

random variables

discreteprobability **mass** function

p.m.f.

$$p(x) = P(X = x)$$

$$\forall x \quad 0 \leq p(x) \leq 1$$

$$\sum_{\text{all } x} p(x) = 1$$

continuousprobability **density** function

p.d.f.

$$f(x)$$

$$\forall x \quad f(x) \geq 0$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = 1$$

cumulative distribution function

c.d.f.

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x)$$

$$F(x) = \sum_{y \leq x} p(y)$$

$$F(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(y) dy$$

expected value

$$E(X) = \mu_X$$

discrete

$$\text{If } \sum_{\text{all } x} |x| \cdot p(x) < \infty,$$

$$E(X) = \sum_{\text{all } x} x \cdot p(x)$$

continuous

$$\text{If } \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x| \cdot f(x) dx < \infty,$$

$$E(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot f(x) dx$$

discrete

$$\text{If } \sum_{\text{all } x} |g(x)| \cdot p(x) < \infty,$$

$$E(g(X)) = \sum_{\text{all } x} g(x) \cdot p(x)$$

continuous

$$\text{If } \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |g(x)| \cdot f(x) dx < \infty,$$

$$E(g(X)) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) \cdot f(x) dx$$

variance

$$\text{Var}(X) = \sigma_X^2 = E([X - \mu_X]^2) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2$$

discrete

$$\text{Var}(X) = \sum_{\text{all } x} (x - \mu_X)^2 \cdot p(x)$$

$$= \sum_{\text{all } x} x^2 \cdot p(x) - [E(X)]^2$$

continuous

$$\text{Var}(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu_X)^2 \cdot f(x) dx$$

$$= \left[ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot f(x) dx \right] - [E(X)]^2$$

moment-generating function

$$M_X(t) = E(e^{tX})$$

discrete

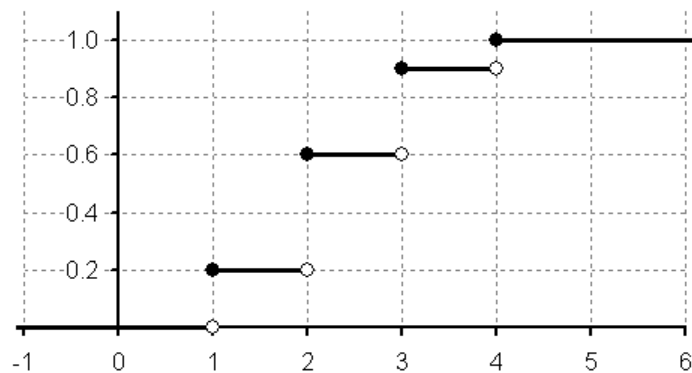
$$M_X(t) = \sum_{\text{all } x} e^{tx} \cdot p(x)$$

continuous

$$M_X(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tx} \cdot f(x) dx$$

Example 1:

$x$	$p(x)$	$F(x)$	$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 1 \\ 0.2 & 1 \leq x < 2 \\ 0.6 & 2 \leq x < 3 \\ 0.9 & 3 \leq x < 4 \\ 1 & x \geq 4 \end{cases}$
1	0.2	0.2	
2	0.4	0.6	
3	0.3	0.9	
4	0.1	1.0	



$x$	$p(x)$	$x \cdot p(x)$
1	0.2	0.2
2	0.4	0.8
3	0.3	0.9
4	0.1	0.4
		2.3

$$E(X) = \mu_X = 2.3.$$

$x$	$p(x)$	$x^2 \cdot p(x)$
1	0.2	0.2
2	0.4	1.6
3	0.3	2.7
4	0.1	1.6
		6.1

$$E(X^2) = 6.1$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = 6.1 - 2.3^2 = 0.81$$

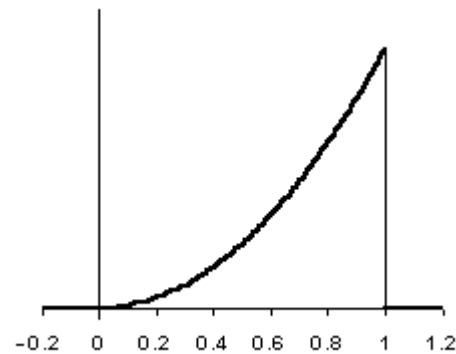
$$M_X(t) = E(e^{tX}) = 0.2 e^t + 0.4 e^{2t} + 0.3 e^{3t} + 0.1 e^{4t}$$

### Example 2:

Let  $X$  be a continuous random variable with the probability density function

$$f(x) = k \cdot x^2, \quad 0 < x < 1,$$

$$f(x) = 0, \quad \text{otherwise.}$$



- a) What must the value of  $k$  be so that  $f(x)$  is a probability density function?

1)  $f(x) \geq 0,$

2)  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = 1.$

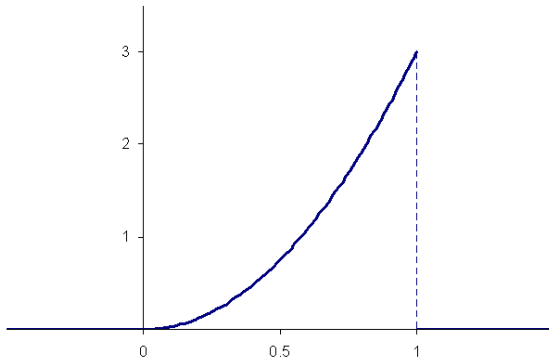
$$\begin{aligned}
 1 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = \int_0^1 k \cdot x^2 dx = k \cdot \int_0^1 x^2 dx \\
 &= k \cdot \left( \frac{x^3}{3} \right) \Big|_0^1 = k \cdot \left( \frac{1}{3} \right) = \frac{k}{3}. \quad \Rightarrow \quad k = \mathbf{3}.
 \end{aligned}$$

b) Find the cumulative distribution function  $F(x) = P(X \leq x)$ .

