

# 5.1

## Z-Scores and the Normal Distribution

### Z-Scores

- You are in your first year of college and you just took your first Calculus exam.
- Your professor tells you that the distribution of scores for the exam were approximately Normal with a mean of 72.4 and a standard deviation of 5.3.
- You earned a score of 84 and you want to know how you did relative to your peers.

## First - Z-scores!

$$(84 - 72.4) / 5.3$$

- A z-score tells us **how many standard deviations above or below the mean our data point is.**

$$Z = \frac{x - \bar{x}}{s} = \frac{84 - 72.4}{5.3} = 2.19$$

- Mean of 72.4 and a standard deviation of 5.3.
- You earned a score of 84. Find and interpret your z-score. *I scored 2.19 standard deviations above mean.*

## Z-scores...For COMPARING

- You also took a Physics test. In that class, the professor told you that the test scores were Normally Distributed with a **mean of 54.6** and a **standard deviation of 7.3**.
- **You earned a 65**
- Which score is better, relative to your peers in each class?

### Calculus

Mean: 72.4, s.d.: 5.3

Score: 84

$$z = 2.19$$

### Physics

Mean: 54.6, s.d.: 4.1

Score: 65

$$z = 2.54$$

*Even though you scored higher in Calc,  
you scored higher relative to your  
peers in Physics*

## Practice

- You are \_\_\_\_\_ inches tall. Steph Curry is 75" tall.

## Practice

- You are \_\_\_\_\_ inches tall. Steph Curry is 75" tall.
- The heights of professional basketball players have a mean of 81 inches and a standard deviation of 3 inches.
- The mean height in this class is 65.9
- The standard deviation of heights in this class is 3.87.
- Who is RELATIVELY taller? You or Steph Curry?

## Back to our Calc Test...

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- Your professor tells you that the distribution of scores for the exam were **approximately Normal** with a mean of 72.4 and a standard deviation of 5.3.
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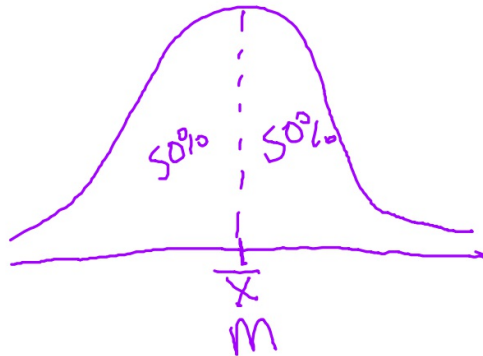
I want to know how many students  
I was better than!!!!

- Because the data was Normally distributed, we can actually find that out (approximately)!

# The Normal distribution

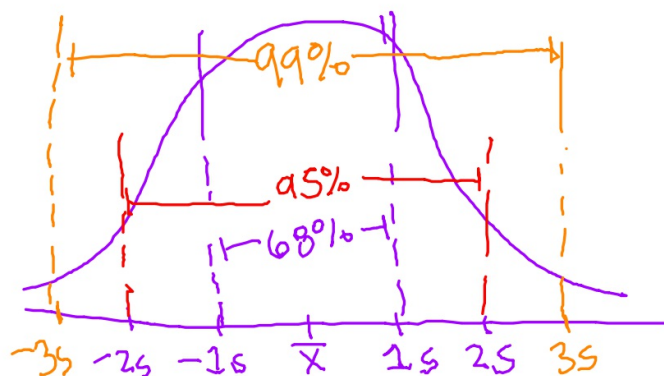
- The **normal distribution** is the most important continuous distribution in statistics!

- Bell-shaped curve
- Symmetrical about the mean
- The total area under the curve is 1 (100%)
- 50% of the area is to the left of the mean with 50% to the right.



# The Normal Distribution

- The **normal distribution** is the most important continuous distribution in statistics!
  - Approximately 68% of the area is within 1 standard deviation of the mean.
  - Approximately 95% of the area is within 2 standard deviations of the mean.
  - → Approximately 99% of the area is within 3 standard deviations of the mean.



