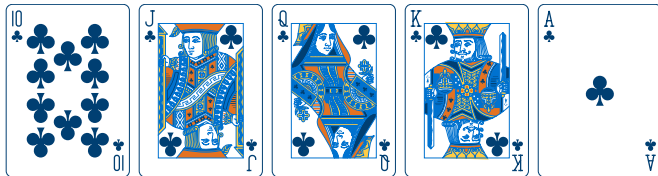


# 2P7: Probability & Statistics

## Manipulating and Combining Distributions

Thierry Savin

Lent 2024



the *royal flush*, the best possible hand in poker, has a probability 0.000154%



1. Probability Fundamentals
2. Discrete Probability Distributions
3. Continuous Random Variables
4. Manipulating and Combining Distributions
5. Decision, Estimation and Hypothesis Testing



Introduction

Functions of random variables

Sum of random variables

Transforms of distributions

The Central Limit Theorem

Multivariate Gaussians



In the last lectures:

- ▶ We have seen that **discrete random variables** are described by their **probability mass function**
- ▶ We have seen that **continuous random variables** are described by their **probability density function**
- ▶ We have given important examples of probability mass and density functions:

### **Discrete** variables

- Bernoulli
- Geometric
- Binomial
- Poisson

### **Continuous** variables

- Exponential
- Gaussian
- Beta

In this lecture, we will **manipulate** random variables, introduce important **transforms** of distributions, and see the **Central Limit Theorem**.

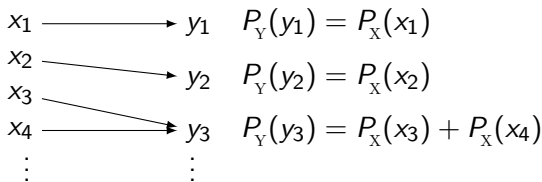


Consider a random variable  $X$ , and let  $Y = g(X)$  for some function  $g : \mathbb{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{Y}$  mapping the support  $\mathbb{X}$  of  $X$  to the domain  $\mathbb{Y}$  of  $Y$ .

Can we calculate  $P_Y$  (or  $f_Y$  if continuous) from  $P_X$  (or  $f_X$ )?

We'll start with the case where  $X$  is a discrete random variable.

Then  $Y$  is also discrete.  $\mathbb{X} = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$  and  $\mathbb{Y} = \{y_1, y_2, \dots\}$ ,



In general,

$$P_Y(y) = \sum_{\{x|g(x)=y\}} P_X(x)$$

If  $g$  is *invertible* (one-to-one map between  $\mathbb{X}$  and  $\mathbb{Y}$ ), then

$$P_Y(y) = P_X(g^{-1}(y))$$

# Functions of random variables

## Discrete random variables - Example



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With  $X \sim \text{Geo}(p)$  and  $m \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$ , what is the PMF of  $Y = (X-1) \bmod m$ ? (the modulo operation " $a \bmod b$ " returns the remainder of  $a \div b$ )

Observe that  $\mathbb{Y} = \{0, 1, \dots, m-1\}$  and that

$$Y = 0 \text{ if } X = 1, m+1, 2m+1, 3m+1 \dots$$

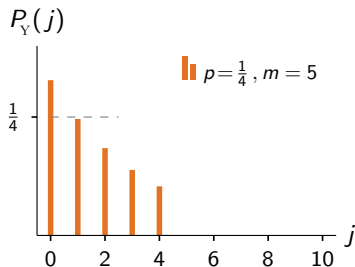
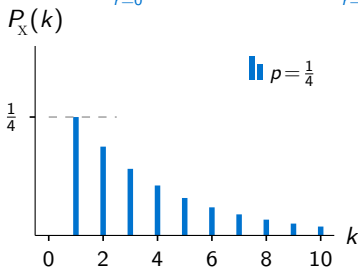
$$Y = 1 \text{ if } X = 2, m+2, 2m+2, 3m+2 \dots$$

...

