

Problem 1

Let X be a random variable with PDF given by

$$\begin{aligned} &= \int_{-1}^1 u^2 f_X(u) du \\ &= \frac{3}{2} \int_{-1}^1 u^4 du \\ &= \frac{3}{5}. \end{aligned}$$

c. To find $P(X \geq \frac{1}{2})$, we can write

$$P(X \geq \frac{1}{2}) = \frac{3}{2} \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^1 x^2 dx = \frac{7}{16}.$$

Problem 2

Let X be a continuous random variable with PDF given by

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{2} e^{-|x|}, \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

If $Y = X^2$, find the CDF of Y .

• Solution

• First, we note that $R_Y = [0, \infty)$. For $y \in [0, \infty)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} F_Y(y) &= P(Y \leq y) \\ &= P(X^2 \leq y) \\ &= P(-\sqrt{y} \leq X \leq \sqrt{y}) \\ &= \int_{-\sqrt{y}}^{\sqrt{y}} \frac{1}{2} e^{-|x|} dx && \text{by} \\ &= \int_0^{\sqrt{y}} e^{-x} dx \\ &= 1 - e^{-\sqrt{y}}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

because the PDF is symmetric around $x = 0$, to find $\text{var}(X)$, we have

$$\text{Var}(X) = EX^2 - (EX)^2 = EX^2$$

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- First, note that

$$\text{Var}(Y) = \text{Var}\left(\frac{2}{X} + 3\right) = 4\text{Var}\left(\frac{1}{X}\right), \quad \text{using E}$$

Thus, it suffices to find $\text{Var}\left(\frac{1}{X}\right) = E\left[\frac{1}{X^2}\right] - (E\left[\frac{1}{X}\right])^2$. Using LOTUS, we have

$$E\left[\frac{1}{X}\right] = \int_0^1 x \left(2x + \frac{3}{2}\right) dx = \frac{17}{12}$$

$$E\left[\frac{1}{X^2}\right] = \int_0^1 \left(2x + \frac{3}{2}\right) dx = \frac{5}{2}.$$

Thus, $\text{Var}\left(\frac{1}{X}\right) = E\left[\frac{1}{X^2}\right] - (E\left[\frac{1}{X}\right])^2 = \frac{71}{144}$. So, we obtain

$$\text{Var}(Y) = 4\text{Var}\left(\frac{1}{X}\right) = \frac{71}{36}.$$

Problem 5

Let X be a positive continuous random variable. Prove that $EX = \int_0^\infty P(X \geq x) dx$.

- Solution

- We have

$$P(X \geq x) = \int_x^\infty f_X(t) dt.$$

Thus, we need to show that

$$\int_0^\infty \int_x^\infty f_X(t) dt dx = EX.$$

1)

The discrete random variable X has the probability function

$$P(X = x) = \begin{cases} kx & x = 2, 4, 6 \\ k(x - 2) & x = 8 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where k is a constant.

(a) Show that $k = \frac{1}{18}$ (2)

(b) Find the exact value of $F(5)$. (1)

(c) Find the exact value of $E(X)$. (2)

(d) Find the exact value of $E(X^2)$. (2)

(e) Calculate $\text{Var}(3 - 4X)$ giving your answer to 3 significant figures. (3)

2)

A biased die with six faces is rolled. The discrete random variable X represents the score on the uppermost face. The probability distribution of X is shown in the table below.

x	1	2	3	4	5	6
$P(X = x)$	a	a	a	b	b	0.3

(a) Given that $E(X) = 4.2$ find the value of a and the value of b . (5)

(b) Show that $E(X^2) = 20.4$ (1)

(c) Find $\text{Var}(5 - 3X)$ (3)

A biased die with five faces is rolled. The discrete random variable Y represents the score which is uppermost. The cumulative distribution function of Y is shown in the table below.

y	1	2	3	4	5
$F(y)$	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	$3k$	$4k$	$5k$

(d) Find the value of k . (1)

(e) Find the probability distribution of Y . (3)

Each die is rolled once. The scores on the two dice are independent.

