

4. RANDOM VECTORS AND THEIR DISTRIBUTION

Sometimes a single random variable is not enough to describe the outcomes of a random experiments. For example, to record the height and weight of every person in a certain community, we need a pair (x, y) , where the components respectively represents the height and weight of a particular individuals. In many cases it is necessary to consider the joint behavior of two or more random variables.

Definition 4.1 (n -dimensional random vector). Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be n real random variables defined on a given probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$. The function $\mathbf{X} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ defined by

$$\mathbf{X}(\omega) := (X_1(\omega), X_2(\omega), \dots, X_n(\omega))$$

is called an n -dimensional random vector.

Let \mathbf{X} be a n -dimensional random vector defined on a probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$. Then the function $P_{\mathbf{X}}$ on $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ defined by

$$P_{\mathbf{X}}(B) = \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{X} \in B), \quad B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^n)$$

is a probability measure on $(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^n))$. This is called distribution of \mathbf{X} .

Definition 4.2 (Joint cumulative distribution function (joint cdf)). Let $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ be an n -dimensional random vector. The function $F_{(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [0, 1]$ defined by

$$F_{(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \mathbb{P}(X_1 \leq x_1, X_2 \leq x_2, \dots, X_n \leq x_n)$$

is called the joint cumulative distribution function (joint cdf) of the random variables X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n .

Marginal cumulative distribution function (marginal cdf): In the following, we consider $n = 2$, and the same results will hold for $n > 2$. Let X and Y be two random variables with joint cdf $F_{(X, Y)}$. One can find the cdf of X and Y from the joint cdf $F_{(X, Y)}$. Indeed

$$F_X(x) = \mathbb{P}(X \leq x) = \mathbb{P}(\cup_y \{X \leq x, Y \leq y\}) = \lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(X \leq x, Y \leq y) = \lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} F_{(X, Y)}(x, y)$$

Similarly, we also have

$$F_Y(y) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} F_{(X, Y)}(x, y).$$

The distribution functions F_X and F_Y are sometimes referred to as **marginal cdf** of X and Y . One can easily show that joint cdf is nondecreasing and right continuous on each of its arguments. Moreover, for any $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ with $x_1 \leq x_2$ and $y_1 \leq y_2$, set

$$A := \{x \leq x_2, y \leq y_2\}, \quad B = \{x \leq x_1, y \leq y_2\}, \quad C = \{x \leq x_2, y \leq y_1\}, \quad D = \{x \leq x_1, y \leq y_1\}.$$

Observe that

$$K_1 := \{x_1 < x \leq x_2, y \leq y_1\} = C \setminus D \implies P_{\mathbf{X}}(K_1) = P_{\mathbf{X}}(C) - P_{\mathbf{X}}(D)$$

$$K_2 := \{x_1 < x \leq x_2, y_1 < y \leq y_2\} = A \setminus B \implies P_{\mathbf{X}}(K_2) = P_{\mathbf{X}}(A) - P_{\mathbf{X}}(B).$$

Since $K_2 \setminus K_1 = \{x_1 < x \leq x_2, y_1 < y \leq y_2\}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq P_{\mathbf{X}}(\{x_1 < x \leq x_2, y_1 < y \leq y_2\}) = P_{\mathbf{X}}(K_2) - P_{\mathbf{X}}(K_1) \\ &= P_{\mathbf{X}}(A) - P_{\mathbf{X}}(B) - (P_{\mathbf{X}}(C) - P_{\mathbf{X}}(D)) \\ &= F_{(X, Y)}(x_2, y_2) + F_{(X, Y)}(x_1, y_1) - F_{(X, Y)}(x_1, y_2) - F_{(X, Y)}(x_2, y_1). \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 4.1. A function $F : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is a joint cdf of some two dimensional random vector if and only if it satisfies the following conditions:

- a) F is nondecreasing and right continuous with respect to each arguments.
- b) $\lim_{y \rightarrow -\infty} F(x, y) = 0 = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} F(x, y)$ and $\lim_{(x, y) \rightarrow (\infty, \infty)} F(x, y) = 1$.

c) For any $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ with $x_1 \leq x_2$ and $y_1 \leq y_2$,

$$F(x_2, y_2) + F(x_1, y_1) - F(x_1, y_2) - F(x_2, y_1) \geq 0.$$

Example 4.1. The function $F : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [0, 1]$ given by

$$F(x, y) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < 0, \text{ or } y < 0, \text{ or } x + y < 1, \\ 1, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

is NOT a joint cdf of any two dimensional random vector. If so, then

$$0 \leq \mathbb{P}\left(\frac{1}{3} < X \leq 1, \frac{1}{3} < Y \leq 1\right) = F(1, 1) + F\left(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3}\right) - F\left(1, \frac{1}{3}\right) - F\left(\frac{1}{3}, 1\right) = 1 + 0 - 1 - 1 = -1 < 0.$$

Definition 4.3 (Discrete random vector). A random vector $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ is said to be discrete if the random variables X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are all discrete i.e., there exists a countable set $E \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{X} \in E) = 1$.

Definition 4.4 (Joint probability mass function). Let \mathbf{X} be a discrete random vector. The function $p_{\mathbf{X}} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [0, 1]$ defined by

$$p_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}), & \text{if } \mathbf{x} \text{ belongs to the image of } \mathbf{X} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

is called joint probability mass function (joint pmf) of \mathbf{X} .

Marginal pmf: Let X and Y be two discrete random variable with joint pmf $p_{(X,Y)}$. Then we can compute pmf of X and Y in terms of $p_{(X,Y)}$ as follows:

$$p_X(x) = \mathbb{P}(X = x) = \mathbb{P}\left(\bigcup_y \{X = x, Y = y\}\right) = \sum_y \mathbb{P}(X = x, Y = y) = \sum_y p_{(X,Y)}(x, y)$$

$$p_Y(y) = \mathbb{P}(Y = y) = \mathbb{P}\left(\bigcup_x \{X = x, Y = y\}\right) = \sum_x \mathbb{P}(X = x, Y = y) = \sum_x p_{(X,Y)}(x, y).$$

p_X and p_Y sometimes are referred as **marginal pmf** of X and Y .

Example 4.2. A fair coin is tossed three times. Let X be the number of heads in three tossing, and let Y denotes the difference between number of heads and number of tails in absolute value. Then $X \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ and $Y \in \{1, 3\}$. In this case, $\Omega = \{H, T\}^3$. We define $\mathbb{P}(A) = \frac{|A|}{8}$. Thus, for example

$$\mathbb{P}(X = 1, Y = 1) = \mathbb{P}(\{HTT, THT, TTH\}) = \frac{3}{8}, \quad \mathbb{P}(X = 2, Y = 1) = \mathbb{P}(\{HHT, HTH, THH\}) = \frac{3}{8}.$$

The joint pmf and the marginal pmf are given in the following table:

Like in one variable case, joint cdf can be determined in terms of joint pmf. Indeed, since image of (X, Y) is the countable set $E = \{(x_i, y_j) : i = 0, 1, \dots, j = 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$, we see that, for any $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$

$$F_{(X,Y)}(x, y) = \mathbb{P}(X \leq x, Y \leq y) = \sum_{x_i \leq x, y_i \leq y} \mathbb{P}(X = x_i, Y = y_i) = \sum_{x_i \leq x, y_i \leq y} p_{(X,Y)}(x_i, y_i).$$

Example 4.3. A fair die is rolled and a fair coin is tossed independently. Let X be the face value of the die and let

$$Y = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if tail turns up} \\ 1, & \text{if head turns up} \end{cases}$$

$Y \backslash X$	0	1	2	3	$P(Y=y)$
1	0	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	0	$\frac{6}{8}$
3	$\frac{1}{8}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{2}{8}$
$P(X=x)$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	1

FIGURE 1. Joint pmf and Marginal pmf

where the joint pmf of X and Y are given by

$$p_{(X,Y)}(x,y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{12}, & \text{if } (x,y) \text{ is image of } (X,Y) \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Find the joint cdf of X and Y .

