

Jointly distributed continuous random variables

This is just a fancy way of saying that we want to analyze two (or more) continuous random variables at the same time.

Define $f_{X,Y}(x,y)$ to be the joint probability density function (joint density).

It has the property that

$$P(X \in A, Y \in B) = \int_A \int_B f_{X,Y}(x,y) dy dx$$

For example, $P(0 \leq X \leq 2, 1 \leq Y \leq 7.5) = \int_0^2 \int_1^{7.5} f_{X,Y}(x,y) dy dx$

Also have a joint CDF (joint cumulative distribution function)

$$F_{X,Y}(a,b) = P(X \leq a, Y \leq b) = \int_{-\infty}^a \int_{-\infty}^b f_{X,Y}(x,y) dy dx$$

We get the joint CDF evaluated at (a,b) by integrating $f_{X,Y}(x,y)$, the joint density, from $-\infty$ to a with respect to x and by integrating from $-\infty$ to b with respect to y .

If we have the joint CDF $F_{X,Y}(x,y)$ of X and Y , we can get the joint density by differentiating with respect to each of the random variables:

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = \frac{d}{dx} \frac{d}{dy} F_{X,Y}(x,y) = \frac{d}{dy} \frac{d}{dx} F_{X,Y}(x,y) \quad (\text{either order is OK}).$$