



Review of Discrete and Continuous Distributions

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Random Variables

Discrete

- ▶ probability mass function (pmf)
- ▶ $p(x) = P(X = x)$
- ▶ $\forall x \ 0 \leq p(x) \leq 1$
- ▶ $\sum_{\text{all } x} p(x) = 1.$
- ▶ cumulative distribution function (cdf)
- ▶ $F(x) = P(X \leq x) = \sum_{y \leq x} p(y)$

Continuous

- ▶ probability density function (pdf)
- ▶ $f(x)$
- ▶ $\forall x \ f(x) \geq 0$
- ▶ $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = 1$
- ▶ cumulative distribution function
- ▶ $F(x) = P(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(y) dy$

Expected Values

Let $g(X)$ be a function of the random variable X .

Discrete

- ▶ If $\sum_{\text{all } x} |g(x)| p(x) < \infty$,
 $E[g(X)] = \sum_{\text{all } x} g(x) p(x)$

Continuous

- ▶ If $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |g(x)| f(x) dx < \infty$,
 $E[g(X)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) f(x) dx$

Common functions of $g(X)$ include:

- ▶ $g(X) = X$, expected value or μ
- ▶ $g(X) = (X - \mu)^2$, variance or σ^2
- ▶ $g(X) = X^r$, the r th moment of X
- ▶ $g(X) = e^{Xt}$, moment generating function, $\mathcal{M}(t)$

Example #1

x	$p(x)$	$F(x)$	$xp(x)$	$x^2p(x)$	$e^{xt}p(x)$
1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	$0.2e^t$
2	0.4	0.6	0.8	1.6	$0.4e^{2t}$
3	0.3	0.9	0.9	2.7	$0.3e^{3t}$
4	0.1	1.0	0.4	1.6	$0.1e^{4t}$

- $E(X)$
- $E(X^2)$
- σ^2
- $\mathcal{M}(t)$

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- ▶ $E(X) = 0.2 + 0.8 + 0.9 + 0.4 = 2.3$
- ▶ $E(X^2)$
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- ▶ $E(X) = 0.2 + 0.8 + 0.9 + 0.4 = 2.3$
- ▶ $E(X^2) = 0.2 + 1.6 + 2.7 + 1.6 = 6.1$
- ▶ σ^2
- ▶ $\mathcal{M}(t)$

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- ▶ $\sigma^2 = 6.1 - (2.3)^2 = 0.81$
- ▶ $\mathcal{M}(t)$

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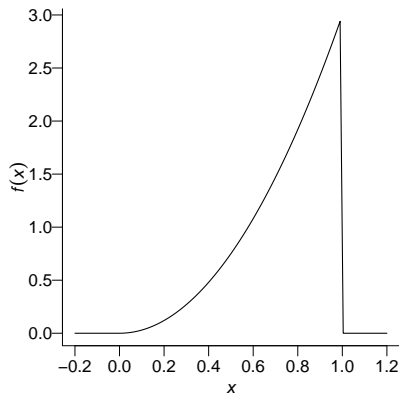
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- ▶ $\sigma^2 = 6.1 - (2.3)^2 = 0.81$
- ▶ $\mathcal{M}(t) = 0.2e^t + 0.4e^{2t} + 0.3e^{3t} + 0.1e^{4t}$

Example #2

Let X be a continuous random variable with the probability density function,

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} kx^2 & 0 < x < 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

