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continuous density function

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Synonym	mass function

Let  $X$  be a continuous random variable. The function  $f_X: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, 1]$  defined as  $f_X(x) = \frac{\partial F_X}{\partial x}$ , where  $F_X(x)$  is the <http://planetmath.org/CumulativeDistributionFunction> distribution function of  $X$ , is called the *continuous density function* of  $X$ . Please note that if  $X$  is a continuous random variable, then  $f_X(x)$  does not equal  $P[X = x]$ ; for more information read the article on cumulative distribution functions.

Analogously to the discrete case, this function must satisfy:

1.  $f_X(x) \geq 0$  for all  $x$
2.  $\int_x f_X(x) dx = 1$