



UNIT – 1
PROBABILITY AND RANDOM VARIABLES
Two marks

1. Define i) Discrete random variable

ii) Continuous random variable

i) Let X be a random variable, if the number of possible values of X is finite or countably finite, then X is called a discrete random variable.

ii) A random variable X is called the continuous random variable, if x takes all its possible values in an interval.

2. Define probability mass function (PMF):

Let X be the discrete random variable taking the values X_1, X_2, \dots

Then the number $P(X_i) = P(X = X_i)$ is called the probability mass function of X and it satisfies the following conditions.

i) $P(X_i) \geq 0$ for all;

ii) $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(X_i) = 1$

3. Define probability Density function (PDF):

Let x be a continuous random variable. The Function $f(x)$ is called the probability density function (PDF) of the random variable x if it satisfies.

i) $f(x) \geq 0$

ii) $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)dx = 1$

4. Define cumulative distribution function (CDF):

Let x be a random variable. The cumulative distribution function, denoted by $F(X)$ and is given by $F(X) = P(X \leq x)$



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5. If x is a discrete R.V having the p.m.f

X:	-1	0	1
P(X):	K	2k	3k

Find $P(x \geq 0)$

$$\text{Answer: } 6k = 1 \Rightarrow k = \frac{1}{6}$$

$$P[x \geq 0] = 2k + 3k \Rightarrow P[x \geq 0] = \frac{1}{6}$$

6. The random variable x has the p.m.f. $P(x) = \frac{x}{15}$, $x=1,2,3,4,5$ and $=0$ else where.

Find $P\left[\frac{1}{2} < x < \frac{5}{2} / x > 1\right]$. **Answer:**

$$P\left[\frac{1}{2} < x < \frac{5}{2} / x > 1\right] = \frac{P[x=2]}{P(x>1)} = \frac{P[x=2]}{1-P(x \leq 1)} = \frac{2/15}{1-1/15} = \frac{1}{7}$$

7. If the probability distribution of X is given as :

X	1	2	3	4
P(X)	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1

Find $P\left[\frac{1}{2} < x < \frac{7}{2} / x > 1\right]$.

Answer :

$$P\left[\frac{1}{2} < x < \frac{7}{2} / x > 1\right] = \frac{P[1 < x < 7/2]}{P(x>1)} = \frac{P(x=2)+P(x=3)}{1-P(x=1)} = \frac{0.5}{0.6} = \frac{5}{6}$$

8. A.R.V. X has the probability function

X	-2	-1	0	1
P(X)	0.4	k	0.2	0.3



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Find k and the mean value of X

Answer:

$$k=0.1 \quad \text{Mean} = \sum xP(x) = \frac{1}{10} [-8-1+0+3] = -0.6$$

9. If the p.d.f of a R.V. X is $f(x) = \frac{x}{2}$ in $0 \leq x \leq 2$, find

$$P[x > 1.5/x > 1].$$

Answer :

$$P[x > 1.5/x > 1] = \frac{P[x>1.5]}{P(x>1)} = \frac{\int_{1.5}^2 \frac{x}{2} dx}{\int_1^2 \frac{x}{2} dx} = \frac{4-2.25}{4-1} = 0.5833$$

10. If the p.d.f of a R.V.X is given by $f(x) = \{1/4, -2 < x < 2.0, \text{ else where. Find } P[|X| > 1].$

Answer:

$$P[|X| > 1] = 1 - P[|X| < 1] = 1 - \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{4} dx = \frac{1}{2}$$

11. If $f(x) = kx^2$, $0 < x < 3$ is to be density function, Find the value of k.

Answer:

$$\int_0^3 kx^2 dx = 1 \Rightarrow 9k = 1 \therefore k = \frac{1}{9}$$

12. If the c.d.f. of a R.V X is given by $F(x) = 0$ for $x < 0$; $= \frac{x^2}{16}$ for $0 \leq x < 4$ and $= 1$ for $x \geq 4$, find $P(X > 1/X < 3)$.

