Inferential Statistics and Probability
a Holistic Approach

Chapter 6
Continuous Random Variables

1

Continuous Distributions

- "Uncountable" Number of possibilities
- Probability of a point makes no sense
- Probability is measured over intervals
- Comparable to Relative Frequency Histogram – Find Area under curve.

2

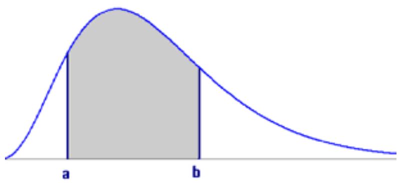
Discrete vs Continuous

Discrete	Continuous
Countable	Uncountable
Discrete Points	Continuous Intervals
p(x) is probability distribution function	f(x) is probability density function
$p(x) \geq 0$	$f(x) \geq 0$
$\Sigma p(x) = 1$	Total Area under curve =1

3

Continuous Random Variable

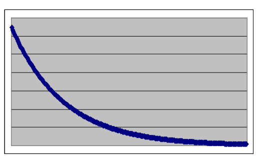
- f(x) is a density function
- P(X<x) is a distribution function.
- P(a<X<b) = area under function between a and b



4

Exponential distribution

- Waiting time
- "Memoryless"
- $f(x) = (1/\mu)e^{-(1/\mu)x}$
- $P(x>a) = e^{-(a/\mu)}$
- $\mu=\mu \quad \sigma^2=\mu^2$
- $P(x>a+b|x>b) = e^{-(a/\mu)}$



5

Examples of Exponential Distributiuon

- Time until…
- a circuit will fail
- the next RM 7 Earthquake
- the next customer calls
- An oil refinery accident
- you buy a winning lotto ticket

6

Relationship between Poisson and Exponential Distributions

- If occurrences follow a Poisson Process with mean = μ, then the waiting time for the next occurrence has Exponential distribution with mean = $1/\mu$.
- Example: If accidents occur at a plant at a constant rate of 3 per month, then the expected waiting time for the next accident is 1/3 month.

7

Exponential Example

The time until a screen is cracked on a smart phone has exponential distribution with μ=500 hours of use.

(a) Find the probability screen will not crack for at least 600 hours.

$P(x>600) = e^{-600/500} = e^{-1.2} = .3012$

(b) Assuming that screen has already lasted 500 hours without cracking, find the chance the display will last an additional 600 hours.

$P(x>1100|x>500) = P(x>600) = .3012$

8

Exponential Example

The time until a screen is cracked on a smart phone has exponential distribution with μ=500 hours of use.

(a) Find the median of the distribution

$P(x>med) = e^{-(med)/500} = 0.5$

$med = -500\ln(.5) = 347$

p^{th} Percentile = $-\mu \ln(1-p)$

9

Uniform Distribution

- Rectangular distribution
- Example: Random number generator

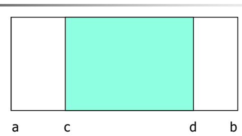
$$f(x) = \frac{1}{b-a} \qquad a \le x \le b$$

$$\mu = E(X) = \frac{b+a}{2}$$

$$\sigma^2 = Var(X) = \frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$$

10

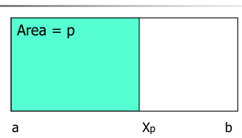
Uniform Distribution - Probability



$$P(c < X < d) = \frac{d-c}{b-a}$$

11

Uniform Distribution - Percentile



Formula to find the pth percentile X_p:

$$X_p = a + p(b-a)$$

12

Uniform Example 1

- Find mean, variance, P(X<3) and 70th percentile for a uniform distribution from 1 to 11.

$$\mu = \frac{1+11}{2} = 6 \quad \sigma^2 = \frac{(11-1)^2}{12} = 8.33$$

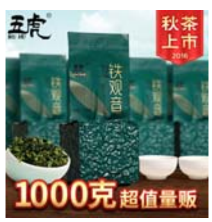
$$P(X<3) = \frac{3-1}{11-1} = 0.3$$

$$X_{70} = 1 + 0.7(11-1) = 8$$

13

Uniform Example 2

- A tea lover orders 1000 grams of Tie Guan Yin loose leaf when his supply gets to 50 grams.
- The amount of tea currently in stock follows a uniform random variable.
- Determine this model
- Find the mean and variance
- Find the probability of at least 700 grams in stock.
- Find the 80th percentile



