

Statistics 1

D. González Sánchez
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One can describe Statistics as the mathematical discipline whose purpose is to use empirical data generated by a random phenomenon, in order to make inferences about some deterministic characteristics of the phenomenon while simultaneously quantifying the uncertainty inherent in these inferences.

Panaretos [4, p. xiii]

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1 Basics of probability

See Mendenhall et al. [9, Chapter 2] or Lefebvre [3, Chapter 2].

2 Discrete random variables

In this section, we assumed that each sample space Ω is endowed with a probability P defined on some σ -field \mathcal{F} . See Appendix B.

A random variable $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is **discrete** if R_X is at most countable.

Given a discrete r.v. X , define the **probability mass function (pmf)**

$$p_X(x) := P(X = x) = P(\{\omega \in \Omega \mid X(\omega) = x\}), \quad x \in R_X.$$

Notice that

(a) $p_X(x) \geq 0$ for each x and

(b) $\sum_{x \in R_X} p_X(x) = 1$.

Remark 2.1. Given a function $\pi : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where S is at most countable, that satisfies properties (a) and (b), we can find a discrete r.v. $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and a probability P such that $S = R_X$ and

$$\pi(x) = P(X = x) \quad \forall x \in S.$$

◇

2.1 Mean, variance, and standard deviation

Definition 2.2. Let $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a discrete r.v., define the **expectation (mean or expected value)** of X as

$$E(X) = \sum_{x \in R_X} x p_X(x),$$

whenever the series is absolutely convergent.

The r.v. X with values in \mathbb{N} and pmf

$$p_X(n) = \frac{1}{n(n+1)}, \quad n \in \mathbb{N},$$

does not have finite expectation.

Theorem 2.3. Let $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a discrete r.v. and $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then the expectation of $Y = g(X)$ is

$$E[Y] = \sum_{x \in R_X} g(x) p_X(x),$$

that is

$$\sum_{y \in R_Y} y p_Y(y) = \sum_{x \in R_X} g(x) p_X(x).$$

Proof. Notice that $R_X = \cup_{y \in R_Y} \{x \in R_X \mid g(x) = y\}$ and

$$\{\omega \in \Omega \mid Y(\omega) = y\} = \bigcup_{x \in R_X, g(x)=y} \{\omega \in \Omega \mid X(\omega) = x\}, \quad y \in R_Y.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{x \in R_X} g(x)p_X(x) &= \sum_{y \in R_Y} \left[\sum_{x \in R_X, g(x)=y} g(x)P(X = x) \right] \\ &= \sum_{y \in R_Y} y \left[\sum_{x \in R_X, g(x)=y} P(X = x) \right] \\ &= \sum_{y \in R_Y} yP(Y = y). \end{aligned}$$

□

Proposition 2.4. Let $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a discrete r.v. and $g_1, g_2 : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

- (a) If X is constant, say $X = c$, then $E(X) = c$.
- (b) If $a \in \mathbb{R}$, then $E[aX] = aE(X)$.
- (c) $E[g_1(X) + g_2(X)] = E[g_1(X)] + E[g_2(X)]$
- (d) If $a, c \in \mathbb{R}$, then $E[aX + c] = aE(X) + c$.

Proof. Parts (a) and (b) follow from the definition of expectation. Part (c) is a direct consequence of Theorem 2.3. Finally, (d) follows from (a), (b), and (c). □

The **variance** σ_X^2 of the r.v. X is defined as

$$\sigma_X^2 := E[(X - \mu)^2]$$

where $\mu_X = E(X)$. The variance of X is also denoted $\text{var}(X)$.

Proposition 2.5. Let $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a discrete r.v.

- (a) $\text{var}(X) = E(X^2) - \mu_X^2$.
- (b) If $a \in \mathbb{R}$, then $\text{var}(aX) = a^2\text{var}(X)$.
- (c) If $c \in \mathbb{R}$, then $\text{var}(X + c) = \text{var}(X)$.

The **standard deviation** σ_X of a discrete r.v. X is defined as

$$\sigma_X = \sqrt{\text{var}(X)}.$$

Theorem 2.6. Let X be a discrete r.v.

- (a) **(Markov's inequality).** If $X \geq 0$ and $a > 0$, then

$$P(X \geq a) \leq \frac{E(X)}{a}.$$

(b) If $c \in \mathbb{R}$, $\varepsilon > 0$, and $m > 0$, then

$$P(|X - c| \geq \varepsilon) \leq \frac{E(|X - c|^m)}{\varepsilon^m}.$$

(c) **(Chebyshev's inequality)**. If μ_X and σ_X^2 are finite, then

$$P(|X - \mu_X| \geq k\sigma_X) \leq \frac{1}{k^2}.$$

Proof. (a) Since $X \geq 0$,

$$E(X) \geq \sum_{x \in R_X, x \geq a} xp_X(x).$$

Then $E(X) \geq aP(X \geq a)$ and hence Markov's inequality follows.

(b) Part (a) and the equality $\{\omega \in \Omega \mid |X(\omega) - c|^m \geq \varepsilon^m\} = \{\omega \in \Omega \mid |X(\omega) - c| \geq \varepsilon\}$ yield (b).

