

Dr. Katherine Davies

# STATS 3D03

## Course Notes

Recorded and adapted by Zachary Lucier

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# 1 Review

We begin our discussion of mathematical statistics with a review of concepts from previous courses. One of these key concepts is that of probability.

## 1.1 Probability

Recall that a **sample space**  $\Omega$  is the set of all possible outcomes of an experiment. Subsets of  $\Omega$  are called **events** and the collection of all events is denoted by  $\mathcal{F}$ .

**Definition 1.1** (probability set function). Let  $\Omega$  be a sample space and let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the collection of all events. Let  $P : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a real-valued function. Then  $P$  is a **probability set function** (also referred to as **probability measure**, **probability distribution** or simply **probability**) if it satisfies the following three conditions:

1.  $0 \leq P(A) \leq 1$ , for all  $A \in \mathcal{F}$ .
2.  $P(\Omega) = 1$  and  $P(\emptyset) = 0$ .
3. If  $\{A_n\}$  is a sequence of events in  $\mathcal{F}$  and  $A_m \cap A_n = \emptyset$  for all  $m \neq n$ , then

$$P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(A_i)$$

In order to formalize quantities which depend on random events, we reintroduce the concept of a random variable and its support.

**Definition 1.2** (random variable). Let  $\Omega$  be a sample space. A **random variable** is a function from  $\Omega$  into the real numbers. The **support** (also called **space** or **range**) of  $X$  is the set of real numbers  $\mathcal{S} = \{x : x = X(\omega), \omega \in \Omega\}$ .

In cases where  $\mathcal{S}$  is a countable set, we say that  $X$  is a **discrete random variable**. The set  $\mathcal{S}$  may also be an interval of real numbers, in which case we say that  $X$  is a **continuous random variable**.

Given a random variable  $X$ , its support  $\mathcal{S}$  becomes the sample space of interest. Besides inducing the sample space  $\mathcal{S}$ ,  $X$  also induces a probability which we call the **distribution** of  $X$ .

The probability distribution of a discrete random variable is described completely in terms of its probability mass function and its support.

**Definition 1.3 (pmf).** Let  $X$  be a discrete random variable with support  $\mathcal{S}$ . The **probability mass function** (pmf) of  $X$   $p_X$  is given by

$$p_X(x) = P(X = x), \text{ for } x \in \mathcal{S}.$$

Similarly, the probability distribution of a continuous random variable is described completely in terms of its probability density function and its support.

**Definition 1.4 (pdf).** Let  $X$  be a continuous random variable with support  $\mathcal{S}$ . The **probability density function** (pdf) of  $X$  is a function  $f_X$  that satisfies

$$P(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f_X(t) dt$$

for all  $x \in \mathcal{S}$ .

The pmf of a discrete random variable and the pdf of a continuous random variable are quite different entities. The cumulative distribution function, though, uniquely determines the probability distribution of a random variable.

**Definition 1.5 (cdf).** Let  $X$  be a random variable. Then its **cumulative distribution function** (cdf) is defined by  $F_X(x)$ , where

$$F_X(x) = P(X \leq x).$$

## 1.2 Expectation

One of the most important measures associated with random variables is that of expectation.

**Definition 1.6 (expectation).** Let  $X$  be a random variable with support  $\mathcal{S}$ . If  $X$  is a *continuous* random variable with pdf  $f(x)$  and

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x|f(x) dx$$

is finite, then the **expectation** of  $X$ , denoted  $E(X)$  is defined as

$$E(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xf(x) dx.$$

If  $X$  is a *discrete* random variable with pmf  $p(x)$  and

$$\sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}} |x|p(x)$$

is finite, then the **expectation** of  $X$  is defined as

$$E(X) = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}} xp(x).$$

Sometimes the expectation  $E(X)$  is called the **expected value** of  $X$  or the **mean** of  $X$ . When the mean designation is used, we often denote the expected value by  $\mu$ .

