

# Continuous Probability Distributions

Normal or Gaussian  
Distribution



# Normal or Gaussian Distribution

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

$-\infty < x < \infty$

is a **normal random variable**

with mean  $\mu$ ,

and standard deviation  $\sigma$

sometimes denoted as  $N(\mu, \sigma)$



Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777 –1855)  
German mathematician

# Normal Distribution

- The location and spread of the normal are independently determined by mean ( $\mu$ ) and standard deviation ( $\sigma$ )

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{\frac{-(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

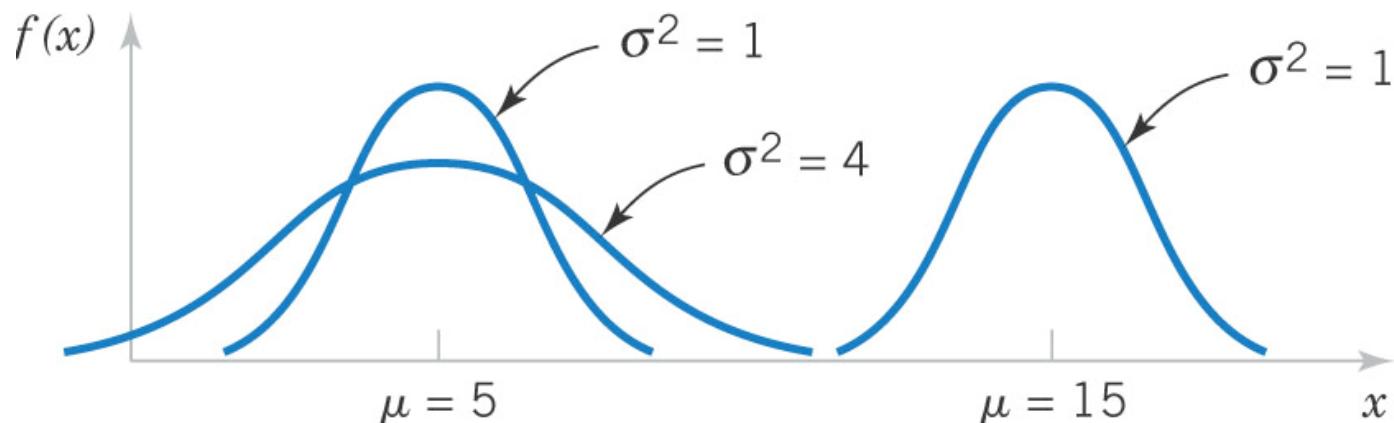
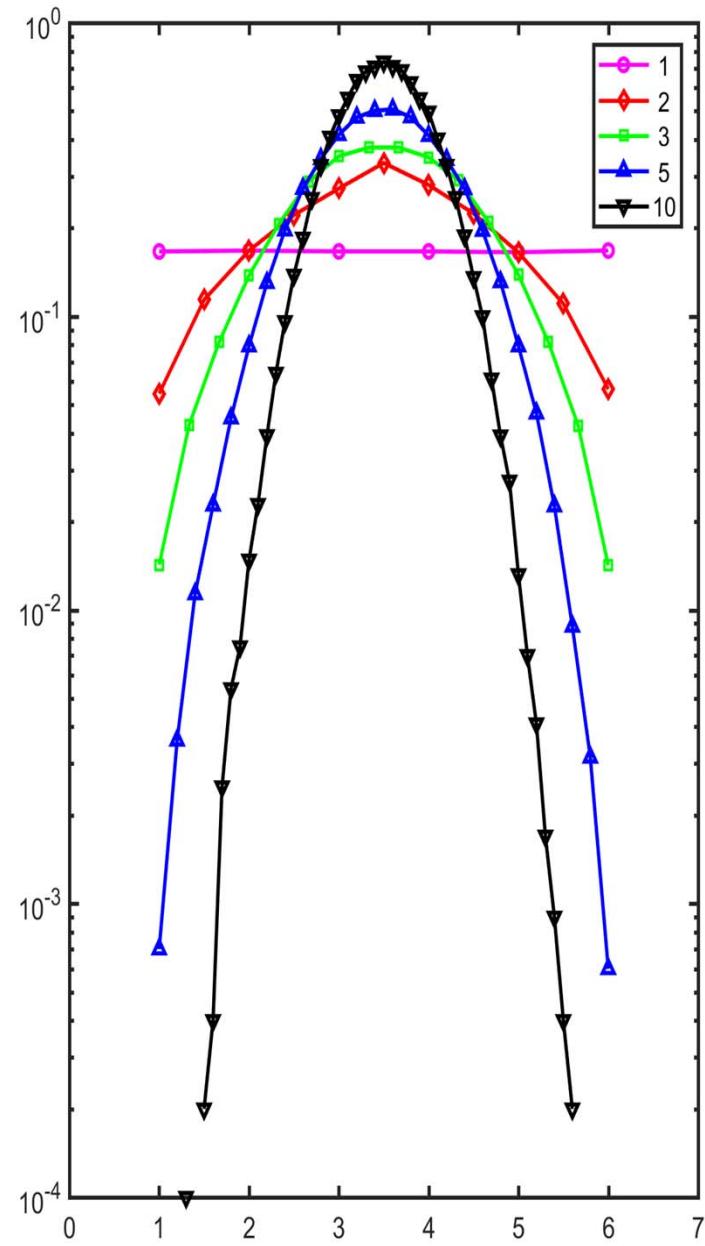
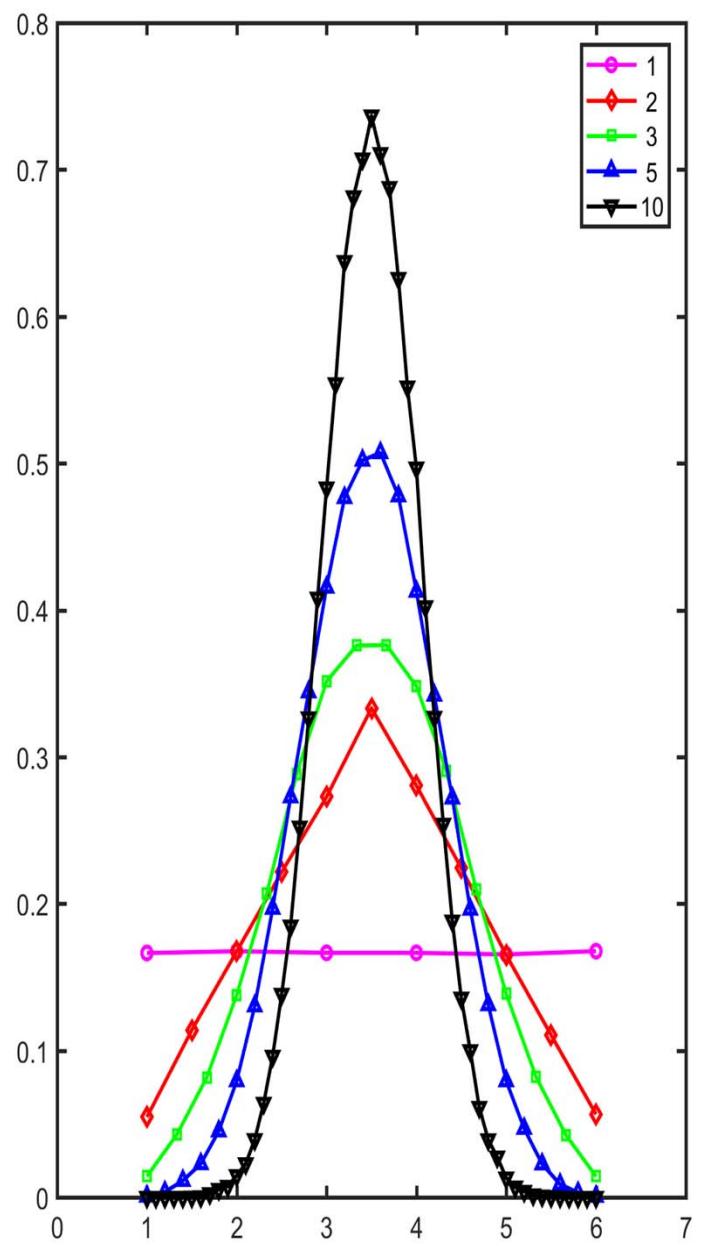


