

1 Moment generating functions

2 Bivariate distribution (Joint PMF, CDF and Marginal PMF)  
(discrete case)  
for today.  $\downarrow$   
e.g.  $P(X=x, Y=y)$ .

# Moment generating functions

applies to both discrete  
& continuous,

-  $E[X]$  mean 1st moment

-  $E[X^2]$  2nd moment.

-  $E[X^n]$

e.g.  $\text{Var}(X) = E[X^2] - (E[X])^2$   
n-th moment.

fully characterize distribution of  $X$ .

Recall: school:

$$e^x = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots$$

$$e^{tX} = 1 + tX + \frac{(tX)^2}{2!} + \dots$$

$$\mathbb{E}[e^{tX}] = 1 + t \underbrace{\mathbb{E}[X]}_{\uparrow} + \frac{t^2}{2!} \underbrace{\mathbb{E}[X^2]}_{\uparrow} + \dots$$

moment  
generating  
function.

# Moment generating functions

- A distribution of a random variable  $X$  is determined by its CDF or by its PDF/PMF.
- If a random variable is defined by some expression (e.g.  $X = \frac{1}{10}(X_1 + \cdots + X_{10})$ ), then it may be tedious to compute the CDF/PDF/PMF directly.
- Moment generating functions sometimes can be used in these cases to identify the distribution of  $X$  indirectly in a much quicker way.

Recall:  $\mathbb{E}[g(x)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) \underbrace{f(x)}_{\text{PDF}} dx$

Let  $X$  be a random variable. Its **moment generating function (MGF)** is defined by

$$M_X(t) = \mathbb{E}[e^{tX}], \quad \underline{\underline{t \in \mathbb{R}}}.$$

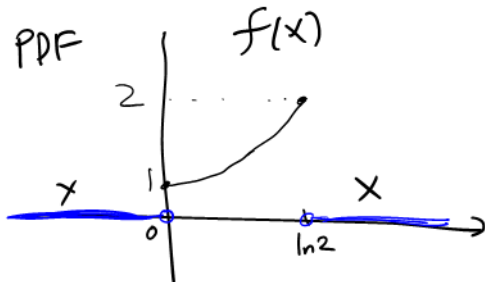
- Continuous case:  $M_X(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tx} f(x) dx$ , where  $f(x)$  is the PDF of  $X$ .
- Discrete case:  $M_X(t) = \sum_x e^{tx} p(x)$ , where  $p(x)$  is the PMF of  $X$ .

$$\mathbb{E}[g(x)] = \sum_x g(x) p(x)$$

## Example 1

Let  $X$  be a random variable with PDF  $f(x) = e^x$  for  $0 \leq x \leq \ln 2$ , and  $f(x) = 0$  otherwise. Compute the moment generating function of  $X$ .

*Solution.*



$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{MGF } M_X(t) &= \mathbb{E}[e^{tx}] \\
 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tx} \underline{f(x)} dx \\
 &= \int_0^{\ln 2} e^{tx} e^x dx \\
 &= \int_0^{\ln 2} e^{(t+1)x} dx \\
 &\stackrel{\text{blue arrow}}{=} \left[ \frac{e^{(t+1)x}}{t+1} \right]_0^{\ln 2} = \frac{e^{(t+1)\ln 2}}{t+1} - \frac{1}{t+1}
 \end{aligned}$$



$$= \frac{e^{\ln 2^{t+1}} - 1}{t+1}$$

$$= \frac{2^{t+1} - 1}{t+1}$$

#.

$$\underline{\underline{(t \neq -1)}}$$

Recall

$$e^{\ln a} = a.$$

## Example 2

Let  $X$  be a discrete random variable with PMF  $p(x)$  given as follows:

$x$	0	1	2	3
$p(x)$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$

average =

$E[X]$

$$= 0 \cdot \frac{3}{8} + 1 \cdot \frac{3}{8} + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{8} + 3 \cdot \frac{1}{8} = 1$$

