

- An absent-minded professor does not remember which of his 8 keys opens his office door. If he tries them at random, with replacement, what is the probability that he will need 3 tries to open his door? If X is the number of tries to open the door, then X is a geometric random variable with $p = 1/8$. $P(X = 3) = (7/8)^2(1/8) = 0.0957$.
- A fair die is rolled 10 times independently. Find the probability that a 3 is rolled at least twice. If X is the number of times 3 is rolled, then X is a binomial random variable with $n = 10$ and $p = 1/6$. $P(X \geq 2) = 1 - P(X < 2) = 1 - P(X = 0) - P(X = 1) = 1 - \binom{10}{0}(5/6)^{10} - \binom{10}{1}(1/6)(5/6)^9 = 0.5155$
- In a certain textbook, one misprint is expected every 5 pages. If there is at least one misprint on a given page of this book, what is the probability that there are exactly 3 misprints on that page? If X is the number of misprints on the page, then X is (approximately) a Poisson random variable with $\lambda = 1/5$. $P(X = 3 | X \geq 1) = P(X = 3)/P(X \geq 1) = P(X = 3)/(1 - P(X = 0)) = (e^{-\lambda}\lambda^3/3!)/(1 - e^{-\lambda}) = 0.0060$
- A person arrives at a bus stop at 10 o'clock, knowing that the bus will arrive at a random time between 10 and 10:30. What is the probability that the person will have to wait at least 10 minutes? If X is the number of minutes after 10 o'clock when the bus arrives, then X is a uniform random variable with probability density function $f(x) = \begin{cases} 1/30 & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 30, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$ $P(X \geq 10) = \int_{10}^{30} f(x) dx = 2/3$
- A certain discrete random variable X has possible values 0, 2, 4, 6, and 8. The probability mass function of X satisfies $p(0) = .05$, $p(2) = .1$, $p(4) = .25$, and $p(8) = .37$.
 - Find $P(X \leq 4)$. $P(X \leq 4) = .40$
 - Find $P(X = 6)$. $P(X = 6) = .23$
 - Is the expected value of X greater than 4, less than 4, or equal to 4? $E[X] > 4$
- Suppose that X is a random variable with $E[X] = 5$ and $\text{Var}(X) = 3$.
 - Find $E[X^2]$. $E[X^2] = 28$
 - Find $E[2X - 9]$. $E[2X - 9] = 1$
 - Find $\text{Var}(2X - 9)$. $\text{Var}(2X - 9) = 12$
- A multiple choice test has 100 questions, each with possible answers a, b, c, d, e . Estimate the probability that with random guessing, the number of correct answers is at least 30. If X is the number of correct answers, then X is binomial with $n = 100$ and $p = 1/5$. Note that $np = 20$ and $np(1 - p) = 16$. Normal approximation yields $P(X \geq 30) = 1 - P(X < 30) = 1 - P(X \leq 29.5) = 1 - P((X - 20)/4 \leq 2.375) \approx 1 - \Phi(2.375) = 0.0088$
- The probability density function of a random variable X is given by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x^3/20 & \text{if } 1 \leq x \leq 3, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- (a) Find the cumulative distribution function $F(x)$ of the random variable X .

$$F(t) = \int_{-\infty}^t f(x) dx = \begin{cases} 0 & t \leq 1 \\ (t^4 - 1)/80 & 1 < t < 3 \\ 1 & t \geq 3 \end{cases}$$

(b) Find the probability density function of the random variable $Y = X^2$.

$$P(Y \leq t) = P(X^2 \leq t) = P(X \leq \sqrt{t}) = \begin{cases} 0 & t \leq 1 \\ (t^2 - 1)/80 & 1 < t < 9 \\ 1 & t \geq 9 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{So } f_Y(t) = \begin{cases} t/40 & 1 < t < 9 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

9. Consider the random variable X and probability density function $f(x)$ from problem 8.

(a) Find $P(X \leq 2)$.
$$P(X \leq 2) = \int_1^2 x^3/20 dx = 0.1875$$

(b) Find the expectation $E[X]$.
$$E[X] = \int_1^3 x \cdot x^3/20 dx = 2.42$$

(c) Find the expectation of the random variable $Y = X^2$.
$$E[X^2] = \int_1^3 x^2 \cdot x^3/20 dx = 6.0667$$

10. Let Z be the standard normal random variable.

(a) Find $P(0 \leq Z \leq 3.14)$.
$$P(0 \leq Z \leq 3.14) = \Phi(3.14) - \Phi(0) = 0.4992$$

(b) Find $P(Z > 2.71)$.
$$P(Z > 2.71) = 1 - P(Z \leq 2.71) = 1 - \Phi(2.71) = 0.0034$$

(c) Find the value of a for which $P(-a \leq Z \leq a) = 0.754$.
$$a = 1.16$$