S&DS 241 Lecture 6

Functions of random variables. LOTUS rule. Independence of random variables. Conditional independence.

B-H: 2.5, 3.7, 3.8, 4.5

Functions of random variables

Let X be a discrete random variable. Let $g: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ be a function. Then Y = g(X) is also a discrete random variable,

Functions of random variables

Let X be a discrete random variable. Let $g: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ be a function. Then Y = g(X) is also a discrete random variable, because

• $Y: \Omega \to \mathbb{R}$ is the composition of $X: \Omega \to \mathbb{R}$ and $g: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$, which maps ω to $Y(\omega) = g(X(\omega))$



• the number of possible values of Y is at most that of X

Find PMF of
$$Y = g(X)$$

If we know the PMF of X, we can obtain the PMF of Y: Step 1 Find the set of values that Y takes Step 2 Find the corresponding probabilities

$$p_Y(y) = P(g(X) = y) = \sum_{x:g(x)=y} p_X(x)$$

Given the PMF of \boldsymbol{X}

Find the PMF of Y = 2X + 1:

Given the PMF of \boldsymbol{X}

Find the PMF of Y = 2X + 1:

Step 1 Y takes values -3, -1, 1, 3, 5Step 2 P(Y = -3) = P(2X + 1 = -3) = P(X = -2) = 1/5, and so on and so forth

Given the PMF of \boldsymbol{X}

Find the PMF of Y = 2X + 1:

Step 1 Y takes values -3, -1, 1, 3, 5Step 2 P(Y = -3) = P(2X + 1 = -3) = P(X = -2) = 1/5, and so on and so forth

y	-3	-1	1	3	5
$p_Y(y)$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$

Given the PMF of \boldsymbol{X}

Find the PMF of $Z = X^2$:

Given the PMF of \boldsymbol{X}

Find the PMF of $Z = X^2$:

_

Step 1 Z takes values 0, 1, 4 Step 2 $P(Z = 4) = P(X^2 = 4) = P(X = 2) + P(X = -2) = 2/5$

Given the PMF of X

Find the PMF of $Z = X^2$:

Step 1 Z takes values 0, 1, 4 Step 2 $P(Z = 4) = P(X^2 = 4) = P(X = 2) + P(X = -2) = 2/5$ $\frac{z \quad 0 \quad 1 \quad 4}{p_Z(z) \quad \frac{1}{5} \quad \frac{2}{5} \quad \frac{2}{5}}$

Given the PMF of \boldsymbol{X}

Find the PMF of W = -X:

Given the PMF of \boldsymbol{X}

Find the PMF of W = -X:

w	-2	-1	0	1	2
$p_W(w)$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$

Given the PMF of X

Find the PMF of W = -X:

<u>Note</u>: X and W have the same distribution (PMF), but these two random variables are NOT the same! In fact, P(X = -W) = 1.

Compute E(g(X))

$\mathsf{Compute}\ E(g(X))$

Example:

• PMF of <i>X</i> :	x	-2	-1	. ()	1	2	
	$p_X(x)$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	1	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	
• PMF of $Z = X^2$:		z	0	1	4	1		
	p	$_Z(z)$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{2}{5}$	45	2		

Compute E(g(X))

Example:

- PMF of *X*: -2-10 1 $\mathbf{2}$ x $\frac{1}{5}$ $\frac{1}{5}$ $\frac{\overline{1}}{5}$ $\frac{1}{5}$ $\frac{1}{5}$ $p_X(x)$ • PMF of $Z = X^2$: 0 1 4z $\frac{2}{5}$ $\frac{2}{5}$ $\frac{1}{5}$ $p_Z(z)$
- Expectation:

$$E(Z) = \frac{1}{5} \times 0 + \frac{2}{5} \times 1 + \frac{2}{5} \times 4 = 2$$

Compute E(g(X))

Example:

• PMF of X:
• PMF of Z = X²:
• PMF of Z = X²:

$$\frac{x \quad -2 \quad -1 \quad 0 \quad 1 \quad 2}{p_X(x) \quad \frac{1}{5} \quad \frac{1}{5} \quad \frac{1}{5} \quad \frac{1}{5} \quad \frac{1}{5} \quad \frac{1}{5}}$$
• PMF of Z = X²:

$$\frac{z \quad 0 \quad 1 \quad 4}{p_Z(z) \quad \frac{1}{5} \quad \frac{2}{5} \quad \frac{2}{5}}$$

