[301] Randomness

Tyler Caraza-Harter

Announcement 1: Recommended popular stats books (for winter-break reading)



Thinking, Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman



How to Measure Anything by Douglas W. Hubbard new york times bestseller noise and the noi the signal and the and the noise and the noise and the why so many nois predictions fail—a but some don't the and the noise and nate silver the noise

The Signal and the Noise by Nate Silver



Statistics Done Wrong by Alex Reinhart

Announcement 2: Course Evaluations

Section 1:

https://aefis.wisc.edu/index.cfm/page/AefisCourseSection.surveyResults?courseSectionid=580893

Section 2:

https://aefis.wisc.edu/index.cfm/page/AefisCourseSection.surveyResults?courseSectionid=580894

Evaluations are important generally, but especially this semester

- my first time teaching CS 301
- we made major changes to CS 301 this semester
- I promise to read every evaluation after the semester ends

Announcement 3: Final Exam Prep

Details: similar to midterms

- worth 20%
- 2 hours on Dec 19th at 7:45am (in the morning!)
- you can have a single page of notes (both sides), as usual
- we'll use any extra time this Wed to review
- cumulative, across whole semester
- topics **NOT** included on the exam: beautifulsoup, regression, randomness

Recommended prep

- make sure you understand all the worksheet problems
- review the readings, especially anything I took the time to write myself
- review everything you got wrong on the midterms
- review the slides
- review the code you wrote for the projects

Comments on old finals

- we'll post them, because people ask for them
- content has evolved a lot in the last 3rd of CS 301, so they're not great review material

Which series was randomly generated? Which did I pick by hand?





Why Randomize?

Why Randomize?











Security









Security



Simulation







Security

Games



Simulation



our focus

Outline

choice()

pseudorandom: debugging/seeding

visualization: bar plots vs. histograms

normal()

statistical significance: an intuitive approach

Previous (from random module that comes w/ Python):

• choice, choices, randint

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• choice, choices, randint

numpy.random:

- powerful collection of functions
- today: choice, normal

Scipy.org Docs NumPy v1.15	Manual Numry Reference Routines	
रandom sampling	(numpy.random)	Table Of Contents
Simple random data		 Random sampling (numpy.random) Simple random
rand(d0, d1,, dn) randn(d0, d1,, dn)	Random values in a given shape. Return a sample (or samples) from the "standard normal" distribution.	data • Permutations • Distributions
randint(low[, high, size, dtype])	Return random integers from <i>low</i> (inclusive) to high (exclusive).	o Random generator
random_integers(low[, high, size])	Random integers of type np.int between <i>low</i> and <i>high</i> , inclusive.	Previous topic
		питру.канкwarning
random sample([size])	Return random floats in the half-onen interval	
Distributions	Return random floats in the half-open interval	ctions
Distributions beta(a, b[, size]) binomial(n, p[, size])	Beturn random floats in the half-open interval Il collection of func Draw samples from a Beta distribution. Draw samples from a binomial distribution.	ctions
Distributions beta(a, b[, size]) binomial(n, p[, size]) chisquare(df[, size])	Draw samples from a Beta distribution. Draw samples from a binomial distribution. Draw samples from a binomial distribution.	ctions

Previous (from random module that comes w/ Python):

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numpy.random:

- powerful collection of functions
- today: choice, normal

Series.line.hist:

- similar to bar plot
- visualize spread of random results

Scipy.org Docs NumPy v1.1		
Random sampling	(numpy.random)	Table Of Contents
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rand(d0, d1,, dn) randn(d0, d1,, dn)	Random values in a given shape. Return a sample (or samples) from the "standard normal" distribution.	data • Permutations • Distributions
r <mark>andint(</mark> low[, high, size, dtype])	Return random integers from <i>low</i> (inclusive) to <i>high</i> (exclusive).	 Random generator
random_integers(low[, high, size])	Random integers of type np.int between <i>low</i> and <i>high</i> , inclusive.	Previous topic
random sample/[size])	Return random floats in the half-onen interval	numpy.namewarning
-		_
Distributions	Draw samples from a Beta distribution.	ctions
Distributions beta(a, b[, size]) binomial(n, p[, size])	Draw samples from a Beta distribution. Draw samples from a binomial distribution.	ctions
Distributions Distributions beta(a, b[, size]) binomial(n, p[, size]) chisquare(df[, size])	Draw samples from a Beta distribution. Draw samples from a binomial distribution. Draw samples from a chi-square distribution.	ctions
Distributions beta(a, b[, size]) binomial(n, p[, size]) chisquare(df[, size]) dirichlet(alpha[, size])	Draw samples from a Beta distribution. Draw samples from a binomial distribution. Draw samples from a chi-square distribution. Draw samples from the Dirichlet distribution.	ctions