(c) Chebyshev's inequality follows from (b) with $m = 2$. □

2.2 Common discrete distributions

2.2.1 Bernoulli distribution

Let $S \subseteq \Omega$ be an event such that $P(S) = p$. A *Bernoulli trial* consists of two possible outcomes: *success* S or *failure* S^c . Define the **Bernoulli random variable**

$$B(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \omega \in S, \\ 0 & \text{if } \omega \in S^c. \end{cases}$$

Thus $p_B(1) = p$ and $p_B(0) = 1 - p$. The distribution of B is called **Bernoulli distribution**; it is also said that B has Bernoulli distribution with parameter p . We use the notation

$$B \sim \text{Ber}(p).$$

Notice that

$$E(B) = p$$

and

$$\text{var}(B) = p(1 - p).$$

2.2.2 Binomial distribution

A *Binomial experiment* with parameters (n, p) consists of n independent Bernoulli trials with parameter p . A **Binomial random variable** Y gives the number of successes of a Binomial experiment. We use the notation

$$Y \sim \text{Bin}(n, p).$$

Then $R_Y = \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ and the probability mass function is

$$P(Y = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}, \quad 0 \leq k \leq n.$$

Lemma 2.7. Let $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$.

(a) **(Newton's Binomial)** For $(x + y)^m = \sum_{k=0}^m \binom{m}{k} x^k y^{m-k}$.

(b) For $1 \leq k \leq m$,

$$k \binom{m}{k} = m \binom{m-1}{k-1}.$$

(c) For $2 \leq k \leq m$,

$$k^2 \binom{m}{k} = m(m-1) \binom{m-2}{k-2} + k \binom{m}{k}.$$

Proof. Newton's Binomial is well known. Equalities (b) and (c) follow from direct calculations. \square

Notice that $\sum_{k=0}^n P(Y = k) = 1$ due to Newton's Binomial and the equality $1 = [p + (1 - p)]^n$.

Proposition 2.8. If $Y \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$, then

$$E(Y) = np \quad \text{and} \quad \text{var}(Y) = np(1 - p).$$

Proof. It follows from Lemma 2.7. Proposition 3.5(a) is useful to compute the variance. \square

2.2.3 Geometric distribution

Consider the number G of independent Bernoulli trials, with parameter p , until we obtain the *first success*. Thus

$$R_G = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$$

and G is called **Geometric random variable**. We use the notation $G \sim \text{Geo}(p)$. The probability mass function is given by

$$P(G = k) = (1 - p)^{k-1} p, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

Lemma 2.9. Let $0 < r < 1$. Then

$$(a) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} r^k = \frac{1}{1-r},$$

$$(b) \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k r^{k-1} = \frac{1}{(1-r)^2}, \text{ and}$$

$$(c) \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k^2 r^{k-1} = \frac{1+r}{(1-r)^3}.$$

Proposition 2.10. If $G \sim \text{Geo}(p)$, then

$$E(G) = \frac{1}{p} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{var}(G) = \frac{1-p}{p^2}.$$

Proof. It follows from Lemma 2.9. \square

2.2.4 Poisson distribution

Let Y be a discrete r.v. such that

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

where $\lambda > 0$. This r.v. is said to have **Poisson distribution**, written as $Y \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda)$.

Poisson random variables are used to count the (random) number of events that occur in a given interval of time.

Recall that, for each $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} = e^{\lambda}. \quad (1)$$

Proposition 2.11. *If $Y \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda)$, then*

$$E(Y) = \lambda \quad \text{and} \quad \text{var}(Y) = \lambda.$$

Proof. The expectation is easily obtained from (1). For the variance, we use 1 again to get

$$E[Y(Y-1)] = \lambda^2.$$

Thus $E(Y^2) - \lambda = \lambda^2$ and hence $\text{var}(Y) = \lambda$ because of Proposition 3.5(a). \square

2.3 Moment-generating functions

The k -th moment about the origin of the r.v. X is given by

$$\mu_k := E(X^k)$$

and the k -th moment about the mean μ of X is

$$E[(X - \mu)^k].$$

Definition 2.12. *Given a discrete r.v. X , the **moment-generating function** m_X of X is given by*

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

for each t such that $E(e^{tX}) < \infty$.

Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} E(e^{tX}) &= E\left(1 + tX + \frac{t^2 X^2}{2} + \frac{t^3 X^3}{3!} + \frac{t^4 X^4}{4!} + \dots\right) \\ &= 1 + tE(X) + \frac{t^2 E(X^2)}{2} + \frac{t^3 E(X^3)}{3!} + \frac{t^4 E(X^4)}{4!} + \dots \\ &= 1 + t\mu + \frac{t^2}{2}\mu_2 + \frac{t^3}{3!}\mu_3 + \frac{t^4}{4!}\mu_4 + \dots, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

whenever the function m_X is well defined on a neighborhood about the origin. Further, if m_X has derivatives $m_X^{(k)}$ at $t = 0$, then we can compare the Taylor expansion of m_X and (2) to conclude that

$$\mu_k = m_X^{(k)}(0), \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

Proposition 2.13. Let $B \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$, $G \sim \text{Geo}(p)$, and $X \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda)$. Then

$$m_B(t) = (pe^t + 1 - p)^n, \quad t \in \mathbb{R},$$

$$m_G(t) = \frac{pe^t}{1 - (1 - p)e^t}, \quad (1 - p)e^t < 1,$$

and

$$m_X(t) = e^{\lambda(e^t - 1)}, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Proof. The moment-generating functions are obtained by direct calculations. \square

2.4 Exercises

Solve Exercises 3.15, 3.29, 3.37, 3.40, 3.41, 3.70, 3.71, 3.88, 3.130, 3.155 in Wackerly et al. [9].

