

EECS 461 PROBABILITY & STATISTICS  
DISCRETE RANDOM VARIABLES

I. RANDOM VARIABLE

A RANDOM VARIABLE (RV) MAPS OUTCOMES OF A SAMPLE SPACE TO NUMBERS.

A RANDOM VARIABLE ASSIGNS NUMBERS TO OUTCOMES IN THE SAMPLE SPACE OF AN EXPERIMENT.

II. NOTATION

RV:  $Y$

RANGE OF  $Y$ :  $S_Y$ : ALL POSSIBLE VALUES OF  $Y$

PARTICULAR VALUE OF  $Y$ :  $y$

DEF RANDOM VARIABLE

A RANDOM VARIABLE CONSISTS OF AN EXPERIMENT WITH A PROBABILITY MEASURE  $P[\cdot]$  DEFINED ON A SAMPLE SPACE  $S$  & A FUNCTION THAT ASSIGNS A REAL NUMBER TO EACH OUTCOME IN THE SAMPLE SPACE OF THE EXPERIMENT.

$S$

IS THE SET OF ALL POSSIBLE OUTCOMES KNOWN AS A SAMPLE SPACE.

THE MATHEMATICAL MODEL INCLUDES A RULE FOR ASSIGNING NUMBERS BETWEEN 0 & 1 TO SETS  $A$  IN  $S$   
THEREFORE FOR EVERY  $A \subset S$  THE MODEL GIVES US A PROBABILITY  $P[A]$  WHERE  $0 \leq P[A] \leq 1$

PROBABILITY MODEL THAT ASSIGN NUMBERS TO THE OUTCOMES IN THE SAMPLE SPACE.  
WHEN WE OBSERVE ONE OF THESE NUMBERS, WE REFER TO THE OBSERVATION AS A RANDOM VARIABLE.

THE SET OF POSSIBLE VALUES OF  $X$  IS THE RANGE OF  $X$

WE DENOTE THE RANGE OF A RANDOM VARIABLE BY THE LETTER  $S$  WITH A SUBSCRIPT  
THAT IS THE NAME OF THE RANDOM VAR

$S_X$  IS THE RANGE OF THE RANDOM VARIABLE  $X$

$S_Y$  IS THE RANGE OF THE RANDOM VARIABLE  $Y$

A PROB. MODEL ALWAYS BEGINS WITH AN EXPERIMENT

EACH RANDOM VARIABLE IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE EXPERIMENT

THREE TYPES OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN A RANDOM VARIABLE & AN EXPERIMENT

(1) THE RANDOM VARIABLE IS THE OBSERVATION

(2) THE RANDOM VARIABLE IS A FUNCTION OF THE OBSERVATION

(3) THE RANDOM VARIABLE IS A FUNCTION OF ANOTHER RANDOM VARIABLE.

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(1) RV IS THE OBSERVATION

EX 3.1 THE EXPERIMENT IS TO ATTACH A PHOTO DETECTOR TO AN OPTICAL FIBER & COUNT THE  
THE NUMBER OF PHOTONS ARRIVING IN A ONE-MICROSECOND TIME INTERVAL.

EACH OBSERVATION IS A RANDOM VARIABLE  $X$

THE RANGE OF  $X$  IS  $S_X = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$

IN THIS CASE  $S_X$  IS THE RANGE OF  $X$  AND THE SAMPLE SPACE  $S$  ARE IDENTICAL.

(2) THE RV IS A FUNCTION OF THE OBSERVATION

EX 3.2

THE EXPERIMENT IS TO TEST SIX INTEGRATED CIRCUITS & AFTER EACH TEST OBSERVE WHETHER  
THE CIRCUIT IS ACCEPTED (A) OR REJECTED (R).

FOR EXAMPLE  $S_8 = AARAAA$

THE SAMPLE SPACE  $S$  CONSISTS OF 64 POSSIBLE SEQUENCES.

