

Definition 1 Joint cumulative distribution function

Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k be k random variables all defined on the same probability space (Ω, \mathcal{A}, P) , or (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k) is k -dimensional random variable. The joint cumulative distribution function of X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k denoted by $F(x_1, \dots, x_k)$, is defined as:

$$F_{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k}(\cdot, \dots, \cdot) = P[X_1 \leq x_1, \dots, X_k \leq x_k] \text{ for all } (x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \mathbb{R}^k$$

Remark

- 1) If X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k be k discrete random variables, then the joint probability mass function j.p.m.f. of (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k) , denoted by $f_{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k}(\cdot, \dots, \cdot)$ is defined to be

$$f_{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k}(x_1, \dots, x_k) = f(x_1, \dots, x_k) = P(x_1, \dots, x_k)$$

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_k) = \begin{cases} P[X_1 = x_1, \dots, X_k = x_k], & (x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \mathbb{R}^k \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

That has the following properties:

- a) $f(x_1, \dots, x_k) \geq 0 \quad \forall (x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \mathbb{R}^k$,
b) $\sum_{\forall (x_1, \dots, x_k)} f(x_1, \dots, x_k) = 1$.

For example if $k = 2$, then the joint probability mass function of (X_1, X_2) is $f(x_1, x_2) = P[X_1 = x_1, X_2 = x_2]$ and the joint cumulative distribution function of (X_1, X_2) is

$$F_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) = P[X_1 \leq x_1, X_2 \leq x_2].$$

- 2) If X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k be k continuous random variables, or (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k) is k -dimensional continuous random variable, then the joint probability density function of (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k) , denoted by

$$f_{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k}(\cdot, \dots, \cdot) = f(x_1, \dots, x_k). \text{ Therefore}$$

$$F_{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k}(\cdot, \dots, \cdot) = \int_{-\infty}^{x_1} \int_{-\infty}^{x_2} \dots \int_{-\infty}^{x_k} f(u_1, \dots, u_k) du_1 \dots du_k \text{ for all } (x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \mathbb{R}^k$$

Joint and Conditional Distributions

The joint probability density function of (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k) has the following properties:

- a) $f(x_1, \dots, x_k) \geq 0 \quad \forall (x_1, \dots, x_k) \in \mathbb{R}^k$,
- b) $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \dots \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x_1, \dots, x_k) dx_1 \dots dx_k = 1$.

For example

If $k = 2$, then the joint probability density function j.p.d.f. of (X_1, X_2) is $f(x_1, x_2)$ and the joint cumulative distribution function of (X_1, X_2) is

$$F_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) = \int_{-\infty}^{x_1} \int_{-\infty}^{x_2} f(u_1, u_2) du_1 du_2.$$

If $R = \{(X_1, X_2): a_1 < X_1 \leq b_1; a_2 < X_2 \leq b_2\}$, then

$$P[a_1 < X_1 \leq b_1, a_2 < X_2 \leq b] = \int_{a_1}^{b_1} \int_{a_2}^{b_2} f(x_1, x_2) dx_1 dx_2$$

EXAMPLE 1 Consider the bivariate function

$$f(x, y) = K(x + y)I_{(0,1)}(x)I_{(0,1)}(y) = K(x + y)I_U(x, y),$$

where $U = \{(x, y): 0 < x < 1 \text{ and } 0 < y < 1\}$, a unit square. Can the constant K be selected so that $f(x, y)$ will be a joint probability density function? If K is positive, $f(x, y) \geq 0$.

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} Kf(x, y) dx dy &= \int_0^1 \int_0^1 K(x + y) dx dy \\ &= K \int_0^1 \int_0^1 (x + y) dx dy \\ &= K \int_0^1 \left(\frac{1}{2} + y\right) dy \\ &= K\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\right) \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Properties of bivariate cumulative distribution function $F(\cdot, \cdot)$

- (i) $F(-\infty, y) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} F(x, y) = 0$ for all y , $F(x, -\infty) = \lim_{y \rightarrow -\infty} F(x, y) = 0$ for all x , and $\lim_{\substack{x \rightarrow \infty \\ y \rightarrow \infty}} F(x, y) = F(\infty, \infty) = 1$.
- (ii) If $x_1 < x_2$ and $y_1 < y_2$, then $P[x_1 < X \leq x_2; y_1 < Y \leq y_2] = F(x_2, y_2) - F(x_2, y_1) - F(x_1, y_2) + F(x_1, y_1) \geq 0$.
- (iii) $F(x, y)$ is right continuous in each argument; that is, $\lim_{0 < h \rightarrow 0} F(x + h, y) = \lim_{0 < h \rightarrow 0} F(x, y + h) = F(x, y)$.

This joint cumulative distribution function of (X_1, X_2) , $F_{X_1, X_2}(\cdot, \cdot)$ is called bivariate cumulative distribution function.

