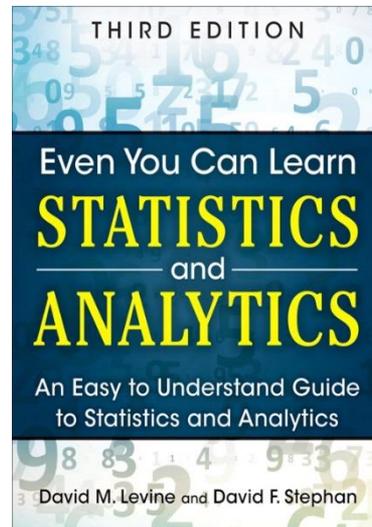


IMGD 2905

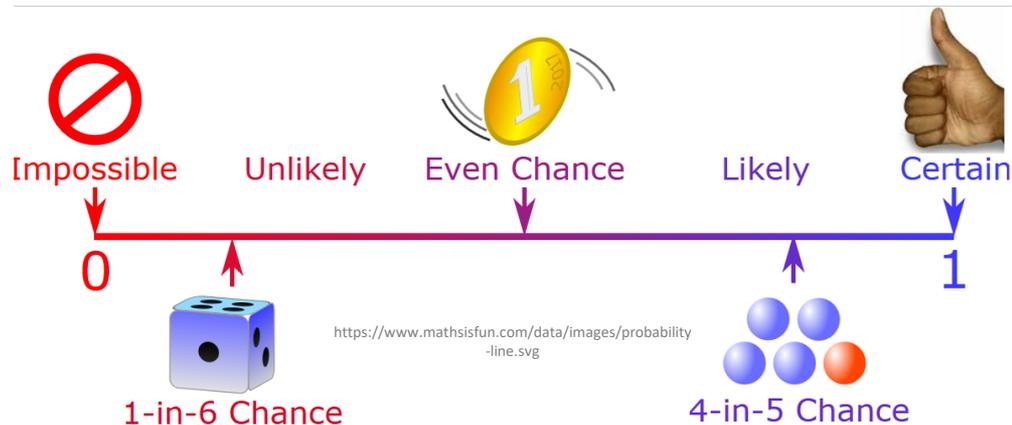
# Probability

Chapters 4 & 5

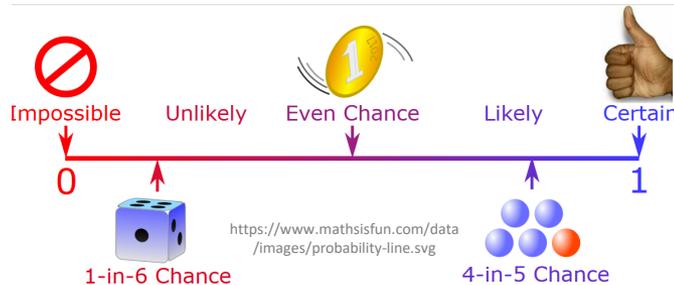


# Overview

- **Statistics** important for game analysis
- **Probability** important for statistics
- So, understand some **basic probability**
- Also, **probability** useful for game development



# Groupwork



- What are some examples of probabilities needed for game development?
- Provide a specific example
- Icebreaker, Groupwork, Questions

<https://web.cs.wpi.edu/~imgd2905/d22/groupwork/5-probabilities/handout.html>

# Overview

- **Statistics** important for game analysis
- **Probability** important for statistics
- So, understand some **basic probability**
- Also, **probability** itself useful for game development
- Probabilities for game development?
- Examples?



# Overview

- **Statistics** important for game analysis
- **Probability** important for statistics
- So, understand some **basic probability**
- Also, **probability** itself useful for game development
- Probabilities for game development?
- Probability attack will succeed
- Probability loot from enemy contains rare item
- Probability enemy spawns at particular time
- Probability action (e.g., building a castle) takes particular amount of time
- Probability players at server



# Outline

- Introduction (done)
- Probability (next)
- Probability Distributions

# Probability Definitions (1 of 3)

- **Probability** – way of assigning numbers to outcomes to express likelihood of event
- **Event** – outcome of experiment or observation
  - **Elementary** – simplest type for given experiment. independent
  - **Joint/Compound** – more than one elementary



$$P(\text{Jack}) = \frac{4}{52}$$

<https://cdn.kastatic.org/googleusercontent/Z0TuLq2KolavsrFDXSbLqi0S-wnlCrC13cKGG68wK9lJrTIXzRqvq7lpWNzcgzlpEOI8YmMafp4K4zO0sanvXu>

- **Roll die (d6) and get 6**
  - elementary event
- **Roll die (d6) and get even number**
  - compound event, consists of elementary events 2, 4, and 6
- **Pick card from standard deck and get queen of spades**
  - elementary event
- **Pick card from standard deck and get face card**
  - compound event
- **Observe players logging in to MMO server and see if two people log in less than 15 minutes apart**
  - compound event

We'll treat/compute probabilities of elementary versus compound separately

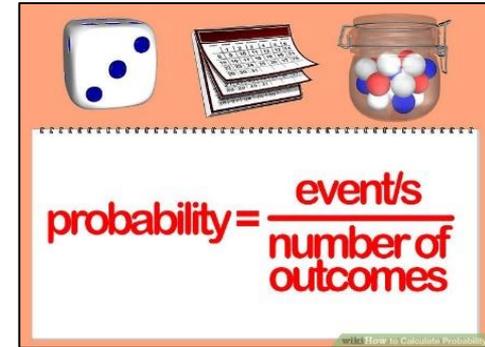
# Probability – Definitions (2 of 3)

- **Exhaustive set of events**
  - set of all possible outcomes of experiment/observation
- **Mutually exclusive sets of events** – elementary events that do not overlap
- **Roll d6:** Events: 1, 2
  - not exhaustive, mutually exclusive
- **Roll d6:** Events: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
  - exhaustive, mutually exclusive
- **Roll d6:** Events: get even number, get number divisible by 3, get a 1 or get a 5
  - exhaustive, but overlap
- **Observe logins:** time between arrivals <10 seconds, 10+ and <15 seconds inclusive, or 15+ seconds
  - exhaustive, mutually exclusive
- **Observe logins:** time between arrivals <10 seconds, 10+ and <15 seconds inclusive, or 10+ seconds
  - exhaustive, but overlap



# Probability – Definitions

## (3 of 3)



<https://goo.gl/iy3YGr>

- **Probability** – likelihood of event to occur, ratio of favorable cases to all cases
- Set of rules that probabilities must follow
  - Probabilities must be between 0 and 1 (but often written/said as **percent**)
  - Probabilities of set of *exhaustive, mutually exclusive* events must add up to 1
- e.g., d6: events 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Probability of  $1/6^{\text{th}}$  to each, sum of  $P(1) + P(2) + P(3) + P(4) + P(5) + P(6) = 1$ 
  - **legal set of probabilities**
- e.g., d6: events 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Probability of  $1/2$  to roll 1,  $1/2$  to roll 2, and 0 to all the others sum of  $P(1) + \dots + P(6) = 0.5 + 0.5 + 0 \dots + 0 = 1$ 
  - Also legal set of probabilities
    - Not how honest d6's behave in real life!

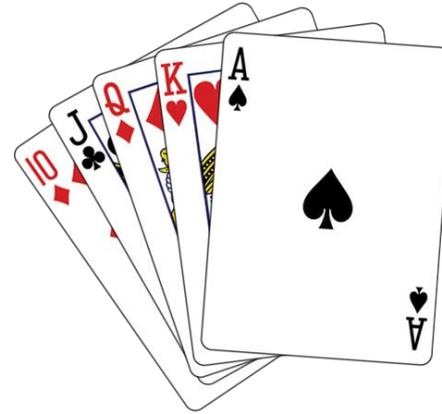
**Q:** how to assign probabilities?

# How to Assign Probabilities?

Probability  
Rules



<http://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a14961cf14aa1f245bc3942/5a1c5e8d8165f542d6db3b0e/5acecc7f03ce64b9a46d99c6/1529981982981/Michael+Jordan+%2833%29.png?format=1500w>



<https://newvitruvian.com/images/marbles-clipart-bag-marble-4.png>

Q: how to assign probabilities?

# Assigning Probabilities

- **Classical** (by theory)
  - In some cases, exhaustive, mutually exclusive outcomes equally likely → assign each outcome probability of  $1/n$
  - e.g., *d6*:  $1/6$ , *Coin*: prob heads  $\frac{1}{2}$ , tails  $\frac{1}{2}$ , *Cards*: pick Ace  $1/13$
- **Empirically** (by observation)
  - Obtain data through measuring/observing
  - e.g., Watch how often people play PUBG in FL222 versus some other game. Say, 30% PUBG. Assign that as probability
- **Subjective** (by hunch)
  - Based on expert opinion or other subjective method
  - e.g., eSports writer says probability Fnatic (European LoL team) will win World Championship is 25%

# Rules About Probabilities (1 of 2)

- **Complement:**  $A$  an event. Event “Probability  $A$  does not occur” called *complement* of  $A$ , denoted  $A'$

$$P(A') = 1 - P(A) \quad \leftarrow \text{Why?}$$

– e.g., d6:  $P(6) = 1/6$ , complement is  $P(6')$  and probability of “not 6” is  $1 - 1/6$ , or  $5/6$ .

– Note: Value often denoted  $p$ , complement is  $q$

- **Mutually exclusive:** Have no simple outcomes in common – can’t both occur in same experiment

$$P(A \text{ or } B) = P(A) + P(B)$$

– “Probability either occurs”

– e.g., d6:  $P(3 \text{ or } 6) = P(3) + P(6) = 1/6 + 1/6 = 2/6$

# Rules About Probabilities (2 of 2)

- **Independent:** Probability that one occurs doesn't affect probability that other occurs
  - e.g., 2d6: A= die 1 get 5, B= die 2 gets 6. Independent, since result of one roll doesn't affect roll of other
  - “Probability both occur”  $P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \times P(B)$
  - e.g., 2d6: prob of “snake eyes” is  $P(1) \times P(1) = 1/6 \times 1/6 = 1/36$
- **Not independent:** One occurs affects probability that other occurs
  - Probability both occur  $P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \times P(B | A)$ 
    - Where  $P(B | A)$  means prob B given A happened
  - e.g., PUBG chance of getting top 10 is 10%. Chance of using only stock gun 50%. You might think that:
    - $P(\text{top 10}) \times P(\text{stock}) = 0.10 \times 0.50 = 0.05$
  - But likely *not* independent.  $P(\text{top} | \text{stock}) < 5\%$ . So, need non-independent formula
    - $P(\text{top}) * P(\text{top} | \text{stock})$

(Card example next slide)



# Probability Example

- Probability drawing King?



# Probability Example

- Probability drawing King?

$$P(K) = \frac{1}{4}$$

- Draw, put back. Now?



# Probability Example

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$$P(K) = \frac{1}{4}$$

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# Probability Example

- Probability drawing King?

$$P(K) = \frac{1}{4}$$

- Draw, put back. Now?

$$P(K) = \frac{1}{4}$$

- Probability *not* King?

$$P(K') = 1 - P(K) = \frac{3}{4}$$

- Draw, put back. 2 Kings?



# Probability Example

- Draw. King or Queen?

- Probability drawing King?

$$P(K) = \frac{1}{4}$$

- Draw, put back. Now?

$$P(K) = \frac{1}{4}$$

- Probability *not* King?

$$P(K') = 1 - P(K) = \frac{3}{4}$$

- Draw, put back. Draw. 2 Kings?

$$P(K) \times P(K) = \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{16}$$



# Probability Example

- Draw. King or Queen?

$$\begin{aligned}P(K \text{ or } Q) &= P(K) + P(Q) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{2}\end{aligned}$$

- Probability drawing King?

$$P(K) = \frac{1}{4}$$

- Draw, put back. Now?

$$P(K) = \frac{1}{4}$$

- Probability *not* King?

$$P(K') = 1 - P(K) = \frac{3}{4}$$

- Draw, put back. Draw. 2 Kings?

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# Probability Example

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# Probability Example

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$$P(K) = \frac{1}{4}$$

- Draw, put back. Now?

$$P(K) = \frac{1}{4}$$

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$$P(K') = 1 - P(K) = \frac{3}{4}$$

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- Draw. King or Queen?

$$\begin{aligned} P(K \text{ or } Q) &= P(K) + P(Q) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

- Draw, put back. Draw. Not King either card?

$$P(K') \times P(K') = \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{4} = \frac{9}{16}$$

- Draw, *don't* put back. Draw. Not King either card?



