

- DISCRETE RANDOM VARIABLES -

Often $S = \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{Z}$

Def A random variable (r.v.) X on a prob. space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$

with values in a metric space S is a measurable function

$$X: \Omega \rightarrow S$$

preimages of measurable sets (= Borel) in S are events

$$\text{e.g. } X^{-1}((-\infty, t)) \in \mathcal{F} \quad \forall t$$
$$\{ \omega \in \Omega, X(\omega) \in (-\infty, t) \}$$

E.g. $\Omega = \{ \text{people in 21-325} \} = \{ \text{Tomasz}, \dots \}$

$$X(\omega) = \text{height of } \omega$$

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{a random person is taller than 7.7 ft})$$

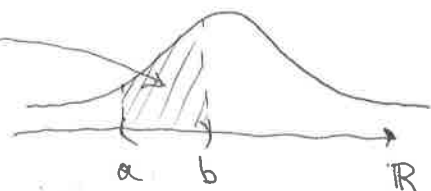
$$= \mathbb{P}(\{ \omega \in \Omega, X(\omega) > 7.7 \text{ ft} \}) = \mathbb{P}(X > 7.7) \quad \text{in short}$$

The law (distribution) of X is the prob. measure μ_X on S

defined by $\mu_X(A) = \mathbb{P}(X \in A)$

$$\mu_X(a, b) = \mathbb{P}(a < X < b)$$

= % people with height between a and b



Def A discrete r.v. X on $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ is a function $X: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ s.t.

(i) $X(\Omega)$ is countable

(ii) $\forall x \in \mathbb{R} \quad X^{-1}(\{x\}) \in \mathcal{F}$.

E.g. roll a die, $X(\omega) = \omega$ (number rolled)
 $\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$

• $\mathcal{F} = 2^\Omega$, X is a discrete r.v.

• $\mathcal{F} = \{\emptyset, \Omega, \{1, 3, 5\}, \{2, 4, 6\}\}$, X is not a r.v.
 (b/c $X^{-1}(\{1\}) = \{1\} \notin \mathcal{F}$)

The probability mass function of X is $p_X: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, 1]$
 (p.m.f.)

$$p_X(x) = \mathbb{P}(X = x)$$

(Image)



• $p_X(x) = 0$ unless $x \in X(\Omega) \equiv \text{Im } X$

$$\sum_{x \in \text{Im } X} p_X(x) = \sum_{x \in \text{Im } X} \underbrace{\mathbb{P}(X=x)}_{\text{disjoint events}} = \mathbb{P}\left(\bigcup_{x \in \text{Im } X} \{X=x\}\right)$$

\uparrow
Im X countable

$$= \mathbb{P}(\Omega) = 1.$$

Characterisation
of p.m.f. Thm

Let $q: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ be s.t.

• the set $\{x \in \mathbb{R}, q(x) > 0\}$ is countable

$$\sum q(x) = 1.$$

Then there is a discrete r.v. X whose p.m.f. is q ($P_X \equiv q$).

Proof Let $\{x \in \mathbb{R}, q(x) > 0\} = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$.

Set $\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$, $\mathcal{F} = 2^\Omega$,

$$P(A) = \sum_{i \in A} q(x_i), \quad (P(\{i\}) = q(x_i))$$

$$X(i) = x_i.$$

Then $X(\Omega) = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$ countable, since $\mathcal{F} = 2^\Omega$,

regardless the definition of X , $X^{-1}(\{x\}) \in \mathcal{F}$, so

X is a discrete r.v. Its p.m.f. is

$$P_X(x) = P(X=x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \notin \{x_1, x_2, \dots\} \\ q(x_i), & \text{if } x = x_i \end{cases}$$

$P(X=x_i) = P(\{i\})$. \square

This thm allows to forget about Ω - it suffices to specify the values of X and their probabilities (P_X).

Important examples (of discrete r.v.s)

o) random sign (Rademacher r.v.) ε ,
 $P(\varepsilon = -1) = \frac{1}{2} = P(\varepsilon = +1)$.

