



# ECE 3100 - Functions, Formulas, and Definitions

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# 1 Pre - Prelim 1

## 1.1 Lecture 1 - What is Probability?

**Probability** is a way of mathematically modelling situations involving uncertainty with the goal of making predictions decisions and models. Probability can be understood in many ways, such as:

1. Frequency of Occurrence: Or percentage of successes in a moderately large number of similar situations.
2. Subjective belief: Or certainty based on other understood facts about a claim.

For our Probability Models, we define the set of all outcomes to be  $\Omega$ , better known as the **sample space** of an experiment. All subsets of  $\Omega$  are called **events**. These are both sets and can be understood using default set notation.

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## 1.2 Lecture 2 - Probability Law

Given  $\Omega$  chosen, a **probability law** on  $\Omega$  is a mapping  $\mathbb{P}$  that assigns a number for every event such that:

$$\begin{array}{l} \mathbb{P}(A) \geq 0 \quad \text{for every event } A \\ \mathbb{P}(\Omega) = 1 \quad (\text{normalization}) \end{array} \quad (\text{Kolmogorov's Axioms})$$

### 1.2.1 Additivity rules:

- If  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ , ( $A, B$ ) events, then:

$$\mathbb{P}(A \cup B) = \mathbb{P}(A) + \mathbb{P}(B) \quad (1)$$

- If events  $A_1, A_2, \dots$  are all disjoint, then:

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n\right) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}(A_n) \quad (2)$$

By these rules, we can surmise that  $\mathbb{P}(\emptyset) = 0$ .

For any events  $A, B$ :

$$\mathbb{P}(A \cup B) = \mathbb{P}(A) + \mathbb{P}(B) - \mathbb{P}(A \cap B) \quad (\text{Event Union})$$

When we have a probability law on a finite  $\Omega$  with all outcomes equally likely (i.e.  $\mathbb{P}(\{s\}) = 1/\text{size}(\Omega)$ ), we call this probability law  $\mathbb{P}$  a **(discrete) uniform probability law**.

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## 1.3 Lecture 3 - Conditional Prob & Product Rule

### 1.3.1 Conditional Probability

**Conditional Probability** is defined  $\mathbb{P}(A | B) = \text{"Probability of A given B"}$ . It is understood as the likelihood that event A occurs, given that B also occurs.

$$\boxed{\mathbb{P}(A | B) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(A \cap B)}{\mathbb{P}(B)}} \quad (\text{Conditional Probability Def})$$

If there is a finite number of different outcomes that are all equally likely, the conditional probability can be written as follows:

$$\boxed{\mathbb{P}(A | B) = \frac{\text{number of elements of } A \cap B}{\text{number of elements of } B}} \quad (3)$$

### 1.3.2 Product Rule

There are two main ways to write the product rule and they both have different setups.

- If we have events  $D_1$  to  $D_n$  where  $D_1 > D_2 > \dots > D_n$  ( $D_1$  largest,  $D_n$  smallest), then we can apply the first form of the product rule:

$$\boxed{\mathbb{P}(D_n) = \mathbb{P}(D_1)\mathbb{P}(D_2 | D_1)\mathbb{P}(D_3 | D_2) \dots \mathbb{P}(D_n | D_{n-1})} \quad (\text{Product Rule 1})$$

- If we have events  $A_1$  to  $A_n$  with non-empty intersection (i.e.  $A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \dots \cap A_n$ ), let  $D_k = A_1 \cap A_2 \cap \dots \cap A_k$ , then  $D_1 > D_2 > \dots > D_n$ . If we then write the product rule on the events  $D_n$  in terms of  $A_n$ , we get:

$$\boxed{\mathbb{P}(A_1 \cap \dots \cap A_n) = \mathbb{P}(A_1)\mathbb{P}(A_2 | A_1)\mathbb{P}(A_3 | A_1 \cap A_2) \dots \mathbb{P}(A_n | A_1 \cap \dots)} \quad (\text{Product Rule 2})$$

---

## 1.4 Lecture 5 - Bayes Law & Independence

### 1.4.1 Bayes Law

**Bayes' Rule** is defined by mixing the definition of Condition Probability, and the Total Probability Theorem.

Given  $\Omega, \mathbb{P}$ , if  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  are events that partition  $\Omega$ , and have nonzero  $\mathbb{P}(A)$ , then for any event  $B$ ,

$$\boxed{\mathbb{P}(A_k | B) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(B | A_k)\mathbb{P}(A_k)}{\mathbb{P}(B | A_1)\mathbb{P}(A_1) + \dots + \mathbb{P}(B | A_n)}} \quad (\text{Bayes' Law})$$

### 1.4.2 Independence

Given  $\Omega, \mathbb{P}$ , any events  $A$  and  $B$  are **independent** when:

$$\boxed{\begin{array}{l} \mathbb{P}(A \cap B) = \mathbb{P}(A)\mathbb{P}(B) \quad \text{or} \\ \mathbb{P}(A | B) = \mathbb{P}(A), \mathbb{P}(B) > 0 \end{array}} \quad (\text{Independence Def})$$