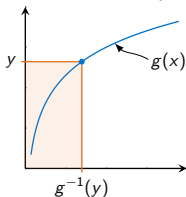
$$Y = y \text{ if } X = y+1, m+y+1, 2m+y+1, 3m+y+1 \dots$$

Hence  $\{x | g(x) = y\} = \{x = rm + y + 1\}_{r \in \{0, 1, \dots\}}$  and we conclude:

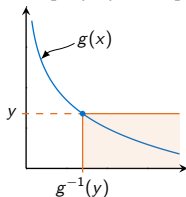
$$P_Y(y) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} P_X(rm + y + 1) = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} p(1-p)^{rm+y} = \frac{p(1-p)^y}{1 - (1-p)^m} \quad \square$$



The CDF of  $Y = g(X)$  is  $F_Y(y) = \mathbb{P}[Y \leq y] = \mathbb{P}[g(X) \leq y]$



- ▶ If  $g$  is **strictly increasing**:  
 $g(X) \leq y \Leftrightarrow X \leq g^{-1}(y)$
- ▶  $F_Y(y) = \mathbb{P}[X \leq g^{-1}(y)]$   
 $= F_X(g^{-1}(y))$
- ▶ Taking  $\frac{d}{dy}$  on both sides,  
 $f_Y(y) = \frac{f_X(g^{-1}(y))}{g'(g^{-1}(y))}$



- ▶ If  $g$  is **strictly decreasing**:  
 $g(X) \leq y \Leftrightarrow X \geq g^{-1}(y)$
- ▶  $F_Y(y) = \mathbb{P}[X \geq g^{-1}(y)]$   
 $= 1 - F_X(g^{-1}(y))$
- ▶ Taking  $\frac{d}{dy}$  on both sides,  
 $f_Y(y) = -\frac{f_X(g^{-1}(y))}{g'(g^{-1}(y))}$

Hence, for  $g$  strictly monotonic,  $f_{Y=g(X)}(y) = \frac{f_X(g^{-1}(y))}{|g'(g^{-1}(y))|}$

# Functions of random variables

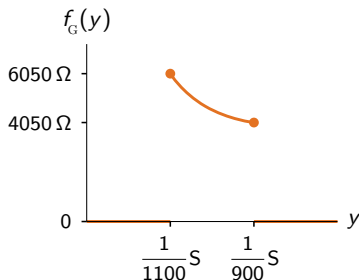
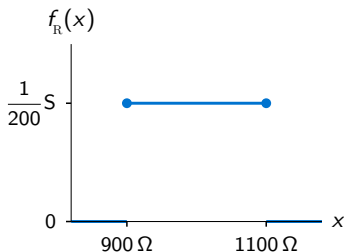
## Continuous random variables - Example 1



Suppose that a resistance  $R$  is uniformly distributed between 900 and 1100  $\Omega$ , what is the PDF of its conductance  $G = \frac{1}{R}$ ?

Here  $g(x) = \frac{1}{x}$  is strictly decreasing, so we can use  $f_G(y) = \frac{f_R(g^{-1}(y))}{|g'(g^{-1}(y))|}$  with  
 $g'(x) = -\frac{1}{x^2}$  and  $g^{-1}(y) = \frac{1}{y}$  hence  $|g'(g^{-1}(y))| = y^2$

$$P_R(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{200} & \text{if } x \in [900, 1100] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \Rightarrow P_G(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{200y^2} & \text{if } y \in [\frac{1}{1100}, \frac{1}{900}] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad \square$$





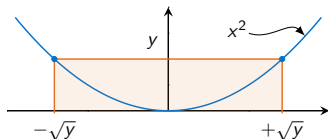
# Functions of random variables

## Continuous random variables - Example 2



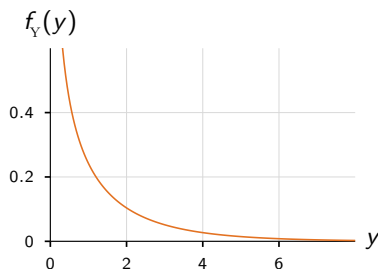
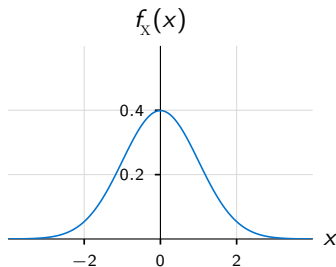
With  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ , what is the PDF of  $Y = X^2$ ?

