

* Gaussian (Normal) R.V.

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

CDF of Gaussian:

$$F_X(x) = P(X \leq x) \\ = \int_{-\infty}^x f_X(x) dx$$

CDF is the
integral of PDF

CDF of Gaussian:

$$F_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \int_{-\infty}^x e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dx \quad \left. \vphantom{\int_{-\infty}^x} \right\} \text{No closed form expression.}$$

Recall:

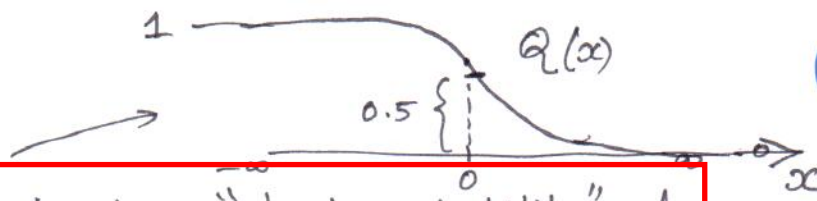
$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) dx = 1 = \int_{-\infty}^x f_X(x) dx + \int_x^{\infty} f_X(x) dx$$

$$1 = \int_{-\infty}^x f_X(x) dx + \int_x^{\infty} f_X(x) dx$$

We often numerically use the Q-function, which is defined as

$$Q(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_x^{\infty} e^{-u^2/2} du$$

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Q -function is the "tail probability" of Standard Normal $N(0,1)$.

For a $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$, we can evaluate its CDF in terms of the $Q(\cdot)$ function

$$F_X(a) = \int_{-\infty}^a \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dx.$$

Change of variable: $y = \frac{(x-\mu)}{\sigma} \Rightarrow dx = \sigma dy$

$$\begin{aligned} F_X(a) &= \int_{-\infty}^{(a-\mu)/\sigma} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-y^2/2} dy \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{(a-\mu)/\sigma} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-y^2/2} dy + \int_{(a-\mu)/\sigma}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-y^2/2} dy \\ &\quad - \int_{(a-\mu)/\sigma}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-y^2/2} dy \\ &= 1 - \int_{(a-\mu)/\sigma}^{\infty} e^{-y^2/2} dy \end{aligned}$$

$$F_X(a) = 1 - Q\left(\frac{a-\mu}{\sigma}\right) = \Phi\left(\frac{a-\mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

$\Phi(x)$ = CDF of $N(0,1)$
Standard Normal.

* Exponential R.V. (Parameter = λ)

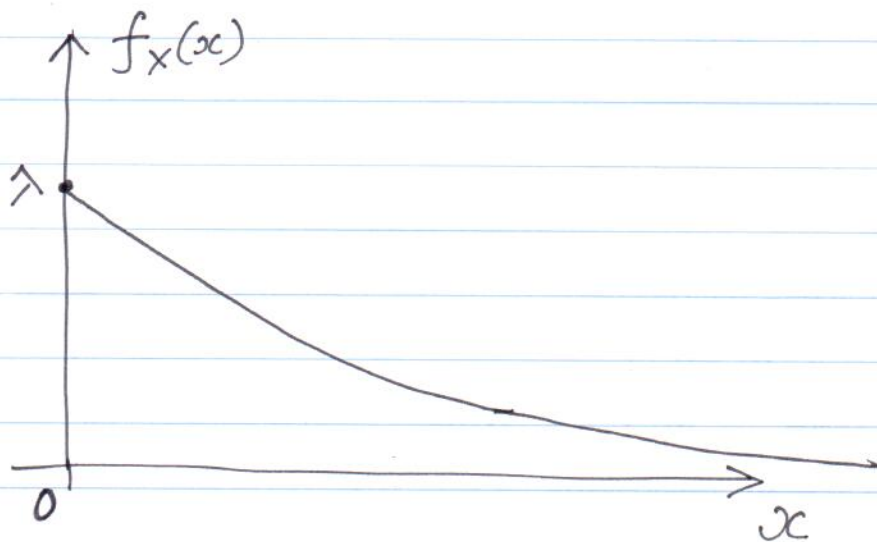
$$f_x(x) = \begin{cases} \lambda e^{-\lambda x} & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

(PDF)

$$\text{CDF} = F_x(a) = \int_0^a \lambda e^{-\lambda x} dx = -e^{-\lambda x} \Big|_0^a$$

$$F_x(a) = 1 - e^{-\lambda a}$$

If occurrences of events over non-overlapping intervals are independent, (eg. arrival times of telephone calls, arrival times of a customer at McD's ...), then the waiting time distribution of these events can be modeled by Exponential.