3 Continuous random variables

Let X be a random variable, on the probability space (Σ, \mathcal{F}, P) (see Appendix B), and distribution F . We say that X is a **continuous random variable** if F is a continuous function.

In this section we deal with a subclass of continuous random variables for which there is an integrable **probability density function** (pdf) (or simply **density**) $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$, that is,

$$P(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(t)dt, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

In particular, by the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus,

$$F'(x) = f(x), \quad x \in \mathbb{R},$$

whenever f is continuous at x .

Given a r.v. X with a continuous density f , we have

$$\begin{aligned} P(a \leq X \leq b) &= P(a < X \leq b) \\ &= P(a < X < b) \\ &= \int_a^b f(x)dx \end{aligned}$$

for $a < b$.

3.1 Mean and variance

Definition 3.1. Let $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a r.v. with density f , define the **expectation (mean or expected value)** of X as

$$E(X) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} xf(x)dx,$$

whenever $\int_{\mathbb{R}} |x|f(x)dx < \infty$.

Example 3.2. The distribution of a r.v. X with density

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\pi(1+x^2)}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R},$$

is known as **Cauchy distribution**. The r.v. X has undefined expectation. \diamond

A proof of Theorem 3.3 can be found in Rosenthal [7, Proposition 6.2.3]. The proof of Proposition 3.4 is analogous to that of Proposition 2.4.

Theorem 3.3. Let $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a r.v. with density f . If $h : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, then

$$E[h(X)] = \int_{\mathbb{R}} h(x)f(x)dx,$$

whenever the integral is well defined.

Proposition 3.4. Let $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a r.v. with density f and $g_1, g_2 : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Assume the expectations below are well defined.

(a) If X is constant, say $X = c$, then $E(X) = c$.

- (b) If $a \in \mathbb{R}$, then $E[aX] = aE(X)$.
- (c) $E[g_1(X) + g_2(X)] = E[g_1(X)] + E[g_2(X)]$
- (d) If $a, c \in \mathbb{R}$, then $E[aX + c] = aE(X) + c$.

The **variance** σ_X^2 of the r.v. X , with density f , is defined as

$$\sigma_X^2 := E[(X - \mu_X)^2] = \int_{\mathbb{R}} (x - \mu_X)^2 f(x) dx$$

where $\mu_X = E(X)$. The variance of X is also denoted $\text{var}(X)$. The **standard deviation** σ_X of X is defined as

$$\sigma_X = \sqrt{\text{var}(X)}.$$

Proposition 3.5. Let $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous r.v., with density f . Assume the mean and variance of X are finite.

- (a) $\text{var}(X) = E(X^2) - \mu_X^2$.
- (b) If $a \in \mathbb{R}$, then $\text{var}(aX) = a^2 \text{var}(X)$.
- (c) If $c \in \mathbb{R}$, then $\text{var}(X + c) = \text{var}(X)$.

Proof. The assertions follow from properties of the integral. □

Theorem 3.6. Let X be a continuous r.v. with density f . Assume the expectations below are finite.

- (a) **(Markov's inequality).** If $X \geq 0$ and $a > 0$, then

$$P(X \geq a) \leq \frac{E(X)}{a}.$$

- (b) If $c \in \mathbb{R}$, $\varepsilon > 0$, and $m > 0$, then

$$P(|X - c| \geq \varepsilon) \leq \frac{E(|X - c|^m)}{\varepsilon^m}.$$

- (c) **(Chebyshev's inequality).** If μ_X and σ_X^2 are finite, then

$$P(|X - \mu_X| \geq k\sigma_X) \leq \frac{1}{k^2}.$$

Proof. (a) Since $X \geq 0$,

$$E(X) \geq \int_a^\infty xf(x)dx.$$

Then $E(X) \geq aP(X \geq a)$ and hence Markov's inequality follows.

- (b) Part (a) and the equality $\{\omega \in \Omega \mid |X(\omega) - c|^m \geq \varepsilon^m\} = \{\omega \in \Omega \mid |X(\omega) - c| \geq \varepsilon\}$ yield (b).

- (c) Chebyshev's inequality follows from (b) with $m = 2$. □

3.2 Common continuous distributions

3.2.1 Uniform distribution

The r.v. U has **uniform distribution** on the interval $[a, b]$, with $a < b$, if it has density of the form

$$f(u) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{b-a} & \text{if } a \leq u \leq b, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We use the notation $U \sim \text{Unif}([a, b])$. Thus

$$F(u) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } u < a, \\ \frac{u-a}{b-a} & \text{if } a \leq u \leq b, \\ 1 & \text{if } u > b. \end{cases}$$

Further, $E(U) = (a + b)/2$ and $\text{var}(U) = (b - a)^2/12$. Finally, the moment-generating function is

$$m_U(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{e^{tb} - e^{ta}}{(b-a)t} & \text{if } t \neq 0, \\ 1 & \text{if } t = 0. \end{cases}$$

3.2.2 Exponential distribution

Let $\beta > 0$. If the r.v. Y has density

$$f(y) = \begin{cases} \beta e^{-\beta y} & \text{if } y \geq 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

then we say that Y has **exponential distribution**, denoted $Y \sim \text{Exp}(\beta)$. The distribution becomes

$$F(y) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } y < 0, \\ 1 - e^{-\beta y} & \text{if } y \geq 0. \end{cases}$$