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## 1.5 Lecture 6 - Conditional Dependence & Counting

### 1.5.1 Conditional Dependence

Given  $\Omega$  and  $\mathbb{P}$ : say that events  $A$  and  $B$  are **conditionally independent** given  $C$  when:

$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(A \cap B \mid C) &= \mathbb{P}(A \mid C)\mathbb{P}(B \mid C) \\ \mathbb{P}(A \mid B \cap C) &= \mathbb{P}(A \mid C), \mathbb{P}(B \cap C) > 0\end{aligned}$	or	
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(Conditional Independence Def)

### 1.5.2 Counting

**Counting** is the process of using the number of elements in the events to calculate probability. This technique mostly arises in situations where either:

- The sample space  $\Omega$  has a finite number of equally likely outcomes. Then, for any event  $A$ ,

$$\mathbb{P}(A) = \frac{\# \text{ of elements of } A}{\# \text{ of elements of } \Omega}$$

- An event  $A$  has a finite number of equally likely outcomes with probability  $p$ . Then for that event  $A$ :

$$\mathbb{P}(A) = p \cdot (\# \text{ of elements of } A)$$

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## 1.6 Lecture 7 - Counting

**Counting Principle:** in a process with a sequence of stages  $1, 2, \dots, r$  with  $n_1$  choices at stage 1 over to  $n_r$  at stage  $r$ ; # of outcomes is  $n_1 n_2 \dots n_k$ .

Can be used to rederive ( $\#$  subsets of  $\Omega$ ) =  $2^{\#(elem)}$ .

### 1.6.1 $k$ -permutations of $n$ objects

We are given  $n$  distinct objects and a number  $k \leq n$ , and we want to find out the number of ways we could take  $k$  distinct objects from the group of  $n$  objects and arrange them in a sequence. By using the Counting Principle, we can find that the **number of  $k$ -permutations** of this set is:

$\begin{aligned}n(n-1) \dots (n-k+1) &= \frac{n(n-1) \dots (n-k+1)(n-k) \dots 2 \cdot 1}{(n-k) \dots 2 \cdot 1} \\ &= \frac{n!}{(n-k)!}\end{aligned}$	(K-permutations)
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Special Case: If  $k = n$ , then the number of  $k$ -permutations of  $n$  objects is simply  $n!$ .

### 1.6.2 $k$ -combinations of $n$ objects

For finding the number of  $k$ -combinations, we can look back to our  $k$ -permutations and reason about them. Say we have the same setup as before but we are not arranging the items in a sequence. For each combination, we have  $k!$  “duplicate” permutations. Thus, we can look at the number permutations and reason that the number of  $k$ -combinations should be that over  $k!$ , making the **number of  $k$ -combinations** of this set is:

$$\boxed{\frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} = \binom{n}{k}} \quad (\text{K-combinations})$$

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## 1.7 Lecture 8 - Discrete Random Variables

### 1.7.1 Random Variables

Given  $\Omega$  and  $\mathbb{P}$ , a **discrete random variable (r.v.)** is a real valued function with domain  $\Omega$  that takes on only finite or countably infinite number of different values (i.e.  $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ).

### 1.7.2 Probability Mass Functions

Given  $\Omega, \mathbb{P}$ , associated with any discrete rv  $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is  $X$ 's **probability mass function (pmf)** - notation  $p_X$ .

$$\boxed{\forall x \text{ of } X, p_X(x) = \mathbb{P}(A_X) \text{ where } A_X = \{s \in \Omega : X(s) = x\}} \quad (\text{pmf Def})$$

Things to Note:

- $\mathbb{P}(A_X)$  can also be written as  $\mathbb{P}(\{X = x\})$  or  $\mathbb{P}(X = x)$ .
- $p_X(x) \geq 0$  for all possible values of  $X$ .
- A pmf is essentially a probability law on the different values in the codomain of a random variable, so the same laws that apply to probability laws apply to pmfs:

$$p_X(x) \geq 0 \quad \text{for every } x \in X$$
$$\sum_{x \in X} p_X(x) = 1 \quad (\text{normalization})$$

- If  $V$  is any finite or countably inf. set of possible values of  $X$ , then if we set  $B = \{\text{the event } "X \in V"\}$ , (i.e.  $B = \{s \in \Omega : X(s) \in V\}$ ), then  $\mathbb{P}(B) = \sum_{x \in V} p_X(x)$ .

Note: for a given pmf, there are multiple  $\Omega$ 's,  $\mathbb{P}$ 's,  $X$ 's that lead to that PMF.

