Function of Random Variables- Derived Distributions

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5. Functions of a Random Variable

Let X be a r.v defined on the model (Ω, F, P) , and suppose g(x) is a function of the variable x. Define

$$Y = g(X). (5-1)$$

Is Y necessarily a r.v? If so what is its PDF $F_Y(y)$, pdf $f_Y(y)$?

Clearly if Y is a r.v, then for every Borel set B, the set of for which must belong to F. Given that X is a r.v, this is assured if is also a Borel set, i.e., if g(x) is a Borel function. In that case if X is a r.v, so is Y, and for every Borel set B

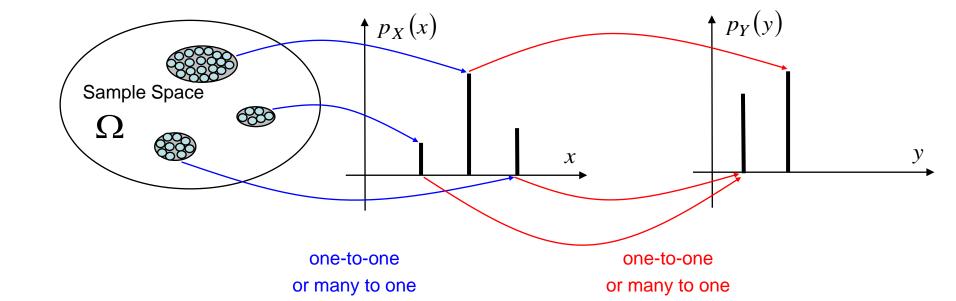
Functions of Random Variables (1/2)

• Given a random variable X, other random variables can be generated by applying various transformations on X

- Linear
$$Y = g(X) = aX + b$$

Daily temperature in degree Fahrenheit in degree Celsius

- Nonlinear
$$Y = g(X) = \log X$$



Functions of Random Variables (2/2)

- That is, if Y is an function of X(Y = g(X)), then Y is also a random variable
 - If X is discrete with PMF $p_X(x)$, then Y is also discrete and its PMF can be calculated using

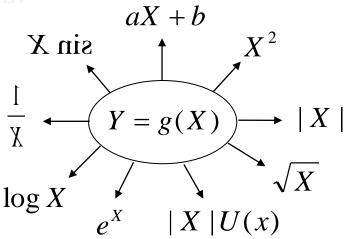
$$p_Y(y) = \sum_{\{x \mid g(x) = y\}} p_X(x)$$

In particular

$$F_Y(y) = P(Y(\xi) \le y) = P(g(X(\xi)) \le y) = P(X(\xi) \le g^{-1}(-\infty, y)).$$
 (5-3)

Thus the distribution function as well of the density function of Y can be determined in terms of that of X. To

obtain the distribution function of *Y*, we must determine the Borel set on the *x*-axis such that for every given *y*, and the probability of that set. At this point, we shall consider some of the following functions to illustrate the technical details.



5 11 A

Functions of Random Variables: An Example $p_Y(y) = \sum_{\{x \mid p(x) = y\}} p_X(x)$

$$p_{Y}(y) = \sum_{\{x \mid g(x)=y\}} p_{X}(x)$$

Example 2.1. Let Y = |X| and let us apply the preceding formula for the PMF p_Y to the case where

$$p_X(x) = \begin{cases} 1/9 & \text{if } x \text{ is an integer in the range } [-4,4], \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The possible values of Y are y = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4. To compute $p_Y(y)$ for some given value y from this range, we must add $p_X(x)$ over all values x such that |x| = y. In particular, there is only one value of X that corresponds to y = 0, namely x = 0. Thus,

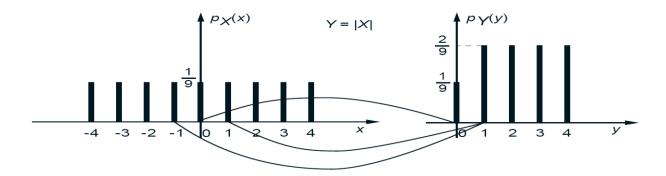
$$p_Y(0) = p_X(0) = \frac{1}{9}.$$

Also, there are two values of X that correspond to each y = 1, 2, 3, 4, so for example,

$$p_Y(1) = p_X(-1) + p_X(1) = \frac{2}{9}.$$

Thus, the PMF of Y is

$$p_Y(y) = \begin{cases} 2/9 & \text{if } y = 1, 2, 3, 4, \\ 1/9 & \text{if } y = 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



LOTUS: Law of the unconscious statistician

Special case: Calculate Expectation of g(X)Theorem: Suppose that g(X) is a function of a random variable X, & the probability mass function of X is $p_x(x)$. Then the expected value of g(X) is

$$E[g(X)] = \sum_{x} g(x) p_{x}(x)$$

- 1. the definition of expected value, &
- 2. the previous theorem.

