

# STA 260: Statistics and Probability II

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- 1 Chapter 6. Function of Random Variables
  - The Method of Distribution Functions
  - The Method of Transformations
  - The Method of Moment-Generating Functions
  - Order Statistics
  - Bivariate Transformation Method
  - Appendix

"If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough"

Albert Einstein.

## Example

Let  $(Y_1, Y_2)$  denote a random sample of size  $n = 2$  from the uniform distribution on the interval  $(0, 1)$ . Find the probability density function for  $U = Y_1 + Y_2$ .

# Solution

The density function for each  $Y_i$  is

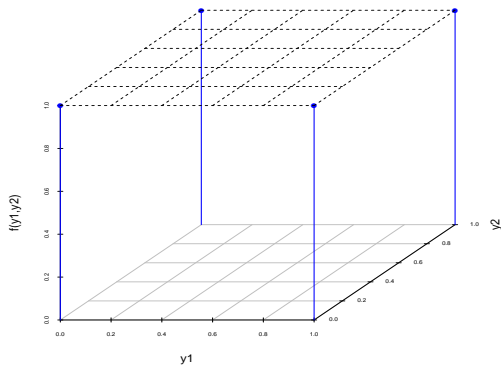
$$f(y) = \begin{cases} 1 & 0 \leq y \leq 1 \\ 0 & \textit{elsewhere} \end{cases}$$

Therefore, because we have a random sample,  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  are independent, and

$$f(y_1, y_2) = f(y_1)f(y_2) \begin{cases} 1 & 0 \leq y_1 \leq 1, 0 \leq y_2 \leq 1 \\ 0 & \textit{elsewhere} \end{cases}$$

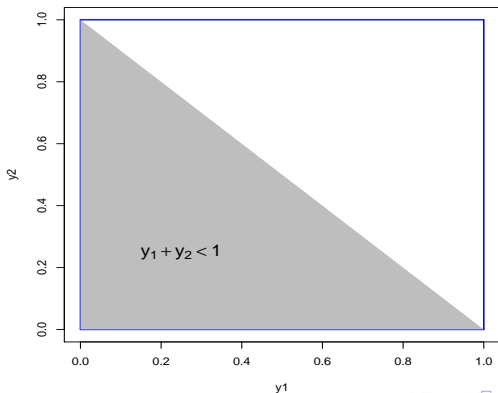
We wish to find  $F_U(u) = P(U \leq u)$ .

## Joint pdf



# Solution

The region  $y_1 + y_2 \leq u$  for  $0 \leq u \leq 1$ .



# Solution

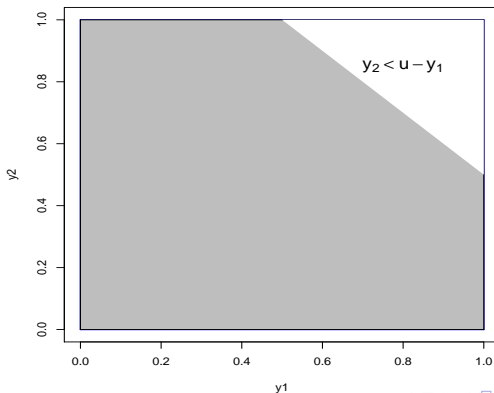
The solution,  $F_U(u)$ ,  $0 \leq u \leq 1$ , could be acquired directly by using elementary geometry.

$$F_U(u) = (\text{area of triangle})(\text{height}) = \frac{u^2}{2}(1) = \frac{u^2}{2}.$$



# Solution

The region  $y_1 + y_2 \leq u$  for  $1 < u \leq 2$ .



## Solution

The solution,  $F_U(u)$ ,  $1 < u \leq 2$ , could be acquired directly by using elementary geometry, or using Calculus.

$$\begin{aligned}F_U(u) &= 1 - (\text{area of triangle})(\text{height}) \\&= 1 - \left[ \frac{(2-u)(2-u)}{2} \right] (1) \\&= 1 - \left[ 2 - 2u + \frac{u^2}{2} \right] \\&= -1 + 2u - \frac{u^2}{2}\end{aligned}$$

# Solution

It should be clear at this point that

If  $u < 0$ ,  $F_U(u) = 0$ .