Integrating by parts, we see that

$$E(Y) = \int_0^\infty e^{-\beta y} = \frac{1}{\beta}.$$

Further, integrating by parts again, we have $E(Y^2) = 2/\beta^2$. Hence

$$\text{var}(Y) = \frac{1}{\beta^2}.$$

The moment-generating function m_Y is defined for $t < \beta$,

$$m_Y(t) = \frac{\beta}{\beta - t}.$$

3.2.3 Normal distribution

Let $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\sigma > 0$. We say that Z has **normal distribution** with parameters (μ, σ) whenever the density is

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{\sigma \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{z - \mu}{\sigma} \right)^2 \right), \quad z \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (3)$$

We use the notation $Z \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$. In particular, the **standard normal distribution** happens when $\mu = 0$ and $\sigma = 1$.

Remark 3.7. From the so-called Gaussian integral (see Theorem A.8)

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-s^2} ds = \sqrt{\pi},$$

we can see that $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(z) dz = 1$, where f is given by (3). In particular,

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-z^2/2} dz = 1.$$

◇

Theorem 3.8. Let $Z \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$. Then $E(Z) = \mu$ and $\text{var}(Z) = \sigma^2$.

Proof. In order to compute the expectation, set the change of variable $x = (z - \mu)/\sigma$ to obtain

$$E(Z) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\mu}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} dx + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{2\pi}} x e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} dx.$$

The first integral equals μ . For the second integral, notice that $\int_0^{\infty} x e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} dx$ is finite because

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^b x e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} dx &= 1 - e^{-b^2/2} \\ &\rightarrow 1 \end{aligned}$$

as $b \rightarrow \infty$. Since the integrand is an odd function,

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} dx = 0.$$

Then $E(Z) = \mu$.

We now compute the variance

$$\begin{aligned} \text{var}(Z) &= E[(Z - \mu)^2] \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (z - \mu)^2 \frac{1}{\sigma \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{z - \mu}{\sigma}\right)^2\right) dz \\ &= \frac{\sigma^2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 e^{-x^2/2} dx, \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

where the latter equality follows from the change of variable $x = \frac{z - \mu}{\sigma}$. On the other hand, integrate both sides of the equality

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x e^{-x^2/2}) = -x^2 e^{-x^2/2} + e^{-x^2/2}$$

on the interval $[-b, b]$, then let $b \rightarrow \infty$ to obtain

$$0 = - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 e^{-x^2/2} dx + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2/2} dx.$$

This equality of integrals and (4) imply (see Remark 3.7)

$$\text{var}(Z) = \frac{\sigma^2}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2/2} dx = \sigma^2.$$

□

Theorem 3.9. The moment-generating function m_Z of $Z \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ is given by

$$m_Z(t) = e^{\mu t + \sigma^2 t^2 / 2}, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Proof. The conclusion follows from the equality

$$tz - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{z - \mu}{\sigma} \right)^2 = \mu t + \frac{\sigma^2 t^2}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{z - (\sigma^2 t + \mu)}{\sigma} \right)^2.$$

□

3.2.4 Gamma distribution and its particular cases

A continuous r.v. Y has **gamma distribution** when its density is of the form

$$f(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} y^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta y} & \text{if } y \geq 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

where Γ is the function defined in Appendix A.1. We use the notation $Y \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$. Notice that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} y^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta y} dy &= \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^\infty y^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta y} dy \\ &= \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{\beta^\alpha} t^{\alpha-1} e^{-t} dt \\ &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the change of variable $t = \beta y$. Thus (5) defines a pdf.

Remark 3.10. A particular case of the gamma distribution happens when $\alpha = 1$, this is the exponential distribution. Another two particular cases are given in the following definition.

Definition 3.11. Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\beta > 0$.

(a) The r.v. Y whose pdf is given by

$$f(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{\beta^k}{(k-1)!} y^{k-1} e^{-\beta y} & \text{if } y \geq 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

is said to have **Erlang distribution**.

(b) The r.v. Y has **chi-squared distribution** with k degrees of freedom, written as $Y \sim \chi_k^2$, when the pdf is of the form

$$f(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2^{k/2} \Gamma(k/2)} y^{k/2-1} e^{-y/2} & \text{if } y \geq 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

Theorem 3.12. The moment-generating function m_Y of $Y \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$ is given by

$$m_Y(t) = \left(1 - \frac{t}{\beta} \right)^{-\alpha}, \quad t < \beta.$$

Proof. To compute the corresponding integral, let the change of variable $u = (\beta - t)y$, thus

$$\begin{aligned} m_Y(t) &= \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^\infty y^{\alpha-1} e^{-(\beta-t)y} dy \\ &= \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)(\beta-t)^\alpha} \int_0^\infty u^{\alpha-1} e^{-u} du \\ &= \frac{\beta^\alpha}{(\beta-t)^\alpha}, \end{aligned}$$

whenever $\beta - t > 0$. □

Theorem 3.13. If $Y \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$, then $E(Y) = \alpha/\beta$ and $\text{var}(Y) = \alpha/\beta^2$.