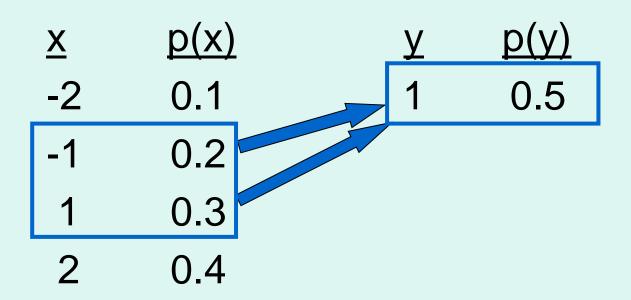
| X | <u>p(x)</u> | |
|---|-------------|--|
| | 0.4 | |

- -2 0.1
- -1 0.2
 - 1 0.3
- 2 0.4

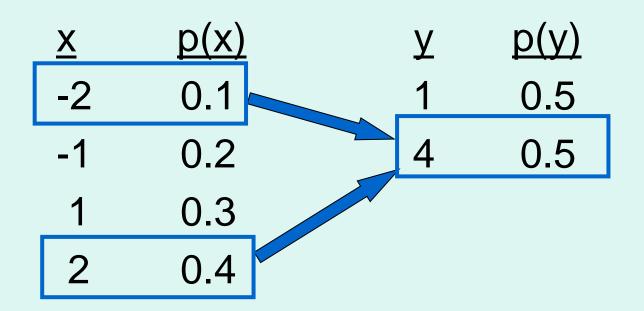
- 1. the definition of expected value, &
- 2. the previous theorem.

| <u>X</u> | <u>p(x)</u> | У | <u>p(y)</u> |
|----------|-------------|---|-------------|
| -2 | 0.1 | | |
| -1 | 0.2 | | |
| 1 | 0.3 | | |
| 2 | 0.4 | | |

- 1. the definition of expected value, &
- 2. the previous theorem.



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- 2. the previous theorem.

| <u>X</u> | <u>p(x)</u> | Ā | <u>p(y)</u> | <u>yp(y)</u> |
|----------|-------------|---|-------------|--------------|
| -2 | 0.1 | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| -1 | 0.2 | 4 | 0.5 | 2.0 |
| 1 | 0.3 | | | |
| 2 | 0.4 | | | |

- 1. the definition of expected value, &
- 2. the previous theorem.

| X | <u>p(x)</u> | Υ | <u>p(y)</u> | <u>yp(y)</u> |
|----|-------------|---|-------------|--------------|
| -2 | 0.1 | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| -1 | 0.2 | 4 | 0.5 | <u>2.0</u> |
| 1 | 0.3 | | E(Y) | = 2.5 |
| 2 | 0.4 | | | |

1. the definition of expected value, &

2. the previous theorem.

| <u>X</u> | <u>p(x)</u> | Ϋ́ |
|----------|-------------|----|
| -2 | 0.1 | 4 |
| -1 | 0.2 | 1 |
| 1 | 0.3 | 1 |
| 2 | 0.4 | 4 |

1. the definition of expected value, &

2. the previous theorem.

| X | <u>p(x)</u> | У | $yp_x(x)$ |
|----|-------------|---|-----------|
| -2 | 0.1 | 4 | 0.4 |
| -1 | 0.2 | 1 | 0.2 |
| 1 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.3 |
| 2 | 0.4 | 4 | 1.6 |

- 1. the definition of expected value, &
- 2. the previous theorem.

