

Calculators will not be used; either the arithmetic will be quite simple or you will be asked to leave answers in unsimplified form. You will be given a copy of Table 5.1 of Ross so that you can answer questions about the normal distribution, and the following formulas:

Binomial: $P\{X = k\} = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$, $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$. $E[X] = np$, $\text{Var}(X) = np(1-p)$.

Geometric: $P\{X = k\} = p(1-p)^{k-1}$, $k = 1, 2, \dots$. $E[X] = 1/p$, $\text{Var}(X) = (1-p)/p^2$.

Poisson: $P\{X = k\} = \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda}$, $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$. $E[X] = \lambda$, $\text{Var}(X) = \lambda$.

Exponential: $f_X(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}$, $x \geq 0$. $E[X] = 1/\lambda$, $\text{Var}(X) = 1/\lambda^2$.

Normal: $f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$. $E[X] = \mu$, $\text{Var}(X) = \sigma^2$.

1. A certain continuous random variable X has density

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} cx, & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 1, \\ 0, & \text{if } x < 0 \text{ or } x > 1, \end{cases}$$

for some constant c .

(a) Find c . (b) Find $P\{X \geq \frac{1}{3}\}$ and $P\{X = \frac{1}{3}\}$. (c) Find $E[X]$ and $\text{Var}(X)$.

Suppose now that Y is a second continuous random variable which is uniformly distributed on the interval $[0, 1]$, and that X and Y are independent.

(d) Write down carefully the joint density $f(x, y)$. Be sure both to specify where $f(x, y)$ is zero and to give a formula for it where it is non-zero.

(e) Find $P\{X \geq Y\}$.

2. A binomial random variable X with parameters n and p is to be approximated by a Poisson random variable Y with parameter np . Under what restrictions on n and p is this approximation reasonable? Show that, when these restrictions hold, Y has the “correct” mean and almost the “correct” variance.

3. Robert plays a game in which his chance of winning is $1/5$. Using a normal approximation with half integer correction, estimate the probability if he plays the game 100 times he will win exactly 25 times.

4. Alice, Bruce, and Cynthia are playing darts, using the disk $x^2 + y^2 \leq 4$ as a target. They always manage to hit the target, but the x and y components of their impact points have different joint distributions, denoted f_A , f_B , and f_C , respectively; for $x^2 + y^2 \leq 4$,

$$f_A(x, y) = c_A(4 - x^2 - y^2), \quad f_B(x, y) = c_B, \quad f_C(x, y) = c_C(x^2 + y^2).$$

(a) Assuming that all are aiming for the center of the target, which one is the best shot? The worst shot?

(b) Find c_A , c_B , and c_C .

(c) The game is scored by giving 4 points for a hit inside the circle $x^2 + y^2 = 1$, and 1 point for a hit outside that circle. What is the expected value of the number of points scored by each player on a throw?

(Hint: Part (a) can be done by inspection. For Alice and Cynthia, parts (b) and (c) require a little work (use polar coordinates), but for Bruce, they can be done almost by inspection.)

5. A certain component has lifetime T , where T is a positive random variable, measured in days, with density $f(t) = Kte^{-2t}$.

(a) Find K .

(b) Suppose it is known that the component has lasted one day. What is the probability that it will last two more days?

