

# Lecture 11

- **Read:** Chapter 8.1-8.2, 9.1.

## Statistical Inference

- Significance Testing
- Binary Hypothesis Testing
  - Maximum A posteriori Probability (MAP) Test
  - Maximum Likelihood (ML) Test
- Estimation of a Random Variable
  - Blind Estimation of  $X$
  - Estimation of  $X$  Given an Event
  - Estimation of  $X$  Given a Random Variable

# Statistical Inference

- Need to be able to reason in the presence of uncertainty
- Analyze observations of an experiment to reach conclusions with some assessment of the quality or risk associated with these conclusions
- When the conclusion is based on the properties of random variables, the reasoning is referred to as a **statistical inference**.
- We will look at five categories of statistical inference:
  - Significance testing
  - Hypothesis testing
  - Estimation of a random variable
  - Point estimation of a model parameter
  - Confidence interval estimation of a model parameter

# Statistical Inference

- Like probability theory, the theory of statistical inference refers to an experiment consisting of a procedure and observations.
- In each statistical inference method, there is a set of possible conclusions and a means of measuring the accuracy of a conclusion.
- A statistical inference method assigns a conclusion to each possible outcome of the experiment and consists of three steps:
  - Perform an experiment
  - Observe an outcome
  - State a conclusion
- The assignment of conclusions to outcomes is based on probability theory.
- The aim of the assignment is to achieve the highest possible accuracy.

# Statistical Inference: Various Scenarios

- **Significance/Hypothesis Testing:**

- **Significance:** Given a single hypothesis  $H_0$ , figure out if it holds.
- **Hypothesis:** Given several hypotheses  $H_1, H_2, \dots, H_n$ , which one is “best”?

- **Estimation:**

- **Random variable:** Goal is to estimate an RV  $X$ , based on some observation (e.g., an event or another random variable).
- **Parameter estimation:** Here,  $X$ , might be modeled using some parametric distribution (e.g.,  $X \sim \exp(\lambda)$ ), and based on observation we wish to estimate the true parameter  $\lambda$ .

1. point estimate  $\rightarrow \hat{\lambda}$
2. confidence interval estimate

$\rightarrow [a, b]$

where,  $P[\lambda \in [a, b]] \geq \underbrace{1 - \alpha}_{\text{confidence}}$

# Statistical Inference: Example

- $X_1, \dots, X_n$  are iid samples of an exponential RV  $X$ .
- $E[X] = \lambda$  is unknown.
- Can we use  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  to learn about  $\lambda$ ?

# Statistical Inference: Significance Testing Example

- **Conclusion:** Accept or reject the hypothesis that the observations result from a probability model  $H_0$ .
- **Accuracy Measure:** Probability of rejecting the hypothesis when it is true
- **Question:** Assuming  $\lambda$  is a constant, should we accept or reject the hypothesis that  $\lambda = 3.5$ ?

# Statistical Inference: Hypothesis Testing Example

- **Conclusion:** The observations result from one of two hypothetical probability models ( $H_0$  and  $H_1$ ).
- **Accuracy Measure:** Probability that the conclusion is  $H_0$ , when the true model is  $H_1$ .
- **Question:** Assuming  $\lambda$  is a constant, which one does  $\lambda$  equal - 2.5 or 3.5?

# Statistical Inference: Random Variable Estimation Example

- **Conclusion:** The value of random variable  $X$  is  $\hat{X}$ .
- **Accuracy Measure:** The mean square error:  $E[(X - \hat{X})^2]$
- **Method:** Assume  $\Lambda$  is an RV with  $f_{\Lambda}(\lambda)$  and the experiment that generates  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  implicitly has two parts:
  1. Generate a sample value  $\Lambda = \lambda$ .
  2. Generate each  $X_i$  from an exponential distribution with expected value  $\lambda$ .
- **Question:** What is  $\hat{\lambda}$ , the best estimate of  $\lambda$ ?



