

---

# MATLAB probability demos

## Table of Contents

Toss a coin .....	1
Roll a die .....	1
Roll a pair of dice .....	2
Toss a coin a bunch of times .....	2
Toss a coin a bunch of times; count the number of heads .....	2
Roll a die a bunch of times; make a histogram .....	2
Toss a coin a bunch of times many times .....	3
Plotting an empirical cdf .....	4
Normal cdf .....	5
The central limit theorem .....	6
Cantor's devil's staircase as a cumulative distribution function. ....	7
Deal a poker hand. ....	8
Probabilities of poker hands. ....	8
Birthday problem. ....	10
Coupon collector problem .....	10
Secretary problem. ....	11
Having any ace is good. ....	12
Having the ace of spades is better. ....	13
Steady state for a Markov chain .....	14
Steady state for a periodic Markov chain .....	15

## Toss a coin

Comment!

```
x=rand<0.5
```

```
x =
```

```
0
```

## Roll a die

```
x=ceil(6*rand)
```

```
x =
```

```
6
```

## Roll a pair of dice

```
x=ceil(6*rand)+ceil(6*rand)
```

```
x =  
    10
```

## Toss a coin a bunch of times

```
n=10  
x=rand(1,n)<.5
```

```
n =  
    10
```

```
x =  
    0    1    1    0    1    0    0    1    0    0
```

## Toss a coin a bunch of times; count the number of heads

```
n=10  
t=rand(1,n)<.5  
x=sum(t)
```

```
n =  
    10
```

```
t =  
    1    1    1    1    1    0    1    0    0    0
```

```
x =  
     6
```

## Roll a die a bunch of times; make a histogram

```
n=10
```

---

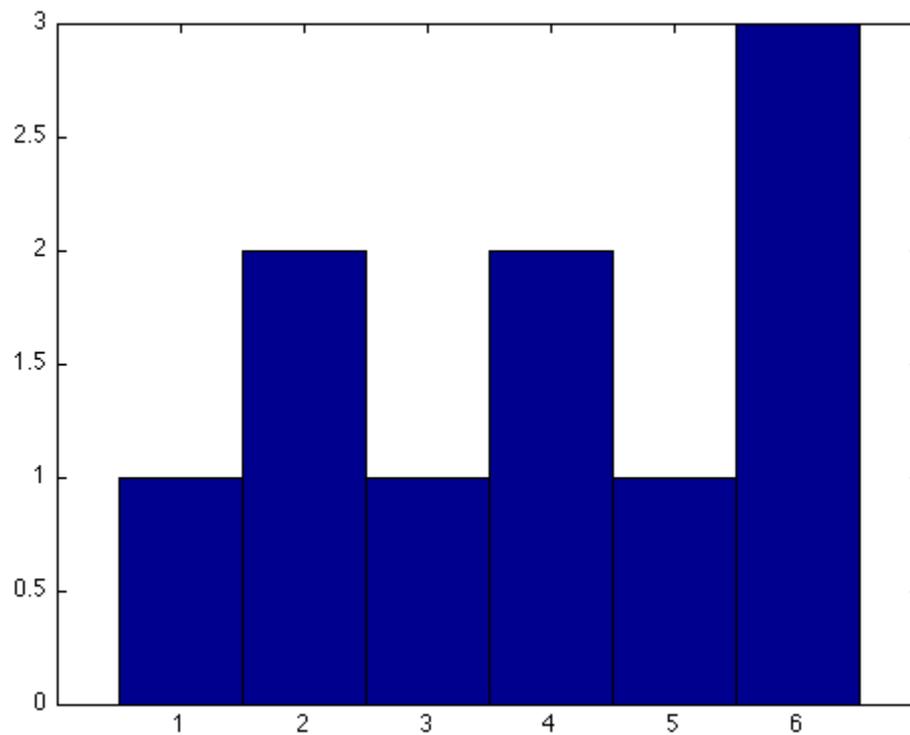
```
x=ceil(6*rand(1,n))  
hist(x,1:6)
```

```
n =
```

```
10
```

```
x =
```