# Probability Example

- Probability drawing King?

$$P(K) = \frac{1}{4}$$

- Draw, put back. Now?

$$P(K) = \frac{1}{4}$$

- Probability *not* King?

$$P(K') = 1 - P(K) = \frac{3}{4}$$

- Draw, put back. 2 Kings?

$$P(K) \times P(K) = \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{16}$$

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- Draw, put back. Draw. Not King either card?

$$P(K') \times P(K') = \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{4} = \frac{9}{16}$$

- Draw, *don't* put back. Draw. Not King either card?

$$\begin{aligned} P(K') \times P(K' \mid K') &= \frac{3}{4} \times (1 - \frac{1}{3}) \\ &= \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{2}{3} \\ &= \frac{6}{12} = \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

- Draw, *don't* put back. Draw. King 2<sup>nd</sup> card?



# Probability Example

- Probability drawing King?

$$P(K) = \frac{1}{4}$$

- Draw, put back. Now?

$$P(K) = \frac{1}{4}$$

- Probability *not* King?

$$P(K') = 1 - P(K) = \frac{3}{4}$$

- Draw, put back. 2 Kings?

$$P(K) \times P(K) = \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{16}$$

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- Draw, *don't* put back. Draw. King 2<sup>nd</sup> card?

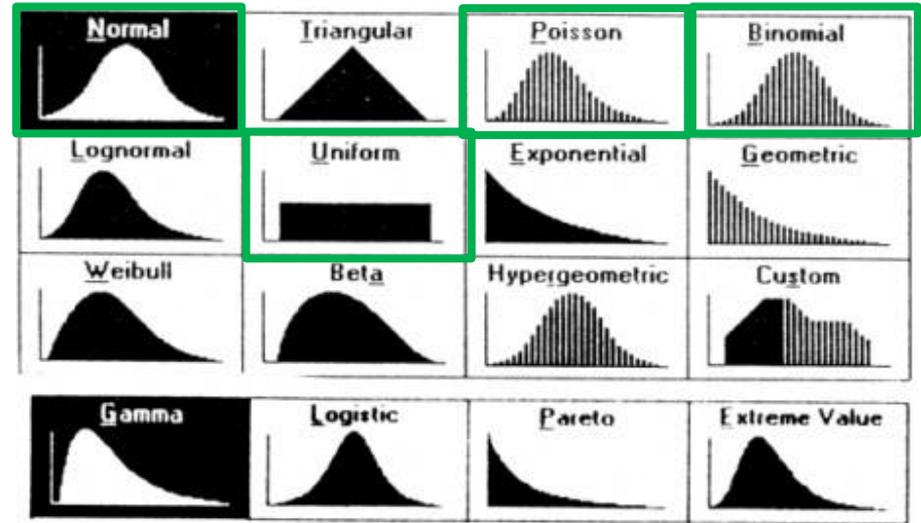
$$P(K') \times P(K \mid K') = \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{3} = \frac{3}{12} = \frac{1}{4}$$

# Outline

- Intro (done)
- Probability (done)
- Probability Distributions (next)

# Probability Distributions

- **Probability distribution** – values and likelihood (expected value) that random variable can take
- Why? If can model mathematically, can use to predict occurrences
  - e.g., probability slot machine pays out on given day
  - e.g., probability game server hosts player today
  - e.g., probability certain game mode is chosen by player
  - Also, some statistical techniques for some distributions only



<https://goo.gl/jqomFI>

Types discussed:

**Uniform** (discrete)

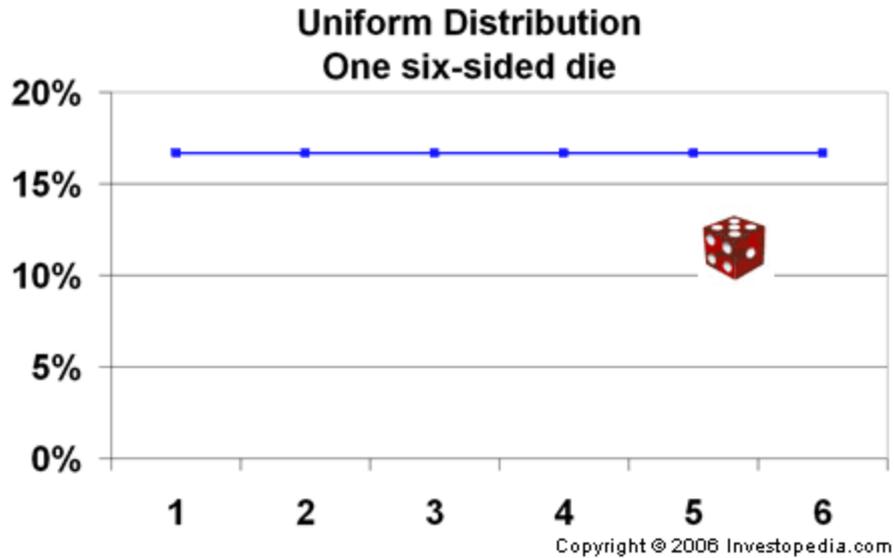
**Binomial** (discrete)

**Poisson** (discrete)

**Normal** (continuous)

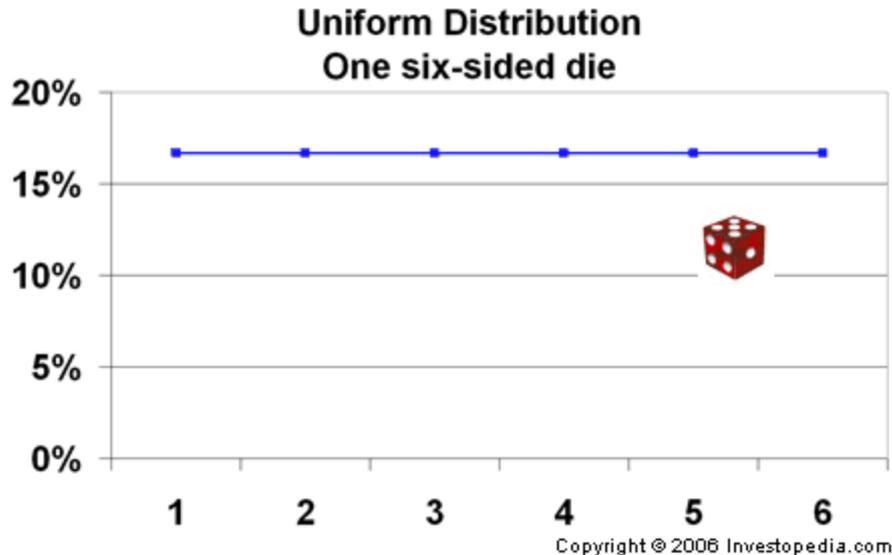
Remember empirical rule?  
What distribution did it apply to?

# Uniform Distribution



- “So what?”
- Can use known formulas

# Uniform Distribution



- “So what?”
- Can use known formulas

$$\text{Mean} = (1 + 6) / 2 = 3.5$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Variance} &= ((6 - 1 + 1)^2 - 1) / 12 \\ &= 2.9\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Std Dev} = \text{sqrt}(\text{Variance}) = 1.7$$

Note – mean is also the **expected value**  
(if you did a lot of trials, would be average result)

<b>Mean</b>	$\frac{a + b}{2}$
<b>Median</b>	$\frac{a + b}{2}$
<b>Mode</b>	N/A
<b>Variance</b>	$\frac{(b - a + 1)^2 - 1}{12}$

# Binomial Distribution Example (1 of 3)



How to assign probabilities?

- Suppose toss 3 coins
- Random variable  
 $X$  = number of heads
- Want to know probability of *exactly* 2 heads

$$P(X=2) = ?$$

Probability  
Rules



# Binomial Distribution Example (1 of 3)



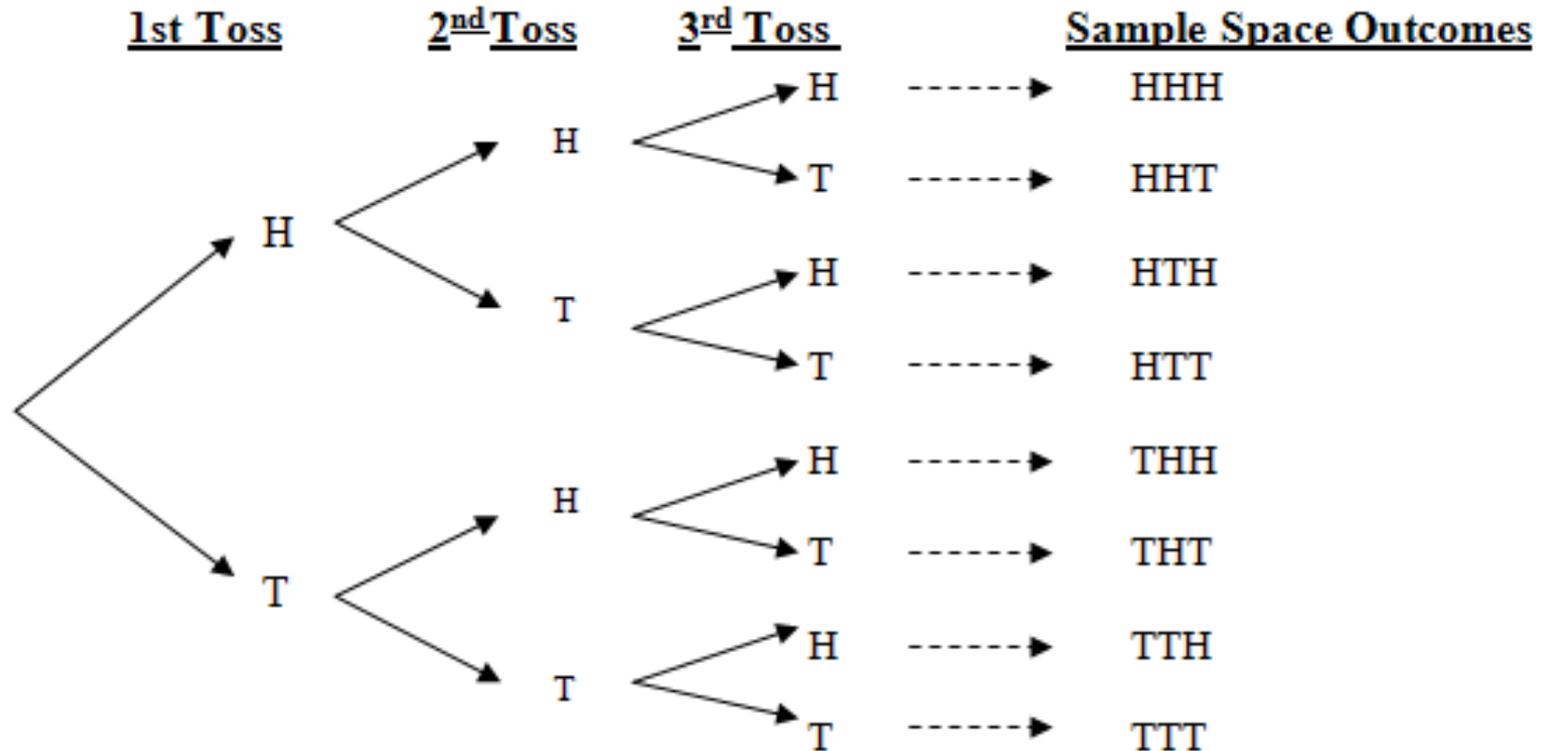
- Suppose toss 3 coins
- Random variable  
 $X$  = number of heads
- Want to know probability of *exactly* 2 heads

$$P(X=2) = ?$$

How to assign probabilities?