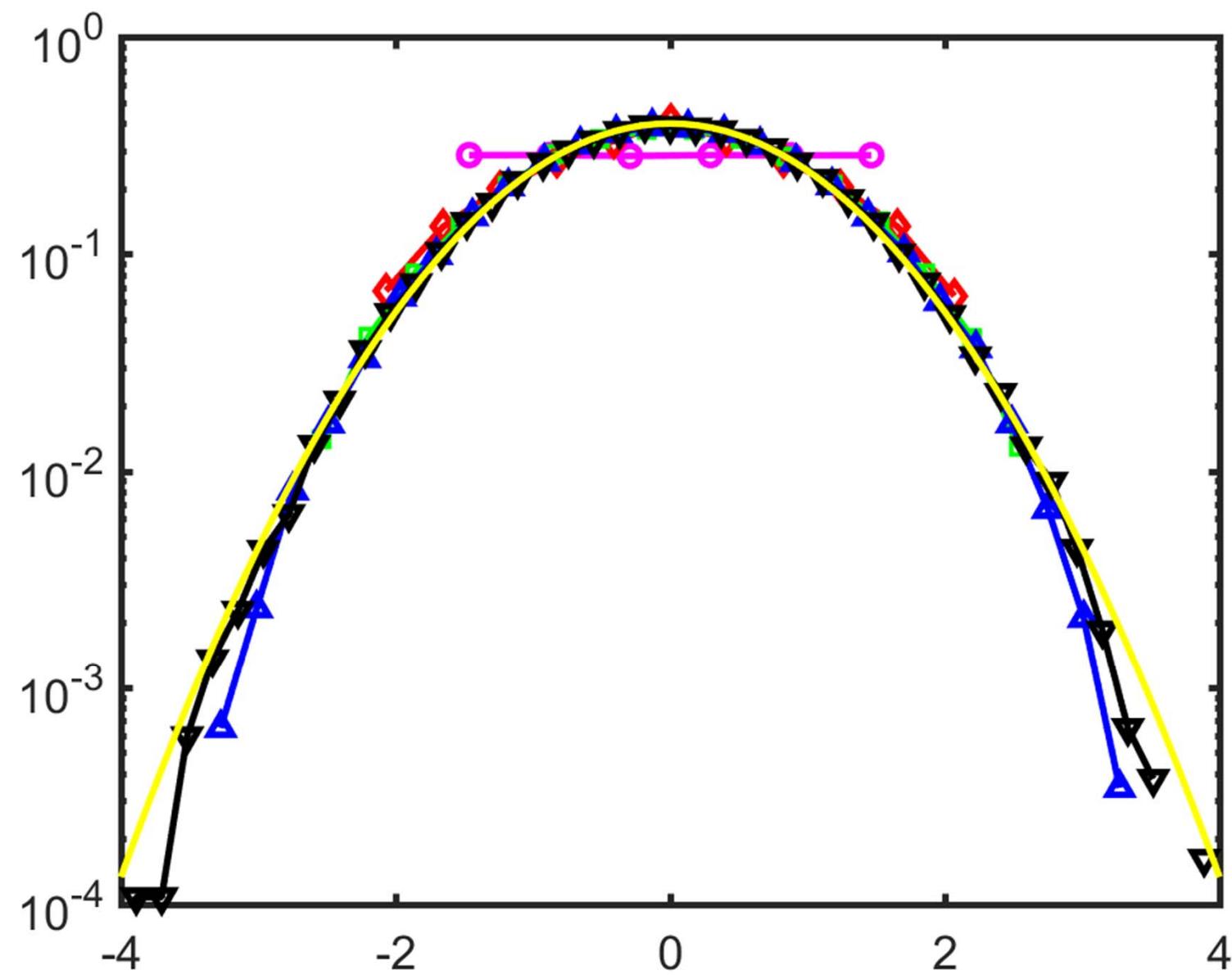
Figure 4-10 Normal probability density functions

# Why Gaussian is so important?

- Central Limit Theorem states that a sum (or mean) of a large number of independent random numbers would approximately follow Gaussian distribution
- Let's check it using a dice experiment in Matlab
- The outcome of each dice throw is a uniformly distributed random variable with average value  $\mu=(1+6)/2=3.5$
- How about the mean of 2, 3, 5, 10 throws?

