

JTMS-12: Probability and Random Processes

Fall 2020

M. Bode

Lecture 9:

Functions of Random Variables

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Chapter 3: Functions of Random Variables

3.1 Functions of Random Variables

3.2 $Y = g(X)$

3.3 $Z = g(X, Y)$

3.4 $V = g(X, Y), W = h(X, Y)$

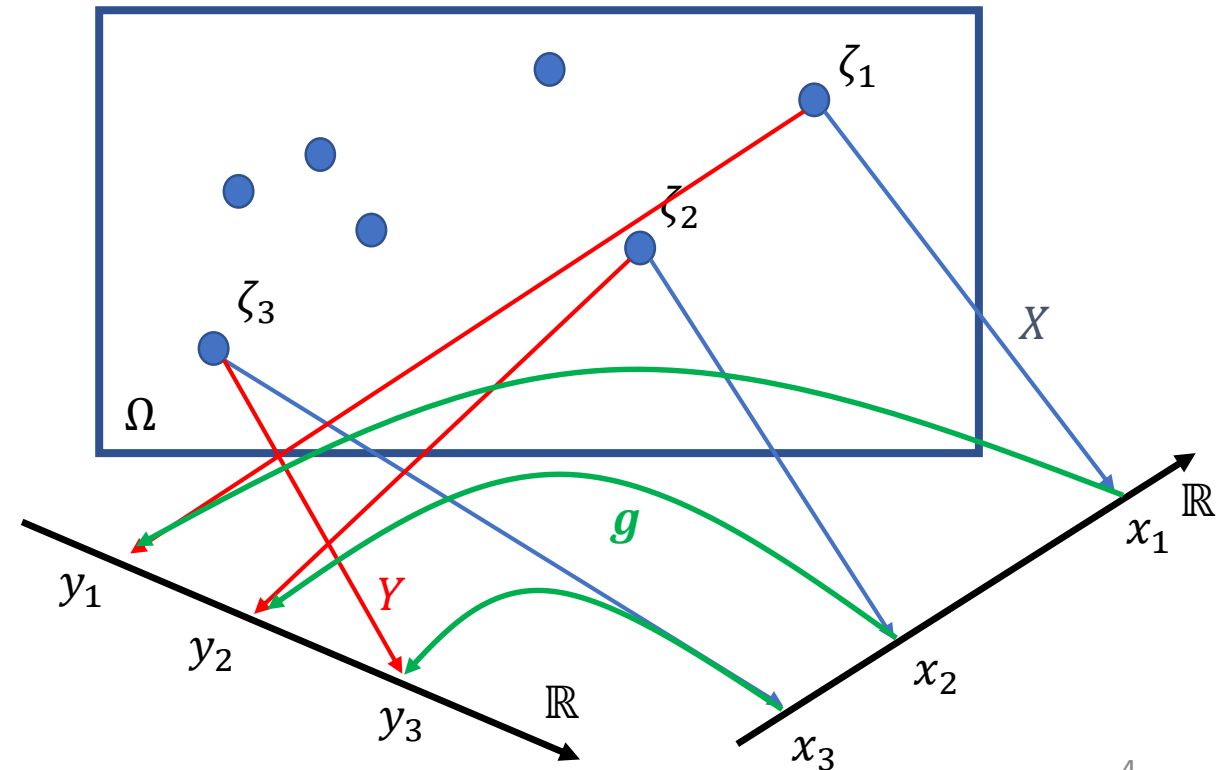
Functions of Random Variables

Idea: Map outcomes to (real) numbers.

The **random variable** $X: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ maps all outcomes from the sample description space to a real number.

Re-label: $y = g(x)$

Re-interpret: $Y: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, Y(\zeta) = g(X(\zeta))$



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Example 1:

Consider a r.v. X that is uniformly distributed over $(0,5)$, and

$$Y = 3X - 7 = g(X)$$

Find $F_Y(y)$ and $f_Y(y)$.