• Expectation:

$$E(Z) = \frac{1}{5} \times 0 + \frac{2}{5} \times 1 + \frac{2}{5} \times 4 = 2$$

• Can we find E(Z) without finding p_Z ?

$$E(X^2) = \frac{1}{5} \times (-2)^2 + \frac{1}{5} \times (-1)^2 + \frac{1}{5} \times 0^2 + \frac{1}{5} \times 1^2 + \frac{1}{5} \times 2^2 = 2$$

Compare:

$$E(X) = \frac{1}{5} \times (-2) + \frac{1}{5} \times (-1) + \frac{1}{5} \times 0 + \frac{1}{5} \times 1 + \frac{1}{5} \times 2 = 0.$$

Law Of The Unconscious Statistician (LOTUS)

Random variable X takes values in \mathcal{X} . Then for any function g:

$$E(g(X)) = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} p_X(x)g(x),$$

that is, average the function values weighted by the PMF of X.

Law Of The Unconscious Statistician (LOTUS)

Random variable X takes values in \mathcal{X} . Then for any function g:

$$E(g(X)) = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} p_X(x)g(x),$$

that is, average the function values weighted by the PMF of X.

Proof. Group the sum according to the value of X: $E(g(X)) = \sum P(\{\omega\}) g(X(\omega))$ $\omega \in \Omega$ $= \sum \qquad \sum \qquad P\left(\{\omega\}\right)g(x)$ $x \in \mathcal{X} \ \omega \in \Omega: X(\omega) = x$ $= \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \underbrace{\left(\sum_{\omega \in \Omega: X(\omega) = x} P\left(\{\omega\}\right)\right)}_{g(x)} g(x)$ P(X=x)

Summary

Utility of PMF: Find

- probability of events: $P(X \in I)$
- conditional probabilities: $P(X \in I | X \in J)$
- PMF of g(X)
- Expectation of g(X)

Independence of random variables

Independence of two random variables

Recall independence of two events:

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$$

Independence of two random variables

Recall independence of two events:

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$$

Definition

Discrete random variables X and Y are independent if for any $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$, $\{X = x\}$ and $\{Y = y\}$ are independent events, i.e., P(X = x, Y = y) = P(X = x)P(Y = y). Independence of two random variables

Recall independence of two events:

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$$

Definition

Discrete random variables X and Y are independent if for any $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$, $\{X = x\}$ and $\{Y = y\}$ are independent events, i.e., P(X = x, Y = y) = P(X = x)P(Y = y).

Equivalently: conditioning does not change PMF

$$P(X = x | Y = y) = P(X = x)$$

provided that P(Y = y) > 0.

X and Y independent \implies any event involving X is independent of that involving Y: for any $I, J \subset \mathbb{R}$,

 $P(X \in I, Y \in J) = P(X \in I)P(Y \in J)$

X and Y independent \implies any event involving X is independent of that involving Y: for any $I, J \subset \mathbb{R}$,

 $P(X \in I, Y \in J) = P(X \in I)P(Y \in J)$

Proof.

$$\begin{split} P(X \in I, Y \in J) &= \sum_{x \in I} \sum_{y \in J} P(X = x, Y = y) \\ &= \sum_{x \in I} \sum_{y \in J} P(X = x) P(Y = y) & \text{independence} \\ &= \underbrace{\left(\sum_{x \in I} P(X = x)\right)}_{P(X \in I)} \underbrace{\left(\sum_{y \in J} P(Y = y)\right)}_{P(Y \in J)} \end{split}$$

If X and Y are independent, then

E(XY) = E(X)E(Y)

If X and Y are independent, then

E(XY) = E(X)E(Y)



Summary

• For any X and Y,

$$E(X+Y) = E(X) + E(Y)$$

• For independent X and Y,

$$E(XY) = E(X)E(Y)$$



If X and Y are independent, then

- f(X) and g(Y) are also independent
- Hence

$$E(f(X)g(Y)) = E(f(X))E(g(Y))$$

Let X be the result of a fair die. Let

$$Y = X \mod 2$$
$$Z = X \mod 3$$

Then

• $p_Y(0) = p_Y(1) = 1/2$

Let X be the result of a fair die. Let

$$Y = X \mod 2$$
$$Z = X \mod 3$$

Then

•
$$p_Y(0) = p_Y(1) = 1/2$$

• $p_Z(0) = p_Z(1) = p_Z(2) = 1/3$

Let X be the result of a fair die. Let

$$Y = X \mod 2$$
$$Z = X \mod 3$$

Then

•
$$p_Y(0) = p_Y(1) = 1/2$$

•
$$p_Z(0) = p_Z(1) = p_Z(2) = 1/3$$

• Are Y and Z independent?

