

## Hierarchy of Probability Distributions

A simplified categorization of common probability distributions can be summarized as follows (note that these categories are not always mutually exclusive, but give a sense of how distributions relate to each other):

- **Discrete distributions**

- *Bernoulli family*: Bernoulli, Binomial, Negative binomial, Geometric
- *Poisson*
- *Discrete uniform*
- *Hypergeometric family*: Hypergeometric, Multivariate hypergeometric
- *Categorical family*: Bernoulli (as  $K = 2$ ), Categorical, Multinomial
- Others: Beta-binomial, etc.

- **Continuous distributions**

- *Uniform* (continuous)
- *Exponential family*: Exponential, Gamma, Chi-squared, Beta, Dirichlet, Wishart
- *Normal family*: Normal (Gaussian), Log-normal, Chi-squared (sum of normals<sup>2</sup>),  $t$ ,  $F$ , etc.
- *Power-law family*: Pareto
- *Extreme value distributions*: Gumbel, Fréchet, Weibull
- *Others*: Rayleigh, Rice (Rician), Beta prime, Logistic, etc.

- **Multivariate or matrix-variate distributions**

- Multinomial, Multivariate hypergeometric
- Multivariate normal, Wishart, Dirichlet
- Others, e.g. Inverse-Wishart, Matrix-variate  $t$ -distributions, etc.

- **Conjugate priors** in Bayesian inference:

- Beta (conjugate to Bernoulli/Binomial)
- Gamma (conjugate to Poisson/exponential rate)
- Dirichlet (conjugate to Categorical/Multinomial)
- Wishart (conjugate to inverse covariance of multivariate normal)

## Reference Table of Distributions

Below is a reference table covering many of these distributions, with their probability mass function (PMF) or probability density function (PDF), support, mean, variance, and a few extra notes. Some new distributions (e.g. Weibull, Gumbel, Beta prime, Logistic) have been added as illustrative examples.

Table 1: Distributions, their PMF/PDF, support, mean, variance, and further notes.

Distribution	PMF / PDF	Support	Mean	Variance
Normal (Gaussian)	$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$	$x \in (-\infty, \infty)$	$\mu$	$\sigma^2$
Exponential	$f(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}, x \geq 0$	$x \geq 0$	$\frac{1}{\lambda}$	$\frac{1}{\lambda^2}$
Log-normal	$f(x) = \frac{1}{x\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\ln x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right), x > 0$	$x > 0$	$e^{\mu + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2}$	$e^{2\mu + \sigma^2}(e^{\sigma^2} - 1)$
Pareto	$f(x) = \alpha x_m^\alpha x^{-(\alpha+1)}, x \geq x_m$	$x \geq x_m > 0$	$\frac{\alpha x_m}{\alpha - 1}, \alpha > 1$	$\frac{\alpha x_m^2}{(\alpha - 1)^2(\alpha - 2)}, \alpha > 2$
Weibull	$f(x) = \frac{k}{\lambda} \left(\frac{x}{\lambda}\right)^{k-1} e^{-\left(\frac{x}{\lambda}\right)^k}, x \geq 0$	$x \geq 0$	$\lambda \Gamma\left(1 + \frac{1}{k}\right)$	$\lambda^2 \left[ \Gamma\left(1 + \frac{2}{k}\right) - \Gamma\left(1 + \frac{1}{k}\right)^2 \right]$
Gumbel	$f(x) = \frac{1}{\beta} \exp\left[-\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\beta}\right) - \exp\left(-\frac{x-\mu}{\beta}\right)\right]$	$x \in \mathbb{R}$	$\mu + \gamma\beta \quad (\gamma \approx 0.5772)$	$\frac{\pi^2}{6}\beta^2$
Beta prime (Inverted Beta)	$f(x) = \frac{x^{\alpha-1}(1+x)^{-\alpha-\beta}}{B(\alpha, \beta)}, x > 0$	$x > 0$	$\frac{\alpha}{\beta-1}, \text{ for } \beta > 1$	$\frac{\alpha(\alpha+\beta-1)}{(\beta-1)^2(\beta-2)}, \text{ for } \beta > 2$
Logistic	$f(x) = \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{x-\mu}{s}\right)}{s\left(1 + \exp\left(-\frac{x-\mu}{s}\right)\right)^2}, x \in \mathbb{R}$	$x \in \mathbb{R}$	$\mu$	$\frac{\pi^2}{3}s^2$
Discrete uniform	$P(X = k) = \frac{1}{n}, k = 1, \dots, n$	$\{1, \dots, n\}$	$\frac{n+1}{2}$	$\frac{n^2-1}{12}$
Continuous uniform	$f(x) = \frac{1}{b-a}, a \leq x \leq b$	$[a, b]$	$\frac{a+b}{2}$	$\frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$
Bernoulli	$P(X = 1) = p, P(X = 0) = 1 - p$	$\{0, 1\}$	$p$	$p(1-p)$
Binomial	$P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$	$\{0, \dots, n\}$	$np$	$np(1-p)$
Negative binomial	$P(X = k) = \binom{k+r-1}{k} p^r (1-p)^k, k = 0, 1, \dots$	$\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$	$\frac{r(1-p)}{p}$	$\frac{r(1-p)}{p^2}$
Geometric	$P(X = k) = (1-p)^k p, k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$	$\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$	$\frac{1-p}{p}$	$\frac{1-p}{p^2}$
Hypergeometric	$P(X = k) = \frac{\binom{K}{k} \binom{N-K}{n-k}}{\binom{N}{n}}$	$\{0, \dots, n\}$	$n \frac{K}{N}$	$n \frac{K}{N} \left(1 - \frac{K}{N}\right) \frac{N-n}{N-1}$
Beta-binomial	$P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} \frac{B(\alpha+k, \beta+n-k)}{B(\alpha, \beta) B(\alpha+\beta, n)}$	$\{0, \dots, n\}$	$n \frac{\alpha}{\alpha+\beta}$	$np \left(1 - \frac{n+\alpha+\beta}{\alpha+\beta+1} p\right) = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha+\beta}$
Categorical	$P(X = i) = p_i, \sum p_i = 1$	$\{1, \dots, K\}$	—	—
Multinomial	$P(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{k}) = \frac{n!}{k_1! \dots k_K!} \prod p_i^{k_i}, \sum k_i = n$	$\{(k_1, \dots, k_K)\}$	$\mathbb{E}[X_i] = np_i$	$\text{Var}(X_i) = np_i(1 - p_i)$
Multivariate hypergeometric	$P(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{k}) = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^K \binom{K_i}{k_i}}{\binom{N}{n}}, \sum k_i = n$	$\{(k_1, \dots, k_K)\}$	$n \frac{K_i}{N}$	$\text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) = -n \frac{K_i}{N} \frac{K_j}{N} \frac{N-n}{N-1}$
Poisson	$P(X = k) = \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!}$	$\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$	$\lambda$	$\lambda$
Gamma	$f(x) = \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} x^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta x}, x > 0$	$x > 0$	$\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$	$\frac{\alpha}{\beta^2}$
Rayleigh	$f(r) = \frac{r}{\sigma^2} \exp\left(-\frac{r^2}{2\sigma^2}\right), r \geq 0$	$r \geq 0$	$\sigma \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}}$	$\frac{4-\pi}{2} \sigma^2$
Rice (Rician)	$f(r) = \frac{r}{\sigma^2} \exp\left(-\frac{r^2 + \nu^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) I_0\left(\frac{r\nu}{\sigma^2}\right)$	$r \geq 0$	No simple closed form	No simple closed form
Chi-squared	$f(x) = \frac{1}{2^{k/2} \Gamma(\frac{k}{2})} x^{\frac{k}{2}-1} e^{-x/2}, x > 0$	$x > 0$	$k$	$2k$
Student's t	$f(x) = \frac{\Gamma(\frac{\nu+1}{2})}{\sqrt{\nu\pi} \Gamma(\frac{\nu}{2})} \left(1 + \frac{x^2}{\nu}\right)^{-\frac{\nu+1}{2}}$	$\mathbb{R}$	0, for $\nu > 1$	$\frac{\nu}{\nu-2}, \text{ for } \nu > 2$

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Distribution	PMF / PDF	Support	Mean	Variance
<b>F-distribution</b>	$f(x) = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{(d_1 x)^{d_1} d_2^{d_2}}{(d_1 x + d_2)^{d_1 + d_2}}}}{x B(\frac{d_1}{2}, \frac{d_2}{2})}$	$x > 0$	$\frac{d_2}{d_2 - 2}$ , for $d_2 > 2$	$\frac{2 d_2^2 (d_1 + d_2 - 2)}{d_1 (d_2 - 2)^2 (d_2 - 4)}$ , for $d_2 > 4$
<b>Beta</b>	$f(x) = \frac{x^{\alpha-1} (1-x)^{\beta-1}}{B(\alpha, \beta)}$ , $0 \leq x \leq 1$	$0 \leq x \leq 1$	$\frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \beta}$	$\frac{\alpha \beta}{(\alpha + \beta)^2 (\alpha + \beta + 1)}$
<b>Dirichlet</b>	$f(x_1, \dots, x_K) = \frac{1}{B(\boldsymbol{\alpha})} \prod x_i^{\alpha_i - 1}$ , $\sum x_i = 1$ , $x_i \geq 0$	= Probability simplex	$\mathbb{E}[X_i] = \frac{\alpha_i}{\sum_j \alpha_j}$	Covariance more involved
<b>Wishart</b>	$f(\mathbf{W}) = \frac{\nu - p - 1}{2} \exp(-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\Sigma^{-1} \mathbf{W}))$	$\propto$ Sym. pos. definite matrices	$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{W}] = \nu \Sigma$	Matrix-variate

## Notes / Reminders

- **Support:** Domain where the random variable (or vector) takes values.
- Some distributions require certain parameter constraints (e.g.  $\alpha > 1$  for Pareto's mean to exist) to ensure mean or variance is finite.
- For Categorical-like distributions (Categorical, Multinomial, etc.), the “mean” is better thought of as a probability vector in one-hot space (multidimensional).
- **Processes vs. Distributions:** Some items (e.g. Poisson process, linear growth, etc.) are *processes* rather than single distributions. For example, a Poisson process has *increments* that are Poisson-distributed, and *interarrival times* that are exponential or gamma-distributed.
- **Absolute values of normal vectors:** yield Rayleigh or Rice (Rician) distributions.
- **Sum/ratios of squared normals:** yield chi-squared,  $t$ , and  $F$  distributions, etc.
- **Bayesian conjugate priors:** Beta, Gamma, Dirichlet, and Wishart appear frequently in Bayesian updating for binomial/Poisson/multinomial/multivariate-normal models.
- **Extreme value distributions:** Gumbel, Fréchet, and Weibull are common for modeling maxima or minima.

## Contents

1	Normal (Gaussian) Distribution	6
2	Exponential Distribution	7
3	Log-normal Distribution	8
4	Pareto Distribution	9
5	Weibull Distribution	10
6	Gumbel Distribution	11
7	Beta Prime (Inverted Beta) Distribution	12
8	Logistic Distribution	13
9	Discrete Uniform Distribution	14
10	Continuous Uniform Distribution	15
11	Bernoulli Distribution	16
12	Binomial Distribution	17
13	Negative Binomial Distribution	18
14	Geometric Distribution	19
15	Hypergeometric Distribution	20
16	Beta-binomial Distribution	21
17	Categorical Distribution	22
18	Multinomial Distribution	23
19	Multivariate Hypergeometric Distribution	24
20	Poisson Distribution	25
21	Gamma Distribution	26
22	Rayleigh Distribution	27
23	Rice (Rician) Distribution	28
24	Chi-squared Distribution	29
25	Student's t Distribution	30
26	F-distribution	31
27	Beta Distribution	32
28	Dirichlet Distribution	33
29	Wishart Distribution (Placeholder Slice)	34
30	Normal (Gaussian) Distribution	35
31	Exponential Distribution	36
32	Log-normal Distribution	37
33	Pareto Distribution	38
34	Weibull Distribution	39
35	Gumbel Distribution	40

---

36 Beta Prime (Inverted Beta) Distribution	41
37 Logistic Distribution	42
38 Discrete Uniform Distribution	43
39 Continuous Uniform Distribution	44
40 Bernoulli Distribution	45
41 Binomial Distribution	46
42 Negative Binomial Distribution	47
43 Geometric Distribution	48
44 Hypergeometric Distribution	49
45 Beta-binomial Distribution	50
46 Categorical Distribution	51
47 Multinomial Distribution	52
48 Multivariate Hypergeometric Distribution	53
49 Poisson Distribution	54
50 Gamma Distribution	55
51 Rayleigh Distribution	56
52 Rice (Rician) Distribution	57
53 Chi-squared Distribution	58
54 Student's t Distribution	59
55 F-distribution	60
56 Beta Distribution	61
57 Dirichlet Distribution	62
58 Wishart Distribution (Placeholder Slice)	63

# 1 Normal (Gaussian) Distribution

The Normal (Gaussian) distribution with mean  $\mu$  and standard deviation  $\sigma$  has

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right), \quad x \in (-\infty, \infty).$$

Normal(mu=0, sigma=1)

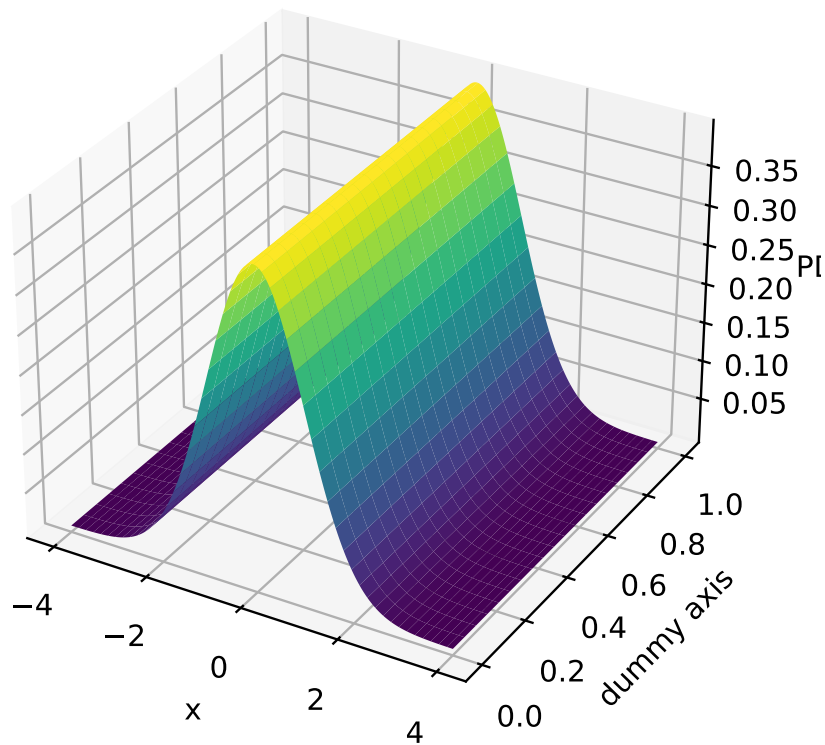


Figure 1: 3D surface plot of the Normal( $\mu, \sigma^2$ ) PDF.

## 2 Exponential Distribution

The Exponential distribution with rate  $\lambda$  has

$$f(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}, \quad x \geq 0.$$

Exponential(lambda=1.0)

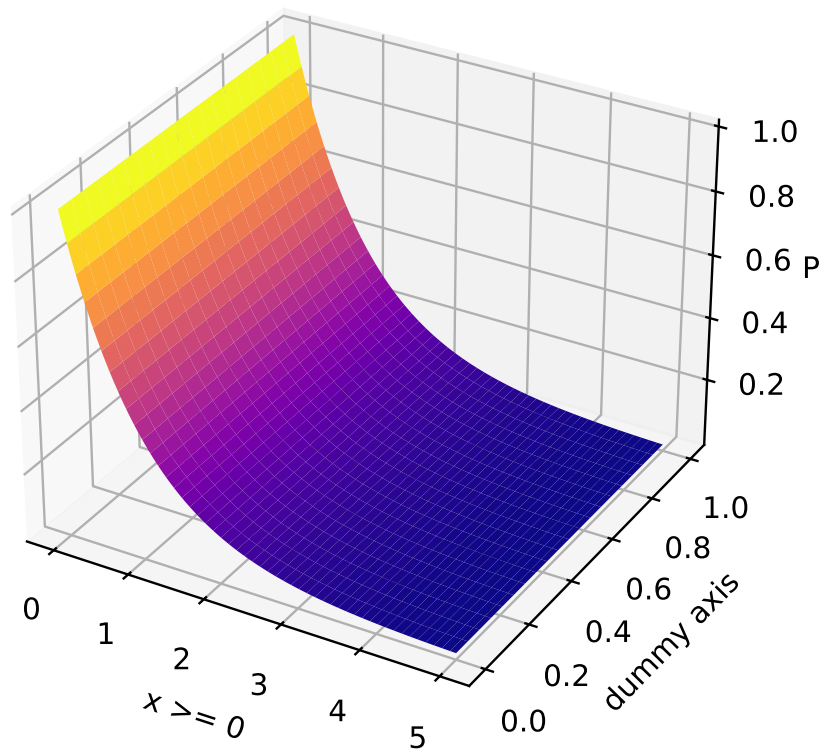


Figure 2: 3D surface plot of Exponential( $\lambda$ ) PDF.

