EE361: SIGNALS AND SYSTEMS II

CH2: RANDOM VARIABLES

http://www.ee.unlv.edu/~b1morris/ee361

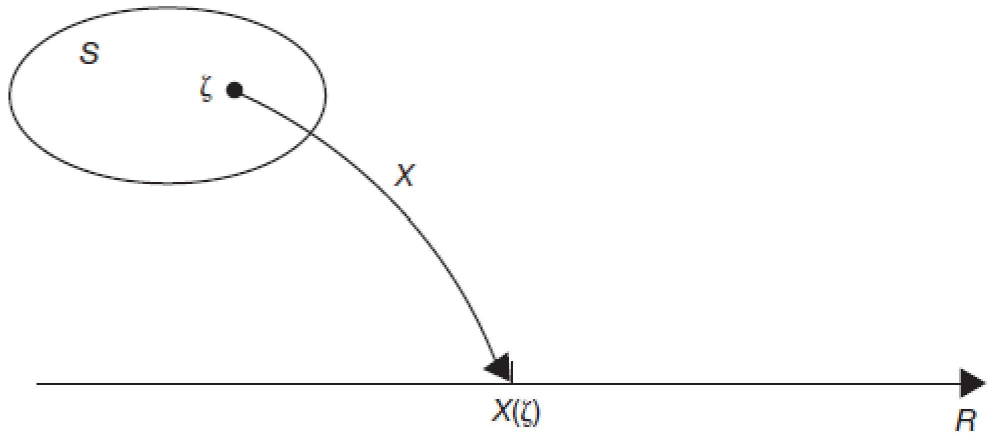
INTRODUCTION

- A Random Variable is a function that maps an event to a probability (real value)

- Will use distribution functions to describe the functional mapping
  - Example: your score on the midterm is a random variable and the Gaussian distribution explains the probability you achieved a certain value (e.g. 70/100)

RANDOM VARIABLE

- $X(\xi)$ is a single-valued real function that assigns a real number (value) to each sample point (outcome) in a sample space S
  - Often just use X for simplicity
  - This is a function (mapping) from sample space S (domain of X) to values (range)
  - This is a many-to-one mapping
    - Different ξ_i may have same value $X(\xi_i)$, but two values cannot come from same outcome



EVENTS DEFINED BY RVS

- Event
  - $(X = x) = \{\xi : X(\xi) = x\}$
  - RV X value is x, a fixed real number
- Similarly,
  - $(x_1 < X \leq X_2) = \{\xi : x_1 < X(\xi) \leq x_2\}$
- Probability of event
  - $P(X = x) = P\{\xi : X(\xi) = x\}$

EXAMPLE: COIN TOSS 3 TIMES

- Sample space $S = \{HHH, HHT, \ldots, TTT\}$, $|S| = 2^3 = 8$
- Define RV X as the number of heads after the three tosses
- Find $P(X = 2)$
  - Event A: $(X = 2) = \{\xi : X(\xi) = 2\} = \{\text{HHT}, \text{HTH}, \text{HTT}\}$
  - By equally likely events
    - $P(A) = P(X = 2) = \frac{|A|}{|S|} = \frac{3}{8}$
- Find $P(X < 2)$
  - Event B: $(X < 2) = \{\xi : X(\xi) < 2\} = \{\text{HTT}, \text{THT}, \text{HTT}, \text{TTT}\}$ (1 or less heads)
  - By equally likely events
    - $P(B) = P(X < 2) = \frac{|B|}{|S|} = \frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$

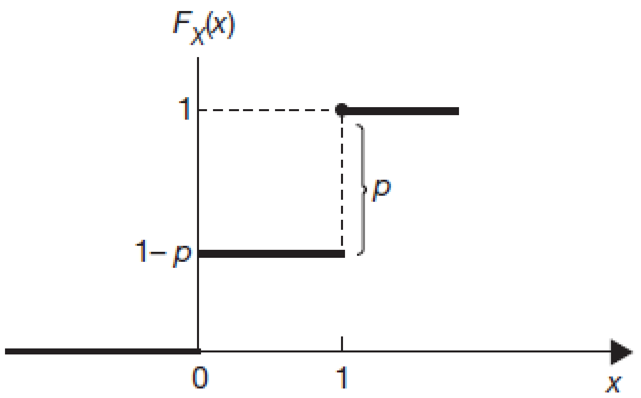
CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION (CDF)

