

Case 3: X and Y are continuous

If X is continuous, then $P(X=x) = 0$

$$F_Y(y|x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} F_Y(y|x < X \leq x+h) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{P(Y \leq y, x < X \leq x+h)}{P(x < X \leq x+h)}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left[\int_{-\infty}^y \int_x^{x+h} f_{XY}(\varepsilon, \tau) d\varepsilon d\tau / \int_x^{x+h} f_X(\varepsilon) d\varepsilon \right] \approx \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\int_x^{x+h} f_{XY}(\varepsilon, y) d\varepsilon \cdot h}{f_X(x) \cdot h} = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^y f_{XY}(\varepsilon, y) d\varepsilon}{f_X(x)}$$

$$f_Y(y|x) = \frac{d}{dy} F_Y(y|x) = \frac{f_{XY}(x, y)}{f_X(x)}$$

Note that, if X and Y are independent, then $f_Y(y|x) = \frac{f_X(x)f_Y(y)}{f_X(x)} = f_Y(y)$

Total Probability

$$P(Y \in B | X = x_j) = F_Y(y_n | x_j)$$

We saw that $P(Y \in B | X = x_j) = \sum_{y_n \in B} p_Y(y_n | x_j)$. What if we want to find $P(Y \in B)$?

$$P(Y \in B) = \sum_j \sum_{y_n \in B} p_{XY}(x_j, y_n) = \sum_j \sum_{y_n \in B} p_Y(y_n | x_j) p_X(x_j) = \sum_j p_X(x_j) \sum_{y_n \in B} p_Y(y_n | x_j) = \sum_j P(Y \in B | X = x_j) p_X(x_j)$$

If X and Y are continuous, then $P(Y \in B | X = x) = \int_B f_Y(y|x) dy$

If we integrate over all possible outcomes of X, then we have

$$P(Y \in B) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P(Y \in B | X = x) f_X(x) dx$$

Bayes Rule

We have determined that $f_Y(y|x) = \frac{f_{XY}(x, y)}{f_X(x)}$, therefore, $f_{XY}(x, y) = f_Y(y|x)f_X(x) = f_X(x|y)f_Y(y)$

We can state Bayes rule as following:

$$f_Y(y|x) = \frac{f_{XY}(x, y)f_Y(y)}{f_X(x)}$$

example: Let X and Y be two RVs with joint PDF $f_{XY}(x, y) = \begin{cases} x^2/4 + y^2/4 + xy/6 & 0 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq y \leq 2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ Given that $Y=y$ and $0 \leq y \leq 2$

a) Find the conditional PDF of X

$$f_X(x|y) = \frac{f_{XY}(x, y)}{f_Y(y)}$$

Find the marginal PDF of Y: $f_Y(y) = \int_0^1 x^2/4 + y^2/4 + xy/6 dx = \frac{3y^2 + y + 1}{12}$

$$\text{Therefore, } f_X(x|y) = \begin{cases} \frac{3x^2 + 3y^2 + 2xy}{3y^2 + y + 1} & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

b). Find $P(X < \frac{1}{2} | Y=y)$

$$\text{From part a), we have } P(X < \frac{1}{2} | Y=y) = \int_0^{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{3x^2 + 3y^2 + 2xy}{3y^2 + y + 1} dx = \frac{1}{3y^2 + y + 1} [x^3 + 3xy^2 + x^2y]_0^{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{\frac{1}{8} + \frac{3}{2}y^2 + \frac{1}{2}y}{3y^2 + y + 1}$$

By our own design, $P(X < \frac{1}{2} | Y=y)$ depends on y.