

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous

STATS 100A: RANDOM VARIABLES

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Some pictures are taken from the internet.
Credits belong to original authors.





Random variables

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Connection to events:

Randomly sample a person ω from a population Ω .



$X(\omega)$: gender of ω , $\Omega \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$.

$Y(\omega)$: height of ω , $\Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$.

$A = \{\omega : X(\omega) = 1\}$. $P(A) = P(X = 1)$. Discrete.

$B = \{\omega : Y(\omega) > 6\}$. $P(B) = P(Y > 6)$. Continuous.

We shall study random variables more systematically.

$\omega \in \Omega$ equally likely, but $X(\omega)$ and $Y(\omega)$ are not necessarily equally likely.





Discrete random variable

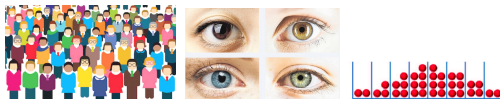
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Randomly sample a person ω from a population Ω of N people.



$X(\omega)$: eye color of person ω , $\Omega \rightarrow \{1(\text{blue}), 2(\text{brown}), 3, 4\}$.

$N(x)$ = number of people with eye color x .

Probability mass function, probability distribution, law:

$$X \sim p(x) = P(X = x) = \frac{N(x)}{N}.$$

x	1	2	3	4
$p(x)$	$p(1)$	$p(2)$	$p(3)$	$p(4)$
number	$N(1)$	$N(2)$	$N(3)$	$N(4)$





Discrete random variable

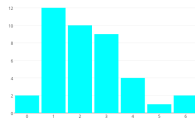
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Randomly sample a person ω from a population Ω of N people.



$X(\omega)$: number of siblings of person ω , $\Omega \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$.

$N(x)$ = number of people with x siblings.

Probability mass function, probability distribution, law:

$$X \sim p(x) = P(X = x) = \frac{N(x)}{N}.$$

x	0	1	2	3	...
$p(x)$	$p(0)$	$p(1)$	$p(2)$	$p(3)$...
number	$N(0)$	$N(1)$	$N(2)$	$N(3)$...





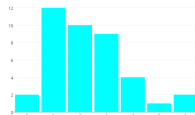
Population average

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$N(x)$ = number of people with x siblings.

$$X \sim p(x) = P(X = x) = \frac{N(x)}{N}.$$

x	0	1	2	3	...
$p(x)$	$p(0)$	$p(1)$	$p(2)$	$p(3)$...
number	$N(0)$	$N(1)$	$N(2)$	$N(3)$...

Population average:

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\omega \in \Omega} X(\omega) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_x x N(x) = \sum_x x \frac{N(x)}{N} = \sum_x x p(x).$$



Long run average: N^n reasoning

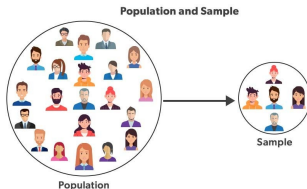
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Randomly sample a person ω from a population Ω of N people.
Each person ω carries a number $X(\omega)$.



Population average:

$$\mu = \mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_x xp(x).$$

Repeat random sampling n times independently \rightarrow
 N^n equally likely sequences: Ω_n .

$\bar{X}(\text{sequence}) = \text{average of the sequence.}$

$\bar{X} \rightarrow \mu$ in probability as $n \rightarrow \infty$.





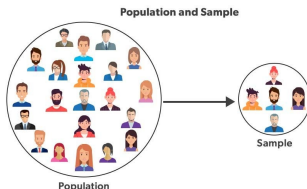
Law of large number: N^n reasoning

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Repeat random sampling n times independently \rightarrow
 N^n equally likely sequences: Ω_n .

$\bar{X}(\text{sequence}) = \text{average of the sequence.}$

$A = \{\text{sequence} : |\bar{X}(\text{sequence}) - \mu| \leq .01\}$: representative sequences.

$$P(A) = \frac{|A|}{N^n} \rightarrow 1 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$





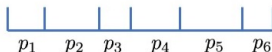
Die rolling

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Randomly throw a point into $[0, 1]$, which bin $(1, 2, \dots, 6)$ it falls into?

$\omega \in \Omega = [0, 1]$, population of points (tiny balls), equally likely.

$X(\omega)$ is the bin that ω belongs to, not necessarily equally likely.

Probability mass function, probability distribution, law:

$$X \sim p(x) = P(X = x) = \text{length of bin } x.$$

Population average (each point or tiny ball ω carries a number $X(\omega)$).