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powerfl Distributions	Il collection of fund	ctions
beta(a, b[, size])	Draw samples from a Beta distribution.	
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<pre>beta(a, b[, size]) binomial(n, p[, size]) chisquare(df[, size]) dirichlet(alpha[, size])</pre>	Draw samples from a Beta distribution. Draw samples from a binomial distribution. Draw samples from a chi-square distribution. Draw samples from the Dirichlet distribution.	

result = choice(list of things to randomly choose from

from numpy.random import choice, normal

```
result = choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"])
print(result)
```

Output:



```
result = choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"])
print(result)
```

```
result = choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"])
print(result)
Output:
```

```
from numpy.random import choice, normal
result = choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"])
print(result)
result = choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"])
print(result)
                                     Output:
                                     scissors
                                     rock
               each time choice is
            called, a value is randomly
           selected (will vary run to run)
```

from numpy.random import choice, normal

```
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"])
```

for simulation, we'll often want to compute many random results

from numpy.random import choice, normal

```
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=5)
```

for simulation, we'll often want to compute many random results

from numpy.random import choice, normal

choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=5)

array(['rock', 'scissors', 'paper', 'rock', 'paper'], dtype='<U8')</pre>

from numpy.random import choice, normal

```
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=5)
array(['rock', 'scissors', 'paper', 'rock', 'paper'], dtype='<U8')</pre>
```

1-dimensional ndarray with 5 items

from numpy.random import choice, normal

```
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=5)
array(['rock', 'scissors', 'paper', 'rock', 'paper'], dtype='<U8')</pre>
```

1-dimensional ndarray with 5 items

choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=(3,2))

from numpy.random import choice, normal

```
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=5)
array(['rock', 'scissors', 'paper', 'rock', 'paper'], dtype='<U8')</pre>
```

1-dimensional ndarray with 5 items

```
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=(3,2))
numpy shape tuple
```

from numpy.random import choice, normal

```
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=5)
array(['rock', 'scissors', 'paper', 'rock', 'paper'], dtype='<U8')</pre>
```

1-dimensional ndarray with 5 items

```
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=(3,2))

array([['rock', 'scissors'],
    ['paper', 'rock'],
    ['scissors', 'paper']], dtype='<U8')</pre>
```

from numpy.random import choice, normal

```
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=5)
array(['rock', 'scissors', 'paper', 'rock', 'paper'], dtype='<U8')</pre>
```

1-dimensional ndarray with 5 items

```
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=(3,2))

array([['rock', 'scissors'],
     ['paper', 'rock'],
     ['scissors', 'paper']], dtype='<U8')</pre>
```

???-dimensional ndarray with ??? items

from numpy.random import choice, normal

```
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=5)
array(['rock', 'scissors', 'paper', 'rock', 'paper'], dtype='<U8')</pre>
```

1-dimensional ndarray with 5 items

```
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=(3,2))

array([['rock', 'scissors'],
    ['paper', 'rock'],
    ['scissors', 'paper']], dtype='<U8')</pre>
```

2-dimensional ndarray with 6 items

from numpy.random import choice, normal

random Series
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=5)

```
# random Series
    choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=5)
```

from numpy.random import choice, normal

random Series
Series(choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=5))

from numpy.random import choice, normal

random Series
Series(choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=5))

0	paper
1 s	cissors
2	paper
3	rock
4	rock
dtype:	object

from numpy.random import choice, normal

```
# random Series
Series(choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=5))
```

0	paper
1 s	cissors
2	paper
3	rock
4	rock
dtype:	object

random DataFrame

DataFrame(choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"], size=(5,3)))

	0	1	2
0	scissors	scissors	scissors
1	scissors	scissors	rock
2	rock	scissors	rock
3	scissors	scissors	rock
4	paper	rock	rock

Demo 1: exploring bias

choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"])

Question 1: how can we make sure the randomization isn't biased?
Demo 1: exploring bias

```
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"])
```

Question 1: how can we make sure the randomization isn't biased?