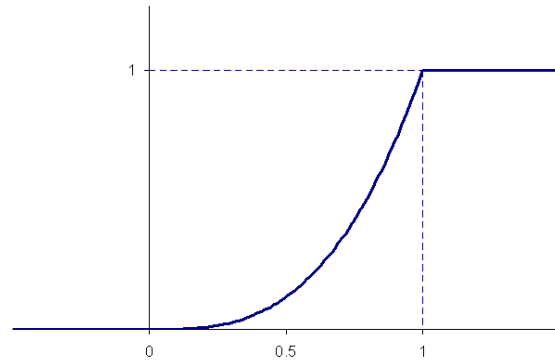
$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} 3x^2 & 0 < x < 1 \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 x < 0 & \quad F_X(x) = 0. \\
 0 \leq x < 1 & \quad F_X(x) = \int_0^x 3y^2 dy = x^3. \\
 x \geq 1 & \quad F_X(x) = 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

$f_X(x)$

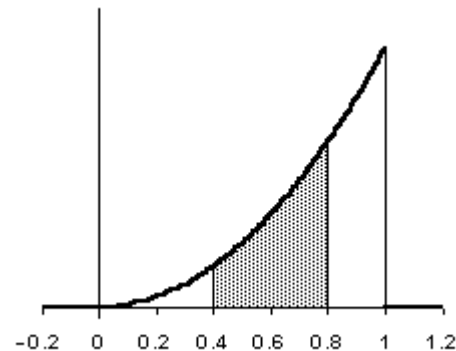


$F_X(x)$



c) Find the probability  $P(0.4 \leq X \leq 0.8)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(0.4 \leq X \leq 0.8) &= \int_{0.4}^{0.8} f(x) dx \\
 &= \int_{0.4}^{0.8} 3 \cdot x^2 dx = x^3 \Big|_{0.4}^{0.8} \\
 &= 0.8^3 - 0.4^3 = \mathbf{0.448}.
 \end{aligned}$$



OR

$$P(0.4 \leq X \leq 0.8) = F_X(0.8) - F_X(0.4-) = 0.8^3 - 0.4^3 = \mathbf{0.448}.$$

d) Find the median of the distribution of X.

$$\text{Need } m = ? \text{ such that } (\text{Area to the left of } m) = \int_{-\infty}^m f(x) dx = \frac{1}{2}.$$

$$\frac{1}{2} = \int_{-\infty}^m f(x) dx = \int_0^m 3 \cdot x^2 dx = x^3 \Big|_0^m = m^3.$$

$$m = \sqrt[3]{1/2} = \mathbf{0.7937}.$$

e) Find  $\mu_X = E(X)$ .

$$E(X) = \mu_X = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot f(x) dx = \int_0^1 x \cdot (3 \cdot x^2) dx = 3 \cdot \int_0^1 x^3 dx.$$

$$= 3 \cdot \left( \frac{x^4}{4} \right) \Big|_0^1 = \frac{3}{4} = \mathbf{0.75}.$$

f) Find  $\sigma_X = SD(X)$ .

$$\text{Var}(X) = \sigma_X^2 = \left[ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot f(x) dx \right] - (\mu_X)^2 = \left[ \int_0^1 3 \cdot x^4 dx \right] - \left( \frac{3}{4} \right)^2$$

$$= 3 \cdot \left( \frac{x^5}{5} \right) \Big|_0^1 - \left( \frac{3}{4} \right)^2 = \frac{3}{5} - \frac{9}{16} = \frac{3}{80} = 0.0375.$$

$$\sigma_X = SD(X) = \sqrt{\text{Var}(X)} = \sqrt{0.0375} = \mathbf{0.19365}.$$

g) Find the moment-generating function of  $X$ ,  $M_X(t)$ .

$$M_X(t) = E(e^{tX}) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tx} \cdot f(x) dx = \int_0^1 e^{tx} \cdot 3x^2 dx.$$

$$\begin{aligned} u &= 3x^2, & dv &= e^{tx} dx, \\ du &= 6x dx, & v &= \frac{1}{t} e^{tx}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} M_X(t) &= \int_0^1 e^{tx} \cdot 3x^2 dx = \left( 3x^2 \cdot \frac{1}{t} e^{tx} \right) \Big|_0^1 - \int_0^1 \left( \frac{1}{t} e^{tx} \cdot 6x \right) dx \\ &= \frac{3}{t} e^t - \int_0^1 \left( \frac{1}{t} e^{tx} \cdot 6x \right) dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} u &= 6x, & dv &= \frac{1}{t} e^{tx} dx, \\ du &= 6 dx, & v &= \frac{1}{t^2} e^{tx}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} M_X(t) &= \frac{3}{t} e^t - \int_0^1 \left( \frac{1}{t} e^{tx} \cdot 6x \right) dx = \frac{3}{t} e^t - \left( 6x \cdot \frac{1}{t^2} e^{tx} \right) \Big|_0^1 - \int_0^1 \left( \frac{1}{t^2} e^{tx} \cdot 6 \right) dx \\ &= \frac{3}{t} e^t - \frac{6}{t^2} e^t + \left( \frac{6}{t^3} e^{tx} \right) \Big|_0^1 = \frac{3}{t} e^t - \frac{6}{t^2} e^t + \frac{6}{t^3} e^t - \frac{6}{t^3}, \quad t \neq 0. \end{aligned}$$

$$M_X(0) = 1.$$

h) Find  $E(\sqrt{X})$  and  $E(\ln X)$ .

