# Probability and Information Theory

April 14, 2021

# Probability and Information Theory

#### 1.1 Steps

- 1. Understand the problem and the mathematical model and generate data
- 2. Load the (generated) data and get an overview
- 3. Try to fit parametric probability distributions
- 4. Joint and conditional probabilities, chain rule and Bayes' Theorem
- 5. Self-entropy of an event and entropy of a distribution

#### 1.2 Understand the problem and the mathematical model and generate data

From [1] we learned the following simplified model for simulating and understanding the spreading of diseases.

A fraction of  $\beta$  of the susceptible indivisuals S gets infected each unit of time, say each day. A fraction  $\mu$  of the infected recover. A simple generalization is a third parameter  $\nu$  and the assumption that only  $\nu\mu$  individuals recover, while  $1-\nu\mu$  individuals die.

This leads to the following system of ordinary differencial equations (ODEs):

$$\frac{\delta S}{\delta t} = -\beta S(t)I(t) \tag{1}$$

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$$\frac{\delta I}{\delta t} = \beta S(t)I(t) - \mu I(t) \tag{2}$$

$$\frac{\delta R}{\delta t} = \nu \mu I(t) \tag{3}$$

$$\frac{\delta R}{\delta t} = \nu \mu I(t) \tag{3}$$

$$\frac{\delta D}{\delta t} = (1 - \nu)\mu I(t) \tag{4}$$

Given starting values of S(0) = 99, I(0) = 1, R(0) = D(0) = 0 and parameter values for  $\beta =$ 0.05%,  $\mu = 1.75\%$ ,  $\nu = 99\%$ , we can simulate this system of ODEs.

In Matlab, we use the ordinary differencial equation solver ode45.

```
[1]: \%file virusSpreading.m
     function res = virusSpreading(t, y, beta, mu, nu)
         S=y(1);
         I=y(2);
         R=y(3);
```

```
D=y(4);

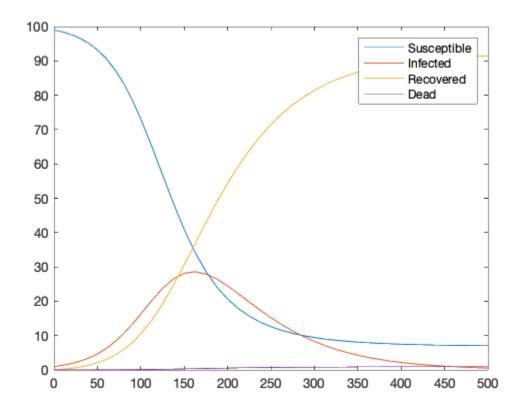
res(1,1)=-beta*S*I;
res(2,1)=beta*S*I-mu*I;
res(3,1)=nu*mu*I;
res(4,1)=(1-nu)*mu*I;
end
```

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```
[2]: \%file simVirusSpreading.m
     function res = simVirusSpreading(beta, verbose)
         S0 = 99;
         IO =1;
         RO = 0;
         DO = 0;
         y0 = [S0, I0, R0, D0]';
         t_{span} = [0 500];
         mu = 0.0175;
         nu = 0.99;
         [tSol, ySol] = ode45(@(t,y) virusSpreading(t, y, beta, mu, nu), t_span, y0);
         if verbose
             plot(tSol, ySol);
             legend("Susceptible","Infected","Recovered","Dead");
         res = [tSol, ySol];
     end
```

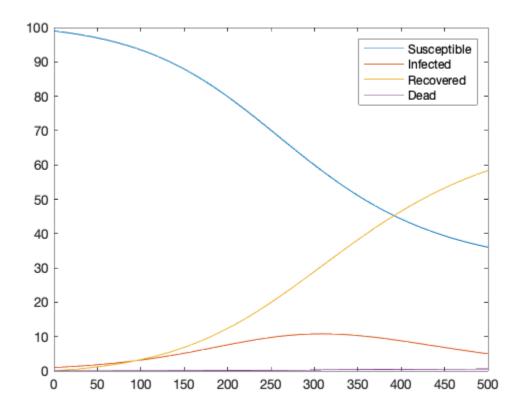
Created file '/Users/wlomsi/Documents/ProjekteUni/Vorlesungen/ML 4DV660+4DV661+4DV652/Public ML Notebooks/simVirusSpreading.m'.

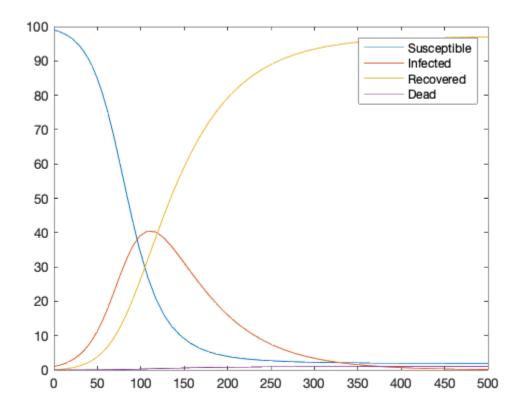
```
[3]: format compact
beta = 0.0005; %0.05%
simVirusSpreading(beta, true);
```



Note that the development highly depends on the parameter  $\beta$ . So, if all behave well, the infection risk drops and the infection spreading slows down. Inversely, if we misbehave and increase the risk of infection, the infection spreads faster. Here simulations with  $\beta=0.03\%$  and  $\beta=0.07\%$ , respectively.