We compute the moment generating function of  $X$ :

$$\begin{aligned} M_X(t) &= \sum_{x=0}^3 e^{tx} p(x) \\ &= \frac{3}{8} e^{t \cdot 0} + \frac{3}{8} \cdot e^{t \cdot 1} + \frac{1}{8} \cdot e^{t \cdot 2} + \frac{1}{8} \cdot e^{t \cdot 3} \\ &= \frac{1}{8} (3 + 3e^t + e^{2t} + e^{3t}). \end{aligned}$$



$$M_x(t) = \frac{3}{8} + \frac{3}{8}e^t + \frac{e^{2t}}{8} + \frac{e^{3t}}{8}.$$

$$\frac{dM_x(t)}{dt} = \frac{3}{8}e^t + \frac{2}{8}e^{2t} + \frac{3e^{3t}}{8}$$

$$\frac{dM_x}{dt}(0) = \frac{3}{8} + \frac{2}{8} + \frac{3}{8} = 1 \quad \checkmark$$

$\uparrow$   
 $t=0$

### Theorem 3 (Properties of MGF – Part I)

Let  $X, Y$  be random variables with  $M_X(t) < \infty, M_Y(t) < \infty$  for  $-h < t < h$ . Then


- (a)  $\mathbb{E}[X^n] = \underline{M_X^{(n)}(0)}$ , where  $M_X^{(n)}(t) = \underline{\frac{d^n}{dt^n} M_X(t)}$ , the  $n$ -th derivative of  $M_X(t)$ .
- (b) (Inversion Theorem) If  $M_X(t) = M_Y(t)$  for all  $t$ , then  $X$  and  $Y$  have the **same** distribution, i.e. they have the same CDF/PDF.

$\mathbb{E}[X^n]$  is called the  **$n$ -th moment** of  $X$ . E.g. the **first moment** is the same as the expected value (or mean).

## Theorem 4 (Properties of MGF – Part II)

(c) If  $Y = aX + b$ , where  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ , then

$$M_Y(t) = e^{tb} M_X(at)$$

 If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then

$$M_{X+Y}(t) = M_X(t) M_Y(t).$$



$$\frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n}{n}$$

# MGFs of common distributions.

Distribution	MGF
<i>Bernoulli</i> ( $p$ )	$pe^t + 1 - p$ ✓
✓ <i>Geom</i> ( $p$ )	$\frac{pe^t}{1 - (1 - p)e^t}$ for $t < -\ln(1 - p)$
✓ <i>Binomial</i> ( $n, p$ )	$(pe^t + 1 - p)^n$ ✓
✓ <i>Poisson</i> ( $\lambda$ )	$e^{\lambda(e^t - 1)}$
✓ <i>U</i> ( $a, b$ )	$\frac{e^{tb} - e^{ta}}{t(b - a)}$ for $t \neq 0$ , 1 for $t = 0$
<i>N</i> ( $\mu, \sigma^2$ )	$e^{\mu t + \sigma^2 t^2 / 2}$
<i>Gamma</i> ( $\alpha, \theta$ )	$(1 - \theta t)^{-\alpha}$ for $t < \frac{1}{\theta}$
✓ <i>Exp</i> ( $\theta$ )	$(1 - \theta t)^{-1}$ for $t < \frac{1}{\theta}$ ✓

$$\frac{1}{1 - \theta t}$$

### Example 5

Let  $X \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p)$ . Show that the MGF of  $X$  is  $(pe^t + 1 - p)^n$ .

Solution.

Let  $Y \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$

$y$	0	1
$p(y)$	$1-p$	$p$

$$\begin{aligned} M_Y(t) &= \sum_{y=0}^1 e^{ty} \cdot p(y) = e^0 \cdot p(0) + e^t p(1) \\ &= 1 - p + pe^t \\ &= \underline{pe^t + 1 - p} \quad \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

$$X \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p)$$

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i$$

$$Y_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$$

(independent)

By property (d) :

$$M_X(t) = M_{Y_1 + Y_2 + \dots + Y_n}(t)$$

$$= M_{Y_1}(t) \cdot M_{Y_2}(t) \dots M_{Y_n}(t)$$

$$= (pe^{t+1}-p)(pe^{t+1}-p) \dots (pe^{t+1}-p)$$

$$= (pe^{t+1}-p)^n$$



$$X \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p)$$

$$p(x) = \binom{n}{x} p^x (1-p)^{n-x}$$

$$E[X^3] = \sum x^3 \underline{p(x)}$$

$$= \dots = ?$$

### Example 6

Let  $X \sim \text{Exp}(\theta)$ . Derive the MGF of  $X$  and use it to find the mean and variance of  $X$ .