Here  $g(x)$  is not monotonic, and  $Y \geq 0$ .



$$F_Y(y) = \mathbb{P}[Y \leq y] = \mathbb{P}[-\sqrt{y} \leq X \leq +\sqrt{y}] = F_X(+\sqrt{y}) - F_X(-\sqrt{y}).$$

$$\text{Taking } \frac{d}{dy} \text{ on both sides, } f_Y(y) = \frac{f_X(+\sqrt{y})}{2\sqrt{y}} + \frac{f_X(-\sqrt{y})}{2\sqrt{y}} = \frac{e^{-y/2}}{\sqrt{2\pi y}} \text{ for } y \geq 0 \quad \square$$





- What is the PDF of  $Y = aX + b$ ?

Here  $g(x)$  is strictly monotonic and we can use the formula

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{f_X(g^{-1}(y))}{|g'(g^{-1}(y))|}. \text{ Hence,}$$

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{|a|} f_X\left(\frac{y-b}{a}\right)$$

Note that  $\mathbb{E}[aX + b] = a\mathbb{E}[X] + b$  and  $\text{Var}[aX + b] = a^2\text{Var}[X]$ .

- With  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ , what is the PDF of  $Y = \frac{X-\mu}{\sigma}$ ?

With  $a = 1/\sigma$  and  $b = -\mu/\sigma$ , we find

$$f_Y(y) = \sigma f_X(\sigma y + \mu) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} \quad \square$$

so  $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  standard Gaussian (as stated in the previous lecture).



Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be two random variables. We are interested in the probability distribution of the random variable  $S = X + Y$ .

- ▶ We have already seen  $\mathbb{E}[S] = \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y]$ .
- ▶ One can easily show that

$$\text{Var}[S] = \text{Var}[X] + \text{Var}[Y] + 2\text{Cov}[X, Y]$$

where  $\text{Cov}[X, Y] = \mathbb{E}[XY] - \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y]$  is called the **covariance**.

- ▶ We also define the **correlation coefficient**:

$$\rho = \frac{\text{Cov}[X, Y]}{\sqrt{\text{Var}[X]\text{Var}[Y]}}$$

which satisfies  $-1 < \rho < 1$ .

- ▶ If  $\rho < 0$ ,  $X$  and  $Y$  are *anticorrelated*

If  $\rho > 0$ ,  $X$  and  $Y$  are *correlated*

If  $\rho = 0$ ,  $X$  and  $Y$  are *uncorrelated* (and  $\mathbb{E}[XY] = \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y]$ )

# Sum of random variables

## Sum of discrete random variables



Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be two **discrete** random variables, with joint PMF  $P_{XY}(x, y)$ , and  $S = X + Y$ . Using the law of total probability

$$P_S(s) = \sum_{y \in \mathbb{Y}} P_{S|Y}(s|y) P_Y(y)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{with } P_{S|Y}(s|y) &= \mathbb{P}[S = s | Y = y] = \mathbb{P}[X + Y = s | Y = y] \\ &= \mathbb{P}[X = s - y | Y = y] \\ &= P_{X|Y}(s - y | y) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } P_S(s) &= \sum_{y \in \mathbb{Y}} P_{X|Y}(s - y | y) P_Y(y) = \sum_{y \in \mathbb{Y}} P_{XY}(s - y, y) \\ &= \sum_{x \in \mathbb{X}} P_{XY}(x, s - x) \end{aligned}$$

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

$$P_S(s) = \sum_{y \in \mathbb{Y}} P_X(s - y) P_Y(y) = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{X}} P_X(x) P_Y(s - x)$$

that is,  $P_{X+Y} = P_X * P_Y$  the discrete convolution product

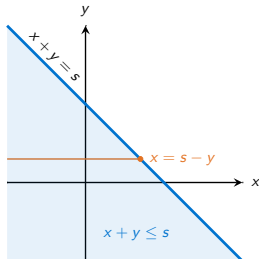
# Sum of random variables

## Sum of continuous random variables



Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be two **continuous** random variables, with joint PDF  $f_{XY}(x, y)$ , and  $S = X + Y$ .

$$\begin{aligned}F_S(s) &= \mathbb{P}[X + Y \leq s] \\&= \iint_{x+y \leq s} f_{XY}(x, y) dx dy \\&= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{s-y} f_{XY}(x, y) dx dy \\&\stackrel{u=x+y}{=} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^s f_{XY}(u - y, y) du dy\end{aligned}$$



Take  $\frac{d}{ds}$  on both sides

$$f_S(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{XY}(s - y, y) dy = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{XY}(x, s - x) dx$$