```
[4]: beta = 0.0003;
simVirusSpreading(beta, true);
```





Of course, the exact parameters values for  $\beta$ ,  $\mu$ ,  $\nu$  are not known but can only be approximated from observations. The ODE model is an abstraction of the real process, which depends on deterministic but unknown variables and randomness. Therefore, it makes sense to understand disease spreading as a **random process**.

We will generate some observations from this process from different countries and then forget about the process and only work with the observations.

Therefore, we assume that  $\beta$  distributes normally around a mean of  $\bar{\beta} = 0.05\%$  with a standard deviation of  $\sigma = 0.01\%$ . We generate the data for 50 countries. However, we are only "observing" 8 new features.

- 1. The numbers  $N_{50}$ ,  $N_{150}$ ,  $N_{300}$  of infected after 50, 150, 300 days, resp.
- 2. The corresponding numbers of new infections on that day  $D_{50}$ ,  $D_{150}$ ,  $D_{300}$ .
- 3. The time  $T_{peak}$  to peak infection.
- 4. The total number of casulties  $X_{500}$  after 500 days.

```
[6]: countries = 125;
   verbose = false;
   export_raw_data = true;
   if verbose
        countries=1;
```

```
end
if export_raw_data
    raw_features = zeros(4*countries, 501);
    raw_features(1,:) = 1:501;
end
features = zeros(countries,8);
rng('default') % For reproducibility
betas = normrnd(0.0005,0.0001,[1,countries]);
for i=1:countries
    res = simVirusSpreading(betas(i), false);
    times = res(:,1);
    % Add randomness to the observations
    rand res = zeros(size(res,1),5);
    rand_res(:,1) = times;
    for j=2:5
        rand_res(:,j) = arrayfun(@(x) normrnd(0,0.025*x)+x, res(:,j));
    end
    if verbose
        fprintf("Beta = \%.3f\%\n", betas(1)*100);
        plot(times, [res(:,2) rand_res(:,2), res(:,3) rand_res(:,3),res(:,4)__
 \rightarrowrand_res(:,4),res(:,5) rand_res(:,5)]);
    end
    if export_raw_data
        davs = [0:500];
        for var = 2:5
            F = griddedInterpolant(rand_res(:,1),rand_res(:,var));
            raw_features((i-1)*4+var,:)=F(days);
        end
    end
    ti = times(times<=50);</pre>
    n_50 = rand_res(length(ti),3);
    d_50 = rand_res(length(ti),3) - rand_res(length(ti)-1,3);
    ti = times(times<=150);</pre>
    n 150 = rand res(length(ti),3);
    d_150 = rand_res(length(ti),3) - rand_res(length(ti)-1,3);
    ti = times(times<=300);</pre>
    n 300 = rand res(length(ti),3);
    d_300 = rand_res(length(ti),3) - rand_res(length(ti)-1,3);
    [M,ii] = max(rand res(:,3));
    t_peak = times(ii);
    if verbose
        fprintf("n_50=%.4f, n_150=%.4f, n_300=%.4f\nd_50=%.4f, d_150=%.4f, u
 \rightarrowd_300=%.4f\nt_peak=%.4f\nx_500=%.4f\n",n_50, n_150, n_300, d_50, d_150,
 \rightarrowd_300, t_peak, rand_res(end,5));
    end
    features(i,:)=[n_50, n_150, n_300, d_50, d_150, d_300, t_peak,_
 \rightarrowrand_res(end,5)];
```

```
end
writematrix(features,'../2020 DL data/epidemic_process.csv');
if export_raw_data
    writematrix(raw_features,'../2020 DL data/epidemic_process_raw_data.csv');
end
```

### 1.3 Load the (generated) data and get an overview

This is your starting point. Load the observation data.