### 3 Log-normal Distribution

If  $Y \sim \text{Normal}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ , then  $X = e^Y$  is said to be Log-normal. Its PDF is

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x \sigma \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\ln x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right), \quad x > 0.$$

Lognormal(mu=0, sigma=1)

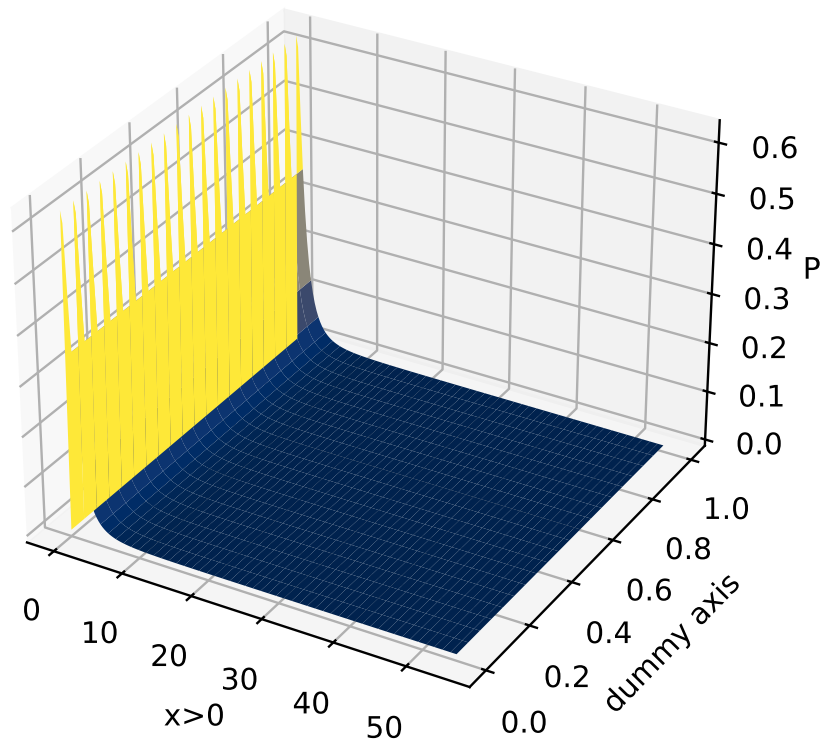


Figure 3: 3D surface plot of the Log-normal( $\mu, \sigma^2$ ) PDF.



## 4 Pareto Distribution

The Pareto distribution with shape  $\alpha$  and scale  $x_m$  has

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

Pareto(alpha=2.0, x\_m=1.0)

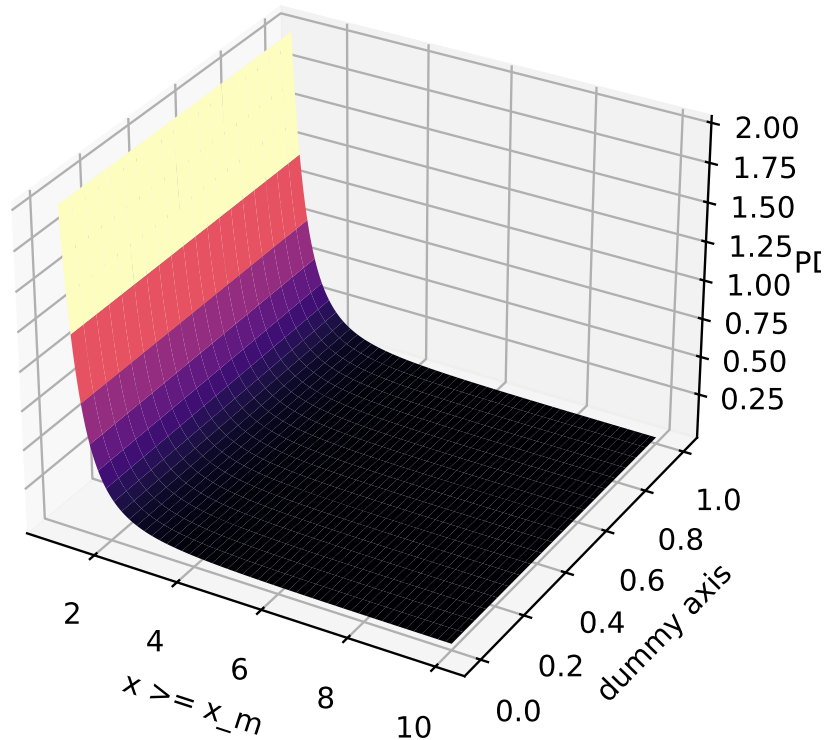


Figure 4: 3D surface plot of Pareto( $\alpha, x_m$ ) PDF.

## 5 Weibull Distribution

The Weibull distribution with parameters  $k$  and  $\lambda$  has

$$f(x) = \frac{k}{\lambda} \left(\frac{x}{\lambda}\right)^{k-1} \exp\left(-\left(\frac{x}{\lambda}\right)^k\right), \quad x \geq 0.$$

Weibull( $k=1.5$ ,  $\lambda=1.0$ )

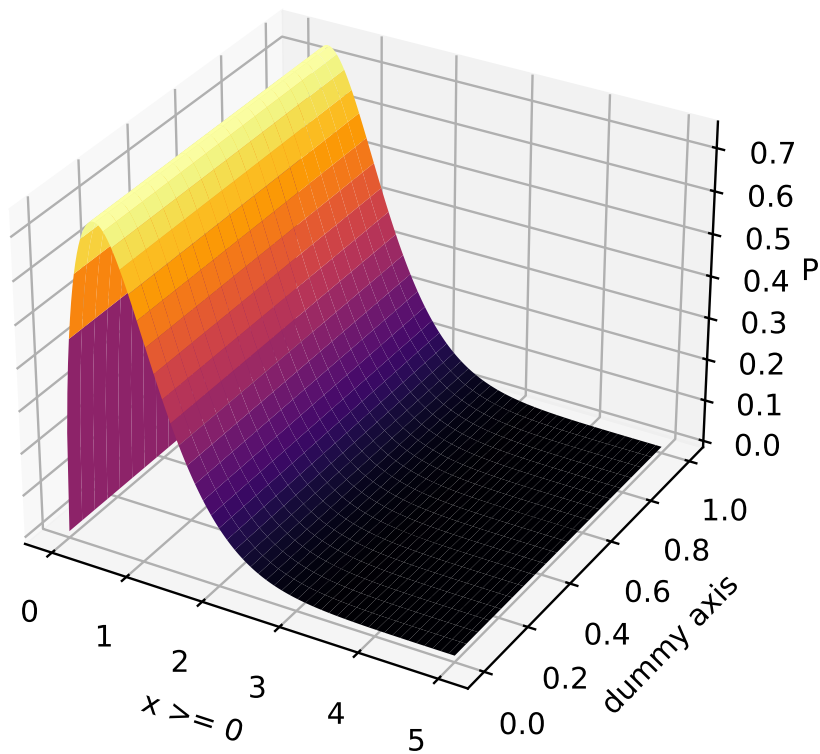


Figure 5: 3D surface plot of Weibull( $k, \lambda$ ) PDF.

## 6 Gumbel Distribution

The Gumbel (Type-I extreme value) distribution with location  $\mu$  and scale  $\beta$  has

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\beta} \exp\left[-\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\beta}\right) - \exp\left(-\frac{x-\mu}{\beta}\right)\right].$$

Gumbel(mu=0.0, beta=1.0)

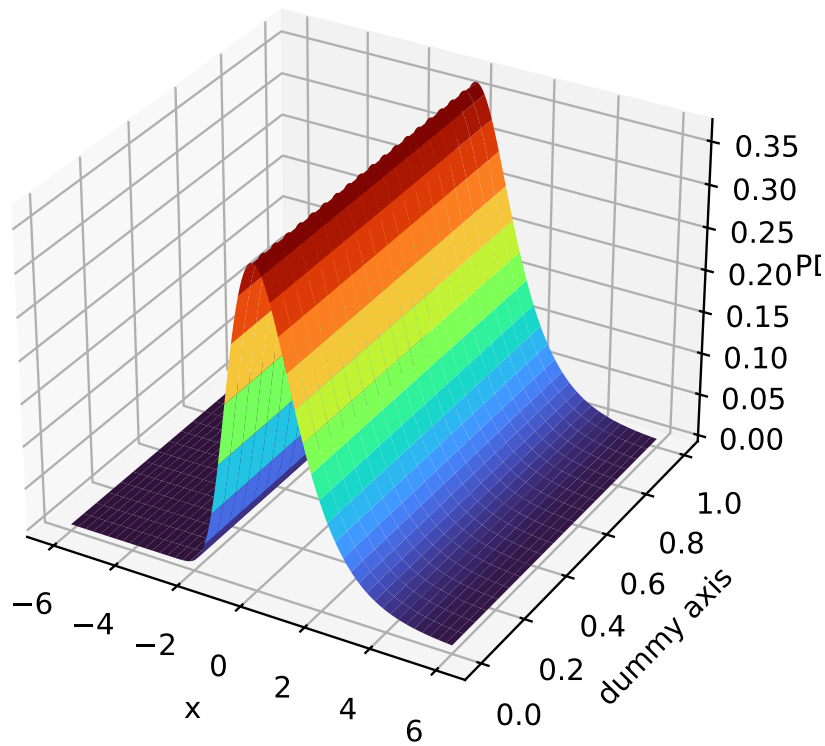


Figure 6: 3D surface plot of Gumbel( $\mu, \beta$ ) PDF.

## 7 Beta Prime (Inverted Beta) Distribution

Sometimes called the inverted Beta distribution, with parameters  $\alpha, \beta$ :

$$f(x) = \frac{x^{\alpha-1} (1+x)^{-\alpha-\beta}}{B(\alpha, \beta)}, \quad x > 0.$$

Beta prime( $\alpha=2.0$ ,  $\beta=3.0$ )

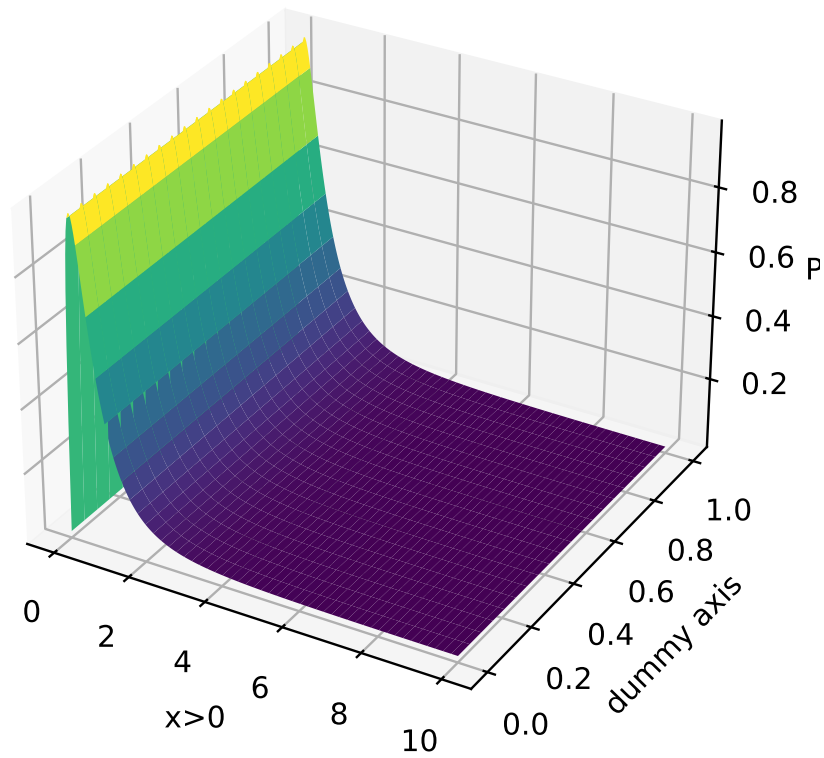


Figure 7: 3D surface plot of Beta prime( $\alpha, \beta$ ) PDF.

## 8 Logistic Distribution

The Logistic distribution with parameters  $\mu$  (location) and  $s$  (scale):

$$f(x) = \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{x-\mu}{s}\right)}{s\left(1 + \exp\left(-\frac{x-\mu}{s}\right)\right)^2}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Logistic(mu=0.0, s=1.0)

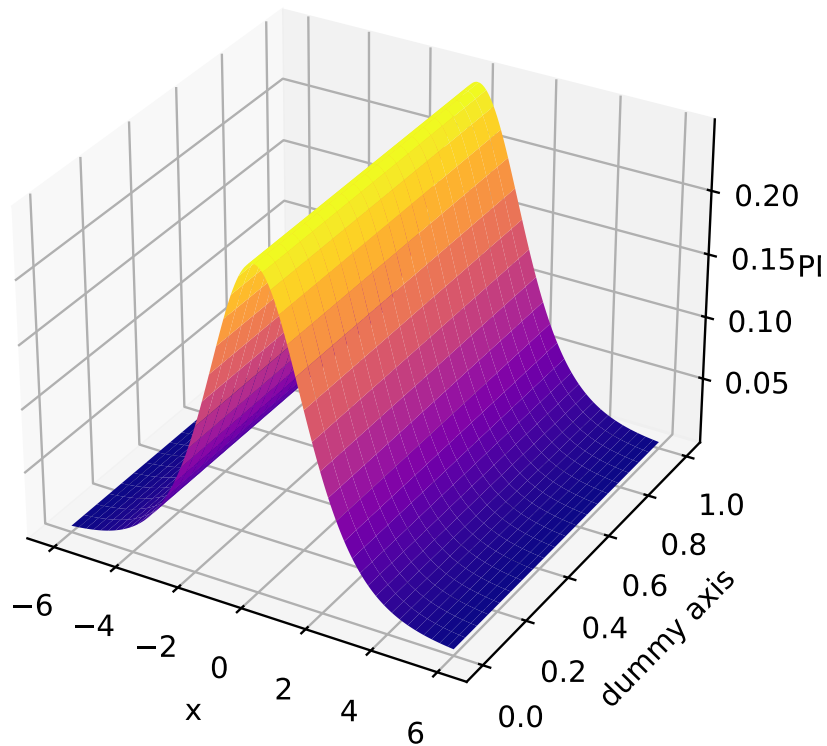


Figure 8: 3D surface plot of  $\text{Logistic}(\mu, s)$  PDF.

## 9 Discrete Uniform Distribution

A discrete uniform distribution over  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  has

$$P(X = k) = \frac{1}{n}, \quad k = 1, \dots, n.$$

Discrete uniform(1..6)

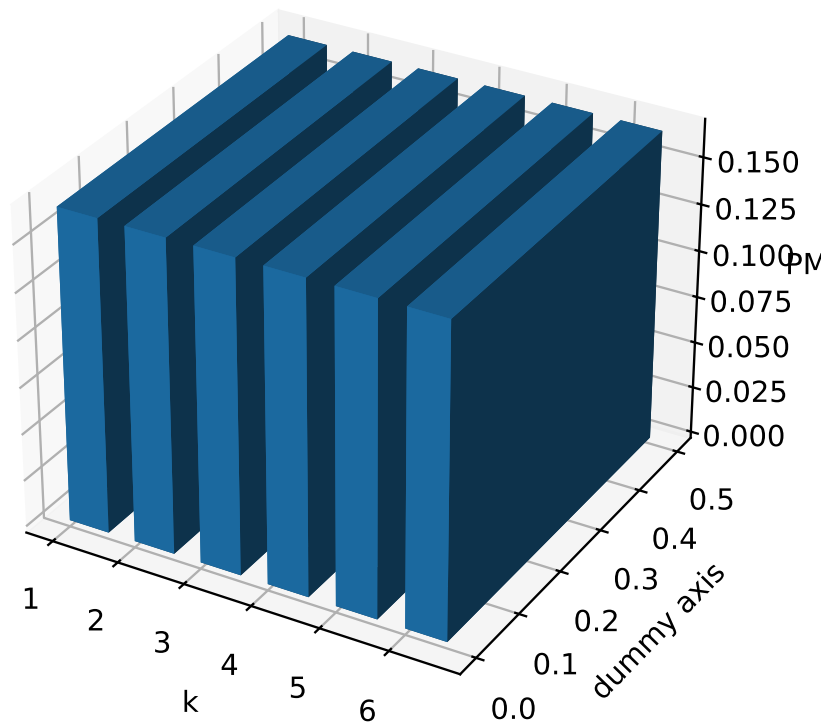


Figure 9: 3D bar chart of Discrete Uniform $\{1, \dots, n\}$ .

