1

Assignment 3

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1 Problem

Let X be a random variable with a probability density function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0.2 & |x| \le 1\\ 0.1 & 1 \le |x| \le 4\\ 0 & otherwise \end{cases}$$
 (1.0.1)

Find Pr $(0.5 \le X \le 5)$

2 Solution

We know, if X is a continuous random variable, and its p.d.f is given by f(x), then

$$\Pr(a \le X \le b) = \int_{a}^{b} f(x) dx$$
 (2.0.1)

f(x) is a valid p.d.f because:

1) The area under the curve of the p.d.f is 1, i.e:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \, dx = 1 \tag{2.0.2}$$

2) $f(x) \ge 0$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$

Since f(x) is a valid p.d.f, from (2.0.1), we get:

$$\Pr(0.5 \le X \le 5) = \int_{0.5}^{5} f(x) dx$$
$$= \int_{0.5}^{1} 0.2 dx + \int_{1}^{4} 0.1 dx + \int_{4}^{5} 0 dx$$
(2.0.3)

$$= 0.2(0.5) + 0.1(3) = 0.4$$
 (2.0.4)

The p.d.f is shown below:

