

# MATH 1342

Section 4.3

# Standard Normal Calculations

As suggested in the previous section, all normal distributions share many common properties. In fact, if change the units to  $\sigma$  and center the graph at  $\mu=0$ , all normal distributions would be exactly the same. This is called **standardizing**. If  $x$  is an observation from a normal distribution with mean  $\mu$  and standard deviation  $\sigma$ , the **standardized value** of  $x$  is called the **z-score** and is computed with the formula below.

**Z-Score:**

$$z = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}$$

# The Z-Score

A z-score tells us how many standard deviations the observed value falls from the mean.

We can use z-scores to “standardize” values that are on different scales to compare them.

## Example:

Bon took the ACT and scored 31. Craig took the SAT and scored (CR+M) 1390. If both tests are normally distributed, who did better? The ACT has a mean of 21.1 and a standard deviation of 4.7. The SAT has a mean of 1010 and a standard deviation of 174.5.

ACT (Bon)

$$x = 31$$
$$\mu = 21.1$$
$$\sigma = 4.7$$
$$z = \frac{(31 - 21.1)}{4.7}$$

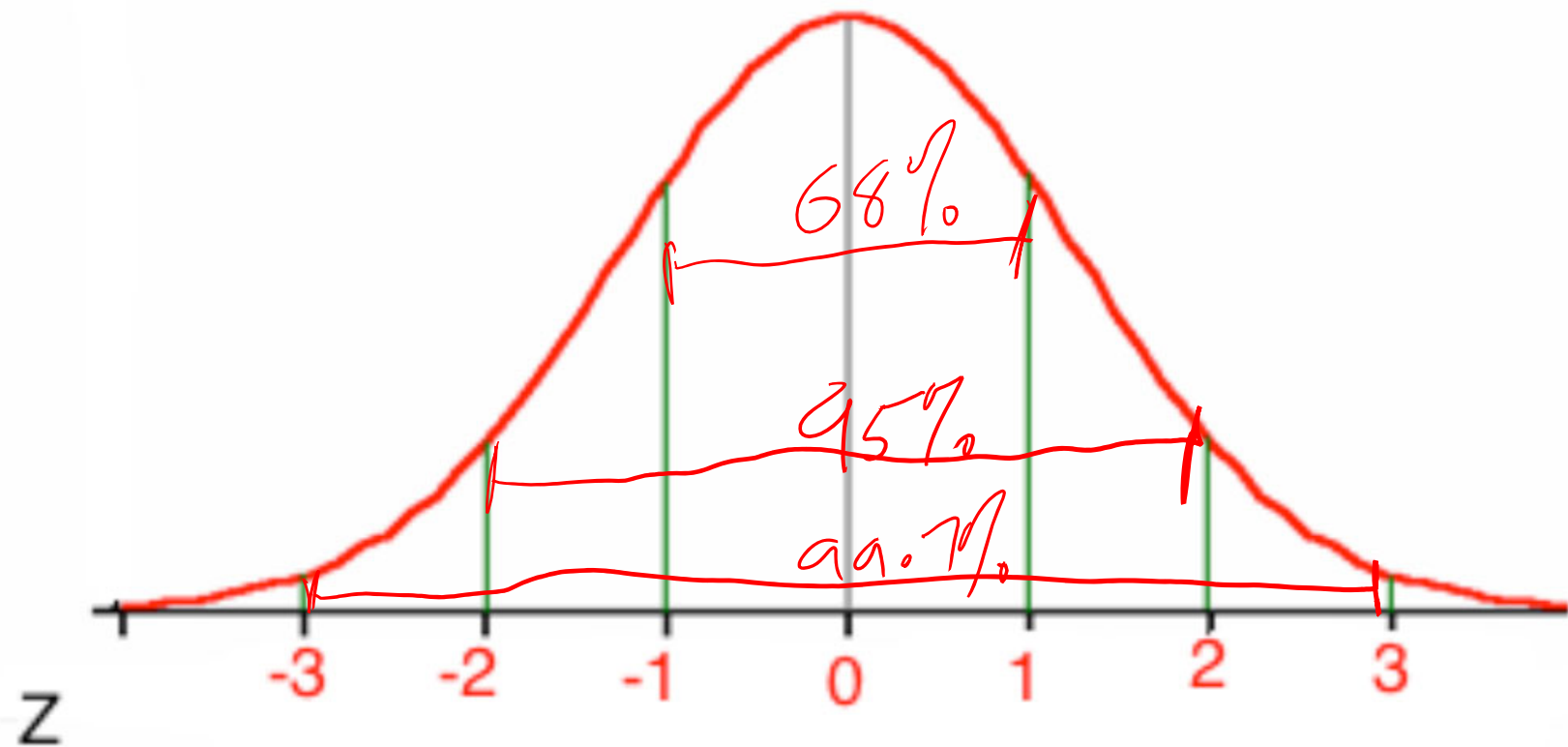
$$z = 2.106$$

SAT (Craig) Higher score

$$x = 1390$$
$$\mu = 1010$$
$$\sigma = 174.5$$
$$z = \frac{(1390 - 1010)}{174.5}$$

$$z = 2.178$$

The standard normal distribution is the normal distribution with  $N(0,1)$ :

