Normal Approximation
Normal RVs

\[ X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2) \]

- Used to model many real-life situations because it maximizes entropy (i.e., randomness) for a given mean and variance.

- Also useful for approximating the Binomial random variable!
Website testing

- 100 people are presented with a new website design.
- \( X = \# \) people whose time on site increases
- PM assumes design has no effect, so assume \( P(\text{stickier}) = 0.5 \) independently.
- CEO will endorse the new design if \( X \geq 65 \).

What is \( P(\text{CEO endorses change}) \)? *Give a numerical approximation.*

**Approach 1: Binomial**

Define

\[
X \sim \text{Bin}(n = 100, p = 0.5)
\]

Want: \( P(X \geq 65) \)

Solve

\[
P(X \geq 65) = \sum_{i=65}^{100} \binom{100}{i} 0.5^i (1 - 0.5)^{100-i}
\]
Don’t worry, Normal approximates Binomial

Galton Board

(We’ll explain why in 2 weeks)
Website testing

- 100 people are given a new website design.
- \( X = \# \) people whose time on site increases
- The design actually has no effect, so \( P(\text{time on site increases}) = 0.5 \) independently.
- CEO will endorse the new design if \( X \geq 65 \).

What is \( P(\text{CEO endorses change}) \)? *Give a numerical approximation.*

**Approach 1: Binomial**

Define
\[
X \sim \text{Bin}(n = 100, p = 0.5)
\]

Want: \( P(X \geq 65) \)

Solve
\[
P(X \geq 65) \approx 0.0018
\]

(\text{this approach is missing something important})

**Approach 2: approximate with Normal**

Define
\[
Y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\mu &= np = 50 \\
\sigma^2 &= np(1 - p) = 25 \\
\sigma &= \sqrt{25} = 5
\end{align*}
\]

Solve
\[
P(X \geq 65) \approx P(Y \geq 65) = 1 - F_Y(65)
\]
\[
= 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{65 - 50}{5}\right) = 1 - \Phi(3) \approx 0.0013
\]

\(\ddagger\ddagger\) (this approach is missing something important)
Website testing (with continuity correction)

In our website testing, $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(50, 25)$ approximates $X \sim \text{Bin}(100,0.5)$.

You must perform a continuity correction when approximating a Binomial RV with a Normal RV.

$P(X \geq 65) \text{ Binomial} 
\approx P(Y \geq 64.5) \text{ Normal} 
\approx 0.0018 \text{ the better Approach 2}$
Continuity correction

If $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(np, np(1 - p))$ approximates $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$, how do we approximate the following probabilities?

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Who gets to approximate?

\[ X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p) \]
\[
E[X] = np \\
\text{Var}(X) = np(1 - p)
\]

\[ Y \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda) \]
\[
\lambda = np
\]

\[ Y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2) \]
\[
\mu = np \\
\sigma^2 = np(1 - p)
\]
Who gets to approximate?

1. If there is a choice, use Normal to approximate.
2. When using Normal to approximate a discrete RV, use a continuity correction.
Stanford Admissions (a while back)

Stanford accepts 2480 students.
• Each admitted student matriculates w.p. 0.68 (independent trials)
• Let $X = \#$ of students who will attend

What is $P(X > 1745)$? Give a numerical approximation.

Strategy:
A. Just Binomial
B. Poisson
C. Normal
D. None/other
Stanford Admissions (a while back)

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- Let $X = \#$ of students who will attend

What is $P(X > 1745)$? Give a numerical approximation.

Strategy:

A. Just Binomial \hspace{1cm} \text{computationally expensive (also not an approximation)}

B. Poisson $p = 0.68$, not small enough

C. Normal \hspace{1cm} \checkmark \hspace{0.5cm} \text{Variance } np(1 - p) = 540 > 10

D. None/other

Define an approximation

Solve

Let $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(E[X], \text{Var}(X))$

$E[X] = np = 1686$

$\text{Var}(X) = np(1 - p) \approx 540 \Rightarrow \sigma = 23.3$

$P(X > 1745) \approx P(Y \geq 1745.5)$ \hspace{0.5cm} \text{⚠ Continuity correction}

$P(Y \geq 1745.5) = 1 - F(1745.5)$

$= 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{1745.5 - 1686}{23.3}\right)$

$= 1 - \Phi(2.54) \approx 0.0055$
Discrete Joint RVs
What is the probability that the Warriors win?
How do you model zero-sum games?

\[ P(A_W > A_B) \]

This is a probability of an event involving two random variables!
Joint probability mass functions

Roll two 6-sided dice, yielding values $X$ and $Y$.