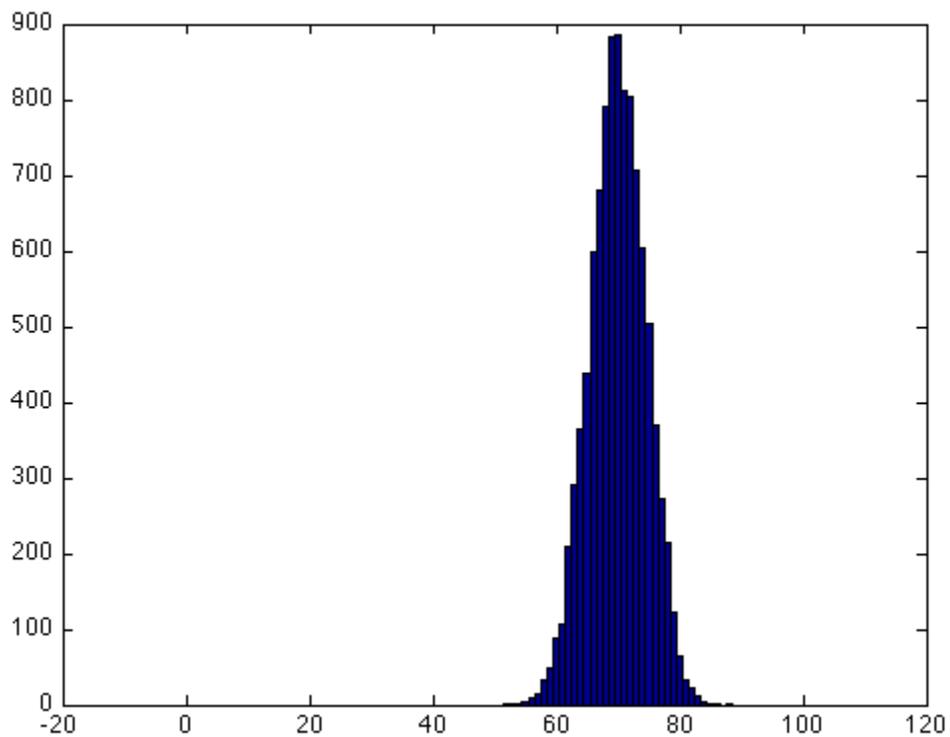
```
6     1     4     2     6     4     6     3     2     5
```



## Toss a coin a bunch of times many times

```
clear  
p=.7  
n=100  
trials=10000  
x=zeros(1,trials);  
for i=1:trials  
    t=rand(1,n)<p;  
    x(i)=sum(t);  
end  
hist(x,0:n)
```

```
p =  
    0.7000  
  
n =  
    100  
  
trials =  
    10000
```