Solution: Observe that $X \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ and $Y \in \{0, 1\}$. By using the relation $F_{(X,Y)}(x,y) = \sum_{x_i \leq x, y_i \leq y} p_{(X,Y)}(x_i, y_i)$, we have

$$F_{(X,Y)}(x,y) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < 1, -\infty < y < \infty; \quad -\infty < x < \infty, y < 0 \\ \frac{1}{12}, & 1 \leq x < 2, 0 \leq y < 1 \\ \frac{1}{6}, & 2 \leq x < 3, 0 \leq y < 1; \quad 1 \leq x < 2, y \geq 1 \\ \frac{1}{4}, & 3 \leq x < 4, 0 \leq y < 1 \\ \frac{1}{3}, & 4 \leq x < 5, 0 \leq y < 1; \quad 2 \leq x < 3, y \geq 1 \\ \frac{5}{12}, & 5 \leq x < 6, 0 \leq y < 1 \\ \frac{1}{2}, & 6 \leq x, 0 \leq y < 1; \quad 3 \leq x < 4, y \geq 1 \\ \frac{2}{3}, & 4 \leq x < 5, y \geq 1 \\ 1, & x \geq 6, y \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

Definition 4.5. We say that X and Y are jointly continuous if there exists a nonnegative function $f_{(X,Y)}(\cdot, \cdot)$ defined for all real x and y , having the property that, for every Borel set $C \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^2)$ such that

$$\mathbb{P}((X,Y) \in C) = \iint_{(x,y) \in C} f_{(X,Y)}(x,y) dx dy.$$

The function $f_{(X,Y)}(\cdot, \cdot)$ is called the joint probability density function (joint pdf) of X and Y .

Take $C = \{(x,y) : x \in A, y \in B\}$ where $A, B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$. Then we have

$$\mathbb{P}(X \in A, Y \in B) = \int_B \int_A f_{(X,Y)}(x,y) dx dy.$$

Thus, we have

$$F_{(X,Y)}(a,b) = \mathbb{P}(X \in (-\infty, a], Y \in (-\infty, b]) = \int_{-\infty}^b \int_{-\infty}^a f_{(X,Y)}(x,y) dx dy$$

$$\implies f_{(X,Y)}(a,b) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x \partial y} F_{(X,Y)}(a,b) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y \partial x} F_{(X,Y)}(a,b).$$

Take

$$f_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{(X,Y)}(x,y) dy, \quad f_Y(y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{(X,Y)}(x,y) dx.$$

Then $f_X \geq 0$ and $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) dx = 1$. Same holds for $f_Y(\cdot)$. Moreover, for any $A, B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(X \in A) &= \mathbb{P}(X \in A, Y \in (-\infty, \infty)) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_A f_{(X,Y)}(x,y) dx dy = \int_A f_X(x) dx \\ \mathbb{P}(Y \in B) &= \mathbb{P}(X \in (-\infty, \infty), Y \in B) = \int_B \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{(X,Y)}(x,y) dx dy = \int_B f_Y(y) dy. \end{aligned}$$

The functions $f_X(\cdot)$ and $f_Y(\cdot)$ are referred as **marginal probability density function (marginal pdf)** of X and Y .

Example 4.4. The joint pdf of X and Y is given by

$$f_{(X,Y)}(x,y) = \begin{cases} 2e^{-x}e^{-2y}, & x > 0, y > 0 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Then compute: i) $\mathbb{P}(X > 1, Y < 1)$, ii) $\mathbb{P}(X > Y)$, iii) $\mathbb{P}(X < a)$.

Solution: Note that $\mathbb{P}(X > 1, Y < 1) = \mathbb{P}(X \in A, Y \in B)$ where $A = (1, \infty)$, $B = (-\infty, 1)$.

Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(X > 1, Y < 1) &= \int_{-\infty}^1 \int_1^{\infty} f_{(X,Y)}(x,y) dx dy = \int_0^1 \int_1^{\infty} 2e^{-x}e^{-2y} dx dy = \int_0^1 2e^{-2y} [-e^{-x}]_1^{\infty} dy \\ &= e^{-1} \int_0^1 2e^{-2y} dy = e^{-1}(1 - e^{-2}). \end{aligned}$$

For ii), we proceed as follows:

$$\mathbb{P}(X < Y) = \iint_{(x,y): x < y} 2e^{-x}e^{-2y} dx dy = 2 \int_0^{\infty} \int_0^y e^{-x}e^{-2y} dx dy = \int_0^{\infty} 2e^{-2y}(1 - e^{-y}) dy = \frac{1}{3}.$$

Observe that $\mathbb{P}(X < a) = \mathbb{P}(X \in A)$ where $A = (-\infty, a)$. Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(X < a) &= \int_{-\infty}^a f_X(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^a \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{(X,Y)}(x,y) dy \right) dx \\ &= \int_0^a \left(\int_0^{\infty} 2e^{-2y}e^{-x} dy \right) dx = \int_0^a e^{-x} dx = 1 - e^{-a}. \end{aligned}$$

4.1. Independent random variables: Recall that $E, F \in \mathcal{F}$ are independent if $\mathbb{P}(E \cap F) = \mathbb{P}(E)\mathbb{P}(F)$. Let X and Y be two given random variables. For any $A, B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$, $E = \{X \in A\}$ and $F = \{Y \in B\}$ are elements of \mathcal{F} . We can examine whether E and F are independent events or not.

Definition 4.6 (Independent random variables). Let X and Y be two real-valued random variable defined on $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$. We say that X and Y are independent if for any $A, B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$

$$\mathbb{P}(X \in A, Y \in B) = \mathbb{P}(X \in A)\mathbb{P}(Y \in B). \quad (4.1)$$

Taking $A = (-\infty, x]$ and $B = (-\infty, y]$, we see that condition of independence (4.1) is equivalent to

$$\mathbb{P}(X \leq x, Y \leq y) = \mathbb{P}(X \leq x)\mathbb{P}(Y \leq y) \text{ i.e., } F_{(X,Y)}(x,y) = F_X(x)F_Y(y) \quad \forall x, y.$$

When X and Y are discrete random variables, the condition (4.1) is equivalent to

$$p_{(X,Y)}(x, y) = p_X(x)p_Y(y) \quad \forall x, y.$$

Indeed, taking $A = \{x\}$ and $B = \{y\}$, we have

$$\mathbb{P}(X = x, Y = y) = \mathbb{P}(X = x)\mathbb{P}(Y = y) \text{ i.e., } p_{(X,Y)}(x, y) = p_X(x)p_Y(y).$$

Conversely, let $p_{(X,Y)}(x, y) = p_X(x)p_Y(y)$. For any $A, B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(X \in A, Y \in B) &= \sum_{y \in B} \sum_{x \in A} p_{(X,Y)}(x, y) = \sum_{y \in B} \sum_{x \in A} p_X(x)p_Y(y) \\ &= \sum_{x \in A} p_X(x) \sum_{y \in B} p_Y(y) = \mathbb{P}(X \in A)\mathbb{P}(Y \in B). \end{aligned}$$

In the jointly continuous case, the condition of independence is equivalent to

$$f_{(X,Y)}(x, y) = f_X(x)f_Y(y) \quad \forall x, y.$$

Theorem 4.2. *Let X and Y be independent random variables. Then for any Borel measurable functions f and g , the random variables $f(X)$ and $g(Y)$ are independent.*

Proof. We need to show that, for any $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$,

$$\mathbb{P}(f(X) \leq x, g(Y) \leq y) = \mathbb{P}(f(X) \leq x)\mathbb{P}(g(Y) \leq y).$$

Indeed, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(f(X) \leq x, g(Y) \leq y) &= \mathbb{P}(X \in f^{-1}(-\infty, x], Y \in g^{-1}(-\infty, y]) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(X \in f^{-1}(-\infty, x])\mathbb{P}(Y \in g^{-1}(-\infty, y]) = \mathbb{P}(f(X) \leq x)\mathbb{P}(g(Y) \leq y), \end{aligned}$$

where in the second equality, we have used that X and Y are independent. This completes the proof. \square

A necessary and sufficient condition for the random variables X and Y to be independent is given in the following theorem.

