





Random variables

- ► A **random variable** is a variable that holds a value produced by a (partially) random phenomenon
 - basically it is a name attached to an arbitrary value
 - short notation: r.v.
- ► Typically denoted as X, Y etc..
- Examples:
 - ► The value of a dice
 - ▶ The value of the voltage in a circuit
- ► The opposite = a constant value

Realizations

- ► A realization = a single outcome of the random experiment
- ▶ Sample space Ω = the set of all values that can be taken by a random variable X
 - ▶ i.e. the set of all possible realizations
- ► Example: rolling a dice
 - ▶ The r.v. is denoted as X
 - We might get a realization X = 3
 - ▶ But we could have got any value from the sample space

$$\Omega = \{1,2,3,4,5,6\}$$

Discrete and continuous random variables

- **Discrete** random variable: if Ω is a discrete set
 - Example: value of a dice
- **Continuous** random variable: if Ω is a continuous set
 - Example: a voltage value

Discrete random variables

- Consider a discrete r.v. X
- ► The cumulative distribution function (CDF) = the probability that the value of *X* is smaller or equal than the argument *x*

$$F_X(x) = P\{X \le x\}$$

- ▶ In Romanian: "funcție de repartitie"
- Example: CDF for a dice
- ► For discrete r.v., the CDF is "stairwise"

Discrete random variables

► The **probability mass function (PMF)** = the probability that *X* has value *x*

$$w_X(x) = P\{X = x\}$$

- ► Example: what is the PMF of a dice?
- ► Relation to CDF:

$$F(x) = \sum_{\textit{all } t \le x} w(t)$$

Continuous random variables

- Consider a continuous r.v. X
- ▶ The CDF of a continuous r.v. is defined identically:

$$F_X(x) = P\{X \le x\}$$

The derivative of the CDF is the probability density function (PDF)

$$w_X(x) = \frac{dF_X(x)}{dx}$$
$$F_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{x} w_X(t)dt$$

Continuous random variables

► The PDF gives the probability that the value of *X* is in a small vicinity *epsilon* around *x*, divided by *epsilon*

$$w_X(x) = \frac{dF_X(x)}{dx} = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \frac{F_X(x+\epsilon) - F_X(x-\epsilon)}{2\epsilon}$$
$$= \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \frac{P(X \in [x-\epsilon, x+\epsilon])}{2\epsilon}$$

Probability of an exact value

- ► The probability that a continuous r.v. X is **exactly** equal to a value x is **zero**
 - because there are an infinity of possibilities (continuous)
 - ▶ That's why we can't define a probability mass function like for discrete
- ► The PDF gives the probability of being **in a small vicinity** around some value *x*

Probability and distribution

Compute probability based on PDF (continuous r.v.):

$$P\{A \le X \le B\} = \int_A^B w_X(x) dx$$

Compute probability based on PMF (discrete r.v.):

$$P\left\{A \le X \le B\right\} = \sum_{x=A}^{B} w_X(x)$$

Graphical interpretation

- ► Probability that a r.v. X is between A and B is **the area below the PDF**
 - ▶ i.e. the integral from A to B
- ▶ Probability that *X* is exactly equal to a certain value is zero
 - the area below a single point is zero

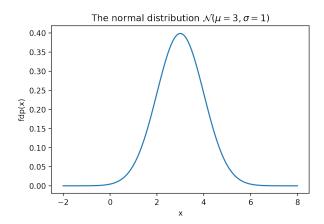
Properties of PDF/PMF/CDF

- ► The CDF is monotonously increasing (non-decreasing)
- ▶ The PDF/PMF are always ≥ 0
- ▶ The CDF starts from 0 and goes up to 1
- ▶ Integral/sum over all of the PDF/PMF = 1
- Some others, mention when needed

The normal distribution

Probability density function

$$w(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$



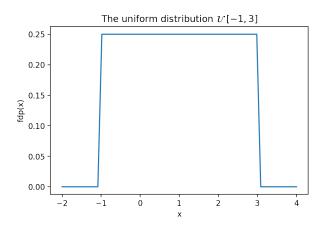
The normal distribution

- Has two parameters:
 - ▶ Average value $\mu =$ "center" of the function
 - **Standard deviation** σ = "width" is the function
- lacktriangle The front constant is just for normalization (ensures that integral =1)
- ► Extremely often encountered in real life
- ▶ Any real value is possible $(w(x) > 0, \forall x \in \mathbb{R})$
- ▶ Usually denoted as $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$

The uniform distribution

▶ The probability density function = constant, between two endpoints

$$w(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{b-a}, & x \in [a,b] \\ 0, & elsewhere \end{cases}$$



The uniform distribution

- ▶ Has two parameters: the limits a and b of the interval
- ▶ The "height" of the function is $\frac{1}{b-a}$, for normalization
- Very simple
- ▶ Only values from the interval [a, b] are possible
- ▶ Denoted as $\mathcal{U}[a,b]$



▶ Many other distributions exist, relevant for particular applications

R.v. as functions of other r.v.

