Course Code 009959 (Spring 2018)

Probability and Statistics with Programming

Continuous Random Variables

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Continuous Random Variables

- Concept of Continuous Random Variables
- PDF and CDF
- Expected Values
- Normal Distribution
- Uniform Distribution
- Exponential Distribution

Continuous Random Variables

Continuous RV: Example

If in the study of the ecology of a lake, we make depth measurements at randomly chosen locations, then $X =$ the depth at such a location is a continuous rv. Here A is the minimum depth in the region being sampled, and B is the maximum depth. ■

If a chemical compound is randomly selected and its pH X is determined, then X is a continuous rv because any pH value between 0 and 14 is possible. If more is known about the compound selected for analysis, then the set of possible values might be a subinterval of [0, 14], such as $5.5 \leq x \leq 6.5$, but X would still be continuous. ■

Continuous Random Variables

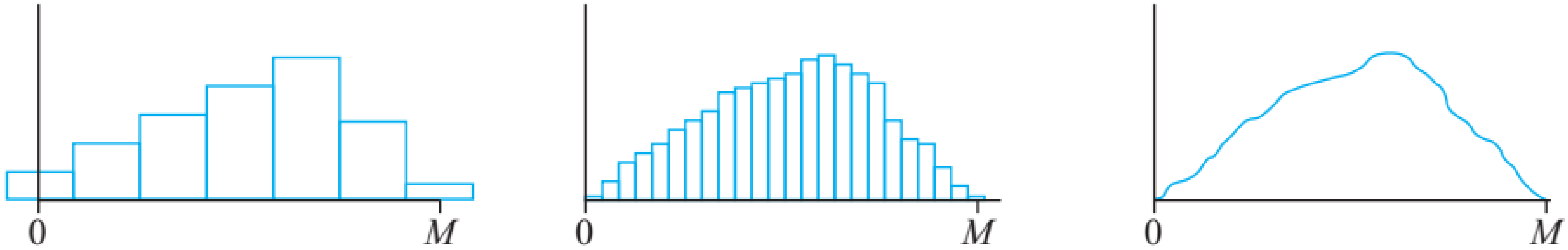
Probability density function (PDF)

- Depth of a lake at a random location

Continuous Random Variables

Probability density function (PDF)

- Depth of a lake at a random location



(a) (b) (c)

Continuous Random Variables

Probability density function (PDF)

DEFINITION

Let X be a continuous rv. Then a **probability distribution** or **probability density function** (pdf) of X is a function $f(x)$ such that for any two numbers a and b with $a \leq b$,

$$P(a \leq X \leq b) = \int_a^b f(x)\,dx$$

That is, the probability that X takes on a value in the interval $[a, b]$ is the area above this interval and under the graph of the density function, as illustrated in Figure 4.2. The graph of $f(x)$ is often referred to as the *density curve.*

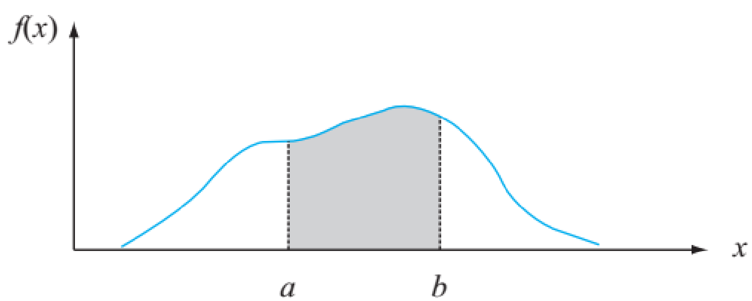


Figure 4.2 $P(a \leq X \leq b) =$ the area under the density curve between a and b

Continuous Random Variables

Uniform Distribution

DEFINITION

A continuous rv X is said to have a **uniform distribution** on the interval $[A, B]$ if the pdf of X is

$$f(x; A, B) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{1}{B - A} & A \le x \le B \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Continuous Random Variables

Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF)

DEFINITION

The **cumulative distribution function** $F(x)$ for a continuous rv X is defined for every number x by

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^{x} f(y)\, dy$$

For each x, $F(x)$ is the area under the density curve to the left of x. This is illustrated in Figure 4.5, where $F(x)$ increases smoothly as x increases.