Answer:



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$$P(X > 1/X < 3) = \frac{P[1 < X < 3]}{P[0 < X < 3]} = \frac{F(3) - F(1)}{F(3) - F(0)} = \frac{8/16}{9/16} = \frac{8}{9}.$$

13. The cumulative distribution of X is $F(x) = \frac{x^3+1}{9}$, $-1, < X < 2$ and $= 0$, otherwise. Find $P[0 < X < 1]$.

Answer:

$$P[0 < X < 1] = F(1) - F(0) = \frac{2}{9} - \frac{1}{9} = \frac{1}{9}$$

14. A Continuous R.V X that can assume any value between $x=2$ and $x=5$ had the p.d.f $f(x) = k(1+x)$. Find $P(x < 4)$.

Answer:

$$\int_2^3 k(1+x)dx = 1 \Rightarrow \frac{27k}{2} = 1 \therefore k = \frac{2}{27}$$

$$P[X < 4] = \int_2^4 \frac{2}{27} (1+x)dx = \frac{16}{27}$$

15. The c.d.f of X is given by $F(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x > 0 \\ x^2, & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 1, & x > 1 \end{cases}$ Find the p.d.f of x, and

obtain $P(X > 0.75)$.

Answer:

$$f(x) = \frac{d}{dx}F(x) = \begin{cases} 2x, & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$P[x < 0.75] = 1 - P[X \leq 0.75] = 1 - F(0.75) = 1 - (0.75)^2 = 0.4375$$

16. Check whether $f(x) = \frac{1}{4}xe^{-x/2}$ for $0 < x < \infty$ can be the p.d.f of X.



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Answer:

$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{x}{4} e^{-x/2} dx = \int_0^{\infty} t e^{-1} dt \text{ where } t = \frac{x}{2}$$

$$= (-t e^{-1} - e^{-1})_0^{\infty} = -[0-1]=1$$

$\therefore f(x)$ is the p.d.f of X .

17. A continuous R.V X has a p.d.f $f(x) = 3x^2, 0 \leq x \leq 1$. Find b such that $P(X > b) = 0.05$.

Answer:

$$3 \int_b^1 x^2 dx = 0.05 \Rightarrow 1 - b^3 = 0.05 \Rightarrow b^3 = 0.95 \therefore b = (0.95)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

18. Let X be a random variable taking values $-1, 0$ and 1 such that $P(X=-1) = 2P(X=0) = P(X=1)$. Find the mean of $2X-5$.

Answer:

$$\sum P(X = x) = 1 \Rightarrow 5P(X = 0) = 1 \therefore P(X = 0) = \frac{1}{5}$$

Probability distribution of X :

X	-1	0	1
$P(X)$	$\frac{2}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{2}{5}$

$$\text{Mean} = E(x) = \sum xp(x) = -1\left(\frac{2}{5}\right) + 0\left(\frac{1}{5}\right) + 1\left(\frac{2}{5}\right) = 0$$

$$E[2X-5] = 2E(X) - 5 = 2[0] - 5 = -5.$$

19. Find the cumulative distribution function $F(x)$ corresponding to the p.d.f.



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$$F(x) = \frac{1}{\pi(1+x^2)}, -\infty < x < \infty.$$

Answer

$$\begin{aligned} F(x) &= \int_{-\infty}^x f(x)dx = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^x \frac{dx}{1+x^2} = \frac{1}{\pi} [\tan^{-1}x] \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{\pi}{2} + \tan^{-1} x \right] \end{aligned}$$

20. The diameter of an electric cable, say X is assumed to a continuous R.V with

p.d.f of given by $f(x) = kx(1-x)$, $0 \leq x \leq 1$. Determine k and $P\left(x \leq \frac{1}{3}\right)$

Answer:

$$\int_0^1 kx(1-x)dx = 1 \Rightarrow k \left[\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3} \right] = 1 \quad \therefore k = 6$$

$$P\left[X \leq \frac{1}{3}\right] = 6 \int_0^{1/3} (x - x^2)dx = 6 \left[\frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{3} \right]_0^{1/3} = [(3x^2 - 2x^3)]_0^{1/3} = \frac{1}{3} - \frac{2}{27} = \frac{7}{27}$$

21. A random variable X has the p.d.f $f(x)$ given by $f(x) = \begin{cases} Cxe^{-x}, & \text{if } x > 0 \\ 0, & \text{if } x \leq 0 \end{cases}$. Find

the value of C and C.D.F of X .