Memoryless Property of Exponential



$$P(X > t+s \mid X > t) \stackrel{?}{=} P(X > s)$$

Probability of waiting
for $(t+s)$ given that we have
already waited for t ?

this property is
true for
Exponential.

$$P(X > t+s \mid X > t) = \frac{P(X > t+s \cap X > t)}{P(X > t)}$$

$$= \frac{P(X > t+s)}{P(X > t)}$$

$$= \frac{1 - P(X \leq (t+s))}{1 - P(X \leq t)}$$

$$= \frac{1 - (1 - e^{-\lambda(t+s)})}{1 - (1 - e^{-\lambda t})}$$

$$= \frac{e^{-\lambda(t+s)}}{e^{-\lambda t}} = e^{-\lambda s} = P(X > s)$$

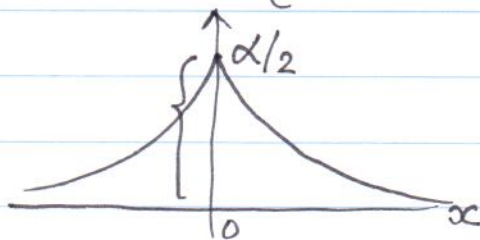
* Rayleigh R.V. (Parameter = σ)

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x}{\sigma^2} e^{-x^2/2\sigma^2}, & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Rayleigh is useful in communication systems, to model the amplitude of a randomly received signal.

* Laplace R.V. (Parameter = α)

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\alpha}{2} e^{-\alpha|x|} & |x| < \infty \end{cases}$$



Laplace distrib. is useful in modeling speech signals. Recent uses in Privacy preserving data analysis (Google \rightarrow Differential Privacy!)

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Recovering PDF from CDF

* Recall for a discrete r.v.

$$P_X(a) = F_X(x^+) - F_X(x^-)$$

* For a continuous valued r.v., consider a small interval $\left[a - \frac{\Delta x}{2}, a + \frac{\Delta x}{2}\right]$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} [\text{---} | \text{---}] \text{---} \\ a - \frac{\Delta x}{2} \quad a \quad a + \frac{\Delta x}{2} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_X\left(a + \frac{\Delta x}{2}\right) - F_X\left(a - \frac{\Delta x}{2}\right) &= \int_{-\infty}^{a + \Delta x/2} f_X(t) dt \\ &\quad - \int_{-\infty}^{a - \Delta x/2} f_X(t) dt \\ &= \int_{a - \Delta x/2}^{a + \Delta x/2} f_X(t) dt \end{aligned}$$

For Δx small, $f_X(t) \approx \overbrace{\text{constant}}^{f_X(a)}$ in the range

$$\begin{aligned} &\approx f_X(a) \cdot \int_{a - \Delta x/2}^{a + \Delta x/2} dt \\ &= f_X(a) \Delta x \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow f_X(a) \approx \frac{F_X(a + \Delta x/2) - F_X(a - \Delta x/2)}{\Delta x}$$

$$\rightarrow \left. \frac{dF_X(x)}{dx} \right|_{x=a} \quad \text{as } \Delta x \rightarrow 0$$

Hence, we can obtain PDF from CDF via differentiation, i.e.

$$f_X(x) = \frac{dF_X(x)}{dx}$$

Mixed Random Variables

* which can have non-zero probability at some points but not others

* Eg

$$X = \begin{cases} N(0,1) & \text{if Heads} \\ 0 & \text{if Tails} \end{cases}$$

To find the CDF of such mixed r.v.'s, we can use the Law of Total Probability

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

$$= P[\text{heads}] \cdot P[X \leq x | \text{heads}] + P[X \leq x | \text{tail}] \cdot P[\text{tail}]$$

Case 1: if $x \geq 0$

$$\begin{aligned} F_X(x) &= \frac{1}{2} \times \underbrace{P[X \leq x | \text{heads}]}_{\substack{\downarrow \\ \text{CDF of } N(0,1)}} + \frac{1}{2} \times \underbrace{P[X \leq x | \text{tail}]}_{=1} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \times \Phi(x) + \frac{1}{2} \times 1 \\ &= (1 + \Phi(x))/2 \end{aligned}$$

Since $x=0$ if outcome is tail...

