

CS 2810 Day 12

Feb 23

Day 1 of probability / statistics

Why probability? Coin flip discussion

Probability definitions

Uniform Distribution

Joint Distribution

Independence

Linearity of Expectation

Expectation

Linearity of expectation

Variance

Die scaling vs rolling

Linear fnc of random variables

**Why Probability?**

**(modeling coin flip story)**

**Probability allows us to build a "black box" model of complex events and reason about the future by observing past outputs**

# Probability Language

## EXAMPLE: COIN FLIP

Experiment

Event with uncertain outcome

→ COIN FLIP

Outcome

The result of an experiment

→ HEADS

Sample Space

Set of all possible outcomes

→ { HEADS, TAILS }

Event

subset of sample space

→ { HEADS }

Random Variable

Function of the outcome(s) of some experiments

→ GIVEN 2 COIN FLIPS  
LET  $X=1$  IF BOTH HEADS  
ELSE  $X=0$

# Probability Language

## EXAMPLE

## DIE ROLL

Experiment      Event with uncertain outcome

ROLLING 6 SIDED DIE

Outcome      The result of an experiment

3

Sample Space      Set of all possible outcomes

$\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$

Event      subset of sample space

AN ODD OUTCOME  $\{1, 3, 5\}$

Random Variable      Function of the outcome(s) of some experiments

GIVEN 1 DIE ROLL  
LET  $X = 10 \cdot \text{OUTCOME}$

# Probability Language

EXAMPLE

WEATHER

Experiment

Event with uncertain outcome

WEATHER TODAY

Outcome

The result of an experiment

RAINY

Sample Space

Set of all possible outcomes

SUNNY RAINY SNOWY

Event

subset of sample space

PRECIPITATES = { RAINY SNOWY }

Random Variable

Function of the outcome(s) of some experiments

GIVEN 1 DAY'S WEATHER  
 $G = 1$  IF RAINY OR SNOWY  
 $0$  OTHERWISE

GLOVES NEEDED

## Probability Language

Experiment      Event with uncertain outcome

Outcome      The result of an experiment

Sample Space      Set of all possible outcomes

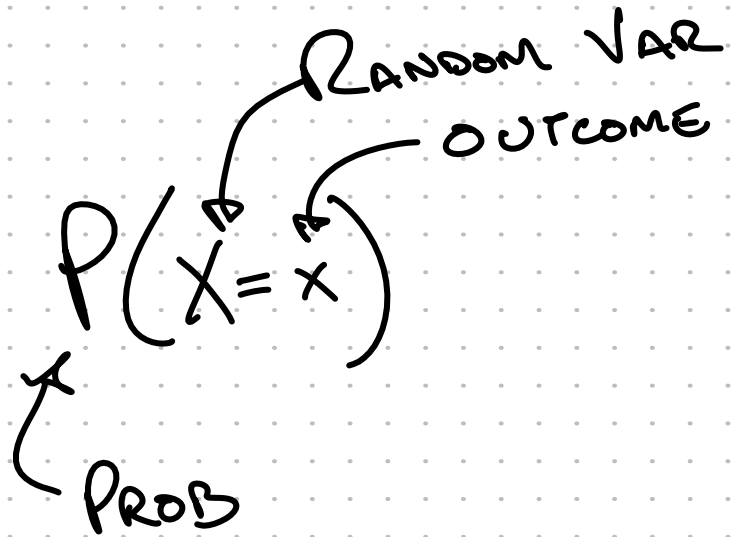
Event      subset of sample space

Random Variable      Function of the outcome(s) of some experiments

## NOTATION

LOWERCASE LETTER  $x$

CAPITAL LETTER  $X$



# ICA 1

Let  $X$  be a random variable indicating a student's numeric grade on a quiz.

