

11] Random Variables

- * A random variable is a variable whose value is determined by the outcome of a random experiment.
- * It assigns a number to each outcome in the sample space.

Ex: 1) Roll a fair dice

$$\text{Sample space} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

2) Random variable "X" = the number showing on the die

$$X \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

2) Toss two coins

$$\text{Sample space} = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$$

3) Random variable "Y" = the number of heads

$$Y \in \{0, 1, 2\}$$

Types of random variables

- 1) Discrete RV = values are countable (ex: above)
- 2) Continuous RV = values are uncountable, usually measured (ex: time, height)

12] Probability Distributions (Discrete)

* A discrete probability distribution gives the probabilities of all possible values of a discrete random variable.

Ex: Rolling a die \rightarrow outcomes $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$, each with probability $1/6$

Probability Mass Function (PMF)

The PMF is the function that assigns a probability to each outcome of a discrete random variable.

$$P(X=x) = f(x) \quad \sum f(x) = 1$$

Ex: For a fair die, $P(X=3) = 1/6$

- * $0 \leq P(X=x) \leq 1$
- * $\sum_x P(X=x) = 1$ (all probabilities add up to 1)

13] Binomial Distribution

A binomial distribution is a probability distribution that models the number of successes in a fixed number of independent trials, each with the same probability of success.

•) If flip a coin 10 times, what's the probability of getting exactly 6 heads?

Conditions for Binomial Distribution,

- 1) The experiment consists of n independent trials
- 2) Each trial has two outcomes, Success (p) or Failure ($q = 1-p$)
- 3) We are interested in the number of successes (k) in n trials.

$$P(X=k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

X = random variable (number of success)

n = number of trials

k = number of successes

p = probability of success in a single trial

$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} \quad \leftarrow \text{number of ways to choose } k \text{ success}$$

Ex: 1) Flip a coin 3 times ($n=3$, $p=0.5$)
what's the probability of getting exactly 2 heads ($k=2$)

$$P(X=2) = \binom{3}{2} (0.5)^2 (0.5)^1$$

$$= 0.375$$

- Ques 2) A student guesses on 5 questions, each with 25% of being correct ($n=5, p=0.25$)
 Exactly 2 correct

$$P(X=2) = \binom{5}{2} (0.25)^2 (0.75)^3$$

$$= 0.2637$$

14] Bernoulli Distribution

- * A bernoulli distribution models a random experiment with only two outcomes:
 - Success (1) with probability (p)
 - Failure (0) with probability ($1-p$)

PMF \Rightarrow

$$P(X=x) = \begin{cases} p & \text{if } x=1 \\ 1-p & \text{if } x=0 \end{cases}$$

- * Binomial distribution = Sum of multiple Bernoulli trials (n trials)

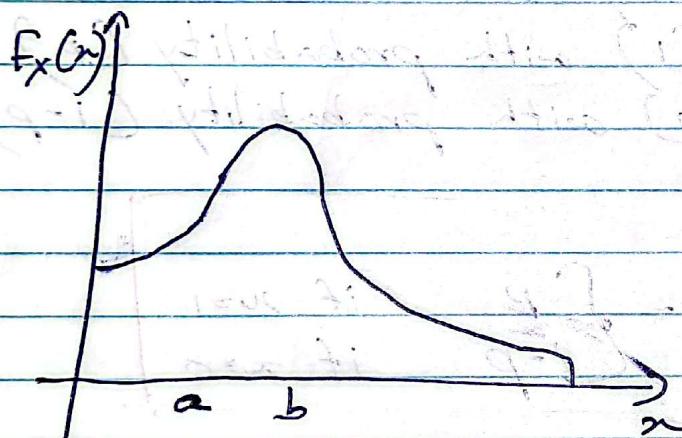
15] Continuous probability distribution

- * Unlike discrete variables, we can't assign a probability to a single exact value because there are infinitely many possible values

- * Ex: Height of adults in cm could be any number from 140 to 200

16] Probability density function ($f_x(x)$)

- * Tell you the rate you accumulate probability around each point.
- * Only defined for continuous variables
- * $f_x(x)$ itself is not a probability, but the area under the curve between two values give the probability