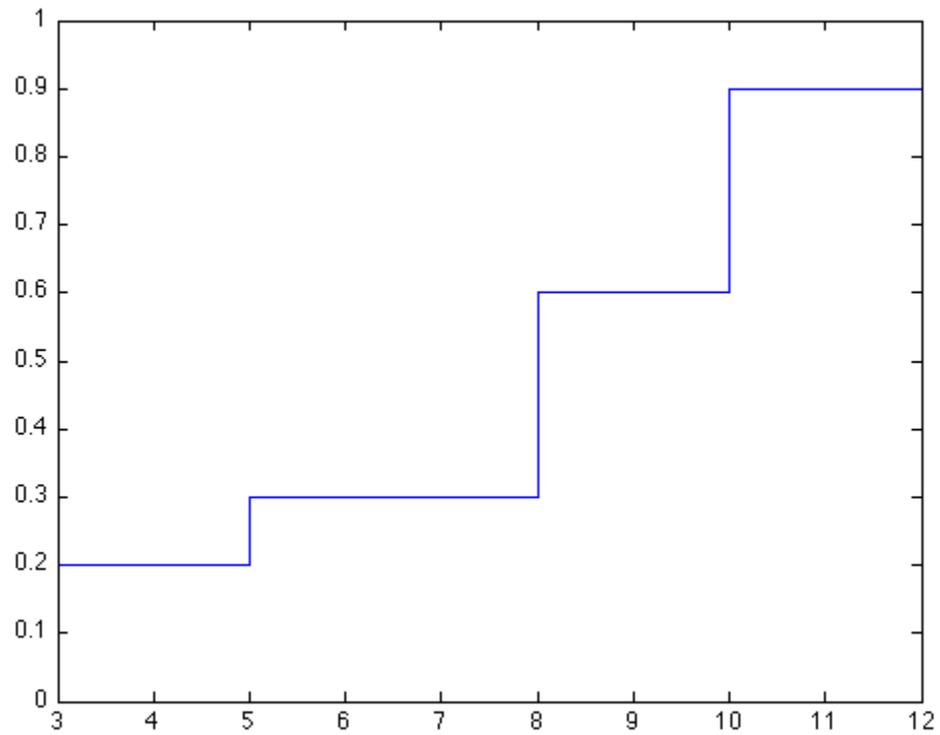


## Plotting an empirical cdf

```
n=10  
x=sum(ceil(6*rand(2,n))) % Roll a pair of dice  
stairs([min(x) sort(x)],[0:1/length(x):1]) % Plot the c.d.f of x  
  
n =  
    10
```

`x =`

10    8    5    10    3    8    8    10    12    3

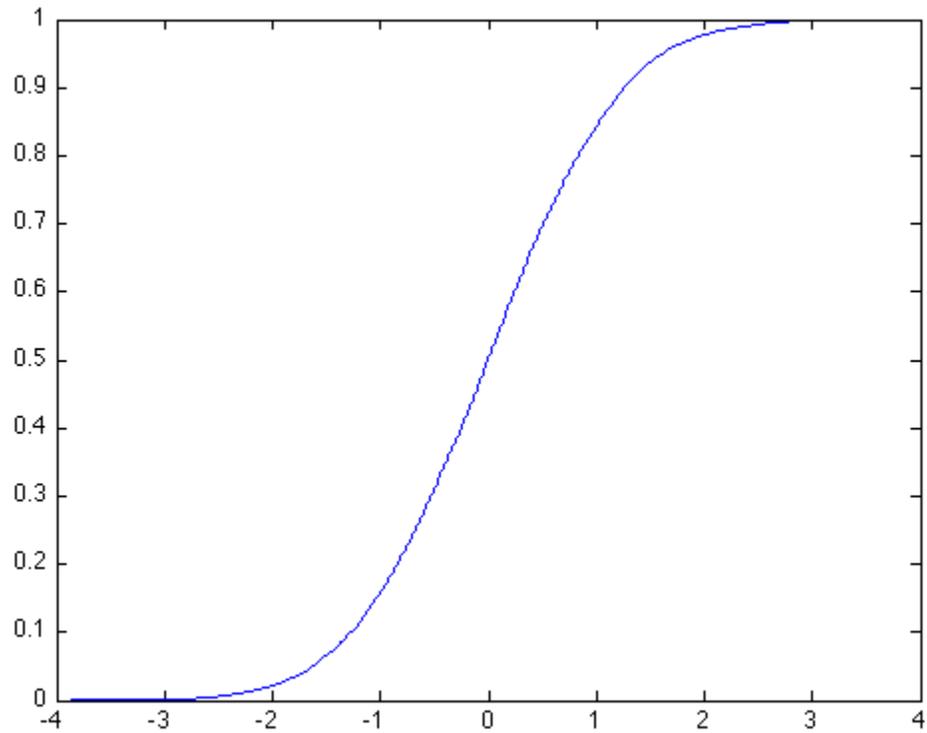


## Normal cdf

```
n=10^4
x=randn(1,n); % Sample from the standard normal distribution.
stairs([min(x) sort(x)],[0:1/length(x):1]) % Plot the c.d.f of x
```