- ▶ A function applied to a r.v. produces another r.v.
- ightharpoonup Examples: if X is a r.v. with distribution \mathcal{U} [0, 10], then
 - Y = 5 + X is another r.v., with distribution $\mathcal{U}[5, 15]$
 - $ightharpoonup Z = X^2$ is also another r.v.
 - ightharpoonup T = cos(X) is also another r.v.
- \triangleright Reason: since X is random, the values Y, Z, T are also random
- X, Y, Z, T are not independent
 - A certain value of one of them automatically implies the value of the others

Exercise

Exercise:

▶ If X is a r.v. with distribution $\mathcal{U}[0,\pi]$, compute the probability density of a r.v. Y defined as

$$Y = cos(X)$$

Computing probabilities for the normal distribution

- ▶ How to compute \int_a^b for a normal distribution?
 - Can't be done with algebraic formula, non-elementary function
- ▶ Use the error function:

$$erf(z) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^z e^{-t^2} dt$$

▶ The CDF of a normal distribution $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$F(X) = \frac{1}{2}(1 + erf(\frac{x - \mu}{\sigma\sqrt{2}}))$$

- ▶ The values of *erf()* are available / are computed numerically
 - e.g. on GOogle, search for erf(0.5)
- Other useful values:
 - $erf(-\infty) = -1$
 - $erf(\infty) = 1$

Exercise

Exercise:

▶ Let X be a r.v. with distribution $\mathcal{N}(3,2)$. Compute the probability that $X \in [2,4]$

Multiple random variables

- Consider a system with two continuous r.v. X and Y
- Joint cumulative distribution function:

$$F_{XY}(x_i, y_j) = P\{X \le x_i \cap Y \le y_i\}$$

Joint probability density function:

$$w_{XY}(x_i, y_j) = \frac{\partial^2 P_{XY}(x_i, y_j)}{\partial x \partial y}$$

- ▶ The joint PDF gives the probability that the values of the two r.v. X and Y are in a vicinity of x_i and y_i simultaneously
- Similar for discrete r.v.: the joint PMF

$$w_{XY}(x,y) = P\{X = x \cap Y = y\}$$

Independent random variables

- ► Two v.a. X and Y are **independent** if the value of one of them does not influence in any way the value of the other
- For independent r.v., the probability that X = x and Y = y is the product of the two probabilities
- ▶ Discrete r.v.:

$$w_{XY}(x, y) = w_X(x) \cdot w_Y(y)$$

 $P\{X = x \cap Y = y\} = P\{X = x\} \cdot P\{Y = y\}$

- Relation holds for CDF / PDF / PMF, continuous or discrete r.v.
- ▶ Same for more than two r.v.

Independent random variables

Exercise:

- ▶ Compute the probability that three r.v. X, Y and Z i.i.d. $\mathcal{N}(-1,1)$ are all positive simultaneously
 - ▶ *i.i.d* = "independent and identically distributed"

Statistical averages

- R.v. are described by statistical averages ("moments")
- ▶ The average value (moment of order 1)
- Continuous r.v.:

$$\overline{X} = E\{X\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot w_X(x) dx$$

▶ Discrete r.v.:

$$\overline{X} = E\{X\} = \sum_{x=-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot w_X(x) dx$$

- (Example: the entropy of H(X) = the average value of the information)
- Usual notation: μ

Properties of the average value

- ► Computing the average value is a **linear** operation
 - ▶ because the underlying integral / sum is a linear operation
- Linearity

$$E\{aX + bY\} = aE\{X\} + bE\{Y\}$$

Or:

$$E\{aX\} = aE\{X\}, \forall a \in \mathbb{R}$$
$$E\{X + Y\} = E\{X\} + E\{Y\}$$

No proof given here

Average squared value

- ► Average squared value = average value of the squared values
- Moment of order 2
- ► Continuous r.v.:

$$\overline{X^2} = E\{X^2\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot w_X(x) dx$$

▶ Discrete r.v.:

$$\overline{X^2} = E\{X^2\} = \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot w_X(x) dx$$

lacktriangle Interpretation: average of squared values = average energy of a signal

Dispersion (variance)

