

Math 170B: Probability Theory II

Prof. R. Killip | Spring 2024

Contents

1	Characteristic & Moment-Generating Functions	2
1.1	Multivariate Characteristic Functions	3
1.2	Cumulants	3
1.3	Bochner's Theorem	4
2	Applications of Characteristic Functions	5
2.1	Uniqueness Theorem	5
2.2	Moment Problem	5
3	Branching Processes	6
4	Conditional Expectation	7
5	Inequalities	8
6	Modes of Convergence	9
6.1	Compactness for Convergence in Distribution	10
7	The Central Limit Theorem	11
8	Laws of Large Numbers	12
8.1	The Weak Law of Large Numbers	12
8.2	Strong Laws of Large Numbers	13
9	Random Walks	14
9.1	Simple Random Walks	14
9.2	The Gambler's Ruin Problem	16
10	Appendix	17
10.1	Distributions of Discrete Random Variables	17
10.2	Distributions of Continuous Random Variables	18

1 Characteristic & Moment-Generating Functions

Definition. Given a random variable X , the *characteristic function* [CF] of X is the function $\phi_X : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ defined by:

$$\phi_X(\xi) = \mathbb{E}(e^{i\xi X})$$

Definition. Given a random variable X , the *moment-generating function* [MGF] of X is the function $M_X : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by:

$$M_X(t) = \mathbb{E}(e^{tX})$$

Characteristic & Moment-Generating Functions

Suppose $M_X(t)$ exists in some neighborhood $[-\delta, \delta]$ of 0 ($\delta > 0$); then $\forall t \in [-\delta, \delta]$:

1. $M_X(t)$ can be expressed as a power series:

$$M_X(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k!} \mathbb{E}(X^k)$$

2. Can derive the moments of X from the characteristic/moment-generating functions:

$$\mathbb{E}(X^k) = \left. \frac{d^k}{dt^k} M_X(t) \right|_{t=0} = (i)^{-k} \left. \frac{d^k}{d\xi^k} \phi_X(\xi) \right|_{\xi=0}$$

3. For $\xi \in [-\delta, \delta]$ ($|\xi| \leq \delta$), can treat characteristic function, MGF similarly:

$$\phi_X(\xi) = M_X(i\xi)$$

4. ϕ_X is analytic: for every point $\xi \in \mathbb{R}$, ϕ_X has value given in some neighborhood of ξ by power series with radius of convergence $r \geq \delta$

Existence: • Characteristic function $\phi_X(\xi)$ defined/exists $\forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}$

– In particular: if $\mathbb{E}(|X|^n) < \infty$, then $\phi_X(\xi)$ is n -times differentiable at the origin and $\phi_X^{(n)}(0) = i^n \mathbb{E}(X^n)$.

- Moment-generating function $M_X(t)$ strictly positive, only guaranteed to exist at $t = 0$; may not be defined for $t \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$

– k^{th} moment of X exists iff $M_X(t)$ is k -times differentiable at $t = 0$

1.1 Multivariate Characteristic Functions

Definition. Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be random variables; then the *joint characteristic function* of $\vec{X} = \langle X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \rangle$ is given by:

$$\phi_{\vec{X}}(\vec{\xi}) = \mathbb{E}(e^{i\xi_1 X_1 + i\xi_2 X_2 + \dots + i\xi_n X_n})$$

Theorem (*Joint Characteristic Functions*).

$$X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \text{ independent} \iff \phi_{\vec{X}}(\vec{\xi}) = \phi_{X_1}(\xi_1) \cdot \phi_{X_2}(\xi_2) \cdot \dots \cdot \phi_{X_n}(\xi_n)$$

Multivariate Characteristic Functions

- (i) The joint characteristic function $\phi_{\vec{X}}(\vec{\xi})$ uniquely determines the joint law of \vec{X}
- (ii) If X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are independent, then the characteristic function of $Y = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n$ is:

$$\phi_Y(\xi) = \prod_{i=1}^n \phi_{X_i}(\xi)$$

1.2 Cumulants

Definition. Given a random variable X , the *cumulant-generating function* [CGF] of X is defined (for $|\xi|$ small) as:

$$K : \xi \mapsto \ln[\mathbb{E}(e^{i\xi X})] = \ln[\phi_X(\xi)]$$

Cumulants:

1. $\kappa_1 : \kappa_1 = \frac{1}{i} \frac{d}{d\xi} \ln[\phi_X(\xi)] \Big|_{\xi=0} = \mathbb{E}(X)$
2. $\kappa_2 : \kappa_2 = \frac{1}{i^2} \frac{d^2}{d\xi^2} \ln[\phi_X(\xi)] \Big|_{\xi=0} = \text{var}(X)$

1.3 Bochner's Theorem

Recall. A symmetric/Hermitian matrix $A \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$ is called:

1. **Positive semi-definite** if $z^T A z \geq 0 \forall z \in \mathbb{C}^n$
2. **Positive definite** if $z^T A z > 0$ strictly.

Properties:

- (i) A is positive semi-definite iff $\lambda \geq 0$ real non-negative for every eigenvalue λ of A . In particular, A is positive definite iff $\lambda > 0$.
 - Corollary: $\det(A) \geq 0$ [semi-definite] / $\det(A) > 0$, A invertible [definite]
- (ii) A is positive semi-definite iff $\exists L \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$ such that $A = L^* L$. In particular, A is positive definite iff L is invertible.

Theorem (*Bochner's Theorem*). A function $\phi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a characteristic function for some r.v. X iff:

1. $\phi(0) = 1$
2. ϕ is continuous
3. ϕ is “positive-definite”: $\sum_{i,j=1}^n \bar{\lambda}_i \lambda_j \phi(\xi_i - \xi_j) \geq 0 \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \xi_i \in \mathbb{R}, \lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}$

Equivalently, the matrix $(\phi(\xi_i - \xi_j))_{ij}$ is positive-definite, where:

$$(\phi(\xi_i - \xi_j))_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} \phi(0) & \phi(\xi_2 - \xi_1) & \dots & \phi(\xi_n - \xi_1) \\ \phi(\xi_1 - \xi_2) & \phi(0) & \dots & \phi(\xi_n - \xi_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi(\xi_1 - \xi_n) & \phi(\xi_2 - \xi_n) & \dots & \phi(0) \end{pmatrix}$$

2 Applications of Characteristic Functions

2.1 Uniqueness Theorem

Theorem (*Characterizations of a Distribution*). Let X, Y be two random variables; then TFAE:

1. $F_X(x) = F_Y(x) \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$
2. $\phi_X(\xi) = \phi_Y(\xi) \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}$
3. $\mathbb{E}(f(X)) = \mathbb{E}(f(Y))$ for all bounded continuous functions $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$

2.2 Moment Problem

Moment Problem:

- If an r.v. X has any moment $\mathbb{E}(X^k) = \infty$, then its distribution F_X is not uniquely determined by its moments.
- If F_X is determined by finitely many moments, then X takes only finitely many values.
- (*) All moments $\mathbb{E}(X^k)$ of X exist & are finite iff all even moments exist & are finite

Theorem (*Uniqueness Theorem for Moments*). Let $m_k = \mathbb{E}(X^k)$; then the moments m_k characterize X if, for some $a > 0$:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{a^{2k}}{(2k)!} m_{2k} < \infty$$

3 Branching Processes

Definition. Given a random variable X , the *probability-generating function* of X is the function $G_X : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by:

$$G_X(z) = \mathbb{E}(z^X)$$

Prop. Let N be an r.v. with values in $\mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ and let $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_j, \dots$ i.i.d. and independent of N . Let $Y = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_N$; then:

$$\phi_Y(\xi) = \phi_N\left(\frac{1}{i} \ln[\phi_X(\xi)]\right)$$

Corollary: (a) If X and N admit MGFs, have $M_Y(t) = M_N(\ln[M_X(t)])$

(b) $\mathbb{E}(Y) = \mathbb{E}(X) \cdot \mathbb{E}(N)$

(c) $\text{var}(Y) = \text{var}(N) \mathbb{E}(X)^2 + \mathbb{E}(N) \text{var}(X)$

(d) $G_Y(z) = G_N \circ G_X(z)$

Theorem (Galton-Watson Tree). Suppose an individual [gen 0] has X -many children, each of whom has independently and with distribution X and so on ad infinitum.

Let Z_n denote the number of children in the n^{th} generation [$Z_0 = 1$]; then:

1. $\mathbb{E}(Z_n) = \mathbb{E}(X)^n$
2. Let $e_n = \mathbb{P}(Z_n = 0)$; then $e_{n+1} \geq e_n$. In particular, $e = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} e_n$ exists.
3. $e \in [0, 1]$ is the smallest root/solution to $G_X(x) = x$ for $x \in [0, 1]$.
4. $e < 1$ iff either (i) $\mathbb{E}(X) > 1$ or (ii) $X \equiv 1$.
5. $e = 0$ iff $\mathbb{P}(X = 0) = 0$.

4 Conditional Expectation

Theorem (*Conditional Expectation*). Let X, Y random variables and $\mathbb{E}(|Y|) < \infty$; then there is a unique r.v. $\mathbb{E}(Y | X)$ [finite] satisfying:

- (i) $\mathbb{E}(Y | X)$ depends only on X , i.e. $\mathbb{E}(Y | X) = g(X)$ for some function g
- (ii) For any bounded function h , have that:

$$\mathbb{E}(Y \cdot h(X)) = \mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(Y | X) \cdot h(X))$$

Recall. $\mathbb{E}(Y | X) = g(X)$ defined via:

$$\mathbb{E}(Y | X) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} 1_{\{X=n\}}(\omega) \mathbb{E}(Y | X = n) \quad [X \text{ discrete}]$$

$$\mathbb{E}(Y | X) = \frac{\int y f_{X,Y}(x, y) dx}{\int f_{X,Y}(x, y) dy} \quad [X \text{ continuous}]$$

Theorem (*Conditional Expectation*). Let X, Y r.v.s with $\mathbb{E}(|Y|) < \infty$:

- (i) **Law of Iterated Expectation:**

$$\mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}(Y | X)) = \mathbb{E}(Y)$$

- (ii) Define the ***conditional variance*** of Y given X :

$$\text{var}(Y | X) := \mathbb{E}([Y - \mathbb{E}(Y | X)]^2 | X) = \mathbb{E}(Y^2 | X) - \mathbb{E}(Y | X)^2$$

- (iii) Can obtain the **Law of Total Variance:**

$$\text{var}(Y) = \mathbb{E}(\text{var}(Y | X)) + \text{var}(\mathbb{E}(Y | X))$$

5 Inequalities

Theorem (*Markov's Inequality*). Let X non-negative; then for any $\lambda > 0$

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geq \lambda) \leq \frac{1}{\lambda} \mathbb{E}(X)$$

Corollary (*Chebyshev's Inequality*). Let X r.v. and $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$; then:

$$\mathbb{P}(|X - \mu| \geq \lambda) \leq \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \mathbb{E}((X - \mu)^2)$$

In particular, if $\mu = \mathbb{E}(X)$:

$$\mathbb{P}(|X - \mathbb{E}(X)| \geq \lambda) \leq \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \text{var}(X)$$

Corollary (*Exponential Markov*). For any $s \geq 0$, have:

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geq \lambda) \leq e^{-s\lambda} \mathbb{E}(e^{sX})$$

Large Deviation Argument (*Cramer's Method*). To obtain a smaller upper bound for $\mathbb{P}(X \geq \lambda)$, can solve for $e^{-s\lambda} \mathbb{E}(e^{sX})$ and minimize over all s .

Theorem (*Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality*).

$$\mathbb{E}(XY)^2 \leq \mathbb{E}(X^2) \mathbb{E}(Y^2)$$

Theorem (*Jensen's Inequality*). For any convex function ϕ :

$$\phi(\mathbb{E}(X)) \leq \mathbb{E}(\phi(X))$$

6 Modes of Convergence

Definition. Say that random variables X_n *converge in distribution* to a random variable X if, \forall bounded continuous functions f :

$$\mathbb{E}(f(X_n)) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}(f(X))$$

Theorem (*Levy-Cramer*). Given random variables X_n and X , TFAE:

1. $\mathbb{E}(f(X_n)) \rightarrow \mathbb{E}(f(X)) \forall$ bounded & continuous f
2. $F_{X_n}(x) \rightarrow F_X(x)$ for every $x \in \mathbb{R}$ at which $F_X(x)$ is continuous
3. $\phi_{X_n}(\xi) \rightarrow \phi_X(\xi) \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}$

Mode of Convergence

Say that a sequence of r.v.s X_n converge to an r.v. X [on the same probability space]:

1. ...in p-mean/L^p ($1 \leq p < \infty$) if:

$$\mathbb{E}(|X - X_n|^p) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

2. ...in probability if, $\forall \epsilon > 0$:

$$\mathbb{P}(|X_n - X| > \epsilon) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

3. ...almost surely [a.s.] if:

$$\mathbb{P}(\{\omega : X_n(\omega) \rightarrow X(\omega)\}) = 1$$

Theorem. Fix $1 \leq p \leq r < \infty$. Given r.v.s $X_n, X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, the modes of convergence of X_n to X are interrelated as follows:

$$r\text{-mean convergence} \implies p\text{-mean convergence} \implies \text{convergence in } \mathbb{P} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{convergence almost surely} \implies \text{convergence in } \mathbb{P} \quad (2)$$

$$\text{convergence in } \mathbb{P} \implies \text{convergence in distribution} \quad (3)$$

6.1 Compactness for Convergence in Distribution

Definition. A family of r.v.s X_n is called **tight** if, for every $\epsilon > 0$, $\exists L > 0$ s.t.:

$$\mathbb{P}(|X_n| \geq L) < \epsilon \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$$

Theorem (*Prokhorov*). If a sequence of r.v.s X_n are tight, then there is a subsequence X_{n_k} that converges in distribution.

Theorem (*Helly selection theorem*). Given a sequence F_n of non-decreasing cadlag functions that are uniformly bounded on a bounded interval $[a, b)$, there is:

1. A subsequence F_{n_k} of F_n , and
2. A non-decreasing cadlag function $F : [a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

such that $F_{n_k} \rightarrow F$ pointwise [for points where F is continuous].

Proof. Can enumerate the rationals by q_m ; at each q_m , find a subsequence F_{n_k} s.t. $F_{n_k}(q_m)$ converges. Via the Cantor diagonal slash argument, find the subsequence s.t. $F_{n_k}(q_m)$ converges $\forall q_m$ and take F to be the limit of F_{n_k} . \square

Lemma (*Borel-Cantelli*). If the sum of probabilities of events E_n is finite [i.e. $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}(E_n) < \infty$], then the probability of infinitely many E_n 's occurring is 0:

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} E_n\right) = 0$$

7 The Central Limit Theorem

Theorem (*Central Limit Theorem*). Let X_i be i.i.d. random variables with mean $\mathbb{E}(X_i) = \mu$ and finite variance $\text{var}(X_i) = \sigma^2 < \infty$. Then:

$$Z_n = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n - n\mu}{\sqrt{n\sigma^2}} \xrightarrow{\text{in dist.}} N(0, 1)$$

Proof. Via characteristic functions:

$$\phi_{Z_n}(\xi) \rightarrow \phi_{N(0,1)}(\xi) \text{ pointwise } \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}.$$

□

Theorem (*Berry-Esseen Theorem*). Suppose X_i are i.i.d. r.v.s with $\mathbb{E}(|X_i|^3) < \infty$, and define the Z_n 's by

$$Z_n = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n}{n}.$$

Then the CDFs F_n of the Z_n 's satisfy that:

$$\sup_z |F_n(z) - \Phi(z)| \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \frac{\mathbb{E}(|X_i|^3)}{\sigma^3}$$

8 Laws of Large Numbers

8.1 The Weak Law of Large Numbers

Theorem. Suppose that $\text{var}(X_i) < \infty$; then:

$$\frac{X_1 + \dots + X_n}{n} \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{L^2} \mathbb{E}(X_i)$$

Lemma. If a sequence of random variables Z_n converge $Z_n \xrightarrow{d} C$ to some $C \in \mathbb{R}$, then $Z_n \rightarrow C$ in probability as well.

