Table of Common Distributions

taken from *Statistical Inference* by Casella and Berger

Discrete Distrbutions

distribution	pmf	mean	variance	mgf/moment
Bernoulli(p)	$p^x(1-p)^{1-x};\ x=0,1;\ p\in(0,1)$	p	$p(1-p)$	$(1-p)+pe^t$
Beta-binomial(n,α,β)	$\binom{n}{x}\frac{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)}\frac{\Gamma(x+\alpha)\Gamma(n-x+\beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta+n)}$	$\frac{n\alpha}{\alpha+\beta}$	$\frac{n\alpha\beta}{(\alpha+\beta)^2}$	
Notes: If $X\|P$ is binomial (n,P) and P is beta(α,β), then X is beta-binomial(n,α,β).				
Binomial(n,p)	$\binom{n}{x}p^x(1-p)^{n-x};\ x=1,\ldots,n$	np	$np(1-p)$	$[(1-p)+pe^t]^n$
Discrete Uniform(N)	$\frac{1}{N};\ x=1,\ldots,N$	$\frac{N+1}{2}$	$\frac{(N+1)(N-1)}{12}$	$\frac{1}{N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}e^{it}$
Geometric(p)	$p(1-p)^{x-1};\ p\in(0,1)$	$\frac{1}{p}$	$\frac{1-p}{p^2}$	$\frac{pe^t}{1-(1-p)e^t}$
Note: $Y=X-1$ is negative binomial$(1,p)$. The distribution is *memoryless*: $P(X>s\|X>t)=P(X>s-t)$.				
Hypergeometric(N,M,K)	$\frac{\binom{M}{x}\binom{N-M}{K-x}}{\binom{N}{K}};\ x=1,\ldots,K$	$\frac{KM}{N}$	$\frac{KM}{N}\frac{(N-M)(N-k)}{N(N-1)}$	?
	$M-(N-K)\leq x\leq M;\ N,M,K>0$			
Negative Binomial(r,p)	$\binom{r+x-1}{x}p^r(1-p)^x;\ p\in(0,1)$	$\frac{r(1-p)}{p}$	$\frac{r(1-p)}{p^2}$	$\left(\frac{p}{1-(1-p)e^t}\right)^r$
	$\binom{y-1}{r-1}p^r(1-p)^{y-r};\ Y=X+r$			
Poisson(λ)	$\frac{e^{-\lambda}\lambda^x}{x!};\ \lambda\geq 0$	λ	λ	$e^{\lambda(e^t-1)}$
Notes: If Y is gamma(α,β), X is Poisson($\frac{x}{\beta}$), and α is an integer, then $P(X\geq\alpha)=P(Y\leq y)$.				