- $F_X(x) = P(X \leq x) \qquad -\infty < x < \infty$
  - F – the CDF
  - X – the RV of interest
  - x – the value the RV will take

- Note: this is an increasing (non-decreasing) function

CDF PROPERTIES

- 1) $0 \leq F_X(x) \leq 1$
  - Must be less than some maximal value
- 2) $F_X(x_1) \leq F_X(x_2) \qquad \text{if } x_1 < x_2$
  - Non-decreasing function
- …
- 5) $\lim_{x \to a^+} F_X(x) = F_X(a^+) = F_X(x)$
  with $a^+ = \lim_{0 < \epsilon \to 0} a + \epsilon$
  - Continuous from the right



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EXAMPLE: 3 COIN TOSS AGAIN

- X – number of heads in three tosses

x (value)	Event ($X \leq x$)	# elements	$F_X(x)$
-1	$\emptyset$	0	0
0	{TTT}	1 (1 + 0)	$\frac{1}{8}$
1			
2			
3			
4			

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-1	∅	0	0
0	{TTT}	**1** (1 + 0)	$\frac{1}{8}$
1	{HTT, THT, TTH, **TTT**}	4 (3+**1**)	$\frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$
2			
3			
4			

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0	{TTT}	1 (1 + 0)	$\frac{1}{8}$
1	{HTT, THT, TTH, TTT}	**4** (3+1)	$\frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$
2	{HHT, HTH, THH, **HTT, THT, TTH, TTT**}	7 (3 + **4**)	$\frac{7}{8}$
3			
4			

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2	{HHT, HTH, THH, HTT, THT, TTH, TTT}	**7** (3 + 4)	$\frac{7}{8}$
3	{HHH, **HHT, HTH, THH, HTT, THT, TTH, TTT**}	8 (1 + **7**)	1
4	S	8 (0 + 8)	1

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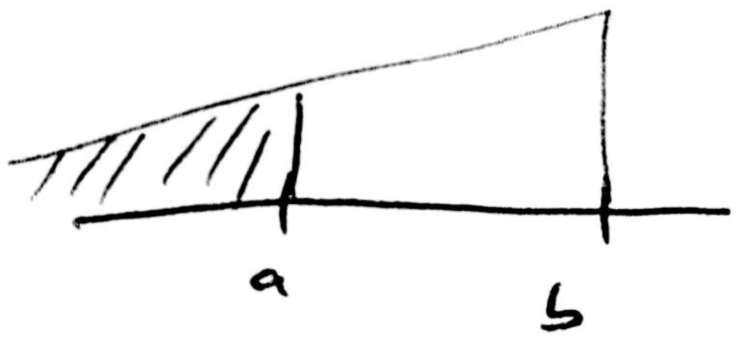
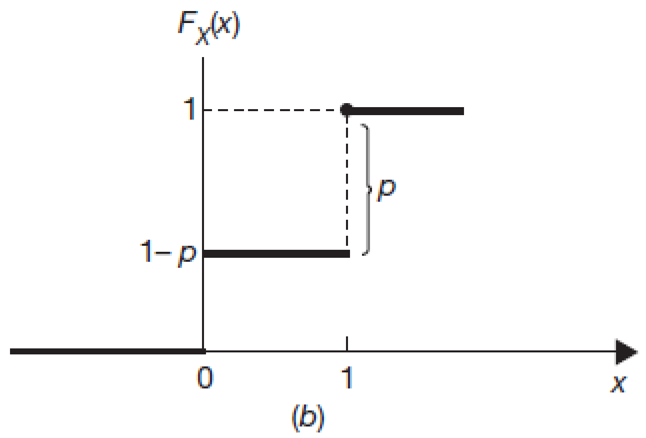
3	{HHH, HHT, HTH, THH, HTT, THT, TTH, TTT}	8 (1 + 7)	1
4	S	8 (0 + 8)	1

PROBABILITIES FROM CDF

- Completely specify probabilities from a CDF
- 1) $P(a < X \leq b) = F_X(b) - F_X(a)$
  $= P(X \leq b) - P(X \leq a)$