Proof. By differentiating m_Y , we have $m_Y'(0) = \alpha/\beta$ and $m_Y''(0) = \alpha(\alpha+1)/\beta^2$. Then $E(Y) = \alpha/\beta$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \text{var}(Y) &= E(Y^2) - (\alpha/\beta)^2 \\ &= \alpha(\alpha+1)/\beta^2 - \alpha^2/\beta^2 \\ &= \alpha/\beta^2. \end{aligned}$$

□

3.2.5 Beta distribution

The r.v. Y follows a **beta distribution** with parameters (α, β) whenever its pdf has the form

$$f(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{B(\alpha, \beta)} y^{\alpha-1} (1-y)^{\beta-1} & \text{if } 0 \leq y \leq 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

where B is the beta function—see Appendix A.2. We use the notation $Y \sim \text{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)$.

Unfortunately, there is not a closed-form expression for the moment-generating function of the beta distribution.

Proposition 3.14. Let $Y \sim \text{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)$. Then

$$E(Y) = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \beta} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{var}(Y) = \frac{\alpha\beta}{(\alpha + \beta)^2(\alpha + \beta + 1)}.$$

Proof. It follows from direct calculations and the relation

$$B(\alpha, \beta) = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta)}$$

proved in Theorem A.7. □

3.3 Exercises

Solve Exercises 4.59, 4.62, 4.63, 4.79, 4.88, 4.96, 4.105, 4.123, 4.133, 4.137, and 4.146 in Wackerly et al. [9]. The following websites could be useful

<https://homepage.divms.uiowa.edu/~mbognar/>

https://college.cengage.com/nextbook/statistics/wackerly_966371/student/html/

A Gamma and beta functions

A.1 The gamma function

Definition A.1. For each positive real number x , the **gamma function** is given by

$$\Gamma(x) := \int_0^\infty t^{x-1} e^{-t} dt. \quad (9)$$

To see why the improper Riemann integral (9) exists, notice first that

$$t^{x-1} e^{-t} \leq t^{x-1} \quad 0 < t \leq 1.$$

On the other hand, for each $x > 0$, $t^{x-1} e^{-t/2} \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$, thus

$$t^{x-1} e^{-t} \leq M_x e^{-t/2}, \quad t \geq 1,$$

for some constant M_x . Therefore the integral (9) is finite for each $x > 0$.

Lemma A.2. Let $p, q \in (1, \infty)$. If $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$, then for each $\alpha, \beta \geq 0$,

$$\alpha\beta \leq \frac{\alpha^p}{p} + \frac{\beta^q}{q}. \quad (10)$$

Proof. Notice that $h : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by

$$h(x) = (1-t) + tx - x^t, \quad 0 < t < 1,$$

attains its minimum at $x = 1$. Then

$$0 \leq (1-t) + tx - x^t, \quad \forall x > 0.$$

In particular, for $x = a/b$,

$$a^t b^{1-t} \leq ta + (1-t)b.$$

The conclusion of the lemma follows from the change of variables $t = 1/p$, $\alpha = a^t$, and $\beta = b^{1-t}$. \square

Lemma A.3 (Hölder's inequality). Let $f, g : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous functions. Then

$$\left| \int_a^b fg \right| \leq \left(\int_a^b |f|^p \right)^{1/p} \left(\int_a^b |g|^q \right)^{1/q}. \quad (11)$$

Proof. If $f \equiv 0$ or $g \equiv 0$, then the inequality trivially holds. When f and g are not identically zero, we have

$$\|f\|_p := \left(\int_a^b |f|^p \right)^{1/p} > 0$$

and

$$\|g\|_q := \left(\int_a^b |g|^q \right)^{1/q} > 0.$$

By Lemma A.2

$$\frac{|f(t)|}{\|f\|_p} \frac{|g(t)|}{\|g\|_q} \leq \frac{1}{p} \left(\frac{|f(t)|}{\|f\|_p} \right)^p + \frac{1}{q} \left(\frac{|g(t)|}{\|g\|_q} \right)^q \quad \forall t \in [a, b].$$

By integrating the latter inequality,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\|f\|_p \|g\|_q} \int_a^b |f(t)g(t)| dt &\leq \frac{1}{p(\|f\|_p)^p} \int_a^b |f(t)|^p dt + \frac{1}{q(\|g\|_q)^q} \int_a^b |g(t)|^q dt \\ &= \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} \\ &= 1, \end{aligned}$$

and hence the required inequality follows. \square

Hölder's inequality holds for *integrable* functions (not necessarily continuous) and also for *improper* integrals, see Aliprantis and Burkinshaw [1, Theorem 31.3].

Theorem A.4. *The gamma function satisfies*

- (a) $\Gamma(x+1) = x\Gamma(x)$ for every $x > 0$,
- (b) $\Gamma(n+1) = n!$ for each $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, and
- (c) $\log(\Gamma)$ is convex on the interval $(0, \infty)$.

Proof. (a) Integration by parts yields

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(x+1) &= \int_0^\infty t^x e^{-t} dt \\ &= 0 + x \int_0^\infty t^{x-1} e^{-t} dt \\ &= x\Gamma(x). \end{aligned}$$

- (b) From (9), we see that $\Gamma(1) = 1$. By (a),

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(2) &= 1, \\ \Gamma(3) &= 2 \cdot 1, \\ \Gamma(4) &= 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1. \end{aligned}$$

By induction, we conclude $\Gamma(n+1) = n!$.

