

Lesson 10

Continuous Random

Variables

One may imagine that, given that
a discrete r.v. can take discrete

values, a continuous random variable
is a r.v. that can take a
continuum of values; however,
the definition of a continuous
r.v. is subtle.

It is not enough for a r.v.
to have a continuous range to
be called continuous.

Def: Assume that X is
a r.r. on the probability

space (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) . X is

said to be continuous if

there exists a non-negative

measurable function $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$

such that:

$$\forall B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}) P_X(B) = P(X \in B) = \int_R$$

In particular If $B = (-\infty, x]$,

$$P_X(B) =$$

Remark. Recall that $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

is measurable if $\forall B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$,

$f^{-1}(B) \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$. All continuous

functions on \mathbb{R} are measurable,

but the reverse is not true.

f is called a probability

density function (pdf) for X .

Note that in general, the integral $\int_B f(t)dt$ of the measurable

function f is an abstract

integral; however, in most

applications, $\int_B f(t)dt$ can

be calculated as a Riemann

Integral, which is the

integral that is studied in calculus

In particular, when f is well-behaved (i.e. when it is continuous or has a countable number of discontinuities), we can interpret $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) dt$ as

a Riemann Integral.

Lemma) If f_x is the pdf

of a discrete r.v., $\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f_x(t) dt = 1$

Proof

To summarize, $f_x: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is

a pdf iff

a) $f_x(t) \geq 0 \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}$

b) f_x is measurable

c) $\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f_x(t) dt = 1$

For any density function, we

can find the CDF $F_x = \int_{-\infty}^x f_x(t) dt$

If the CDF is differentiable

at $x = x_0$

$$f'_x(x_0) =$$

Remark: pdfs are not unique

for a random variable. For

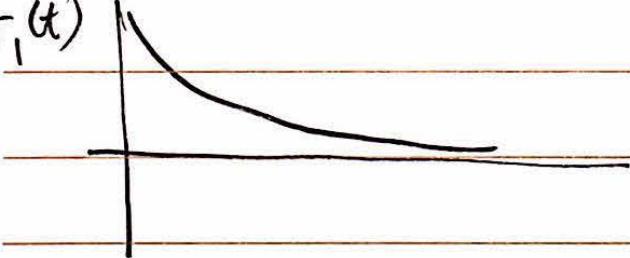
example, if a pdf is changed

at a finite set of points, its

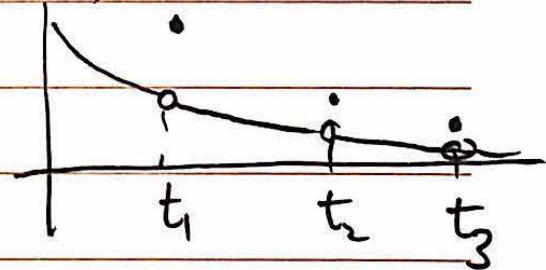
integral (cdf) remains the

same.

$$f_1(t)$$



$$f_2(t)$$



$$\forall t \neq t_1, t_2, t_3 \quad f_1(t) = f_2(t)$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^x f_1(t) dt = \int_{-\infty}^x f_2(t) dt$$

$$\rightarrow F_1(x) = F_2(x)$$

Rarely is this the cause of any mathematical difficulty; therefore, if in the sequel, "the pdf" will be used instead of "a pdf," noting that

we actually refer to a "class of pdfs" rather than a single pdf.

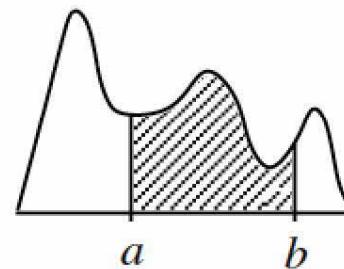
According to the definition
 of pdf, the probability that X
 falls in a Borel set B can
 be calculated as $\int_B f(t) dt$.

In particular, if $f(x)$,

$P(X=x)=0$ (i.e. the CDF is
 continuous)

$$P(a < X < b) = P(a \leq X \leq b)$$

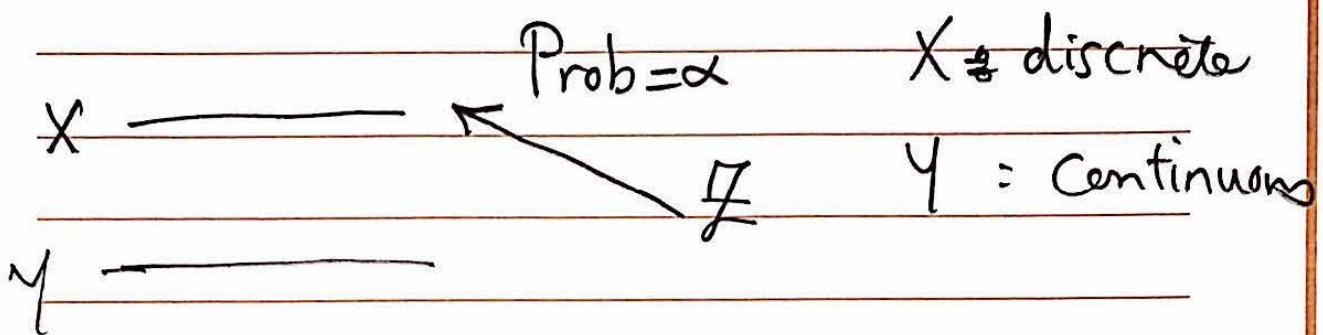
$$= \int$$



Example: A Random variable

that is neither continuous nor

discrete



$$P(Z=X) = \alpha \quad P(Z=Y) = 1-\alpha$$

$$F_Y(z) =$$

A pdf is similar to a pmf,

but probability is encoded as "area"

under a pdf, compared to pmfs,

for which probabilities are

encoded as values.

The pdf of some continuous

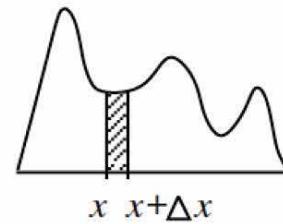
r.v. X can have values

greater than 1, while that's not

the case for a pmf.

To understand this, observe that

$$P(X \in [x, x+\Delta x]) = \int$$



provided that f_x is continuous

over $[x, x+\Delta x]$.

Question: We know that

a r.v. is a function $X: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

that is $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}))$ measurable.

If X is a continuous r.v., does it

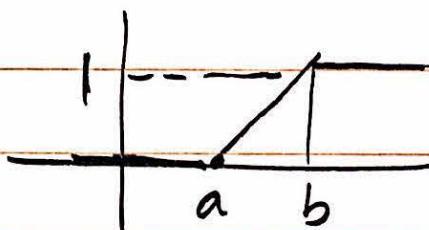
mean that X is a continuous function?

Important Continuous R.V.s

a) Uniform

$$X \sim U[a, b]$$

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



$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{d F_X(x)}{dx} & x \in [a, b] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

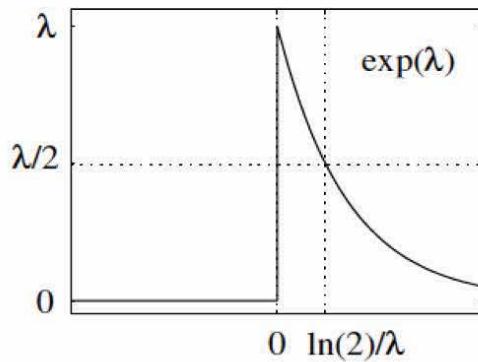
Remark: The values of $f_X(x)$ at $x=a$ and $x=b$ don't matter!

(b) Exponential :

We say $X \sim \text{EXP}(\lambda)$ if $\lambda > 0$

$$F_X(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - e^{-\lambda x} & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

Check that it is indeed a CDF.



$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \lambda e^{-\lambda x} & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

The Relationship between

Geometric and Exponential

Random Variables

Recall that the number

of failures before the first

success is observed in

a sequence of independent

Bernoulli trials is modeled by

a $\text{Geo}_0(p)$ r.v.:

$$P_X(x) = p(1-p)^x$$

$$\forall x \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$$

An exponential random variable

can be viewed as a geometric

random variable with very

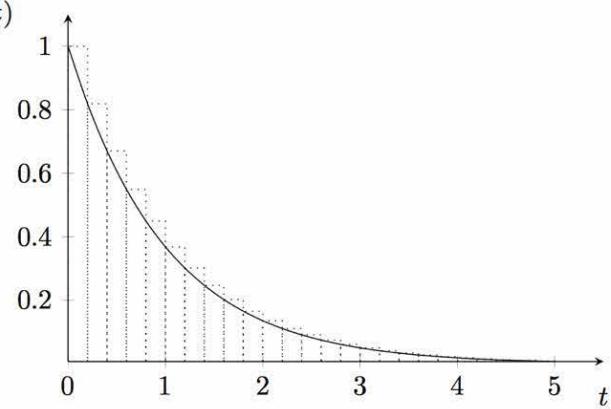
small probability of success.