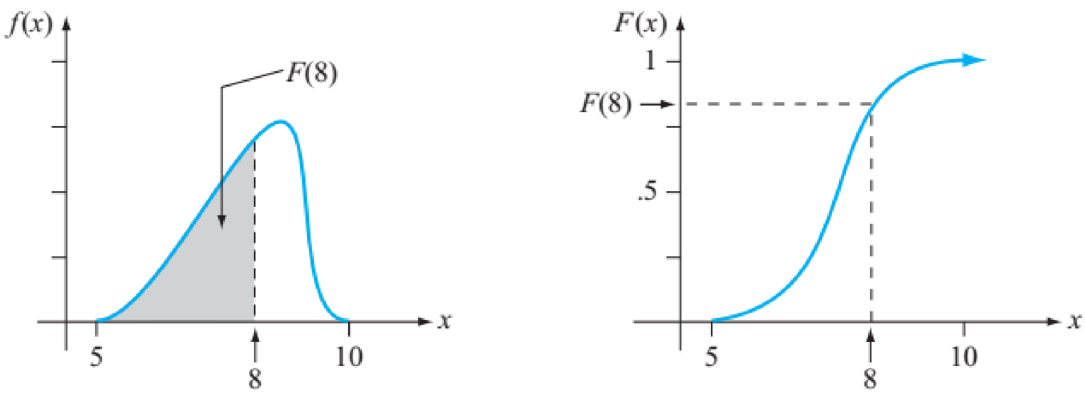


Figure 4.5 A pdf and associated cdf

Continuous Random Variables

f(X) from F(X)

If X is a continuous rv with pdf $f(x)$ and cdf $F(x)$, then at every x at which the derivative $F'(x)$ exists, $F'(x) = f(x)$.

When X has a uniform distribution, $F(x)$ is differentiable except at $x = A$ and $x = B$, where the graph of $F(x)$ has sharp corners. Since $F(x) = 0$ for $x < A$ and $F(x) = 1$ for $x > B$, $F'(x) = 0 = f(x)$ for such x. For $A < x < B$,

$$F'(x) = \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{x - A}{B - A}\right) = \frac{1}{B - A} = f(x)$$

Continuous Random Variables

Expected Value

DEFINITION

The **expected** or **mean value** of a continuous rv X with pdf $f(x)$ is

$$\mu_X = E(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot f(x)\, dx$$

Continuous Random Variables

Example: PDF

The pdf of weekly gravel sales X was

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{3}{2}(1 - x^2) & 0 \le x \le 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$E(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot f(x)\, dx = \int_0^1 x \cdot \frac{3}{2}(1 - x^2)\, dx$$

$$= \frac{3}{2}\int_0^1 (x - x^3)\, dx = \frac{3}{2}\left(\frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^4}{4}\right)\Bigg|_{x=0}^{x=1} = \frac{3}{8} \qquad \blacksquare$$

Continuous Random Variables

Variance

DEFINITION

The **variance** of a continuous random variable X with pdf $f(x)$ and mean value μ is

$$\sigma_X^2 = V(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu)^2 \cdot f(x)\,dx = E[(X - \mu)^2]$$

The **standard deviation** (SD) of X is $\sigma_X = \sqrt{V(X)}$.

PROPOSITION

$$V(X) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2$$

Continuous Random Variables

Exercise: PDF

The current in a certain circuit as measured by an ammeter is a continuous random variable X with the following density function:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} .075x + .2 & 3 \le x \le 5 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

