

Alex Psomas: Lecture 16.

Random Variables

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- ▶ Regrade requests open.
- ▶ Quiz due tomorrow.
- ▶ Quiz coming out today.
- ▶ Non-technical office hours tomorrow 1-3pm.
- ▶ Anonymous questionnaire tonight or tomorrow.

Random Variables

1. Random Variables.
2. Distributions.
3. Combining random variables.
4. Expectation

Questions about outcomes ...

Experiment: roll two dice.

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The number is a (known) function of the outcome.

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Random Variables.

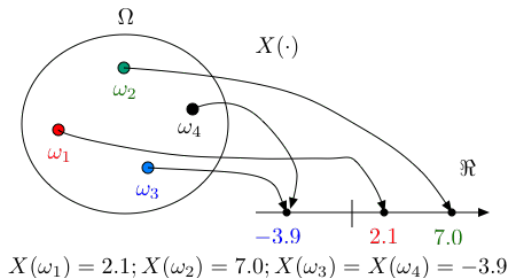
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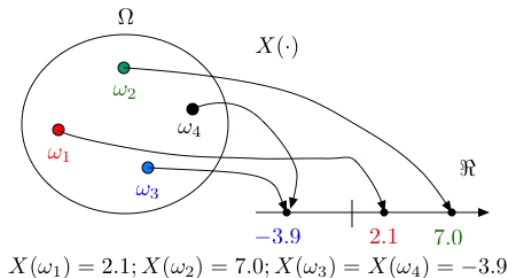
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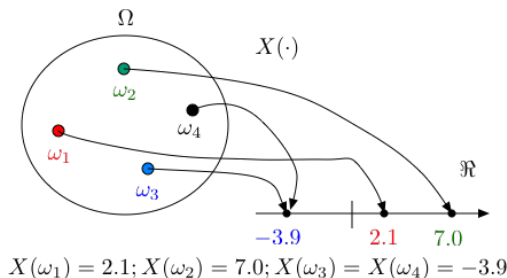


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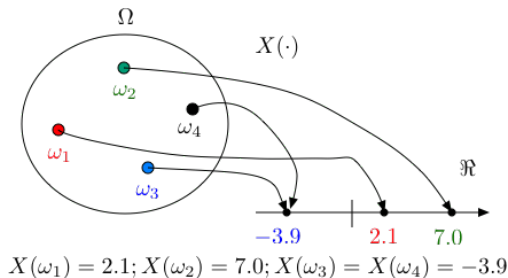
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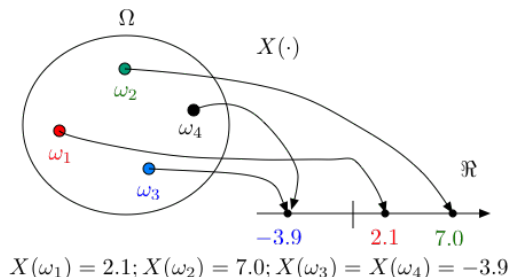
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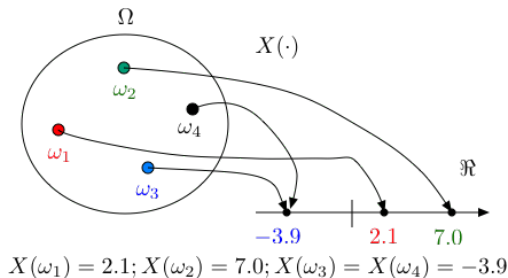
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What varies at random (from experiment to experiment)?

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$$X(a, b) =$$

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$$X(HHH) = 3$$

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$$X(HHH) = 3 \quad X(THH) = 1$$

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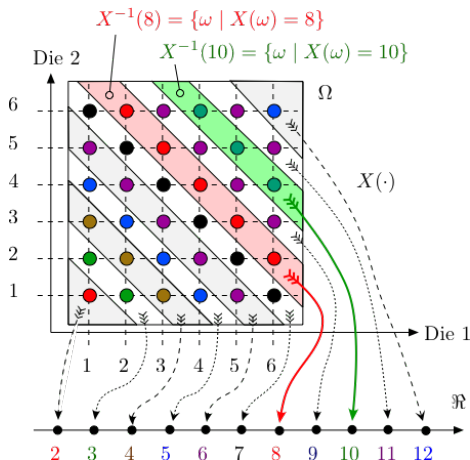
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“What is the likelihood of seeing n dots?”