Theorem: Assume that $X_n \sim \text{Geo}(\frac{\lambda}{n})$,

and $X \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$. Then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_{X_n}(t) = F_X(t)$$

$P(X > t)$



Approximation of the exponential distribution by the geometric distribution.

Note: The exponential r.v. is often used to model "time to a particular event," e.g. "time to failure"

(Recall that a geometric

r.v. is used to model "number of trials needed to observe success.)

Memoryless Property

The geometric distribution is

memoryless: the number of

attempts necessary to see

a success is independent of

the past attempts.

Lemma:

Assume that $X \sim \text{Geo}_1(p)$.

$$P(X > s+t | X > s)$$

=

Proof:

Exercise: Show that if

$X \sim \text{Geo}_0(p)$, then

$$P(X \geq s+t | X \geq s) = P(X \geq t)$$

Memory less Property for Exponential Random Variables

The Exponential R.V. is a limit of the geometric r.v.,
and inherits its memoryless

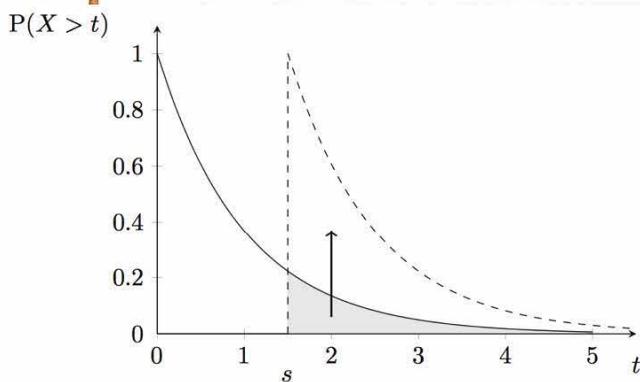
property.

Lemma: Assume that $X \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$.

$\lambda > 0$. Then $P(X > x+t | X > x)$

$$= P(X > t)$$

$$\checkmark x, t \geq 0.$$



Proof

Remark: If we interpret

$T \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$ as time to failure

of an equipment, the memoryless

property says that the event

that the equipment

continued working for at more

time is independent from ~~its~~

its current age (i.e. the

event that it worked for T_1 periods

of time), i.e.

$$P(T > T_1 + \Delta t | T > T_1) = P(T > \Delta t)$$

Exercise:

Show that if

$f_T(t)$ is nonzero for $t \geq 0$

and T has the memoryless

property, then $T \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$.

In other words, memoryless is

a sufficient condition for being

an exponential r.v., if T is

a continuous r.v.

Exercise: Is ^{being} memoryless also
a sufficient condition for
being geometric if X is
a discrete r.v.?

(C) The Laplace Distribution

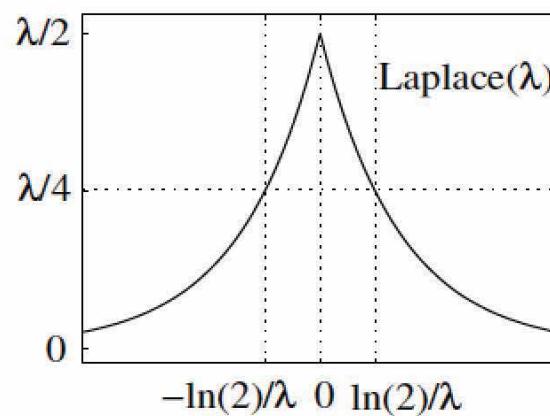
We say X has a Laplace

distribution with parameter λ

and write $X \sim \text{Laplace}(\lambda)$

if:

$$f_X(x) = \frac{\lambda}{2} e^{-\lambda|x|} \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$



(d) The Cauchy Distribution

We say X has a

Cauchy distribution with

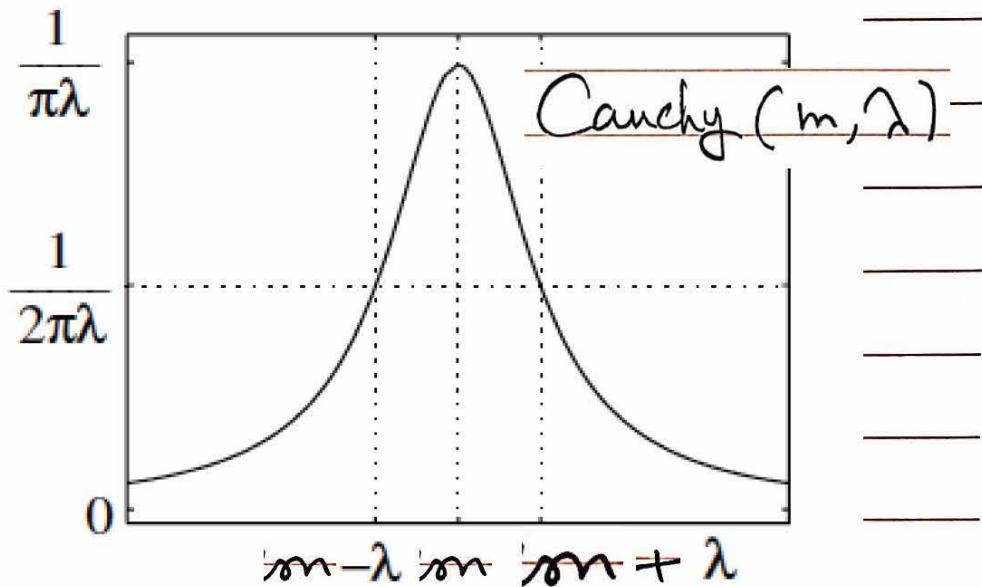
parameters m and λ and

write $X \sim \text{Cauchy}(m, \lambda)$ if

$$f_X(x) = \frac{\lambda/\pi}{\lambda^2 + (x - m)^2} \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$$

Exercise. Show that $f_X(x)$ in

above is a pdf.



Remark : $X \sim \text{Cauchy}(m=0, \lambda=1)$

is called the standard

Cauchy distribution

$$f_X(z) = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{1}{1+z^2} \quad z \in \mathbb{R}$$

(e) The Normal (Gaussian)

Distribution

The Normal Distribution is

probably the most widely used

and known distribution that

appears in many areas of

Science and engineering, and

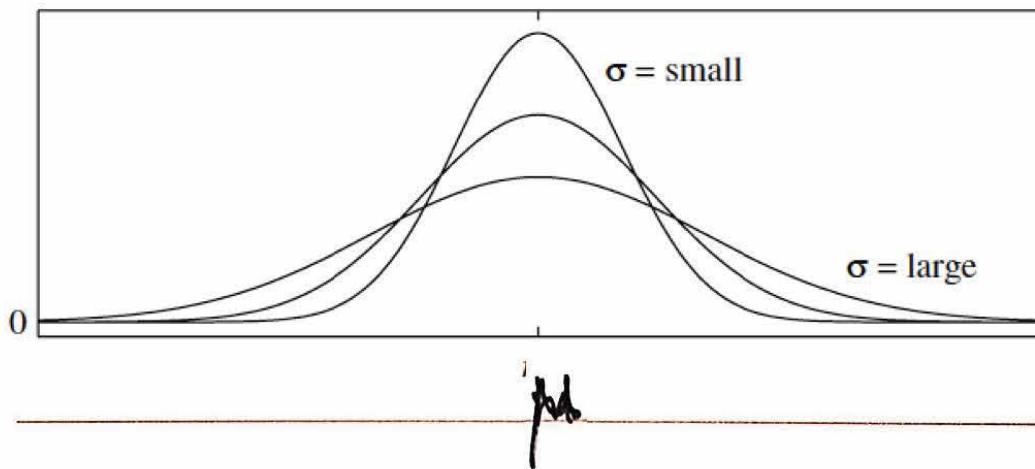
is of significant interest in

Statistics, because of the

celebrated Central Limit Theorem.

We say X has a normal
(Gaussian) distribution with
parameters $\mu \in \mathbb{R}, \sigma^2 > 0$
and write $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ if

$$f_X(x) =$$



Note: When $\mu=0$ and $\sigma=1$,

X is called a Standard normal random variable, Z :

$$Z \sim N(0,1)$$

$$f_Z(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-z^2/2}$$

Exercise: Show that

$$f_X = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2a}} e^{-x^2/2}$$
 is a pdf.

Note: when σ becomes larger,
the distribution becomes wider.
When $\sigma \rightarrow 0$, the distribution
becomes sharper; therefore $\sigma = 0$
can be seen as a special

limiting case, where
the normal r.v. becomes
a degenerate r.v. for which
 $X = \mu$ with probability 1
a.s.

Question: When $\sigma \rightarrow 0$, what is
the limit of the pdf of
 $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$? How do you justify
this?