`n =`

10000



## The central limit theorem

```

n=10^4;
k=10 % Number of dice to roll
x=sum(ceil(6*rand(k,n))); % Roll k dice
stairs([min(x) sort(x)], [0:1/length(x):1]) % Plot the c.d.f of x

mu1=3.5 % Expected value of 1 die
v1=(sum([1:6].^2)/6-mu1^2) % Variance of 1 die

x1=k*mu1+sqrt(k*v1)*randn(1,n); % Sample the orresdonding normal r.v.

hold on % Superimpose the next plot, in red
stairs([min(x1) sort(x1)], [0:1/length(x1):1], 'r')
hold off % End of superposition

```

```
k =
```

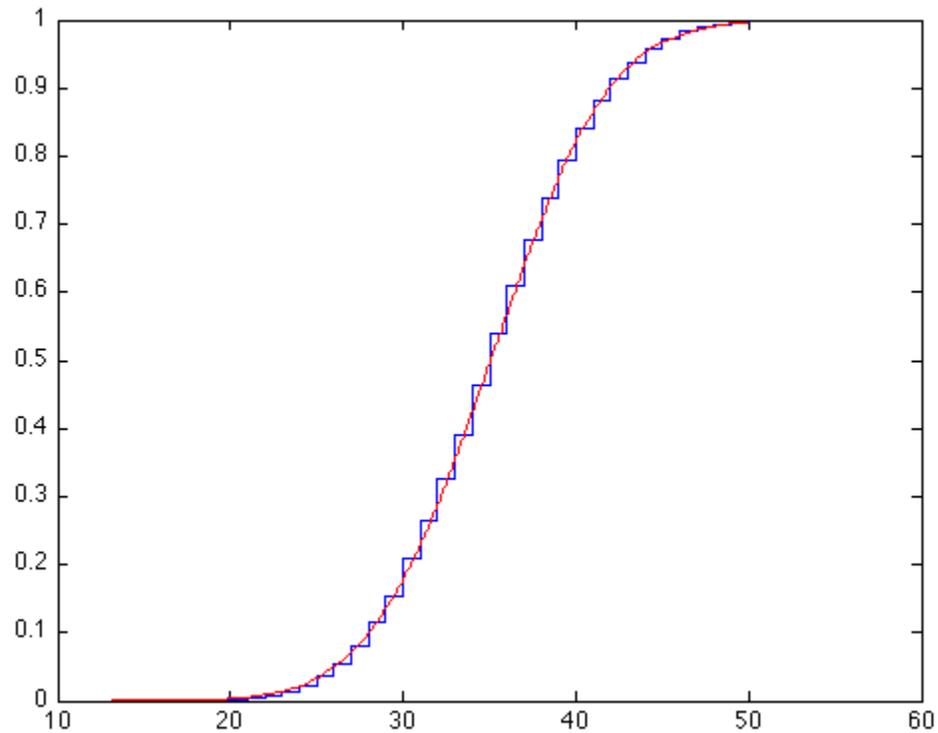
```
    10
```

```
mu1 =
```

```
    3.5000
```

```
v1 =
```