If  $u > 2$   $F_U(u) = 1$ .

# Solution

To summarize,

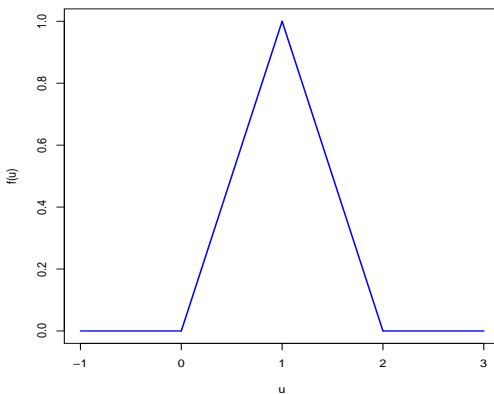
$$F_U(u) = \begin{cases} 0 & u \leq 0 \\ u^2/2 & 0 < u \leq 1 \\ (-u^2/2) + 2u - 1 & 1 < u \leq 2 \\ 1 & u > 2 \end{cases}$$

# Solution

The density function  $f_U(u)$  can be obtained by differentiating  $F_U(u)$ . Thus,

$$f_U(u) = \frac{d F_U(u)}{du} = \begin{cases} 0 & u \leq 0 \\ u & 0 \leq u \leq 1 \\ 2 - u & 1 < u \leq 2 \\ 0 & u > 2 \end{cases}$$

# Graph of pdf



## Example

Consider the case  $U = h(Y) = Y^2$ , where  $Y$  is a continuous random variable with distribution function  $F_Y(y)$  and density function  $f_Y(y)$ . Find the probability density function for  $U$ .

# Solution

If  $u \leq 0$ ,

$$F_U(u) = P(U \leq u) = P(Y^2 \leq u) = 0.$$

If  $u > 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} F_U(u) &= P(U \leq u) = P(Y^2 \leq u) = P(-\sqrt{u} \leq Y \leq \sqrt{u}) \\ &= \int_{-\sqrt{u}}^{\sqrt{u}} f(y) dy = F_Y(\sqrt{u}) - F_Y(-\sqrt{u}). \end{aligned}$$



# Solution

On differentiating with respect to  $u$ , we see that

$$f_U(u) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{u}}[f_Y(\sqrt{u}) + f_Y(-\sqrt{u})] & u > 0 \\ 0 & \textit{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

## Exercise 6.7

Suppose that  $Z$  has a standard Normal distribution.

- Find the density function of  $U = Z^2$ .
- Does  $U$  have a gamma distribution? What are the values of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ ?
- What is another name for the distribution of  $U$ ?

# Solution

Let  $F_Z(z)$  and  $f_Z(z)$  denote the standard Normal distribution and density functions respectively.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a. } F_U(u) &= P(U \leq u) = P(Z^2 \leq u) = P(-\sqrt{u} \leq Z \leq \sqrt{u}) \\ &= F_Z(\sqrt{u}) - F_Z(-\sqrt{u}). \end{aligned}$$

The density function for  $U$  is then

$$f_U(u) = F'_U(u) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{u}} f_Z(\sqrt{u}) + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{u}} f_Z(-\sqrt{u}), \quad u \geq 0.$$

# Solution

Recalling that  $f_Z(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}}$ , we find

$$f_U(u) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{u}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{u}{2}} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{u}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{u}{2}}$$

$$f_U(u) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}\sqrt{2}} u^{-1/2} e^{-u/2}, \quad u > 0.$$

# Solution

- b.  $U$  has a gamma distribution with  $\alpha = 1/2$  and  $\beta = 2$  (recall that  $\Gamma(1/2) = \sqrt{\pi}$ ).
- c. This is the chi-square distribution with one degree of freedom.

# Weibull density function

The Weibull density function is given by

$$f(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\alpha} m y^{m-1} e^{-y^m/\alpha} & y > 0, \\ 0, & \textit{elsewhere}, \end{cases}$$

where  $\alpha$  and  $m$  are positive constants. This density function is often used as a model for the lengths of life of physical systems.

