

1. (40 points) Let  $X$  be a random variable with PMF

$$p_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^2}{a} & \text{if } x = -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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(a) (10 points) Find  $a$  and  $E[X]$ .

(b) (10 points) What is the PMF of the random variable  $Z = (X - E[X])^2$ ?

(c) (10 points) Using the result from part (b), find the variance of  $X$ .

(d) (10 points) Find the variance of  $X$  using the formula  $\text{var}(X) = \sum_x (X - E[X])^2 p_X(x)$ .

a)

$$1 = \frac{(-2)^2}{a} + \frac{(-1)^2}{a} + \frac{0^2}{a} + \frac{1^2}{a} + \frac{2^2}{a} + \frac{3^2}{a} + \frac{4^2}{a}$$

$$1 = \frac{4}{a} + \frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{a} + \frac{4}{a} + \frac{9}{a} + \frac{16}{a}$$

$$1 = \frac{35}{a}$$

$$a = 35$$

$$E[X] = \sum_{i=-2}^4 x_i p_X(x_i) = (-2) \frac{(-2)^2}{35} + (-1) \frac{(-1)^2}{35} + 0 + 1 \cdot \frac{1^2}{35} + 2 \cdot \frac{2^2}{35} + 3 \cdot \frac{3^2}{35} + 4 \cdot \frac{4^2}{35}$$

$$= \frac{-8}{35} + \frac{-1}{35} + \frac{1}{35} + \frac{8}{35} + \frac{24}{35} + \frac{64}{35}$$

$$= \frac{91}{35}$$

b) when  $x = -2$

$$z = (-2 - \frac{91}{35})^2 = \frac{529}{25}$$

when  $x = -1$

$$z = (-1 - \frac{91}{35})^2 = \frac{324}{25}$$

when  $x = 0$

$$z = (0 - \frac{91}{35})^2 = \frac{91^2}{35^2}$$

when  $x = 1$

$$z = (1 - \frac{91}{35})^2 = \frac{64}{25}$$

when  $x = 2$

$$z = (2 - \frac{91}{35})^2 = \frac{9}{25}$$

when  $x = 3$

$$z = (3 - \frac{91}{35})^2 = \frac{4}{25}$$

when  $x = 4$

$$z = (4 - \frac{91}{35})^2 = \frac{49}{25}$$

$p_Z(z) =$

- $\frac{4}{35}$
- $\frac{1}{35}$
- $\frac{1}{35}$
- $\frac{4}{35}$
- $\frac{9}{35}$
- $\frac{16}{35}$
- 0

if  $z = \frac{529}{25}$

if  $z = \frac{324}{25}$

if  $z = \frac{64}{25}$

if  $z = \frac{9}{25}$

if  $z = \frac{4}{25}$

if  $z = \frac{49}{25}$

otherwise

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

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

$$E[Z] = \frac{4}{35} \times \frac{529}{25} + \frac{1}{35} \times \frac{324}{25} + \frac{1}{35} \times \frac{64}{25} + \frac{4}{35} \times \frac{9}{25} + \frac{9}{35} \times \frac{4}{25} + \frac{16}{35} \times \frac{49}{25} = \frac{96}{25}$$

$\therefore \text{Var}(X) = \frac{96}{25}$

$$d) \text{Var}(X) = \sum_x (x - E[X])^2 p_X(x) \\ = E[X^2] - (E[X])^2$$

$$E[X^2] = \sum_x x^2 p_X(x) = (-2)^2 \frac{(-2)}{35} + (-1)^2 \frac{(-1)}{35} + 0 + (1)^2 \frac{1}{35} + 2^2 \frac{2}{35} + 3^2 \frac{3}{35} + \dots + 4^2 \frac{4}{35} \\ = \frac{13}{5}$$

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

$$= \frac{13}{5} - \left(\frac{91}{35}\right)^2 = \frac{96}{25}$$

which is the same as the answer for part c)