- Could *measure* (**empirical**)
  - *Q: how?*
- Could use “hunch” (**subjective**)
  - *Q: what do you think?*
- Could use theory (**classical**)
  - *Math using our probability rules (not shown)*
  - Enumerate (next)

# Binomial Distribution Example (2 of 3)

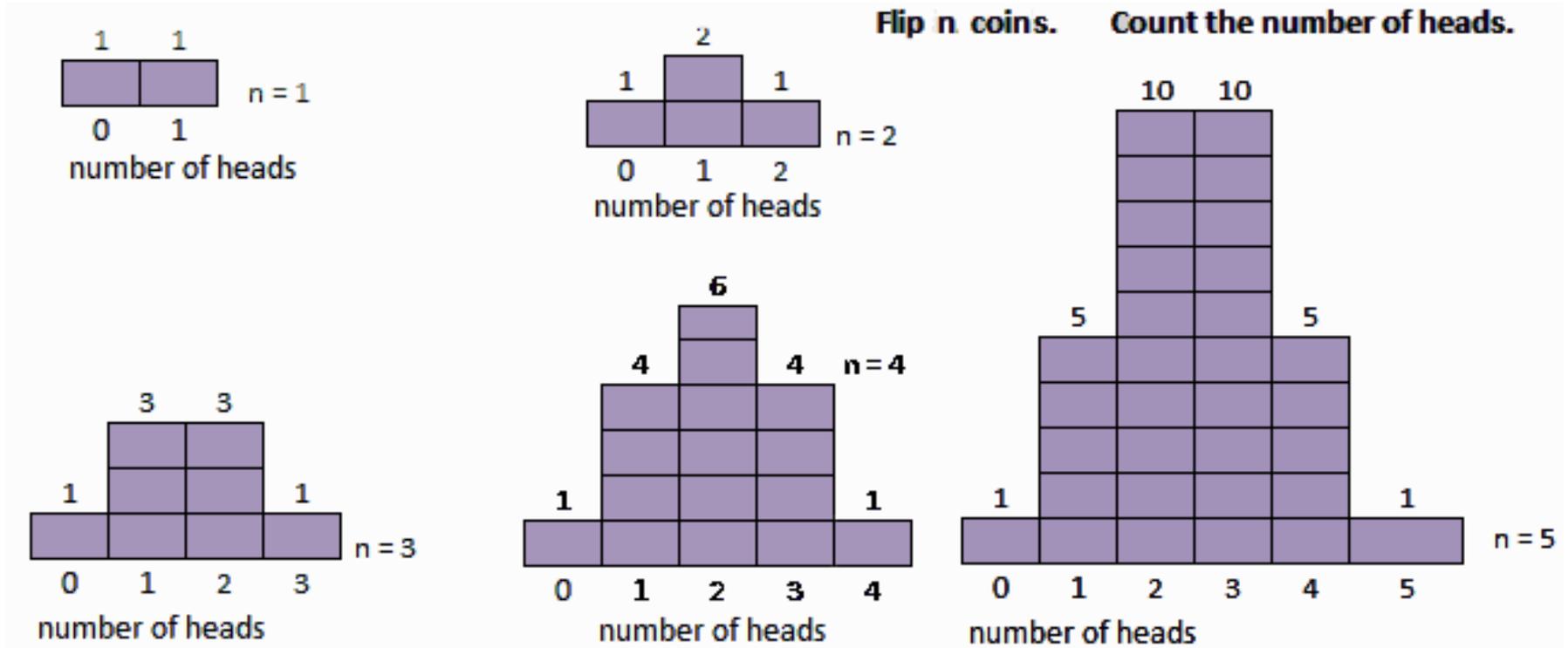


<http://web.mnstate.edu/peil/MDEV102/U3/S25/Cartesian3.PNG>

All equally likely ( $p$  is  $1/8$  for each)  
→  $P(\text{HHT}) + P(\text{HTH}) + P(\text{THH}) = 3/8$

Can draw histogram  
of number of heads

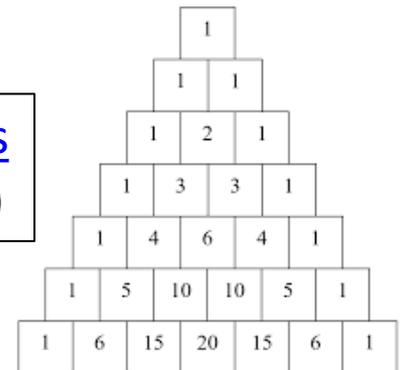
# Binomial Distribution Example (3 of 3)



<http://www.mathnstuff.com/math/spoken/here/2class/90/binom2.gif>

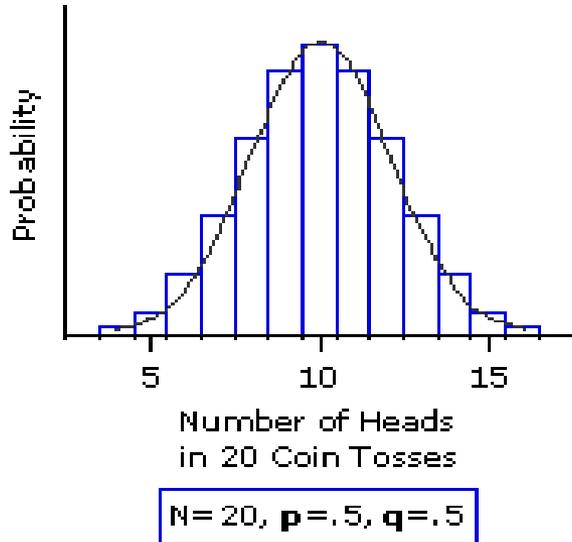
These are *all* binomial distributions

( Pascal's Triangle )



# Binomial Distribution (1 of 2)

- In general, any number of trials ( $n$ ) & any probability of successful outcome ( $p$ ) (e.g., heads)



<http://www.vassarstats.net/textbook/f0603.gif>

- Characteristics of experiment that gives random number with binomial distribution:
  - Experiment of  $n$  identical trials.
  - Trials are independent
  - Each trial only two possible outcomes, **Success** or **Fail**
  - Probability of **Success** each trial is same, denoted  $p$
  - Random variable of interest ( $X$ ) is number of **Successes** in  $n$  trials

# Binomial Distribution (2 of 2)

- “So what?”
- Can use known formulas

$$MEAN: \mu = np$$

$$Variance: \sigma^2 = npq$$

$$SD: \sigma = \sqrt{npq}$$

$$p(X=r) = \binom{n}{r} p^r q^{n-r}$$

*r failures* *h-r failures*

Probability of *r* successes

The number of ways of choosing *r* objects from *n*

<http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gifs/a-mat-sdisc-dia08.gif>

Excel: `binom.dist()`  
`binom.dist(x, trials, prob, cumulative)`  
– 2 heads, 3 flips, coin, discrete  
`=binom.dist(2, 3, 0.5, FALSE)`  
`=0.375` (i.e., **3/8**)



If “true”?

$$P(X < 3) = P(x=0) + P(x=1) + P(x=2)$$

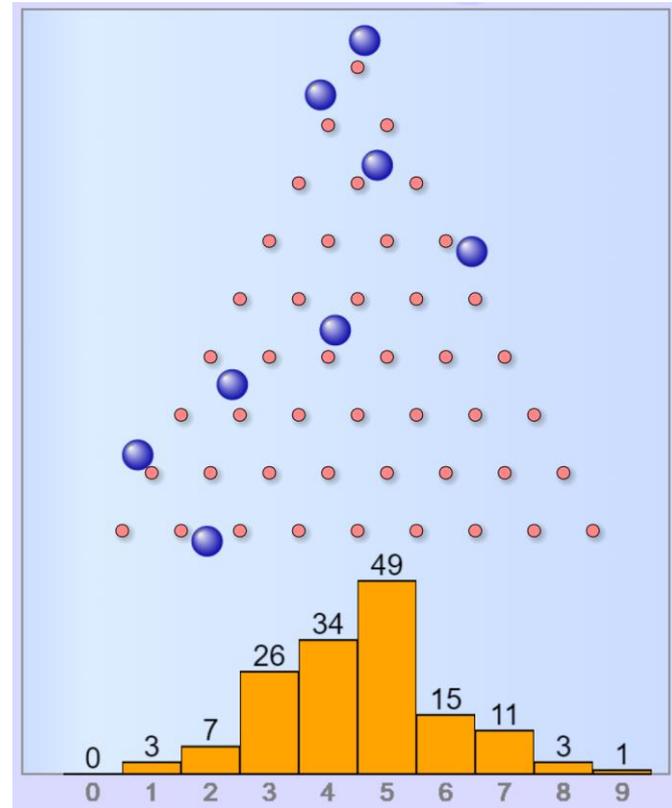
Probability of less than 2 successes

Means either 1, 2 or 3 successes

<http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gifs/a-mat-sdisc-dia12.gif>

# Binomial Distribution Example

- Each row is like a coin flip
  - right = “heads”
  - left = “tails”
- Bottom axis is number of heads
- Gives and “empirical” way to estimate  $P(X)$   
$$\text{bin}(X) \div \text{sum}(\text{bin}(0) + \text{bin}(1) + \dots)$$



<https://www.mathsisfun.com/data/quincunx.html>

# Poisson Distribution

- Distribution of probability of **x events occurring in certain interval** (broken into units)
  - Interval can be time, area, volume, distance
  - e.g., number of players arriving at server lobby in 5-minute period between noon-1pm
- Requires
  1. Probability of event **same** for all time units
  2. Number of events in one time unit **independent** of number of events in any other time unit
  3. Events occur **singly** (not simultaneously). In other words, as interval unit gets smaller, probability of two events occurring approaches 0

# Poisson Distributions?

## Could Be Poisson

- Number of groups arriving at restaurant during dinner hour
- Number of logins to MMO during prime time
- Number of defects (bugs) per 100 lines of code
- People arriving at cash register (if they shop individually)



## Not Poisson

- Number of people arriving at restaurant during dinner hour
  - People frequently arrive in groups
- Number of students registering for course in **Workday** per hour on first day of registration
  - Prob not equal – most register in first few hours
  - Not independent – if too many register early, system crashes

Phrase people use is  
**random arrivals**

# Poisson Distribution

- Distribution of probability of **x** events occurring in certain interval

$$P(X = x) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!}$$



- $X$  = a Poisson random variable
- $x$  = number of events whose probability you are calculating
- $\lambda$  = the Greek letter "lambda," which represents the average number of events that occur per time interval
- $e$  = a constant that's equal to approximately 2.71828

# Poisson Distribution Example

1. Number of games student plays per day averages **1** per day
2. Number of games played per day independent of all other days
3. Can only play one game at a time

What's probability of playing **2** games tomorrow?

In this case, the value of  $\lambda = 1$ , want  $P(X=2)$

$$P(X = 2) = e^{-1} \frac{1^2}{2!} = 0.1839$$

# Current Poisson Distribution Example

- New England city
- Average new COVID-19 cases 50/day
- Local hospital has 60 free beds
- What is the probability more than 60 in one day?

$$P(X = x) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!} = ???$$

# Current Poisson Distribution Example

- New England city
- Average new COVID-19 cases 50/day
- Local hospital has 60 free beds
- What is the probability more than 60 in one day?

$$P(X = x) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!} = ???$$

The diagram illustrates the Poisson distribution formula  $P(X = x) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!}$  with annotations. A red '60' is positioned above the formula, with two red arrows pointing to the  $-\lambda$  in the exponent and the  $x$  in the denominator. A green '50' is positioned below the formula, with two green arrows pointing to the  $\lambda$  in the numerator and the  $x$  in the denominator. A red '60' is positioned below the formula, with a red arrow pointing to the  $x$  in the denominator. The result of the formula is shown as '???' in blue.

# Current Poisson Distribution Example

<https://stattrek.com/online-calculator/poisson.aspx>

- New England city
- Average new COVID-19 cases **50/day**
- Local hospital has **60** free beds
- What is the probability more than **60** in one day?

Poisson random variable (x)	60
Average rate of success	50
Poisson Probability: P(X = 60)	0.02010
Cumulative Probability: P(X < 60)	0.90774
Cumulative Probability: P(X ≤ 60)	0.92784
Cumulative Probability: P(X > 60)	0.07216
Cumulative Probability: P(X ≥ 60)	0.09226

$$P(X = x) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!} = ???$$

Diagram illustrating the Poisson distribution formula with annotations:

- Red arrow from **60** points to  $x$  in the denominator  $x!$ .
- Red arrow from **60** points to  $\lambda^x$  in the numerator.
- Green arrow from **50** points to  $\lambda$  in the exponent of  $e^{-\lambda}$ .
- Red arrow from **60** points to the final result  $???$ .