Case 2: if $x < 0$

$$\begin{aligned} F_X(x) &= \frac{1}{2} \times \Phi(x) + \frac{1}{2} \times \underbrace{P(X \leq x | \text{tail})}_{=0} \\ &= \Phi(x)/2 \end{aligned}$$

Since $x=0$ if outcome is tail.

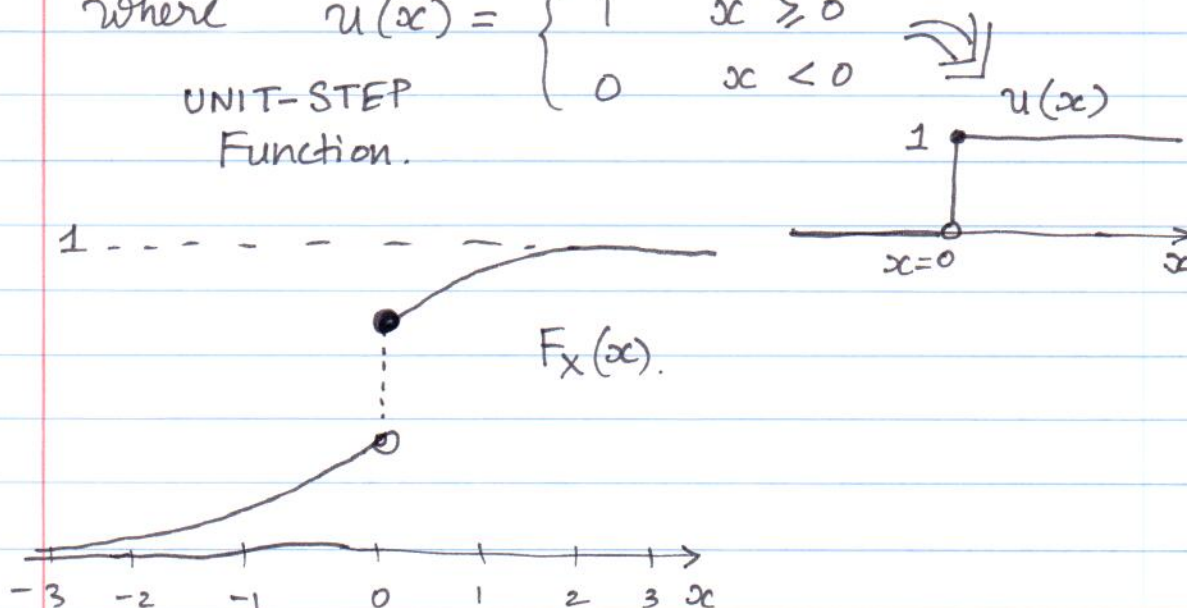
$$\Rightarrow F_X(x) = \begin{cases} (1 + \Phi(x))/2 & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ \Phi(x)/2 & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$$

we can write this as

$$F_X(x) = \frac{\Phi(x)}{2} + \frac{u(x)}{2} \quad -\infty < x < \infty$$

where $u(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & x < 0 \end{cases}$

UNIT-STEP
Function.



For mixed r.v.'s, CDF is in general continuous except for a countable number of jumps. (It is always right-continuous).

PDF from CDF ??

$$f_X(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{\Phi(x)}{2} + \frac{u(x)}{2} \right]$$

$u(x)$ is discontinuous at $x=0$ & thus formally its derivative does not exist there.
and

We can, however, define a derivative for conceptualization & probability calculations

$$\underbrace{\delta(x)}_{\substack{\text{Dirac delta} \\ \text{function}}} \triangleq \frac{d u(x)}{dx}, \quad \text{where } u(x) \text{ is unit step function.}$$

* narrow pulse with large amplitude centered at $x=0$

* $\delta(x) = 0$ for all $x \neq 0$,

however $\int_{-\epsilon}^{\epsilon} \delta(t) dt = 1$ for ϵ a small positive number.

$$\Rightarrow f_X(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{1}{2} \Phi(x) + \frac{1}{2} u(x) \right]$$

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2} + \frac{1}{2} \delta(x)$$

(Eg) For discrete r.v.'s, we can also write the PMF in terms of Dirac Delta Functions