

# Discrete Random Variable and Probability Mass Function

## Data Science and A.I. Lecture Series

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- Countable values are those which can be arranged in a sequence, corresponding to natural numbers.
- Example: Number of students present each day in a class.

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  - $\sum_i p(x_i) = 1$ .

# Example 1: Valid Probability Distribution?

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- Sum:  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{4} = \frac{5}{4} > 1$ .
- **Not** a probability distribution since the sum exceeds 1.

## Example 2: Probability Distribution

**Question:** Find the constant  $c$  in the given probability distribution.

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2	$2c$
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- Solving:  $8c = 1 \Rightarrow c = \frac{1}{8}$ .

## Example 3: Number of Heads in 3 Coin Tosses

**Question:** Find the probability distribution of the number of heads when tossing 3 fair coins.

- Sample space: {HHH, HHT, HTH, THH, HTT, THT, TTH, TTT}



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# Conclusion

- A discrete random variable has countable values.
- PMF must satisfy  $p(x_i) \geq 0$  and  $\sum p(x_i) = 1$ .

- A discrete random variable has countable values.
- PMF must satisfy  $p(x_i) \geq 0$  and  $\sum p(x_i) = 1$ .
- Examples illustrated the application of PMFs.

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