**Theorem 1.1** (Law of the unconscious statistician). Let  $X$  be a random variable with support  $\mathcal{S}_X$  and let  $Y = g(X)$  for some real-valued function  $g$ .

(a) Suppose  $X$  is discrete with pmf  $p_X(x)$ . If

$$\sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}_X} |g(x)|p_X(x)$$

is finite, then the expectation of  $Y$  exists and is given by

$$E(Y) = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}_X} g(x)p_X(x).$$

(b) Suppose  $X$  is continuous with pdf  $f_X(x)$ . If

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |g(x)|f_X(x) dx$$

is finite, then the expectation of  $Y$  exists and is given by

$$E(Y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x)f_X(x) dx.$$

An important application of the above theorem shows that expectation is *linear*. That is,  $E(aX +$

$b) = aE(X) + b$ . It is a useful exercise to show that this is the case. Furthermore, this property can be generalized for  $a_1, \dots, a_k$  real numbers and  $g_1, \dots, g_k$  real-valued functions.

$$E(a_1 g_1(X) + \dots + a_k g_k(X)) = a_1 E(g_1(X)) + \dots + a_k E(g_k(X))$$

### 1.3 Moments

Expectation allows us to define a countably infinite number of measures associated with random variables, called moments.

**Definition 1.7 (moment).** Suppose  $X$  is a random variable and  $m$  is a positive integer. The  $m$ th **moment** of  $X$  is defined to be  $E(X^m)$ , provided this expectation exists.

As such, the first moment of a random variable is simply its **mean**  $\mu$ . It is often useful to think about moments about the mean  $E((X - \mu)^m)$ . We call these **central moments**.

The second central moment should be familiar to you as the **variance**  $\sigma^2$ . It has the following equivalent formulation which is computationally useful.

$$\text{Var}(X) = E(X^2) - E(X)^2$$

This can be found using the linearity of expectation.

We call the third central moment the **skewness** and call the fourth central moment the **kurtosis**.

**Definition 1.8 (mgf).** Let  $X$  be a random variable such that for some  $h > 0$ , the expectation of  $e^{tX}$  exists for  $-h < t < h$ . The **moment generating function** (mgf) of  $X$  is defined to be the function  $M_X(t) = E(e^{tX})$  for  $-h < t < h$ .

Clearly,  $M_X(0) = 1$  for any random variable. Not every random variable has a mgf. For example, the mgf of the Cauchy Distribution with pdf  $f(x) = \frac{1}{\pi(1+x^2)}$  is not defined. It can be shown that if the mgf of a random variable exists, then all of its moments exist.

**Theorem 1.2.** Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be random variables with mgfs  $M_X$  and  $M_Y$ , respectively, existing in open intervals about 0. Then  $F_X(z) = F_Y(z)$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{R}$  if and only if  $M_X(t) = M_Y(t)$  in an open interval about 0.

**Theorem 1.3.** Let  $X$  be a random variable with mgf  $M_X$ , and let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  be fixed. Then the mgf of  $Y = aX + b$  also exists and is given by

$$M_Y(t) = e^{bt} M_X(at).$$

**Theorem 1.4.** Suppose  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent random variables with mgfs  $M_X$  and  $M_Y$ . Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  be fixed and define  $Z = aX + bY$ . Then the mgf of  $Z$  exists in an open interval about 0 and is given by

$$M_Z(t) = M_X(at)M_Y(bt).$$

**Theorem 1.5.** Suppose  $X$  is a random variable with mgf  $M_X$  and let  $M_X^{(m)}(t) = \frac{d^m}{dt^m} M_X(t)$ . Then the  $m$ th moment of  $X$  is given by

$$E(X^m) = M_X^{(m)}(0).$$

The above theorem should make clear why we call mgfs as such. The proof is reliant on the Taylor expansion of  $e^{tX}$ . We use the linearity of expectation, which will be stated formally in a later section.

$$\begin{aligned} M_X(t) &= E(e^{tX}) \\ &= E\left(\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^n}{n!} X^n\right) \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^n}{n!} E(X^n) \end{aligned}$$

## 1.4 Distributions

We reintroduce some special distributions, starting with those of the discrete kind.

