

## Conditional Expectation

Recall  $X, Y$ : jointly distributed r.v.s.

the conditional prob mass function of  $X$ , given that  $Y=y$ , is (defined for all  $y$  s.t.  $P\{Y=y\} > 0$ )

$$P_{X|Y}(x|y) = P\{X=x | Y=y\} = \frac{P(x, y)}{P_Y(y)}$$

Def The conditional expectation of  $X$ , given that  $Y=y$ , is

$$E[X|Y=y] = \sum_x x P\{X=x | Y=y\}$$

$$= \sum_x x P_{X|Y}(x|y)$$

(defined for all values of  $y$  s.t.  $P_Y(y) > 0$ )

Def  $X, Y$ : jointly continuous with density  $f(x, y)$ .

Then

$$f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{f(x, y)}{f_Y(y)}$$

$$E[X|Y=y] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_{X|Y}(x|y) dx$$

(if  $f_Y(y) > 0$ )

Ex  $f(x, y) = \frac{e^{-x/y} e^{-y}}{y} \quad 0 < x < \infty, \quad 0 < y < \infty$

$$E[X|Y=y] = ?$$

sol.

$$f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{f(x,y)}{f_Y(y)} = \frac{f(x,y)}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x,y) dx} = \frac{\frac{1}{y} e^{-x/y} e^{-y/y}}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{y} e^{-x/y} e^{-y/y} dx}$$

$$= \frac{1}{y} e^{-x/y}$$

$$E[X|Y=y] = \int_0^{\infty} x \cdot \frac{1}{y} e^{-x/y} dx = y.$$

Rmk Conditional expectations satisfy the properties of ordinary expectations.

E.g.

$$E[g(x) | Y=y] = \begin{cases} \sum_x g(x) P_{X|Y}(x|y) & \text{discrete} \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) f_{X|Y}(x|y) dx & \text{cont}$$

$$E\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i | Y=y\right] = \sum_{i=1}^n E[X_i | Y=y]$$

Conditional expectation given  $Y=y$  can be thought of as an ordinary expectation on a reduced sample space consisting only of outcomes for which  $Y=y$ .

Notation  $E[X|Y]$  : fn of the r.v.  $Y$  whose value at  $Y=y$  is  $E[X|Y=y]$ .  
 ↙ a r.v.

Prop  $E[X] = E[E[X|Y]]$  (\*)

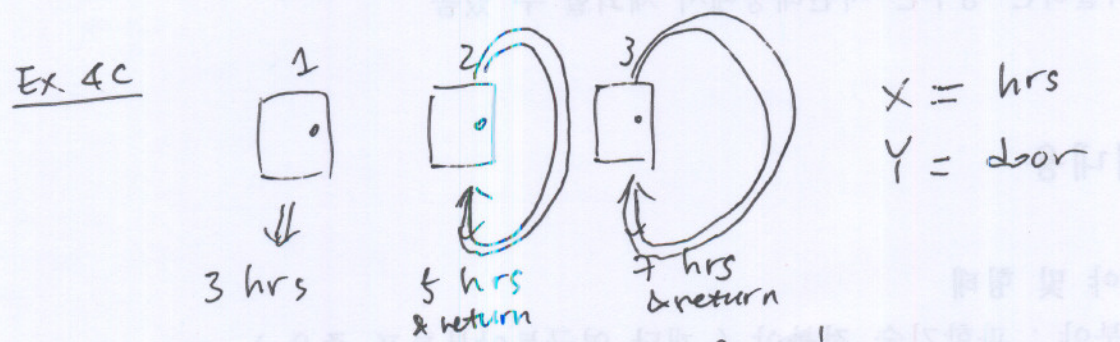
$$\Downarrow E[X] = \begin{cases} \sum_y E[X|Y=y] P\{Y=y\} & Y \text{ discrete} \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} E[X|Y=y] f_Y(y) dy & Y \text{ cont} \end{cases}$$

Pf of (\*) (when X & Y are discrete)

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_y E[X|Y=y] P\{Y=y\} &= \sum_y \sum_x x P\{X=x|Y=y\} P\{Y=y\} \\
&= \sum_y \sum_x x \frac{P\{X=x, Y=y\}}{P\{Y=y\}} P\{Y=y\} \\
&= \sum_x \sum_y P\{X=x, Y=y\} \\
&= \sum_x x P\{X=x\} \\
&= E[X] \quad //
\end{aligned}$$

Interpretation of (\*)

To calculate  $E[X]$ , take a weighted avg of the Conditional expectation of X, given that  $Y=y$ , each of the terms  $E[X|Y=y]$  being weighted by the probability of the event on which it is conditioned.



$$P\{Y=1\} = P\{Y=2\} = P\{Y=3\} = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
E[X] &= E[X|Y=1] P\{Y=1\} + E[X|Y=2] P\{Y=2\} \\
&\quad + E[X|Y=3] P\{Y=3\}
\end{aligned}$$

$$E[X|Y=1] = 3$$

$$E[X|Y=2] = ? = 5 + E[X]$$

$$E[X|Y=3] = ? = 7 + E[X]$$

$$\therefore E[X] = \frac{1}{3} \{ 3 + 5 + 7 + 2E[X] \}$$

$$\therefore E[X] = 15. //$$

Ex 4e The game of craps.