Remark : The CDF of $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$

is important in probability and statistics;

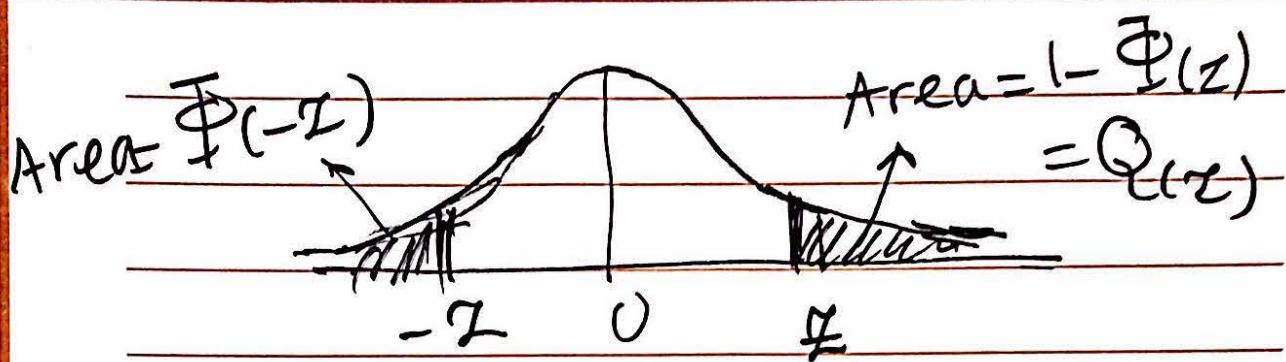
$$\Phi_X(x) = P(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(t) dt$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^x \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(t-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dt$$

Unfortunately, there are no closed-forms for $\Phi_X(x)$;

however, there are tables for the CDF of the Standard

Normal $\Phi_Z(z)$, $Z \sim N(0,1)$



By symmetry

$$\Phi(-z) = 1 - \Phi(z) = Q(z)$$

$$Q(z) = P(Z > z)$$

and $\Phi(z) + Q(z) = 1$.

It can be shown that if

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

"standardized" version of X ,

$$Z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma} \text{ is a standard}$$

Normal, $Z \sim N(0, 1)$.

Therefore, to calculate $\Phi_X(c)$,

one can use the standard

Normal table.

$$\Phi_X(c) = P(X \leq c) =$$

Exercise : Using the normal
table, calculate

$$P(-1.96 \leq Z \leq 1.96) \text{ and}$$

$$P(-2.58 \leq Z \leq 2.58).$$

(f) The Gamma Distribution

and Its Variations

X is said to have a Gamma distribution with parameters

$\lambda, p \quad (X \sim \text{Gamma}(\lambda, p))$

or $X \sim \Gamma(\lambda, p)$ if

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(p)} \lambda^p x^{p-1} e^{-\lambda x}, \quad \lambda, p \in \mathbb{R}^+, x > 0,$$

$$\text{where } \Gamma(p) = \int_0^\infty x^{p-1} e^{-x} dx, \quad p > 0$$

Note: $p \in \mathbb{N} \Rightarrow \Gamma(p) = (p-1)!$

Proof: Integration by parts.

Note: Some authors use a different order ^{for the} of parameters.

Special Cases of The Gamma

Distribution

$$p=1 \Rightarrow X \sim$$

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{2}, p = \frac{n}{2} \quad \text{for } n \in \mathbb{N},$$

$$X \sim N_n^2$$

χ_n^2 is the chi-squared distribution

with n degrees of freedom.

It can be shown that

if X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are iid

and $X_i \sim N(0, 1)$, then

$$\text{if } Y = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2, \quad Y \sim \chi_n^2.$$

When $p \in \mathbb{N}$, X is said to

be distributed according to an

Erlang distribution $X \sim \text{Erlang}(p, \lambda)$

It can be shown that if X_1, X_2, \dots, X_p are iid and $X_i \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$, $Y = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_p \sim \text{Erlang}(p, \lambda)$

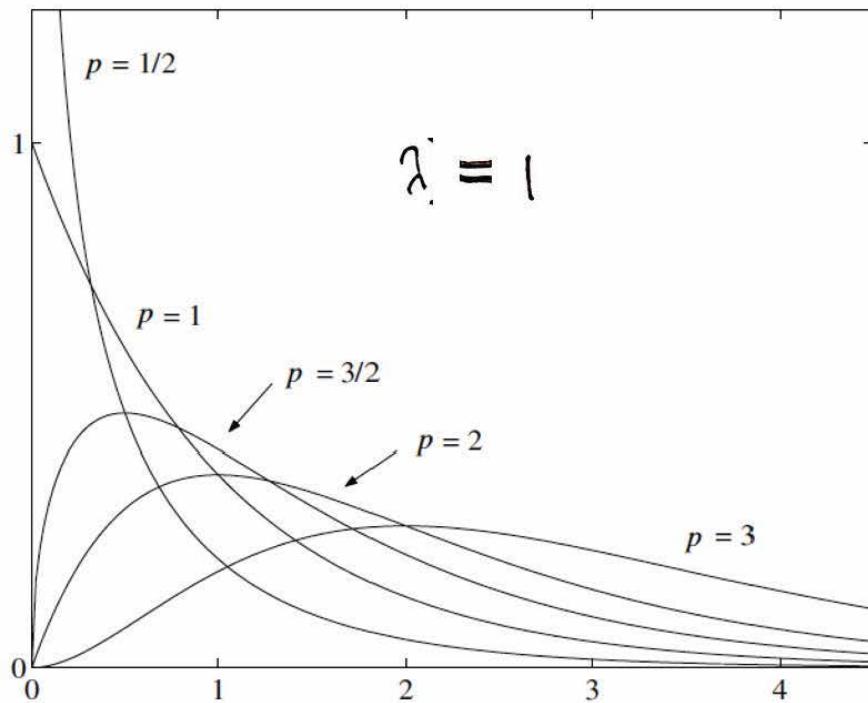


Figure 4.7. The gamma densities $g_p(x)$ for $p = 1/2$, $p = 1$, $p = 3/2$, $p = 2$, and $p = 3$.

(g) Beta Distribution

X is said to have a Beta distribution ($X \sim \text{Beta}(a, b)$ $a, b > 0$)

if:

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\beta(a, b)} x^{a-1} (1-x)^{b-1}$$

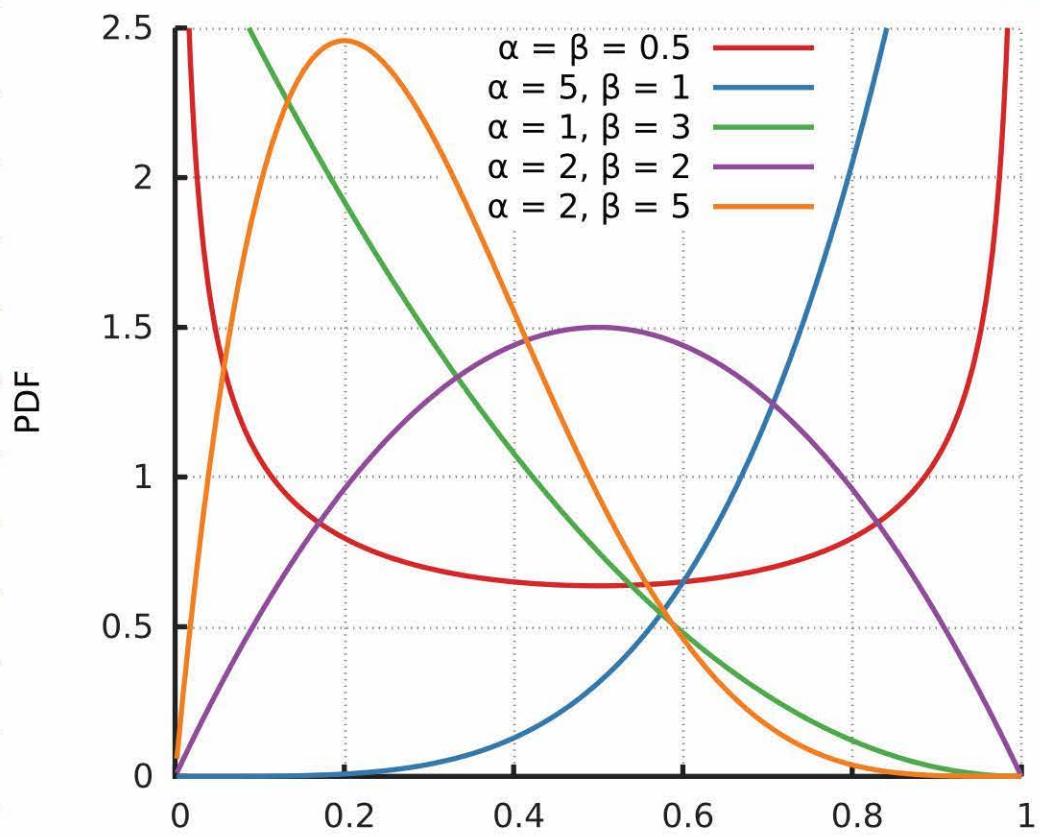
$$0 \leq x \leq 1$$

Where

$$\beta(a, b) = \int_0^1 x^{a-1} (1-x)^{b-1} dx$$

Proposition: $\beta(a, b) = \frac{\Gamma(a) \Gamma(b)}{\Gamma(a+b)}$

If $a=b=1$, $X \sim$



(b) The Weibull Distribution

The Weibull distribution frequently arises in reliability theory and survival analysis.