# Statistical Inference: Point Estimation of a Parameter

- **Conclusion:** The value of a parameter of a probability model (e.g., expected value) is  $\hat{c}$ .
- **Accuracy Measure:** The mean square error:  $E[(c - \hat{c})^2]$  (where,  $c$  is the true value of the parameter.)
- **Question:** Assuming  $\lambda$  is a constant, what is  $\hat{\lambda}$ , the best estimate of  $\lambda$ ?

# Statistical Inference: Confidence Interval Estimation

## Example

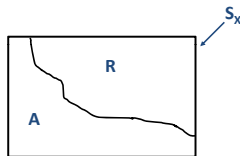
- **Conclusion:** The value,  $c$ , of a parameter of an RV is in the interval  $a \leq c \leq b$ .
- **Accuracy Measure:** The interval size,  $b - a$ , and  $\alpha$ , the probability that the conclusion is false.
- **Question:** Assuming  $\lambda$  is a constant, what values of  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  satisfy  $P[\lambda_1 \leq \lambda \leq \lambda_2] \geq 0.95$ ?

# Significance Testing: Setup

- We have a single hypothesis (probability model),  $H_0$ .
- We make some observation  $X = x$ .
- The test is designed so that it divides the set of possible observations  $S_X$  into two sets,  $A$  and  $R$ .

If  $x \in A \Rightarrow$  We accept hypothesis  $H_0$ .

If  $x \in R \Rightarrow$  We reject hypothesis  $H_0$ .



- Accuracy measure is  $P[\text{false rejection}]$ .
- Let  $\alpha = P[x \in R | H_0]$ . That is,  $\alpha$  is the probability that we reject the hypothesis when in fact it is correct.
- We will call  $\alpha$  the “significance level” of the test.

# Significance Testing: Two Types of Errors

- Type 1: (false rejection) reject  $H_0$  when it is in fact true.
  - Type 2: (false acceptance) accept  $H_0$  when it is false.
- \* With only one hypothesis, it is only possible to calculate the probability of a Type 1 error. We cannot measure the probability of false acceptance.

# Binary Hypothesis Testing: Example



- **Observation:**  $Y \in \{0, 1\}$
- **Hypothesis:**  $H_0 = "\{X = 0\}"$   
 $H_1 = "\{X = 1\}"$
- Given that  $Y = 0$ , which hypothesis ( $H_0$  or  $H_1$ ) should we select?

$$P[H_0|Y = 0]$$

$$P[H_1|Y = 0]$$

Maximum Likelihood (ML)

Pick biggest.

Maximum A Posteriori (MAP)

Pick biggest.

$$P[Y = 0|H_0]$$

$$P[Y = 0|H_1]$$

# Binary Hypothesis Testing: Setup

**Two hypotheses  
(i.e., explanations)**

$H_0$

$H_1$

**An observation  
(continuous/discrete RV)**

$X = x$



# Binary Hypothesis Testing: Model

- **Prior Probabilities:**  $P[H_0], P[H_1]$ 
  - These reflect the state of knowledge about the probability model before an outcome is observed.
  - These may or may not be known.
- **Likelihoods or Transition Probabilities:** likelihood of  $X$  given  $H_i$ 
  - $P[X = x|H_i], i = 0, 1$  [when the observation leads to a discrete RV,  $X$ ]
  - $f_{X|H_i}(x), i = 0, 1$  [when the observation leads to a continuous RV,  $X$ ]
- **Goal:** For each observation  $X = x$ , we need to decide on a hypothesis  $\hat{h}(x)$  such that

$$\hat{h}(x) = 0 \text{ or } 1$$

# Binary Hypothesis Testing: Two Types of Errors

- **Type 1:**  $P[\hat{h}(X) = 1 | H_0]$ : accepting  $H_1$  when  $H_0$  is true
- **Type 2:**  $P[\hat{h}(X) = 0 | H_1]$ : accepting  $H_0$  when  $H_1$  is true
- **Note:** The “cost” of these two types of errors may differ.