Demo 1: exploring bias

```
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"])
```

Question 1: how can we make sure the randomization isn't biased?

Question 2: how can we make it biased (if we want it to be)?



from numpy.random import choice, normal

random string: rock, paper, or scissors
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"])

from numpy.random import choice, normal

```
# random string: rock, paper, or scissors
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"])
```

```
# random int: 0, 1, or 2
choice([0, 1, 2])
```

from numpy.random import choice, normal

```
# random string: rock, paper, or scissors
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"])
```



from numpy.random import choice, normal

```
# random string: rock, paper, or scissors
choice(["rock", "paper", "scissors"])
```



Outline

choice()

pseudorandom: debugging/seeding

visualization: bar plots vs. histograms

normal()

statistical significance: an intuitive approach

s = Series(choice(10, size=5))

0	6	
1	7	
2	7	
3	3	
4	1	
dty	pe:	int64





```
percents = []
for i in range(1, len(s)):
    diff = 100 * (s[i] / s[i-1] - 1)
    percents.append(diff)
```

what are we computing for diff?







some bugs are easier to debug than others

- syntax or runtime errors easier than semantic bugs
- small inputs are easier than big inputs

a bug is **reproducible** if it shows up every time you run the program with the same inputs

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who had a non-reproducible bug for a project this semester?

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a bug is **reproducible** if it shows up every time you run the program with the same inputs

who had a non-reproducible bug for a project this semester?

non-reproducible bugs

- are hard to fix
- **common** with programs based on randomness

some bugs are easier to debug than others

- syntax or runtime errors easier than semantic bugs
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a bug is reproducible if it shows up every time you run the program with the same inputs

who had a non-reproducible bug for a project this semester?

non-reproducible bugs

- are hard to fix
- **common** with programs based on randomness

fortunately, the random values we've been generating are not really, truly random. They're merely *pseudorandom*.

- can generate billions of different seemingly random sequences
- subsequent calls to choice progress along a sequence
- every program run starts with a different sequence
- we can choose our sequence

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684, 559, 629, 192, 835, ... 37, 235, 908, 72, 767, ... 168, 527, 493, 584, 534, ... 874, 664, 249, 643, 952, ... 122, 174, 439, 709, 897, ... 867, 206, 701, 998, 118, ... 906, 713, 227, 980, 618, billions more ...

- can generate billions of different seemingly random sequences
- subsequent calls to choice progress along a sequence
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684,	559,	629,	192,	835,	• • •		
37, 2	235, 9	908, 7	72, 76	57,	•		
168,	527 ,	493,	584,	534,	• • •		
874 ,	664,	249,	643,	952 ,	•••		
122,	174,	439,	709,	897,	•••		
867,	206,	701,	998,	118,	•••		
906,	713,	227,	980,	618,	• • •		
billions more							