## 10 Continuous Uniform Distribution

A continuous uniform distribution on  $[a, b]$ :

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{b-a}, \quad a \leq x \leq b.$$

Continuous Uniform(a=0.0, b=1.0)

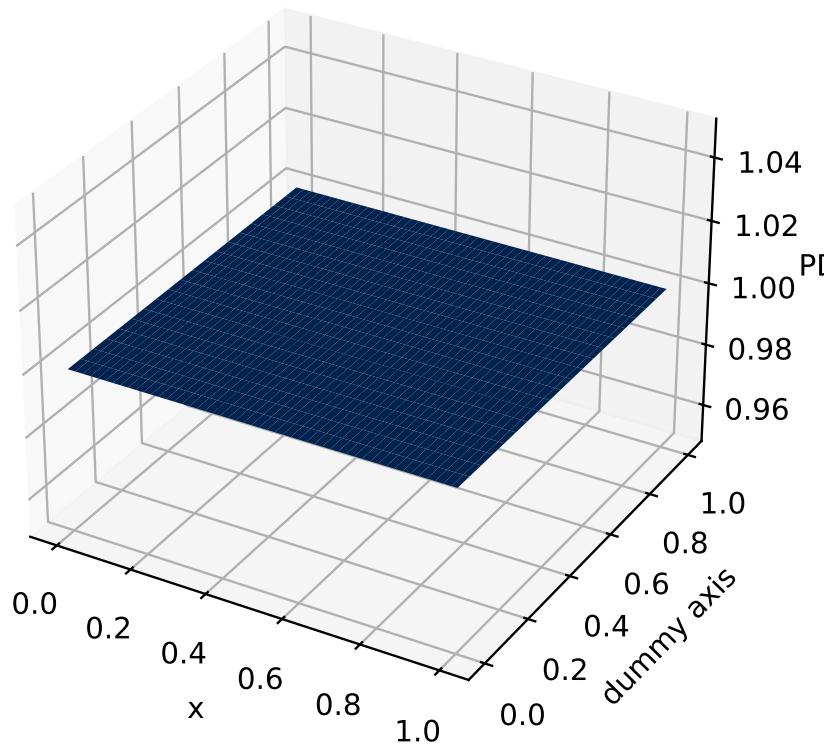


Figure 10: 3D surface plot of Uniform( $a, b$ ) PDF.

## 11 Bernoulli Distribution

A Bernoulli distribution with parameter  $p$  has

$$P(X = 1) = p, \quad P(X = 0) = 1 - p.$$

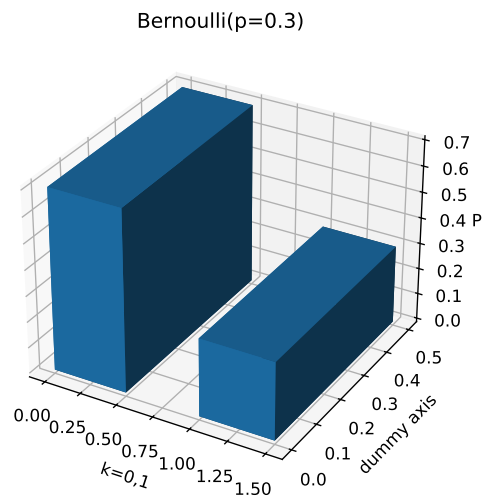


Figure 11: 3D bar chart of Bernoulli( $p$ ) PMF.



## 12 Binomial Distribution

A Binomial( $n, p$ ) distribution has

$$P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}, \quad k = 0, \dots, n.$$

Binomial( $n=10, p=0.4$ )

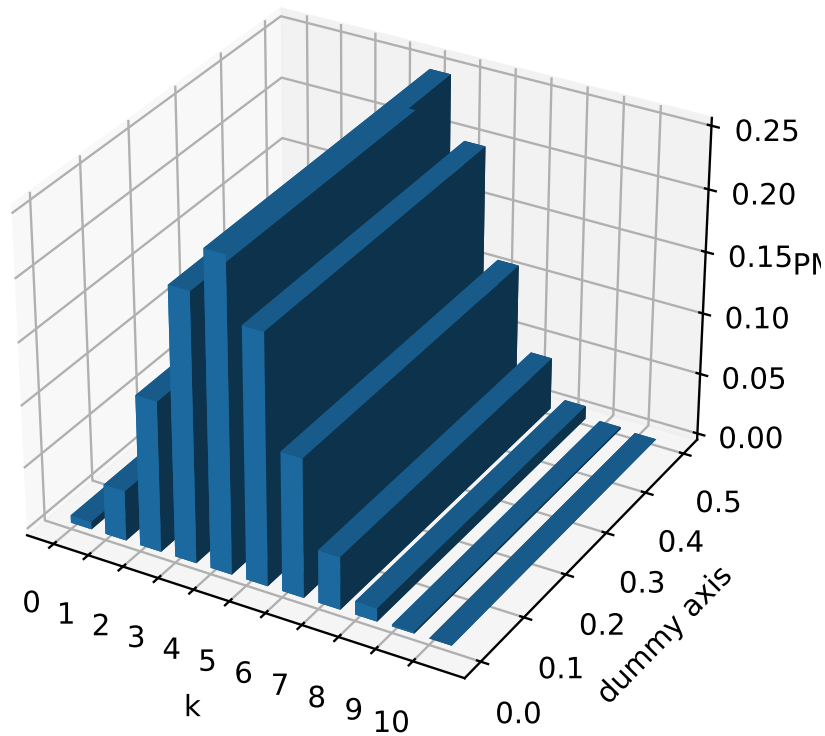


Figure 12: 3D bar chart of Binomial( $n, p$ ) PMF.

## 13 Negative Binomial Distribution

A Negative binomial with parameters  $(r, p)$ :

$$P(X = k) = \binom{k+r-1}{k} p^r (1-p)^k, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots$$

Negative Binomial( $r=5$ ,  $p=0.4$ )

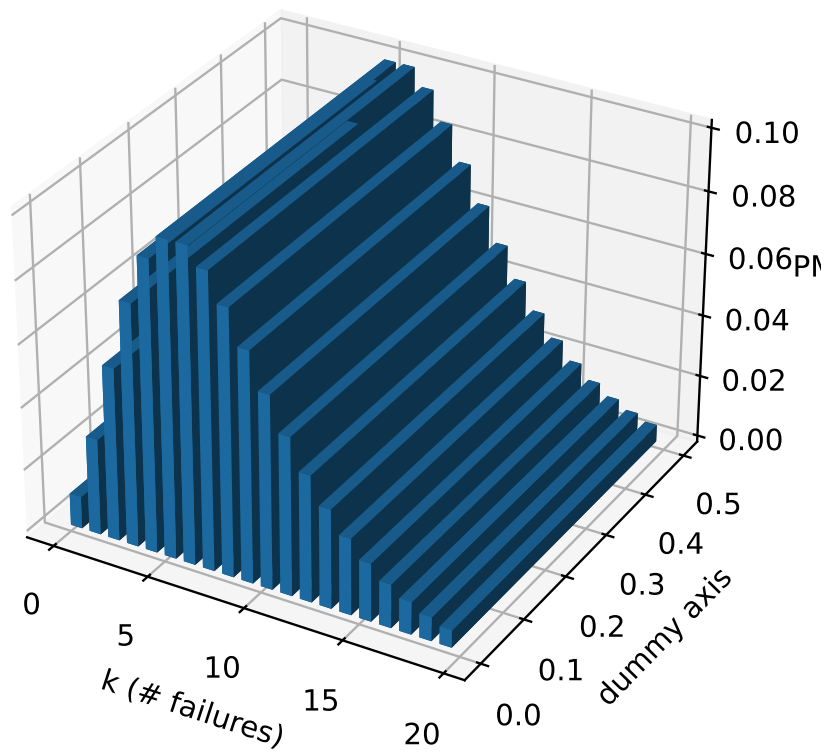


Figure 13: 3D bar chart of Negative Binomial( $r, p$ ) PMF.

## 14 Geometric Distribution

A special case of Negative binomial with  $r = 1$ :

$$P(X = k) = (1 - p)^k p, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Geometric( $p=0.3$ )

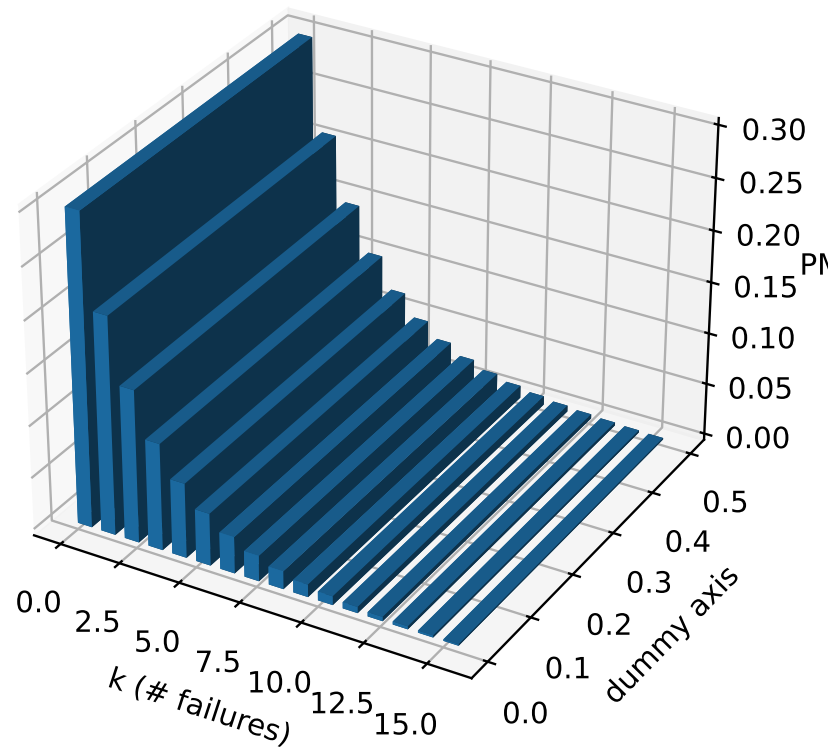


Figure 14: 3D bar chart of Geometric( $p$ ) PMF.

## 15 Hypergeometric Distribution

A Hypergeometric( $N, K, n$ ) distribution:

$$P(X = k) = \frac{\binom{K}{k} \binom{N-K}{n-k}}{\binom{N}{n}}.$$

Hypergeometric( $N=20, K=8, n=5$ )

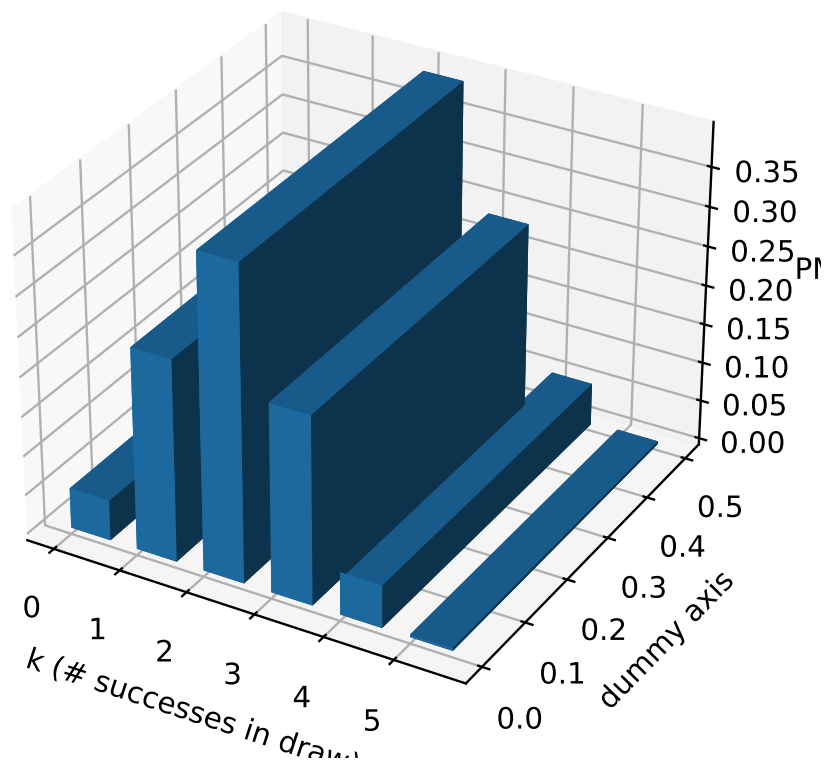


Figure 15: 3D bar chart of Hypergeometric( $N, K, n$ ) PMF.

## 16 Beta-binomial Distribution

A conjugate extension of Binomial with parameters  $(n, \alpha, \beta)$ :

$$P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} \frac{B(\alpha + k, \beta + n - k)}{B(\alpha, \beta) B(\alpha + \beta, n)}.$$

Beta-Binomial( $n=10$ ,  $\alpha=2$ ,  $\beta=3$ )

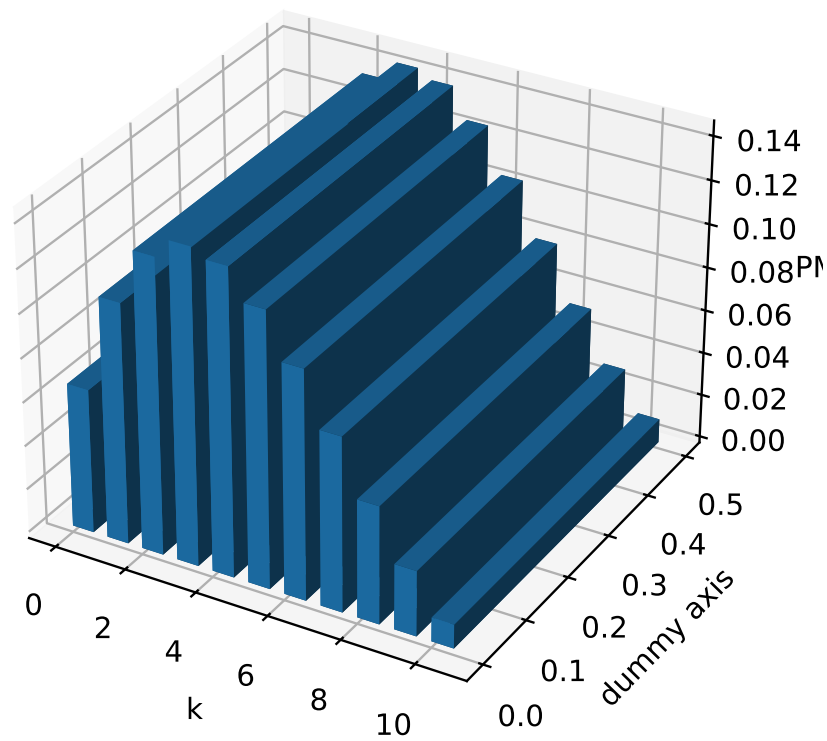


Figure 16: 3D bar chart of Beta-binomial( $n, \alpha, \beta$ ) PMF.

## 17 Categorical Distribution

For  $K$  categories with probabilities  $p_i$ ,

$$P(X = i) = p_i, \quad \sum_{i=1}^K p_i = 1.$$

Categorical  $p=[0.2, 0.5, 0.3]$

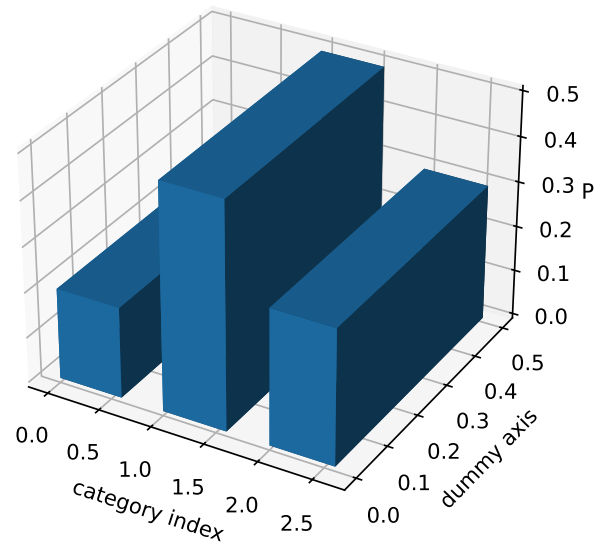


Figure 17: 3D bar chart of a Categorical distribution.

## 18 Multinomial Distribution

Generalizing Binomial to  $K$  categories:

$$P(X_1 = k_1, \dots, X_K = k_K) = \frac{n!}{k_1! \dots k_K!} \prod_{i=1}^K p_i^{k_i}, \quad \sum k_i = n.$$

Multinomial( $n=5$ ,  $p=[0.3, 0.2, 0.5]$ )

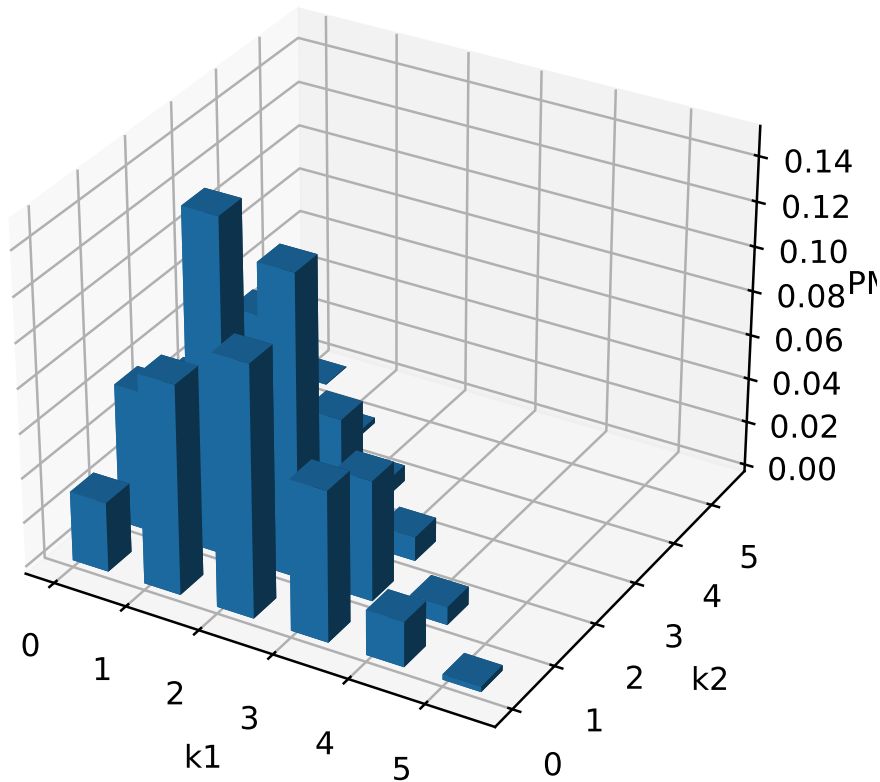


Figure 18: 3D bar chart of Multinomial( $n, p_1, \dots, p_K$ ) PMF for  $K = 3$ .