## Exercise 6.27

Let  $Y$  have an exponential distribution with mean  $\beta$ . Prove that  $W = \sqrt{Y}$  has a Weibull density with  $\alpha = \beta$  and  $m = 2$ .

# Solution

Let  $W = \sqrt{Y}$ . The random variable  $Y$  is exponential so

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{\beta} e^{-y/\beta}.$$

Step 1. Then,  $Y = W^2$ .

Step 2.  $\frac{dy}{dw} = 2w$ .

Step 3. Then,

$$f_W(w) = f_Y(w^2)|2w| = \left(\frac{1}{\beta} e^{-w^2/\beta}\right) (2w) = \frac{2}{\beta} w e^{-w^2/\beta}, w \geq 0,$$

which is Weibull with  $m = 2$ .



## Exercise 6.28

Let  $Y$  have a uniform  $(0, 1)$  distribution. Show that  $W = -2\ln(Y)$  has an exponential distribution with mean 2.

# Solution

Step 1. Then,  $Y = e^{-w/2}$ .

Step 2.  $\frac{dy}{dw} = \frac{-1}{2}e^{-w/2}$ .

Step 3. Then,  $f_W(w) = f_Y(e^{-w/2}) \left| \frac{-1}{2}e^{-w/2} \right| = \frac{1}{2}e^{-w/2}, w > 0$ .

## Exercise 6.29 a.

The speed of a molecule in a uniform gas at equilibrium is a random variable  $V$  whose density function is given by  $f(v) = av^2e^{-bv^2}$ ,  $v > 0$ , where  $b = m/2kT$  and  $k$ ,  $T$ , and  $m$  denote Boltzmann's constant, the absolute temperature, and the mass of the molecule, respectively.

Derive the distribution of  $W = mV^2/2$ , the kinetic energy of the molecule.

# Solution

Step 1. With  $W = \frac{mV^2}{2}$ ,  $V = \sqrt{\frac{2W}{m}} = \left(\frac{2W}{m}\right)^{1/2}$ .

Step 2.  $\left|\frac{dv}{dw}\right| = \left|\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)\left(\frac{2W}{m}\right)^{-1/2}\right|\left(\frac{2}{m}\right) = \left|\frac{1}{\sqrt{2mw}}\right|$ .

Step 3. Then,  $f_W(w) = f_V\left(\sqrt{\frac{2W}{m}}\right)\left|\frac{1}{\sqrt{2mw}}\right| =$   
 $a(2w/m)e^{-b(2w/m)}\frac{1}{\sqrt{2mw}} = \frac{a\sqrt{2}}{m^{3/2}}w^{1/2}e^{-w/kT}, w > 0.$

# Solution

The above expression looks like a Gamma density with  $\alpha = 3/2$  and  $\beta = kT$ . Thus, the constant  $a$  must be chosen so that

$$\frac{a\sqrt{2}}{m^{3/2}} = \frac{1}{\Gamma(3/2)(kT)^{3/2}}.$$

So,

$$f_W(w) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(3/2)(kT)^{3/2}} w^{1/2} e^{-w/kT}.$$

## Example

Let  $Z$  be a Normally distributed random variable with mean 0 and variance 1. Use the method of moment-generating functions to find the probability distribution of  $Z^2$ .

# Solution

$$\begin{aligned}M_{Z^2}(t) &= E(e^{tZ^2}) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tz^2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-z^2/2} dz \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-z^2(\frac{1-2t}{2})} dz\end{aligned}$$

This integral can be evaluated using an "old trick" (we note that it looks like a Normally distributed random variable).

## Solution

We realize that  $e^{-z^2(\frac{1-2t}{2})}$  is proportional to a Normal with  $\mu = 0$  and  $\sigma^2 = 1/(1-2t)$ , then

$$M_{Z^2}(t) = \frac{\sqrt{2\pi}\sqrt{1/(1-2t)}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sqrt{1/(1-2t)}} e^{-z^2(\frac{1-2t}{2})} dz$$

$$M_{Z^2}(t) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{1-2t}} = (1-2t)^{-1/2} \text{ (Note. This is valid provided that } t < 1/2\text{).}$$

$(1-2t)^{-1/2}$  is the moment-generating function for a gamma-distributed random variable with  $\alpha = 1/2$  and  $\beta = 2$ . Hence,  $Z^2$  has a  $\chi^2$  distribution with  $\nu = 1$  degree of freedom.