**Definition 1.9** (binomial random variable). Assume a sequence of  $n$  Bernoulli trials each with probability of success  $p$  and let  $X$  be the number of successes. Then  $X$  is a

**binomial random variable** with pmf

$$p_X(x) = \begin{cases} \binom{n}{x} p^x (1-p)^{n-x} & \text{for } x = 0, 1, \dots, n \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

We write  $X \sim b(n, p)$ .

If  $X \sim b(n, p)$ ,  $X$  has support  $\{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ , mean  $\mu = np$ , variance  $\sigma^2 = np(1-p)$  and mgf  $M_X(t) = (1-p+pe^t)^n$ .

**Definition 1.10 (negative binomial random variable).** Assume a sequence of Bernoulli trials each with probability of success  $p$  is performed until the  $r$ th success occurs. Let  $Y$  be the number of trials required. Then  $Y$  is a **negative binomial random variable** with pmf

$$p_Y(y) = \begin{cases} \binom{y+r-1}{y-1} p^r (1-p)^y & \text{for } y = 0, 1, \dots \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

We write  $Y \sim nb(r, p)$ .

If  $Y \sim nb(r, p)$ ,  $Y$  has support  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , mean  $\mu = \frac{pr}{1-p}$ , variance  $\sigma^2 = \frac{pr}{(1-p)^2}$  and mgf  $M_Y(t) = \left(\frac{1-p}{1-pe^t}\right)^r$  with  $t < -\ln p$ .

Taking  $r = 1$ , we obtain the geometric distribution.

**Definition 1.11 (Poisson random variable).** A discrete random variable  $X$  is a **Poisson random variable** if its pmf has the form

$$p_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\lambda^x e^{-\lambda}}{x!} & \text{for } x = 0, 1, \dots \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ . We write  $X \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda)$ .

If  $X \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda)$ ,  $X$  has support  $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , mean  $\mu = \lambda$ , variance  $\sigma^2 = \lambda$  and mgf  $M_X(t) = \exp(\lambda(e^t - 1))$ .

We now recall some continuous distributions.



**Definition 1.12** (uniform random variable). A continuous random variable  $X$  is said to be a **uniform random variable** if it has pdf

$$p_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{b-a} & \text{for } x \in [a, b] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  are fixed. We write  $X \sim U(a, b)$ .

If  $X \sim U(a, b)$ ,  $X$  has support  $[a, b]$ , mean  $\mu = \frac{a+b}{2}$ , variance  $\sigma^2 = \frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$  and mgf  $M_X(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{e^{tb} - e^{ta}}{t(b-a)} & \text{for } t \neq 0 \\ 1 & \text{for } t = 0 \end{cases}$ .

**Definition 1.13** (normal random variable). A continuous random variable  $X$  is said to be a **normal random variable** with parameters  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\sigma^2 > 0$  if its pdf has the form

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right)^2}.$$

We write  $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ .

If  $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ ,  $X$  has support  $\mathbb{R}$ , mean  $\mu$ , variance  $\sigma^2$  and mgf  $M_X(t) = e^{\mu t + \frac{\sigma^2 t^2}{2}}$ .

The derivation of this mgf is left as an exercise.

**Theorem 1.6.** Let  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  be IID random variables such that  $X_i \sim N(\mu_i, \sigma_i^2)$  for each  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Let  $Y = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i X_i$  for some set of real constants  $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$ . Then  $Y$  is also normally distributed with

$$E(Y) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \mu_i \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Var}(Y) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2 \sigma_i^2.$$

**Definition 1.14** (gamma random variable). A continuous random variable  $X$  is said to

be a **gamma random variable** with parameters  $\alpha, \beta > 0$  if its pdf has the form

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} x^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta x} & \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}_{>0} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$

We write  $X \sim \Gamma(\alpha, \beta)$ .

