

Lecture #20: Random Variables and Expectation

What Will Happen During the Lecture

Goals of this lecture are to review (or, perhaps, introduced) **random variables** and their **expected values** with respect to probability distributions.

Problems To Be Solved

In order to get started, a problem concerning random variables and expectation that might be found in a textbook on probability and statistics — and that students might have been asked in a prerequisite for this course — will be discussed.

A simple problem concerning the expected value of a random variable, associated with **hash tables** with chaining, will be considered.

If time permits then the proof of one of the results in the preparatory reading will also be discussed.