Theorem 4.3. *The continuous (discrete) random variables X and Y are independent if and only iff their joint pdf (pmf) can be expressed as*

$$f_{(X,Y)}(x, y) = h(x)g(y), \quad -\infty < x < \infty, -\infty < y < \infty.$$

The concept of independence can be generalised for n random variables as follows: X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are said to be independent if for any $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$

$$\mathbb{P}(X_1 \in A_1, X_2 \in A_2, \dots, X_n \in A_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbb{P}(X_i \in A_i)$$

which is equivalent to

$$F_{(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n F_{X_i}(x_i).$$

We say that an infinite collection of random variables is independent if every finite sub-collection is independent.

Definition 4.7. We say that two random variables X and Y are independent and identically distributed, in short **i.i.d.**, random variables if

- a) X and Y are independent
- b) X and Y have same distribution i.e., $\mathbb{P}(X \in A) = \mathbb{P}(Y \in A)$ for any $A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$.

If X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are n independent random variables, then X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k , $k \leq n$ are also independent. Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(X_1 \in A_1, X_2 \in A_2, \dots, X_k \in A_k) &= \mathbb{P}(X_1 \in A_1, X_2 \in A_2, \dots, X_k \in A_k, X_{k+1} \in \mathbb{R}, \dots, X_n \in \mathbb{R}) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbb{P}(X_i \in A_i) \quad \text{where } A_i = \mathbb{R} \text{ for } i = k+1, k+2, \dots, n \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^k \mathbb{P}(X_i \in A_i). \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, we have the following theorem.

Theorem 4.4. *Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are n independent random variables. Let Y be a random variable defined in terms of X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k and Z be another random variable defined in terms of $X_{k+1}, X_{k+2}, \dots, X_n$ where $1 \leq k \leq n$. Then Y and Z are independent.*

Example 4.5. *Let X_1, X_2, X_3 and X_4 are independent random variables. Then $Y = X_1X_2 + X_3$ and $Z = e^{X_4}$ are independent, and hence*

$$\mathbb{E}[e^{X_4}(X_1X_2 + X_3)] = \mathbb{E}[e^{X_4}]\mathbb{E}[X_3] + \mathbb{E}[e^{X_4}]\mathbb{E}[X_1]\mathbb{E}[X_2].$$

Example 4.6. *Let X and Y be independent random variables with pdf given by*

$$f_X(x) = \frac{x^2}{9} \mathbf{1}_{(0,3)}(x), \quad f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{y^2} \mathbf{1}_{(1,\infty)}(y).$$

Find $\mathbb{P}(XY > 1)$.

Solution: *Since X and Y are independent, their joint pdf is given by*

$$f_{(X,Y)}(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^2}{9y^2}, & 0 < x < 3, y > 1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Hence, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(XY > 1) &= \int_1^\infty \int_{\frac{1}{y}}^3 \frac{x^2}{9y^2} dx dy = \int_1^\infty \frac{1}{27y^2} [27 - \frac{1}{y^3}] dy \\ &= \int_1^\infty \frac{1}{y^2} dy - \frac{1}{27} \int_1^\infty \frac{1}{y^5} dy = 1 - \frac{1}{108} \approx 0.99074. \end{aligned}$$

Sum of independent random variables: Let X and Y be two independent random variables. Let $Z = X + Y$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} F_Z(a) &= \mathbb{P}(X + Y \leq a) = \iint_{x+y \leq a} f_{(X,Y)}(x, y) dx dy = \iint_{x+y \leq a} f_X(x) f_Y(y) dx dy \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^\infty \left(\int_{-\infty}^{a-y} f_X(x) dx \right) f_Y(y) dy = \int_{-\infty}^\infty F_X(a-y) f_Y(y) dy \\ &\implies f_Z(a) = \frac{d}{da} F_Z(a) = \int_{-\infty}^\infty f_X(a-y) f_Y(y) dy = f_X * f_Y(a) \end{aligned}$$

where $*$ is the convolution operation.

Example 4.7. *Let X and Y be two independent random variables with pdf f_X and f_Y given by*

$$f_X(a) = f_Y(a) = \begin{cases} 1, & 0 < a < 1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Then find the pdf of $X + Y$.

Solution: We have $f_{X+Y}(x) = \int_0^1 f_X(x-y) dy$. We evaluate this integral for different values of x . Observe that, if $x < 0$ or $x \geq 2$, $f_X(x-y) = 0$ for all $y \in (0, 1)$ and hence $f_{X+Y}(x) = 0$.

Case 1: $0 \leq x \leq 1$: Then $f_{X+Y}(x) = \int_0^x dy = x$.

Case 2: $1 \leq x \leq 2$: Then $f_{X+Y}(x) = \int_{x-1}^1 dy = 2 - x$.

Thus, we obtain

$$f_{X+Y}(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 < x; \quad x \geq 2 \\ x, & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 2 - x, & 1 < x < 2. \end{cases}$$

Example 4.8. Let X and Y be two independent Poisson random variables with parameter λ_1 and λ_2 . Then find the distribution of $X + Y$.

Solution: Note that the event $\{X + Y = n\}$ may be written as union of disjoint events: $\{X = k, Y = n - k\}$, $0 \leq k \leq n$. Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(X + Y = n) &= \sum_{k=0}^n \mathbb{P}(X = k, Y = n - k) = \sum_{k=0}^n \mathbb{P}(X = k) \mathbb{P}(Y = n - k) = \sum_{k=0}^n e^{-\lambda_1} \frac{\lambda_1^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda_2} \frac{\lambda_2^{n-k}}{(n-k)!} \\ &= \frac{e^{-(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)}}{n!} \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} \lambda_1^k \lambda_2^{n-k} = \frac{e^{-(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)}}{n!} (\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^n = e^{-(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)} \frac{(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^n}{n!}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $X + Y$ has a Poisson distribution with parameter $(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)$. We can generalise it to any finite sum of independent Poisson random variables.

