

There is a whole host of generating functions and we will be discussing one more type known as the exponential generating function.

Exponential Generating Function

$$a_0, a_1, a_2 \leftrightarrow g(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} a_i \left(\frac{x^i}{i!} \right)$$

Moment Generating Functions

$E(x^k)$ is the k^{th} moment about the origin

Clarification: These moments tell us about integrating the k^{th} power. For example, the first moment is the average. The second moment is the squared distance away from the origin. If you have all of the moments, then you have the pdf.

$$\psi(t) = E(e^{tx}) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tx} p(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left[1 + tx + \frac{(tx)^2}{2!} + \dots \right] p(x) dx$$

The k^{th} moment of x is $k!$ times coefficient of t^k in the moment generating function.

Explanation: Fourier Transforms: transforms one domain to another. An example is representing music in terms of its sound frequency.

Probability distribution $p(x) \leftrightarrow \psi(t)$ //Function of time to function of frequency

Fourier Transform

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tx\sqrt{-1}} p(x) dx$$

The moment generating function has all of the properties of the Fourier transform.

One usage of the Fourier transform with respect to distribution is the following:

Gaussian Probability Distribution

Assume mean = 0 and unit variance ($\sigma^2 = 1$),

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}}$$

First, we calculate the moments:

$$\mu_n = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^n e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} dx$$

$$\mu_n = \begin{cases} \frac{n!}{2^{\frac{n}{2}} \left(\frac{n}{2}\right)!} & n \text{ even //Use by parts to get recurrence relation: } \mu_n = (n-1)\mu_{n-2} \\ 0 & n \text{ odd //Because } e^{-\left(\frac{x^2}{2}\right)} \text{ is symmetric} \end{cases}$$

$$\mu_0 = 1$$

$$\mu_1 = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} g(s) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\mu_n}{n!} s^n \\ &= \sum_{n=0 \& \text{even}}^{\infty} \frac{n!}{2^{\frac{n}{2}} \left(\frac{n}{2}\right)!} \frac{1}{n!} s^n \end{aligned}$$

To change the indices, let $n = 2i$,

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{s^{2i}}{2^i (i)!} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i!} \left(\frac{s^2}{2}\right)^i$$

since $e^x = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^i}{i!}$, $g(x) = e^{\frac{s^2}{2}}$ //This is the moment generating function for Gaussian

In general $g(s) = e^{s\mu + \frac{\sigma^2 s^2}{2}}$

Question: What is the probability distribution of the sum of two Gaussian probability distributions?

$$X_1 \quad \mu_1, \sigma_1 \leftrightarrow e^{s\mu_1 + \frac{\sigma_1^2 s^2}{2}}$$

$$X_2 \quad \mu_2, \sigma_2 \leftrightarrow e^{s\mu_2 + \frac{\sigma_2^2 s^2}{2}}$$

$$X_1 + X_2 \quad e^{(\mu_1 + \mu_2)s + \frac{(\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2)s^2}{2}} + e^{s\mu_2 + \frac{\sigma_2^2 s^2}{2}}$$

Conclusion: Result is Gaussian even if you add the two.

We now need to know the Catalan of numbers via the generating functions.

Catalan Numbers

Balanced parentheses of length $2n$:

$$\begin{aligned} c_0 &= 1 & \mathcal{E} \\ c_1 &= 1 & () \\ c_2 &= 2 & (()), (()) \\ c_3 &= 5 & ((())), ((()()), ()()()), ((())()), ()((())) \end{aligned}$$

The general structure is (A) B



$$c_i = c_0 c_{i-1} + c_1 c_{i-2} + \dots + c_{i-1} c_0$$

//Convolution of sequence suggests squaring

$$\text{Now let } c(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} c_i x^i$$

$$c^2(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} c_i x^i \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} c_j x^j = c_0^2 + (c_0 c_1 + c_1 c_0)x + (c_0 c_2 + c_1 c_1 + c_2 c_0)x^2 + \dots$$

Substituting c_i for $c_0 c_{i-1} + c_1 c_{i-2} + \dots$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} c^2(x) &= c_1 + c_2 x + c_3 x^2 + \dots \\ c_0 + x c^2(x) &= c_0 + c_1 x + c_2 x^2 + c_3 x^3 + \dots \\ c_0 + x c^2(x) &= c(x) \end{aligned}$$

Substituting $c_0 = 1$ and solve for $c(x)$ yields

$$x c^2(x) - c(x) + 1 = 0 \text{ //Use quadratic formula}$$

$$c(x) = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1-4x}}{2x}$$

$$\text{Minus sign gives correct answer, so } c(x) = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1-4x}}{2x}$$

We used $(1-y)^{1/2} =$

... //Refer to the last page for detailed calculations

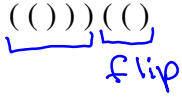
$$c(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i+1} \binom{2i}{i} x^i$$

$$c_i = \frac{1}{i+1} \binom{2i}{i}$$

Catalan numbers are used in calculating the eigen value distributions, which is semi-circular (1920, Physicist Wigner).

Alternative Approach: Let us look at number of strings of length $2n$ with equal number of left and right parentheses is $\binom{2n}{2}$ //It is easiest to calculate the number of strings //that aren't balanced and subtract them off.

Each of these strings is balanced unless there is a prefix with one more right than left parentheses.

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Flip left to right, right to left

$n+1$ right parentheses

$n-1$ left parentheses

$$\begin{aligned} c_n &= \binom{2n}{n} - \binom{2n}{n+1} \\ &= \frac{(2n)!}{n!n!} - \frac{(2n)!}{(n+1)!(n-1)!} = \frac{(2n)!(n+1-(n))}{n!(n+1)!} \\ &= \frac{1}{n+1} \frac{(2n)!}{n!n!} = \frac{1}{n+1} \binom{2n}{n} \end{aligned}$$

$$c_i = \frac{1}{1+i} \binom{2i}{i}, \text{ which is the same result obtained from the other method.}$$

EXTRA: Details from the quadratic calculation

Minus sign gives correct answer, so $c(x) = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4x}}{2x}$

$$\begin{aligned}(1 - 4x)^{1/2} &= 1 - \frac{1}{2}4x + \frac{\frac{1}{2}\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)(4x)^2}{2!} - \frac{\frac{1}{2}\left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)\left(-\frac{3}{2}\right)(4x)^3}{3!} + \dots \\ &= 1 - 2x + \frac{2^2 x^2}{2!} - \frac{3(2x)^3}{3!} - \dots - \frac{3 * 5 * \dots * (2n-3)2^n x^n}{n!}\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Since } 1 * 3 * 5 * \dots * (2n-3) = \frac{(2n)!}{(2n-1)2^n n!}$$

$$= 1 - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(2n)!}{(2n-1)2^n n!} \frac{2^n x^n}{n!}$$

$$\text{Thus } c(x) = \frac{1}{2x} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(2n)! x^n}{(2n-1)n!n!}$$

$$= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(2n)(2n-1)(2n-2)! x^{n-1}}{2(2n-1)n^2(n-1)!(n-1)!}$$

$$= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(2n-2)! x^{n-1}}{n(n-1)!(n-1)!}$$

$$= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \binom{2n-2}{n-1} x^{n-1}$$

Substituting $i = n-1$, gives you

$$c(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{1+i} \binom{2i}{i} x^i$$