1. Define the sample space of the experiment

$$[0, 100]$$

2. Define the event of a student passing the quiz

$$[60, 100]$$



To describe a random event, we often use the term  
"random variable"

Let  $X$  be the random variable which is the outcome a fair 6 sided die

Let  $Y$  be the random variable which is the % increase in stock market today

Let  $Z$  be the random variable which is Prof Higger's favorite integer.  
(... not uncertain to him, but you can model it as such to  
encapsulate and manage uncertainty)

## Probability Language

LET  $W$  BE RANDOM VARIABLE  
DESCRIBING WEATHER TODAY

Probability How likely a particular outcome is

$$P(W = w_0) = 40\%$$

PROB WEATHER TODAY  
IS CLOUDY IS 40%

Distribution A function which assigns a probability  
to each outcome in sample space



# Probability Axioms

Axiom: a property or statement taken to be true without argument

1. The probability of every event is between 0 and 1 (including 0 and 1)
2. The probability of the entire sample space 1

DISTRIBUTION OVER WEATHER



$$P(\text{cloudy}) = 40\%$$

$x_0 = \text{cloudy}$



$$P(\text{rainy}) = 20\%$$

$x_1 = \text{rainy}$



$$P(\text{sun}) = 40\%$$

$x_2 = \text{sun}$

$$P(x_0) + P(x_1) + P(x_2) = 1$$

DISTRIBUTION

$$\sum_x P(X=x) = 1$$

$x$  → SUM OVER ALL OUTCOMES IN SAMPLE SPACE

↑ RANDOM VARIABLE

↑ PARTICULAR OUTCOME

# UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION

UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION ASSIGNS EQUAL PROBS  
TO ALL OUTCOMES IN SAMPLE SPACE

FAIR COIN

H  
50%

T  
50%

FAIR DIE

1  
1/6

2  
1/6

3  
1/6

4  
1/6

5  
1/6

6  
1/6

FOR UNIFORM:  $P(x) = 1/|S|$  ←  $S$  IS SAMPLE SPACE  
 $|S|$  IS # ELEMENTS IN  $S$

# COMPUTING PROB FROM UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION

GIVEN A FAIR DIE COMPUTE PROB OF EACH EVENT

$X = \text{Roll a 1}$

$Y = \text{Roll an even \#}$

$Z = \text{Roll a prime \#}$

ICA 2 ON AVERAGE, WHICH LOTTO TICKET YIELDS MOST MONEY?

(D) DOUBLE LOTTO

$P(D)$	D
$\frac{1}{2}$	\$2
$\frac{1}{2}$	\$0

$$\frac{1}{2} \cdot 2 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 0 = 1$$

(S) STEADY LOTTO

$P(S)$	S
$\frac{1}{2}$	\$0.9
$\frac{1}{2}$	\$1.1

$$\frac{1}{2} \cdot 0.9 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 1.1 = 1$$

Shoot for THE (M)OON LOTTO

$P(M)$	M
$\frac{1}{1000}$	\$1000
$\frac{999}{1000}$	\$0

$$\frac{1}{1000} \cdot 1000 + \frac{999}{1000} \cdot 0 = 1$$

# EXPECTED VALUE

EXPECTED VALUE REPRESENTS AN "AVERAGE" OUTCOME  
OF A RANDOM VARIABLE

"DOUBLE LOTTO"  $S = \{2, 0\}$

$P(W_i)$	$W$
$\frac{1}{2}$	\$2
$\frac{1}{2}$	\$0

HALF TIME WIN \$2  
HALF TIME 'WIN' \$0

ELEMENTS IN  
SAMPLE SPACE

$$\$1 = 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} + 0 \cdot \frac{1}{2}$$

PROB OF EACH

EXPECTED VALUE  
OF RANDOM VARIABLE  $X$

$$X$$
$$S = \{0, 1, 2\}$$

$$E[X] = 0 \cdot P(X=0) + 1 \cdot P(X=1) + 2 \cdot P(X=2)$$

$$E[X] = \sum_{X \in S} X \cdot P(X)$$

ALL OUTCOMES IN  
SAMPLE SPACE

PROB OF OUTCOME  
VALUE OF RANDOM VARIABLE



$$E[10x] = \sum_x 10x P(X=x)$$

PROB OF EACH OUTCOME

SUM OVER OUTCOMES

The image shows a handwritten equation on a grid background:  $E[10x] = \sum_x 10x P(X=x)$ . The terms  $10x$  in both the left-hand side and the right-hand side are circled in green. An arrow points from the text 'PROB OF EACH OUTCOME' to the  $P(X=x)$  term. Another arrow points from the text 'SUM OVER OUTCOMES' to the summation symbol  $\sum_x$ .

## ICA 3

ON AVERAGE, WHICH LOTTO TICKET YIELDS  
THE MOST CONSISTENT OUTPUT?

