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Continuous r.v.

a Geometric experiment is equivalent to performing many iid Bernoulli experiments with the 'stopping time' of the 1st successful Bernoulli. e.g. you keep flipping that proverbial coin until it lands Heads. It can happen on the 1st flip or on the n^{th}.

$T \sim Geometric(p) := (1-p)^{t-1} p$ $F(t) = 1-(1-p)^t$ $T_n = X_1 + X_2 + ... + X_n$

- Now imagine we are conducting these iid Bernoulli experiments $X_1, X_2, ..., X_n$ each every second.
- Next imagine we are able to perform n-number of iid Bernoulli experiments $X_1, X_2, ..., X_n$ in a single second. Meaning, our Geometric experiment might be over in under one second.

$E[T] = \frac{1}{p}$ experiments $\cdot \frac{1 sec}{n\ experiments} = \frac{1}{np}$ sec

doing so many iid Bernoullis alters our PMF $p(t) = (1-p)^{nt-1} p$ and CDF $F(t) = 1-(1-p)^{nt}$

- Imagine n-large but p-small

Let $\lambda = n p \rightarrow p := \frac{\lambda}{n}$ reparametrization

PMF
- Lets make n-humongous $n \rightarrow \infty$, BUT λ remains a reasonable constant e.g. 1,...,10, which means that p vanishes at the same rate as $n \rightarrow \infty$. If the experiments occur continuously, what happens to the PMF (remember PMF is a discrete function)?

$\lim_{n\to\infty} p(t) = \lim (1-\frac{\lambda}{n})^{nt-1} \frac{\lambda}{n} = 1 \cdot 0 = 0$ NO valid PMF!

$\sum p(t) = 0 \neq 1$

CDF
- So at the moment as $n \rightarrow \infty$ there in no valid PMF, meaning T is not a valid discrete r.v. - how about CDF?

$\lim_{n\to\infty} F(t) = \lim 1-(1-\frac{\lambda}{n})^{nt} = 1 - e^{-\lambda t}$

CDF $F(t) = 1 - e^{-\lambda t}$ is this a valid CDF?

proving a valid CDF

4 properties every CDF must satisfy

1. $F(t) \in [0,1]$
2. $\lim_{t\to\infty} F(t) = 1$
3. $\lim_{t\to-\infty} F(t) = 0$
4. $a \le b \rightarrow F(a) \le F(b)$; $a < b \rightarrow F(a) < F(b)$ False — monotonically increasing

ok, so we satisfy the [0,1]

$\lim_{t\to\infty} F(t) = \lim 1 - e^{-\lambda t} = 1 - 0 = 1$

$\lim_{t\to-\infty} F(t) = 0$

$\frac{d}{dt}[F(t)] = \frac{d}{dt}[1-e^{-\lambda t}] = \lambda e^{-\lambda t} \ge 0$

PDF – Probability Density Function

$f(t) := \frac{d}{dt}[F(t)] = \frac{d}{dt}[1-e^{-\lambda t}] = 0 - -\lambda e^{-\lambda t} = \lambda e^{-\lambda t}$

PDF: answers the question: how dense is the probability in a certain region? how quickly is the CDF collecting probabilities?

exponential decay function

let $\lambda=2$: $f(1) = 2e^{-2 \cdot 1} \approx 0.27$, $p(1) = 0$; $f(0.1) = 2e^{-2 \cdot 0.1} \approx 1.63$, $p(0.1) = 0$

$p(1) = P(T=1) = \int_1^1 f(t)\,dt = 0$

$f(0.1) > 1$ Possible - Yes... PDF is NOT a probability

PDF is a completely abstract metric that is good for 2 things:
1. Integrating to find the probabilities of a region via the Fund Theorem of Calc
2. Compare two points relative likelihoods

$P(T \in [-\infty,\infty]) = 1$ why? $= \int f(t)\,dt = 1$

PDF propensity a la $\sum p(x) = 1$

$P(T=3) = p(3) = 0$; $P(T=4.9) = p(4.9) = 0$; $P(T=2.3876) = p(2.3876) = 0$; $P(T=300000) = p(300000) = 0$

??? how can a probability of everything be 0? paradox?