X is said to have a Weibull

distribution with parameters

α, β ($X \sim \text{Weibull}(\alpha, \beta)$) if

$$f_X(x) = \alpha \beta x^{\beta-1} e^{-\alpha x^\beta} \quad \alpha > 0$$

$$\alpha, \beta > 0$$

Another parameterization of

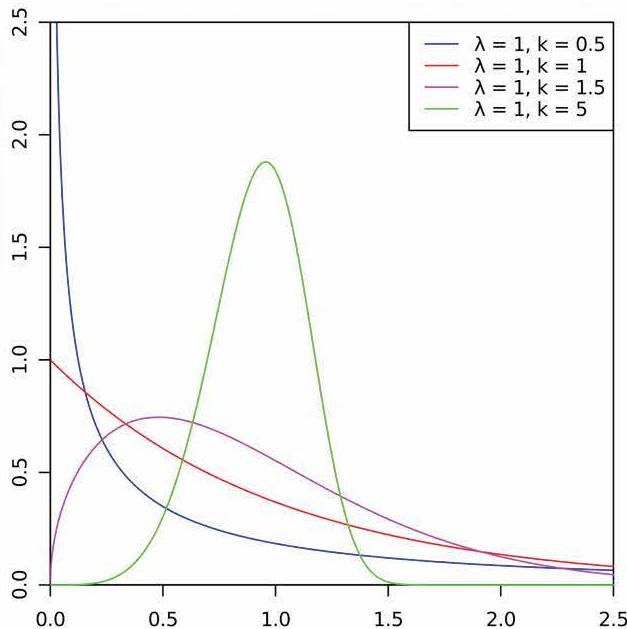
Weibull Distribution

$$X \sim \text{Weibull}(\lambda, k) \quad \lambda, k > 0$$

if

$$f_X(x) = \frac{k}{\lambda} \left(\frac{x}{\lambda}\right)^{k-1} e^{-(x/\lambda)^k}$$

Note that if $\beta = 1$



$X \sim$

(i) Power Laws

Continuous power law distributions

are distributions whose "tails"

decay proportional to $x^{-\alpha}$, i.e.

$$P(X > x) = \frac{\beta}{x^\alpha} \quad \forall x \geq x_m$$

Therefore, the CDF is

$$F_X(x) = P(X \leq x) = 1 - P(X > x)$$

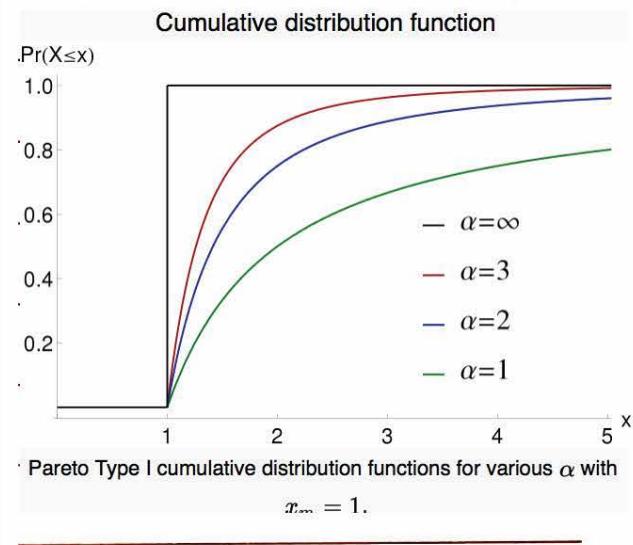
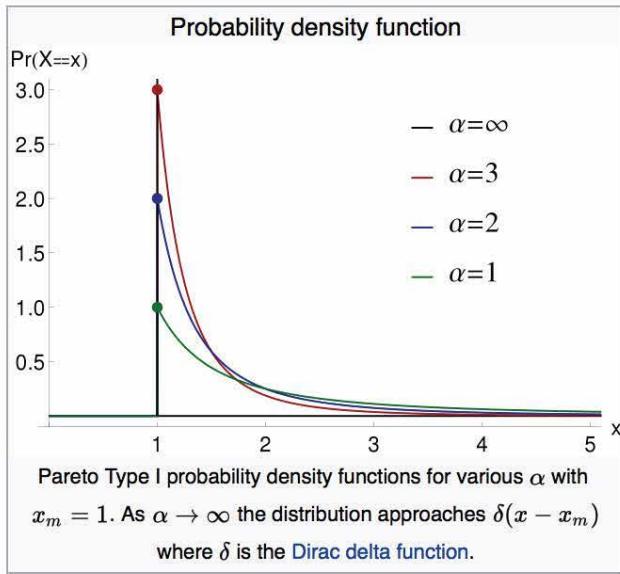
$$= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{for } x < x_m \\ \text{for } x \geq x_m \end{array} \right.$$

X has to be continuous, so

$$F_X(x_m) =$$

Also, $f_X(x) = \frac{d F_X(x)}{dx} =$

Pareto Type I



Location and Scale

Assume that the pdf of a continuous r.v. X is $f_X(x)$.

Then $2f(\lambda(x-c))$ is also a pdf (why?).

λ is called a scale parameter

and c is called a location

parameter.

Exercise: If $X \sim \text{Laplace}(\lambda)$,

plot and interpret $f_X(\lambda(x-c))$.

Multiple Random Variables

and Joint Distributions

Def) Assume that X and Y are

r.v.'s on (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) . We say

that X, Y are jointly continuous

if there exists a measurable

function $f_{X,Y} : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$

such that

$$F_{X,Y}(x, y) = P(X \leq x, Y \leq y)$$

=

We call $f_{x,y}(x,y)$, the joint pdf of X, Y .

If the cdf is differentiable

at (x_0, y_0) :

$$\frac{\partial^2 F_{x,y}(x,y)}{\partial x \partial y} \Big|_{(x,y) = (x_0, y_0)} = f_{x,y}(x_0, y_0)$$

If $B \in \beta(\mathbb{R}^2)$ is a Borel Set

$$P((X,Y) \in B) =$$

=

Marginal Distributions

Def: If X, Y are jointly

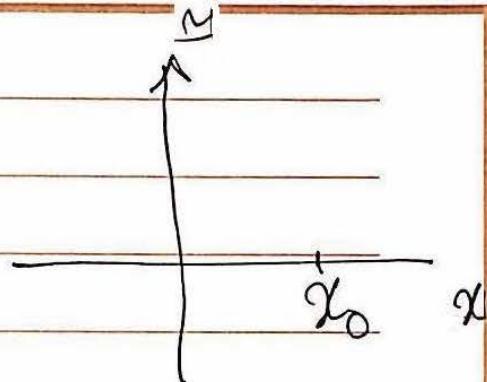
continuous r.v.s, f_X and f_Y

are called marginal p.d.f.s

of X, Y .

$$F_X(x_0) = P(X \leq x_0)$$

=



Therefore, to find the marginal density, integrate out the unwanted variable.

Important Remark

If X, Y are jointly continuous

then we can find pdfs for

X and Y ; therefore, X is

continuous and Y is continuous

The converse is not true.

Consider the following example.

