

PC 2 - Probability distributions

Exercise 1

(Uniform distribution). Let X be a random variable with uniform distribution on $[0, 1]$. We define $Y = \min(X, 1 - X)$ and $Z = \max(X, 1 - X)$. Determine the distributions of Y and Z . Compute $\mathbb{E}[YZ]$.

Solution 1 *La variable aléatoire Y prend ses valeurs dans $[1/2, 1]$ et pour tout $t \in [1/2, 1]$,*

$$F_Y(t) = \mathbb{P}(U \leq t, 1 - U \leq t) = \mathbb{P}(U \leq t, U \geq 1 - t) = t - (1 - t) = 2t - 1$$

donc Y suit la loi uniforme sur $[1/2, 1]$. On remarque que $X = 1 - Y$ et on en déduit que X suit la loi uniforme sur $[0, 1/2]$. Pour calculer $\mathbb{E}[XY]$, on remarque que $XY = U(1 - U)$ et donc

$$\mathbb{E}[XY] = \mathbb{E}[U(1 - U)] = \int_0^1 (t - t^2) dt = [t^2/2 - t^3/3]_0^1 = 1/2 - 1/3 = 1/6.$$

Exercise 2

One says that $X \in (0, +\infty)$ follows the log-normal distribution if $\log(X) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. What is the density of X ?

Solution 2 *The density of $\log(X)$ is a log normal distribution :*

$$f_{\log(X)}(x) = \frac{1}{x\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\log(x))^2}{2}\right)$$

Exercise 3

Consider a random variable X having exponential distribution with parameter 1 . Let $a > 0$ be a positive real number.

1. Compute the cumulative distribution function of $Y = \min(X, a)$. Plot the function.
2. What can you say about the existence of a density for the distribution of Y ?
3. Compute $\mathbb{E}[Y]$. Hint: Use $Y = X\mathbf{1}_{X \leq a} + a\mathbf{1}_{X > a}$.

Exercise 4

Let V be a random variable with uniform distribution on $[0, \pi/2]$. Define the random variable $W = \sin(V)$.

1. Determine the distributions of W .
2. How does the distribution of W change when V has uniform distribution on $[0, \pi]$?

Exercise 5

(Cauchy distribution). Let X be a random variable with Cauchy distribution whose density is given by $f(x) = (\pi(1+x^2))^{-1}$. Determine the distribution of $1/X$ using a change of variables.

Solution 3 Soit $f : \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ continue bornée. On a

$$\mathbb{E}[f(\frac{1}{X})] = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(\frac{1}{x}) \frac{1}{\pi(1+x^2)} dx.$$

On a envie de faire le changement $u = 1/x$ mais pas bijectif sur \mathbb{R} ! on scinde en deux

$$\mathbb{E}[f(\frac{1}{X})] = \int_0^{+\infty} f(\frac{1}{x}) \frac{1}{\pi(1+x^2)} dx + \int_{-\infty}^0 f(\frac{1}{x}) \frac{1}{\pi(1+x^2)} dx.$$

On pose la variable $u = 1/x$ donc $du = -u^2 dx$ ainsi

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{+\infty} f(\frac{1}{x}) \frac{1}{\pi(1+x^2)} dx &= \int_0^{+\infty} f(u) \frac{1}{u^2} \frac{1}{\pi(1+u^{-2})} du \\ &= \int_0^{+\infty} f(u) \frac{1}{\pi(1+u^2)} du. \end{aligned}$$

De plus en faisant $u = 1/x$ dans l'intégrale sur \mathbb{R}^- on a de même

$$\int_{-\infty}^0 f(\frac{1}{x}) \frac{1}{\pi(1+x^2)} dx = \int_{-\infty}^0 f(u) \frac{1}{\pi(1+u^2)} du.$$

Donc $\frac{1}{X}$ a même loi que X .

Exercise 6

Let $p > 0$ and an integer n such that $n > p$. Consider random variables Y_n such that nY_n has a geometric distribution $\text{Geo}(\frac{p}{n})$ with parameter $\frac{p}{n}$. Show that the characteristic function of Y_n tends to the characteristic function of an exponentially distributed random variable with parameter p .