Lemma 4.5. If X and Y are independent then

$$\mathbb{E}[XY] = \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y].$$

Proof. Suppose X and Y are jointly continuous with joint pdf $f_{(X,Y)}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[XY] &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xy f_{(X,Y)}(x, y) dx dy = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xy f_X(x) f_Y(y) dx dy \\ &= \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_X(x) dx \right) \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y f_Y(y) dy \right) = \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y]. \end{aligned}$$

□

Converse of this lemma does not hold in general. To see this, let X be continuous random variable with pdf

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}, & -1 < x < 1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Take $Y = X^2$. Then clearly X and Y are NOT independent, but observe that

$$\mathbb{E}[XY] = \mathbb{E}[X^3] = 0, \quad \mathbb{E}[X] = 0, \quad \mathbb{E}[Y] = \mathbb{E}[X^2] = \frac{1}{3} \implies \mathbb{E}[XY] = 0 = \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y].$$

4.2. Moment generating function of sum of independent random variables: Let X and Y be two independent random variables with moment generating function $m_X(t)$ and $m_Y(t)$. Then the moment generating function of $X + Y$ can be calculated as follows:

$$m_{X+Y}(t) = \mathbb{E}[e^{t(X+Y)}] = \mathbb{E}[e^{tX} e^{tY}].$$

Since X and Y are independent, the random variables e^{tX} and e^{tY} are independent and hence

$$m_{X+Y}(t) = \mathbb{E}[e^{tX} e^{tY}] = \mathbb{E}[e^{tX}] \mathbb{E}[e^{tY}] = m_X(t) m_Y(t).$$

Example 4.9. Let X and Y be two independent binomial random variables with parameters (n, p) and (m, p) respectively. Find the distribution of $X + Y$.

Solution: We have seen that moment generating function of a binomial (n, p) random variable is $m_X(t) = (pe^t + 1 - p)^n$. The mgf of $X + Y$ is

$$m_{X+Y}(t) = m_X(t)m_Y(t) = (pe^t + 1 - p)^n(pe^t + 1 - p)^m = (pe^t + 1 - p)^{n+m}.$$

This shows that $X + Y$ is again a binomial random variable with parameters $(m + n)$ and p . Similarly, if X_i are independent binomial random variables with parameters (n_i, p) for $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$, then $\sum_{i=1}^N X_i$ is binomial random variable with parameters $(\sum_{i=1}^N n_i, p)$.

4.3. Characteristic function of sum of independent random variables: Let X and Y be two independent random variables with characteristic $\phi_X(t)$ and $\phi_Y(t)$ respectively. Then the characteristic function of $X + Y$ is

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_{X+Y} &= \mathbb{E}[e^{it(X+Y)}] = \mathbb{E}[e^{itX} e^{itY}] = \mathbb{E}[\{\cos(tX) + i \sin(tX)\} \cdot \{\cos(tY) + i \sin(tY)\}] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[\cos(tX)]\mathbb{E}[\cos(tY)] - \mathbb{E}[\sin(tX)]\mathbb{E}[\sin(tY)] \\ &\quad + i \left\{ \mathbb{E}[\sin(tX)]\mathbb{E}[\cos(tY)] + \mathbb{E}[\cos(tX)]\mathbb{E}[\sin(tY)] \right\} \\ &= \{\mathbb{E}[\cos(tX)] + i \mathbb{E}[\sin(tX)]\} \cdot \{\mathbb{E}[\cos(tY)] + i \mathbb{E}[\sin(tY)]\} = \phi_X(t)\phi_Y(t).\end{aligned}$$

Example 4.10. Suppose $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ and $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(\nu, \tau^2)$ such that X and Y are independent. Then $X + Y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu + \nu, \sigma^2 + \tau^2)$. Indeed,

$$\phi_{X+Y}(t) = \phi_X(t)\phi_Y(t) = e^{i\mu t - \frac{t^2\sigma^2}{2}} e^{i\nu t - \frac{t^2\tau^2}{2}} = e^{it(\mu+\nu) - \frac{t^2(\sigma^2+\tau^2)}{2}}$$

which is the characteristic function of a normal $\mathcal{N}(\mu + \nu, \sigma^2 + \tau^2)$. Similarly, if $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_i, \sigma_i^2)$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ and they are independent, then $\sum_{i=1}^N X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\sum_{i=1}^N \mu_i, \sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_i^2)$.

4.4. Joint probability distribution of functions of random variables: Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be random variables and $g: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a measurable function such that $Y = g(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ is a real-valued random variable. Then

$$\mathbb{P}(Y \leq y) = \mathbb{P}(g(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) \leq y)$$

$$= \begin{cases} \sum_{\{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n): g(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \leq y\}} \mathbb{P}(X_1 = x_1, X_2 = x_2, \dots, X_n = x_n) & \text{discrete case} \\ \iint_{\{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n): g(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \leq y\}} f_{(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) dx_1 dx_2 \dots dx_n & \text{continuous case} \end{cases}$$

where in the continuous case, $f_{(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)}(\cdot)$ is the joint density function of the n random variables X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n .

Example 4.11. Let (X_1, X_2) be a two dimensional random vector with joint pdf given by

$$f_{(X_1, X_2)}(x_1, x_2) = \begin{cases} 2, & 0 \leq x_1 \leq x_2 \leq 1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

What is the pdf of $X_1 + X_2$?

Solution: Let $Y = X_1 + X_2$. Observe that for $y < 0$, $\mathbb{P}(Y \leq y) = 0$ and for $y > 2$, $\mathbb{P}(Y \leq y) = 1$. Let $0 \leq y \leq 1$. Then

$$\mathbb{P}(Y \leq y) = \int_{x_1=0}^{\frac{y}{2}} \int_{x_2=x_1}^{y-x_1} 2dx_2 dx_1 = 2 \int_0^{\frac{y}{2}} (y - 2x_1) dx_1 = \frac{y^2}{2}.$$

Let $1 < y \leq 2$. Then

$$\mathbb{P}(Y \leq y) = \int_{x_1=0}^{y-1} \int_{x_2=x_1}^2 2dx_2 dx_1 + \int_{x_1=y-1}^{\frac{y}{2}} \int_{x_2=x_1}^{y-x_1} 2dx_2 dx_1 = -\frac{y^2}{2} + 2y - 1$$

Hence, we have

$$F_Y(y) = \begin{cases} 0 & y < 0 \\ \frac{y^2}{2} & 0 \leq y \leq 1 \\ -\frac{y^2}{2} + 2y - 1 & 1 < y \leq 2 \\ 0 & y > 2. \end{cases}$$

Hence the density function of Y is given by

$$f_Y(y) = \begin{cases} y & 0 \leq y \leq 1 \\ 2 - y & 1 < y \leq 2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Let $f_{(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)}(\cdot)$ be a given joint density function of the n random variables X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n . We want to find joint density function of Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n , where $Y_i = g_i(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$, $i \leq i \leq n$. Assume that the functions g_i have continuous partial derivatives and that the Jacobian determinant

$$J(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_n} \\ \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial x_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \cdots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial g_n}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial g_n}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial g_n}{\partial x_n} \end{vmatrix} \neq 0$$

at all points (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) . Further we assume that the equations $y_i = g_i(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ have a unique solution, say $x_i = h_i(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$. Then the joint density function of Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n , is given by

$$f_{(Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n)}(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n) = f_{(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) |J(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)|^{-1}$$

where $x_i = h_i(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

Example 4.12. Let X_1 and X_2 be two independent standard normal random variables. Find the joint density function of Y_1 and Y_2 where

$$Y_1 = X_1 + X_2, \quad Y_2 = X_1 - X_2.$$

Solution: Let $g_1(x_1, x_2) = x_1 + x_2$ and $g_2(x_1, x_2) = x_1 - x_2$. Then

$$J(x_1, x_2) = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = -2 \neq 0.$$

Moreover, the equations $y_1 = x_1 + x_2$ and $y_2 = x_1 - x_2$ have unique solution given by

$$x_1 = \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2}, \quad x_2 = \frac{y_1 - y_2}{2}.$$

