

5 Benford's law Faked numbers in tax returns, invoices,
... or expense account claims often display patterns that aren't present in legitimate records. Some patterns, like too many round numbers, are obvious and easily avoided by a clever crook. Others are more subtle. It is a striking fact that the first digits of numbers in legitimate records often follow a model known as Benford's law.⁵ Call the first digit of a randomly chosen record X for short. Benford's law gives this probability model for X (note that a first digit can't be 0):

First digit X: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Probability: 0.301 0.176 0.125 0.097 0.079 0.067 0.058 0.051 0.046

(a) Show that this is a legitimate probability distribution.

(b) Make a histogram of the probability distribution. Describe what you see.

(c) Describe the event $X \ge 6$ in words. What is $P(X \ge 6)$?

(d) Express the event "first digit is at most 5" in terms of X. What is the probability of this event?

(c) The 1st digit in a readomly chosen record is a 6 or higher P(X > 6) = .067 + .058 + .051 + .046P(X > 6) = .222

7. Benford's law Refer to Exercise 5. The first digit of a randomly chosen expense account claim follows Benford's law. Consider the events A = first digit is 7 or greater and B = first digit is odd.

(a) What outcomes make up the event A? What is *P*(A)?

(b) What outcomes make up the event B? What is P(B)?

(c) What outcomes make up the event "A or B"? What is P(A or B)? Why is this probability not equal to P(A) + P(B)?

A = (7, 8, 9)P(A) = . 658 + . 051 + . 046 = 1.155 EVENT B = (1, 3, 5, 7, 9)P(B) = . 301 + . 125 + .079 + . 058 + .046= . 609 EVENT A or B = (1,3,5,7,8,9) P(AUB) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A1B=7,9) EVANT = 155 +.609 - 104 = 1.66 P(AOB) = P(A)+P(B) because event A and B are NOT mutually exclusive. PG 2 OF 4

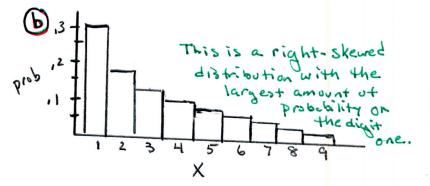
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This is a legit in the probability distribution because

1) all the probabilities are between 0 and 1

 $P(X \le s) = |-.222 = (.778)$

@ the probabilities sum to 1.



The event:

Keno Keno is a favorite game in casinos, and similar games are popular with the states that operate lotteries. Balls numbered 1 to 80 are tumbled in a machine as the bets are placed, then 20 of the balls are chosen at random. Players select numbers by marking a card. The simplest of the many wagers available is "Mark 1 Number." Your payoff is \$3 on a \$1 bet if the number you select is one of those chosen. Because 20 of 80 numbers are chosen, your probability of winning is 20/80, or 0.25. Let X = the amount you gain on a single play of the game.

(a) Make a table that shows the probability distribution of X.

(b) Compute the expected value of X. Explain what this result means for the player.

19. Housing in San Jose How do rented housing units differ from units occupied by their owners? Here are the distributions of the number of rooms for owner-occupied units and renter-occupied units in San Jose, California:⁷

Number of Rooms

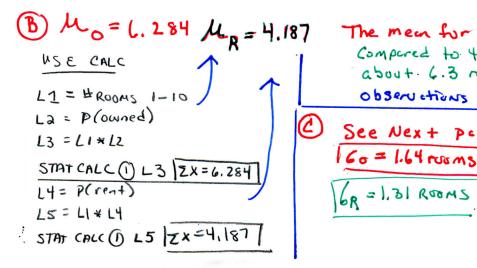
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Owned	0.003	0.002	0.023	0.104	0.210	0.224	0.197	0.149	0.053	0.005
Rented	0.008	0.027	0.287	0.363	0.164	0.093	0.039	0.013	0.003	0.003

Let X = the number of rooms in a randomly selected owner-occupied unit and Y = the number of rooms in a randomly chosen renter-occupied unit.

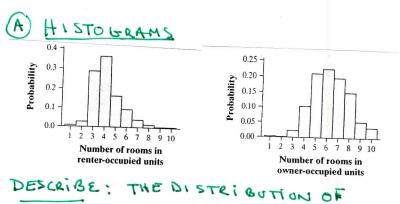
(a) Make histograms suitable for comparing the probability distributions of X and Y. Describe any differences that you observe.

(b) Find the mean number of rooms for both types of housing unit. Explain why this difference makes sense.

(c) Find the standard deviations of both X and Y. Explain why this difference makes sense.



X = amount you gain on a 9 le play of Keno VALUE **\$**0 \$3 Probability .75 .25 E(x) = O(.75) + 3(.25) = .75E(x) = lux = \$.75 IN THE LONG RUN, FOR EVERY \$1 THE PLAYER BETS, HE GETS ONLY BACK. 75¢



THE NUMBER OF ROOMS IS ROUGHLY SYMMETRIC FOR OWNERS AND SKEWED TO THE RIGHT FOR RENTERS. OVERALL, RENTER - OCCURIED UNITS TEND TO HAVE FEWER ROOMS THAN OWNER OCCUPIED UNITS

The men for renters is about 4.2 rooms, Compared to the mean for owners is about 6.3 rooms; which matches our observations from the histograms

page on how to colculate

owner-occupied units.

the owner distribution to have a slightly wider

spread than the renter distribution. Even

though the distribution of renter-occupied units is skewed to the right, it is more concen-

trated (contains less variability) about the

"peak" than the symmetric distribution for

We would expect