

MITx: 6.041x Introduction to Probability - The Science of Uncertainty

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Unit overview

Lec. 8: Probability density functions

Exercises 8 due Mar 16, 2016 at 23:59 UTC

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Exercise: Discrete unknown, continuous measurement (1/1 point)

Let K be a discrete random variable that can take the values 1, 2, and 3, all with equal probability. Suppose that X takes values in [0,1] and that for x in that interval we have

$$f_{X|K}(x\,|\,k) = egin{cases} 1, & ext{if } k=1, \ 2x, & ext{if } k=2, \ 3x^2, & ext{if } k=3. \end{cases}$$

Find the probability that K=1, given that X=1/2.

4/11

Answer: 0.36364

Answer:

Using the appropriate form of the Bayes rule, we have

$$f_{K|X}(1\,|\,1/2) = rac{p_K(1)f_{X|K}(1/2\,|\,1)}{f_X(1/2)} = rac{(1/3)\cdot 1}{f_X(1/2)} = rac{1/3}{11/12} = 4/11.$$

To find $f_X(1/2)$, we used the total probability theorem:

$$egin{array}{lll} f_X(1/2) &=& \sum_k p_K(k) f_{X|K}(1/2 \, | \, k) \ &=& (1/3) \cdot 1 + (1/3) \cdot (2 \cdot (1/2)) + (1/3) \cdot (3 \cdot (1/2)^2) \ &=& 11/12. \end{array}$$

You have used 1 of 2 submissions

Exercises 10 due Mar 16, 2016 at 23:59 UTC Standard normal table Solved problems **Problem Set 5** Problem Set 5 due Mar 16, 2016 at 23:59 UTC **Unit summary**

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