| <u>X</u> | <u>p(x)</u> | У | $yp_x(x)$ |
|----------|-------------|------|------------|
| -2 | 0.1 | 4 | 0.4 |
| -1 | 0.2 | 1 | 0.2 |
| 1 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.3 |
| 2 | 0.4 | 4 | <u>1.6</u> |
| | | E(Y) | = 2.5 |

Expectations for Functions of Random Variables

• Let X be a random variable with PMF P_X , and let g(X) be a function of X. Then, the expected value of the random variable g(X) is given by

$$\mathbf{E}[g(X)] = \sum_{x} g(x) p_X(x)$$

To verify the above rule

- Let
$$Y = g(X)$$
, and therefore $p_Y(y) = \sum_{\{x \mid g(x) = y\}} p_X(x)$

$$\mathbf{E}[g(X)] = \mathbf{E}[Y] = \sum_{y} y p_Y(y)$$

$$= \sum_{y} \sum_{\{x \mid g(x) = y\}} p_X(x) = \sum_{y} \sum_{\{x \mid g(x) = y\}} g(x) p_X(x)$$

$$= \sum_{x} g(x) p_X(x)$$

An Example

Example 2.3: For the random variable X with PMF

 $\operatorname{var}(X) = \mathbf{E}[Z] = \sum z p_Z(z) = \frac{60}{\Omega}$

$$p_X(x) = \begin{cases} 1/9, & \text{if } x \text{ is an integer in the range } [-4,4], \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbf{E}[X] = \sum_x x p_X(x) = \frac{1}{9} \sum_{x=-4}^4 x = 0$$

$$\text{var}(X) = \mathbf{E}[X] = \sum_x (x - \mathbf{E}[X])^2 = \sum_x (x - \mathbf{E}[X])^2 p_X(x) = \frac{1}{9} \sum_{x=-4}^4 x^2 = \frac{60}{9}$$

$$\text{Or, let } Z = (X - \mathbf{E}[X])^2 = X^2$$

$$\Rightarrow p_Z(z) = \begin{cases} 2/9, & \text{if } z = 1,4,9,16 \\ 1/9, & \text{if } z = 0 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

General case:

Now, we would like to find the distribution of Y=g(X)

Method 1

Example 5.1: Y = aX + b (5-4)

Solution: Suppose a > 0.

$$F_{Y}(y) = P(Y(\xi) \le y) = P(aX(\xi) + b \le y) = P(X(\xi) \le \frac{y - b}{a}) = F_{X}(\frac{y - b}{a}).$$
 (5-5)

and

$$f_{Y}(y) = \frac{1}{a} f_{X}\left(\frac{y-b}{a}\right). \tag{5-6}$$

On the other hand if a < 0, then

$$F_{Y}(y) = P(Y(\xi) \le y) = P(aX(\xi) + b \le y) = P\left(X(\xi) > \frac{y - b}{a}\right)$$

$$= 1 - F_{X}\left(\frac{y - b}{a}\right), \tag{5-7}$$

and hence

$$f_{Y}(y) = -\frac{1}{a} f_{X} \left(\frac{y - b}{a} \right). \tag{5-8}$$
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From (5-6) and (5-8), we obtain (for all a)

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{|a|} f_X\left(\frac{y-b}{a}\right). \tag{5-9}$$

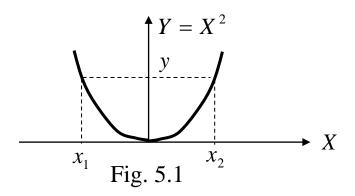
Example 5.2: $Y = X^2$. (5-10)

$$F_Y(y) = P(Y(\xi) \le y) = P(X^2(\xi) \le y).$$
 (5-11)

If y < 0, then the event $\{X^2(\xi) \le y\} = \phi$, and hence

$$F_{y}(y) = 0, \quad y < 0.$$
 (5-12)

For y > 0, from Fig. 5.1, the event $\{Y(\xi) \le y\} = \{X^2(\xi) \le y\}$ is equivalent to $\{x_1 < X(\xi) \le x_2\}$.