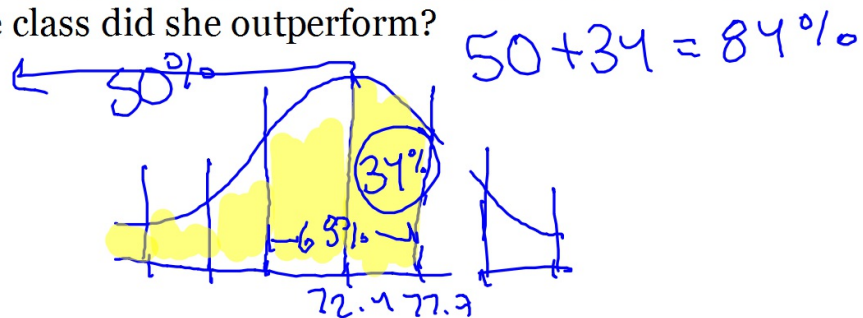


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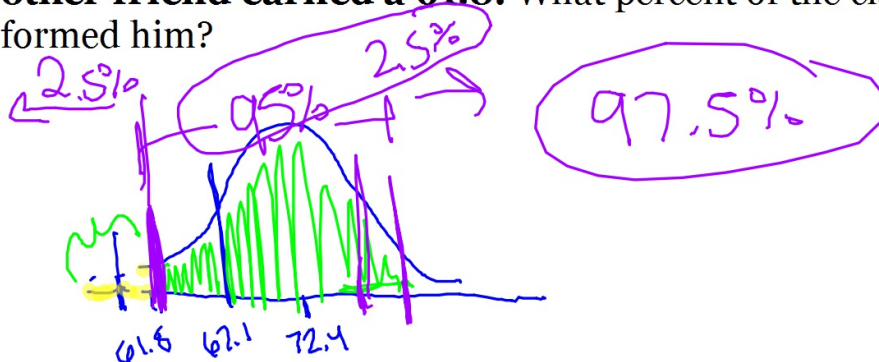
- Let's start with your friend, who earned 77.7 on the exam. What percent of the class did she outperform?



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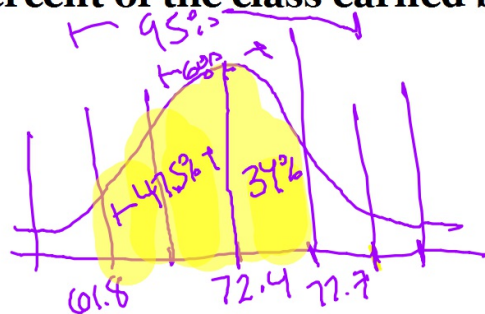
- Another friend earned a 61.8.** What percent of the class outperformed him?



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- What percent of the class earned between their scores (61.8 and 77.7)?



## Some practice with that...

- **Calc Test - approximately Normal** with a mean of 72.4 and a standard deviation of 5.3.
- What percent of your classmates scored between 67.1 and 77.7?
- What percent of your classmates scored more than 83?
- What percent of your classmates scores less than 67.1?

You want to know- What proportion of students in the class scored lower than me?

- Normally distributed with a mean of 72.4 and a standard deviation of 5.3.
- You earned a score of 84.
  
- Luckily, our GDC has this covered....

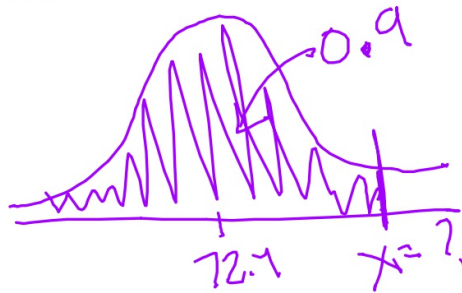
## Practice

- Your friend earned a 73. What percent of students scored higher than her?
  
- What percent of students earned scores between you and your friend?



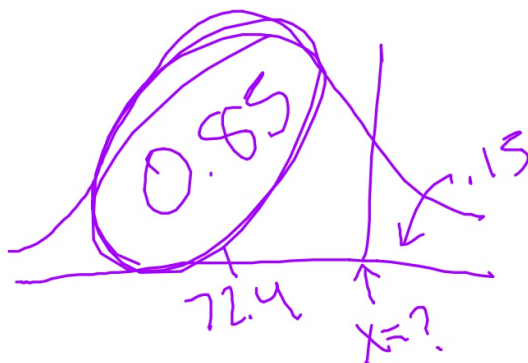
## Inverse Norm

- One of your classmates shares that she scored higher than 90% of students on the exam. What was her score?



## Inverse Norm

- Another classmate shares that he scored lower than only 15% of students, what grade did he earn?



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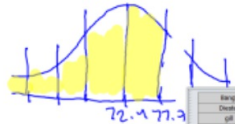
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- Let's start with your friend, who earned 77.7 on the exam. What percent of the class did she outperform?



Enter a Number

Group	Brain Scoring	Standard
Control	Brain	Brain
Gift	Brain	Brain
Medium	Brain	Brain
Strong	Brain	Brain

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Georg	State Exchange	Bank of America
Daniel	Bank	Bank of America
gill	Bank of America	Bank of America
Michael	Bank of America	Bank of America
David	Bank of America	Bank of America

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Dwight	Jack	Spidee
gill	hardcore	lenny
maroon	python	TURNER
orange	vic	

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