Observe that, due to independence, the joint density function of X_1 and X_2 is given by

$$f_{(X_1, X_2)}(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{2\pi} e^{-\frac{x_1^2 + x_2^2}{2}}.$$

Thus, the joint density function of Y_1 and Y_2 is

$$f_{(Y_1, Y_2)}(y_1, y_2) = \frac{f_{(X_1, X_2)}\left(\frac{y_1 + y_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 - y_2}{2}\right)}{2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} e^{-\frac{y_1^2}{4}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} e^{-\frac{y_2^2}{4}}.$$

Let $g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a Borel measurable function and X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are given random variables. If (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) is discrete type and

$$\sum_{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n} |g(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)| \mathbb{P}(X_1 = x_1, X_2 = x_2, \dots, X_n = x_n) < +\infty$$

then the expected value of $Y = g(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ is given by

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)] = \sum_{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n} g(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \mathbb{P}(X_1 = x_1, X_2 = x_2, \dots, X_n = x_n).$$

If (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) is of continuous type with joint density function $f_{(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)}(\cdot, \cdot, \dots, \cdot)$ and

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \dots \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |g(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)| f_{(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \prod_{i=1}^n dx_i < +\infty$$

then the expected value of $Y = g(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ is given by

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \dots \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) f_{(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \prod_{i=1}^n dx_i.$$

Example 4.13. An accident occurs at a point X that is uniformly distributed on a road of length L . At the time of the accident, an ambulance is at a location Y that is also uniformly distributed on the road. Assuming that X and Y are independent, find the expected distance between the ambulance and the point of the accident.

Solution: We need to compute $\mathbb{E}[|X - Y|]$. Let $g(x, y) = |x - y|$. Then g is continuous on \mathbb{R}^2 and hence $|X - Y|$ is a random variable. Due to independence, the joint density function of X and Y is given by

$$f_{(X, Y)}(x, y) = \frac{1}{L^2}, \quad 0 < x < L, \quad 0 < y < L.$$

Therefore,

$$\mathbb{E}[|X - Y|] = \frac{1}{L^2} \int_0^L \int_0^L |x - y| dy dx.$$

Observe that

$$\int_0^L |x - y| dy = \int_0^x (x - y) dy + \int_x^L (y - x) dy = \frac{L^2}{2} + x^2 - xL.$$

Hence, we have

$$\mathbb{E}[|X - Y|] = \frac{1}{L^2} \int_0^L \left(\frac{L^2}{2} + x^2 - xL \right) dx = \frac{L}{3}.$$

4.5. Conditional expectation and its properties: Recall that for any events E and F , $\mathbb{P}(E|F) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(E \cap F)}{\mathbb{P}(F)}$ provided $\mathbb{P}(F) > 0$. Let X and Y be jointly discrete random variables. Then we define the conditional probability mass function (conditional pmf) of X given that $Y = y$, denoted by $p_{X|Y}(x|y)$

$$p_{X|Y}(x|y) := \mathbb{P}(X = x|Y = y) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(X = x, Y = y)}{\mathbb{P}(Y = y)} = \frac{p_{(X, Y)}(x, y)}{p_Y(y)}$$

for all y such that $p_Y(y) > 0$. The conditional distribution function of X given that $Y = y$ is defined, for all y such that $p_Y(y) > 0$, by

$$F_{X|Y}(x|y) := \mathbb{P}(X \leq x|Y = y) = \sum_{a \leq x} p_{X|Y}(a|y).$$

Remark 4.1. If X is independent of Y , then $p_{X|Y}(x|y) = \mathbb{P}(X = x)$. Indeed

$$p_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(X = x, Y = y)}{\mathbb{P}(Y = y)} = \frac{\mathbb{P}(X = x)\mathbb{P}(Y = y)}{\mathbb{P}(Y = y)} = \mathbb{P}(X = x).$$

Example 4.14. Let X and Y be two discrete random variables such that their joint pmf is given by

$$p_{(X,Y)}(0,0) = 0.4, \quad p_{(X,Y)}(0,1) = 0.2, \quad p_{(X,Y)}(1,0) = 0.1, \quad p_{(X,Y)}(1,1) = 0.3.$$

Find $\mathbb{P}(X = i|Y = 1)$ and $\mathbb{P}(X = i|Y = 0)$.

Solution: First note that

$$p_Y(0) = \sum_{i=0}^1 p_{(X,Y)}(i,0) = 0.4 + 0.1 = 0.5, \quad p_Y(1) = \sum_{i=0}^1 p_{(X,Y)}(i,1) = 0.2 + 0.3 = 0.5.$$

Hence, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(X = i|Y = 1) &= \frac{p_{(X,Y)}(i,1)}{p_Y(1)} = \begin{cases} \frac{2}{5}, & i = 0 \\ \frac{3}{5}, & i = 1. \end{cases} \\ \mathbb{P}(X = i|Y = 0) &= \frac{p_{(X,Y)}(i,0)}{p_Y(0)} = \begin{cases} \frac{4}{5}, & i = 0 \\ \frac{1}{5}, & i = 1. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Example 4.15. Let X and Y be two independent real-valued random variables such that $X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_1)$ and $Y \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_2)$. Calculate the conditional distribution of X given that $X+Y = n$.

Solution: We first calculate the conditional pmf of X given that $X + Y = n$. We have

$$p_{X|X+Y}(k|n) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(X = k, X + Y = n)}{\mathbb{P}(X + Y = n)} = \frac{\mathbb{P}(X = k, Y = n - k)}{\mathbb{P}(X + Y = n)} = \frac{\mathbb{P}(X = k)\mathbb{P}(Y = n - k)}{\mathbb{P}(X + Y = n)}$$

Since X and Y are independent, $X + Y \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)$. Hence we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} p_{X|X+Y}(k|n) &= e^{-\lambda_1} \frac{\lambda_1^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda_2} \frac{\lambda_2^{n-k}}{(n-k)!} \left(e^{-(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)} \frac{(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^n}{n!} \right)^{-1} \\ &= \binom{n}{k} \left(\frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2} \right)^k \left(\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2} \right)^{n-k}. \end{aligned}$$

In other words, the conditional distribution of X given that $X+Y = n$ is the binomial distribution with parameters n and $\frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2}$.

4.5.1. Conditional distribution: continuous case: If X and Y are jointly continuous, then $\mathbb{P}(X = x) = 0 = \mathbb{P}(Y = y)$, and hence $\mathbb{P}(X \in B|Y = y)$ is not defined similar to discrete case. Let $\varepsilon > 0$, and suppose that $\mathbb{P}(Y \in (y - \varepsilon, y + \varepsilon]) > 0$. For every x and every interval $(y - \varepsilon, y + \varepsilon]$, consider the conditional probability of events $X \leq x$ given that $Y \in (y - \varepsilon, y + \varepsilon]$

$$\mathbb{P}(X \leq x|y - \varepsilon < Y \leq y + \varepsilon) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(X \leq x, y - \varepsilon < Y \leq y + \varepsilon)}{\mathbb{P}(y - \varepsilon < Y \leq y + \varepsilon)}.$$

Definition 4.8. The conditional cumulative distribution function (conditional cdf) of X given $Y = y$, denoted by $F_{X|Y}(x|y)$, is defined as the limit

