

Section 6.6: Bivariate Transformations using Jacobians

Often, we are interested in find the probability distribution of a function of two or more random variables and/or the joint distribution of functions of multivariate random variables.

For example, suppose two random variables Y_1 and Y_2 have joint pdf/pmf $f_{Y_1, Y_2}(y_1, y_2)$.

We are sometimes interested in a new bivariate random vector (U, V) defined by $U = g_1(Y_1, Y_2)$ and $V = g_2(Y_1, Y_2)$, and we want to find either the CDF/pdf/pmf of U or V , or the joint pdf/pmf of (U, V) .

In such situations, we can extend the methods used in the univariate case to the bivariate (or multivariate) case.

Example:

A shipping company handles containers in three different sizes:

(1) 27 ft³, (2) 125 ft³, and (3) 512 ft³.

Let Y_i ($i = 1, 2, 3$) denote the number of type i containers shipped during a given week.

Total volume shipped = $27Y_1 + 125Y_2 + 512Y_3 = g(y_1, y_2, y_3)$

Example:

A gas station sells three grades of gasoline: regular, extra, and super. These are priced at \$3.00, \$3.20, and \$3.40 per gallon, respectively. Let Y_1 , Y_2 , and Y_3 denote the amounts of these grades purchased (gallons) on a particular day.

Suppose the Y_i are independent and each Y_i has pdf of $f(y_i)$.

The revenue from sales is $U = 3Y_1 + 3.2Y_2 + 3.4Y_3 = g(y_1, y_2, y_3)$

Find the probability that revenue exceeds 4500. That is, find $P(U > 4500) = ?$

Need to know pdf of U .

Example:

Five automobiles of the same type are to be driven on a 300-mile trip. The first two will use an economy brand of gasoline, and the other three will use a name brand.

Let Y_1, Y_2, Y_3, Y_4 , and Y_5 be the observed fuel efficiencies (mpg) for the five cars.

Suppose these variables are independent and normally distributed with

$\mu_1 = \mu_2 = 20$, $\mu_3 = \mu_4 = \mu_5 = 21$, $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2 = 2$ and $\sigma_3 = \sigma_4 = \sigma_5 = 1.1$.

U is a measure of the difference in efficiency between economy gas and name-brand gas and defined as

$$U = \frac{Y_1 + Y_2}{2} - \frac{Y_3 + Y_4 + Y_5}{3}$$

Compute $P(U \leq 0)$ and $P(-1 \leq U \leq 1)$. Need to know pdf of U .

Example:

Suppose your waiting time for a bus in the morning is denoted by Y_1 and uniformly distributed on $[0, 8]$ minutes, whereas waiting time in the evening is denoted by Y_2 and uniformly distributed on $[0, 10]$ minutes independent of morning waiting time.

a. If you take the bus each morning and evening for a week, what is your total expected waiting time?

$$U = 7(Y_1 + Y_2) = g(Y_1, Y_2)$$

b. What is the variance of your total waiting time per week? $Var(U) = ?$

c. What is the probability that the difference between morning and evening waiting times on a given day is less than 5 minutes? $P(|Y_1 - Y_2| < 5) = ?$

Need to know pdf of $Y_1 - Y_2$.

Now, suppose Y_1 and Y_2 are (absolutely) **continuous** random variables. If there is a one-to-one transformation from the support of (Y_1, Y_2) to the support of (U_1, U_2) , the **Jacobian** method discussed for the univariate case can be extended to find the joint distribution of (U_1, U_2) in the bivariate case.

Bivariate Transformations for Continuous Random Variables using Jacobian:

Suppose Y_1 and Y_2 are (absolutely) continuous random variables with joint pdf $f_{Y_1, Y_2}(y_1, y_2)$.

Let $U_1 = h_1(Y_1, Y_2)$

Let $U_2 = h_2(Y_1, Y_2)$

These are two different functions of Y_1 and Y_2 .

Suppose the transformation pair $u_1 = h_1(y_1, y_2)$ and $u_2 = h_2(y_1, y_2)$ is **one-to-one**.

Then, for each (u_1, u_2) in the support of (U_1, U_2) ,

$y_1 = h_1^{-1}(u_1, u_2)$

and $y_2 = h_2^{-1}(u_1, u_2)$

These are functions of u_1 and u_2 . These are found by solving $u_1 = h_1(y_1, y_2)$ and $u_2 = h_2(y_1, y_2)$ for y_1 and y_2 .