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37, 235, 908, 72, 767, ...
168, 527, 493, 584, 534, ...
874, 664, 249, 643, 952, ...
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906, 713, 227, 980, 618, ...
... billions more ...
```

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- subsequent calls to choice progress along a sequence
- every program run starts with a different sequence
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billions more							
906,	713 ,	227,	980,	618,	• • •		
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168,	, 527 ,	493,	584,	534,	• • •		
37 ,	235, 9	908,	72, 76	57, .	• •		
684,	, 559 ,	629,	192,	835,	• • •		
	684, 37, 168, 874, 122, 867, 906,	 684, 559, 37, 235, 9 168, 527, 874, 664, 122, 174, 867, 206, 906, 713, 	 684, 559, 629, 37, 235, 908, 168, 527, 493, 874, 664, 249, 122, 174, 439, 867, 206, 701, 906, 713, 227, 	 684, 559, 629, 192, 37, 235, 908, 72, 76 168, 527, 493, 584, 874, 664, 249, 643, 122, 174, 439, 709, 867, 206, 701, 998, 906, 713, 227, 980, 	 684, 559, 629, 192, 835, 37, 235, 908, 72, 767, 168, 527, 493, 584, 534, 874, 664, 249, 643, 952, 122, 174, 439, 709, 897, 867, 206, 701, 998, 118, 906, 713, 227, 980, 618, 		

- can generate billions of different seemingly random sequences
- subsequent calls to choice progress along a sequence
- every program run starts with a different sequence
- we can choose our sequence



from numpy.random import choice, normal import numpy as np

np.random.seed(1)
choice(10, size=5) array([5, 8, 9, 5, 0])



from numpy.random import choice, normal
import numpy as np

np.random.seed(1)
choice(10, size=5)
np.random.seed(2)
choice(10, size=5)
array([8, 8, 6, 2, 8])

from numpy.random import choice, normal
import numpy as np



from numpy.random import choice, normal
import numpy as np



from numpy.random import choice, normal
import numpy as np



Debug tip: if you have a bug related to randomness, find a seed that causes the bug to arise, then use that seed until you find the problem. (don't forget to remove it when you're done!)

Outline

choice()

pseudorandom: debugging/seeding

visualization: bar plots vs. histograms

normal()

statistical significance: an intuitive approach
Frequencies across categories

bars are a good way to view frequencies across categories

```
s = Series(["rock", "rock", "paper",
            "scissors", "scissors", "scissors"])
```

s.value_counts().plot.bar()



bars are a bad way to view frequencies across numbers

```
s = Series([0, 0, 1, 8, 9, 9])
```

s.value_counts().plot.bar()



bars are a bad way to view frequencies across numbers

```
s = Series([0, 0, 1, 8, 9, 9])
```

s.value_counts().sort_index().plot.bar()



gap between 1 and 8 not obvious

bars are a bad way to view frequencies across numbers

```
s = Series([0, 0, 1, 8, 9, 9])
```

s.value_counts().sort_index().plot.bar()
s.plot.hist()



histograms are a good way to view frequencies across numbers

s = Series([0, 0, 1, 8, 9, 9])

s.value_counts().sort_index().plot.bar()
s.plot.hist()



this kind of plot is called a histogram

histograms are a good way to view frequencies across numbers

$$s = Series([0.1, 0, 1, 8, 9, 9.2])$$

s.value_counts().sort_index().plot.bar()
s.plot.hist()



a histogram "bins" nearby numbers to create discrete bars

histograms are a good way to view frequencies across numbers

s = Series([0.1, 0, 1, 8, 9, 9.2])

s.value_counts().sort_index().plot.bar()
s.plot.hist(bins=10)



we can control the number of bins

histograms are a good way to view frequencies across numbers

s = Series([0.1, 0, 1, 8, 9, 9.2])

s.value_counts().sort_index().plot.bar()
s.plot.hist(bins=3)



too few bins provides too little detail

histograms are a good way to view frequencies across numbers

$$s = Series([0.1, 0, 1, 8, 9, 9.2])$$

s.value_counts().sort_index().plot.bar()
s.plot.hist(bins=100)



too many bins provides too much detail (equally bad)

histograms are a good way to view frequencies across numbers

s = Series([0.1, 0, 1, 8, 9, 9.2])

s.value_counts().sort_index().plot.bar()
s.plot.hist(bins=10)



numpy chooses the default bin boundaries

histograms are a good way to view frequencies across numbers

s = Series([0.1, 0, 1, 8, 9, 9.2])

s.value_counts().sort_index().plot.bar()
s.plot.hist(bins=[0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10])



we can override the defaults

histograms are a good way to view frequencies across numbers

$$s = Series([0.1, 0, 1, 8, 9, 9.2])$$

s.value_counts().sort_index().plot.bar()
s.plot.hist(bins=range(11))



this is easily done with range

Demo 2: coin flips

If we flip 10 coins repeatedly, we'll get varying numbers of heads



Demo 2: coin flips

If we flip 10 coins repeatedly, we'll get varying numbers of heads



If we flip 100 coins, 10K times, how often do we get each head count? number of samples sample size





this shape resembles what we often call a normal distribution or a "bell curve"



number of heads (out of 100)

this shape resembles what we often call a normal distribution or a "bell curve"

in general, if we take large samples enough times, the results will look like this (we won't discuss exceptions here)



numpy can directly generate random numbers fitting a normal distribution

this shape resembles what we often call a normal distribution or a "bell curve"

in general, if we take large samples enough times, the results will look like this (we won't discuss exceptions here)

Outline

choice()

pseudorandom: debugging/seeding

visualization: bar plots vs. histograms

normal()

statistical significance: an intuitive approach

from numpy.random import choice, normal
import numpy as np

