

Functions of a Random Variable

Random variables X take values in \mathbb{R}

Often interested in related variable Y = g(X) $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a fixed function

$$Y = g(X)$$

Random salary in \$

$$Y = X + 10$$

$$Y = 1.1X$$

$$Y = X^2$$

Deterministic Functions

$$Y = g(X)$$

g is a deterministic function over \mathbb{R} (or Ω)

$$Y = X + 3$$

All randomness in Y derives from X

Deterministically modified by g

$$X = 5$$

$$Y = 8$$

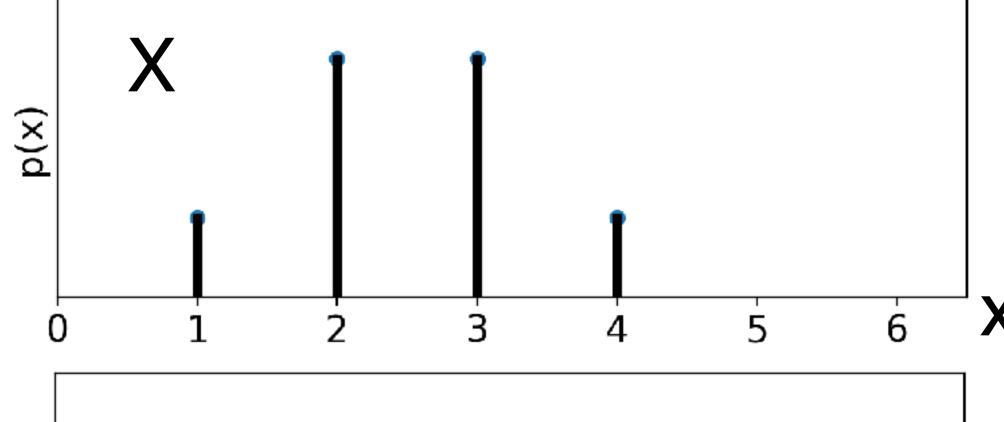
Translation

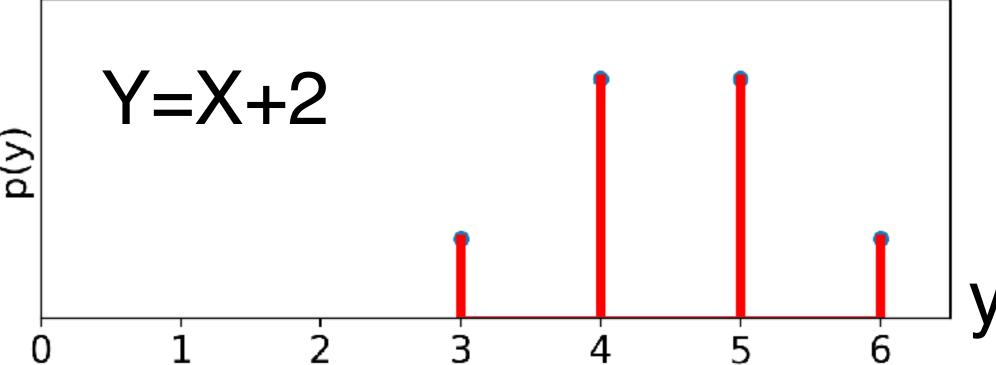
Add constant b to X