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

$$f_S(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(s - y) f_Y(y) dy = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) f_Y(s - x) dx$$

that is,  $f_{X+Y} = f_X * f_Y$  the convolution product

# Sum of random variables

## Sum of continuous random variables - Example



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Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be independent and uniform between 0 and 1, that is

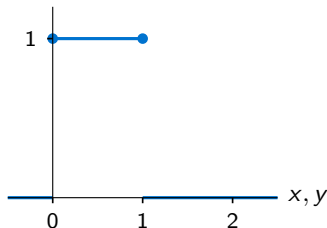
$$f_X(x) = f_Y(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in [0, 1] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and  $S = X + Y$ . Find  $f_S(s)$ .

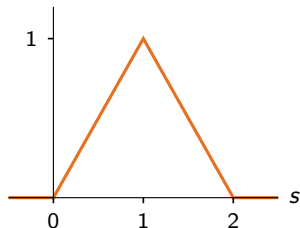
$$f_S(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(s-y)f_Y(y)dy = \int_0^1 f_X(s-y)dy \stackrel{u=s-y}{=} \int_{s-1}^s f_X(u)du$$

$$= \begin{cases} \int_0^s du = s & \text{if } s \in [0, 1] \\ \int_{s-1}^1 du = 2-s & \text{if } s \in [1, 2] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad \square$$

$f_X(x), f_Y(y)$



$f_S(s)$





You have seen Fourier and Laplace Transforms in other courses.  
You appreciate their usefulness in sidestepping tedious calculations.  
Here we introduce two transforms with similar benefits:

- ▶ For a **discrete** random variable  $X$  with support  $\mathbb{X}$ , the **Probability-Generating Function** is defined by

$$G_X(z) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{X}} z^k P_X(k) = \mathbb{E}[z^X] \quad [\text{DB p.27}]$$

- ▶ For a **continuous** random variable  $X$ , the **Moment-Generating Function** is defined by

$$g_X(s) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f_X(x) e^{sx} dx = \mathbb{E}[e^{sX}] \quad [\text{DB p.28}]$$

Probability-Generating Function  $G_X(z) = \mathbb{E}[z^X]$  (discrete r.v.)

## ► Moments

Since  $\frac{d^k}{dz^k}(z^X) = X(X-1)(X-2)\dots(X-k+1)z^{X-k}$ , we verify that

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = G'_X(1) \quad [\text{DB p.27}]$$

$$\text{Var}[X] = G''_X(1) + G'_X(1) - G'_X(1)^2 \quad [\text{DB p.27}]$$

## ► Sum of independent random variables

For  $X$  and  $Y$  two independent discrete random variables,  $\mathbb{E}[z^{X+Y}] = \mathbb{E}[z^X z^Y] = \mathbb{E}[z^X]\mathbb{E}[z^Y]$  so

$$G_{X+Y}(z) = G_X(z) \times G_Y(z)$$

More generally, for  $\{X_1, X_2 \dots X_n\}$  mutually independent,

$$G_{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i}(z) = \prod_{i=1}^n G_{X_i}(z)$$



With  $p \in [0, 1]$ ,  $q = 1 - p$ ,  $n \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$  and  $\lambda > 0$ :

Distribution of $X$	Support of $X$	$P_X(k)$	$G_X(z)$
$\text{Ber}(p)$	$\{0, 1\}$	$p^k q^{1-k}$	$q + pz$
$\text{Geo}(p)$	$\{1, 2, \dots\}$	$pq^{k-1}$	$\frac{pz}{1 - qz} \quad ( z  < q^{-1})$
$B(n, p)$	$\{0, 1, \dots, n\}$	${}^nC_k p^k q^{n-k}$	$(q + pz)^n$
$\text{Pois}(\lambda)$	$\{0, 1, \dots\}$	$\frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!}$	$e^{\lambda(z-1)}$

- Note the short form for the Bernoulli PMF...
- Using the expressions of  $G_X$  and  $G_{X+Y} = G_X \times G_Y$ , one gets

$$X \sim B(n_x, p), \quad Y \sim B(n_y, p) \Rightarrow X+Y \sim B(n_x+n_y, p)$$

$$X \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda_x), \quad Y \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda_y) \Rightarrow X+Y \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda_x + \lambda_y)$$

when  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent.



