

# Exponential random variable

**Definition:** A continuous RV is called exponential with parameter  $\lambda > 0$  if its probability density function is given by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \lambda e^{-\lambda x}, & x > 0 \\ 0, & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

Features of  $f(x)$

- Properly normalized:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = \int_0^{\infty} \lambda e^{-\lambda x} dx = [-e^{-\lambda x}]_0^{\infty} = (0 + 1) = 1$$

**Cumulative distribution function:**

- Evaluation:

$$\begin{aligned} F(t) &= P(X \leq t) \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^t f(x) dx = \begin{cases} 1 - e^{-\lambda t}, & t > 0 \\ 0, & t \leq 0 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

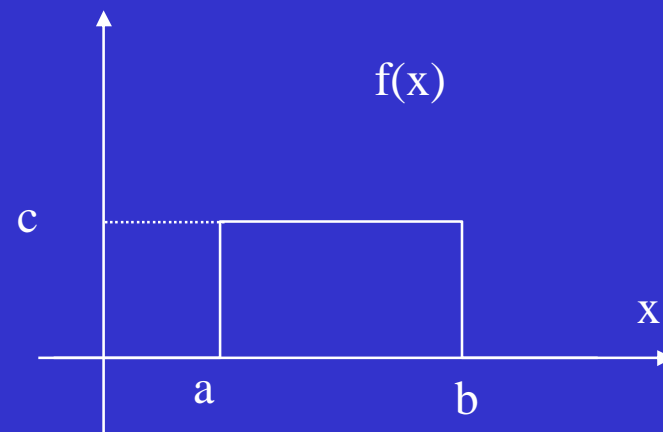
# Uniform random variable

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{b-a} & \text{if } a \leq x \leq b \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & x < a \\ \frac{x-a}{b-a} & \text{if } a \leq x \leq b \\ 1 & x > b \end{cases}$$

$$\mu = \frac{1}{2}(a+b)$$

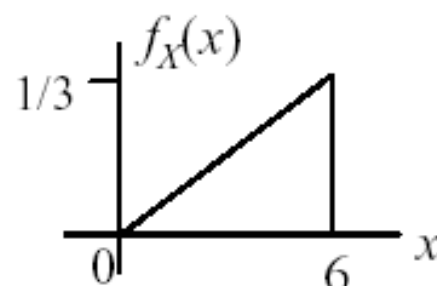
$$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{12}(b-a)^2$$



## Example:

Now consider a random variable  $X$  with a probability density function:

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{18}x & 0 \leq x \leq 6 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



$$m_X = E[X] = \frac{1}{18} \int_0^6 x^2 dx = \frac{x^3}{54} \Big|_0^6 = 4$$

$$\sigma_X^2 = E[(X - m_X)^2] = \frac{1}{18} \int_0^6 (x - 4)^2 x dx$$

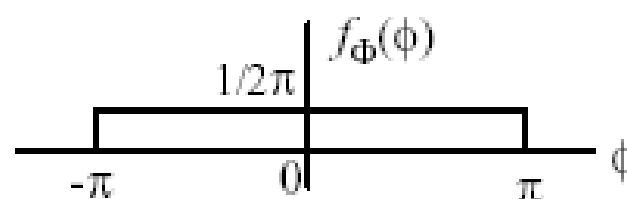
$$= \frac{1}{18} \int_0^6 (x^3 - 8x^2 + 16x) dx = \frac{1}{18} \left[ \frac{x^4}{4} - \frac{8x^3}{3} + 8x^2 \right]_0^6 = 2.$$

## Example:

$X = A \cos(\omega t_0 + \phi)$        $\phi$  is a uniform random variable:  $[-\pi, \pi]$

$$X = g(\phi)$$

$$E[X] = E_{\phi}[g(\phi)] = \int g(\phi) f_{\phi}(\phi) d\phi$$



(a) Mean

$$\begin{aligned} m_X &= E[A \cos(\omega t_0 + \phi)] \\ &= A \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos(\omega t_0 + \phi) \frac{1}{2\pi} d\phi \\ &= \frac{A}{2\pi} \cdot \sin(\omega t_0 + \phi) \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} \\ &= \frac{A}{2\pi} [\sin(\omega t_0 + \pi) - \sin(\omega t_0 - \pi)] \\ &= \frac{A}{2\pi} [\sin \omega t_0 \cos \pi + \cos \omega t_0 \sin \pi - \sin \omega t_0 \cos \pi + \cos \omega t_0 \sin \pi] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