(f) Find the probability that the sum of the two scores equals 2 (2)

3)

The discrete random variable X can take only the values 1, 2 and 3. For these values the cumulative distribution function is defined by

$$F(x) = \frac{x^3 + k}{40} \quad x = 1, 2, 3$$

(a) Show that $k = 13$ (2)

(b) Find the probability distribution of X . (4)

Given that $\text{Var}(X) = \frac{259}{320}$

(c) find the exact value of $\text{Var}(4X - 5)$. (2)

4)

A fair blue die has faces numbered 1, 1, 3, 3, 5 and 5. The random variable B represents the score when the blue die is rolled.

(a) Write down the probability distribution for B . (2)

(b) State the name of this probability distribution. (1)

(c) Write down the value of $E(B)$. (1)

A second die is red and the random variable R represents the score when the red die is rolled.

The probability distribution of R is

r	2	4	6
$P(R = r)$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$

(d) Find $E(R)$. (2)

(e) Find $\text{Var}(R)$. (3)

5)

A discrete random variable X has the probability function

$$P(X = x) = \begin{cases} k(1-x)^2 & x = -1, 0, 1 \text{ and } 2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(a) Show that $k = \frac{1}{6}$ (3)

(b) Find $E(X)$ (2)

(c) Show that $E(X^2) = \frac{4}{3}$ (2)

(d) Find $\text{Var}(1-3X)$ (3)

6)

The discrete random variable Y has probability distribution

y	1	2	3	4
$P(Y=y)$	a	b	0.3	c

where a , b and c are constants.

The cumulative distribution function $F(y)$ of Y is given in the following table

y	1	2	3	4
$F(y)$	0.1	0.5	d	1.0

where d is a constant.

(a) Find the value of a , the value of b , the value of c and the value of d . (5)

(b) Find $P(3Y + 2 \geq 8)$. (2)

8)

The discrete random variable X has probability distribution given by

x	-1	0	1	2	3
$P(X = x)$	$\frac{1}{5}$	a	$\frac{1}{10}$	a	$\frac{1}{5}$

where a is a constant.

(a) Find the value of a . (2)

(b) Write down $E(X)$. (1)

(c) Find $\text{Var}(X)$. (3)

The random variable $Y = 6 - 2X$

(d) Find $\text{Var}(Y)$. (2)

(e) Calculate $P(X \geq Y)$. (3)

9)

The probability function of a discrete random variable X is given by

$$p(x) = kx^2 \quad x = 1, 2, 3$$

where k is a positive constant.

(a) Show that $k = \frac{1}{14}$ (2)

Find

(b) $P(X \geq 2)$ (2)

(c) $E(X)$ (2)

(d) $\text{Var}(1 - X)$ (4)

1)

The length of time, in minutes, that a customer queues in a Post Office is a random variable, T , with probability density function

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} c(81 - t^2) & 0 \leq t \leq 9 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where c is a constant.

(a) Show that the value of c is $\frac{1}{486}$ (4)

(b) Show that the cumulative distribution function $F(t)$ is given by

$$F(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & t < 0 \\ \frac{t}{6} - \frac{t^3}{1458} & 0 \leq t \leq 9 \\ 1 & t > 9 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

3)

The continuous random variable X has the following probability density function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} a + bx & 0 \leq x \leq 5 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where a and b are constants.

(a) Show that $10a + 25b = 2$ (4)

Given that $E(X) = \frac{35}{12}$

(b) find a second equation in a and b , (3)

(c) hence find the value of a and the value of b . (3)

(d) Find, to 3 significant figures, the median of X . (3)

(e) Comment on the skewness. Give a reason for your answer. (2)

4)

The queueing time, X minutes, of a customer at a till of a supermarket has probability density function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{3}{32}x(k-x) & 0 \leq x \leq k \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- (a) Show that the value of k is 4 (4)
- (b) Write down the value of $E(X)$. (1)
- (c) Calculate $\text{Var}(X)$. (4)
- (d) Find the probability that a randomly chosen customer's queueing time will differ from the mean by at least half a minute. (3)

5)

The continuous random variable X has probability density function $f(x)$ given by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^2}{45} & 0 \leq x \leq 3 \\ \frac{1}{5} & 3 < x < 4 \\ \frac{1}{3} - \frac{x}{30} & 4 \leq x \leq 10 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- (a) Sketch $f(x)$ for $0 \leq x \leq 10$ (4)
- (b) Find the cumulative distribution function $F(x)$ for all values of x . (8)
- (c) Find $P(X \leq 8)$. (2)