Example: Let X be a continuous

r.v. and let $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be

a one-to-one measurable function. Assume

that $Y = g(X)$ with probability

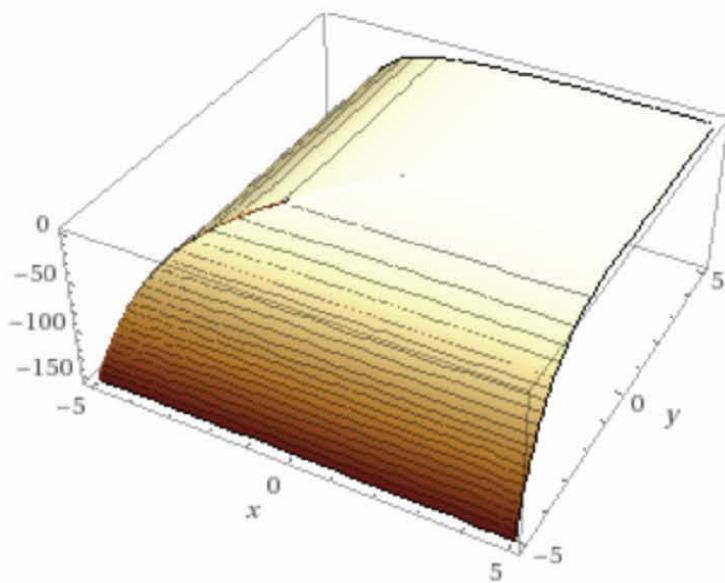
one Then

$$F_{X,Y}(x,y) = \begin{cases} & \\ & \\ & \\ & \\ & \end{cases}$$

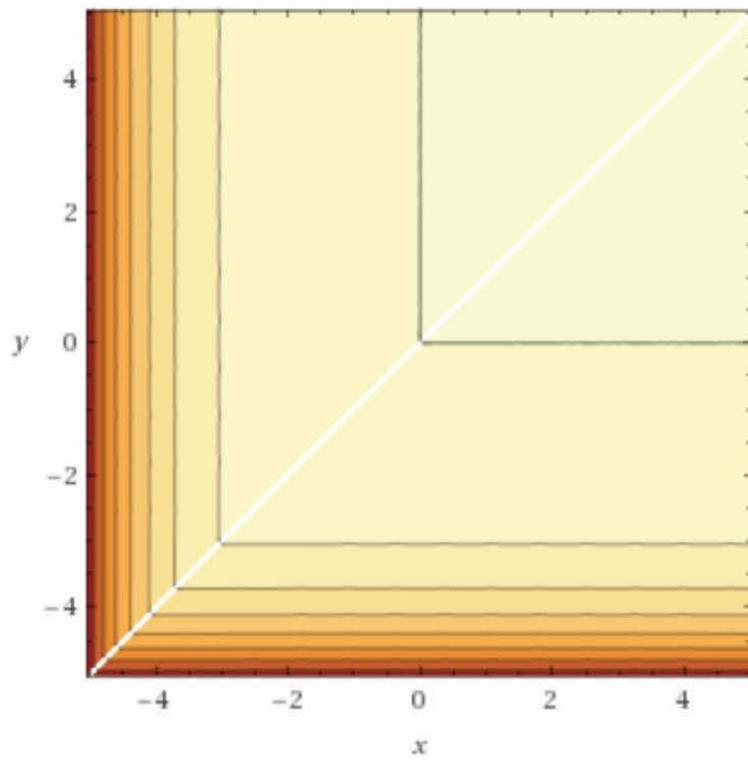
plot

$$1 - \exp(-\min(x, y))$$

3D plot:



Contour plot:



It is called ^{jointly} "Singular"

Exercise (Joint CDF):

Assume that $F_{X,Y}(x,y)$ is

the joint cdf of X and Y .

Calculate $P(a < X \leq b, c < Y \leq d)$

Exercise : The joint cdf of X

and Y is given :

$$F_{X,Y}(x,y) = \begin{cases} \frac{y+e^{-x(y+1)}}{y+1} & x, y > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

a) Check that it's indeed a cdf

(b) Find $F_X(x)$, $F_Y(y)$, $f_X(x)$, $f_Y(y)$.

Independence of Continuous Random Variables

Recall X, Y are independent

r.v.'s if for all $B_1 \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$ and

$B_2 \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$

$$P(X \in B_1, Y \in B_2) = P(X \in B_1)P(Y \in B_2)$$

Theorem: Let X, Y be jointly

continuous r.v.'s defined on (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) .

The following are equivalent:

(a) X, Y are independent

(b) If $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$, the events

$\{X \leq x\}, \{Y \leq y\}$ are independent.

(c) $\forall x, y \quad F_{X,Y}(x,y) = F_X(x)F_Y(y)$

(d) If $f_x, f_y, f_{X,Y}$ are
the joint distributions and

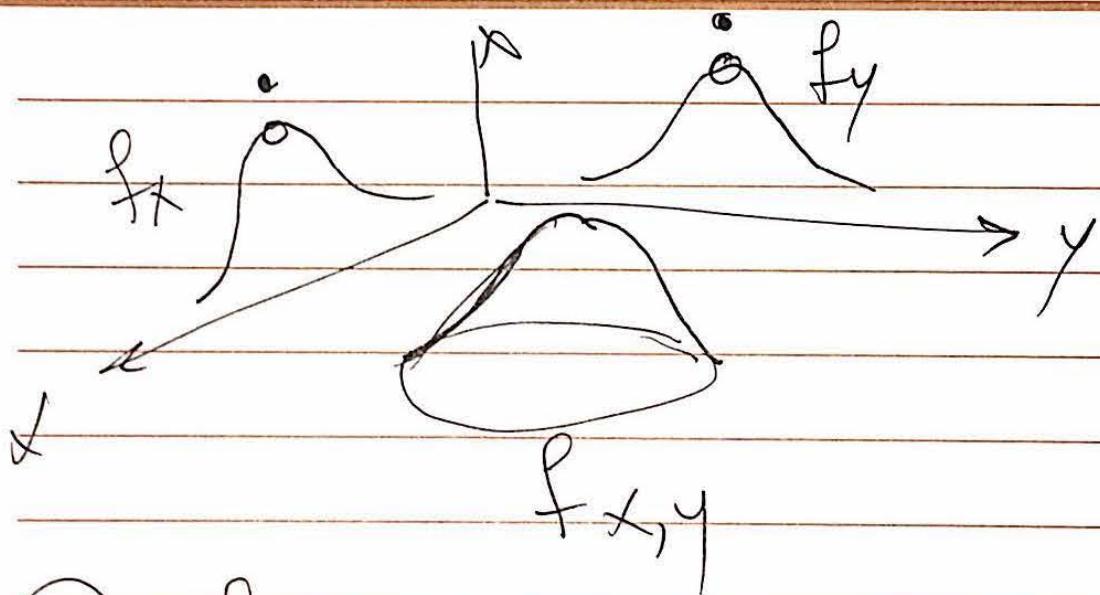
marginal distributions,

the following equation holds

almost everywhere :

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = f_X(x)f_Y(y)$$

Q. Remark : This means that
 the inequality may not
 hold on a set
 that has Lebesgue measure
 zero.



Proof: Left to the student

Conditional Probability and Conditional pdfs

Recall that for discrete r.v.'s

the conditional pmf of Y given

X can be defined as

$$P_{Y|X}(y|x) = P(Y=y \mid X=x)$$

$\forall x$ s.t $P(X=x) \neq 0$

Such a definition will not work

for continuous X 's, because

$$\underline{P(X=x) = 0 \ \forall x}$$

Remember that for continuous r.v.'s, probability is encoded as area under the pdf,

i.e. $\underline{P(a \leq X \leq a + \Delta x) \approx f_X(a) \Delta x}$

This inspires us to calculate

- a the conditional cdf of Y

given X as

$$\underline{F_{Y|X}(y|x) = \lim_{\substack{\Delta x \rightarrow 0 \\ \text{as}}} P(Y \leq y)}$$

Therefore $f_{Y|X}(y|x) =$

\checkmark of s.t.]

and $f_{Y|X}$ is called the conditional pdf of Y given X

Remark: The previous calculation

even

if $F_{Y|X}$ is valid if Y is not continuous

The conditional probability

of the event $\{Y \in B\}$ given

that $X = x$ can therefore

be calculated as

$$P(Y \in B | X = x)$$

=

Exercise: Check that $F_{Y|X}$ is indeed a CDF and has all of the properties of a cdf, i.e.

(a) $\lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} F_{Y|X}(y|x) =$

(b) $\lim_{y \rightarrow -\infty} F_{Y|X}(y|x) =$

(c) $F_{Y|X}$ is non-decreasing

(d) $F_{Y|X}$ is right-continuous

Moments of Continuous

Random Variables

Def (Expectation): Similar to

discrete r.v.'s, we define the

expectation of a continuous

r.v. X with pdf f_x , as

$$E[X] =$$

Also, Similar to the discrete

case, if $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is an integrable and measurable function (i.e. if $g(X)$ is a r.r.), the expectation of $\mathbb{E}[g(X)]$ can be calculated

as :

$$\mathbb{E}[Y] = \mathbb{E}[g(X)] =$$

This is the law of The Unconscious Statistician (LOTUS) for continuous r.r.'s. Its proof is quite technical and is dropped.

Definition: The m^{th} moment

and the m^{th} central moment

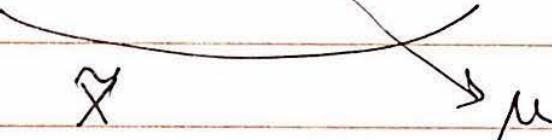
of a continuous r.v. with X

pdf f_X are respectively

calculated as:

$$\mathbb{E}[X^m] =$$

$$\mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X])^m]$$



$$=$$

in particular, when $n=2$

$$\text{var}(X) = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X])^2]$$

=

The properties that we learned
of expectation

are the same as

- the discrete case. The

Definitions of covariance and

correlation are also like

the discrete case.

Also, our discussions about
the linear algebra aspect
of expectations as well as
the Cauchy-Schwartz-Bunyakovsky
lemma are valid for the

Continuous Case.

Properties of expectation
such as linearity are
exactly the same as the
continuous case.

