

Chapter 6

The Normal Distribution



Section 6.1 Introducing Normally Distributed Variables



Three normal distributions



Table 6.1

Frequency and relativefrequency distributions for heights

Height (in.)	Frequency f	Relative frequency
56–under 57	3	0.0009
57–under 58	6	0.0018
58–under 59	26	0.0080
59–under 60	74	0.0227
60–under 61	147	0.0450
61–under 62	247	0.0757
62–under 63	382	0.1170
63–under 64	483	0.1480
64–under 65	559	0.1713
65–under 66	514	0.1575
66–under 67	359	0.1100
67–under 68	240	0.0735
68–under 69	122	0.0374
69–under 70	65	0.0199
70–under 71	24	0.0074
71–under 72	7	0.0021
72–under 73	5	0.0015
73–under 74	1	0.0003
	3264	1.0000



Standardizing normal distributions



Finding percentages for a normally distributed variable from areas under the standard normal curve



Section 6.2 Areas Under the Standard Normal Curve



Using Table II to find the area under the standard normal curve that lies (a) to the left of a specified z-score, (b) to the right of a specified z-score, and (c) between two specified z-scores



Table 6.2

Areas under the standard normal curve

Second decimal place in z										
0.09	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.00	z
			•							•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
0.0233	0.0239	0.0244	0.0250	0.0256	0.0262	0.0268	0.0274	0.0281	0.0287	-1.9
0.0294	0.0301	0.0307	0.0314	0.0322	0.0329	0.0336	0.0344	0.0351	0.0359	-1.8
0.0367	0.0375	0.0384	0.0392	0.0401	0.0409	0.0418	0.0427	0.0436	0.0446	-1.7
0.0455	0.0465	0.0475	0.0485	0.0495	0.0505	0.0516	0.0526	0.0537	0.0548	-1.6
0.0559	0.0571	0.0582	0.0594	0.0606	0.0618	0.0630	0.0643	0.0655	0.0668	-1.5
								•	•	•
•										

Figures 6.15 & 6.16 Finding z _{0.025}





Finding z $_{0.05}$





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Section 6.3 Working with Normally Distributed Variables



Procedure 6.1

To Determine a Percentage or Probability for a Normally Distributed Variable

- **Step 1** Sketch the normal curve associated with the variable.
- **Step 2** Shade the region of interest and mark its delimiting *x*-value(s).
- **Step 3** Find the *z*-score(s) for the delimiting *x*-value(s) found in Step 2.

Step 4 Use Table II to find the area under the standard normal curve delimited by the *z*-score(s) found in Step 3.

Determination of the percentage of people having IQs between 115 and 140



Key Fact 6.6 & Figure 6.20

The 68.26-95.44-99.74 Rule

Any normally distributed variable has the following properties.

Property 1: 68.26% of all possible observations lie within one standard deviation to either side of the mean, that is, between $\mu - \sigma$ and $\mu + \sigma$.

Property 2: 95.44% of all possible observations lie within two standard deviations to either side of the mean, that is, between $\mu - 2\sigma$ and $\mu + 2\sigma$.

Property 3: 99.74% of all possible observations lie within three standard deviations to either side of the mean, that is, between $\mu - 3\sigma$ and $\mu + 3\sigma$.

These properties are illustrated in Fig. 6.20.



Procedure 6.2

To Determine the Observations Corresponding to a Specified Percentage or Probability for a Normally Distributed Variable

- **Step 1** Sketch the normal curve associated with the variable.
- **Step 2** Shade the region of interest.

Step 3 Use Table II to determine the *z*-score(s) delimiting the region found in Step 2.

Step 4 Find the *x*-value(s) having the *z*-score(s) found in Step 3.

Section 6.4 Assessing Normality; Normal Probability Plots



Table 6.4

Ordered data and normal scores

Adjusted gross income	Normal score
7.8	-1.64
9.7 10.6	-1.11 - 0.79
12.7 12.8	-0.53 -0.31
18.1	-0.10
21.2 33.0	0.10 0.31
43.5 51.1	0.53
81.4	1.11
93.1	1.64

Normal probability plot for the sample of adjusted gross incomes



Section 6.5 Normal Approximation to the Binomial Distribution



Probability histogram for X with superimposed normal curve





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Procedure 6.3

To Approximate Binomial Probabilities by Normal-Curve Areas

Step 1 Find *n*, the number of trials, and *p*, the success probability.

Step 2 Continue only if both np and n(1 - p) are 5 or greater.

Step 3 Find μ and σ , using the formulas $\mu = np$ and $\sigma = \sqrt{np(1-p)}$.

Step 4 Make the correction for continuity, and find the required area under the normal curve with parameters μ and σ .