

2025-2026

ECON 205

Problem Set 4

- 1) If Y is a continuous random variable with mean μ and variance σ^2 , a and b are constants, prove the following:

- a) $E(aY+b) = aE(Y)+b = a\mu+b$
- b) $V(aY+b) = a^2V(Y) = a^2\sigma^2$

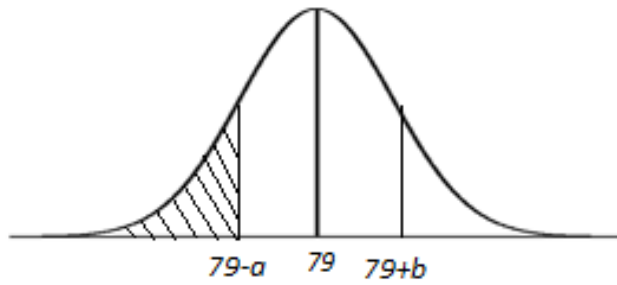
- 2) Mrs. Brown is pregnant and due in 100 days. Suppose that the probability density distribution function for having a child is approximately normal with mean 100 and standard deviation 8. Mrs. Brown has a business trip and will return in 85 days and have to go on another business trip in 107 days.

- a. What is the probability that the birth will occur before her second trip?
- b. What is the probability that the birth will occur after she returns from her first business trip?
- c. What is the probability that she will be here for the birth?

- 3) Scores on an examination are assumed to be normally distributed with mean 78 and variance 36.

- a) What is the probability that a person taking the examination scores higher than 72?
- b) Suppose that students scoring in the top 10% of this distribution are to receive an A grade. What is the minimum score a student must achieve to earn an A grade?
- c) What must be the cut-off point for passing the examination if the examiner wants only the top 28.1% of all scores to be passing?
- d) Approximately what proportion of students have scores 5 or more points above the score that cuts off the lowest 25%?
- e) If it is known that a student's score exceeds 72, what is the probability that his or her score exceeds 84?

- 4) Let X be a normally distributed random variable with mean 79. Suppose it is known that $P(79-a \leq X \leq 79+b) = 0.6463$.



It is given that $P(X \geq 79+b) = 2P(X \leq 79-a)$

- a. Calculate the shaded area.
- b. Find the value of b .

- 5) The weekly repair cost, X , for a certain machine has a probability density function given by:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} cx(1-x), & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

with measurements in \$100.

- a. Find the value of c that makes this function a valid density function.
- b. Find the cumulative distribution function of X .
- c. What is the probability that repair costs will exceed \$75 during a week?
- d. What is the probability that the repair costs will exceed \$75 during a week given that they will exceed \$50?

- 6) Suppose X is a continuous random variable with density function:

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

Find the moment-generating function.

- 7) A 12-in. bar clamped at both ends is subjected to an increasing amount of stress until it snaps. Let Y = the distance from the left end at which the break occurs. Suppose Y has pdf

$$f(y) = \frac{y}{24} \left(1 - \frac{y}{12}\right) \quad 0 \leq y \leq 12$$

Compute the following:

- a) The cumulative distribution function (CDF) of Y .
 - b) $P(Y \leq 4)$, $P(Y > 6)$ and $P(4 \leq Y \leq 6)$.
 - c) $E(Y)$, $E(Y^2)$, and $V(Y)$.
 - d) The probability that the break point occurs more than 2 inches from the expected break point.
 - e) The expected length of the shorter segment when the break occurs.
- 8) The operator of a pumping station has observed that demand for water during early afternoon hours has an approximately exponential distribution with mean 100 cfs (cubic feet per second).
- a) Find the probability that the demand will exceed 200 cfs during the early afternoon on a randomly selected day.
 - b) What water-pumping capacity should the station maintain during early afternoons so that the probability that demand will exceed capacity on a randomly selected day is only .01?
- 9) The time till failure of an electronic component has an exponential distribution and it is known that 10% of components have failed by 1000 hours. What is the probability that a component is still working after 5000 hours?
- 10) Suppose that when a type of transistor is subjected to an accelerated life test, the lifetime X (in weeks) has a gamma distribution with mean 24 weeks and standard deviation 12 weeks.
- a) What is the probability that a transistor will last between 12 and 24 weeks?
 - b) What is the probability that a transistor will last at most 24 weeks? Is the median of the lifetime distribution less than 24? Why or why not?
 - c) What is the 99th percentile of the lifetime distribution?

11) The weekly amount of downtime Y (in hours) for an industrial machine has approximately a gamma distribution with $\alpha = 3$ and $\beta = 2$. The loss L (in dollars) to the industrial operation as a result of this downtime is given by $L = 30Y + 2Y^2$. Find the expected value and variance of L .

12) The lifetime of X (in hundreds of hours) of a light bulb has Weibull distribution with parameters $\alpha=2$ and $\beta=3$.

a) Find $E(X)$ and $V(X)$

b) Compute $P(X \leq 6)$.

c) Compute $P(2.8 \leq X \leq 4)$.

d) Compute $P(X \geq 3)$.