Obviously, some results involving

Σ 's have to be replaced

with \int :

Lemma: Let X be a non-negative

continuous r.v. (i.e. $P(X < 0) = 0$)

or $X \geq 0$ a.s.). Define

$S_X(x) = P(X > x)$. Then

$$E[X] = \int_0^\infty S_X(x) dx$$

Remark: Recall that for a

discrete r.v. with non-negative

integer values:

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{x} P(X > x)$$

Remark: We have encountered

$$S(x) = P(X > x) = 1 - P(X \leq x) = 1 - F_X(x)$$

previously when dealing with

exponential r.v.'s. S_X is

called the "survival function"

of X , because it models

"survival" of X . For continuous

r.v.'s $S_X(x) = \int_x^{\infty} f_X(t) dt$

Proof

Lemma)

a) The integral

$$E[X] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x f(x) dx$$

is well-defined and finite

$$\text{if } \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |x| f_X(x) dx < \infty$$

in which case we call

X integrable.

b) If ^{only} one of $\int_{-\infty}^0 x f_X(x) dx$

and $\int_0^{\infty} x f_X(x) dx$ (and not

both) is infinite, $E[X]$

is infinite, but still well defined.

c) If both $\int_{-\infty}^0 xf_x(x)dx$
and $\int_0^\infty xf_x(x)dx$ are
infinite, $E[X]$ is undefined

Proof: Left as an exercise

Exercise: If $k, m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$

and $k \leq m$, then show that

- if the m^{th} moment of

a continuous r.v. is finite,

its k^{th} moment is also finite.

Remark: This is also correct for

discrete r.v.'s.

Moments of Important

R.V.'s.

a) $X \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$

$$E[X^k] = \int_0^\infty x^k \lambda e^{-\lambda x} dx$$

(Recall: $\Gamma(p) = \int_0^\infty x^{p-1} e^{-x} dx$)

$$\mu_X = E[X] =$$

$$\text{Var}(X) =$$

(b) $X \sim \text{Gamma}^-(\lambda, p)$

$$\mathbb{E}[X^k]$$

$$\text{Recall } T(p) = \int_0^\infty x^{p-1} e^{-x} dx, p > 0$$

$$\mu_X =$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \sigma_X^2 =$$

(c) $X \sim \text{Beta}(a, b)$

Recall $\beta(a, b) = \int_0^1 x^{a-1} (1-x)^{b-1} dx$

$$\mathbb{E}[X^k] = \frac{\Gamma(a) \Gamma(b)}{\Gamma(a+b)}$$

=

$M_x :$

Var(X)

(c) Uniform $X \sim U(a, b)$

$$U(0, 1) = \text{Beta}(1, 1)$$

(d) $X \sim \text{Normal}(\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$E\left[\frac{X-\mu}{\sigma}\right] =$$

$$E\left[\left(\frac{X-\mu}{\sigma}\right)^k\right]$$

$$= E[Z^k] =$$

(e) Power Laws (Type I Pareto Distribution)

$$f(x) = \alpha \frac{x_m^\alpha}{x^{\alpha+1}} \quad x \geq x_m$$

$$E[X^k] =$$

(f) Cauchy

$X \sim \text{Cauchy}(m, \lambda)$

$$f_X(x) = \frac{\lambda/\pi}{\lambda^2 + (x-m)^2}$$

$$E\left[\underbrace{\frac{x-m}{\lambda}}_{\text{A}}\right] =$$

Question: What can be said
about higher order moments of
Cauchy (m, λ) ?

Exercise: Show that when

$X \sim \text{Weibull}(\alpha, \beta)$, i.e.

$$f_X(x) = \alpha \beta x^{\beta-1} \exp(-\alpha x^\beta),$$

$$E[X^k] = \frac{k}{\beta \alpha^{k/\beta}} \Gamma(k/\beta).$$

More on Multiple R.V.'s

The Law of The Unconscious Statistician

Statistician

Assume that X, Y are jointly

continuous random variables with

joint pdf $f_{X,Y}$ and $g: \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

is measurable, i.e. $\mathbb{E}[g(X, Y)]$

is a r.v. Then

$$\mathbb{E}[Z] = \mathbb{E}[g(X, Y)]$$

$$= \iint$$

Proof: Like the single variable case, it is omitted

Example: Assume that $Z = X + Y$

where X and Y are independent,

with $X \sim N(0, 1)$ and $Y \sim \text{Laplace}(1)$.

Find $\text{Cov}(X, Z)$.

The Law of Total

Probability

Recall, if $B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^2)$:

$$P((x, y) \in B | X=x)$$

$$= \int_B f_{Y|X}(y|x) dy$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}} I_B(x, y) f_{Y|X}(y|x) dy$$

Because $P(X=x) = 0$, we again

need to use the event

$\{x \leq X \leq x + \Delta x\}$ to show

the following law of total

probability :-

$$P((x,y) \in B) = \int_R P((x,y) \in B | X=x) f_x(x) dx$$

Proof: Exercise

- Exercise: multiplicative

Noise

A random Signal S is communicated over a channel with multiplicative noise N . The received signal

is $R = NS$. Assume that
 N, S are jointly continuous
with joint pdf $f_{N,S}$. Find the
cdf and pdf of R , F_R , f_R .

Question: If X, Y are jointly continuous, how can we formulate the Baye's Rule in terms of their pdfs?

The Substitution Law

Using the same line of

reasoning (i.e. considering

$\{x \leq X \leq x + \Delta x\}$ and $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$),

we have:

$$P\{(X, Y) \in B \mid X = x\} = P\{(X, Y) \in B \mid X = x\}$$

Example: Assume that

$Y \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$ and $X \sim U(a, b)$

and X, Y are independent.

Use Total Probability to
calculate $P(Y > X)$.

Conditional Expectation

Since $P(Y \in B | X=x)$ is

$$\int_B f_{Y|X}(y|x) dy \quad \forall B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$$

we define $E[Y|X=x]$ as

$$E[Y|X=x] = \int$$

We can show that The Law of
The Unconscious Statistician holds for

Conditional Expectation:

$$E[g(Y)|X=x] =$$

and

$$E[g(X, Y) | X=x] =$$

Also, the substitution law

holds:

$$E[g(X, Y) | X=x] = E$$

Furthermore, the law of Total

Expectation is valid in the

Continuous cases:

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

We know that $E[g(X, Y) | X=x]$

is a function of x . Let

$$e(x) = E[g(X, Y) | X=x]$$

Then $e(x)$ is a r.v.

So,

$$\mathbb{E}[e(X)] = \mathbb{E}[g(X, Y)]$$

in case $g(x, y) = y$

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[Y|X]] = \mathbb{E}[Y]$$

or

$$\mathbb{E}[Y] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mathbb{E}[Y|X=x] f_X(x) dx$$

Exercise: Suppose $X \sim \text{Exp}(1)$

and given $X=x$, Y is conditionally

normal with

mean 0 and variance x^2 .

Evaluate $\mathbb{E}[Y^2]$ and $\mathbb{E}[Y^2 X^3]$

Remark: It is worth mentioning that the Law of Total Expectation is a general form of the Law of Total Probability. In particular

$$E[g(X, Y)] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} E[g(x, Y) | X=x] f_X(x) dx$$

Using $g(y) = I_B(y)$, we can write:

More Than Two random variables

If X_1, \dots, X_n are jointly continuous r.v.'s, their joint cdf can be calculated

from a joint pdf:

$$F_{X_1, \dots, X_n}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \int_{-\infty}^{\underline{x}} f(x'_1, \dots, x'_n) dx'_1$$

It's intuitively clear that the

joint pdf of any number

of them can be calculated

by integrating the unwanted

variable, e.g. x, y, z :

$$f_{XYZ}(x, y, z) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty}$$

and

$$f_X(x) =$$

Exercise: $f_{XYZ}(x, y, z) = \frac{3z^2}{7\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{zy}{z}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-y}{z}\right)^2\right]$

for $y \geq 0$
and $1 \leq z \leq 2$

Find $f_{YZ}(y, z)$ and $f_{X|Y,Z}(x|y, z)$.

Also find $f_Z(z)$, $f_{Y|Z}(y|z)$, and
 $f_{X|Y|Z}(x|y|z)$

The Substitution Law and
 The Law of Total Probability/
 Expectation for Three R.V.'s

Assume that X, Y, Z are

r.v.'s on (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) and are

jointly continuous. Then

$$E[g(X, Y, Z)] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} g(x, y, z) f_{X, Y, Z}(x, y, z) dx dy dz$$

$$E[g(X, Y, Z) | Y=y, Z=z]$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} g(x, y, z) f_{X|Y,Z}(x|y, z) dx$$

Then

$$\mathbb{E}[g(x, y, z)] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \mathbb{E}[g(x, y, z) | Y=y, Z=z] f_{Y, Z}(y, z) dy dz$$

and

$$\mathbb{E}[g(x, y, z) | Y=y, Z=z] = \mathbb{E}[g(x, y, z) | Y=y, Z=z]$$

Exercise: Assume that

X, Y, Z are i.i.d r.v's

distributed according to $U(0, 1)$.

Find $P(X \geq YZ)$

Conditional Expectation of

Jointly Continuous RV's

Remark : When X, Y are

jointly continuous, the random

variable $E[Y|X]$ may be

discrete and is not necessarily

continuous. As an example

observe that if X, Y are

independent and g, h are measurable

functions, such that $g(X)$ and $h(Y)$ are jointly continuous,

$$\mathbb{E}[g(Y) | h(X)] = \mathbb{E}[g(Y)]$$

Although $g(Y)$ and $h(X)$ are

jointly continuous,

$\mathbb{E}[g(Y) | h(Y)]$ ^{only} takes

the constant $\mathbb{E}[g(Y)]$,

so it is a degenerate

random variable and is

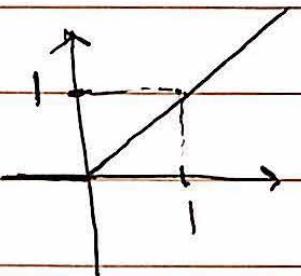
discrete.

