

Chapter 2

Flood Frequency Analysis

Statistics

- Probability
- (inferential) Statistics

Probability - estimating the chance of some event occurring.

(Inferential) Statistics - estimating parameters of distributions of results from an experiment.

A. Descriptive Statistics - parameters that describe a sample and only apply to the given sample.

B. Inferential Statistics - infer something about the total population.

PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTIONS

1) Frequency Histogram (Discrete variable)

$$\text{Relative Frequency, } p = \frac{f}{N}$$

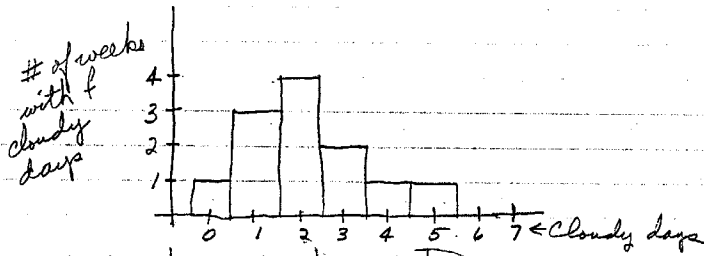
f = number of occurrence of the wanted event

N = total number of events (population)

Example:

$\text{Var}(x)$ = Number of cloudy days per week at UNO

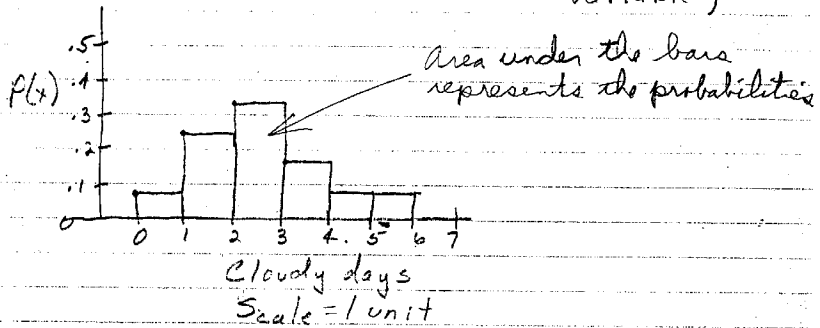
Observed for 12 weeks = N



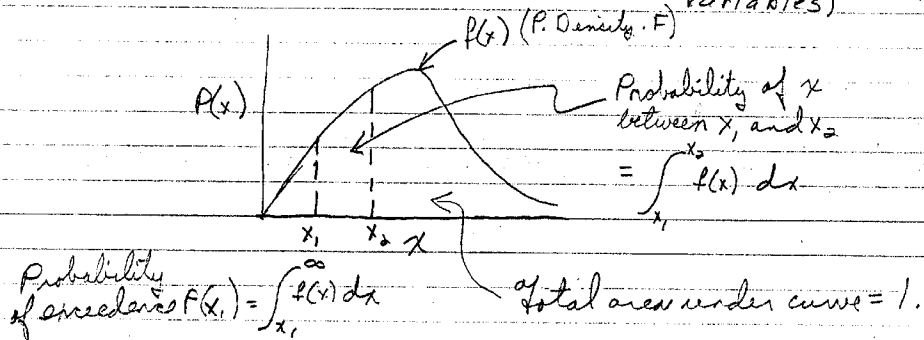
Cloudy days	Weeks	$P(x)$
0	1	$\frac{1}{12}$
1	3	$\frac{1}{4}$
2	4	$\frac{1}{3}$
3	2	$\frac{1}{6}$
4	1	$\frac{1}{12}$
5	1	$\frac{1}{12}$
6	0	0
7	0	0

Convert to Probabilities

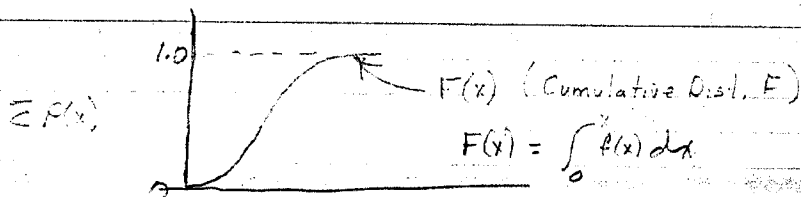
Probability Mass Function (for Discrete Random Variable)



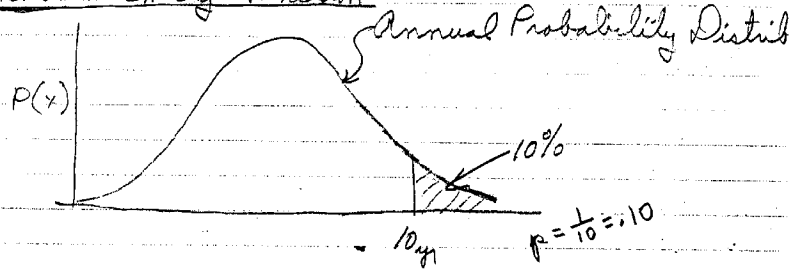
Probability Density Function (for continuous Random Variables)



Cumulative Distribution Function



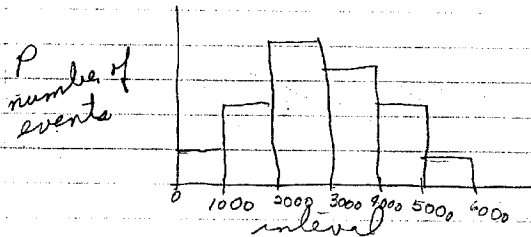
Prob. Density Function



Obtaining P D F from observed events.

