

Re: can it be a distribution function?

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thanks for the response, let me see if i got it straight, this time.

1. the probability distribution is a function P , matching for each event x the probability of it.
2. a random variable X is a function from sample space to the reals (satisfying some condition).
3. the (cumulative) distribution is a function matching for each real value x , the probability of X being at the interval $(-\infty, x]$, i.e. $P(-\infty <= X <= x)$, when $X(S)$ is the sample space.
4. the (probability) density is a function such that $(\int)_{[a,b]} f(x) = P(a <= X <= b)$.

yes?

karl wrote:

tamiry wrote:

Hi,
this week's HW had this distribution function

$f =$
 $1 - (3/4)\exp(-x) \quad x \geq 0$
 0 otherwise

then I was asked to compute $P(0 <= x <= 2)$. if i understand correctly, i need to compute the integral of $f(x)$ at the given interval.

Why, if f is the distribution function? I guess, you are confusing density and distribution function.

so it's just computing the difference of f at the boundary points...

as a

preliminary stage i tried to compute the integral of f on the entire

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sample space. i expected it to be 1. what i got was:

$(\text{integral})_{[0,+\infty]}(1-(3/4)\exp(-x)) = (x + (3/4)\exp(-x))$ between 0 and $+\infty = \infty$!

this integral does not converge, because of the "x". so, am i doing something wrong or that f cannot be a distribution function ?

As I said, the integral has to be 1 if f is a DENSITY function. Look what conditions a function must fulfill to be a DISTRIBUTION function.

since it's a distribution, it should fulfill $f(+\infty) = 1$, which it does.

Ciao

Karl