```
[7]: features = csvread('../2020 DL data/epidemic_process.csv');
```

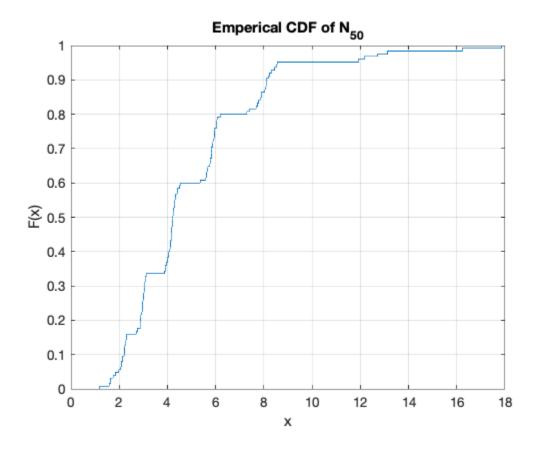
Plot the emperical cumulative probability distributions (CDFs) of the random variables (features).

```
[8]: [h,stats] = cdfplot(features(:,1));
title("Emperical CDF of N_{50}")
stats
```

min: 1.1742 max: 17.8623 mean: 5.0055 median: 4.2267

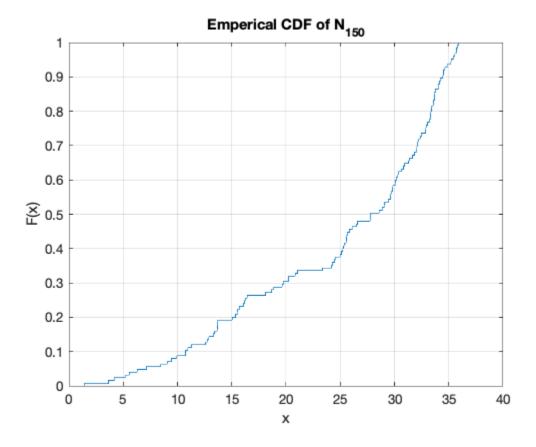
stats =

std: 2.8459



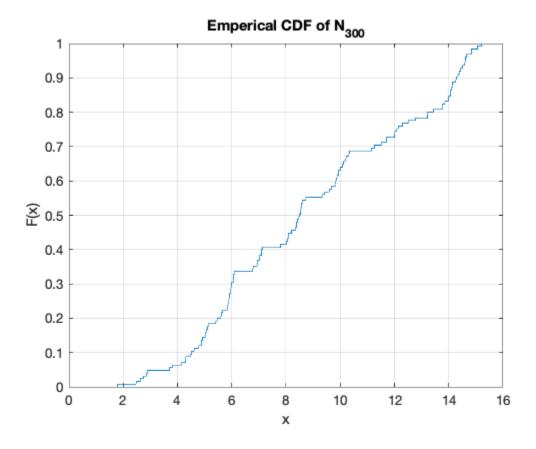
```
[9]: [h,stats] = cdfplot(features(:,2));
title("Emperical CDF of N_{150}")
stats
```

min: 1.3896 max: 35.8727 mean: 24.8589 median: 27.8081 std: 9.3066



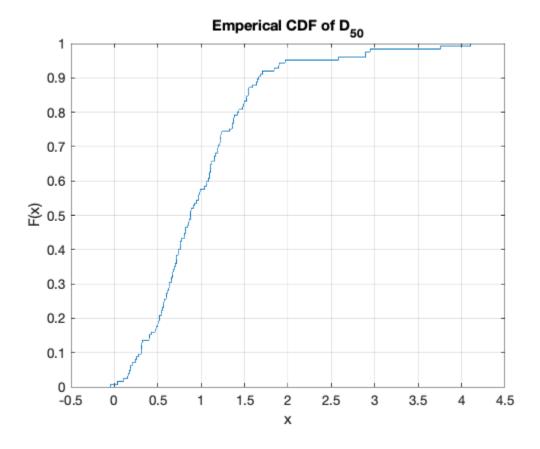
```
[10]: [h,stats] = cdfplot(features(:,3));
title("Emperical CDF of N_{300}")
stats
```

min: 1.7930 max: 15.2188 mean: 8.9159 median: 8.5051 std: 3.6790



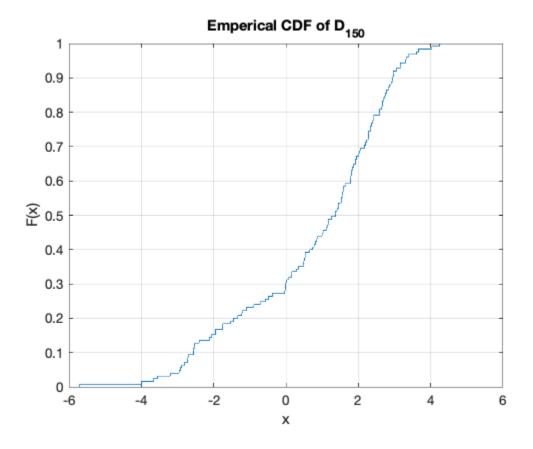
```
[11]: [h,stats] = cdfplot(features(:,4));
   title("Emperical CDF of D_{50}")
   stats
```

min: -0.0415 max: 4.1011 mean: 1.0087 median: 0.8765 std: 0.6805



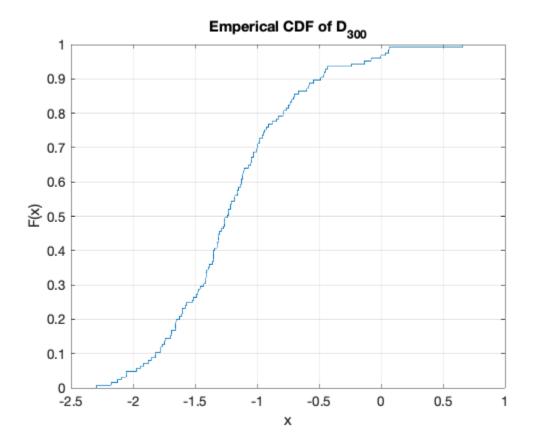
```
[12]: [h,stats] = cdfplot(features(:,5));
title("Emperical CDF of D_{150}")
stats
```

min: -5.7154 max: 4.2410 mean: 0.7285 median: 1.3688 std: 2.0868



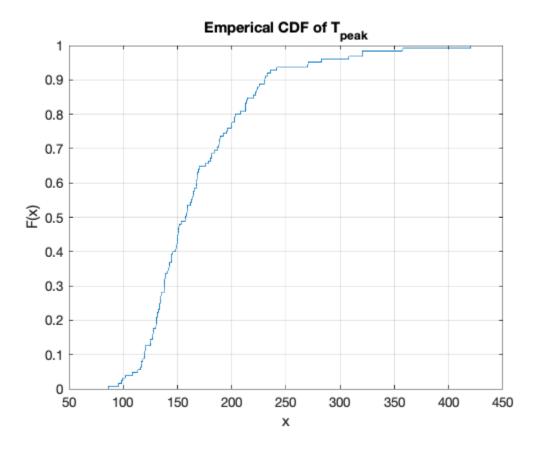
```
[13]: [h,stats] = cdfplot(features(:,6));
title("Emperical CDF of D_{300}")
stats
```

min: -2.2931 max: 0.6609 mean: -1.1907 median: -1.2389 std: 0.5242



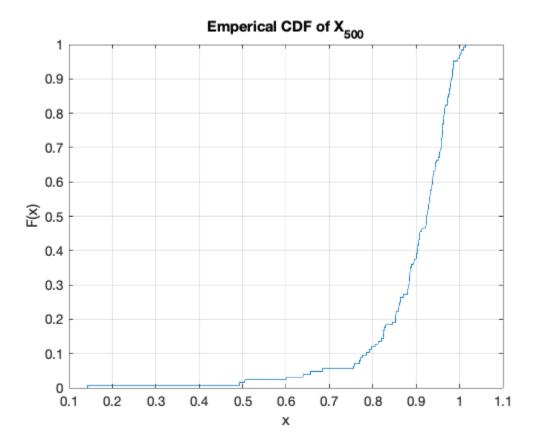
```
[14]: [h,stats] = cdfplot(features(:,7));
   title("Emperical CDF of T_{peak}")
   stats
```

min: 86.1405 max: 420.3053 mean: 170.0487 median: 157.5149 std: 53.7913



