

# Functions of a Random Variable

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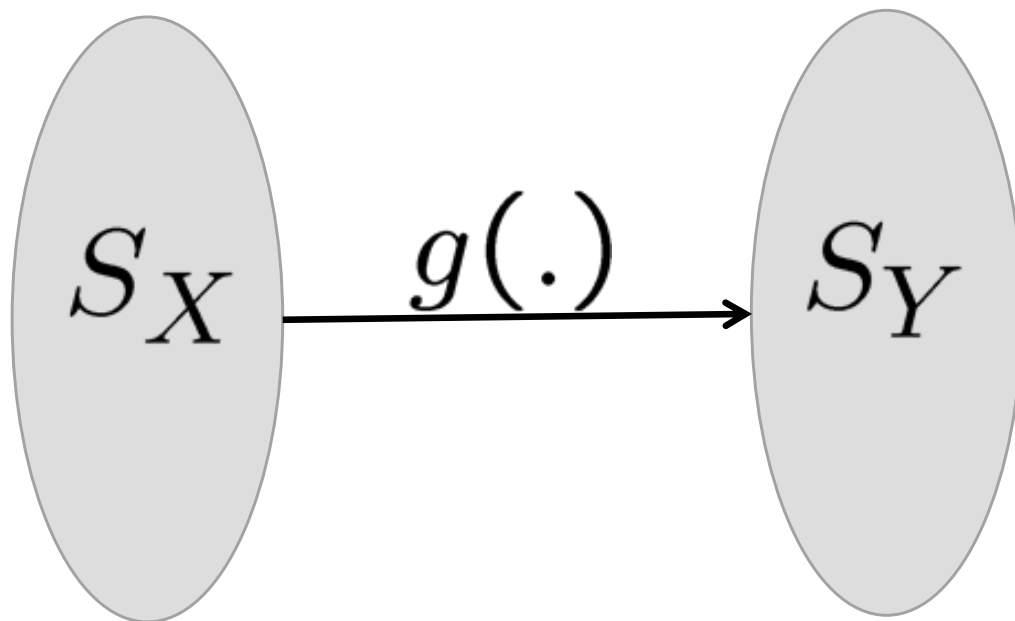


- You are measuring the power consumed by your appliance
- The power observed is a random variable, say  $W$  and is in watts
  - The randomness in the observed power can be due to measurement errors introduced by your equipment
- The power in dB,  $Y = 10 * \log_{10}(W)$  is also a random variable and is a function of the RV  $W$ .
  - We say that  $Y$  is derived from  $W$

# Derived Random Variable



- **Def 2.15** Each sample value  $y$  of a derived random variable  $Y$  is a **mathematical function**  $g(x)$  of a sample value  $x$  of another random variable  $X$ .
  - The notation  $Y=g(X)$  is used to describe the relationship of the two random variables.