## 19 Multivariate Hypergeometric Distribution

A generalization of Hypergeometric to multiple categories. With  $K_i$  items in category  $i$ ,

$$P(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{k}) = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^K \binom{K_i}{k_i}}{\binom{N}{n}}, \quad \sum_{i=1}^K k_i = n.$$

Multivariate Hypergeometric( $K=[4, 5, 6]$ ,  $n=5$ )

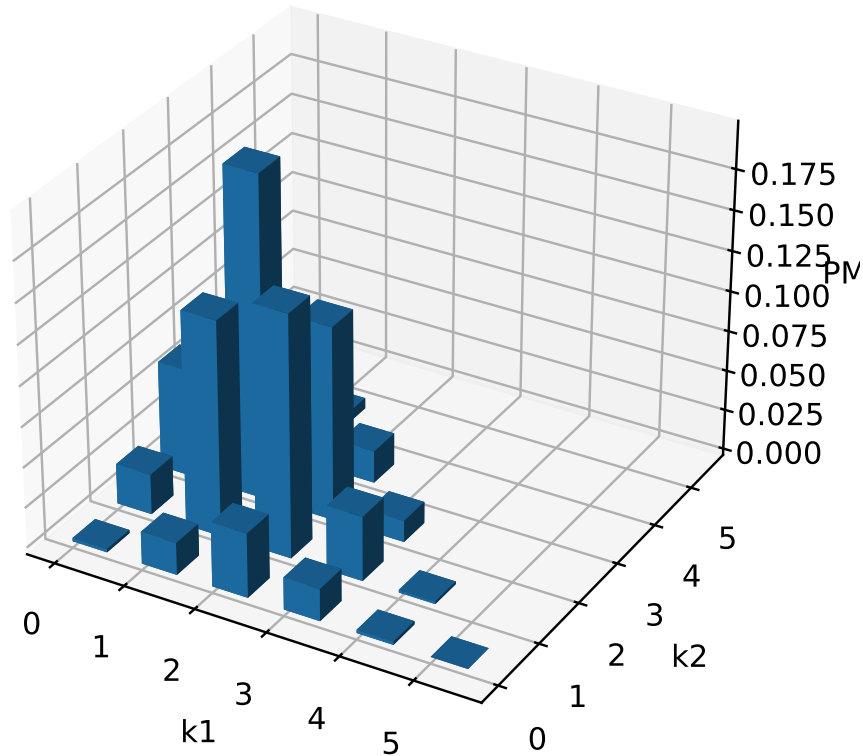


Figure 19: 3D bar chart for the Multivariate Hypergeometric distribution with  $K = 3$ .



## 20 Poisson Distribution

A  $\text{Poisson}(\lambda)$  distribution:

$$P(X = k) = \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!}, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$\text{Poisson}(\text{lambda}=3.0)$

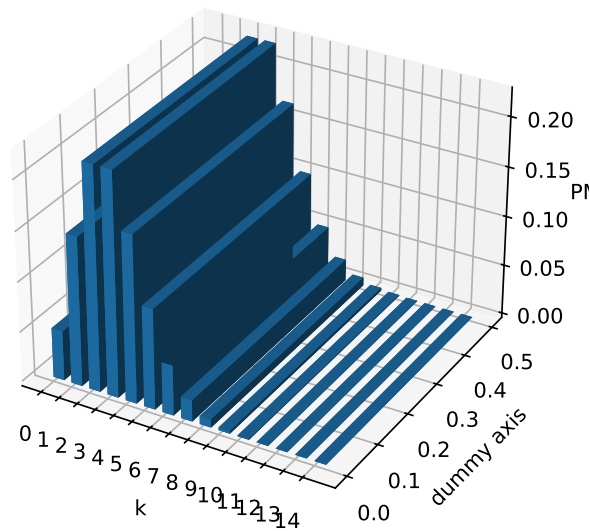


Figure 20: 3D bar chart of  $\text{Poisson}(\lambda)$  PMF.

## 21 Gamma Distribution

With shape  $\alpha$  and rate  $\beta$ :

$$f(x) = \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} x^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta x}, \quad x > 0.$$

Gamma(alpha=2.0, beta=1.0)

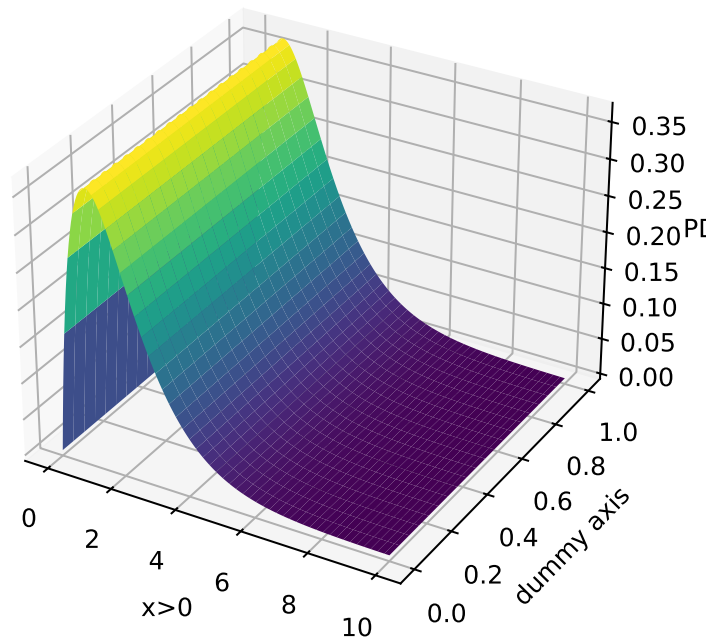


Figure 21: 3D surface plot of Gamma( $\alpha, \beta$ ) PDF.

## 22 Rayleigh Distribution

Rayleigh( $\sigma$ ):

$$f(r) = \frac{r}{\sigma^2} \exp\left(-\frac{r^2}{2\sigma^2}\right), \quad r \geq 0.$$

Rayleigh(sigma=1.0)

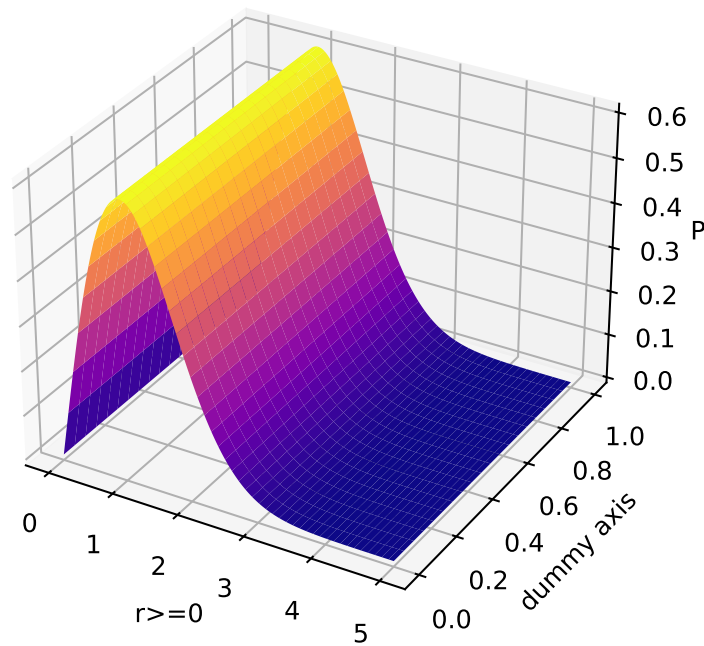


Figure 22: 3D surface plot of Rayleigh( $\sigma$ ) PDF.

## 23 Rice (Rician) Distribution

Rice( $\nu, \sigma$ ):

$$f(r) = \frac{r}{\sigma^2} \exp\left(-\frac{r^2 + \nu^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) I_0\left(\frac{r\nu}{\sigma^2}\right), \quad r \geq 0.$$

Rice(sigma=1.0, nu=1.0)

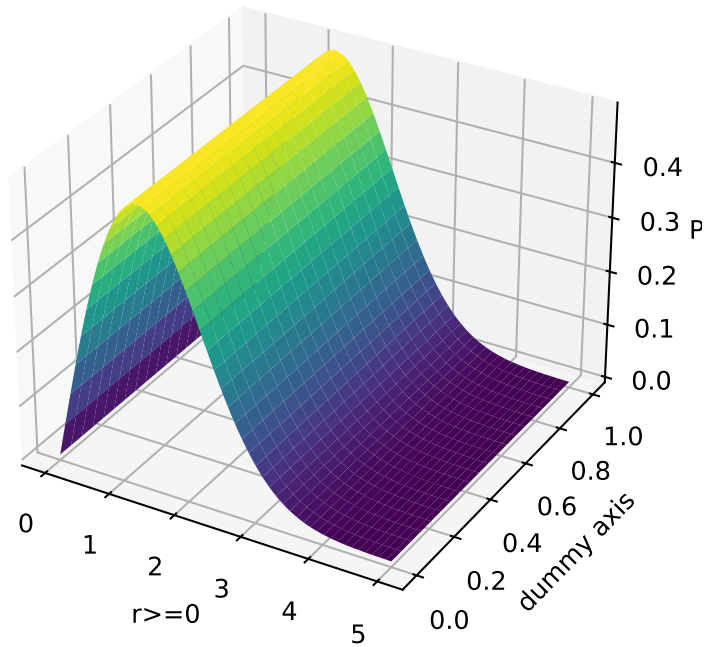


Figure 23: 3D surface plot of Rice( $\nu, \sigma$ ) PDF.

## 24 Chi-squared Distribution

Chi-squared with  $k$  degrees of freedom:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2^{k/2}\Gamma(\frac{k}{2})} x^{\frac{k}{2}-1} e^{-x/2}, \quad x > 0.$$

Chi-squared(k=3)

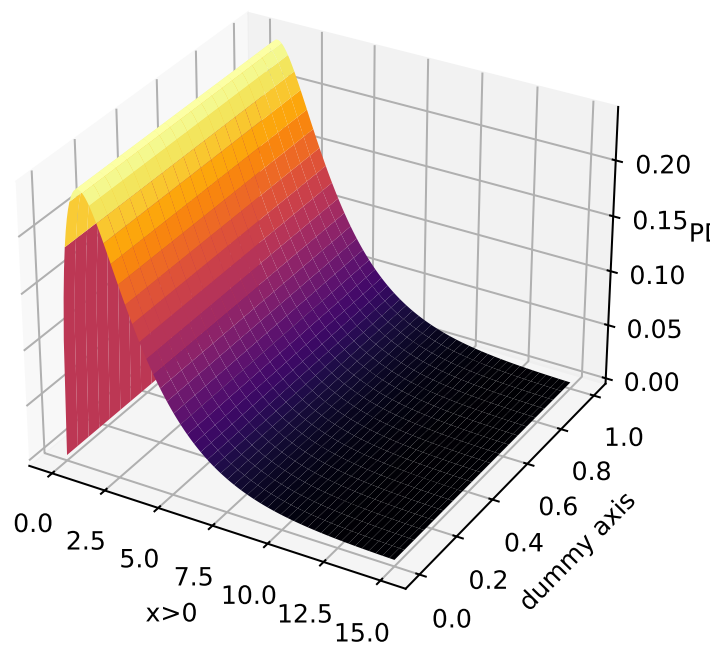


Figure 24: 3D surface plot of Chi-squared( $k$ ) PDF.

## 25 Student's t Distribution

With  $\nu$  degrees of freedom:

$$f(x) = \frac{\Gamma(\frac{\nu+1}{2})}{\sqrt{\nu\pi}\Gamma(\frac{\nu}{2})} \left(1 + \frac{x^2}{\nu}\right)^{-\frac{\nu+1}{2}}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Student's t(nu=3)

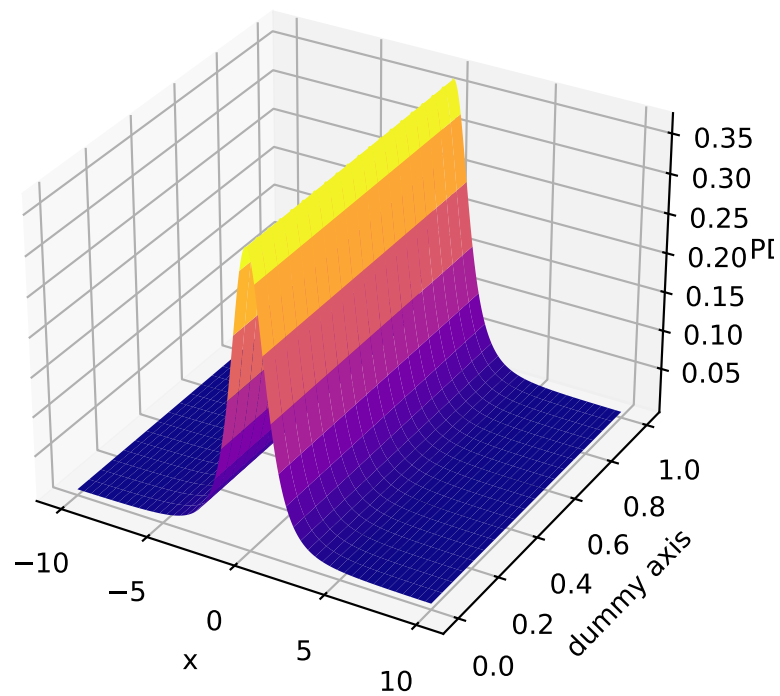


Figure 25: 3D surface plot of Student's  $t(\nu)$  PDF.

## 26 F-distribution

With degrees of freedom  $d_1, d_2$ :

$$f(x) = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{(d_1 x)^{d_1} d_2^{d_2}}{(d_1 x + d_2)^{d_1 + d_2}}}}{x B\left(\frac{d_1}{2}, \frac{d_2}{2}\right)}, \quad x > 0.$$

F-distribution(d1=5, d2=8)

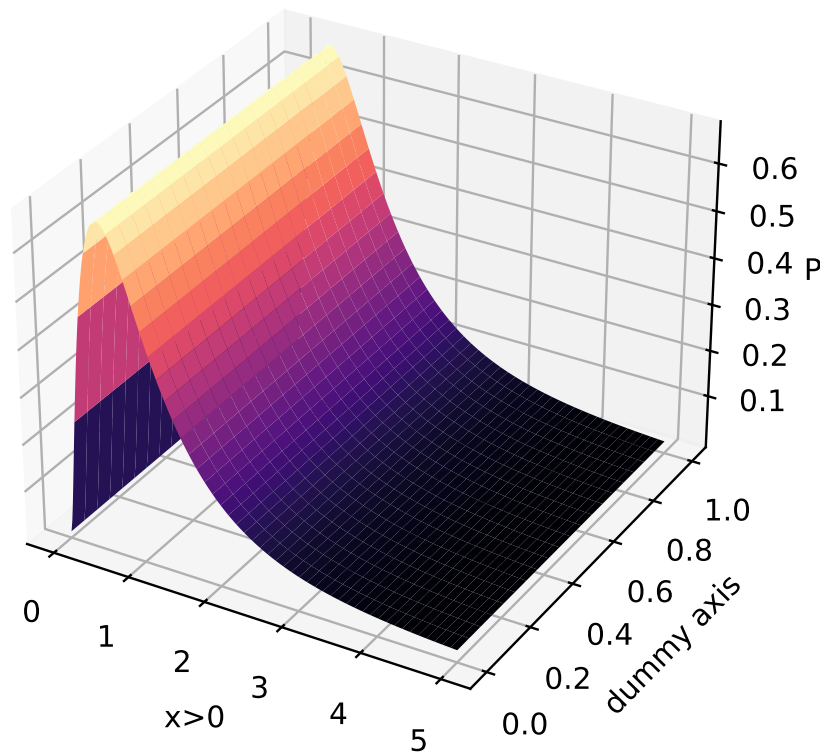


Figure 26: 3D surface plot of  $F(d_1, d_2)$  PDF.