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathbb{P}(X \leq x|y - \varepsilon < Y \leq y + \varepsilon)$$

provided the limit exists. The conditional density function of X , given $Y = y$, denoted as $f_{X|Y}(x|y)$, as a non-negative function satisfying

$$F_{X|Y}(x|y) = \int_{-\infty}^x f_{X|Y}(t|y) dt.$$

Let $f_{(X,Y)}(x,y)$ be the joint pdf of X and Y such that $f_{(X,Y)}(\cdot, \cdot)$ is continuous and the marginal pdf $f_Y(\cdot)$ is continuous. Let y be such that $f_Y(y) > 0$. Then we have

$$F_{X|Y}(x|y) = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\int_{-\infty}^x \int_{y-\varepsilon}^{y+\varepsilon} f_{(X,Y)}(t,u) du dt}{\int_{y-\varepsilon}^{y+\varepsilon} f_Y(u) du} = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^x f_{(X,Y)}(t,y) dt}{f_Y(y)} = \int_{-\infty}^x \frac{f_{(X,Y)}(t,y)}{f_Y(y)} dt$$

It follows that, there exists a conditional pdf of X , given $Y = y$, that is expressed by

$$f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{f_{(X,Y)}(x,y)}{f_Y(y)} \quad f_Y(y) > 0.$$

The use of conditional densities allows us to define conditional probabilities of events associated with one random variable when we are given the value of a second random variable. That is, if X and Y are jointly continuous, then, for any set A ,

$$\mathbb{P}(X \in A|Y = y) = \int_A f_{X|Y}(x|y) dx.$$

Example 4.16. Suppose that the joint density function of X and Y is given by

$$f_{(X,Y)}(x,y) = \begin{cases} \frac{e^{-\frac{x}{y}} e^{-y}}{y}, & 0 < x < \infty, 0 < y < \infty \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

Find $\mathbb{P}(X > 1|Y = y)$.

Solution: We need to find out the conditional density $f_{X|Y}(x|y)$. Observe that

$$f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{f_{(X,Y)}(x,y)}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{(X,Y)}(x,y) dx} = \frac{f_{(X,Y)}(x,y)}{e^{-y}} = \frac{1}{y} e^{-\frac{x}{y}}$$

and therefore

$$\mathbb{P}(X > 1|Y = y) = \int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{y} e^{-\frac{x}{y}} dx = e^{-\frac{1}{y}}.$$

4.5.2. Conditional expectation: Let X and Y be two given random variables. The conditional expectation of X , given $Y = y$, denoted as $\mathbb{E}[X|Y = y]$, is defined by

$$\mathbb{E}[X|Y = y] = \begin{cases} \sum x \mathbb{P}(X = x|Y = y), & \text{if } X \text{ and } Y \text{ are discrete and } p_Y(y) > 0, \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_{X|Y}(x|y) dx, & \text{if } X \text{ and } Y \text{ are continuous and } f_Y(y) > 0. \end{cases}$$

Example 4.17. If X and Y are independent binomial random variables with identical parameters n and p , calculate $\mathbb{E}[X|X + Y = m]$.

Solution: First we note that since X and Y are independent and $X, Y \sim \mathcal{B}(n, p)$, the sum of the random variable $X + Y$ is again binomial random variable with parameters $2n$ and p i.e., $X + Y \sim \mathcal{B}(2n, p)$. Now for $k \leq \min\{m, n\}$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(X = k|X + Y = m) &= \frac{\mathbb{P}(X = k, X + Y = m)}{\mathbb{P}(X + Y = m)} = \frac{\mathbb{P}(X = k, Y = m - k)}{\mathbb{P}(X + Y = m)} \\ &= \frac{\mathbb{P}(X = k) \mathbb{P}(Y = m - k)}{\mathbb{P}(X + Y = m)} = \frac{\binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} \binom{n}{m-k} p^{m-k} (1-p)^{n-m+k}}{\binom{2n}{m} p^m (1-p)^{2n-m}} \\ &= \frac{\binom{n}{k} \binom{n}{m-k}}{\binom{2n}{m}} \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\mathbb{E}[X|X+Y=m] = \sum_{k:k \leq \min\{m,n\}} k \mathbb{P}(X=k|X+Y=m) = \sum_{k:k \leq \min\{m,n\}} k \frac{\binom{n}{k} \binom{n}{m-k}}{\binom{2n}{m}} = \frac{m}{2}.$$

Example 4.18. Suppose that the joint density function of X and Y is given by

$$f_{(X,Y)}(x,y) = \begin{cases} \frac{e^{-\frac{x}{y}} e^{-y}}{y}, & 0 < x < \infty, 0 < y < \infty \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

Find $\mathbb{E}(X|Y=y)$.

Solution: We have already calculated conditional density $f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{1}{y} e^{-\frac{x}{y}}$; see Example 4.16. Hence the conditional distribution of X , given that $Y = y$, is just the exponential distribution with mean y . Thus, $\mathbb{E}(X|Y=y) = y$.

Remark 4.2. Let $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a Borel measurable function and X, Y, X_i $1 \leq i \leq n$ are given random variables. Then the following formulas remain valid:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[g(X)|Y=y] &= \begin{cases} \sum g(x) \mathbb{P}(X=x|Y=y), & \text{if } X \text{ and } Y \text{ are discrete,} \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) f_{X|Y}(x|y) dx, & \text{if } X \text{ and } Y \text{ are continuous} \end{cases} \\ \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i | Y=y\right] &= \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}[X_i | Y=y]. \end{aligned}$$

Definition 4.9. Let X and Y be real-valued random variables defined on $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ and $h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a Borel measurable function. Then the random variable $\mathbb{E}[h(X)|Y]$ defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[h(X)|Y] : \Omega &\rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ \omega &\mapsto \mathbb{E}[h(X)|Y=Y(\omega)] \end{aligned}$$

is called the conditional expectation of $h(X)$ given Y . That is $\mathbb{E}[h(X)|Y]$ is a random variable which takes value $\mathbb{E}[h(X)|Y=y]$.

An extremely important property of conditional expectations is given by the following proposition.

Proposition 4.6. Let X, Y and Z be real-valued random variables defined on $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ and $h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a Borel measurable function. If $\mathbb{E}[h(X)]$ exists then

$$\mathbb{E}[h(X)] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[h(X)|Y]].$$

Moreover, the followings hold:

- i) $\mathbb{E}[X|Y] \geq 0$ if $\mathbb{P}(X \geq 0) = 1$.
- ii) If X and Y are independent, then $\mathbb{E}[X|Y] = \mathbb{E}[X]$.
- iii) $\mathbb{E}[Xh(Y)|Y] = h(Y)\mathbb{E}[X|Y]$.
- iv) $\mathbb{E}[\alpha X + \beta Y|Z] = \alpha \mathbb{E}[X|Z] + \beta \mathbb{E}[Y|Z]$.

Proof. Let X and Y are discrete. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[h(X)|Y]] &= \sum_y \mathbb{E}[h(X)|Y=y] \mathbb{P}(Y=y) = \sum_y \sum_x h(x) \mathbb{P}(X=x|Y=y) \mathbb{P}(Y=y) \\ &= \sum_x h(x) \left(\sum_y \mathbb{P}(X=x, Y=y) \right) = \sum_x h(x) \mathbb{P}(X=x) = \mathbb{E}[h(X)]. \end{aligned}$$

If X and Y are continuous random variables with joint probability density function $f_{(X,Y)}$, then

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[h(X)|Y]] &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}[h(X)|Y=y] f_Y(y) dy = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(x) f_{(X,Y)}(x,y) dx \right) f_Y(y) dy \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(x) f_{(X,Y)}(x,y) dx dy = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(x) \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{(X,Y)}(x,y) dy \right) dx \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(x) f_X(x) dx = \mathbb{E}[h(X)].\end{aligned}$$

Proof of i)-iv) is left as exercise. \square

Example 4.19. Suppose that the number of people entering a department store on a given day is a random variable with mean 20. Suppose further that the amounts of money spent by these customers are independent random variables having a common mean of \$4. Finally, suppose also that the amount of money spent by a customer is also independent of the total number of customers who enter the store. What is the expected amount of money spent in the store on a given day ?