- (c) Let $p, q \in (1, \infty)$ satisfy $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$. It suffices to show that

$$\log \Gamma\left(\frac{x}{p} + \frac{y}{q}\right) \leq \frac{\log \Gamma(x)}{p} + \frac{\log \Gamma(y)}{q} \quad \forall x, y \geq 0. \quad (12)$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma\left(\frac{x}{p} + \frac{y}{q}\right) &= \int_0^\infty t^{\frac{x}{p} + \frac{y}{q} - 1} e^{-t} dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty \left[t^{\frac{x}{p} - \frac{1}{p}} e^{-\frac{t}{p}} \right] \left[t^{\frac{y}{q} - \frac{1}{q}} e^{-\frac{t}{q}} \right] dt \\ &\leq \left[\int_0^\infty t^{x-1} e^{-t} dt \right]^{1/p} \left[\int_0^\infty t^{y-1} e^{-t} dt \right]^{1/q} \quad \text{by Hölder's inequality} \\ &= [\Gamma(x)]^{1/p} [\Gamma(y)]^{1/q}. \end{aligned}$$

Then (4) follows because $\log(\cdot)$ is increasing. \square

The following theorem gives three properties that characterize the gamma function. A proof of Theorem A.5, also known as Bohr-Mollerup Theorem, can be found in Rudin [8, Teorema 8.19].

Theorem A.5. *Let $G : (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ satisfy*

- (a) $G(x+1) = xG(x)$ for every $x > 0$,
- (b) $G(1) = 1$, and
- (c) $\log(G)$ is convex on the interval $(0, \infty)$.

Then $G(x) = \Gamma(x)$ for every $x > 0$.

A.2 The beta function

Definition A.6. *For each pair (x, y) of positive numbers, define the **beta function** as*

$$B(x, y) := \int_0^1 t^{x-1} (1-t)^{y-1} dt. \quad (13)$$

Theorem A.7. *The following equality holds for each pair (x, y) of positive numbers*

$$B(x, y) = \frac{\Gamma(x)\Gamma(y)}{\Gamma(x+y)}. \quad (14)$$

Proof. Put $x = 1$ in (13) to have

$$B(1, y) = \frac{1}{y}. \quad (15)$$

Notice also that

$$\begin{aligned} B(x+1, y) &= \int_0^1 t^x (1-t)^{y-1} dt \\ &= \int_0^1 \left(\frac{t}{1-t} \right)^x (1-t)^{x+y-1} dt \\ &= \frac{t^x (1-t)^y}{x+y} \Big|_1^0 + \int_0^1 \frac{x}{x+y} (1-t)^{y-1} t^{x-1} dt, \end{aligned}$$

hence

$$B(x+1, y) = \frac{x}{x+y} B(x, y). \quad (16)$$

In addition, for each y

$$\begin{aligned} B\left(\frac{x_1}{p} + \frac{x_2}{q}, y\right) &= \int_0^1 t^{\frac{x_1}{p} + \frac{x_2}{q} - 1} (1-t)^{y-1} dt \\ &= \int_0^1 t^{\frac{x_1-1}{p}} (1-t)^{\frac{y-1}{p}} t^{\frac{x_2-1}{q}} (1-t)^{\frac{y-1}{q}} dt \\ &\leq \left[\int_0^1 t^{x_1-1} (1-t)^{y-1} dt \right]^{\frac{1}{p}} \left[\int_0^1 t^{x_2-1} (1-t)^{y-1} dt \right]^{\frac{1}{q}}, \end{aligned}$$

the latter inequality follows from Hölder's inequality. Equivalently,

$$\log B\left(\frac{x_1}{p} + \frac{x_2}{q}, y\right) \leq \frac{\log B(x_1, y)}{p} + \frac{\log B(x_2, y)}{q},$$

which implies that $\log B(\cdot, y)$ is convex.

Let $G : (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ be given by

$$G(x) := \frac{\Gamma(x+y)}{\Gamma(y)} B(x, y).$$

Equations (15) and (16) imply

(a) $G(x+1) = xG(x)$ for every $x > 0$,

(b) $G(1) = 1$,

further, since $\log B(\cdot, y)$ is convex, we conclude that

(c) $\log(G)$ is convex on $(0, \infty)$.

By Theorem A.5,

$$\frac{\Gamma(x+y)}{\Gamma(y)} B(x, y) = \Gamma(x),$$

which is equivalent to (13). □

A.3 The Gaussian integral

The integral in the following theorem is known as **Gaussian integral**.

Theorem A.8. $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-s^2} ds = \sqrt{\pi}$.

Proof. Consider the integral (13) and set $t = \sin^2 \theta$, thus

$$\begin{aligned} B(x, y) &= \int_0^1 t^{x-1} (1-t)^{y-1} dt \\ &= \int_0^{\pi/2} (\sin^2 \theta)^{x-1} (1 - \sin^2 \theta)^{y-1} 2 \sin \theta \cos \theta d\theta \\ &= 2 \int_0^{\pi/2} (\sin \theta)^{2x-1} (\cos \theta)^{2y-1} d\theta. \end{aligned}$$

We now use Theorem A.7 with $x = y = \frac{1}{2}$ to obtain

$$\frac{[\Gamma(1/2)]^2}{\Gamma(1)} = 2 \int_0^{\pi/2} 1 d\theta.$$

Then

$$\Gamma(1/2) = \sqrt{\pi}. \tag{17}$$

On the other hand, the change of variable $t = s^2$ in the gamma function yields

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(x) &= \int_0^{\infty} t^{x-1} e^{-t} dt \\ &= 2 \int_0^{\infty} s^{2x-1} e^{-s^2} ds. \end{aligned}$$

In particular, for $x = \frac{1}{2}$, we have $\Gamma(1/2) = 2 \int_0^{\infty} e^{-s^2} ds$. Finally, from (17), we conclude that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-s^2} ds = \sqrt{\pi}.$$

□

B Probability spaces

B.1 The family of events

In this appendix, Ω denotes a nonempty set called **sample space**.