## 27 Beta Distribution

With parameters  $\alpha, \beta$  on  $[0, 1]$ :

$$f(x) = \frac{x^{\alpha-1}(1-x)^{\beta-1}}{B(\alpha, \beta)}, \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1.$$

Beta(alpha=2, beta=3)

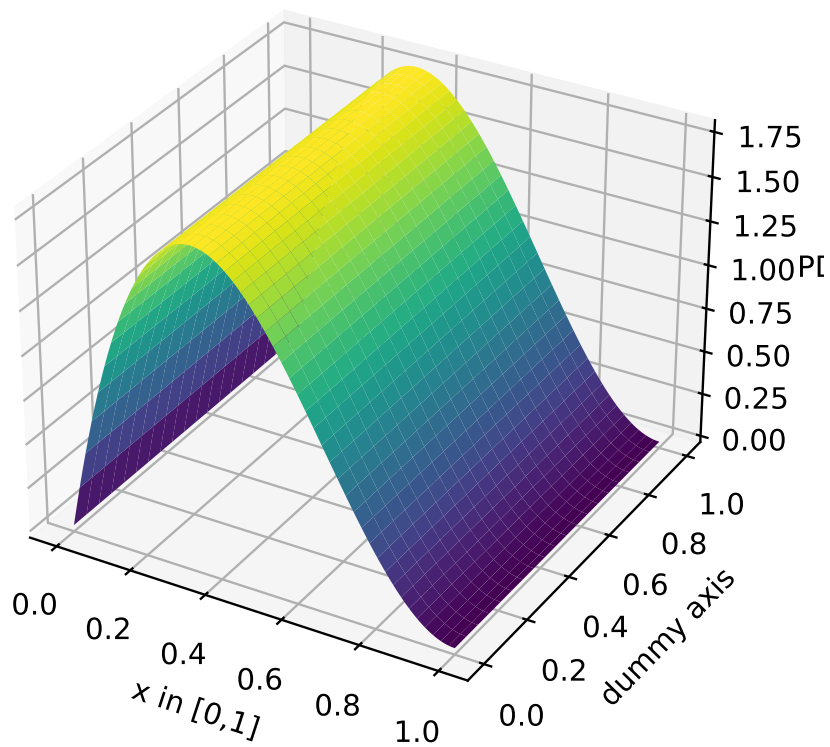


Figure 27: 3D surface plot of Beta( $\alpha, \beta$ ) PDF.



## 28 Dirichlet Distribution

A distribution over the probability simplex  $x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_K = 1, x_i \geq 0$ :

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_K) = \frac{1}{B(\boldsymbol{\alpha})} \prod_{i=1}^K x_i^{\alpha_i - 1}, \quad \sum_{i=1}^K x_i = 1.$$

Dirichlet(alpha=[2, 3, 4]), 2-simplex

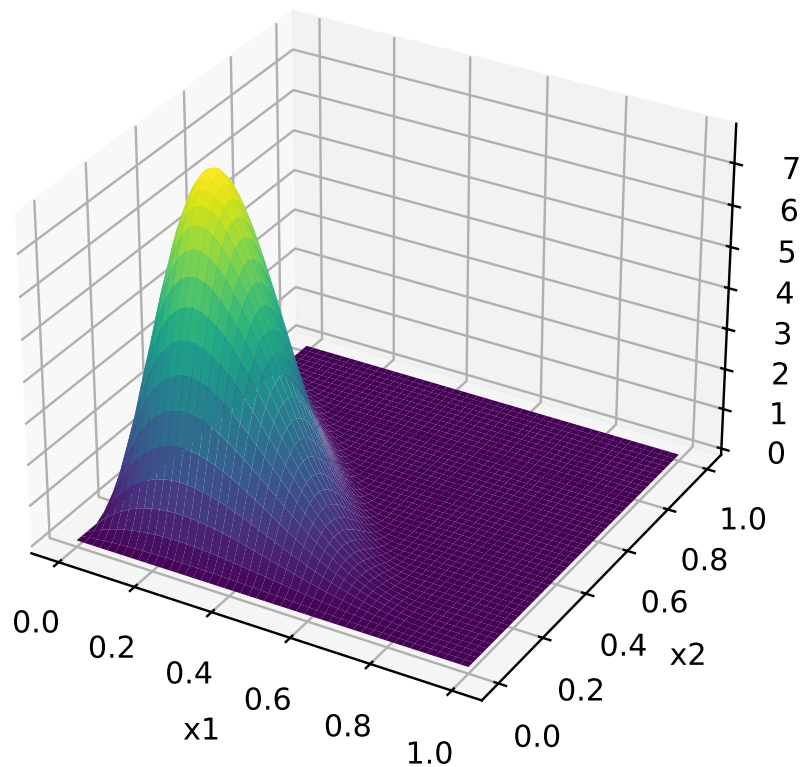


Figure 28: 3D surface plot of  $\text{Dirichlet}(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3)$  along 2-simplex.

## 29 Wishart Distribution (Placeholder Slice)

The Wishart distribution is matrix-valued. For a  $p \times p$  positive-definite matrix  $\mathbf{W}$ :

$$f(\mathbf{W}) \propto \det(\mathbf{W})^{\frac{\nu-p-1}{2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\text{tr}(\Sigma^{-1}\mathbf{W})\right).$$

Here, we show a *slice* for a  $2 \times 2$  Wishart (diagonal only), as a demonstration:

Wishart(2x2, I, nu=3) [diagonal slice]

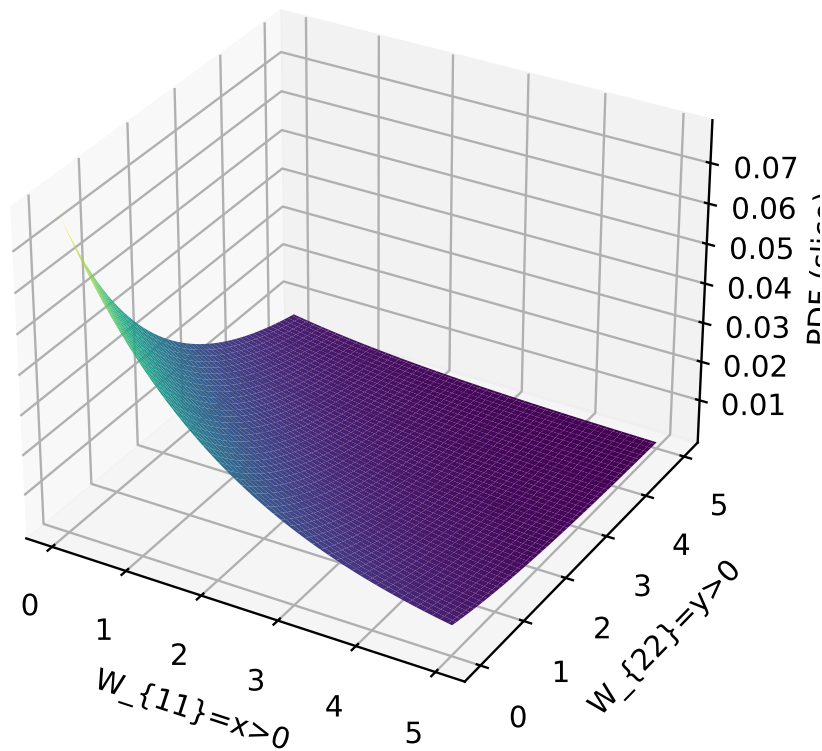


Figure 29: A 3D “slice” of  $\text{Wishart}(\nu, \Sigma = I)$  in 2D, restricting  $\mathbf{W}$  to diagonal.

### 30 Normal (Gaussian) Distribution

The Normal (Gaussian) distribution with mean  $\mu$  and standard deviation  $\sigma$  has

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right), \quad x \in (-\infty, \infty).$$

Normal(mu=0, sigma=1)

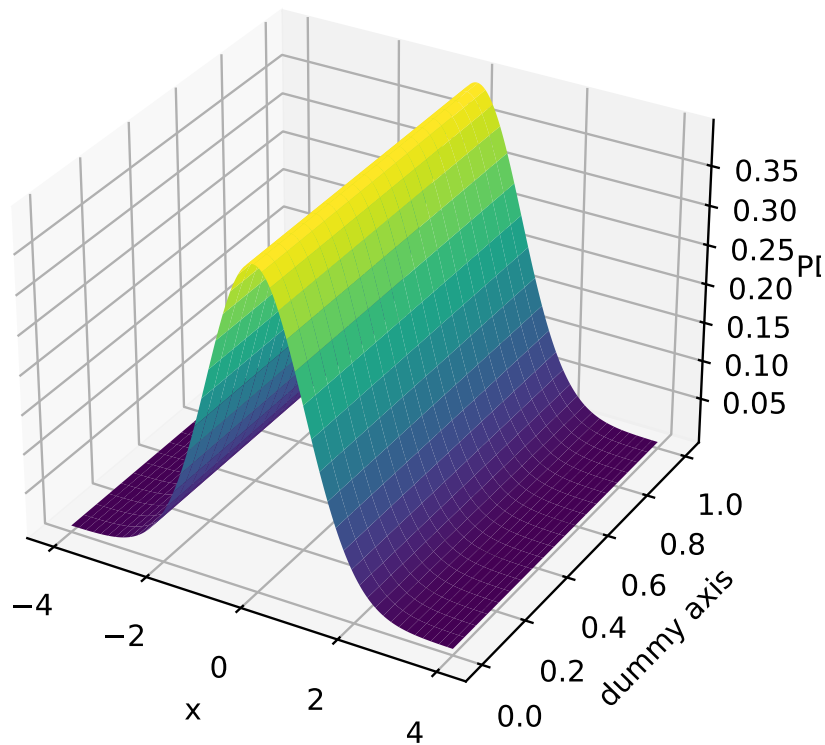


Figure 30: 3D surface plot of the Normal( $\mu, \sigma^2$ ) PDF.

## 31 Exponential Distribution

The Exponential distribution with rate  $\lambda$  has

$$f(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}, \quad x \geq 0.$$

Exponential(lambda=1.0)

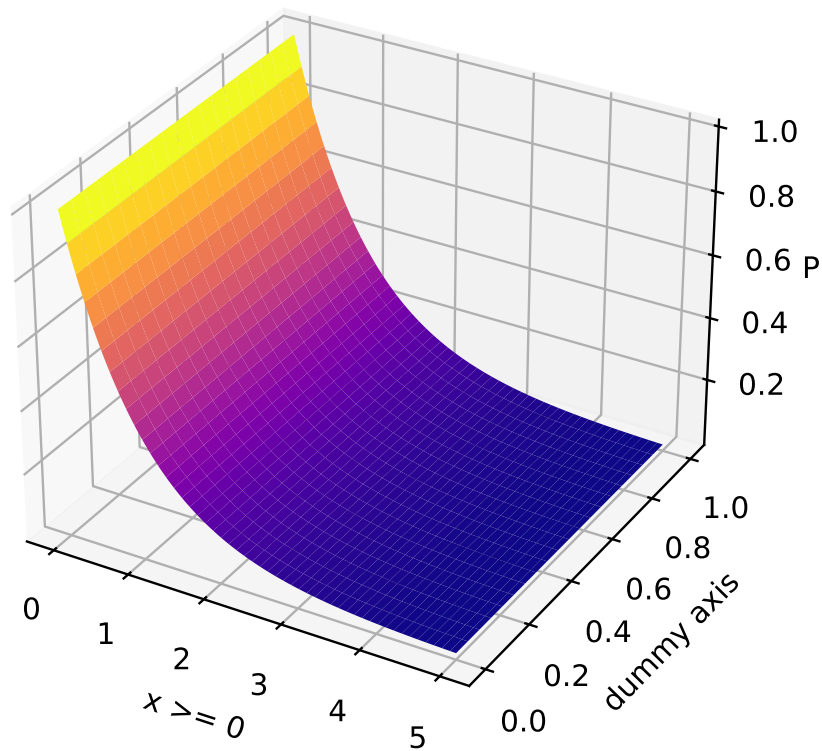


Figure 31: 3D surface plot of Exponential( $\lambda$ ) PDF.

## 32 Log-normal Distribution

If  $Y \sim \text{Normal}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ , then  $X = e^Y$  is said to be Log-normal. Its PDF is

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{x \sigma \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\ln x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right), \quad x > 0.$$

Lognormal(mu=0, sigma=1)

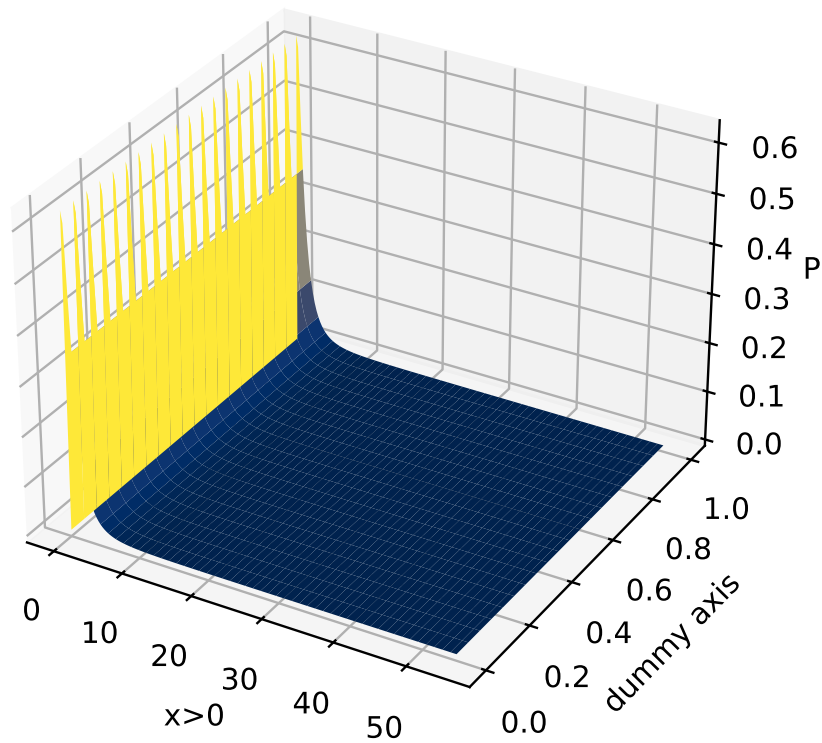


Figure 32: 3D surface plot of the Log-normal( $\mu, \sigma^2$ ) PDF.

### 33 Pareto Distribution

The Pareto distribution with shape  $\alpha$  and scale  $x_m$  has

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

Pareto(alpha=2.0, x\_m=1.0)

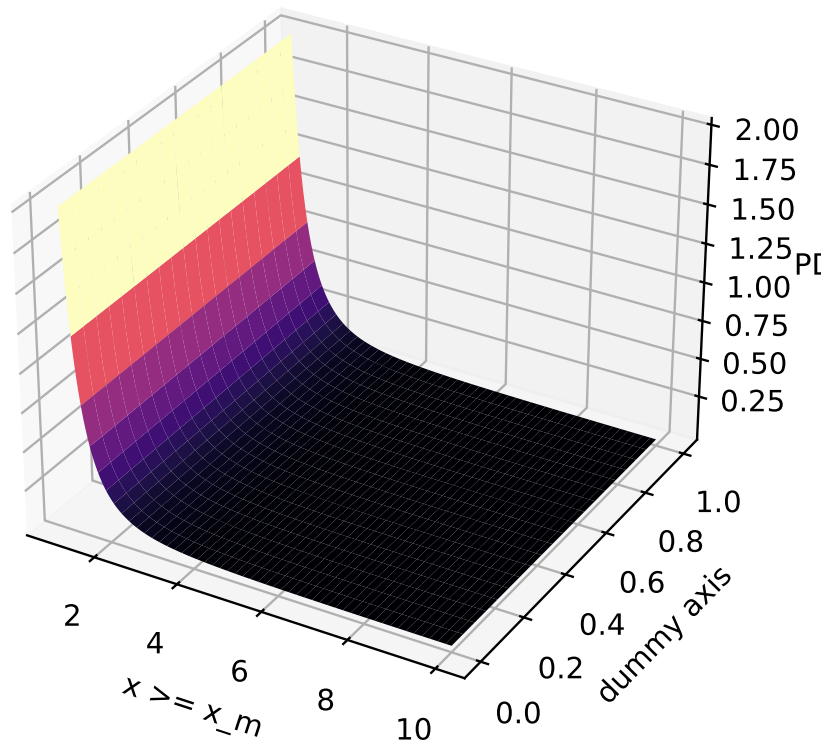


Figure 33: 3D surface plot of  $\text{Pareto}(\alpha, x_m)$  PDF.

### 34 Weibull Distribution

The Weibull distribution with parameters  $k$  and  $\lambda$  has

$$f(x) = \frac{k}{\lambda} \left(\frac{x}{\lambda}\right)^{k-1} \exp\left(-\left(\frac{x}{\lambda}\right)^k\right), \quad x \geq 0.$$

Weibull( $k=1.5$ ,  $\lambda=1.0$ )

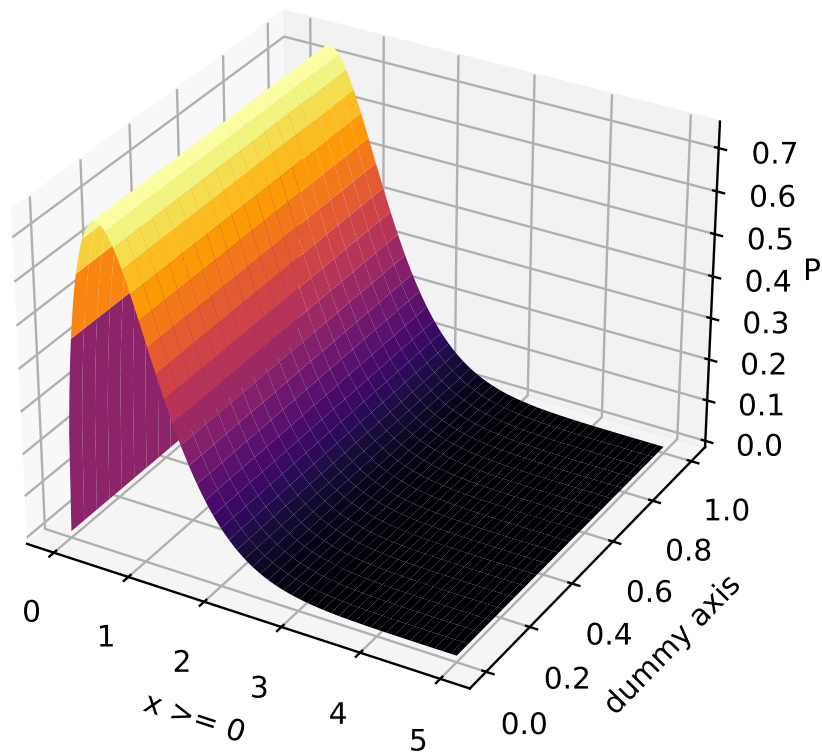


Figure 34: 3D surface plot of Weibull( $k, \lambda$ ) PDF.