1) Bernoulli distribution (biased coin) with param. $p \in [0,1]$

$$\mathbb{P}(X=0) = 1-p \quad , \quad \mathbb{P}(X=1) = p$$

(failure) (success)

Notation: $X \sim \text{Ber}(p)$

2) Binomial dist, with param's p and n

$$X \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n\}$$

$$\mathbb{P}(X=k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}, \quad 0 \leq k \leq n$$

(this defines a pmf by the binomial thm:

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \mathbb{P}(X=k) = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} = (p + (1-p))^n = 1)$$

$\mathbb{P}(\text{in } n \text{ tosses of a biased coin we get } k \text{ heads})$

HTHHHTTT
underbrace
exactly k H's

$$= \binom{n}{k} \cdot p^k \cdot (1-p)^{n-k}$$

positions of k H's

So $X =$ number of successes in n $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{indep.} \\ \text{Bernoulli} \\ \text{trials} \end{array} \right.$

Notation: $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$

4) Geometric distribution with param^s $p \in [0,1]$

$$X \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$$

$$\mathbb{P}(X=k) = p(1-p)^{k-1}, \quad k \geq 1$$

$$\text{(check } \sum_{k \geq 1} \mathbb{P}(X=k) = 1 \text{)}$$

\mathbb{P} (when tossing a biased coin, the first heads occurs only in k^{th} toss)

$$= \mathbb{P} \left(\underbrace{\text{TT} \dots \text{T}}_{k-1} \text{H} \right) \stackrel{*}{=} (1-p)^{k-1} p,$$

so $X =$ first success in Bernoulli trials

Notation $X \sim \text{Geom}(p)$

5) Poisson distribution with param $\lambda > 0$

$$X \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$$

$$\mathbb{P}(X=k) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^k}{k!}, \quad k=0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$$\text{(check } \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}(X=k) = 1 \text{)}$$

Notation: $X \sim \text{Poiss}(\lambda)$.

independent events

$$*) \mathbb{P} \left(\underbrace{\text{TT} \dots \text{T}}_{k-1} \text{H} \right) = \mathbb{P} \left(\{1^{\text{st}} \text{ toss T}\} \cap \{2^{\text{nd}} \text{ toss T}\} \cap \dots \cap \{k-1^{\text{th}} \text{ toss T}\} \cap \{k^{\text{th}} \text{ toss H}\} \right)$$

6) Negative Binomial distribution with params n, p

$$X \in \{n, n+1, n+2, \dots\}$$

$$P(X=k) = \binom{k-1}{n-1} p^n (1-p)^{k-n}, \quad k \geq n$$

P (when tossing a biased coin, n^{th} heads at k^{th} toss)

$$= \binom{k-1}{n-1} \cdot \underbrace{p^n}_{n \text{ heads}} \cdot \underbrace{(1-p)^{k-n}}_{k-n \text{ tails}}$$

need positions for $n-1$ heads \rightarrow $\underbrace{\hspace{2cm}}_{k-1}$ H

so X = moment of n^{th} success in Bernoulli trials

7) in general, if A is an event,

then the indicator function

$$1_A: \Omega \rightarrow \{0, 1\}, \quad 1_A(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \omega \in A \\ 0 & \text{if } \omega \notin A \end{cases}$$

is a $\{0, 1\}$ -valued discrete r.v. with p.m.f.

$$P(1_A = 1) = P(A)$$

$$P(1_A = 0) = 1 - P(A),$$

so $1_A \sim \text{Ber}(P(A))$.

Transformations

Suppose X is a discrete r.v. on $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ and $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, then

$$Y(\omega) = g(X(\omega)), \quad \omega \in \Omega$$

defines a discrete r.v. (Check!)

E.g. • $g(x) = ax + b$, $g(X) = aX + b$

In part. $\varepsilon = \text{random sign}$, $X \sim \text{Ber}(\frac{1}{2})$, $\varepsilon = 2X - 1$

- $X = \text{number on a fair die}$

$$Y = X \bmod 2 = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } X \text{ even} \\ 1 & \text{if } X \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

$$Y \sim \text{Ber}(\frac{1}{2})$$

The p.m.f. of $Y = g(X)$:

$$\begin{aligned} P_Y(y) &= \mathbb{P}(Y=y) = \mathbb{P}(g(X)=y) = \mathbb{P}(X \in g^{-1}(\{y\})) \\ &= \sum_{x \in g^{-1}(\{y\})} P_X(x) \end{aligned}$$

More general, X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n discrete r.v.s, $g: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$,

$$Y = g(X_1, \dots, X_n) \quad \text{is a discrete r.v.s}$$

In part., $Y = X_1 + \dots + X_n$, $Y = X_1 \cdot \dots \cdot X_n$.