```
[15]: [h,stats] = cdfplot(features(:,8));
title("Emperical CDF of X_{500}")
stats
```

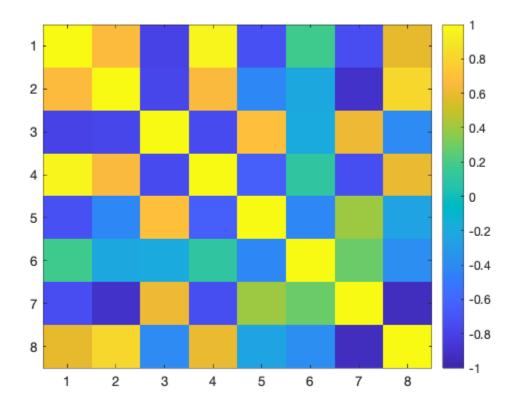
min: 0.1423 max: 1.0134 mean: 0.8930 median: 0.9244 std: 0.1143



Recall, the sample mean value is an approximation of the expected value, or **expectation** of the random variable. The sample **variance** is the square of the sample standard deviation std.

Check the correlation between the features.

```
[16]: rho = corrcoef(features);
imagesc(rho, [-1 1]);
colorbar;
```



Recall, the (sample) correlation of two (samples of) random variables X and Y their (sample) **covariance** normalized (divided) by the product of their (sample) standard deviation.

Discuss your findings. Your answer goes here.

### 1.4 Try to fit parametric probability distributions

We go through a set of common probability distributions and try to fit any of them to the data. We use the Chi-square and the Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests to check the goodness of fit.

Note that fitting and testing using the same data is actually not quite correct. We should use cross-validation.

