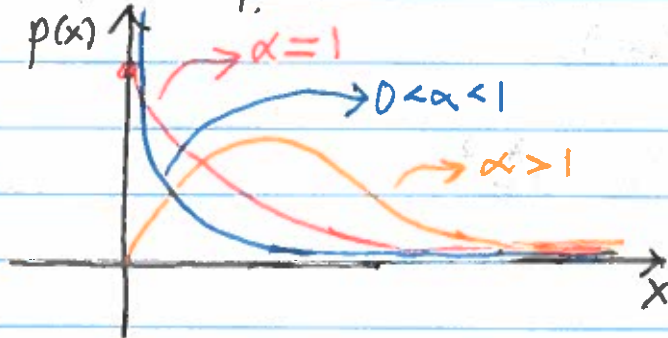


Lecture 20: The Γ -distribution

Definition- A random variable has a gamma distribution and its probability density is given by

$$p(x) = \begin{cases} K x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x/\beta}, & x > 0, \\ 0, & \text{e.w.} \end{cases}$$

where $\alpha > 0$ and $\beta > 0$.



$$\begin{aligned} 1. \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p(x) dx &= \int_0^{\infty} K x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x/\beta} dx, \quad (u = x/\beta, du = dx/\beta) \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} K \beta^{\alpha} u^{\alpha-1} e^{-u} du \\ &= K \beta^{\alpha} \Gamma(\alpha) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow K = \frac{1}{\beta^{\alpha} \Gamma(\alpha)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2. E[X] &= \frac{1}{\beta^{\alpha} \Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^{\infty} x^{\alpha} e^{-x/\beta} dx \quad (u = x/\beta, du = dx/\beta) \\ &= \frac{\beta^{\alpha+1}}{\beta^{\alpha} \Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^{\infty} u^{\alpha} e^{-u} du \\ &= \frac{\beta \Gamma(\alpha+1)}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \\ &= \beta \alpha. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 3. E[X^2] &= \frac{1}{\beta^\alpha \Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^\infty x^{\alpha+1} e^{-x/\beta} dx \quad (u = x/\beta, du = 1/\beta dx) \\
 &= \frac{\beta^{\alpha+2}}{\beta^\alpha \Gamma(\alpha)} \int_0^\infty u^{\alpha+1} e^{-u} du \\
 &= \frac{\beta^2 \Gamma(\alpha+2)}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \\
 &= \beta^2 (\alpha+1)\alpha.
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 4. \sigma^2 &= \beta^2 (\alpha+1)\alpha - \beta^2 \alpha^2 \\
 &= \beta^2 \alpha
 \end{aligned}$$

Definition. - A random variable X has a chi-square distribution with ν degrees of freedom if and only if X is gamma distributed with $\alpha = \nu/2$ and $\beta = 2$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Rightarrow \nu &= 2\alpha \\
 \sigma^2 &= 2\nu
 \end{aligned}$$