### 35 Gumbel Distribution

The Gumbel (Type-I extreme value) distribution with location  $\mu$  and scale  $\beta$  has

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\beta} \exp\left[-\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\beta}\right) - \exp\left(-\frac{x-\mu}{\beta}\right)\right].$$

Gumbel(mu=0.0, beta=1.0)

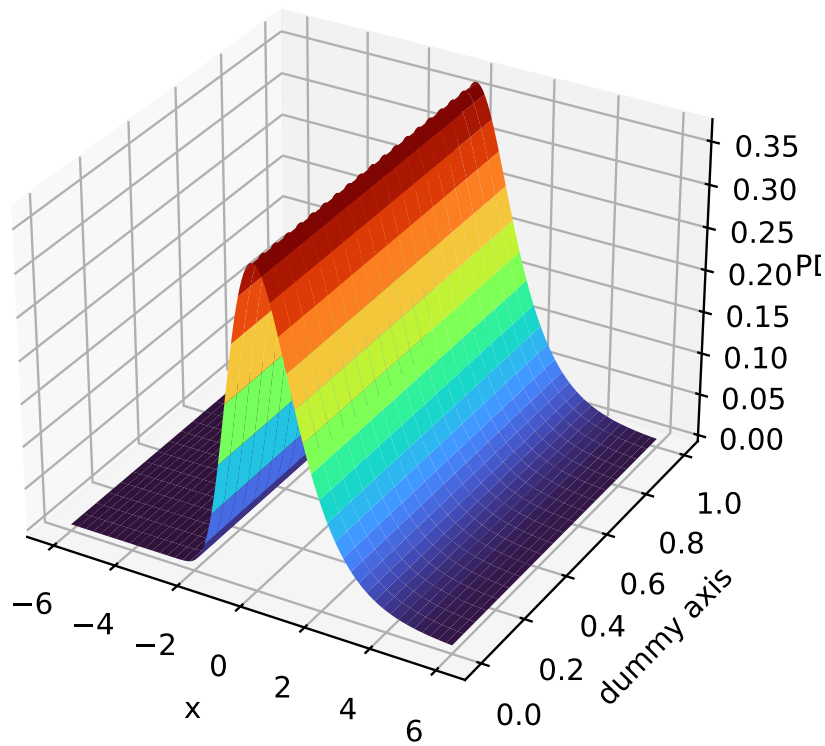


Figure 35: 3D surface plot of Gumbel( $\mu, \beta$ ) PDF.



### 36 Beta Prime (Inverted Beta) Distribution

Sometimes called the inverted Beta distribution, with parameters  $\alpha, \beta$ :

$$f(x) = \frac{x^{\alpha-1} (1+x)^{-\alpha-\beta}}{B(\alpha, \beta)}, \quad x > 0.$$

Beta prime( $\alpha=2.0$ ,  $\beta=3.0$ )

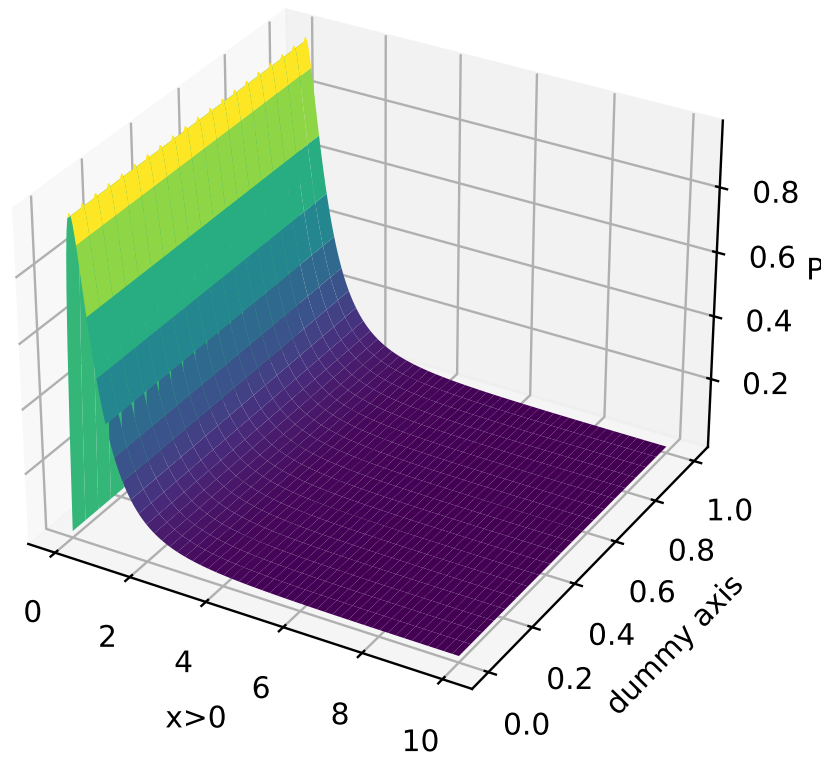


Figure 36: 3D surface plot of Beta prime( $\alpha, \beta$ ) PDF.

### 37 Logistic Distribution

The Logistic distribution with parameters  $\mu$  (location) and  $s$  (scale):

$$f(x) = \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{x-\mu}{s}\right)}{s\left(1 + \exp\left(-\frac{x-\mu}{s}\right)\right)^2}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Logistic(mu=0.0, s=1.0)

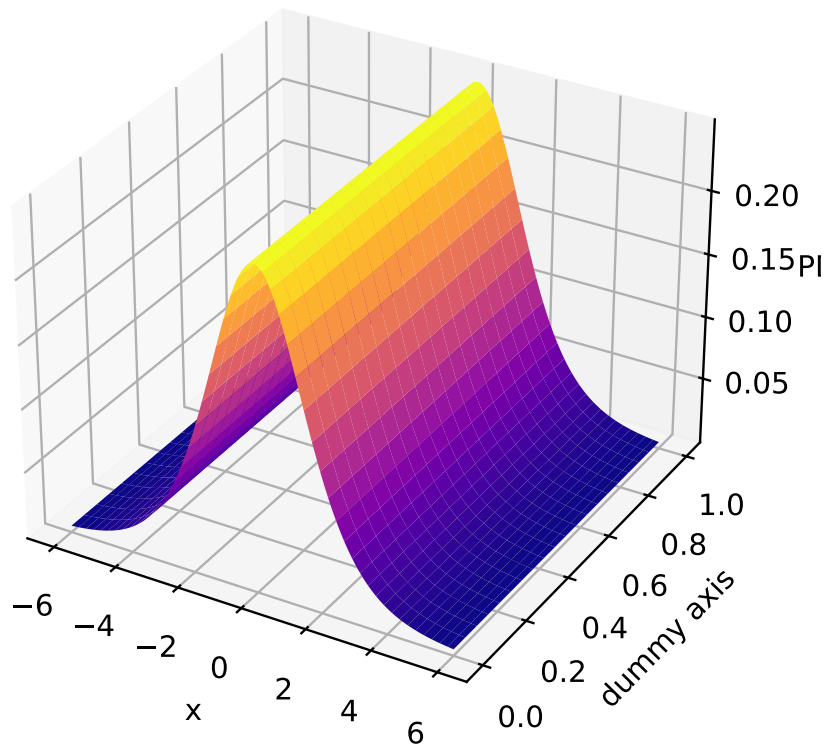


Figure 37: 3D surface plot of Logistic( $\mu, s$ ) PDF.

### 38 Discrete Uniform Distribution

A discrete uniform distribution over  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  has

$$P(X = k) = \frac{1}{n}, \quad k = 1, \dots, n.$$

Discrete uniform(1..6)

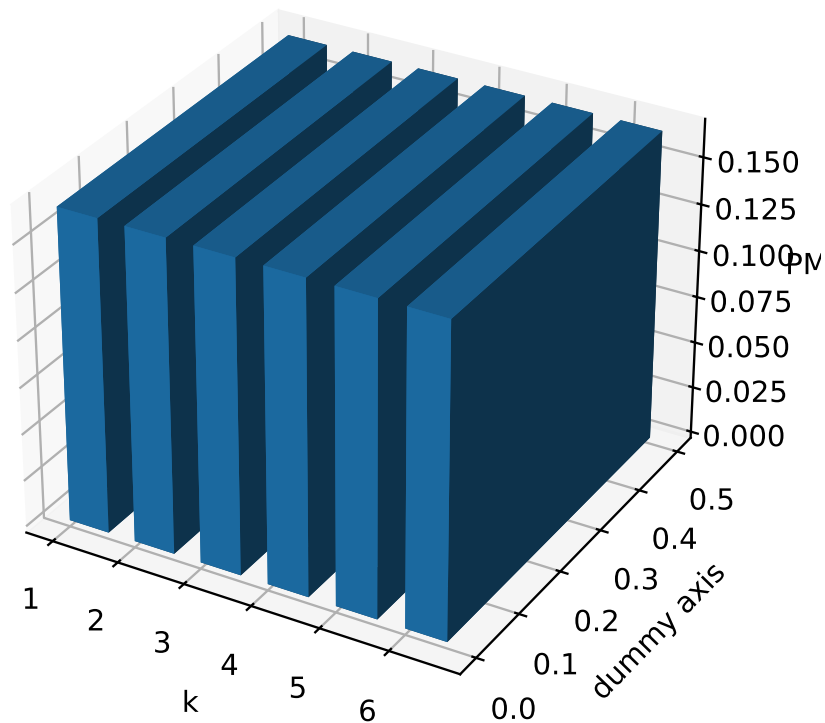


Figure 38: 3D bar chart of Discrete Uniform $\{1, \dots, n\}$ .

### 39 Continuous Uniform Distribution

A continuous uniform distribution on  $[a, b]$ :

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{b-a}, \quad a \leq x \leq b.$$

Continuous Uniform(a=0.0, b=1.0)

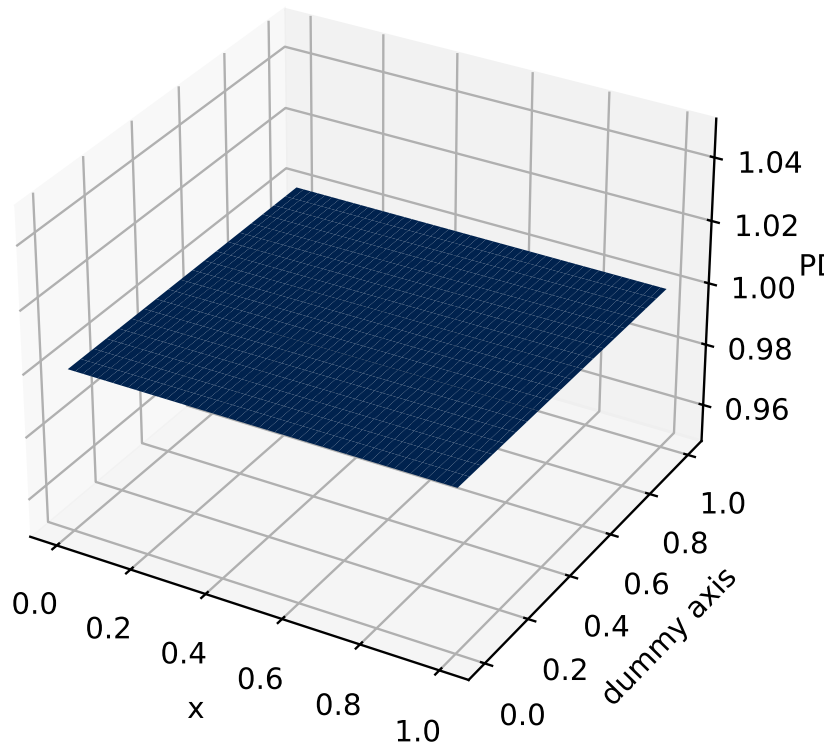


Figure 39: 3D surface plot of Uniform( $a, b$ ) PDF.

## 40 Bernoulli Distribution

A Bernoulli distribution with parameter  $p$  has

$$P(X = 1) = p, \quad P(X = 0) = 1 - p.$$

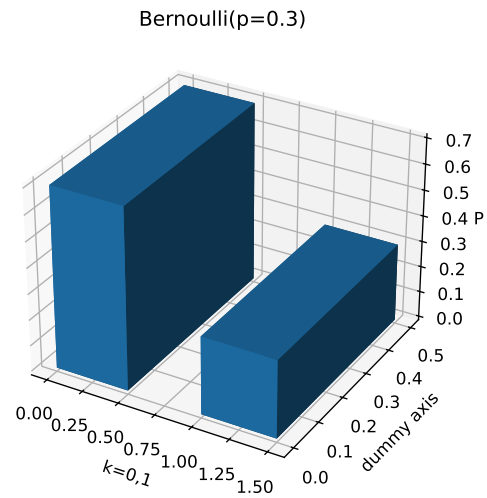


Figure 40: 3D bar chart of Bernoulli( $p$ ) PMF.

## 41 Binomial Distribution

A Binomial( $n, p$ ) distribution has

$$P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}, \quad k = 0, \dots, n.$$

Binomial( $n=10, p=0.4$ )

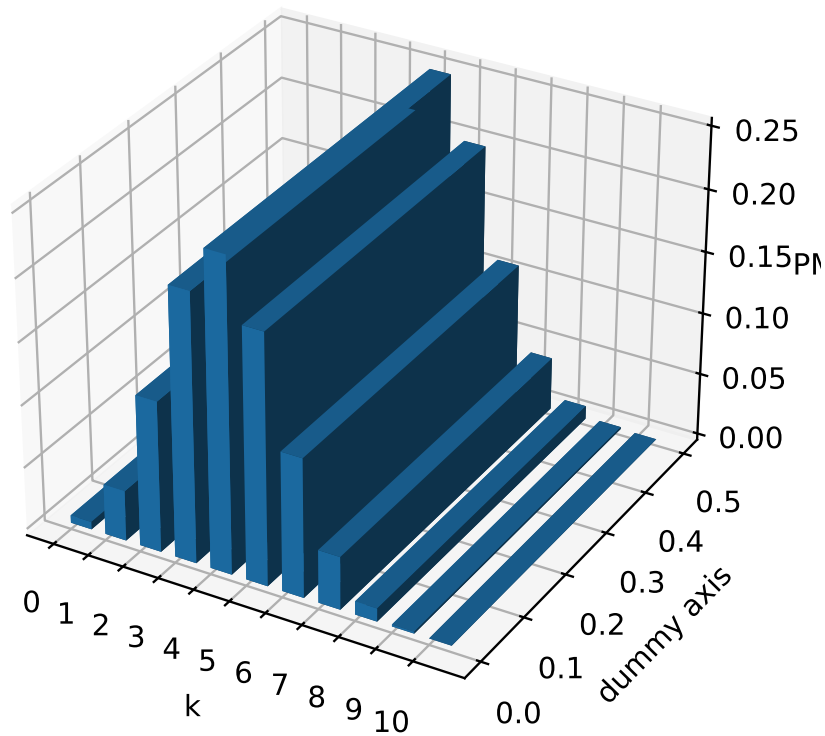


Figure 41: 3D bar chart of Binomial( $n, p$ ) PMF.

## 42 Negative Binomial Distribution

A Negative binomial with parameters  $(r, p)$ :

$$P(X = k) = \binom{k+r-1}{k} p^r (1-p)^k, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots$$

Negative Binomial( $r=5$ ,  $p=0.4$ )

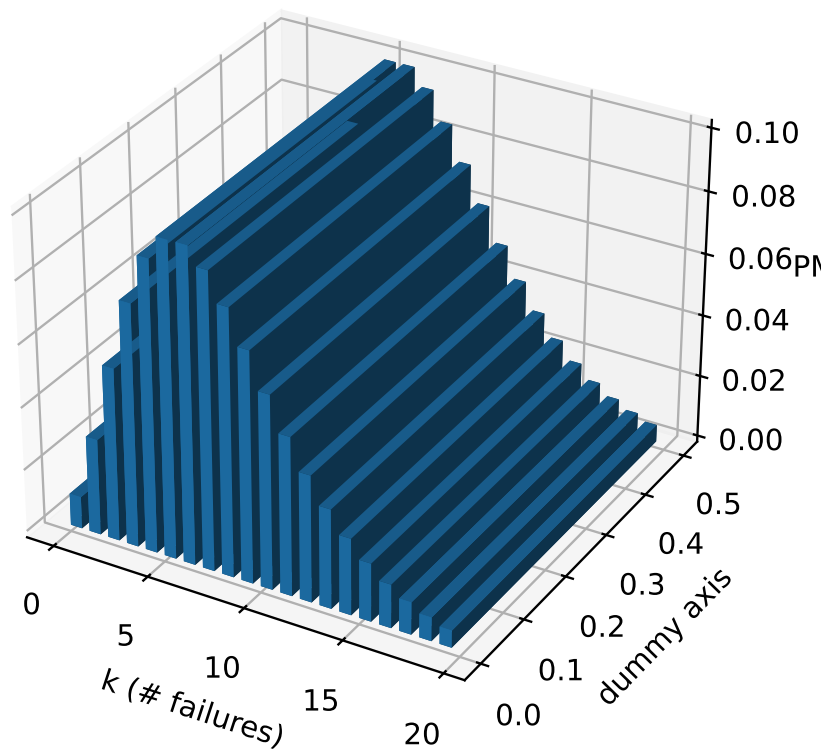


Figure 42: 3D bar chart of Negative Binomial( $r, p$ ) PMF.

