

7. Examples of Parametric Models

Review: Sample Spaces of Distributions

4/4 points (graded)

Recall that a **sample space** of a random variable \mathbf{X} is a set that contains all possible outcomes of \mathbf{X} .

Note that the sample space of \mathbf{X} is *not unique*. For example, if $\mathbf{X} \sim \mathbf{Ber}(p)$, then both $\{0, 1\}$ and \mathbb{R} can serve as a sample space. However, in general, we associate a random variable with its smallest possible sample space (which would be $\{0, 1\}$ if $\mathbf{X} \sim \mathbf{Ber}(p)$).

Find the **smallest sample space** for each of the following random variables.

$\mathbf{X}_1 \sim \mathbf{Poiss}(\lambda)$, a **Poisson** random variable with parameter λ :

☐ $\{0, 1\}$

☒ $\{x \in \mathbb{Z} : x \geq 0\}$ ✓

☐ $[0, \infty)$

☐ $(-\infty, \infty)$

$\mathbf{X}_2 \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$, a **standard Gaussian (or normal)** random variable with mean **0** and variance **1**:

☐ $\{0, 1\}$

☐ $\{x \in \mathbb{Z} : x \geq 0\}$

☐ $[0, \infty)$

☒ $(-\infty, \infty)$ ✓

$\mathbf{X}_3 \sim \exp(\lambda)$, an **exponential** random variable with parameter $\lambda > 0$:

☐ $\{0, 1\}$

☐ $\{x \in \mathbb{Z} : x \geq 0\}$

☒ $[0, \infty)$ ✓

☐ $(-\infty, \infty)$

$\mathbf{X}_4 \sim \mathcal{I}(Y > 0)$ where \mathbf{Y} is standard Gaussian and \mathcal{I} is the **indicator function**.

Recall the definition of the indicator function is:

$$\mathcal{I}(Y > 0) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } Y > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } Y \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

☒ {0, 1} ✓

☐ {x ∈ ℤ : x ≥ 0}

☐ [0, ∞)

☐ (−∞, ∞)

Solution:

- A Poisson random variable is discrete and can take values on all non-negative integers.
- Gaussian random variables can take any real value.
- The Exponential distribution is continuous and is restricted to all non-negative real values.
- The final random variable is an indicator, so it must take values in {0, 1}. Note that X_4 is in fact Bernoulli.

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Answers are displayed within the problem

Examples of parametric and nonparametric models

[Start of transcript. Skip to the end.](#)



So let's write some statistical model.
So let's write it here.
A statistical model is a pair E , which is my sample space,
and a family of probability distribution p_{θ} , indexed by θ in some parameter set capital Θ .
So this is a statistical model.
And this is what we're going to be trying to find for specific examples.

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Statistical Model Definition Concept check

1/1 point (graded)
Which of the following is a statistical model?

☐ $\left(\{1\}, (\text{Ber}(p))_{p \in (0,1)}\right)$

☒ $\left(\{0, 1\}, (\text{Ber}(p))_{p \in (0.2, 0.4)}\right)$ ✓

☐ Both of the above

☐ None of the above

Solution:

Solution in video below.

The set $\{1\}$ is not the sample space of the distribution $\text{Ber}(p)$, so the first choice $\left(\{1\}, (\text{Ber}(p))_{p \in (0,1)}\right)$ is not a statistical model. On the other hand, $\left(\{0, 1\}, (\text{Ber}(p))_{p \in (0.2, 0.4)}\right)$ is a valid statistical model.

Remark: In the model $\left(\{0, 1\}, (\text{Ber}(p))_{p \in (0.2, 0.4)}\right)$, the parameter p is restricted to be in the interval $(0.2, 0.4)$. Such a restriction is perfectly valid, and can be useful for performing modeling tasks.

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📘 Answers are displayed within the problem

A Non-Example of a Statistical Model

0 points possible (ungraded)
(This problem is strictly pedagogical and is ungraded.)

Let $\mathcal{U}([0, a])$ denote the uniform distribution on the interval $[0, a]$. Let $X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{U}([0, a])$ for some unknown $a > 0$. Which one of the following is **not** a statistical model associated with this statistical experiment?

☒ $\left([0, a], (\mathcal{U}([0, a]))_{a>0}\right)$ ✓

☐ $\left(\mathbb{R}_+, (\mathcal{U}([0, a]))_{a>0}\right)$

☐ Neither choice above is a statistical model.

Solution:

See video below.

The first choice $\left([0, a], (\mathcal{U}([0, a]))_{a>0}\right)$ is **not a statistical model because the sample space, as written, depends on an unknown parameter a .**

The second choice $\left(\mathbb{R}_+, (\mathcal{U}([0, a]))_{a>0}\right)$ is a statistical model because for any value of a , the random variables X_1, \dots, X_n will have sample space contained in the interval $[0, \infty) = \mathbb{R}_+$.

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你已经尝试了1次（总共可以尝试2次）

📘 Answers are displayed within the problem

Worked example: Definition of Statistical model

Writing exactly the same thing as the guy.
OK?
So make sure that your sample space does not
depend on a parameter.