2.9167



## Cantor's devil's staircase as a cumulative distribution function.

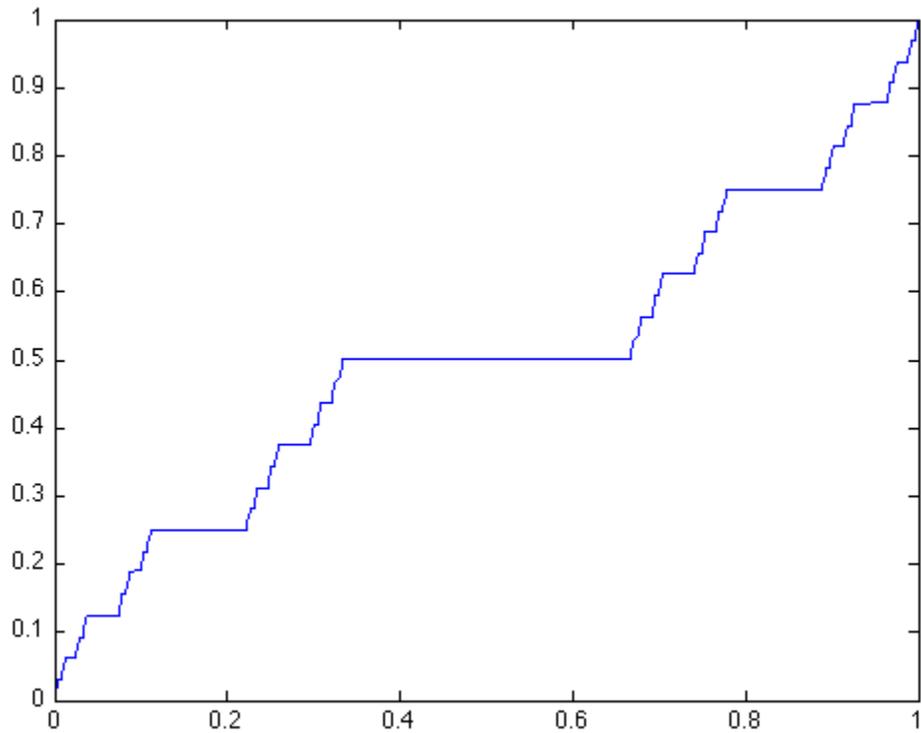
```
n=10^6
k=20

x=2*3.^-[1:k]*(rand(k,n)<1/2);

stairs([min(x) sort(x)],0:1/length(x):1) % Plot the c.d.f of x

n =
    1000000

k =
    20
```



## Deal a poker hand.

```
deck=randperm(52);
hand=deck(1:5)
```

*hand* =

```
45    38    19    52    8
```

## Probabilities of poker hands.

```
straightflush=40
fourofakind=13*48
fullhouse=13*12*4*nchoosek(4,2)
flush=4*nchoosek(13,5)-40
straight=10*4^5-40
threeofakind=13*4*48*44/2
twopair=nchoosek(13,2)*nchoosek(4,2)*nchoosek(4,2)*44
pair=13*nchoosek(4,2)*48*44*40/factorial(3)
squat=nchoosek(13,5)*4^5-straight-flush-straightflush
```

```
hands=[straightflush, fourofakind, fullhouse, flush, straight, threeofakind, twopair, pair,
total=sum(hands)
totalshouldbe=nchoosek(52,5)
```

```
format long
probabilities=hands/total
format short
```

```
straightflush =
```

```
    40
```

```
fourofakind =
```

```
   624
```

```
fullhouse =
```

```
  3744
```

```
flush =
```

```
  5108
```

```
straight =
```

```
 10200
```

```
threeofakind =
```

```
 54912
```

```
twopair =
```

```
123552
```

```
pair =
```

```
1098240
```

```
squat =
```

```
1302540
```

```
hands =
```

```
Columns 1 through 5
```

```
    40    624    3744    5108    10200
```

```
Columns 6 through 9
```

```
 54912  123552 1098240 1302540
```

```
total =
```

```
2598960

totalshouldbe =
    2598960

probabilities =

Columns 1 through 3
    0.000015390771693    0.000240096038415    0.001440576230492

Columns 4 through 6
    0.001965401545233    0.003924646781790    0.021128451380552

Columns 7 through 9
    0.047539015606242    0.422569027611044    0.501177394034537
```

## Birthday problem.

```
reps=1000
rec=NaN(1,reps);

days=365
people=23
for k=1:reps
    dates=ceil(rand(1,people)*days);
    rec(k)=length(unique(dates));
end
frac=sum(rec<people)/reps
```

```
reps =
    1000

days =
    365

people =
    23

frac =
    0.5350
```

