

18 Sep 2025

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2:02 PM

Ex. Proving a CDF is valid. Toss until a head appears

$S = \{H, TH, TTH, TTTH, \dots\}$

$\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{P}(S)$ POWERSET: ALL POSSIBLE SUBSETS

X is # Ts until H = $\{1, 2, 3, 4, \dots\} = \mathbb{N}$

$\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{P}(X)$

$$P(X=x) = (1-p)^{x-1} p \quad x \in \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$$

$$F_X(x) = P(X \leq x) = \sum_{i=1}^x (1-p)^{i-1} p = p \sum_{i=0}^{x-1} (1-p)^i = p \left(\frac{1 - (1-p)^x}{1 - (1-p)} \right)$$

$$F_X(x) = 1 - (1-p)^x$$

REMEMBER: $\sum_{i=0}^{x-1} ar^i = a \left(\frac{1-r^x}{1-r} \right) \quad |r| < 1$

$$= 1 - (1-p)^x$$

Show this is a valid CDF:

a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} F_X(x) = 0$ TRUE (BOUNDED BY $x \geq 1$)

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} F_X(x) = 1 \Rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} 1 - (1-p)^x \quad \because 1-p < 1 \quad \therefore 1-0 = 1$$

b) LET $x_1 \leq x_2 \Rightarrow F_X(x_1) \leq F_X(x_2)$

$$F(x_1) = 1 - (1-p)^{x_1}$$

$$F(x_2) = 1 - (1-p)^{x_2}$$

$$(1-p)^{x_2} \leq (1-p)^{x_1} \quad \because 1 - (1-p)^{x_2} \geq 1 - (1-p)^{x_1}$$

c) For a discrete distribution, focus on discontinuity points

$$x \in \{1, 2, 3, \dots\} \quad \lim_{\epsilon \downarrow 0} F_X(x+\epsilon) = \lim_{\epsilon \downarrow 0} \sum_{i=1}^{x+\epsilon} p(1-p)^{i-1} = \sum_{i=1}^x p(1-p)^{i-1} < F_X(x)$$

Ex. PROVE $F(x) = \frac{1}{1+e^x}$ IS VALID CDF

a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1}{1+e^x} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{1+e^{-\infty}} = \frac{1}{\infty} = 0$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1+e^x} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{1+\infty} = 0$$

b) $\frac{d}{dx} \frac{1}{1+e^x} = \frac{-e^x}{(1+e^x)^2} < 0$

c) CONTINUOUS

A r.v X is continuous if $F_X(x)$ is a continuous function of x .

A r.v X is discrete if $f_X(x)$ is a step function

$$F_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1-e^{-x}}{1+e^{-x}} & x < 0 \\ e + \frac{1-e}{1+e^{-x}} & x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

Neither continuous nor discrete. A mixture of both

Two random variables X, Y are identically distributed if for every $A \in \mathcal{B}$,

$$P(X \in A) = P(Y \in A) \quad \text{For continuous, this is the Borel sets (the powerset of non-countable/discrete)}$$

Ex. 3 coin toss. $X = \# \text{ heads}$. $Y = \# \text{ tails}$. $S = \{HHH, HHT, HTH, HTT, THH, THT, TTH, TTT\}$

K	0	1	2	3
X	1/8	3/8	3/8	1/8
Y	1/8	3/8	3/8	1/8

Thus, X, Y are identically distributed: $Y \sim X$

Theorem: The following statements are equivalent -

a) $X \sim Y$

b) $F_X(x) = F_Y(x) \quad \text{all } x \in \mathbb{R}$

PDF (density) and PMF (mass)

Remember, these are induced distributions of a sample space

Def: Probability Mass Function (PMF) (same reasoning applies for PDFs, intuition is the same - math is different)

PMF of a discrete r.v X is given by $f_X(x) = P(X=x)$

EX. Geometric Distribution. X is # of trials until first success:

$$f(x) = P(X=x) = \begin{cases} p(1-p)^{x-1} & x \in \{1, 2, 3, \dots\} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$f(5) = p(1-p)^4$$

Prob. BETWEEN a & b: $\sum_{x=a}^b f(x) = \sum_{x=a}^b p(1-p)^{x-1}$

Probability Density Function (PDF) of a continuous r.v. X is the function that satisfies the following:

$$F_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f_X(t) dt \quad \text{for all } x \quad \therefore \frac{dF(x)}{dx} = f(x)$$

$$P(a \leq x \leq b) = \int_a^b f(x) dx = P(a < x < b) = P(a \leq x < b) = F(b) - F(a)$$

$$f(x) = 2x \mathbb{I}_x = \begin{cases} 2x & 0 \leq x < 1 \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases} \quad \mathbb{I}_A(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in A \\ 0 & \text{if } x \notin A \end{cases}$$

Ex. $X \in L(0,1)$

$$F(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(t) dt = \int_{-\infty}^x 2t \mathbb{I}(t) dt = \int_0^x 2t dt = t^2 \Big|_0^x = \begin{cases} x^2 & 0 \leq x < 1 \\ 0 & x < 0 \\ 1 & x \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

Ex. $F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < 0 \\ 1 - e^{-\theta x} & x \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad \therefore f(x) = \frac{d}{dx} 1 - e^{-\theta x} = \begin{cases} \theta e^{-\theta x} & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & x < 0 \end{cases}$

Theorem 1.6.5 in book:

A function $f(\cdot)$ is a valid PMF/PDF of r.v. X iff:

a) $f(x) \geq 0 \quad \forall x$

b) $\sum_{x \in X} f(x) = 1 \quad \text{or} \quad \int_X f(x) dx = 1$

Ex. $X = \{1, 2, \dots, 10\} \quad f(x) = c x \mathbb{I}_X(x) \quad \text{WHAT IS } c?$

$$1 = \sum_{x=1}^{10} c x = c 55 \quad \therefore c = \frac{1}{55}$$

Ex. $X : X \in (0, 2), \quad f(x) = c x^3 \mathbb{I}_X(x)$

$$1 = \int_0^2 c x^3 = \frac{c}{4} x^4 \Big|_0^2 = \frac{16c}{4} = 4c \quad \therefore c = \frac{1}{4}$$