- **Stats=100000; N=10; r\_table=floor(6.\*rand(Stats,N))+1;**
- **%%**
- **r1=r\_table(:,1);**
- **step=1; [a,b1]=hist(r1,1:step:6); pdf\_r1=a./sum(a)./step;**
- **figure; hold on; subplot(1,2,1); plot(b1,pdf\_r1,'mo-'); hold on; axis([0 7 0 0.2]);**
- **subplot(1,2,2); semilogy(b1,pdf\_r1,'mo-'); hold on; axis([0 7 1e-3 1]);**
- **%%**
- **r2=(r\_table(:,1)+r\_table(:,2))./2;**
- **step=0.5; [a,b2]=hist(r2,1:step:6); pdf\_r2=a./sum(a)./step;**
- **subplot(1,2,1); plot(b2,pdf\_r2,'rd-'); axis([0 7 0 0.4]);**
- **subplot(1,2,2); semilogy(b2,pdf\_r2,'rd-');**
- **%%**
- **r5=sum(r\_table(:,1:5),2)./5;**
- **step=1./5; [a,b5]=hist(r5,1:step:6); pdf\_r5=a./sum(a)./step;**
- **subplot(1,2,1); plot(b5,pdf\_r5,'b^-'); axis([0 7 0 0.6])**
- **subplot(1,2,2); semilogy(b5,pdf\_r5,'b^-'); axis([0 7 1e-4 1]);**
- **%%**
- **r10=sum(r\_table(:,1:10),2)./10;**  
**step=1./10; [a,b10]=hist(r10,1:step:6); pdf\_r10=a./sum(a)./step;**
- **subplot(1,2,1); plot(b10,pdf\_r10, 'kv-'); axis([0 7 0 0.8])**
- **legend(num2str([1,2,5,10]'));**
- **subplot(1,2,2); semilogy(b10,pdf\_r10, 'kv-'); legend(num2str([1,2,5,10]'));**





# Standard Normal Distribution

- A normal (Gaussian) random variable with

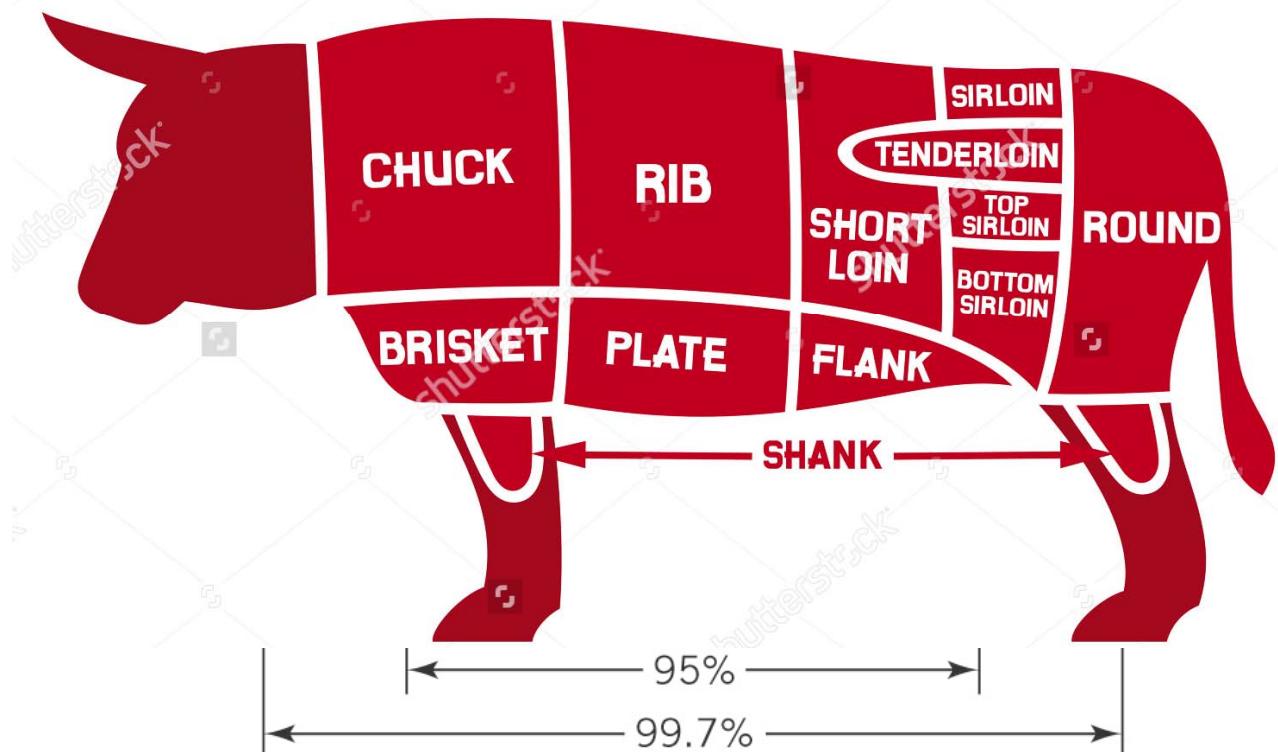
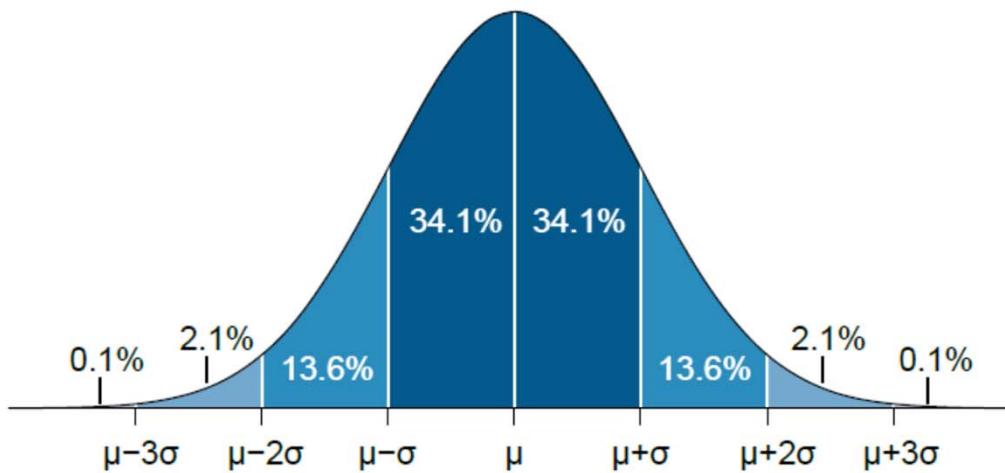
$$\mu = 0 \text{ and } \sigma^2 = 1$$

is called a **standard normal random variable** and is denoted as  $Z$ .