*Solution.* Recall PDF  $f(x) = \frac{1}{\theta} e^{-x/\theta} \quad \underline{\underline{x \geq 0}}$

$$\begin{aligned} M_X(t) &= E[e^{tx}] \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tx} f(x) dx = \int_0^{\infty} e^{tx} \frac{1}{\theta} e^{-x/\theta} dx \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\theta} \int_0^{\infty} e^{(t-\frac{1}{\theta})x} dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{\theta} \left[ \frac{e^{(t-\frac{1}{\theta})x}}{t-\frac{1}{\theta}} \right]_0^{\infty}$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} t - \frac{1}{\theta} \neq 0 \\ \text{i.e. } t \neq \frac{1}{\theta} \end{array} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\theta} \left[ 0 - \frac{1}{t-\frac{1}{\theta}} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{\theta} \left( -\frac{1}{t-\frac{1}{\theta}} \right) = \underline{\underline{\frac{1}{1-t\theta}}}$$

provided  
 $t - \frac{1}{\theta} \neq 0$ .

provided  $t - \frac{1}{\theta} < 0$

$$e^{(t - \frac{1}{\theta}) \infty}$$

$$e^{\frac{-0.001 \cdot \infty}{1}} = e^{-\infty}$$

e.g

$$e^{(-2) \cdot \infty} = e^{-\infty} = \frac{1}{\underbrace{e^{\infty}}_{\infty}} = \frac{1}{\infty} = 0$$

$$e^{+2 \cdot \infty} = +\infty \times$$

Differentiating the MGF, we have

$$M_X(t) = (1 - \theta t)^{-1}$$
$$\frac{dM_X(t)}{dt} = -(1 - \theta t)^{-2}(-\theta)$$

$$M_X^{(1)}(t) = \frac{d}{dt} M_X(t) = \theta(1 - \theta t)^{-2}$$

$$\underline{\underline{M_X^{(2)}(t)}} = \underline{\underline{\frac{d^2}{dt^2} M_X(t)}} = \underline{\underline{2\theta^2(1 - \theta t)^{-3}}}$$

By Property (a) of MGF, we have

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = M_X^{(1)}(\mathbf{0}) = \theta, \quad \underline{\underline{\mathbb{E}[X^2] = M_X^{(2)}(\mathbf{0}) = 2\theta^2.}}$$

The mean of  $X$  is  $\mathbb{E}[X] = \theta$ .

The variance of  $X$  is

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}[X] &= \mathbb{E}[X^2] - (\mathbb{E}[X])^2 \\ &= 2\theta^2 - \theta^2 \\ &= \theta^2.\end{aligned}$$



### Example 7

Suppose  $X_1 \sim N(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2)$ ,  $X_2 \sim N(\mu_2, \sigma_2^2)$  are independent. Use MGF to find the distribution of  $X_1 + X_2$ .

$$P(X_1 + X_2 \leq w)$$

*Solution.* From the Table of MGF,

$$M_{X_1}(t) = e^{\mu_1 t + \sigma_1^2 t^2 / 2}, \quad M_{X_2}(t) = e^{\mu_2 t + \sigma_2^2 t^2 / 2}.$$

By Property (c) of MGF,

$$X = X_1, \quad Y = X_2.$$

$$\underline{M_{X+Y}(t)} = \underline{M_X(t)} \underline{M_Y(t)} = e^{(\mu_1 + \mu_2)t + \frac{(\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2)}{2} t^2}$$

From the Table of MGF and Property (d) of MGF, we deduce that

$$X + Y \sim N(\mu_1 + \mu_2, \sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2),$$

i.e.  $X + Y$  is normally distributed with mean  $\mu_1 + \mu_2$  and variance  $\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2$ . □

$$N(\mu, \sigma^2) \quad \text{MGF} \quad e^{\mu t + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} t^2}.$$



# Bivariate distribution (Joint PMF, CDF and Marginal PMF)

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{PPF/PMF} \\
 X \rightarrow \underline{f_X(x)} / \underline{P_X(x)} \\
 Y \rightarrow \underline{f_Y(y)} / \underline{P_Y(y)}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{PDF/PMF} \\
 \textcircled{\underline{X+Y}} \quad ??
 \end{array}$$