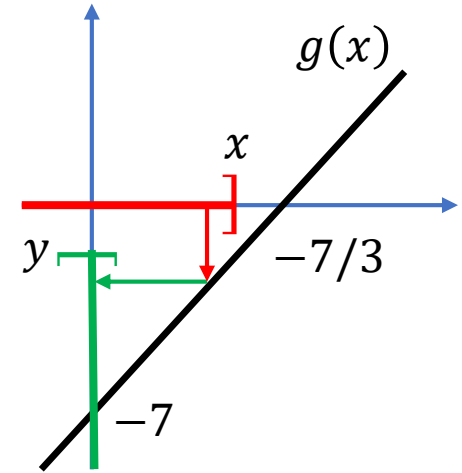
Standard approach ...

$$F_Y(y) = P[Y \leq y]$$

$$= P[g(X) \leq y] = P[3X - 7 \leq y]$$

$$= P\left[X \leq \frac{y+7}{3}\right]$$

$$= F_X\left(\frac{y+7}{3}\right)$$



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solve:

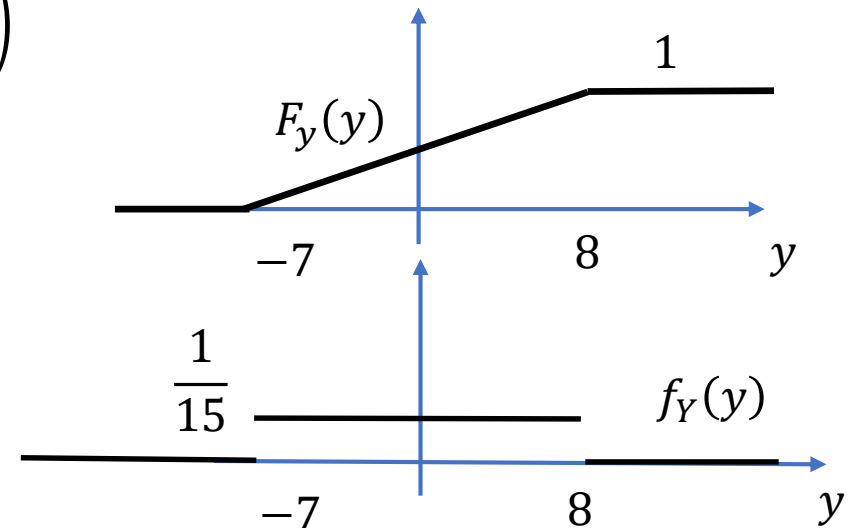
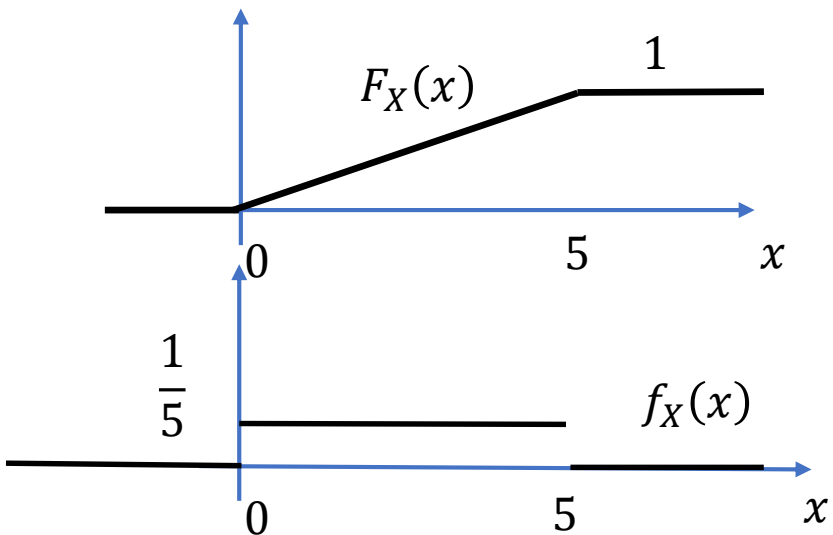
Consider a r.v. X that is uniformly distributed over $(0,5)$, and

$$Y = 3X - 7 = g(X)$$

Find $F_Y(y)$ and $f_Y(y)$.