(b) Variance

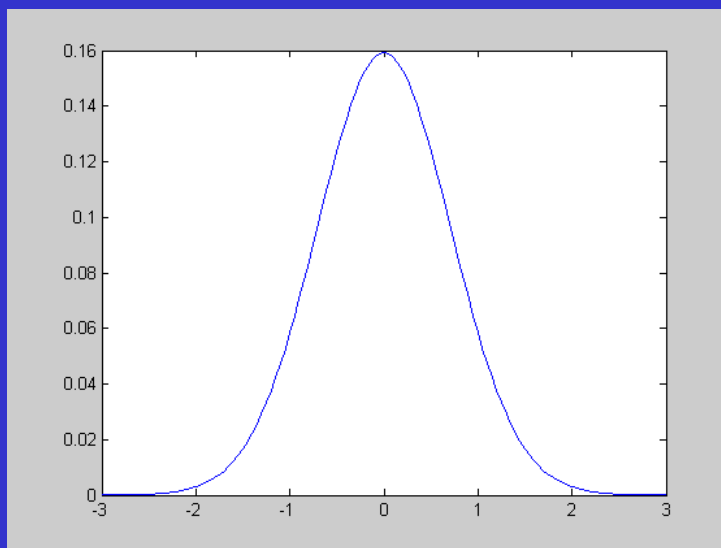
$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_x^2 &= E\left[A^2 \cos^2(\omega t_0 + \phi)\right] \\ &= \frac{A^2}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos^2(\omega t_0 + \phi) d\phi = \frac{A^2}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{1 + \cos(2\omega t_0 + 2\phi)}{2} d\phi \\ &= \frac{A^2}{4\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} d\phi + \frac{A^2}{4\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \cos(2\omega t_0 + 2\phi) d\phi \\ &= \frac{A^2}{4\pi} \cdot \phi \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} + \frac{A^2}{4\pi} \frac{\sin(2\omega t_0 + 2\phi)}{2} \Big|_{-\pi}^{\pi} \\ &= \frac{A^2}{2} + \frac{A^2}{8\pi} \left[ \sin(2\omega t_0 + 2\pi) - \sin(2\omega t_0 - 2\pi) \right] \\ &= \frac{A^2}{2} + \frac{A^2}{8\pi} \left[ \sin 2\omega t_0 - \sin 2\omega t_0 \right] = \frac{A^2}{2}\end{aligned}$$

# Gaussian random variable

$$\forall x \quad f(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \frac{(x-m)^2}{\sigma^2}}$$

$$E(T)=m \quad V(X)=\sigma^2$$

$$\text{If } X \approx N(m; \sigma) \Rightarrow \frac{X - m}{\sigma} \approx N(0; 1)$$



## Evaluating Probabilities for Gaussian Random Variables

Relations:

$$F_X(x) = \Pr[X \leq x] = \Phi\left(\frac{x-m}{\sigma}\right) = 1 - Q\left(\frac{x-m}{\sigma}\right)$$

where

$$\Phi(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^y e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz \quad Q(y) = 1 - \Phi(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_y^{\infty} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz$$

Due to symmetry of the Gaussian density:

$$\Phi(-y) = Q(y) \quad Q(-z) = 1 - Q(z).$$

These functions are tabulated.

Approximation: when  $y \geq 2$ , the Q function can be written as

$$Q(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_y^{\infty} e^{-z^2/2} dz \approx \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi} y} e^{-y^2/2}$$

### **Example:**

A random variable  $X$  is Gaussian with a mean value of  $m$  and a standard deviation of  $\sigma$ .

a) Find  $\Pr[m - 2\sigma < X \leq m + 2\sigma]$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr[m - 2\sigma < X \leq m + 2\sigma] &= 1 - \Pr[X \leq m - 2\sigma] - \Pr[X > m + 2\sigma] \\ &= 1 - 2\Pr[X > m + 2\sigma] = 1 - 2Q\left(\frac{m + 2\sigma - m}{\sigma}\right) \\ &= 1 - 2Q(2) = 1 - 4.56 \times 10^{-2} = 0.9544.\end{aligned}$$

b) Given that mean  $m = 5$  and variance  $\sigma^2 = 64$ , determine the probability  $\Pr[m - \sigma < X \leq m + \sigma]$ .