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_x xp(x).$$





Long run average

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Independent repetitions:

$p(x)$: how often $X = x$ in the long run (e.g., throw 1 million points into $[0, 1]$).

x	1	2	3	4	5	6
$p(x)$	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3

x	1	2	3	4	5	6
#	0.1m	0.1m	0.2m	0.2m	0.1m	0.3m
%	10%	10%	20%	20%	10%	30%

$$\text{average} = \frac{(1 \times 0.1m + 2 \times 0.1m + 3 \times 0.2m + 4 \times 0.2m + 5 \times 0.1m + 6 \times 0.3m)}{1m}$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_x xp(x).$$





Expectation of function

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Function of random variable

x	1	2	3	4	5	6
$p(x)$	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3

x	1	2	3	4	5	6
#	0.1m	0.1m	0.2m	0.2m	0.1m	0.3m
%	10%	10%	20%	20%	10%	30%

$$\text{average} = \frac{(1 \times 0.1m + 2 \times 0.1m + 3 \times 0.2m + 4 \times 0.2m + 5 \times 0.1m + 6 \times 0.3m)}{1m}$$

x	1	2	3	4	5	6	x
payoff	-\$30	-\$20	\$0	\$20	\$30	\$100	$h(x)$
	$h(1)$	$h(2)$	$h(3)$	$h(4)$	$h(5)$	$h(6)$	

$$\text{longrun average} = (-\$30) \times 0.1 + (-\$20) \times 0.1 + (\$0) \times 0.2 + (\$20) \times 0.2 + (\$30) \times 0.1 + (\$100) \times 0.3$$

$$\mathbb{E}(h(X)) = \sum_x h(x)p(x).$$





Utility

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Utility, reward, value

$$\mathbb{E}(h(X)) = \sum_x h(x)p(x).$$

Offer 1	
x	\$100
p(x)	1

$$E(X) = (\$100) \times 1 = \$100$$

Offer 2		
x	\$0	\$200
p(x)	1/2	1/2

$$E(X) = (\$0) \times \frac{1}{2} + (\$200) \times \frac{1}{2} = \$100$$

x: face value	\$0	\$100	\$200
h(x): perceived value	\$0	\$100	\$150

Offer 1: $\mathbb{E}[h(X)] = \$100 \times 1 = \100 .

Offer 2: $\mathbb{E}[h(X)] = \$0 \times \frac{1}{2} + \$150 \times \frac{1}{2} = \75 .





Variance

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$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_x xp(x) = \mu (= \$0 \times 1/2 + \$200 \times 1/2 = \$100)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(X) &= \mathbb{E}[(X - \mu)^2] = \sum_x (x - \mu)^2 p(x) = \sigma^2 \\ &= (\$0 - \$100)^2 \times 1/2 + (\$200 - \$100)^2 \times 1/2 \\ &= \$^2 10,000.\end{aligned}$$

Long run average of squared deviation from the mean.

$$SD(X) = \sqrt{\text{Var}(X)} = \sigma (= \$100).$$

Extent of variation from the mean.





Variance

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x	1	2	3	4	5	6	x
payoff	-\$30	-\$20	\$0	\$20	\$30	\$100	$h(x)$
	$h(1)$	$h(2)$	$h(3)$	$h(4)$	$h(5)$	$h(6)$	

longrun average = $(-\$30) \times 0.1 + (-\$20) \times 0.1 + (\$0) \times 0.2 + (\$20) \times 0.2 + (\$30) \times 0.1 + (\$100) \times 0.3$

$$\mathbb{E}(h(X)) = \sum_x h(x)p(x).$$

$$\text{Var}[h(X)] = \mathbb{E}[(h(X) - \mathbb{E}(h(X)))^2].$$





Data

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$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_x xp(x) = \mu.$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mu)^2] = \sum_x (x - \mu)^2 p(x) = \sigma^2.$$

Long run average of squared deviation from the mean.

Sampling $p(x) \rightarrow x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_n$

(e.g., rolling a die $\rightarrow 2, 1, 6, 5, 3, 2, 5, 4, 3, \dots$)

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \rightarrow \mathbb{E}(X) = \mu.$$

$$s^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2 \rightarrow \text{Var}(X) = \sigma^2$$





Linear transformation

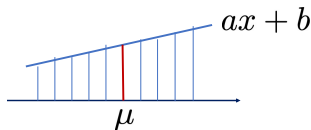
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$$\mathbb{E}(h(X)) = \sum_x h(x)p(x).$$
$$Y = aX + b.$$



$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(Y) &= \mathbb{E}(aX + b) = \sum_x (ax + b)p(x) \\ &= \sum_x axp(x) + \sum_x bp(x) \\ &= a \sum_x xp(x) + b \sum_x p(x) = a\mathbb{E}(X) + b.\end{aligned}$$





Data

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Continuous

Sampling $p(x) \rightarrow x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_n$
(e.g., rolling a die $\rightarrow 2, 1, 6, 5, 3, 2, 5, 4, 3, \dots$)

$$y_i = ax_i + b.$$

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \rightarrow \mathbb{E}(X) = \mu.$$

$$\bar{y} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (ax_i + b) = a \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i + b = a\bar{x} + b.$$





Linear transformation

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$$\text{Var}(h(X)) = \mathbb{E}[(h(X) - \mathbb{E}(h(X)))^2].$$

$$Y = aX + b.$$

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

$$\text{Var}(Y) = \mathbb{E}[(Y - \mathbb{E}(Y))^2].$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(aX + b) &= \mathbb{E}[((aX + b) - \mathbb{E}(aX + b))^2] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[(aX + b - (a\mathbb{E}(X) + b))^2] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[(a(X - \mathbb{E}(X)))^2] \\ &= a^2\mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}(X))^2] = a^2\text{Var}(X).\end{aligned}$$





Data

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Continuous

Sampling $p(x) \rightarrow x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_n$
(e.g., rolling a die $\rightarrow 2, 1, 6, 5, 3, 2, 5, 4, 3, \dots$)