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Hence

$$F_{Y}(y) = P(x_{1} < X(\xi) \le x_{2}) = F_{X}(x_{2}) - F_{X}(x_{1})$$

$$= F_{X}(\sqrt{y}) - F_{X}(-\sqrt{y}), \quad y > 0.$$
(5-13)

By direct differentiation, we get

$$f_Y(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{y}} \left(f_X(\sqrt{y}) + f_X(-\sqrt{y}) \right), & y > 0, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
 (5-14)

If $f_X(x)$ represents an even function, then (5-14) reduces to

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{y}} f_X(\sqrt{y}) U(y). \tag{5-15}$$

In particular if $X \sim N(0,1)$, so that

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2},$$
 (5-16)

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and substituting this into (5-14) or (5-15), we obtain the p.d.f of $Y = X^2$ to be (5-17)

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi y}} e^{-y/2} U(y).$$

On comparing this with (3-36), we notice that (5-17) represents a Chi-square r.v with n = 1, since $\Gamma(1/2) = \sqrt{\pi}$. Thus, if X is a Gaussian r.v with $\mu = 0$, then $Y = X^2$ represents a Chi-square r.v with one degree of freedom (n = 1).

https://www.statlect.com/probability-distributions/chi-square-distribution

Method 2

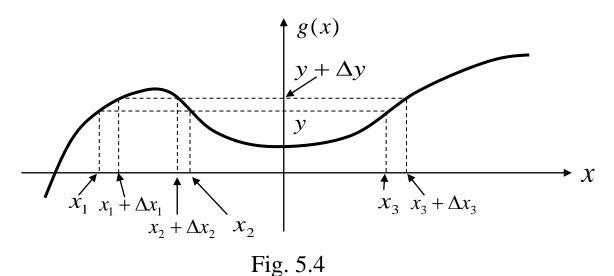
Note: As a general approach, given Y = g(X), first sketch the graph y = g(x), and determine the range space of y. Suppose a < y < b is the range space of y = g(x). Then clearly for y < a, $F_Y(y) = 0$, and for y > b, $F_Y(y) = 1$, so that $F_Y(y)$ can be nonzero only in a < y < b. Next, determine whether there are discontinuities in the range space of y. If so evaluate $P(Y(\xi) = y_i)$ at these discontinuities. In the continuous region of y, use the basic approach

$$F_{Y}(y) = P(g(X(\xi)) \le y)$$

and determine appropriate events in terms of the r.v X for every y. Finally, we must have $F_{y}(y)$ for $-\infty < y < +\infty$, and obtain

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{dF_Y(y)}{dy}$$
 in $a < y < b$.

However, if Y = g(X) is a continuous function, it is easy to establish a direct procedure to obtain $f_Y(y)$. A continuos function g(x) with g'(x) nonzero at all but a finite number of points, has only a finite number of maxima and minima, and it eventually becomes monotonic as $|x| \to \infty$. Consider a specific y on the y-axis, and a positive increment Δy as shown in Fig. 5.4



 $f_Y(y)$ for Y = g(X), where $g(\cdot)$ is of continuous type.

Using (3-28) we can write

$$P\{y < Y(\xi) \le y + \Delta y\} = \int_{y}^{y + \Delta y} f_{Y}(u) du \approx f_{Y}(y) \cdot \Delta y. \tag{5-26}$$

But the event $\{y < Y(\xi) \le y + \Delta y\}$ can be expressed in terms of $X(\xi)$ as well. To see this, referring back to Fig. 5.4, we notice that the equation y = g(x) has three solutions x_1, x_2, x_3 (for the specific y chosen there). As a result when $\{y < Y(\xi) \le y + \Delta y\}$, the r.v X could be in any one of the three mutually exclusive intervals

$$\{x_1 < X(\xi) \le x_1 + \Delta x_1\}, \{x_2 + \Delta x_2 < X(\xi) \le x_2\} \text{ or } \{x_3 < X(\xi) \le x_3 + \Delta x_3\}.$$

Hence the probability of the event in (5-26) is the sum of the probability of the above three events, i.e.,

$$P\{y < Y(\xi) \le y + \Delta y\} = P\{x_1 < X(\xi) \le x_1 + \Delta x_1\}$$

$$+ P\{x_2 + \Delta x_2 < X(\xi) \le x_2\} + P\{x_3 < X(\xi) \le x_3 + \Delta x_3\}.(5-27)_{27}$$
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For small Δy , Δx_i , making use of the approximation in (5-26), we get

$$f_Y(y)\Delta y = f_X(x_1)\Delta x_1 + f_X(x_2)(-\Delta x_2) + f_X(x_3)\Delta x_3.$$
 (5-28)

