



M5-03: Random Value Sampling from a Distribution

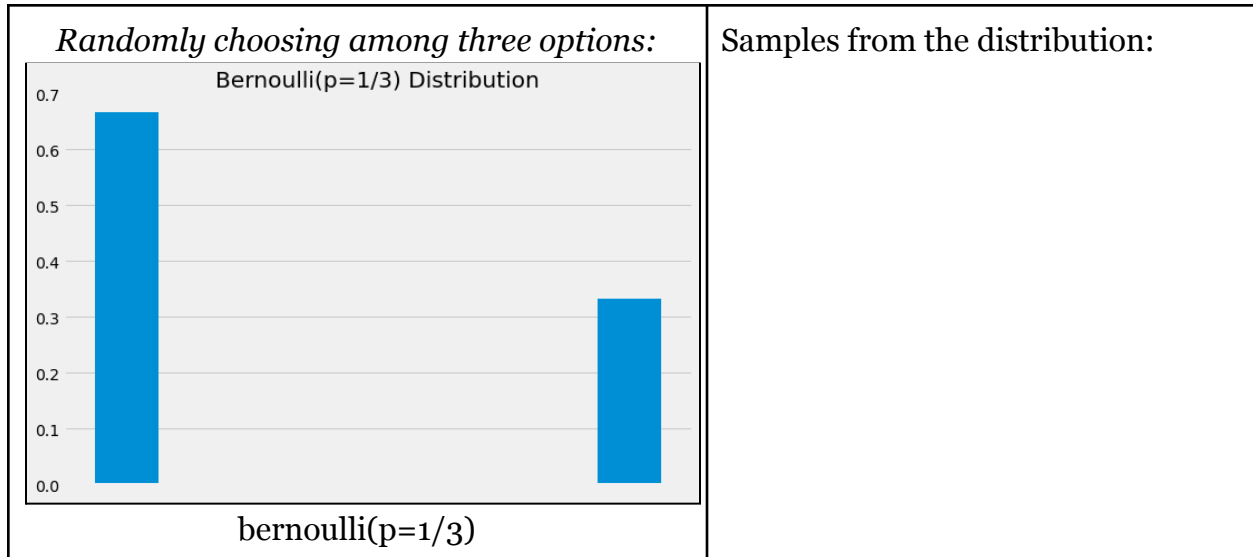
Part of the "Polling, Confidence Intervals, and the Normal Distribution" Learning Badge

Video Walkthrough: <https://discovery.cs.illinois.edu/m5-03/>

`.rvs()`, Random Value Sample

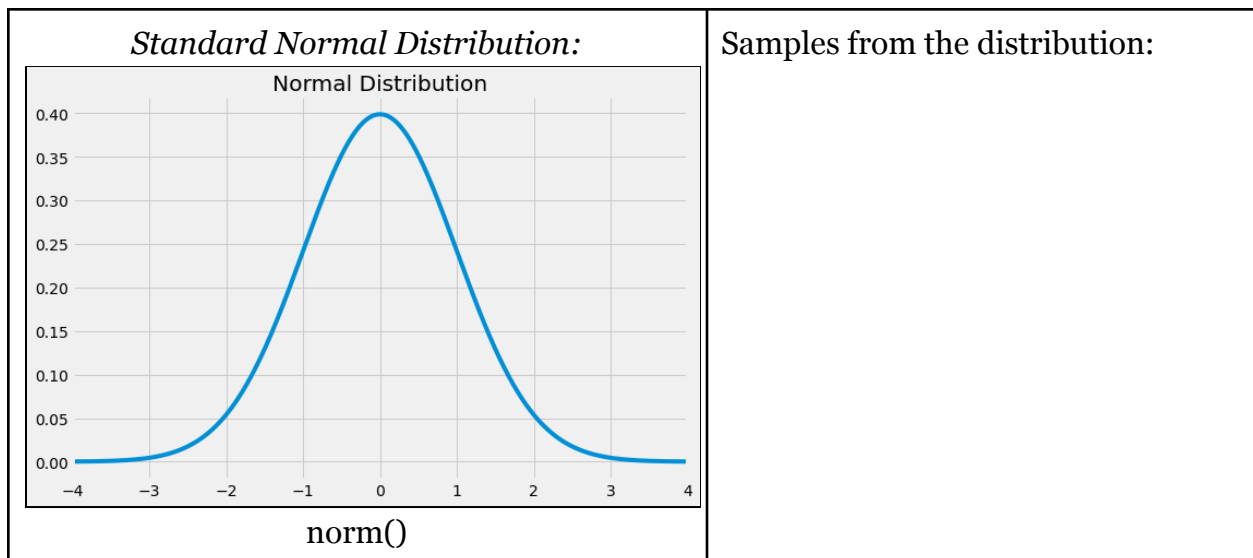
The `.rvs()` function returns a random sample of the distribution with probability equal to the distribution -- if something is 80% likely, that value will be sampled 80% of the time.

Consider a distribution that models choosing the correct option randomly among three possible options:



Multiple Sample Values: You can also get multiple samples -- as a list -- by specifying that in the `.rvs` function. For example, `D.rvs(10)` returns ten samples!

Let's sample from the standard normal distribution:





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Other Functions

Given any distribution that we have initialized into the variable D, we can use any of the following functions provided by `scipy.stats`:

Property	Python
Find the Expected Value (EV) of the distribution.	<code>D.mean()</code>
The 50%-tile result of a distribution.	<code>D.median()</code> <code>D.ppf(0.5)</code>
Standard Deviation of the distribution.	<code>D.std()</code>