

FORMULAE SHEET
for
Probability and Statistics
FS 2020

1 Some discrete distributions

1. Binomial distribution

$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$ for $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $p \in [0, 1]$:

$$p_X(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} \quad \text{for } k \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\},$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = np, \text{Var}[X] = np(1-p).$$

2. Geometric distribution

$X \sim \text{Geom}(p)$ for $p \in (0, 1)$:

$$p_X(k) = (1-p)^{k-1} p \quad \text{for } k \in \{1, 2, \dots\},$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{1}{p}, \text{Var}[X] = \frac{1-p}{p^2}.$$

3. Poisson distribution

$X \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda)$ for $\lambda > 0$:

$$p_X(k) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} \quad \text{for } k \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\},$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \lambda, \text{Var}[X] = \lambda.$$

4. Hypergeometric distribution

$X \sim \text{Hypergeom}(n, N, K)$ for n, N, K positive integers such that $\max(n, K) \leq N$:

$$p_X(k) = \frac{\binom{K}{k} \binom{N-K}{n-k}}{\binom{N}{n}}$$

for $k \in \{\max(0, n - N + K), \dots, \min(n, K)\}$,

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = n \frac{K}{N}, \text{Var}[X] = n \frac{K}{N} \left(1 - \frac{K}{N}\right) \frac{N-n}{N-1}.$$

2 Some continuous distributions

1. Uniform distribution

$X \sim \mathcal{U}(a, b)$ for $a < b$:

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{b-a} I_{[a,b]}(x),$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{a+b}{2}, \text{Var}[X] = \frac{(b-a)^2}{12}.$$

2. Exponential distribution

$X \sim \text{Exp}(\alpha)$ for $\alpha > 0$:

$$f_X(x) = \alpha e^{-\alpha x} I_{(0,\infty)}(x),$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{1}{\alpha}, \text{Var}[X] = \frac{1}{\alpha^2}.$$

3. Gamma distribution

$X \sim G(\beta, \alpha)$ for $\beta, \alpha > 0$:

$$f_X(x) = \frac{\alpha^\beta}{\Gamma(\beta)} x^{\beta-1} e^{-\alpha x} I_{(0,\infty)}(x),$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{\beta}{\alpha}, \text{Var}[X] = \frac{\beta}{\alpha^2}.$$

4. Normal distribution

$X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ for $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$, $\sigma > 0$:

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R},$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \mu, \text{Var}[X] = \sigma^2.$$

If $\mu = 0$ and $\sigma = 1$, we say that X is standard normal and its distribution function (cdf) is denoted by Φ .

3 Some inequalities

1. Markov's inequality

Let X be a random variable and $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ increasing. For any c with $g(c) > 0$,

$$\mathbb{P}[X \geq c] \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[g(X)]}{g(c)}.$$

2. Chebyshev's inequality

Let X be a random variable whose expectation exists and with finite variance. For any $c > 0$,

$$\mathbb{P}[|X - \mathbb{E}[X]| \geq c] \leq \frac{\text{Var}[X]}{c^2}.$$

3. Cauchy-Schwarz inequality

Let X, Y be random variables defined on the same probability space with $\mathbb{E}[X^2], \mathbb{E}[Y^2]$ both finite. Then

$$|\mathbb{E}[XY]| \leq \sqrt{\mathbb{E}[X^2] \mathbb{E}[Y^2]}.$$

4. Jensen's inequality

Let X be a random variable with $\mathbb{E}[|X|] < \infty$ and $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ a convex function. Then

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X)] \geq g(\mathbb{E}[X]).$$

If g is strictly convex, then equality holds if and only if $\mathbb{P}[X = \mathbb{E}[X]] = 1$.

4 Miscellaneous

1. Covariance

For two random variables X, Y defined on the same probability space with $\mathbb{E}[|X|], \mathbb{E}[|Y|], \mathbb{E}[|XY|]$ all finite,

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Cov}(X, Y) &= E[(X - \mathbb{E}[X])(Y - \mathbb{E}[Y])] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[XY] - \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y].\end{aligned}$$

Cov is bilinear and symmetric.

2. Correlation

For two random variables X, Y defined on the same probability space with $\text{Var}[X], \text{Var}[Y]$ both finite,

$$\text{corr}(X, Y) = \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}[X]\text{Var}[Y]}}.$$

We always have $-1 \leq \text{corr}(X, Y) \leq 1$, with equality if and only if there exist $a \neq 0$ and $b \in \mathbb{R}$ with $\mathbb{P}[Y = aX + b] = 1$ and $\text{sign}(a) = \text{sign}(\text{corr}(X, Y))$.

5 Some test statistics

Suppose X_1, \dots, X_n are i.i.d. random variables with an appropriate distribution (depending on the desired test). Suppose Y_1, \dots, Y_m are i.i.d. random variables which are independent of X_1, \dots, X_n and with an appropriate distribution (depending on the desired test). Set

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{X}_n &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i, & S_X^2 &= \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2, \\ \bar{Y}_m &= \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=1}^m Y_k, & S_Y^2 &= \frac{1}{m-1} \sum_{k=1}^m (Y_k - \bar{Y}_m)^2.\end{aligned}$$

1. One-sample t -test

$$T = \frac{\bar{X}_n - \mu_0}{S_X/\sqrt{n}}.$$

2. z -test

$$T = \frac{\bar{X}_n - \mu_0}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}.$$

3. Two-sample t -test

$$T = \frac{\bar{X}_n - \bar{Y}_m}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{m} \sqrt{\frac{1}{n+m-2}((n-1)S_X^2 + (m-1)S_Y^2)}}}.$$

4. Sign test

$$T = \sum_{i=1}^n I_{\{X_i > \mu_0\}}.$$

5. Two-sample Wilcoxon test

$$T = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^m I_{\{X_i < Y_k\}}.$$

6. Goodness-of-fit χ^2 -test

$$T = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{(N_i - n\theta_{0,i})^2}{n\theta_{0,i}}.$$

In all cases, the distribution of the test statistic T under the null hypothesis is known (exactly or approximately), and the relevant quantiles can be found in the corresponding tables.