

1. (Random walk) Consider the natural numbers $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$, and imagine a random process whereby given a particular location on the number line you move one step to the right with probability p and one step to the left with probability $1 - p$. If you reach zero, the process stops.
 - i. Find the probability that you make it to 50 if you start at 1 and $p = 0.6$.
 - ii. Find the probability that you make it to 50 if you start at 1 and $p = 0.4$.
 - iii. Find an expression for the smallest starting point required to make it to n with probability q if the odds favor moving to the right.
 - iv. Find an expression for the smallest starting point required to make it to n with probability q if the odds favor moving to the left.
 - v. Use your answers in (iii)-(iv) to find the smallest starting point for which the process will make it to 50 with probability 0.8 when $p = 0.45$ and when $p = 0.55$.
 - vi. What is the minimum starting point for which the process is more likely to diverge than not when $p = 0.55$?

2. Show that if X is a discrete random variable, then it has a countable support set.

3. Use the definition of the CDF to show that:
- i. If X is a random variable with CDF F , then $P(a < X \leq b) = F(b) - F(a)$
 - ii. If X is a random variable with CDF F , then $P(X > a) = 1 - F(a)$

4. Let X be a continuous random variable. Show that:
- i. for every $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $P(X = x) = 0$ (*Hint:* use the lemma defining $P(X = x)$ in terms of the CDF)
 - ii. $P(X \leq x) = P(X < x)$ (*Hint:* use the result in (i))

5. (Triangular distribution) Let X be a continuous random variable defined by the PDF:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < -1 \\ x + 1 & -1 \leq x < 0 \\ 1 - x & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0 & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

Sketch the density and then find the CDF of X .

6. Let X have a uniform distribution on the integers $\{-3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3\}$. If $Y = X^2$, find the CDF, PMF, and support of Y , and sketch the CDF.

7. Let X have a uniform distribution on the interval $(0, 1)$ and let $Y = -\log(X)$. Find the distribution of Y .

8. (Negative binomial) Consider performing repeated independent trials in which each trial has a fixed probability of success p . Let X denote the number of failures before r successes are obtained. Find the PMF of X .