### 1.7.3 Common PMFs

- **Discrete uniform pmf of interval**  $a \leq k \leq b$ ,  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ :

$$p_X(k) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{b-a+1} & \text{when } a \leq k \leq b \\ 0 & \text{all over } k \end{cases}$$

- Let  $p \in [0, 1]$ ; the **Bernoulli  $p$  pmf** be defined by:

$$p_X(k) = \begin{cases} p & \text{when } k = 1 \\ 1 - p & \text{when } k = 0 \end{cases}$$

- Given positive integer  $n$ , some  $p \in [0, 1]$ , the **Binomial( $n, p$ ) pmf** is defined as:

$$p_X(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} \quad 0 \leq k \leq n$$

This pmf tends to show up in situations involving sequences of independent trials, such as coin flips. Useful if you are trying to find the probability of  $k$  heads in  $n$  coin flips.

- Given  $p \in (0, 1)$  the **geometric pmf** defined by:

$$p_X(k) = p(1-p)^{k-1} \quad \text{for all } 1 \leq k \leq \infty \text{ positive integers}$$

This pmf tends to show up in situations such as  $\mathbb{P}(\text{it takes } k \text{ flips to flip a heads})$ .

- Poisson( $\lambda$ ):

$$p_X(k) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} \quad 0 \leq k \leq \infty (k \in \mathbb{N})$$

## 1.8 Lecture 9 - Expectation, Variance

### 1.8.1 Function of a Random Variable

Given a random variable  $X$  and any function  $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , can define another r.v.  $Y = g(X)$ :

$$\forall s \in \Omega, Y(s) = g(X(s))$$

The function of a discrete r.v. is another discrete r.v.. Generally, it is non-trivial to get the pmf of  $Y = g(X)$ , but it is sometimes easy. (See examples)

### 1.8.2 Expected Value

Given a discrete r.v.  $X$  with  $p_X(x)$  pmf, we define the **expected value (expectation)**:

$$\boxed{\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_{x \in X} x p_X(x)} \quad (\text{Expected Value Definition})$$

Given  $X, Y = g(X)$ , what is  $\mathbb{E}(Y)$ ? One way is to figure out  $p_Y(y)$  for all possible values of  $y \in Y$  and then find it through:

$$\mathbb{E}(Y) = \sum_{y \in Y} y p_Y(y)$$

and get  $P_y$  through  $p_x$ , though that is generally a non-trivial solution. However, another possible solution is to use the **Expected Value Rule**.



### 1.8.3 Expected Value Rule

Given  $X, p_X$ , and  $Y = g(X)$ ,

$$\boxed{\mathbb{E}(Y) = \sum_{x \in X} g(x)p_X(x)} \quad (\text{Expected Value Rule})$$

Special Case:  $Y = \alpha X + \beta$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(Y) &= \sum_{x \in X} g(x)p_X(x) \\ &= \sum_{x \in X} (\alpha x + \beta)p_X(x) \\ &= \alpha \sum_{x \in X} xp_X(x) + \beta \sum_{x \in X} p_X(x) \\ &= \alpha \mathbb{E}(X) + \beta \end{aligned}$$

### 1.8.4 Variance

Given an rv  $X$  with pmf  $p_X$ , we define **Variance** to be:

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

Off of this definition, we also define standard deviation to be  $\sigma_X = \sqrt{Var(X)}$ .

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## 1.9 Lecture 10 - Expected Value and Variance Examples

- $X$  is **Bernoulli**( $p$ ):

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = p; Var(X) = p(1 - p)$$

- $X$  is **discrete uniform** on  $a \leq k \leq b$ :

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \frac{b + a}{2}$$

- $X$  is **Poisson**( $\lambda$ ):

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \lambda; Var(X) = \lambda$$

- $X$  is **Geometric**( $p$ ):

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \frac{1}{p}$$

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## 2 Post Prelim 1 - Pre Prelim 2

### 2.1 Lecture 11 - Multiple Discrete RVs, Joint pmf's, Conditionals

#### 2.1.1 Joint pmf's

Given  $\Omega, \mathbb{P}$ , and two discrete rv's  $X, Y$  defined in  $\Omega$ , define the **joint pmf** of  $X \& Y$  as:

$$\boxed{\forall x \in X, y \in Y, \quad p_{X,Y}(x, y) = \mathbb{P}(\{X = x\} \cap \{Y = y\}) = \mathbb{P}(A_x \cap B_y)} \quad (\text{Joint pmf})$$

For any set  $V$  of possible value pairs  $x, y$ , we have that

$$\sum_{x, y \in V} p_{X,Y}(x, y) = \mathbb{P}(\text{event that } (X, Y) \in V)$$

From the joint pmf  $p_{X,Y}(x, y)$ , we can derive the **marginal pmfs**  $p_X(x)$  and  $p_Y(y)$  from the joint pmf as:

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} \forall x, \quad p_X(x) &= \sum_y p_{X,Y}(x, y) \\ \forall y, \quad p_Y(y) &= \sum_x p_{X,Y}(x, y) \end{aligned}} \quad (\text{Marginal Pmfs})$$

Given  $X, Y$  with joint pmf  $p_{X,Y}(x, y)$  and some real valued function  $Z = g(X, Y)$ , we have:

$$\boxed{\mathbb{E}(Z) = \sum_{x \in X} \sum_{y \in Y} g(x, y) p_{X,Y}(x, y)} \quad (\text{Joint Expected Value Rule})$$

