

Probability Revision Sheet

■ Probability Functions

1. Probability Mass Function (PMF): Defines probability for discrete random variables.

Formula: $P(X = x) = p(x)$, where $\sum p(x) = 1$

2. Probability Density Function (PDF): Defines probability for continuous random variables.

Formula: $f(x) \geq 0$ and $\int f(x) dx = 1$

3. Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF): Probability that $X \leq x$.

Formula: $F(x) = P(X \leq x)$

■ Types of Probability Distributions

Distribution	Type	Formula	Mean	Variance	When to Use
Bernoulli	Discrete	$p^x(1-p)^{(1-x)}$	p	$p(1-p)$	Single trial
Binomial	Discrete	$C(n,k)p^k(1-p)^{(n-k)}$	np	$np(1-p)$	Fixed trials
Poisson	Discrete	$\frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!}$	λ	λ	Rare events
Normal	Continuous	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}}e^{-(x-\mu)^2/2\sigma^2}$	μ	σ^2	Symmetric data
Std Normal	Continuous	$Z=(x-\mu)/\sigma$	0	1	Hypothesis testing
Log-Normal	Continuous	$\ln(X) \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$	-	-	Skewed positive

■ Important Properties

Bernoulli: Two outcomes (0,1), success probability p .

Binomial: Fixed trials, each trial independent.

Poisson: Events occur randomly over time/space.

Normal: Symmetric, 68-95-99 rule.

Log-Normal: Data is positive and skewed right.

■ Standard Normal & Z-Score

$$Z = (x - \mu) / \sigma$$