Theorem (*Weak/Khinchin LLN*). If X_i are i.i.d. r.v.s with $\mathbb{E}(|X_i|) < \infty$, then:

$$\frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n}{n} \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{p} \mathbb{E}(X_i)$$

Proof. Can show that:

$$Z_n = \frac{X_1 + \dots + X_n - n\mu}{n} \implies \phi_{Z_n}(\xi) \rightarrow \phi_0(\xi) \text{ pointwise } \forall \xi \in \mathbb{R}$$

and apply Lemma. □

8.2 Strong Laws of Large Numbers

Theorem (*Kolmogorov Maximal Theorem*). Let W_i i.i.d. r.v.s with $\mathbb{E}(W_i) = 0$, $\mathbb{E}(W_i^2) < \infty$. Then for each $N \in \mathbb{N}$, $\lambda > 0$:

$$\mathbb{P} \left(\sup_{1 \leq n \leq N} \left| \sum_{i=1}^n W_i \right| > \lambda \right) \leq \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \text{var}(W_i)}{\lambda^2}$$

In particular, sending $N \rightarrow \infty$:

$$\mathbb{P} \left(\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \left| \sum_{i=1}^n W_i \right| > \lambda \right) \leq \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \text{var}(W_i) \right)$$

Lemma (Kronecker). Let $y_k \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{y_k}{k}$ converges. Then:

$$\frac{y_1 + y_2 + \dots + y_n}{n} \rightarrow 0$$

Theorem (*Strong/Kolmogorov LLN*). If X_i are i.i.d. random variables with $\mathbb{E}(|X_i|) < \infty$, then:

$$\frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n}{n} \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{\text{almost surely}} \mathbb{E}(X_i)$$

Proof. (Finite 4th Moment) Via Chebyshev's inequality.

(Finite Variance) Via Kronecker's Lemma.

(Kolmogorov LLN) Define $X_n = X'_n + X''_n$, $X'_n = 1_{|X_n| \leq n} X_n$, $X''_n = 1_{|X_n| > n} X_n$.

Can split up original expression:

$$\frac{X_1 + \dots + X_n}{n} = \frac{[X'_1 - \mathbb{E}(X'_1)] + \dots + [X'_n - \mathbb{E}(X'_n)]}{n} + \frac{\mathbb{E}(X'_1) + \dots + \mathbb{E}(X'_n)}{n} + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n X''_k$$

and show separately that all three terms $\rightarrow 0$ almost surely. \square

9 Random Walks

9.1 Simple Random Walks

Setup: Let X_k be i.i.d. random variables defined by:

$$X_k = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{with probability } p \\ -1 & \text{with probability } q = 1 - p \end{cases}$$

and define for $n \in \mathbb{N}$:

$$S_n = \sum_{k=1}^n X_k$$

Lemma. Define:

$$u_n = \mathbb{P}(\text{return to origin at time } n) = \mathbb{P}(S_n = 0)$$

Then $\forall m \in \mathbb{N}$:

$$u_{2m+1} = 0; \quad u_{2m} = \binom{2m}{m} p^m (1-p)^m$$

Proof. Trivial. □

Lemma. For $z \in \mathbb{R}$ with $|z|^2 \leq \frac{1}{4pq}$:

$$U(z) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} u_n z^n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - 4pqz^2}}$$

Proof. Can keep taking derivatives $\frac{d}{d\epsilon}(1 - \epsilon)^{-(m-\frac{1}{2})}$ to find that

$$(1 - \epsilon)^{-\frac{1}{2}} = 1 + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(2m-1) \cdot \dots \cdot 3 \cdot 1}{2^m m!} \epsilon^m$$

and substitute $\epsilon = 4pqz^2$. □

Theorem. Define:

$$f_n = \mathbb{P}(\text{first return to origin at time } n) = \mathbb{P}(S_n = 0 \text{ but } S_{n-1}, \dots, S_2, S_1 \neq 0)$$

Then:

$$F(z) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f_n z^n = 1 - \frac{1}{U(z)}$$

In particular:

$$f_{2m+1} = 0; \quad f_{2m} = \frac{1}{2m-1} \binom{2m}{m} p^m (1-p)^m$$

Proof. Can use that:

$$u_n = f_n + \sum_{m=1}^{n-1} f_m u_{n-m}$$

and substitute into expression for $U(z)$. □

Corollary.