```
continue;
        end
        distname = char(dn);
        pd = fitdist(x.',distname);
        res1=kstest(x, 'CDF', pd);
        res2=chi2gof(x, 'CDF', pd);
        if (~res1 && ~res2)
            fprintf('%s with 5%% significance level\r',distname);
            cdfplot(x)
            hold on
            plot(x values,cdf(pd,x values),'r-')
            plot(x_values,pdf(pd,x_values),'g-')
            legend('Empirical CDF', [distname 'CDF'], [distname 'L
→PDF'], 'Location', 'best');
            title(['Empirical CDF and ', [distname ' CDF/PDF']]);
            return:
        else
            fprintf('Not %s with 5%% significance level\n',distname);
        end
    end
end
```

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```
[18]: pd_n_50 = distribution_fitting(features(:,1))

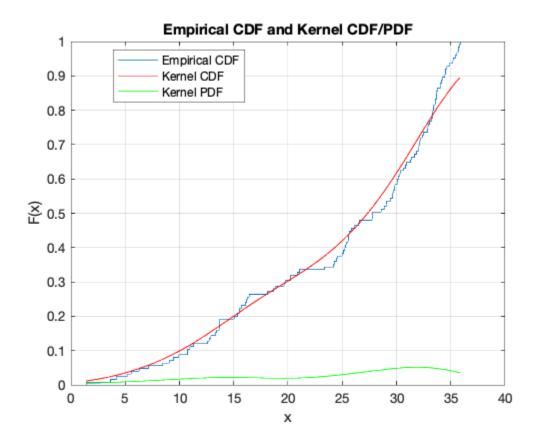
Not Normal with 5% significance level
Not Poisson with 5% significance level
Not Exponential with 5% significance level
Not Gamma with 5% significance level
Not ExtremeValue with 5% significance level
Not Kernel with 5% significance level
pd_n_50 =
    KernelDistribution

    Kernel = normal
    Bandwidth = 0.924168
    Support = unbounded

[19]: pd_n_150 = distribution_fitting(features(:,2))
```

Not Gamma with 5% significance level
Not ExtremeValue with 5% significance level
pd\_n\_150 =
KernelDistribution

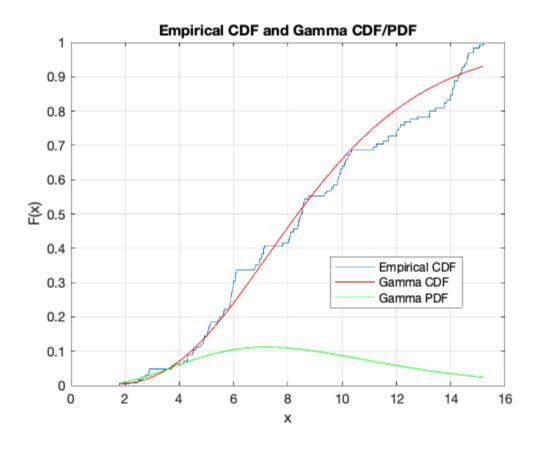
Kernel = normal
Bandwidth = 3.52322
Support = unbounded



# [20]: pd\_n\_300 = distribution\_fitting(features(:,3))

Not Normal with 5% significance level
Not Poisson with 5% significance level
Not Exponential with 5% significance level
pd\_n\_300 =
GammaDistribution

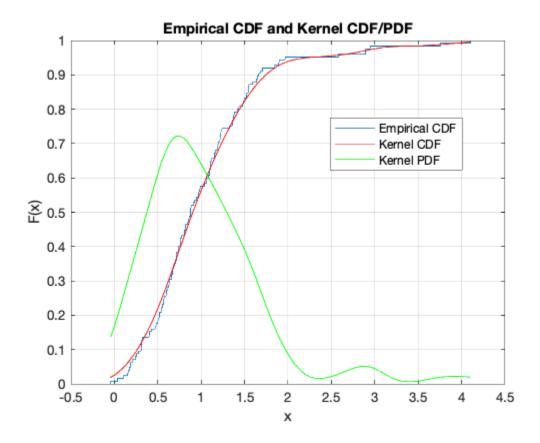
Gamma distribution a = 5.25681 [4.13323, 6.68581]



# [21]: pd\_d\_50 = distribution\_fitting(features(:,4))

Not Normal with 5% significance level
Not ExtremeValue with 5% significance level
pd\_d\_50 =
KernelDistribution