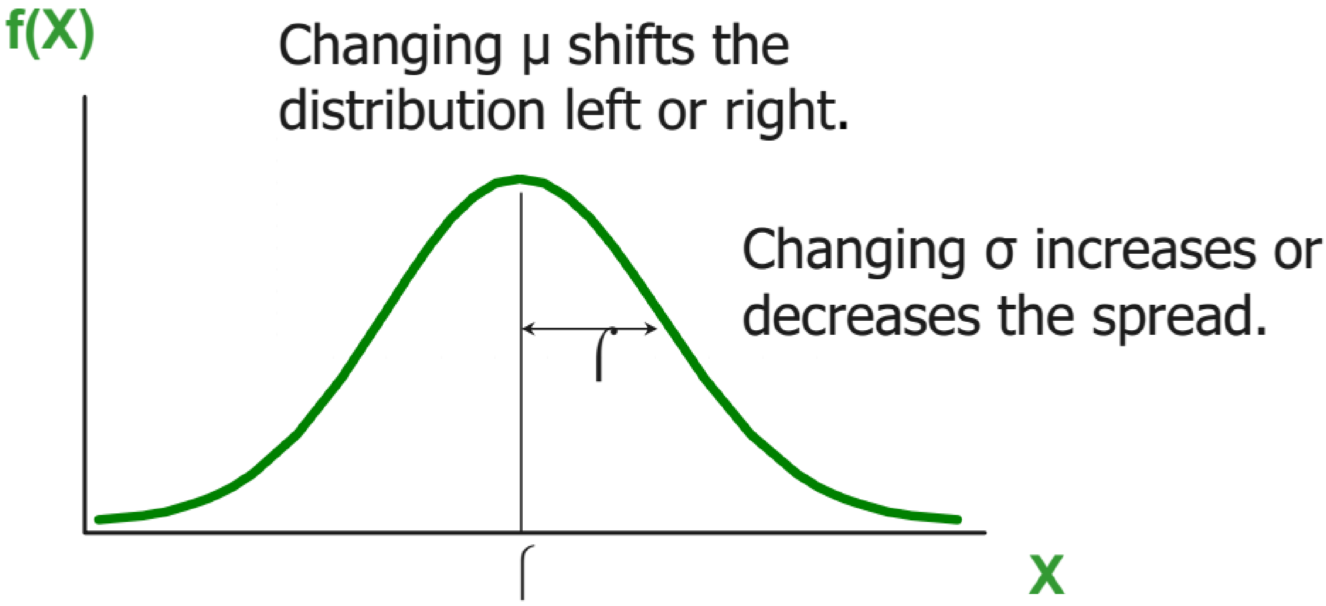
a. Graph the pdf and verify that the total area under the density curve is indeed 1.

b. Calculate $P(X \le 4)$. How does this probability compare to $P(X < 4)$?

c. Calculate $P(3.5 \le X \le 4.5)$ and also $P(4.5 < X)$.

Continuous Random Variables

Normal Distribution (i.e., Gaussian Distribution)



Continuous Random Variables

Normal Distribution (i.e., Gaussian Distribution)

DEFINITION

A continuous rv X is said to have a **normal distribution** with parameters μ and σ (or μ and σ^2), where $-\infty < \mu < \infty$ and $0 < \sigma$, if the pdf of X is

$$f(x; \mu, \sigma) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-(x-\mu)^2/(2\sigma^2)} \quad -\infty < x < \infty \qquad (4.3)$$

Continuous Random Variables

Normal Distribution (i.e., Gaussian Distribution)

