

Ch 4: Distribution Functions and Discrete Random Variables

便箋標題

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experiment, outcome, event

⇒ some function of the outcome

random variables

• rolling two fair dice

X : the sum

$X = \{2, 3, 4, \dots, 12\}$

$$P(X=2) = P(\{1,1\}) = \frac{1}{36}$$

$$P(X=3) = P(\{1,2\}, \{2,1\}) = \frac{2}{36}$$

⋮

Def:

S : the sample space of an experiment

Random variable X : a function that assigns a real value

to each outcome in S

$$X: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

For any set of real numbers A , the prob. that X will assume a

Value that is contained in A is equal to
the prob. that the outcome of the experiment is contained in $X^{-1}(A)$

$$P(X \in A) = P(X^{-1}(A)) \text{ where}$$

$X^{-1}(A)$ is the event consisting of all points $s \in S$

such that $X(s) \in A$

$$X(\{1,1\}) = 2 \quad X(\{1,2\}) = 3 \quad X(\{2,1\}) = 3$$

$$\text{If } A = \{3,4\}$$

$$\bar{X}^{-1}(A) = \{(1,2), (2,1), (1,3), (2,2), (3,1)\}$$

$$P(X \in A) = P(\bar{X}^{-1}(A)) = \frac{2}{36} + \frac{3}{36} = \frac{5}{36}$$

↓
event

Ex 4.3

In the U.S., the # of twin births is $\sim \frac{1}{90}$

Let X be the number of births in a certain hospital until the first twins are born.

X is a random variable

T: twin births

N: single births

X : a real-valued function defined on the sample space

$S = \{ T, NT, NNT, NNNT, \dots \}$ by

$$X(\underbrace{N \dots N}_{i-1} NT) = i$$

The set of all possible values of X is $\{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ and

$$P(X=i) = P(\underbrace{N \dots N}_{i-1} NT) = \left(\frac{89}{90}\right)^{i-1} \cdot \frac{1}{90}$$

X, Y be two r.v.s over S

$X: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ $Y: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are real-valued functions
having the same domain.

X^2 ; $X - Y$; $aX + bY$

X^2 , $\sin X$, $\cos X^2$, e^X , $X - 2X^3$ are r.v.s

Ex 4.5

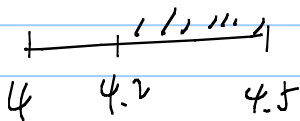
a flat metal disk : diameter is a random number

between 4 and 4.5
what is the prob. that the area of such a flat disk chosen

at random is at least 4.41π ?

D : diameter

$$P\left(\left(\frac{D}{2}\right)^2 \pi > 4.41\pi\right) = P(D^2 > 17.64) = P(D > 4.2)$$



$$= \frac{4.5 - 4.2}{4.5 - 4} = \frac{3}{5}$$

$$\therefore P\left(\frac{D^2}{4} \pi > 4.41\pi\right) = \frac{3}{5}$$

Ex 4.6

A random number is selected from $(0, \frac{\pi}{2})$

What is the prob. that its sine is greater than its cosine?

X : the selected number

$$\begin{aligned} P(\sin X > \cos X) &= P(\tan X > 1) = P(X > \frac{\pi}{4}) \\ &= \frac{\frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{4}}{\frac{\pi}{2} - 0} = \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

\downarrow
 45°

4.2 Distribution functions

r.v. $X: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$P(X=a) \quad P(X < a) \quad P(X \leq a) \quad P(X > b)$$

$$-- \quad P(b < X < a)$$

$$P(b \leq X < a)$$

function



F defined on $(-\infty, +\infty)$

$F(t) = P(X \leq t) \Rightarrow$ accumulates all prob. of

the values of X up to and including t

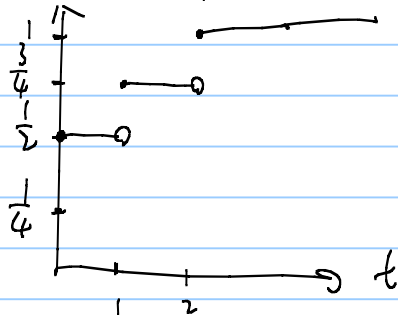
\Rightarrow cumulative distribution function (CDF) of X

$$P(X=0) = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$P(X=1) = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$P(X=2) = \frac{1}{4}$$