Since  $m = 5$  and  $\sigma = 8$ , we need to determine:

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr[-3 < X \leq 13] &= 1 - \Pr[X \leq -3] - \Pr[X > 13] = 1 - 2\Pr[X > 13] \\ &= 1 - 2Q\left(\frac{13 - 5}{8}\right) = 1 - 2Q(1) = 1 - 2 \times 0.159 = 0.682.\end{aligned}$$

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Table of Q function values

$x$	$Q(x)$	$x$	$Q(x)$	$x$	$Q(x)$	$x$	$Q(x)$
0.00	5.0000E-01	1.00	1.5866E-01	2.00	2.2750E-02	5.00	2.8665E-07
0.02	4.9202E-01	1.02	1.5386E-01	2.05	2.0182E-02	5.10	1.6983E-07
0.04	4.8405E-01	1.04	1.4917E-01	2.10	1.7864E-02	5.20	9.9644E-08
0.06	4.7608E-01	1.06	1.4457E-01	2.15	1.5778E-02	5.30	5.7901E-08
0.08	4.6812E-01	1.08	1.4007E-01	2.20	1.3903E-02	5.40	3.3320E-08
0.10	4.6017E-01	1.10	1.3567E-01	2.25	1.2224E-02	5.50	1.8990E-08
0.12	4.5224E-01	1.12	1.3136E-01	2.30	1.0724E-02	5.60	1.0718E-08
0.14	4.4433E-01	1.14	1.2714E-01	2.35	9.3867E-03	5.70	5.9904E-09
0.16	4.3644E-01	1.16	1.2302E-01	2.40	8.1975E-03	5.80	3.3157E-09
0.18	4.2858E-01	1.18	1.1900E-01	2.45	7.1428E-03	5.90	1.8175E-09
0.20	4.2074E-01	1.20	1.1507E-01	2.50	6.2097E-03	6.00	9.8659E-10
0.22	4.1294E-01	1.22	1.1123E-01	2.55	5.3861E-03	6.10	5.3034E-10
0.24	4.0517E-01	1.24	1.0749E-01	2.60	4.6612E-03	6.20	2.8232E-10
0.26	3.9743E-01	1.26	1.0383E-01	2.65	4.0246E-03	6.30	1.4882E-10
0.28	3.8974E-01	1.28	1.0027E-01	2.70	3.4670E-03	6.40	7.7688E-11
0.30	3.8209E-01	1.30	9.6800E-02	2.75	2.9798E-03	6.50	4.0160E-11
0.32	3.7448E-01	1.32	9.3418E-02	2.80	2.5551E-03	6.60	2.0558E-11
0.34	3.6693E-01	1.34	9.0123E-02	2.85	2.1860E-03	6.70	1.0421E-11
0.36	3.5942E-01	1.36	8.6915E-02	2.90	1.8658E-03	6.80	5.2310E-12
0.38	3.5197E-01	1.38	8.3793E-02	2.95	1.5889E-03	6.90	2.6001E-12
0.40	3.4458E-01	1.40	8.0757E-02	3.00	1.3499E-03	7.00	1.2798E-12
0.42	3.3724E-01	1.42	7.7804E-02	3.05	1.1442E-03	7.10	6.2378E-13
0.44	3.2997E-01	1.44	7.4934E-02	3.10	9.6760E-04	7.20	3.0106E-13
0.46	3.2276E-01	1.46	7.2145E-02	3.15	8.1635E-04	7.30	1.4388E-13
0.48	3.1561E-01	1.48	6.9437E-02	3.20	6.8714E-04	7.40	6.8092E-14
0.50	3.0854E-01	1.50	6.6807E-02	3.25	5.7703E-04	7.50	3.1909E-14
0.52	3.0153E-01	1.52	6.4255E-02	3.30	4.8342E-04	7.60	1.4807E-14
0.54	2.9460E-01	1.54	6.1780E-02	3.35	4.0406E-04	7.70	6.8033E-15
0.56	2.8774E-01	1.56	5.9380E-02	3.40	3.3693E-04	7.80	3.0954E-15
0.58	2.8096E-01	1.58	5.7053E-02	3.45	2.8029E-04	7.90	1.3945E-15
0.60	2.7425E-01	1.60	5.4799E-02	3.50	2.3263E-04	8.00	6.2210E-16
0.62	2.6763E-01	1.62	5.2616E-02	3.55	1.9262E-04	8.10	2.7480E-16
0.64	2.6109E-01	1.64	5.0503E-02	3.60	1.5911E-04	8.20	1.2019E-16
0.66	2.5463E-01	1.66	4.8457E-02	3.65	1.3112E-04	8.30	5.2056E-17
0.68	2.4825E-01	1.68	4.6479E-02	3.70	1.0780E-04	8.40	2.2324E-17
0.70	2.4196E-01	1.70	4.4565E-02	3.75	8.8417E-05	8.50	9.4795E-18
0.72	2.3576E-01	1.72	4.2716E-02	3.80	7.2348E-05	8.60	3.9858E-18
0.74	2.2965E-01	1.74	4.0930E-02	3.85	5.9059E-05	8.70	1.6594E-18
0.76	2.2363E-01	1.76	3.9204E-02	3.90	4.8096E-05	8.80	6.8408E-19
0.78	2.1770E-01	1.78	3.7538E-02	3.95	3.9076E-05	8.90	2.7923E-19
0.80	2.1186E-01	1.80	3.5930E-02	4.00	3.1671E-05	9.00	1.1286E-19
0.82	2.0611E-01	1.82	3.4380E-02	4.10	2.0658E-05	9.10	4.5166E-20
0.84	2.0045E-01	1.84	3.2884E-02	4.20	1.3346E-05	9.20	1.7897E-20
0.86	1.9489E-01	1.86	3.1443E-02	4.30	8.5399E-06	9.30	7.0223E-21
0.88	1.8943E-01	1.88	3.0054E-02	4.40	5.4125E-06	9.40	2.7282E-21
0.90	1.8406E-01	1.90	2.8717E-02	4.50	3.3977E-06	9.50	1.0495E-21
0.92	1.7879E-01	1.92	2.7429E-02	4.60	2.1125E-06	9.60	3.9972E-22
0.94	1.7361E-01	1.94	2.6190E-02	4.70	1.3008E-06	9.70	1.5075E-22
0.96	1.6853E-01	1.96	2.4998E-02	4.80	7.9333E-07	9.80	5.6293E-23
0.98	1.6354E-01	1.98	2.3852E-02	4.90	4.7918E-07	9.90	2.0814E-23