Special g choice:  $g(X, Y) = \alpha X + \beta Y = \gamma$

$$\mathbb{E}(z) = \sum_x \sum_y (\alpha x + \beta y + \gamma) p_{X,Y}(x, y) = \dots = \alpha \mathbb{E}(X) + \beta \mathbb{E}(Y) + \gamma$$

Can be generalized to:  $\mathbb{E}(\alpha_1 z_1 + \alpha_2 z_2 + \dots + \alpha_n z_n + \beta) = \alpha_1 \mathbb{E}(z_1) + \alpha_2 \mathbb{E}(z_2) + \dots + \alpha_n \mathbb{E}(z_n) + \beta$

#### 2.1.2 Conditional pmf

Given  $\Omega, \mathbb{P}$ , a discrete rv  $X$  defined on  $\Omega$ , an event  $A \subset \Omega, \mathbb{P}(A) > 0$ , and a possible value  $x \in X$ , the **conditional pmf** of  $X$  given  $A$  is defined as:

$$\boxed{p_{X|A}(x) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(\{X = x\} \cap A)}{\mathbb{P}(A)} = \text{"}\mathbb{P}(B | A) \text{" where } B \text{ is the event } \{X = x\}}$$

(Conditional pmf on event)

Observe that for any  $A$  with  $\mathbb{P}(A) > 0$ ,  $p_{X|A}(x)$  as  $x$  ranges over  $X$ 's values defines a pmf: i.e.  $p_{X|A}(x) \geq 0, \forall x$  and  $\sum_{x \in X} p_{X|A}(x) = 1$ .

#### 2.1.3 RVs Conditional on RVs

Given  $X, Y$  defined on some  $\Omega, \mathbb{P}$ , conditional pmf of  $X$  given  $Y$  is defined on  $\forall x \& \forall y$ , with  $\mathbb{P}(\{Y = y\}) = p_Y(y) > 0$  as:

$$\boxed{p_{X|Y}(x | y) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(\{X = x\} \cap \{Y = y\})}{\mathbb{P}(\{Y = y\})} = \frac{p_{X,Y}(x, y)}{p_Y(y)}} \quad (\text{Conditional pmf on rv})$$

Observe that for any fixed  $y$  with  $p_Y(y) > 0$ ,  $p_{X|Y}(x | y)$  as  $x$  ranges over  $X$  values defines a pmf: i.e.  $p_{X|Y} \geq 0$  and  $\sum_{x \in X} p_{X|Y}(x | y) = 1$ .

## 2.2 Lecture 12 - Conditional Probability for RV's, Conditional Expectation

### 2.2.1 Conditional Probability

Given events  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$  that partition  $\Omega$  and  $\mathbb{P}(A_k) > 0$ ,  $0 \leq k \leq n$ , then for any discrete rv  $X$  on  $\Omega$ ,

$$\boxed{p_X(x) = \sum_{k=1}^n p_{X|A_k} \mathbb{P}(A_k)} \quad (\text{Conditional Total Probability})$$

There are also ways of expressing the joint pmfs in terms of the marginals and vice versa:

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} p_{X,Y}(x, y) &= p_Y(y) p_{X|Y}(x | y) \quad \forall x \in X & \text{or,} \\ p_{X,Y}(x, y) &= p_X(x) p_{Y|X}(y | x) \quad \forall y \in Y \end{aligned}} \quad (\text{Product Rule of Sorts})$$

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} p_X(x) &= \sum_{y \in Y} p_Y(y) p_{X|Y}(x | y) \quad \forall x \in X & \text{or,} \\ p_Y(y) &= \sum_{x \in X} p_X(x) p_{Y|X}(y | x) \quad \forall y \in Y \end{aligned}} \quad (\text{Total-Prob Rule of Sorts})$$

These also generalize to  $> 2$  rvs:

$$\begin{aligned} p_{X|Y,Z}(x | y, z) &= \frac{\mathbb{P}(\{X = x\} \cap \{Y = y\} \cap \{Z = z\})}{\mathbb{P}(\{Y = y\} \cap \{Z = z\})} = \frac{p_{X,Y,Z}(x, y, z)}{p_{Y,Z}(y, z)} \\ p_{X,Y,Z}(x, y, z) &= p_Z(z) p_{Y|Z}(y | z) p_{X|Y,Z}(x | y, z) \end{aligned}$$

### 2.2.2 Conditional Expectation

Given  $\Omega, \mathbb{P}$ , a discrete rv  $X$ , and an event  $A$ , we define the **Conditional Expectation** of  $X$  given event  $A$  as:

$$\boxed{\mathbb{E}(X | A) = \sum_{x \in X} x p_{X|A}(x)} \quad (\text{Conditional Expectation})$$

We know that given events  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  that partition  $\Omega$ ,  $p_X(x) = \sum_{k=1}^n p_{X|A_k}(x | A_k) \mathbb{P}(A_k)$ . From this we can derive:

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_{x \in X} x p_X(x) = \sum_x \sum_k x p_{X|A_k}(x) \mathbb{P}(A_k) = \sum_k \left( \sum_x x p_{X|A_k}(x) \right) \mathbb{P}(A_k)$$

Given  $\Omega, \mathbb{P}$ , rvs  $X, Y$ , event  $A = \{Y = y\}$ :

$$\mathbb{E}(X | A) = \sum_{x \in X} x p_{X|A}(x) = \sum_{x \in X} x p_{X|A}(x | y)$$

Since all events  $\{Y = y\}$  partition  $\Omega$ , we get:

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_{y \in Y} \mathbb{E}(X | Y = y) \mathbb{P}(\{Y = y\})$$

## 2.3 Lecture 13 & 14 - Indpendence of RVs

Given  $\Omega, \mathbb{P}$ , a discrete rv  $X$  defined of  $\Omega$ , and an event  $A$ , say  $X$  is **independent (event)** of  $A$  when every event  $\{X = x\}$  is independent of  $A$  (event-wise), i.e:

$$\boxed{\mathbb{P}(\{X = x\} \cap A) = p_X(x)\mathbb{P}(A)} \quad (\text{RV Event Independence})$$

Note that when  $\mathbb{P}(A) > 0$ , it is the same as stating  $p_{X|A}(x) = p_X(x)$ ,  $\forall x$ .

Say two rvs  $X$  and  $Y$  are **independent (rvs)** when:

- $X$  is independent of every event  $\{Y = y\}$ .
- $Y$  is independent of every event  $\{X = x\}$ .
- $p_{X,Y}(x, y) = p_X(x)p_Y(y) \quad \forall x \in X, y \in Y$ .

This extends to multiple rvs  $X_1 \dots X_n$ . These rvs are independent when:

$$\underbrace{p_{X_1, \dots, X_n}(x_1, \dots, x_n)}_{\text{joint}} = \underbrace{p_{X_1}(x_1) \dots p_{X_n}(x_n)}_{\text{product of marginals}} \quad \forall x_1, \dots, x_n$$

Important facts about rv independence:

- If  $X, Y$  are independent, then  $\mathbb{E}(XY) = \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y)$
  - If  $X, Y$  are independent, then  $Var(X + Y) = Var(X) + Var(Y)$ .
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## 2.4 Lecture 15 - “Randomness” of RVs

### 2.4.1 Binary Entropy

We can quantify the “randomness” of an rv through the use of binary entropy. Suppose an rv  $X$  has  $N$  possible values, and that  $p_X(x_k) = p_k, 1 \leq k \leq N$ , ( $p_k = 0$  is allowed). We define the **binary entropy** of discrete rvs as:

$$\boxed{H(X) = \sum_{k=1}^N p_k \log_2(p_k)} \quad (\text{Binary Entropy of RVs})$$

$H(X)$  then becomes a good measure of “how random  $X$  is”.

Important Facts About Entropy:

- If  $p_k = 1$  for some  $k$  and 0 for all other  $k$ ,  $X$  is “least random”.
- If  $p_k = \frac{1}{N} \forall k$ ,  $X$  is “maximally random”.
- $0 \leq H(X) \leq \log_2 N$ .
- $H(X) = 0 \Leftrightarrow p_k = 1$  for some  $k$ .

### 2.4.2 Source Coding Theorem

Given  $X$  with pmf  $p_X(x_k) = p_k, 1 \leq k \leq N$ , any guaranteed successful Y/N 20 questions scheme for determining value of  $X$  has a mean number of questions  $\mathbb{E}(L)$  such that:

$$\boxed{\mathbb{E}(L) \leq H(X)} \quad (\text{Source Coding Theorem})$$

We compute  $\mathbb{E}(L)$  as follows: let  $l_k = \#(\text{questions you need to ask when } X = x_k)$ , then:

$$\mathbb{E}(L) = \sum_{k=1}^N p_k l_k$$


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## 2.5 Lecture 16 - Continuous Random Variables

### 2.5.1 Continuous Random Variables

Given  $\Omega, \mathbb{P}, X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a **continuous rv** when there's a "reasonable" function  $f_X(x)$  such that for every  $V \subset \mathbb{R}$ , we have:

$$\boxed{\mathbb{P}(\{X \in V\}) = \int_V f_X(x) dx} \quad (\text{Continuous rv})$$

That function  $f_X(x)$  is called the **probability density function (pdf)** of  $X$ . It can be interpreted as the "probability 'mass' per unit 'length'" of an rv.