If y_1 and y_2 have continuous partial derivatives with respect to u_1 and u_2 , and **absolute value of the Jacobian**:

$$\begin{aligned}
 |J| &= \left| \text{determinant} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial h_1^{-1}(u_1, u_2)}{\partial u_1} & \frac{\partial h_1^{-1}(u_1, u_2)}{\partial u_2} \\ \frac{\partial h_2^{-1}(u_1, u_2)}{\partial u_1} & \frac{\partial h_2^{-1}(u_1, u_2)}{\partial u_2} \end{bmatrix} \right| \\
 &= \left| \det \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial y_1}{\partial u_1} & \frac{\partial y_1}{\partial u_2} \\ \frac{\partial y_2}{\partial u_1} & \frac{\partial y_2}{\partial u_2} \end{bmatrix} \right| \\
 &= \left| \left(\frac{\partial h_1^{-1}(u_1, u_2)}{\partial u_1} \times \frac{\partial h_2^{-1}(u_1, u_2)}{\partial u_2} \right) - \left(\frac{\partial h_1^{-1}(u_1, u_2)}{\partial u_2} \times \frac{\partial h_2^{-1}(u_1, u_2)}{\partial u_1} \right) \right| \\
 &= \left| \left(\frac{\partial y_1}{\partial u_1} \times \frac{\partial y_2}{\partial u_2} \right) - \left(\frac{\partial y_1}{\partial u_2} \times \frac{\partial y_2}{\partial u_1} \right) \right| \neq 0
 \end{aligned}$$

because $y_1 = h_1^{-1}(u_1, u_2)$ and $y_2 = h_2^{-1}(u_1, u_2)$.

Recall: $\det \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = (ad) - (bc)$

then the joint pdf of U_1 and U_2 is

$$f_{U_1, U_2}(u_1, u_2) = f_{Y_1, Y_2}(h_1^{-1}(u_1, u_2), h_2^{-1}(u_1, u_2)) \times ||J||$$

The joint pdf of y_1, y_2
evaluated at $y_1 = h_1^{-1}(u_1, u_2)$
and $y_2 = h_2^{-1}(u_1, u_2)$

Absolute
Value of
Jacobian.

Example 1: Let Y_1 and Y_2 be independent random variables with $Y_1 \sim N(0, 1)$ and $Y_2 \sim N(0, 1)$.

Let $U_1 = \frac{Y_1 + Y_2}{2}$ and $U_2 = \frac{Y_2 - Y_1}{2}$

(a) Find joint pdf of U_1 and U_2 .

(b) Find the marginal pdf of U_1

(a) $Y_1 \sim N(0, 1) \Rightarrow$ pdf of Y_1 is $f_1(y_1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y_1^2}{2}}; -\infty < y_1 < \infty$
 $Y_2 \sim N(0, 1) \Rightarrow$ pdf of Y_2 is $f_2(y_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y_2^2}{2}}; -\infty < y_2 < \infty$
 Since Y_1 and Y_2 are independent, the joint pdf of Y_1 and Y_2 is,
 $f(y_1, y_2) = f_1(y_1) f_2(y_2) = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y_1^2}{2}} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y_2^2}{2}} \right)$
 $= \frac{1}{2\pi} e^{-\left(\frac{y_1^2 + y_2^2}{2}\right)}; -\infty < y_1 < \infty, -\infty < y_2 < \infty$

When $-\infty < y_1 < \infty$ and $-\infty < y_2 < \infty$,
 $-\infty < u_1 < \infty$ and $-\infty < u_2 < \infty$.

Solve $u_1 = \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2}$ and $u_2 = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{2}$ for y_1 and y_2 .

$$\begin{cases} u_1 - u_2 = \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2} - \frac{y_2 - y_1}{2} = \frac{y_1}{2} + \frac{y_2}{2} - \left(\frac{y_2}{2} - \frac{y_1}{2} \right) = \frac{y_1}{2} + \frac{y_1}{2} = y_1 \\ u_1 + u_2 = \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2} + \frac{y_2 - y_1}{2} = \frac{y_1}{2} + \frac{y_2}{2} + \left(\frac{y_2}{2} - \frac{y_1}{2} \right) = \frac{y_2}{2} + \frac{y_2}{2} = y_2 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} y_1 = u_1 - u_2 = h_1^{-1}(u_1, u_2) \\ y_2 = u_1 + u_2 = h_2^{-1}(u_1, u_2) \end{cases}$$

Then the Jacobian is

$$\begin{aligned}
 J &= \det \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial y_1}{\partial u_1} & \frac{\partial y_1}{\partial u_2} \\ \frac{\partial y_2}{\partial u_1} & \frac{\partial y_2}{\partial u_2} \end{bmatrix} = \det \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial(u-u_2)}{\partial u_1} & \frac{\partial(u-u_2)}{\partial u_2} \\ \frac{\partial(u+u_2)}{\partial u_1} & \frac{\partial(u+u_2)}{\partial u_2} \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = (1 \times 1) - (-1 \times 1) = 2
 \end{aligned}$$