- The cumulative distribution function of a **standard normal random variable** is denoted as:

$$\Phi(z) = P(Z \leq z)$$

- Values are found in **Appendix A Table III** to **Montgomery and Runger textbook**





# Standardizing

If  $X$  is a normal random variable with  $E(X) = \mu$  and  $V(X) = \sigma^2$ , the random variable

$$Z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma} \quad (4-10)$$

is a normal random variable with  $E(Z) = 0$  and  $V(Z) = 1$ . That is,  $Z$  is a standard normal random variable.

Suppose  $X$  is a normal random variable with mean  $\mu$  and variance  $\sigma^2$ .

$$\text{Then, } P(X \leq x) = P\left(\frac{X - \mu}{\sigma} \leq \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}\right) = P(Z \leq z) \quad (4-11)$$

where  $Z$  is a **standard normal random variable**, and

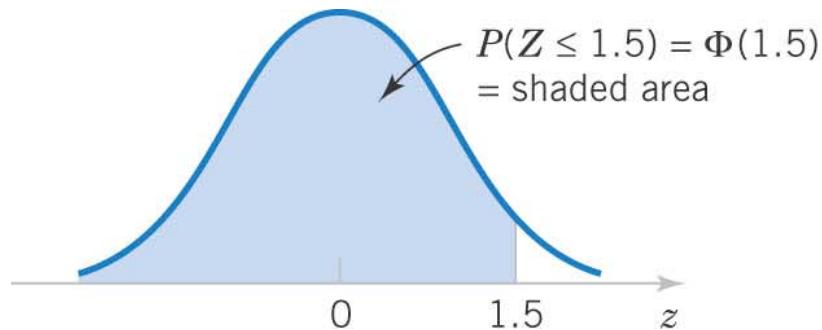
$z = \frac{(x - \mu)}{\sigma}$  is the z-value obtained by **standardizing**  $x$ .

The probability is obtained by using Appendix Table III

## Standard Normal Distribution Tables

Assume  $Z$  is a standard normal random variable.

Find  $P(Z \leq 1.50)$ . Answer: 0.93319



$z$	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.03
0	0.50000	0.50399	0.50398	0.51197
1.5	0.93319	0.93448	0.93574	0.93699