Special Case of  $V$ :  $V = [a, b]$  or  $[a, b), (a, b], (a, b)$  we have:

$$\mathbb{P}(\{X \in V\}) = \int_a^b f_X(x) dx$$

Some properties of  $f_X(x)$ :

- $f_X(x) \geq 0 \forall x$  (need to ensure  $\mathbb{P}(\{X \in V\}) \geq 0$  for all  $V \subset R$ )
- $\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \int_{-R}^{+R} f_X(x) dx = 1 \rightarrow \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) dx = \mathbb{P}(\{X \in (-\infty, \infty)\}) = 1$
- Given  $x \in R$ ,  $f_X(x)$  is NOT  $\mathbb{P}(\text{some event})$  — in particular,  $f_X(x) \neq \mathbb{P}(\{X = x\})$ .
- Turns out  $\mathbb{P}(\{X = x\}) = 0 \quad \forall x \in R$  when  $X$  is a continuous random variable.
- Since  $f_X(x)$  isn't  $\mathbb{P}(\text{some event})$ , need not have  $f_X(x) \leq 1$ ! In fact,  $f_X(x)$  can take on arbitrarily large values!

### 2.5.2 Expected Value

The **expected value** of a continuous rv  $X$  with pdf  $f_X(x)$  is defined as (Note: expected value not always defined, integral might fail to exist):

$$\boxed{\mathbb{E}(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x f_X(x) dx} \quad (\text{Expected Value: Continuous rv})$$

Given continuous rv  $X$  with pdf  $f_X(x)$  and  $Y = g(X)$ , we define the **Expected Value Rule** as:

$$\boxed{\mathbb{E}[Y] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} g(X) f_X(x) dx} \quad (\text{Expected Value Rule})$$

Special Case:  $g(X) = \alpha X + \beta$

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X)] = \alpha \mathbb{E}[X] + \beta$$

### 2.5.3 Variance

Given continuous rv  $X$  w/ defined expected value  $\mathbb{E}[X]$ , we define the **Variance** as:

$$\boxed{Var(X) = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X])^2]} \quad (\text{Variance: Continuous rv})$$

By expected value rule, we also have:

$$Var(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (X - \mathbb{E}[X])^2 f_X(x) dx$$

Also, as before:

$$Var(X) = \mathbb{E}[X^2] - (\mathbb{E}[X])^2$$

### 2.5.4 Interpretations

$\mathbb{E}(X)$  can be interpreted as the center of the “probability mass” defined by  $f_X(x)$ .

$Var(X)$  can be interpreted as the spread of the “probability mass” about its center.

### 2.5.5 Common Continuous RVs

Some common continuous rvs are:

- **X uniform on [a,b]:** Given  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ ;  $a < b$ ; let the pdf of the “uniform on [a,b]” rv be defined as:

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{b-a} & \text{when } x \in [a, b] \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

For the uniform on [a,b] rv, we have:  $\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{b+a}{2}$  and  $Var(X) = \frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$ .

- **X exponential( $\lambda$ ):** Given  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ ; let the pdf of the “exponential( $\lambda$ )” rv be defined as:

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \lambda e^{-\lambda x} & \text{when } x \geq 0 \quad \forall \lambda > 0 \\ 0 & \text{when } x < 0 \end{cases}$$

For the exponential( $\lambda$ ) rv, we have:  $\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{1}{\lambda}$  and  $Var(X) = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$ .

- **X piecewise uniform:** TODO

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## 2.6 Lecture 17 - Cumulative Distribution Function

### 2.6.1 Cumulative Distribution Function

For any rv  $X$  (discrete or continuous), the **cumulative distribution function (cdf)** is defined as:

$$\boxed{F_X(x) = \mathbb{P}(\{X \leq x\}) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}} \quad (\text{Cdf Definition: Continuous})$$

If  $X$  is a continuous rv w/ pdf  $f_X(x)$ , then since  $\mathbb{P}(\{X \leq x\}) = \int_{-\infty}^x f_X(t)dt$ , we have:

$$F_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f_X(t)dt \quad \text{and} \quad f_X(x) = \frac{d}{dx} F_X(x)$$

Discrete Version: If  $X$  is a discrete rv with pmf  $p_X(x)$ , we have:

$$F_X(x) = \sum_{\{x_k | x_k \leq x\}} p_X(x_k) \quad (\text{Cdf Definition: Discrete})$$

This formula can also be inverted to get  $p_X(x)$  in terms of  $F_X(x)$ :

$$p_X(x_k) = F_X(x_k) - F_X(x_{k-1})$$

where  $x_{k-1}$  is the “next largest value” of  $X$  below  $x_k$ .

### 2.6.2 General Properties of cdfs

1.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} F_X(x) = 0$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} F_X(x) = 1$ .
2. When  $X$  is a continuous rv,  $F_X(x)$  is continuous in  $x$  and differentiable “almost everywhere” (corners in  $F_X(x)$  correspond to jump in  $f_X(x)$ )
3.  $X$  is a discrete rv iff  $F_X(x)$  is peice wise constant.
4.  $F_X(x)$  is monotonically increasing in  $x$ , i.e.

$$x_1 \leq x_2 \Rightarrow F_X(x_1) \leq F_X(x_2)$$

Cdfs are also useful for getting the pdf of  $X$  by first computing  $F_X(x)$ , then taking  $d/dx$ .