## 43 Geometric Distribution

A special case of Negative binomial with  $r = 1$ :

$$P(X = k) = (1 - p)^k p, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Geometric( $p=0.3$ )

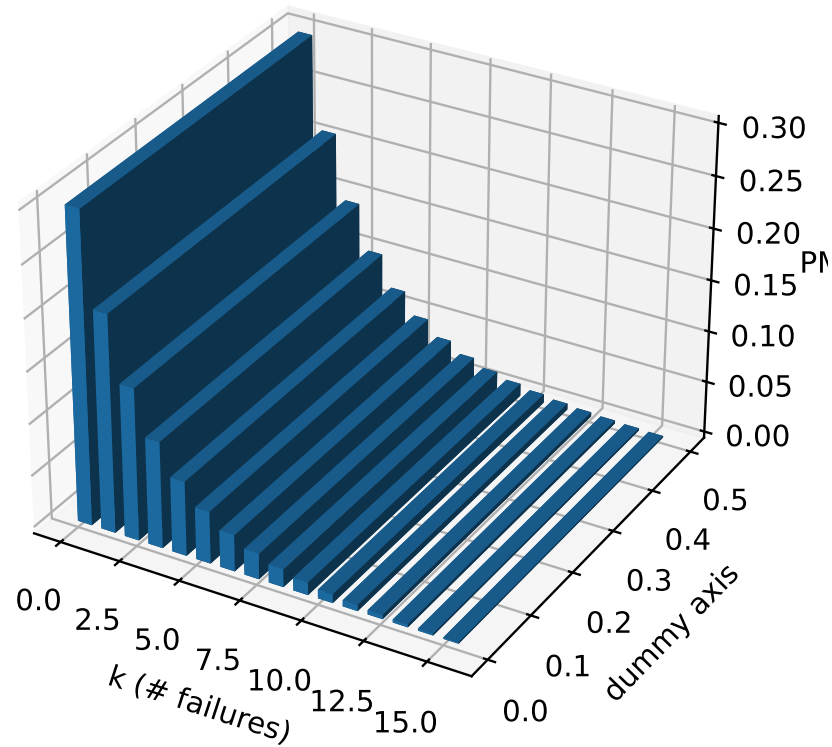


Figure 43: 3D bar chart of Geometric( $p$ ) PMF.



## 44 Hypergeometric Distribution

A Hypergeometric( $N, K, n$ ) distribution:

$$P(X = k) = \frac{\binom{K}{k} \binom{N-K}{n-k}}{\binom{N}{n}}.$$

Hypergeometric( $N=20, K=8, n=5$ )

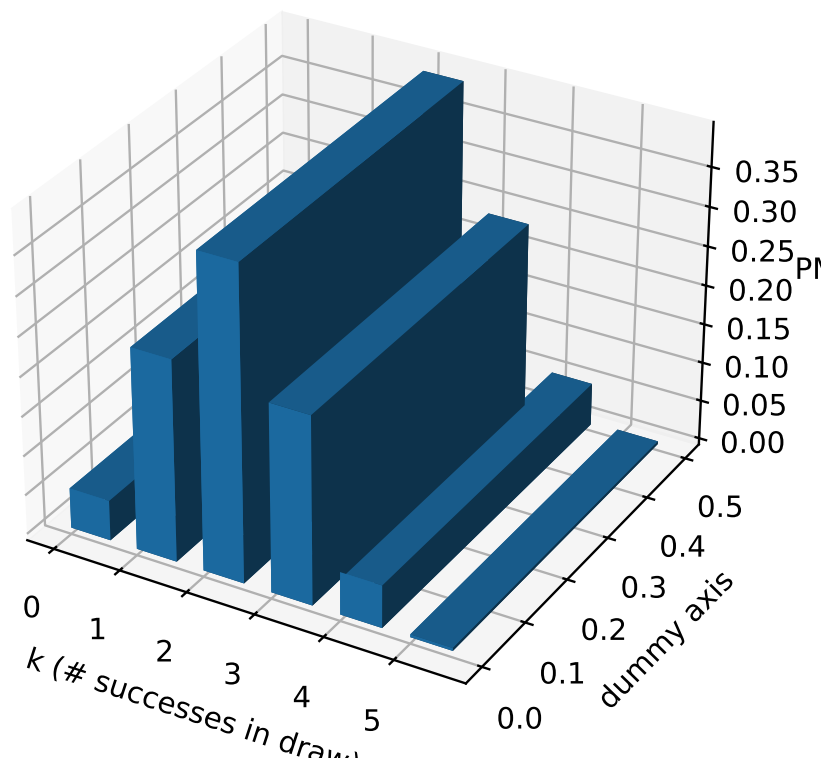


Figure 44: 3D bar chart of Hypergeometric( $N, K, n$ ) PMF.

## 45 Beta-binomial Distribution

A conjugate extension of Binomial with parameters  $(n, \alpha, \beta)$ :

$$P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} \frac{B(\alpha + k, \beta + n - k)}{B(\alpha, \beta) B(\alpha + \beta, n)}.$$

Beta-Binomial( $n=10$ ,  $\alpha=2$ ,  $\beta=3$ )

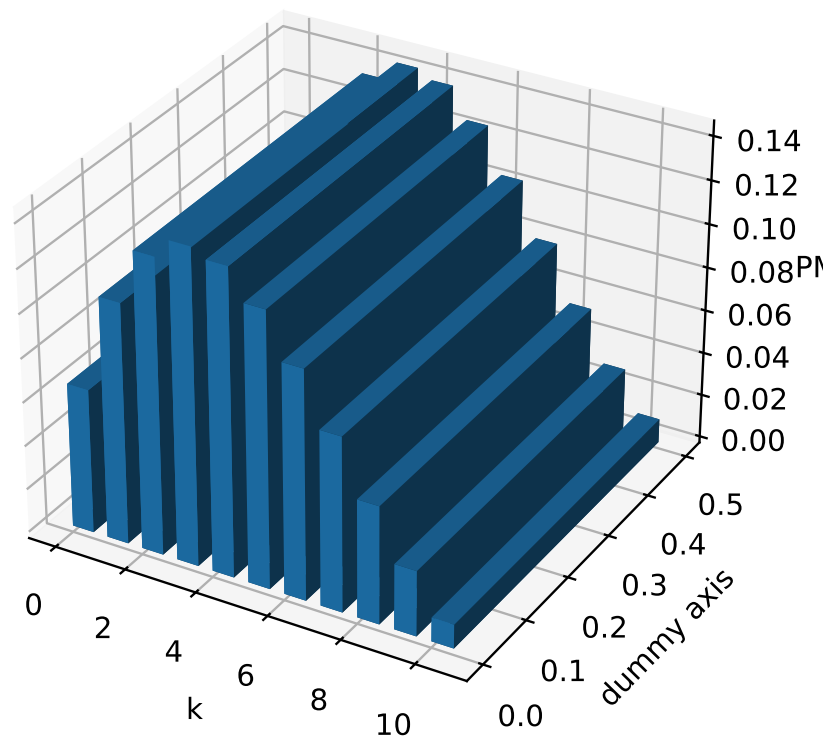


Figure 45: 3D bar chart of Beta-binomial( $n, \alpha, \beta$ ) PMF.

## 46 Categorical Distribution

For  $K$  categories with probabilities  $p_i$ ,

$$P(X = i) = p_i, \quad \sum_{i=1}^K p_i = 1.$$

Categorical  $p=[0.2, 0.5, 0.3]$

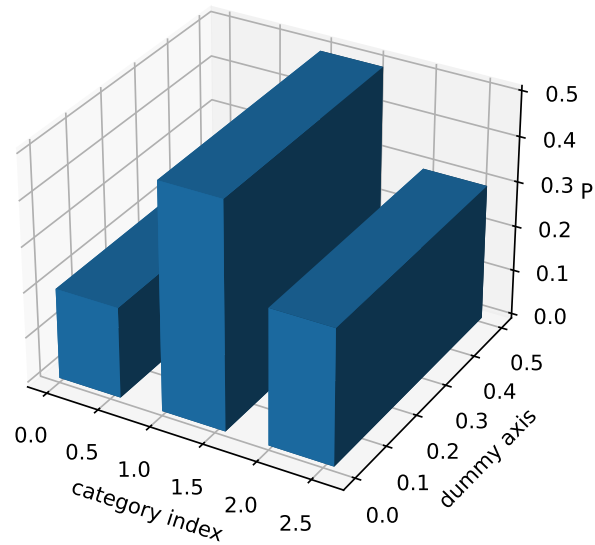


Figure 46: 3D bar chart of a Categorical distribution.

## 47 Multinomial Distribution

Generalizing Binomial to  $K$  categories:

$$P(X_1 = k_1, \dots, X_K = k_K) = \frac{n!}{k_1! \cdots k_K!} \prod_{i=1}^K p_i^{k_i}, \quad \sum k_i = n.$$

Multinomial( $n=5$ ,  $p=[0.3, 0.2, 0.5]$ )

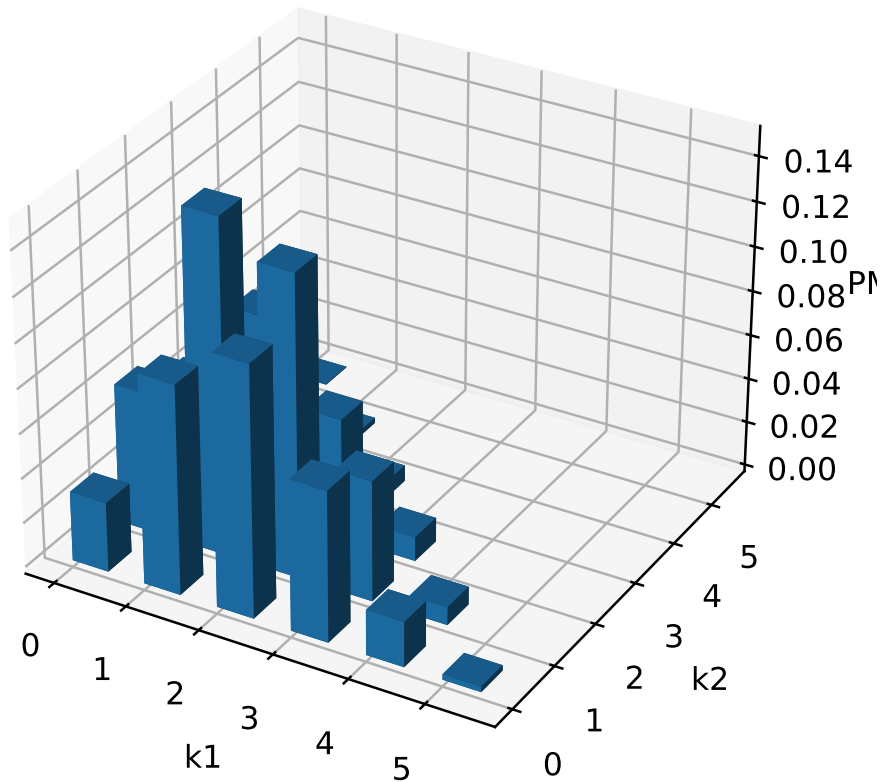


Figure 47: 3D bar chart of Multinomial( $n, p_1, \dots, p_K$ ) PMF for  $K = 3$ .

## 48 Multivariate Hypergeometric Distribution

A generalization of Hypergeometric to multiple categories. With  $K_i$  items in category  $i$ ,

$$P(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{k}) = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^K \binom{K_i}{k_i}}{\binom{N}{n}}, \quad \sum_{i=1}^K k_i = n.$$

Multivariate Hypergeometric( $K=[4, 5, 6]$ ,  $n=5$ )

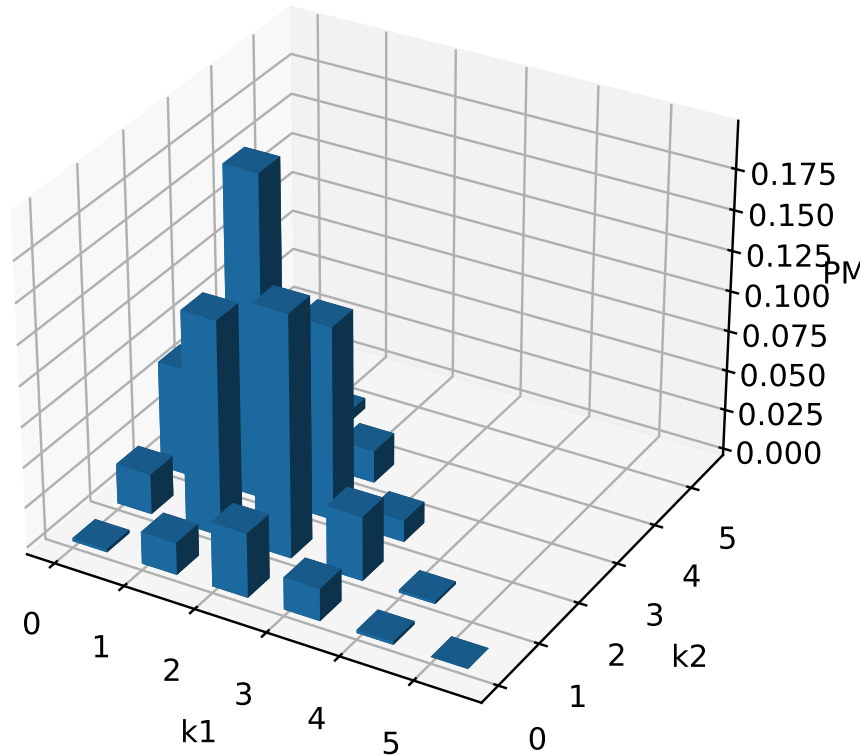


Figure 48: 3D bar chart for the Multivariate Hypergeometric distribution with  $K = 3$ .

## 49 Poisson Distribution

A  $\text{Poisson}(\lambda)$  distribution:

$$P(X = k) = \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!}, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$\text{Poisson}(\text{lambda}=3.0)$

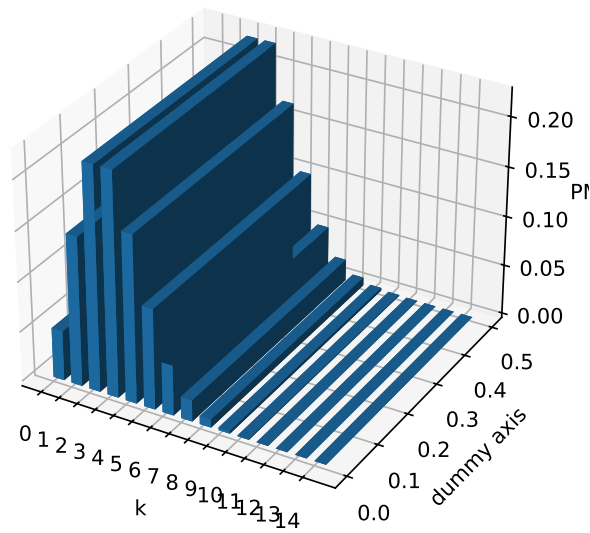


Figure 49: 3D bar chart of  $\text{Poisson}(\lambda)$  PMF.

## 50 Gamma Distribution

With shape  $\alpha$  and rate  $\beta$ :

$$f(x) = \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} x^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta x}, \quad x > 0.$$

Gamma(alpha=2.0, beta=1.0)

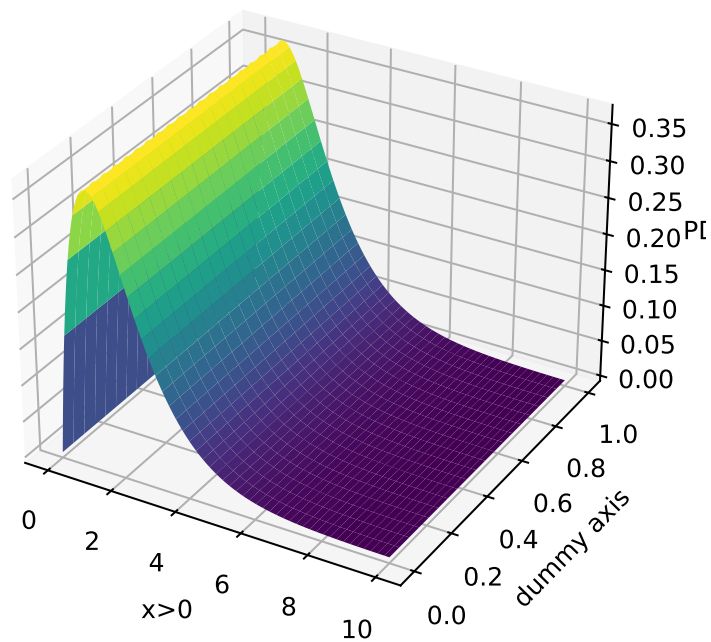


Figure 50: 3D surface plot of Gamma( $\alpha, \beta$ ) PDF.