CDF $F(t) = P(X \leq t)$



$\rightarrow t = \frac{1}{2}$
 $F(\frac{1}{2})$
 $P(X \leq \frac{1}{2})$

Properties of CDFs

1. F : nondecreasing

$$F(t) \leq F(u) \quad \text{if } t < u$$

2. $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} F(t) = 1$

3. $\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} F(t) = 0$

4. F is right continuous

$$X \leq a \quad F(a)$$

$$X > a \quad 1 - F(a)$$

$$X < a \quad F(a^-)$$

$$X \geq a \quad 1 - P(X < a) = 1 - F(a^-)$$

$$X = a \quad F(a) - F(a^-)$$

$$a < X \leq b \equiv (X \leq b) - (X \leq a)$$

$$= F(b) - F(a)$$

$$a < X < b \equiv (X < b) - (X \leq a)$$

$$= F(b^-) - F(a)$$

$$a \leq X \leq b = F(b) - F(a^-)$$

$$a \leq X < b = F(b^-) - F(a^-)$$

Ex 4.7 $F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ \end{cases}$

X : compound:

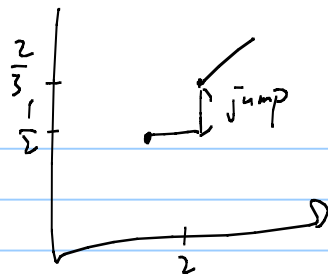
discrete + continuous

$$\begin{cases} \frac{x}{4} & 0 \leq x < 1 \\ \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} & 1 \leq x < 2 \\ \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{1}{12}x + \frac{1}{2} & 2 \leq x < 3 \\ \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} 1 & x \geq 3 \\ \end{cases}$$



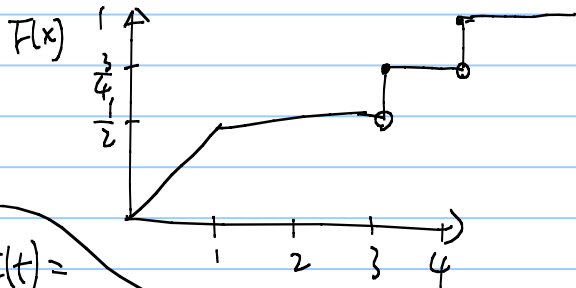
(a) $p(X < 2) = \frac{1}{2}$ (b) $p(X = 2) = F(2) - F(2^-)$

(c) $p(1 \leq X < 3) = F(3^-) - F(1^-) = \frac{1}{12} \cdot 2 + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{6}$

(d) $p(X > \frac{3}{2}) = 1 - p(X \leq \frac{3}{2}) = 1 - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$

$$(e) P(X = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}) = F(\frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}) - F(\frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}^-) = 0$$

coin $\begin{cases} H \rightarrow [0, 1] \text{ random selection} \\ T \rightarrow 3, 4 \text{ random selection} \end{cases}$



$$F(t) = P(X \leq t)$$

$$(f) P(2 < X \leq 7)$$

$$= F(7) - F(2)$$

$$= 1 - \left(\frac{2}{12} + \frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{3}$$

Ex 4.10

$$F(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & t < 0 \\ \frac{1}{2}t^2 & 0 \leq t < 1 \\ k(4t - t^2) & 1 \leq t < 2 \\ 1 & t \geq 2 \end{cases} \quad \underline{\underline{X < 2}}$$

$$P(X < 2) = 1 \quad F(2^-) = 1 \rightarrow k(4t - t^2) = 1$$

$$(a) \quad (8 - 4)k = 1 \rightarrow k = \frac{1}{4}$$

(b) A: event between 0.5 and 1.5

$$P(0.5 \leq X \leq 1.5) = F(1.5) - F(0.5^-) = \frac{15}{16} - \frac{1}{8} = \frac{13}{16}$$

$$B: X > 1 \quad P(X > 1) = 1 - F(1) = 1 - \frac{3}{4} = \frac{1}{4}$$

c') A B independent?

$$AB: 1 < X \leq 1.5$$

$$P(AB) = P(1 < X \leq 1.5) = F(1.5) - F(1) = \frac{15}{16} - \frac{3}{4} = \frac{3}{16}$$

$P(A)P(B) \neq P(AB) \Rightarrow A \& B$ dependent.

