

Summary

Jointly Distributed Random Variables

- If X and Y are discrete random variables, then their *joint probability mass function* $p(x, y)$ is defined by

$$p(x, y) = P\{X = x \text{ and } Y = y\}$$

- We say that X and Y are *jointly continuous* if there exists a nonnegative function $f(x, y)$ such that for every subset C of the xy -plane \mathbb{R}^2 , we have

$$P\{(X, Y) \in C\} = \iint_C f(x, y) dx dy$$

The function $f(x, y)$ is called the *joint probability density function* of X and Y .

- If X and Y are jointly continuous, then they are individually continuous, and their individual probability density functions are given by

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

and

$$f_Y(y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x, y) dx$$

- For any random variables X and Y , the *joint cumulative distribution function* of X and Y is defined by

$$F(x, y) = P\{X \leq x, Y \leq y\}$$

Independent Random Variables

- The random variables X and Y are *independent* if

$$P\{X \in A, Y \in B\} = P\{X \in A\} \cdot P\{Y \in B\} \quad \text{for all subsets } A, B \text{ of } \mathbb{R}.$$

- Discrete random variables X and Y are independent if and only if

$$p(x, y) = p_X(x) p_Y(y) \quad \text{for all } x, y$$

- Continuous random variables X and Y are independent if and only if

$$f(x, y) = f_X(x) f_Y(y) \quad \text{for all } x, y$$

- The random variables X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are *independent* if

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

for all subsets A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n of \mathbb{R} .

Sums of Independent Random Variables

- If X and Y are independent discrete random variables, then the probability density function of $X + Y$ is given by

$$p_{X+Y}(n) = \sum_{\text{all } k} p_X(k) p_Y(n-k)$$

- If X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are independent Poisson random variables with parameters $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$, respectively, then $X = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n$ is

a Poisson r.v. with parameter $\lambda = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i$

- If X and Y are independent continuous random variables, then the probability ~~mass~~^{density} function of $X + Y$ is given by

$$f_{X+Y}(z) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(z-y) f_Y(y) dy$$

- If X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are independent normal random variables with means $\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_n$ and variances $\sigma_1^2, \sigma_2^2, \dots, \sigma_n^2$, respectively, then $X = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n$ is

a normal r.v. with mean $\mu = \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i$ and variance $\sigma^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i^2$.

Conditional Distributions

- If X and Y are discrete random variables and $p_Y(y) > 0$, then the *conditional probability mass function* of X given that $Y = y$ is defined by

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

- If X and Y are jointly continuous with joint density $f(x,y)$ and $f_Y(y) > 0$, then the *conditional probability density function* of X given that $Y = y$ is defined by

$$f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{f(x,y)}{f_Y(y)}$$