- ▶ Dispersion (variance) = average squared value of the difference to the average value
- ► Continuous r.v.:

$$\sigma^2 = \overline{\{X - \mu\}^2} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu)^2 \cdot w_X(x) dx$$

Discrete r.v.:

$$\sigma^2 = \overline{\{X - \mu\}^2} = \sum_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu)^2 \cdot w_X(x) dx$$

- ▶ Interpretation: how much do the values vary around the average value
 - σ^2 = large: large spread around the average value
 - $\sigma^2 = \text{small}$: values are concentrated around the average value

Relation between the three values

▶ Relation between the average value, the average squared value, and the dispersion:

$$\sigma^{2} = \overline{\{X - \mu\}^{2}}$$

$$= \overline{X^{2} - 2 \cdot X \cdot \mu + \mu^{2}}$$

$$= \overline{X^{2}} - 2\mu \overline{X} + \mu^{2}$$

$$= \overline{X^{2}} - \mu^{2}$$

Sum of random variables

- ▶ Sum of two or more **independent** r.v. is also a r.v.
- ▶ Its distribution = the **convolution** of the distributions of the two r.v.
- ▶ If *Z* = *X* + *Y*

$$w(z) = w(x) \star w(y)$$

- ▶ Particular case: if X and Y are normal r.v., with $\mathcal{N}(\mu_X, \sigma_X^2)$ and $\mathcal{N}(\mu_Y, \sigma_Y^2)$, then:
 - ▶ Z is also a normal r.v., with $\mathcal{N}(\mu_Z, \sigma_Z^2)$, having:
 - average = sum of the two averages: $\mu_Z = \mu_X + \mu_Y$
 - dispersion = sum of the two dispersions: $\sigma_Z^2 = \sigma_X^2 + \sigma_Y^2$



Random process

- ► A random process = a sequence of random variables indexed in time
- ▶ **Discrete-time** random process f[n] = a sequence of random variables at discrete moments of time
 - e.g.: a sequence 50 of throws of a dice, the daily price on the stock market
- ▶ Continuous-time random process f(t) = a continuous sequence of random variables at every moment
 - e.g.: a noise voltage signal, a speech signal
- ▶ Every sample from a random process is a (different) random variable!
 - e.g. $f(t_0)$ = value at time t_0 is a r.v.

Realizations of random processes

- ▶ A **realization** of the random process = a particular sequence of realizations of the underlying r.v.
 - e.g. we see a given noise signal on the oscilloscope, but we could have seen any other realization just as well
- When we consider a random process = we consider the set of all possible realizations

Distributions of order 1 of random processes

- ▶ Every sample $f(t_1)$ from a random process is a random variable
 - with CDF $F_1(x; t_1)$
 - with PDF $w_1(x; t_1) = \frac{dF_1(x; t_1)}{dx}$
- ► The sample at time t₂ is a different random variable with **possibly different** functions
 - with CDF $F_1(x; t_2)$
 - with PDF $w_1(x; t_2) = \frac{dF_1(x; t_2)}{dx}$
- ▶ These functions specify how the value of one sample is distributed
- ▶ The index w_1 indicates we consider a single random variable from the process (distributions of order 1)
- ► Same for discrete-time random processes

Distributions of order 2

- A pair of random variables $f(t_1)$ and $f(t_2)$ sampled from the random process f(t) have
 - joint CDF $F_2(x_i, x_j; t_1, t_2)$
 - ▶ joint PDF $w_2(x_i, x_j; t_1, t_2) = \frac{\partial^2 F_2(x_i, x_j; t_1, t_2)}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}$
- ► These functions specify how the pair of values is distributed (distributions of order 2)
- Same for discrete-time random processes

Distributions of order n

- Generalize to n samples of the random process
- A set of n random variables $f(t_1), ... f(t_n)$ sampled from the random process f(t) have
 - ▶ joint CDF $F_n(x_1,...x_n; t_1,...t_n)$ ▶ joint PDF $w_n(x_1,...x_n; t_1,...t_n) = \frac{\partial^2 F_n(x_1,...x_n; t_1,...t_n)}{\partial x_1...\partial x_n}$
- ► These functions specify how the whole set of *n* values is distributed (distributions of order *n*)
- Same for discrete-time random processes

Statistical averages

Random processes are characterized using statistical / temporal averages (moments)

1. Average value

$$\overline{f(t_1)} = \mu(t_1) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot w_1(x; t_1) dx$$

2. Average squared value (valoarea patratica medie)

$$\overline{f^2(t_1)} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot w_1(x; t_1) dx$$