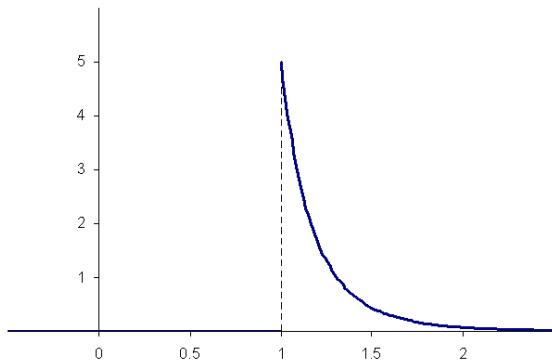
$$E(\sqrt{X}) = \int_0^1 \sqrt{x} \cdot 3x^2 dx = \frac{6}{7}.$$

$$E(\ln X) = \int_0^1 \ln x \cdot 3x^2 dx = -\frac{1}{3}.$$

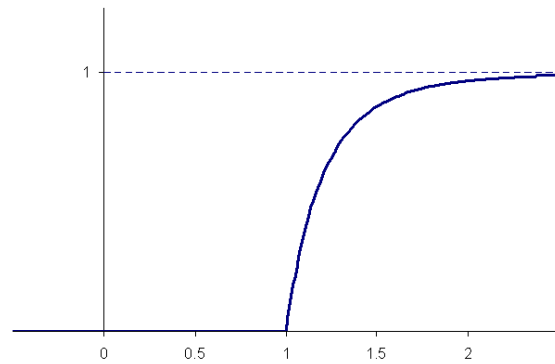
Example 3:

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} 5x^{-6} & x > 1 \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases} \quad \begin{array}{ll} x < 1 & F_X(x) = 0. \\ x \geq 1 & F_X(x) = \int_1^x 5y^{-6} dy \\ & = -y^{-5} \Big|_1^x = 1 - x^{-5}. \end{array}$$

$f_X(x)$



$F_X(x)$



$$E(X) = \mu_X = \int_1^{\infty} x \cdot 5x^{-6} dx = \int_1^{\infty} 5x^{-5} dx = \frac{5}{4} = 1.25.$$

$$E(X^2) = \int_1^{\infty} x^2 \cdot 5x^{-6} dx = \int_1^{\infty} 5x^{-4} dx = \frac{5}{3}.$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2 = \frac{5}{3} - \left(\frac{5}{4}\right)^2 = \frac{5}{48}.$$

$$E(X^{10}) \text{ does NOT exist since } \int_1^{\infty} x^{10} \cdot 5x^{-6} dx \text{ diverges.}$$

$$\text{Median:} \quad F_X(m) = \frac{1}{2}. \quad 1 - m^{-5} = \frac{1}{2}. \quad m = \sqrt[5]{2} \approx 1.1487.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{30th percentile:} \quad F_X(\pi_{0.30}) &= 0.30. & 1 - (\pi_{0.30})^{-5} &= 0.30. \\ \pi_{0.30} &= \sqrt[5]{\frac{1}{0.70}} \approx 1.07394. \end{aligned}$$

Example 4:

Consider a continuous random variable  $X$  with p.d.f.

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} kx & 2 < x < 3 \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

- a) Find the value of  $k$  that makes this is a valid probability distribution.

$$1 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = \int_2^3 kx dx = \left. \frac{k}{2} x^2 \right|_2^3 = \frac{k}{2} (9 - 4) = \frac{5k}{2}.$$

$$\Rightarrow k = \frac{2}{5}.$$

- b) Find the cumulative distribution function  $F(x) = P(X \leq x)$ .

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x) = 0, \quad x < 2.$$

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(y) dy = \int_2^x \frac{2}{5} y dy = \left. \frac{1}{5} y^2 \right|_2^x = \frac{1}{5} (x^2 - 4),$$
$$2 \leq x < 3.$$

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x) = 1, \quad x \geq 3.$$

- c) Find  $\mu_X = E(X)$ .

$$\mu_X = E(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot f(x) dx = \int_2^3 x \cdot \frac{2}{5} x dx = \left. \frac{2}{15} x^3 \right|_2^3 = \frac{38}{15} \approx 2.5333.$$

- d) Find the median of the probability distribution of  $X$ .

$$F(m) = \frac{1}{2}, \quad \frac{1}{5} (m^2 - 4) = \frac{1}{2}, \quad m = \sqrt{6.5} \approx 2.5495.$$



Example 5:

(Standard) Cauchy distribution: 
$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\pi(1+x^2)}, \quad -\infty < x < \infty.$$

Even though  $f_X(x)$  is symmetric about zero,  $E(X)$  is undefined since

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x| \cdot \frac{1}{\pi(1+x^2)} dx = \infty.$$

$$F_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x \frac{1}{\pi(1+y^2)} dy = \frac{1}{\pi} \arctan(x) + \frac{1}{2}, \quad -\infty < x < \infty.$$

$$P(X < -1) = P(-1 < X < 0) = P(0 < X < 1) = P(X > 1) = 0.25.$$

$$M_X(0) = 1. \quad M_X(t) \text{ is undefined for all } t \neq 0.$$

**Theorem 1:**  $M_{X_1}(t) = M_{X_2}(t)$  for some interval containing 0  
 $\Rightarrow f_{X_1}(x) = f_{X_2}(x)$

**Theorem 2:**  $M_X'(0) = E(X)$   $M_X''(0) = E(X^2)$   
 $M_X^{(k)}(0) = E(X^k)$

**Theorem 3:** Let  $Y = aX + b$ . Then  $M_Y(t) = e^{bt} M_X(at)$

Example 6:

Suppose a discrete random variable  $X$  has the following probability distribution:

$$P(X=0) = p, \quad P(X=k) = \frac{1}{2^k \cdot k!}, \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

- a) Find the value of  $p$  that would make this a valid probability distribution.

$$\text{Must have } p + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k \cdot k!} = 1.$$

$$\text{Since } \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{a^k}{k!} = e^a, \quad \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k \cdot k!} = e^{1/2} - 1.$$

$$\text{Therefore, } p + (e^{1/2} - 1) = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad p = 2 - e^{1/2}.$$

- b) Find  $E(X)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} E(X) &= \sum_{\text{all } x} x \cdot p(x) = 0 \cdot (2 - e^{1/2}) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k \cdot \frac{1}{2^k \cdot k!} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k \cdot (k-1)!} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^{k-1} \cdot (k-1)!} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n \cdot n!} = \frac{e^{1/2}}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

- c) Find the variance of  $X$ ,  $\text{Var}(X)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} E(X(X-1)) &= \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} k \cdot (k-1) \cdot \frac{1}{2^k \cdot k!} = \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k \cdot (k-2)!} \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \cdot \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^{k-2} \cdot (k-2)!} = \frac{1}{4} \cdot \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n \cdot n!} = \frac{e^{1/2}}{4}. \end{aligned}$$

$$E(X^2) = E(X(X-1)) + E(X) = \frac{3}{4} \cdot e^{1/2}.$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2 = \frac{3}{4} \cdot e^{1/2} - \frac{1}{4} \cdot e.$$

- d) Find the moment-generating function of X,  $M_X(t)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} M_X(t) &= \sum_{\text{all } x} e^{tx} \cdot p(x) = 1 \cdot (2 - e^{1/2}) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} e^{tk} \cdot \frac{1}{2^k \cdot k!} \\ &= (2 - e^{1/2}) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\left(\frac{e^t}{2}\right)^k}{k!} = (2 - e^{1/2}) + \left(e^{e^t/2} - 1\right) \\ &= 1 - e^{1/2} + e^{e^t/2}. \end{aligned}$$

- e) Use the moment-generating function of X,  $M_X(t)$ , to find  $E(X)$ .

$$M_X'(t) = e^{e^t/2} \cdot \frac{e^t}{2}, \quad E(X) = M_X'(0) = e^{1/2} \cdot \frac{1}{2}.$$

- f) Use the moment-generating function of X,  $M_X(t)$ , to find the variance of X,  $\text{Var}(X)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} M_X''(t) &= e^{e^t/2} \cdot \left(\frac{e^t}{2}\right)^2 + e^{e^t/2} \cdot \frac{e^t}{2}, \\ E(X^2) &= M_X''(0) = \frac{3}{4} \cdot e^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2 = \frac{3}{4} \cdot e^{1/2} - \frac{1}{4} \cdot e.$$

Example 7:

Let  $a > 2$ . Suppose a discrete random variable  $X$  has the following probability distribution:

$$p(0) = P(X=0) = c,$$
$$p(k) = P(X=k) = \frac{1}{a^k}, \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

- a) Find the value of  $c$  ( $c$  will depend on  $a$ ) that makes this is a valid probability distribution.

Must have  $\sum_{\text{all } x} p(x) = 1.$   $c + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{a^k} = 1.$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} b^k = \frac{1}{1-b}, \quad |b| < 1.$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{a^k} = \left[ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{a^k} \right] - 1 = \frac{1}{1-1/a} - 1 = \frac{1}{a-1}.$$

OR

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{a^k} = \frac{1}{a} \cdot \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{a^k} = \frac{1}{a} \cdot \frac{1}{1-1/a} = \frac{1}{a-1}.$$

$$c + \frac{1}{a-1} = 1. \quad c = 1 - \frac{1}{a-1} = \frac{a-2}{a-1} = 2 - \frac{a}{a-1}.$$

- b) Find  $P(\text{odd})$ .

$$P(\text{odd}) = p(1) + p(3) + p(5) + \dots = \frac{1}{a^1} + \frac{1}{a^3} + \frac{1}{a^5} + \dots$$

$$= \frac{\text{first term}}{1 - \text{base}} = \frac{\frac{1}{a}}{1 - \frac{1}{a^2}} = \frac{a}{a^2 - 1}.$$

- c) Find the moment-generating function of  $X$ ,  $M_X(t)$ . For which values of  $t$  does it exist?

$$M_X(t) = E(e^{tX}) = 1 \cdot c + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} e^{tk} \cdot \frac{1}{a^k}.$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} b^k = \frac{1}{1-b}, \quad |b| < 1.$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} e^{tk} \cdot \frac{1}{a^k} = \left[ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{e^t}{a} \right)^k \right] - 1 = \frac{1}{1 - e^t/a} - 1 = \frac{e^t}{a - e^t} = \frac{a}{a - e^t} - 1.$$

OR

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} e^{tk} \cdot \frac{1}{a^k} = \frac{e^t}{a} \cdot \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{e^t}{a} \right)^k = \frac{e^t}{a} \cdot \frac{1}{1 - e^t/a} = \frac{e^t}{a - e^t} = \frac{a}{a - e^t} - 1.$$

$$\text{Need } \left| \frac{e^t}{a} \right| < 1. \quad \Rightarrow \quad t < \ln a.$$

$$M_X(t) = \frac{a-2}{a-1} + \frac{e^t}{a-e^t} = \frac{a}{a-e^t} - \frac{1}{a-1}, \quad t < \ln a.$$

d) Find  $E(X)$ .

$$E(X) = M'_X(0).$$

$$M'_X(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{a-2}{a-1} + \frac{e^t}{a-e^t} \right) = \frac{e^t(a-e^t) - e^t(-e^t)}{(a-e^t)^2} = \frac{a \cdot e^t}{(a-e^t)^2}.$$