$\frac{A}{R}$	$\frac{A}{R}$	$\frac{A}{R}$	$\frac{A}{R}$	$\frac{A}{R}$	$\frac{A}{R}$
1	2	3	4	5	6

12 OBJECTS

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THEOREM 3.1

FOR A DISCRETE RANDOM VARIABLE  $X$  WITH PMF  $P_X(x)$  AND RANGE  $S_X$

(1) FOR  $\forall x$ ,  $P_X(x) \geq 0$

(2)  $\sum_{x \in S_X} P_X(x) = 1$

(3) FOR ANY EVENT  $B \subset S_X$ , THE PROBABILITY THAT  $X$  IS IN THE SET  $B$  IS

$$P[B] = \sum_{x \in B} P_X(x)$$

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THEOREM 3.3

FOR ALL  $b \geq a$ ,

$$F_X(b) - F_X(a) = P[a < X \leq b]$$

DEF 3.13 EXPECTED VALUE

THE EXPECTED VALUE OF  $X$  IS

$$E[X] = \mu_X = \sum_{x \in S_X} x P_X(x)$$

ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE RANGE OF  $X$

DEFN 3.12 MEDIAN

A MEDIAN  $x_{MED}$  OF RANDOM VARIABLE  $X$  IS A MEMBER THAT SATISFIES

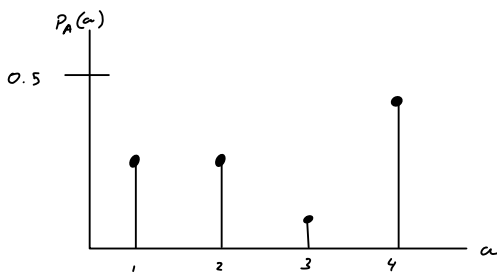
$$P[X \leq x_{MED}] \geq 1/2 \quad P[X \geq x_{MED}] \geq 1/2$$

DEFN 3.11 MODE

FOR DISCRETE RANDOM VARIABLE  $X$  IS A NUMBER  $x_{MOD}$  SATISFYING

$$P_X(x_{MOD}) \geq P_X(x) \text{ FOR ALL } x$$

EXAMPLE  $P_A(a)$



$$E[A] = \mu_A = 1(0.25) + 2(0.25) + 3(0.1) + 4(0.4) = 2.65 \quad \cancel{4} \leq A$$

$a_{MED}$  IS  $\forall a$  S.T.  $2 \leq a \leq 3$

$$a_{MED} = 2 \quad \text{SINCE} \quad P[A \leq 2] = 0.5 \quad \& \quad P[A \geq 2] = 0.75$$

$$a_{MED} = 3 \quad \text{SINCE} \quad P[A \leq 3] = 0.6 \quad \& \quad P[A \geq 3] = 0.5$$

$$\text{FOR ALL } 2 \leq a_{MOD} \leq 3 \quad P[A \leq a_{MOD}] = 0.5 \quad \& \quad P[A \geq a_{MOD}] = 0.5$$

$$a_{MOD} = 4 \quad \text{SINCE} \quad P_A(4) = 0.4 \geq P_A(a) \quad a = 1, 2, 3, 4$$

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MEANS OF COMMON DRV FAMILIES

THM 3.4 BERNOULLI ( $p$ ) RANDOM VARIABLE  $X$  HAS EXPECTED VALUE  $E[X] = p$

PROOF  $E[X] = 0 \cdot P_X(0) + 1 \cdot P_X(1) = 0(1-p) + 1(p) = p$

THM 3.5 GEOMETRIC ( $p$ ) RANDOM  $X$  HAS EXPECTED VALUE  $E[X] = 1/p$

PROOF LET  $q = 1 - p$ , THEN PMF OF  $X$  BECOMES

$$P_X(x) = \begin{cases} pq^{x-1} & x = 1, 2, \dots \\ 0 & \text{OTHERWISE} \end{cases}$$

THE EXPECTED VALUE  $E[X]$  IS THE INFINITE SUM

THM 3.7

BINOMIAL ( $N, p$ ) RANDOM VARIABLE  $X$  OF DEFN 3.6

$$E[X] = NP$$

PASCAL ( $k, p$ ) RANDOM VARIABLE  $X$  OF DEFN 3.7

$$E[$$

DISCRETE UNIFORM ( $k, \ell$ ) RANDOM VARIABLE  $X$  OF DEFN 3.8

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### 3.6 FUNCTION OF A RANDOM VARIABLE