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \rightarrow \mathbb{E}(X) = \mu.$$

$$y_i = ax_i + b.$$

$$\bar{y} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (ax_i + b) = a \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i + b = a\bar{x} + b.$$

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (ax_i + b - (a\bar{x} + b))^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n a^2 (x_i - \bar{x})^2.$$





Short-cut for variance

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$$\mu = \mathbb{E}(X).$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(X) &= \mathbb{E}[(X - \mu)^2] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X^2 - 2\mu X + \mu^2] \\ &= \mathbb{E}(X^2) - 2\mu\mathbb{E}(X) + \mu^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}(X^2) - \mu^2 = \mathbb{E}(X^2) - [\mathbb{E}(X)]^2.\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[h(X) + g(X)] &= \sum_x [h(x) + g(x)]p(x) \\ &= \sum_x h(x)p(x) + \sum_x g(x)p(x) \\ &= \mathbb{E}[h(X)] + \mathbb{E}[g(X)].\end{aligned}$$





Bernoulli

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Flip a coin (probability of head is p)

$Z \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$

$Z \in \{0, 1\}$, $P(Z = 1) = p$ and $P(Z = 0) = 1 - p$.

$$\mathbb{E}(Z) = 0 \times (1 - p) + 1 \times p = p.$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(Z) &= (0 - p)^2 \times (1 - p) + (1 - p)^2 \times p \\ &= p(1 - p)[p + (1 - p)] = p(1 - p).\end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbb{E}(Z^2) = p.$$

$$\text{Var}(Z) = \mathbb{E}(Z^2) - \mathbb{E}(Z)^2 = p - p^2 = p(1 - p).$$





Binomial

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Flip a coin (probability of head is p) n times independently.

X = number of heads.

$X \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p)$

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

$\binom{n}{k}$ is the number of sequences with exactly k heads.

$p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$ is the probability of each sequence with k heads.

e.g., $n = 3$,

$$P(X = 2) = P(HHT) + P(HTH) + P(THH) = 3p^2(1 - p).$$

$p = 1/2$, we have $P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} / 2^n$.





Recall independence

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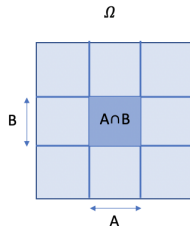
Definition 1:

$$P(A|B) = P(A).$$

Definition 2:

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B).$$

	M	F
College degree	20	20
No college degree		
	50	50





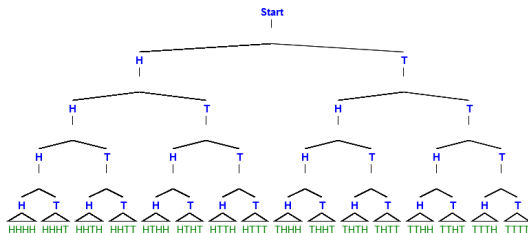
Binomial formula

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$$(H + T)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} H^k T^{n-k}.$$

$n = 1, H + T.$

$n = 2, (H + T)(H + T) = HH + HT + TH + TT.$

$n = 3, \text{above} \times (H + T) =$

$HHH + HHT + HTH + HTT + THH + THT + TTH + TTT.$



Binomial and Bernoulli

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$$X = Z_1 + Z_2 + \dots + Z_n,$$

where $Z_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ independently.

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}(Z_i) = np.$$

Due to independence of Z_i , $i = 1, \dots, n$,

$$\text{Var}(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(Z_i) = np(1 - p).$$





Frequency

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X/n is the frequency of heads.

$$\mathbb{E}(X/n) = \mathbb{E}(X)/n = p.$$

$$\text{Var}(X/n) = \text{Var}(X)/n^2 = p(1-p)/n.$$

$\text{Var}(X/n) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

$X/n \rightarrow p$, in probability

Law of large number

Probability = long run frequency





Recall survey sampling

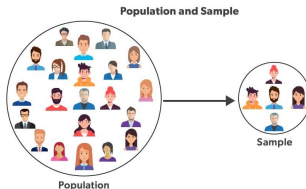
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Population of N people, M males.
Repeat random sampling n times independently



→ N^n equally likely sequences.

For a sequence ω , $X(\omega)$ = number of males in ω .

$A_m = \{\omega : X(\omega) = m\}$: sequences with m males.

$|A_m| = \binom{n}{m} M^m (N - M)^{n-m}$. n blanks. Choose m blanks for males, the rest $n - m$ blanks for females. Each male blank has M choices. Each female blank has $N - M$ choices.



Survey sampling

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Discrete

Continuous

Population of N people. M males.

Sample a person, $p = M/N = \text{Prob}(\text{male})$.

$$\begin{aligned} P(A_m) &= P(X = m) = \frac{|A_m|}{|\Omega_n|} \\ &= \frac{\binom{n}{m} M^m (N - M)^{n-m}}{N^n} \\ &= \binom{n}{m} p^m (1 - p)^{n-m}. \end{aligned}$$

Most sequences are representative, $X/n \approx M/N = p$.