## Exercise 6.40

Suppose that  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  are independent, standard Normal random variables. Find the probability distribution of  $U = Y_1^2 + Y_2^2$ .

## Solution

$$\begin{aligned}M_U(t) &= E[e^{Ut}] = E[e^{(Y_1^2 + Y_2^2)t}] \\&= E[e^{Y_1^2 t} e^{Y_2^2 t}] \quad (\text{by independence}) \\&= E[e^{Y_1^2 t}] E[e^{Y_2^2 t}] \\&= M_{Y_1^2}(t) M_{Y_2^2}(t) \\&= [(1 - 2t)^{-1/2}] [(1 - 2t)^{-1/2}] = (1 - 2t)^{-2/2}.\end{aligned}$$

Because moment-generating functions are unique,  $U$  has a  $\chi^2$  distribution with 2 degrees of freedom.

## Comment about last example

Note that  $(1 - 2t)^{-2/2} = (1 - 2t)^{-1}$  which is the moment-generating function of an exponential random variable with parameter  $\beta = 2$ . Which is the right probability distribution?  $\chi^2$  with 2 df? Exponential with  $\beta = 2$ ? Let us write the pdf for each of them.

Exponential pdf with  $\beta = 2$ .

$$f(y) = \frac{1}{2}e^{-y/2}, \quad 0 < y < \infty.$$

Chi-square pdf with  $\nu = 2$ .

$$f(y) = \frac{y^{2/2-1}}{2^{2/2}\Gamma(2/2)}e^{-y/2} = \frac{1}{2}e^{-y/2}, \quad 0 < y < \infty.$$

They are the same!

## Example

Let  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  be independent, Normal random variables, each with mean  $\mu$  and variance  $\sigma^2$ . Let  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  denote known constants. Find the density function of the linear combination  $U = a_1 Y_1 + a_2 Y_2$ .

# Solution

The mgf for a Normal distribution with parameters  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$  is  $m(t) = e^{\mu t + \sigma^2 t^2 / 2}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}M_U(t) &= E[e^{Ut}] = E[e^{(a_1 Y_1 + a_2 Y_2)t}] \\&= E[e^{(a_1 Y_1)t} e^{(a_2 Y_2)t}] \quad (\text{by independence}) \\&= E[e^{(a_1 Y_1)t}] E[e^{(a_2 Y_2)t}] \\&= M_{Y_1}(a_1 t) M_{Y_2}(a_2 t) \\&= [e^{\mu a_1 t + \sigma^2 (a_1 t)^2 / 2}] [e^{\mu a_2 t + \sigma^2 (a_2 t)^2 / 2}] \\&= e^{\mu t(a_1 + a_2) + \sigma^2 (a_1^2 + a_2^2) t^2 / 2}\end{aligned}$$

This is the mgf for a Normal variable with mean  $\mu(a_1 + a_2)$  and variance  $\sigma^2(a_1^2 + a_2^2)$ .

## Example

Let  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  be independent, Normal random variables, each with mean  $\mu$  and variance  $\sigma^2$ . Find the density function of  $\bar{Y} = \frac{Y_1 + Y_2}{2}$ .

# Solution

From our previous example and making  $a_1 = a_2 = \frac{1}{2}$ , we have that  $\bar{Y}$  has a Normal distribution with mean  $\mu$  and variance  $\sigma^2/2$ .

## Exercise 6.59

Show that if  $Y_1$  has a  $\chi^2$  distribution with  $\nu_1$  degrees of freedom and  $Y_2$  has a  $\chi^2$  distribution with  $\nu_2$  degrees of freedom, then  $U = Y_1 + Y_2$  has a  $\chi^2$  distribution with  $\nu_1 + \nu_2$  degrees of freedom, provided that  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  are independent.



