

Problem Set 16

Reading: Other stuff

Quiz Date: No Quiz

Note: It is very important that you solve the problems first and check the solutions afterwards.

Problem 1

Examples 4.8.2, 4.8.5, 4.9.1, 4.9.2, 4.11.4, 4.11.5.

Problem 2

Random variables X and Y have a uniform joint density on the square bounded by the following four corners: $(1, 0)$, $(0, 1)$, $(-1, 0)$, and $(0, -1)$.

- Calculate the marginal pdfs of X and Y . Are X and Y independent? Are they uncorrelated?
- Let $Z = X + Y$ and $S = X - Y$. Are Z and S uncorrelated or independent or neither of the two?
- Compute $E[X]$ and $\text{Var}[X]$.

Solution

- a) Let \mathcal{R} be the square with corners $\{(1, 0), (0, 1), (-1, 0), (0, -1)\}$. The area $|\mathcal{R}|$ of \mathcal{R} is $\sqrt{2}^2 = 2$. So

$$f_{X,Y}(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1/2, & (x, y) \in \mathcal{R} \\ 0, & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

The marginal density of X is given by

$$f_X(x) = \int_{y=-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, y) dy \quad (1)$$

$$= \begin{cases} \int_{y=x-1}^{1-x} \frac{1}{2} dy, & 0 \leq x \leq 1; \\ \int_{y=-x-1}^{1+x} \frac{1}{2} dy, & -1 \leq x \leq 0; \\ 0, & \text{else.} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

$$= \begin{cases} (1-x), & 0 \leq x \leq 1; \\ (1+x), & -1 \leq x \leq 0 \\ 0, & \text{else.} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

$$= \begin{cases} 1-|x|, & -1 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0, & \text{else.} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

By symmetry, the marginal density of Y is given by

$$f_Y(y) = \begin{cases} 1-|y|, & -1 \leq y \leq 1 \\ 0, & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

Independence: The support is not a product set, thus X and Y are *not* independent. Alternatively

$$\begin{aligned} f_X(x)f_Y(y) &= (1-|x|)(1-|y|) \\ &\neq \frac{1}{2} = f_{X,Y}(x, y) \end{aligned}$$

Uncorrelated: Since f_X (and f_Y) is symmetric about $x = 0$ (and $y = 0$), $E[X] = E[Y] = 0$. The covariance of X and Y is:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Cov}(X, Y) &= E[XY] - E[X]E[Y] \\ &= 0 - 0\end{aligned}$$

Thus, X and Y are uncorrelated. Alternatively, we can compute

$$\begin{aligned}E[XY] &= \int_x \int_y xy f_{X,Y}(x, y) dx dy \\ &= \int_{-1}^1 \left(\int_{y=|x|-1}^{1-|x|} \frac{xy}{2} dy \right) dx \\ &= \int_{-1}^1 \left(\frac{xy^2}{4} \Big|_{y=|x|-1}^{y=1-|x|} \right) dx \\ &= \int_{-1}^1 \frac{x}{4} \underbrace{((|x|-1)^2 - (1-|x|)^2)}_{=0} dx \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

And,

$$\begin{aligned}E[X] &= \int_x x f_X(x) dx \\ &= \int_{x=-1}^0 x(1+x) dx + \int_{x=0}^1 x(1-x) dx \\ &= -\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3}\right) \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Also, by symmetry $E[Y] = 0$. Hence, $E[XY] = E[X]E[Y] = 0$. So, X and Y are uncorrelated.

b) The transformation between (Z, S) and (X, Y) is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} Z = X + Y \\ S = X - Y \end{pmatrix} \Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} X = \frac{Z+S}{2} \\ Y = \frac{Z-S}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

The transformed region \mathcal{T} in the space of Z and S corresponding to region \mathcal{R} in the space of X and Y can be represented as

$$\mathcal{T} = \{(z, s) : -1 \leq z \leq 1 \text{ and } -1 \leq s \leq 1\}$$

The joint density of Z and S is given by

$$\begin{aligned}f_{Z,S}(z, s) &= f_{X,Y} \left(\frac{z+s}{2}, \frac{z-s}{2} \right) \left| \frac{\frac{dx}{dz} \frac{dx}{ds}}{\frac{dy}{dz} \frac{dy}{ds}} \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left| \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{\frac{1}{2}} \right|, \quad (z, s) \in \mathcal{T} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}, \quad (z, s) \in \mathcal{T} \\ &= \frac{1}{4}, \quad (z, s) \in \mathcal{T}\end{aligned}$$

Hence, Z and S are uniformly jointly distributed over the square given by $\{(z, s) : -1 \leq z \leq 1 \text{ and } -1 \leq s \leq 1\}$ of area 4.