Translate X by b

$$Y = X + b$$

$$P(Y=y) = P(X+b=y) = P(X=y-b)$$





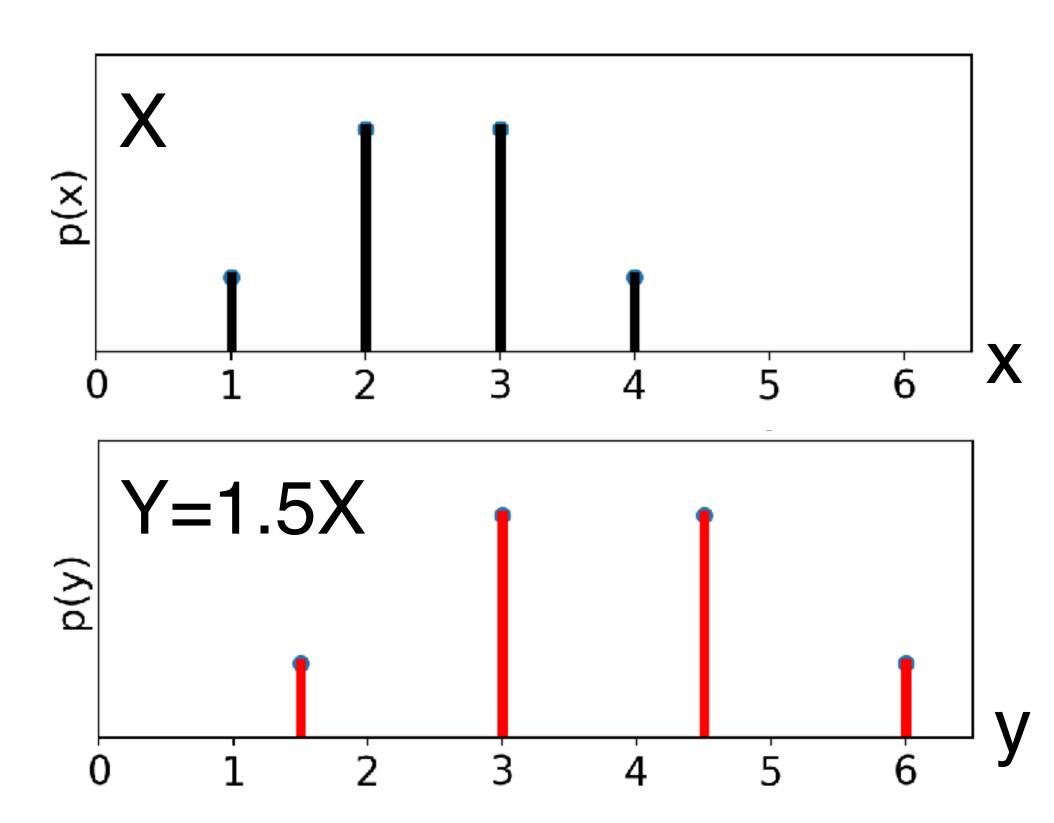
Scaling

Multiply X by a constant b

Scale X by a factor b

$$Y = b \cdot X$$

P(Y=y) = P(bX=y) = P(X=y/b)



Two Square Examples

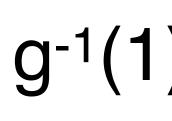
Square is 1-1

$$Y = X^2$$

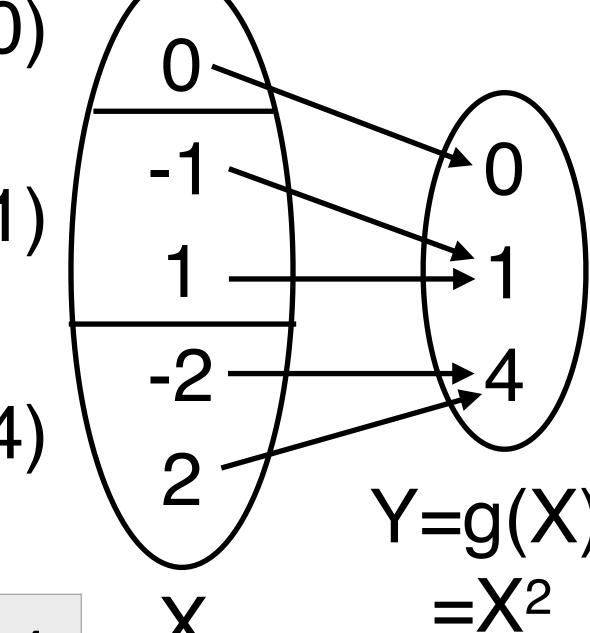
$$y = 0 = 4$$

$$p(Y = y) = \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{6}$$

$$g^{-1}(0)$$



$$g^{-1}(4)$$



$$Y = X^{2}$$

$$p(Y = y) \frac{1}{5} \frac{2}{5}$$

$$P(Y=y) = P(g(X)=y) = P(X \in g^{-1}(y)) = \sum_{x \in g^{-1}(y)} P(X=x)$$