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{eventually return to origin}) = 1 - |p - q|$$

Prop. Let T_1 = time of 1st return; $T_1 = \min \{n : S_n = 0\}$ for a symmetric SRW [$p = q$]. Then $\mathbb{E}(T_1) = \infty$.

9.2 The Gambler's Ruin Problem

Setup: Assign values $V(0) = 0$, $V(N) = 1$; a person starting at $0 < n < N$ performs a simple random walk ($\mathbb{P}(\text{step right}) = p$, $\mathbb{P}(\text{step left}) = q$) until reaching either 0 (“lose”) or N (“win”).

\Rightarrow Want to find the “value” $V(n) = \mathbb{E}(V \mid \text{start at } n)$ of a position $0 < n < N$.

1. Boundary conditions: $V(0) = 0, V(N) = 1$
2. Difference equation: $v(n) = pv(n+1) + qv(n-1)$

Symmetric SRW (simple case: $p = q = 1/2$):

$$v(n) = \frac{v(n+1) + v(n-1)}{2} \implies v(n) = \frac{n}{N}$$

Biased SRW (hard case: $p \neq q$):

$$v(n) = \frac{\left(\frac{q}{p}\right)^n - 1}{\left(\frac{q}{p}\right)^N - 1}$$

Can compute *expected game length* $e(n)$:

$$e(n) = \begin{cases} n \cdot (N - n) & p = q = 1/2 \\ \frac{1}{q-p} \left[N \frac{\left(\frac{q}{p}\right)^n - 1}{\left(\frac{q}{p}\right)^N - 1} - n \right] & p \neq q \end{cases}$$

10 Appendix

10.1 Distributions of Discrete Random Variables

Name	Parameters	Distribution	Characteristic
Bernoulli(p)	$p \in [0, 1]$	$f_X(k) = \begin{cases} p & k = 1 \\ 1 - p & k = 0 \end{cases}$	$1 - p + pe^{i\xi}$
Binomial(n, p)	$n \in \mathbb{N}, p \in [0, 1]$	$f_X(k) = \begin{cases} \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k} & k = 0, 1, \dots, n \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$	$(1 - p + pe^{i\xi})^n$
Geometric(p)	$p \in (0, 1]$	$f_X(k) = \begin{cases} (1 - p)^{k-1} p & k = 1, 2, 3, \dots \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$	$\frac{pe^{i\xi}}{1 - (1 - p)e^{i\xi}}$
Poisson(λ)	$\lambda \geq 0$	$f_X(k) = \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda}$	$e^{\lambda(e^{i\xi} - 1)}$

10.2 Distributions of Continuous Random Variables

Definition (*Gamma Function*). The *gamma function* is the function defined by:

$$\Gamma(z) = \int_0^{\infty} t^{z-1} e^{-t} dt$$

Name	Parameters	Distribution	Characteristic
$N(\mu, \sigma^2)$	$\mu, \sigma \in \mathbb{R}$	$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$	$e^{i\mu\xi - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2\xi^2}$
$N(\vec{\mu}, \Sigma)$	$\vec{\mu} \in \mathbb{R}^k, \Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k}$	$\frac{1}{(2\pi)^{k/2} \det(\Sigma)^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{(\vec{x}-\vec{\mu})^T \Sigma^{-1} (\vec{x}-\vec{\mu})}{2}\right)$	$e^{i\vec{\xi} \cdot \vec{\mu} - \frac{1}{2}\vec{\xi} \cdot \Sigma \vec{\xi}}$
$\Gamma(k, \lambda)$	$k, \lambda > 0$	$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\lambda^k}{\Gamma(k)} x^{k-1} e^{-\lambda x} & x > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$	$(1 - \frac{i\xi}{\lambda})^{-k}$
$\text{Exp}(\lambda)$	$\lambda > 0$	$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \lambda e^{-\lambda x} & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$	$\frac{\lambda}{\lambda - i\xi}$