

SECTION 6: CONDITIONAL PROBABILITY

EXERCISES

Exercise 1: The pdf of continuous random variable X is given in below:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{c}{\sqrt{x}}, & 0 < x < 4 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- a) Find the constant c .
- b) Find the conditional pdf $f(x|X < 1)$.
- c) Find the conditional cdf $F(x|X < 1)$.
- d) Find conditional expectation $E(X|X < 1)$.
- e) Find conditional variance $V(X|X < 1)$

Solution:

$$\text{a) } \int_{R_x} f(x) dx = 1 \Rightarrow \int_0^4 \frac{c}{\sqrt{x}} dx = 1 \Rightarrow 2c\sqrt{x} \Big|_0^4 = 4c \Rightarrow 4c = 1 \Rightarrow c = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{4\sqrt{x}}, & 0 < x < 4 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{b) } f(x|X < 1) = \frac{f(x)}{P(X < 1)} = \frac{\frac{1}{4\sqrt{x}}}{\int_0^1 \frac{1}{4\sqrt{x}} dx} = \frac{\frac{1}{4\sqrt{x}}}{\frac{\sqrt{x}}{2} \Big|_0^1} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$$

$$f(x|X < 1) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}, & 0 < x < 1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{c) } F(x|X < 1) = \frac{P((X \leq x) \cap (X < 1))}{P(X < 1)} = \frac{P(X \leq x)}{P(X < 1)} = \frac{F(x)}{F(1)}$$

$$F(x) = \int_0^x \frac{1}{4\sqrt{t}} dt = \frac{\sqrt{t}}{2} \Big|_0^x = \frac{\sqrt{x}}{2} \Rightarrow F(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\sqrt{x}}{2}, & 0 < x < 4 \\ 0, & x < 0 \\ 1, & x \geq 4 \end{cases}$$

$$F(x|X < 1) = \frac{F(x)}{F(1)} = \frac{\frac{\sqrt{x}}{2}}{\frac{\sqrt{1}}{2}} = \sqrt{x} \Rightarrow F(x|X < 1) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{x}, & 0 < x < 1 \\ 0, & x < 0 \\ 1, & x \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

*Second way of finding $f(x|X < 1)$ is $f(x|X < 1) = \frac{dF(x|X < 1)}{dx} = \frac{d(\sqrt{x})}{dx} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$

$$f(x|X < 1) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}, & 0 < x < 1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{d) } E(X|X < 1) = \int_0^1 x f(x|X < 1) dx = \int_0^1 x \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} dx = \int_0^1 \frac{\sqrt{x}}{2} dx = \frac{x^{3/2}}{3} \Big|_0^1 = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\text{e) } E(X^2|X < 1) = \int_0^1 x^2 f(x|X < 1) dx = \int_0^1 x^2 \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} dx = \int_0^1 \frac{x\sqrt{x}}{2} dx = \frac{x^{5/2}}{5} \Big|_0^1 = \frac{1}{5}$$

$$V(X|X < 1) = E(X^2|X < 1) - [E(X|X < 1)]^2 = \frac{1}{5} - \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 = \frac{4}{45}$$

Exercise 2: The pmf of discrete random variable X is given in below:

$$p(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x}{15}, & x = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Find the conditional pmf $p(x|X \leq 3)$.
- Find conditional expectation $E(X|X \leq 3)$.
- Find the conditional cdf $F(x|X \leq 3)$
- Find the conditional probability $P(3 < X \leq 5|X \leq 4)$.
- Find the conditional cdf. $F(x|X > 2)$

Solution:

$$\text{a) } p(x|X \leq 3) = \frac{p(x)}{P(X \leq 3)} = \frac{\frac{x}{15}}{\frac{1}{15}(1+2+3)} = \frac{\frac{x}{15}}{\frac{6}{15}} = \frac{x}{6} \Rightarrow p(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x}{6}, & x = 1, 2, 3 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{b) } E(X|X \leq 3) = \sum_{x=1}^3 x p(x|X \leq 3) = \sum_{x=1}^3 x \frac{x}{6} = \sum_{x=1}^3 \frac{x^2}{6} = \frac{14}{6} = \frac{7}{3}$$

$$\text{c) } F(x|X \leq 3) = \frac{P((X \leq x) \cap (X \leq 3))}{P(X \leq 3)} = \frac{P(X \leq x)}{P(X \leq 3)} = \frac{F(x)}{F(3)}$$