Binomial distribution

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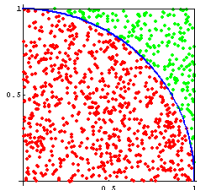
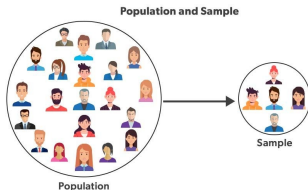
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Flip a coin n times independently, p = probability of head.

$$p(x) = P(X = x) = \binom{n}{x} p^x (1-p)^{n-x}$$
$$x = 0, 1, \dots, n.$$

$p(x)$: probability mass function, probability distribution.



Survey sampling, poll before election, $p = M/N$.

Monte Carlo, $p = \pi/4$.



Law of large number: N^n reasoning

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Survey sampling, poll before election, $p = M/N$.



Among all N^n sequences in the hyper-population of sequences Ω_n , let

$$A = \left\{ \omega : \left| \frac{X(\omega)}{n} - p \right| \leq .01 \right\}.$$

consist of representative sequences.

$$P(A) = \frac{|A|}{|\Omega_n|} = \sum_{x \in [n(p-.01), n(p+.01)]} p(x) \rightarrow 1,$$

$X/n \rightarrow p$ in probability.

$\mathbb{E}(X/n) = p$: average of $X(\omega)/n$ in Ω_n .

$\text{Var}(X/n) = p(1-p)/n \rightarrow 0$: variance of $X(\omega)/n$ in Ω_n .





Binomial expectation

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$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(X) &= \sum_{x=0}^n xp(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n kP(X = k) \\&= \sum_{k=0}^n k \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} \\&= \sum_{k=1}^n np \frac{(n-1)!}{(k-1)!(n-k)!} p^{k-1} (1-p)^{n-k} \\&= \sum_{k'=0}^{n'} np \binom{n'}{k'} p^{k'} (1-p)^{n'-k'} = np.\end{aligned}$$

$$k' = k - 1; \quad n' = n - 1.$$





Binomial variance

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$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(X(X-1)) &= \sum_{x=0}^n x(x-1)p(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n k(k-1)P(X=k) \\&= \sum_{k=0}^n k(k-1) \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} \\&= \sum_{k=2}^n n(n-1)p^2 \frac{(n-2)!}{(k-2)!(n-k)!} p^{k-2} (1-p)^{n-k} \\&= \sum_{k'=0}^{n'} n(n-1)p^2 \binom{n'}{k'} p^{k'} (1-p)^{n'-k'} \\&= n(n-1)p^2.\end{aligned}$$

$$k' = k - 2; \quad n' = n - 2.$$





Binomial variance

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

$$\mathbb{E}(X(X-1)) = \mathbb{E}(X^2) - \mathbb{E}(X) = n(n-1)p^2.$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(X) &= \mathbb{E}(X^2) - \mathbb{E}(X)^2 \\ &= n(n-1)p^2 + np - (np)^2 \\ &= np - np^2 = np(1-p).\end{aligned}$$





Geometric

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$T \sim \text{Geometric}(p)$

T is the number of flips to get the first head, if we flip a coin independently and the probability of getting a head in each flip is p .

$$P(T = k) = (1 - p)^{k-1}p.$$

e.g., $T = 1, H$

$T = 2, TH$.

$T = 3, TTH$.

$T = 4, TTTH$.

Waiting time.





Geometric expectation

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$T \sim \text{Geometric}(p)$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(T) &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} kP(T = k) \\&= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} kq^{k-1}p = p \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{d}{dq} q^k \\&= p \frac{d}{dq} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} q^k = p \frac{d}{dq} \left(\frac{1}{1-q} - 1 \right) \\&= p \frac{1}{(1-q)^2} = \frac{1}{p}.\end{aligned}$$





Geometric series

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$$\begin{aligned}(1-a)(1+a+\dots+a^m) &= 1+a+\dots+a^m \\ &\quad -(a+a^2+\dots+a^m+a^{m+1}) \\ &= 1-a^{m+1}.\end{aligned}$$

$$1+a+\dots+a^m = \frac{1-a^{m+1}}{1-a}.$$

If $|a| < 1$,

$$a^{m+1} \rightarrow 0, \text{ as } m \rightarrow \infty.$$





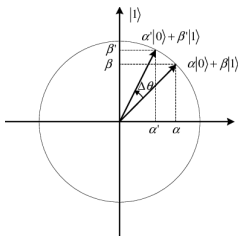
Quantum bit

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state vector $= \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle$.

state vector rotates over time.

squared length $= |\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$ under rotation.

observer: $p(0) = |\alpha|^2$, $p(1) = |\beta|^2$.

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|\text{cat}\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}|\text{dead}\rangle$$

Schrodinger cat: $P(\text{alive}) = (1/\sqrt{2})^2 = 1/2$.





Continuous random variable: density

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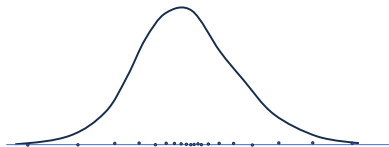
Discrete

Continuous

Randomly sample a person ω from a population Ω of N people.

$X(\omega)$: height of person ω .

Density or distribution of the N points.



$N(x)$ = number of people in $(x, x + \Delta x)$ (6 ft, 6 ft 1 inch),
precision = 1 inch.