Standard approach ... $F_Y(y) = F_X\left(\frac{y+7}{3}\right)$

$$\Rightarrow f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{3} f_X\left(\frac{y+7}{3}\right)$$



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Example 2:

Consider a r.v. X that is uniformly distributed over $(0,5)$, and

$$Y = -5X + 2 = g(X)$$

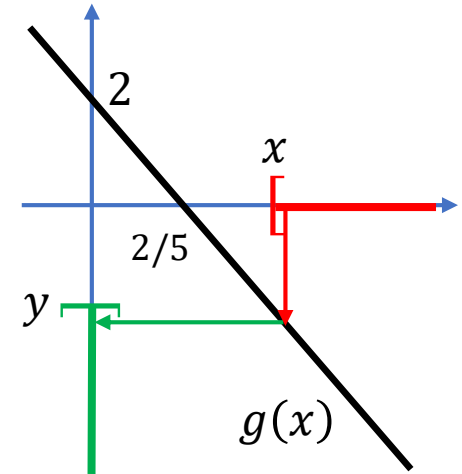
Find $F_Y(y)$ and $f_Y(y)$.

Standard approach ...

$$F_Y(y) = P[Y \leq y]$$

$$= P[g(X) \leq y] = P[-5X + 2 \leq y]$$

$$= P\left[X \geq \frac{y-2}{-5}\right] = 1 - P\left[X < \frac{y-2}{-5}\right]$$



For continuous rvs.:

$$F_Y(y) = 1 - F_X\left(\frac{y-2}{-5}\right)$$

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solve:

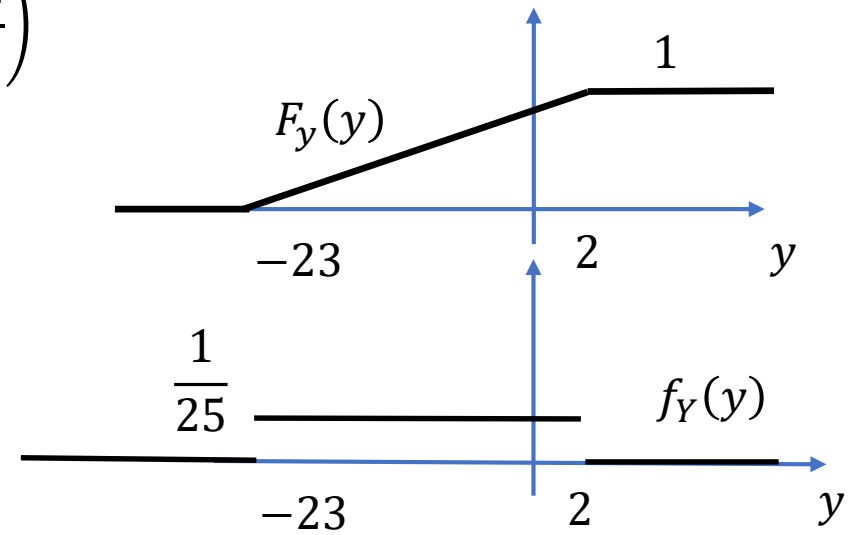
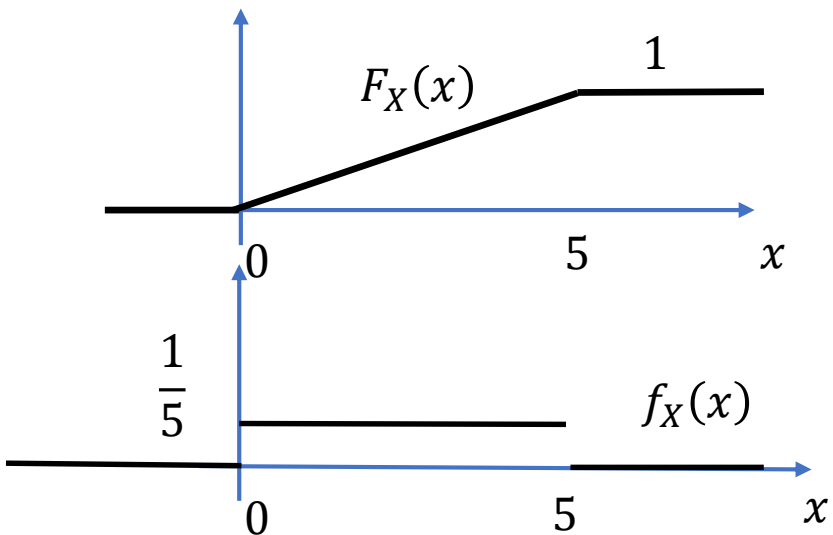
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$$Y = -5X + 2 = g(X)$$

