

# Lecture-03: Conditional Expectation

## 1 Conditional expectation

Consider a probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ .

**Definition 1.1.** For a random variable  $X$ , the conditional distribution conditioned on an event  $E \in \mathcal{F}$  is given by

$$F_{X|E}(x) \triangleq \frac{P(\{X \leq x\} \cap E)}{P(E)}.$$

*Remark 1.* We can verify that  $F_{X|E} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is a distribution function for any  $E \in \mathcal{F}$ .

**Definition 1.2.** For any Borel measurable function  $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and a random variable  $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined on the probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ , the conditional expectation of a random variable  $g(X)$  given an event  $E$  is given by

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X) | E] \triangleq \int_{x \in \mathbb{R}} g(x) dF_{X|E}(x).$$

**Example 1.3.** Consider two random variables  $X, Y$  defined on the same probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$  with the joint distribution  $F_{X,Y}(x, y) = P(\{X \leq x, Y \leq y\})$ . For each  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ , we define event  $G_y \triangleq Y^{-1}(-\infty, y] \in \mathcal{F}$  such that  $F_Y(y) = P(G_y)$ . Then, for each  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $P(G_y) > 0$ , we can write the conditional distribution of  $X$  given the event  $G_y$  as

$$F_{X|G_y}(x) = \frac{F_{X,Y}(x, y)}{F_Y(y)}.$$

The conditional expectation of  $X$  given the event  $G_y$  is defined as

$$\mathbb{E}[X|G_y] = \int_{x \in \mathbb{R}} x dF_{X|G_y}(x) = \int_{x \in \mathbb{R}} x \frac{d_x F_{X,Y}(x, y)}{F_Y(y)}.$$

**Example 1.4.** Consider a random variable  $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and a simple random variable  $Y : \Omega \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$  defined on the same probability space. We observe that the conditional distribution of  $X$  given the nontrivial event  $E_y = Y^{-1}\{y\}$  for  $y \in \mathcal{Y}$  is  $F_{X|E_y}(x) = \frac{P(\{X \leq x, Y=y\})}{P(E_y)}$ . Therefore, the conditional expectation of  $X$  given the event  $E_y$  is

$$\mathbb{E}[X | E_y] = \mathbb{E}[X | Y = y] = \int_{x \in \mathbb{R}} x dF_{X|E_y}(x) = \int_{x \in \mathbb{R}} x \int_{z=y} \frac{dF_{X,Y}(x, z)}{P(E_y)} = \frac{\mathbb{E}[X \mathbb{1}_{E_y}]}{P(E_y)}.$$

Since  $\mathbb{E}[X | E_y]$  is a scalar, we can write  $\mathbb{E}[X \mathbb{1}_{E_y}] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X | E_y] \mathbb{1}_{E_y}]$ .

**Definition 1.5.** Consider a random variable  $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined on probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ , and an event subspace  $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ . The **conditional expectation** of  $X$  given  $\mathcal{E}$  is denoted  $\mathbb{E}[X|\mathcal{E}]$  and is a random variable  $Z \triangleq \mathbb{E}[X|\mathcal{E}] : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  where

1. **measurability:** For each  $B \in \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R})$ , we have  $Z^{-1}(B) \in \mathcal{E}$ , and
2. **orthogonality:** for each event  $E \in \mathcal{E}$ , we have  $\mathbb{E}[X \mathbb{1}_E] = \mathbb{E}[Z \mathbb{1}_E]$ , and
3. **integrability:**  $\mathbb{E}|Z| < \infty$ .

**Proposition 1.6.** *Conditional expectation is unique almost surely.*

*Proof.* Consider a random variable  $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined on a probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$  and a sub event space  $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ . Let  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  be conditional expectations of  $X$  given  $\mathcal{E}$ . It suffices to show that  $A_\epsilon \triangleq \{\omega \in \Omega : Z_1 - Z_2 > \epsilon\} \in \mathcal{E}$  and  $B_\epsilon \triangleq \{\omega \in \Omega : Z_2 - Z_1 > \epsilon\} \in \mathcal{E}$  defined for each  $\epsilon > 0$  has measure  $P(A_\epsilon) = P(B_\epsilon) = 0$ . From the definition of conditional expectation and linearity of expectation, we can write

$$0 \leq \epsilon P(A_\epsilon) < \mathbb{E}[(Z_1 - Z_2)\mathbb{1}_{A_\epsilon}] = \mathbb{E}[X\mathbb{1}_{A_\epsilon}] - \mathbb{E}[X\mathbb{1}_{A_\epsilon}] = 0.$$

Similarly, we can show that  $P(B_\epsilon) = 0$ , and the result follows.  $\square$

*Remark 2.* Any random variable  $Z : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  that satisfies the measurability, orthogonality, and integrability, is the conditional expectation of  $X$  given the sub-event space  $\mathcal{E}$  from the a.s. uniqueness of conditional expectations.

