

Continuous Random Variables Applications Solutions

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Exercises

1. Let X be a continuous random variable on the domain $-k \leq X \leq k$. Also, let $f(x) = \frac{x^2}{18}$.

a. Assume that $f(x)$ is a valid pdf. Find the value of k .

Because f is a valid pdf, we know that $\int_{-k}^k \frac{x^2}{18} dx = 1$. So,

$$\int_{-k}^k \frac{x^2}{18} dx = \frac{x^3}{54} \Big|_{-k}^k = \frac{k^3}{54} - \frac{-k^3}{54} = \frac{k^3}{27} = 1$$

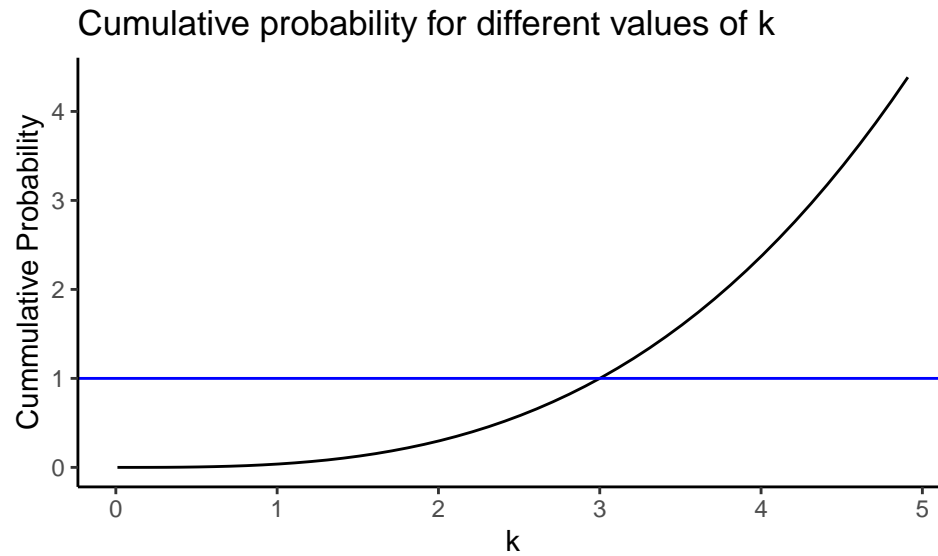
Thus, $k = 3$.

Using R, see if you can follow the code.

```
my_pdf <- function(x) integrate(function(y) y^2/18, -x, x)$value
```

```
my_pdf <- Vectorize(my_pdf)
```

```
domain <- seq(.01, 5, .1)
gf_line(my_pdf(domain) ~ domain) %>%
  gf_theme(theme_classic()) %>%
  gf_labs(title="Cumulative probability for different values of k", x="k", y="Cumulative Probability") %>%
  gf_hline(yintercept = 1, color = "blue")
```



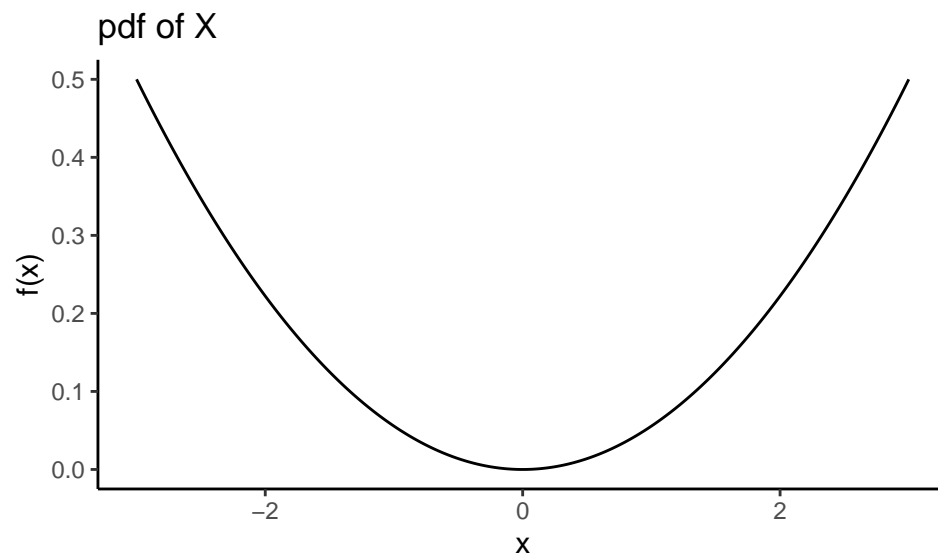
Looks like $k \approx 3$ from the plot.

```
uniroot(function(x)my_pdf(x)-1,c(-10,10))$root
```