Expectation

The expectation of a discrete r.v. X is

$$\mathbb{E}X = \sum_{x \in \text{Im}X} x \cdot \mathbb{P}(X=x)$$

whenever this sum converges absolutely, i.e. $\sum |x| \cdot \mathbb{P}(X=x) < \infty$

E.g. $\bullet X \sim \text{Ber}(p), \quad \mathbb{E}X = 0 \cdot (1-p) + 1 \cdot p = p.$

$\bullet X = \text{const} \quad \mathbb{E}X = \text{const} \quad \bullet \mathbb{E}1_A = \mathbb{P}(A)$

Thm If X, Y are discrete r.v.s with expectations $\mathbb{E}X, \mathbb{E}Y$, then

$$\mathbb{E}(X+Y) = \mathbb{E}X + \mathbb{E}Y.$$

Proof $X+Y$ takes values $x+y, x \in \text{Im}X, y \in \text{Im}Y$, so

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(X+Y) &= \sum_{\substack{x \in \text{Im}X \\ y \in \text{Im}Y}} (x+y) \mathbb{P}(X=x, Y=y) \\ &= \sum_x \sum_y x \mathbb{P}(X=x, Y=y) + \sum_x \sum_y y \mathbb{P}(X=x, Y=y) \\ \sum_y \mathbb{P}(X=x, Y=y) &= \mathbb{P}(X=x) \\ &= \sum_x x \mathbb{P}(X=x) + \sum_y y \mathbb{P}(Y=y) = \mathbb{E}X + \mathbb{E}Y. \end{aligned}$$

E.g.
 $\mathbb{E}(aX+b)$
 $= a \cdot \mathbb{E}X + b$

Thm $\mathbb{E}g(X) = \sum_{x \in \text{Im}X} g(x) \mathbb{P}(X=x).$

Proof $g(x)$ takes the value $g(x)$ with prob. $\mathbb{P}(X=x). \square$



In general $\mathbb{E}(X \cdot Y) \neq \mathbb{E}X \cdot \mathbb{E}Y$

E.g. $X=Y \sim \text{Ber}(p)$

$$\mathbb{E}X \cdot Y = \mathbb{E}X^2 = 0^2 \cdot (1-p) + 1^2 \cdot p = p$$

$$\mathbb{E}X \cdot \mathbb{E}Y = (\mathbb{E}X)^2 = p^2.$$

E.g. $S \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$

by def
$$\mathbb{E}S = \sum_{k=0}^n k \cdot \mathbb{P}(S=k) = \sum_{k=0}^n k \cdot \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

$$\stackrel{?}{=} \text{(not difficult but not instant)}$$

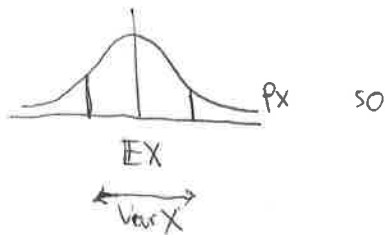
instant

$$S = \text{number of successes} = X_1 + \dots + X_n, \\ X_i \sim \text{Ber}(p)$$

$$\mathbb{E}S = \mathbb{E}(X_1 + \dots + X_n) = \mathbb{E}X_1 + \dots + \mathbb{E}X_n \\ = n \cdot \mathbb{E}X_1 = n \cdot p.$$

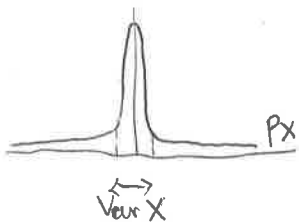
Variance $\text{Var}X = \mathbb{E} \underbrace{(X - \mathbb{E}X)^2}$

≥ 0 , small when X close to $\mathbb{E}X$



$\mathbb{E}X$ = "centre / average / mean of X "

$\text{Var}X$ = "dispersion of X from $\mathbb{E}X$ "



Fact

$$\text{Var}X = \mathbb{E} (X^2 - 2X \cdot \mathbb{E}X + (\mathbb{E}X)^2)$$

$$= \mathbb{E}X^2 - \underbrace{\mathbb{E}(2\mathbb{E}X \cdot X)}_{\text{const}} + \underbrace{\mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}X)^2}_{\text{const}}$$

$$= \mathbb{E}X^2 - 2\mathbb{E}X \cdot \mathbb{E}X + (\mathbb{E}X)^2$$

$$= \mathbb{E}X^2 - (\mathbb{E}X)^2.$$

Conditional expectation

If X is a discrete r.v. and B an event s.t. $P(B) > 0$,

then the conditional expectation of X given B is

$$E(X | B) = \sum_{x \in \text{Im } X} x \cdot P(X=x | B)$$

Thm If B_1, B_2, \dots form a partition, $\forall i P(B_i) > 0$, then

$$EX = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} E(X | B_i) \cdot P(B_i)$$

Proof

$$\begin{aligned} \text{RHS} &= \sum_i \sum_x x \cdot P(X=x | B_i) \cdot P(B_i) \\ &= \sum_x x \cdot \underbrace{\sum_i P(X=x | B_i) \cdot P(B_i)}_{P(X=x)} = EX. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

E.g. A biased coin is tossed repeatedly (heads with prob. p)

Find the expected length of the initial run.