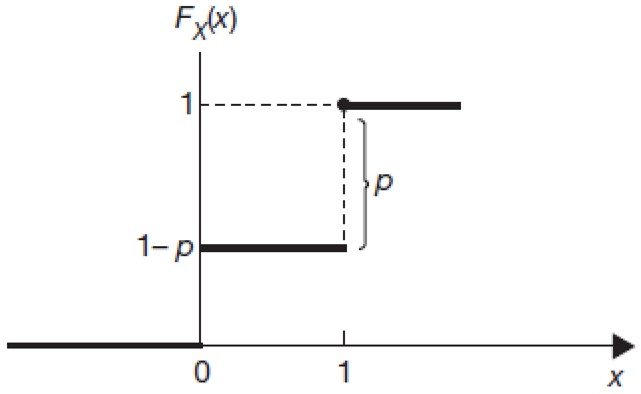


- 2) $P(X > a) = 1 - F_X(a)$
- 3) $P(X < b) = F_X(b^-)$
  - $b^- = \lim_{0<\epsilon\to 0} b - \epsilon$
  - Approach from the left side



DISCRETE RV

- X is RV with CDF $F_X(x)$ and $F_X(x)$ only changes in jumps (countably many) and is constant between jumps
  - Range of X contains a finite (countably infinite) number of points



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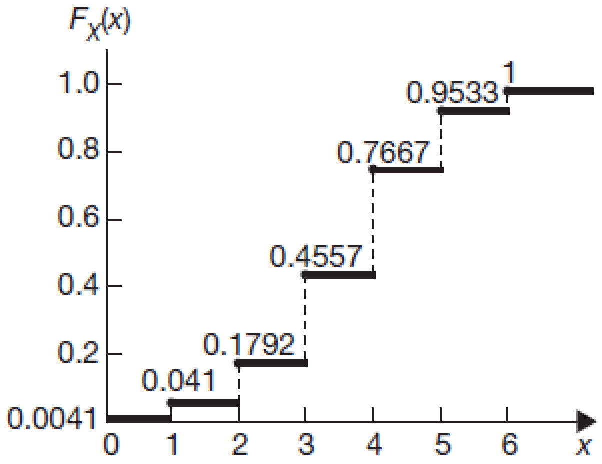

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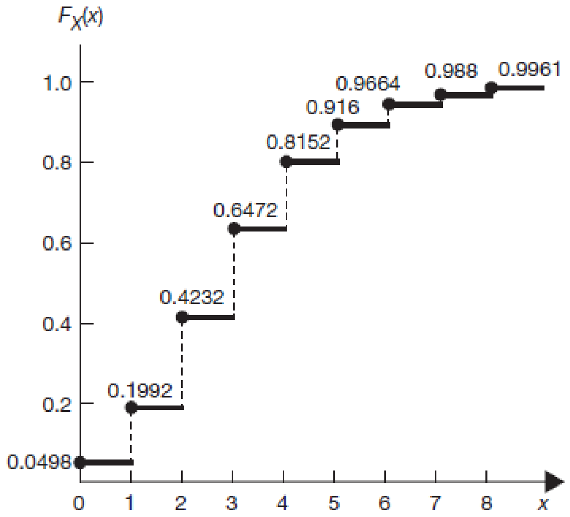

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PROBABILITY MASS FUNCTION (PMF)

- Given jumps in discrete RV @ points $x_1, x_2, \ldots$ and $x_i < x_j$ for $i < j$
  - $p_X(x) = F_X(x_i) - F_X(x_{i-1})$
    $= P(X \le x_i) - P(X \le x_{i-1}) = P(X = x_i)$
- 3 Coin toss example

x (value)	# elements	$F_X(x)$	$p_X(x)$	Discussion
1	4 (3+1)	$\frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$	$p_X(1) = \frac{4}{8} - \frac{1}{8} = \frac{3}{8}$	<how much more needed from previous value>
2	7 (3 + 4)	$\frac{7}{8}$	$p_X(2) = \frac{7}{8} - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{8}$	3 extra outcomes
3	8 (1 + 7)	1	$p_X(3) = 1 - \frac{7}{8} = \frac{1}{8}$	1 extra outcome

PMF PROPERTIES

- 1) $0 \leq p_X(x_k) \leq 1 \quad\quad k = 1, 2, \ldots$ (finite set of values)
- 2) $p_X(x) = 0$ if $x \neq x_k$ (a value that cannot occur)
- 3) $\sum_k p_X(x_k) = 1$