# Current Poisson Distribution Example

<https://stattrek.com/online-calculator/poisson.aspx>

- New England city
- Average new COVID-19 cases **50/day**
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Cumulative Probability: P(X > 60)	0.07216
Cumulative Probability: P(X ≥ 60)	0.09226

$$P(X = x) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!} = 0.02$$

Diagram illustrating the Poisson distribution formula with annotations:

- Red arrow points from **60** to  $x$  in  $P(X = x)$ .
- Red arrow points from **60** to  $\lambda^x$ .
- Green arrow points from **50** to  $e^{-\lambda}$ .
- Green arrow points from **50** to  $\lambda$ .
- Red arrow points from **60** to  $x!$ .

Q: How do we get greater than 60?

# Current Poisson Distribution Example

<https://stattrek.com/online-calculator/poisson.aspx>

- New England city
- Average new COVID-19 cases **50/day**
- Local hospital has **60** free beds
- What is the probability **more than 60** in one day?

$$P(X = x) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!} = 0.02$$

Diagram illustrating the Poisson distribution formula with annotations:

- Red arrow pointing to  $x$  (60)
- Green arrow pointing to  $\lambda$  (50)
- Red arrow pointing to  $x!$  (60)

Poisson random variable (x)	60
Average rate of success	50
Poisson Probability: P(X = 60)	0.02010
Cumulative Probability: P(X < 60)	0.90774
Cumulative Probability: P(X ≤ 60)	0.92784
Cumulative Probability: P(X > 60)	0.07216
Cumulative Probability: P(X ≥ 60)	0.09226

Q: How do we get greater than 60?

$$P(0) + P(1) + \dots + P(60) \rightarrow P(\leq 60)$$
$$P(>60) = 1 - P(\leq 60)$$

# Poisson Distribution

- “So what?” → Known formulas

$$P(X = x) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!}$$

- Mean =  $\lambda$
- Variance =  $\lambda$
- Std Dev =  $\sqrt{\lambda}$

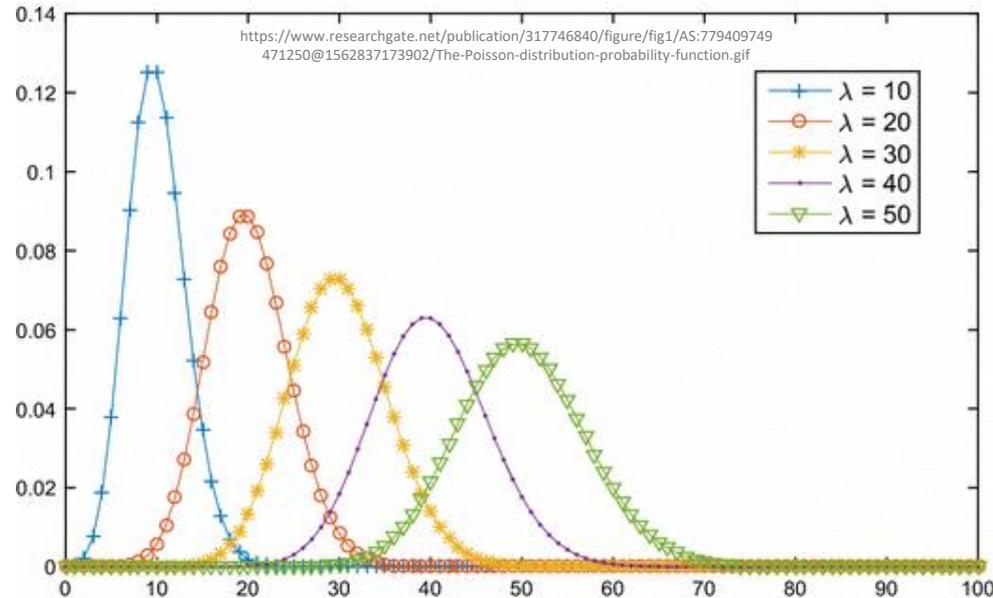
Excel: `poisson.dist()`

`poisson.dist(x, mean, cumulative)`

mean 50 per day, 60 beds, chance > 60?

= 1 - POISSON.DIST(60, 50, TRUE)

= 0.07216



e.g., Games → may want to know likelihood of 1.5x average people arriving at server

# Expected Value – Formulation

- **Expected value** of discrete random variable is value you'd *expect* after many experimental trials. i.e., mean value of population

**Value:**  $x_1$   $x_2$   $x_3$  ...  $x_n$

**Probability:**  $P(x_1)$   $P(x_2)$   $P(x_3)$  ...  $P(x_n)$

- Compute by multiplying each **value** by **probability** and summing

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_x &= E(X) = x_1P(x_1) + x_2P(x_2) + \dots + x_nP(x_n) \\ &= \sum x_iP(x_i)\end{aligned}$$

# Expected Value Example – Gambling Game



- Pay **\$3** to enter
- Roll 1d6 → 6? Get **\$7** 1-5? Get **\$1**
- What is **expected payoff**?

<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Payoff</u>	<u>P(x)</u>	<u>xP(x)</u>
1-5	<b>\$1</b>		
6	<b>\$7</b>		

# Expected Value Example – Gambling Game



- Pay **\$3** to enter
- Roll 1d6 → 6? Get **\$7** 1-5? Get **\$1**
- What is **expected payoff**?

<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Payoff</u>	<u>P(x)</u>	<u>xP(x)</u>
1-5	<b>\$1</b>	<b>5/6</b>	<b>\$5/6</b>
6	<b>\$7</b>	<b>1/6</b>	<b>\$7/6</b>

$$E(X) =$$

# Expected Value Example – Gambling Game



- Pay **\$3** to enter
- Roll 1d6 → 6? Get **\$7** 1-5? Get **\$1**
- What is **expected payoff?** **Expected net?**

<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Payoff</u>	<u>P(x)</u>	<u>xP(x)</u>
1-5	<b>\$1</b>	<b>5/6</b>	<b>\$5/6</b>
6	<b>\$7</b>	<b>1/6</b>	<b>\$7/6</b>

$$E(X) = \$5/6 + \$7/6 = \$12/6 = \$2$$

$$E(\text{net}) =$$

# Expected Value Example – Gambling Game



- Pay **\$3** to enter
- Roll 1d6 → 6? Get **\$7** 1-5? Get **\$1**
- What is **expected payoff?** **Expected net?**

<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Payoff</u>	<u>P(x)</u>	<u>xP(x)</u>
1-5	<b>\$1</b>	<b>5/6</b>	<b>\$5/6</b>
6	<b>\$7</b>	<b>1/6</b>	<b>\$7/6</b>

$$E(X) = \$5/6 + \$7/6 = \$12/6 = \$2$$

$$E(\text{net}) = E(X) - \$3 = \$2 - \$3 = \$-1$$

# Outline

- Intro (done)
- Probability (done)
- Probability Distributions
  - Discrete (done)

So far random variable could take only **discrete** set of values

Q: What does that mean?

Q: What *other* distributions might we consider?

# Outline

- Intro (done)
- Probability (done)
- Probability Distributions
  - Discrete (done)
  - Continuous (next)

# Continuous Distributions

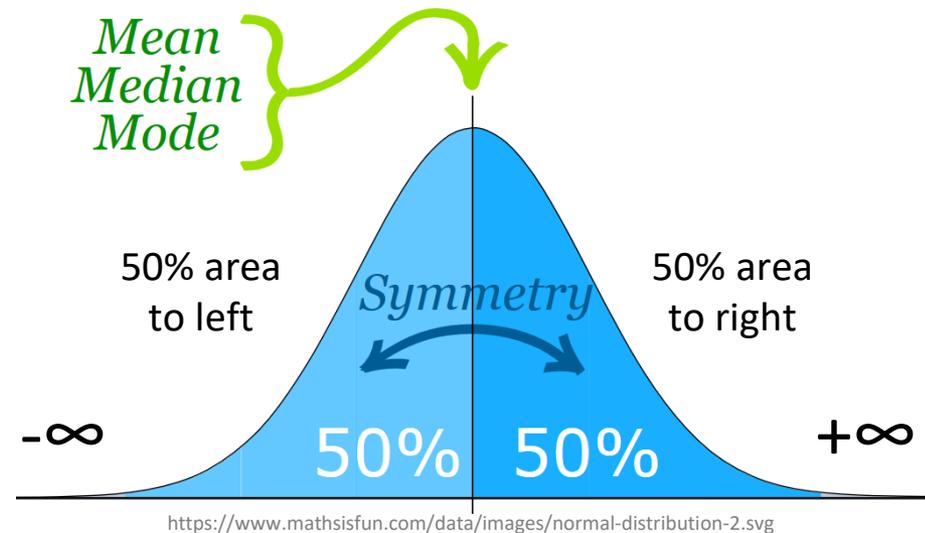
- Many random variables are **continuous**
  - e.g., recording *time* (time to perform service) or measuring something (*height, weight, strength*)
- For continuous, doesn't make sense to talk about  $P(X=x)$  → continuum of possible values for  $X$ 
  - Mathematically, if all non-zero, total probability infinite (this violates our rule)
- So, continuous distributions have probability density,  $f(x)$ 
  - How to use to calculate probabilities?
  - Don't care about specific values
    - e.g.,  $P(\text{Height} = 60.1946728163 \text{ inches})$
  - Instead, ask about *range* of values
    - e.g.,  $P(59.5'' < X < 60.5'')$
  - Uses calculus (integrate area under curve) (not shown here)

Q: What continuous distribution is **especially** important?

→ the **Normal Distribution**

# Normal Distribution (1 of 2)

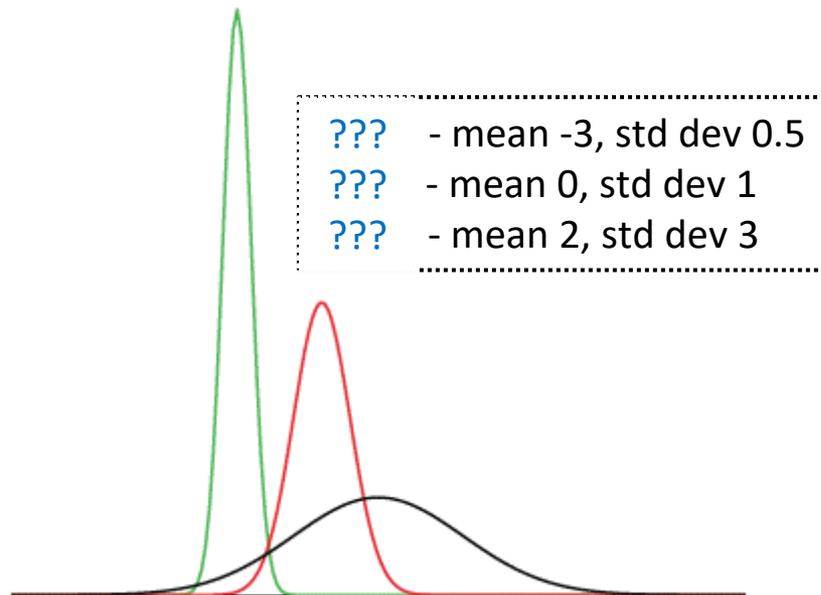
- “Bell-shaped” or “Bell-curve”
  - Distribution from  $-\infty$  to  $+\infty$
- Symmetric
- Mean, median, mode all same
  - Mean determines location, standard deviation determines “width”
- Super important!
  - Lots of distributions follow a normal curve
  - Basis for inferential statistics (e.g., statistical tests)
  - “Bridge” between probability and statistics



Aka “Gaussian” distribution

# Normal Distribution (2 of 2)

- *Many* normal distributions (see right)
- However, “the” normal distribution refers to **standard normal**
  - Mean ( $\mu$ ) = 0
  - Standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) = 1
- Can *convert* any normal to the standard normal
  - Given sample **mean** ( $\bar{x}$ )
  - Sample **standard dev.** (s)