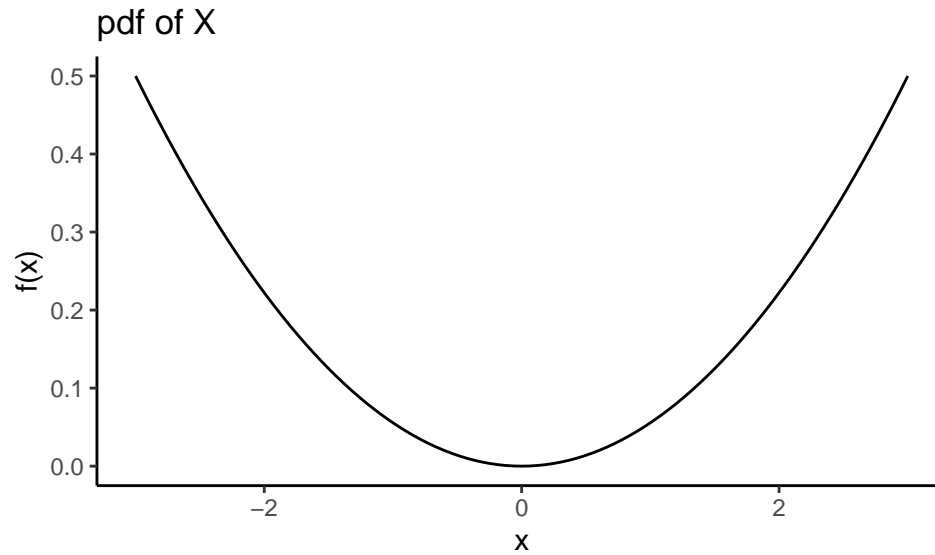
```
## [1] 2.999997
```

b. Plot the pdf of X .

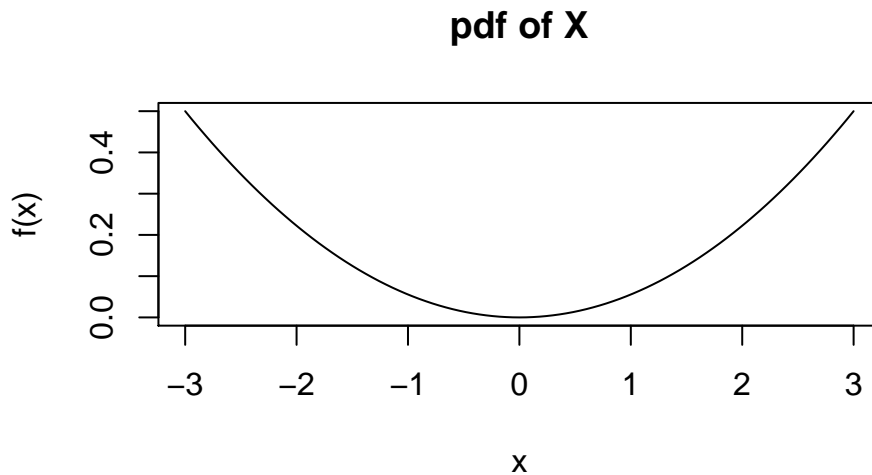
```
x<-seq(-3,3,0.001)
fx<-x^2/18
gf_line(fx~x,ylab="f(x)",title="pdf of X") %>%
  gf_theme(theme_classic())
```



```
ggplot(data.frame(x=c(-3, 3)), aes(x)) +
  stat_function(fun=function(x) x^2/18) +
  theme_classic() +
  labs(y="f(x)",title="pdf of X")
```



```
curve(x^2/18,from=-3,to=3,ylab="f(x)",main="pdf of X")
```