$X$

random variable

$P(X = 1)$

probability of an event

$P(X = k)$

probability mass function
Roll two 6-sided dice, yielding values $X$ and $Y$.

- $X$ is a random variable
- $P(X = 1)$ is the probability of an event
- $P(X = k)$ is the probability mass function

- $P(X = 1 \cap Y = 6)$ is the new notation: the comma
- $P(X = 1, Y = 6)$ is the probability of the intersection of two events
- $P(X = a, Y = b)$ is the joint probability mass function
Discrete joint distributions

For two discrete joint random variables $X$ and $Y$, the joint probability mass function is defined as:

$$p_{X,Y}(a, b) = P(X = a, Y = b)$$

The marginal distributions of the joint PMF are defined as:

$$p_X(a) = P(X = a) = \sum_y p_{X,Y}(a, y)$$

$$p_Y(b) = P(Y = b) = \sum_x p_{X,Y}(x, b)$$

Use marginal distributions to get a 1-D RV from a joint PMF.
Two dice

Roll two 6-sided dice, yielding values $X$ and $Y$.

1. What is the joint PMF of $X$ and $Y$?

$$p_{X,Y}(a, b) = 1/36 \quad (a, b) \in \{(1,1), \ldots, (6,6)\}$$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$Y$</th>
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**Probability table**
- All possible outcomes for several discrete RVs
- Not parametric (e.g., parameter $p$ in $\text{Ber}(p)$)
Two dice

Roll two 6-sided dice, yielding values $X$ and $Y$.

1. What is the joint PMF of $X$ and $Y$?

$$p_{X,Y}(a, b) = 1/36 \quad (a, b) \in \{(1,1), \ldots, (6,6)\}$$

2. What is the marginal PMF of $X$?

$$p_X(a) = P(X = a) = \sum_y p_{X,Y}(a, y) = \sum_{y=1}^{6} \frac{1}{36} = \frac{1}{6} \quad a \in \{1, \ldots, 6\}$$
A computer (or three) in every house.

Consider households in Silicon Valley.

• A household has $X$ Macs and $Y$ PCs.
• Each house has a maximum of 3 computers (Macs + PCs) in the house.

1. What is $P(X = 1, Y = 0)$, the missing entry in the probability table?

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A joint PMF must sum to 1:

$$
\sum_{x} \sum_{y} p_{X,Y}(x, y) = 1
$$
A computer (or three) in every house.

Consider households in Silicon Valley.

- A household has $X$ Macs and $Y$ PCs.
- Each house has a maximum of 3 computers (Macs + PCs) in the house.

2. How do you compute the marginal PMF of $X$?

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A sum rows here

B sum cols here

C sum rows here
A computer (or three) in every house.

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2. How do you compute the marginal PMF of $X$?

To find a marginal distribution over one variable, sum over all other variables in the joint PMF.

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A. $p_{X,Y}(x,0) = P(X = x, Y = 0)$
B. Marginal PMF of $X$ $p_x(x) = \sum_y p_{x,y}(x,y)$
C. Marginal PMF of $Y$ $p_y(y) = \sum_x p_{x,y}(x,y)$
A computer (or three) in every house.

Consider households in Silicon Valley.

- A household has $X$ Macs and $Y$ PCs.
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**3.** Let $C = X + Y$. What is $P(C = 3)$?

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$P(C = 3) = P(X + Y = 3)$

Law of Total Probability

$$= \sum_{x} \sum_{y} P(X + Y = 3 | X = x, Y = y) P(X = x, Y = y)$$

$$= P(X = 0, Y = 3) + P(X = 1, Y = 2) + P(X = 2, Y = 1) + P(X = 3, Y = 0)$$

We’ll come back to sums of RVs next lecture!
Multinomial RV
Recall the good times

Permutations $n!$
How many ways are there to order $n$ objects?
Counting unordered objects

**Binomial coefficient**

How many ways are there to group $n$ objects into **two** groups of size $k$ and $n - k$, respectively?

\[
\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}
\]

Called the binomial coefficient because of something from Algebra

**Multinomial coefficient**

How many ways are there to group $n$ objects into **$r$** groups of sizes $n_1, n_2, \ldots, n_r$, respectively?

\[
\binom{n}{n_1,n_2,\ldots,n_r} = \frac{n!}{n_1!n_2!\cdots n_r!}
\]

Multinomials generalize Binomials for counting.
Probability

**Binomial RV**

What is the probability of getting $k$ successes and $n - k$ failures in $n$ trials?