Figure 4-13 Standard normal PDF

Table III from,  
Appendix A in  
Montgomery  
& Runger

Find  $P(Z \leq 1.53)$ . Answer: 0.93699

Find  $P(Z \leq 0.02)$ . Answer: 0.50398

# Example 4-12: Standard Normal Exercises

1.  $P(Z > 1.26) = 0.1038$

2.  $P(Z < -0.86) = 0.195$

3.  $P(Z > -1.37) = 0.915$

4.  $P(-1.25 < Z < 0.37)$

$= 0.5387$

5.  $P(Z \leq -4.6) \approx 0$

6. Find  $z$  for  $P(Z \leq z) =$

$0.05, z = -1.65$

7. Find  $z$  for  $(-z < Z < z) = 0.99, z = 2.58$

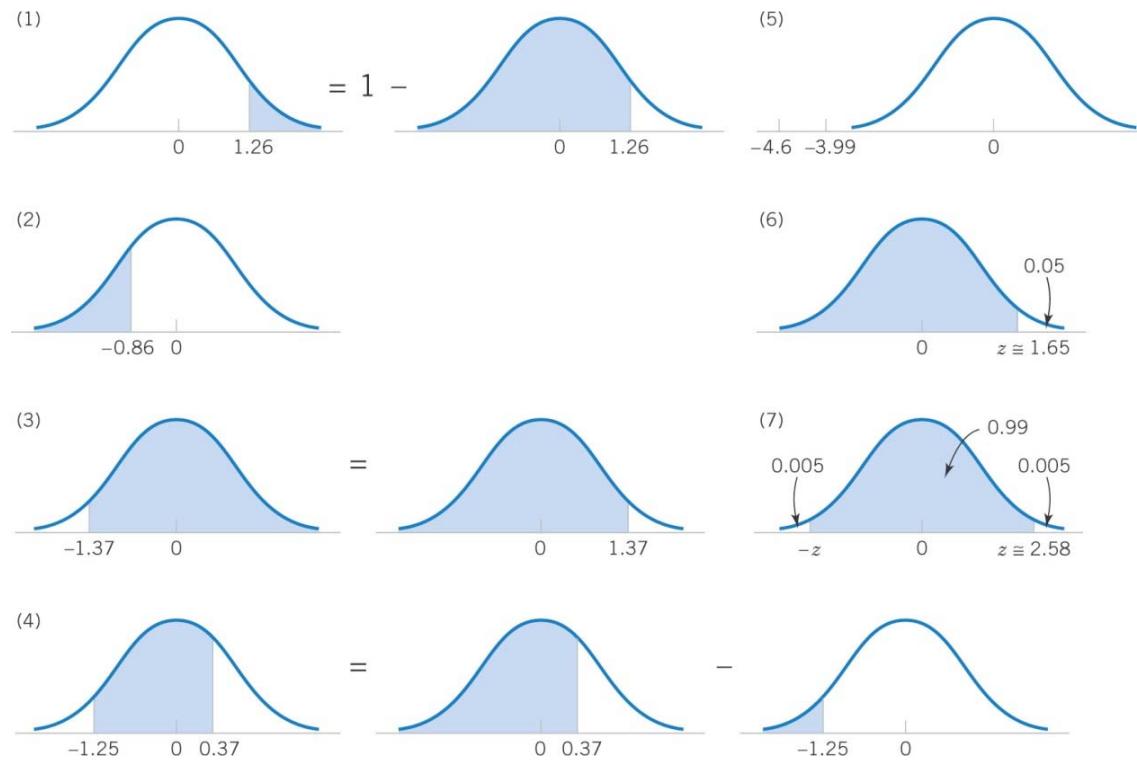


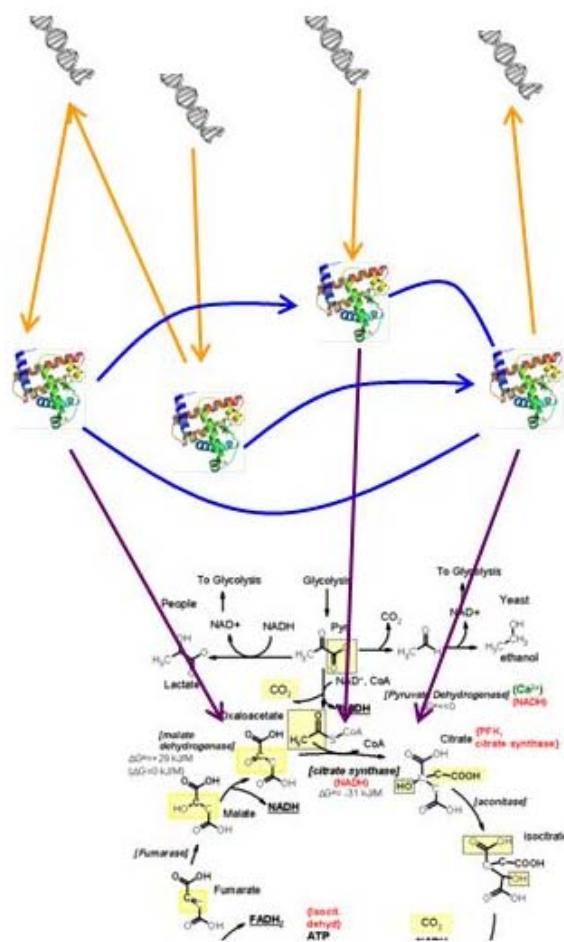
Figure 4-14 Graphical displays for standard normal distributions.



# Gaussian in systems biology (example)

# Molecular binding is used at multiple levels

Networks use binding for specific interactions



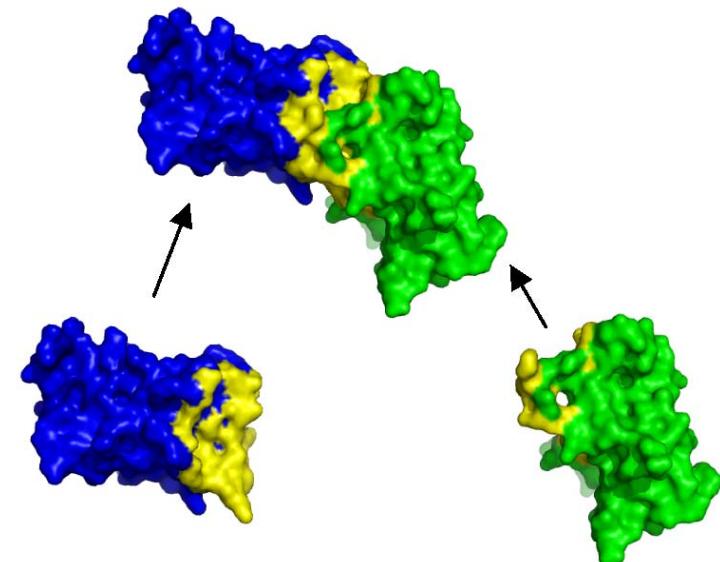
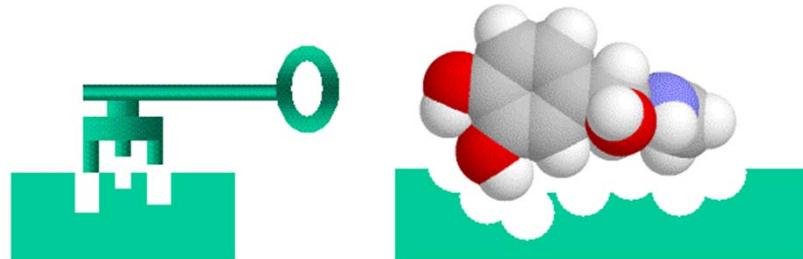
Regulatory network:  
RNA-level regulation  
By DNA-binding Proteins

Protein-Protein (binding) Interaction Network

Protein-Metabolite Interactions: Metabolic network

# Binding Energy of Protein-Protein Interactions

- Proteins and other biomolecules (metabolites, drugs, DNA) specifically (and non-specifically) bind each other
- For specific bindings: **Lock-and-Key** theory
- For non-specific bindings: random contacts



# A simple physical model for scaling in protein–protein interaction networks

Eric J. Deeds\*, Orr Ashenberg†, and Eugene I. Shakhnovich‡§

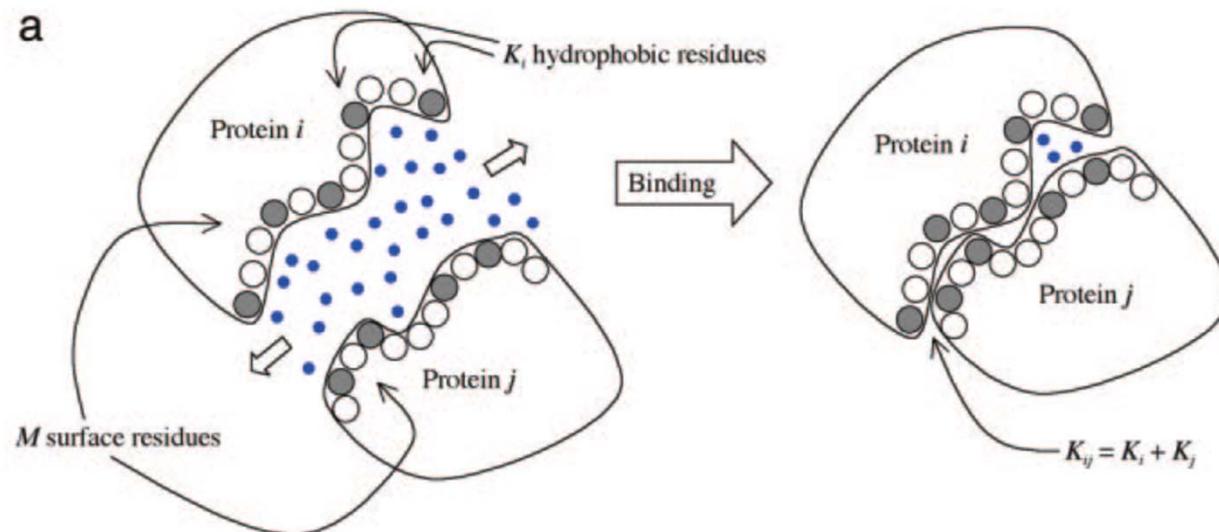
\*Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, Harvard University, 7 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138; †Harvard College, 12 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138; and ‡Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Harvard University, 12 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