$$F(x) = \sum_{t=1}^x \frac{t}{15} = \frac{1}{15} \frac{x(x+1)}{2} = \frac{x(x+1)}{30} \Rightarrow F(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x(x+1)}{30}, & x=1,2,3,4,5 \\ 0, & x < 1 \\ 1, & x \geq 5 \end{cases}$$

$$F(x|X \leq 3) = \frac{F(x)}{F(3)} = \frac{\frac{x(x+1)}{30}}{\frac{12}{30}} = \frac{x(x+1)}{12}$$

$$F(x|X \leq 3) = \begin{cases} \frac{x(x+1)}{12}, & x=1,2,3 \\ 0, & x < 1 \\ 1, & x \geq 3 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{d) } P(3 < X \leq 5|X \leq 4) = \frac{P((3 < X \leq 5) \cap (X \leq 4))}{P(X \leq 4)} = \frac{P(3 < X \leq 4)}{P(X \leq 4)} = \frac{P(X=4)}{F(4)} = \frac{\frac{4}{15}}{\frac{4.5}{30}} = \frac{2}{5}$$

e)

$$F(x|X > 2) = \frac{P((X \leq x) \cap (X > 2))}{P(X > 2)} = \frac{P(2 < X \leq x)}{1 - P(X \leq 2)} = \frac{F(x) - F(2)}{1 - F(2)} = \frac{\frac{x(x+1)}{30} - \frac{2.3}{30}}{1 - \frac{2.3}{30}} = \frac{x(x+1) - 6}{24}$$

$$F(x|X > 2) = \begin{cases} \frac{x(x+1) - 6}{24}, & x=3,4,5 \\ 0, & x < 3 \\ 1, & x \geq 5 \end{cases}$$

Exercise 3: The pdf of continuous random variable X is given in below:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{56}(x+3), & 0 \leq x \leq 8 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- a) Find the conditional probability $P(X \leq 5 | 2 \leq X \leq 7)$.
- b) Find the conditional pdf $f(x | X \geq 3)$.
- c) Find the conditional cdf $F(x | X \geq 3)$
- d) Find the conditional probability $P\left(\frac{5}{2} < X < \frac{9}{2} | X \geq 3\right)$.

Solution:

$$\text{a) } F(x) = \int_0^x \frac{1}{56}(t+3)dt = \frac{1}{56} \left(\frac{t^2}{2} + 3t \right) \Bigg|_0^x = \frac{1}{56} \left(\frac{x^2}{2} + 3x \right)$$

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{112}(x^2 + 6x), & 0 \leq x \leq 8 \\ 0, & x < 0 \\ 1, & x \geq 8 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(X \leq 5 | 2 \leq X \leq 7) &= \frac{P((X \leq 5) \cap (2 \leq X \leq 7))}{P(2 \leq X \leq 7)} = \frac{P(2 \leq X \leq 5)}{P(2 \leq X \leq 7)} = \frac{F(5) - F(2)}{F(7) - F(2)} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{112}[(25+30) - (4+12)]}{\frac{1}{112}[(49+42) - (4+12)]} = \frac{13}{25} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{b) } f(x | X \geq 3) = \frac{f(x)}{P(X \geq 3)} = \frac{\frac{1}{56}(x+3)}{1 - P(X \leq 3)} = \frac{\frac{1}{56}(x+3)}{1 - \frac{1}{112}(9+18)} = \frac{2(x+3)}{85}$$

$$f(x | X \geq 3) = \begin{cases} \frac{2(x+3)}{85}, & 3 \leq x \leq 8 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c) } F(x|X \geq 3) &= \frac{P((X \leq x) \cap (X \geq 3))}{P(X \geq 3)} = \frac{P(3 \leq X \leq x)}{1 - P(X < 3)} = \frac{F(x) - F(3)}{1 - F(3)} = \frac{\frac{1}{112}(x^2 + 6x) - \frac{27}{112}}{1 - \frac{1}{112}(9 + 18)} \\ &= \frac{x^2 + 6x - 27}{85} \end{aligned}$$

