



Unit\_Set

**UNIT 2 PROBLEM SET (PS2)**  
Due: 11 pm CT on Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021  
Submission instructions are on Canvas.

All textbook problems refer to Chapter 2 problems from Introduction to Probability. Second Edition, by Bersekas and Tsitsiklis. Problems labeled with "Textbook" have solutions available at this link or on the linked pages and will be graded for effort and completion; the remaining problems will be graded for effort and correctness.

Show your work. No lonely numerical answers please.

**Lesson 2.1: PMFs and Special Distributions**

1. Suppose the number of Skittles in a fun-size bag,  $X$ , has the PMF given below.

$x$	13	14	15	16	17
$P(X=x)$	0.07	0.11	0.20	0.60	0.00

(a) How do we know there aren't any other values in the support of  $X$ ?  
 (b) Calculate  $P(X < 16)$ .  
 (c) Calculate  $P(X \text{ takes an even value})$ .  
 (d) You expect to open bags until she finally finds one of these rare 17-bean bags. Assuming the bags are independent, how likely is it that she must open at most 5 bags? Hint: Use a named distribution.  
 (e) Textbook Ch. 2, Problem 1. Hint: Draw a tree diagram.  
 (f) Textbook Ch. 2, Problem 2.

4. Consider the experiment of rolling two fair, six-sided dice. Let  $X$  be the absolute difference between the two rolls. For example, if one die shows a 1 and the other shows a 6,  $X$  would be 5. Find the PMF of  $X$  in a table. Hint: Draw a tree diagram and start with the support.  
 (a) State the PMF of  $X$  in a table. Hint: Use a named distribution.  
 (b) Plot the PMF of  $X$ .  
 (c) Find the probability that  $X$  is greater than 2.  
 (d) Suppose the experiment is repeated 10 times. How likely is it that exactly 4 of those times,  $X$  is greater than 2. Hint: Use a named distribution.

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**Lesson 2.2: Functions of RVs, Mean, and Variance**

5. Let  $y$  be a random variable with support  $\{-3, -2, -1, 1\}$ . For any  $y$  in the support, assume that  $p(y)=cy$  for some constant  $c$ .  
 (a) Find  $c$  so that the PMF of  $y$  is valid.  
 (b) Find the mean and variance of  $y$ .  
 (c) Find the mean of  $3y+2$ .  
 (d) Find the mean of  $Y$ . Hint: Use the PMF of  $y$ .  
 6. (Textbook) Consider r.v.  $X$  and constants  $a$  and  $b$ . Let's prove two results from the notes.  
 (a) Use the Expected Value Rule for Functions of RVs to show that  $E[aX+b] = aE[X]+b$ .  
 (b) Use the definition of variance, along with the Expected Value Rule for Functions of RVs, to show that  $\text{Var}(aX+b) = a^2\text{Var}(X)$ .  
 Try yourself first. The proofs are on page 86 of the textbook.

7. Reconsider  $X$ , the number of Skittles in a fun-size bag, from Problem 1. Its PMF was given as:

$x$	13	14	15	16	17
$P(X=x)$	0.07	0.11	0.20	0.60	0.00

(a) Find the expected value of  $X$ .  
 (b) Find the expected value and variance of  $Y=20-4X$ . Hint: What kind of function is this?  
 (c) Textbook Ch. 2, Problem 20. Hint: Use a named distribution.

**Lesson 2.3: Joint PMFs, Conditioning, and Independence**

9. Suppose  $X \sim \text{Pois}(3)$  and  $Y \sim \text{Binom}(3, p=0.4)$ . Also suppose  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent. Find  $P(X=Y)$ . Hint: What are the corresponding conditional(s) of  $X$  and  $Y$ ?

10. Random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  have the joint distribution given in the table below.

$P(X=x, Y=y)$	$  Y=1$	$  Y=2$	$  Y=3$
$X=1$	4/20	3/20	2/20
$X=2$	7/20	4/20	1/20

(a) What value goes in the empty cell? Hint: That's  $P(X=2, Y=3)$ .  
 (b) Find  $E(Y)$ . Hint: Start with the marginal PMF.  
 (c) Find  $E(Y|X=2)$ . Hint: Start with the conditional PMF.  
 (d) Are  $X$  and  $Y$  independent? Justify your answer mathematically.  
 11. (Textbook) Ch. 2, Problem 41.  
 12. (Textbook) Ch. 2, Problem 41, parts (a) and (b) only.

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3. The probability for one random person having the same birthday as you do is  $p = 1/365$ . The probability that exactly one other guest has the same birthday is  $\binom{4}{1} \frac{1}{365} \left(\frac{364}{365}\right)^{4-1} = 0.3486$ .

$\lambda = np = 499/365 \approx 1.347$ .  
 The precision approx. is  $e^{-\lambda} \left(\frac{\lambda^x}{x!}\right) = e^{-1.347} \cdot 1.347^x \approx 0.3483$

10. a)  $P(X=2, Y=3) = 1 - \frac{4}{20} - \frac{3}{20} - \frac{2}{20} - \frac{7}{20} - \frac{4}{20} = 0$ .

b)  $P(Y=1) = \frac{11}{20}$   
 $P(Y=2) = \frac{7}{20} \Rightarrow E[Y] = \sum Y P(Y=j)$   
 $P(Y=3) = \frac{2}{20} = \frac{11}{20}x_1 + \frac{7}{20}x_2 + \frac{2}{20}x_3$   
 $= \frac{31}{20}$

c)  $P(Y=1 | X=2) = \frac{7}{11}$   
 $P(Y=2 | X=2) = \frac{4}{11}$   
 $P(Y=3 | X=2) = 0$ .

$E[Y | X=2] = P(Y=2 | X=2)x_2 + P(Y=1 | X=2)x_1$   
 $= 2 \times \frac{4}{11} + 1 \times \frac{7}{11}$   
 $= \frac{15}{11}$

d)  $P(X=1) = \frac{9}{20}$   
 $P(X=2) = \frac{11}{20}$   
 If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent:  
 $P(X=x | Y=y) = P(X=x)$ .  
 $\frac{P(X=x, Y=y)}{P(Y=y)} = \frac{P(X=x)}{P(Y=y)}$

11. a) PMF. red  $\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ \frac{1}{16} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{3}{8} & \frac{1}{4} & \frac{1}{16} \end{array}$ .  
 The numbers above are calculated with geometric distribution equations.

mean:  $E[X] = \sum_x P(X=x)x = \frac{1}{16} \times 0 + \frac{1}{4} \times 1 + \frac{3}{8} \times 2 + \frac{1}{4} \times 3 + \frac{1}{16} \times 4$   
 let  $X$  be the number of red lights.  
 $= \frac{1}{4} + \frac{3}{4} + \frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$   
 $= 2$ .

Variance:  $\text{Var}(x) = E[x^2] - E[x]^2$   
 $= \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{12}{8} + \frac{9}{4} + \frac{16}{16}\right) - 4$   
 $= 1$

b).  $\text{Var}(2x) = \text{Var}(x) \times 2^2 = 4 \text{ min.}$

12. a)  $E[X] = 5 \times 50 \times 0.02 = 5$   
 $P(X=5) = \binom{250}{5} (0.02)^5 (0.98)^{245} = 0.17725$ .

b).  $X = NP = 5 \times 50 \times 0.02 = 5$   
 the poission distribution is  $e^{-\lambda} \left(\frac{\lambda^x}{x!}\right)$

$= e^{-5} \left(\frac{5^5}{5!}\right)$   
 $= 0.1755$

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