Definition 2 Marginal cumulative distribution function If $F_{X, Y}(\cdot, \cdot)$ is the joint cumulative distribution function of X and Y , then the cumulative distribution functions $F_X(\cdot)$ and $F_Y(\cdot)$ are called *marginal cumulative distribution functions*. ///

Remark $F_X(x) = F_{X, Y}(x, \infty)$, and $F_Y(y) = F_{X, Y}(\infty, y)$; that is, knowledge of the joint cumulative distribution function of X and Y implies knowledge of the two marginal cumulative distribution functions. ///

That is $F_{X_1}(x_1) = F_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, \infty) = \int_{-\infty}^{x_1} \int_{a_2}^{\infty} f(u_1, x_2) dx_2 du_1$

Marginal probability density(mass) functions

Let $X_1, X_2 \dots, X_k$ be k c.r.v.'s (d.r.v.'s) that have j.p.d.f. $f_{X_1, X_2 \dots, X_k}(\cdot, \dots, \cdot)$, then the marginal of any subset of the jointly continuous random variables $X_1, X_2 \dots, X_k$ as $X_{i_1}, X_{i_2} \dots, X_{i_m}$ can be defined as

$$\int_{-\infty}^{x_1} \int_{-\infty}^{x_2} \dots \int_{-\infty}^{x_k} f(x_1, \dots, x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_m}, \dots, x_k) dx_1 \dots dx_k = f(x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_m})$$

For example if $X_1, X_2 \dots, X_5$ c.r.v.'s, then the marginal of X_1, X_2 is defined as

$$\int_{-\infty}^{x_3} \int_{-\infty}^{x_4} \int_{-\infty}^{x_5} f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5) dx_3 dx_4 dx_5 = f(x_1, x_2)$$

Therefore the marginal of X_i is

$$\int_{-\infty}^{x_1} \int_{-\infty}^{x_2} \dots \int_{-\infty}^{x_5} f(x_1, x_2, x_i, \dots, x_5) dx_1 dx_2 \dots dx_5 = f(x_i)$$

Let $i = 3$, then the marginal of X_3 is

$$\int_{-\infty}^{x_1} \int_{-\infty}^{x_2} \int_{-\infty}^{x_4} \int_{-\infty}^{x_5} f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5) dx_1 dx_2 dx_4 dx_5 = f(x_3)$$

Similarly if we have d.r.v.'s, that is

$$P(x_1, x_2) = f(x_1, x_2) = \sum_{\forall x_3} \sum_{\forall x_4} \sum_{\forall x_5} f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5)$$

and

$$P(x_1) = f(x_1, x_2) = \sum_{\forall x_2} \sum_{\forall x_3} \sum_{\forall x_4} \sum_{\forall x_5} f(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5)$$

Example 1. Let the joint p.d.f. of X_1 and X_2 be

$$f(x_1, x_2) = \frac{x_1 + x_2}{21}, \quad x_1 = 1, 2, 3, x_2 = 1, 2, \\ = 0 \text{ elsewhere.}$$

Then, for instance,

$$\Pr(X_1 = 3) = f(3, 1) + f(3, 2) = \frac{3}{7}$$

and

$$\Pr(X_2 = 2) = f(1, 2) + f(2, 2) + f(3, 2) = \frac{4}{7}.$$

On the other hand, the marginal p.d.f. of X_1 is

$$f_1(x_1) = \sum_{x_2=1}^2 \frac{x_1 + x_2}{21} = \frac{2x_1 + 3}{21}, \quad x_1 = 1, 2, 3,$$

zero elsewhere, and the marginal p.d.f. of X_2 is

$$f_2(x_2) = \sum_{x_1=1}^3 \frac{x_1 + x_2}{21} = \frac{6 + 3x_2}{21}, \quad x_2 = 1, 2,$$

zero elsewhere. Thus the preceding probabilities may be computed as $\Pr(X_1 = 3) = f_1(3) = \frac{3}{7}$ and $\Pr(X_2 = 2) = f_2(2) = \frac{4}{7}$.

Example 2. Let X_1 and X_2 have the joint p.d.f.

$$f(x_1, x_2) = 2, \quad 0 < x_1 < x_2 < 1, \\ = 0 \text{ elsewhere.}$$

Then the marginal probability density functions are, respectively,

$$f_1(x_1) = \int_{x_1}^1 2 dx_2 = 2(1 - x_1), \quad 0 < x_1 < 1, \\ = 0 \text{ elsewhere,}$$

and

$$f_2(x_2) = \int_0^{x_2} 2 dx_1 = 2x_2, \quad 0 < x_2 < 1, \\ = 0 \text{ elsewhere.}$$

The conditional p.d.f. of X_1 , given $X_2 = x_2$, is

$$f(x_1|x_2) = \frac{2}{2x_2} = \frac{1}{x_2}, \quad 0 < x_1 < x_2, \quad 0 < x_2 < 1, \\ = 0 \text{ elsewhere.}$$

EXAMPLE Consider the joint probability density

$$f_{X,Y}(x, y) = (x + y)I_{(0,1)}(x)I_{(0,1)}(y). \\ F_{X,Y}(x, y) = I_{(0,1)}(x)I_{(0,1)}(y) \int_0^y \int_0^x (u + v) du dv \\ + I_{(0,1)}(x)I_{[1,\infty)}(y) \int_0^1 \int_0^x (u + v) du dv \\ + I_{[1,\infty)}(x)I_{(0,1)}(y) \int_0^y \int_0^1 (u + v) du dv \\ + I_{[1,\infty)}(x)I_{[1,\infty)}(y) \\ = \frac{1}{2}\{(x^2y + xy^2)I_{(0,1)}(x)I_{(0,1)}(y) + (x^2 + x)I_{(0,1)}(x)I_{[1,\infty)}(y) \\ + (y + y^2)I_{[1,\infty)}(x)I_{(0,1)}(y)\} + I_{[1,\infty)}(x)I_{[1,\infty)}(y).$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_X(x) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, y) dy \\ &= I_{(0,1)}(x) \int_0^1 (x+y) dy \\ &= (x + \frac{1}{2})I_{(0,1)}(x); \end{aligned}$$

or,

$$\begin{aligned} f_X(x) &= \frac{\partial F_{X,Y}(x, \infty)}{\partial x} \\ &= \frac{\partial F_X(x)}{\partial x} \\ &= I_{(0,1)}(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{x^2 + x}{2} \right) \\ &= (x + \frac{1}{2})I_{(0,1)}(x). \end{aligned}$$