# Normal approximation to Binomial 

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Yurii Aulchenko Erasmus MC Rotterdam

## Binomial distribution at different $\boldsymbol{n}$ and p



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## Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777-1855)

- Developed Normal (Gaussian) distribution to describe measurement error



## Normal approximation

- $n$ must be large, say >100
- If $n p>5$, use Normal approximation
$\operatorname{Binomial}_{n, p}(x) \propto P_{\mu, 0}(X)=$
- where mean $\mu=n p$ and variance $\sigma^{2}=n p(1-p)$



## Siméon D. Poisson (1781-1840)

- Book on "Research on the Probability of Judgments in Criminal and Civil Matters"
- His distribution described time till some rare event happens



## Poisson approximation

- If $n p$ is about 1-4, use Poisson approximation

Binomial $_{n, p}(x) \propto P_{\lambda}(k)=$

where $\lambda=n p$

## Problem

- What approximation would you use under these scenarios?

|  | n |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| p | 100 | 250 | 1000 |
| 0.5 | $?$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 0.01 | $?$ | $?$ | $?$ |
| 0.001 | $?$ | $?$ | $?$ |

## Solution

- Table of np's:
- Approximation:

|  | $n$ |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $p$ | 100 | 250 | 1000 |
| 0.5 | 50 | 125 | 500 |
| 0.01 | 1 | 2.5 | 10 |
| 0.001 | 0.1 | 0.25 | 1 |


|  | n |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| p | 10 | 25 | 100 |
| 0.5 | N | N | N |
| 0.01 | P | P | N |
| 0.001 | P | P | P |

## Approximating Binomial at $p=0.5$



Green:
Red:



Normal approximation Poisson approximation
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## Approximating Binomial at $p=0.1$



Green:
Red:


Normal approximation Poisson approximation

## Approximating Binomial at $\mathrm{p}=0.01$



Green:
Red:



Normal approximation Poisson approximation

## Approximating Binomial $(\mathrm{k} \leq \mathrm{x})$

- Binomial $_{n, p}(\mathrm{k}) \propto \mathrm{P}_{\lambda}(\mathrm{k})=\frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^{k}}{k!}$. where $\lambda=n p$
- Binomial $_{n, p}(k \leq x) \propto P_{\lambda}(k \leq x)=$



## $P_{\lambda}(k \leq x)$

## Table IV. Cumulative Poisson Distribution

Lambda

| $\mathbf{k}$ | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $\mathbf{0}$ | 0.905 | 0.819 | 0.741 | 0.670 | 0.607 | 0.549 | 0.497 | 0.449 | 0.407 |  |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | 0.995 | 0.982 | 0.963 | 0.938 | 0.910 | 0.878 | 0.844 | 0.809 | 0.772 | 0.736 |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | 1.000 | 0.999 | 0.996 | 0.992 | 0.986 | 0.977 | 0.966 | 0.953 | 0.93 | 0.920 |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 0.999 | 0.998 | 0.997 | 0.994 | 0.991 | 0.987 | 0.981 |
| $\mathbf{4}$ |  |  |  | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 0.999 | 0.999 | 0.998 | 0.996 |
| $\mathbf{5}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0.999 |
| $\mathbf{6}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1.000 |

## Probability to sample 0 alleles with frequency of 0.01 among 100 chromosomes: <br> $\mathrm{n}=100, \mathrm{p}=0.01, \mathrm{k}=0, \lambda=\mathrm{np}=1$

## Problem

- A mutation of microsatellite marker occurs in rate of $10^{-3}$ per meiosis
- In a complex pedigree, including 1500 meioses, 2 Mendelian errors were observed
- P1: What is the chance to have 2 or more errors under assumption that all errors represent new mutations?
- P2: What would be the number of errors, after which you would conclude that there is genotyping error (at $\alpha=0.05$ )?


## Solution P1: Binomial

- $P(\mathbf{k} \geq 2)=1-P(\mathbf{k} \leq 1)=$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& 1-P(\mathbf{k}=1)-P(\mathbf{k}=0)= \\
& 1-1500 \cdot 0.001 \cdot 0.9991499-0.9991500= \\
& 0.442
\end{aligned}
$$

## Solution P2: Binomial

- Idea: compute
- P(k>2)
- $P(k \geq 3)$
- $P(k>4)$
- $\mathrm{P}(\mathrm{k} \geq 5)$
- $\mathrm{P}(\mathrm{k} \geq 6)$
- And check when it becomes $\leq 0.05$