$$F(x|X \geq 3) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^2 + 6x - 27}{85}, & 3 \leq x \leq 8 \\ 0, & x < 3 \\ 1, & x \geq 8 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{d) } P\left(\frac{5}{2} < X < \frac{9}{2} | X \geq 3\right) &= P\left(X \leq \frac{9}{2} | X \geq 3\right) - P\left(X \leq \frac{5}{2} | X \geq 3\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{85} \left(\frac{81}{4} + \frac{54}{2} - 27 \right) = \frac{81}{340} = 0.2382 \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 4: The pmf of discrete random variable X is given in below:

$$p(x) = \begin{cases} k(x+3), & x = 0, 1, \dots, 8 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- a) Find the conditional pmf $p(x|X \leq 5)$ and the conditional cdf $F(x|X \leq 5)$
- b) Find the conditional pmf $p(x|X > 5)$ and the conditional cdf $F(x|X > 5)$
- c) Find the conditional cdf $F(x|2 < X \leq 5)$
- d) Find conditional expectation $E(2X - 1|2 \leq X \leq 4)$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{x=0}^8 k(x+3) = 1 &\Rightarrow k \sum_{x=0}^8 (x+3) = k \sum_{x=1}^9 (x-1+3) = k \sum_{x=1}^9 (x+2) \\ &= k \left[\frac{9 \cdot 10}{2} + 2 \cdot 9 \right] = 63k \end{aligned}$$

$$63k = 1 \Rightarrow k = \frac{1}{63}$$

$$F(x) = \sum_{t=0}^x \frac{1}{63}(t+3) = \frac{1}{63} \sum_{t=1}^{x+1} (t-1+3) = \frac{1}{63} \sum_{t=1}^{x+1} (t+2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{63} \frac{(x+1)(x+2)}{2} + \frac{4(x+1)}{2} = \frac{(x+1)[(x+2)+4]}{126}$$

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{(x+1)(x+6)}{126}, & x = 0, 1, \dots, 8 \\ 0, & x < 0 \\ 1, & x \geq 8 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{a) } p(x|X \leq 5) = \frac{p(x)}{P(X \leq 5)} = \frac{\frac{1}{63}(x+3)}{F(5)} = \frac{\frac{1}{63}(x+3)}{\frac{66}{126}} = \frac{x+3}{33}$$

$$p(x|X \leq 5) = \begin{cases} \frac{x+3}{33}, & x = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$F(x|X \leq 5) = \frac{P((X \leq x) \cap (X \leq 5))}{P(X \leq 5)} = \frac{\frac{(x+1)(x+6)}{126}}{\frac{66}{126}} = \frac{(x+1)(x+6)}{66}$$

$$F(x|X \leq 5) = \begin{cases} \frac{(x+1)(x+6)}{66}, & x = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 \\ 0, & x < 0 \\ 1, & x \geq 5 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{b) } p(x|X > 5) = \frac{p(x)}{P(X > 5)} = \frac{p(x)}{1 - P(X \leq 5)} = \frac{\frac{1}{63}(x+3)}{1 - F(5)} = \frac{\frac{1}{63}(x+3)}{1 - \frac{66}{126}} = \frac{x+3}{30}$$

$$p(x|X > 5) = \begin{cases} \frac{x+3}{30}, & x = 6, 7, 8 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
F(x|X > 5) &= \frac{P((X \leq x) \cap (X > 5))}{P(X > 5)} = \frac{P(5 < X \leq x)}{1 - P(X \leq 5)} = \frac{F(x) - F(5)}{1 - F(5)} \\
&= \frac{\frac{(x+1)(x+6)}{126} - \frac{66}{126}}{\frac{60}{126}} = \frac{(x+1)(x+6) - 66}{60}
\end{aligned}$$

$$F(x|X > 5) = \begin{cases} \frac{(x+1)(x+6) - 66}{60}, & x = 6, 7, 8 \\ 0, & x < 6 \\ 1, & x \geq 8 \end{cases}$$

$$F(x|2 < X \leq 5) = \frac{P((X \leq x) \cap (2 < X \leq 5))}{P(2 < X \leq 5)} = \frac{P(2 < X \leq x)}{P(2 < X \leq 5)} = \frac{F(x) - F(2)}{F(5) - F(2)}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{c) } &= \frac{\frac{(x+1)(x+6)}{126} - \frac{3.8}{126}}{\frac{6.11}{126} - \frac{3.8}{126}} = \frac{(x+1)(x+6) - 24}{42}
\end{aligned}$$

