

CPSC 351 — Tutorial Exercise #19

Additional Practice Problem

This problem will not be discussed during the tutorial, and a solution for this problem will not be made available. It can be used as a “practice” problem that can help you practice skills considered in the lecture presentation for Lectures #21, or in Tutorial Exercise #19.

1. Suppose, now, that Ω is a **finite** sample space, $P : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a probability distribution, and $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Let $\mu = E[X]$ and let $\sigma^2 = \text{var}(X)$.

Let $Y : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $Y = X - \mu$. That is, $Y(\alpha) = X(\alpha) - \mu$ for every outcome $\alpha \in \Omega$.

- (a) Prove that $E[Y] = 0$.
- (b) Prove that $\text{var}(Y) = \sigma^2$ (so that $\text{var}(Y) = \text{var}(X)$).
- (c) Prove that $E[Y^2] = \sigma^2$ as well.

Now let $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $a > 0$ and $b \geq 0$.

- (d) Prove that

$$\begin{aligned} P(Y \geq a) &= P(Y + b \geq a + b) \\ &\leq P((Y + b)^2 \geq (a + b)^2) \\ &\leq \frac{E[(Y + b)^2]}{(a + b)^2} \end{aligned}$$

Hint: Notice that $Y + b$ and $(Y + b)^2$ can also be considered to be random variables. Consider the use of other results from the preparatory reading for this lecture.

- (e) Consider what this means, when $b = \frac{\sigma^2}{a}$, in order to complete a proof of **Cantelli's Inequality**.