

Probability Distributions

2025-10-28

Discrete Distributions

Distribution	Support	PMF	Mean	Variance
Bernoulli ( $p$ )	$\{0, 1\}$	$p^x(1-p)^{1-x}$	$p$	$p(1-p)$
Binomial ( $n, p$ )	$\{0, 1, 2, \dots, n\}$	$\binom{n}{k} p^k(1-p)^{n-k}$	$np$	$np(1-p)$
Geometric ( $p$ )	$\{1, 2, \dots\}$ or $\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$	$(1-p)^{k-1}p$ or $(1-p)^k p$	$1/p$ or $(1-p)/p$	$(1-p)/p^2$
Negative Binomial ( $r, p$ )	$\{r, r+1, \dots\}$ or $\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$	$\binom{k-1}{r-1} p^r(1-p)^{k-r}$ or $\binom{k+r-1}{r-1} p^r(1-p)^k$	$r/p$ or $r(1-p)/p$	$r(1-p)/p^2$
Poisson ( $\lambda$ )	$\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$	$\frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^k}{k!}$	$\lambda$	$\lambda$

Continuous Distributions

Distribution	Support	Parameters	PDF	Mean	Variance
Uniform ( $a, b$ )	$[a, b]$	$a, b$	$\frac{1}{b-a}$	$\frac{a+b}{2}$	$\frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$
Exponential ( $\lambda$ )	$[0, \infty)$	$\lambda$	$\lambda e^{-\lambda x}$	$\frac{1}{\lambda}$	$\frac{1}{\lambda^2}$
Normal ( $\mu, \sigma^2$ )	$(-\infty, \infty)$	$\mu, \sigma$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$	$\mu$	$\sigma^2$
Gamma ( $\alpha, \beta$ )	$[0, \infty)$	$\alpha, \beta$	$\frac{\beta^\alpha x^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta x}}{\Gamma(\alpha)}$	$\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$	$\frac{\alpha}{\beta^2}$
Beta ( $\alpha, \beta$ )	$[0, 1]$	$\alpha, \beta$	$\frac{x^{\alpha-1}(1-x)^{\beta-1}}{B(\alpha, \beta)}$	$\frac{\alpha}{\alpha+\beta}$	$\frac{\alpha\beta}{(\alpha+\beta)^2(\alpha+\beta+1)}$