(D) DOUBLE  
LOTTO

$P(D)$	D
$\frac{1}{2}$	\$2
$\frac{1}{2}$	\$0

(S) STEADY LOTTO

$P(S_i)$	S
$\frac{1}{2}$	\$0.9
$\frac{1}{2}$	\$1.1

Shoot for  
THE (M)OON LOTTO

$P(M_i)$	M
$\frac{1}{1000}$	\$1000
$\frac{999}{1000}$	\$0

PROB	MOON 2 PAYOUT
$\frac{1}{2}$	\$1000
$\frac{1}{2}$	\$0

MOST CONSISTENT RANDOM

VARIABLE HAS OUTCOMES

OFTEN CLOSE TO EXPECTED

VALUE

How close, on average, is Double Lotto to its expected value?

$P(D)$	$D$	$D - E[D]$
$\frac{1}{2}$	0	-1
$\frac{1}{2}$	2	1

$$E[D] = \frac{1}{2} \cdot 0 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 2 = 1$$

$$(D - E[D])^2$$

$$1$$

$$1$$

$$E[(D - E[D])^2]$$

$$= 1 \cdot \frac{1}{2} + 1 \cdot \frac{1}{2} = 1$$

How close, on average,  $\rightarrow$  Moon Lotto to its expected value?

$P(D)$	$D$	$D - E[D]$	$(D - E[D])^2$
$1/1000$	1000	999	$999^2$
$999/1000$	0	-1	1

$$E[D] = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \hookrightarrow E[(D - E[D])^2] \\ &= 999^2 \cdot \frac{1}{1000} + 1 \cdot \frac{999}{1000} \\ &\cong 1000 + 1 \end{aligned}$$

# VARIANCE (AND STANDARD DEVIATION)

VARIANCE (AND STD DEV) DESCRIBE HOW CLOSE  
OUTCOMES TYPICALLY ARE TO EXPECTED VALUE

$$\text{VAR}(X) = E[(X - E[X])^2]$$

$$\text{STD DEV}(X) = \sqrt{\text{VAR}(X)}$$

# NOTATION / VOCAB

WE OFTEN USE

$\mu$  "MU"

TO

REPRESENT EXPECTED VALUE

$$E[x]$$



EXPECTED VALUE

"SIGMA"

$\sigma^2$  TO

REPRESENT VARIANCE

$$E[(x-\mu)^2]$$

$\sigma$  TO

REPRESENT STD DEV



ICA 4

Compute the expected value, variance and standard deviation of  $D$  where  $D$  is a random variable representing a fair (uniform) 6 sided die roll. (You may find a calculator helpful)

(+) How does the expected value / variance of  $D$  compare to another die which has 1000 sides? Justify your response algebraically or with a thoughtful appeal to one's intuition.

$$\begin{aligned} E[D] &= \sum_{d=1}^6 d P(D=d) = 1 \cdot \frac{1}{6} + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{6} + 3 \cdot \frac{1}{6} + 4 \cdot \frac{1}{6} + 5 \cdot \frac{1}{6} + 6 \cdot \frac{1}{6} \\ &= 2\frac{1}{6} \end{aligned}$$

$P(D)$	$D$	$(D - E[D])^2$
$\frac{1}{6}$	1	$(1 - \frac{2}{6})^2$
$\frac{1}{6}$	2	$(2 - \frac{2}{6})^2$
$\frac{1}{6}$	3	$(3 - \frac{2}{6})^2$
$\frac{1}{6}$	4	$(4 - \frac{2}{6})^2$
$\frac{1}{6}$	5	$(5 - \frac{2}{6})^2$
$\frac{1}{6}$	6	$(6 - \frac{2}{6})^2$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & E \left[ (D - E[D])^2 \right] \\
 &= \frac{1}{6} \left( 1 - \frac{2}{6} \right)^2 + \\
 &\quad \frac{1}{6} \left( 2 - \frac{2}{6} \right)^2 + \\
 &\quad \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

