

Lecture 6.2, MATH-57091 Probability and Statistics for High-School Teachers.

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Weak law of large numbers.

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Thus Chebychev's inequality gives us:

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$$\frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n}{n} \rightarrow \mu, \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

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$$X_i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } A \text{ occurs on the } i\text{th trial,} \\ 0, & \text{if } A \text{ does not occur on the } i\text{th trial.} \end{cases}$$

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Since $X_1 + X_2 + \cdots + X_n$ represents the number of times that even A occurs in the first n trials, we may interpret the above equation as stating that, with probability 1, the limiting proportion of time that the event A occurs is just $P(A)$.

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Again, the amazing fact about this theorem (as well as about two previous) is that it works for very generic distribution of X_i is long as they are independent and identically distributed with bounded expectation and variance.

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So $\frac{X - np}{\sqrt{np(1-p)}}$ approaches the standard normal distribution as n approaches ∞ . It is known that the normal approximation will, in general, be reasonably good for values of n satisfying $np(1-p) \geq 10$.

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Let X be the number of times that a die, flipped 100 times shows 6. Find the probability that $X = 15$. Use the normal approximation and then compare your it to the exact value.

Solution: We know that $P(X = 15) = \binom{100}{15} \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^{15} \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^{85} \approx .01002$.

But now let's try to use the previous slide to approximate $P(X = 15)$ via Central Limit Theorem. We note that X is a discrete random variable and normal distribution is continuous one. We need a small "trick" to make them work together:

$$\begin{aligned} P(X = 15) &= P(14.5 < X < 15.5) = P\left(\frac{14.5 - 100/6}{\sqrt{100 * \frac{1}{6} * \frac{5}{6}}} < \frac{X - 100/6}{\sqrt{100 * \frac{1}{6} * \frac{5}{6}}} < \frac{15.5 - 100/6}{\sqrt{100 * \frac{1}{6} * \frac{5}{6}}}\right) \\ &= P\left(-.58 < \frac{X - 100/6}{\sqrt{100 * \frac{1}{6} * \frac{5}{6}}} < -.31\right) \approx \Phi(-.31) - \Phi(-.58) \end{aligned}$$

Where

$$\Phi(t) = P(N(0,1) < t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^t e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} dy.$$

We use tables for $\Phi(t)$ (see Lecture 5.2) we get

$$P(X = 15) \approx 0.1011$$

One more example.

Let X_i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, 10$ be independent random variables, each being uniformly distributed over $(0, 1)$. Approximate $P\left(\sum_{i=1}^{10} X_i > 7\right)$.

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$$P\left(\sum_{i=1}^{10} X_i > 7\right) = P\left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{10} X_i - 5}{\sqrt{10 * \frac{1}{12}}} > \frac{7 - 5}{\sqrt{10 * \frac{1}{12}}}\right)$$

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$$= 1 - P(N(0,1) < 2.2) = 1 - \Phi(2.2) = .0139.$$