Table of inverse Q function values

$l$	$x=Q^{-1}(10^{-l})$	$l$	$x=Q^{-1}(10^{-l})$	$l$	$x=Q^{-1}(10^{-l})$	$l$	$x=Q^{-1}(10^{-l})$
1	1.2816	7	5.1993	13	7.3488	19	9.0133
2	2.3263	8	5.6120	14	7.6506	20	9.2623
3	3.0902	9	5.9978	15	7.9413	21	9.5050
4	3.7190	10	6.3613	16	8.2221	22	9.7418
5	4.2649	11	6.7060	17	8.4938	23	9.9730
6	4.7534	12	7.0345	18	8.7573	24	10.1990

Table of erf function values

$x$	$\text{erf}(x)$	$x$	$\text{erf}(x)$	$x$	$\text{erf}(x)$	$x$	$\text{erf}(x)$
0.00	0.000000	0.40	0.42839	0.80	0.74210	1.20	0.91031
0.01	0.01128	0.41	0.43797	0.81	0.74800	1.21	0.91296
0.02	0.02257	0.42	0.44747	0.82	0.75381	1.22	0.91553
0.03	0.03384	0.43	0.45689	0.83	0.75952	1.23	0.91805
0.04	0.04511	0.44	0.46623	0.84	0.76514	1.24	0.92051
0.05	0.05637	0.45	0.47548	0.85	0.77067	1.25	0.92290
0.06	0.06762	0.46	0.48466	0.86	0.77610	1.30	0.93401
0.07	0.07886	0.47	0.49375	0.87	0.78144	1.35	0.94376
0.08	0.09008	0.48	0.50275	0.88	0.78669	1.40	0.95229
0.09	0.10128	0.49	0.51167	0.89	0.79184	1.45	0.95970
0.10	0.11246	0.50	0.52050	0.90	0.79691	1.50	0.96611
0.11	0.12362	0.51	0.52924	0.91	0.80188	1.55	0.97162
0.12	0.13476	0.52	0.53790	0.92	0.80677	1.60	0.97635
0.13	0.14587	0.53	0.54646	0.93	0.81156	1.65	0.98038
0.14	0.15695	0.54	0.55494	0.94	0.81627	1.70	0.98379
0.15	0.16800	0.55	0.56332	0.95	0.82089	1.75	0.98667
0.16	0.17901	0.56	0.57162	0.96	0.82542	1.80	0.98909
0.17	0.18999	0.57	0.57982	0.97	0.82987	1.85	0.99111
0.18	0.20094	0.58	0.58792	0.98	0.83423	1.90	0.99279
0.19	0.21184	0.59	0.59594	0.99	0.83851	1.95	0.99418
0.20	0.22270	0.60	0.60386	1.00	0.84270	2.00	0.99532
0.21	0.23352	0.61	0.61168	1.01	0.84681	2.05	0.99626
0.22	0.24430	0.62	0.61941	1.02	0.85084	2.10	0.99702
0.23	0.25502	0.63	0.62705	1.03	0.85478	2.15	0.99764
0.24	0.26570	0.64	0.63459	1.04	0.85865	2.20	0.99814
0.25	0.27633	0.65	0.64203	1.05	0.86244	2.25	0.99854
0.26	0.28690	0.66	0.64938	1.06	0.86614	2.30	0.99886
0.27	0.29742	0.67	0.65663	1.07	0.86977	2.35	0.99911
0.28	0.30788	0.68	0.66378	1.08	0.87333	2.40	0.99931
0.29	0.31828	0.69	0.67084	1.09	0.87680	2.45	0.99947
0.30	0.32863	0.70	0.67780	1.10	0.88021	2.50	0.99959
0.31	0.33891	0.71	0.68467	1.11	0.88353	2.55	0.99969
0.32	0.34913	0.72	0.69143	1.12	0.88679	2.60	0.99976
0.33	0.35928	0.73	0.69810	1.13	0.88997	2.65	0.99982
0.34	0.36936	0.74	0.70468	1.14	0.89308	2.70	0.99987
0.35	0.37938	0.75	0.71116	1.15	0.89612	2.75	0.99990
0.36	0.38933	0.76	0.71754	1.16	0.89910	2.80	0.99992
0.37	0.39921	0.77	0.72382	1.17	0.90200	2.85	0.99994
0.38	0.40901	0.78	0.73001	1.18	0.90484	2.90	0.99996
0.39	0.41874	0.79	0.73610	1.19	0.90761	2.95	0.99997