OR

$$M'_X(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{a}{a-e^t} - \frac{1}{a-1} \right) = -\frac{a}{(a-e^t)^2} \cdot (-e^t) = \frac{a \cdot e^t}{(a-e^t)^2}.$$

$$E(X) = M'_X(0) = \frac{a}{(a-1)^2}.$$

OR

$$E(X) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k \cdot \frac{1}{a^k} = \frac{1}{a} \cdot \frac{a}{a-1} \cdot \left[ \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k \cdot \left( \frac{1}{a} \right)^{k-1} \cdot \frac{a-1}{a} \right] = \frac{1}{a-1} \cdot E(Y),$$

where  $Y$  is a Geometric random variable with probability of “success”  $\frac{a-1}{a}$ .

$$E(Y) = \frac{1}{p} = \frac{a}{a-1}.$$

$$\text{Therefore, } E(X) = \frac{a}{(a-1)^2}.$$

OR

$$E(X) = 1 \cdot \frac{1}{a^1} + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{a^2} + 3 \cdot \frac{1}{a^3} + 4 \cdot \frac{1}{a^4} + 5 \cdot \frac{1}{a^5} + 6 \cdot \frac{1}{a^6} + \dots$$

$$\frac{1}{a} \cdot E(X) = 1 \cdot \frac{1}{a^2} + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{a^3} + 3 \cdot \frac{1}{a^4} + 4 \cdot \frac{1}{a^5} + 5 \cdot \frac{1}{a^6} + \dots$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(1 - \frac{1}{a}\right) \cdot E(X) = \frac{1}{a^1} + \frac{1}{a^2} + \frac{1}{a^3} + \frac{1}{a^4} + \frac{1}{a^5} + \frac{1}{a^6} + \dots = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{a^k} = \frac{1}{a-1}.$$

$$\text{Therefore, } E(X) = \frac{a}{(a-1)^2}.$$

e) Find the cumulative distribution function  $F(x) = P(X \leq x)$ .

$$\text{If } x < 0, \quad F(x) = P(X \leq x) = 0.$$

$$\text{If } k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots,$$

$$1 - F(k) = P(X > k) = \sum_{n=k+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{a^n} = \frac{1}{a^{k+1}} \cdot \frac{1}{1 - 1/a} = \frac{1}{a^k (a-1)}$$

$$\Rightarrow F(k) = 1 - \frac{1}{a^k (a-1)}.$$

Since  $X$  is a discrete integer-valued random variable, if  $k \leq x < k+1$ ,

$$F(x) = F(k) = 1 - \frac{1}{a^k (a-1)}.$$

Therefore,

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ 1 - \frac{1}{a^k (a-1)} & k \leq x < k+1 \quad k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots \end{cases}$$

Example 8:

Let  $\lambda > 0$ . Suppose the probability density function of  $X$  is  $f_X(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}$ ,  $x > 0$ .  
(Exponential distribution.)

- a) Find the moment-generating function of  $X$ .

$$\begin{aligned} M_X(t) &= E(e^{tX}) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tx} \cdot f(x) dx = \int_0^{\infty} e^{tx} \cdot \lambda e^{-\lambda x} dx \\ &= \lambda \cdot \int_0^{\infty} e^{x(t-\lambda)} dx = \lambda \cdot \left( \frac{e^{x(t-\lambda)}}{t-\lambda} \right) \Big|_0^{\infty} = \frac{\lambda}{\lambda - t}, \quad t < \lambda. \end{aligned}$$

- b) Use the moment-generating function of  $X$  to find  $E(X)$ .

$$M_X'(t) = \frac{\lambda}{(\lambda - t)^2}, \quad t < \lambda. \qquad E(X) = M_X'(0) = \frac{1}{\lambda}.$$

Example 9:

Let  $X$  be a discrete Binomial( $n, p$ ) random variable. That is, suppose the p.m.f. of  $X$  is  $p_X(k) = \binom{n}{k} \cdot p^k \cdot (1-p)^{n-k}$ ,  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$ .

$$\begin{aligned} M_X(t) &= \sum_{k=0}^n e^{tk} \cdot \binom{n}{k} \cdot p^k \cdot (1-p)^{n-k} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} \cdot (p \cdot e^t)^k \cdot (1-p)^{n-k} = [(1-p) + p e^t]^n. \end{aligned}$$



Example 10:

Let  $X$  be a discrete Geometric( $p$ ) random variable. That is, suppose the probability mass function of  $X$  is  $p_X(x) = (1-p)^{x-1}p$ ,  $x = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ .

- a) Find the moment-generating function of  $X$ .

$$\begin{aligned} M_X(t) &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} e^{tk} \cdot (1-p)^{k-1} \cdot p = p \cdot e^t \cdot \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} e^{t(k-1)} \cdot (1-p)^{k-1} \\ &= p \cdot e^t \cdot \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left[ (1-p) \cdot e^t \right]^n = \frac{p \cdot e^t}{1 - (1-p) \cdot e^t}, \quad t < -\ln(1-p). \end{aligned}$$

- b) Use the moment-generating function of  $X$  to find  $E(X)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} M_X'(t) &= \frac{p \cdot e^t \cdot (1 - (1-p) \cdot e^t) - p \cdot e^t \cdot (-(1-p) \cdot e^t)}{(1 - (1-p) \cdot e^t)^2} \\ &= \frac{p \cdot e^t}{(1 - (1-p) \cdot e^t)^2}, \quad t < -\ln(1-p). \end{aligned}$$

$$E(X) = M_X'(0) = \frac{p}{(p)^2} = \frac{1}{p}.$$

Example 11:

Let  $X$  be a random variable distributed uniformly over the interval  $[a, b]$ .

$$\begin{aligned} M_X(t) &= E(e^{tX}) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tx} \cdot f(x) dx = \int_a^b e^{tx} \cdot \frac{1}{b-a} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{b-a} \cdot \left( \frac{e^{tx}}{t} \right) \Big|_a^b = \frac{e^{tb} - e^{ta}}{t(b-a)}, \quad t \neq 0. \end{aligned}$$

$$M_X(0) = 1.$$

Example 12:

Let  $X$  be a  $\text{Poisson}(\lambda)$  random variable. That is,

$$P(X = k) = \frac{\lambda^k \cdot e^{-\lambda}}{k!}, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

- a) Find the moment-generating function of  $X$ ,  $M_X(t)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} M_X(t) &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} e^{tk} \cdot \frac{\lambda^k \cdot e^{-\lambda}}{k!} = e^{-\lambda} \cdot \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\lambda \cdot e^t)^k}{k!} \\ &= e^{-\lambda} \cdot e^{\lambda \cdot e^t} = e^{\lambda \cdot (e^t - 1)}. \end{aligned}$$

**1.9.17** in the 7th edition    **(1.9.16** in the 6th edition)

Let  $\psi(t) = \ln M(t)$ , where  $M(t)$  is the m.g.f. of a distribution.

Prove that  $\psi'_X(0) = \mu$  and  $\psi''_X(0) = \sigma^2$ . The function  $\psi(t)$  is called the **cumulant generating function**.

$$\begin{aligned} (\ln M_X(t))' &= \frac{M'_X(t)}{M_X(t)} & (\ln M_X(t))'' &= \frac{M''_X(t) \cdot M_X(t) - [M'_X(t)]^2}{[M_X(t)]^2} \end{aligned}$$

Since  $M_X(0) = 1$ ,  $M'_X(0) = E(X)$ ,  $M''_X(0) = E(X^2)$ ,

$$\psi'_X(0) = (\ln M_X(t))' \Big|_{t=0} = E(X) = \mu_X$$

$$\psi''_X(0) = (\ln M_X(t))'' \Big|_{t=0} = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2 = \text{Var}(X) = \sigma_X^2$$

- b) Find  $E(X)$  and  $\text{Var}(X)$ .

$$\ln M_X(t) = \lambda (e^t - 1).$$

$$(\ln M_X(t))' = \lambda e^t. \quad (\ln M_X(t))' \Big|_{t=0} = E(X) = \lambda.$$

$$(\ln M_X(t))'' = \lambda e^t. \quad (\ln M_X(t))'' \Big|_{t=0} = \text{Var}(X) = \lambda.$$

Example 13:

Let  $Y$  denote a random variable with probability density function given by

$$f(y) = \frac{1}{2} e^{-|y|}, \quad -\infty < y < \infty. \quad (\text{double exponential p.d.f.})$$

- a) Find the moment-generating function of  $Y$ . For which values of  $t$  does it exist?

$$\begin{aligned} M_Y(t) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{ty} \cdot \frac{1}{2} e^{-|y|} dy = \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{ty} \cdot \frac{1}{2} e^{-|y|} dy + \int_0^{\infty} e^{ty} \cdot \frac{1}{2} e^{-|y|} dy \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{ty} \cdot \frac{1}{2} e^y dy + \int_0^{\infty} e^{ty} \cdot \frac{1}{2} e^{-y} dy \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{y(t+1)} dy + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\infty} e^{y(t-1)} dy \end{aligned}$$

Note that the first integral converges only if  $t+1 > 0$ ,

and the second integral converges only if  $t-1 < 0$ .

Therefore, the moment-generating function is only defined for  $-1 < t < 1$ .

$$\begin{aligned} M_Y(t) &= \frac{1}{2(t+1)} e^{y(t+1)} \Big|_{-\infty}^0 + \frac{1}{2(t-1)} e^{y(t-1)} \Big|_0^{\infty} = \frac{1}{2(t+1)} - \frac{1}{2(t-1)} \\ &= \frac{(t-1) - (t+1)}{2(t+1)(t-1)} = \frac{-2}{2(t^2-1)} = \frac{1}{1-t^2}, \quad -1 < t < 1. \end{aligned}$$

- b) Find  $E(Y)$ .

$$M_Y'(t) = -(1-t^2)^{-2}(-2t) = 2t(1-t^2)^{-2}$$

$$\Rightarrow E(Y) = M_Y'(0) = 0.$$

OR

$$E(Y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y \cdot \frac{1}{2} e^{-|y|} dy = 0, \quad \text{since } y \cdot \frac{1}{2} e^{-|y|} \text{ is an odd function.}$$

c) Find  $\text{Var}(Y)$ .

$$M_Y''(t) = 2(1-t^2)^{-2} + 2t(-2)(1-t^2)^{-3}(-2t) = \frac{2+6t^2}{(1-t^2)^3}$$

$$\Rightarrow E(Y^2) = M_Y''(0) = 2. \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{Var}(Y) = 2 - 0^2 = \mathbf{2}.$$

OR

$$\text{Var}(Y) = E(Y^2) - [E(Y)]^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y^2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} e^{-|y|} dy = \dots = \mathbf{2}.$$

d) Find the cumulative distribution function  $F(y) = P(Y \leq y)$ .

