

Solutions

1 (14 pts.) Fill in the following table for special probability density functions. Do not need to show the work.

Probability density function	Uniform	Exponential	Normal
$f(x)$	$\frac{1}{b-a}$	$ae^{-ax}, (a > 0)$	$\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-(x-\mu)^2/(2\sigma^2)}$
Range	$[a, b]$	$[0, \infty)$	$(-\infty, \infty)$
Expected value $E(x)$	$\frac{a+b}{2}$	$\frac{1}{a}$	μ
Variance $V(x)$	$\frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$	$\frac{1}{a^2}$	σ^2
Standard Deviation	$\frac{b-a}{2\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{1}{a}$	σ
Median	$\frac{a+b}{2}$	$\frac{\ln 2}{a}$	μ

2 (6 pts.) Identify the type of following probability density functions, then use the table in problem 1 to find the mean, variance, standard deviation, and median without integration.

(a) $f(x) = \frac{1}{2}e^{-x/2}, x \in [0, \infty)$.

This is an exponential probability density function with $a = \frac{1}{2}$.

$$E(x) = 2, V(x) = 4, \sigma = 2, \text{ median} = 2 \ln 2.$$

(b) $f(x) = \frac{7}{3}, x \in [1, \frac{10}{7}]$.

This is a uniform probability density function with $a = 1$ and $b = \frac{10}{7}$.

$$E(x) = \frac{17}{14}, V(x) = \frac{3}{196}, \sigma = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{14}, \text{ median} = \frac{17}{14}.$$

(c) $f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{98\pi}}e^{-(x-3)^2/98}, x \in (-\infty, \infty)$.

This is a normal probability density function with $\mu = 3$ and $\sigma = 7$.

$$E(x) = 3, V(x) = 49, \sigma = 7, \text{ median} = 3.$$

3 (15 pts.) Given $f(x) = 2x - 2$ over $[1, 2]$:

- (a) Verify $f(x)$ is a probability density function.
- (b) Set up the integrals or formulas to find the mean, variance and standard deviation of the random variable. (Do NOT evaluate.)
- (c) Find the median of the random variable.
- (d) Set up the integral to find the probability of $1 < x < \frac{4}{3}$. (Do NOT evaluate.)

Solution:

(a) First, $f(x) = 2x - 2$ is continuous and nonnegative on the interval $[1, 2]$.

$$\int_1^2 (2x - 2) dx = [x^2 - 2x]_1^2 = (4 - 4) - (1 - 2) = 1.$$

(b) Mean: $\mu = E(x) = \int_1^2 xf(x) dx = \int_1^2 x(2x - 2) dx$.

$$\text{Variance: } V(x) = E(x^2) - (E(x))^2 = \int_1^2 x^2(2x - 2) dx - \mu^2.$$

$$\text{Standard deviation: } \sigma = \sqrt{V(x)}.$$

(c) $\frac{1}{2} = \int_1^m (2x - 2) dx = [x^2 - 2x]_1^m = (m^2 - 2m) - (1 - 2) = m^2 - 2m + 1$

$$\Rightarrow 2m^2 - 4m + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow m = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{16 - 8}}{4} = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{2}}{2}.$$

Since the median has to be between 1 and 2, median = $\frac{2 + \sqrt{2}}{2}$.

(d) $P(1 < x < \frac{4}{3}) = \int_1^{\frac{4}{3}} (2x - 2) dx$.

- 4 (10 pts.) How large should n be in order to guarantee that the absolute error in the Trapezoidal Rule estimate of the following definite integral is at most 0.001?

$$\int_2^5 e^{x^2} dx \quad \text{Recall: } |E| \leq \frac{(b-a)^3}{12n^2} \left[\max_{a \leq x \leq b} |f''(x)| \right].$$

(You may use a calculator for this problem.)

