MTH 23.5 LECTURE NOTES (Ojakian)
Topic 15: Normal Distributions

OUTLINE
References (**Algebra Book**: None; **Statistics Book**: 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 6.2)

1. Normal Distribution

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1. <u>Basic Shape of Normal Distribution</u>

   Definition: A normal curve is a graph that looks like this ... [ok, I'll draw it!]

   PROBLEM 1. *Which of the distributions on the sheet Normal Curves 1 are approximately normal?*

   Why of interest? Many natural phenomenon have a distribution that is close to normal.

2. <u>Normal Curve as Continuous Distribution</u>

   (a) To specify a normal distribution need 2 values: Mean and Standard Deviation.

      i. The peak is at the mean.
      ii. Standard deviation indicates how spread out the distribution is.
      iii. One Standard Deviations - at inflection points

   (b)

   PROBLEM 2. *Consider the normal distributions on the sheet Normal Curves 2. What are the means? Order the distributions by standard deviation by general spread. Then label the points that are one standard deviation from the mean.*

3. <u>Working with Continuous Probability Distributions</u>

   (a)

   PROBLEM 3. *Consider the continuous probability distributions on the sheet Normal Curves 3. For each distribution, find the probability of being in the range corresponding to each shaded region.*

   (b) Find other probabilities using app: http://www.intmath.com/counting-probability/normal-distribution-graph-interactive.php

   Use the above app in the following problems

   PROBLEM 4. *This is made up data! Consider the number of hours a person spends cooking in a week. Suppose it is normally distributed with mean 2.5 and standard deviation 0.7. Determine the following probabilities:*

      i. *What is the probability that a randomly chosen person spends between the heights of 1 and 3 hours cooking?*
      ii. *What is the probability that a randomly chosen person spends less than 2 hours cooking?*
      iii. *What is the probability that a randomly chosen person spends more than 2 hours cooking?*

iv. *Inverse Question: Suppose that probability that someone spends less than H hours cooking is* 25%. *What is H?*

v. *What is the probability that a randomly chosen person spends more than 2.5 hours cooking? (how can you do this without the app?)*

4. Special Properties of Normal Distributions

   (a) The Empircal Rule:

      i. Within ONE standard deviation: Area is 0.68
      ii. Within TWO standard deviations: Area is 0.95
      iii. Within THREE standard deviations: Area is 0.997

   (b)

   PROBLEM 5. *Apply the empirical rule to the above cooking scenario. Do problems using the empirical rule and using the app.*

   Do inverse problems too, like: Suppose the probability someone cooks less than H hours is 16%. What is H?

   PROBLEM 6. *Consider the normal distributions on the sheet Normal Curves 4. For each distribution, find the probability of being in the range corresponding to each shaded region.*

5. Using Excel

   (a) `Norm.dist`(x-value, mean, standard deviation, true)

   (b) `Norm.inv`(probability, mean, standard deviation)

6. Some Exercises

   For problems, use combinations of 1) Logical reasoning using Empirical Rule, 2) The computer application, and 3) Excel

   PROBLEM 7.

   - *From the 5th Edition, section 7.3 do some of the problems from 5 to 14.*
   - *From the 5th Edition, section 7.3 do some of the problems from 15 to 24 (include some non-standard).*

   PROBLEM 8. *From our class data, pick a type of data, and find the mean and standard deviation for our class. Assume the data for all BCC students is normally distributed with the same mean and standard deviation.*

   (a) *Compute some probabilities.*

   (b) *Compute some inverse probabilities.*

   PROBLEM 9. *From 5th edition, section 7.1 do problem 8. Then use Excel to do the following:*

   (a) *What is the probability that an egg is hatched between 19.2 days and 24.6 days?*

   (b) *After how many days are 50% of the eggs hatched?*

   (c) *After how many days are 90% of the eggs hatched?*

   (d) *For what range of days do we have that at least 15% of the eggs are hatched, and no more than 90% of the eggs are hatched?*