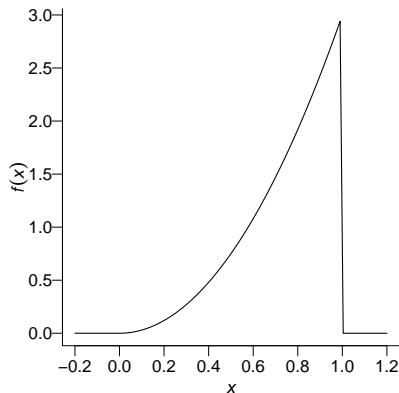


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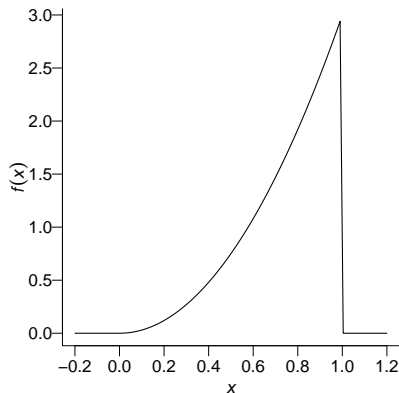


a. Find k . Need to find k so $f(x) \geq 0$ and $\int f(x) dx = 1$.

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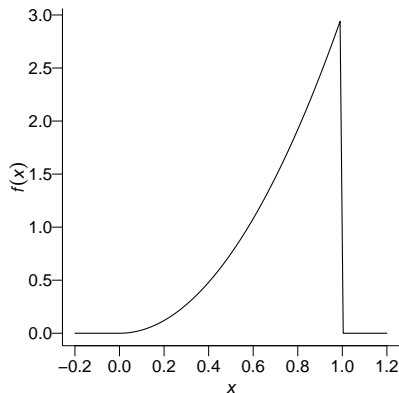
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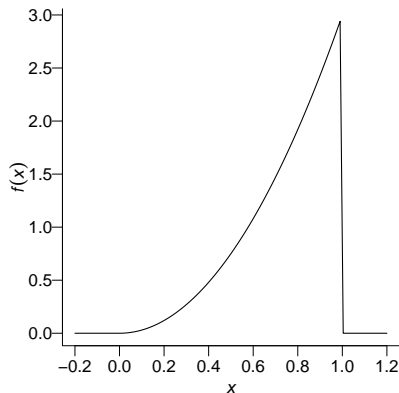
a. Find k . Need to find k so $f(x) \geq 0$ and $\int f(x) dx = 1$.

$$1 = k \int_0^1 x^2 dx = \left. \frac{k}{3} x^3 \right|_0^1$$

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$$1 = k \int_0^1 x^2 dx = \left. \frac{k}{3} x^3 \right|_0^1 \Rightarrow k = 3$$

Example #2 (continued)

b. Find $F(x) = P(X \leq x) \forall$
values of x .

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

c. Find the probability $P(0.4 \leq X \leq 0.8)$.

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$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ \int_0^x 3t^2 dt = x^3 & 0 \leq x < 1 \\ x^3 & x \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

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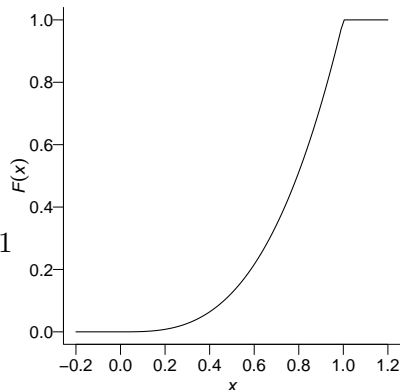
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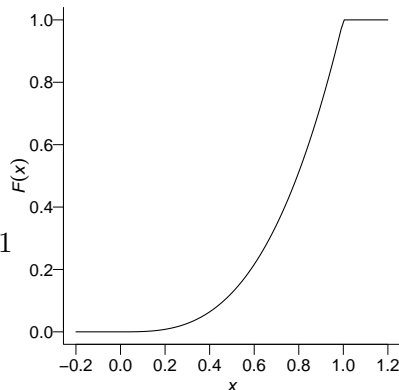


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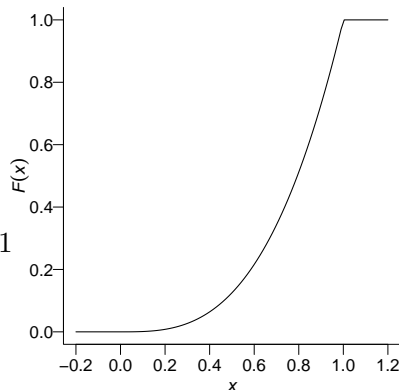
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$$P(0.4 \leq X \leq 0.8) = \int_{0.4}^{0.8} 3x^2 dx = 0.448$$

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$$P(0.4 \leq X \leq 0.8) = F(0.8) - F(0.4) = 0.448$$

Example #2 (continued)

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e. Find the mean, $\mu = E(X)$.