Let \boldsymbol{X} be the result of a fair die. Let

$$Y = X \mod 2$$
$$Z = X \mod 3$$

Then

•
$$p_Y(0) = p_Y(1) = 1/2$$

•
$$p_Z(0) = p_Z(1) = p_Z(2) = 1/3$$

Let \boldsymbol{X} be the result of a fair die. Let

$$Y = X \mod 2$$
$$Z = X \mod 3$$

•
$$p_Y(0) = p_Y(1) = 1/2$$

•
$$p_Z(0) = p_Z(1) = p_Z(2) = 1/3$$

$$P(Y = 0, Z = 0) = P(X = 6) = 1/6$$

Let X be the result of a fair die. Let

$$Y = X \mod 2$$
$$Z = X \mod 3$$

•
$$p_Y(0) = p_Y(1) = 1/2$$

•
$$p_Z(0) = p_Z(1) = p_Z(2) = 1/3$$

• Are Y and Z independent? Yes!

$$P(Y = 0, Z = 0) = P(X = 6) = 1/6$$
$$P(Y = 0, Z = 1) = P(X = 4) = 1/6$$
$$\dots$$
$$P(Y = 1, Z = 2) = P(X = 5) = 1/6$$


Are X and g(X) independent?

Example

Are X and g(X) independent? In general no, e.g.,

•
$$X = \pm 1$$
 equally likely, $Y = -X$

•
$$P(X = 1, Y = 1) = 0 \neq P(X = 1)P(Y = 1) = \frac{1}{4}$$

Example

Are X and g(X) independent? In general no, e.g.,

•
$$X = \pm 1$$
 equally likely, $Y = -X$

•
$$P(X = 1, Y = 1) = 0 \neq P(X = 1)P(Y = 1) = \frac{1}{4}$$

unless in trivial cases (e.g. X is a constant or g is a constant function)

Independence of multiple random variables

Definition

Discrete random variables X_1, \ldots, X_n are independent if for any $x_1, \ldots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}$, $P(X_1 = x_1, \ldots, X_n = x_n) = P(X_1 = x_1) \times \cdots \times P(X_n = x_n).$

Independence of multiple random variables

Definition

Discrete random variables X_1, \ldots, X_n are independent if for any $x_1, \ldots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}$, $P(X_1 = x_1, \ldots, X_n = x_n) = P(X_1 = x_1) \times \cdots \times P(X_n = x_n).$

Consequences:

• ...

- X_1 and $X_2 + X_3$ are independent
- X_4^2 and $X_5X_6 X_7$ are independent

Conditional independence

Independence (of events and random variables) naturally extends to conditional scenarios (B-H: Def 2.5.7 and 3.8.10):

Definition

Let C be an event with P(C) > 0.

• Events A and B are conditionally independent given an event C if $P(A \cap B|C) = P(A|C)P(B|C)$

Conditional independence

Independence (of events and random variables) naturally extends to conditional scenarios (B-H: Def 2.5.7 and 3.8.10):

Definition

Let C be an event with P(C) > 0.

- Events A and B are conditionally independent given an event C if $P(A \cap B|C) = P(A|C)P(B|C)$
- Random variables X and Y are conditionally independent given an event C if

$$P(X = x, Y = y|C) = P(X = x|C)P(Y = y|C)$$

for all x, y

Conditional independence

Independence (of events and random variables) naturally extends to conditional scenarios (B-H: Def 2.5.7 and 3.8.10):

Definition

Let C be an event with P(C) > 0.

- Events A and B are conditionally independent given an event C if $P(A \cap B|C) = P(A|C)P(B|C)$
- Random variables X and Y are conditionally independent given an event C if

$$P(X = x, Y = y|C) = P(X = x|C)P(Y = y|C)$$

for all x, y

• Random variables X and Y are conditionally independent given an random variable Z if

$$P(X = x, Y = y | Z = z) = P(X = x | Z = z)P(Y = y | Z = z)$$

for all x,y and for all z such that P(Z=z)>0

Let \boldsymbol{X} be the result of a fair die. Let

$$Y = X \mod 2$$
$$Z = X \mod 3$$

Then

•
$$p_Y(0) = p_Y(1) = 1/2$$

•
$$p_Z(0) = p_Z(1) = p_Z(2) = 1/3$$

• We have verified that Y and Z independent.