14

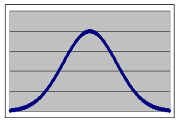
Uniform Example 3

- A bus arrives at a stop every 20 minutes.
  - Find the probability of waiting more than 15 minutes for the bus after arriving randomly at the bus stop.
  - If you have already waited 5 minutes, find the probability of waiting an additional 10 minutes or more. (Hint: recalculate parameters a and b)

15

Normal Distribution

- The normal curve is *bell-shaped*
- The mean, median, and mode of the distribution are equal and located at the peak.
- The normal distribution is symmetrical about its mean. Half the area under the curve is above the peak, and the other half is below it.
- The normal probability distribution is asymptotic - the curve gets closer and closer to the x-axis but never actually touches it.



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

16

The Standard Normal Probability Distribution

- A normal distribution with a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1 is called the standard normal distribution.
- Z value: The distance between a selected value, designated x, and the population mean μ, divided by the population standard deviation, σ

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

17

Areas Under the Normal Curve – Empirical Rule

- About 68 percent of the area under the normal curve is within one standard deviation of the mean. $\mu \pm 1\sigma$
- About 95 percent is within two standard deviations of the mean $\mu \pm 2\sigma$
- 99.7 percent is within three standard deviations of the mean. $\mu \pm 3\sigma$

18

EXAMPLE

- The daily water usage per person in a town is normally distributed with a mean of 20 gallons and a standard deviation of 5 gallons.
- About 68% of the daily water usage per person in New Providence lies between what two values?
- $\mu \pm 1\sigma = 20 \pm 1(5)$. That is, about 68% of the daily water usage will lie between 15 and 25 gallons.

19

Normal Distribution – probability problem procedure

- Given: Interval in terms of X
- Convert to Z by $Z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma}$
- Look up probability in table.

20

EXAMPLE

- The daily water usage per person in a town is normally distributed with a mean of 20 gallons and a standard deviation of 5 gallons.
- What is the probability that a person from the town selected at random will use less than 18 gallons per day?
- The associated Z value is Z=(18-20)/5=0.
- Thus, P(X<18)=P(Z<-0.40)=.3446

21

EXAMPLE *continued*

- The daily water usage per person in a town is normally distributed with a mean of 20 gallons and a standard deviation of 5 gallons.
- What proportion of the people uses between 18 and 24 gallons?
- The Z value associated with x=18 is Z=-0.40 and with X=24, Z=(24-20)/5=0.80.
- Thus, P(18<X<24)=P(-0.40<Z<0.80)
  =.7881-.3446=**.4435**

22

EXAMPLE *continued*

- The daily water usage per person in a town is normally distributed with a mean of 20 gallons and a standard deviation of 5 gallons.
- What percentage of the population uses more than 26.2 gallons?
- The Z value associated with X=26.2, Z=(26.2-20)/5=1.24.
- Thus P(X>26.2)=P(Z>1.24)
  =1-.8925=**.1075**

23

Normal Distribution – percentile problem procedure

- Given: probability or percentile desired.
- Look up Z value in table that corresponds to probability.
- Convert to X by the formula:

$$X = \mu + Z\sigma$$

24

EXAMPLE

- The daily water usage per person in a town is normally distributed with a mean of 20 gallons and a standard deviation of 5 gallons. A special tax is going to be charged on the top 5% of water users.
- Find the value of daily water usage that generates the special tax
- The Z value associated with 95th percentile =1.645
- X=20 + 5(1.645) = 28.2 gallons per day

25

EXAMPLE

- Professor Kurv has determined that the final averages in his statistics course is normally distributed with a mean of 77.1 and a standard deviation of 11.2.
- He decides to assign his grades for his current course such that the top 15% of the students receive an A.
- What is the lowest average a student can receive to earn an A?
- The top 15% would be the finding the 85th percentile. Find k such that P(X<k)=.85.
- The corresponding Z value is 1.04. Thus we have X=77.1+(1.04)(11.2), or **X=88.75**

26

EXAMPLE

- The amount of tip the servers in an exclusive restaurant receive per shift is normally distributed with a mean of $80 and a standard deviation of $10.
- Shelli feels she has provided poor service if her total tip for the shift is less than $65.
- What percentage of the time will she feel like she provided poor service?
- Let y be the amount of tip. The Z value associated with X=65 is Z= (65-80)/10= -1.5.
- Thus P(X<65)=P(Z<-1.5)=.0668.

27