

3.6) Approximating a binomial distribution

Worked example

A biased coin has $P(\text{tails}) = 0.47$.
The coin is tossed 200 times and the number of tails is recorded.

- a) Write a binomial model for X
- b) Show that X can be approximated with a normal distribution $Y \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ and find the values of μ and σ

Your turn

A biased coin has $P(\text{tails}) = 0.53$.
The coin is tossed 100 times and the number of tails is recorded.

- a) Write a binomial model for X
- b) Show that X can be approximated with a normal distribution $Y \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ and find the values of μ and σ

a) $X \sim (100, 0.53)$

b) $Y \sim N(53, 4.99^2)$

Worked example

Convert these discrete probabilities, where

$$X \sim B(n, p)$$

to continuous probabilities, where

$$Y \sim N(np, np(1 - p))$$

$$P(X = 5)$$

$$P(X = 4)$$

Your turn

Convert these discrete probabilities, where

$$X \sim B(n, p)$$

to continuous probabilities, where

$$Y \sim N(np, np(1 - p))$$

$$P(X = 3)$$

$$\approx P(2.5 \leq Y \leq 3.5)$$

Worked example

Convert these discrete probabilities, where

$$X \sim B(n, p)$$

to continuous probabilities, where

$$Y \sim N(np, np(1 - p))$$

$$P(X \leq 5)$$

$$P(X \leq 4)$$

Your turn

Convert these discrete probabilities, where

$$X \sim B(n, p)$$

to continuous probabilities, where

$$Y \sim N(np, np(1 - p))$$

$$P(X \leq 3)$$

$$\approx P(Y \leq 3.5)$$

Worked example

Convert these discrete probabilities, where

$$X \sim B(n, p)$$

to continuous probabilities, where

$$Y \sim N(np, np(1 - p))$$

$$P(X < 5)$$

$$P(X < 4)$$

Your turn

Convert these discrete probabilities, where

$$X \sim B(n, p)$$

to continuous probabilities, where

$$Y \sim N(np, np(1 - p))$$

$$P(X < 3)$$

$$\approx P(Y \leq 2.5)$$

Worked example

Convert these discrete probabilities, where

$$X \sim B(n, p)$$

to continuous probabilities, where

$$Y \sim N(np, np(1 - p))$$

$$P(X \geq 5)$$

$$P(X \geq 4)$$

Your turn

Convert these discrete probabilities, where

$$X \sim B(n, p)$$

to continuous probabilities, where

$$Y \sim N(np, np(1 - p))$$

$$P(X \geq 3)$$

$$\approx P(Y \geq 2.5)$$

Worked example

Convert these discrete probabilities, where

$$X \sim B(n, p)$$

to continuous probabilities, where

$$Y \sim N(np, np(1 - p))$$

$$P(X > 5)$$

$$P(X > 4)$$

Your turn

Convert these discrete probabilities, where

$$X \sim B(n, p)$$

to continuous probabilities, where

$$Y \sim N(np, np(1 - p))$$

$$P(X > 3)$$

$$\approx P(Y \geq 3.5)$$

Worked example

Convert these discrete probabilities, where

$$X \sim B(n, p)$$

to continuous probabilities, where

$$Y \sim N(np, np(1 - p))$$

$$P(5 \leq X \leq 8)$$

$$P(4 < X < 7)$$

Your turn

Convert these discrete probabilities, where

$$X \sim B(n, p)$$

to continuous probabilities, where

$$Y \sim N(np, np(1 - p))$$

$$P(3 < X < 6)$$

$$\approx P(3.5 \leq Y \leq 5.5)$$

Worked example

Convert these discrete probabilities, where

$$X \sim B(n, p)$$

to continuous probabilities, where

$$Y \sim N(np, np(1 - p))$$

$$P(5 < X \leq 8)$$

$$P(4 \leq X < 7)$$

Your turn

Convert these discrete probabilities, where

$$X \sim B(n, p)$$

to continuous probabilities, where

$$Y \sim N(np, np(1 - p))$$

$$P(3 < X \leq 6)$$

$$\approx P(3.5 \leq Y \leq 6.5)$$

Worked example

For a particular type of flower bulbs, 44% will produce red flowers. A random sample of 160 bulbs is planted.

- (a) Calculate the actual probability that there are exactly 70 red flowers.
- (b) Use a normal approximation to find a estimate that there are exactly 70 red flowers.
- (c) Hence determine the percentage error of the normal approximation for 70 red flowers.

Your turn

For a particular type of flower bulbs, 55% will produce yellow flowers. A random sample of 80 bulbs is planted.

- (a) Calculate the actual probability that there are exactly 50 yellow flowers.
- (b) Use a normal approximation to find a estimate that there are exactly 50 yellow flowers.
- (c) Hence determine the percentage error of the normal approximation for 50 yellow flowers.

a) 0.0365

b) 0.0362 (4dp)

c) 0.82% (2 dp)

Worked example

The random variable

$$X \sim B(100, 0.51)$$

Use a suitable approximation to estimate:

$$P(X = 45)$$

$$P(X > 54)$$

$$P(X \leq 43)$$

$$P(47 < X \leq 51)$$

Your turn

The random variable

$$X \sim B(200, 0.47)$$

Use a suitable approximation to estimate:

$$P(X = 87)$$

$$0.0346 \text{ (4 dp)}$$

$$P(X > 102)$$

$$0.1142 \text{ (4 dp)}$$

$$P(X \leq 91)$$

$$0.3616 \text{ (4 dp)}$$

$$P(89 \leq X < 98)$$

$$0.4721 \text{ (4 dp)}$$