## Evaluating Probabilities for Gaussian Random Variables Using the “Error Function”

Relations:

$$F_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(z-m)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dz = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \operatorname{erf} \left( \frac{x-m}{\sqrt{2}\sigma} \right) \right)$$

where

$$\operatorname{erf}(y) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^y e^{-z^2} dz \quad \text{and} \quad \operatorname{erf}(-y) = -\operatorname{erf}(y)$$

A “complementary error function” is sometimes also used:

$$\operatorname{erfc}(y) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_y^{\infty} e^{-z^2} dz = \frac{1}{2} - \operatorname{erf}(y)$$

The “complementary error function” is related to the Q function:

$$Q(y) = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{erfc} \left( \frac{y}{\sqrt{2}} \right)$$

Both “erf” and “erfc” are available in MATLAB.

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## Example:

A random variable  $X$  is Gaussian with a mean value of  $m=1$  and variance  $\sigma^2 = 6.25$ .

Find (a)  $\Pr[X \leq 1.7]$  (b)  $\Pr[X \leq 0.2]$  (c)  $\Pr[X > 3.5]$

$$(a) \quad \Pr[X \leq 1.7] = \int_{-\infty}^{1.7} f_X(x) dx = \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 + \operatorname{erf} \left( \frac{1.7-1}{2.5\sqrt{2}} \right) \right] = 0.6103$$

$$(b) \quad \Pr[X \leq 0.2] = \int_{-\infty}^{0.2} f_X(x) dx = \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 + \operatorname{erf} \left( \frac{0.2-1}{2.5\sqrt{2}} \right) \right]$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 - \operatorname{erf} \left( \frac{1-0.2}{2.5\sqrt{2}} \right) \right] = 0.3745$$

$$(c) \quad \Pr[X > 3.5] = 1 - \Pr[X \leq 3.5] = 1 - \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 + \operatorname{erf} \left( \frac{3.5-1}{2.5\sqrt{2}} \right) \right]$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 - \operatorname{erf} \left( \frac{3.5-1}{2.5\sqrt{2}} \right) \right] = 0.1587$$

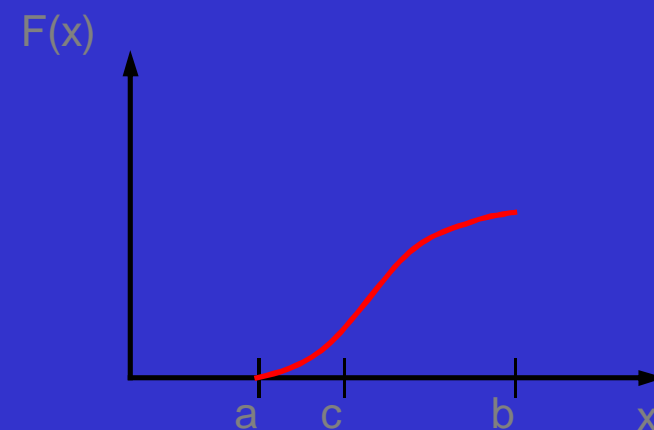
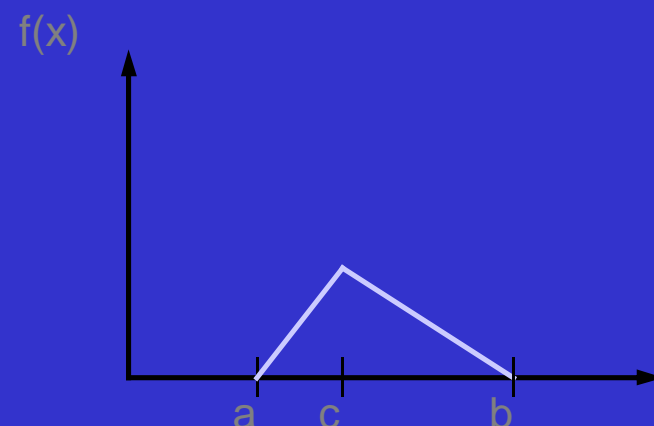
# Triangular random variable

