Normal Distribution with Zero Mean



f(x)



Central Limit Theorem

- Averages of a large number of independent identically distributed shocks (whose variance is finite) are approximately normally distributed
- Can fail if the underlying shocks are fat tailed
- Can fail if the underlying shocks lose their independence

Normal Versus Fat Tailed Distributions



f(x)



Outliers

 Normal distribution with same mean and standard deviation as the histogram shown has a probability of a drop greater than 20% equal to 3*10^-71