$$F(x|2 < X \leq 5) = \begin{cases} \frac{(x+1)(x+6) - 24}{42}, & x = 3, 4, 5 \\ 0, & x < 3 \\ 1, & x \geq 5 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{d) } p(x|2 \leq X \leq 4) = \frac{p(x)}{P(2 \leq X \leq 4)} = \frac{p(x)}{F(4) - F(1)} = \frac{\frac{(x+3)}{63}}{\frac{50-14}{126}} = \frac{(x+3)}{18}$$

$$p(x|2 \leq X \leq 4) = \begin{cases} \frac{(x+3)}{18}, & x = 2, 3, 4 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
E(2X - 1|2 \leq X \leq 4) &= \sum_{x=2}^4 (2x - 1)p(x|2 \leq X \leq 4) = \sum_{x=2}^4 (2x - 1) \frac{(x+3)}{18} \\
&= \frac{94}{18} = \frac{47}{9}
\end{aligned}$$

Exercise 5: The pdf of continuous random variable X is given in below:

$$p(x) = \begin{cases} x, & 0 < x < 1 \\ 2-x, & 1 \leq x < 2 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Find the conditional pdf $f(x|X \geq 1)$ and the conditional cdf $F(x|X \geq 1)$

Solution:

$$0 < x < 1 \Rightarrow F(x) = \int_0^x t dt = \frac{t^2}{2} \Big|_0^x = \frac{x^2}{2}$$

$$1 \leq x < 2 \Rightarrow F(x) = \int_0^1 x dx + \int_1^x (2-t) dt = \frac{x^2}{2} \Big|_0^1 + \left(2t - \frac{t^2}{2} \right) \Big|_1^x = \frac{1}{2} + \left[\left(\frac{4x-x^2}{2} \right) - \left(\frac{4-1}{2} \right) \right] = \frac{-x^2+4x-2}{2}$$

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^2}{2}, & 0 < x < 1 \\ \frac{-x^2+4x-2}{2}, & 1 \leq x < 2 \\ 0, & x < 0 \\ 1, & x \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

$$f(x|X \geq 1) = \frac{f(x)}{1/2} = \frac{2-x}{1/2} = 2(2-x)$$

$$f(x|X \geq 1) = \begin{cases} 2(2-x), & 1 \leq x < 2 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$F(x|X \geq 1) = \frac{P(X \leq x \cap X \geq 1)}{P(X \geq 1)} = \frac{P(1 \leq X \leq x)}{1-P(X < 1)} = \frac{F(x)-F(1)}{1-F(1)} = \frac{(-x^2+4x-2)/2-1/2}{1-1/2} = -x^2+4x-3$$

$$F(x|X \geq 1) = \begin{cases} -x^2+4x-3, & 1 \leq x < 2 \\ 0, & x < 1 \\ 1, & x \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{or } F(x|X \geq 1) = \int_1^x f(t|t \geq 1) dt = \int_1^x 2(2-t) dt = 2 \left(2t - \frac{t^2}{2} \right) \Big|_1^x = -x^2+4x-3, \quad 1 \leq x < 2$$

Exercise 6: The pmf of discrete random variable X is given in below:

$$p(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x}{a}, & x = 1, 2 \\ \frac{x}{25}, & x = 3, 4, 5 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Find the constant a .
- Find the conditional pmf $p(x|X \leq 4)$ and the conditional cdf $F(x|X \leq 4)$.
- Find the conditional probability $P(1 < X \leq 2|X \leq 4)$.
- Find conditional expectation $E(X|X \leq 4)$ and conditional variance $V(X|X \leq 4)$.

Solution:

a)

$$\sum_{x \in R_X} p(x) = 1 \Rightarrow \sum_{x=1,2} \frac{x}{a} + \sum_{x=3,4,5} \frac{x}{25} = 1 \Rightarrow \frac{(1+2)}{a} + \frac{(3+4+5)}{25} = 1 \Rightarrow \frac{3}{a} = \frac{13}{25} \Rightarrow a = \frac{75}{13}$$

$$p(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{13x}{75}, & x = 1, 2 \\ \frac{x}{25}, & x = 3, 4, 5 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$p(x|X \leq 4) = \frac{p(x)}{P(X \leq 4)} = \frac{13x/75}{13(1+2)/75 + (3+4)/25} = \frac{13x/75}{20/25} = \frac{13x}{60}, \quad x = 1, 2$$

b)

$$p(x|X \leq 4) = \frac{p(x)}{P(X \leq 4)} = \frac{x/25}{20/25} = \frac{x}{20}, \quad x = 3, 4$$

$$p(x|X \leq 4) = \begin{cases} \frac{13x}{60}, & x = 1, 2 \\ \frac{x}{20}, & x = 3, 4 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