Solution: Let N be the number of customers enter the store on a given day and i th customer spent X_i amount of money. It is given that $\mathbb{E}[N] = 20$, $\mathbb{E}[X_i] = 4$ and N and X_i 's are independent. The total amount of money spent is $Y := \sum_{i=1}^N X_i$. We need to find $\mathbb{E}[Y]$. Conditioning on N , we have $\mathbb{E}[Y] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[Y|N]]$. Now

$$\mathbb{E}[Y|N=n] = \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i | N=n\right] = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}[X_i | N=n] = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}[X_i] = n\mathbb{E}[X]$$

where $\mathbb{E}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X_i]$. This implies that $\mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i | N\right] = N\mathbb{E}[X]$. Therefore, we have

$$\mathbb{E}[Y] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[Y|N]] = \mathbb{E}[N\mathbb{E}[X]] = \mathbb{E}[N]\mathbb{E}[X] = \$80.$$

The expected amount of money spent in the store on a given day is \$80.

4.6. Covariance, variance of sums, correlations and conditional variance:

Definition 4.10. The covariance between two random variables X and Y , denoted by $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$, is defined by

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = \mathbb{E}\left[(X - \mathbb{E}[X])(Y - \mathbb{E}[Y])\right] = \mathbb{E}[XY] - \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y].$$

Proposition 4.7 (Properties of covariance). *The followings hold:*

- i) $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = \text{Cov}(Y, X)$ and $\text{Cov}(X, X) = \text{Var}(X)$.
- ii) $\text{Cov}(aX + b, Y) = a\text{Cov}(X, Y)$ for any $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$.
- iii) $\text{Cov}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i, \sum_{j=1}^m Y_j\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \text{Cov}(X_i, Y_j)$.
- iv) $\text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i) + \sum \sum_{i \neq j} \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j)$.

Proof. i) follows from the definition. To prove ii), we use linearity of expectation and have

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Cov}(aX + b, Y) &= \mathbb{E}\left[(aX + b - a\mathbb{E}[X] - b)(Y - \mathbb{E}[Y])\right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}\left[a(X - \mathbb{E}[X])(Y - \mathbb{E}[Y])\right] = a\text{Cov}(X, Y).\end{aligned}$$

Proof of iii): Let $\mu_i = \mathbb{E}[X_i]$ and $\gamma_j = \mathbb{E}[Y_j]$. Then $\mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right] = \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i$ and $\mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{j=1}^m Y_j\right] = \sum_{j=1}^m \gamma_j$. Using these, we have

$$\text{Cov}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i, \sum_{j=1}^m Y_j\right) = \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu_i) \sum_{j=1}^m (Y_j - \gamma_j)\right] = \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m (X_i - \mu_i)(Y_j - \gamma_j)\right]$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \mathbb{E}[(X_i - \mu_i)(Y_j - \gamma_j)] = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \text{Cov}(X_i, Y_j),$$

where we have used the fact that the expected value of a sum of random variables is equal to sum of the expected values.

Proof of iv): In view of i), ii) and iii), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right) &= \text{Cov}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i, \sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i) + \sum_{i \neq j} \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j). \end{aligned}$$

□

Remark 4.3. If X and Y are independent, then $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$. However, the converse is NOT true in general. For example, consider a random variable X satisfying

$$\mathbb{P}(X = 0) = \mathbb{P}(X = 1) = \mathbb{P}(X = -1) = \frac{1}{3}$$

and Y given by

$$Y = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } X \neq 0 \\ 1, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Observe that $XY = 0$ and $\mathbb{E}[X] = 0$. Therefore, $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$. However X and Y are clearly not independent.

In view of iv), we see that, if X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are pairwise independent, then

$$\text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i).$$

Example 4.20. Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be **i.i.d** random variables with $\mu = \mathbb{E}[X_i]$ and $\sigma^2 = \text{Var}(X_i)$. Find $\text{Var}(\bar{X})$ and $\mathbb{E}[S^2]$ where

$$\bar{X} := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i, \quad S^2 := \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2.$$

\bar{X} is called sample mean and S^2 is called sample variance.

Solution: Since the expected value of a sum of random variables is equal to sum of the expected values, we see that $\mathbb{E}[\bar{X}] = \mu$. By using property of variance and independence of X_i 's, we get

$$\text{Var}(\bar{X}) = \frac{1}{n^2} \text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right) = \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i) = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}.$$

To find $\mathbb{E}[S^2]$, we start with the following identity:

$$\begin{aligned} (n-1)S^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \left\{ (X_i - \mu)^2 + (\bar{X} - \mu)^2 - 2(\bar{X} - \mu)(X_i - \mu) \right\} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 + n(\bar{X} - \mu)^2 - 2n(\bar{X} - \mu) \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{X_i - \mu}{n} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 - n(\bar{X} - \mu)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Taking expectation, we have

$$(n-1)\mathbb{E}[S^2] = \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 - n(\bar{X} - \mu)^2\right] = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i) - n\text{Var}(\bar{X}) = n\sigma^2 - n\frac{\sigma^2}{n} = (n-1)\sigma^2 \\ \implies \mathbb{E}[S^2] = \sigma^2.$$

We now prove one of the important inequality in probability theory, called Cauchy-Schwartz inequality.

Theorem 4.8 (Cauchy-Schwartz inequality). *For random variables X and Y with $\mathbb{E}[X^2] < +\infty, \mathbb{E}[Y^2] < +\infty$, one has*

$$|\mathbb{E}[XY]|^2 \leq \mathbb{E}[X^2]\mathbb{E}[Y^2].$$

The equality holds if and only if there are real constants a and b , not both simultaneously zero, such that

$$\mathbb{P}(aX + bY = 0) = 1.$$

Proof. Let $\alpha = \mathbb{E}[Y^2]$ and $\beta = -\mathbb{E}[XY]$. Then $\alpha \geq 0$. For $\alpha = 0$, given the result holds. Let $\alpha > 0$. Thanks to linearity of expectation, we have

$$0 \leq \mathbb{E}\left[(\alpha X + \beta Y)^2\right] = \alpha^2\mathbb{E}[X^2] + \beta^2\mathbb{E}[Y^2] + 2\alpha\beta\mathbb{E}[XY] \\ = \alpha\mathbb{E}[Y^2]\mathbb{E}[X^2] + \alpha(-\mathbb{E}[XY])^2 + 2\alpha(-\mathbb{E}[XY])\mathbb{E}[XY] = \alpha\left(\mathbb{E}[Y^2]\mathbb{E}[X^2] - (\mathbb{E}[XY])^2\right).$$

Since $\alpha > 0$, the assertion follows from the above inequality.