Answer:

$$C \int_0^{\infty} xe^{-x}dx = 1 \Rightarrow C[x(-e^{-x})]_0^{\infty} = 1$$

$$\therefore C[-0 + 1] = 1 \Rightarrow C = 1$$

$$C.D.F : F(x) = \int_0^x f(x)dx = 1 - (1+x)e^{-x} \text{ for } x \geq 0.$$



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22. State the properties of cumulative distribution function.

Answer:

- i) $F(-\infty)=0$ and $F(\infty) = 1$.
- ii) $F(\infty)$ is non – decreasing function of X .
- iii) If $F(\infty)$ is the p.d.f of X , then $f(x)=F'(x)$
- iv) $P[a \leq X \leq b] = F(b) - F(a)$

23. Define the raw and central moments of R.V and state the relation between them.

Answer:

Raw moment $\mu'_r = E[X^r]$

Central moment $\mu_r = E[\{X - E(X)\}^r]$.

$$\mu_r = \mu'_r - rC_1\mu'_{r-1} + rC_2\mu'_{r-2}(\mu'_r)^2 - \dots + (-1)^r(\mu'_1)^r$$

24. The first three moments of a R.V. X about 2 are 1, 16, -40. Find the mean, variance of X . Hence find μ_3 .

Answer:

$$E(X) = \mu'_1 + A \Rightarrow \text{Mean} = 1 + 2 = 3$$

$$\text{Variance} = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2 = 16 - 1 = 15$$

$$\mu_3 = \mu'_3 - 3\mu'_2\mu'_1 + 2(\mu'_1)^3 = -86$$

25. Find the r -th moment about origin of the R.V X with p.d.f $f(x) =$

$$\begin{cases} Ce^{-ax}, x \geq 0 \\ 0, \text{ else where} \end{cases}$$

Answer:



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$$\int_0^{\infty} C e^{-ax} dx = 1 \Rightarrow C = a$$

$$\mu'_r = \int_0^{\infty} x^r f(x) dx = a \int_0^{\infty} x^{(r+1)-1} e^{-ax} dx = \frac{\sqrt{(r+1)}}{a^r} = \frac{r!}{a^r}$$

26. A C.R.V X has the p.d.f $f(x)=kx^2e^{-x}, x > 0$. Find the r-th moment about the origin.

Answer:

$$\int_0^{\infty} kx^2 e^{-x} dx = 1 \Rightarrow k = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\mu'_1 = E[X^r] = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\infty} x^{r+2} e^{-x} dx = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{(r+3)} = \frac{(r+2)!}{2}$$

27.If X and Y are independent R,V's and $Z = X+Y$, prove that $M_x(t)M_y(t)$.

Answer:

$$\begin{aligned} M_z(t) &= E[e^{tz}] = E[e^{t(X+Y)}] = E[e^{tx}]E[e^{ty}] \\ &= M_x(t)M_y(t). \end{aligned}$$

28.If the MGF of X is $M_x(t)$ and if $Y=aX+b$ show that $M_y(t) = e^{bt}M_x(at)$.

Answer:

$$M_y(t) = E[e^{ty}] = E[e^{bt}e^{axt}] = e^{bt}E[e^{(at)X}] = e^{bt}M_x(at).$$

29.If a R.V X has the MGF $M(t)=\frac{3}{3-t}$, obtain the mean and variance of X.

Answer:

$$M(t) = \frac{3}{3[1-\frac{t}{3}]} = 1 + \frac{t}{3} + \frac{t^2}{9} + \dots$$



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$$E(x) = \text{Co-efficient of } \frac{t}{1!} \text{ in } (1) = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$E(X^2) = \text{co-efficient of } \frac{t^2}{2!} \text{ in } (1) = \frac{1}{9}$$

$$\therefore \text{Mean} = \frac{1}{3} \text{ and } V(X) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2 = \frac{1}{9}$$

30.If the r-th moment of a C.R.V X about the origin is $r!$, find the M.G. F of X.