$P(T \in [a,b]) = \int_a^b f(t)\,dt = F(b) - F(a)$ Fundamental Theorem of Calculus

Does Continuity exist?

Is Time Discrete or Continuous? It is a big open question in Physics. We do not know. It goes back to whether quantum gravity is real or not (Quantum Theory).

if quantum gravity is real: plank length $1.62 \cdot 10^{-35}$m; plank time $5.3 \cdot 10^{-44}$s; light speed $3 \cdot 10^8$ m/s

if gravity is quantized, then time is discrete, which means there is no such thing as Continuous r.v.

Support of Cont. r.v.

Thus squeezing infinitely many Bernoullis into a single second broke our PMF, which means that our Geometric experiment is NOT a discrete r.v. However, it does have a CDF. If you have a CDF, you have a r.v. It is not like any random variable we have seen before, it is a new kind of a r.v. T is a Continuous r.v.

$Supp[T] = (0,\infty) = [0,\infty)$

$|Supp[T]| = |\mathbb{R}| > |\mathbb{N}|$

Properties of Continuous r.v.

1. $|Supp[X]| = |\mathbb{R}|$ continuum
2. Has valid CDF F(x) no jumps
3. PMF $p(x) := P(X=x)$ does not exist
4. PDF exists $f(x) \ge 0$ and $\int_{Supp[X]} f(x)\,dx = 1$

Def. of Identical Distribution for Cont. r.v.s

X_1, X_2 Cont. r.v. and $X_1 \stackrel{d}{=} X_2$ if $f_1(x) = f_2(x)$ → PDFs are the same; if $F_1(x) = F_2(x)$ → CDFs are the same; no PMFs

PDF - probability densities

lets discretize this cont. r.v. by taking 'Midpoint Rule' approximations 'backwards'

rectangle areas are probabilities

we got an approximation of a PDF in form of a PMF approximated continuous r.v. is a discrete r.v.

$E[X] = \sum x\,p(x)$

increasing the resolution gives us a better approximation, but no matter how good the resolution is, it is still an approximation

remember? Riemann sums

allowing the separation between each value to approach 0 will allow us to calculate the exact area which is the probability

area = 1

$E[X] = \int x f(x)\,dx$

$Var[X] = E[(X-\mu)^2]$

$Var[X] = \int (x-\mu)^2 f(x)\,dx$

same as before

$E[aX+c] = aE[X]+c$; $Var[aX+c] = a^2\sigma^2$; $SE[aX+c] = |a|\,SE[X] = |a|\,\sigma$; $E[\Sigma X] = \Sigma E[X] = n\,E[X]$; $Var[\Sigma X] = \Sigma Var[X] = n\,Var[X]$

$Var[Z] = E[Z^2] - \mu^2$

Exponential r.v.

thus we took a Geometric and drove an infinite amount of iid Bernoullis into each second. It turns out that by doing that we arrived at a very famous Cont. r.v. called Exponential r.v.

$X \sim Exponential(\lambda) := \lambda e^{-\lambda x}$

$Supp[X] = (0,\infty)$; Parameter Space $\lambda \in (0,\infty)$

$E[X] = \frac{1}{\lambda}$; $Var[X] = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$; $SE[X] = \frac{1}{\lambda}$

Geometric is called 'memoryless'... Is Exponential also 'memoryless'?