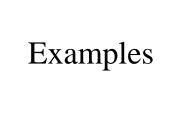
In this case, $\Delta x_1 > 0$, $\Delta x_2 < 0$ and $\Delta x_3 > 0$, so that (5-28) can be rewritten as

$$f_Y(y) = \sum_i f_X(x_i) \frac{|\Delta x_i|}{\Delta y} = \sum_i \frac{1}{|\Delta y/\Delta x_i|} f_X(x_i)$$
 (5-29)

and as $\Delta y \rightarrow 0$, (5-29) can be expressed as

$$f_Y(y) = \sum_{i} \frac{1}{|dy/dx|} f_X(x_i) = \sum_{i} \frac{1}{|g'(x_i)|} f_X(x_i).$$
 (5-30)

The summation index i in (5-30) depends on y, and for every y the equation $y = g(x_i)$ must be solved to obtain the total number of solutions at every y, and the actual solutions x_1, x_2, \cdots all in terms of y.



For example, if $Y = X^2$, then for all y > 0, $x_1 = -\sqrt{y}$ and $x_2 = +\sqrt{y}$ represent the two solutions for each y. Notice that the solutions x_i are all in terms of y so that the right side of (5-30) is only a function of y. Referring back to the example $Y = X^2$ (Example 5.2) here for each y > 0, there are two solutions given by $x_1 = -\sqrt{y}$ and $x_2 = +\sqrt{y}$. ($f_Y(y) = 0$ for y < 0).

Moreover

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x$$
 so that $\left| \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{x=x_i} = 2\sqrt{y}$

and using (5-30) we get

$$f_Y(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{y}} \left(f_X(\sqrt{y}) + f_X(-\sqrt{y}) \right), & y > 0, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise}, \end{cases}$$
 (5-31)

which agrees with (5-14).

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Example 5.5:
$$Y = \frac{1}{Y}$$
. Find $f_Y(y)$. (5-32)

Solution: Here for every y, $x_1 = 1/y$ is the only solution, and

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{1}{x^2}$$
 so that $\left| \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{x=x} = \frac{1}{1/y^2} = y^2$,

and substituting this into (5-30), we obtain

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{y^2} f_X(\frac{1}{y}).$$
 (5-33)

In particular, suppose X is a Cauchy r.v as in (3-39) with parameter α so that

$$f_X(x) = \frac{\alpha/\pi}{\alpha^2 + x^2}, \quad -\infty < x < +\infty. \tag{5-34}$$

In that case from (5-33), Y = 1/X has the p.d.f

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{y^2} \frac{\alpha/\pi}{\alpha^2 + (1/y)^2} = \frac{(1/\alpha)/\pi}{(1/\alpha)^2 + y^2}, \quad -\infty < y < +\infty.$$
 (5-35)

But (5-35) represents the p.d.f of a Cauchy r.v with parameter $1/\alpha$. Thus if $X \sim C(\alpha)$, then $1/X \sim C(1/\alpha)$.

Example 5.6: Suppose $f_X(x) = 2x/\pi^2$, $0 < x < \pi$, and $Y = \sin X$. Determine $f_Y(y)$.

Solution: Since X has zero probability of falling outside the interval $(0,\pi)$, $y = \sin x$ has zero probability of falling outside the interval (0,1). Clearly $f_{Y}(y) = 0$ outside this interval. For any 0 < y < 1, from Fig.5.6(b), the equation $y = \sin x$ has an infinite number of solutions $\dots, x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots$, where $x_1 = \sin^{-1} y$ is the principal solution. Moreover, using the symmetry we also get $x_2 = \pi - x_1$ etc. Further,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \cos x = \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 x} = \sqrt{1 - y^2}$$

so that

$$\left| \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{x=x_i} = \sqrt{1-y^2}.$$

