

Simulating a Normal Random Distribution of a Variable

You can create a table of random values having a normal distribution by using the `NORMINV` worksheet function. The syntax of the function is

`NORMINV(probability,mean,standard_dev)`

For example, to create a table of 10,000 random values having a normal distribution with mean 0 and standard deviation 1, enter the formula `=NORMINV(RAND(), 0 , 1)` in a cell and **Fill Down** into 10,000 cells. Figure 15-9 shows the distribution of these 10,000 values.

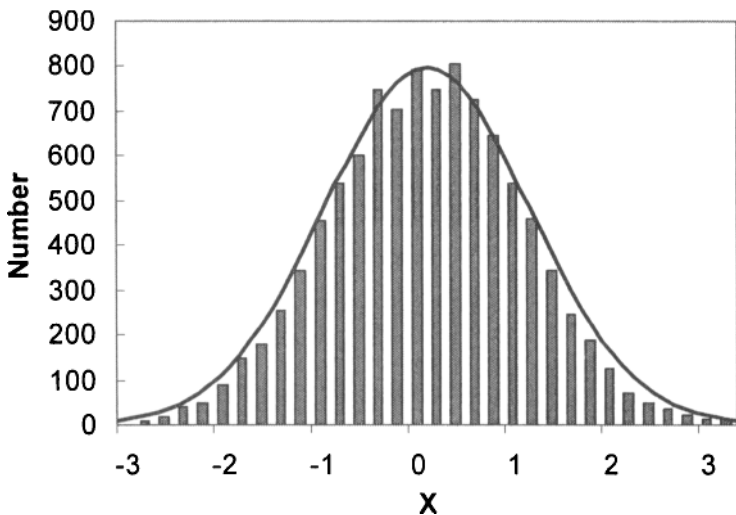


Figure 15-9. 10,000 random values with $\mu = 0$ and $\sigma = 1$, created by using the NORMINV worksheet function. The solid curve is the theoretical distribution.