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{2(x-a)}{(b-a)(c-a)} & \text{if } a \leq x \leq c \\ \frac{2(b-x)}{(b-a)(b-c)} & \text{if } c \leq x \leq b \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{si } x < a \\ \frac{(x-a)^2}{(b-a)(c-a)} & \text{si } a \leq x \leq c \\ 1 - \frac{(b-x)^2}{(b-a)(b-c)} & \text{if } c \leq x \leq b \\ 1 & \text{if } x > b \end{cases}$$

$$\mu = \frac{1}{3}(a+b+c)$$

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{a^2 + b^2 + c^2 - ab - ac - bc}{18}$$

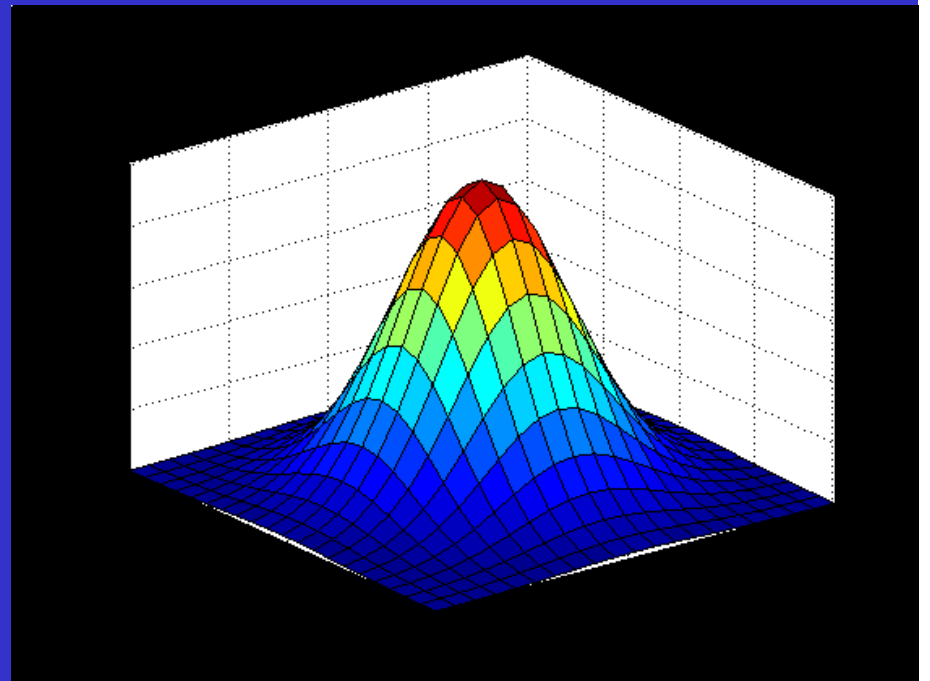


# Bi-dimensional random variable

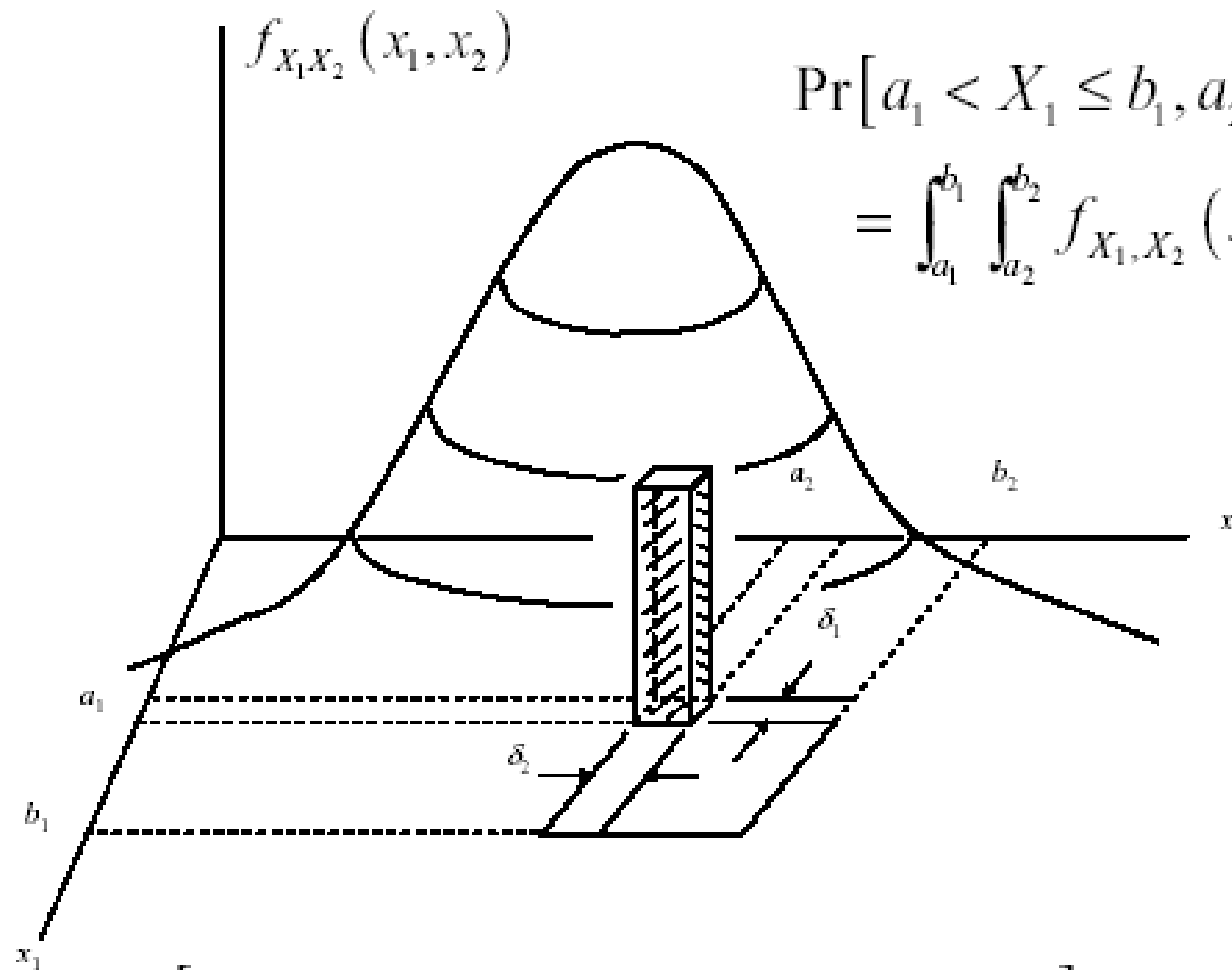
- Two random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  have a common probability density functions as :

$$f_{XY}(x, y) = ce^{-(x^2+y^2)}$$

- $(X, Y) \rightarrow f_{XY}(x, y)$  is the probability density function of the couple  $(X, Y)$
- *Example:*



## Interpretation of joint PDF as probability:



$$\Pr[a_1 < X_1 \leq b_1, a_2 < X_2 \leq b_2]$$
$$= \int_{a_1}^{b_1} \int_{a_2}^{b_2} f_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) dx_2 dx_1$$

$$\Pr[a_1 < X_1 \leq a_1 + \delta_1, a_2 < X_2 \leq a_2 + \delta_2] \cong f_{X_1, X_2}(a_1, a_2) \delta_1 \delta_2$$

# Bi-dimensional Random variables

- Cumulative functions:

$$F_{X,Y}(x, y) = P(X < x, Y < y) = \int_{-\infty}^x \int_{-\infty}^y f_{X,Y}(x, y) dx dy$$

$$f_{X,Y}(x, y) = \frac{\partial^2 F(x, y)}{\partial x \partial y}$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, y) dx dy = 1$$

- Marginal cumulative distribution functions

$$F_X(x) = F_{XY}(x, +\infty) = \int_{-\infty}^x \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, y) dx dy$$