$$\text{If } y < 0, \quad F(y) = \int_{-\infty}^y \frac{1}{2} e^{-|x|} dx = \int_{-\infty}^y \frac{1}{2} e^x dx = \frac{1}{2} e^y.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{If } y \geq 0, \quad F(y) &= \int_{-\infty}^y \frac{1}{2} e^{-|x|} dx = \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{1}{2} e^x dx + \int_0^y \frac{1}{2} e^{-x} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - e^{-y} \right) = 1 - \frac{1}{2} e^{-y}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$F(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} e^y & y < 0 \\ 1 - \frac{1}{2} e^{-y} & y \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

e) Find  $E(Y^k)$  for positive integer  $k$ .

$$E(Y^k) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y^k \cdot \frac{1}{2} e^{-|y|} dy = \int_{-\infty}^0 y^k \cdot \frac{1}{2} e^y dy + \int_0^{\infty} y^k \cdot \frac{1}{2} e^{-y} dy = \dots$$

$$k \text{ odd} \quad \dots = 0.$$

$$k \text{ even} \quad \dots = 2 \cdot \int_0^{\infty} y^k \cdot \frac{1}{2} e^{-y} dy = \int_0^{\infty} y^k \cdot e^{-y} dy = \Gamma(k+1) = k!.$$

OR

Taylor Formula:

$$M_Y(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k!} M_Y^{(k)}(0) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k!} E(Y^k).$$

On the other hand,

$$M_Y(t) = \frac{1}{1-t^2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} t^{2n}.$$

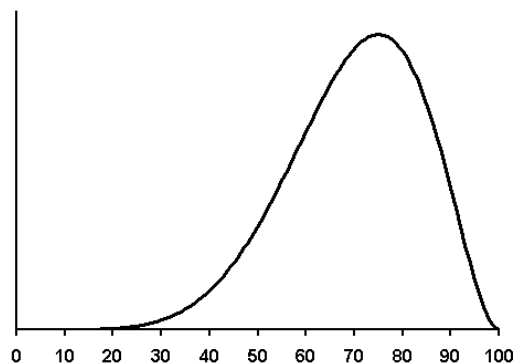
$$\Rightarrow \quad \text{If } k \text{ odd,} \quad E(Y^k) = 0.$$

$$\text{If } k \text{ even,} \quad k = 2n, \quad E(Y^k) = k!.$$

Example 14:

A simple model for describing mortality in the general population in a particular country is given by the probability density function

$$f(y) = \frac{252}{10^{18}} y^6 (100 - y)^2, \quad 0 < y < 100.$$



- a) Verify that  $f(y)$  is a valid probability density function.

1.  $f(y) \geq 0$  for each  $y$ ; ✓

2.  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(y) dy = 1.$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(y) dy &= \int_0^{100} \frac{252}{10^{18}} y^6 (100 - y)^2 dy = \int_0^1 252 x^6 (1 - x)^2 dx \\ &= 252 \cdot \left[ \frac{1}{7} x^7 - 2 \cdot \frac{1}{8} x^8 + \frac{1}{9} x^9 \right] \Big|_0^1 = 252 \cdot \frac{2}{504} = 1. \quad \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

- b) Based on this model, which event is more likely

or A: a person dies between the ages of 70 and 80

B: a person lives past age 80?

$$\text{A: } \int_{70}^{80} \frac{252}{10^{18}} y^6 (100 - y)^2 dy = \int_{0.7}^{0.8} 252 x^6 (1 - x)^2 dx$$

$$= 252 \cdot \left[ \frac{1}{7} x^7 - 2 \cdot \frac{1}{8} x^8 + \frac{1}{9} x^9 \right] \Big|_{0.7}^{0.8}$$

$$\approx 0.7382 - 0.4628 = 0.2754.$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{B: } \int_{80}^{100} \frac{252}{10^{18}} y^6 (100-y)^2 dy &= \int_{0.8}^{1.0} 252 x^6 (1-x)^2 dx \\
 &= 252 \cdot \left[ \frac{1}{7} x^7 - 2 \cdot \frac{1}{8} x^8 + \frac{1}{9} x^9 \right] \bigg|_{0.8}^{1.0} \\
 &\approx 1 - 0.7382 = 0.2618.
 \end{aligned}$$

**A** is more likely.

- c) Given that a randomly selected individual just celebrated his 60th birthday, find the probability that he will live past age 80.

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(\text{over } 80 \mid \text{over } 60) &= \frac{P(\text{over } 80 \cap \text{over } 60)}{P(\text{over } 60)} = \frac{\int_{80}^{100} \frac{252}{10^{18}} y^6 (100-y)^2 dy}{\int_{60}^{100} \frac{252}{10^{18}} y^6 (100-y)^2 dy} \\
 &\approx \frac{1-0.7382}{1-0.2318} = \frac{0.2618}{0.7682} \approx \mathbf{0.3408}.
 \end{aligned}$$

- d) Find the value of  $y$  that maximizes  $f(y)$  (**mode**).

$$\begin{aligned}
 f'(y) &= \frac{252}{10^{18}} \left[ 6 y^5 (100-y)^2 - 2 y^6 (100-y) \right] \\
 &= \frac{252}{10^{18}} y^5 (100-y) [6(100-y) - 2y] \\
 &= \frac{252}{10^{18}} y^5 (100-y) [600 - 8y] = 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow y = 0, y = 100 \text{ (not max), } y = \mathbf{75} \text{ years (max).}$$

- e) Find the (average) life expectancy.

$$\begin{aligned} E(Y) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y \cdot f(y) dy = \int_0^{100} \frac{252}{10^{18}} y^7 (100 - y)^2 dy = \int_0^1 252 \cdot 100 x^7 (1 - x)^2 dx \\ &= 252 \cdot 100 \cdot \left[ \frac{1}{8} x^8 - 2 \cdot \frac{1}{9} x^9 + \frac{1}{10} x^{10} \right] \Big|_0^1 = 252 \cdot 100 \cdot \frac{2}{720} = \mathbf{70} \text{ years.} \end{aligned}$$

OR

Consider  $X = \frac{Y}{100}$ . Then  $Y = 100 X$ , and  $X$  has the probability density function

$$f(x) = 252 x^6 (1 - x)^2, \quad 0 < x < 1.$$

Then  $X$  has Beta distribution with  $\alpha = 7$  and  $\beta = 3$ .

$$E(X) = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \beta} = \frac{7}{7 + 3} = 0.70. \quad E(Y) = 100 E(X) = \mathbf{70} \text{ years.}$$

- f) Find the standard deviation of the lifetimes.