**Mathematical function:**  
One-to-one or a  
many-to-one relation

**$g(.)$  maps the range  
of  $X$  into the range  
of  $Y$**

# Given PMF of X



- Calculate PMF of Y

- Think the event  $\{Y = y\}$  in terms of the range space of X

Given:  $P_X(x), x \in \mathcal{R}$

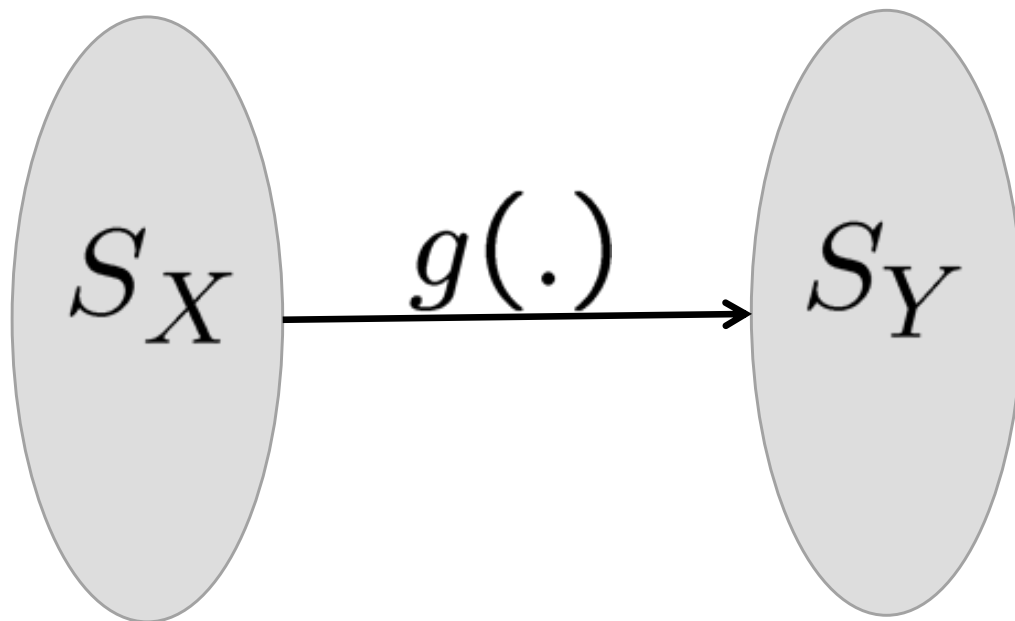
Calculate  $P_Y(y), y \in \mathcal{R}$

$$P[Y=y] = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}_X: g(x)=y} P[X=x]$$

$$\{Y=y\} = \{x: x \in \mathcal{S}_X, g(x)=y\}$$

- **Theorem 2.9** For a discrete random variable  $X$ , the PMF of  $Y=g(X)$  is

$$P_Y(y) = \sum_{x:g(x)=y} P_X(x)$$



# Given PMF of X



- Calculate  $E[Y]$

$$E[Y] = \sum_{y \in S_Y} y \underbrace{P[Y=y]}$$

$$= \sum_{y \in S_Y} y \sum_{x: g(x)=y} P[X=x]$$

$$= \sum_{y \in S_Y} \sum_{x: g(x)=y} g(x) P[X=x]$$

$$= \sum_{x \in S_X} g(x) P[X=x] = E[g(X)]$$

- **Theorem 2.10** Given a random variable  $X$  with PMF  $P_X(x)$  and the derived random variable  $Y=g(X)$ , the expected value of  $Y$  is

$$E[Y] = \mu_Y = \sum_{x \in S_X} g(x) P_X(x).$$

# More on the $E[.]$ Operator



- Consider the RV  $Y = g(X) = X - E[X] = X - \mu_X$
- The expected value of  $X$  is subtracted from each number in  $S_X$ . The resulting range is the range  $S_Y$  of the random variable  $Y$

- What is  $E[Y]$ ?

$$Y = X - E[X]$$

$$E[Y] = E[X - E[X]]$$

- Using First principles

$$Y = g(X)$$

$$= E[X] + E[-E[X]]$$

$$= E[X] + E[-\mu_X]$$

$$= E[X] - \mu_X$$

# More on the $E[.]$ Operator

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- Consider the RV  $Y = g(X) = X - E[X] = X - \mu_X$
- The expected value of  $X$  is subtracted from each number in  $S_X$ . The resulting range is the range  $S_Y$  of the random variable  $Y$
- What is  $E[Y]$ ?
- Using properties of  $E[.]$



- **Theorem 2.12** For any random variable  $X$ ,

$$E[aX + b] = aE[X] + b.$$

- Proof is similar to the previous theorem

# Variance



- **Def 2.16** Variance of  $X$  is

$$E[(X - E[X])^2]$$

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

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

$$= E[X^2 + \mu_X^2 - 2\mu_X X]$$

$$= E[X^2] + E[\mu_X^2] - E[2\mu_X X]$$

Think of the relative frequency interpretation of variance (which is also the empirical estimate)

- Standard deviation is just the square-root of Variance

- Values of the RV within the SD of the Expected Value are referred to as its *typical values*

$$E[X^2] + \mu_X^2 - 2\mu_X E[X] = E[X^2] - (E[X])^2$$

- **Theorem 2.13**

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

$$\text{Var}[aX + b] =? \quad E[(aX + b)^2] - (E[aX + b])^2$$
$$= a^2 \text{Var}[X]$$

- **Theorem 2.14**

$$\text{Var}[aX + b] = a^2 \text{Var}[X]$$

- Offsetting a RV by a constant does not change its variance!

