

PROBABILITY

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16.4.10 ¹The random variable X has a probability distribution P(X) of the following form.where k is some number:

$$\Pr(X = x) = \begin{cases} k, & \text{if } x=0 \\ 2k, & \text{if } x=1 \\ 3k, & \text{if } x=2 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (16.4.10.1)$$

- a) Determine the value of k
b) Find $P(X < 2), P(X \leq 2), P(X \geq 2)$

Solution If we expand the probabilities given further more by substituting the value of x and only considering 0 to 4 hours as the probability of studying in the remaining hours is zero, we get

x	0	1	2
$\Pr(X = x)$	k	2k	3k

we also know that,

$$\sum_{k=0}^2 \Pr(X = k) = 1 \quad (16.4.10.2)$$

By substituting the probabilities in (16.4.10.2)

$$\Rightarrow k + 2k + 3k = 1 \quad (16.4.10.3)$$

$$\Rightarrow 6k = 1 \quad (16.4.10.4)$$

$$k = 0.167 \quad (16.4.10.5)$$

x	0	1	2
$\Pr\{X = x\}$	0.167	0.334	0.501

(16.4.10.6)

¹Read question numbers as (CHAPTER NUMBER).(EXERCISE NUMBER).(QUESTION NUMBER)

We know that, Cumulative Distributive Function (CDF)

$$F(x) = \Pr(X \leq x) \quad (16.4.10.7)$$

x	0	1	2
$F(X)$	0.167	0.501	1.00

And also,

$$\Pr\{x < X \leq y\} = F\{y\} - F\{x\} \quad (16.4.10.8)$$

(a) $P(X < 2)$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{k=0}^1 \Pr(X = k) = \Pr(X \geq 2) \quad (16.4.1.9)$$

$$\Rightarrow \Pr(0 < X \leq 1) \quad (16.4.1.10)$$

$$= F(1) \quad (16.4.1.11)$$

$$= 0.501 \quad (16.4.1.12)$$

(b) $P(X \leq 2)$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{k=0}^2 \Pr(X = k) = \Pr(X \leq 2) \quad (16.4.2.13)$$

$$= F(2) \quad (16.4.2.14)$$

$$= 1 \quad (16.4.2.15)$$

(c) $P(X \geq 2)$

$$\Rightarrow \Pr(1 < X \leq 2) \quad (16.4.3.16)$$

$$= F(2) - F(1) \quad (16.4.3.17)$$

$$= 1.002 - 0.501 \quad (16.4.3.18)$$

$$= 0.501 \quad (16.4.3.19)$$