Statistical averages - variance

3. Variance (= dispersia)

$$\sigma^{2}(t_{1}) = \overline{\{f(t_{1}) - \mu(t_{1})\}^{2}} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu(t_{1})^{2} \cdot w_{1}(x; t_{1}) dx$$

The variance can be computed as:

$$\sigma^{2}(t_{1}) = \overline{\{f(t_{1}) - \mu(t_{1})\}^{2}}$$

$$= \overline{f(t_{1})^{2} - 2f(t_{1})\mu(t_{1}) + \mu(t_{1})^{2}}$$

$$= \overline{f^{2}(t_{1})} - \mu(t_{1})^{2}$$

- Note:
 - ightharpoonup these three values are calculated across all realizations, at time t_1
 - they characterize only the sample at time t₁
 - ▶ at a different time t_2 , the r.v. $f(t_2)$ is different so all average values might be different

Statistical averages - autocorrelation

4. The autocorrelation function

$$R_{ff}(t_1, t_2) = \overline{f(t_1)f(t_2)} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x_1 x_2 w_2(x_1, x_2; t_1, t_2) dx_1 dx_2$$

5. The correlation function (for different random processes f(t) and g(t))

$$R_{fg}(t_1, t_2) = \overline{f(t_1)g(t_2)} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x_1 y_2 w_2(x_1, y_2; t_1, t_2) dx_1 dy_2$$

- Note:
 - these functions may have different values for a different pair of values (t_1, t_2)

Temporal averages

- ▶ What to do when we only have access to a single realization $f^{(k)}(t)$?
- ► Compute values for a single realization $f^{(k)}(t)$, across all time moments
- 1. Temporal average value

$$\overline{f^{(k)}(t)} = \mu^{(k)} = \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{T/2}^{T/2} f^{(k)}(t) dt$$

2. Temporal average squared value

$$\overline{[f^{(k)}(t)]^2} = \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} [f^{(k)}(t)]^2 dt$$

Temporal variance

3. Temporal variance

$$\sigma^2 = \overline{\{f^{(k)}(t) - \mu^{(k)}\}^2} = \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} (f^{(k)}(t) - \mu^{(k)})^2 dt$$

The variance can be computed as:

$$\sigma^2 = \overline{[f^{(k)}(t)]^2} - [\mu^{(k)}]^2$$

- ► Note:
 - these values do not depend anymore on time t (integrated)

Temporal autocorrelation

4. The temporal autocorrelation function

$$\begin{split} R_{ff}(t_1, t_2) = & \overline{f^{(k)}(t_1 + t)f^{(k)}(t_2 + t)} \\ = & \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f^{(k)}(t_1 + t)f^{(k)}(t_2 + t)dt \end{split}$$

5. The temporal correlation function (for different random processes f(t) and g(t))

$$R_{fg}(t_1, t_2) = \overline{f^{(k)}(t_1 + t)g^{(k)}(t_2 + t)}$$

$$= \lim_{T \to \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f^{(k)}(t_1 + t)g^{(k)}(t_2 + t)dt$$

Statistical and temporal averages

- Statistical averages are usually the relevant values
- ▶ But in real life, we can only compute the temporal values
- ► Fortunately, in many cases they are the same (ergodicity, see later)

Stationary random processes

- ► All the statistical averages are dependent on the time
 - ightharpoonup i.e. they might be different for a sample at t_2
- ► Stationary random process = when all statistical averages are identical if we shift the time origin (e.g. delay the signal)
- Equivalent definition: if all the PDF are identical when shifting the time origin

$$w_n(x_1,...x_n;t_1,...t_n) = w_n(x_1,...x_n;t_1+\tau,...t_n+\tau)$$

▶ Basically, nothing should depend on the time *t*

Strict-sense and wide-sense stationary

- ► Strictly stationary / strongly stationary / strict-sense stationary:
 - ▶ relation holds for every *n*
- Weakly stationary / wide-sense stationary:
 - relation holds only for n = 1 and n = 2 (the most used)

Consequences of stationarity

▶ For n = 1:

$$w_1(x_i; t_1) = w_1(x_i; t_2) = w_1(x_i)$$

► The average value, average squared value, variance of a sample are all **identical** for any time *t*

$$\overline{f(t)} = constant, \forall t$$
 $\overline{f^2(t)} = constant, \forall t$
 $\sigma^2(t) = constant, \forall t$

Consequences of stationarity

▶ For n = 2:

$$w_2(x_i, x_j; t_1, t_2) = w_2(x_i, x_j; 0, t_2 - t_1) = w_2(x_i, x_j; t_2 - t_1)$$