Let X be the result of a fair die. Let

$$Y = X \mod 2$$
$$Z = X \mod 3$$

•
$$p_Y(0) = p_Y(1) = 1/2$$

•
$$p_Z(0) = p_Z(1) = p_Z(2) = 1/3$$

- We have verified that Y and Z independent.
- Questions:
 - Are Y and Z independent conditioned on the event $\{X \leq 3\}$?

Let X be the result of a fair die. Let

$$Y = X \mod 2$$
$$Z = X \mod 3$$

•
$$p_Y(0) = p_Y(1) = 1/2$$

•
$$p_Z(0) = p_Z(1) = p_Z(2) = 1/3$$

- We have verified that Y and Z independent.
- Questions:
 - Are Y and Z independent conditioned on the event $\{X \leq 3\}$? No.

• For example,
$$P(Y = 0, Z = 1 | X \le 3) = 0$$
, but $P(Y = 0 | X \le 3) = P(Z = 1 | X \le 3) = \frac{1}{3}$

Let X be the result of a fair die. Let

$$Y = X \mod 2$$
$$Z = X \mod 3$$

•
$$p_Y(0) = p_Y(1) = 1/2$$

•
$$p_Z(0) = p_Z(1) = p_Z(2) = 1/3$$

- We have verified that Y and Z independent.
- Questions:
 - Are Y and Z independent conditioned on the event $\{X \leq 3\}$? No.
 - For example, $P(Y=0,Z=1|X\leq 3)=0$, but $P(Y=0|X\leq 3)=P(Z=1|X\leq 3)=\frac{1}{3}$
 - Are Y and Z independent conditioned on the event {X is even}? Yes. (Exercise)



• A prize is behind one of the three doors. The other two are empty



- A prize is behind one of the three doors. The other two are empty
- The guest randomly chooses a door



- A prize is behind one of the three doors. The other two are empty
- The guest randomly chooses a door
- The host, knowing where the prize is, opens one of the remaining two doors that is empty.



- A prize is behind one of the three doors. The other two are empty
- The guest randomly chooses a door
- The host, knowing where the prize is, opens one of the remaining two doors that is empty. Specifically
 - If guest's door is empty, host opens the other empty door;
 - If guest's door has prize, host randomly chooses an empty door.



- A prize is behind one of the three doors. The other two are empty
- The guest randomly chooses a door
- The host, knowing where the prize is, opens one of the remaining two doors that is empty. Specifically
 - If guest's door is empty, host opens the other empty door;
 - If guest's door has prize, host randomly chooses an empty door.
- The hosts offers the guest the option to switch the choice to the other closed door



- A prize is behind one of the three doors. The other two are empty
- The guest randomly chooses a door
- The host, knowing where the prize is, opens one of the remaining two doors that is empty. Specifically
 - If guest's door is empty, host opens the other empty door;
 - If guest's door has prize, host randomly chooses an empty door.
- The hosts offers the guest the option to switch the choice to the other closed door
- <u>Question</u>: Would you switch? Not switch? Doesn't matter?

Define the relevant random variables

• X: location of prize

- X: location of prize
- G: choice of guest

- X: location of prize
- G: choice of guest
- *H*: choice of host

- X: location of prize
- G: choice of guest
- *H*: choice of host
- S: the other door

- X: location of prize
- G: choice of guest
- *H*: choice of host
- S: the other door

Define the relevant random variables

- X: location of prize
- G: choice of guest
- *H*: choice of host
- S: the other door

Then

• X and G are independent and equally likely to be 1, 2, 3

Define the relevant random variables

- X: location of prize
- G: choice of guest
- *H*: choice of host
- S: the other door

Then

• X and G are independent and equally likely to be 1, 2, 3

Define the relevant random variables

- X: location of prize
- G: choice of guest
- *H*: choice of host
- S: the other door

- X and G are independent and equally likely to be 1, 2, 3
- Then $P(X = G) = \frac{1}{3}$ (analogy: for two dice P(double) = 1/6 in lecture 2)
- Per rule of the game, either X = G or X = S

Define the relevant random variables

- X: location of prize
- G: choice of guest
- *H*: choice of host
- S: the other door