Find $F_Y(y)$ and $f_Y(y)$.

Standard approach ... $F_Y(y) = 1 - F_X\left(\frac{y-2}{-5}\right)$

$$\Rightarrow f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{5} f_X\left(\frac{y-2}{-5}\right)$$



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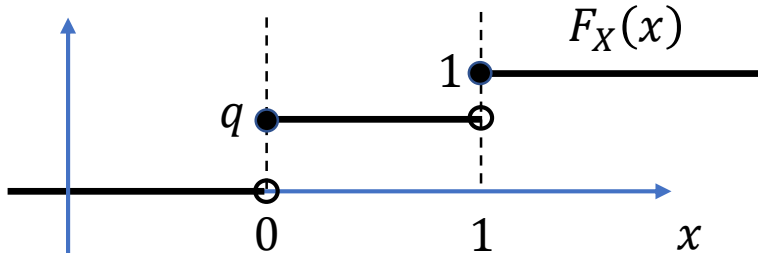
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Example 3 (discrete):

Consider a "fair coin" X , $P[X = 0] = q$, $P[X = 1] = p$

$$Y = -5X + 2 = g(X)$$

Find $F_Y(y)$ and $f_Y(y)$.

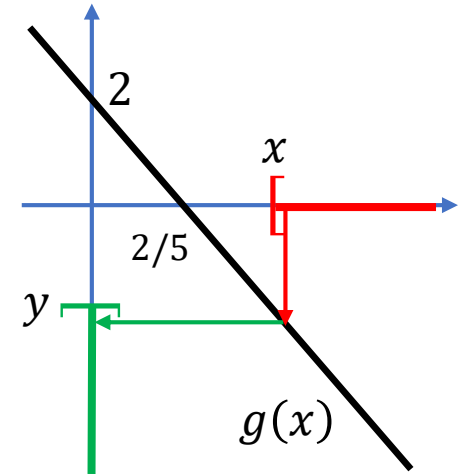
Standard approach ...

$$F_Y(y) = P[Y \leq y]$$

$$= P[g(X) \leq y] = P[-5X + 2 \leq y] = P\left[X \geq \frac{y-2}{-5}\right]$$

$$= 1 - P\left[X < \frac{y-2}{-5}\right] - P\left[X = \frac{y-2}{-5}\right] + P\left[X = \frac{y-2}{-5}\right]$$

$$\Rightarrow F_Y(y) = 1 - F_X\left(\frac{y-2}{-5}\right) + P\left[X = \frac{y-2}{-5}\right]$$



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Functions of Random Variables

solve:

Consider a ``fair coin'' X , $P[X = 0] = q$, $P[X = 1] = p$

Chapter 3: Functions of Random Variables

$$Y = -5X + 2 = g(X)$$

Find $F_Y(y)$ and $f_Y(y)$.