Remark 4.1

F : right-continuous, nondecreasing on $(-\infty, \infty)$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} F(t) = 1$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} F(t) = 0$$

\Rightarrow find a sample space S , and a r.v. over S

4.3 Discrete r.v.s

$$F(t) = P(X \leq t)$$

- Number of tails in flipping a coin twice
finite set $\{0, 1, 2\}$
 - Number of flips until the first heads
 $\{1, 2, 3, \dots\} \Rightarrow$ countable set
 - Amount of next year's rainfall $\{X : X \geq 0\} \Rightarrow$ uncountable set
- discrete r.v.s

Def: probability mass function p of X whose set of possible values is $\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$ is a function from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} that satisfies

$$(a) \quad p(x) = 0 \quad \text{if } x \notin \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$$

$$(b) \quad p(x_i) = p(X = x_i)$$

$$(c) \quad \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} p(x_i) = 1$$

Ex 4.12

$$(a) \quad p(x) = \begin{cases} c \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^x & x = 1, 2, 3, \dots \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases}$$

be a probability mass function?

$$\sum_{x=1}^{\infty} c \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^x = 1$$

$$c \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^x = 1$$

$$c \left(\frac{\frac{2}{3}}{1 - \frac{2}{3}} \right) = 1 \quad c = \frac{1}{2}$$

Ex 4.13

X : # of births in a hospital until the first girl is born

\Rightarrow probability mass function and distribution function of X ?

$$p(i) = p(X=i) = \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{i-1}}_{\text{boy}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}}_{\text{girl}} = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^i$$

$$F(t) = ? \quad n-1 \leq t < n \quad \text{where } n \geq 2$$

$$\begin{aligned} F(t) = P(X \leq t) &= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^1 + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + \dots + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-1} = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^i \\ &= 1 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

$$F(t) = \begin{cases} 0, & t < 1 \\ 1 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-1}, & n-1 \leq t < n \end{cases}$$

4.4 Expectations of discrete r.v.s

$$E[X] = \sum_{x \in A} x p(x)$$

mean, mathematical expectation, expectation of X
 $E(X)$, EX , μ_X , μ expected value

Ex 4.17) lottery: pick six different integers between 1 and 49

if all six numbers matched $\rightarrow 1,200,000$

if exactly five numbers matched $\rightarrow 800$

exactly four numbers matched $\rightarrow 35$

\Rightarrow the expected value of the amount a player wins in one game?

$$P(X=1,200,000) = \frac{1}{\binom{49}{6}}$$

$$P(X=800) = \frac{\binom{6}{5} \binom{43}{1}}{\binom{49}{6}}$$

$$P(X=35) = \frac{\binom{6}{4} \binom{43}{2}}{\binom{49}{6}}$$

$$P(X=1,200,000) \times 1,200,000 + P(X=800) \times 800 + P(X=35) \times 35 \\ = 0.13$$

If the cost per game is 50 cents (0.5)

On the average, (lose 39 cents per game

$\Rightarrow 10,000$ games \Rightarrow loss ≈ 3900

Ex 4.20

The tanks of a country's army are numbered 1 to N .

(loses n random tanks to the enemy

If x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n are the numbers of the captured tanks,

what is $E(\max x_i)$?

use $E(\max x_i)$ to find an estimate of N

Sol: Let $Y = \max X_i$

$$p(Y=k) = \frac{\binom{k-1}{n-1}}{\binom{N}{n}}$$

$$E(Y) = \sum_{k=n}^N k p(Y=k)$$

$$= \sum_{k=n}^N k \frac{\binom{k-1}{n-1}}{\binom{N}{n}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\binom{N}{n}} \sum_{k=n}^N k \frac{(k-1)!}{(n-1)! (k-n)!}$$

$$= \frac{n}{\binom{N}{n}} \sum_{k=n}^N \frac{k!}{n! (k-n)!}$$

$$= \frac{n}{\binom{N}{n}} \sum_{k=n}^N \binom{k}{n}$$

$\sum_{k=0}^N \binom{k}{n}$ is the coefficient of X^n in the polynomial $\sum_{k=0}^N (1+X)^k$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=0}^N (1+X)^k &= (1+X)^n \sum_{k=0}^{N-n} (1+X)^k = (1+X)^n \left[\frac{(1+X)^{N-n+1} - 1}{(1+X) - 1} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{X} \left[(1+X)^{N+1} - (1+X)^n \right] \end{aligned}$$

\Rightarrow X^n
coefficient of $\Rightarrow \binom{N+1}{n+1}$

$$E(Y) = n \frac{\binom{N+1}{n+1}}{\binom{N}{n}}$$

$$N = \frac{n+1}{n} E(Y) - 1$$

For example, 12 tanks captured maximum of the numbers is 117

$$N \approx \frac{13}{12} \times 117 - 1 \approx 126$$

Thm 4.1

X : constant c

$$E[X] = c$$

Thm 4.2

$$E[g(X)] = \sum_{x \in A} g(x) p(x)$$

X : discrete r.v.