Communicated by David Chandler, University of California, Berkeley, CA, November 10, 2005 (received for review September 23, 2005)

It has recently been demonstrated that many biological networks exhibit a “scale-free” topology, for which the probability of observing a node with a certain number of edges ( $k$ ) follows a power law: i.e.,  $p(k) \sim k^{-\gamma}$ . This observation has been reproduced by

(19–22). Indeed, when the two major *S. cerevisiae* protein interaction (PPI) experiments are compared with one another, one finds that only  $\approx 150$  of the thousands of interactions identified in each experiment are recovered in the other.

Most Binding energy is due to hydrophobic amino-acid residues being screened from water



Predicted Gaussian distribution:  $\text{PDF}(E_{ij}=E) -$  because  $E_{ij} -$  sum of hydrophobicities of many independent residues

# Matlab exercise

- Use Matlab to open file PINT\_binding\_energy.mat with binding energy  $E_{ij}$  (in units of kT at room temperature) for 430 pairs of interacting proteins from human, yeast, etc.
- Data collected in 2007 from the PINT database <http://www.bioinfodatabase.com/pint/> and analyzed in J. Zhang, S. Maslov, E. Shakhnovich, *Molecular Systems Biology* (2008)
- Fit Gaussian to the distribution of  $E_{ij}$  using `dfittool` (read Help page on how to use)  
Find the right threshold to **exclude outliers**

How does it compare with the experimental data?

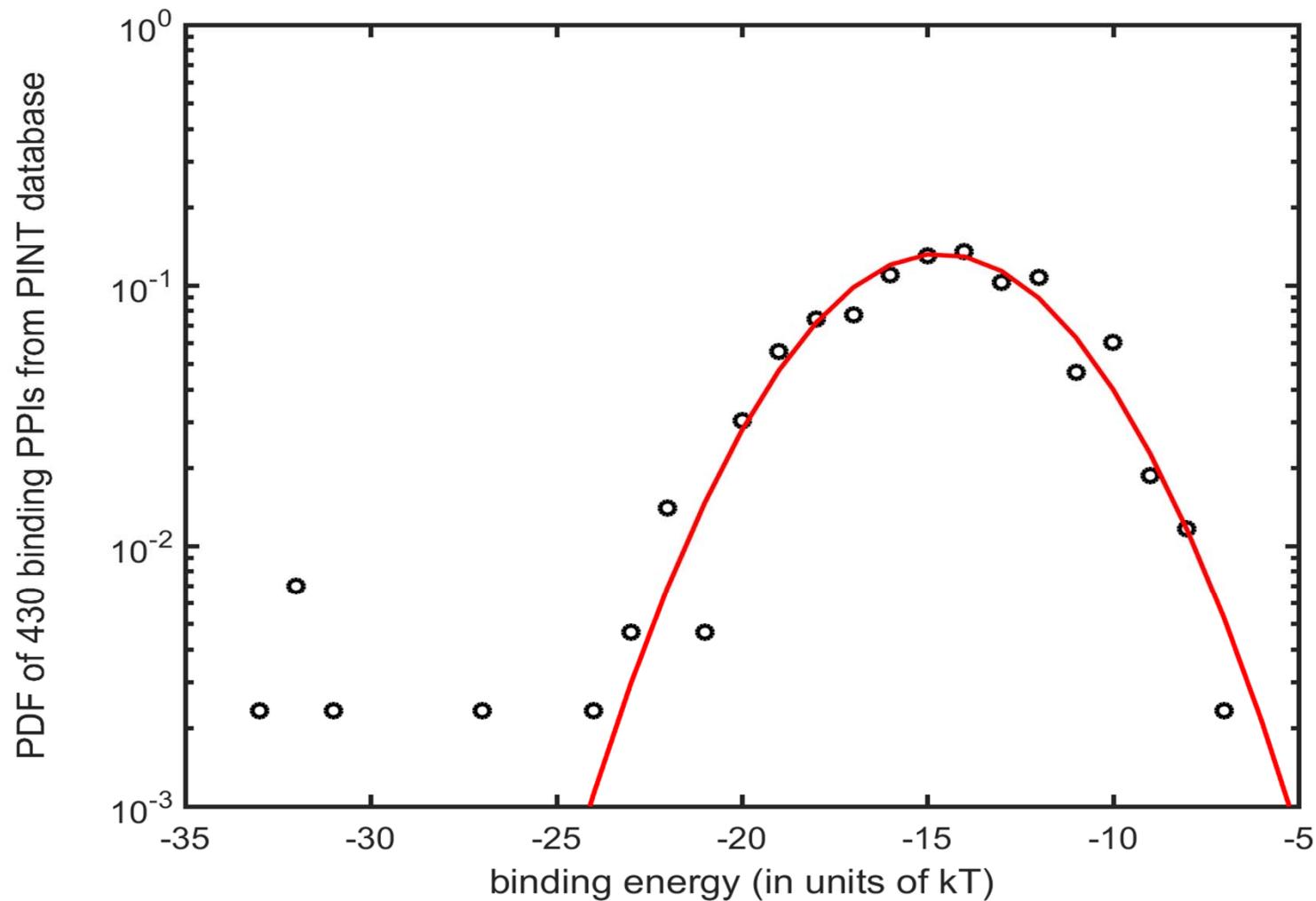
Let's do Matlab exercise

- `load PINT_binding_energy.mat;`
- `dfittool(binding_energy);`
- `% use "exclude" to exclude X<-23 from the fit`
- `mu=-14.6685; sigma=3.01762;`
- `[a,b]=hist(binding_energy,-34:1:0)`
- `figure; semilogy(b,a./sum(a),'ko')`
- `hold on;`
- `plot(b,1/sqrt(2*pi)/sigma.*exp(-(b-mu).^2/2/sigma.^2), 'r');`