3.1 Functions of Random Variables

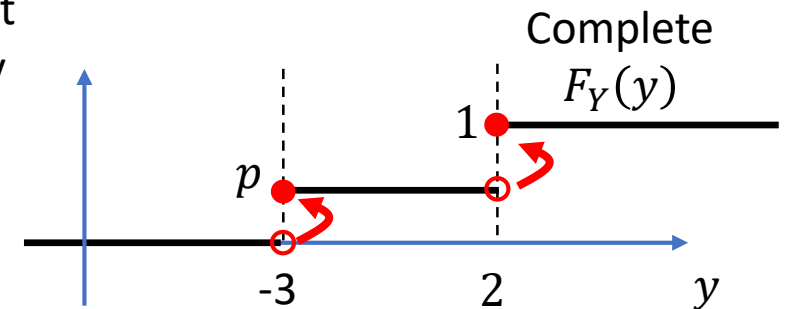
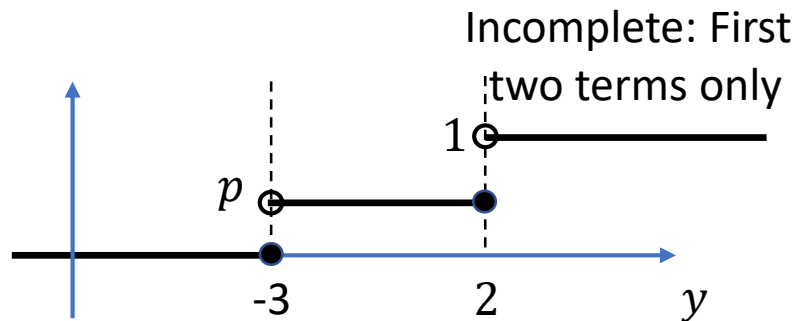
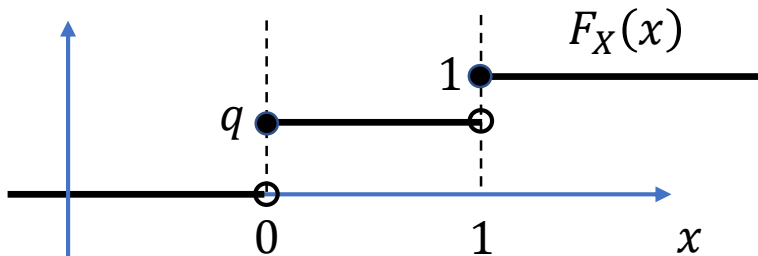
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Standard approach ...

$$F_Y(y) = 1 - F_X\left(\frac{y-2}{-5}\right) + P\left[X = \frac{y-2}{-5}\right]$$



The density $f_Y(y)$ is easy to guess, right?

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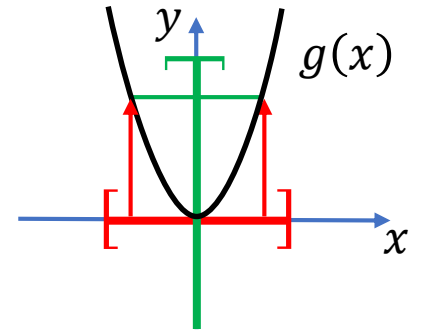
Example 4:

Consider a r.v. X , and

$$Y = X^2 = g(X)$$

Find $F_Y(y)$ and $f_Y(y)$.

Standard approach ...



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$$F_Y(y) = P[Y \leq y] = P[g(X) \leq y] = P[X^2 \leq y]$$

$$\boxed{1) y \geq 0} \quad F_Y(y) = P[-\sqrt{y} \leq X \leq \sqrt{y}] = P[X \leq \sqrt{y}] - P[X < -\sqrt{y}] =$$

$$\Rightarrow F_Y(y) = F_X(\sqrt{y}) - F_X(-\sqrt{y}) + \underbrace{P[X = -\sqrt{y}]}_{=0} \\ \text{for continuous r.v.}$$

$$\boxed{2) y < 0}$$

$$F_Y(y) = 0$$

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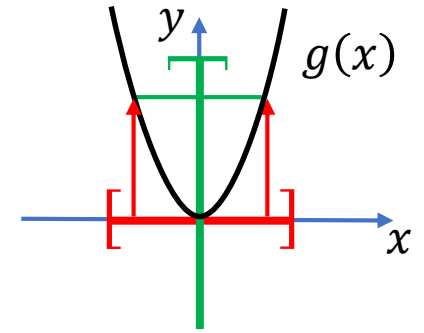
Functions of Random Variables

solve:

Consider a r.v. X , and

$$Y = X^2 = g(X)$$

Find $F_Y(y)$ and $f_Y(y)$.