Table A.4 The incomplete gamma function

$G(x; \alpha) = \int_0^x \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} y^{\alpha-1} e^{-y} dy$										
x	α									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	.632	.264	.080	.019	.004	.001	.000	.000	.000	.000
2	.865	.594	.323	.143	.053	.017	.005	.001	.000	.000
3	.950	.801	.577	.353	.185	.084	.034	.012	.004	.001
4	.982	.908	.762	.567	.371	.215	.111	.051	.021	.008
5	.993	.960	.875	.735	.560	.384	.238	.133	.068	.032
6	.998	.983	.938	.849	.715	.554	.394	.256	.153	.084
7	.999	.993	.970	.918	.827	.699	.550	.401	.271	.170
8	1.000	.997	.986	.958	.900	.809	.687	.547	.407	.283
9		.999	.994	.979	.945	.884	.793	.676	.544	.413
10		1.000	.997	.990	.971	.933	.870	.780	.667	.542
11			.999	.995	.985	.962	.921	.857	.768	.659
12			1.000	.998	.992	.980	.954	.911	.845	.758
13				.999	.996	.989	.974	.946	.900	.834
14				1.000	.998	.994	.986	.968	.938	.891
15					.999	.997	.992	.982	.963	.930

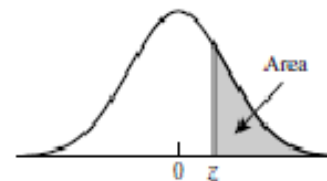
Table A.3 Standard Normal Curve Areas (cont.)

$\Phi(z) = P(Z \leq z)$

z	.00	.01	.02	.03	.04	.05	.06	.07	.08	.09
0.0	.5000	.5040	.5080	.5120	.5160	.5199	.5239	.5279	.5319	.5359
0.1	.5398	.5438	.5478	.5517	.5557	.5596	.5636	.5675	.5714	.5753
0.2	.5793	.5832	.5871	.5910	.5948	.5987	.6026	.6064	.6103	.6141
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

Normal Curve Areas

Standard normal probability in right-hand tail (for negative values of z , areas are found by symmetry)



Second decimal place of z										
z	.00	.01	.02	.03	.04	.05	.06	.07	.08	.09
0.0	.5000	.4960	.4920	.4880	.4840	.4801	.4761	.4721	.4681	.4641
0.1	.4602	.4562	.4522	.4483	.4443	.4404	.4364	.4325	.4286	.4247
0.2	.4207	.4168	.4129	.4090	.4052	.4013	.3974	.3936	.3897	.3859
0.3	.3821	.3783	.3745	.3707	.3669	.3632	.3594	.3557	.3520	.3483
0.4	.3446	.3409	.3372	.3336	.3300	.3264	.3228	.3192	.3156	.3121
0.5	.3085	.3050	.3015	.2981	.2946	.2912	.2877	.2843	.2810	.2776
0.6	.2743	.2709	.2676	.2643	.2611	.2578	.2546	.2514	.2483	.2451
0.7	.2420	.2389	.2358	.2327	.2296	.2266	.2236	.2206	.2177	.2148
0.8	.2119	.2090	.2061	.2033	.2005	.1977	.1949	.1922	.1894	.1867
0.9	.1841	.1814	.1788	.1762	.1736	.1711	.1685	.1660	.1635	.1611
1.0	.1587	.1562	.1539	.1515	.1492	.1469	.1446	.1423	.1401	.1379
1.1	.1357	.1335	.1314	.1292	.1271	.1251	.1230	.1210	.1190	.1170
1.2	.1151	.1131	.1112	.1093	.1075	.1056	.1038	.1020	.1003	.0985
1.3	.0968	.0951	.0934	.0918	.0901	.0885	.0869	.0853	.0838	.0823
1.4	.0808	.0793	.0778	.0764	.0749	.0735	.0722	.0708	.0694	.0681
1.5	.0668	.0655	.0643	.0630	.0618	.0606	.0594	.0582	.0571	.0559
1.6	.0548	.0537	.0526	.0516	.0505	.0495	.0485	.0475	.0465	.0455
1.7	.0446	.0436	.0427	.0418	.0409	.0401	.0392	.0384	.0375	.0367
1.8	.0359	.0352	.0344	.0336	.0329	.0322	.0314	.0307	.0301	.0294
1.9	.0287	.0281	.0274	.0268	.0262	.0256	.0250	.0244	.0239	.0233
2.0	.0228	.0222	.0217	.0212	.0207	.0202	.0197	.0192	.0188	.0183
2.1	.0179	.0174	.0170	.0166	.0162	.0158	.0154	.0150	.0146	.0143
2.2	.0139	.0136	.0132	.0129	.0125	.0122	.0119	.0116	.0113	.0110
2.3	.0107	.0104	.0102	.0099	.0096	.0094	.0091	.0089	.0087	.0084
2.4	.0082	.0080	.0078	.0075	.0073	.0071	.0069	.0068	.0066	.0064
2.5	.0062	.0060	.0059	.0057	.0055	.0054	.0052	.0051	.0049	.0048
2.6	.0047	.0045	.0044	.0043	.0041	.0040	.0039	.0038	.0037	.0036
2.7	.0035	.0034	.0033	.0032	.0031	.0030	.0029	.0028	.0027	.0026
2.8	.0026	.0025	.0024	.0023	.0023	.0022	.0021	.0021	.0020	.0019
2.9	.0019	.0018	.0017	.0017	.0016	.0016	.0015	.0015	.0014	.0014