- **Example:** Missile detection:

$H_0$  = no missile

$H_1$  = presence of missile

Type 1 = false alarm

Type 2 = miss

- What criteria should be used to design hypothesis testing rules?



# Binary Hypothesis Testing: Radar Test

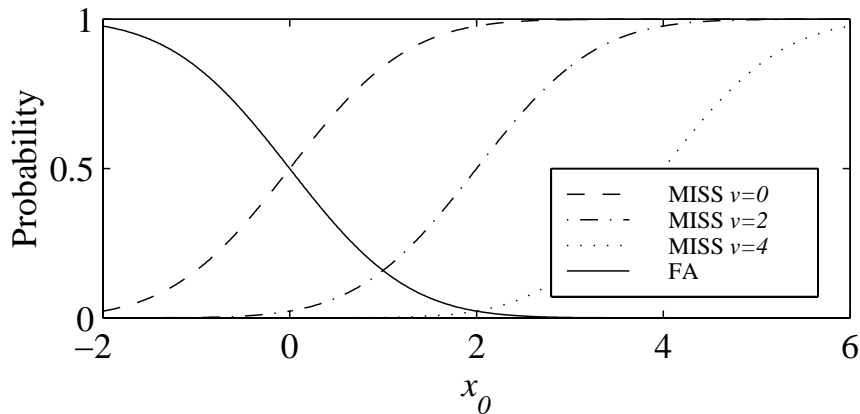
- Noise voltage in a radar detector is Gaussian RV  $N$  with  $E[N] = 0$  volts and  $Var[N] = \sigma^2$  volts<sup>2</sup>.
- If target ( $H_1$ ): Output is  $X = \nu + N$
- No target ( $H_0$ ): Output is  $X = N$
- Periodically, the detector performs a binary hypothesis test
- Acceptance regions:  
$$A_0 = \{X \leq x_0\}, A_1 = \{X > x_0\}$$

# Binary Hypothesis Testing: Radar Test Errors (I)

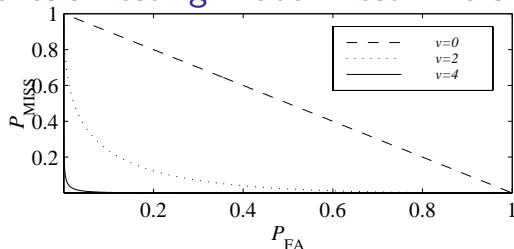
$$\begin{aligned}P_{\text{miss}} &= P[A_0|H_1] \\&= P[X \leq x_0|H_1] = \Phi\left(\frac{x_0 - \nu}{\sigma}\right)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}P_{\text{false acceptance}} &= P[A_1|H_0] \\&= P[X > x_0|H_0] = 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{x_0}{\sigma}\right)\end{aligned}$$

# Binary Hypothesis Testing: Radar Test Errors (II)



## Binary Hypothesis Testing: Radar Test Errors (III)



- When  $\nu = 0$ , the received signal is the same, regardless of whether or not a target is present.
- In this case,  $P_{MISS} = 1 - P_{falsealarm}$ .
- As  $\nu$  increases, it is easier for the detector to distinguish between the two targets.
- We see that the curve for  $\nu = 4$  is better than the curve for  $\nu = 2$ , which is better than the curve for  $\nu = 0$ .
- Therefore, we can choose a value of  $x_0$  such that both  $P_{MISS}$  and  $P_{falsealarm}$  are lower for  $\nu = 4$  than for  $\nu = 2$ .