## Exercise 6.72 a.

Let  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  be independent and uniformly distributed over the interval  $(0, 1)$ . Find the probability density function of  $U = \min(Y_1, Y_2)$ .

# Solution

Let  $U = \min(Y_1, Y_2)$ .

$F_U(u) = P(U \leq u) = 1 - P(U > u)$ . Now, let us find  $P(U > u)$ .

$$P(U > u) = P(\min(Y_1, Y_2) > u) = [P(Y_1 > u)][P(Y_2 > u)]$$

$$P(U > u) = [1 - P(Y_1 \leq u)][1 - P(Y_2 \leq u)]$$

$$P(U > u) = [1 - u]^2$$

Therefore,  $F_U(u) = P(U \leq u) = 1 - [1 - u]^2$ .

Finally,  $f_U(u) = \frac{d}{du}F_U(u) = -2(1 - u)(-1) = 2(1 - u)$ ,  $0 < u < 1$ .

## Exercise 6.73 a.

Let  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  be independent and uniformly distributed over the interval  $(0, 1)$ . Find the probability density function of  $U_2 = \max(Y_1, Y_2)$ .

# Solution

Let  $U = \max(Y_1, Y_2)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}F_U(u) &= P(U \leq u) = P(\max(Y_1, Y_2) \leq u) \\ &= P(Y_1 \leq u)P(Y_2 \leq u) = (u)(u) = u^2.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $F_U(u) = u^2$ .

Finally,  $f_U(u) = \frac{d}{du}F_U(u) = 2u, 0 < u < 1$ .

## Example

Let  $Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n$  be independent, uniformly distributed random variables on the interval  $[0, \theta]$ . Find the pdf of  $Y_{(n)}$ .

# Solution

Let  $U = \max(Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} F_U(u) &= P(U \leq u) = P(\max(Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n) \leq u) \\ &= P(Y_1 \leq u)P(Y_2 \leq u) \dots P(Y_n \leq u) = (u/\theta)(u/\theta) \dots (u/\theta). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $F_U(u) = (u/\theta)^n$ .

$$\text{Finally, } f_U(u) = \frac{d}{du} F_U(u) = \frac{nu^{n-1}}{\theta^n}, \quad 0 \leq u \leq \theta.$$

## Example

The values  $x_1 = 0.62$ ,  $x_2 = 0.98$ ,  $x_3 = 0.31$ ,  $x_4 = 0.81$ , and  $x_5 = 0.53$  are the  $n = 5$  observed values of five independent trials of an experiment with pdf  $f(x) = 2x$ ,  $0 < x < 1$ . The observed order statistics are

$$y_1 = 0.31 < y_2 = 0.53 < y_3 = 0.62 < y_4 = 0.81 < y_5 = 0.98.$$

Recall that the middle observation in the ordered arrangement, here  $y_3 = 0.62$  is called the sample median and the difference of the largest and the smallest here

$$y_5 - y_1 = 0.98 - 0.31 = 0.67,$$

is called the sample range.

If  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  are observations of a random sample of size  $n$  from a continuous-type distribution, we let the random variables

$$Y_1 < Y_2 < \dots < Y_n$$

denote the order statistics of that sample. That is,

$$Y_1 = \text{smallest of } X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n,$$

$$Y_2 = \text{second smallest of } X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n,$$

...

$$Y_n = \text{largest of } X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n.$$



## Example

Let  $Y_1 < Y_2 < Y_3 < Y_4 < Y_5$  be the order statistics of a random sample  $X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5$  of size  $n = 5$  from the distribution with pdf  $f(x) = 2x$ ,  $0 < x < 1$ . Consider  $P(Y_4 \leq 1/2)$ .

## Example (cont.)

For the event  $Y_4 \leq 1/2$  to occur, at least four of the random variables  $X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, X_5$  must be less than  $1/2$ .

