2.46}$$

From the chart → Z of 2.46 corresponds to a right tail (greater than) area of: $P(Z \geq 2.46) = 1-(.9931) = .0069$ or .69 %

Answer

b. What is the chance of obtaining a birth weight of 120 *or lighter*?

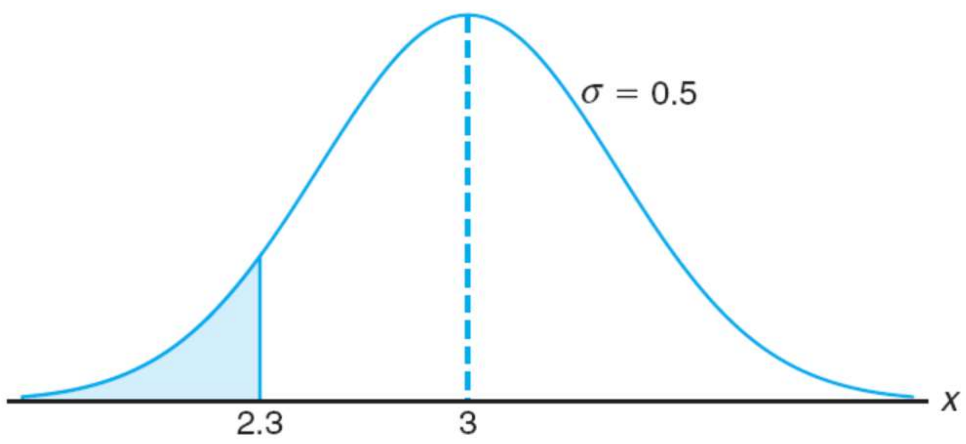
$$\boxed{Z = \frac{120 - 109}{13} = .85}$$

From the chart → Z of .85 corresponds to a left tail area of:
$P(Z \leq .85) = .8023 = 80.23\%$

Ex: A certain type of storage battery lasts, on average, 3.0 years with a standard deviation of 0.5 year. Assuming that battery life is normally distributed, find the probability that a given battery will last less than 2.3 years.

Solution: To find $P(X < 2.3)$, we need to evaluate the area under the normal curve to the left of 2.3. This is accomplished by finding the area to the left of the corresponding z value. Hence, we find that

$$z = \frac{2.3-3}{0.5} = -1.4$$



and then, using Table,

$$P(X < 2.3) = P(Z < -1.4) = 0.0808.$$

Ex: The marks obtained by a number of students in a certain subject are approximately normally distributed with mean 65 and standard deviation 5. If 3 students are selected at random from this group, what is the probability that at least 1 of them would have scored above 75?

Solution: If X represents the marks obtained by the students, X follows the distribution N(65, 5).

P(a student scores above 75)

$$= P(X > 75) = P\left(\frac{75-65}{5} < \frac{X-65}{5} < \infty\right)$$
$$= P(2 < Z < \infty), \text{ (where } Z \text{ is the standard normal variate)}$$
$$= 0.5 - P(0 < Z < 2)$$
$$= 0.5 - 0.4772, \text{ (from the table of areas)}$$
$$= 0.0228$$

Let p = P(a student scores above 75) = 0.0228 then q = 0.9772 and n = 3. Since p is the same for all the students, the number Y, of (successes) students scoring above 75, follows a binomial distribution.

$$
\begin{aligned}
P(\text{at least 1 student scores above 75}) \\
&= P(\text{at least 1 success}) \\
&= P(Y \geq 1) = 1 - P(Y = 0) \\
&= 1 - nC_0 \times P^0 q^n \\
&= 1 - 3C_0\,(0.9772)^3 \\
&= 1 - 0.9333 \\
&= 0.0667
\end{aligned}
$$