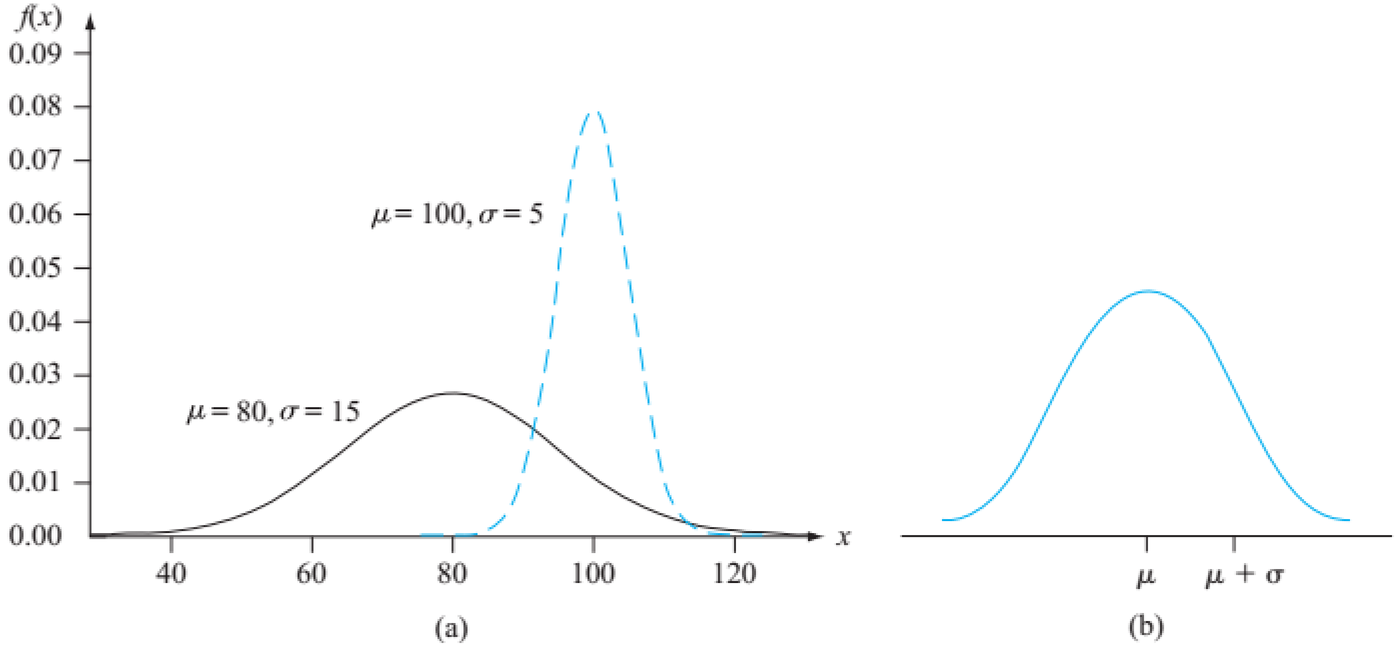


Figure 4.13 (a) Two different normal density curves (b) Visualizing μ and σ for a normal distribution

Continuous Random Variables

Normal Distribution (i.e., Gaussian Distribution)

It's a probability function, so no matter what the values of μ and σ, must integrate to 1!

$$\boxed{\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right)^2} dx = 1}$$

Continuous Random Variables

Normal Distribution (i.e., Gaussian Distribution)

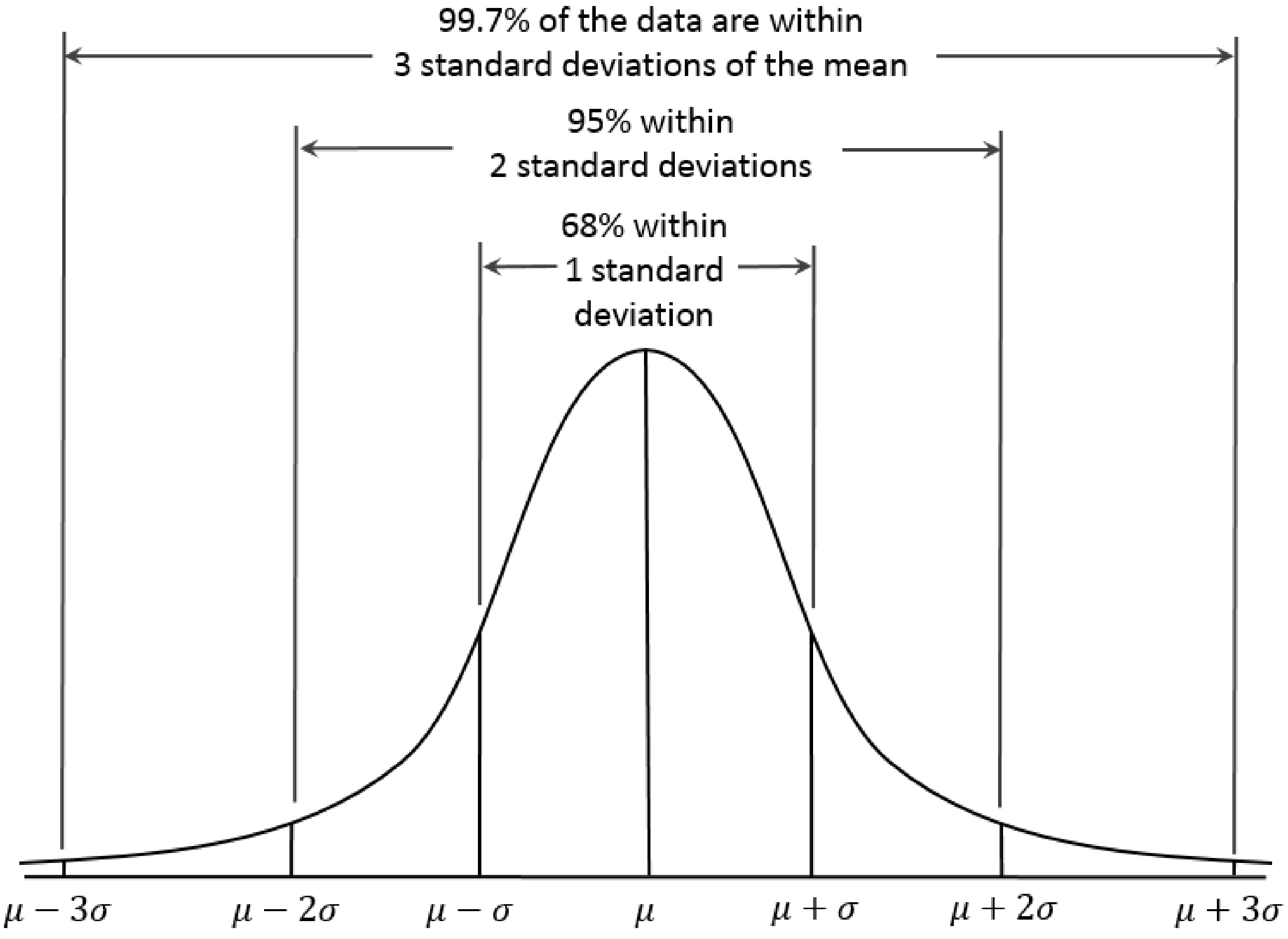
$$E(X)=\mu = \boxed{\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma})^2} dx}$$