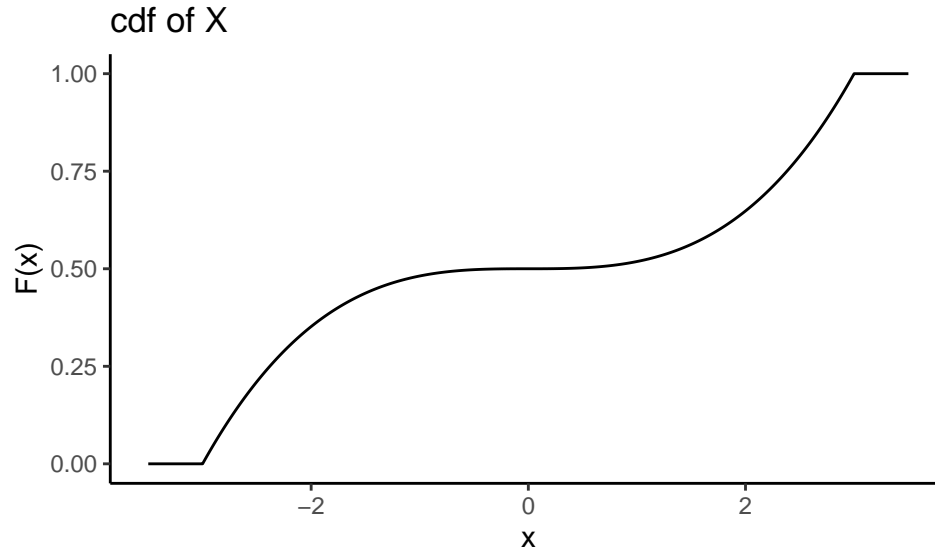


c. Find and plot the cdf of X .

$$F_X(x) = P(X \leq x) = \int_{-3}^x \frac{t^2}{18} dt = \frac{t^3}{54} \Big|_{-3}^x = \frac{x^3}{54} + \frac{1}{2}$$

$$F_X(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < -3 \\ \frac{x^3}{54} + \frac{1}{2}, & -3 \leq x \leq 3 \\ 1, & x > 3 \end{cases}$$

```
x<-seq(-3.5,3.5,0.001)
fx<-pmin(1,(1*(x>=-3)*(x^3/54+1/2)))
gf_line(fx~x,ylab="F(x)",title="cdf of X") %>%
  gf_theme(theme_classic())
```



d. Find $P(X < 1)$.

$$P(X < 1) = F(1) = \frac{1}{54} + \frac{1}{2} = 0.519$$

```
integrate(function(x)x^2/18,-3,1)
```

```
## 0.5185185 with absolute error < 5.8e-15
```

e. Find $P(1.5 < X \leq 2.5)$.

$$P(1.5 < X \leq 2.5) = F(2.5) - F(1.5) = \frac{2.5^3}{54} + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1.5^3}{54} - \frac{1}{2} = 0.227$$

```
integrate(function(x)x^2/18,1.5,2.5)
```

```
## 0.2268519 with absolute error < 2.5e-15
```

f. Find the 80th percentile of X (the value x for which 80% of the distribution is to the left of that value).

Need x such that $F(x) = 0.8$. Solving $\frac{x^3}{54} + \frac{1}{2} = 0.8$ for x yields $x = 2.530$.

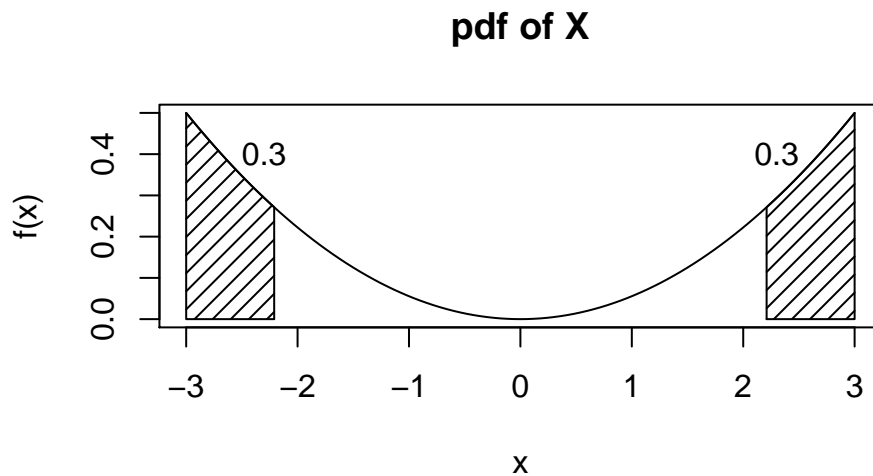
```
uniroot(function(x)x^3/54+.5-.8,c(-3,3))
```

```
## $root
## [1] 2.530293
##
## $f.root
```

```
## [1] -1.854422e-06
##
## $iter
## [1] 6
##
## $init.it
## [1] NA
##
## $estim.prec
## [1] 6.103516e-05
```

g. Find the value x such that $P(-x \leq X \leq x) = 0.4$.