Taking  $\alpha = 1$  yields the exponential distribution.

If  $X \sim \Gamma(\alpha, \beta)$ ,  $X$  has support  $\mathbb{R}_{>0}$ , mean  $\mu = \frac{\alpha}{\beta}$ , variance  $\sigma^2 = \frac{\alpha}{\beta^2}$  and mgf  $M_X(t) = \left(1 - \frac{t}{\beta}\right)^{-\alpha}$  for  $t < \beta$ .

**Definition 1.15 (beta random variable).** A continuous random variable  $X$  is said to be a **beta random variable** with parameters  $\alpha, \beta > 0$  if its pdf has the form

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^{\alpha-1}(1-x)^{\beta-1}}{B(\alpha, \beta)} & \text{for } x \in (0, 1) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where  $B(\alpha, \beta) = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)}$ . We write  $X \sim \text{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)$ .

If  $X \sim \text{Beta}(\alpha, \beta)$ ,  $X$  has support  $(0, 1)$ , mean  $\mu = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha+\beta}$ , variance  $\sigma^2 = \frac{\alpha\beta}{(\alpha+\beta)^2(\alpha+\beta+1)}$  and mgf  $M_X(t) = 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \left( \prod_{r=0}^{k-1} \frac{\alpha+r}{\alpha+\beta+r} \right) \frac{t^k}{k!}$ .

## 2 Multivariate distributions

We will often want to deal with more than one variable based on the same random experiment.

**Definition 2.1 (random vector).** Consider a random experiment with sample space  $\Omega$ . Let  $X_1, X_2 : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be random variables. We say that  $(X_1, X_2)$  is a **random vector**. The support of  $(X_1, X_2)$  is the set of ordered pairs  $\chi = \{(x_1, x_2) : X_1(\omega) = x_1, X_2(\omega) = x_2, \omega \in \Omega\}$ .

### 2.1 Joint distributions

Of particular interest are events of the form  $(X_1 \leq x_1) \cap (X_2 \leq x_2)$  for  $(x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .

**Definition 2.2 (joint cdf).** Suppose that  $(X_1, X_2)$  is a random vector. The **joint cdf** of  $(X_1, X_2)$ , is the function  $F_{X_1, X_2}$  defined as

$$F_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) = P(X_1 \leq x_1, X_2 \leq x_2).$$

From here we can extend the univariate case for the probability over intervals to rectangular subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

**Theorem 2.1 (Rectangular probability formula).** Suppose that the random vector  $(X_1, X_2)$  has joint cdf  $F_{X_1, X_2}$  and let  $a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2 \in \mathbb{R}$  be such that  $a_1 < b_1$  and  $a_2 < b_2$ . Then

$$P((X_1, X_2) \in [a_1, b_1] \times [a_2, b_2]) = F_{X_1, X_2}(b_1, b_2) - F_{X_1, X_2}(a_1, b_2) - F_{X_1, X_2}(b_1, a_2) + F_{X_1, X_2}(a_1, a_2).$$

Recall that, in general, random variables can be of the discrete type or of the continuous type. We extend this idea to random vectors.

A random vector  $(X_1, X_2)$  is said to be **discrete** if its support  $\chi$  is countable. In this case both  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are discrete random variables. It thus makes sense to define pmfs for discrete random vectors.

**Definition 2.3 (joint pmf).** Let  $(X_1, X_2)$  be a discrete random vector. Then the **joint pmf** of  $(X_1, X_2)$ , is the function  $p_{X_1, X_2}$  given by

$$p_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) = P(X_1 = x_1, X_2 = x_2).$$

As in the univariate case, this joint pmf satisfies the following properties.

