

Review:

① Union bound: $P(A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_n) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i)$

② Network outage probability & distribution of capacity of flow network

③ Cumulative distribution function: $F_X(c) = P(X \leq c) = P(\{\omega \in \Omega: X(\omega) \leq c\})$, for any $c > 0$.

main properties: F is cdf of some random variable X if & only if:

F.1. increasing: $a < b \Rightarrow F(a) < F(b)$

F.2. $\lim_{c \rightarrow \infty} F(c) = 1$, $\lim_{c \rightarrow -\infty} F(c) = 0$

F.3. F is right continuous, i.e., $\lim_{u \rightarrow c^+} F(u) = F(c)$

other properties:

(i) $\Delta F_X(c) = F_X(c) - F_X(c-) = P(X=c)$

(ii) $F_X(c-) = \lim_{u \rightarrow c^-} F_X(u) = P(X < c)$

(iii) For any $a < b$, $F_X(b) - F_X(a) = P(a < X \leq b)$

④ Continuous random variable:

Def. X is continuous-type random variable if $F_X(c) = \int_{-\infty}^c f_X(u) du$

• f_X is the probability density function of X

• $f_X(u) \geq 0$ for all $u \in \mathbb{R}$, $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(u) dx = 1$

• Support of f_X is the set u for which $f_X(u) > 0$

• If f_X is continuous at u , then $F_X'(u) = f_X(u)$

• Interpretation of f_X : suppose that f_X is continuous at u ,

$$P(u+\epsilon < X < u-\epsilon) = f_X(u) \cdot 2\epsilon + o(\epsilon), \text{ where } \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{o(\epsilon)}{\epsilon} = 0$$

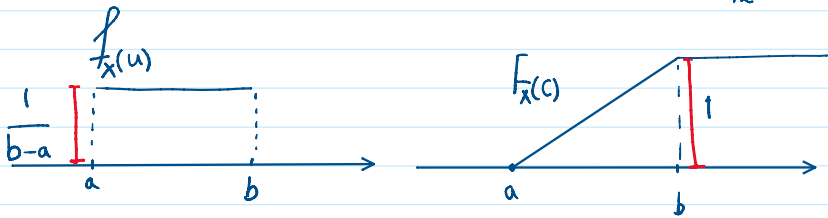
• $P(X=u) = 0$ for all continuous random variables.

⑤ Uniform distribution

$$f_X(u) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{b-a} & a \leq u \leq b \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, \quad \mu_X = E[X] = \frac{b+a}{2}$$

$$f_X(u) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{b-a} & a \leq u \leq b \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}, \quad \mu_X = E[X] = \frac{b+a}{2}$$

$$\text{var}(X) = \frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$$



Today:

① exponential distribution

② relation between geometric distribution & exponential distribution.

① Exponential distribution.

Def. We say random variable T has exponential distribution with parameter $\lambda > 0$

if

$$f_T(t) = \begin{cases} \lambda e^{-\lambda t} & t \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

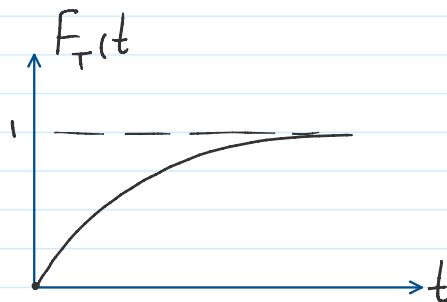
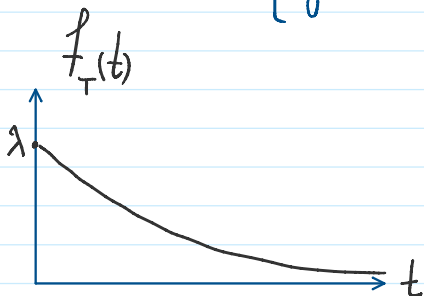
For brevity, we usually write T has $\text{exp}(\lambda)$ distribution.

• CDF of T : for $t > 0$

$$F_T(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t f_T(u) du = \int_{-\infty}^t \lambda e^{-\lambda u} du = -e^{-\lambda u} \Big|_{-\infty}^t = 1 - e^{-\lambda t}$$

Hence,

$$F_T(t) = \begin{cases} 1 - e^{-\lambda t} & t \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$



• Complementary cdf:

$$1 - F_T(t) = e^{-\lambda t}$$

- Complementary cdf:

$$F_T^c(t) = P(X > t) = 1 - F_X(t)$$

$$F_T(t) = \begin{cases} e^{-\lambda t} & t \geq 0 \\ 1 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

- Moments:

$$\begin{aligned} E[T^n] &= \int_0^{\infty} u^n \lambda e^{-\lambda u} du = -u^n e^{-\lambda u} \Big|_0^{\infty} + n \int_0^{\infty} u^{n-1} e^{-\lambda u} du \\ &= 0 + \frac{n}{\lambda} E[T^{n-1}] \end{aligned}$$

- Mean, variance and standard deviation:

$$E[T] = \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

$$\text{Var}(T) = E[T^2] - (E[T])^2 = \frac{2}{\lambda} \cdot \frac{1}{\lambda} - \left(\frac{1}{\lambda}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$$

$$\sigma_T = \sqrt{\text{Var}(T)} = \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

- Memoryless property: notice that $P(T > c) = e^{-\lambda c}$

$$\begin{aligned} P(T > s+t | T > s) &= \frac{P(T > s, T > s+t)}{P(T > s)} \\ &= \frac{e^{-\lambda(s+t)}}{e^{-\lambda s}} = e^{-\lambda t} = P(T > t) \end{aligned}$$

If T is lifetime of a lamp, given that the lamp has been working for s time units, the probability that it will be working for t additional time units is same as if we replace the lamp with a new one and then look at the probability of this event!