## 51 Rayleigh Distribution

Rayleigh( $\sigma$ ):

$$f(r) = \frac{r}{\sigma^2} \exp\left(-\frac{r^2}{2\sigma^2}\right), \quad r \geq 0.$$

Rayleigh(sigma=1.0)

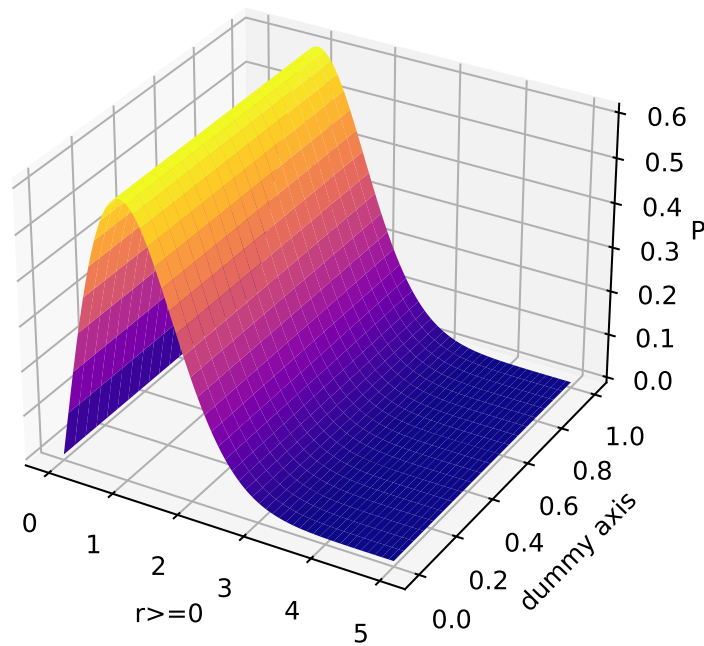


Figure 51: 3D surface plot of Rayleigh( $\sigma$ ) PDF.



## 52 Rice (Rician) Distribution

Rice( $\nu, \sigma$ ):

$$f(r) = \frac{r}{\sigma^2} \exp\left(-\frac{r^2 + \nu^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) I_0\left(\frac{r\nu}{\sigma^2}\right), \quad r \geq 0.$$

Rice(sigma=1.0, nu=1.0)

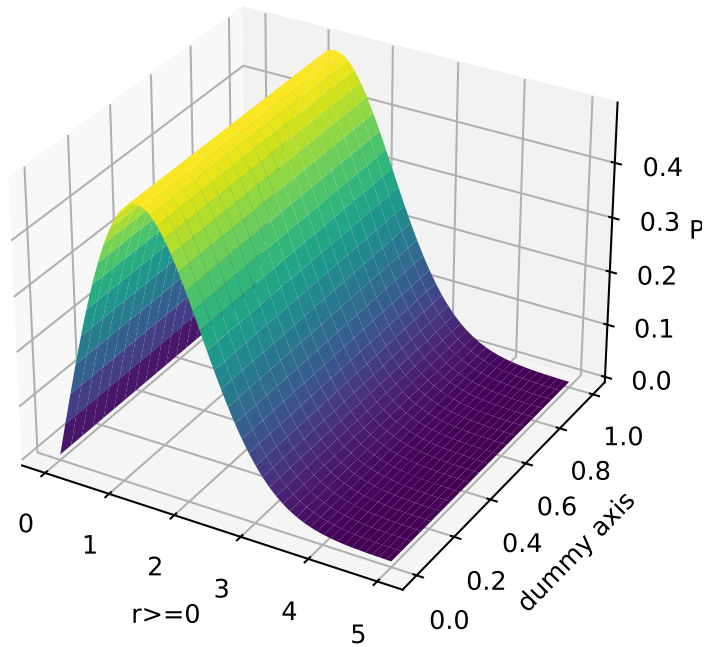


Figure 52: 3D surface plot of Rice( $\nu, \sigma$ ) PDF.

## 53 Chi-squared Distribution

Chi-squared with  $k$  degrees of freedom:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2^{k/2}\Gamma(\frac{k}{2})} x^{\frac{k}{2}-1} e^{-x/2}, \quad x > 0.$$

Chi-squared(k=3)

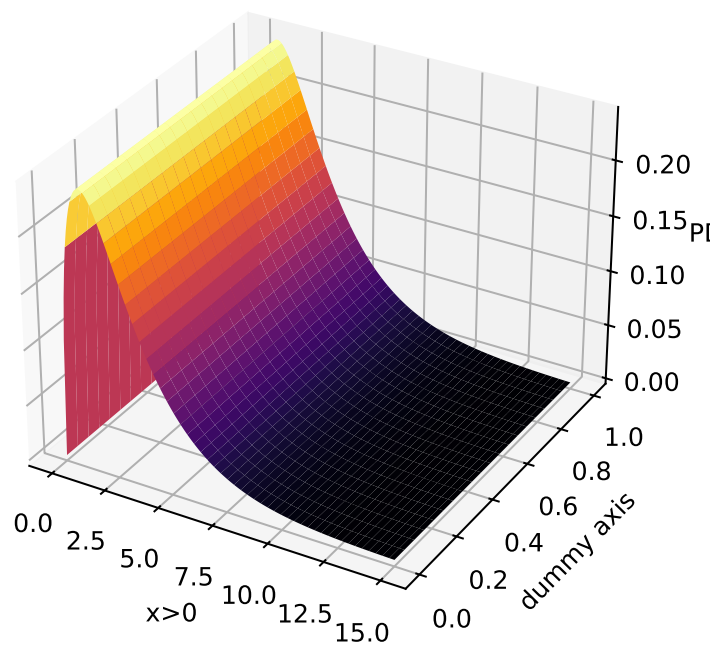


Figure 53: 3D surface plot of Chi-squared( $k$ ) PDF.

## 54 Student's t Distribution

With  $\nu$  degrees of freedom:

$$f(x) = \frac{\Gamma(\frac{\nu+1}{2})}{\sqrt{\nu\pi}\Gamma(\frac{\nu}{2})} \left(1 + \frac{x^2}{\nu}\right)^{-\frac{\nu+1}{2}}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Student's t(nu=3)

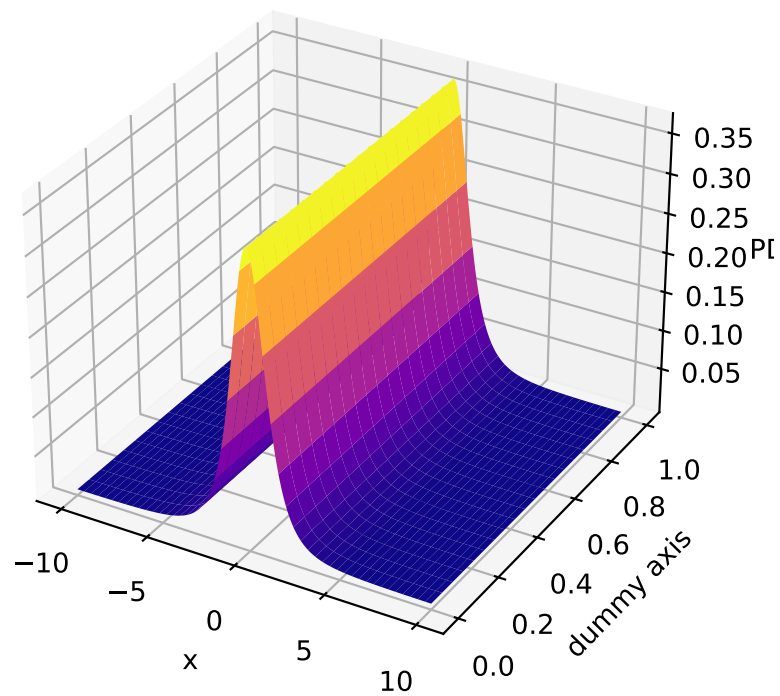


Figure 54: 3D surface plot of Student's  $t(\nu)$  PDF.

## 55 F-distribution

With degrees of freedom  $d_1, d_2$ :

$$f(x) = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{(d_1 x)^{d_1} d_2^{d_2}}{(d_1 x + d_2)^{d_1 + d_2}}}}{x B\left(\frac{d_1}{2}, \frac{d_2}{2}\right)}, \quad x > 0.$$

F-distribution(d1=5, d2=8)

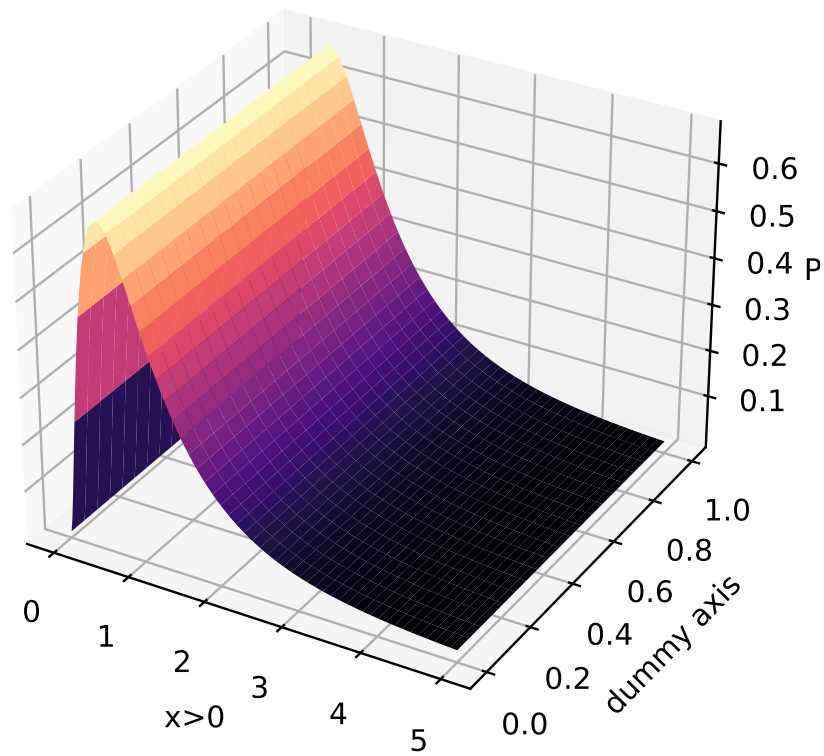


Figure 55: 3D surface plot of  $F(d_1, d_2)$  PDF.

## 56 Beta Distribution

With parameters  $\alpha, \beta$  on  $[0, 1]$ :

$$f(x) = \frac{x^{\alpha-1}(1-x)^{\beta-1}}{B(\alpha, \beta)}, \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1.$$

Beta(alpha=2, beta=3)

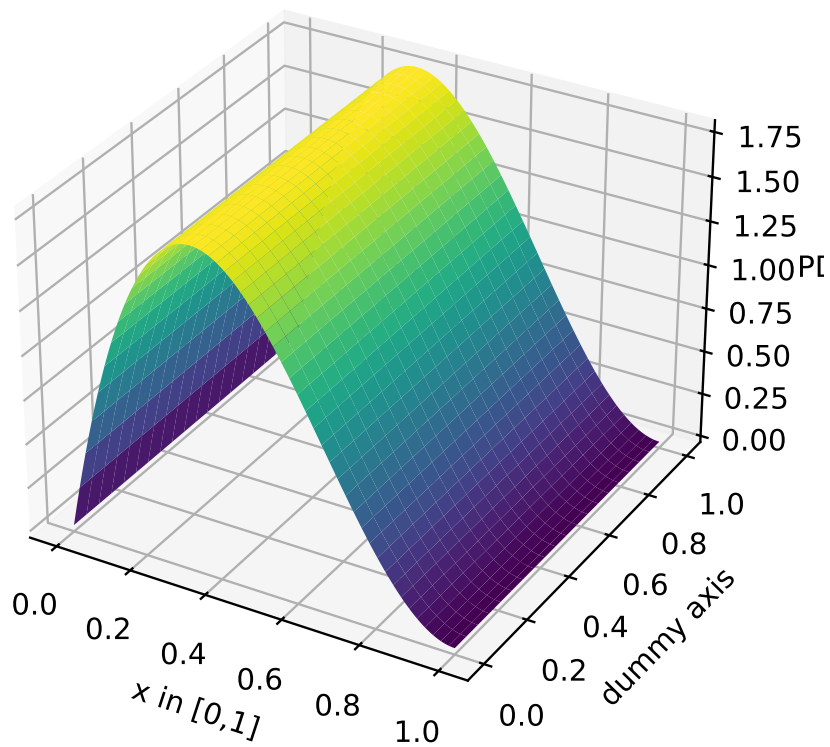


Figure 56: 3D surface plot of Beta( $\alpha, \beta$ ) PDF.

## 57 Dirichlet Distribution

A distribution over the probability simplex  $x_1 + x_2 + \cdots + x_K = 1, x_i \geq 0$ :

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Dirichlet(alpha=[2, 3, 4]), 2-simplex

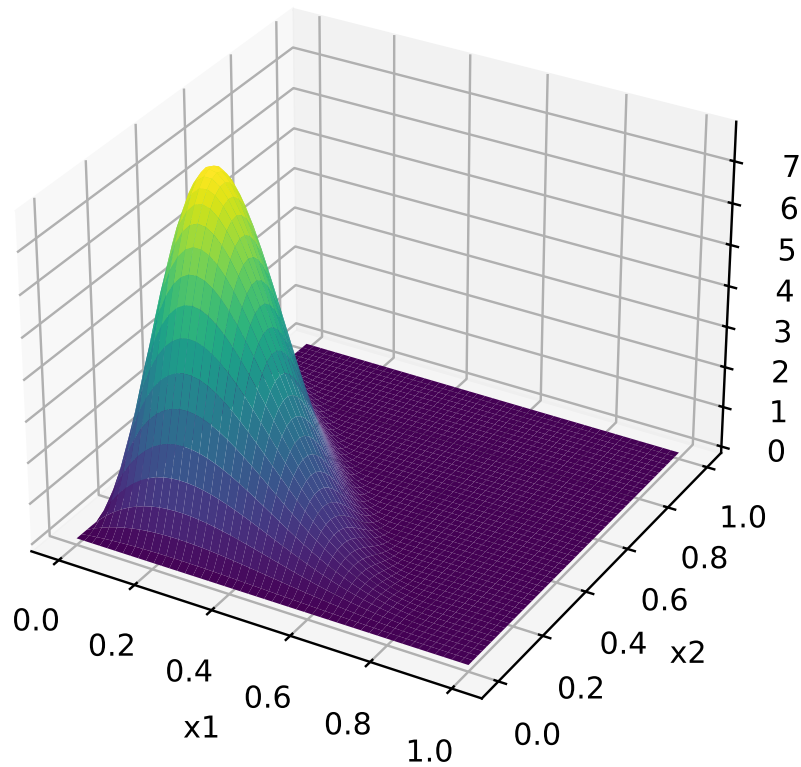


Figure 57: 3D surface plot of  $\text{Dirichlet}(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3)$  along 2-simplex.

## 58 Wishart Distribution (Placeholder Slice)

The Wishart distribution is matrix-valued. For a  $p \times p$  positive-definite matrix  $\mathbf{W}$ :

$$f(\mathbf{W}) \propto \det(\mathbf{W})^{\frac{\nu-p-1}{2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\text{tr}(\Sigma^{-1}\mathbf{W})\right).$$

Here, we show a *slice* for a  $2 \times 2$  Wishart (diagonal only), as a demonstration:

Wishart(2x2, I, nu=3) [diagonal slice]

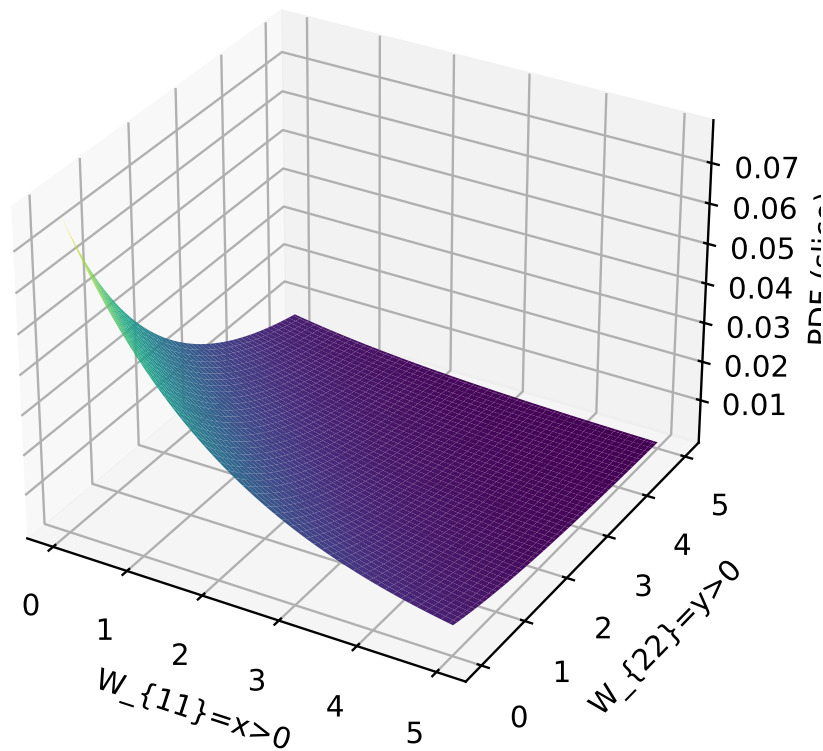


Figure 58: A 3D “slice” of  $\text{Wishart}(\nu, \Sigma = I)$  in 2D, restricting  $\mathbf{W}$  to diagonal.