1.  $0 \leq p_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) \leq 1$  for all  $(x_1, x_2) \in \chi$ .
2.  $\sum_{(x_1, x_2) \in \chi} p_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) = 1$ .

**Example 2.1.** Suppose two dice are rolled. Let  $X$  denote the number of dots facing up on the first die and  $Y$  the number of dots on the second die. Also, let  $W = \max(X, Y)$ . We would like to find the joint pmf of the random vector  $(X, W)$  and the probability that  $X = W$ .

*Solution.* Let  $\chi$  denote the support of  $(X, W)$ . It is clear that  $\chi = \{1, \dots, 6\} \times \{1, \dots, 6\}$ .

The joint pmf  $p_{X, W}$  of  $(X, W)$  can be summarized by the following table.

$W/X$	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	$\frac{1}{36}$	0	0	0	0	0
2	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	0	0	0	0
3	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{3}{36}$	0	0	0
4	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{4}{36}$	0	0
5	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{5}{36}$	0
6	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{6}{36}$

It is clearly the case that  $0 \leq p_{X, W}(x, w) \leq 1$  and  $\sum_{(x, w) \in \chi} p_{X, W}(x, w) = 1$ .

We can now find the probability that  $X = W$ . That is, that the first die has the larger number of dots. We sum along the diagonal of the above table.

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\substack{(x, w) \in \chi \\ x=w}} p_{X, W}(x, w) &= \frac{1}{36} + \frac{2}{36} + \dots + \frac{6}{36} \\ &= \frac{7}{12} \end{aligned}$$

If the joint cdf  $F_{X_1, X_2}$  of a random vector  $(X_1, X_2)$  is continuous, then we say that  $(X_1, X_2)$  is

**continuous.** Similarly to a joint pmf, we can also define a joint pdf.

**Definition 2.4 (joint pdf).** Let  $(X_1, X_2)$  be a continuous random vector. Then the **joint pdf** of  $(X_1, X_2)$  is the function  $f_{X_1, X_2}$  satisfying

$$F_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) = \int_{-\infty}^{x_2} \int_{-\infty}^{x_1} f_{X_1, X_2}(u, v) \, du \, dv$$

for all  $(x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .

As in the univariate case, the joint pdf satisfies the following properties.

1.  $f_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) \geq 0$  for all  $(x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .
2.  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X_1, X_2}(u, v) \, du \, dv = 1$ .

Often times, we will want to obtain the distributions of the random variables  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  from the joint distribution of  $(X_1, X_2)$ .

Given the above setup, we may obtain the **marginal cdf** of  $X_1$  from the following equivalent formulations.

$$\begin{aligned} F_{X_1} &= P(X_1 \leq x_1) \\ &= P(X_1 \leq x_1, -\infty < X_2 < \infty) \\ &= \lim_{x_2 \rightarrow \infty} P(X_1 \leq x_1, X_2 \leq x_2) \\ &= \lim_{x_2 \rightarrow \infty} F_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) \end{aligned}$$

We may also find **marginal pmfs** and **marginal pdfs**.

If  $(X_1, X_2)$  is a discrete random vector, then

$$\begin{aligned} p_{X_1}(x_1) &= P(X_1 = x_1) \\ &= \sum_{x_2} p_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) \end{aligned}$$

If  $(X_1, X_2)$  is a continuous random vector, then

$$f_{X_1}(x_1) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) \, dx_2$$

**Example 2.2.** We revisit the previous example. We would like to find the marginal pmf of  $W$ .

*Solution.* We apply the definition.

$W$	$p_W(w)$
1	$\frac{1}{36}$
2	$\frac{3}{36}$
3	$\frac{5}{36}$
4	$\frac{7}{36}$
5	$\frac{9}{36}$
6	$\frac{11}{36}$

**Example 2.3.** Consider the joint pdf of  $(X, Y)$  to be

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = \begin{cases} cxy^2 & \text{for } 0 \leq x \leq 2, 0 \leq y \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

We would like to find the value of  $c$  such that  $f_{X,Y}$  is a valid pdf. We would then like to find the marginal pdfs.