▶ The autocorrelation function depends only on the **time difference** $\tau = t_2 - t_1$ between the samples

$$R_{ff}(t_1, t_2) = R_{ff}(0, t_2 - t_1) = R_{ff}(\tau) = \overline{f(t)f(t + \tau)}$$

- ightharpoonup Is the average value of a product of two samples time au apart
- lacktriangle Depends on a single value au= time difference of the two samples

Consequences of stationarity

- Same for correlation function between two different r.p
- lacktriangle Depends only on the **time difference** $au=t_2-t_1$ between the samples

$$R_{fg}(t_1, t_2) = R_{fg}(0, t_2 - t_1) = R_{fg}(\tau) = \overline{f(t)g(t + \tau)}$$

lacktriangle Is the average value of a product of two samples time au apart

Ergodic random processes

- ▶ In practice, we have access to a single realization
- ► **Ergodic** random process = the temporal averages on any realization are equal to the statistical averages
- ▶ We can compute / estimate all averages from a single realization (any)
 - lacktriangle the realization must be very long (length $ightarrow\infty$) for precise results
- Realizations are all similar to the others, statistically
 - a single realization is characteristic of the whole process

Ergodic random processes

- ▶ Most random processes we care about are ergodic and stationary
 - e.g. noises
- Example of non-ergodic process:
 - throw a dice, then the next 50 values are identical to the first
 - a single realization is not characteristic



The Power Spectral Density of a random process

- ► The Power Spectral Density (PSD) $S_{ff}(\omega)$ is the power of the random process at every frequency $f(\omega = 2\pi f)$
- ► The PSD describes how the power of a signal is distributed in frequency
 - e.g. some random processes have more power at low frequency, others at high frequency etc.
- ▶ The power in the frequency band $[f_1, f_2]$ is equal to $\int_{f_1}^{f_2} S_{ff}(\omega) d\omega$
- ▶ The whole power of the signal is $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_{ff}(\omega) d\omega$
- ▶ The PSD is basically a measurable quantity
 - ▶ it can be determined experimentally
 - ▶ it is important in practical (engineering) applications

The Wiener-Khinchin theorem

Rom: teorema Wiener-Hincin

Theorem:

► The Power Spectral Density = the Fourier transform of the autocorrelation function

$$S_{ff}(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} R_{ff}(\tau) e^{-j\omega\tau} d\tau$$

$$R_{ff}(au) = rac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_{ff}(\omega) e^{j\omega au} d\omega$$

- No proof
- Makes a relation between two rather different domains
 - autocorrelation function: a statistical property
 - ▶ PSD function: a *physical* property (relevant for engineering purposes)

White noise

▶ White noise = a random process with autocorrelation function equal to a Dirac function

$$R_{ff}(\tau) = \delta(\tau)$$

- Any two different samples $(\tau \neq 0)$ have zero correlation (are uncorrelated)
 - ▶ they do not vary similarly
- Power spectral density = Fourier transform of a Dirac = a constant
 - lacktriangle has equal power at all frequencies up to ∞
- ▶ In real life, power goes to 0 for very high frequencies
 - "band-limited white noise"
 - Samples which are very close are necessarily somewhat correlated
- White noise can have almost any distribution
 - normal, uniform etc.

Properties of the autocorrelation function

1. Is even

$$R_{ff}(\tau) = R_{ff}(-\tau)$$

- ▶ Proof: change variable in definition
- 2. At infinite it goes to a constant

$$R_{ff}(\infty) = \overline{f(t)}^2 = const$$

- lacktriangleright Proof: two samples separated by ∞ are independent
- 3. Is maximum in 0

$$R_{ff}(0) \geq R_{ff}(\tau)$$

- ▶ Proof: start from $\overline{(f(t) f(t + \tau))^2} \ge 0$
- ► Interpretation: different samples might vary differently, but a sample always varies identically with itself

Properties of the autocorrelation function

4. Value in 0 = the power of the random process

$$R_{ff}(0) = rac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S_{ff}(\omega) d\omega$$

- ightharpoonup Proof: Put au=0 in inverse Fourier transform of Wiener-Khinchin theorem
- 5. Variance = difference between values at 0 and ∞

$$\sigma^2 = R_{ff}(0) - R_{ff}(\infty)$$

▶ Proof: $R_{ff}(0) = \overline{f(t)^2}$, $R_{ff}(\infty) = \overline{f(t)}^2$

Autocorrelation of filtered random processes

- Consider a random process applied as input to a system
 - either continuous-time: input x(t), system H(s), output y(t)
 - or discrete-time: input x[n], system H(z), output y[n]
- ▶ How does the autocorrelation of *y* depend on that of the input *x*?