

Defn: $E[g(X)] = \sum_x g(x) p_X(x)$

Linearity of Expectation

Theorem: For any constants a and b ,
 $E[aX+b] = aE[X] + b$.

Proof: $E[aX+b] = \sum_x (ax+b) p_X(x)$

$$= \sum_x (ax p_X(x) + b p_X(x))$$

$$= a \sum_x x p_X(x) + b \sum_x p_X(x)$$

$$= aE[X] + b$$

Ex: A casino charges \$1 to play the following game:
 They flip a coin with $P(\text{heads}) = 1/8$ until it comes
 up heads. They pay you 12¢ per flip. Do you
 expect to win or lose? Let X be the # of flips
 until the first head. Your gain is $12X - 100$

$$E[12X - 100] = 12E[X] - 100 = 12 \cdot \frac{1}{1/8} - 100 = -4,$$

because X is a geometric random variable with
 prob $1/8$ of heads.

Theorem: Let X and Y be two random variables,
 possibly dependent. Then $E[X+Y] = E[X] + E[Y]$.

Proof: Let $X(s), Y(s)$ be values for outcome $s \in \Omega$.

$$E[X+Y] = \sum_{s \in \Omega} (X(s) + Y(s)) P(s)$$

$$= \sum_{s \in \Omega} X(s) P(s) + \sum_{s \in \Omega} Y(s) P(s)$$

$$= E[X] + E[Y]$$

Ex: Let X be # of heads when a coin with $P(\text{heads})=p$ is flipped n times.

Let $X_i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } i^{\text{th}} \text{ flip is heads} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$, for $1 \leq i \leq n$.

(An indicator r.v. has values 0 or 1.)

$$E[X_i] = 1 \cdot P(\text{heads}) + 0 \cdot P(\text{tails}) = p$$

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$$

$$E[X] = E\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right] = \sum_{i=1}^n E[X_i] = \sum_{i=1}^n p = np$$

Ex: Shuffle 4 aces, deal 2 of them into 2 piles.

Let X be the # of spades in the 2 piles. $E[X]$?

Let $X_i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } i^{\text{th}} \text{ pile has } \geq 1 \text{ A} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$, for $i \in \{1, 2\}$

Are $X_1=1$ and $X_2=1$ independent? No:

$$P(X_2=1 | X_1=1) = 0 \neq P(X_2=1) = 1/4$$

$$E[X_i] = 1 \cdot P(X_i=1) + 0 \cdot P(X_i=0) = P(X_i=1) = 1/4$$

$$E[X] = E[X_1 + X_2] = E[X_1] + E[X_2] = 2 \cdot 1/4 = 1/2$$