

Set 44 Let X be a discrete random variable, and let A and B be two disjoint (that is, $A \cap B = \emptyset$) and exhaustive (that is, $A \cup B = \Omega$) subsets of the sample space Ω . Prove

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X|A]\mathbb{P}(A) + \mathbb{E}[X|B]\mathbb{P}(B)$$

The law of total expectation states that,

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_i^n \mathbb{E}[X|Y_i] * \mathbb{P}(Y_i)$$

Where Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n are portions of the whole space Ω . Next, we know that A and B are the partitions that form Ω , therefore,

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_i^n \mathbb{E}[X|Y_i] * \mathbb{P}(Y_i)$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X|Y_0] * \mathbb{P}(Y_0) + \mathbb{E}[X|Y_1] * \mathbb{P}(Y_1)$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X|A] * \mathbb{P}(A) + \mathbb{E}[X|B] * \mathbb{P}(B)$$