Roll a pair of dice.

If the sum = 2, 3, or 12, lose.

= 7 or 11, win

= any other number  $i$ , continue to roll until 7 or  $i$ .

if 7, lose  
if  $i$ , win.

$R$ : # of rolls of the dice in a game.

$E[R]$ ,  $E[R|\text{win}]$ ,  $E[R|\text{lose}]$  ?

sol

$$P\{\text{sum} = 2\} = \frac{1}{36}$$

$\vdots$

$$P\{\text{sum} = 7\} = \frac{6}{36}$$

$$P\{\text{sum} = 8\} = \frac{5}{36}$$

$\vdots$

$$P\{\text{sum} = 12\} = \frac{1}{36}$$

$\Rightarrow$

$P_i$  = the prob that sum =  $i$

$$= \frac{i-1}{36} \quad i=2, \dots, 7$$

$$= P_{14-i}$$

$$E[R] = \sum_{i=2}^{12} E[R|S=i] P_i$$

$$E[R|S=i] = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i=2, 3, 7, 11, 12 \\ 1 + \frac{1}{P_i + P_7} & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

∴ the number of rolls in this case is a geometric r.v. with parameter  $P_i + P_7$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore E[R] &= 1 + \sum_{i=4}^6 \frac{P_i}{P_i + P_7} + \sum_{i=8}^{10} \frac{P_i}{P_i + P_7} \\ &= 1 + 2\left(\frac{3}{9} + \frac{4}{10} + \frac{5}{11}\right) // \end{aligned}$$

To compute  $P\{E[R|\text{win}]\}$ , need  $P = \text{prob that we win.}$

$$P = \sum_{i=2}^{12} P\{\text{win}|S=i\} P_i$$

$$= 1 \cdot P_7 + 1 \cdot P_{11} + \sum_{i=4}^6 \left(\frac{P_i}{P_i + P_7}\right) P_i + \sum_{i=8}^{10} \left(\frac{P_i}{P_i + P_7}\right) P_i$$

$$= 0.493$$

prob of sum = i before 7.  
getting

$$P\{S=i|\text{win}\} = Q_i$$

$$= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } i=2, 3, 12 \\ P_i/p & \text{if } i=7, 11 \end{cases}$$

$$= \frac{P\{S=i, \text{win}\}}{P\{\text{win}\}} = \frac{P_i P\{\text{win}|S=i\}}{P} = \frac{P_i}{P} \cdot \frac{P_i}{P_i + P_7}$$

if  $i=4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10$ .

$$E[R|\text{win}] = \sum_i E[R|\text{win}, S=i] Q_i$$

$$= \sum_i E[R|S=i] Q_i$$

$$= 1 + \sum_{i=4}^6 \frac{Q_i}{P_i+P_7} + \sum_{i=8}^{10} \frac{Q_i}{P_i+P_7}$$

$$= 2.983$$

given that the initial sum =  $i$ ,  
# of additional rolls needed  
and the outcome are  
indep.

$E[R|\text{lose}]$  can be determined in the same way.

Or,

$$E[R] = E[R|\text{win}] p + E[R|\text{lose}] (1-p)$$

$$\Rightarrow E[R|\text{lose}] = 3.81 //$$

Ex 4h  $U_1, U_2, \dots$  a sequence of  $U(0,1)$  rvs.

$$N = \min \left\{ n : \sum_{i=1}^n U_i > 1 \right\}$$

$$E[N] = ?$$

Sol For  $x \in [0,1]$ , let

$$N(x) = \min \left\{ n : \sum_{i=1}^n U_i > x \right\}$$

← # of rvs we  
need until their  
sum exceeds  $x$ .

$$m(x) = E[N(x)]$$

then

$$m(x) = \int_0^1 E[N(x) | U_1=y] dy$$

$$E[N(x) | U_1=y] = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } y > x \\ 1 + m(x-y) & \text{if } y \leq x \end{cases}$$

$$\therefore m(x) = \int_0^x (1 + m(x-y)) dy + \int_x^1 1 dy$$

$$= 1 + \int_0^x m(u) du \quad (u = x-y)$$

differentiate

↓

$$m'(x) = m(x)$$

↓

$$\log[m(x)] = x + C$$

↓

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} m(x) = ke^x \\ m(0) = 1 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow m(x) = e^x$$

$$\therefore E[N] = m(1) = e //$$

### Computing Probabilities by Conditioning

$E$ : an arbitrary event

$$X = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } E \text{ occurs} \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad : \text{indicator variable.}$$

$$\Rightarrow E[X] = P(E)$$

$$E[X|Y=y] = P(E|Y=y) \quad \text{for any r.v. } Y.$$

$$P(E) = \begin{cases} \sum_y P(E|Y=y) P(Y=y) & (Y \text{ discrete}) \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P(E|Y=y) f_Y(y) dy & (Y \text{ conti}) \end{cases} //$$

Ex 4i.

Ex 4k.