ELEC 471: Practice Problems with Expectation

March 28, 2002

Consider a Bernoulli random variable X with PMF

$$P_X(x) = \begin{cases} p, & x = 1\\ 1 - p, & x = 0\\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where $0 \le p \le 1$.

Please evaluate the following expectations, and express each answer as a function of p. Show your computations for every case.

a. E[X]

d. Var[X]

b. E[3X + 2]

e. $E\left[\frac{1}{3X+2}\right]$ f. $(E[X])^2$

c. $E[X^2]$