J. Zhang, S. Maslov, E. Shakhnovich,  
Nature/EMBO Molecular Systems Biology (2008)

Data on binding interactions  
from PINT database

# How does it compare with the experimental data ?



J. Zhang, S. Maslov, E. Shakhnovich,  
Nature/EMBO Molecular Systems Biology (2008)

Data on binding interactions  
from PINT database

# Dissociation constant

- Interaction between two molecules (say, proteins) is usually described in terms of **dissociation constant**  
 $K_{ij} = 1/M \exp(-E_{ij}/kT)$
- **Law of Mass Action:** the concentration  $D_{ij}$  of a dimer formed out of two proteins with free (monomer) concentrations  $C_i$  and  $C_j$  :  $D_{ij} = C_i C_j / K_{ij}$
- What is the distribution of  $K_{ij}$ ?
- Answer: it is called log-normal since the **logarithm of  $K_{ij}$**  is the **binding energy  $-E_{ij}/kT$**  which is normally distributed

# Lognormal Graphs

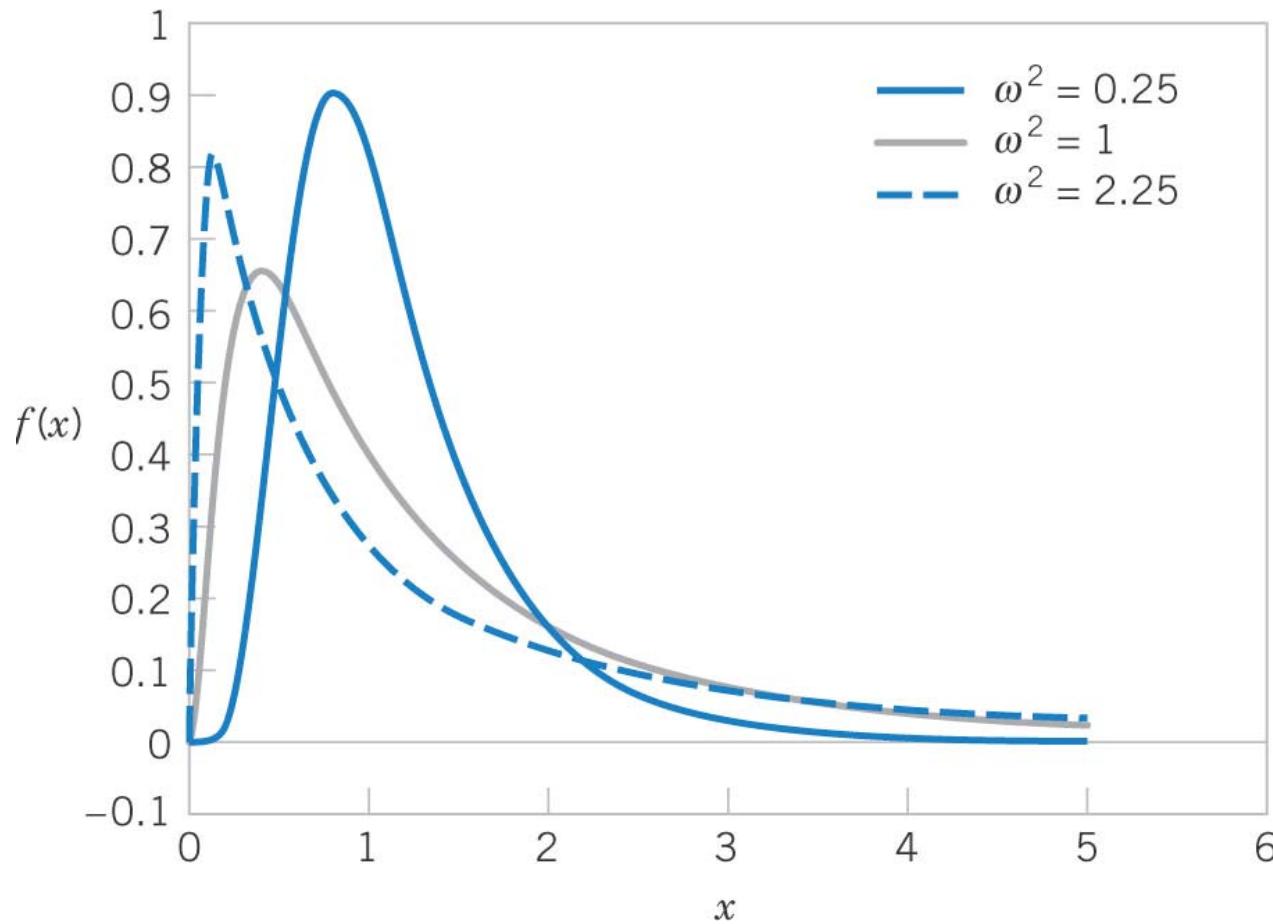


Figure 4-27 Lognormal probability density functions with  $\theta = 0$  for selected values of  $\omega^2$ .