Definition B.1. A family \mathcal{F} of subsets of Ω is called a σ -**field** if

- (1) $\emptyset \in \mathcal{F}$,
- (2) $A \in \mathcal{F} \implies A^c \in \mathcal{F}$.
- (3) $A_n \in \mathcal{F}, n \in \mathbb{N}, \implies \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n \in \mathcal{F}$.

The members of the σ -field \mathcal{F} (also called σ -**algebra**) are called **events**.

Due to property (3) in the definition of σ -field, \mathcal{F} is said to be *closed under countable unions*. In fact, \mathcal{F} is also closed under *finite unions* because

$$A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_n = A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_n \cup \emptyset \cup \emptyset \cup \dots.$$

Further, \mathcal{F} is closed under countable intersections since

$$\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} B_n = \left(\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} B_n^c \right)^c.$$

Example B.2. The smallest σ -field of a sample space Ω is

$$\mathcal{F} = \{\emptyset, \Sigma\}.$$

On the other hand, the largest σ -field of Ω is the *power set* that consists of all the subsets of Ω . When Ω is a finite or countably infinite set, the usual σ -field for Ω is the power set. \diamond

It can be shown that the intersection of σ -fields of Ω is also a σ -field (Exercise A.??), thus the following definition makes sense.

Definition B.3. Let \mathcal{C} be a nonempty collection of subsets of Ω . The σ -**field generated by** \mathcal{C} is the smallest σ -field in Ω containing \mathcal{C} , i.e.,

$$\sigma(\mathcal{C}) := \bigcap \{ \mathcal{F} \mid \mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{F}, \mathcal{F} \text{ is a } \sigma\text{-field} \}.$$

Example B.4. Let $\Omega = \mathbb{R}$. Consider the collection \mathcal{C} of bounded open intervals

$$\mathcal{C} = \{(a, b) \mid a, b \in \mathbb{R}, a < b\}.$$

The σ -field $\sigma(\mathcal{C})$ is known as the **Borel σ -field** of \mathbb{R} , also denoted $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$. The events of $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$ are called **Borel events** or **Borel sets**. We now present some events of the Borel σ -field $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$:

(a) Intervals of the form (a, ∞) are Borel sets since

$$(a, \infty) = \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} (a, a + 1).$$

Similarly for the event $(-\infty, b)$.

(b) Intervals of the form $(-\infty, a]$ are also events since

$$(-\infty, a] = (a, \infty)^c.$$

Similarly for the event $[b, \infty)$.

(c) Intervals of the form $[a, b)$, with $a < b$, because

$$[a, b) = [(-\infty, a) \cup [b, \infty)]^c.$$

Similarly, $(a, b]$ and $[a, b]$ are also events.

Countable unions and intersections of the above intervals are also Borel sets. However, not every subset of \mathbb{R} is an event of the Borel σ -field (see, for instance, Rana [5, p. 113]). \diamond

Example B.5. Given a sample space Ω and a σ -field \mathcal{F} , we can endow any nonempty event S in Ω with the *induced* σ -field

$$\{S \cap A \mid A \in \mathcal{F}\}.$$

As a particular case, the induced Borel σ -field of $[0, 1]$, denoted $\mathcal{B}([0, 1])$, consists of all the Borel subsets of $[0, 1]$, that is,

$$\mathcal{B}([0, 1]) = \{A \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}) \mid A \subseteq [0, 1]\}.$$

\diamond

Definition B.6. The events E_1, E_2, E_3, \dots in \mathcal{F} are **disjoint** if

$$E_j \cap E_i = \emptyset \quad \text{for each } i \neq j.$$

B.2 Probability measures

Definition B.7. Let \mathcal{F} be a σ -field of subsets of Ω . A **probability measure** is any function $P : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ such that

(a) $P(\Omega) = 1$, $P(\emptyset) = 0$, and

(b) P is **countably additive** on \mathcal{F} , that is, for disjoint events E_1, E_2, E_3, \dots in \mathcal{F} ,

$$\bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} E_j \in \mathcal{F} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mu(\bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} E_j) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \mu(E_j).$$

We can observe that any probability measure is finitely additive. Thus

$$B = (B \setminus A) \cup (B \cap A) \quad \Rightarrow \quad P(B \setminus A) = P(B) - P(B \cap A).$$

In particular, $P(A^c) = 1 - P(A)$. Notice also that, $A \subseteq B$ implies $P(A) \leq P(B)$. With similar arguments we can prove the following properties of P .

Proposition B.8. Let \mathcal{F} be a σ -field and $P : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then for any events A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n in \mathcal{F} ,

(a) $P(A_2 - A_1) = P(A_2) - P(A_2 \cap A_1)$,

$$(b) P(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n) \leq \sum_{j=1}^n P(A_j).$$

One of the most important probability measures is the so-called **Lebesgue measure** which extends the *length* of intervals to a wider family of sets. Lebesgue's measure λ assigns a real number $\lambda(B)$ to each Borel set $B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$.