## Coupon collector problem

---

```
reps=1000
rec=NaN(1, reps);

n=100
m=ceil(n*(log(n)+log(1/log(2))))
for k=1:reps
    coupons=ceil(rand(1,m)*n);
    collection=unique(coupons);
    rec(k)=length(collection);
end
gotall=sum(rec==n)/reps
```

```
reps =
      1000
```

```
n =
      100
```

```
m =
      498
```

```
gotall =
      0.5180
```

## Secretary problem.

```
n=100
for k=1:n-1
    s=sum(1./[k:n-1]);
    if s<=1
        break
    end
end
k % pass over the first k-1
reps=10^4
rec=NaN(1, reps);

for r=1:reps
    a=randperm(n);
    comp=min(a(1:k-1));
    sec=a(n); % Last resort
    for i=k:n-1
        if a(i)<comp
            sec=a(i);
            break
        end
    end
    rec(r)=sec;
end

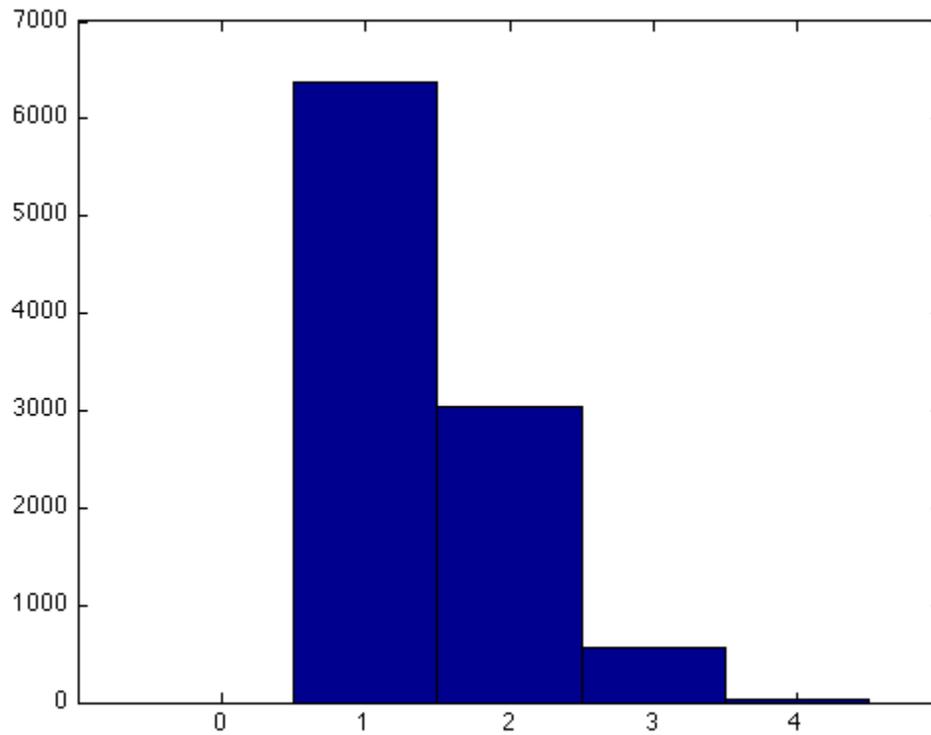
successrate=sum(rec==1)/reps
```

```
n =  
    100  
  
k =  
    38  
  
reps =  
    10000  
  
successrate =  
    0.3714
```

## Having any ace is good.

```
reps=10^4  
rec=NaN(1, reps);  
  
k=0;  
  
while(k<reps)  
    hand=sort(randsample(52,13)');  
    aces=sum(hand<=4);  
  
    if aces>=1  
        k=k+1;  
        rec(k)=aces;  
    end  
  
end  
  
hist(rec,0:4)  
meansaces=mean(rec)
```

```
reps =  
    10000  
  
meansaces =  
    1.4260
```