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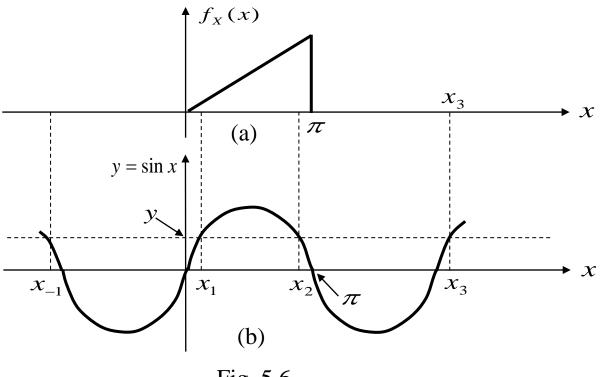


Fig. 5.6

Using this in (5-30), we obtain for 0 < y < 1,

$$f_Y(y) = \sum_{\substack{i = -\infty \\ i \neq 0}}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - y^2}} f_X(x_i).$$
 (5-36)

But from Fig. 5.6(a), in this case $f_X(x_{-1}) = f_X(x_3) = f_X(x_4) = \cdots = 0$ (Except for $f_X(x_1)$ and $f_X(x_2)$ the rest are all zeros).

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Thus (Fig. 5.7)

$$f_{Y}(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - y^{2}}} \left(f_{X}(x_{1}) + f_{X}(x_{2}) \right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - y^{2}}} \left(\frac{2x_{1}}{\pi^{2}} + \frac{2x_{2}}{\pi^{2}} \right)$$

$$= \frac{2(x_{1} + \pi - x_{1})}{\pi^{2} \sqrt{1 - y^{2}}} = \begin{cases} \frac{2}{\pi \sqrt{1 - y^{2}}}, & 0 < y < 1, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
(5-37)

Fig. 5.7

Example 5.7: Let $Y = \tan Y$ where $Y \sim H(-\pi/2, \pi/2)$

Example 5.7: Let $Y = \tan X$ where $X \sim U(-\pi/2, \pi/2)$.

Determine $f_Y(y)$.

Solution: As x moves from $(-\pi/2, \pi/2)$, y moves from $(-\infty, +\infty)$. From Fig.5.8(b), the function $y = \tan x$ is one-to-one for $-\pi/2 < x < \pi/2$. For any y, $x_1 = \tan^{-1} y$ is the principal

solution. Further

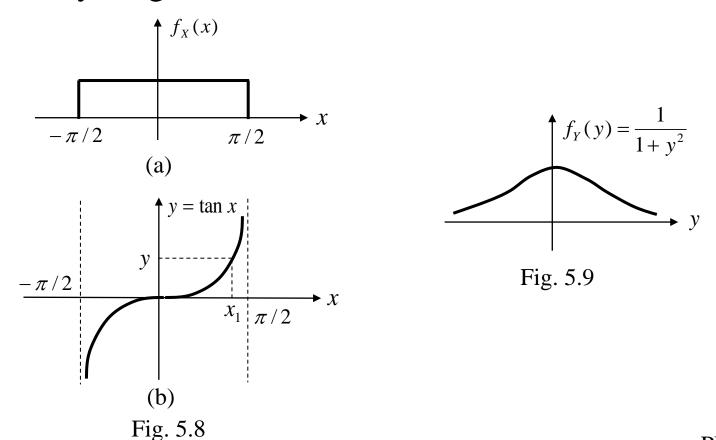
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d \tan x}{dx} = \sec^2 x = 1 + \tan^2 x = 1 + y^2$$

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so that using (5-30)

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{|dy/dx|_{x=x_1}} f_X(x_1) = \frac{1/\pi}{1+y^2}, \quad -\infty < y < +\infty,$$
 (5-38)

which represents a Cauchy density function with parameter equal to unity (Fig. 5.9).



Functions of a discrete-type r.v

Suppose X is a discrete-type r.v with

$$P(X = x_i) = p_i, \quad x = x_1, x_2, \dots, x_i, \dots$$
 (5-39)

and Y = g(X). Clearly Y is also of discrete-type, and when $x = x_i$, $y_i = g(x_i)$, and for those y_i

$$P(Y = y_i) = P(X = x_i) = p_i, \quad y = y_1, y_2, \dots, y_i, \dots$$
 (5-40)

Example 5.8: Suppose $X \sim P(\lambda)$, so that

$$P(X = k) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^k}{k!}, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$
 (5-41)

Define $Y = X^2 + 1$. Find the p.m.f of Y. Solution: X takes the values $0,1,2,\dots,k,\dots$ so that Y only takes the value $1, 2, 5, \dots, k^2 + 1, \dots$ and