Exponential has a memorylessness property

$P(X>a+b \mid X>b) = P(X>a)$

$P(X>a) = e^{-\lambda a}$

CDF $P(X \le x) = F(x) = 1-e^{-\lambda x}$

$P(X>x) = 1-F(x) = e^{-\lambda x}$

$E[X] = \int_0^\infty x \lambda e^{-\lambda x}\,dx = \lambda \int x e^{-\lambda x}\,dx$

integration by parts $\int u\,dv = uv - \int v\,du$

$E[X] = \frac{1}{\lambda}$

	single stop	multi stop
discrete	Geometric	NegativeBinomial
continuous	Exponential	Erlang

Var[X] is derived also using the integration by parts – hw

Standard Normal r.v.

find σ^2: $Var[X] = E[X^2] - \mu^2 = \int (x-\mu)^2 f(x)\,dx$

$SE[X] = \sqrt{\sigma^2} = \sqrt{1} = 1$

$Z \sim N(0,1) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}}$

'Standard Normal r.v.' aka 'Bell Curve' aka 'Gaussian r.v.'

$SE[Z] = \sigma = 1$; $Var[Z] = \sigma^2 = 1$; $E[Z] = \mu = 0$; $Supp[Z] = \mathbb{R}$

find μ; find CDF

it has been proven that it is impossible to find this antiderivative! - NO CLOSED FORM

'68-95-997 rule'

	PMF	PDF	CDF	E[X]	Var[X]	|Supp[X]|	Quantile[X]
Discrete r.v.	$p(x) \in [0,1]$, $\sum p(x) = 1$	no PDF	Yes	$\sum x\,p(x)$	$\sum (x-\mu)^2 p(x)$	$\le \|\mathbb{N}\|$	min {x: F(x) ≥ p}
Continuous r.v.	no PMF	$f(x) \ge 0$, $\int f(x)\,dx = 1$	Yes	$\int x f(x)\,dx$	$\int (x-\mu)^2 f(x)\,dx$	$= \|\mathbb{R}\| > \|\mathbb{N}\|$	x s.t. F(x) = p

$f(x) = \frac{d}{dx}$ [CDF]

68-95-997 rule

$P(Z \in [a,b]) = F(b) - F(a)$

$P(Z \in [-1,1]) = F(1) - F(-1) \approx .68$
$P(Z \in [-2,2]) = F(2) - F(-2) \approx .95$
$P(Z \in [-3,3]) = F(3) - F(-3) \approx .997$

'68-95-997 rule' aka '3 sigma rule' aka 'empirical rule'

let $X \sim Exponential(\lambda)$, $Y = 2X$ how is this distributed?

$Y \sim Exponential(\frac{\lambda}{2})$

let $X \sim Uniform(a,b)$, $Y = cX + d$ how is this distributed?

$Y \sim Uniform(ac+d, bc+d)$

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Uniform Cont. r.v.

$X \sim Uniform(a,b) := \frac{1}{b-a}$

$Supp[X] = [a,b]$; Parameter Space $a \in \mathbb{R}$, $b \in \mathbb{R}$, $a<b$

$Var[X] = \frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$; $E[X] = \frac{b+a}{2}$

CDF $P(X \le x) = F(x) = \frac{x-a}{b-a}$

find μ; find CDF; find σ^2

$SE[X] = \frac{b-a}{\sqrt{12}}$

$X \sim Uniform(0,1) = 1$

Standard Uniform

pick a number between 0 and 1 at random - it is the algorithmic foundation for all randomness inside computers, every programing language has a way of pulling a realization out of this.

Java - Math.random() returns a number from zero to one.

General Normal r.v.

$Z \sim N(0,1)$ Let $X = \mu + \sigma Z$ how is this distributed?

$F_X(x) = P(X \le x) = P(\mu+\sigma Z \le x) = P(Z \le \frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}) = F_Z(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma})$

unknown since $F_Z(x)$ ('bell curve' CDF) is unknown

$X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2) := f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$ 'General Normal Distribution'

Param Space: $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$, $\sigma^2 \in (0,\infty)$

$\mu=0$, $\sigma=1$ 'Standard Normal Distribution'

$Supp[X] = \mathbb{R}$

$E[X] = E[\mu+\sigma Z] = \mu$

$SE[X] = SE[\mu+\sigma Z] = \sigma$

gives us a very flexible 'bell curve' (squeeze/stretchable and centered dynamically)

PDF