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

Binomial # of ways of ordering the successes

**Multinomial RV**

What is the probability of getting $c_1$ of outcome 1, $c_2$ of outcome 2, ..., and $c_m$ of outcome $m$ in $n$ trials?

Probability of each ordering of $k$ successes is equal + mutually exclusive

Multinomial RVs also generalize Binomial RVs for probability!
Multinomial Random Variable

Consider an experiment of $n$ independent trials:

- Each trial results in one of $m$ outcomes. $P(\text{outcome } i) = p_i$, $\sum_{i=1}^{m} p_i = 1$
- Let $X_i$ = # trials with outcome $i$

Joint PMF

$$P(X_1 = c_1, X_2 = c_2, ..., X_m = c_m) = \binom{n}{c_1, c_2, ..., c_m} p_1^{c_1} p_2^{c_2} \cdots p_m^{c_m}$$

where $\sum_{i=1}^{m} c_i = n$ and $\sum_{i=1}^{m} p_i = 1$

Multinomial # of ways of ordering the outcomes

Probability of each ordering is equal + mutually exclusive
Hello dice rolls, my old friends

A 6-sided die is rolled 7 times. What is the probability of getting:

• 1 one  • 0 threes  • 0 fives
• 1 two  • 2 fours  • 3 sixes
Hello dice rolls, my old friends

A 6-sided die is rolled 7 times.

What is the probability of getting:

- 1 one  
- 0 threes  
- 0 fives  
- 1 two  
- 2 fours  
- 3 sixes

\[
P(X_1 = 1, X_2 = 1, X_3 = 0, X_4 = 2, X_5 = 0, X_6 = 3) = \binom{7}{1,1,0,2,0,3} \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^1 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^1 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^0 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^2 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^0 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^3 = 420 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^7\]
Hello dice rolls, my old friends

A 6-sided die is rolled 7 times.
What is the probability of getting:
- 1 one
- 1 two
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$$P(X_1 = 1, X_2 = 1, X_3 = 0, X_4 = 2, X_5 = 0, X_6 = 3)$$

$$= \binom{7}{1, 1, 0, 2, 0, 3} \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^1 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^1 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^0 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^2 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^0 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^3 = 420 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^7$$
Statistics of Two RVs
Expectation and Covariance

In real life, we often have many RVs interacting at once.

- We’ve seen some simpler cases (e.g., sum of independent Bernoullis).
- Come Friday, we’ll discuss sums of Binomials, sums of Poissons, etc.
- Computing joint PMFs in general is hard!
- Fortunately, you don’t need to model joint RVs completely all the time.

Instead, we’ll focus next on reporting statistics of multiple RVs:

- **Expectation of sums** (you’ve seen some of this, more on Friday)
- **Covariance**: measure of how two RVs vary with each other (more on this next week)
Properties of Expectation, extended to two RVs

1. Linearity:
\[ E[aX + bY + c] = aE[X] + bE[Y] + c \]

2. Expectation of a sum = sum of expectation:
\[ E[X + Y] = E[X] + E[Y] \]

3. Unconscious statistician:
\[ E[g(X, Y)] = \sum_x \sum_y g(x, y)p_{X,Y}(x, y) \]

True for both independent and dependent random variables!
Proof of expectation of a sum of RVs

\[ E[X + Y] = \sum_x \sum_y (x + y)p_{X,Y}(x, y) \]

\[ = \sum_x \sum_y xp_{X,Y}(x, y) + \sum_x \sum_y yp_{X,Y}(x, y) \]

\[ = \sum_x x \sum_y p_{X,Y}(x, y) + \sum_y y \sum_x p_{X,Y}(x, y) \]

\[ = \sum_x xp_X(x) + \sum_y yp_Y(y) \]

\[ = E[X] + E[Y] \]

LOTUS,
\[ g(X, Y) = X + Y \]

Linearity of summations (cont. case: linearity of integrals)

Marginal PMFs for \( X \) and \( Y \)
Expectations of common RVs: Binomial

\[ X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p) \quad E[X] = np \]

# of successes in \( n \) independent trials with probability of success \( p \)

Recall: \( \text{Bin}(1, p) = \text{Ber}(p) \)

\[ X = \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i \]

Let \( X_i = i \text{th trial is heads} \)

\[ X_i \sim \text{Ber}(p), \quad E[X_i] = p \]

\[ E[X] = E \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i \right] = \sum_{i=1}^{n} E[X_i] = \sum_{i=1}^{n} p = np \]