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- ▶ For  $X$  to be a random variable

$$\{\omega \in \Omega : X(\omega) \in B\} \in \mathcal{F}, \quad \forall B \in \mathcal{B}$$

# Recap: Distribution Function

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- ▶ The distribution function satisfies
  1.  $0 \leq F_X(x) \leq 1, \forall x$
  2.  $F_X(-\infty) = 0; F_X(\infty) = 1$
  3.  $F_X$  is non-decreasing:  $x_1 \leq x_2 \Rightarrow F_X(x_1) \leq F_X(x_2)$
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  4.  $F_X$  is right continuous and has left-hand limits.
- ▶ We also have
$$F_X(x^+) - F_X(x^-) = F_X(x) - F_X(x^-) = P[X = x]$$
$$P[a < X \leq b] = F_X(b) - F_X(a).$$

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- ▶ Let  $X \in \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$
- ▶ Its distribution function,  $F_X$  is a stair-case function with jump discontinuities at each  $x_i$  and the magnitude of the jump at  $x_i$  is equal to  $P[X = x_i]$

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- ▶ We can calculate the probability of any event as

$$P[X \in B] = \sum_{\substack{i: \\ x_i \in B}} f_X(x_i)$$

## Recap: continuous random variable

- ▶  $X$  is said to be a continuous random variable if there exists a function  $f_X : \Re \rightarrow \Re$  satisfying

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- ▶ A continuous rv takes uncountably many distinct values. However, not every rv that takes uncountably many values is a continuous rv

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- ▶ In particular,

$$P[a \leq X \leq b] = \int_a^b f_X(t) dt$$

## Recap: some discrete random variables

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- ▶ Binomial:  $X \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ ; Parameters:  $n, p$

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- ▶ Geometric:  $X \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$ ; Parameter:  $p$ ,  $0 < p < 1$ .

$$f_X(x) = p(1 - p)^{x-1}, x = 1, 2, \dots$$

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- ▶ Gaussian (Normal): Parameters:  $\sigma > 0, \mu$ .

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}, \quad -\infty < x < \infty$$

# Functions of a random variable

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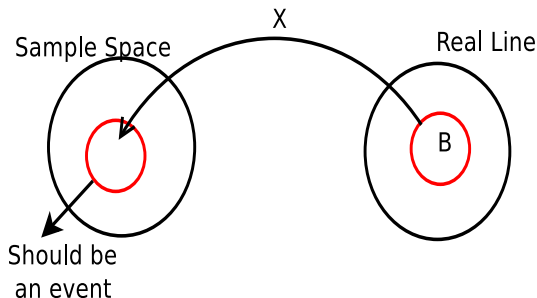
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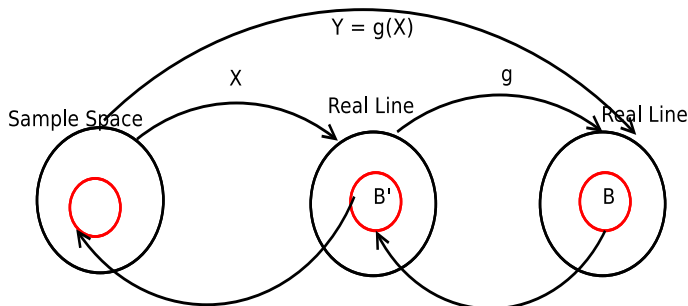
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- ▶ Thus, in principle, we can find the distribution of  $Y$  if we know that of  $X$

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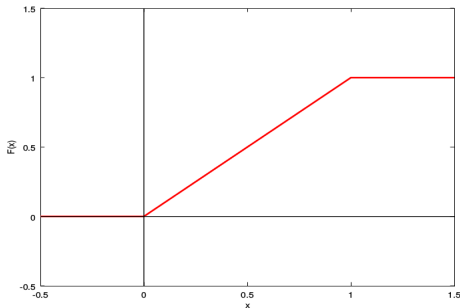
- ▶ This tells us how to find df of  $Y$  when it is an affine function of  $X$ .
- ▶ If  $X$  is continuous rv, then,  $f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{a}f_X\left(\frac{y-b}{a}\right)$

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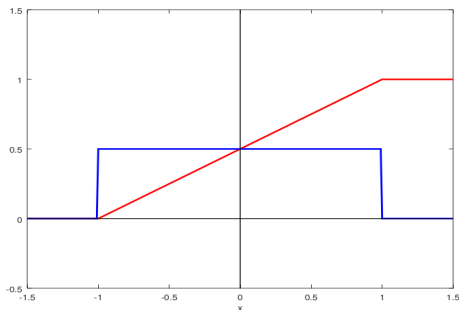


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- ▶ These are plotted below



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- This shows that  $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(b, a^2)$

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 &= \sum_{\substack{i: \\ g(x_i)=y}} f_X(x_i)
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$$f_Y(b + ka) = f_X(k) = \frac{1}{N}, \quad 1 \leq k \leq N$$

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- ▶ This is written as  $Y = X^+$  to indicate the function only keeps the positive part.