- $X \sim \text{Ber}(p)$

Immediate from definition  $\sum_{k=0}^1 z^k P_X(k) = (1-p)z^0 + pz^1$  □

- $X \sim \text{Geo}(p)$

From definition

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} pq^{k-1}z^k = pz \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (qz)^{k-1} \stackrel{j=k-1}{=} pz \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (qz)^j \stackrel{|qz|<1}{=} \frac{pz}{1-qz} \quad \square$$

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

$$\sum_{k=0}^n {}^nC_k p^k q^{n-k} z^k = \sum_{k=0}^n {}^nC_k (zp)^k q^{n-k} \stackrel{\text{Binomial expansion}}{=} (q + pz)^n \quad \square$$

- $X \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda)$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!} z^k = e^{-\lambda} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\lambda z)^k}{k!} \stackrel{\text{Power series of } e^{\lambda z}}{=} e^{-\lambda} e^{\lambda z} \quad \square$$

Moment-Generating Function  $g_X(s) = \mathbb{E}[e^{sX}]$  (continuous r.v.)

## ► Moments

Since  $\frac{d^k}{ds^k}(e^{sX}) = X^k e^{sX}$ , we verify that  $g_X^{(k)}(0) = \mathbb{E}[X^k]$ . In particular:

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = g_X'(0) \quad [\text{DB p.28}]$$

$$\text{Var}[X] = g_X''(0) - g_X'(0)^2 \quad [\text{DB p.28}]$$

## ► Sum of independent random variables

For  $X$  and  $Y$  two independent continuous random variables,  $\mathbb{E}[e^{s(X+Y)}] = \mathbb{E}[e^{sX}e^{sY}] = \mathbb{E}[e^{sX}]\mathbb{E}[e^{sY}]$  so

$$g_{X+Y}(s) = g_X(s) \times g_Y(s)$$

More generally, for  $\{X_1, X_2 \dots X_n\}$  mutually independent,

$$g_{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i}(s) = \prod_{i=1}^n g_{X_i}(s)$$

# Transforms of distributions

## Moment-Generating Function - Examples [DB p.28]



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With  $a < b \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ ,  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\sigma > 0$ ,  $\alpha, \beta > 0$  and  $\gamma = \alpha + \beta$ :

Distribution	$\mathbb{X}$	$f_{\mathbb{X}}(x)$	$g_{\mathbb{X}}(s)$
$U(a, b)$	$[a, b]$	$\frac{1}{b-a}$	$\frac{e^{bs} - e^{as}}{s(b-a)}$
$\text{Exp}(\lambda)$	$\mathbb{R}^+$	$\lambda e^{-\lambda x}$	$\frac{\lambda}{\lambda - s} \quad (s < \lambda)$
$\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$	$\mathbb{R}$	$\frac{e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}}$	$e^{\mu s + \frac{\sigma^2 s^2}{2}}$
$\text{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)$	$[0, 1]$	$\frac{\Gamma(\gamma)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)} x^{\alpha-1} (1-x)^{\beta-1}$	$1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left[ \prod_{r=0}^{k-1} \frac{\alpha+r}{\gamma+r} \right] \frac{s^k}{k!}$

► Using the expressions of  $g_{\mathbb{X}}$  and  $g_{\mathbb{X}+\mathbb{Y}} = g_{\mathbb{X}} \times g_{\mathbb{Y}}$ , one gets

$X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_X, \sigma_X^2)$ ,  $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_Y, \sigma_Y^2) \Rightarrow X+Y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_X + \mu_Y, \sigma_X^2 + \sigma_Y^2)$   
when  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent.



- ▶  $X \sim U(a, b)$

From definition  $g_X(s) = \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b e^{sx} dx = \frac{1}{b-a} \left[ \frac{e^{sx}}{s} \right]_a^b$



- ▶  $X \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$

From definition

$$g_X(s) = \lambda \int_0^\infty e^{(s-\lambda)x} dx = \lambda \left[ \frac{e^{(s-\lambda)x}}{s-\lambda} \right]_0^\infty \stackrel{s \leq \lambda}{=} \frac{\lambda}{\lambda - s}$$



- ▶  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$

For the standard Gaussian,  $g_X(s) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^\infty e^{-x^2/2} e^{sx} dx =$

$$e^{s^2/2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^\infty e^{-(x-s)^2/2} dx = e^{s^2/2} \text{ and note that}$$

$$g_{\sigma X + \mu}(s) = \mathbb{E}[e^{(s\sigma)X + \mu s}] = e^{\mu s} g_X(\sigma s)$$



- ▶  $X \sim \text{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)$

Tedious, we won't do it here.