$$Var(X)=\sigma^2 = \boxed{\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x^2 \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma})^2} dx) - \mu^2}$$

Standard Deviation(X)=σ

Continuous Random Variables

Normal Distribution (i.e., Gaussian Distribution)



Continuous Random Variables

Normal Distribution (i.e., Gaussian Distribution)

$$\int_{\mu-\sigma}^{\mu+\sigma} \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \bullet e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma})^2} dx = .68$$

$$\int_{\mu-2\sigma}^{\mu+2\sigma} \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \bullet e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma})^2} dx = .95$$

$$\int_{\mu-3\sigma}^{\mu+3\sigma} \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \bullet e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma})^2} dx = .997$$

Continuous Random Variables

Standard Normal Distribution

The normal distribution with parameter values $\mu = 0$ and $\sigma = 1$ is called the **standard normal distribution.** A random variable having a standard normal distribution is called a **standard normal random variable** and will be denoted by Z. The pdf of Z is

$$f(z; 0, 1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-z^2/2} \quad -\infty < z < \infty$$

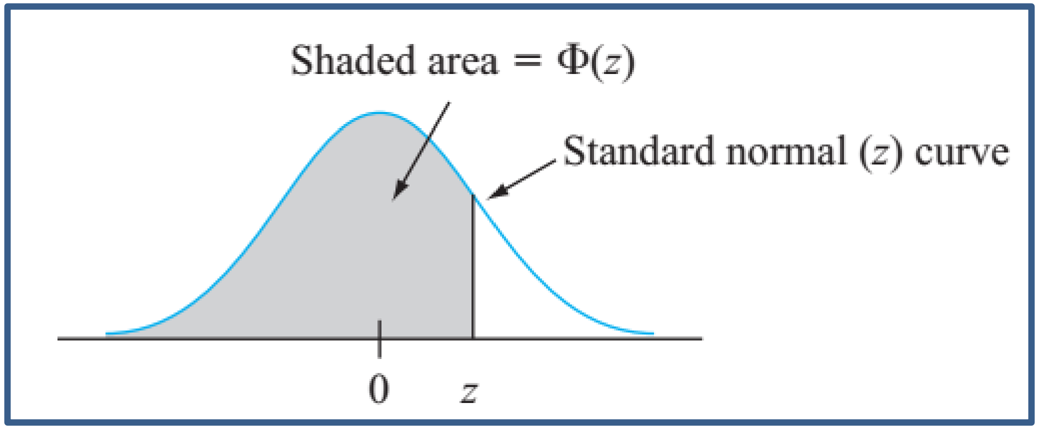
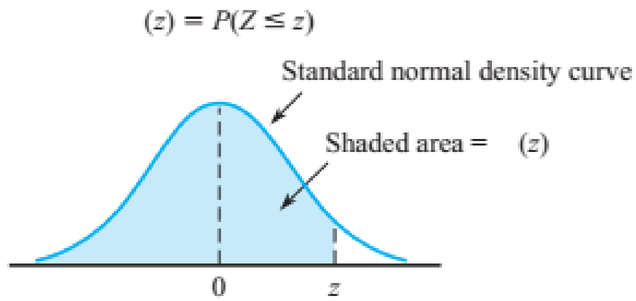


