Statistical Programming

Worksheet 1

Bits with an asterisk (*) should be tackled after completing the other exercises.

- 1. Sequences. Generate the following sequences using rep(), seq() and arithmetic:
 - (a) $1, 3, 5, 7, \ldots, 21$.
 - (b) $1, 10, 100, \dots, 10^9$.
 - (c) $0, 1, 2, 3, 0, \dots, 3, 0, 1, 2, 3$ [with each entry appearing 6 times]
 - (d) $0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 2, \dots, 4, 4, 4$.
 - $(e)^*$ 50, 47, 44, ..., 14, 11.
 - $(f)^* 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, \dots, 5 \times 10^4.$

Can any of your answers be simplified using recycling?

- 2. Arithmetic. Create a vector containing each of the following sequences:
 - (a) $\cos(\frac{\pi n}{3})$, for n = 0, ..., 10.
 - (b) $1, 9, 98, 997, \dots, 9999994$.
 - (c) $e^n 3n$, for $n = 0, \dots, 10$.
 - $(d)^* 3n \mod 7$, for $n = 0, \dots, 10$.

Let

$$S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(-1)^{i+1}}{2i-1} = 1 - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{5} - \frac{1}{7} + \dots + \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{2n-1}.$$

You will recall that $\lim_n S_n = \pi/4$.

- (e) Evaluate $4S_{10}$, $4S_{100}$ and $4S_{1000}$. [Hint: use the sum() function.]
- (f) Create a vector with entries $S_i \frac{\pi}{4}$, for i = 1, ..., 1000. [Hint: try creating the vector with entries S_i first; the function cumsum() may be useful.]

3. Subsetting

Create a vector **x** of normal random variables as follows:

```
> set.seed(123)
> x <- rnorm(100)
```

The set.seed() fixes the random number generator so that we all obtain the same x; changing the argument 123 to something else will give different results. This is useful for replication.

Give commands to select a vector containing:

- (a) the 25th, 50th and 75th elements;
- (b) the first 25 elements;
- (c) all elements except those from the 31st to the 40th.

Recall the logical operators |, & and !. Give commands to select:

- (d) all values larger than 1.5 (how many are there?);
- (e) what about the entries that are either > 1.5 or < -1?
- 4. Monte Carlo Integration. Now let's try some simple examples related to what you've studied in lectures. Suppose we have $Z \sim N(0,1)$ and want to estimate $\theta = \mathbb{E}\phi(Z)$: we can generate a large number of independent normals, Z_1, \ldots, Z_n and then look at the sample mean:

$$\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\phi(Z_i).$$

Let's try this for $\phi(x) = x^4$; generate $n = 10\,000$ standard normal random variables in a vector called Z.

Now, find the sample mean of \mathbb{Z}^4 , and have a look at the values you get. Try the summary() and hist() functions to help you understand the data:

```
> mean(Z^4)
> summary(Z^4)
> hist(Z^4, breaks = 250) # notice how skewed this is!
```

Using the central limit theorem we also know that a $(1 - \alpha)$ -confidence interval is given by

$$\hat{\theta}_n \pm c_\alpha \frac{S_{\phi(Z)}}{\sqrt{n}}.$$

where

$$S_{\phi(Z)}^2 \equiv \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (\phi(Z_i) - \hat{\theta}_n)^2$$

Calculate $S^2_{\phi(Z)}$ using the mean and sum functions. Check that using var(Z^4) gives the same answer.

You can get the quantiles of a normal distribution using qnorm(). For example:

```
> qnorm(0.975)
## [1] 1.959964
```

Use this function with your work above to obtain a 99% confidence interval for the value of $\mathbb{E}\phi(Z)$.

5. **Records.*** Let $X_1, X_2, ...$ be independent and identically distributed continuous random variables. Call i a **record** if $X_i > X_j$ for all j < i (trivially including i = 1). Let R_t be the index of the tth such record.

Suppose we have a vector x and want to find the indices that correspond to records. Using the cummax() function with which() and ==, work out commands to give you a vector of the incides of records.

Thinking about the inversion method of random variables, can you explain why the distribution of R_t does not depend upon the distribution of the X_i s?