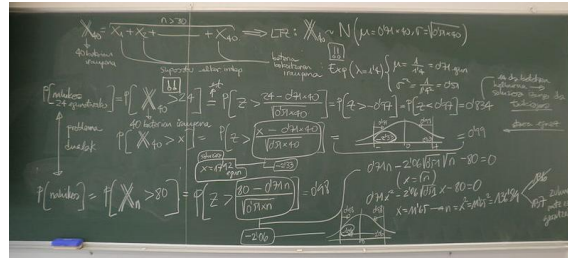


STATISTICAL PHYSICS & THERMODYNAMICS

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Central limit theorem [Joxemai, Wikimedia]

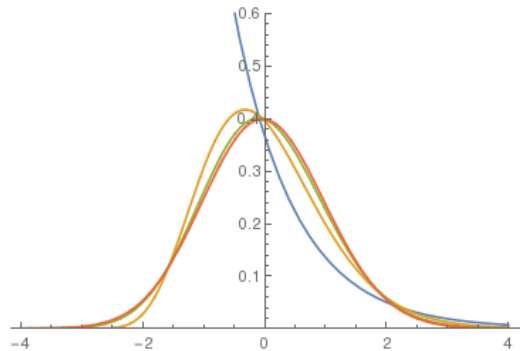
EXERCISE 4.1: CENTRAL LIMIT THEOREM (CLT)

(6P)

Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N be statistically independent and identically distributed random variables with the probability density function

$$p_X(x) = \begin{cases} e^{-x} & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

With this exercise we would like to demonstrate the CLT for $Z_N = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i$ in the limit $N \rightarrow \infty$.



- (a) Show that the N -fold convolution product of $p(x)$ is given by (1P)

$$p_{Z_N}(z) = p_X^{*N}(z) = \underbrace{(p_X * p_X * \dots * p_X)}_{N \text{ times}}(z) = \frac{z^{N-1}}{(N-1)!} e^{-z} \quad (z \geq 0).$$

- (b) Check the norm and compute the mean and the variance of $p_{Z_N}(z)$. (1P)
- (c) Standardize the distribution by shifting and rescaling Z_N in such a way that the new random variable \tilde{Z}_N has a probability density $p_{\tilde{Z}_N}(z)$ with unit norm, zero mean, and unit variance (see figure). (1P)
- (d) Show that the cumulant-generating function $K_{\tilde{Z}_N}(t)$ of the standardized probability density $p_{\tilde{Z}_N}(z)$ is given by (1P)

$$K_{\tilde{Z}_N}(t) = \frac{1}{2} N \ln N - t\sqrt{N} - N \ln(\sqrt{N} - t).$$

- (e) Compute all cumulants κ_n and show that only κ_2 survives in the limit $N \rightarrow \infty$. What does it mean? (2P)

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EXERCISE 4.2: RECONSTRUCTION OF A PROBABILITY DENSITY (4P)

- (a) Prove the following statement: If the moment-generating function $M_X(t)$ is analytic, then the corresponding probability density $p(x)$ is given by the inverse Fourier transform (1P)

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} ds e^{-ixs} M_X(is).$$

- (b) Consider a probability distribution with the cumulants

$$\{\kappa_0, \kappa_1, \kappa_2, \kappa_3, \dots\} = \{0, 0, \frac{3}{2}, 0, -\frac{1}{2}, 0, \frac{1}{3}, 0, -\frac{1}{4}, 0, \frac{1}{5}, 0, -\frac{1}{6}, \dots\}$$

Compute the generating functions $K(t)$ and $M(t)$. (2P)

- (c) Use (a) to reconstruct the probability density $p(x)$. (1P)

EXERCISE 4.3: TRANSFORMATION OF PROBABILITY DENSITIES (2P)

Let X and Y be two uncorrelated random variables which are both distributed according to a normal distribution with zero mean and unit variance. What is the probability density of the random variable $Z := X/Y$?

($\Sigma = 12P$)

To be handed in on Monday, November 11, at the beginning of the lecture (PG1 directly to Pascal).