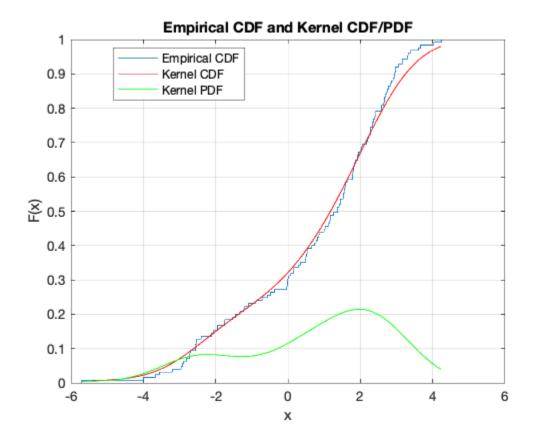
Kernel = normal
Bandwidth = 0.2031
Support = unbounded



# [22]: pd\_d\_150 = distribution\_fitting(features(:,5))

Not Normal with 5% significance level
Not ExtremeValue with 5% significance level
pd\_d\_150 =
KernelDistribution

Kernel = normal
Bandwidth = 0.768931
Support = unbounded



```
[23]: pd_d_300 = distribution_fitting(features(:,6))
```

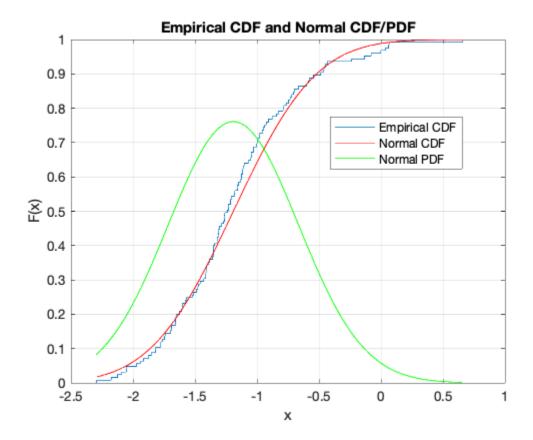
pd\_d\_300 =

NormalDistribution

Normal distribution

mu = -1.19065 [-1.28345, -1.09786]

sigma = 0.524156 [0.466248, 0.598617]



### [24]: pd\_t\_peak = distribution\_fitting(features(:,7))

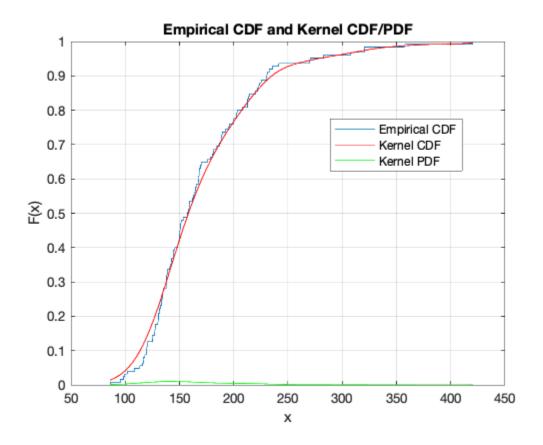
Not Normal with 5% significance level
Not Poisson with 5% significance level
Not Exponential with 5% significance level
Not Gamma with 5% significance level

Not ExtremeValue with 5% significance level

 $pd_t_peak =$ 

KernelDistribution

Kernel = normal
Bandwidth = 16.1238
Support = unbounded

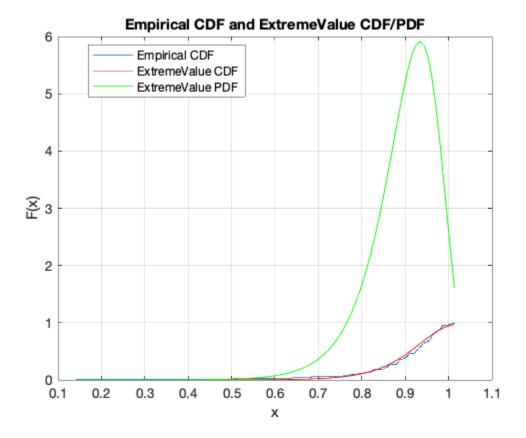


## [25]: pd\_x\_500 = distribution\_fitting(features(:,8))

Not Normal with 5% significance level Not Poisson with 5% significance level Not Exponential with 5% significance level Not Gamma with 5% significance level pd\_x\_500 =

 ${\tt ExtremeValueDistribution}$ 

Extreme Value distribution mu = 0.934172 [0.922844, 0.945501] sigma = 0.0621877 [0.0536918, 0.0720279]



Describe the fitted distributions. Your answer goes here.

### 1.5 Joint and conditional probabilities, chain rule and Bayes' Theorem

Lets calculate the probability of having a mild start and a disastrous end of the epidemia. We translate that to the **joint probability** that no more than 4% are infected after 50 days, i.e.,  $N_{50} \le 4\%$  and more than 0.95% die in the end, i.e.,  $X_{500} > 0.95\%$ .

```
[26]: n_50 = features(:,1);
x_500 = features(:,8);
positive_cases = length(intersect(find(n_50<=4),find(x_500>0.95)))
all_cases = length(features);
P = positive_cases/all_cases
positive_cases =
1
P =
0.0080
```

So  $P(N_{50} \le 4\%, X_{500} > 0.95\%) \approx 0.008$ .