## Solution P1: Poisson

- $P(k \geq 2)=1-P(k \leq 1)$
- $\lambda=\mathbf{n p}=1500 \cdot 10^{-3}=1.5$
- Using the table

$$
\begin{aligned}
& P_{\lambda=1.5}(k \geq 2)=1-P_{\lambda=1.5}(\mathbf{k} \leq 1)= \\
& 1-0.558=0.442
\end{aligned}
$$

## Solution P2: Poisson

- $P(k \times X)=1-P(k<[X-1]) \leq 0.05$
- $P(k \leq[X-1]) \geq 0.95$
- Idea: check the column with $\lambda=1.5$ and see at what $\mathbf{k}$ it becomes more then 0.95 , then add 1 to this number
- Answer: 5 errors

|  |  |  |  | Lambda |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{k}$ | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.6 |  |
| $\mathbf{0}$ | 0.333 | 0.301 | 0.273 | 0.247 | 0.223 | 0.202 |  |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | 0.699 | 0.663 | 0.627 | 0.592 | 0.558 | 0.525 |  |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | 0.900 | 0.879 | 0.857 | 0.833 | 0.809 | 0.783 |  |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | 0.974 | 0.966 | 0.957 | 0.946 | 0.934 | 0.921 |  |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | 0.995 | 0.992 | 0.989 | 0.986 |  | 0.976 |  |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | 0.999 | 0.998 | 0.998 | 0.997 | 0.996 | 0.994 |  |
| $\mathbf{6}$ | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 0.999 | 0.999 | 0.999 |  |
| $\mathbf{7}$ |  |  |  | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |  |

## Standard Normal

- Normal density function with mean 0 and variance 1:

$$
P(k=x)=\phi(x)=\frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \pi}} \cdot \exp \left(-\frac{x^{2}}{2}\right)
$$

- Its integral is termed Normal distribution:

$$
P(k \leq x)=\Phi(x)=\int_{-\infty}^{x} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \pi}} \cdot \exp \left(-\frac{x^{2}}{2}\right) d x
$$

## Standard Normal

- We know a lot about this function and many statistical techniques are based on that


## Facts about Standard Normal



It is symmetric distribution, therefore

$$
\phi(-x)=\phi(x)
$$

It has area of 1 , therefore

$$
\Phi(\mathbf{x})=\mathbf{1}-\Phi(-\mathrm{x})
$$

## Facts about Standard Normal



$$
\begin{array}{ll}
P(x \leq 1)=0.84 & P(-1 \leq x \leq 1)=2(1-0.84)=0.32 \\
P(x \leq 2)=0.977 & P(-2 \leq x \leq 2)=2(1-0.977)=0.955 \\
P(x \leq 3)=0.999 & P(-3 \leq x \leq 3)=2(1-0.999)=0.997
\end{array}
$$

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
P(x \leq 1.64)=0.95 & P(-1.64 \leq x \leq 1.64)=0.90 \\
P(x \leq 1.96)=0.975 & P(-1.96 \leq x \leq 1.96)=0.95 \\
P(x \leq 2.57)=0.995 & P(-2.32 \leq x \leq 2.57)=0.99
\end{array}
$$

