

1 Optional: Probability mass function (discrete)

This is a more general version of the previous bin variable, with the main difference being that each bin has a different likelihood (as specified by the input function). So it's a combination of the discrete variable (using a running sum to determine which bin you fall in) and the bins (chopping up a continuous variable into bins).

Technical note: In theory land, there is a difference between doing this as a continuous function (probability density) versus chopping it up into pieces (probability mass). You can actually do continuous functions, but it's a bit trickier and we don't need it (see for example <https://www.comsol.com/blogs/sampling-random-numbers-from-probability-distribution-functions/>)

For this example we're going to use a class instead of a method because (in order to make it efficient) you want to pre-calculate a running sum from the given probabilities. It would be very expensive to do this every time you asked for a sample, like you did in the discrete problem.

This is also a good time to do some fancy numpy array stuff, namely, using "where" to find the index (instead of writing your own for loop)

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In [23]: class SampleProbabilityMassFunction:
def __init__(self, in_pdf, x_range=(0.0, 1.0), n_bins=100):
    """ Given a probability mass function, what range of x to use, and the number of samples
    sum/data needed to generate random samples from that pmf
    @param in_pdf - the function representing the probability distribution
    @param x_range - min and max x values as a tuple
    @param n_bins - number of bins """

    # TODO - Initialize correctly
    # Where the bins start and end
    # The amount of probability to put in each bin
    # The running sum
    # Where the center of each bin is (see sample_bin_variable above)
    self.bin_centers = np.zeros(n_bins)
    self.bin_start = x_range[0]
    self.bin_end = x_range[1]
    self.prob_per_bin = np.zeros(n_bins)
    self.bin_sum = np.zeros(n_bins+1)

    size_of_bin = (self.bin_end - self.bin_start) / n_bins
    index_of_bin = np.floor(n_bins * in_)
    center_of_bin = info_variable["start"] + (index_of_bin + 0.5) * size_of_bin

    # Create the pmf by evaluating in_pdf at the center of each bin
    # Don't forget to normalize - the sum of self.bin_heights should be 1
    self.bin_heights = np.zeros(n_bins)
    # Running sum of probabilities - bin_sum[i] = sum(bin_heights[0:i])
    # Note: It's a bit easier to generate_sample if you make this array n_bins+1, with the
    # and the last value being 1
    self.bin_sum = np.zeros(n_bins+1)
```

```

def generate_sample(self):
    """ Draw one sample from the pmf
    Very similar to the discrete example above, for picking which bin, except you've pre-c
    Very similar to bin_sample for returning the bin center, except you've pre-calculated t
    @return bin center """
    zero_to_one = random.uniform()

    # You want the i where bin_sum[i] <= zero_to_one < bin_sum[i+1]
    # Not fancy version: Use a for loop
    # Fancy version: Use np.where
    # TODO - return correct bin center
    ...

def _generate_counts(self, n_samples):
    """ Generate n samples
    @param n_samples - number of samples
    @returns a numpy array with the counts for each bin, normalized"""

    # Counts
    counts = np.zeros(self.bin_centers.shape[0])

    # Make sure to take enough samples for all of the bins...
    bin_width = self.bin_centers[1] - self.bin_centers[0]
    for _ in range(0, self.bin_centers.shape[0] * 100):
        x_value = self.generate_sample()
        bin_index = np.ceil((x_value - self.bin_centers[0]) / bin_width)
        counts[int(bin_index)] += 1.0

    # Normalize
    counts = counts / sum(counts)
    return counts

def test_self(self, in_pdf):
    """ Check/test function
    @param in_pdf - the pdf function used to generate the values
    @returns True/False"""

    # Expected probability values
    expected_probs = in_pdf(self.bin_centers)
    # Normalize
    expected_probs /= np.sum(expected_probs)

    counts = self._generate_counts(100 * self.bin_centers.shape[0])

    for exp, c in zip(expected_probs, counts):
        print(f"pmf perc {c} expected {exp}")

        if np.abs(exp - c) > 0.1:
            print("Failed")
            return False

    print("Passed")
    return True

```

```
In [24]: def pdf(x):
        """ Made-up pdf (a quadratic). Can be anything, as long as it's not negative
        @param x
        @ return (x+1) * (x+1) + 0.1 """
        return (x+1) ** 2 + 0.1
```

```
In [25]: # Syntax check
        x_min = -2.0
        x_max = 1.0
        n_bins = 10

        # Make the class
        my_sample = SampleProbabilityMassFunction(pdf, (x_min, x_max), n_bins)
        # Generate a sample
        ret_value = my_sample.generate_sample()
        if x_min < ret_value < x_max:
            print("PMF: Passed syntax check")
```

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NameError                                Traceback (most recent call last)
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NameError: name 'in_' is not defined
```

```
In [ ]: def test_pmf(b_do_plot=True):
        # Make the class
        x_min = -2.0
        x_max = 1.0
        n_bins = 10
        print("Sample pmf")
        my_sample = SampleProbabilityMassFunction(pdf, (x_min, x_max), n_bins)

        if not b_do_plot:
            return my_sample.test_self(pdf)

        print(f"Passed test: {my_sample.test_self(pdf)}")
```

```

# Plot the results
_, axs = plt.subplots(1, 2)
xs = np.linspace(x_min, x_max, n_bins * 10)
ys = pdf(xs)
ys = ys / sum(pdf(my_sample.bin_centers))
axs[0].plot(xs, ys, '-k', label="pdf")
axs[0].plot(my_sample.bin_centers, my_sample.bin_heights, 'bX', label="pmf")
axs[0].legend()
axs[0].set_title("pdf to pmf")

# The more samples you take, the more it will look like the pmf
counts = my_sample._generate_counts(1000 * n_bins)
axs[1].plot(xs, ys, '-k', label="pdf")
axs[1].plot(my_sample.bin_centers, counts, 'bX', label="pmf samples")
axs[1].legend()
axs[1].set_title("Sampled pmf")

return True

```

```
In [ ]: test_pmf()
```