Continuous Distributions

distribution	pdf	mean	variance	mgf/moment
Beta(α,β)	$\frac{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)}x^{\alpha-1}(1-x)^{\beta-1};\ x\in(0,1),\ \alpha,\beta>0$	$\frac{\alpha}{\alpha+\beta}$	$\frac{\alpha\beta}{(\alpha+\beta)^2(\alpha+\beta+1)}$	$1+\sum_{k=1}^{\infty}\left(\prod_{r=0}^{k-1}\frac{\alpha+r}{\alpha+\beta+r}\right)\frac{t^k}{k!}$
Cauchy(θ,σ)	$\frac{1}{\pi\sigma}\frac{1}{1+(\frac{x-\theta}{\sigma})^2};\ \sigma>0$	does not exist	does not exist	does not exist
Notes: Special case of Students's t with 1 degree of freedom. Also, if X,Y are iid $N(0,1)$, $\frac{X}{Y}$ is Cauchy				
χ^2_p	$\frac{1}{\Gamma(\frac{p}{2})2^{\frac{p}{2}}}x^{\frac{p}{2}-1}e^{-\frac{x}{2}};\ x>0,\ p\in N$	p	$2p$	$\left(\frac{1}{1-2t}\right)^{\frac{p}{2}},\ t<\frac{1}{2}$
Notes: Gamma$(\frac{p}{2},2)$.				
Double Exponential(μ,σ)	$\frac{1}{2\sigma}e^{-\frac{\lvert x-\mu\rvert}{\sigma}};\ \sigma>0$	μ	$2\sigma^2$	$\frac{e^{\mu t}}{1-(\sigma t)^2}$
Exponential(θ)	$\frac{1}{\theta}e^{-\frac{x}{\theta}};\ x\geq 0,\ \theta>0$	θ	θ^2	$\frac{1}{1-\theta t},\ t<\frac{1}{\theta}$
Notes: Gamma$(1,\theta)$. Memoryless. $Y=X^{\frac{1}{\gamma}}$ is *Weibull.* $Y=\sqrt{\frac{2X}{\beta}}$ is *Rayleigh.* $Y=\alpha-\gamma\log\frac{X}{\beta}$ is *Gumbel.*				
F_{ν_1,ν_2}	$\frac{\Gamma(\frac{\nu_1+\nu_2}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{\nu_1}{2})\Gamma(\frac{\nu_2}{2})}\left(\frac{\nu_1}{\nu_2}\right)^{\frac{\nu_1}{2}}\frac{x^{\frac{\nu_1-2}{2}}}{\left(1+(\frac{\nu_1}{\nu_2})x\right)^{\frac{\nu_1+\nu_2}{2}}};\ x>0$	$\frac{\nu_2}{\nu_2-2},\ \nu_2>2$	$2(\frac{\nu_2}{\nu_2-2})^2\frac{\nu_1+\nu_2-2}{\nu_1(\nu_2-4)},\ \nu_2>4$	$EX^n=\frac{\Gamma(\frac{\nu_1+2n}{2})\Gamma(\frac{\nu_2-2n}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{\nu_1}{2})\Gamma(\frac{\nu_2}{2})}\left(\frac{\nu_2}{\nu_1}\right)^n,\ n<\frac{\nu_2}{2}$
Notes: $F_{\nu_1,\nu_2}=\frac{\chi^2_{\nu_1}/\nu_1}{\chi^2_{\nu_2}/\nu_2}$, where the χ^2s are independent. $F_{1,\nu}=t^2_\nu$.				
Gamma(α,β)	$\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)\beta^\alpha}x^{\alpha-1}e^{-\frac{x}{\beta}};\ x>0,\ \alpha,\beta>0$	$\alpha\beta$	$\alpha\beta^2$	$\left(\frac{1}{1-\beta t}\right)^\alpha,\ t<\frac{1}{\beta}$
Notes: Some special cases are exponential ($\alpha=1$) and χ^2 ($\alpha=\frac{p}{2},\beta=2$). If $\alpha=\frac{2}{3}$, $Y=\sqrt{\frac{X}{\beta}}$ is *Maxwell.* $Y=\frac{1}{X}$ is *inverted gamma.*				
Logistic(μ,β)	$\frac{1}{\beta}\frac{e^{-\frac{x-\mu}{\beta}}}{\left[1+e^{-\frac{x-\mu}{\beta}}\right]^2};\ \beta>0$	μ	$\frac{\pi^2\beta^2}{3}$	$e^{\mu t}\Gamma(1+\beta t),\ \lvert t\rvert<\frac{1}{\beta}$
Notes: The cdf is $F(x\mid\mu,\beta)=\frac{1}{1+e^{-\frac{x-\mu}{\beta}}}$.				
Lognormal(μ,σ^2)	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma}\frac{1}{x}e^{-\frac{(\log x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}};\ x>0,\sigma>0$	$e^{\mu+\frac{\sigma^2}{2}}$	$e^{2(\mu+\sigma^2)}-e^{2\mu+\sigma^2}$	$EX^n=e^{n\mu+\frac{n^2\sigma^2}{2}}$
Normal(μ,σ^2)	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma}e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}};\ \sigma>0$	μ	σ^2	$e^{\mu t+\frac{\sigma^2t^2}{2}}$
Pareto(α,β)	$\frac{\beta\alpha^\beta}{x^{\beta+1}};\ x>\alpha,\ \alpha,\beta>0$	$\frac{\beta\alpha}{\beta-1},\ \beta>1$	$\frac{\beta\alpha^2}{(\beta-1)^2(\beta-2)},\ \beta>2$	does not exist
t_ν	$\frac{\Gamma(\frac{\nu+1}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{\nu}{2})}\frac{1}{\sqrt{\nu\pi}}\frac{1}{(1+\frac{x^2}{\nu})^{\frac{\nu+1}{2}}}$	$0,\ \nu>1$	$\frac{\nu}{\nu-2},\nu>2$	$EX^n=\frac{\Gamma(\frac{\nu+1}{2})\Gamma(\nu-\frac{n}{2})}{\sqrt{\pi}\Gamma(\frac{\nu}{2})}\nu^{\frac{n}{2}},\ n$ even
Notes: $t^2_\nu=F_{1,\nu}$.				
Uniform(a,b)	$\frac{1}{b-a},\ a\leq x\leq b$	$\frac{b+a}{2}$	$\frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$	$\frac{e^{bt}-e^{at}}{(b-a)t}$
Notes: If $a=0,\ b=1$, this is special case of beta ($\alpha=\beta=1$).				
Weibull(γ,β)	$\frac{\gamma}{\beta}x^{\gamma-1}e^{-\frac{x^\gamma}{\beta}};\ x>0,\ \gamma,\beta>0$	$\beta^{\frac{1}{\gamma}}\Gamma(1+\frac{1}{\gamma})$	$\beta^{\frac{2}{\gamma}}\left[\Gamma(1+\frac{2}{\gamma})-\Gamma^2(1+\frac{1}{\gamma})\right]$	$EX^n=\beta^{\frac{n}{\gamma}}\Gamma(1+\frac{n}{\gamma})$
Notes: The mgf only exists for $\gamma\geq 1$.				