## $\mathrm{P}(\mathrm{x} \leq \mathrm{Z})=\Phi(\mathrm{Z})$

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 0.5000 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 0.5398 | 0.5438 | 0.5478 | 0.5517 | 0.5557 | 0.5596 | . 5636 | 0.5675 |  | 0.5753 |
| 0.2 | 0.579 | 5832 | 5 | 0.5910 | 0.5948 | 0.5987 | 26 | 064 | 3 | 0.6141 |
| 0.3 | 0.6179 | . 6217 | 0.625 | . 6293 | 633 | 6368 | 640 | 6443 | 880 | 1 |
|  | 0.6 | 0.659 | 66 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 0.6915 |  | 0.6985 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 0.7257 | 0.7291 | 0.7324 | 0.7357 | 0.7389 | 0.7422 | . 7454 | 0.7486 | 0.7517 | 0.7549 |
|  | 0.758 | 0.7611 | 76 | 0.7673 | 0.770 | 0.7734 | . 7764 | 0.7794 | 82 | 0.7852 |
| 0.8 | . 788 | 0.791 | 0.793 | 0.79 | 0.7 | 0.8023 | . 8 | 8078 | 0.8106 | 0.813 |
|  | 0.8159 | 0.8186 | 0.821 | 0.8238 | 0.826 | 0.8289 | , | . 8340 | 0.8365 |  |
|  | 0 | 0.8438 | 0. |  | 0.8508 |  |  | 0.8577 | 0.8599 |  |
|  | 0.864 | 66 | 0.86 | 0.8708 | 0.872 | 0.8749 | 0.8770 | 0.8790 | 0.8810 | 0.8830 |
|  | 0.884 | 0.8869 | 8 |  | 0.89 |  | 8 | . 8980 |  |  |
|  | 0.903 | 0.9049 | 0.90 | 0.9082 | 0.9099 | 0.9115 | 9131 | 9147 | 0.9162 |  |
|  | 0.919 | 0.9207 | 0.9 | 0.9236 | 0.9251 | 0.9265 | . 9279 | 92 | 0.9306 | 0.9319 |
| 1.5 | 0.9332 | 0.9345 | 0.93 |  | 0.9 |  | . 9406 | 0.9418 |  |  |
| 1.6 | 0.9452 | 946 | 0.94 |  | 0.9495 |  | . 9515 | . 9 | 0.9535 |  |
|  | 0.9554 | 9564 | 0.95 | 0.9 | 0.95 | 0.9599 | . 9 | . 9616 | 0. |  |
| 1.8 | 0.9641 | 649 | 0.9656 | 0.9664 | 0.967 | 9678 | 0.9686 | 0.9693 | 0.9699 | 0.9706 |
| . 9 | 0.9713 | 0.9719 | 0.9726 | 0.9732 | 0.97 | 0.9744 | 97 | 0.9756 | . 976 | 0.9767 |
| 2.0 | 0.977 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9788 | . 9 | . 9 | . 9 | . 9 | . 9 |  |

## Approximating Binomial with Normal

mean $\mu=n p$ and variance $\sigma^{2}=n p(1-p)$

$$
P(k \leq \alpha) \approx \Phi_{\mu, \sigma}(\alpha+0.5)
$$



## Using Standard Normal

$$
P(k \leq \alpha)=\Phi\left(\frac{(\alpha+0.5)-\mu}{\sigma}\right)
$$

$$
P(k>\alpha)=1-\Phi\left(\frac{(\alpha+0.5)-\mu}{\sigma}\right)
$$

$$
P(k \geq \alpha)=1-\Phi\left(\frac{(\alpha-0.5)-\mu}{\sigma}\right)
$$

$$
P(\alpha \leq k \leq \beta)=\Phi\left(\frac{\beta-\mu+0.5}{\sigma}\right)-\Phi\left(\frac{\alpha-\mu-0.5}{\sigma}\right)
$$

## Problem

- Coin is tossed 200 times.
- Estimate probability that the number of heads is between 95 and 105, included - that is to say that it deviates from 100 by 5 at most
- Suggestion
- $\mathrm{n}>100, \mathrm{np}=100 \Rightarrow$ use Normal approximation


## Solution

The parameters of the Binomial are $\mu=n p=100$ and variance $\sigma^{2}=n p(1-p)=50$ (then $\sigma$ is 7.07)

$$
P(\alpha \leq k \leq \beta)=\Phi\left(\frac{\beta-\mu+0.5}{\sigma}\right)-\Phi\left(\frac{\alpha-\mu-0.5}{\sigma}\right)
$$

$$
\begin{gathered}
P(95 \leq k \leq 105)=\Phi\left(\frac{105.5-100}{7.07}\right)-\Phi\left(\frac{94.5-100}{7.07}\right)=\Phi\left(\frac{5.5}{7.07}\right)-\Phi\left(\frac{-5.5}{7.07}\right)= \\
\Phi(0.78)-\Phi(-0.78)=\Phi(0.78)-(1-\Phi(0.78))= \\
2 \Phi(0.78)-1=? ? ?
\end{gathered}
$$

## Number!

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \Phi(0.778)-\Phi(-0.778)= \\
& 1-2 \times \Phi(0.778)=
\end{aligned}
$$

We leave exact (Binomial) computations and comparison for the exercises session

## Problem

- Frequency of a disease allele is 0.03
- In a sample of 100 people
- What number of carrier is expected?
- What is the chance to have 10 or more carriers?
- Assume HWE


## Solution

- Carrier frequency is roughly 6\%
- The parameters of the Binomial are $\mu=n p=6$ and variance $\sigma^{2}$ $=n p(1-p)=5.64$ (then $\sigma$ is 2.37)
- Use Normal (np>5)


$$
=1-0.93=0.07
$$

## Problem

- The frequency of a genetic variant is 0.01
- How many people you need to sample to have $95 \%$ probability that at least one is carrier?