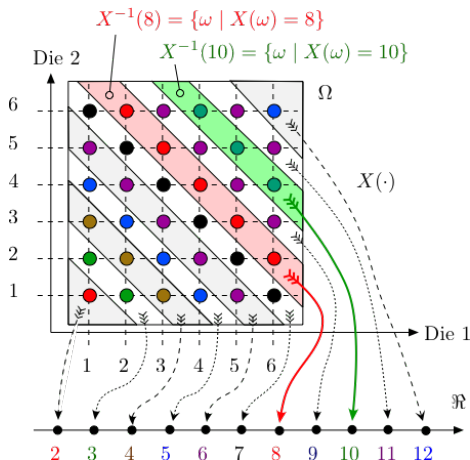
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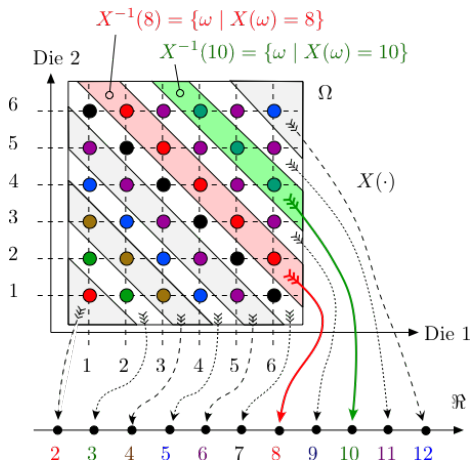
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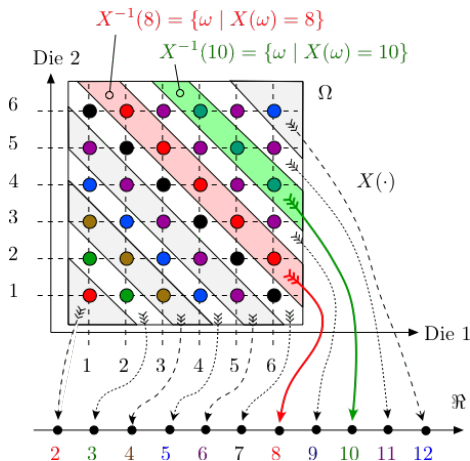
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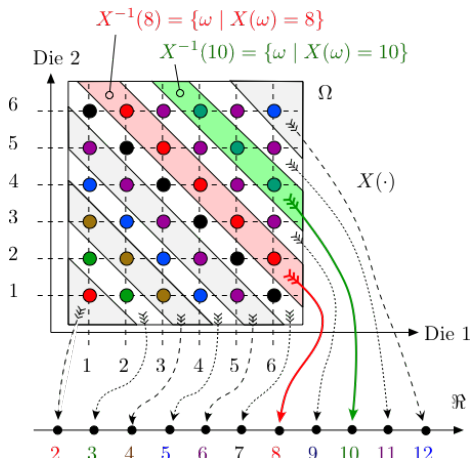
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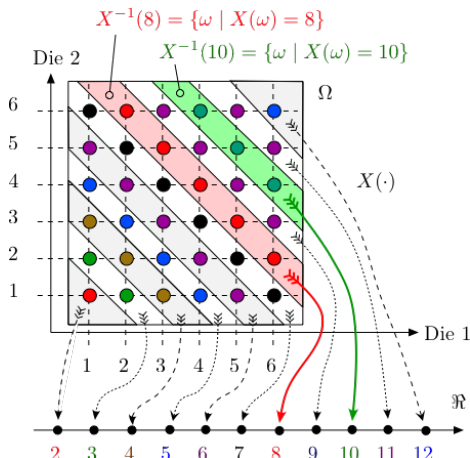
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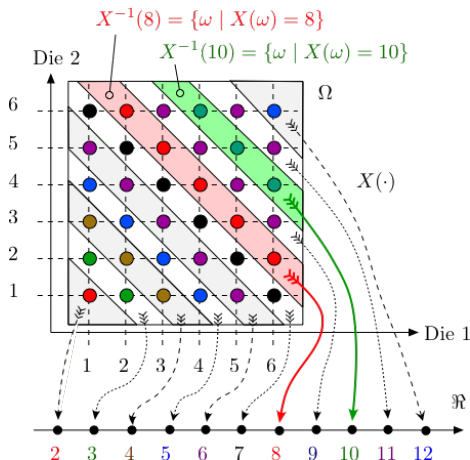


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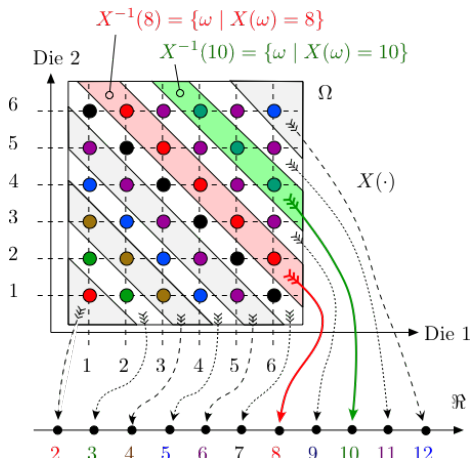


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The probability of X taking on a value a .