Table A.3 Standard Normal Curve Areas



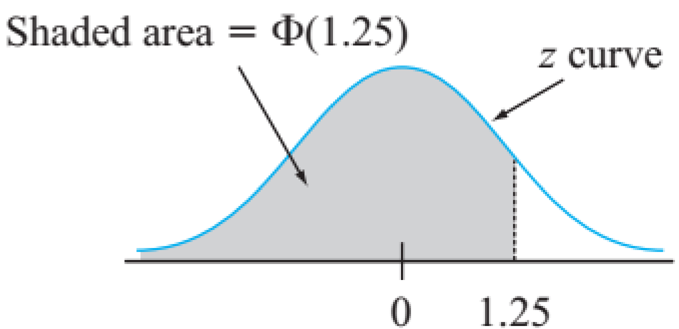
z	.00	.01	.02	.03	.04	.05	.06	.07	.08	.09
−3.4	.0003	.0003	.0003	.0003	.0003	.0003	.0003	.0003	.0003	.0002
−3.3	.0005	.0005	.0005	.0004	.0004	.0004	.0004	.0004	.0004	.0003
−3.2	.0007	.0007	.0006	.0006	.0006	.0006	.0006	.0005	.0005	.0005
−3.1	.0010	.0009	.0009	.0009	.0008	.0008	.0008	.0008	.0007	.0007
−3.0	.0013	.0013	.0013	.0012	.0012	.0011	.0011	.0011	.0010	.0010
−2.9	.0019	.0018	.0017	.0017	.0016	.0016	.0015	.0015	.0014	.0014
−2.8	.0026	.0025	.0024	.0023	.0023	.0022	.0021	.0021	.0020	.0019
−2.7	.0035	.0034	.0033	.0032	.0031	.0030	.0029	.0028	.0027	.0026
−2.6	.0047	.0045	.0044	.0043	.0041	.0040	.0039	.0038	.0037	.0036
−2.5	.0062	.0060	.0059	.0057	.0055	.0054	.0052	.0051	.0049	.0038
−2.4	.0082	.0080	.0078	.0075	.0073	.0071	.0069	.0068	.0066	.0064
−2.3	.0107	.0104	.0102	.0099	.0096	.0094	.0091	.0089	.0087	.0084
−2.2	.0139	.0136	.0132	.0129	.0125	.0122	.0119	.0116	.0113	.0110
−2.1	.0179	.0174	.0170	.0166	.0162	.0158	.0154	.0150	.0146	.0143
−2.0	.0228	.0222	.0217	.0212	.0207	.0202	.0197	.0192	.0188	.0183
−1.9	.0287	.0281	.0274	.0268	.0262	.0256	.0250	.0244	.0239	.0233
−1.8	.0359	.0352	.0344	.0336	.0329	.0322	.0314	.0307	.0301	.0294
−1.7	.0446	.0436	.0427	.0418	.0409	.0401	.0392	.0384	.0375	.0367
−1.6	.0548	.0537	.0526	.0516	.0505	.0495	.0485	.0475	.0465	.0455
−1.5	.0668	.0655	.0643	.0630	.0618	.0606	.0594	.0582	.0571	.0559
−1.4	.0808	.0793	.0778	.0764	.0749	.0735	.0722	.0708	.0694	.0681
−1.3	.0968	.0951	.0934	.0918	.0901	.0885	.0869	.0853	.0838	.0823
−1.2	.1151	.1131	.1112	.1093	.1075	.1056	.1038	.1020	.1003	.0985
−1.1	.1357	.1335	.1314	.1292	.1271	.1251	.1230	.1210	.1190	.1170
−1.0	.1587	.1562	.1539	.1515	.1492	.1469	.1446	.1423	.1401	.1379