A : set of possible values

$p(x)$: prob. mass function

$$\begin{array}{c} \Downarrow \\ E[g(X)] = \sum_{\text{all } y} y P_Y(g(X)=y) \\ \Uparrow \end{array}$$

previous fair dice rolling

$X = \text{sum}$

$$Y = g(X) = 2X$$

$$P(X=2) = P(Y=2 \cdot 2) = P(\{(1,1)\})$$

$$P(X=3) = P(Y=2 \cdot 3) = P(\{(1,2), (2,1)\})$$

$$E[Y = g(X) = 2X] = \sum_{\text{all } y} y P_Y(g(X)=y)$$

$$= \sum_{\text{all } x} \frac{f(x)}{=} p(x)$$

Corollary

$$E[\alpha_1 f_1(x) + \alpha_2 f_2(x) + \dots + \alpha_n f_n(x)]$$

$$= \alpha_1 E[f_1(x)] + \alpha_2 E[f_2(x)] + \dots + \alpha_n E[f_n(x)]$$

$E[x]$ is linear.

$$E[\alpha X + \beta] = \alpha E[X] + \beta$$

$$E[X^2] = \sum_{x \in A} x^2 p(x)$$

$$E[X^2 - 2X + 4] = \sum_{x \in A} (x^2 - 2x + 4) p(x)$$

$$E[X \cos X] = \sum_{x \in A} (x \cos x) p(x)$$

$$E[e^X] = \sum_{x \in A} e^x p(x)$$

Ex 4.23

$$p(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x}{15} & x=1, 2, 3, 4, 5 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$E[X(6-X)] = 5 \cdot \frac{1}{15} + 8 \cdot \frac{2}{15} + 9 \cdot \frac{3}{15} + 8 \cdot \frac{4}{15} + 5 \cdot \frac{5}{15} = 9$$

Ex 4.24

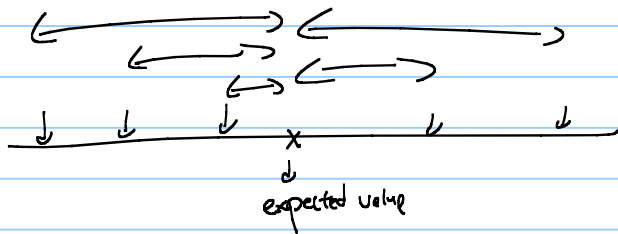
A box contains 10 disks of radii 1, 2, ..., and 10.

What is the expected value of the area of a disk randomly selected?

R : radius

$$\begin{aligned} E[\pi R^2] &= \pi E[R^2] \\ &= \pi \sum_{i=1}^{10} i^2 p(i) \\ &= \pi \sum_{i=1}^{10} \frac{1}{10} i^2 = 38.5 \pi \end{aligned}$$

4.5 Variances and moments of discrete r.v.s



$\text{Var}(X)$
or
variance

σ_x : standard deviation

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[(X - \mu)^2] = \sum_{\substack{\text{all } x \\ \in A}} (x - \mu)^2 p(x)$$

$$\sigma_x = \sqrt{\text{Var}(X)} = \sqrt{E[(X - \mu)^2]}$$

Ex 4.26

Karen plays two games: Keno and Bolita

Bolita: buys a ticket for \$1

draw a ball at random from a box of 100 balls

if matched \Rightarrow wins \$75, otherwise loses

Keno: bet 1\$ on a single number that has a 25% chance to
win

if win \Rightarrow return her dollar plus 2 dollars more
otherwise \Rightarrow they keep the dollar.

$$\underline{E(B)}: 14 \cdot 0.01 + (-1) \cdot 0.99 = -0.25$$

$$E(K): 2 \cdot 0.25 + (-1) \cdot 0.75 = -0.25$$

$$\text{Var}(B): E[(B - \mu)^2] = (14 + 0.25)^2 \cdot 0.01 + (-1 + 0.25)^2 \cdot 0.99$$

$$\text{Var}(K): E[(K - \mu)^2] = (2 + 0.25)^2 (0.25) + (-1 + 0.25)^2 \cdot 0.75 = 1.6875$$

$$\text{Thm 4.3} \quad \text{Var}(X) = E(X^2) - (E(X))^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(X) &= E[(X-\mu)^2] = E[X^2 - 2\mu X + \mu^2] \\ &= E[X^2] - E[2\mu X] + E[\mu^2] \\ &= E[X^2] - 2\mu E[X] + \mu^2 \\ &= E[X^2] - 2 \overset{\downarrow}{E[X]} E[X] + (E[X])^2 \\ &= E[X^2] - (E[X])^2 \leftarrow \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Var}(X) \geq 0 \Rightarrow E[X^2] \geq (E[X])^2$$