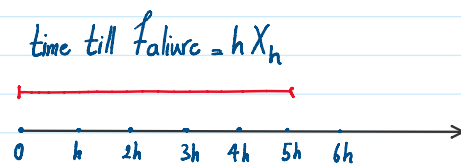
② Geometric distribution vs exponential distribution

Consider the lifetime of a bulb. Let us make the following assumptions:

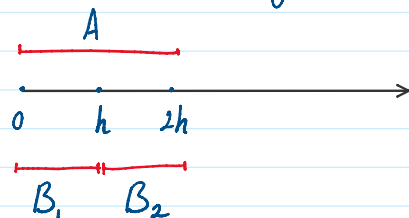
- (*) Suppose that we have a clock that ticks every h seconds.
- (**) Suppose that the probability that the bulb fails between any two ticks is p , independent of everything else, and that $p \rightarrow 0$ as $h \rightarrow 0$.

everything else, and that $p_h \rightarrow 0$ as $h \rightarrow 0$.

Let X_h denote the number of ticks till failure. We have,

$$P(X_h = k) = (1 - p_h)^{k-1} p_h$$


Now suppose we have another clock that ticks every $2h$ seconds. Let p_{2h} denote the probability of failure of bulb over any interval of length $2h$. Notice that

$$p_{2h} = p_h + p_h - p_h^2$$


since

$$P(A) = P(B_1 \cup B_2) \\ = P(B_1) + P(B_2) - P(B_1 \cap B_2)$$

A: failure in interval $[0, 2h]$, B_1 : failure in interval $[0, h]$, B_2 : failure in interval $[h, 2h]$

Now, if h is small enough, then p_h is small and we have $p_{2h} \approx 2p_h$. Using a similar argument, and a bit of algebra, we can show that for any $c > 0$, $p_{ch} \approx cp_h$ for all h small enough. Hence, the following assumption is not far from being true.

(***) Suppose that $p_h = \lambda h$ for some fixed constant $\lambda > 0$ and any $h > 0$.

Now, given (*), (**), and (***) , let us calculate the time it take for the bulb to fail.

Notice that if $X_h = k$, then the bulb failed at some time between $(k-1)h$ and kh . Let

$T_h = hX_h$ denote the time till tick at which the bulb failed. We have,

$$P(T_h > t) = P(hX_h > t) = P(X_h > \frac{t}{h}) = (1 - p_h)^{\lfloor \frac{t}{h} \rfloor} = (1 - \lambda h)^{\lfloor \frac{t}{h} \rfloor}$$

Notice that since X_h is an integer, the following events are the same:

$$\left\{ X_h > \frac{t}{h} \right\} = \left\{ X_h > \lfloor \frac{t}{h} \rfloor \right\}$$

Now, recall that $(1 - \frac{x}{a})^a \rightarrow e^{-x}$ as $a \rightarrow \infty$

Hence, defining $h = \frac{1}{a}$ we have

$$(1 - \lambda h)^{\lfloor \frac{t}{h} \rfloor} = (1 - \frac{\lambda}{a})^{\lfloor ta \rfloor} = (1 - \frac{\lambda}{a})^{ta} \cdot \frac{(1 - \frac{\lambda}{a})^{\lfloor ta \rfloor}}{(1 - \frac{\lambda}{a})^{ta}}$$

Notice that

$$(i) (1 - \frac{\lambda}{a})^{ta} = \left((1 - \frac{\lambda}{a})^a \right)^t \rightarrow (e^{-\lambda})^t = e^{-\lambda t} \text{ as } a \rightarrow \infty$$

$$(ii) 0 < \frac{(1 - \frac{\lambda}{a})^{\lfloor ta \rfloor}}{(1 - \frac{\lambda}{a})^{ta}} = (1 - \frac{\lambda}{a})^{\lfloor ta \rfloor - ta} \leq 1,$$

and that $\lfloor ta \rfloor - ta \rightarrow 0$ as $a \rightarrow \infty$; hence $(1 - \frac{\lambda}{a})^{\lfloor ta \rfloor - ta} \rightarrow 1$ as $a \rightarrow \infty$.

Hence, by above observations:

$$P(T_h > t) \rightarrow e^{-\lambda t} \text{ as } h \rightarrow 0$$

which is the complimentary cdf of an exponential random variable. Hence,

given (*), (**), and (***) , the life time of the bulb is an exponential random variable T with parameter λ . In particular, distribution of $T_h = hX_h$ converges to distribution of T as $h \rightarrow 0$.