## Having the ace of spades is better.

```
reps=10^4
rec=NaN(1, reps);

k=0;

while(k<reps)
    hand=sort(randsample(52,13)');
    aces=sum(hand<=4);

    if hand(1)==1
        k=k+1;
        rec(k)=aces;
    end

end

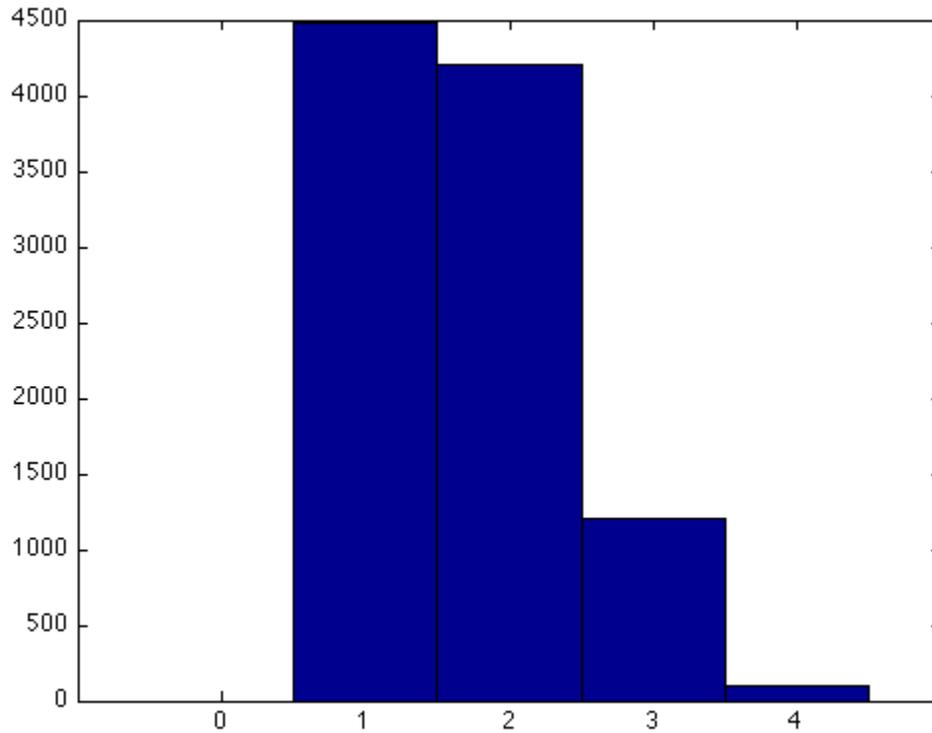
hist(rec,0:4)
meanaces=mean(rec)
```

```
reps =
```

```
10000
```

```
meanaces =
```

1.6938



## Steady state for a Markov chain

```
p=[1/2,1/4,1/4;1/2,0,1/2;1/4,1/4,1/2]
```

```
pinf=p^1000
alpha=pinf(1,:)
```

*p* =

0.5000	0.2500	0.2500
0.5000	0	0.5000
0.2500	0.2500	0.5000

*pinf* =

0.4000	0.2000	0.4000
0.4000	0.2000	0.4000
0.4000	0.2000	0.4000

*alpha* =

0.4000	0.2000	0.4000
--------	--------	--------

## Steady state for a periodic Markov chain

```
p=eye(3) % Start with the identity matrix
p=circshift(p,[0 1]) % Shift columns right one click
pinf=p^1000 % Powers don't approach a limit
q=1/2*(p+eye(3)) % Stay put half the time
qinf=q^1000
alpha=qinf(1,:)
```

*p* =

```
    1    0    0
    0    1    0
    0    0    1
```

*p* =

```
    0    1    0
    0    0    1
    1    0    0
```

*pinf* =

```
    0    1    0
    0    0    1
    1    0    0
```

*q* =

```
    0.5000    0.5000    0
           0    0.5000    0.5000
    0.5000           0    0.5000
```

*qinf* =

```
    0.3333    0.3333    0.3333
    0.3333    0.3333    0.3333
    0.3333    0.3333    0.3333
```

*alpha* =

```
    0.3333    0.3333    0.3333
```

*Published with MATLAB® 7.11*