1) Group magnitudes of flood together, i.e., 1000 cfs, 2000 cfs, etc.

2) Plot number of occurrences for each interval vs the interval



3) fit curve to observed data (least squares, etc.)

But we use the method of moments of Distribution to fit the curve.

Moments of Distribution

$$M_r^0 = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^r f(x_i) \quad r^{\text{th}} \text{ moment about the origin}$$

where x_i = point

$f(x)$ = prob. of that point

measures
Central
tendency

1st moment about "origin"

$$r=1 \quad M = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i f(x_i) = \begin{cases} \text{theoretical value} \\ \text{Expected Value} \\ \text{or Mean} = \mu \end{cases}$$

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum x_i}{n} \quad \begin{cases} \text{estimate of } \mu \text{ from} \\ \text{a sample} \end{cases}$$

measures
the
dispersion
about
the
mean

Second moment about "mean"

$$M_2^{\mu} = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2 f(x_i) = \begin{cases} \text{theoretical value} \\ \text{Variance} = \sigma^2 \end{cases}$$

$$s^2 = \frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{n-1} \quad \begin{cases} \text{estimate of } \sigma^2 \text{ from} \\ \text{a sample} \end{cases}$$

measures
the
symmetry
about
the
mean

Third moment about "mean"

$$m_3 = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^3 f(x_i) = \text{skewness} = \alpha$$

$$g = \frac{n}{(n-1)(n-2)} \sum_{i=1}^n (x - \bar{x})^3 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{sample} \\ \text{skewness} \end{array} \right.$$

Descriptive Statistics
Computational Formula's

Mean

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum x}{n}$$

Variance

$$s^2 = \frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{n-1} = \frac{n(\sum x_i^2) - (\sum x_i)^2}{n(n-1)}$$

Standard Deviation

$$s = \sqrt{s^2}$$

$$= \frac{(\sum x_i^2) - \frac{(\sum x_i)^2}{n}}{n-1}$$

Coefficient of Variation

$$C_v = \frac{s}{\bar{x}}$$

CT

Skewness

$$a = \frac{n}{(n-1)(n-2)} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^3$$

Coefficient of skewness

$$C_{s \text{ or } g} = \frac{a}{s^3}$$

$$g = \frac{n^2 (\sum x_i^3) - 3n (\sum x_i) (\sum x_i^2) + 2 (\sum x_i)^3}{n(n-1)(n-2) s^3}$$

Note: for a good measure of skewness (and g) you need at least 120 years of record.

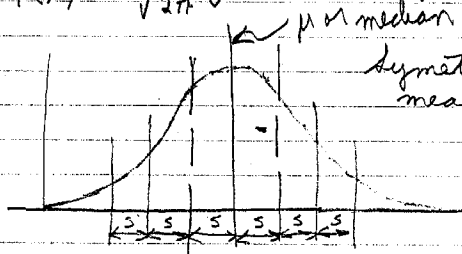
$$a = \frac{n^2 (\sum x_i^3) - 3n (\sum x_i) (\sum x_i^2) + 2 (\sum x_i)^3}{n(n-1)(n-2)}$$

Distributions Used in Hydrology

Normal

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

$-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}$ } two parameter distribution



symmetrical about mean therefore $\alpha = 0$ (skewness)

68% of area between $\pm \sigma$

95% of area between $\pm 2\sigma$

99.7% of area is between $\pm 3\sigma$

this does not occur very often in Hydrology.

Log normal

Substitute $\ln x$ for x in Normal to get Log normal.
If you subtract "a" from each x in series, we get the 3 parameter log normal.

Gamma

$$f(x) = \frac{x^\alpha e^{-x/\beta}}{\beta^{\alpha+1} \Gamma(\alpha+1)} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 2 \text{ parameter} \\ \text{Gamma Distribution} \end{array} \right.$$

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Pearson

3 parameter gamma distribution, this is the function most used in Hydrology.

* Log Pearson Type III

$$f(x) = \frac{\Gamma(\lambda)}{\Gamma(\lambda)} \frac{e^{-x/n}}{x^{1+k}} \left[- (k \ln x - n) \right]^{\lambda-1}$$

where α, λ, n parameters

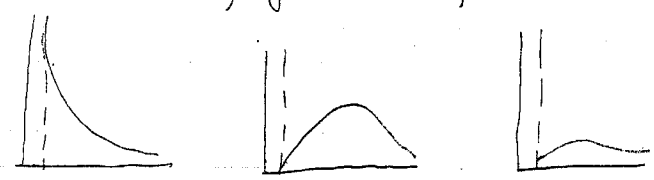
$$v = \ln_{\frac{1}{e}}$$

Note: In page 765 it is said that in the Pearson Type III therefore must take log of data to use.

Ux

Ux

when $\alpha > 0$, pos skew, has lower bound



when $\alpha < 0$, negatively skewed, distribution has an upper bound which is not what we want since floods do not have an upper bound.

Ux

Gumbel Distribution

Cumulative Distribution

$$F(x) = \frac{1 - e^{-\alpha(x-\mu)}}{\alpha}$$

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