*Solution.* For  $f_{X,Y}$  to be valid, we require it to be non-negative and it must integrate to 1. The second property will be used to determine  $c$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 \int_0^2 cxy^2 \, dx \, dy &= 1 \\ c \int_0^1 y^2 \int_0^2 x \, dx \, dy &= 1 \\ c \left( \frac{1}{3} \right) (2) &= 1 \\ \frac{2}{3}c &= 1 \\ c &= \frac{3}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Such a  $c$  makes  $f_{X,Y}$  a valid pdf.

We first find the marginal pdf of  $X$ .

$$\begin{aligned} f_X(x) &= \int_0^1 \frac{3}{2}xy^2 \, dy \\ &= \frac{3}{2}x \int_0^1 y^2 \, dy \\ &= \frac{x}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So } f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x}{2} & \text{for } 0 \leq x \leq 2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

We leave the marginal pdf of  $Y$  as an exercise.

## 2.2 Expectation

Expectations in the multivariate case are easily extended from the univariate case to random vectors.

**Theorem 2.2** (Law of the unconscious statistician (multivariate)). Let  $(X_1, X_2)$  be a random vector and let  $Y = g(X_1, X_2)$  for some real-valued function  $g$ . Then  $Y$  is a random variable and we have the following.

(a) Suppose  $(X_1, X_2)$  is discrete with pmf  $p_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2)$ . If

$$\sum_{x_1} \sum_{x_2} |g(x_1, x_2)| p_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2)$$

is finite, then the expectation of  $Y$  exists and is given by

$$E(Y) = \sum_{x_1} \sum_{x_2} g(x_1, x_2) p_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2).$$

(b) Suppose  $(X_1, X_2)$  is continuous with pdf  $f_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2)$ . If

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |g(x_1, x_2)| f_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) \, dx_1 \, dx_2$$

is finite, then the expectation of  $Y$  exists and is given by

$$E(Y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x_1, x_2) f_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) \, dx_1 \, dx_2.$$

We can now that expectation is a linear operator.

**Theorem 2.3 (Linearity of expectation).** Let  $(X_1, X_2)$  be a random vector and let  $Y_1 = g_1(X_1, X_2)$  and  $Y_2 = g_2(X_1, X_2)$  be random variables for some real-valued functions  $g_1$  and  $g_2$ . Suppose that both  $E(Y_1)$  and  $E(Y_2)$  exist. Then for all  $k_1, k_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$E(k_1 Y_1 + k_2 Y_2) = k_1 E(Y_1) + k_2 E(Y_2).$$

*Proof.* We prove for the discrete case.

We show absolute convergence using the triangle inequality.

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{x_1} \sum_{x_2} |k_1 g_1(x_1, x_2) + k_2 g_2(x_1, x_2)| p_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) &\leq |k_1| \sum_{x_1} \sum_{x_2} |g_1(x_1, x_2)| p_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) \\ &\quad + |k_2| \sum_{x_1} \sum_{x_2} |g_2(x_1, x_2)| p_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) \end{aligned}$$

But  $E(Y_1)$  and  $E(Y_2)$  exist, so the above is finite and  $E(k_1 Y_1 + k_2 Y_2)$  exists.

$$\begin{aligned} E(k_1 Y_1 + k_2 Y_2) &= \sum_{x_1} \sum_{x_2} (k_1 g_1(x_1, x_2) + k_2 g_2(x_1, x_2)) p_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) \\ &= k_1 \sum_{x_1} \sum_{x_2} g_1(x_1, x_2) p_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) + k_2 \sum_{x_1} \sum_{x_2} g_2(x_1, x_2) p_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) \\ &= k_1 E(Y_1) + k_2 E(Y_2) \end{aligned}$$

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