- CDF from PMF
  - $F_X(x) = P(X \leq x) = \sum_{x_k \leq x} p_X(x_k)$
  - Accumulation of probability mass

CONTINUOUS RV

- X is RV with CDF $F_X(x)$ continuous and has a derivative $\frac{dF_X(x)}{dx}$ exists
  - Range contains an interval of real numbers
- Note: $P(X = x) = 0$
  - There is zero probability for a particular continuous outcome → only over a range of values

PROBABILITY DENSITY FUNCTION (PDF)

- $f_X(x) = \frac{dF_X(x)}{dx}$ pdf of X
- Properties
- 1) $f_X(x) \geq 0$
- 2) $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x)dx = 1$
- 3) $f_X(x)$ is piecewise continuous
- 4) $P(a < X \leq b) = \int_a^b f_X(x)dx$
  $= P(a \leq X \leq b)$
  $= F_X(b) - F_X(a)$
- CDF from PDF
  - $F_X(x) = P(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^{x} f_X(\xi)d\xi$

MEAN

- Expected value of RV X
- Discrete
  - $\mu_X = E[X] = \sum_k x_k p_X(x_k)$
- Continuous
  - $\mu_X = E[X] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_X(x) dx$

MOMENT

- n^{th} moment defined as
- Discrete
  - $E[X^n] = \sum_k x_k^n P_X(x_k)$
- Continuous
  - $E[X^n] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^n f_X(x) dx$

VARIANCE

- $\sigma_X^2 = Var(X) = E[(X - E[X])^2]$
  - $E[.]$ – expected value operation
  - $E[X] = \mu_X$ - mean
- Discrete
  - $\sigma_X^2 = \sum_k (x - \mu_X)^2 p_X(x_k)$
- Continuous
  - $\sigma_X^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu_X)^2 f_X(x) dx$

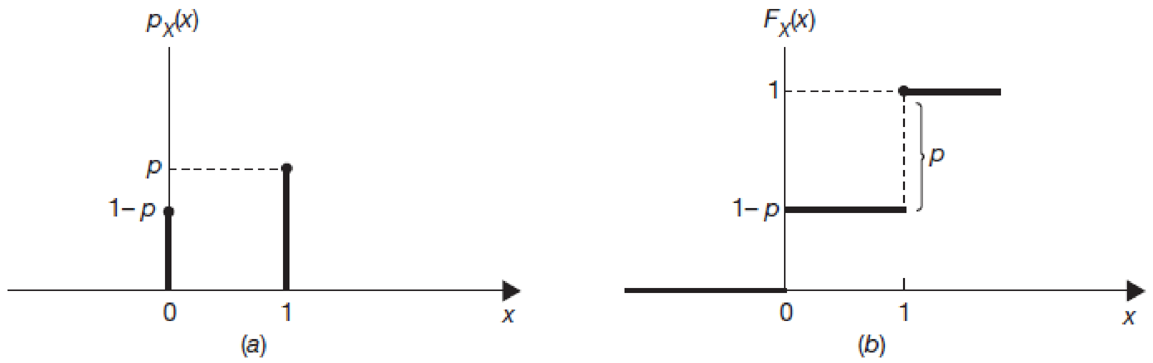
$$
\begin{aligned}
Var(X) &= E\left[(X - E[X])^2\right] \\
&= E[X^2 - 2X\mu_X + \mu_X^2] \\
&= E[X^2] - 2\mu_X E[X] + \mu_X^2 \\
&= E[X^2] - 2\mu_X^2 + \mu_X^2 \\
&= E[X^2] - \mu_X^2 \\
&= \underbrace{E[X^2]}_{\text{2nd moment}} - \underbrace{E^2[X]}_{\text{1st moment}}
\end{aligned}
$$

IMPORTANT DISTRIBUTIONS

- Model real-world phenomena
- Mathematically convenient specification for probability distribution (usually pmf or pdf)
- Will examine similar discrete and continuous distributions
  - Note: will leave most of content for the book rather than in slides

BERNOULLI DISTRIBUTION

- Binary RV with probability p of 1 ("success") or $(1-p)$ for failure
  - E.g. a coin flip with heads a "success" or "1" and tails a "failure" or "0"
- $p_X(k) = P(X = k) = p^k(1-p)^{1-k}$
  - $0 < p < 1$ is probability of success
  - $(1-p)$ is probability of failure
  - $k = 0,1$

