# Comments

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## 1 Sum of independent random variables

Given two independent random variables $X$ and $Y$, with distribution functions $F_X(x) = \Pr\{X \le x\}$ and $F_Y(y) = \Pr\{Y \le y\}$ if we define $Z = X + Y$, the distribution function $F_Z(z)$ is the given by

$$\begin{aligned} F_Z(z) = \Pr\{Z \le z\} = \Pr\{X + Y \le z\} &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Pr\{X + Y \le z | X = x\}\, dF_X(x) \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Pr\{Y \le z - x | X = x\}\, dF_X(x) \\ &\stackrel{\text{ind}}{=} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Pr\{Y \le z - x\}\, dF_X(x) \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F_Y(z - x)\, dF_X(x) \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

And if we define the convolution operator $F * G(t)$ that given two distribution functions $F(t)$, $G(t)$ is equal to

$$F * G(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(t - s)\, dG(s)$$

we get that

$$F_Z(z) = F_Y * F_X(z).$$

You can check that $F * G(t) = G * F(t)$ by a simple change of variable or simply noting that $Z = X + Y = Y + X$.

## 2 Positive random variables

Assuming now that $X, Y \ge 0$, we have that $F_X(x) = 0$ for $x < 0$ and also $F_Y(y) = 0$ for $y < 0$. Note that we admit $F_X(0) > 0$ and $F_Y(0) > 0$. In this case equation (1) becomes

$$F_Z(z) = \int_0^z F_Y(z - x)\, dF_X(x) = \int_0^z F_X(z - y)\, dF_Y(y) \tag{2}$$

still it is valid that $F_Z(z) = F_Y * F_X(z) = F_X * F_Y(z)$ that now reduces to the expression (2).

### 2.1 Laplace transforms

Assume that $X$ has Laplace transform $\phi_X(s) = \tilde{F}_X(s) = \mathbb{E}[e^{s\,X}]$, and in the same way $Y$ has Laplace transform $\phi_Y(s) = \tilde{F}_Y(s) = \mathbb{E}[e^{s\,Y}]$, then it follows that $Z = X + Y$ has Laplace transform $\phi_Z(s) = \tilde{F}_Z(s)$ given by

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{F}_Z(s) &= \mathbb{E}[e^{s\,Z}] = \mathbb{E}[e^{s\,(X+Y)}] = \mathbb{E}[e^{s\,X}\, e^{s\,Y}] \\ &\stackrel{\text{ind}}{=} \mathbb{E}[e^{s\,X}]\mathbb{E}[e^{s\,Y}] = \tilde{F}_X(s)\, \tilde{F}_Y(s) \end{aligned}$$

Last equation expresses the fact that the Laplace transform translates the convolution operator to a product operator, i.e.

$$\mathcal{L}(F * G)(s) = \mathcal{L}(F)(s)\, \mathcal{L}(G)(s),$$

where we denoted by $\mathcal{L}(F)(s)$ the Laplace-Stieltjes transform of the distribution function $F(t)$, i.e.

$$\mathcal{L}(F)(s) = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-s\,t}\, dF(t).$$

## 3 Sum of i.i.d. positive random variables

Assume to have two i.i.d. random variables $X_1$ and $X_2$ with common distribution function $F_X(x)$. Now $Y = X_1 + X_2$ has distribution function

$$F_Y(y) = F_X * F_X(y) = F_X^{*2}(y),$$

known also has 2-fold convolution of $F_X(x)$. In general if $Z = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ with $X_i$ i.i.d. and with common distribution $F_X(x)$, then the distribution of $Z$ is given by the $n$-th convolution of $F_X(x)$, i.e.

$$F_Z(z) = F_X^{*n}(z)$$

with $F_X^{*n}(z) = F_X^{*(n-1)} * F_X(z)$, that in the transformed domain corresponds to

$$\phi_Z(s) = \tilde{F}_Z(s) = \left(\tilde{F}_X(s)\right)^n .$$

# 4 Excercises

1. Assume $X_1$ and $X_2$ i.i.d uniformly distributed between $[0,1]$, compute the distribution function of $Y = X_1 + X_2$. Compute its Laplace transform as well.
2. Assume $X_n$ i.i.d exponential random variables with parameter $\lambda > 0$. Compute the distribution of $Z = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$. Do you recognize this distribution? Compute its Laplace transform as well.
3. If $\Phi_(z)$ is the CDF of a standard Normal random variable. What would be its $n$-th fold convolution?