# Binary Hypothesis Testing: Radar Test Probability of Error

- Conditional error probabilities

$$P_{\text{false acceptance}} = P[A_1|H_0] \quad , \quad P_{\text{miss}} = P[A_0|H_1]$$

- Total probability of error

$$P_{\text{ERROR}} = P[A_1|H_0]P[H_0] + P[A_0|H_1]P[H_1]$$

# MAP Binary Hypothesis Test

- Binary Hypothesis Test: Observation  $s$
- If we choose  $A_i$ ,

$$P[\text{correct decision}|s] = P[H_i|s]$$

- Minimum  $P_{ERROR}$  rule
  - $s \in A_0$  if  $P[H_0|s] \geq P[H_1|s]$
  - $s \in A_1$  if  $P[H_1|s] > P[H_0|s]$
- A posteriori probabilities:  $P[H_i|s]$ 
  - Just as the a priori probabilities  $P[H_0]$  and  $P[H_1]$  reflect our knowledge of  $H_0$  and  $H_1$  prior to performing an experiment,  $P[H_0|s]$  and  $P[H_1|s]$  reflect our knowledge after observing  $s$ .

# Likelihood Ratio Test

- By Bayes' Theorem,

$$P[H_i|s] = \frac{P[s|H_i]P[H_i]}{P[s]}$$

- The MAP Rule becomes

- $s \in A_0$  if  $\frac{P[s|H_0]P[H_0]}{P[s]} \geq \frac{P[s|H_1]P[H_1]}{P[s]}$

- $s \in A_1$  if  $\frac{P[s|H_1]P[H_1]}{P[s]} > \frac{P[s|H_0]P[H_0]}{P[s]}$

# Likelihood Ratio with RV $X$

- When the sample space of the experiment is the range of the random variable  $X$ , we can express the MAP rule in terms of the conditional PMFs or PDFs of  $X$ .
- For an experiment that produces a continuous random variable  $X$ , the MAP binary hypothesis test is:

$$\blacksquare x \in A_0 \text{ if } \frac{f_{X|H_0}(x)}{f_{X|H_1}(x)} \geq \frac{P[H_1]}{P[H_0]}$$

$$\blacksquare x \in A_1 \text{ if } \frac{f_{X|H_0}(x)}{f_{X|H_1}(x)} < \frac{P[H_1]}{P[H_0]}$$



# Maximum A Posteriori Criterion (MAP): Discrete $X$

- Choose hypothesis that maximizes

$$P[H_i|X = x] = \frac{P[X = x|H_i]P[H_i]}{P[X = x]}$$

i.e., maximize probability of hypothesis given observation

- $P[H_i|X = x]$ , is the **a posteriori probability** of  $H_i$ . It reflects our knowledge after observing  $x$ .

$$\hat{h}_{MAP}(x) = \begin{cases} 0(H_0) & , P[X = x|H_0]P[H_0] \geq P[X = x|H_1]P[H_1] \\ 1(H_1) & , \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\underbrace{\frac{P[X = x|H_0]}{P[X = x|H_1]}}_{\text{likelihood ratio}} \geq \underbrace{\frac{P[H_1]}{P[H_0]}}_{\text{threshold}}$$

- Likelihood ratio:** Evidence, based on observation, in favor of  $H_0$ . If  $> 1 \Rightarrow H_0$  more likely than  $H_1$
- Threshold:** Evidence, prior to performing the experiment, in favor of  $H_1$

# Maximum A Posteriori Criterion (MAP): Discrete $X$ (cont.)

- **Theorem:** MAP criterion minimizes overall probability of error.

$$P_{error} = P[\hat{h}(X) = 1|H_0]P[H_0] + P[\hat{h}(X) = 0|H_1]P[H_1]$$

## Maximum A Posteriori Criterion (MAP): Continuous $X$

$$\hat{h}_{MAP}(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & (H_0) & \frac{f_{X|H_0}(x)}{f_{X|H_1}(x)} \geq \frac{P[H_1]}{P[H_0]} \\ 1 & (H_1) & , \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# MAP Example: Binary Communications System (I)

