

Expectation of sums of random variables

Ex. Let X and Y be continuous random variables with joint pdf $f_{XY}(x,y)$. Assume that $E(X)$ and $E(Y)$ are finite. Calculate $E(X+Y)$.

$$\begin{aligned} E(X + Y) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x + y) f_{XY}(x, y) dx dy = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_{XY}(x, y) dx dy + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y f_{XY}(x, y) dx dy \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_X(x) dx + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y f_Y(y) dy = E(X) + E(Y) \end{aligned}$$

Same result holds in discrete case.