Thus if the event  $X_i \leq 1/2, i = 1, 2, \dots, 5$ , is called "success" we must have at least four successes in the five mutually independent trials, each of which has probability of success

$$P(X_i \leq \frac{1}{2}) = \int_0^{1/2} 2x dx = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{4}$$

Thus,

$$P(y_4 \leq \frac{1}{2}) = \binom{5}{4} \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^4 \left(\frac{3}{4}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^5 = 0.0156$$

## Example (cont.)

In general, if  $0 < y < 1$ , then the distribution function of  $Y_4$  is

$$G(y) = P(Y_4 \leq y) = \binom{5}{4} (y^2)^4 (1 - y^2) + (y^2)^5$$

since this represents the probability of at least four "successes" in five independent trials, each of which has probability of success

$$P(X_i \leq y) = \int_0^y 2x dx = y^2.$$

## Example (cont.)

The pdf of  $Y_4$  is therefore, for  $0 < y < 1$ ,

$$g(y) = G'(y) = \binom{5}{4} 4(y^2)^3(2y)(1-y^2) + \binom{5}{4} (y^2)^4(-2y) + 5(y^2)^4(2y)$$

$$g(y) = \frac{5!}{3!1!} (y^2)^3(1-y^2)(2y), \quad 0 < y < 1.$$

Note that in this example, the cumulative distribution function of each  $X$  is  $F_X(x) = x^2$  when  $0 < x < 1$ . Thus

$$g(y) = \frac{5!}{3!1!} [F_X(y)]^3(1 - F_X(y))f(y), \quad 0 < y < 1.$$

## Theorem 6.5

Let  $Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n$  be independent identically distributed continuous random variables with common distribution function  $F(y)$  and common density function  $f(y)$ . If  $Y_{(k)}$  denotes the  $k$ th-order statistic, then the density function of  $Y_{(k)}$  is given by

$$g_{(k)}(y_k) = \frac{n!}{(k-1)!(n-k)!} [F(y_k)]^{k-1} [1 - F(y_k)]^{n-k} f(y_k),$$

$$-\infty < y_k < \infty$$

## Bivariate Transformation Method

Let  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  be jointly continuous random variables with joint probability density function  $f_{X_1, X_2}$ . It is sometimes necessary to obtain the joint distribution of the random variables  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$ , which arise as functions of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ . Specifically, suppose that  $Y_1 = g_1(X_1, X_2)$  and  $Y_2 = g_2(X_1, X_2)$  for some functions  $g_1$  and  $g_2$ . Assume that the functions  $g_1$  and  $g_2$  satisfy the following conditions:

1. The equations  $y_1 = g_1(x_1, x_2)$  and  $y_2 = g_2(x_1, x_2)$  can be uniquely solved for  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  in terms of  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  with solutions given by, say,  $x_1 = h_1(y_1, y_2)$ ,  $x_2 = h_2(y_1, y_2)$ .

## Bivariate Transformation Method

2. The functions  $g_1$  and  $g_2$  have continuous partial derivatives at all points  $(x_1, x_2)$  and are such that the following  $2 \times 2$  determinant

$$J(x_1, x_2) = \det \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_2} \\ \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial x_2} \end{bmatrix} \neq 0$$

at all points  $(x_1, x_2)$ .

Under these two conditions it can be shown that the random variables  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  are jointly continuous with joint density function given by

$$f_{Y_1, Y_2}(y_1, y_2) = f_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) |J(x_1, x_2)|^{-1},$$

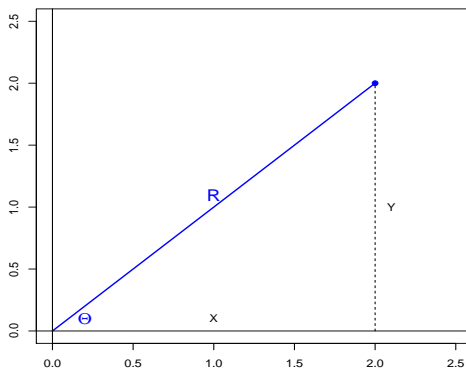
where  $x_1 = h_1(y_1, y_2)$ ,  $x_2 = h_2(y_1, y_2)$  and  $|J(x_1, x_2)|$  is the absolute value of the Jacobian.