A FUNCTION  $Y = g(X)$  OF RANDOM VARIABLE  $X$  IS ANOTHER RANDOM VARIABLE. THE PMF  $P_Y(y)$  CAN BE DERIVED  $P_X(x)$  &  $g(X)$

SAMPLE VALUE OF  $Y = g(X)$

PERFORM AN EXPERIMENT & OBSERVE AN OUTCOME  $s$   
FROM  $s$  FIND  $x$ , THE CORRESPONDING VALUE OF RANDOM VARIABLE  $X$   
OBSERVE  $y$  BY CALCULATING  $y = g(x)$

$$Y = g(X)$$

EX AN INSTRUMENT 1 OF THE 4 POSSIBLE VALUES EACH TIME IT IS READ  
CALL THE SAMPLE VALUE DRV  $A$  & LET  $A$  HAVE THE FOLLOWING PMF

$$P_A(-1) = 0.35$$

$$P_A(1) = 0.35$$

$$P_A(3) = 0.2$$

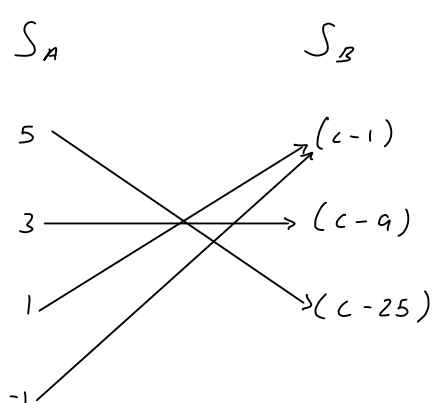
$$P_A(5) = 0.1$$

NOW ASSUME THE VALUES  $-1$  &  $1$  WILL REQUIRE THE SAME TREATMENT  
SO COLLAPSE THEM INTO ONE VALUE BY SQUARING ALL VALUES OF  $a$ , ( $a^2$ )  
ALSO ASSUME THAT WE WANT TO REVERSE THE ORDER OF THE VALUES ( $-a^2$ )  
& ENSURE THAT THE DERIVED RV HAS MEAN (EXPECTED VALUE) = 0

$$b = g(a) = c - a^2 \text{ FOR SOME } c$$

PMF OF DERIVED RV

IN EXAMPLE,  $B$  HAS ONLY 3 VALUES & THE FUNCTION (MAPPING) CAN BE REPRESENTED



$$P_B(b)$$

$$P_A(1) + P_A(-1) = 0.7 \quad B = c-1 \text{ IF } A=1 \text{ OR } A=-1$$

$$P_A(3) = 0.2 \quad P_B(c-9) = P(A=3 \cup A=-3)$$

$$P_A(5) = 0.1 \quad = P_A(1) + P_A(-1)$$

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THM 3.9 GENERALIZES THIS

$$P_B(b) = \sum_{a: g(a)=b} P_A(a)$$

EXPECTED VALUE OF DERIVED RANDOM VARIABLE

GENERAL RESULT

WE CAN GET  $E[B]$  OF DRV  $B$  (DERIVED FROM  $A$ ) FROM  $P_B(b)$ , THE PMF OF  $B$ , BUT WE CAN ALSO GET IT WITHOUT COMPUTING THE PMF OF  $B$

EX  $E[B] = \sum_b b P_B(b) = (c-1)(0.7) + (c-9)(0.2) + (c-25)(0.1)$

WANT  $E[B] = 0$

$$E[B] = 0 = c - 0.7 - 1.8 - 2.5 \Rightarrow c = 5$$

$$E[B] = 4(0.7) + (-4)(0.2) + (-20)(0.1) = 0$$

BUT NOTICE THAT WE CAN ALSO COMPUTE  $E[B]$  AS:

$$E[B] = (5 - (-1)^2)(0.35) + (5 - (1)^2)(0.35) + (5 - 3^2)(0.2) + (5 - 5^2)(0.1) = 0$$

THM 3.10:  $E[B] = \sum_{x \in S_X} g(x) P_X(x)$