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

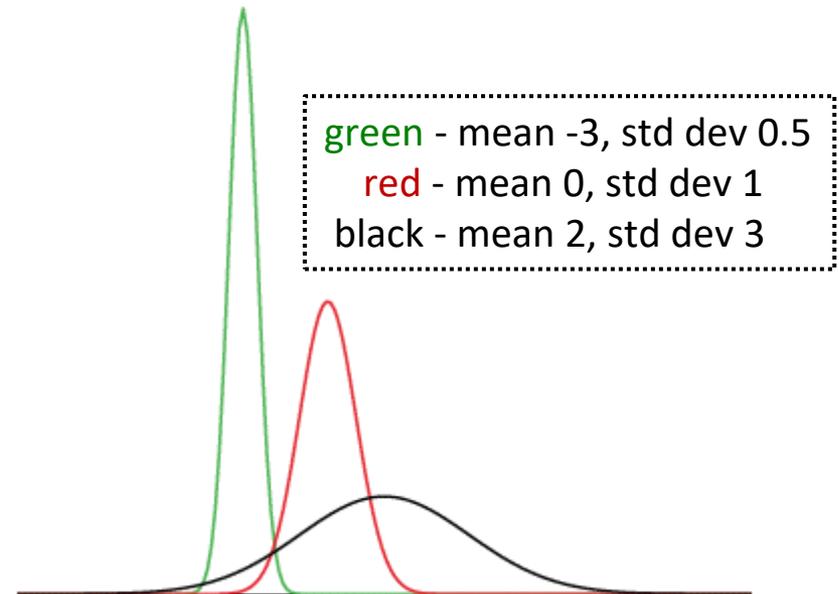
(Next)

=norm.dist()



# Normal Distribution (2 of 2)

- *Many* normal distributions (see right)
- However, “the” normal distribution refers to **standard normal**
  - Mean ( $\mu$ ) = 0
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- Can *convert* any normal to the standard normal
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  - Sample **standard dev.** (s)



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

(Next)

=norm.dist()



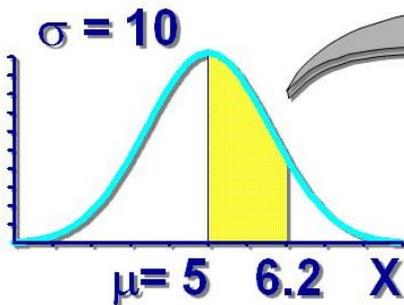
# Standard Normal Distribution

- Standardize
  - Subtract sample mean ( $\bar{x}$ )
  - Divide by sample standard deviation ( $s$ )
- Mean  $\mu = 0$
- Standard Deviation  $\sigma = 1$
- Total area under curve = 1
  - Sounds like probability!

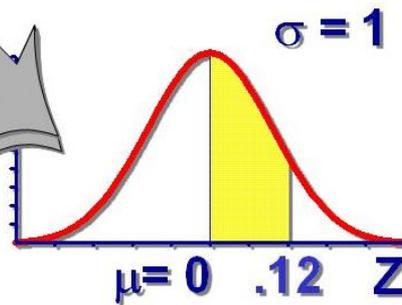
Remember the Z-score?

$$Z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma} = \frac{6.2 - 5}{10} = .12$$

Normal Distribution



Standardized Normal Distribution



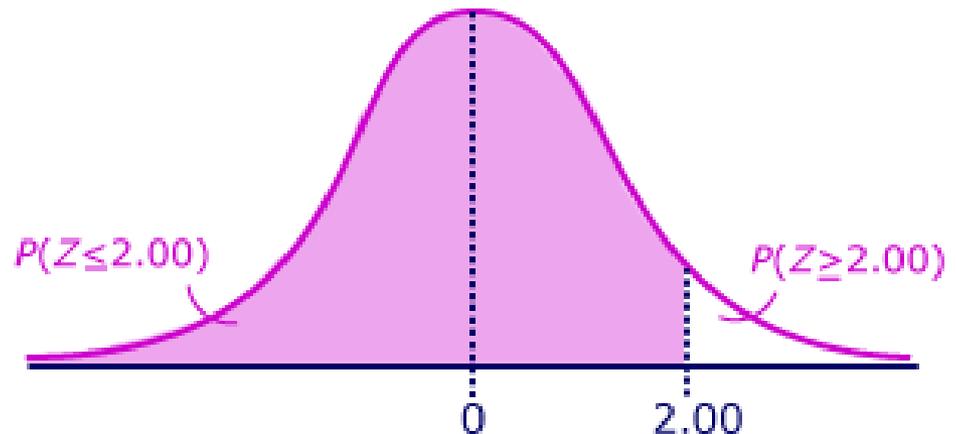
Use to predict how likely an observed sample is given population mean (next)

# Using the Standard Normal

- Suppose *League of Legends* Champion released once every 24 days on average, standard deviation of 3 days
- What is the probability Champion released 30+ days?
- $x = 30$ ,  $\bar{x} = 24$ ,  $s = 3$

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= (x - \bar{x}) / s \\ &= (30 - 24) / 3 \\ &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

- Want to know  $P(Z > 2)$



[http://ci.columbia.edu/ci/premba\\_test/c0331/s6/s6\\_4.html](http://ci.columbia.edu/ci/premba_test/c0331/s6/s6_4.html)

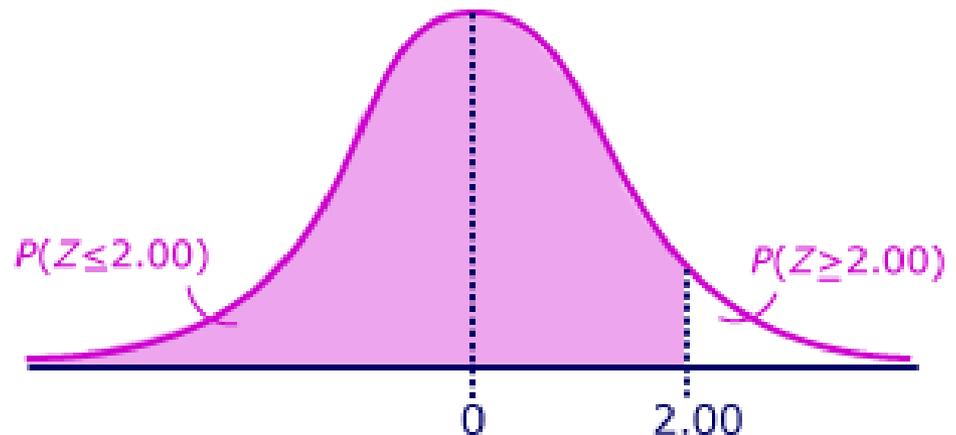
Q: how? Hint: what rule might help?

# Using the Standard Normal

- Suppose *League of Legends* Champion released once every **24** days on average, standard deviation of **3** days
- What is the probability Champion released **30+** days?
- $x = 30$ ,  $\bar{x} = 24$ ,  $s = 3$

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= (x - \bar{x}) / s \\ &= (30 - 24) / 3 \\ &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

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[http://ci.columbia.edu/ci/premba\\_test/c0331/s6/s6\\_4.html](http://ci.columbia.edu/ci/premba_test/c0331/s6/s6_4.html)

```
=norm.dist(x,mean,stddev,cumulative)  
=norm.dist(30,24,3,false)
```



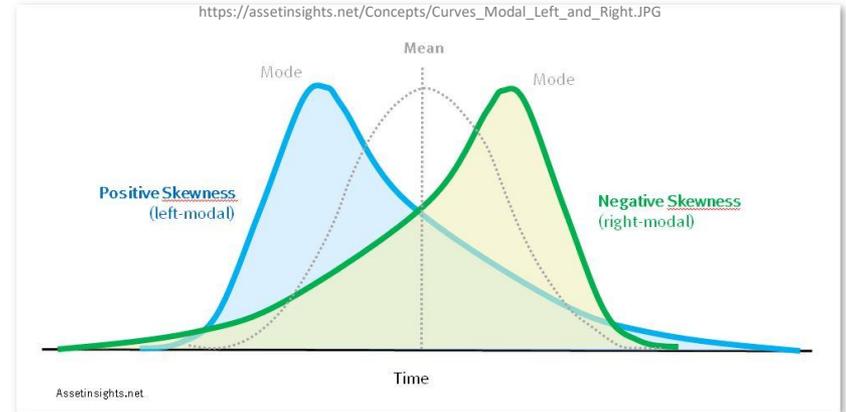
**Empirical Rule.** Or use table (Z-table)  
→  $5\% / 2 = 2.5\%$  likely (Z-table is 2.28%)

# Test for Normality

- Why?
  - Can use **Empirical Rule**
  - Use some inferential statistics (parametric tests)
- How?
  1. Measure skewness (*next*)
  2. Looks normal
    - **Histogram**
    - **Normal probability plot** (QQ plot) – graphical technique to see if data set is approximately normally distributed
  3. Statistical test
    - Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (K-S) or Shapiro-Wilk (S-W) that compare to normal (won't do, but ideas in next slide deck)

# Measuring Skewness

- Measure of symmetry of distribution
  - Normal is perfectly symmetric, skewness 0
- Easy equations:



$$\frac{\text{mean} - \text{mode}}{\text{standard deviation}}$$

=skew(A1:A10)

$$\frac{\frac{Q_3 + Q_1}{2} - Q_2}{\frac{Q_3 - Q_1}{2}}$$



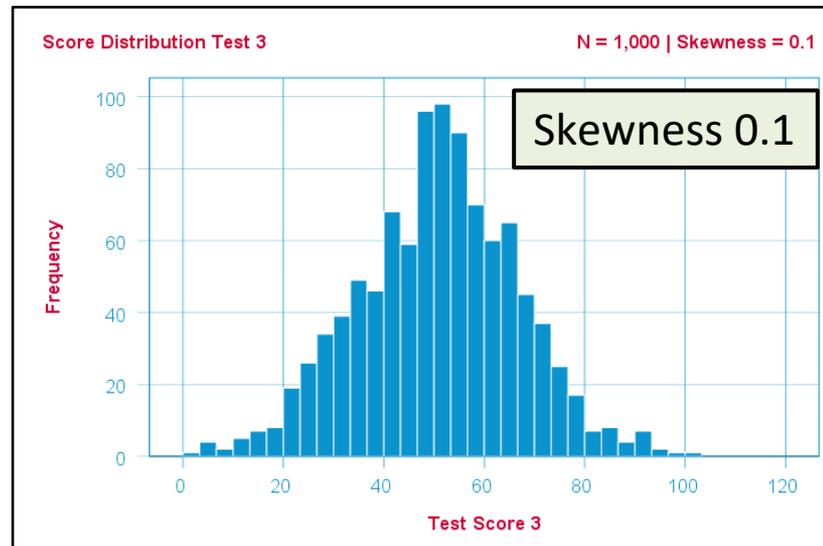
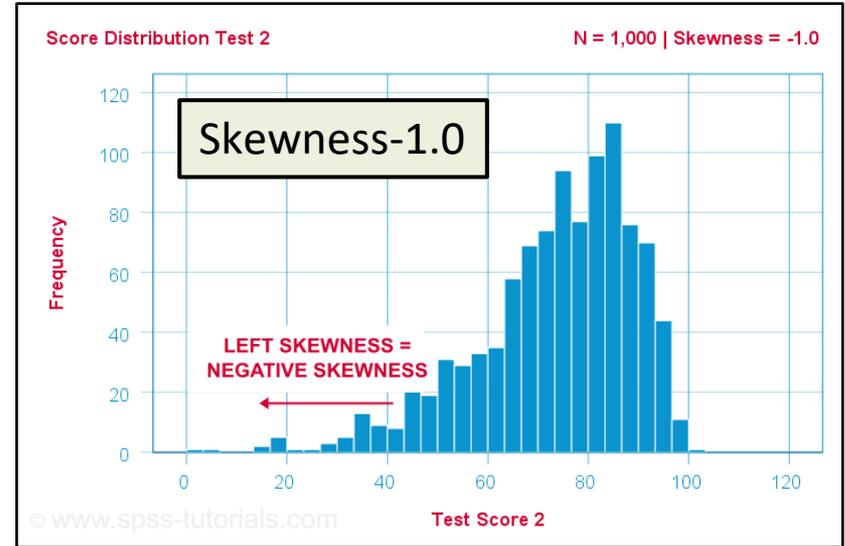
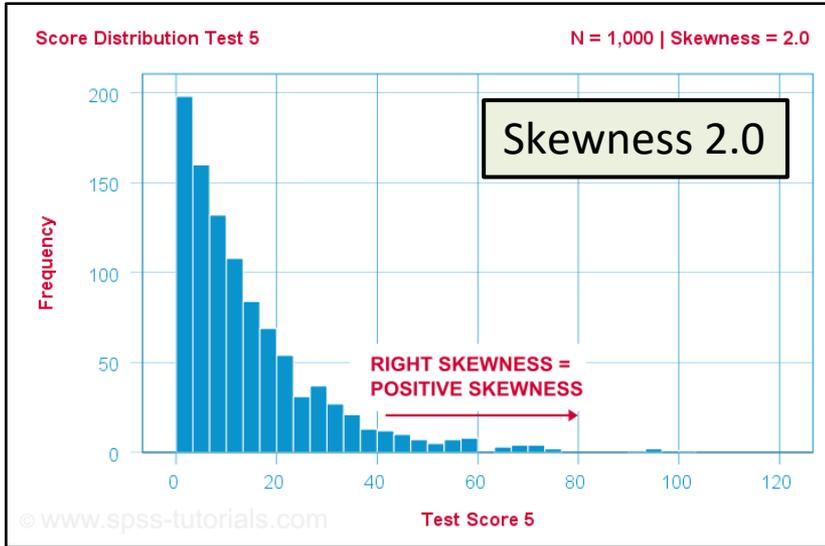
$$\frac{n}{(n-1)(n-2)} \sum \left( \frac{x_j - \bar{x}}{s} \right)^3$$