Probability density function, probability distribution, law:

$$X \sim f(x) = \frac{P(X \in (x, x + \Delta x))}{\Delta x} = \frac{N(x)/N}{\Delta x}.$$

Mathematical idealization: $N \approx \infty$.





Population scatterplot and histogram

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous



Discretize x -axis into equally spaced bins $(x, x + \Delta x)$, e.g., (6 ft, 6 ft 1 inch), precision = 1 inch.

$$P(X \in (x, x + \Delta x)) = \frac{N(x)}{N} = f(x)\Delta x.$$

$f(x)$: height of bin $(x, x + \Delta x)$. $f(x)\Delta x$: area.

$$\sum_x \frac{N(x)}{N} = \sum_x f(x)\Delta x \rightarrow \int f(x)dx = 1.$$





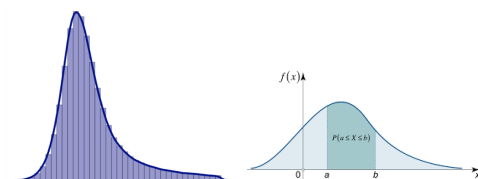
Region under curve

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous



Randomly throw a point ω into the region Ω below curve $f(x)$.

Ω : population of points (tiny squares or balls).

Let $X = X(\omega)$ be the horizontal coordinate of point ω .

$$P(X \in (x, x + \Delta x)) = f(x)\Delta x.$$

$$P(X \in (a, b)) = \sum_{x \in (a, b)} f(x)\Delta x \rightarrow \int_a^b f(x)dx.$$





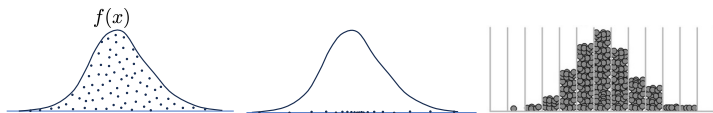
Independent repetitions, sample scatterplot and histogram

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous



Repeat n times, collapse to x -axis, histogram.

N^n reasoning:

sample scatterplot (random) \approx population scatterplot (fixed),
sample histogram (random) \approx population histogram (fixed).



Point cloud

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

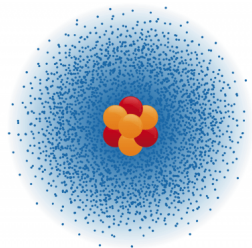
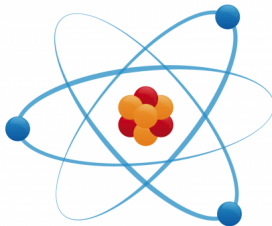
Continuous

Electron orbits around nucleus: wrong conception

Electron cloud, probability density function, $f(x)$

Wave function $\psi(x)$, evolves over time.

Observer: $f(x) = |\psi(x)|^2$.





Population

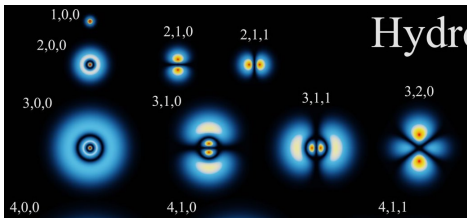
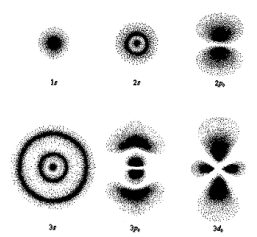
100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous

Electron cloud, heat map, prob density



Population of N equally likely possibilities.

Mathematical idealization: $N \approx \infty$.

Prob density = prob mass in the cell / volume of cell.

Observer: $f(x) = |\psi(x)|^2$.





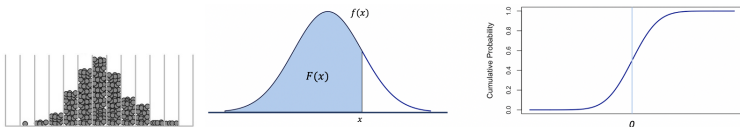
Cumulative density function

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous



$$F(x) = P(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(x)dx.$$

SAT score $x \rightarrow$ percentile $F(x)$.

Percentage of people below x .





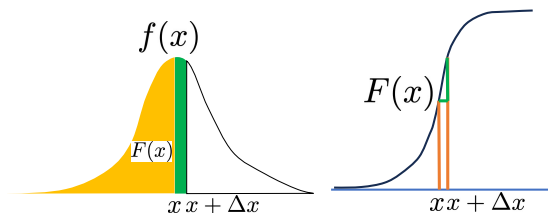
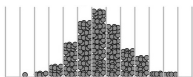
Area and slope

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous



Area:

$$F(x + \Delta x) - F(x) = f(x)\Delta x.$$

Slope:

$$F'(x) = \frac{F(x + \Delta x) - F(x)}{\Delta x} = f(x).$$

Notation:

$$F'(x) = \frac{dF(x)}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx}F(x) = f(x).$$

$$dF(x) = F'(x)dx = f(x)dx$$





Expectation

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous

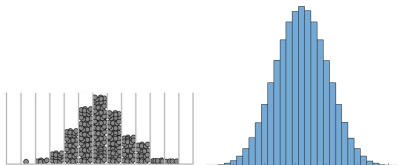
Recall discrete

$$P(X = x) = p(x).$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum xP(X = x) = \sum xp(x).$$

Continuous

$$P(X \in (x, x + \Delta x)) = f(x)\Delta x.$$



$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum xP(X \in (x, x + \Delta x)) = \sum xf(x)\Delta x \rightarrow \int xf(x)dx.$$

Population average, long run average, center.