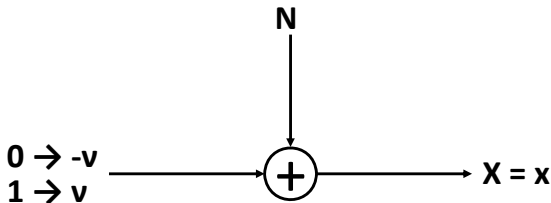
- With probability  $p$ , a binary communications system transmits a “0”.
- It transmits a “1” with probability  $1 - p$ .
- The voltage  $\nu \geq 0$  is the information component of the received signal and  $N$  is the noise component, where  $N \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ .
- The received signal  $X$  is:

$$P[H_0] = p,$$

$$\text{If } H_0, \text{ then } X = -\nu + N$$

$$P[H_1] = 1 - p,$$

$$\text{If } H_1, \text{ then } X = \nu + N$$



# MAP Example: Binary Communications System (II)

- Conditional probability density functions:

$$f_{X|H_0}(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp \left[ -\frac{(x + \nu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right]$$

$$f_{X|H_1}(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp \left[ -\frac{(x - \nu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right]$$

- Likelihood ratio:  $x \in A_0$  if  $\frac{f_{X|H_0}(x)}{f_{X|H_1}(x)} \geq \frac{P[H_1]}{P[H_0]}$

$$\frac{f_{X|H_0}(x)}{f_{X|H_1}(x)} = \exp \left[ -\frac{(x + \nu)^2}{2\sigma^2} + \frac{(x - \nu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right] \stackrel{?}{\geq} \frac{1-p}{p}$$

# MAP Example: Binary Communications System (III)

- Taking  $\ln$  of both sides,

$$\begin{aligned}-\frac{(x + \nu)^2}{2\sigma^2} + \frac{(x - \nu)^2}{2\sigma^2} &\stackrel{?}{\geq} \ln \left( \frac{1 - p}{p} \right) \\ -\frac{4x\nu}{2\sigma^2} &\stackrel{?}{\geq} \ln \left( \frac{1 - p}{p} \right) \\ -\frac{2x\nu}{\sigma^2} &\stackrel{?}{\geq} \ln \left( \frac{1 - p}{p} \right) \\ x &\stackrel{?}{\leq} \frac{\sigma^2}{2\nu} \ln \left( \frac{p}{1 - p} \right)\end{aligned}$$

# MAP Example: Binary Communications System (IV)

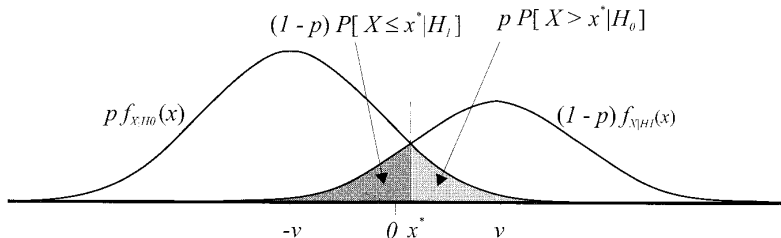
- So,

$$\hat{h}_{MAP}(x) = \begin{cases} 0(H_0) & , x \leq \overbrace{-\frac{\sigma^2}{2\nu} \ln \left( \frac{p}{1-p} \right)}^{x^*} \\ 1(H_1) & , \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# MAP Example: Binary Communications System (V)

- Error probabilities

$$P_{ERROR} = pP[X > x^*|H_0] + (1 - p)P[X \leq x^*|H_1]$$



- The threshold  $x^*$  is the value of  $x$  for which the two likelihood functions, each multiplied by a prior probability, are equal.
- The probability of error equals the sum of the shaded areas.
- Compared to all other decision rules, the threshold  $x^*$  provides the minimum possible error.