Ex 4.27 the variance of X , the outcome of rolling a fair die?

$$E(X) = \sum_{x=1}^6 x p(x) = \frac{1}{6} (1+2+3+4+5+6) = \frac{7}{2}$$

$$E(X^2) = \sum_{x=1}^6 x^2 p(x) = \frac{91}{6}$$

2nd moment
X

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{91}{6} - \left(\frac{7}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{35}{12} \quad \#$$

Thm 4.4 $\text{Var}(X) = 0$ iff X is a constant (with prob. 1)

Thm 4.5

$$\text{Var}(aX+b) = a^2 \text{Var}(X)$$

$$\sigma_{aX+b} = |a| \sigma_X$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Var}[ax+b] &= E[(ax+b)^2] - (E[ax+b])^2 \\
 &= E[a^2x^2 + 2abx + b^2] - [(aE[x] + b)^2] \\
 &= a^2 E[x^2] + 2abE[x] + b^2 - [a^2(E[x])^2 + 2abE[x] + b^2] \\
 &= a^2 (E[x^2] - (E[x])^2) \\
 &= a^2 \text{Var}[x]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\sigma_{ax+b} = \sqrt{\text{Var}[ax+b]} = |a| \sqrt{\text{Var}[x]} = |a| \sigma_x$$

Ex 4.28

$$E(x(x-4)) = 5$$

$$E(x) =$$

$$= 2$$

Find the variance and standard deviation

$$\text{of } -4x + 12$$

$$E(X(X-4)) = E(X^2 - 4X) = E(X^2) - 4E(X) = 5$$

$$\therefore E(X^2) = 8 + 5 = 13$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = E(X^2) - (E(X))^2 = 9$$

$$\sigma_X = \sqrt{\text{Var}(X)} = 3$$

$$\text{Var}(-4X + 12) = (-4)^2 \cdot 9 = 144$$

$$\sigma_{-4X+12} = (-4) \times 3 = 12$$

• Concentrated

$$P(|Y - w| \leq t) \leq P(|X - w| \leq t)$$

X is more concentrated about w than is Y

Thm 4.6 $E[X] = E[Y] = \mu$

X is more concentrated about μ than is Y

$$\text{Var}(X) \leq \text{Var}(Y)$$

Moment

$$E[g(x)]$$

$$E[x^n]$$

n-th moment of X

$$E[X]$$

↓

first
moment

$$E[x^2]$$

↓

second
moment

$$E[|x|^r]$$

r-th absolute moment of X

$$E[x-c]$$

1-st moment of X about c

(expectation) ↓

$$E[(x-c)^n]$$

n-th moment of X about c

$$\text{Var}(x) = E[x^2]$$

$$- (E[x])^2$$

$$E[(x-\mu)^n]$$

n-th moment of X

↑
central

4.6 Standardized random variables

$$X^* = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma}$$

$$E[X^*] = 0? \quad \text{Var}[X^*] = 1?$$

$$E[X^*] = E\left[\frac{1}{\sigma}X - \frac{\mu}{\sigma}\right] = \frac{1}{\sigma} E[X] - \frac{\mu}{\sigma} = 0$$

$$\text{Var}[X^*] = \text{Var}\left[\frac{1}{\sigma}X - \frac{\mu}{\sigma}\right] = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \text{Var}[X] = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \cdot \sigma^2 = 1$$

A student's grade in a prob. test is 72
history test is 85

history: mean 82, standard deviation 7

prob. -- 68 -- -- 4

standardized history

$$\frac{85 - 82}{7} = 0.43$$

Standardized prob.

$$\frac{72 - 68}{4} = 1$$

EX: Norton owns two appliance stores

store 1: average 13 TVs per week s.d. = 5

store 2: average 7 TVs s.d. = 4

Two applicants for a new position

one \rightarrow store 1

each for 1 week

the other \rightarrow store 2

in store 1 \rightarrow 10 sets

\Rightarrow who should he hire?

2 \rightarrow 6 sets

$$\frac{10 - 13}{5}$$

$$= -0.6$$

$$\frac{6 - 7}{4}$$

$$= -0.25$$