

Question

Suppose that the joint pdf of X and Y is given by
 $f(x, y) = 2x$ $0 \leq x \leq 1$, $0 \leq y \leq 1$.

- (a) Find the conditional distribution of Y given that $X = x$,
- (b) Find $P(Y \leq \frac{1}{2} | X = 0.5)$ and $P(Y \leq \frac{1}{2} | X = 0.75)$.
- (c) Explain your answers from part b.

Answer

$f(x, y) = 2x$, $0 \leq x \leq 1$; $0 \leq y \leq 1$

(a) $f_X(x) = \int_0^1 2x \, dy = 2x \int_0^1 dy = 2x$, $0 \leq x \leq 1$

$$f_Y(y) = \int_0^1 2x \, dx = x^2 \Big|_0^1 = 1, \quad 0 \leq y \leq 1$$

Therefore $f(y|x) = \frac{f(x, y)}{f_X(x)} = \frac{2x}{2x} = 1$, $0 \leq y \leq 1$

(b) $P(Y \leq \frac{1}{2} | X = 0.5) = \int_0^{\frac{1}{2}} dy = \frac{1}{2} = \int_0^{\frac{1}{2}} f(y|x) \, dy$

$$P(Y \leq \frac{1}{2} | X = 0.75) = \int_0^{\frac{1}{2}} f(y|X = x) \, dy = \int_0^{\frac{1}{2}} dy = \frac{1}{2}$$

- (c) The two probabilities are equal because the distribution of $Y|X = x$ does not depend on x since X and Y are independent.