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$$P(X \leq m) = F(m) = \int_0^m 3x^2 dx = \frac{1}{2}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}P(X \leq m) &= F(m) = \int_0^m 3x^2 dx = \frac{1}{2} \\ \Rightarrow F(m) &= \frac{1}{2}\end{aligned}$$

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$$\mu = E(X) = \int_0^1 x 3x^2 dx = \frac{3}{4} x^4 \Big|_0^1 = \frac{3}{4}$$

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f. Find the standard deviation σ of X .

g. Find the mgf.

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$$\sigma^2 = \text{Var}(X) = \int_0^1 x^2 3x^2 dx - \mu^2$$

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$$\sigma^2 = \text{Var}(X) = \int_0^1 x^2 3x^2 dx - \mu^2 = \frac{3}{5} - \frac{9}{16} = \frac{3}{80}$$

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Next, let $u = 6x$, $du = 6$, $dv = \frac{1}{t}e^{xt}$, $v = \frac{1}{t^2}e^{xt}$.

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Example #2 (continued)

h. Find $E\left(\sqrt{X}\right)$.

i. Find $E\left[\ln\left(X\right)\right]$.

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$$E\left(\sqrt{X}\right) = \int_0^1 \sqrt{x} 3x^2 dx$$

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h. Find $E(\sqrt{X})$.

$$E(\sqrt{X}) = \int_0^1 \sqrt{x} 3x^2 dx = \int_0^1 3x^{\frac{5}{2}} dx = \frac{6}{7}$$

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$$E[\ln(X)] = \int_0^1 \ln(x) 3x^2 dx = \ln(x) x^3 \Big|_0^1 - \int_0^1 x^2 dx = -\frac{1}{3}$$

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Note the use of L'Hopital's rule to evaluate the lower bound for the first term. That is, $\ln(1)1^3 = 0$ and

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Note the use of L'Hopital's rule to evaluate the lower bound for the first term. That is, $\ln(1)1^3 = 0$ and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln(x)}{x^{-3}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^{-1}}{x^{-3}} = 0$$

Example #3: Consider $f(x) = 5x^{-6}\mathcal{I}(x > 1)$

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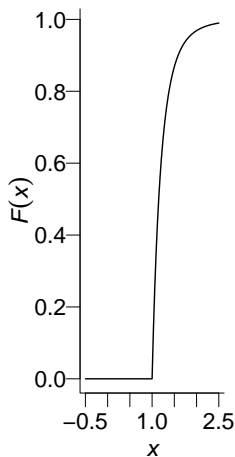
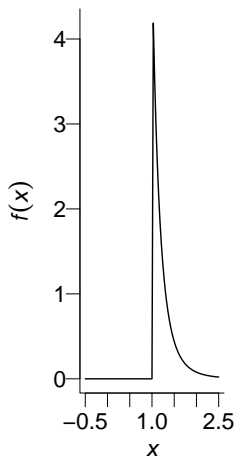
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Example #3 (continued)

b. Find $E(X)$.

c. Find $Var(X)$.

d. What are the values of r where $E(X^r)$ is undefined?

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$$F(\pi_{0.30}) = \frac{3}{10} \Rightarrow 1 - \pi_{0.30}^{-5} = \frac{3}{10} \Rightarrow \pi_{0.30} = \sqrt[5]{\frac{10}{7}} \approx 1.07394$$

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c. Find $Var(X)$.