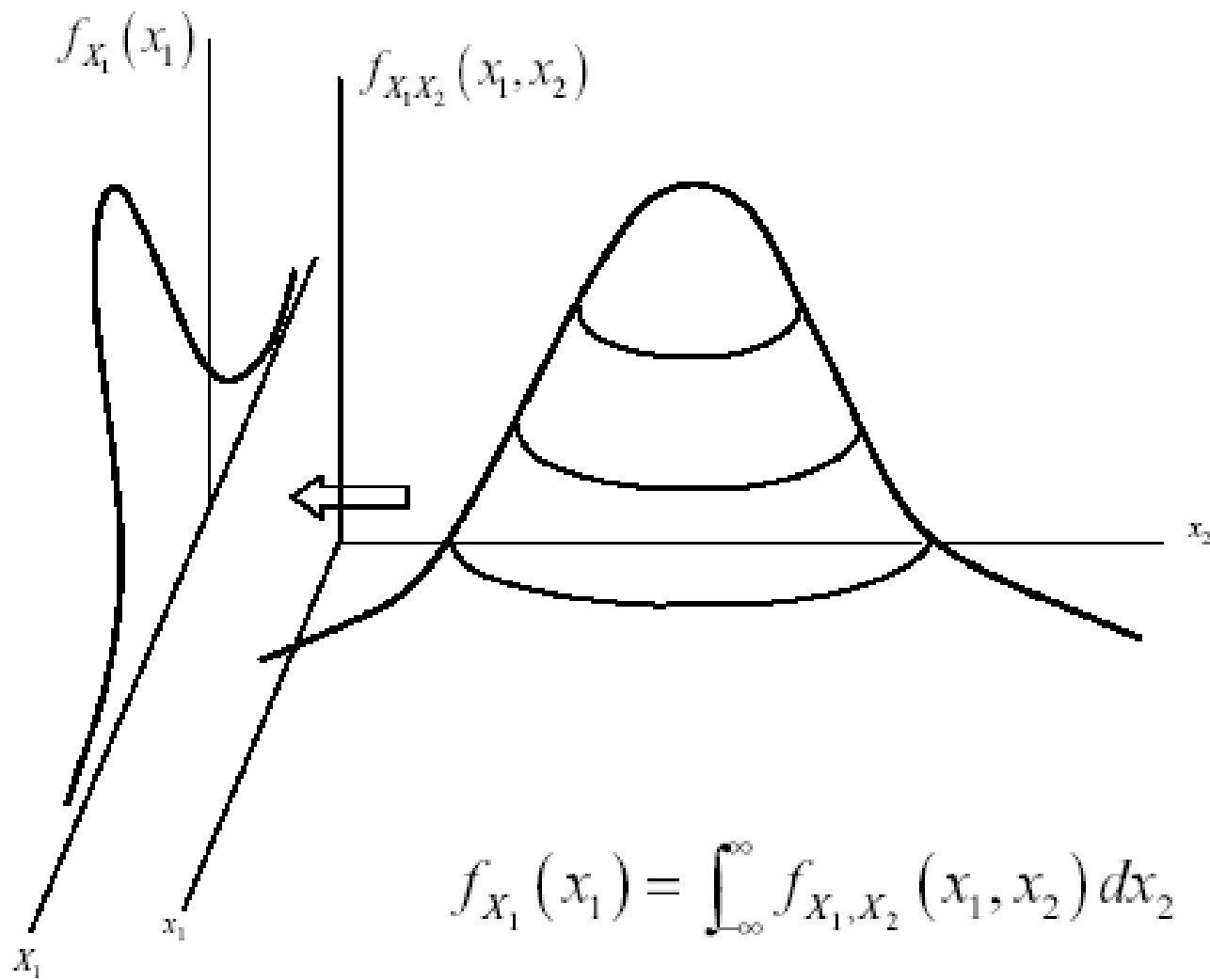
$$F_Y(y) = F_{XY}(+\infty, y) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^y f_{X,Y}(x, y) dx dy$$

$$f_X(u) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f_{XY}(u, v) dv$$

$$f_Y(v) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f_{XY}(u, v) du$$

- Marginal probability density functions

Interpretation of marginal pdf as a projection:





**Example:**

$$f_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) = \begin{cases} ce^{-x_1} e^{-2x_2}, & 0 \leq x_1 \leq x_2 < \infty \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(a) Find  $c$

$$1 = c \int_0^{\infty} \int_0^{x_2} e^{-x_1} e^{-2x_2} dx_1 dx_2 = c \int_0^{\infty} (1 - e^{-x_2}) e^{-2x_2} dx_2$$

$$1 = c \left[ \frac{e^{-2x_2}}{-2} - \frac{e^{-3x_2}}{-3} \right]_0^{\infty}$$

$$\frac{c}{6} = 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad c = 6$$