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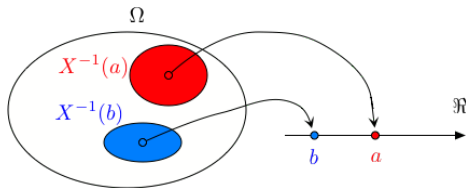
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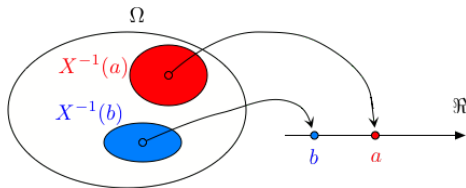
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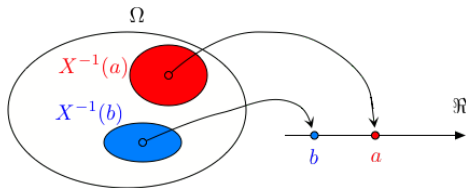


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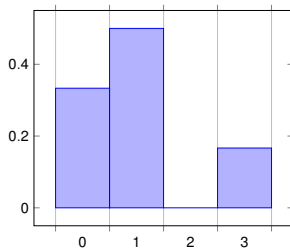
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Experiment: flip three coins

Sample Space: $\{HHH, THH, HTH, TTH, HHT, THT, HTT, TTT\}$

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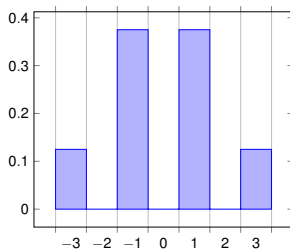
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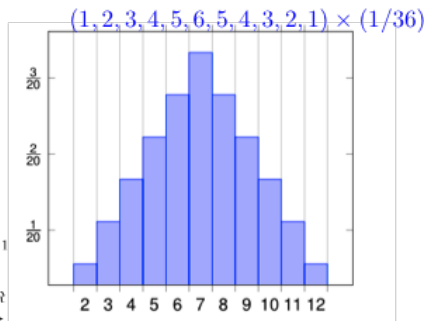
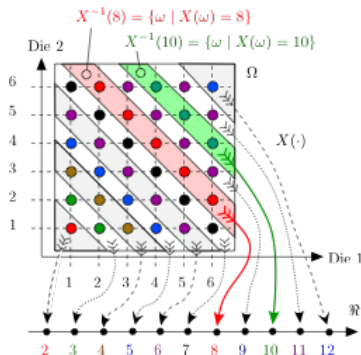


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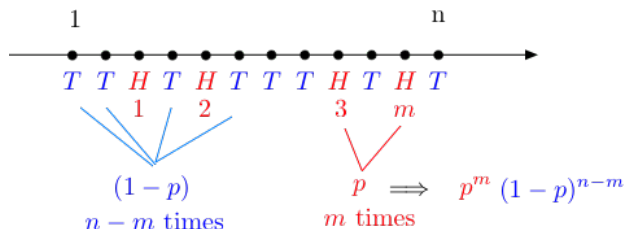
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$$Pr[X = i] = \binom{n}{i} p^i (1 - p)^{n-i}, i = 0, 1, \dots, n : B(n, p) \text{ distribution}$$

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$\binom{n}{m}$ outcomes with m Hs and $n-m$ Ts

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We use this frequentist [interpretation](#) as a definition.

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This (nontrivial) result is called the [Law of Large Numbers](#).

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Our intuition matches the math.

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Apparently: expected value is not a common value, by any means.

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The random variable X is sometimes written as

$$1_{\{\omega \in A\}} \text{ or } 1_A(\omega).$$

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Hence,

$$E[X] = \frac{7n}{2}.$$

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Note that linearity holds even though the X_m are not independent (whatever that means).

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Flip n coins with heads probability p .

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We start with a pot of 2 dollars.

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So, if the sequence is *HHT*, you make 8 dollars.

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How much would you be willing to pay?

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Is there a trick here?

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What if I didn't have infinite money?

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What if I didn't have infinite money?

Banker	Bankroll	Expected value of lottery
Friendly game	\$100	\$7.56
Millionaire	\$1,000,000	\$20.91
Billionaire	\$1,000,000,000	\$30.86
Bill Gates (2015)	\$79,200,000,000 ^[5]	\$37.15
U.S. GDP (2007)	\$13.8 trillion ^[6]	\$44.57
World GDP (2007)	\$54.3 trillion ^[6]	\$46.54
Googolaire	$\$10^{100}$	\$333.14

Summary

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- ▶ $E[X] := \sum_a a Pr[X = a]$.
- ▶ Expectation is Linear.
- ▶ $B(n, p)$.