$H = 1^{\text{st}}$ toss heads, $X =$ length of the initial run
 $\{H, H^c\}$ - partition

$\overbrace{H H \dots H}^{k-1} T$

$$P(X=k | H) = p^{k-1} (1-p) \quad k=1, 2, \dots$$

$\overbrace{T T \dots T}^{k-1} H$

$$P(X=k | H^c) = p (1-p)^{k-1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E(X | H) &= \sum k \cdot P(X=k | H) = (1-p) \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k p^{k-1} = (1-p) \frac{\left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} p^k \right)'}{(1-p)^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{1-p} \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, $E(X|H^c) = \frac{1}{p}$, so

$$\begin{aligned} E(X) &= E(X|H)P(H) + E(X|H^c)P(H^c) \\ &= \frac{1}{1-p} \cdot p + \frac{1}{p} (1-p) = \frac{p}{1-p} + \frac{1-p}{p} \quad (\geq 2) \end{aligned}$$

-3-

- Multivariate distributions and independence -

If X, Y are discrete r.v.s (on (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P)) then the pmf of the vector (X, Y) is

$$P_{(X,Y)}(x,y) = P(\underbrace{X=x, Y=y}_{\{\omega \in \Omega, X(\omega)=x \text{ and } Y(\omega)=y\}})$$

⚠ Two properties

• $P_{(X,Y)}(x,y) \geq 0$, if $x \notin \text{Im} X$ or $y \notin \text{Im} Y$, then $P_{(X,Y)}(x,y) = 0$

$$\sum_{\substack{x \in \text{Im} X \\ y \in \text{Im} Y}} P_{(X,Y)}(x,y) = 1$$

Marginals p_X, p_Y are found by taking sums

$$p_X(x) = \sum_{y \in \text{Im} Y} P_{(X,Y)}(x,y)$$

because:
$$P_X(x) = P(X=x) = P(X=x, \Omega) = P(X=x, \bigcup_{y \in \text{Im} Y} \{Y=y\})$$

$$= P\left(\bigcup_{y \in \text{Im} Y} \{X=x, Y=y\}\right) = \sum_{y \in \text{Im} Y} P(X=x, Y=y).$$

The same for P_Y .

The same for more variables

$$\vec{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_n) \quad \text{discrete random vector}$$

discrete r.v.s

$$P_{\vec{X}}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = P(X_1=x_1, \dots, X_n=x_n).$$

Thm If $g: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, (X_1, \dots, X_n) is a dis. r. vec, then

$$\mathbb{E}g(X_1, \dots, X_n) = \sum_{\substack{x_1 \in \text{Im} X_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \in \text{Im} X_n}} g(x_1, \dots, x_n) P(X_1=x_1, \dots, X_n=x_n).$$

Cor
$$\mathbb{E}\left(\sum_1^n a_i X_i\right) = \sum_1^n a_i \mathbb{E}X_i.$$

E.g. Planet with n days/year, k people

X = number of pairs of people sharing birthday

$$\mathbb{E}X ? \quad X_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & i, j \text{ persons share b-day} \\ 0 & \text{o/w} \end{cases}$$

$$X = \sum_{i < j} X_{ij} \quad \mathbb{E}X_{ij} = P(X_{ij}=1) = \frac{1}{n}$$

$$\mathbb{E}X = \sum_{i < j} \mathbb{E}X_{ij} = \sum_{i < j} \frac{1}{n} = \binom{k}{2} \frac{1}{n}.$$

Recall: events are indep if $P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$

Discrete r.v.s X, Y are indep. if

$\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ events $\{X=x\}$ and $\{Y=y\}$ are indep, i.e.

$$P(X=x, Y=y) = P(X=x)P(Y=y).$$

In terms of pmf

The joint pmf
factorises

$$\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R} \quad P_{X,Y}(x,y) = P_X(x)P_Y(y)$$

The converse
true!