Population average

100A

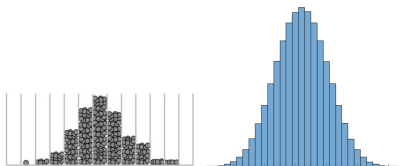
Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous

Population Ω of N people. $X(\omega)$.

$N(x)$: number of people in $(x, x + \Delta x)$.



$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(X) &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\omega} X(\omega) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_x x N(x) \\ &= \sum_x x \frac{N(x)}{N} = \sum x P(X \in (x, x + \Delta x)) \\ &= \sum x f(x) \Delta x \rightarrow \int x f(x) dx.\end{aligned}$$



Expectation of function

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous

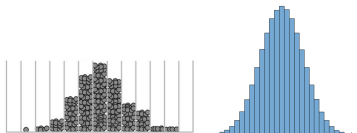
Recall discrete

$$P(X = x) = p(x).$$

$$\mathbb{E}[h(X)] = \sum h(x)P(X = x) = \sum h(x)p(x).$$

Continuous

$$P(X \in (x, x + \Delta x)) = f(x)\Delta x.$$



$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[h(X)] &= \sum h(x)P(X \in (x, x + \Delta x)) \\ &= \sum h(x)f(x)\Delta x \rightarrow \int h(x)f(x)dx.\end{aligned}$$





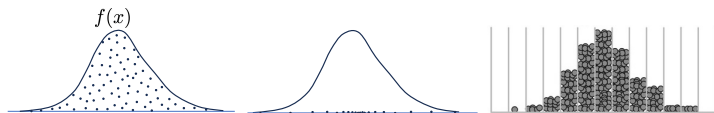
Data, long run average

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous



$$f(x) \rightarrow x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_n.$$

$$n(x) = \text{number of points in } (x, x + \Delta x).$$

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{x} &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_x x n(x) = \sum_x x \frac{n(x)}{n} \\ &\rightarrow \sum x P(X \in (x, x + \Delta x)) \\ &= \sum x f(x) \Delta x \rightarrow \int x f(x) dx = \mathbb{E}(X).\end{aligned}$$

Same logic for $\mathbb{E}(h(X))$.





Variance

100A

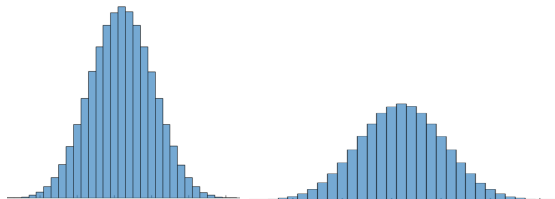
Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous

Continuous

$$P(X \in (x, x + \Delta x)) = f(x)\Delta x.$$



$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \int x f(x) dx = \mu.$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mu)^2] = \int (x - \mu)^2 f(x) dx.$$

$$\text{Var}[h(X)] = \mathbb{E}[(h(X) - \mathbb{E}(h(X)))^2].$$

Fluctuation, volatility, spread.



Uniform

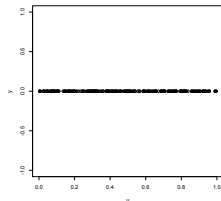
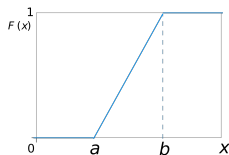
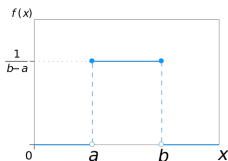
100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous

$U \sim \text{Uniform}[0, 1]$, i.e., the density of U is
 $f(u) = 1$ for $u \in [0, 1]$ (or $f(u) = 1/(b - a)$ if $u \in [a, b]$),
 $f(u) = 0$ otherwise.



$$P(U \in (u, u + \Delta u)) = f(u)\Delta u = \Delta u.$$

Imagine 1 million points distributed uniformly in $[0, 1]$.

Number of points in $(u, u + \Delta u)$ is Δu million.

e.g., Number of points in $(.3, .31)$ is .01 million.