“Fisher–Pearson standardized moment”

- “How much” is non-normal?
  - Somewhat arbitrary
  - Less than **-1** or greater than **+1**
    - **Highly skewed**
  - Between **[-1, -0.5]** or **[0.5, +1]**
    - **Moderately skewed**
  - Between **-0.5** and **0.5**
    - **Symmetric**

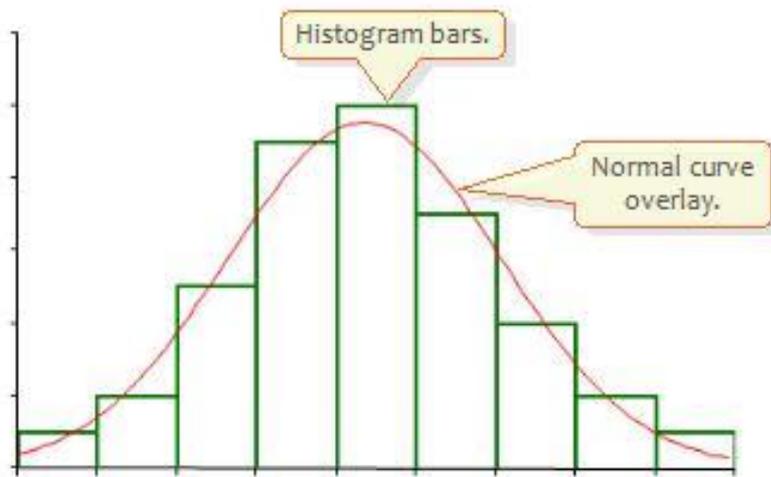
[Note, related “Kurtosis” is how clumped]

# Skewness Examples



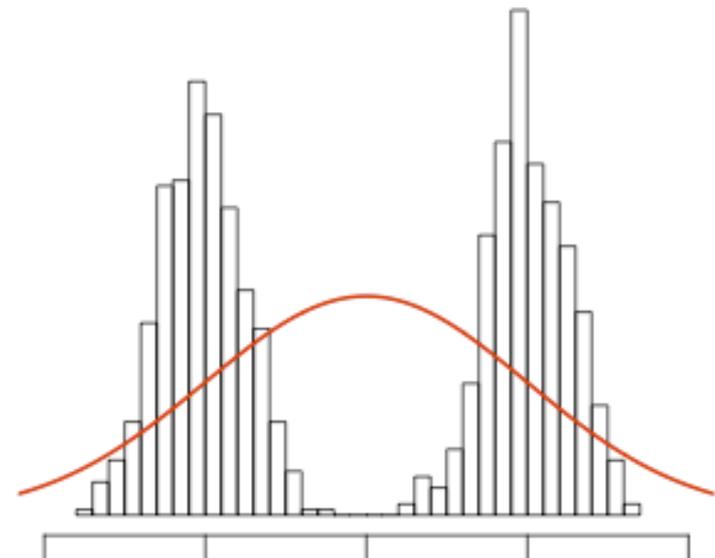
# Normality Testing with a Histogram

- Use histogram shape to look for “bell curve”



[http://2.bp.blogspot.com/\\_g8gh7I4zSt4/TR85eGJIMfI/AAAAAAAAAQs/PaOHJsjonPM/s1600/histo.JPG](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_g8gh7I4zSt4/TR85eGJIMfI/AAAAAAAAAQs/PaOHJsjonPM/s1600/histo.JPG)

Yes

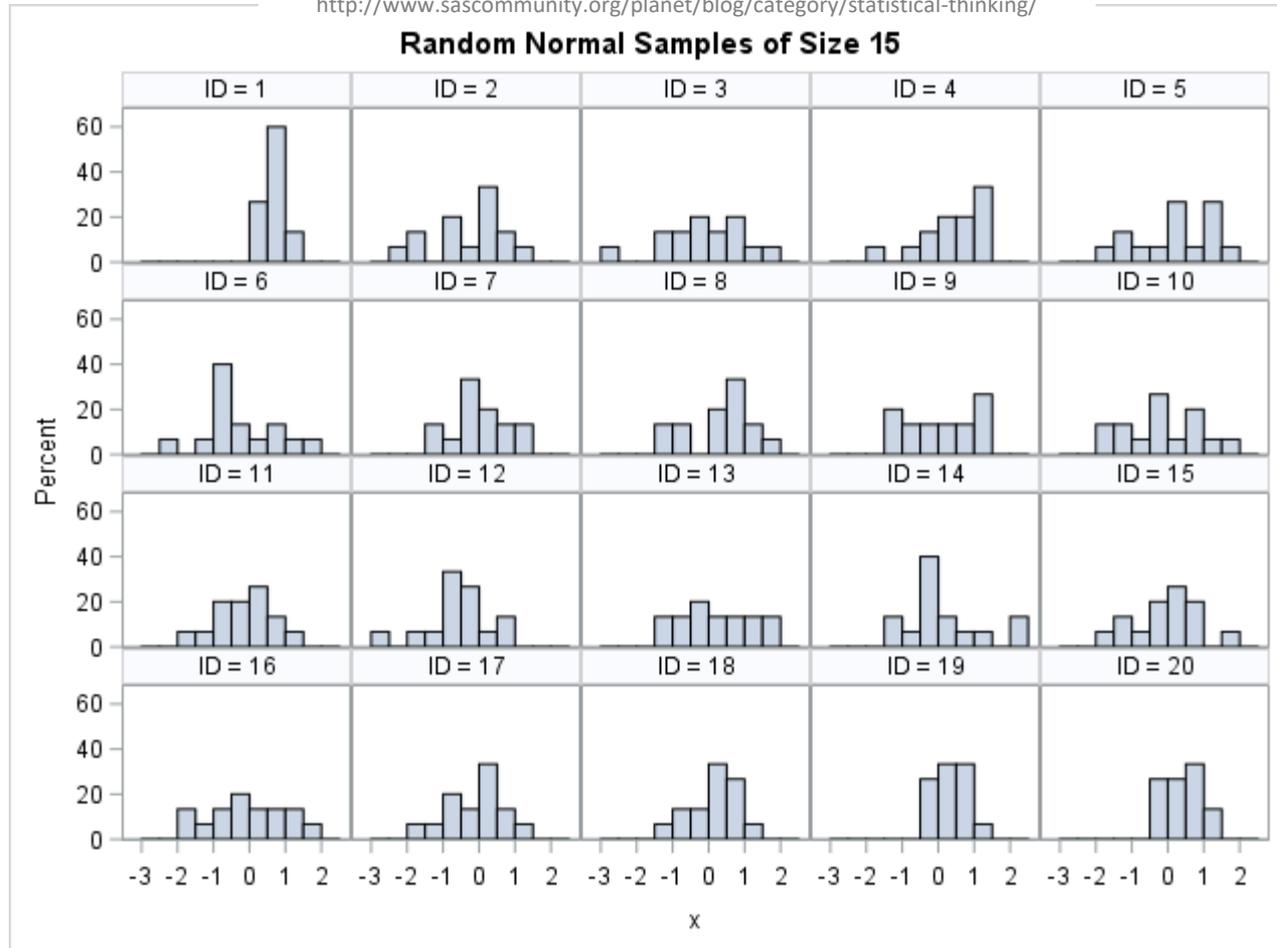


<http://seankross.com/img/biqq.png>

No

# Normality Testing with a Histogram

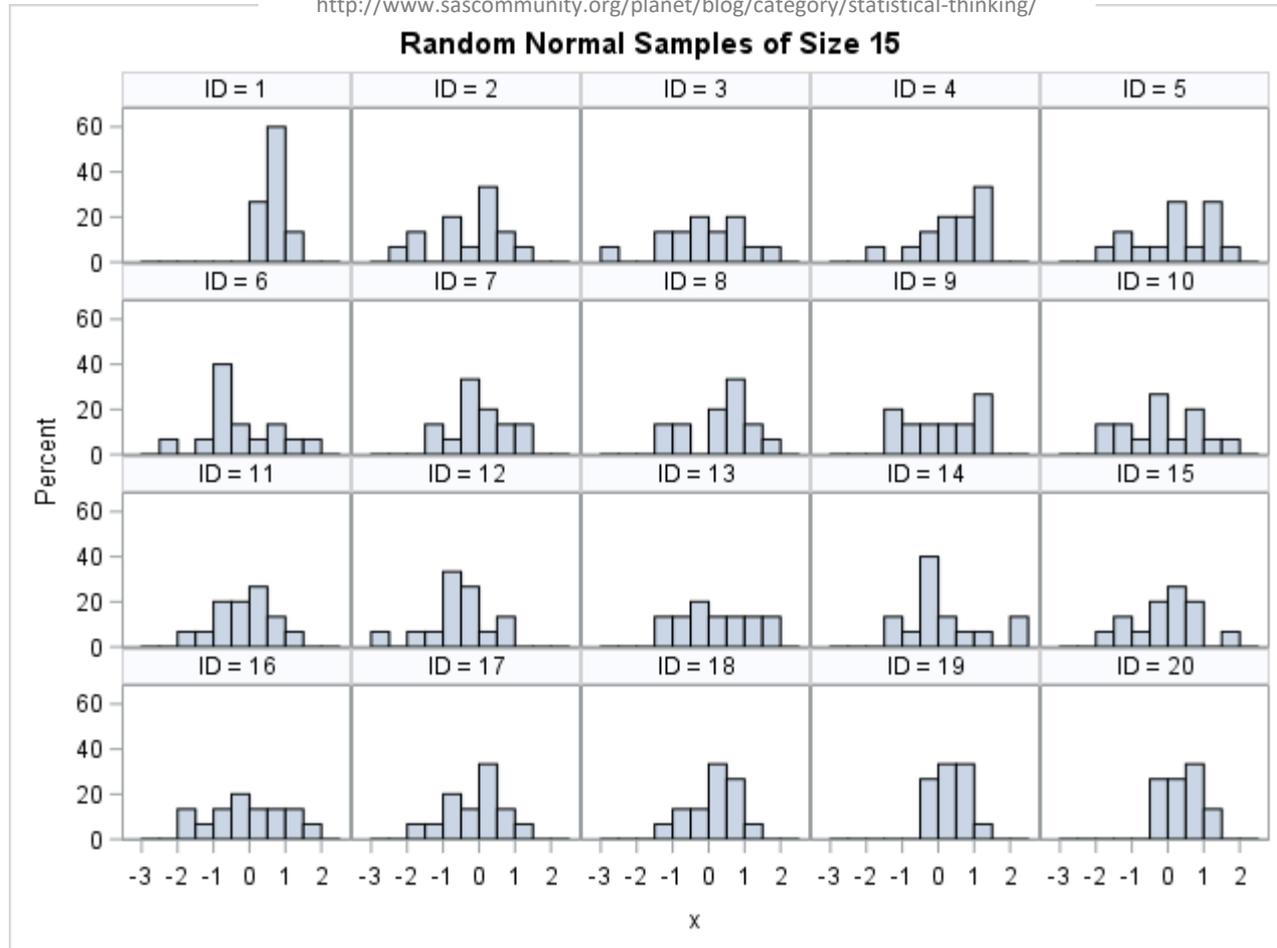
<http://www.sascommunity.org/planet/blog/category/statistical-thinking/>