1. Way:

$$F(x|X \leq 4) = \begin{cases} \sum_{t=1}^x \frac{13t}{60} = \frac{13}{60} \frac{x(x+1)}{2} = \frac{13}{120} x(x+1), & x=1,2 \\ \sum_{x=1}^2 \frac{13x}{60} + \sum_{t=3}^x \frac{t}{20} = \frac{13}{60}(1+2) + \frac{1}{20} \left[\frac{x(x+1)}{2} - 3 \right] = \frac{x^2+x+20}{40}, & x=3,4 \end{cases}$$

$$F(x|X \leq 4) = \begin{cases} \frac{13}{120}(x^2+x), & x=1,2 \\ \frac{1}{40}(x^2+x+20), & x=3,4 \\ 0, & x < 1 \\ 1, & x \geq 4 \end{cases}$$

2. Way:

$$F(x|X \leq 4) = P(X \leq x|X \leq 4) = \frac{P(X \leq x \cap X \leq 4)}{P(X \leq 4)} = \frac{P(X \leq x)}{P(X \leq 4)} = \frac{F(x)}{F(4)}$$

$$F(x) = \sum_{t=1}^x \frac{13}{75} t = \frac{13}{75} \frac{x(x+1)}{2} = \frac{13}{150}(x^2+x), \quad x=1,2$$

$$F(x) = \sum_{x=1}^2 \frac{13x}{75} + \sum_{t=3}^x \frac{t}{25} = \frac{13}{75}(1+2) + \frac{1}{25} \left[\frac{x(x+1)}{2} - 3 \right] = \frac{x^2+x+20}{50}, \quad x=3,4$$

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{13}{150}(x^2+x), & x=1,2 \\ \frac{1}{50}(x^2+x+20), & x=3,4,5 \\ 0, & x < 1 \\ 1, & x \geq 5 \end{cases}$$

$$F(x|X \leq 4) = \frac{F(x)}{F(4)} = \frac{13(x^2+x)/150}{20/25} = \frac{13}{120}(x^2+x), \quad x=1,2$$

$$F(x|X \leq 4) = \frac{F(x)}{F(4)} = \frac{(x^2+x+20)/50}{20/25} = \frac{1}{40}(x^2+x+20), \quad x=3,4$$

$$F(x|X \leq 4) = \begin{cases} \frac{13}{120}(x^2 + x), & x = 1, 2 \\ \frac{1}{40}(x^2 + x + 20), & x = 3, 4 \\ 0, & x < 1 \\ 1, & x \geq 4 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{c) } P(1 < X \leq 2 | X \leq 4) = P(X = 2 | X \leq 4) = \frac{P(X = 2 \cap X \leq 4)}{P(X \leq 4)} = \frac{P(X = 2)}{P(X \leq 4)} = \frac{\frac{13}{75}}{\frac{20}{25}} = \frac{13}{30}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} E(X | X \leq 4) &= \sum_{x=1}^2 x \frac{13x}{60} + \sum_{x=3}^4 x \frac{x}{20} = \sum_{x=1}^2 \frac{13x^2}{60} + \sum_{x=3}^4 \frac{x^2}{20} \\ \text{d) } &= \frac{13}{60}(1^2 + 2^2) + \frac{1}{20}(3^2 + 4^2) \\ &= 7/3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E(X^2 | X \leq 4) &= \sum_{x=1}^2 x^2 \frac{13x}{60} + \sum_{x=3}^4 x^2 \frac{x}{20} = \sum_{x=1}^2 \frac{13x^3}{60} + \sum_{x=3}^4 \frac{x^3}{20} \\ &= \frac{13}{60}(1^3 + 2^3) + \frac{1}{20}(3^3 + 4^3) \\ &= 13/2 \end{aligned}$$

$$V(X | X \leq 4) = E(X^2 | X \leq 4) - [E(X | X \leq 4)]^2 = 13/2 - (7/3)^2 = 19/18.$$