

4.5: Chapter 4 Review

4.2 The Standard Normal Distribution

A z-score is a standardized value. Its distribution is the standard normal, $Z \sim N(0, 1)$. The mean of the z-scores is zero and the standard deviation is one. If z is the z-score for a value x from the normal distribution $N(\mu, \sigma)$ then z tells you how many standard deviations x is above (greater than) or below (less than) μ .

The normal distribution, which is continuous, is the most important of all the probability distributions. Its graph is bell-shaped. This bell-shaped curve is used in almost all disciplines. Since it is a continuous distribution, the total area under the curve is one. The parameters of the normal are the mean μ and the standard deviation σ . A special normal distribution, called the standard normal distribution is the distribution of z-scores. Its mean is zero, and its standard deviation is one.

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