Solution 4 We have :

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{Y_n}(t) &= \mathbb{E}[e^{itY_n}] \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} p e^{itk} (1-p)^{k+1} \\ &= p(1-p) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (\exp(it) \cdot (1-p))^k \\ &= \frac{p(1-p)}{1 - (1-p) \cdot \exp(it)} \end{aligned}$$

And if $X \sim \text{Exp}(p)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_X(t) &= \mathbb{E}[e^{itX}] \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} p e^{itk} e^{-p} \frac{p^k}{k!} \\ &= p e^{-p} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\exp(it) \cdot p)^k}{k!} \\ &= p e^{-p} \exp((\exp(it) \cdot p)) \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 7

Let $\alpha > 1$ be fixed. Consider the random variable X with density given by

$$f(x) = c_\alpha x^{-\alpha} \mathbb{1}_{x \geq 1}$$

1. Determine the constant c_α .
2. For which values of p we have X belongs to L^p ?

Solution 5 1. Necessarily, $\int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) = 1$. So :

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}} c_\alpha x^{-\alpha} \mathbb{1}_{x \geq 1} dx = 1 &\iff c_\alpha \int_1^\infty x^{-\alpha} dx = 1 \iff c_\alpha = \frac{-1}{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}} \\ &\iff c_\alpha = \alpha - 1 \end{aligned}$$

2. We have :

$$\begin{aligned} X \in L^p &\iff \mathbb{E}[X^p] < \infty \\ &\iff \int_{\mathbb{R}} x^p x^{-\alpha} \mathbb{1}_{x \geq 1} dx < \infty &\iff \int_1^\infty x^{p-\alpha} dx < \infty \\ &\iff p - \alpha < -1 \end{aligned}$$

To understand the last step, see <https://boilley.ovh/cours/integrale-generalisee.html>. And finally the necessary and sufficient condition is $p - \alpha < -1$.

Exercise 8

Let X and Y be two independent random variables such that X (resp. Y) has geometric distribution with parameter p (resp. q).

1. Compute $\mathbb{P}(X > n)$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
2. What is the distribution of the random variable $Z = \min(X, Y)$?

Solution 6 1. We have :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}[X > n] &= \sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} p(1-p)^k \\ &= (1-p)^{n+1} \end{aligned}$$

using a formula for the sum of geometric terms.

2. Let determine the value of $\mathbb{P}[\min(X, Y) = k]$.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}[\min(X, Y) = k] &= \mathbb{P}[(X = k \cap Y > k) \cup (X > k \cap Y = k) \cup (X = k \cap Y = k)] \\ &= \mathbb{P}[X = k \cap Y > k] + \mathbb{P}[X > k \cap Y = k] + \mathbb{P}[X = k \cap Y = k] \\ &= p(1-p)^k(1-q)^{k+1} + (1-p)^{k+1}q(1-q)^k + p(1-p)^kq(1-q)^k \\ &= (1-p)^k(1-q)^k(p+q-pq) \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 9

Assume that $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$.

1. Show that $Y = (X - \mu)/\sigma$ has standard normal distribution $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$.
2. Compute $\mathbb{E}[|Y|]$ and $\mathbb{E}[Y^{2019}]$.

Solution 7 1. If $Y = (X - \mu)/\sigma$, then :

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{P}[a \leq Y \leq b] &= \mathbb{P}\left[a \leq \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma} \leq b\right] \\
 &= \mathbb{P}[a\sigma + \mu \leq X \leq b\sigma + \mu] \\
 &= \int_{a\sigma + \mu}^{b\sigma + \mu} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma^2} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dx \\
 &= \int_a^b \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} dy \text{ with change of variable } y = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, Y follows a normal distribution.

2. Let compute $\mathbb{E}[|Y|]$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{E}[|Y|] &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |x| e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \cdot 2 \cdot \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} x e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \left[e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \right]_0^\infty \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}}
 \end{aligned}$$