# The Central Limit Theorem

## The theorem



Let  $X_1, X_2 \dots$  be independent random variables with means  $\mu_1, \mu_2 \dots$  and variances  $\sigma_1^2, \sigma_2^2 \dots$ . Then the random variable

$$S_n = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n$$

tends to a Gaussian random variable  $S$ ,

$$S \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_1 + \mu_2 + \dots + \mu_n, \sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2 + \dots + \sigma_n^2)$$

as  $n$  tends to infinity, **regardless of the actual individual distributions of  $X_j$ .**

- ▶ As expected from independence, means and variances add up.
- ▶ If all  $X_j$  are *identically* distributed with mean  $\mu$  and variance  $\sigma^2$ , then the theorem is equivalent to

$$Y_n = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n - n\mu}{\sigma\sqrt{n}} \stackrel{n \rightarrow \infty}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

# The Central Limit Theorem

## Demonstration



Let us consider  $X_1, X_2 \dots X_n$  be independent random variables that have been *shifted/rescaled* to have means  $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \dots = \mu_n = 0$  and variances  $\sigma_1^2 = \sigma_2^2 = \dots = \sigma_n^2 = 1$ .

We will show that  $Y_n = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n}{\sqrt{n}}$  tends to a standard Gaussian random variable when  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

We write the MGF of  $Y_n$  as

$$g_{Y_n}(s) = \prod_{k=1}^n g_{X_k}\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}\right) \stackrel{\text{Taylor series}}{=} \prod_{k=1}^n \left[ g_{X_k}(0) + g'_{X_k}(0) \frac{s}{\sqrt{n}} + g''_{X_k}(0) \frac{s^2}{2n} + o\left(\frac{s^3}{n^{3/2}}\right) \right]$$

Since  $g_{X_k}^{(k)}(0) = \mathbb{E}[X^k]$ ,  $g_{X_k}(0) = 1$ ,  $g'_{X_k}(0) = \mu_k = 0$  and  $g''_{X_k}(0) = \sigma_k^2 = 1$  and we are left with

$$g_{Y_n}(s) = \prod_{k=1}^n \left[ 1 + \frac{s^2}{2n} + o\left(\frac{s^3}{n^{3/2}}\right) \right] = \left(1 + \frac{s^2}{2n}\right)^n + o\left(\frac{s^3}{n^{3/2}}\right)$$

and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g_{Y_n}(s) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{s^2}{2n}\right)^n = e^{s^2/2}$  which is the MGF of the standard Gaussian. Hence  $Y_\infty \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ . □

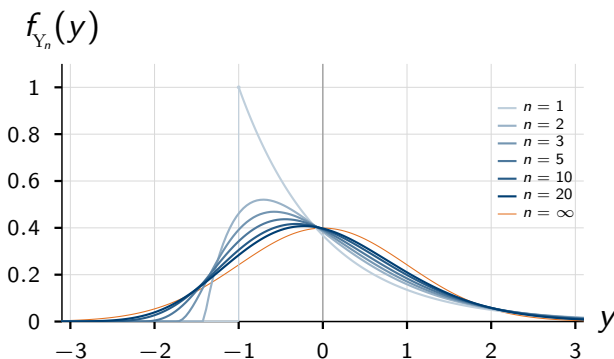
There are subtle restrictions on the distribution of  $X_k$  for the theorem to work. But it works in most cases...

# The Central Limit Theorem

## Example

Let us consider that  $X_i \sim \text{Exp}(1)$  for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$   
(ie.,  $\mu_i = \mathbb{E}[X_i] = 1 = \mu$  and  $\sigma_i^2 = \text{Var}[X_i] = 1 = \sigma^2$  for all  $i$ ).

Let us monitor the PDF of  $Y_n = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n - n\mu}{\sigma\sqrt{n}}$  as  $n$   
increases. (Note that  $Y_1 = X_1 - 1$  is shifted exponential).





- ▶ We haven't seen any example of a *joint* PDF;
- ▶ We know that the Gaussian distribution is important;
- ▶ We can concisely write the joint PDF  $f_{X_1 X_2 \dots X_n}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  of  $n$  random variables as  $f_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x})$  using the vector notation.