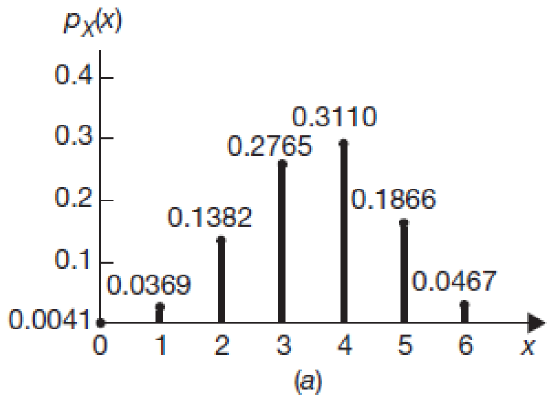


pmf   cdf

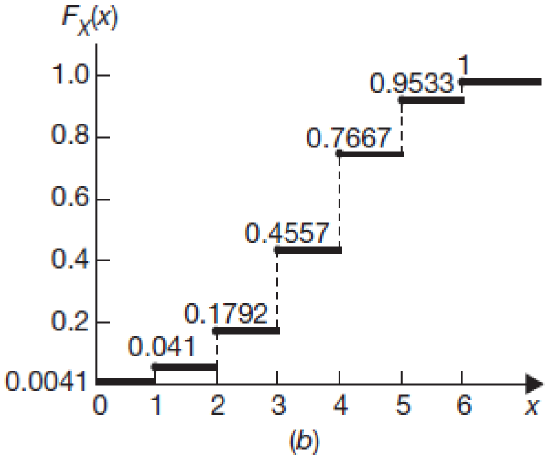
BINOMIAL DISTRIBUTION

- RV to count the number of successes with n independent Bernoulli trials

- $p_X(k) = P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$
  - $\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$ - n choose k
  - Number of ways to get k successes (heads) in n trials (coin tosses)



pmf



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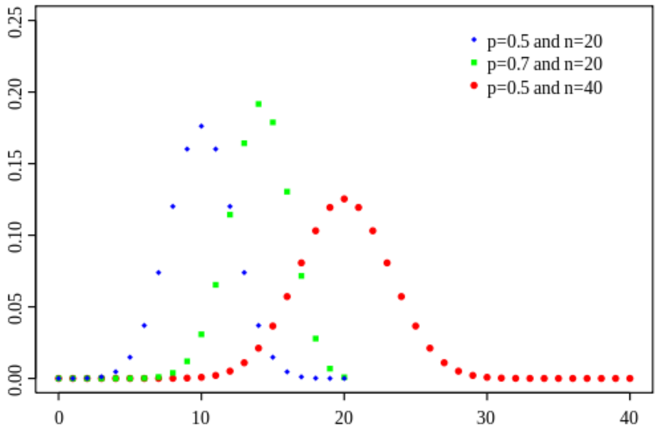

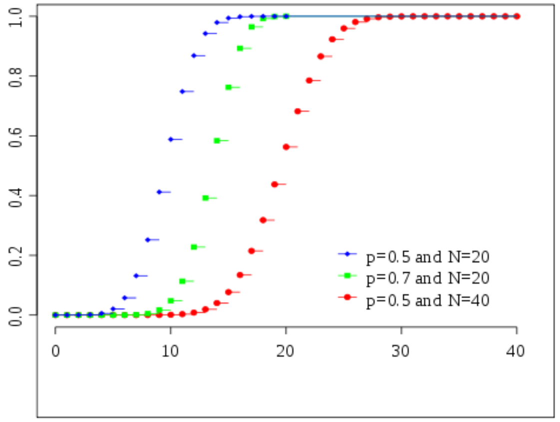

CONDITIONAL DISTRIBUTIONS

- Remember $P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}, \quad P(B) > 0$
- Conditional CDF
  - $F_X(x|B) = P(X \leq x|B) = \frac{P\{(X \leq x) \cap B\}}{P(B)}$
- Conditional PMF
  - $p_X(x_k|B) = P(X = x_k|B) = \frac{P\{(X = x_k) \cap B\}}{P(B)}$
- Conditional PDF
  - $f_X(x|B) = \frac{d}{dx} F_X(x|B)$