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Example #4: Cauchy, $f(x) = \frac{1}{\pi(1+x^2)}$, $-\infty < x < \infty$

a. Find $E(X)$.

b. Find $F(x)$.

c. Find $P(X < -1)$, $P(-1 < X < 0)$, $P(0 < X < 1)$,
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c. Find $P(X < -1)$, $P(-1 < X < 0)$, $P(0 < X < 1)$, $P(X > 1)$. Note that $\arctan(-1) = -\frac{\pi}{4}$, $\arctan(1) = \frac{\pi}{4}$, and $\arctan(0) = 0$, which implies $P(X < -1) = P(-1 < X < 0) = P(0 < X < 1) = P(X > 1) = \frac{1}{4}$.

Example #4 (continued)

d. Find $M(t)$.

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$$M(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{e^{xt}}{1+x^2} dx \geq \int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{e^{xt}}{1+x^2} dx$$

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MGF Theorems

- ▶ $\mathcal{M}_1(t) = \mathcal{M}_2(t)$ for some interval containing zero implies $f_1(x) = f_2(x)$.
- ▶ $\mathcal{M}^{(k)}(0) = E(X^k)$
- ▶ Let $Y = aX + b$, then $\mathcal{M}_Y(t) = e^{bt}\mathcal{M}_X(at)$

Proof.



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- ▶ Let $Y = aX + b$, then $\mathcal{M}_Y(t) = e^{bt}\mathcal{M}_X(at)$

Proof.

$$\mathcal{M}_Y(t) = E(e^{Yt}) = E(e^{(aX+b)t}) = e^{bt}E(e^{Xat}) = e^{bt}\mathcal{M}_X(at)$$

□

Example # 5

Suppose a discrete random variable X has the following pmf,

$$P(X = k) = \begin{cases} p, & k = 0 \\ \frac{1}{2^k k!}, & k = 1, 2, 3, \dots \end{cases}$$

a. Find p to make this a valid pmf.

b. Find $E(X)$

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Suppose a discrete random variable X has the following pmf,

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$$p + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k k!} = 1.$$

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$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^k}{k!} = e^{1/2} - 1 \Rightarrow p = 2 - e^{1/2}.$$

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b. Find $E(X)$

$$E(X) = 0 \cdot p + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{k}{2^k k!} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k (k-1)!}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} E(X) &= 0 \cdot p + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{k}{2^k k!} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k (k-1)!} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n n!} = \frac{e^{1/2}}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Example # 5 (continued)

c. Find $Var(X)$

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$$E[X(X-1)] = \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{k(k-1)}{2^k k!} = \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k (k-2)!}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} E[X(X-1)] &= \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{k(k-1)}{2^k k!} = \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k (k-2)!} \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n n!} = \frac{e^{\frac{1}{2}}}{4} \end{aligned}$$

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$$Var(X) = E[X(X-1)] + E(X) - [E(X)]^2$$

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$$\begin{aligned} Var(X) &= E[X(X-1)] + E(X) - [E(X)]^2 \\ &= \frac{e^{\frac{1}{2}}}{4} + \frac{e^{\frac{1}{2}}}{2} - \frac{e}{4} = \frac{3}{4}e^{\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{e}{4} \end{aligned}$$

Example # 5 (continued)

d. Find $\mathcal{M}(t)$.

e. Find $E(X)$ with $\mathcal{M}(t)$.

Example # 5 (continued)

d. Find $\mathcal{M}(t)$.

$$\mathcal{M}(t) = 1 \cdot p + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} e^{tk} \frac{1}{2^k k!}$$

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Example # 5 (continued)

d. Find $\mathcal{M}(t)$.

$$\mathcal{M}(t) = 1 \cdot p + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} e^{tk} \frac{1}{2^k k!} = 2 - e^{\frac{1}{2}} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\left(\frac{e^t}{2}\right)^k}{k!}$$

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$$\mathcal{M}'(t) = e^{\frac{e^t}{2}} \frac{e^t}{2}$$

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$$\mathcal{M}'(t) = e^{\frac{e^t}{2}} \frac{e^t}{2} \Rightarrow E(X) = \mathcal{M}'(0) = \frac{e^{1/2}}{2}$$

Example #6

(1.9.16) Let $\psi(t) = \ln[\mathcal{M}(t)]$ be the natural log of a mgf, which is called the cumulant generating function (cgf). Prove that $\psi'(0) = \mu$ and $\psi''(0) = \sigma^2$.