### 2.6.3 Gaussian rv

Another important continuous rv is the **Gaussian rv**. The pdf of the Gaussian rv is:

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma^2} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-M)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

With this pdf, we can see that  $\mathbb{E}(X) = M$  and  $Var(X) = \mathbb{E}((X-M)^2) = \sigma^2$ . The cdf of a Gaussian rv is:

$$F_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma^2} \int_{-\infty}^x \exp\left(-\frac{(t-m)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) dt$$

The **standard normal** pdf is a specific type of Gaussian pdf:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2} \quad \therefore M = 0, \sigma = 1$$

The cdf of the standard normal pdf is:

$$\Phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^x e^{-t^2/2} dt$$

The standard normal pdf can be created from a Gaussian rv with mean  $M$  and var  $\sigma^2$  as  $Y = \frac{X-M}{\sigma}$  (Example):

$$\mathbb{P}(\{X > 17\}) = \mathbb{P}(\{\sigma + Y + M > 17\}) = \mathbb{P}\left(Y > \frac{17-M}{\sigma}\right)$$

Gaussian rvs are important because the sum of many different independent rvs that have the same pdf “converges” to a Gaussian rv.

## 2.7 Lecture 18 - Multiple Continuous Random Variables

### 2.7.1 Joint Continuous Random Variables

Say  $X, Y$  rvs defined in some  $\Omega$ ,  $\mathbb{P}$  are **jointly continuous** with **joint pdf**  $f_{X,Y}(x, y)$  when:

$$\mathbb{P}(\{(X, Y) \in V\}) = \iint_V f_{X,Y}(x, y) dx dy \quad \forall V \subset \mathbb{R}^2 \quad (\text{Jointly Continuous Definition})$$

Special Case of  $V: V : [a_1, b_1] \times [a_2, b_2]$

$$\mathbb{P}(\{X, Y\} \in V) = \int_{a_1}^{b_1} dx \int_{a_2}^{b_2} dy (f_{X,Y}(x, Y))$$

From the joint pdf, we can also derive the marginals:

$$\begin{aligned} f_X(x) &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, y) dy \\ f_Y(y) &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, y) dx \end{aligned} \quad (\text{Joint pdf Marginals})$$

Other Properties:

- $\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dx \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dy (f_{X,Y}(x, y)) = 1$
- Joint CDF:  $F_{X,Y}(x, y) = \mathbb{P}(\{X \leq x\} \cap \{Y \leq y\}) = \int_{-\infty}^x ds \int_{-\infty}^y dt (f_{X,Y}(s, t))$
- $f_{X,Y}(x, y) = \frac{\delta}{\delta x} \frac{\delta}{\delta y} F_{X,Y}(x, y)$
- Generalization to  $> 2$  rv pretty “straightforward”

For discrete rvs, joint determines marginals, but not vice-versa.

### 2.7.2 Conditional for Continuous rvs: Events

Given a continuous rv  $X$  on  $\Omega$ ,  $\mathbb{P}$ , and some event  $A \subset \Omega$ , the conditional pdf of  $X$  given  $A$  “defined” as follows:

$$\mathbb{P}(\{X \in V\} | A) = \int_V f_{X|A}(x) dx \quad \forall V \subset \mathbb{R} \quad (\text{Conditional pdf: Event})$$

In general, no decent formula for  $f_{X|A}(x)$  in terms of  $f_X(x)$ . One way to compute it is to take the conditional cdf of  $X$  given  $A$  ( $F_{X|A} = \mathbb{P}(\{X \leq x\} | A)$ ) and take  $d/dx$  to find  $f_X(x)$ . However, if  $A$  is an event of the form  $\{X \in W\}$  and  $\mathbb{P}(A) > 0$ , we have:

$$f_{X|A}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{f_X(x)}{\mathbb{P}(\{X \in W\})} & \text{when } X \in W \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

We derive this by defining the indication function of  $W$  as:

$$\chi_W(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{when } x \in W \\ 0 & \text{when } x \notin W \end{cases}$$

And using conditional functions for continuous rvs:



$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{P}(\{X \in W\} \mid A) &= \frac{\mathbb{P}(\{X \in (V \cap W)\})}{\mathbb{P}(\{x \in W\})} \\
&= \frac{\int_{V \cap W} f_X(x) dx}{\mathbb{P}(\{X \in W\})} \\
&= \int_V \left( \frac{f_X(x) \chi_W(x)}{\mathbb{P}(\{X \in W\})} \right) dx = \begin{cases} \frac{f_X(x)}{\mathbb{P}(\{X \in W\})} & \text{when } X \in W \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$


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## 2.8 Lecture 19 - Total Probability Theorem

### 2.8.1 Total Probability Theorem

In the context of  $F_{X|A}$  : If  $X$  is a continuous rv and  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  are events of positive probability that partition  $\Omega$ , then:

$$f_X(x) = \sum_{k=1}^n f_{X|A_k}(x) \mathbb{P}(A_k) \quad (\text{Total Probability Theorem})$$

