

AI1103 - Challenging Problem 5

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<https://github.com/Anirudh-Srinivasan-CS20/AI1103/blob/main/Challenging-Problem-5//Challenging-Problem-5.tex>

QUESTION

Suppose X_1, X_2, X_3 and X_4 are independent and identically distributed random variables, having density function f . Then,

- A) $\Pr(X_4 > \text{Max}(X_1, X_2) > X_3) = \frac{1}{6}$
- B) $\Pr(X_4 > \text{Max}(X_1, X_2) > X_3) = \frac{1}{8}$
- C) $\Pr(X_4 > X_3 > \text{Max}(X_1, X_2)) = \frac{1}{12}$
- D) $\Pr(X_4 > X_3 > \text{Max}(X_1, X_2)) = \frac{1}{6}$

SOLUTION

Given, X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4 are i.i.d random variables.

Lemma 0.1. Every i.i.d sequence of random variables is exchangeable. Any value of a finite sequence is as likely as any permutation of those values. The joint probability distribution is invariant under the symmetric group.

Proof.

$$f_{X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_n}(x) = f_{X_1}(x) \times f_{X_2}(x) \times \dots \times f_{X_n}(x) \quad (0.0.1)$$

As X_i s are i.i.d random variables, their joint probability density function is the product of their marginal probability density functions and as multiplication is commutative, it is exchangeable. \square

Definition 1 (Symmetric Group). It is the group of permutation on a set with n elements and has $n!$ elements. Order of a symmetric group represents the number of elements in it.

Lemma 0.2. If n elements of a set are random, then probability of each element ' E_i ' of the symmetric group ' S ' is $\frac{1}{n!}$.

Proof. As the n values are completely random, there will be no bias for a particular arrangement and

hence all the elements of the symmetric group are equally likely.

$$O(S) = n! \quad (0.0.2)$$

where: $O(S)$ denotes the order of the symmetric group.

$$\Rightarrow \Pr(E_i) = \frac{1}{n!} \forall E_i \in S \quad (0.0.3)$$

\square

Hence, any permutation of X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4 is equally likely. As there are 4 random values that the random variables represent, they can be arranged in $4!$ ways. By (0.0.3), we have:

$$\Pr(X_1 > X_2 > X_3 > X_4) = \Pr(X_1 > X_2 > X_4 > X_3) \quad (0.0.4)$$

$$= \dots \quad (0.0.5)$$

$$= \frac{1}{24} \quad (0.0.6)$$

1) Options A and B:

$$\Pr(X_4 > \text{Max}(X_1, X_2) > X_3) =$$

$$\Pr(X_4 > \text{Max}(X_1, X_2) > X_3 | X_1 > X_2) +$$

$$\Pr(X_4 > \text{Max}(X_1, X_2) > X_3 | X_2 > X_1) \quad (0.0.7)$$

Clearly, by definition:

$$\text{Max}(X_1, X_2) = \begin{cases} X_1, & \text{if } X_1 > X_2 \\ X_2, & \text{if } X_2 > X_1 \end{cases} \quad (0.0.8)$$

$$\Rightarrow \Pr(X_4 > \text{Max}(X_1, X_2) > X_3) =$$

$$\Pr(X_4 > X_1 > X_3) +$$

$$\Pr(X_4 > X_2 > X_3) \quad (0.0.9)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(X_4 > X_1 > X_3) &= \Pr(X_4 > X_1 > X_2 > X_3) \\ &+ \Pr(X_4 > X_1 > X_3 > X_2) = \frac{1}{12} \end{aligned} \quad (0.0.10)$$

As $\text{Max}(X_1, X_2)$ being X_1 or X_2 is equally

likely,

$$\Pr(X_4 > X_2 > X_3) = \frac{1}{12} \quad (0.0.11)$$

$$\Pr(X_4 > \text{Max}(X_1, X_2) > X_3) = 2 \times \frac{1}{12} = \frac{1}{6} \quad (0.0.12)$$

2) Options C and D:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(X_4 > X_3 > \text{Max}(X_1, X_2)) = \\ \Pr(X_4 > X_3 > \text{Max}(X_1, X_2) | X_1 > X_2) + \\ \Pr(X_4 > X_3 > \text{Max}(X_1, X_2) | X_2 > X_1) \end{aligned} \quad (0.0.13)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(X_4 > X_3 > \text{Max}(X_1, X_2)) = \\ \Pr(X_4 > X_3 > X_1 > X_2) + \\ \Pr(X_4 > X_3 > X_2 > X_1) \end{aligned} \quad (0.0.14)$$

$$\Pr(X_4 > X_3 > \text{Max}(X_1, X_2)) = 2 \times \frac{1}{24} = \frac{1}{12} \quad (0.0.15)$$

Answer: Option (A) and (C)