Mixed Random Variables

Example:

Consider the following function

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} x & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & x < 0 \end{cases}$$



g is like a rectifier. If x

is a positive voltage, $g(x) = x$.

If x is negative, $g(x) = 0$

Assume that $Y = g(X)$, where

$X \sim U(-1, 1)$. Let's Determine

$$F_Y(y) = P(Y \leq y)$$

$$X \in [-1, 1] \Rightarrow Y \in$$

$$\{\omega | Y(\omega) \leq y\} = \begin{cases} & y < 0 \\ & y \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

$$F_Y(y) = P(Y \leq y) = \begin{cases} & y < 0 \\ & y \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

But what is $F_Y(y)$ for $0 \leq y < 1$?

when $0 \leq y < 1$

$$F_Y(y) = P(Y \leq y) = P(X \leq y)$$

But X is uniform, so

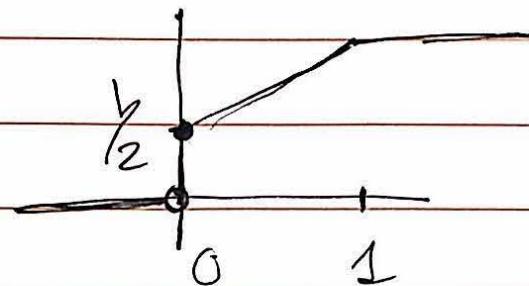
its pdf is $F_X(x) = x$ $0 \leq x \leq 1$.

Then

$$P(0 \leq X \leq 1) = F_X(1) - F_X(0)$$

z

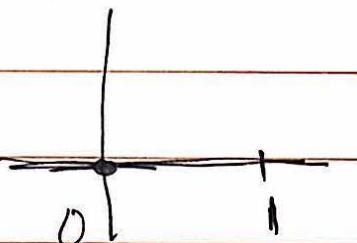
$$F_Y(y) = \begin{cases} 0 & y < 0 \\ (y+1)/2 & 0 \leq y < 1 \\ 1 & y \geq 1 \end{cases}$$



One can see F_Y to have a "step" singularity at $y=0$, and

consider its derivative :

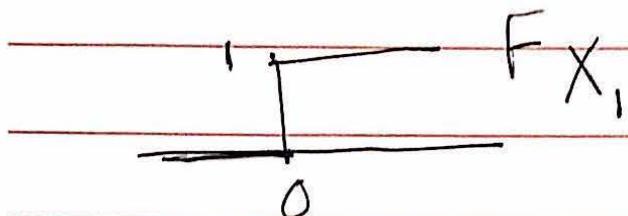
$$f_Y(y) =$$



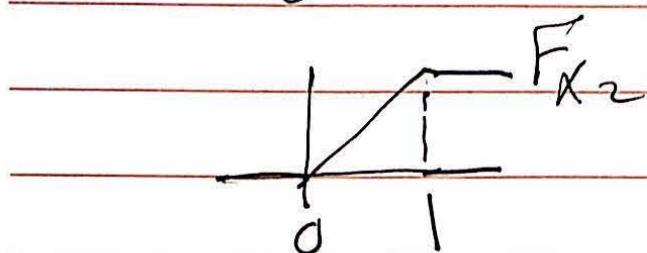
This random variable can be

seen as a mixture of a

discrete and a continuous r.v.:



$Y = X_1$ with Prob $\frac{1}{2}$



$Y = X_2$ with Prob $\frac{1}{2}$

A random variable that can be seen as a mixture of a discrete and continuous random variables has a density that contains

impulse functions. We call such a random variable a "mixed random variable" and its density, a "generalized density."

A generalized density contains Dirac Delta Functions, (or impulse functions) characterized by the so-called

sifting property:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} h(t) \delta(t - t_0) dt = h(t_0)$$

The general form of a

generalized density is

$$f_y(y) = \tilde{f}_y(y) + \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} P(Y=y_i) \delta(y-y_i)$$

where y_i 's are distinct and

countable points at which

$F_y(y)$ has jump discontinuities,

due to the discrete r.v. whose

pmf is non-zero at y_i 's, and

$\tilde{f}_y(y)$ is a continuous function

without impulses, and $y \neq y_i$

$$\frac{dF_Y}{dy} = f_Y(y)$$

(measurable)

The Expectation of any function

of Y , $g(Y)$ can be computed

using the following mixed

version of LOTUS

$$\begin{aligned} E[g(Y)] &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} g(y) f_Y(y) dy \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} g(y) \tilde{f}_Y(y) dy + \sum_i g(y_i) P(Y=y_i) \end{aligned}$$

Exercise : Consider

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{5}{3} e^{-5y} + \frac{5}{12} \delta(y-1) + \frac{1}{4} \delta(y-5)$$

Compute $P(1 < Y \leq 5)$,

$P(Y=1)$, and

$\text{Var}(Y)$.

Mixed Joint CDFs and PDFs

We learned that cdfs are

fundamental concepts for any

kind of random variable,

therefore we can define

joint cdfs of discrete and continuous

random variables.

Assume that N is a discrete

and Y is a continuous r.v. on

(Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) . Their joint cdf

is defined as:

$$F_{Y,N}(y, n) = P(Y \leq y, N \leq n)$$

One can even go further

and define a generalized

joint pdf for Y and N ,

which contain "impulse-like"

functions that have the

property

$$\iint_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(y, z) = 1.$$

(which is not possible for ordinary functions.)

However, it is easier to study these cases by defining the following hybrid pmf function:

$$F_{Y,N}(y, n) = P(Y \leq y, N=n)$$

$$f_{Y,N}(y, n) = \frac{d}{dy} F_{Y,N}(y, n)$$

and

$$F_{Y,N}(y, n) = \int_{-\infty}^y$$

Moreover the following hybrid conditional pdf and pmf

can be defined

$$f_{Y|N}(y|n) =$$

$$P_{N|Y}(n|y) =$$

Consequently, the substitution law,

the law of total probability,

the Baye's Rule, and Conditional

Expectation can be defined

for hybrid pmf-cdfs:

The law of total probability

$$P_N(n) =$$

$$f_{Y|N}(y) =$$

The Baye's Rule can be

Formulated as

$$f_{Y|N}(y|n) =$$

$$P_{N|Y}(n|y) =$$

Exercise: Formulate the
substitution law, conditional
expectation, and the law of
total expectation for
 $F_{Y|N}(y|n)$.

Exercise: Let X, Y be jointly continuous random variables with joint pdf

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = \begin{cases} cx+1 & x, y \geq 0, x+y < 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

1 - Find c

2 - Find the marginal pdfs

$f_X(x)$ and $f_Y(y)$

3 - Find $P(Y < 2x^2)$

4 - Find $E[Y | X > 1/2]$

Exercise: Let X, Y be jointly

continuous r.v.'s with joint pdf

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = \begin{cases} 6e^{-(2x+3y)} & x, y \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

1. Are X and Y independent?

2. Find $E[Y | X > 2]$

3. Find $P(X > Y)$.

Types of Random Variables

There are three fundamentally

different kinds of random variables.

The Lebesgue Decomposition

Theorem states that any

probability law $P_X : \mathbb{P}_{\text{out}}(\mathcal{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

can be uniquely decomposed into

a sum of these three

types of measures :

- Discrete

- Continuous, and

- Singular

In other words, there are three pure types of random variables:

discrete, continuous, and singular.

It is also possible to mix these

three types, to have one or several

seven types of random

variables.

Of the three pure types, only

discrete and continuous random

variables are of practical interest.

That's why we spent a lot of time on those random variables.

For the sake of completeness,

here we briefly discuss singular

random variables.

Singular random variables are

strange. In some sense, they resemble

both discrete and continuous random

variables: Singular Random

Variables take values with probability 1 on an uncountable set of Lebesgue measure zero!

Remark: We never defined the

meaning of a Lebesgue measure. However, we intuitively observed that it represents a generalized concept of length (in one dimension) and area or volume in higher

dimensions. Countable sets do not produce any length, area, or volume. So, they are sets of Lebesgue Measure Zero. But there are even

uncountable sets of Lebesgue measure zero!

Let's see the construction

of such a set, called the Cantor Set, C , and building

a CDF on it.

The Cantor Set is defined

by removing $(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3})$ from $[0, 1]$

and then removing the middle

third of each interval that

remains.