## Solution

- $\mathrm{P}($ at least one carrier $) \geq 0.95$
- P(at least one carrier) =

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \quad 1-\mathrm{P}(\text { no carriers })=1-0.98^{n} \\
& =1-0.98^{n}=0.95 \\
& =0.98^{n}=0.05 \\
& =n=\ln (0.05) / \ln (0.98)=148.28
\end{aligned}
$$

## Problem

- The frequency of a genetic variant is 0.01
- How many people you need to sample to have 95\% probability to have at least THREE carriers?


## Straight solution

- $P(\geq 3$ carriers $) \geq 0.95$
$1-\mathrm{P}(0$ carriers $)-\mathrm{P}(1$ carrier $)-\mathrm{P}(2$ carriers $) \geq 0.95$
$1-\left[0.98^{n}\right]-\left[n \cdot 0.02 \cdot 0.98^{n-1}\right]-\left[1 / 2 \cdot n \cdot(n-1) \cdot 0.02^{2} \cdot 0.98^{n-2}\right] \geq 0.95$
$\left[0.98^{n}\right]+\left[n \cdot 0.02 \cdot 0.98^{n-1}\right]+\left[1 / 2 \cdot n \cdot(n-1) \cdot 0.02^{2} \cdot 0.98^{n-2}\right] \leq 0.05$


## - ?!!? Solution ?!!?

## Using Poisson

- As p is low (0.02), Poisson approximation may work well


## Idea of solution

- Event of interest is $\mathbf{k} \geq 3$
- $P(k \geq 3)=1-P(k \leq 2) \geq 0.95$
- $P(k \leq 2) \leq 0.05$
- In Poisson, $\lambda=\mathbf{n p}$
- If you find out what $\lambda$ gives $P(k \geq 3)=0.95$, then $n$ is $\lambda / p$


## Solution

- At $\mathbf{k}=2$
- $\lambda=6.2$ gives $P(k \leq 2)=0.054$
- $\lambda=6.4$ gives $P(k \leq 2)=0.046$
- Therefore sample size should be between
6.2/0.02 = 310 and
- $6.4 / 0.02=320$


## Solution with Normal 1

- $\mathrm{P}(\mathrm{k} \geq 3$ carriers $)=\mathrm{P}(>2$ carriers $)$
- $P(k>2$ carriers $) \geq 0.95$

- $\mu=0.02 n ; \sigma^{2}=n 0.020 .98$



## Solution with Normal 2

$$
\Phi\left(\frac{2-0.02 \cdot n+\frac{1}{2}}{\sqrt{0.02 \cdot 0.98 \cdot n}}\right)<0.05
$$

- Use table:

$$
\frac{2-0.02 \cdot n+\frac{1}{2}}{\sqrt{0.02 \cdot 0.98 \cdot n}}<-1.64
$$

$$
1.64 \cdot \sqrt{0.0196} \cdot \sqrt{n}-0.02 \cdot n<-2 \frac{1}{2}
$$

## Solving quadratic equation

- If there is equation of the form $\mathrm{A} \sqrt{ } n-\mathrm{B} n=-\mathrm{C}$
- Solution is

$$
\frac{A^{2}+2 \cdot B \cdot C+A \cdot \sqrt{A^{2}+4 \cdot B \cdot C}}{2 \cdot B^{2}}
$$

## Answer is...

$$
A=1.64 \sqrt{0.0196} \approx 0.23 ; \quad B=0.02 ; \quad C=2 \frac{1}{2}
$$

$$
\frac{A^{2}+2 \cdot B \cdot C+A \cdot \sqrt{A^{2}+4 \cdot B \cdot C}}{2 \cdot B^{2}}
$$

$$
0.23^{2}+2 \cdot 0.02 \cdot 2.5+0.23 \cdot \sqrt{0.23^{2}+4 \cdot 0.02 \cdot 2.5}
$$

$$
2 \cdot 0.02^{2}
$$

$$
\frac{0.053+0.1+0.23 \cdot \sqrt{0.053+0.2}}{0.0008}=\frac{0.153+0.23 \cdot 0.503}{0.0008}=335
$$

## Binomial computations: exercises session

## Useful excel functions

- Cumulative binomial $P_{n, p}(x \leq k)$

$$
=\operatorname{binomdist(k,n,p,1)}
$$

- Cumulative standard normal $\Phi(x \leq k)$
=normdist(k,0,1,1)
- Poisson $P_{\lambda}(x \leq k)$
$=$ posisson $(k, \lambda, 1)$
- Chi-squared with m d.f., $\chi_{\mathrm{m}}{ }^{2}(\mathrm{x} \geq \mathrm{k})$
$=$ chidist(k,m)