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{7 \cdot 3}{11 \cdot 10^2} = \frac{21}{1100}. \quad \text{Var}(Y) = 100^2 \text{Var}(X) = \frac{2100}{11}.$$

$$\text{SD}(Y) \approx 13.817.$$

OR

$$E(Y^2) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y^2 \cdot f(y) dy = \int_0^{100} \frac{252}{10^{18}} y^8 (100 - y)^2 dy = \dots$$

$$\text{Var}(Y) = E(Y^2) - [E(Y)]^2 = \dots$$

$$\text{SD}(Y) = \sqrt{\text{Var}(Y)} = \dots$$



Example 15:

Suppose a random variable  $X$  has the following probability density function:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} C \cdot e^{-x} & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- a) What must the value of  $C$  be so that  $f(x)$  is a probability density function?

For  $f(x)$  to be a probability density function, we must have:

$$1) \quad f(x) \geq 0, \quad 2) \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = 1.$$

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = \int_0^1 C \cdot e^{-x} dx = C \cdot \int_0^1 e^{-x} dx \\ &= C \cdot \left( -e^{-x} \right) \Big|_0^1 = C \cdot (1 - e^{-1}) = C \cdot \left( \frac{e-1}{e} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $C = \left( \frac{e}{e-1} \right) \approx \mathbf{1.5819767}$ .

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \left( \frac{e}{e-1} \right) \cdot e^{-x} & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- b) Find  $\mu_X = E(X)$ .

$$\mu_X = E(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot f(x) dx = \int_0^1 x \cdot \left( \frac{e}{e-1} \right) \cdot e^{-x} dx = \left( \frac{e}{e-1} \right) \cdot \int_0^1 x \cdot e^{-x} dx.$$

Integrating by parts,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 x \cdot e^{-x} dx &= \left[ (x) \cdot (-e^{-x}) \right] \Big|_0^1 - \int_0^1 (-e^{-x}) dx \\ &= -e^{-1} + \int_0^1 e^{-x} dx = -e^{-1} + \left( -e^{-x} \right) \Big|_0^1 = 1 - 2 \cdot e^{-1} = \frac{e-2}{e}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\mu_X = E(X) = \left(\frac{e}{e-1}\right) \cdot \int_0^1 x \cdot e^{-x} dx = \left(\frac{e}{e-1}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{e-2}{e}\right) = \frac{e-2}{e-1} \approx \mathbf{0.418}.$$

c) Find the cumulative distribution function  $F(x) = P(X \leq x)$ .

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(y) dy.$$

$$F(x) = 0 \quad \text{for } x < 0.$$

$$F(x) = 1 \quad \text{for } x > 1.$$

For  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} F(x) &= \int_{-\infty}^x f(y) dy = \int_0^x \left(\frac{e}{e-1}\right) \cdot e^{-y} dy = \left(\frac{e}{e-1}\right) \cdot \left(-e^{-y}\right) \Big|_0^x \\ &= \left(\frac{e}{e-1}\right) \cdot (1 - e^{-x}) \\ &= \left(\frac{e}{e-1}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{e^x - 1}{e^x}\right). \end{aligned} \quad F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ \left(\frac{e}{e-1}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{e^x - 1}{e^x}\right) & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 1 & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

d) Find the median of the probability distribution of  $X$ .

Need  $m = ?$  such that  $P(X \leq m) = P(X \geq m) = 1/2$ .

$$\text{Thus, } 1/2 = F(m) = \left(\frac{e}{e-1}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{e^m - 1}{e^m}\right).$$

$$\Rightarrow e^m - 1 = \left(\frac{e-1}{2 \cdot e}\right) \cdot e^m. \quad \Rightarrow e^m - \left(\frac{e-1}{2 \cdot e}\right) \cdot e^m = 1.$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{e+1}{2 \cdot e}\right) \cdot e^m = 1. \quad \Rightarrow e^m = \frac{2 \cdot e}{e+1}.$$

$$\Rightarrow m = \ln\left(\frac{2 \cdot e}{e+1}\right) \approx \mathbf{0.3799}.$$

e) Find the moment-generating function of  $X$ ,  $M_X(t)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} M_X(t) &= E(e^{tX}) = \int_0^1 e^{tx} \cdot \left(\frac{e}{e-1}\right) \cdot e^{-x} dx = \left(\frac{e}{e-1}\right) \cdot \int_0^1 e^{(t-1)x} dx \\ &= \left(\frac{e}{e-1}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{t-1} \cdot e^{(t-1)x}\right) \Big|_0^1 = \left(\frac{e}{e-1}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{t-1} \cdot (e^{t-1} - 1) \\ &= \frac{e^t - e}{(e-1) \cdot (t-1)}, \quad t \neq 1. \end{aligned}$$

$$M_X(1) = \frac{e}{e-1}.$$

f) Find  $E(2^X)$ .

$$E(2^X) = E(e^{\ln 2 \cdot X}) = M_X(\ln 2) = \frac{e^{\ln 2} - e}{(e-1) \cdot (\ln 2 - 1)} = \frac{e - 2}{(e-1) \cdot (1 - \ln 2)}.$$