Because this distribution is symmetric, finding x is equivalent to finding x such that $P(X > x) = 0.3$. (It helps to draw a picture). Thus, we need x such that $F(x) = 0.7$. Solving $\frac{x^3}{54} + \frac{1}{2} = 0.7$ for x yields $x = 2.210$.



h. Find the mean and variance of X .

$$E(X) = \int_{-3}^3 x \cdot \frac{x^2}{18} dx = \frac{x^4}{72} \Big|_{-3}^3 = \frac{81}{72} - \frac{81}{72} = 0$$

$$E(X^2) = \int_{-3}^3 x^2 \cdot \frac{x^2}{18} dx = \frac{x^5}{90} \Big|_{-3}^3 = \frac{243}{90} - \frac{-243}{90} = 5.4$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = E(X^2) - E(X)^2 = 5.4 - 0^2 = 5.4$$

i. Simulate 10000 values from this distribution and plot the density.

This is tricky since we need a cube root function. Just raising to the one-third power won't work. Let's write our own function.

```
cuberoot <- function(x) {
  sign(x) * abs(x)^(1/3)}

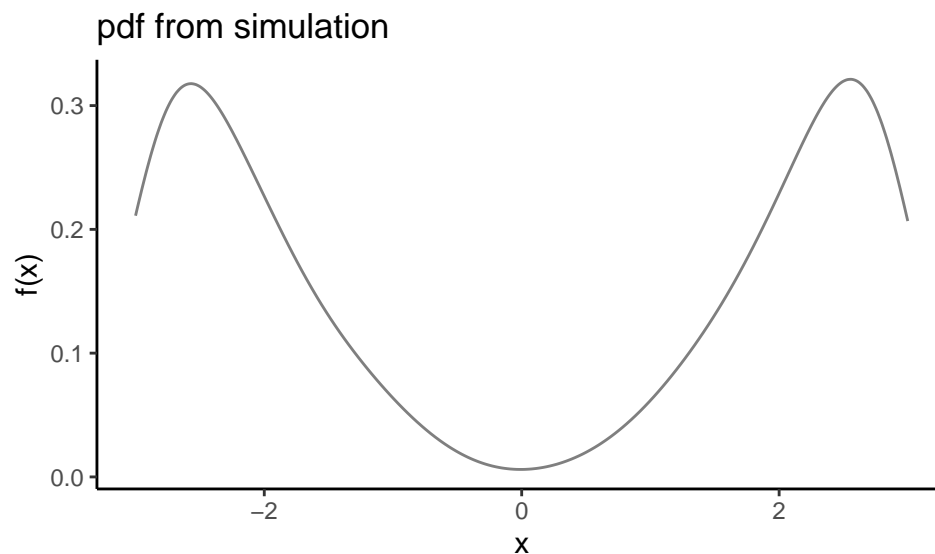
```

```
set.seed(4)
results <- do(10000)*cuberoot((runif(1)-.5)*54)

```

```
results %>%
  gf_dens(~cuberoot) %>%
  gf_theme(theme_classic()) %>%
  gf_labs(title="pdf from simulation",x="x",y="f(x)")

```



Notice that the smoothing operation goes past the support of X and thus shows a concave down curve. We could clean up by limiting the x-axis to the interval $[-3,3]$.

```
inspect(results)

```

```
##
## quantitative variables:
##      name      class      min      Q1      median      Q3      max
## ...1 cuberoot numeric -2.999981 -2.382864 -0.1574198 2.376346 2.999347
##      mean      sd      n missing
## ...1 -0.002416475 2.322639 10000      0

```

2. Let X be a continuous random variable. Prove that the cdf of X , $F_X(x)$ is a non-decreasing function. (Hint: show that for any $a < b$, $F_X(a) \leq F_X(b)$.)

Let $a < b$, where a and b are both in the domain of X . Note that $F_X(a) = P(X \leq a)$ and $F_X(b) = P(X \leq b)$. Since $a < b$, we can partition $P(X \leq b)$ as $P(X \leq a) + P(a < X \leq b)$. One of the axioms of probability is that a probability must be non-negative, so I know that $P(a < X \leq b) \geq 0$. Thus,

$$P(X \leq b) = P(X \leq a) + P(a < X \leq b) \geq P(X \leq a)$$

So, we have shown that $F_X(a) \leq F_X(b)$. Thus, $F_X(x)$ is a non-decreasing function.

File Creation Information

- File creation date: 2020-09-28
- R version 3.6.3 (2020-02-29)
- `mosaic` package version: 1.7.0
- `tidyverse` package version: 1.3.0
- `mosaicCalc` package version: 0.5.1