```
for i in range(10):
    print(normal())
```

from numpy.random import choice, normal import numpy as np

```
for i in range(10):
    print(normal())
```

Output:

	-0.18638553993371157
	0.02888452916769247
average is 0 (over many calls)	1.2474561113726423
	-0.5388224399358179
numbers closer to 0 more likely	-0.45143322136388525
	-1.4001861112018241
-x just as likely as x	0.28119371511868047
	0.2608861898556597
	-0.19246288728955144
	0.2979572961710292

from numpy.random import choice, normal
import numpy as np

s = Series(normal(size=10000))

from numpy.random import choice, normal
import numpy as np

s = Series(normal(size=10000))

```
s.plot.hist()
```

from numpy.random import choice, normal
import numpy as np

s = Series(normal(size=10000))

s.plot.hist()



from numpy.random import choice, normal
import numpy as np

s = Series(normal(size=10000))

s.plot.hist(bins=100)



from numpy.random import choice, normal
import numpy as np

s = Series(normal(size=10000))

s.plot.hist(bins=100, loc=), scale=)



from numpy.random import choice, normal
import numpy as np

s = Series(normal(size=10000))

s.plot.hist(bins=100, loc=), scale=)

try plugging in different values (defaults are 0 and 1, respectively)









goal: play with loc and scale arguments to normal until gray overlaps red



goal: play with loc and scale arguments to normal until gray overlaps red



goal: play with loc and scale arguments to normal until gray overlaps red

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statistical significance: an intuitive approach

Is this coin biased?



Is this coin biased?

49



51

Call shenanigans?

a statistician might say we're trying to decide if the evidence that the coin isn't fair is statistically significant

whoever has the coin cheated (it's not 50/50 heads/tails)

Is this coin biased?

49



51

Call shenanigans? No.


Call shenanigans? No.



5

51



95

49

Call shenanigans?



Call shenanigans? No.



51

5



95

49

Call shenanigans? Yes.



Call shenanigans? No.

Call shenanigans? Yes.

Note: there is a non-zero probability that a fair coin will do this, but the odds are slim



55 million 45 million



55 million 45 million





40

60

Call shenanigans?



Call shenanigans?

Strategy: simulate a fair coin



Call shenanigans?

Strategy: simulate a fair coin

- 1. "flip" it 100 times using numpy.random.choice
- 2. count heads
- 3. repeat above 10K times



Call shenanigans?

Strategy: simulate a fair coin

- 1. "flip" it 100 times using numpy.random.choice
- 2. count heads
- 3. repeat above 10K times

[50, 61, 51, 44, 39, 43, 51, 49, 49, 38, ...]



Call shenanigans?

60

we got 10 more heads than we expect on average

Strategy: simulate a fair coin

- 1. "flip" it 100 times using numpy.random.choice
- 2. count heads
- 3. repeat above 10K times

40

[50, 61, 51, 44, 39, 43, 51, 49, 49, 38, ...]



Call shenanigans?

60

we got 10 more heads than we expect on average how common is this?

Strategy: simulate a fair coin

- 1. "flip" it 100 times using numpy.random.choice
- 2. count heads
- 3. repeat above 10K times

40

[50, 61, 51, 44, 39, 43, 51, 49, 49, 38, ...]



Call shenanigans?

60

we got 10 more heads than we expect on average how common is this?

Strategy: simulate a fair coin

40

"flip" it 100 times using numpy.random.choice
count heads
repeat above 10K times
[50, 61, 51, 44, 39, 43, 51, 49, 49, 38, ...]
11 more
12 less

Demo 5: Do front-row students score better?





what are the odds that the front row would do so well by chance?