WHY DO WHALES JUMP  
 WHY ARE WITCHES GREEN  
 WHY ARE THERE MIRRORS ABOVE BEDS  
**WHY DO I SAY UH**  
 WHY IS SEA SALT BETTER  
 WHY ARE THERE TREES IN THE MIDDLE OF FIELDS  
 WHY IS THERE NOT A POKEMON MMO  
 WHY IS THERE LAUGHING IN TV SHOWS  
 WHY ARE THERE DOORS ON THE FREEWAY  
 WHY ARE THERE SO MANY SVHOST.EXE RUNNING  
 WHY AREN'T THERE ANY COUNTRIES IN ANTARCTICA  
 WHY ARE THERE SCARY SOUNDS IN MINECRAFT  
 WHY IS THERE KICKING IN MY STOMACH  
 WHY ARE THERE TWO SLASHES AFTER HTTP  
 WHY ARE THERE CELEBRITIES  
**WHY DO SNAKES EXIST**  
 WHY DO OYSTERS HAVE PEARLS  
 WHY ARE DUCKS CALLED DUCKS  
 WHY DO THEY CALL IT THE CLAP  
 WHY ARE KYLE AND CARTMAN FRIENDS  
 WHY IS THERE AN ARROW ON AANG'S HEAD  
 WHY ARE TEXT MESSAGES BLUE  
 WHY ARE THERE MUSTACHES ON CLOTHES  
 WHY ARE THERE MUSTACHES ON CARS  
 WHY ARE THERE MUSTACHES EVERYWHERE  
 WHY ARE THERE SO MANY BIRDS IN OHIO  
 WHY IS THERE SO MUCH RAIN IN OHIO  
 WHY IS OHIO WEATHER SO WEIRD  
**WHY ARE THERE MALE AND FEMALE BIKES**  
 WHY ARE THERE BRIDESMAIDS  
 WHY DO DYING PEOPLE REACH UP  
 WHY AREN'T THERE VARICOSE ARTERIES  
 WHY ARE OLD KUNGOS DIFFERENT  
**WHY ARE THERE SQUIRRELS**  
 WHY IS THERE NO GPS IN LAPTOPS  
 WHY DO KNEES CLICK  
 WHY AREN'T THERE E GRADES  
 WHY IS ISOLATION BAD  
 WHY DO BOYS LIKE ME  
 WHY DON'T BOYS LIKE ME  
 WHY IS THERE ALWAYS A JAVA UPDATE  
 WHY ARE THERE RED DOTS ON MY THIGHS  
 WHY IS LYING GOOD  
 WHY IS PROGRAMMING SO HARD  
 WHY IS THERE A 0 OHM RESISTOR  
 WHY DO AMERICANS HATE SOCCER  
 WHY DO RHYMES SOUND GOOD  
**WHY DO TREES DIE**  
 WHY IS THERE NO SOUND ON CNN  
 WHY AREN'T POKEMON REAL  
 WHY AREN'T BULLETS SHARP  
 WHY DO DREAMS SEEM SO REAL

Credit: XKCD  
comics

**WHY ARE THERE SLAVES IN THE BIBLE**  
 WHY DO TWINS HAVE DIFFERENT FINGERPRINTS  
 WHY IS HTTPS CROSSED OUT IN RED  
 WHY ARE AMERICANS AFRAID OF DRAGONS  
 WHY IS THERE A LINE THROUGH HTTPS  
 WHY IS THERE A RED LINE THROUGH HTTPS ON FACEBOOK  
**WHY IS HTTPS IMPORTANT**  
 WHY ARE THERE WEEKS  
 WHY DO I FEEL DIZZY

# QUESTIONS FOUND IN GOOGLE AUTOCOMPLETE

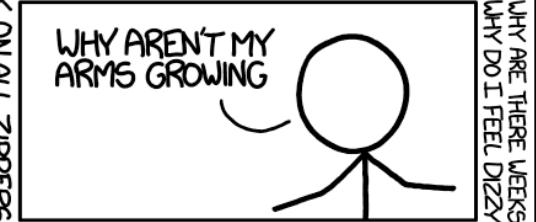
WHY AREN'T ECONOMISTS RICH  
 WHY DO AMERICANS CALL IT SOCCER  
 WHY ARE THERE SO MANY CROWS IN ROCHESTER, MN  
**WHY ARE MY EARS RINGING**  
 WHY ARE THERE SO MANY AVENGERS  
 WHY DO CHILDREN GET CANCER  
 WHY IS POSEIDON ANGRY WITH ODYSSEUS  
 WHY IS WOLVERINE NOT IN THE AVENGERS  
 WHY IS THERE ICE IN SPACE

**WHY ARE THERE ANTS IN MY LAPTOP**  
 WHY IS EARTH TILTED  
 WHY IS SPACE BLACK  
 WHY IS OUTER SPACE SO COLD  
 WHY ARE THERE PYRAMIDS ON THE MOON  
 WHY IS NASA SHUTTING DOWN  
 WHY ARE THERE GHOSTS  
 WHY ARE THERE GODS  
 WHY ARE THERE SPIDERS IN MY HOUSE  
 WHY ARE THERE TINY SPIDERS IN MY HOUSE  
 WHY ARE THERE HUGE SPIDERS IN MY HOUSE  
 WHY ARE THERE LOTS OF SPIDERS IN MY HOUSE  
 WHY ARE THERE SPIDERS IN MY ROOM  
 WHY ARE THERE SO MANY SPIDERS IN MY ROOM  
 WHY DO SPIDER BITES ITCH  
 WHY IS MT VESUVIUS THERE  
 WHY DO THEY SAY T MINUS  
 WHY ARE THERE OBELISKS  
 WHY ARE WRESTLERS ALWAYS WET  
 WHY ARE OCEANS BECOMING MORE ACIDIC  
**WHY IS ARWEN DYING**  
 WHY AREN'T MY QUAIL LAYING EGGS  
 WHY AREN'T MY QUAIL EGGS HATCHING  
 WHY AREN'T THERE ANY FOREIGN MILITARY BASES IN AMERICA

WHY ARE THERE FEMALE  
 WHY ARE THERE GHOSTS  
 WHY ARE THERE GODS  
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WHY AREN'T MY ARMS GROWING  
 WHY ARE THERE WEEKS  
 WHY DO I FEEL DIZZY



WHY AREN'T THERE GUNS IN HARRY POTTER  
 WHY ARE CIGARETTES LEGAL  
 WHY ARE THERE DUCKS IN MY POOL  
 WHY IS JESUS WHITE  
 WHY IS THERE LIQUID IN MY EAR  
 WHY DO Q TIPS FEEL GOOD  
 WHY DO GOOD PEOPLE DIE

WHY ARE FIREWORKS  
 WHY ARE THERE NO KING IN ENGLAND