We define an associated

distribution function by setting

$F(x) = 0$ for $x \leq 0$, $F(x) = 1$ for

$x \geq 1$, $F(x) = \frac{1}{2}$ for $x \in [\frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3}]$,

$F(x) = \frac{1}{4}$ for $x \in [1/9, 2/9]$, $F(x) = \frac{3}{4}$

for $x \in [7/9, 8/9] \dots$

The CDF constructed by

this procedure is called the

Cantor Function (sometimes called

the Devil's Staircase). The

Cantor Function is continuous

everywhere, since all singletons

have zero probability under this

distribution. Also, the derivative

is zero wherever it exists, and

the derivative does not exist

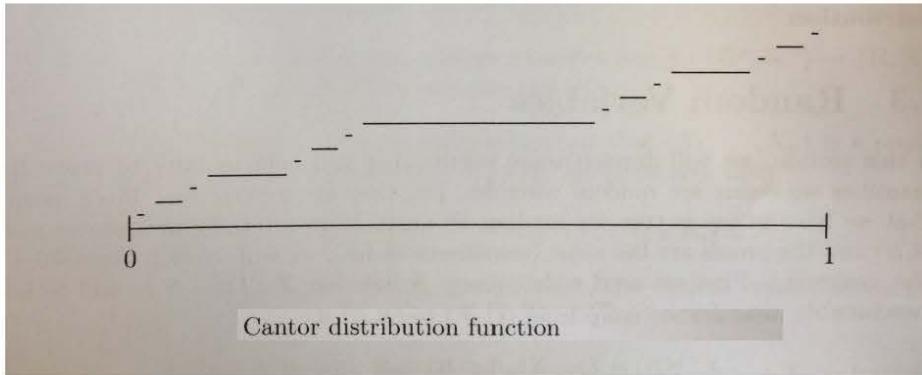
at points in the Cantor Set C

The CDF only increases at

these Cantor points, but does

so without a well-defined

derivative, or any jump discontinuities!



The Bivariate Normal Distribution

Assume that U and V are

jointly continuous r.v.'s and

$\rho \in (-1, 1)$. U and V are called to

have a standard bivariate normal

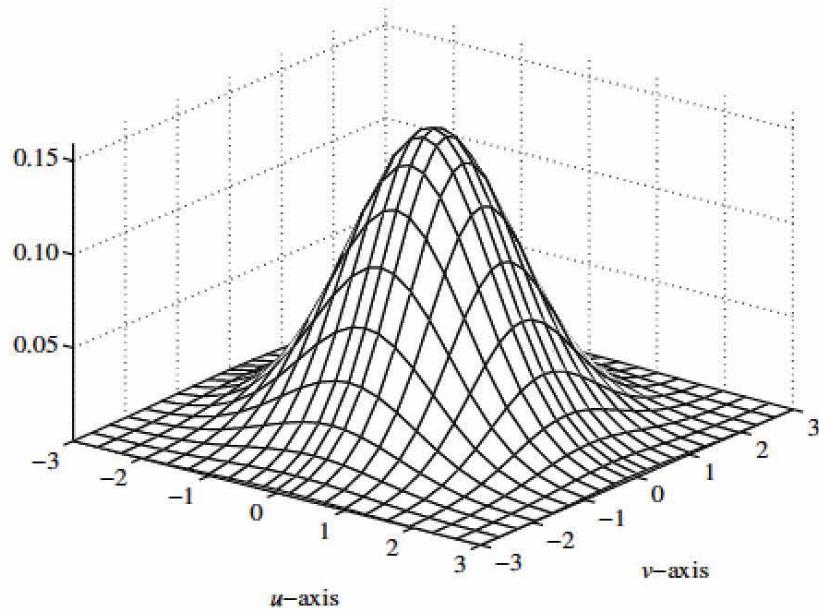
density, if their pdf is:

$$f_{UV}(u, v) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{u^2 - 2\rho uv + v^2}{2(1-\rho^2)}\right)$$

This function is shown below

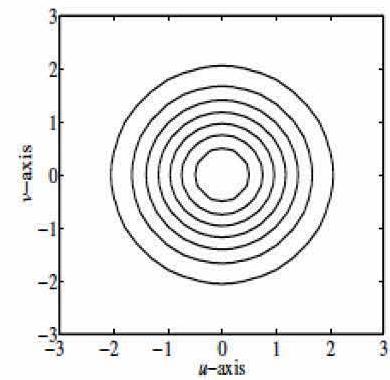
for $\rho=0$ on the u and

v axes.



From the formula, one can see
that for $f=0$, this function
is circularly symmetric, i.e.
on a circle of radius r , its
value is :

$$u^2 + v^2 = r^2, \quad r \geq 0$$



$$\Rightarrow f_{u,v}(u,v) =$$

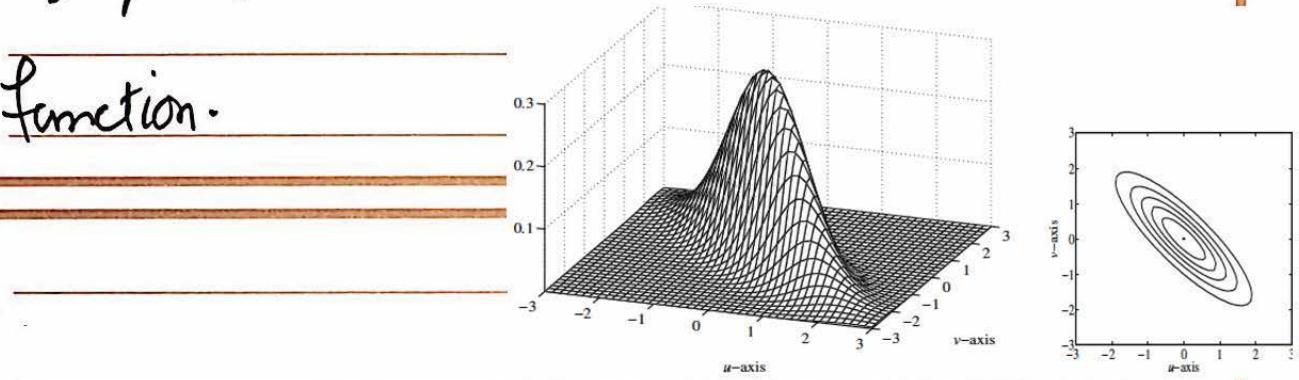
which does depend
doesn't

on the value of u, v . Contours
particular

$f_{u,v}$ is shown above.

A plot of f_{uv} for $\rho = -0.85$ is shown

below. Now f_{uv} is constant on ellipses instead of circles. The axes of the ellipse are not parallel to the coordinate axes. The major axes of these ellipses and the density are concentrated along $v=u$ and when $\rho \rightarrow -1$, this concentration becomes a "delta" function.



Also for $\rho=0$, the joint pdf decomposes

into two standard normal r.v.'s

$$f_{uv}(u,v) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{u^2 - 2\rho uv + v^2}{2(1-\rho^2)}\right)$$

Lemma: Let U and V be two jointly continuous r.v.'s defined on (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) , with joint pdf

$$f_{U,V} = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{\rho^2 - 2\rho U V + V^2}{2(1-\rho^2)}\right)$$

- (1) f is indeed a pdf.
- (2) The marginal density of U, V is standard normal
- (3) $P(U, V) = P$. Moreover U, V are independent iff $\rho = 0$.

$$(4) f_{V|U}(v|u) \sim N(\rho u, 1 - \rho^2)$$

Proof:

2) completing the squares

$$u^2 - 2\rho uv + v^2 =$$

$$f_V(v) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f_{U,V}(u,v) du$$

=

Because of symmetry, f_{uv} is
also that of $N(0, 1)$.

1)

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f_{uv}(u, v) du dv =$$
$$\underbrace{f_v}_{f_v}$$

3) $\text{Cor}(U, V) = E[UV] - E[U]E[V]$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} uv f_{U,V}(u,v) du dv$$

Let's first calculate

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} u f_{U,V}(u,v) du =$$

Next,

$$E[U|V] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f_{U|V}(v) f_V(v) dv$$

=

=

Therefore $\text{Cov}(U, V) = \rho$

$$\rho(U, V) = \frac{\text{Cov}(U, V)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(U)} \sqrt{\text{Var}(V)}} =$$

Moreover, we know that if

U, V are independent, $P(U, V) = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \rho = 0$$

The reverse is not necessarily true,
 but it is true for jointly normal
 r.v.'s because

$$\rho = 0 \Rightarrow f_{V|U}(v|u) =$$

$$(4) \quad f_{V|U}(v|u) = \frac{f_{U,V}(u,v)}{f_U(u)}$$

Σ

The General Bivariate

Normal Density

$$f(u, v) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_u\sigma_v\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2(1-\rho^2)}\left[\frac{(u-\mu_u)^2}{\sigma_u^2} - 2\rho\left(\frac{u-\mu_u}{\sigma_u}\right)\left(\frac{v-\mu_v}{\sigma_v}\right) + \frac{(v-\mu_v)^2}{\sigma_v^2}\right]\right)$$

Exercise: Verify that

$$\mathbb{E}[U] = \mu_u \quad \text{Var}(U) = \sigma_u^2$$

$$\mathbb{E}[V] = \mu_v \quad \text{Var}(V) = \sigma_v^2$$

$$\rho(U, V) = \rho$$

