Table of Distributions

The following table provides the notation, support, density, mean, variance, moment generating function and the R function to produce a random sample for all of the main distributions we will need. Those in the first block are discrete distributions and the second set are continuous distributions. The first argument of each R function is the number of samples to draw. There are also (using the normal as an example) the following variants with the same parameters: $\operatorname{dnorm}(\operatorname{pmf/pdf})$, $\operatorname{pnorm}(\operatorname{cdf})$, and $\operatorname{qnorm}(\operatorname{inverse}\operatorname{cdf})$. The support of the parameters are as follows: $p \in [0,1]$; $k,d_1,d_2 \in \{1,2,\ldots\}$; $\alpha,\beta,\gamma,\lambda,\sigma^2 \in (0,\infty)$; and $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$.

Dist.	Notation	Support	PMF/PDF	Mean	Variance	MGF	R Code
Bernoulli	Bernoulli(p)	$x \in \{0, 1\}$	$p^x(1-p)^{1-x}$	p	p(1 - p)	$(1 - p + pe^t)$	rbinom(, 1, prob = p)
Binomial	Bin(n,p)	$x \in \{0, \dots, n\}$	$\binom{n}{x}p^x(1-p)^{n-x}$	np	np(1-p)	$(1 - p + pe^t)^n$	rbinom(, size = n, prob = p)
Geometric	Geom(p)	$x \in \{1, 2, \ldots\}$	$(1-p)^{x-1}p$	1/p	$(1-p)/p^2$	$\frac{pe^t}{1 - (1 - p)e^t}$	rgeom(, prob = p) - 1
N. Binomial	NB(k,p)	$x \in \{k, k+1, \ldots\}$	$\binom{x-1}{k-1}(1-p)^{x-k}p^k$	k/p	$k(1-p)/p^2$	$\left(\frac{pe^t}{1 - (1 - p)e^t}\right)^k$	rnbinom(, size = n, prob = p) - n
Poisson	$Poisson(\lambda)$	$x \in \{0, 1, \ldots\}$	$\frac{\lambda^x e^{-\lambda}}{x!}$	λ	λ	$e^{\lambda(e^t-1)}$	rpois(, lambda = lambda)
Exponential	$Exp(\lambda)$	$x \in [0, \infty)$	$\lambda e^{-\lambda x}$	λ^{-1}	λ^{-2}	$\frac{\lambda}{\lambda - t}$	rexp(, rate = lambda)
Gamma	$Gamma(\alpha, \beta)$	$x \in [0, \infty)$	$\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)\beta^{\alpha}} \cdot x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x/\beta}$	$\alpha\beta$	$\alpha \beta^2$	$(1-\beta t)^{-\alpha}$	rgamma(, shape = a, scale = b)
Beta	$Beta(\alpha, \beta)$	$x \in [0, 1]$	$\frac{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)} \cdot x^{\alpha-1} (1-x)^{\beta-1}$	$\frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \beta}$	$\frac{\alpha\beta}{(\alpha+\beta)^2(\alpha+\beta+1)}$		rbeta(, shape1 = a, shape2 = b)
Uniform	U(a,b)	$x \in [a, b]$	$(b-a)^{-1}$	$\frac{1}{2}(b-a)$	$\frac{1}{12}(b-a)^2$	•	runif(, min = a, max = b)
Normal	$N(\mu, \sigma^2)$	$x \in \mathbb{R}$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}}e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x-\mu)^2}$	μ	σ^2	$\exp\{\mu t + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 t^2\}$	<pre>rnorm(, mean = mu, sd = sqrt(s2))</pre>
Chi-squared	$\chi^2(k)$	$x \in [0, \infty)$	$\frac{1}{2^{k/2}\Gamma(k/2)} x^{k/2-1} e^{-x/2}$	k	2k	$(1-2t)^{-k/2}$	rchisq(, df = k)
Student-T	t(k)	$x \in \mathbb{R}$		0	k / (k - 2)		rt(, df = k)
F-Dist.	$F(d_1, d_2)$	$x \in [0, \infty)$		$\frac{d_2}{d_2 - 1}$			rf(, df1 = d1, df2 = d2)
Cauchy	$C(\gamma)$	$x \in [0, \infty)$	$\frac{1}{\pi/\gamma(1+(x/\gamma)^2)}$	und.	und.	und.	rcauchy(, scale = gamma)