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$$P(Y = k^2 + 1) = P(X = k)$$

so that for $j = k^2 + 1$

$$P(Y = j) = P\left(X = \sqrt{j-1}\right) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^{\sqrt{j-1}}}{(\sqrt{j-1})!}, \quad j = 1, 2, 5, \dots, k^2 + 1, \dots. (5-42)$$

Example 5.3: Let

In this case

$$P(Y=0) = P(-c < X(\xi) \le c) = F_X(c) - F_X(-c).$$
 (5-18)

For y > 0, we have x > c, and $Y(\xi) = X(\xi) - c$ so that $F_{v}(y) = P(Y(\xi) \le y) = P(X(\xi) - c \le y)$

$$= P(X(\xi) \le y + c) = F_X(y + c), \quad y > 0.$$
 (5-19)

Similarly y < 0, if x < -c, and $Y(\xi) = X(\xi) + c$ so that

$$F_{Y}(y) = P(Y(\xi) \le y) = P(X(\xi) + c \le y)$$

$$Y(y) = P(Y(\xi) \le y) = P(X(\xi) + c \le y)$$

(5-20)

 $f_{Y}(y) = \begin{cases} f_{X}(y+c), & y > 0, \\ [F_{X}(c) - F_{X}(-c)]\delta(y), \\ f_{X}(y-c), & y < 0. \end{cases}$ (b) Fig. 5.2

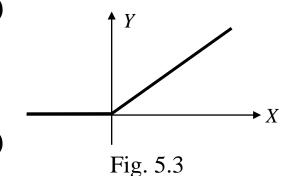
 $= P(X(\xi) \le y - c) = F_y(y - c), \quad y < 0.$

Example 5.4: Half-wave rectifier

$$Y = g(X); \quad g(x) = \begin{cases} x, & x > 0, \\ 0, & x \le 0. \end{cases}$$
 (5-22)

In this case

$$P(Y = 0) = P(X(\xi) \le 0) = F_X(0).$$
 (5-23)



and for y > 0, since Y = X,

$$F_Y(y) = P(Y(\xi) \le y) = P(X(\xi) \le y) = F_X(y).$$
 (5-24)

Thus

$$f_{Y}(y) = \begin{cases} f_{X}(y), & y > 0, \\ F_{X}(0)\delta(y) & y = 0, \\ 0, & y < 0, \end{cases} = f_{X}(y)U(y) + F_{X}(0)\delta(y). \quad (5-25)$$

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: 62 0 in-6 ROSS JVI-W Y1= & (x,, x2) جر المرابط المرابط المرابع المرابع المرابع المرابع المراب المرابع الم (か) (カート、(カリカン デアルク) ハニト、(カリカン シアルク) (カニト、(カリカン) - 1' por / vijo vijo vijo vijo (min) 10 i 10, 9,9, @ J(x,1 m2)= | 291 291 | 40 | 202 292 | 40 | 202 202 | 202 -1/2 - 1/2 (4,0%) (10/2) Sino Jois Fy, y2 (y, 192)= f (h, n2) | J(x, x2) | (x2 = h2 ())

· 1/201/100: - 61 page 442 ROSS First Course Probability 10th 2018 page 296 book Ross First Course Probability 10th Global Ed 2020 (x,1 x2)! 3.6 sin 63 poul, 1) J(n, 12) (5, $\frac{f(x)(y)}{f(x)} = \frac{de^{-dn}(Ax)}{f(x)} \times \frac{de^{-dy}(Ax)^{R-1}}{f(x)} = \frac{de^{-dn}(Ax)}{f(x)} \times \frac{de^{-dy}(Ax)^{R-1}}{f(x)} = \frac{de^{-dn}(Ax)}{f(x)} \times \frac{de^{-dx}(Ax)^{R-1}}{f(x)} \times \frac{$ if g(n,y)=n+y, g2(x,y)= n+y - then? $J(n,y) = \left| \frac{1}{(n+1)^2} - \frac{1}{(k+1)^2} \right| = -\frac{1}{n+1}$ $\frac{1}{1} \frac{1}{1} \frac{1}$ Fun (u,v)= fxy [uv, u(1-v)]u