**Motivating Example:** 2 balls are drawn from a box which contains 2 blue, 3 red, and 4 yellow balls.

•  $X$  = number of blue balls drawn ✓

•  $Y$  = number of red balls drawn ✓

For each possible pair of values of  $(x, y)$ , we are interested in the probability that  $X = x$ ,  $Y = y$  occur simultaneously, i.e.

$$\mathbb{P}(X = x, Y = y).$$

Here, we require  $0 \leq x \leq 2$ ,  $0 \leq y \leq 2$  and  $0 \leq x + y \leq 2$ .

$$x = 0, 1, 2. \quad y = 0, 1, 2$$

Given  $x$  blue,  $y$  red.

$$P(X=x, Y=y) = \frac{\binom{2}{x} \binom{3}{y} \binom{4}{2-x-y}}{\binom{9}{2}} \checkmark$$

The **joint PMF** of  $X$  and  $Y$  is given by

$$p(x, y) = \mathbb{P}(X = x, Y = y) = \frac{\binom{2}{x} \binom{3}{y} \binom{4}{2-x-y}}{\binom{9}{2}} \quad \checkmark$$

$$p(0,0) = \frac{\binom{2}{0} \binom{3}{0} \binom{4}{2}}{\binom{9}{2}} = \frac{1}{6}.$$

$x \backslash y \rightarrow$	0	1	2
0	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{12}$
1	$\frac{2}{9}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	0
2	$\frac{1}{36}$	0	0

$$x+y=3 \quad \times$$

$$0 \leq x+y \leq 2$$

The distribution given by the joint PMF is called the **joint distribution** of  $X$  and  $Y$ .

Let  $X, Y$  be discrete random variables.

- The **joint probability mass distribution (joint PMF)** of  $X$  and  $Y$  is defined by

$$p(x, y) = \mathbb{P}(X = x, Y = y).$$



- The **joint cumulative density function (joint CDF)** of  $X$  and  $Y$  is defined by

$$F(x, y) = \mathbb{P}(X \leq x, Y \leq y) = \sum_{s \leq x} \sum_{t \leq y} p(s, t).$$



$$F(x) = \mathbb{P}(X \leq x) = \sum_{s \leq x} p(s).$$

$$\Omega = \{ (a, b) : \begin{array}{l} a = 1, 2, \dots, 6 \\ b = 1, 2, \dots, 6 \end{array} \} \checkmark$$

### Example 8

Roll a pair of fair dice. For each of the 36 sample points with probability  $1/36$ , let  $X$  denote the **smaller** and  $Y$  the **larger** outcome on the dice. If both numbers of the dice are the same, then  $X$  and  $Y$  take on the same value.

Find the joint PMF of  $X$  and  $Y$ .

Joint PMF  $p(x, y) = P(X=x, Y=y)$ .

Given  $(x, y)$ ,

Event smaller  
number is  $x$

& larger number  
is  $y$ .

$$= \left\{ (x, y), (y, x) \right\}$$

$$\underline{\underline{x < y}}.$$

$$P(X=x, Y=y) = \begin{cases} \frac{2}{36} & \text{if } \underline{\underline{x < y}}. \\ 0 & \text{if } x > y \end{cases}$$

Event that  $x=y$  =  $\{(x,x)\}$

$P(X=x, Y=y) = \frac{1}{36}$  if  $x=y$ .

$x \backslash y$	1	2	3	4	5	6	$P_X(x)$
1	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{11}{36}$
2	0	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{9}{36}$
3	0	0	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{7}{36}$
4	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{5}{36}$
5	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{3}{36}$
6	0	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{1}{36}$
$P_Y(y)$	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{3}{36}$	$\frac{3}{36}$	$\frac{3}{36}$	$\frac{3}{36}$	$\frac{3}{36}$	



Let  $X$  and  $Y$  have the joint probability mass function  $f(x, y)$ .

- The probability mass function of  $X$  alone, which is called the **marginal probability mass function** of  $X$ , is defined by

$$p_X(x) = \sum_y p(x, y) = \mathbb{P}(X = x). \quad \checkmark$$

$p_X(x)$ ,  $p_Y(y)$  are called the marginal PMF of  $X$  and  $Y$ .