# MAP to ML

- Given an observation, we know that the MAP rule minimizes the probability that we accept the wrong hypothesis.
- However, the MAP rule requires that we know the a priori probabilities  $P[H_i]$  of the competing hypotheses.
- In many situations, though, it is difficult to specify a priori probabilities.
- Instead, one might want to treat the hypothesis as some sort of “unknown” and choose a hypothesis  $H_i$  for which  $P[s|H_i]$ , the conditional probability of the outcome  $s$  given the hypothesis  $H_i$  is largest.

# Maximum Likelihood (ML) Criterion

- Choose hypothesis that maximizes likelihood (to avoid making assumptions about the a priori probabilities  $P[H_i]$ ).
- That is, choose the hypothesis that maximizes:

$$P[X = x|H_i], \quad i = 0, 1$$
$$f_{X|H_i}(x), \quad i = 0, 1$$

- That is, choose hypothesis most likely to give the current observation.

$$\hat{x}_{ML}(x) = \begin{cases} 0(H_0) & , P[X = x|H_0] \geq P[X = x|H_1] \\ & (f_{X|H_0}(x) \geq f_{X|H_1}(x)) \\ 1(H_1) & , \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
$$\hat{x}_{ML}(x) = \begin{cases} 0(H_0) & , \frac{f_{X|H_0}(x)}{f_{X|H_1}(x)} \geq 1 \\ 1(H_1) & , \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Maximum Likelihood (ML) Criterion: Remarks

- ML = MAP if  $P[H_0] = P[H_1]$ 
  - i.e., the ML test is the MAP test with  $P[H_0] = P[H_1]$ .
- If the prior information, i.e.,  $P[H_0]$  and  $P[H_1]$  are not known, then we can use ML.
- If  $P[H_0] = P[H_1]$ , the ML minimizes the probability of error.
- In essence, by trying to avoid making a priori assumptions, the ML rule assumes that all hypotheses are equally likely.

# Estimation: Applications

- Measurement, approximation, model fitting
- Pattern matching, learning theory, tracking, control, etc.

# Estimation of a Random Variable

- Minimize  $E[(X - \hat{x}_B)^2]$ .

$$\hat{x}_B$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{x}_B} (E[X^2] - 2E[X]\hat{x}_B + \hat{x}_B^2) = 0$$

$$-2E[X] + 2\hat{x}_B = 0$$

$$\hat{x}_B = E[X]$$

- Minimize  $E[(X - \hat{X}_M(Y))^2]$ .

$$\hat{x}_M(\cdot)$$

# Estimation of a Random Variable: Setup

- Experiment produces an RV  $X$ .
- However, we may be unable to observe  $X$  directly.
- Instead, we observe an event or RV that gives partial information about the sample value of  $X$ .
- Example: Noisy observations:  $Y = X + N$ 
  - We would like to know  $X$ , but it has been corrupted by an RV,  $N$ , and we only have access to RV  $Y = X + N$ .
  - This problem arises all the time in communications systems.
- **Goal:** Find the “best” estimate  $\hat{x}$  for  $X$ .
  - ⇒ Here, “best” will mean minimum expected error

$$\min \underbrace{E[(X - \hat{x})^2]}_{\text{mean square error}}$$

# Estimation of a Random Variable: Estimation Accuracy

- Accuracy measure: mean square error (MSE)

$$e = E[(X - \hat{x})^2]$$

- MSE = one of many definitions of accuracy
- Alternatives:  $E[|X - \hat{x}|]$  or  $\max\{|X - \hat{x}|\}$
- We focus on MSE which is the most widely used accuracy measure because it lends itself to mathematical analysis and often leads to estimates which are convenient to compute.