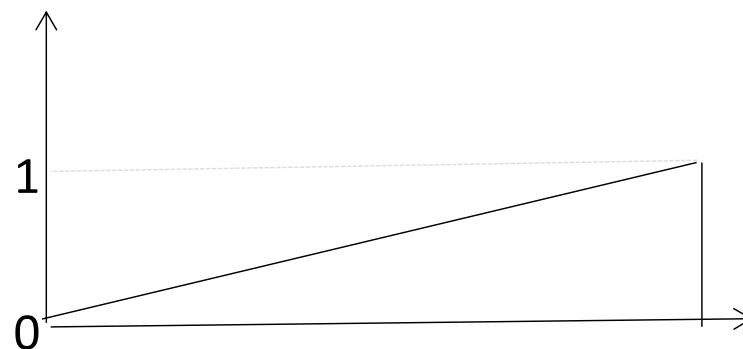
- Show both results using the properties of the  $E[.]$  operator
- Also, show using first principles, that is by expanding  $E[g(x)]$

- For random variable  $X$ 
  - The  $n^{\text{th}}$  moment is  $E[X^n]$
  - The  $n^{\text{th}}$  central moment is  $E[(X - E[X])^n]$

# VVS Word Problems



- $X$  is a discrete uniform RV with range  $S_X = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots, 100\}$ . Find  $E[X]$  and  $E[X^2]$ .
- Which are valid CDFs?



- $Y = X + 10$
- Express  $\text{Var}[Y]$  in terms of  $\text{Var}[X]$
  
- $Y = 10X + 10$
- Express  $\text{Var}[Y]$  in terms of  $\text{Var}[X]$

## Quiz 2.6

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Monitor three phone calls and observe whether each one is a voice call or a data call. The random variable  $N$  is the number of voice calls. Assume  $N$  has PMF

$$P_N(n) = \begin{cases} 0.1 & n = 0, \\ 0.3 & n = 1, 2, 3, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
$$E[N] = 0.3(1+2+3) = 1.8 \quad (2.75)$$

Voice calls cost 25 cents each and data calls cost 40 cents each.  $T$  cents is the cost of the three telephone calls monitored in the experiment.

$$T = 25N + 40(3-N)$$

(1) Express  $T$  as a function of  $N$ .

$$S_T = \{$$

$$E[T] = 25E[N] + 120 - 40E[N]$$

(2) Find  $\overline{P_T(t)}$  and  $E[T]$ .

$$\hookrightarrow P(T=t)$$

# Conditional PMF of a Discrete RV



- The PMF of a RV  $X$  gives the probability of the event  $\{X=x\}$

- PMF  $P_X(x) = P[X=x]$

- The PMF of a RV conditioned on an event  $B$  is  $P[X=x | B]$

$$\sum_{x \in B} P[X=x] = P[B]$$

- **Def 2.19** Given the event  $B$ , with  $P[B] > 0$ , the conditional probability mass function of  $X$  is  $P_{X|B}(x)$   
 $= P[X=x | B]$ .

$$\underbrace{\quad}_{\substack{\uparrow \\ \downarrow}}$$

$$= \frac{P[X=x, B]}{P[B]} = \begin{cases} \frac{P[X=x]}{P[B]} & x \in B \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



## Theorem 2.16



- A RV  $X$  resulting from an experiment with event space  $B_1, B_2, \dots, B_m$  has PMF \_\_\_\_\_?
- What properties do  $B_1, B_2, \dots, B_m$  satisfy?

$$P_X(x) = \sum_{i=1}^m P_{X|B_i}(x)P[B_i].$$

## **Example 2.38 Problem**

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Let  $X$  denote the number of additional years that a randomly chosen 70 year old person will live. If the person has high blood pressure, denoted as event  $H$ , then  $X$  is a geometric ( $p = 0.1$ ) random variable. Otherwise, if the person's blood pressure is regular, event  $R$ , then  $X$  has a geometric ( $p = 0.05$ ) PMF with parameter. Find the conditional PMFs  $P_{X|H}(x)$  and  $P_{X|R}(x)$ .