Thm Discrete r.v.s X, Y are indep. if and only if there

exist functions $f, g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ s.t.

$$(*) \quad P_{X,Y}(x,y) = f(x)g(y) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Proof " \Rightarrow " clear by def.

" \Leftarrow " by taking $\sum_{y \in \text{Im} Y}$ in (*): $P_X(x) = f(x) \sum_{y \in \text{Im} Y} g(y)$

$\sum_{x \in \text{Im} X}$: $P_Y(y) = g(y) \sum_{x \in \text{Im} X} f(x)$

$\sum_{x \in \text{Im} X, y \in \text{Im} Y}$: $1 = \sum_x f(x) \cdot \sum_y g(y).$

Therefore,
$$P_X(x)P_Y(y) = f(x)g(y) \sum_{y'} g(y') \sum_{x'} f(x')$$
$$= f(x)g(y) = P_{X,Y}(x,y). \quad \square$$

Eg. $\mathbb{P}(X=k, Y=l) = \frac{1}{2^{k+l}} = \frac{1}{2^k} \cdot \frac{1}{2^l}, \quad k, l \geq 1$

$\Rightarrow X, Y$ indep. (notation $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$)

Thm If X, Y are discrete r.v. with mean $\mathbb{E}X, \mathbb{E}Y$, then

$$\mathbb{E}XY = \mathbb{E}X \cdot \mathbb{E}Y.$$

Proof
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}XY &= \sum xy \mathbb{P}(X=x, Y=y) = \sum xy \mathbb{P}(X=x) \mathbb{P}(Y=y) \\ &= \sum x \mathbb{P}(X=x) \sum y \mathbb{P}(Y=y) = \mathbb{E}X \cdot \mathbb{E}Y. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

 The converse false! $X = 0, -1, +1$ with prob. $\frac{1}{3}$
 $Y = |X|$

- $\mathbb{E}XY = 0 = \mathbb{E}X \cdot \mathbb{E}Y$

- X, Y not indep.

Thm Discrete r.v.s X, Y are indep. iff \leftarrow if and only if for all $f, g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$\mathbb{E}f(X)g(Y) = \mathbb{E}f(X) \mathbb{E}g(Y)$$

Proof " \Rightarrow " the same comp. as for $\mathbb{E}XY = \mathbb{E}X \mathbb{E}Y$

" \Leftarrow " Fix $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$. Set $f(x) = 1_{\{a\}}(x)$
 $g(x) = 1_{\{b\}}(x)$

$$\mathbb{E}f(X) = \mathbb{E}1_{\{a\}}(X) = \mathbb{P}(X=a), \quad \mathbb{E}g(Y) = \mathbb{P}(Y=b),$$

$$\mathbb{E}f(X)g(Y) = \mathbb{P}(X=a, Y=b).$$

The same for more variables

$$X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \text{ indep if } P_{(X_1, \dots, X_n)}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \prod_1^n P_{X_i}(x_i),$$

$$\text{then } E\left(\prod_1^n X_i\right) = \prod_1^n E X_i, \text{ etc.}$$

Sums of r.v.s

If X, Y are two discrete r.v.s what is the pmf of $Z = X + Y$?

$$\begin{aligned} P_Z(z) &= P(Z=z) = P(X+Y=z) = \sum_{x \in \text{Im} X} P(X=x, Y=z-x) \\ &\quad \text{for some } x \quad X=x, Y=z-x \\ &= \sum_{x \in \text{Im} X} P_{(X,Y)}(x, z-x) \\ &= \dots = \sum_{y \in \text{Im} Y} P_{(X,Y)}(z-y, y). \end{aligned}$$

If X, Y indep, then

$$P_Z(z) = \sum_x P_X(x) P_Y(z-x)$$

$$\text{so } P_Z = P_X * P_Y \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (a_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}, (b_n)_{n=1}^{\infty} \text{ two seqs} \\ (a_n * b_n)_m = \sum_e a_e b_{m-e}. \end{array} \right.$$

convolution

Thm X, Y indep. $\Rightarrow \text{Var}(X+Y) = \text{Var} X + \text{Var} Y$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Proof } \text{Var}(X+Y) &= E\left((X+Y) - E(X+Y)\right)^2 = E\left((X-E(X)) + (Y-E(Y))\right)^2 \\ &= E(X-E(X))^2 + E(Y-E(Y))^2 + 2E\left(\underbrace{(X-E(X))(Y-E(Y))}_{\text{indep}}\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\neq E(X-E(X)) \cdot E(Y-E(Y)) = 0.$$