Uniform

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous

$$F(u) = P(U \leq u) = \begin{cases} 0 & 0 < u \\ u & 0 \leq u \leq 1 \\ 1 & u > 1 \end{cases}$$

$F(u)$: proportion of points below u .

$$\mathbb{E}(U) = \int_0^1 u f(u) du = \frac{1}{2}.$$

$$\mathbb{E}(U^2) = \int_0^1 u^2 f(u) du = \frac{1}{3}.$$

$$\text{Var}(U) = \mathbb{E}(U^2) - (\mathbb{E}(U))^2 = \frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{12}.$$





Pseudo-random number generator

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous

Linear congruential method

Start from an integer X_0 , and iterate

$$X_{t+1} = aX_t + b \bmod M.$$

Output $U_t = X_t/M$. e.g., $a = 7^5$, $b = 0$, and $M = 2^{31} - 1$.
mod: divide and take the remainder, e.g., $7 = 2 \bmod 5$.

e.g., $a = 7$, $b = 1$, $M = 5$, $X_0 = 1$, then

$$X_1 = 1 \times 7 + 1 \bmod 5 = 3.$$

$$X_2 = 3 \times 7 + 1 \bmod 5 = 2.$$





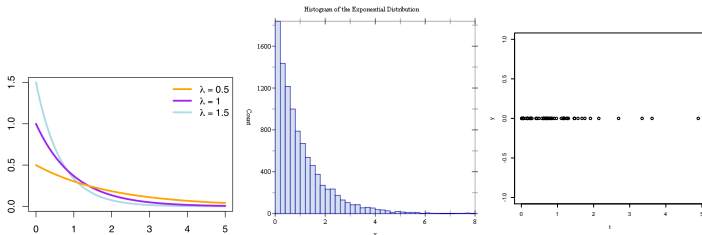
Exponential

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous



$T \sim \text{Exponential}(\lambda)$,

$f(t) = \lambda e^{-\lambda t}$ for $t \geq 0$,

$f(t) = 0$ for $t < 0$.

$P(T \in (t, t + \Delta t)) = \lambda e^{-\lambda t} \Delta t$.

Imagine 1 million particles, mark the times when they decay.

1 million points on real line. Their distribution is exponential.

Number of points in $(t, t + \Delta t)$ is $\lambda e^{-\lambda t} \Delta t$ million.





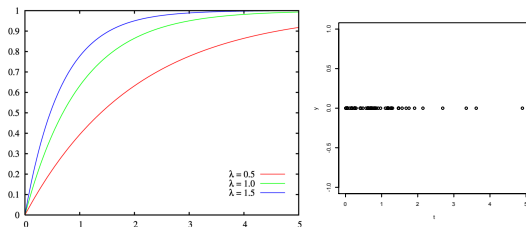
Exponential

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous



$$\begin{aligned} F(t) &= \int_0^t f(t)dt = \int_0^t \lambda e^{-\lambda t} dt \\ &= -e^{-\lambda t} \Big|_0^t = 1 - e^{-\lambda t}. \end{aligned}$$

$F(t)$: proportion of points below t

Half-life: $F(t_{\text{half}}) = P(T \leq t_{\text{half}}) = 1/2$.

1 million particles, by half life, half million will have decayed.



Exponential expectation

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(T) &= \int_0^{\infty} t\lambda e^{-\lambda t} dt \\ &= - \int_0^{\infty} t de^{-\lambda t} \\ &= -(te^{-\lambda t}|_0^{\infty} - \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\lambda t} dt) \\ &= -(0 - 0 + \frac{1}{\lambda} e^{-\lambda t}|_0^{\infty}) = \frac{1}{\lambda}.\end{aligned}$$





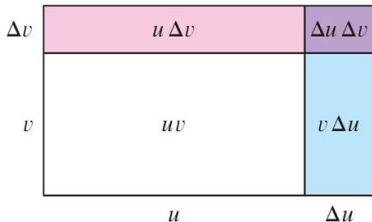
Integral by parts

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous



$$\frac{d}{dx}u(x)v(x) = u'(x)v(x) + u(x)v'(x).$$

$$duv = u dv + v du.$$

$$\int [u'(x)v(x) + u(x)v'(x)]dx = u(x)v(x).$$

$$\int u(x)v'(x)dx = u(x)v(x) - \int v(x)u'(x)dx.$$

$$\int u dv = uv - \int v du.$$





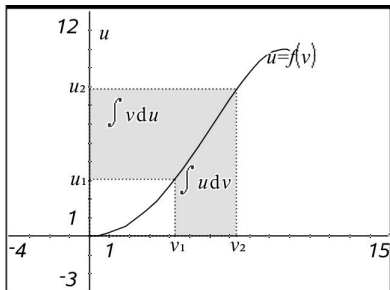
Integral by parts

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous



$$\int u dv = uv - \int v du.$$

$$\int u(x)v'(x)dx = u(x)v(x) - \int v(x)u'(x)dx.$$

$$\frac{du(x)}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx}u(x) = u'(x); \quad du(x) = u'(x)dx.$$





Normal or Gaussian

100A

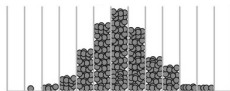
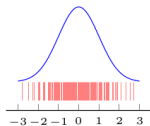
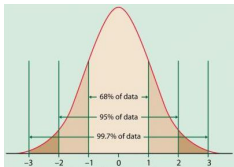
Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous

Let $Z \sim N(0, 1)$, i.e., the density of Z is

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-z^2/2}.$$



$$\int_{-2}^2 f(z) dz = 95\%.$$





Normal expectation

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous

Let $Z \sim N(0, 1)$, i.e., the density of Z is

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-z^2/2}.$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(Z) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} z \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz \\ &= -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} \Big|_{-\infty}^{\infty} \\ &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

The density is symmetric around 0.