**Q:** What distributions are these from? Any **normal**?

# Normality Testing with a Histogram

<http://www.sascommunity.org/planet/blog/category/statistical-thinking/>



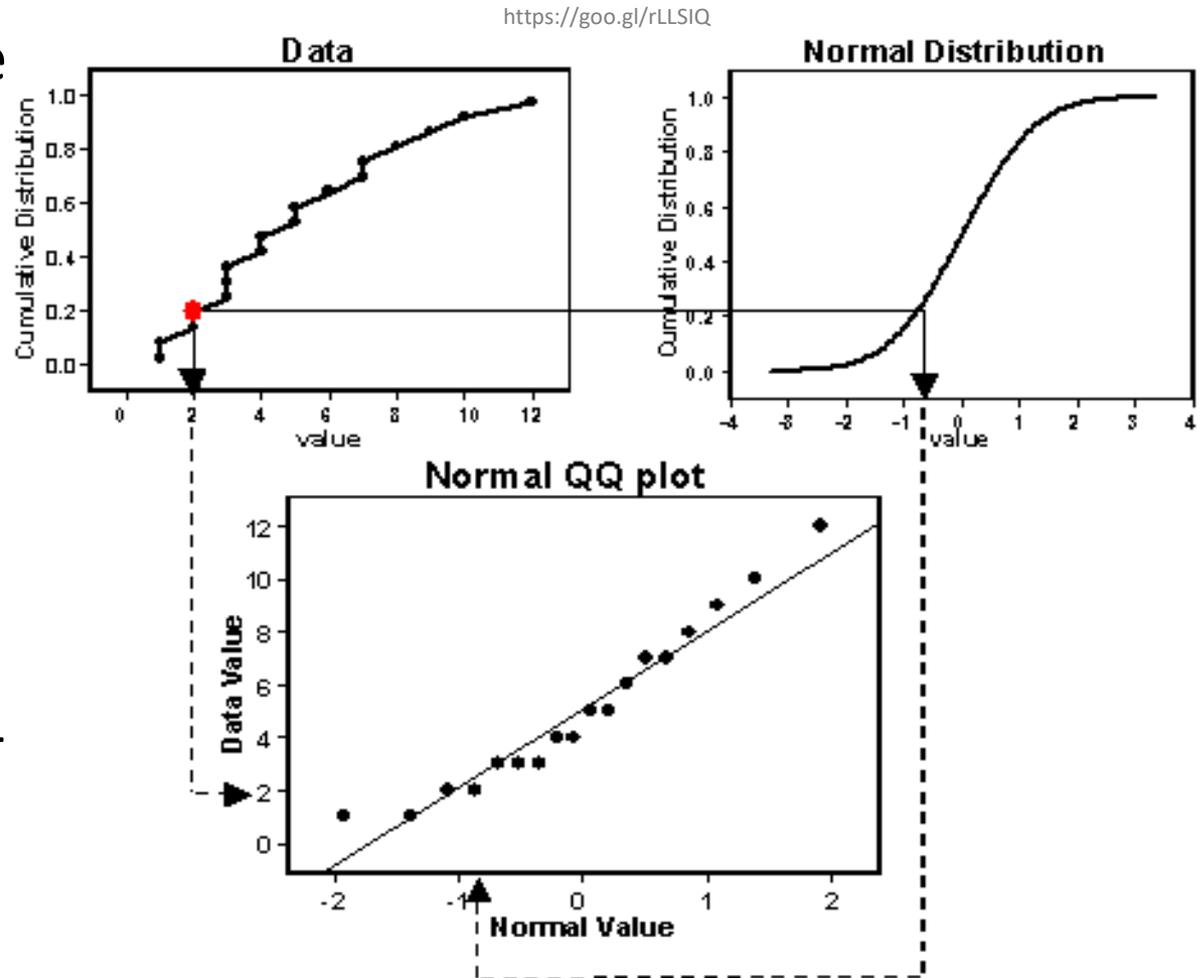
They are *all* from **normal distribution**! Suffer from:

- **Binning** (not continuous)
- **Few samples** (15)

# Normality Testing with a Quantile-Quantile Plot

- Percentiles (quantiles) of one versus another
- If line  $\rightarrow$  same distribution

1. Order data
  2. Compute Z scores (normal)
  3. Plot data (y-axis) versus Z (x-axis)
- Normal?  $\rightarrow$  line



# Quantile-Quantile Plot Example

- Do the following values come from a normal distribution?

7.19, 6.31, 5.89, 4.5, 3.77, 4.25, 5.19, 5.79, 6.79

1. Order data
2. Compute Z scores
3. Plot data versus Z

Show each  
step, next

# Quantile-Quantile Plot Example – Order Data

**Unordered**

7.19  
6.31  
5.89  
4.50  
3.77  
4.25  
5.19  
5.79  
6.79

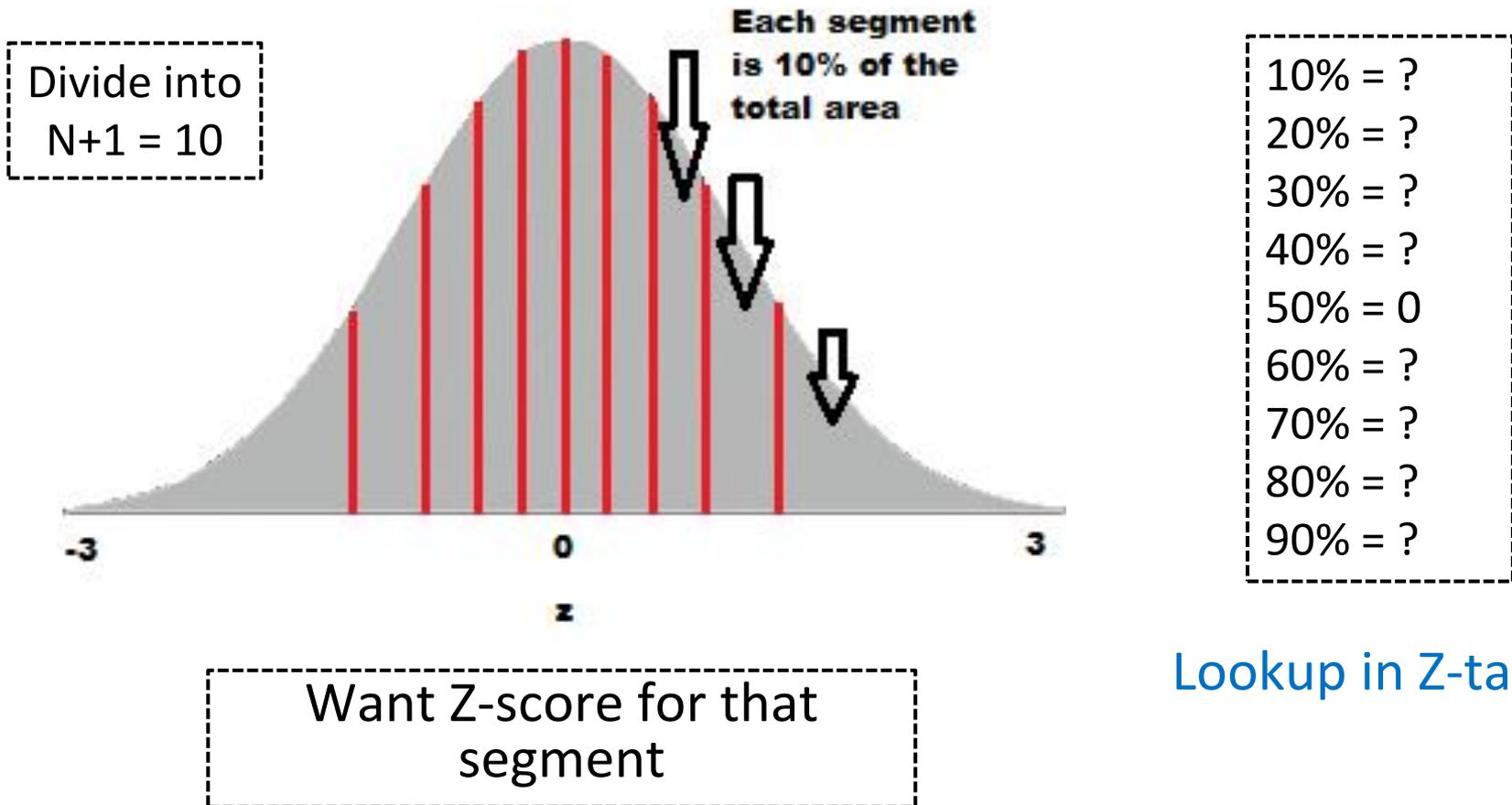
**Ordered (low to high)**

3.77  
4.25  
4.50  
5.19  
5.89  
5.79  
6.31  
6.79  
7.19



**N = 9** data points

# Quantile-Quantile Plot Example – Compute Z scores



# Z-Table

- Tells what cumulative percentage of the standard normal curve is under any point (Z-score). Or,  $P(-\infty \text{ to } Z)$

e.g., 80%?

Find closest value in table to desired percent

z	.00	.01	.02	.03	.04	.05	.06	.07	.08	.09
0.0	.5000	.5040	.5080	.5120	.5160	.5199	.5239	.5279	.5319	.5359
0.1	.5398	.5438	.5478	.5517	.5557	.5596	.5636	.5675	.5714	.5753
0.2	.5793	.5832	.5871	.5910	.5948	.5987	.6026	.6064	.6103	.6141
0.3	.6179	.6217	.6255	.6293	.6331	.6368	.6406	.6443	.6480	.6517
0.4	.6554	.6591	.6628	.6664	.6700	.6736	.6772	.6808	.6844	.6879
0.5	.6915	.6950	.6985	.7019	.7054	.7088	.7123	.7157	.7190	.7224
0.6	.7257	.7291	.7324	.7357	.7389	.7422	.7454	.7486	.7517	.7549
0.7	.7580	.7611	.7642	.7673	.7704	.7734	.7764	.7794	.7823	.7852
0.8	.7881	.7910	.7939	.7967	.7995	.8023	.8051	.8078	.8106	.8133
0.9	.8159	.8186	.8212	.8238	.8264	.8289	.8315	.8340	.8365	.8389
1.0	.8413	.8438	.8461	.8485	.8508	.8531	.8554	.8577	.8599	.8621
1.1	.8643	.8665	.8686	.8708	.8729	.8749	.8770	.8790	.8810	.8830
1.2	.8849	.8869	.8888	.8907	.8925	.8944	.8962	.8980	.8997	.9015
1.3	.9032	.9049	.9066	.9082	.9099	.9115	.9131	.9147	.9162	.9177
1.4	.9192	.9207	.9222	.9236	.9251	.9265	.9279	.9292	.9306	.9319
1.5	.9332	.9345	.9357	.9370	.9382	.9394	.9406	.9418	.9429	.9441

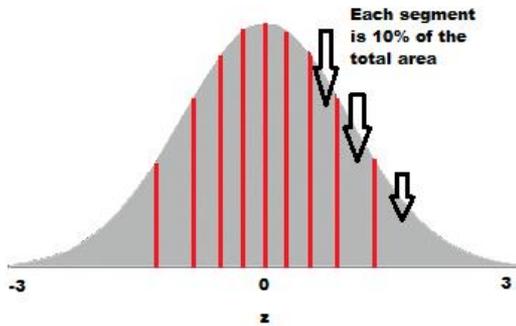
10% = -1.28  
 20% = -0.84  
 30% = -0.52  
 40% = -0.25  
 50% = 0  
 60% = 0.25  
 70% = 0.52  
**80% = 0.84**  
 90% = 1.28

(Note: Above for positive Z-scores – also negative tables, or diff from 50%)

