

**ECS 315: Probability and Random Processes****2019/1**

HW 7 — Due: October 24, 4 PM

*Lecturer: Prapun Suksompong, Ph.D.***Instructions**

- (a) This assignment has 5 pages.
- (b) (1 pt) Hard-copies are distributed in class. Original pdf file can be downloaded from the course website. Work and write your answers directly on the provided hardcopy/file (not on other blank sheet(s) of paper).
- (c) (1 pt) Write your first name and the last three digits of your student ID in the spaces provided on the upper-right corner of this page. Furthermore, for online submission, your file name should start with your 10-digit student ID, followed by a space, the course code, a space, and the assignment number: “5565242231 315 HW4.pdf”
- (d) (8 pt) Try to solve all problems.
- (e) Late submission will be heavily penalized.

**Problem 1.** For each description of a random variable  $X$  below, indicate whether  $X$  is a **discrete** random variable.

- (a)  $X$  is the number of websites visited by a randomly chosen software engineer in a day.
- (b)  $X$  is the number of classes a randomly chosen student is taking.
- (c)  $X$  is the average height of the passengers on a randomly chosen bus.
- (d) A game involves a circular spinner with eight sections labeled with numbers.  $X$  is the amount of time the spinner spins before coming to a rest.
- (e)  $X$  is the thickness of the longest book in a randomly chosen library.
- (f)  $X$  is the number of keys on a randomly chosen keyboard.
- (g)  $X$  is the length of a randomly chosen person’s arm.

$$\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 20\}$$

$\omega_1$     $\omega_2$     $\omega_3$     $\omega_{20}$

$$P(\{\omega\}) = \frac{1}{20} \quad \omega = 1, 2, \dots, 20.$$

**Problem 2** (Quiz4, 2014). Consider a random experiment in which you roll a 20-sided fair dice. We define the following random variables from the outcomes of this experiment:

$$X(\omega) = \omega, \quad Y(\omega) = (\omega - 5)^2, \quad Z(\omega) = |\omega - 5| - 3$$

Evaluate the following probabilities:

(a)  $P[X = 5] = P(\{5\})$

$X(\omega) = 5$  when  $\omega = 5$

$P(\{\omega : X(\omega) = 5\})$

(b)  $P[Y = 16]$

$Y(\omega) = 16$  when  $\omega = 1, 9$   
 $P(\{1, 9\}) = \frac{1}{20} + \frac{1}{20} = \frac{1}{10}$   
 $(\omega - 5)^2 = 16$

$P(\{\omega : Y(\omega) = 16\})$

$\omega - 5 = \pm 4$

$\omega = 5 \pm 4 = 1, 9$

(c)  $P[Y > 10]$

$\omega$	1	2	3	...	20
$Y(\omega)$					

$(\omega - 5)^2 > 10$

$\omega - 5 < -\sqrt{10}$     $\omega - 5 > \sqrt{10}$

(d)  $P[Z > 10]$

(e)  $P[5 < Z < 10]$

$p_X(x) \equiv P[X=x]$   
 $= \begin{cases} 1/20, & x = 1, 2, \dots, 20 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

**Problem 3.** Consider the sample space  $\Omega = \{-2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . Suppose that  $P(A) = |A|/|\Omega|$  for any event  $A \subset \Omega$ . Define the random variable  $X(\omega) = \omega^2$ . Find the probability mass function of  $X$ .

**Problem 4.** Suppose  $X$  is a random variable whose pmf at  $x = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$  is given by  $p_X(x) = \frac{2x+1}{25}$ .

Remark: Note that the statement above does not specify the value of the  $p_X(x)$  at the value of  $x$  that is not 0,1,2,3, or 4.

(a) What is  $p_X(5)$ ?

(b) Determine the following probabilities:

(i)  $P[X = 4]$

(ii)  $P[X \leq 1]$

(iii)  $P[2 \leq X < 4]$

(iv)  $P[X > -10]$

**Problem 5.** The random variable  $V$  has pmf

$$p_V(v) = \begin{cases} cv^2, & v = 1, 2, 3, 4, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- (a) Find the value of the constant  $c$ .
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (b) Find  $P[V \in \{u^2 : u = 1, 2, 3, \dots\}]$ .
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (c) Find the probability that  $V$  is an even number.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (d) Find  $P[V > 2]$ .
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (e) Sketch  $p_V(v)$ .
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (f) Sketch  $F_V(v)$ . (Note that  $F_V(v) = P[V \leq v]$ .)

**Problem 6.** The thickness of the wood paneling (in inches) that a customer orders is a random variable with the following cdf:

$$F_X(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < \frac{1}{8}, \\ 0.2, & \frac{1}{8} \leq x < \frac{1}{4}, \\ 0.9, & \frac{1}{4} \leq x < \frac{3}{8}, \\ 1 & x \geq \frac{3}{8}. \end{cases}$$

Determine the following probabilities:

(a)  $P[X \leq 1/18] = F_X(x) \Big|_{x=1/18} = 0$

(b)  $P[X \leq 1/4]$

(c)  $P[X \leq 5/16]$

(d)  $P[X > 1/4] = 1 - P[X \leq \frac{1}{4}] = 1 - F_X(x) \Big|_{x=\frac{1}{4}}$

(e)  $P[X \leq 1/2]$

[Montgomery and Runger, 2010, Q3-42]

Remark: Try to calculate these values directly from the cdf. (Avoid converting the cdf to pmf first.)