## Example

Let  $(X, Y)$  denote a random point in the plane and assume that the rectangular coordinates  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent standard random Normal random variables. We are interested in the joint distribution of  $R$  and  $\Theta$ , the polar coordinate representation of this point (see Figure below).



## Figure



# Example

Letting  $r = g_1(x, y) = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$  and  $\theta = g_2(x, y) = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{y}{x} \right)$ , we see that

$$\frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x} = \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}$$

$$\frac{\partial g_1}{\partial y} = \frac{y}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}$$

$$\frac{\partial g_2}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{1 + (y/x)^2} \left( -\frac{y}{x^2} \right) = \frac{-y}{x^2 + y^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial g_2}{\partial y} = \frac{1}{x[1 + (y/x)^2]} = \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2}$$

## Example

Hence

$$J = \frac{x^2}{(x^2+y^2)^{3/2}} + \frac{y^2}{(x^2+y^2)^{3/2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2+y^2}} = \frac{1}{r}.$$

As the joint density function of  $X$  and  $Y$  is

$$f_{X, Y}(x, y) = \frac{1}{2\pi} e^{-(x^2+y^2)/2}$$

we see that the joint density function of  $R = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ ,  
 $\Theta = \tan^{-1}(y/x)$ , is given by

$$f_{R, \Theta}(r, \theta) = \frac{1}{2\pi} r e^{-r^2/2} \quad 0 < \theta < 2\pi, \quad 0 < r < \infty.$$

## Example

As this joint density factors into the marginal densities for  $R$  and  $\Theta$ , we obtain that  $R$  and  $\Theta$  are independent random variables, with  $\Theta$  being uniformly distributed over  $(0, 2\pi)$  and  $R$  having the Rayleigh distribution with density

$$f_R(r) = re^{-r^2/2} \quad 0 < r < \infty.$$

## Example

If we wanted the joint distribution of  $R^2$  and  $\Theta$ , then, as the transformation  $d = h_1(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$  and  $\theta = h_2(x, y) = \tan^{-1}(y/x)$  has a Jacobian

$$J = \det \begin{bmatrix} 2x & 2y \\ \frac{-y}{x^2+y^2} & \frac{x}{x^2+y^2} \end{bmatrix} = 2$$

we see that

$$f_{D, \Theta}(d, \theta) = \frac{1}{2} e^{-d/2} \frac{1}{2\pi} \quad 0 < d < \infty, \quad 0 < \theta < 2\pi.$$

Therefore,  $R^2$  and  $\Theta$  are independent, with  $R^2$  having an exponential distribution with parameter  $\beta = 2$ .

We would like to show why  $\Gamma(1/2) = \sqrt{\pi}$ . First, we integrate a standard Normal random variable over its entire domain.

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-z^2/2} dz = 1$$

Notice that the integrand above is symmetric around 0. Thus,

$$\int_0^{\infty} e^{-z^2/2} dz = \frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{2} = \sqrt{\pi/2}$$

Now, let  $w = \frac{z^2}{2}$ , which implies that  $dz = (2w)^{-1/2} dw$ . Then

$$\int_0^{\infty} e^{-z^2/2} dz = \int_0^{\infty} (2w)^{-1/2} e^{-w} dw = \sqrt{\pi/2}$$

Our last equation is equivalent to

$$\int_0^{\infty} (w)^{-1/2} e^{-w} dw = \sqrt{\pi}$$

Next, we multiply the last integral by a "one"

$$\Gamma(1/2) \int_0^{\infty} \frac{1}{\Gamma(1/2)} (w)^{-1/2} e^{-w} dw = \sqrt{\pi}$$

We notice that the last integral equals one (we are integrating a Gamma distribution over its entire domain). Therefore

$$\Gamma(1/2)(1) = \sqrt{\pi}$$

# Homework?

Let  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  be jointly continuous random variables with probability density function  $f_{X_1, X_2}$ . Let  $Y_1 = X_1 + X_2$ ,  $Y_2 = X_1 - X_2$ . Find the joint density function of  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  in terms of  $f_{X_1, X_2}$ .