Proof.

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$$\psi'(t) = (\ln[\mathcal{M}(t)])' = \frac{\mathcal{M}'(t)}{\mathcal{M}(t)}$$

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Proof.

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$$\begin{aligned}\psi''(t) &= \frac{\mathcal{M}''(t) \mathcal{M}(t) - [\mathcal{M}'(t)]^2}{[\mathcal{M}(t)]^2} \\ \Rightarrow \psi''(0) &= \frac{\mathcal{M}''(0) \mathcal{M}(0) - [\mathcal{M}'(0)]^2}{[\mathcal{M}(0)]^2} = \sigma^2\end{aligned}$$

Example #7: Show cumulants beyond third order are zero for Gaussian distribution

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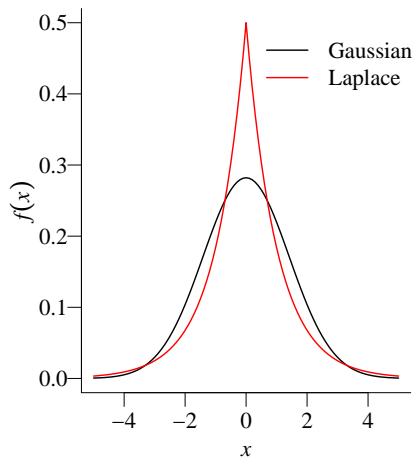
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- ▶ $\psi''(t) = \sigma^2 \Rightarrow Var(X) = \sigma^2$.
- ▶ $\psi^{(r)}(t) = 0 \ r \geq 3 \Rightarrow E[(X - \mu)^r] = 0$.

Example #8: Laplace distribution, $f(x) = \frac{1}{2}e^{-|x|}$



- The Gaussian density is
$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}}e^{-\frac{x^2}{4}}.$$
- Recall that 68.3% of the density for the Gaussian lies $\pm\sigma$ of the mean as opposed to 86.5% for the Laplacian.

Example #8 (continued)

- a. Find the mgf.

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- a. Find the mgf. Recall the definition of the absolute value,

$$|x| = \begin{cases} x, & x \geq 0 \\ -x, & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

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$$\mathcal{M}(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{xt}}{2} e^{-|x|} dx$$

Example #8 (continued)

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Example #8 (continued)

- a. Find the mgf. Recall the definition of the absolute value,

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$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}(t) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{xt}}{2} e^{-|x|} dx = \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{e^{xt}}{2} e^{-|x|} dx + \int_0^{\infty} \frac{e^{xt}}{2} e^{-|x|} dx \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{e^{xt}}{2} e^x dx + \int_0^{\infty} \frac{e^{xt}}{2} e^{-x} dx \end{aligned}$$

Example #8 (continued)

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Example #8 (continued)

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Example #8 (continued)

a. Find the mgf. Recall the definition of the absolute value,

$$|x| = \begin{cases} x, & x \geq 0 \\ -x, & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

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Example #8 (continued)

b. Find $E(X)$.

c. Find $Var(X)$.

Example #8 (continued)

- b. Find $E(X)$. The cgf is $\psi(t) = -\ln(1 - t^2)$ and $\psi'(t) = \frac{2t}{1-t^2} \Rightarrow E(X) = 0$.
- c. Find $Var(X)$.

Example #8 (continued)

b. Find $E(X)$. The cgf is $\psi(t) = -\ln(1 - t^2)$ and
 $\psi'(t) = \frac{2t}{1-t^2} \Rightarrow E(X) = 0$.

c. Find $Var(X)$. $\psi''(t) = \frac{2(1-t^2)+4t^2}{(1-t^2)^2} \Rightarrow Var(X) = 2$.