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2. (60 points) A coin that has probability of heads equal to  $p$  is tossed successively and independently until a head comes twice in a row. Denote

$X$  = the number of tosses until the game is over

(a) (30 points) Find  $E[X]$ ;

(b) (30 points) Find  $\text{var}(X)$ .

a) let  $H_i$  represent head and  $T_i$  represent tail. at  $i$ -th toss.

$$E[X] = E[X | H_1] P(H_1) + E[X | T_1] P(T_1)$$

$$= p E[X | H_1] + (1-p) E[X | T_1]$$

$$= p E[X | H_1 \cap H_2] P(H_2) + p E[X | H_1 \cap T_2] P(T_2) + (1-p) E[X | T_1]$$

$$= p^2 E[X | H_1 \cap H_2] + p(1-p) E[X | H_1 \cap T_2] + (1-p)(1 + E[X])$$

$$= p^2 \times 2 + p(1-p)(E[X] + 2) + (1-p)(1 + E[X]) \quad \checkmark$$

we can rewrite it as

$$E[X] = 2p^2 + 2p(1-p) + p(1-p)E[X] + (1-p) + (1-p)E[X]$$

$$E[X] = 2p^2 + 2p - 2p^2 + pE[X] - p^2E[X] + 1 - p + E[X] - pE[X]$$

$$0 = 1 + p - p^2E[X]$$

$$p^2E[X] = 1 + p$$

$$E[X] = \frac{1+p}{p^2} \quad \checkmark$$

Since if the first toss is tail, we can treat the second toss as the starting point and add the expectation by 1,

similarly for if 1st is head and second is tail.

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

$$\text{consider, } E[X^2] = E[X^2|H_1]P(H_1) + E[X^2|T_1]P(T_1)$$

$$= pE[X^2|H_1] + (1-p)(E[(X+1)^2])$$

$$= pE[X^2|H_1 \cap H_2]P(H_2) + pE[X^2|H_1 \cap T_2]P(T_2) + (1-p)(E[X^2 + 2X + 1])$$

$$= p^2E[X^2|H_1 \cap H_2] + p(1-p)E[X^2|H_1 \cap T_2] + (1-p)(E[X^2] + 2E[X] + 1)$$

$$= p^2 \cdot 2^2 + p(1-p)E[(X+2)^2] + (1-p)E[X^2] + 2(1-p)E[X] + (1-p)$$

$$= 4p^2 + (p-p^2)E[X^2 + 4X + 4] + (1-p)E[X^2] + 2(1-p)E[X] + (1-p)$$

$$= 4p^2 + (p-p^2)E[X^2] + 4(p-p^2)E[X] + 4(p-p^2) + (1-p)E[X^2] + 2(1-p)E[X] + (1-p)$$

$$= E[X^2](p-p^2+1-p) + E[X](4p-4p^2+2-2p) + 4p^2 + 4p - 4p^2 - 1 - p$$

$$E[X^2] = E[X^2](1-p^2) + E[X](-4p^2+2p+2) + 3p+1$$

$$p^2E[X^2] = \frac{1+p}{p^2}(-4p^2+2p+2) + 3p+1$$

$$E[X^2] = \frac{1+p}{p^4}(2p-4p^2+2) + \frac{3p+1}{p^2}$$

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

$$= \frac{1+p}{p^4}(2p-4p^2+2) + \frac{3p+1}{p^2} - \frac{(1+p)^2}{p^4}$$

$$= \frac{2p-4p^2+2 + 2p^2-4p^3+2p-1-p^2-2p}{p^4} + \frac{3p^3+p^2}{p^4}$$

$$= \frac{-4p^3-3p^2+2p+1}{p^4} + \frac{3p^3+p^2}{p^4}$$

$$= \frac{-p^3-2p^2+2p+1}{p^4}$$

$$\therefore \text{Var}(X) = \frac{-p^3-2p^2+2p+1}{p^4}$$