



7.2.1

7.2: Applications of the Normal Distribution

Recall: The z-score of a data point is its distance from the mean, measured in standard deviations.

Standardizing the values of a normal distribution:

In a normal distribution with mean μ and standard deviation σ , where x is a data value, the z-score is

$$z = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}$$

The area under a normal curve between $x = a$ and $x = b$ is the same as the area under the standard normal curve between the z-score for a and the z-score for b .

Example 1: Consider a normal curve with mean 7 and standard deviation 2.

a) What is the area under the curve between 7 and 10?



Find area left of $x=10$
(equivalently $z=1.5$) and
subtract 0.5

$$\text{Area} = 0.9332 - 0.5 = 0.4332$$

b) What is the probability that the variable is between 7 and 10?

$$P(7 < X < 10) = P(0 < Z < 1.5) = 0.4332$$

d) What is the area to the left of 10?



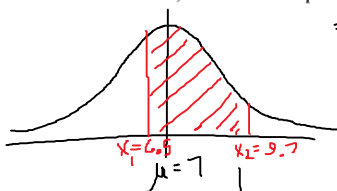
Find z-score corresponding to 10:

$$z = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma} = \frac{10 - 7}{2} = \frac{3}{2} = 1.5$$

Use table to get area left of 1.5: 0.9332

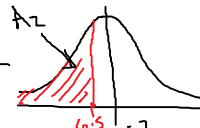
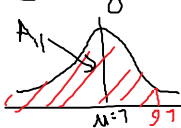
$$P(X < 10) = P(Z < 1.5) = 0.9332$$

c) What is the probability that the variable is between 6.5 and 9.7?



Find z-score for $x_1 = 6.5$.

$$z = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma} = \frac{6.5 - 7}{2} = -0.25$$



$$A_2 = P(X < 6.7) = P(Z < -0.25) = 0.4013$$

$$\text{Find z-score for } 9.7$$

$$z = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma} = \frac{9.7 - 7}{2} = 1.35$$

$$\text{From table, } A_1 = P(X < 9.7) = P(Z < 1.35)$$

$$= 0.9115$$

$$P(6.5 < X < 9.7) = A_1 - A_2$$

$$= 0.9115 - 0.4013 = 0.5102$$

Properties of Normal Probability Distributions:

1. $P(a \leq x \leq b)$ = area under the curve from a to b .
2. $P(-\infty \leq x \leq \infty) = 1$ = total area under the curve.
3. $P(x = c) = 0$.

Note: $P(a \leq x \leq b) = P(a \leq x < b) = P(a < x \leq b) = P(a < x < b)$

Example 2: Dusty Dog Food Company ships dog food to its distributors in bags whose weights are normally distributed with a mean weight of 50 pounds and standard deviation 0.5 pound. If a bag of dog food is selected at random from a shipment, what is the probability that it weighs

- a) More than 51 pounds?
- b) Less than 49 pounds?
- c) Between 49 and 51 pounds?
- d) What is the percentage of dog food bags that weigh more than 51 pounds?

Example 3: The medical records of infants delivered at a certain hospital show that the infants' birth weights in pounds are normally distributed with a mean of 7.4 and a standard deviation of 1.2.

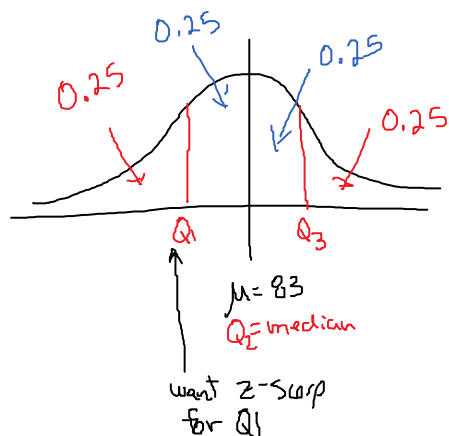
- a) What percentage of infants at this hospital weighed more than 9.2 pounds at birth?
- b) What percentage of infants at this hospital weighed less than 8 pounds at birth?
- c) What percentage of infants at this hospital weighed between 8 and 10 pounds at birth?

Important: The z -score is the number of standard deviations between the data point and the mean.

Example 4: A variable is normally distributed with mean 83 and standard deviation 24.

$$\mu = 83, \sigma = 24$$

- Find and interpret the quartiles.
- Find and interpret the 98th percentile.
- Find and interpret the first and second deciles.
- Find the value that 72% of all possible values of the variable exceed.
- Find two values of the variable that divide the area into a middle area of 0.90 and two outside areas of 0.05 each.



② To find Q_1 , Find the z-score that corresponds to an area as close as possible to 0.25

closest areas are 0.2514 and 0.2483, corresponds to $z = -0.67$ and -0.68

$$\text{Use } z = -0.675$$

$$z = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}$$

$$-0.675 = \frac{x - 83}{24}$$

$$-0.675(24) = x - 83$$

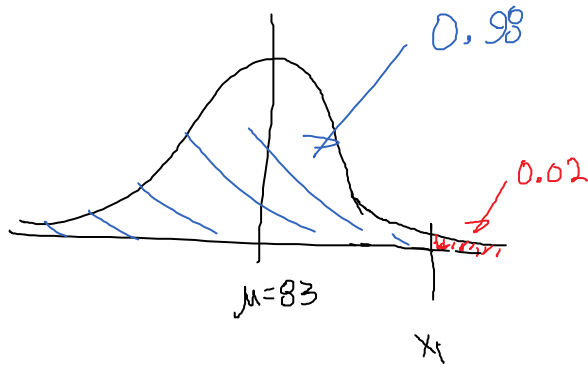
$$-16.2 = x - 83$$

$$66.8 = x \Rightarrow \boxed{Q_1 \approx 66.8}$$

to find Q_3 , could look for an area of 0.75 in table.
should get $z = 0.675$

⑥ F

⑥ Find 99th percentile



$Z_{0.02}$ is the Z-score
for which the area above
it (to its right) is 0.02

Look up Area = 0.99

Closest area is 0.9798 and 0.9803,
corresponding to $Z = 2.05$ and 2.06

Use $Z = 2.055$

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

$$2.055 = \frac{x - 83}{24}$$

$$49.32 = x - 83 \Rightarrow x = 132.32$$

99th percentile

Example 5: The GPA of the senior class of a certain high school is normally distributed with a mean of 2.7 and a standard deviation of 0.4 point. If a senior in the top 10% of his or her class is eligible for admission to any state university, what is the minimum GPA that a senior should have to ensure eligibility to a state university?