

Transformation of a random variable

Say X is a continuous Uniform random variable on $[0, 5]$.

Define $Y = \pi X^2$ i.e. if we treat X as the radius of a circle, then Y is the area of the circle.

Two ways to get $E(Y)$.

$$\textcircled{1} E(Y) = E(\pi X^2) = \int_0^5 (\pi x^2) \left(\frac{1}{5}\right) dx = \frac{25\pi}{3}$$

$\textcircled{2}$ Find CDF of Y , then density of Y , then expected value of Y .

(We learn more about Y this way.)

$$F_Y(a) = P(Y \leq a) = P(\pi X^2 \leq a) = P\left(X \leq \sqrt{\frac{a}{\pi}}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{a}{\pi}} - 0}{5 - 0}$$

for $0 < a < \pi 5^2 = 25\pi$

↑ know $X \geq 0$ so do not need the negative part here

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{d}{dy} F_Y(y) = \frac{d}{dy} \left(\frac{1}{5} \sqrt{\frac{y}{\pi}}\right) = \frac{1}{10\sqrt{\pi y}}$$

$$E(Y) = \int_0^{25\pi} (y) \frac{1}{10\sqrt{\pi y}} dy = \frac{25\pi}{3} \text{ as before!}$$