Solution:

$$f(x) := e^{x^2}, \quad f'(x) = 2xe^{x^2}, \quad f''(x) = (4x^2 + 2)e^{x^2}.$$

On $[2, 5]$, $|f''(x)| = (4x^2 + 2)e^{x^2}$ is increasing. Hence,

$$\max_{2 \leq x \leq 5} |f''(x)| = (4 \cdot 5^2 + 2)e^{5^2} = 102e^{25}.$$

To make $|E| < 0.001$, it is sufficient to find n such that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{(b-a)^3}{12n^2} \left[\max_{a \leq x \leq b} |f''(x)| \right] < 0.001 \\ \Rightarrow & \frac{(5-2)^3}{12n^2} 102e^{25} < 0.001 \\ \Rightarrow & n^2 > \frac{(5-2)^3}{12 \cdot 0.001} 102e^{25} = 4500 \cdot 51e^{25} \\ \Rightarrow & n > \sqrt{4500 \cdot 51e^{25}} \approx 128550085.17. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $n \geq 128550086$.

5 (15 pts.) Set up the formulas but do NOT evaluate to estimate the definite integral

$$\int_1^4 \frac{1}{x^3 + 1} dx$$

by using midpoint rule, Trapezoidal rule, and Simpson's rule with $n = 6$.

Solution:

First, divide the interval $[1, 4]$ into 6 small intervals of the same length $\Delta x = \frac{b-a}{n} = \frac{1}{2}$:

$$\left[1, \frac{3}{2}\right], \left[\frac{3}{2}, 2\right], \left[2, \frac{5}{2}\right], \left[\frac{5}{2}, 3\right], \left[3, \frac{7}{2}\right], \left[\frac{7}{2}, 4\right].$$

The midpoints of each interval are:

$$\frac{5}{4}, \frac{7}{4}, \frac{9}{4}, \frac{11}{4}, \frac{13}{4}, \frac{15}{4}.$$

Midpoint rule:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_1^4 \frac{1}{x^3 + 1} dx &\approx \Delta x \sum_i f(m_i) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(f\left(\frac{5}{4}\right) + f\left(\frac{7}{4}\right) + f\left(\frac{9}{4}\right) + f\left(\frac{11}{4}\right) + f\left(\frac{13}{4}\right) + f\left(\frac{15}{4}\right) \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{\left(\frac{5}{4}\right)^3 + 1} + \frac{1}{\left(\frac{7}{4}\right)^3 + 1} + \frac{1}{\left(\frac{9}{4}\right)^3 + 1} + \frac{1}{\left(\frac{11}{4}\right)^3 + 1} + \frac{1}{\left(\frac{13}{4}\right)^3 + 1} + \frac{1}{\left(\frac{15}{4}\right)^3 + 1} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Trapezoidal rule:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_1^4 \frac{1}{x^3 + 1} dx &\approx \frac{\Delta x}{2} (f(x_0) + 2f(x_1) + 2f(x_2) + 2f(x_3) + 2f(x_4) + 2f(x_5) + f(x_6)) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} (f(1) + 2f\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) + 2f(2) + 2f\left(\frac{5}{2}\right) + 2f(3) + 2f\left(\frac{7}{2}\right) + f(4)) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{1}{1^3 + 1} + 2\frac{1}{\frac{3^3}{2} + 1} + 2\frac{1}{2^3 + 1} \right) + 2\frac{1}{\frac{5^3}{2} + 1} + 2\frac{1}{3^3 + 1} + 2\frac{1}{\frac{7^3}{2} + 1} + \frac{1}{4^3 + 1} \end{aligned}$$

Simpson's rule:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_1^4 \frac{1}{x^3 + 1} dx &\approx \frac{\Delta x}{3} (f(x_0) + 4f(x_1) + 2f(x_2) + 4f(x_3) + 2f(x_4) + 4f(x_5) + f(x_6)) \\ &= \frac{1}{6} (f(1) + 4f\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) + 2f(2) + 4f\left(\frac{5}{2}\right) + 2f(3) + 4f\left(\frac{7}{2}\right) + f(4)) \\ &= \frac{1}{6} \left(\frac{1}{1^3 + 1} + 4\frac{1}{\frac{3^3}{2} + 1} + 2\frac{1}{2^3 + 1} + 4\frac{1}{\frac{5^3}{2} + 1} + 2\frac{1}{3^3 + 1} + 4\frac{1}{\frac{7^3}{2} + 1} + \frac{1}{4^3 + 1} \right) \end{aligned}$$