Note that if $\mathbb{E}[Y^2]\mathbb{E}[X^2] = (\mathbb{E}[XY])^2$, then $\mathbb{E}[(\alpha X + \beta Y)^2] = 0$ and therefore we have $\mathbb{P}(\alpha X + \beta Y = 0) = 1$. If $\alpha > 0$, take $a = \alpha$ and $\beta = b$. If $\alpha = 0$, take $a = 0$ and $b = 1$. Conversely, let $\mathbb{P}(aX + bY = 0) = 1$ with $a \neq 0$. Then with probability 1, $X = -\frac{b}{a}Y$. In this case, one can easily show the equality in the assertion. This completes the proof. \square

Remark 4.4. Replacing X by $|X|$ and Y by $|Y|$ in the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality, we get

$$\mathbb{E}[|XY|] \leq \sqrt{\mathbb{E}[X^2]}\sqrt{\mathbb{E}[Y^2]}. \quad (4.2)$$

Inequality (4.2) is also known as Cauchy-Schwartz inequality. Again, replacing X by $X - \mathbb{E}[X]$ and Y by $Y - \mathbb{E}[Y]$ in (4.2), we get the bound of the covariance of X and Y .

$$|\text{Cov}(X, Y)| \leq \mathbb{E}\left[|(X - \mathbb{E}[X])(Y - \mathbb{E}[Y])|\right] \leq \sqrt{\text{Var}(X)}\sqrt{\text{Var}(Y)}.$$

4.6.1. Correlation coefficient.

Definition 4.11 (Correlation). The correlation(coefficient) of two random variables X and Y , denoted by $\rho(X, Y)$, is defined by

$$\rho(X, Y) = \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_X \sigma_Y}$$

where σ_X and σ_Y are standard deviation of X and Y respectively.

If $\rho(X, Y) = 0$, then X and Y are said to be **uncorrelated**.

Lemma 4.9. *The correlation coefficient of X and Y has the following bound:*

$$-1 \leq \rho(X, Y) \leq 1.$$

Proof. Let σ_X and σ_Y are standard deviation of X and Y respectively. We have

$$0 \leq \text{Var}\left(\frac{X}{\sigma_X} \pm \frac{Y}{\sigma_Y}\right) = \text{Var}\left(\frac{X}{\sigma_X}\right) + \text{Var}\left(\frac{Y}{\sigma_Y}\right) \pm 2\text{Cov}\left(\frac{X}{\sigma_X}, \frac{Y}{\sigma_Y}\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{1}{\sigma_X^2} \text{Var}(X) + \frac{1}{\sigma_Y^2} \text{Var}(Y) \pm 2 \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_X \sigma_Y} = 2(1 \pm \rho(X, Y)) \\
&\implies -1 \leq \rho(X, Y) \leq 1.
\end{aligned}$$

□

Remark 4.5. Let $\rho(X, Y) = -1$. Then following the proof of Lemma 4.9, we see that $1 - \rho(X, Y) = \frac{1}{2} \text{Var}\left(\frac{X}{\sigma_X} - \frac{Y}{\sigma_Y}\right)$ and therefore, in this case, $\text{Var}\left(\frac{X}{\sigma_X} - \frac{Y}{\sigma_Y}\right) = 0$. Hence, with probability 1, $\frac{X}{\sigma_X} - \frac{Y}{\sigma_Y}$ is constant. Therefore, there exists $a \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $Y = bX + a$ where $b = \frac{\sigma_Y}{\sigma_X} > 0$. Similarly, if $\rho(X, Y) = 1$, then with probability 1, $Y = bX + a$ for some $a \in \mathbb{R}$ with $b = -\frac{\sigma_Y}{\sigma_X} < 0$.

Converse part is also true i.e., if $Y = bX + a$, then $\rho(X, Y)$ is either 1 or -1 depending on the sign of b .

The correlation coefficient is a measure of the degree of linearity between X and Y . A value of $\rho(X, Y)$ near 1 or -1 indicates a high degree of linearity between X and Y , whereas a value near 0 indicates that such linearity is absent. A positive value of $\rho(X, Y)$ indicates that Y tends to increase when X does, whereas a negative value indicates that Y tends to decrease when X increases.

Example 4.21. Let X and Y be random variables with mean 0, variance 1 and correlation coefficient ρ . Show that

$$\mathbb{E}[\max\{X^2, Y^2\}] \leq 1 + \sqrt{1 - \rho^2}.$$

Solution: We know that for any $u, v \in \mathbb{R}$, $\max\{u, v\} = \frac{1}{2}(u + v + |u - v|)$. Thus, by using Cauchy-Schwartz inequality along with the given condition, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}[\max\{X^2, Y^2\}] &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\mathbb{E}[X^2] + \mathbb{E}[Y^2] + \mathbb{E}[|(X - Y)(X + Y)|] \right) \\
&\leq 1 + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\mathbb{E}[(X - Y)^2] \mathbb{E}[(X + Y)^2]} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{(2 + 2\mathbb{E}[XY])(2 - 2\mathbb{E}[XY])} \\
&= 1 + \sqrt{1 - (\mathbb{E}[XY])^2}.
\end{aligned}$$

Note that, since mean is zero and variance is 1 for both X and Y , one has

$$\mathbb{E}[XY] = \text{Cov}(X, Y) = \rho(X, Y) = \rho.$$

Thus the assertion follows.

4.6.2. Conditional variance.

Definition 4.12 (Conditional variance). Let X and Y be real-valued random variables defined on $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ with $\mathbb{E}[X^2]$ is finite. The conditional variance of X given Y , denoted as $\text{Var}(X|Y)$, is defined by

$$\text{Var}(X|Y) := \mathbb{E}\left[(X - \mathbb{E}[X|Y])^2 | Y\right].$$

Note that $\text{Var}(X|Y)$ is a random variable which takes the value $\text{Var}(X|Y = y)$. In view of the properties of conditional expectation, we see that

$$\text{Var}(X|Y) = \mathbb{E}[X^2|Y] - (\mathbb{E}[X|Y])^2.$$

There is a very useful relationship between $\text{Var}(X)$, and $\text{Var}(X|Y)$ which can often be applied to compute $\text{Var}(X)$.

Lemma 4.10. Let X and Y be real-valued random variables defined on $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ with $\mathbb{E}[X^2]$ is finite. Then

$$\text{Var}(X) = \mathbb{E}[\text{Var}(X|Y)] + \text{Var}(\mathbb{E}[X|Y]).$$

Proof. Since $\text{Var}(X|Y) = \mathbb{E}[X^2|Y] - (\mathbb{E}[X|Y])^2$, one has, by using properties of conditional expectation

$$\mathbb{E}[\text{Var}(X|Y)] = \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mathbb{E}[(\mathbb{E}[X|Y])^2]. \quad (4.3)$$

On the other hand,

$$\text{Var}(\mathbb{E}[X|Y]) = \mathbb{E}[(\mathbb{E}[X|Y])^2] - (\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X|Y]])^2 = \mathbb{E}[(\mathbb{E}[X|Y])^2] - (\mathbb{E}[X])^2. \quad (4.4)$$

Hence the assertion follows from (4.3) and (4.4). \square

Example 4.22. Let X_1, X_2, \dots be a sequence of independent and identically distributed random variables, and let N be a nonnegative integer-valued random variable that is independent of the sequence X_i , $i \geq 1$. Compute $\text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^N X_i\right)$.

Solution: We have already seen that $\mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i|N\right] = N\mathbb{E}[X]$ where $\mathbb{E}[X_i] = \mathbb{E}[X]$. For

given N , $\sum_{i=1}^N X_i$ is just the sum of fixed number of independent random variables and hence

$\text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^N X_i|N\right) = N\text{Var}(X)$, where $\text{Var}(X) = \text{Var}(X_i)$. Hence, from the conditional variance formula, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^N X_i\right) &= \mathbb{E}\left[\text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^N X_i|N\right)\right] + \text{Var}\left(\mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i|N\right]\right) \\ &= \mathbb{E}[N\text{Var}(X)] + \text{Var}(N\mathbb{E}[X]) \\ &= \mathbb{E}[N]\text{Var}(X) + (\mathbb{E}[X])^2\text{Var}(N). \end{aligned}$$