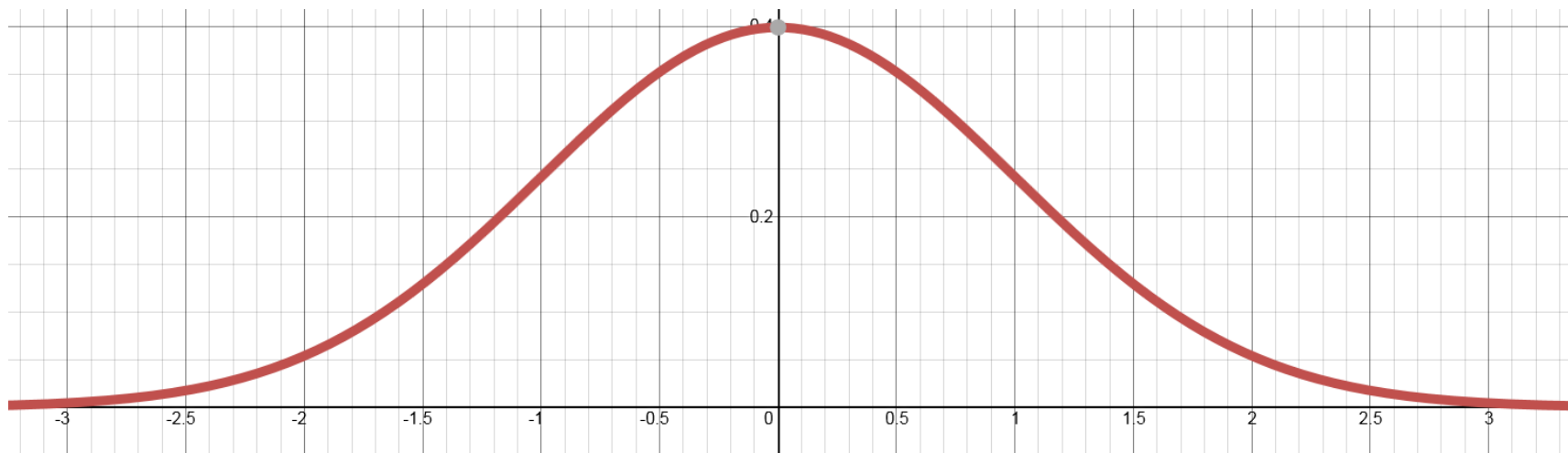


Little known fact:

This is just in case you are ever asked on a game show. You do not need to know this formula

The Normal Distribution Curve has an equation of the following:

$$y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2}$$



## Using Tables from the Textbook:

Table A in your appendix gives areas under the standard normal curve for values of  $z$ . The table entry for each value of  $z$  gives the area under the curve to the **left of  $z$**  – in other words, it gives  $P(Z < z)$ .

<https://www.casa.uh.edu/CourseWare2008/Books/p/Math/2311/TB/index.html>

$$P(Z < 1.25) = .8944$$

↑  
standard normal (see next slide)





Example: Using Table A, find the following probabilities:

*All reference Z (standard normal)*

```
pnorm(lower: -1000000, upper: -1.06, mu: 0, sigma: 1)
```

A.  $p(Z < -1.06)$  `> pnorm(-1.06)`  
[1] 0.1445723

```
pnorm(lower: -1000000, upper: 2.15, mu: 0, sigma: 1)
```

B.  $p(Z < 2.15)$  `> pnorm(2.15)`  
[1] 0.9842224  
`> 1-pnorm(2.15)`  
[1] 0.01577761

```
pnorm(lower: 2.15, upper: 1000000, mu: 0, sigma: 1)
```

C.  $p(Z > 2.15)$  `> pnorm(2.15)-pnorm(-1.06)`  
[1] 0.8396501

D.  $p(-1.06 < Z < 2.15)$

```
pnorm(lower: -1.06, upper: 2.15, mu: 0, sigma: 1)
```

Now let's repeat with calculator and R-Studio.