Normal variance

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous

Let $Z \sim N(0, 1)$, i.e., the density of Z is

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-z^2/2}.$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(Z^2) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} z^2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz \\&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (-z) d e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} \\&= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} (-z e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} \Big|_{-\infty}^{\infty} - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} d(-z)) \\&= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz = 1.\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Var}(Z) = \mathbb{E}(Z^2) - (\mathbb{E}(Z))^2 = 1.$$





Variance

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous

For $X \sim f(x)$, let $\mu = \mathbb{E}(X)$.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(X) &= \mathbb{E}[(X - \mu)^2] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X^2 - 2\mu X + \mu^2] \\ &= \mathbb{E}(X^2) - 2\mu\mathbb{E}(X) + \mu^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}(X^2) - (\mathbb{E}(X))^2.\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[r(X) + s(X)] &= \int [r(x) + s(x)]f(x)dx \\ &= \int r(x)f(x)dx + \int s(x)f(x)dx \\ &= \mathbb{E}[r(X)] + \mathbb{E}[s(X)].\end{aligned}$$





Linear transformation

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous

For $X \sim f(x)$. Let $Y = aX + b$.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(Y) = \mathbb{E}(aX + b) &= \int (ax + b)f(x)dx \\ &= a \int xf(x)dx + b \int f(x)dx \\ &= a\mathbb{E}(X) + b.\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(Y) = \text{Var}(aX + b) &= \mathbb{E}[((aX + b) - \mathbb{E}(aX + b))^2] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[(aX + b - (a\mathbb{E}(X) + b))^2] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[a^2(X - \mathbb{E}(X))^2] \\ &= a^2\mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}(X))^2] = a^2\text{Var}(X).\end{aligned}$$





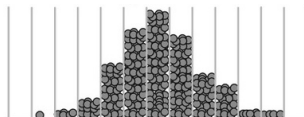
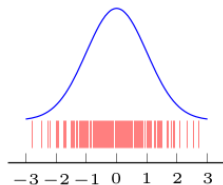
Data

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous



Sampling $f(x) \rightarrow x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_n$
(e.g., random number generator $\rightarrow .22, .31, .92, .45, \dots$)

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \rightarrow \mathbb{E}(X) = \mu.$$

$$s^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2 \rightarrow \text{Var}(X) = \sigma^2$$





Data

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous

Sampling $f(x) \rightarrow x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_n$
(e.g., random number generator $\rightarrow .22, .31, .92, .45, \dots$)

$$y_i = ax_i + b.$$

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \rightarrow \mathbb{E}(X) = \mu.$$

$$\bar{y} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (ax_i + b) = a \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i + b = a\bar{x} + b.$$

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \bar{y})^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (ax_i + b - (a\bar{x} + b))^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n a^2 (x_i - \bar{x})^2.$$





Change of density under linear transformation

100A

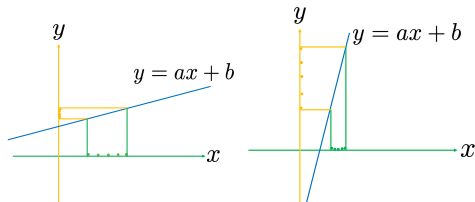
Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous

Change of variable

$X \sim f(x)$, $Y = aX + b$ ($a > 0$). $Y \sim g(y)$.



$$y = ax + b, \quad x = (y - b)/a.$$

$$P(X \in (x, x + \Delta x)) = P(Y \in (y, y + \Delta y)).$$

$$f(x)\Delta x = g(y)\Delta y.$$

$$g(y) = f(x) \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta y} = f((y - b)/a)/a.$$

Space warping, stretching or squeezing.



Normal or Gaussian

100A

Ying Nian Wu

Discrete

Continuous

Let $Z \sim N(0, 1)$, i.e., the density of Z is

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-z^2/2}.$$

Let $X = \mu + \sigma Z$. $Z = (X - \mu)/\sigma$. Then

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \mathbb{E}(\mu + \sigma Z) = \mu + \sigma \mathbb{E}(Z) = \mu.$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \text{Var}(\mu + \sigma Z) = \sigma^2 \text{Var}(Z) = \sigma^2.$$

$$f(z)\Delta z = g(x)\Delta x.$$

$$\begin{aligned} g(x) &= f(z) \frac{\Delta z}{\Delta x} \\ &= f((x - \mu)/\sigma) / \sigma \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma^2} \exp \left[-\frac{(x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right]. \end{aligned}$$





Normal or Gaussian

100A

Ying Nian Wu

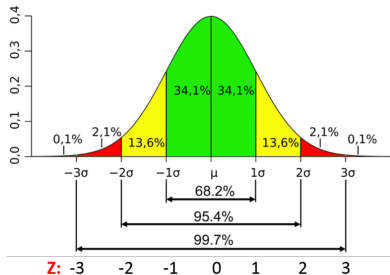
Discrete

Continuous

Let $Z \sim N(0, 1)$. Let $X = \mu + \sigma Z$. $Z = (X - \mu)/\sigma$.
 $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$,

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp \left[-\frac{(x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right].$$

(we now use $f(x)$ to denote the density of X .)



$$P(\mu - 2\sigma \leq X \leq \mu + 2\sigma) = P(-2 \leq Z \leq 2) = 95\%.$$