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- ▶ For  $0 < y < 1$ ,  
 $F_Y(y) = P[Y \leq y] = P[X \leq y] = F_X(y) = \frac{1+y}{2}$
- ▶ For  $y \geq 1$ ,  $F_Y(y) = 1$ .
- ▶ Thus, the df of  $Y$  is

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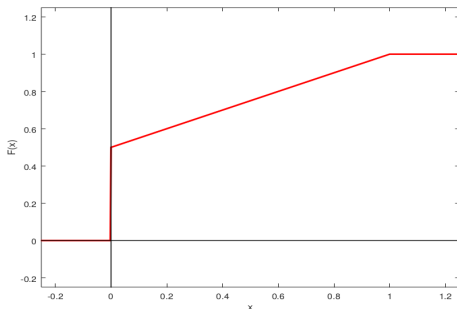
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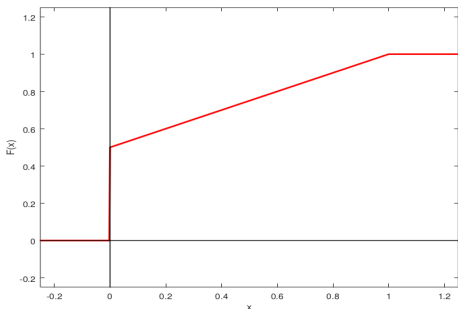
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- This is neither a continuous rv nor a discrete rv.

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- ▶ This is the general formula for density of  $X^2$  when  $X$  is continuous rv.



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- ▶ This is an example of gamma density.

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- ▶ The earlier density we saw corresponds to  $\alpha = \lambda = 0.5$ :

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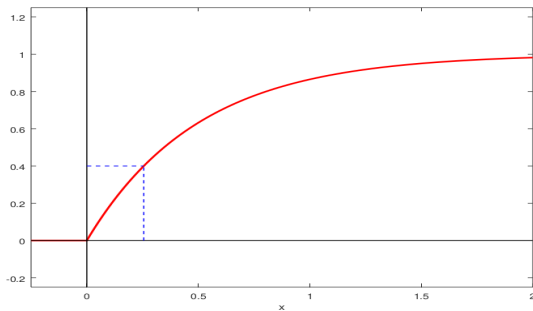
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- ▶ So, we had  $Y = F^{-1}(X)$  and the df of  $Y$  was  $F$

- We can visualize this as shown below



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- ▶ Thus, starting with uniform rv, we can generate a rv with a desired distribution.
- ▶ Very useful in random number generation. Known as the inverse function method.
- ▶ Can be generalized to handle discrete rv also. It only involves defining an 'inverse' when  $F$  is a stair-case function. (Left as an exercise!)

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- ▶ Has interesting applications.  
E.g., histogram equalization in image processing

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- ▶ If df of  $X$  is  $F$  and  $Y = F(X)$  then  $Y$  is uniform over  $[0, 1]$ .

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- ▶ We have seen a number of examples.
- ▶ Finally, we look at a theorem that gives a formula for pdf of  $Y$  in certain special cases

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- ▶ We can combine both cases into one result.

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- ▶ Then  $Y$  is a continuous rv with pdf

$$f_Y(y) = f_X(g^{-1}(y)) \left| \frac{d}{dy} g^{-1}(y) \right|, \quad a \leq y \leq b$$

where  $a = \min(g(\infty), g(-\infty))$  and  
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- ▶ Essentially, what we need is that for a any  $y$ , the equation  $g(x) = y$  would have finite solutions and the derivative of  $g$  is not zero at any of these points.
- ▶ There are multiple ' $g^{-1}(y)$ ' and we can get density of  $Y$  by summing all the terms.

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- ▶ Also, the derivative of  $g^{-1}$  is reciprocal of the derivative of  $g$ .
- ▶ Hence, we can also write the above as

$$f_Y(y) = f_X(x_o(y)) |g'(x_o(y))|^{-1}$$

- ▶ If  $Y = g(x)$  and  $g$  is monotone,

$$f_Y(y) = f_X(g^{-1}(y)) \left| \frac{d}{dy} g^{-1}(y) \right|$$

- ▶ Let  $x_o(y)$  be the solution of  $g(x) = y$ ; then  $g^{-1}(y) = x_o(y)$ .
- ▶ Also, the derivative of  $g^{-1}$  is reciprocal of the derivative of  $g$ .
- ▶ Hence, we can also write the above as

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- ▶ However, the notation in the above may be confusing.



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- ▶ If  $g(x) = y$  has no solution (or no solution satisfying  $g'(x) \neq 0$ ), then at that  $y$ ,  $f_Y(y) = 0$ .

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- ▶ This is same as what we derived from first principles earlier.

# Expectation and Moments of a random variable

- ▶ We next consider the important notion of expectation of a random variable

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- ▶ Expectation is essentially a weighted average.
- ▶ To make the above finite and well defined, we can stipulate the following as condition for existence of expectation

$$\sum_i |x_i| f_X(x_i) < \infty$$

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- ▶ But it always exists for non-negative random variables.

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- ▶ Now, expectation does not exist only when  $EX^+ = EX^- = \infty$



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- ▶ This is what we do in this course because we deal with only discrete and continuous rv's.
- ▶ But to get a feel for the more formal definition, we look at a couple of examples.