Standard approach ...

$$F_Y(y) = \begin{cases} F_X(\sqrt{y}) - F_X(-\sqrt{y}) + \underbrace{P[X = -\sqrt{y}]}_{=0} & ; y \geq 0 \\ 0 & ; y < 0 \end{cases}$$

for continuous r.v.

Straight forward in continuous cases:

$$\Rightarrow f_Y(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{y}} f_X(\sqrt{y}) + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{y}} f_X(-\sqrt{y}) = \dots & ; y \geq 0 \\ 0 & ; y < 0 \end{cases}$$

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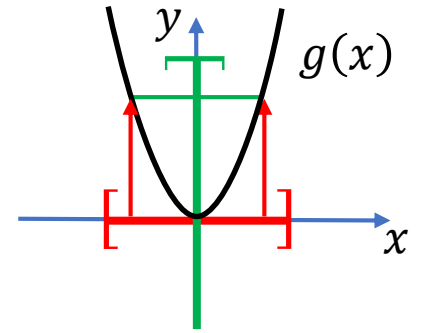
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solve:

Consider a r.v. X , and

$$Y = X^2 = g(X)$$

$$\Rightarrow f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{y}} f_X(\sqrt{y}) + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{y}} f_X(-\sqrt{y})$$



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Discuss:

- a) Uniform over $[-1, 1]$
- b) Normal $\sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$
- c) Coin

Careful in discrete cases: May be easier to find the density directly.

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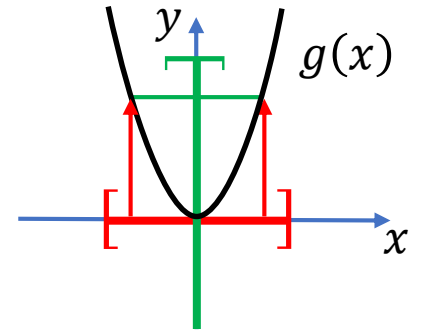
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a) Uniform over $[-1, 1]$

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} 0; & x > 1 \\ \frac{1}{2}; & -1 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0; & x < -1 \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow f_Y(y) = \begin{cases} 0; & y > 1 \\ \frac{1}{2\sqrt{y}}; & 0 \leq y \leq 1 \\ 0; & y < 0 \end{cases}$$

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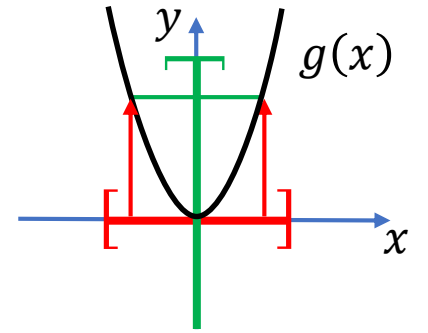
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Consider a r.v. X , and

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b) Normal: $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2}\right)$$
$$\Rightarrow f_Y(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi y}} \exp\left(-\frac{y}{2}\right) \\ 0; y < 0 \end{cases}$$

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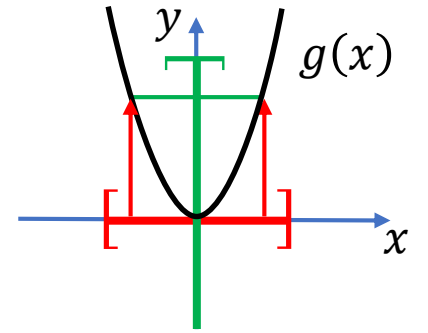
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c) Coin

$$f_X(x) = q\delta(x) + p\delta(x - 1)$$

$$\Rightarrow f_Y(y) = q\delta(y) + p\delta(y - 1)$$

The End

Next time: Chp. 3