

Example 1. Let Z be standard normal. Find its moment generating function.

Recall, the pdf of the standard normal is:

$$f(z) = \frac{e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$$

A. Moment Generating Function Properties. Let's find the moment generating function of a linear expression $aX + b$ of a random variable.

$$M_{aX+b}(t) =$$

Next let's suppose $X \perp Y$, i.e. that X and Y are **independent**. Let's find the moment generating function of their sum.

$$M_{X+Y}(t) =$$

Example 2. Let \mathcal{N} be a normal random variable with mean μ and standard deviation σ . Find the moment generating function of X .

Example 3. Let $X \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p)$ be a binomial random variable with parameter p . Find the moment generating function of X .

Example 4. Let $X \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \lambda)$ be a Gamma random variable with parameters α and λ . If α is a positive integer, find the moment generating function of X .
Note: The end expression you obtain actually works if α is any real number.

Recall: the moment generating function of an exponential random variable with parameter λ is:

$$M_{\text{Exp}(\lambda)}(t) = \frac{\lambda}{\lambda - t} \text{ for } t < \lambda.$$

B. Markov's Inequality. Our next goal is to establish several foundational probability limit theorems. To do so, we need a toolkit of inequalities that apply for arbitrary random variables.

Suppose X is a ≥ 0 random variable and a is a constant. Let:

$$\mathbb{1}_{X \geq a} = [\text{indicator function of } X \geq a]$$

Then:

$$X \geq$$

Markov's Inequality. Let X be a ≥ 0 random variable and a be a > 0 constant. Then:

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geq a) \leq$$

C. Chebyshev's Inequality. We use Markov's inequality to establish another inequality. Suppose X is a random variable with $\mathbb{E}[X] = \mu$ and $\text{Var}(X) = \sigma^2$. Let a be a > 0 constant. Then:

$$\mathbb{P}(|X - \mu| \geq a) =$$

Chebyshev's Inequality. Let X be random variable and a be a > 0 constant. Then:

$$\mathbb{P}(|X - \mu| \geq a) \leq$$

Example 5. Let X be a Poisson random variable with $\lambda = 15$. Use Chebyshev's inequality to find a lower bound for:

$$\mathbb{P}(11 \leq X \leq 19)$$