# Estimation of a Random Variable: Types of Partial Information

- **Case 1:** Blind Estimation: probability model (e.g., PDF or PMF) of  $X$
- **Case 2:** Given an Event: probability model of  $X$  and information that  $x \in A$
- **Case 3:** Given a Random Variable: probability models of  $X$  and  $Y$  and information that  $Y = y$



# Estimation of a Random Variable: Case 1, Blind Estimation

- **Theorem:** Without observations, the minimum mean square error (MSE) estimate of  $X$  is  $\hat{x}_B$ :

$$\min_{\hat{x}} E[(X - \hat{x})^2] \xrightarrow{\frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{x}}()=0} \hat{x}_B = E[X]$$

(B = blind estimation)

- **Alternative Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} E[(X - \hat{x})^2] &= E[((X - \hat{x}_B) + (\hat{x}_B - \hat{x}))^2] \\ &= E[(X - \hat{x}_B)^2 + 2(X - \hat{x}_B)(\hat{x}_B - \hat{x}) + (\hat{x}_B - \hat{x})^2] \\ &= E[(X - \hat{x}_B)^2] + \underbrace{(\hat{x}_B - \hat{x})^2}_{\geq 0} \\ &\geq E[(X - \hat{x}_B)^2] \end{aligned}$$

# Estimation of a Random Variable: Case 2, Given an Event

- Observation:  $x \in A$
- Given  $A$ ,  $X$  has a conditional PDF  $f_{X|A}(x)$ .
- Goal: Minimize  $E[(X - \hat{x})^2|A]$ .
- Same as blind estimation, but  $f_{X|A}(x|A)$  (PDF of  $X$  given  $A$  occurred) replaces  $f_X(x)$ .
- **Theorem:** Given that an event  $x \in A$  occurred, the best (minimum MSE) estimate  $\hat{x}_A$  for  $X$  is

$$\min_{\hat{x}} E[(X - \hat{x})^2|A] \Rightarrow \hat{x}_A = E[X|A]$$

## Estimation of a Random Variable Case 2: Example

- The duration  $T$  minutes of a phone call is an exponential RV with expected value,  $E[T] = 3$  minutes.
  - If we observe that a call has already lasted 2 minutes, what is the minimum mean square error estimate of the call duration?
- .....

- $T \sim \exp(1/3)$  or

$$f_T(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{3}e^{-1/3t} & , t \geq 0 \\ 0 & , \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- If the call is still in progress after 2 minutes, we have  $t \in A = \{T > 2\}$ .
- Therefore, the minimum mean square error estimate of  $T$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{t} &= E[T | T > 2] \\ P[T > 2] &= \int_2^{+\infty} f_T(t) dt = 1 - P[T \leq 2] \\ &= 1 - (1 - e^{-2/3}) \\ &= e^{-2/3} \end{aligned}$$

## Estimation of a Random Variable Case 2: Example

- The duration  $T$  minutes of a phone call is an exponential RV with expected value,  $E[T] = 3$  minutes.
- If we observe that a call has already lasted 2 minutes, what is the minimum mean square error estimate of the call duration?

.....

$$f_{T|B}(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{f_T(t)}{P[B]} = \frac{\frac{1}{3}e^{-1/3t}}{e^{-2/3}} = \frac{1}{3}e^{-\frac{1}{3}(t-2)} & , t > 2 \\ 0 & , \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

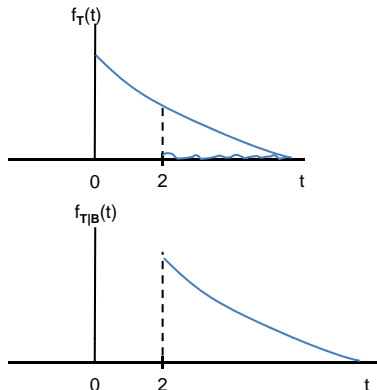
## Estimation of a Random Variable: Case 2, Given an Event: Example (cont.)

