

STAT 801=830

Problems: Assignment 1

This first problem set is partly review. I want to see how you answer relatively elementary problems. I don't plan to discuss these with anyone before they are handed in and I want complete clear explanations about what you are doing and assuming. Nothing I have said in class is particularly relevant to problems 1, 2 or 6.

1. The concentration of cadmium in a lake is measured 17 times. The measurements average 211 parts per billion with an SD of 15 parts per billion. Could the real concentration of cadmium be below the standard of 200 ppb? I want an answer in the form of a paragraph with NO formulas, no Greek letters. An answer is not 1 word long. I also want this turned in in the form of a document produced in L^AT_EX.
2. Suppose X and Y are independent Geometric(p) random variables. In other words for non-negative integers j and k

$$P(X = j \text{ and } Y = k) = P(X = j)P(Y = k) = p^2(1 - p)^{j+k}.$$

WARNING: there are two standard definitions of Geometric distributions. The formula above specifies which I am talking about.

- (a) Let $U = \min(X, Y)$, $V = \max(X, Y)$ and $W = V - U$. Express the event $U = j$ and $W = k$ in terms of X and Y .
 - (b) Compute $P(U = j)$ and $P(W = k)$ and prove that the event $U = j$ and the event $W = k$ are independent.
3. Each month Statistics Canada publishes data on employment and unemployment in Canada. My home page has a link to the Daily. On September 7 there will be a release of August data. At the bottom of the page there will be a grey box and in that box a link to a publication of detailed information about the Labour Force Survey – the survey which provides the data for computing employment and unemployment rates. Get the September 7 release. I want you each to get one estimate from the tables in that document and compare it to the standard error for that estimate as follows:

- Use the last digit of the day of the month which is your birthday to pick one of tables 4.1 to 4.10. If your birthday is the 10th, 20th or 30th you use table 4.10. If it is the 9th, 19th or 29th you use table 4.09, and so on. Go to the section for men, 25 years and over, or women, 29 years and over according to whether or not you are male or female. Please tell me what table and row you end up at.
- Get the estimated change, August minus July, and the associated Standard Error, the column labelled ‘S.E.’.
- Does a 1 standard error confidence interval include the value ‘no change’?
- Suppose that X has a normal distribution with mean μ and standard deviation σ . Give a formula, as a function of μ and σ , for the probability that a one standard deviation confidence interval includes the value 0. Your answer should be expressed as an integral involving the standard normal density

$$\phi(x) = \frac{e^{-x^2/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}.$$

- Show that this probability is maximized when $\mu = 0$ and tell me what the maximum probability is.

4. From the text: page 14,15 #10

Due date: 11 September 2012 in class.