We check the product of the two probabilities  $P(N_{50} \le 4\%)P(X_{500} > 0.95\%)$ :

[27]: 
$$P2 = length(find(n_50 \le 4))/all_cases * length(find(x_500 \ge 0.95))/all_cases$$

P2 =

0.1263

We are not surprised that the result is different from the joint probability as the random variables  $N_{50}$  and  $X_{500}$  not independent (double-check the results from the correlation analysis).

What is the **conditional probability** of more than 0.95% die in the end given that we know that no more 4% are infected after 50 days.

 $P_AB = 0.0213$ 

So  $P(X_{500} > 0.95\% | N_{50} \le 4\%) \approx 0.0213$ .

The product or **chain rule** of probability states that

$$P(A,B) = P(A|B)P(B) \tag{5}$$

$$P(X_{500} > 0.95\%, N_{50} \le 4\%) = P(X_{500} > 0.95\% | N_{50} \le 4\%) P(N_{50} \le 4\%)$$
 (6)

And we don't get disappointed:

P =

0.0080

Let us numerically confirm **Bayes' Theorem** for this case. We'd expect that

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)} \tag{7}$$

$$P(X_{500} > 0.95\% | N_{50} \le 4\%) = \frac{P(N_{50} \le 4\% | X_{500} > 0.95\%) P(X_{500} > 0.95\%)}{P(N_{50} \le 4\%)}$$
(8)

And we don't get disappointed:

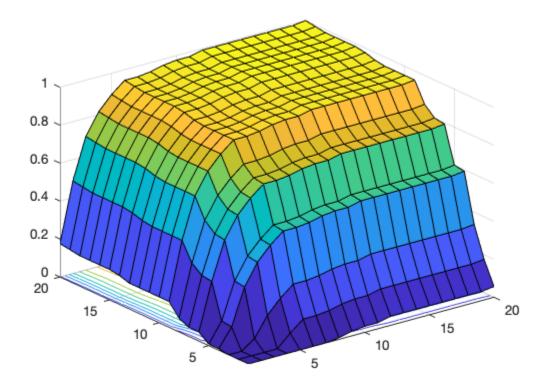
$$P_AB = 0.0213$$

So far, we have looked at the joint (sample) probability of  $P(N_{50} \le n, X_{500} > x)$  for concrete bounds n = 4 and x = 0.95. Let us now understand the joint (sample) probability of  $F(n, x) = P(N_{50} \le n, X_{500} > x)$  as a function of these bounds n and x. Since,  $0 \le X_{500} \le 100$  this function is equal to joint (sample) cumulative distribution function:

$$F(n,x) = CDF_{N_{50},100-X_{500}}(n,100-x)$$
(9)

$$CDF_{N_{50},100-X_{500}}(n,y) = P(N_{50} \le n,100-X_{500} \le y)$$
 (10)

In Matlab, we can numerically approximate such a joint  $CDF_{X,Y}(x,y)$ :



Interprete this CDF. Your answer goes here.

Finally, we compare a function interpolating a sample distribution with the fitted parameterized PDF of that distribution computed earlier, cf. distribution\_fitting. We look at  $N_{50}$  and  $X_{500}$  as two examples.

Therefore, we generate auxiliary functions plotPDF for plotting both functions, and two alternatives samplePDF and parzanPDF for interpolating the sample distribution. The former is simple to use and often good enough. The latter allows for fine tuning and is described in detail in the public notebook "Approximate PDFs with Parzen window density estimation".

```
[32]: %%file plotPDF.m
function plotPDF(xi, pd_fit, PDF)
    figure
    plot(xi, PDF(xi));
    hold on;
    plot(xi, pdf(pd_fit,xi));
end
```

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```
PDF = griddedInterpolant(x,f);
if (verbose)
    plotPDF(x, pd_fit, PDF);
end
end
```

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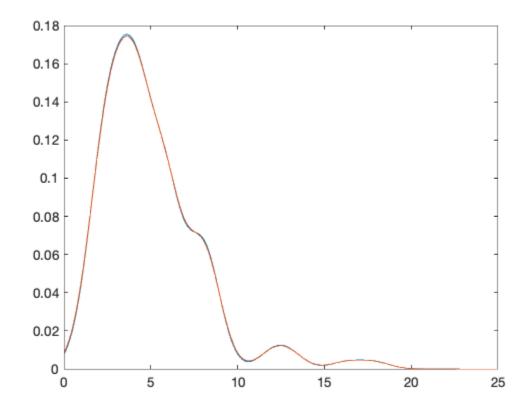
We fit the sample distribution  $N_{50}$  in the range of 0...25 with a tuning parameter h = 0.9.