Answer:

$$\begin{aligned} M_x(t) &= \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} E[X^r] \cdot \frac{t^r}{r!} = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} t^r \\ &= 1 + t + t^2 + \dots = (1 - t)^{-1} = \frac{1}{1 - t} \end{aligned}$$

31.If the MGF of a R.V. X is $\frac{2}{2-t}$, Find the standard deviation of x.

Answer:

$$M_x(t) = \frac{2}{2-t} = (1 - \frac{t}{2})^{-1} = 1 + \frac{t}{2} + \frac{t^2}{4} + \dots$$

$$E(X) = \frac{1}{2}; E(x^2) = \frac{1}{2}; V(X) = \frac{1}{4} \Rightarrow S.D \text{ of } X = \frac{1}{2}$$

32.Find the M.G.F of the R.V X having p.d.f $f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{3}, & -1 < x < 2 \\ 0, & \text{else where} \end{cases}$

Answer:

$$M_x(t) = \int_{-1}^2 \frac{1}{3} e^{tx} dx = \frac{1}{3t} [e^{2t} - e^{-t}] \text{ for } t \neq 0$$

$$\text{When } t=0, M_x(t) = \int_{-1}^2 \frac{1}{3} dx = 1$$

$$\therefore M_x(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{e^{2t} - e^{-t}}{3t}, & t \neq 0 \\ 1, & t = 0 \end{cases}$$



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33. Find the MGF of a R.V X whose moments are given by $\mu'_r = (r+1)!$

Answer:

$$\begin{aligned} M_x(t) &= \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} E[X^r] \cdot \frac{t^r}{r!} = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} (r+1)t^r \\ &= 1 + 2t + 3t^2 + \dots = (1-t)^{-2} \\ \therefore M_x(t) &= \frac{1}{(1-t)^2} \end{aligned}$$

34. Give an example to show that if p.d.f exists but M.G.F. does not exist.

Answer:

$$P(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{6}{\pi^2 x^2}, & x = 1, 2, \dots \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\sum P(x) = \frac{6}{\pi^2} \Rightarrow \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} = \frac{6}{\pi^2} \left[\frac{\pi^2}{6} \right] = 1$$

$\therefore P(x)$ is a p.d.f.

But $M_x(t) = \frac{6}{\pi^2} \sum \frac{e^{tx}}{x^2}$, which is a divergent series

$\therefore M_x(t)$ doesn't exist.

35. The moment generating function of a random variable X is given by $M_x(t) =$

$$\frac{1}{3}e^t + \frac{4}{15}e^{3t} + \frac{2}{15}e^{4t} + \frac{4}{15}e^{5t}. \text{ Find the probability density function of X.}$$

Answer:

X	1	2	3	4
P(X)	1/3	4/15	2/15	4/15



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36. Let $M_x(t) = \frac{1}{(1-t)}$, $t < 1$ be the M.G.F of a R.V X. Find the MGF of the RV

$$Y=2X+1.$$

Answer:

$$\text{If } Y=aX+b, M_y(t) = e^{bt}M_x(at) \therefore M_y(t) = \frac{e^t}{1-2t}.$$

37. Suppose the MGF of a RV X is of the form $M_x(t) = (0.4e^t + 0.6)^8$. What is the MGF of the random variable $Y=3X+2$.

Answer:

$$M_y(t) = e^{2t}M_x(3t) = e^{2t}[(0.4)e^{3t} + 0.6]^8$$

38. The moment generating function of a RV X is $\left[\frac{1}{5} + \frac{4e^t}{5}\right]^{15}$. Find the MGF of

$$Y=2X + 3.$$

Answer:

$$\text{If } Y = 2X + 3, \text{ then } M_y(t) = e^{3t}M_x(2t).$$

$$\therefore M_y(t) = e^{3t} \left[\frac{1}{5} + \frac{4e^t}{5} \right]^{15}$$

39. If a random variable takes the values -1, 0 and 1 with equal probabilities, find the MGF of X.

Answer:

$$M_x(t) = \sum e^{tx} P(x) = \frac{1}{3}e^{-1} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3}e^1 = \frac{1}{3}[1 + e^1 + e^{-1}]$$