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	.9278	.9292	.9306	.9319
1.5	.9332	.9345	.9357	.9370	.9382	.9394	.9406	.9418	.9429	.9441
1.6	.9452	.9463	.9474	.9484	.9495	.9505	.9515	.9525	.9535	.9545
1.7	.9554	.9564	.9573	.9582	.9591	.9599	.9608	.9616	.9625	.9633
1.8	.9641	.9649	.9656	.9664	.9671	.9678	.9686	.9693	.9699	.9706
1.9	.9713	.9719	.9726	.9732	.9738	.9744	.9750	.9756	.9761	.9767
2.0	.9772	.9778	.9783	.9788	.9793	.9798	.9803	.9808	.9812	.9817
2.1	.9821	.9826	.9830	.9834	.9838	.9842	.9846	.9850	.9854	.9857
2.2	.9861	.9864	.9868	.9871	.9875	.9878	.9881	.9884	.9887	.9890
2.3	.9893	.9896	.9898	.9901	.9904	.9906	.9909	.9911	.9913	.9916
2.4	.9918	.9920	.9922	.9925	.9927	.9929	.9931	.9932	.9934	.9936
2.5	.9938	.9940	.9941	.9943	.9945	.9946	.9948	.9949	.9951	.9952
2.6	.9953	.9955	.9956	.9957	.9959	.9960	.9961	.9962	.9963	.9964
2.7	.9965	.9966	.9967	.9968	.9969	.9970	.9971	.9972	.9973	.9974
2.8	.9974	.9975	.9976	.9977	.9977	.9978	.9979	.9979	.9980	.9981
2.9	.9981	.9982	.9982	.9983	.9984	.9984	.9985	.9985	.9986	.9986
3.0	.9987	.9987	.9987	.9988	.9988	.9989	.9989	.9989	.9990	.9990
3.1	.9990	.9991	.9991	.9991	.9992	.9992	.9992	.9992	.9993	.9993
3.2	.9993	.9993	.9994	.9994	.9994	.9994	.9994	.9995	.9995	.9995
3.3	.9995	.9995	.9995	.9996	.9996	.9996	.9996	.9996	.9996	.9997
3.4	.9997	.9997	.9997	.9997	.9997	.9997	.9997	.9997	.9997	.9998

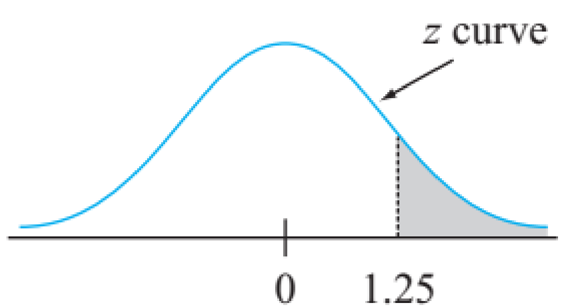
Continuous Random Variables

Example: Standard Normal Distribution

Let's determine the following standard normal probabilities: (a) $P(Z \leq 1.25)$, (b) $P(Z > 1.25)$, (c) $P(Z \leq -1.25)$, and (d) $P(-.38 \leq Z \leq 1.25)$.



(a)



(b)

$P(Z \leq 1.25) = .8944.$

$P(Z > 1.25) = .1056.$

Continuous Random Variables

Example: Standard Normal Distribution

Let's determine the following standard normal probabilities: (a) $P(Z \leq 1.25)$, (b) $P(Z > 1.25)$, (c) $P(Z \leq -1.25)$, and (d) $P(-.38 \leq Z \leq 1.25)$.

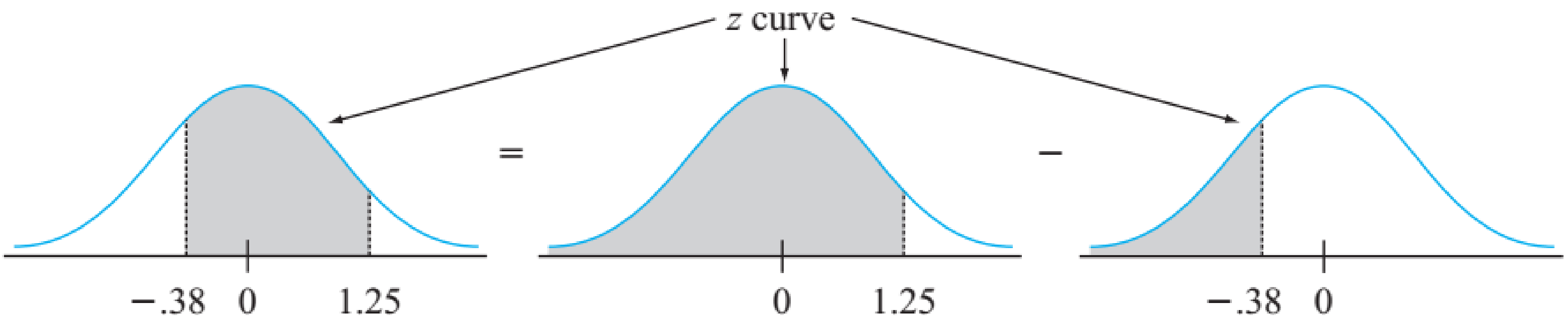


Figure 4.16 $P(-.38 \leq Z \leq 1.25)$ as the difference between two cumulative areas

Continuous Random Variables

Non-Standard Normal Distribution

If X has a normal distribution with mean μ and standard deviation σ, then

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

has a standard normal distribution. Thus

$$P(a \le X \le b) = P\left(\frac{a - \mu}{\sigma} \le Z \le \frac{b - \mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

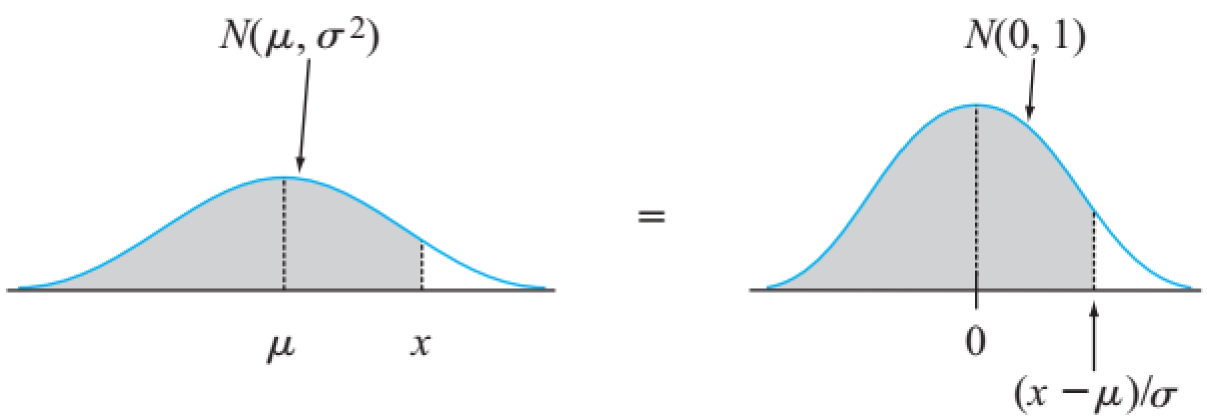
$$= \Phi\left(\frac{b - \mu}{\sigma}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{a - \mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

$$P(X \le a) = \Phi\left(\frac{a - \mu}{\sigma}\right) \qquad P(X \ge b) = 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{b - \mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

Continuous Random Variables

Non-Standard Normal Distribution

$$P(Z \leq z) = P(X \leq \sigma z + \mu) = \int_{-\infty}^{\sigma z + \mu} f(x; \mu, \sigma)\, dx$$



Q&A