If we want to use the table for probabilities and are not given  $z$ , we must compute the  $z$ -score using the formula above.

$$Z = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}$$

Table A only uses  
 $z$  scores

# Example: Popper 10

$$\textcircled{1} z = \frac{(80 - 100)}{15}$$

$$\textcircled{2} z = \frac{(105 - 100)}{15}$$

$\mu \quad \sigma$

If  $X$  has distribution  $N(100, 15)$ , standardize  $X$  and use Table A to find the following probabilities:

1. Find the z-score corresponding to  $x = 80$ . C
2. Find the z-score corresponding to  $x = 105$ . A
- a. 0.333      b. -0.333      c. -1.333      d. 1.333
3.  $p(X < 80)$   
a. 0.9082      b. 0.9999      c. 0.1333      d. 0.0912
4.  $p(X > 105)$   
a. 0.6298      b. 0.0004      c. 0.3694      d. 0.9996
5.  $p(80 < X < 105)$   
a. 0.6298      b. 0.0000      c. 0.5393      d. 0.0918

① > (80-100)/15  
[1] -1.333333

② > (105-100)/15  
[1] 0.3333333

③ { > pnorm(80,100,15)  
[1] 0.09121122  
> pnorm(-1.333333)  
[1] 0.09121127

④ { > 1-pnorm(105,100,15)  
[1] 0.3694413  
> 1-pnorm(0.3333333)  
[1] 0.3694413

⑤ { > pnorm(105,100,15)-pnorm(80,100,15)  
[1] 0.5393474  
> pnorm(0.3333333)-pnorm(-1.333333)  
[1] 0.5393474  
|

# Known Percentile Rank

Now, let's suppose we know the percentile rank or the probability and want to find the corresponding z-score.

We can use Table A and look up the percentile (remember, it shows the area to the left) or we can use the command `invNorm(percent)` on the TI or `qnorm(percent)` in R.

If you know the probability, but you want to find the x or z values that produced it. Use this method.

When using a p-command (greater than), the 1- goes outside, when using a q-command (greater than) the 1- goes inside.

Example: Find the value of  $c$  so that

```
1: normalPdf(
2: normalcdf(
3: invNorm(
4: invT(
5: tpdf(
6: tcdf(
7: X2pdf(
```

A.  $P(Z < c) = 0.7704$

*unknown p-value is known*  
*less than*

```
> qnorm(0.7704)
[1] 0.7401648
> qnorm(1-0.006)
[1] 2.512144
```

```
area: .7704
μ: 0
σ: 1
Paste
```

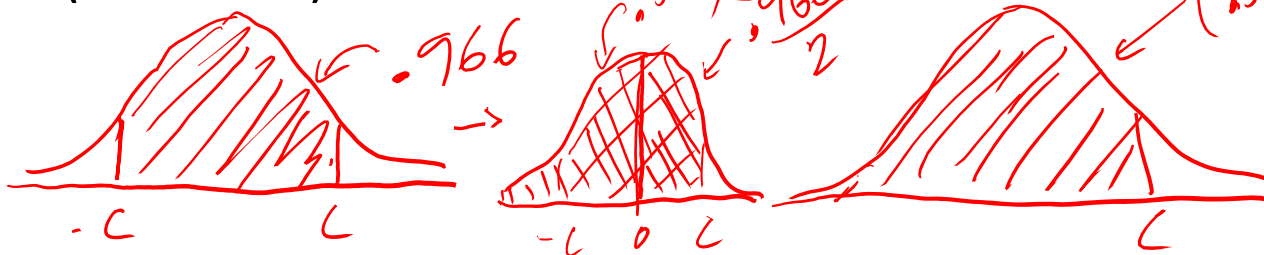
B.  $P(Z > c) = 0.006$

*greater than*

```
invNorm(.7704, 0)
.7401648101
invNorm(1-.006, 1)
2.512144328
```

```
area: 1-.006
μ: 0
σ: 1
Paste
```

C.  $P(-c < Z < c) = 0.966$



```
> qnorm(.5+.966/2)
[1] 2.120072
```

Another example:

10% about us ↘

$$N(2.7, 0.59)$$

Suppose you rank in the top 10% of your class. If the mean gpa is 2.7 and the standard deviation is 0.59, what is your gpa? (Assume a normal distribution).

$$P(X > c) = .10$$

```
area: 1-.10
μ: 2.7
σ: 0.59
Paste
```

```
> qnorm(1-.10, 2.7, 0.59)
[1] 3.456115
```

```
invNorm(1-.10, 2.7, 0.59)
3.456115424
```

Deciding to use qnorm versus pnorm has NOTHING to do with z or x. It has to do with what you are looking for as an answer. If you are finding a probability, use pnorm. If you finding a c-value, use qnorm.