$P(a < X < b) = \text{area under } f_x(x)$

* Defined for all numbers

* $f_x(x) \geq 0$

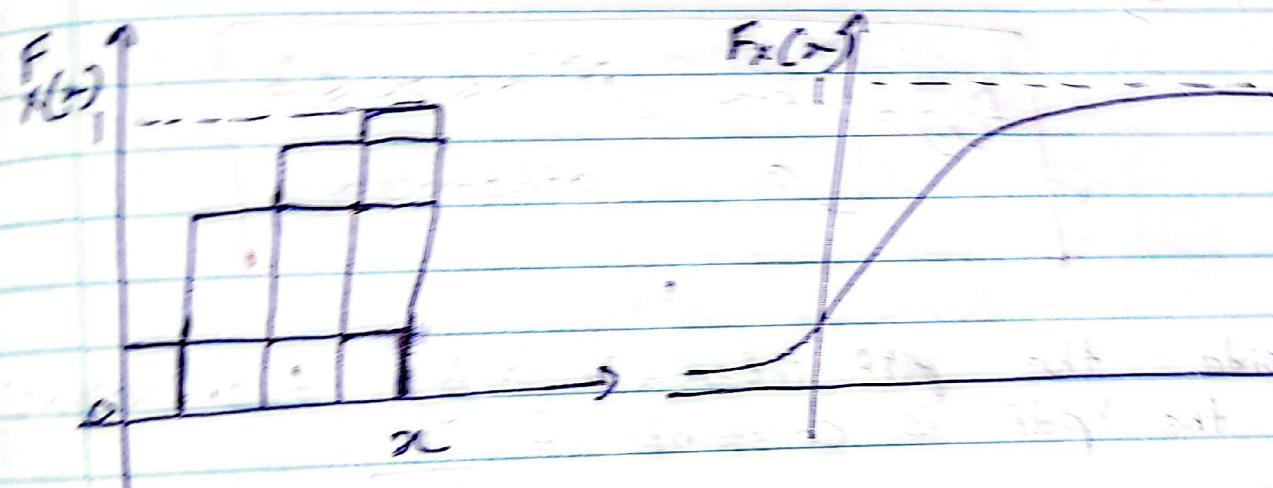
* Area under $f_x(x) = 1$

$$\text{PMF} : P_x(x) = P(X=x)$$

$$\text{PDF} : f_x(x) = P(X=x) = 0$$

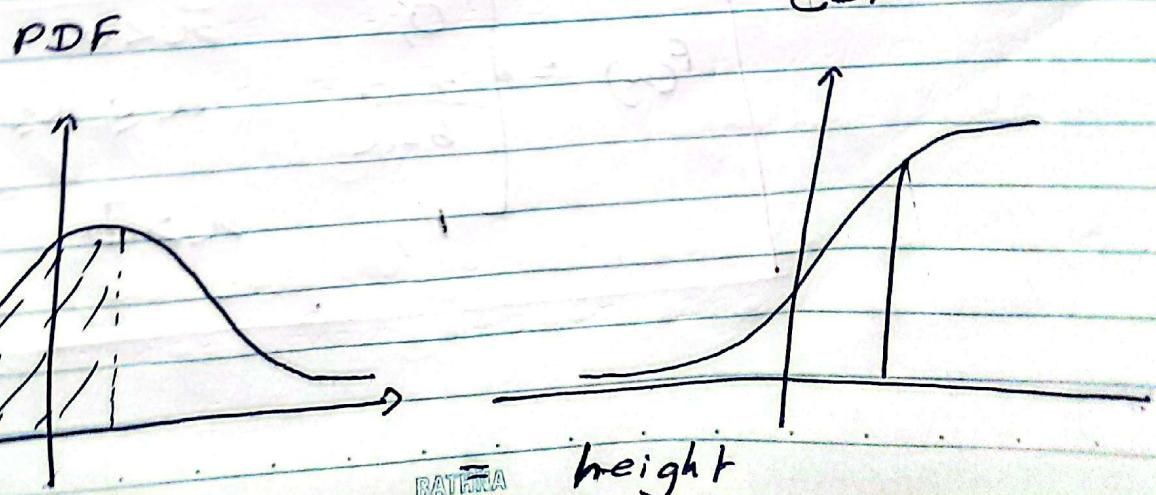
i) Cumulative Distribution Function ($F_X(x)$)

- ↳ Tells the probability that a continuous random variable is less than or equal to a value
- ↳ Shows how much probability the variable has accumulated until a certain value.