Hence, the  $n$ -dimensional random vector  $\mathbf{X} = [X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n]^T$  is **multivariate Gaussian** if

$$\mathbf{X} \sim \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) \Leftrightarrow f_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}(\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})\right)}{(2\pi)^{n/2} |\boldsymbol{\Sigma}|^{1/2}}$$

evaluated at  $\mathbf{x} = [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]^T$ , with

- ▶  $\boldsymbol{\mu} = [\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_n]^T$  is the **mean vector**:  
 $\mu_i = \mathbb{E}[X_i]$  for  $i = 1 \dots n$
- ▶  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$  is the symmetric  $n \times n$  **covariance matrix**:

$$\Sigma_{ij} = \mathbb{E}[(X_i - \mu_i)(X_j - \mu_j)] = \begin{cases} \text{Cov}[X_i, X_j] & \text{if } i \neq j \\ \text{Var}[X_i] = \sigma_i^2 & \text{if } i = j \end{cases}$$

For  $n = 2$ , we have  $\begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \end{bmatrix} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\begin{bmatrix} \mu_1 \\ \mu_2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & \rho\sigma_1\sigma_2 \\ \rho\sigma_1\sigma_2 & \sigma_2^2 \end{bmatrix}\right)$  where

$\rho = \frac{\text{Cov}[X_1, X_2]}{\sigma_1\sigma_2}$  is the correlation. The full expression

$$f_{X_1X_2}(x_1, x_2) = \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2(1-\rho^2)}\left[\left(\frac{x_1-\mu_1}{\sigma_1}\right)^2 - 2\rho\left(\frac{x_1-\mu_1}{\sigma_1}\right)\left(\frac{x_2-\mu_2}{\sigma_2}\right) + \left(\frac{x_2-\mu_2}{\sigma_2}\right)^2\right]\right)}{2\pi\sigma_1\sigma_2\sqrt{1-\rho^2}}$$

In particular, we can show:

- ▶ The **marginals are Gaussian**:  $f_{X_1} = \mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2)$ ,  $f_{X_2} = \mathcal{N}(\mu_2, \sigma_2^2)$ .

This is also true for any “partial” marginals (integration over  $k < n$  components of  $\mathbf{X}$ ) of  $\mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$ .

- ▶ If  $\rho = 0$ , then  $f_{X_1X_2} = f_{X_1} \times f_{X_2}$  and  $X_1, X_2$  are independent.

The components of  $\mathbf{X}$  are mutually independent if  $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$  is diagonal.

- ▶ The **conditional**  $f_{X_1|X_2=x_2} = \mathcal{N}(\mu_1 + \rho\frac{\sigma_1}{\sigma_2}(x_2 - \mu_2), (1-\rho^2)\sigma_1^2)$  is also **Gaussian**.

The multivariate conditionals  $f_{X_1 \dots X_k | X_{k+1} \dots X_n}$  are also Gaussian.

# Multivariate Gaussians

## Example - The Bivariate Gaussian



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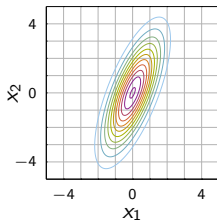
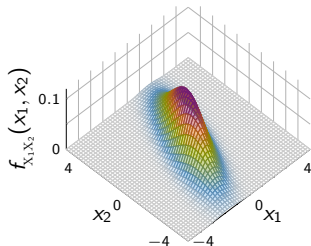
$$\rho = 0.7$$

$$\mu_1 = 0$$

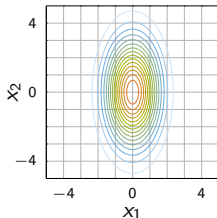
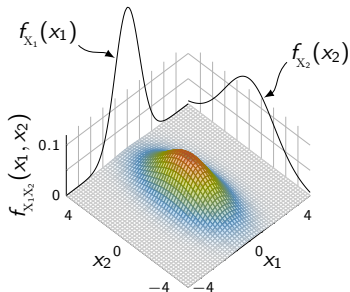
$$\mu_2 = 0$$

$$\sigma_1^2 = 1$$

$$\sigma_2^2 = 4$$



$$\rho = 0$$



You can attempt Problems 1 to 8 of Examples Paper 6