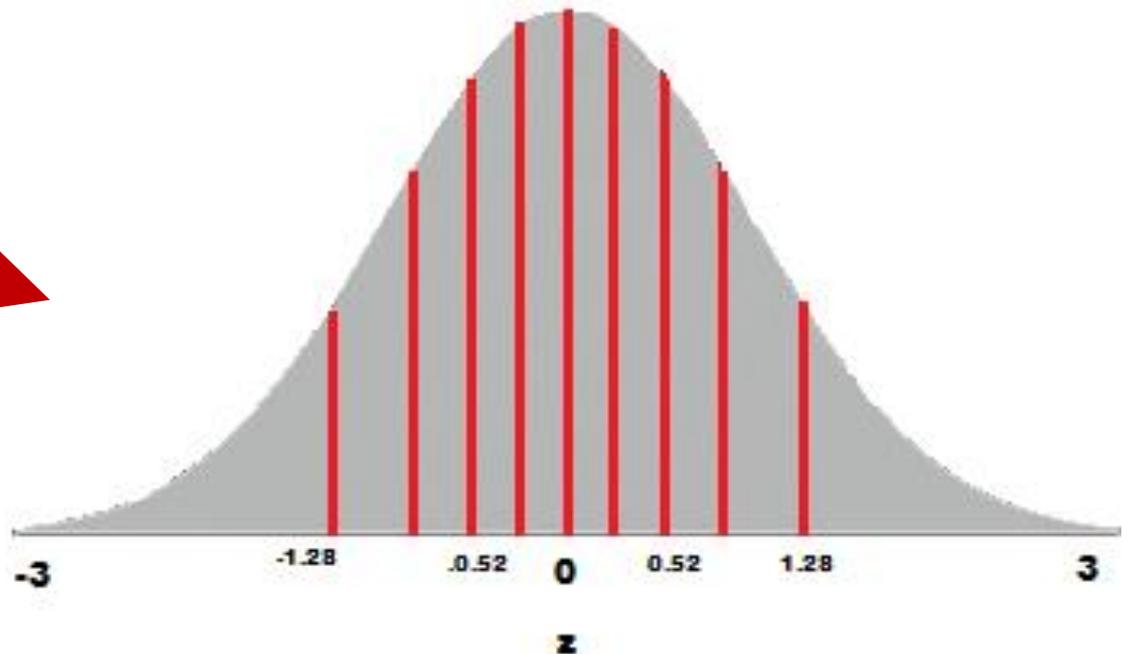
=NORMSINV(area) – provide Z for area under standard normal curve  
 =NORMSINV(.80)  
 =0.841621



# Quantile-Quantile Plot Example – Compute Z scores

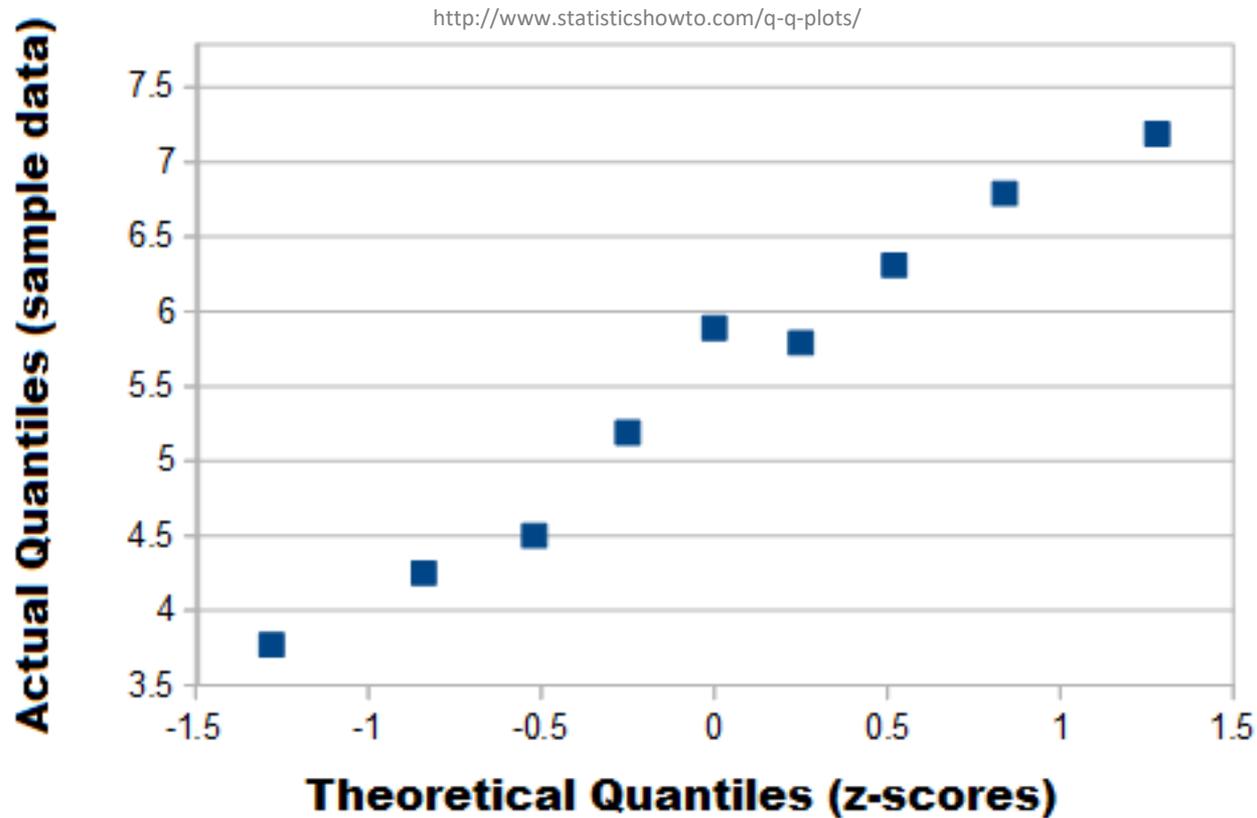


10%	=	-1.28
20%	=	-0.84
30%	=	-0.52
40%	=	-0.25
50%	=	0
60%	=	0.25
70%	=	0.52
80%	=	0.84
90%	=	1.28



(Only some points shown)

# Quantile-Quantile Plot Example – Plot



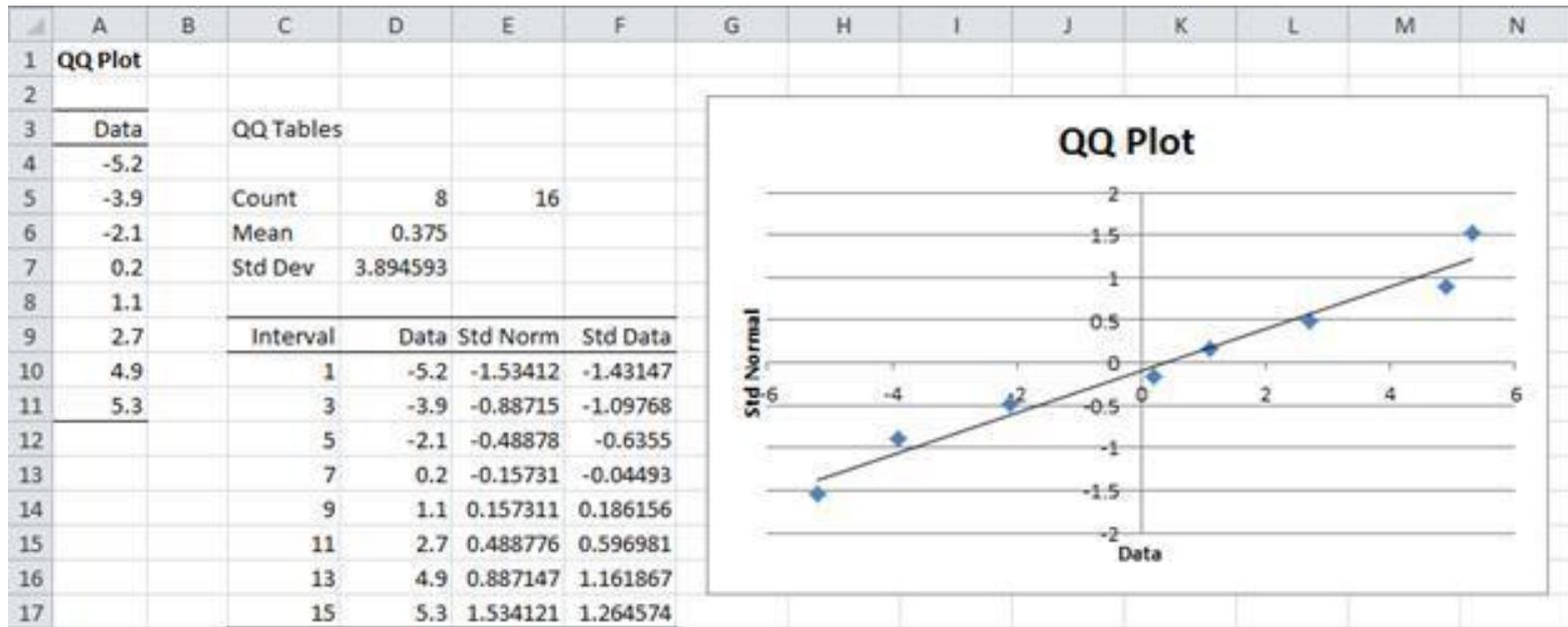
Linear? → Normal

# Quantile-Quantile Plots in Excel



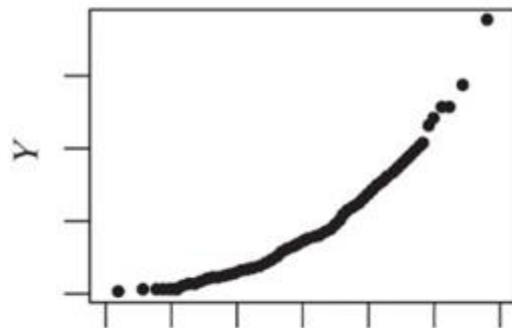
- Mostly, a manual process. Do as per above.
- Example of step by step process (with spreadsheet):

<http://facweb.cs.depaul.edu/cmiller/it223/normQuant.html>



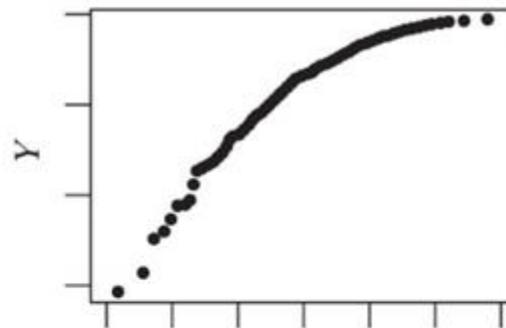
<https://i2.wp.com/www.real-statistics.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/qq-plot-normality.jpg>

# Examples of Normality Testing with a Quantile-Quantile Plot



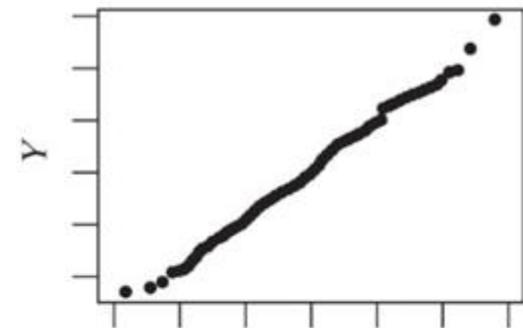
Normal scores

(a)



Normal scores

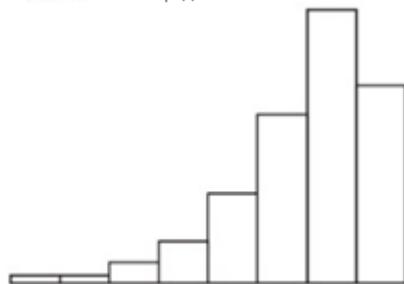
(b)



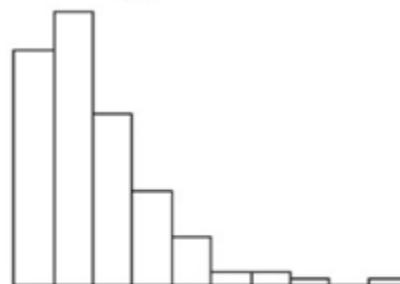
Normal scores

(c)

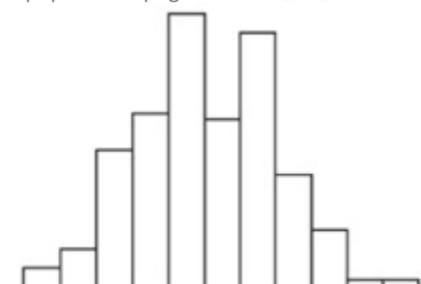
<http://d2vlcm61l7u1fs.cloudfront.net/media%2Fb95%2Fb953e7cd-31c3-45b0-a8ec-03b0e81c95d1%2Fphp2Y86od.png>



Y



Y



Y