- If  $u(X, Y)$  is a function of  $X$  and  $Y$ , then

$$\mathbb{E}[u(X, Y)] = \sum_x \sum_y \underline{u(x, y)} \underline{p(x, y)} \quad \checkmark$$

is the **expected value** of  $u(X, Y)$ .

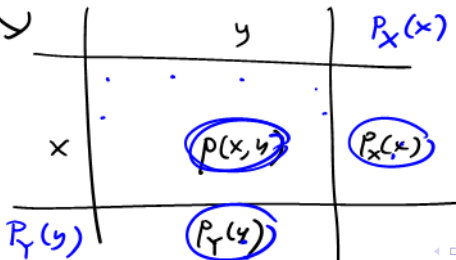
$$\mathbb{E}[u(x)] = \sum_x u(x) p(x)$$

## Theorem 9 (Independence via marginals)

The random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are **independent** if and only if

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

Otherwise,  $X$  and  $Y$  are said to be dependent.



## Example 10

A dice is rolled 2 times. Let

- $X$  = number of rolls that are 1
- $Y$  = number of rolls that are 2

$$x = 0, 1, 2$$

$$y = 0, 1, 2$$

- (i) Find  $F(2, 1)$  where  $F(x, y)$  is the joint CDF of  $X$  and  $Y$ .
- (ii) Find the marginal PMF  $p_X(x)$ , where  $p(x, y)$  is the joint PMF of  $X$  and  $Y$ .
- (iii) Are  $X$  and  $Y$  independent?

PMF

$x \backslash y$	0	1	2
0	$\frac{16}{36}$	$\frac{8}{36}$	$\frac{1}{36}$
1	$\frac{8}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	0
2	$\frac{1}{36}$	0	0

$$p(0,0) = \text{Prob} \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{no roll is 1} \\ \& \text{no roll is 2} \end{array} \right).$$

$$= \frac{4 \times 4}{36}$$

$$= \frac{16}{36}.$$

$$p(0,1) = \text{Prob} \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{no roll is 1} \\ \& \underline{1} \text{ roll is } \underline{2} \end{array} \right)$$

$$= \text{Prob} \left\{ \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ 3,4,5,6}}{(2,*)}, \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ 3,4,5,6}}{(*,2)} \right\} = \frac{8}{36}.$$

Solution. Joint PMF:

$x \backslash y$	0	1	2	$P_X(x)$
0	$\frac{16}{36}$	$\frac{8}{36}$	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{25}{36}$
1	$\frac{8}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	0	$\frac{10}{36}$
2	$\frac{1}{36}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{36}$
$P_Y(y)$				$\frac{25}{36} \quad \frac{10}{36} \quad \frac{1}{36}$

(i)

$$\underline{F(2,1)} = \underline{\mathbb{P}(X \leq 2, Y \leq 1)} = \frac{16}{36} + \frac{8}{36} + \frac{8}{36} + \frac{2}{36} + \frac{1}{36} = \frac{35}{36}.$$



(ii) The marginal PMF of  $X$  is given by

$$p_X(x) = \sum_y p(x, y).$$

So

- $p_X(0) = \sum_y p(0, y) = \frac{16}{36} + \frac{8}{36} + \frac{1}{36} = \frac{25}{36}$ . ✓
- $p_X(1) = \sum_y p(1, y) = \frac{8}{36} + \frac{2}{36} + 0 = \frac{10}{36}$ . ✓
- $p_X(2) = \sum_y p(2, y) = \frac{1}{36} + 0 + 0 = \frac{1}{36}$ . ✓

$$X = 2$$

$$Y = 2$$

(iii) Note that

$$p(2, 2) = 0, \quad p_X(2) = \frac{1}{36}, \quad p_Y(2) = \frac{1}{36}.$$

Since

$$p(2, 2) \neq p_X(2)p_Y(2),$$

the random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are dependent.



$$p(1, 1) = \frac{2}{36}$$

$$p_X(1) = \frac{10}{36} = p_Y(1).$$

$$p(1, 1) \neq \underline{p_X(1) p_Y(1)}$$