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

- * $0 \leq F_X(x) \leq 1$
- * Left endpoint is 0
- * Right endpoint is 1
- * Never decreases



18] Uniform distribution (Continuous)

- * A uniform distribution is the simplest type of continuous distribution
- * Every value in the interval (a, b) is equally likely

PDF =

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

- * Inside the ~~prob~~ interval (a, b) the height of the pdf is constant $= \frac{1}{b-a}$
- * Outside the interval, probability is 0
- * This ensures that the total area under the pdf $= 1$

CDF \Rightarrow

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

- * a is the minimum ($a < x$) $\Rightarrow p = 0$
- * b is the maximum ($x > b$) $\Rightarrow p = 1$

* For any between ($a \leq x \leq b$)

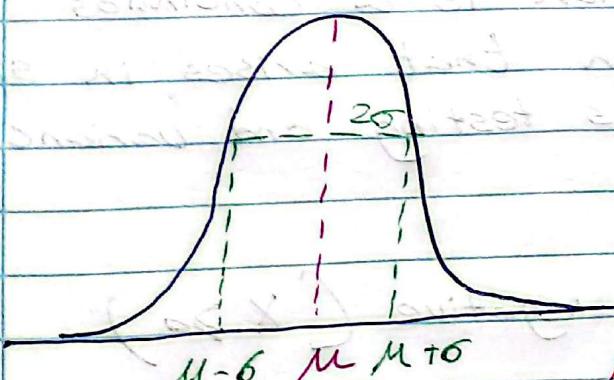
$$P = \frac{x-a}{b-a}$$

*) PDF \Rightarrow At any point in $[a, b]$, the likelihood density is the same

*) CDF \Rightarrow As you move on from a to b, probability accumulates steadily from a to b

19] Normal Distribution

*) The normal distribution is the most common distribution in real life it's bell-shaped and symmetric around the mean



σ = spread of the bell (standard deviation)

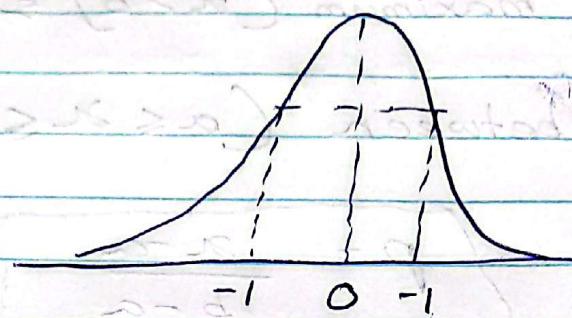
μ = Center of the bell (Mean)

$$X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2) \Rightarrow$$

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \frac{(x-\mu)^2}{\sigma^2}}$$

Scaling Constant

Standard Normal Distribution



$$\mu = 0$$

$$\sigma = 1$$

$$X \sim N(0, 1^2)$$

* To standardize any distribution

$$Z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma}$$

* Z has a standard normal distribution

* Standardization is crucial to compare variables of different magnitudes

20] Chi Squared Distributions

Chi squared distribution is a continuous probability distribution that arises in stats, especially in hypothesis testing and variance analysis.

* It is always non negative ($X \geq 0$)

* It is asymmetric (right skewed), but becomes more symmetric as degrees of freedom increase

$$X \sim \chi^2(k)$$

where 'k' is the degrees of freedom (df)

- If you have k independent standard normal random variables $Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_k \sim N(0, 1)$ then the sum of their squares

$$X = Z_1^2 + Z_2^2 + Z_3^2 + \dots + Z_k^2$$

follows a chi-squared distribution with k degrees of freedom.

- * Intuition: It measures "squared deviations" from expected values - that's why it's used in goodness of fit tests.