- Find  $E[T|T > 2]$ .

$$\begin{aligned} E[T|B] &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} t f_{T|B}(t) dt \\ &= \int_2^{+\infty} t \frac{1}{3} e^{-\frac{1}{3}(t-2)} dt \\ &= 5 \text{ minutes} \end{aligned}$$

Reminder on integration by parts:

$$\int_a^b f(x)g'(x)dx = f(x)g(x)|_a^b - \int_a^b f'(x)g(x)dx$$



# Estimation of a Random Variable: Case 3, Given a Random Variable (I)

- For observation  $Y = y$ , assign  $\hat{x}$  near  $X$ .
- $\hat{x}$  is a function of sample value  $y$ :  $\hat{x}_M(y)$
- $\hat{x}_M(y)$  is a sample value of the RV  $\hat{X}_M(Y)$ .
- The squared error is  $(X - \hat{X}_M(Y))^2$ , a function of RVs  $X$  and  $Y$ .

# Estimation of a Random Variable: Case 3, Given a Random Variable (II)

- Given a random variable  $Y$ , find the best estimate for  $X$ .
- **Theorem:** Given  $Y = y$ , the best (minimum MSE) estimate for  $X$  is  $\hat{x}_M(y)$ :

$$\min_{\hat{x}} E[(X - \hat{x})^2 | Y = y] \Rightarrow \hat{x}_M(y) = E[X | Y = y]$$

# Estimation of a Random Variable: Case 3, Given a Random Variable (III)

- **Theorem:** Suppose we would like to find the best estimator function of  $X$  given  $Y$ .

$$\min_{g(\cdot)} E[(X - g(Y))^2]$$

- Recall from the “Multiple Continuous Random Variables” lecture,

$$E[E[g(X, Y)|Y]] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} E[g(X, Y)|Y = y]f_Y(y)dy = E[g(X, Y)]$$

- Note that:

$$E[(X - g(Y))^2] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} E[(X - g(Y))^2|Y = y]f_Y(y)dy$$

(We can minimize these terms by letting  $\underline{g(y)} = E[X|Y = y]$ .)

- The optimal estimator function is given by  $\hat{x}_M(\cdot)$ .



# Estimation of a Random Variable: Case 3, Given a Random Variable (IV)

- **Notation:** The best estimate for  $X$  given  $Y$  is

$$\hat{x}_M(Y) = E[X|Y] = \hat{X}_M(Y)$$

- **Theorem:** The **conditional expectation** of  $X$  given  $Y$ ,  $E[X|Y]$  is the minimum mean square error (MMSE) estimator for  $X$  given  $Y$ .
- **Example:**
  - $R$  uniform on  $[0, 1]$ . Given  $R = r$ ,  $X$  uniform on  $[0, r]$ .
  - Find  $\hat{X}_M(R)$ .

.....

- From the problem statement,

$$f_{X|R}(x|r) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{r} & , 0 \leq x \leq r \\ 0 & , \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Estimation of a Random Variable: Case 3, Given a Random Variable (V)

- **Example:** continued:

- The MMSE estimate of  $X$ , given  $R = r$  is

$$\hat{x}_M(R) = E[X|R = r] = \int_0^r x \cdot \frac{1}{r} dx = \frac{1}{r} \frac{x^2}{2} \Big|_{x=0}^{x=r} = r/2$$

- The MMSE estimator is  $\hat{X}_M(R) = R/2$ .
- If we want to find  $\hat{R}_M(X)$ , we need to find the conditional PDF  $f_{R|X}(r|x)$ :

$$f_{R|X}(r|x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{-r \ln x} & , 0 \leq x \leq r \leq 1 \\ 0 & , \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- The MMSE estimator is  $\hat{r}_M(X) = E[R|X = x]$ :

$$\hat{r}_M(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} r f_{R|X}(r|x) dr = \int_x^1 r \frac{1}{-r \ln x} dr = \frac{x-1}{\ln(x)}$$

- That is,  $\hat{R}_M(X) = \frac{X-1}{\ln(X)}$ .

# Estimation of a Random Variable: Case 3, Given a Random Variable (VI)

- In practice,  $\hat{X}_M(Y) = E[X|Y]$  is impractical (hard to compute) for most uses.
- So, we resort to the linear estimator for  $X$  given  $Y$  (e.g.,  $\hat{x}_L(Y) = aY + b$ ).