
Problem Set 5

Instructions: Answer the following questions in their entirety in a separate document. Submit your completed problem set as a PDF document via email to sean.corcoran@vanderbilt.edu. Use your last name and problem set number as the filename (e.g., *Bieber Problem Set 5.pdf*). Questions 5 and 7 require the use of Stata, but the rest can be solved with or without Stata. Working together is encouraged, but it is expected that all submitted work be that of the individual student.

1. (**3 points**) According to *Current Population Reports*, the population distribution of number of years of education for self-employed individuals in the United States has a mean of $\mu = 13.6$ and a standard deviation of $\sigma = 3.0$. Find the mean and *standard error* of the sampling distribution of \bar{x} for a random sample of:
 - (a) 9 individuals
 - (b) 36 individuals
 - (c) 100 individuals

2. (**8 points**) Suppose the SAT math scores of high school seniors follow a normal distribution with mean $\mu = 550$ and standard deviation $\sigma = 100$. Now suppose you take a sample of 25 seniors and calculate the sample mean (\bar{x}).
 - (a) What is $E(\bar{x})$? What is $Var(\bar{x})$? What is the *standard error* of \bar{x} ?
 - (b) Suppose you would like to increase precision and cut your standard error in half. What sample size would you need to use?
 - (c) Based on the original sample size of 25, what is the probability that you draw a random sample with a \bar{x} of 590 or higher?
 - (d) Based on the original sample size of 25, what is the probability what you draw a random sample with a \bar{x} between 525 and 575?

3. (**4 points**) A national survey conducted in June 2021 by the University of Southern California as part of its Understanding Coronavirus in America program asked participants whether they had received at least one dose of the coronavirus vaccine. Of 1,626 adults interviewed, 67.58% said *yes*. Find the estimated standard error for the sample proportion ($\hat{\pi}$) reporting they had received at least one dose of the vaccine. Interpret this in words. Hint: use the sample proportion in place of the *population* proportion (π) where required.

4. **(5 points)** Mr. Grumpy and Mr. Happy are both running for Governor. Mr. Grumpy will eventually win the election with 51 percent of the vote. A day before the election, a state-wide newspaper surveys 100 people about their choice for governor. Assume the survey respondents accurately report who they will vote for. What is the probability *Mr. Happy* will be supported by 51 percent or more of the survey respondents?
5. **(18 points)** The PDF for the continuous exponential distribution is $f(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}$ where λ is a constant > 0 . It can easily be shown that $E(x) = 1/\lambda$ and $Var(x) = 1/\lambda^2$. For this problem, let $\lambda = 2$. Create a Stata do file that does the following:
- (a) Draw 200 random values from this exponential distribution. Stata has a random number function for the exponential distribution, though it asks for a “scale parameter.” This scale parameter you should use is actually $1/\lambda$, not λ .
 - (b) Create a histogram for your sample data and find the sample mean \bar{x} and variance s^2 . How do these compare to the (known) population mean and variance? Describe the shape of your distribution: is it symmetric or skewed?
 - (c) Following one of the methods shown in class, conduct a simulation that repeatedly samples 10 observations from the exponential distribution (with $\lambda = 2$ as before), a total of 100 times. Your simulation should store the sample mean \bar{x} on each iteration. When complete, use your data to answer the next questions.
 - (d) Create a histogram for these simulated sample means. What is the mean of these values? What is the standard deviation? How do these compare to what you would have predicted them to be, before you drew any samples? Explain.
 - (e) Based on your simulated sampling distribution, what is the probability of drawing a sample with a \bar{x} greater than 0.6?
 - (f) Repeat parts (c)-(e) but increase the random sample size to 50. How does this change your results?
6. **(5 points)** Consider this probability distribution for student absences from the last problem set:

# of Days	3	4	5	6	7
Probability	0.08	0.24	0.41	0.20	0.07

Now imagine you were to draw random samples of 30 students repeatedly from this population. What would the sampling distribution of \bar{x} look like? What would be its mean? Its standard error? How do you know?

7. **(6 points)** In Stata, use the code below to create a “population” distribution that reflects the probability distribution in part (6):

```
clear
set obs 8
gen abs = 3
insobs 24
replace abs = 4 if abs==.
insobs 41
replace abs = 5 if abs==.
insobs 20
replace abs = 6 if abs==.
insobs 7
replace abs = 7 if abs==.
```

- (a) What is the mean, median, variance, and standard deviation of this population?
- (b) Use the `bootstrap` prefix to draw 1,000 repeated samples of size $n = 30$ from this population, each time retaining the mean, median, and standard deviation. (Hint: you will `bootstrap` the `summarize`, `detail` command). Save the results in a new dataset.
- (c) Provide histograms for your resulting means, medians, and standard deviations. Across your 1,000 samples, what the *average* mean, median, and standard deviation? For this simulation, what is the *standard error* of the mean, median, and standard deviation? Explain in words what this quantity represents.