
Time: 20 mins

Name:

Std. Number:

Prerequisite Quiz

Questions

1. Suppose that m and n are positive integers. What is the probability that a randomly chosen positive integer less than mn is not divisible by either m or n ? (10 points)
2. A simple example of a random variable is the *indicator* of an event A , which is denoted by I_A :

$$I_A(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } \omega \in A \\ 0, & \text{Otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- (a) Prove that two events A and B are independent if and only if the associated indicator random variables, I_A and I_B are independent. (6 points)
 - (b) If $X = I_A$, find $E[X]$. (4 points)
3. Let X be a continuous random variable with the following PDF

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} ce^{-x}, & x > 0 \\ 0, & \text{Otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

where c is a positive constant.

- (a) Find c
- (b) Find the CDF of X , $F_X(x)$
- (c) Find $P(1 < X < 3)$

Solutions:

1) We have $mn - 1$ integers less than mn . Furthermore, there are $n - 1$ multiples of m and $m - 1$ multiples of n less than mn ; However, $\frac{mn}{\text{lcm}(m,n)} - 1$ of these multiples are the same. Hence by the Inclusion-Exclusion law we have $m + n - 1 - \text{gcd}(m, n)$ multiples of either m or n . By doing some algebra, the probability of not choosing a multiple of either one would be:

$$\frac{(m - 1)(n - 1) + \text{gcd}(m, n) - 1}{mn - 1}$$

2)

(a) We know that I_A is a random variable that maps a 1 to the real number line if ω occurs within an event A and maps a 0 to the real line if ω occurs outside of event A . A similar argument holds for event B . Thus we have,

$$I_A(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{with probability } P(A) \\ 0, & \text{with probability } 1 - P(A) \end{cases}$$

If the random variables, A and B , are independent, we have $P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$. The indicator random variables, I_A and I_B , are independent if, $P_{I_A, I_B}(x, y) = P_{I_A}(x)P_{I_B}(y)$. First suppose I_A and I_B are independent, we have:

$$P(A \cap B) = P_{I_A, I_B}(1, 1) = P_{I_A}(1)P_{I_B}(1) = P(A)P(B)$$

now suppose A and B are independent,

$$P_{I_A, I_B}(1, 1) = P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B) = P_{I_A}(1)P_{I_B}(1)$$

$$P_{I_A, I_B}(0, 1) = P(A^c \cap B) = P(A^c)P(B) = P_{I_A}(0)P_{I_B}(1)$$

$$P_{I_A, I_B}(1, 0) = P(A \cap B^c) = P(A)P(B^c) = P_{I_A}(1)P_{I_B}(0)$$

$$P_{I_A, I_B}(0, 0) = P(A^c \cap B^c) = P(A^c)P(B^c) = P_{I_A}(0)P_{I_B}(0)$$

(b) If $X = I_A$, we know that

$$E[X] = E[I_A] = 1 \cdot P(A) + 0 \cdot (1 - P(A)) = P(A)$$

3)a. To find c , we can use Property 2 above, in particular

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(u) du \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} ce^{-u} du \\ &= c \left[-e^{-u} \right]_0^{\infty} \\ &= c. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we must have $c = 1$.

b. To find the CDF of X , we use $F_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f_X(u) du$, so for $x < 0$, we obtain $F_X(x) = 0$. For $x \geq 0$, we have

$$F_X(x) = \int_0^x e^{-u} du = 1 - e^{-x}.$$

Thus,

$$F_X(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - e^{-x} & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

c. We can find $P(1 < X < 3)$ using either the CDF or the PDF. If we use the CDF, we have

$$P(1 < X < 3) = F_X(3) - F_X(1) = [1 - e^{-3}] - [1 - e^{-1}] = e^{-1} - e^{-3}.$$

Equivalently, we can use the PDF. We have

$$\begin{aligned} P(1 < X < 3) &= \int_1^3 f_X(t) dt \\ &= \int_1^3 e^{-t} dt \\ &= e^{-1} - e^{-3}. \end{aligned}$$