

Problem 1: Scores from a recent major college entry exam were approximately normal with mean 78 and standard deviation 5.

(a) What proportion of students scored below a 65?

$$z_{65} = \frac{65 - 78}{5} = -2.6 \rightsquigarrow 0.0047$$

(b) What proportion of students scored above a 85?

$$z_{85} = \frac{85 - 78}{5} = 0.88 \rightsquigarrow 0.8106$$
$$1 - 0.8106 = 0.1894$$

(c) What proportion of students scored between 65 and 85?

$$0.8106 - 0.0047 = 0.8059$$

(d) What score would a student need to receive in order to score in the top 7%?

$$7\% \rightsquigarrow 93\% \rightsquigarrow z_{0.93} \rightsquigarrow 1.48$$
$$1.48 = \frac{x - 78}{5}$$
$$x = 78 + 5(1.48) = 85.40$$

Problem 2: An Olympic archer named Kantmiss Evergreen is able to hit the bull's eye 90% of the time. Assume each shot is independent of the others.

(a) If she shoots 5 arrows, what is the probability that she misses the bull's eye exactly one?

$${}_5C_1(0.10)^1(0.90)^4 \approx 0.3281 = 32.81\%$$

(b) If she shoots 5 arrows, what is the probability that she misses at most once?

$$P(X = 0) + P(X = 1) = 0.5905 + 0.3281 = 0.9186 = 91.86\%$$

(c) Suppose she will be shooting 200 arrows in a large competition. Let X be the number of bull's eyes she gets. What is the approximate distribution of the number of bull's eyes X ? What are the mean and standard deviation of X ?

The distribution is approximately normal:

$$\begin{aligned}\mu &= np = 200(0.90) = 180 \\ \sigma &= \sqrt{npq} = \sqrt{200(0.90)(0.10)} = 4.24\end{aligned}$$

(d) Suppose she made only 171 bull's eyes in 200 arrows. Use the normal approximation to estimate the probability that she makes 171 or less bull's eyes in 200 shots.

$$z_{171.5} = \frac{171 - 180}{4.24} = -2.12 \rightsquigarrow 0.0170 = 1.7\%$$

(e) Recalculate (d) using the continuity correction to improve the estimate.

$$z_{171.5} = \frac{171.5 - 180}{4.24} = -2.00 \rightsquigarrow 0.0228 = 2.28\%$$