# LINEARITY OF EXPECTATION

LET  $X, Y$  BE TWO RANDOM VARIABLES WITH JOINT  $P(X, Y)$   
AND  $\alpha, \beta$  BE TWO SCALARS

$$E[\alpha X + \beta Y] = \alpha E[X] + \beta E[Y]$$

SCALE/ADD RANDOM VARS  
BEFORE EXPECTATION  
OPERATOR

SCALE/ADD RANDOM  
VARIABLES AFTER  
EXPECTATION OPERATOR



# ANOTHER WAY OF EXPRESSING / COMPUTING VARIANCE

$$\sigma_x^2 = \text{VAR}(x) = E[(x - E[x])^2] \quad \leftarrow \text{OLD WAY}$$

$$= E[x^2 - 2xE[x] + E[x]^2]$$

$$= E[x^2] - 2E[x]E[x] + E[x]^2$$

$$= E[x^2] - 2E[x]^2 + E[x]^2$$

$$= E[x^2] - E[x]^2 \quad \leftarrow \text{NEW WAY}$$

APPLY  
LINEARITY OF  
EXPECTATION

# VALIDATING NEW VARIANCE FORMULA ON DOUBLE LOTTO

$P(O)$	$O$	$O - E[O]$	$(O - E[O])^2$	$O^2$
$\frac{1}{2}$	0	-1	1	0
$\frac{1}{2}$	2	1	1	4

$0 \cdot \frac{1}{2} + 4 \cdot \frac{1}{2} = 2$

$$E[O] = 0 \cdot \frac{1}{2} + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{VAR}(O) &= E[(O - E[O])^2] \\ &= 1 \cdot \frac{1}{2} + 1 \cdot \frac{1}{2} = 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{VAR}(O) &= E[O^2] - E[O]^2 \\ &= 2 - 1^2 = 1 \end{aligned}$$

GOAL USE LINEARITY OF EXPECTATION TO FIND EXPECTED  
VALUE / VARIANCE OF ADDITION / MULTIPLICATION OF  
RANDOM VARIABLE  $X$  AND CONSTANT  $C$

$$E[X+C] = E[X] + C$$

$$E[CX] = C E[X]$$

$$\text{VAR}(X+C) = \text{VAR}(X)$$

$$\text{VAR}(CX) = C^2 \text{VAR}(X)$$

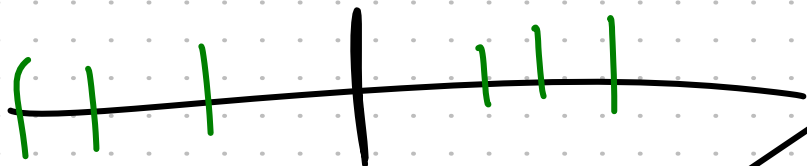
$$\text{VAR}(cx) = E[(cx)^2] + E[cx]^2$$

$$= c^2 E[x^2] + c^2 E[x]^2$$

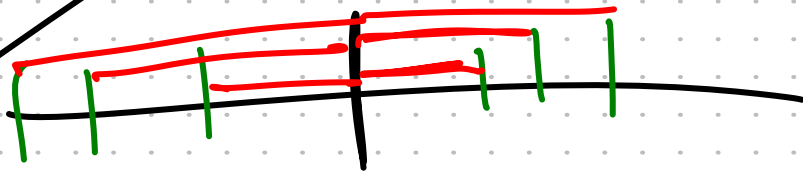
$$= c^2 (E[x^2] + E[x]^2)$$

$$= c^2 \text{VAR}(x)$$





$E[x]$



$E[x]+c$

$$\begin{aligned} E[x+c] &= E[x] + E[c] \\ &= E[x] + c \end{aligned}$$

$$E[cx] =$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{VAR}(x+c) &= E[(x+c)^2] - E[x+c]^2 \\ &= E[x^2 + 2cx + c^2] - (E[x] + c)^2 \\ &= E[x^2] + 2cE[x] + c^2 \\ &\quad - E[x]^2 - 2cE[x] - c^2 \\ &= E[x^2] - E[x]^2 = \text{VAR}(x) \end{aligned}$$

GOAL USE LINEARITY OF EXPECTATION TO FIND EXPECTED  
VALUE / VARIANCE OF ADDITION / MULTIPLICATION OF  
RANDOM VARIABLE X AND RANDOM VARIABLE Y

$$E[X + Y] = E[X] + E[Y] \quad \text{VAR}(X + Y) = ?$$

NEXT LESSON  
(NEED NOTION OF  
INDEPENDENCE)