- X and G are independent and equally likely to be 1, 2, 3
- Then $P(X = G) = \frac{1}{3}$ (analogy: for two dice P(double) = 1/6 in lecture 2)
- Per rule of the game, either X = G or X = S
- Hence $P(X = S) = \frac{2}{3}$, i.e., switching is twice as likely to win

Define the relevant random variables

- X: location of prize
- G: choice of guest
- *H*: choice of host
- S: the other door

- X and G are independent and equally likely to be 1, 2, 3
- Then $P(X = G) = \frac{1}{3}$ (analogy: for two dice P(double) = 1/6 in lecture 2)
- Per rule of the game, either X = G or X = S
- Hence $P(X = S) = \frac{2}{3}$, i.e., switching is twice as likely to win
- Another way for guest to think:

Define the relevant random variables

- X: location of prize
- G: choice of guest
- *H*: choice of host
- S: the other door

Then

- X and G are independent and equally likely to be 1, 2, 3
- Then $P(X = G) = \frac{1}{3}$ (analogy: for two dice P(double) = 1/6 in lecture 2)
- Per rule of the game, either X = G or X = S
- Hence $P(X = S) = \frac{2}{3}$, i.e., switching is twice as likely to win
- Another way for guest to think:

• If my door is empty (2/3 chance), switch will win

Define the relevant random variables

- X: location of prize
- G: choice of guest
- *H*: choice of host
- S: the other door

- X and G are independent and equally likely to be 1, 2, 3
- Then $P(X = G) = \frac{1}{3}$ (analogy: for two dice P(double) = 1/6 in lecture 2)
- Per rule of the game, either X = G or X = S
- Hence $P(X = S) = \frac{2}{3}$, i.e., switching is twice as likely to win
- Another way for guest to think:
 - If my door is empty (2/3 chance), switch will win
 - If my door has prize (1/3 chance), switch will lose



• Maybe you are still not convinced because the guest knows which door he chooses and observes which door the hosts opens



- Maybe you are still not convinced because the guest knows which door he chooses and observes which door the hosts opens
- The guest should evaluate the probability conditioned on these information in order to make an informed decision.



- Maybe you are still not convinced because the guest knows which door he chooses and observes which door the hosts opens
- The guest should evaluate the probability conditioned on these information in order to make an informed decision.
- So let's compute some conditional probabilities

Monty Hall problem: conditional probability

Suppose guest chooses first door and host opens third door, i.e., G=1 and H=3. Goal: find

$$P(X = 1 | G = 1, H = 3)$$
 and $P(X = 2 | G = 1, H = 3)$

Monty Hall problem: conditional probability

Suppose guest chooses first door and host opens third door, i.e., G = 1 and H = 3. Goal: find

$$P(X = 1 | G = 1, H = 3)$$
 and $P(X = 2 | G = 1, H = 3)$

Use law of total probability and Bayes rule:

$$P(G = 1, H = 3) = \underbrace{P(G = 1, H = 3 | X = 1)}_{1/3 \times 1/2} \underbrace{P(X = 1)}_{1/3}$$

+
$$\underbrace{P(G = 1, H = 3 | X = 2)}_{1/3 \times 1} \underbrace{P(X = 2)}_{1/3}$$

+
$$\underbrace{P(G = 1, H = 3 | X = 3)}_{1/3 \times 0} \underbrace{P(X = 3)}_{1/3}$$

=
$$\frac{1}{6}$$

and hence

Monty Hall problem: conditional probability

Suppose guest chooses first door and host opens third door, i.e., G = 1 and H = 3. Goal: find

$$P(X = 1 | G = 1, H = 3)$$
 and $P(X = 2 | G = 1, H = 3)$

Use law of total probability and Bayes rule:

$$\begin{split} P(G=1,H=3) = \underbrace{P(G=1,H=3|X=1)}_{1/3 \times 1/2} \underbrace{P(X=1)}_{1/3} \\ + \underbrace{P(G=1,H=3|X=2)}_{1/3 \times 1} \underbrace{P(X=2)}_{1/3} \\ + \underbrace{P(G=1,H=3|X=3)}_{1/3 \times 0} \underbrace{P(X=3)}_{1/3} \\ = & \frac{1}{6} \end{split}$$
 and hence
$$P(X=1|G=1,H=3) = \frac{1}{3} \quad \text{and} \quad P(X=2|G=1,H=3) = \frac{2}{3} \end{split}$$