```
[35]: %PDF_n_50 = samplePDF(n_50,pd_n_50, true)
PDF_n_50 = parzanPDF(n_50, pd_n_50, 0, 25, 0.9, true)
```

PDF\_n\_50 =
 griddedInterpolant with properties:

GridVectors: {[1x251 double]}
 Values: [1x251 double]
 Method: 'linear'

ExtrapolationMethod: 'linear'



We also fit the sample distribution  $X_{500}$ .

```
[36]: PDF_x_500 = samplePDF(x_500, pd_x_500, true)

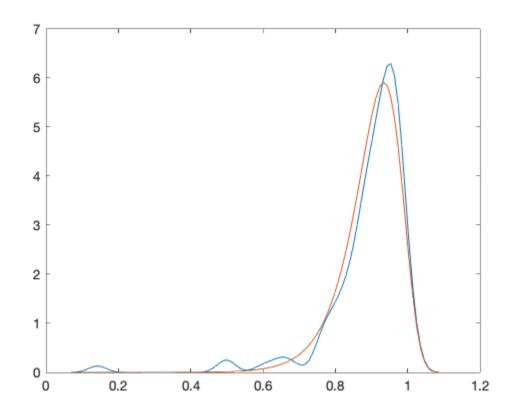
%PDF_x_500 = parzanPDF(x_500, pd_x_500, 0, 2, 0.07, true)
```

PDF\_x\_500 =
 griddedInterpolant with properties:

GridVectors: {[1x100 double]}
 Values: [1x100 double]

Method: 'linear'

ExtrapolationMethod: 'linear'



#### 1.6 Self-entropy of an event and entropy of a distribution

We define a function that calculates the entropy of a sample distribution, based on a interploated parameterless PDF approximation (calculated with samplePDF and parzanPDF, resp.) and the well-known parameterized distribution (calculated with distribution\_fitting). We also compute the Kullback-Leibler (KL) divergence in both directions.

For demonstration purpose, we implement numeric integration manually as auxiliary function. It

comes in two variants: trapezoid and simpson's 3/8 rule.

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Created file '/Users/wlomsi/Documents/ProjekteUni/Vorlesungen/ML 4DV660+4DV661+4DV652/Public ML Notebooks/simpson.m'.

Auxiliary if-then-else as a function to implement the PDF, Entropy and KL divergence functions.

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4DV660+4DV661+4DV652/Public ML Notebooks/ite.m'.

```
[40]: \mathbf{a} = -25; "you may start at negative values to integrate to 1 as the fitted PDF,
      →has probailities >0 for negative values
      b = 25; %you may stop <100 to not numerically collect a lot of values coming
      → from close to 0 probablities
      f1 = @(x) ite(PDF_n_50(x) \le 0, PDF_n_50(x));
      entropy1 = @(x) -1*ite(PDF_n_50(x) \le 0, PDF_n_50(x)*log(PDF_n_50(x)));
      Integral1 = trapez(f1, a, b)
      Entropy1 = trapez(entropy1, a, b)
     Integral1 =
         0.9986
     Entropy1 =
         2.3305
[41]: f2 = Q(x) pdf(pd_n_50,x);
      entropy2 = @(x) -1*pdf(pd_n_50,x)*log(pdf(pd_n_50,x));
      Integral2 = trapez(f2, a, b)
      Entropy2 = trapez(entropy2, a, b)
     Integral2 =
         1.0000
     Entropy2 =
         2.3455
[42]: divergence 1 2 = Q(x) ite(PDF n 50(x)<=0, ...
                              PDF_n_50(x)*(log(PDF_n_50(x))-log(pdf(pd_n_50,x))));
      Divergence_1_2 = trapez(divergence_1_2, a, b)
      Divergence_1_2 = simpson(divergence_1_2, a, b)
     Divergence 1 2 =
        4.1486e-06
     Divergence_1_2 =
        4.5282e-06
[44]: eps = 1e-32;
      divergence_2_1 = @(x) ite(PDF_n_50(x)<=0,...
                              pdf(pd_n_{50,x})*(log(pdf(pd_n_{50,x}))-log(eps)),...
                              pdf(pd_n_50,x)*(log(pdf(pd_n_50,x))-log(PDF_n_50(x)));
      Divergence_2_1 = trapez(divergence_2_1, a, b)
```

Divergence\_2\_1 =
 0.0776

Why is the entropy of  $N_{50}$  assuming is proportional to the interpolated PDF different from the one assuming it is proportional to the fitted PDF? Why are the KL divergences different? Your answers go here.

### 1.7 References

1. Amira Rachah and Delfim F. M. Torres: Mathematical Modelling, Simulation, and Optimal Control of the 2014 Ebola Outbreak in West Africa. Discrete Dynamics in Nature and Society, Volume 2015, Article ID 842792, https://www.hindawi.com/journals/ddns/2015/842792/.