To see this: go via cdfs:

$$\begin{aligned}
F_{X|A_k} &= \frac{\mathbb{P}(\{X \leq x\} \cap A_k)}{\mathbb{P}(A_k)} \frac{d}{dx} F_{X|A_k} = f_{X|A_k}(x) \\
F_X(x) &= \mathbb{P}(\{X \leq x\}) = \sum_{k=1}^n f_{X|A_k} \mathbb{P}(A_k) \rightarrow \sum_{k=1}^n f_{X|A_k} \mathbb{P}(A_k) = f_X(x)
\end{aligned}$$

### 2.8.2 Conditional for Continuous rvs: Other rvs

Given two continuous rvs  $X$  and  $Y$ , the **conditional pdf of  $X$  given  $Y = y$**  is defined as:

$$f_{X|Y}(x, y) = \frac{f_{X,Y}(x, y)}{f_Y(y)} \quad (\text{Conditional pdf: Other rvs})$$

Note: that for fixed  $y$ , this as a function of  $x$  is a legit pdf;

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X|Y}(x \mid y) dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{f_{X,Y}(x, y)}{f_Y(y)} dy = \frac{1}{f_Y(y)} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, y) dx = \frac{f_Y(y)}{f_Y(y)} = 1$$


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## 2.9 Lecture 20 - Conditional Expectance, Independence, Continuous Bayes' Rule

### 2.9.1 Conditional Expected Value

We define the **Conditional Expected Value** for an rv to be:

$$\begin{aligned}
&\text{Given } X, A, \mathbb{E}(X \mid A) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_{X|A}(x) dx \\
&\text{Given } X, Y, \mathbb{E}(X \mid Y = y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_{X|Y}(x \mid y) dx \quad \forall y
\end{aligned} \quad ()$$

From this, we can see that the **Expected Value Rule** holds as usual:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(g(X) \mid A) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(X) f_{X|A}(x) dx \\ \mathbb{E}(g(X) \mid Y = y) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(X) f_{X|Y}(x \mid y) dx \quad \forall y \end{aligned} \quad \text{(Conditional Expected Value Rule)}$$

We can also see these “total expectation theorems”:

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbb{E}(X \mid A_k) \mathbb{P}(A_k) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}(X \mid Y = y) f_Y(y) dy$$

### 2.9.2 Independence

For any pair  $X, Y$ , both continuous rvs with densities  $f_X(x)$ ,  $f_Y(y)$ ,  $f_{X,Y}(x, y)$ ,  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent iff:

$$f_{X,Y}(x, y) = f_X(x) f_Y(y) \quad \forall x, y \quad \text{(Independence: Continuous)}$$

Note: When  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, we have:

- $\mathbb{E}(XY) = \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y)$
- $\mathbb{E}(g(X)h(Y)) = \mathbb{E}(g(X))\mathbb{E}(h(Y))$
- $Var(X + Y) = Var(X) + Var(Y)$

### 2.9.3 Continuous Bayes’ Rule

The **Continuous Bayes’ Rule** becomes important when we have a good understanding of  $f_X(x)$ , a good model for  $f_{Y|X}(y \mid x)$ , and we want to find  $f_{X|Y}(x \mid y)$ .

$$f_{X|Y}(x \mid y) = \frac{f_{Y|X}(y \mid x) f_X(x)}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{Y|X}(y \mid x) f_X(x) dx} \quad \text{(Continuous Bayes’ Rule)}$$


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## 2.10 Lecture 21 - Derived Distribution

The basis of Derived Distributions stems from having a continuous rv  $X$  with a pdf  $f_X(x)$  and a function  $Y = g(X)$ . If we want to find  $f_Y(y)$ , in many cases it is easier to find  $F_Y(y)$  and find  $f_Y(y)$  by  $f_Y(y) = \frac{dF_Y(y)}{dy}$ .

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## 2.11 Lecture 22 - Examples of Derived Distribution

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## 3 Post Prelim 2

### 3.1 Lecture 23 - Covariance, Conditional Expectation Revisited

#### 3.1.1 Covariance

#### 3.1.2 Conditional Expectation Revisited

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### 3.2 Lecture 24 - Conditional Expectation + Covariance

#### 3.2.1 Law of Iterated Expectations

#### 3.2.2 Conditional Variance

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### 3.3 Lecture 25 - Law of Total Variance, Moment Generating Functions

#### 3.3.1 Law of Total Variance

#### 3.3.2 Moment Generating Functions

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### 3.4 Lecture 26 - MGF Examples, Limit Theorems

#### 3.4.1 Limit Theorems

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### 3.5 Lecture 27 - More Limit Theorems (Central Limit Theorem)

#### 3.5.1 Chebychev's Inequality

#### 3.5.2 Markov Inequality

#### 3.5.3 Central Limit Theorem

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### 3.6 Lecture 28 - Caution with CLT, SLLN

#### 3.6.1

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