A **probability space** is a triple (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) where \mathcal{F} is a σ -field of subsets of Ω and $P : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is a probability measure.

Some examples of probability spaces are

(a) $(N, 2^N, P)$ where N is finite, the σ -field 2^N is the *power set* of N , and P is any pmf on N .

(b) In part (a), N can be replaced by a countably infinite set.

(c) $([0, 1], \mathcal{B}([0, 1]), \lambda)$ where λ is the Lebesgue's measure.

B.3 General random variables

Definition B.9. Let (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) a probability space. A **random variable** is any *measurable* function $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, i.e.,

$$X^{-1}((-\infty, a]) \in \mathcal{F} \quad \forall a \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Recall that $X \leq a$ is a shorter notation for the event

$$X^{-1}((-\infty, a]) = \{\omega \in \Omega \mid X(\omega) \leq a\}.$$

The **probability distribution** $F_X : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ of X is defined as

$$F_X(x) := P(X \leq x).$$

If there is no confusion, we simply write F instead of F_X .

A proof of the following theorem can be found in Resnick [6, pp. 33-34].

Theorem B.10. Let (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) be a probability space and a random variable $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then its probability distribution $F : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfies the following properties

(a) if $x < y$, then $F(x) \leq F(y)$,

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} F(x) = 0$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} F(x) = 1$,

(c) F is right-continuous at any $a \in \mathbb{R}$, that is, $\lim_{x \downarrow a} F(x) = F(a)$.

If $F : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfies properties (a), (b), and (c) of Theorem B.10, then F is called a **distribution function**.

A converse of Theorem B.10 is useful to simulate random variables by means of the so-called *inverse transformation (or inversion) method*. This method uses the so-called **quantile function** Q given in the following theorem.

Theorem B.11. Let U be a random variable with uniform distribution on the interval $[0, 1]$. Given a distribution function F , define the quantile function

$$Q(u) := \inf F^{-1}([u, 1]) = \inf\{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid u \leq F(x)\}, \quad u \in (0, 1). \quad (18)$$

Then $Q \circ U$ has probability distribution F .

Proof. To see that $Q \circ U$ indeed has distribution F , we note the following properties for each $u \in (0, 1)$ and $a \in \mathbb{R}$.

- (a) From the definition of Q , we conclude that Q is nondecreasing.
- (b) $Q(u) \in F^{-1}([u, 1])$, that is, $Q(u) = \min F^{-1}([u, 1])$. To prove this assertion, observe that for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists $x_n \in F^{-1}([u, 1])$ such that

$$Q(u) \leq x_n < Q(u) + \frac{1}{n}.$$

Then $F(x_n) \geq u$ for each n and $x_n \downarrow Q(u)$. Since F is right-continuous, in particular at $Q(u)$,

$$\begin{aligned} u &\leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F(x_n) \\ &= F(Q(u)), \end{aligned}$$

that is, $Q(u) \in F^{-1}([u, 1])$.

- (c) $Q(F(a)) \leq a$. This inequality follows from the definition (18) of $Q(F(a))$ because

$$a \in \{x \in \mathbb{R} \mid F(a) \leq F(x)\}.$$

- (d) $Q^{-1}((-\infty, a]) = (0, F(a)]$ or, equivalently, $Q(u) \leq a$ if and only if $u \leq F(a)$.

Let us show first that $Q(u) \leq a$ implies $u \leq F(a)$. Notice that (b) allows us to assert the existence of some x_u such that $Q(u) = x_u$ and

$$F(x_u) \geq u.$$

Then $x_u \leq a$ and, by the monotonicity of F , $F(x_u) \leq F(a)$. But $u \leq F(x_u)$, hence $u \leq F(a)$.

Conversely, $u \leq F(a)$ implies $Q(u) \leq a$. Indeed, by part (a) and (c),

$$Q(u) \leq Q(F(a)) \leq a.$$

Finally, the theorem follows from (d) because

$$\begin{aligned} P(Q \circ U \leq a) &= P(Q[U(\omega)] \leq a) \\ &= P(U(\omega) \leq F(a)) \\ &= F(a). \end{aligned}$$

□

Remark B.12. The function Q is sometimes called the **quantile function** of F . If there exists the inverse function F^{-1} of F , then $Q = F^{-1}$.

Theorem B.13. Let $F : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a distribution function. Then there exists a probability space (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) and a random variable $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$P(X \leq a) = F(a) \quad a \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Proof. Let $\Omega = (0, 1)$, $\mathcal{B}((0, 1))$, and $P = \lambda$. Given F , consider the corresponding quantile function Q . Define

$$X = Q \circ U,$$

where $U : (0, 1) \rightarrow (0, 1)$ is the uniform random variable. Then, by Theorem B.11, X has probability distribution F . \square

Remark B.14. Given a random variable X , the **moment-generating function** is

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

whenever it is finite on a neighborhood of the origin. If Y is another random variable and

$$m_X(t) = m_Y(t)$$

on a neighborhood of the origin, then $F_X(x) = F_Y(x)$ for every $x \in \mathbb{R}$. A proof of this fact can be found in Billingsley [2, Section 30] \diamond

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