Marginal pdf of Z and S :

$$\begin{aligned} f_Z(z) &= \int_{s=-1}^1 f_{Z,S}(z,s) ds \\ &= \int_{s=-1}^1 \frac{1}{4} ds \quad -1 \leq z \leq 1 \\ &= \frac{1}{2}, \quad -1 \leq z \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$

By symmetry, $f_S(s) = \frac{1}{2}$, $-1 \leq s \leq 1$.

Independence: Z and S are independent because,

$$\begin{aligned} f_Z(z)f_S(s) &= \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}, \quad (z,s) \in \mathcal{T} \\ &= \frac{1}{4} = f_{Z,S}(z,s) \end{aligned}$$

Uncorrelated: Independence implies uncorrelated. Hence, Z and S are uncorrelated.

c) From part (a),

$$E[X] = 0$$

Variance of X can be computed as

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(X) &= E[X^2] - (E[X])^2 \\ &= \int_{x=-1}^1 x^2(1-|x|)dx - 0 \\ &= 2 \int_{x=0}^1 x^2(1-x)dx \\ &= 2 \left(\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{4} \right) = \frac{1}{6} \end{aligned}$$

Problem 3

Suppose X and Y are jointly Gaussian random variables with $E[X] = 2$, $E[Y] = 4$, $\text{Var}(X) = 9$, $\text{Var}(Y) = 25$, and $\rho = 0.2$. Let $W = X + 2Y + 3$.

- Find $E[W]$ and $\text{Var}(W)$.
- Find the correlation and covariance of X and W .

Solution

a)

$$\begin{aligned} E[W] &= E[X] + 2E[Y] + 3 \\ &= 13 \end{aligned}$$

From the problem description, we know the following:

$$\begin{aligned}
 E[X^2] &= \text{Var}(X) + E[X]^2 = 13 \\
 E[Y^2] &= \text{Var}(Y) + E[Y]^2 = 41 \\
 E[XY] &= 0.2\sqrt{\text{Var}(X)\text{Var}(Y)} + E[X]E[Y] \\
 &= 11 \\
 \text{Var}(W) &= E[W^2] - E[W]^2 \\
 &= E[X^2] + 4E[XY] + 4E[Y^2] + 6E[X] + 12E[Y] + 9 - 169 \\
 &= 121
 \end{aligned}$$

b)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{corr}(X, W) &= E[XW] \\
 &= E[X^2 + 2XY + 3X] \\
 &= 41 \\
 \text{Cov}(X, W) &= \text{corr}(X, W) - E[X]E[W] \\
 &= \text{corr}(X, W) - 26 \\
 &= 15
 \end{aligned}$$

Problem 4

If you drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor, what is the probability that you crack it?

Solution

Virtually zero; a concrete floor is very hard to crack.

Problem 5

This problem is concerned with minimum mean square error estimators.

- Find the constant minimum mean square error estimator of the random variable $3X$, where X has mean $E[X] = 3$ and $\text{Var}(X) = 4$.
- Find the linear minimum mean square error estimator of the random variable $2X$, where X has mean $E[X] = 3$ and $\text{Var}(X) = 4$, given an independent random variable Y with mean 2.

Solution

a)

$$\delta = E[3X] = 3E[X] = 9.$$

b)

$$\begin{aligned}
 L^*(Y) &= \mu_{2X} + \sigma_{2X}\rho_{Y,(2X)}\frac{Y - \mu_Y}{\sigma_Y} \\
 &= \mu_{2X} \\
 &= 6.
 \end{aligned}$$

Problem 6

Let $X \sim N(0, a^2)$ and $Y \sim N(0, b^2)$ and suppose X, Y are jointly Gaussian with correlation coefficient ρ . Define $Z = X + Y$. Is the pair (Z, X) jointly Gaussian? Find $\text{Var}(Z)$ and $\text{Cov}(Z, X)$.

Solution

Since

$$\begin{pmatrix} X \\ Z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} X \\ Y \end{pmatrix},$$

$\begin{pmatrix} X \\ Z \end{pmatrix}$ are jointly Gaussian.

$$\text{Cov}(X, Z) = \text{Cov}(X, X + Y) = \text{Cov}(X, X) + \text{Cov}(X, Y) = a^2 + \rho ab,$$

$$\text{Var}(Z) = \text{Cov}(X + Y, X + Y) = \text{Var}(X) + 2\text{Cov}(X, Y) + \text{Var}(Y) = a^2 + b^2 + 2\rho ab.$$