Question 12.13.3.10

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10. A discrete random variable X has the probability distribution given as below:

X	0.5	1	1.5	2
P(X)	k	k^2	$2k^2$	k

1. Find the value of k

2. Determine the mean of the distribution

Solution:

1. We know,

$$\sum_{X \in \{0.5, 1, 1.5, 2\}} \Pr(X) = 1 \tag{1}$$

$$k + k^2 + 2k^2 + k = 1 \tag{2}$$

$$3k^2 + 2k - 1 = 0 \tag{3}$$

$$(3k - 1)(k + 1) = 0 \tag{4}$$

$$\text{As probability cannot be negative,} \tag{5}$$

$$k = \frac{1}{3} \tag{6}$$

2.

$$\text{Mean of the distribution}(\mu) = E(X) = \sum_{X \in \{0.5, 1, 1.5, 2\}} X \Pr(X) \tag{7}$$

$$= 0.5(k) + 1(k^2) + 1.5(2k^2) + 2k \tag{8}$$

$$= 4k^2 + 2.5k \tag{9}$$

$$= (4)\frac{1}{9} + (2.5)\frac{1}{3} \tag{10}$$

$$= \frac{23}{18} \tag{11}$$

1