*Remark 3.* Intuitively, we think of the event subspace  $\mathcal{E}$  as describing the information we have. For each  $A \in \mathcal{E}$ , we know whether or not  $A$  has occurred. The conditional expectation  $\mathbb{E}[X|\mathcal{E}]$  is the “best guess” of the value of  $X$  given the information  $\mathcal{E}$ .

**Definition 1.7.** Consider a random variable  $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and a random vector  $Y : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  defined on the same probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ . The conditional expectation of  $X$  given  $Y$  is defined as

$$\mathbb{E}[X | Y] \triangleq \mathbb{E}[X | \sigma(Y)].$$

**Proposition 1.8.** *For two random variables  $X, Y : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined on the same probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ , the conditional expectation  $\mathbb{E}[X | Y]$  is a function of  $Y$ .*

*Proof.* We denote the conditional expectation  $\mathbb{E}[X | Y]$  by a  $\sigma(Y)$ -measurable random variable  $Z : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . It suffices to show that for any  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ , the conditional expectation  $Z(\omega)$  remains constant on the set of outcomes  $\omega \in Y^{-1}\{y\}$ . First, we show that for any event  $A \in \sigma(Y)$ , either  $Y^{-1}\{y\} \subseteq A$  or  $A \cap Y^{-1}\{y\} = \emptyset$ . This follows from the fact that either  $y \in A$  or  $y \notin A$ . Next, we suppose that there exists a  $y \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\omega_1, \omega_2 \in Y^{-1}\{y\}$  such that  $Z(\omega_1) \neq Z(\omega_2)$ . It follows that there exists an event  $B \triangleq Z^{-1}\{Z(\omega_1)\} \in \sigma(Z)$  such that  $\omega_1 \in B$  and  $\omega_2 \notin B$ . Since  $Z$  is  $\sigma(Y)$ -measurable, it follows that  $B \in \sigma(Z) \subseteq \sigma(Y)$ . This leads to a contradiction.  $\square$

**Proposition 1.9.** *Let  $X, Y$  be random variables on the probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$  such that  $\mathbb{E}|X|, \mathbb{E}|Y| < \infty$ . Let  $\mathcal{G}$  and  $\mathcal{H}$  be sub-event spaces of  $\mathcal{F}$ . Then*

1. **linearity:**  $\mathbb{E}[\alpha X + \beta Y | \mathcal{G}] = \alpha \mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}] + \beta \mathbb{E}[Y | \mathcal{G}]$ , a.s.
2. **monotonicity:** If  $X \leq Y$  a.s., then  $\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}] \leq \mathbb{E}[Y | \mathcal{G}]$ , a.s.
3. **identity:** If  $X$  is  $\mathcal{G}$ -measurable and  $\mathbb{E}|X| < \infty$ , then  $X = \mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}]$  a.s. In particular,  $c = \mathbb{E}[c | \mathcal{G}]$ , for any constant  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ .
4. **conditional Jensen's inequality:** If  $\psi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is convex and  $\mathbb{E}|\psi(X)| < \infty$ , then  $\mathbb{E}[\psi(X) | \mathcal{G}] \geq \psi(\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}])$ , a.s.
5. **pulling out what's known:** If  $Y$  is  $\mathcal{G}$ -measurable and  $\mathbb{E}|XY| < \infty$ , then  $\mathbb{E}[XY | \mathcal{G}] = Y\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}]$ , a.s.
6.  **$L^2$ -projection:** If  $\mathbb{E}|X|^2 < \infty$ , then  $\zeta^* = \mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}]$  minimizes  $\mathbb{E}[(X - \zeta)^2]$  over all  $\mathcal{G}$ -measurable random variables  $\zeta$  such that  $\mathbb{E}|\zeta|^2 < \infty$ .
7. **tower property:** If  $\mathcal{H} \subseteq \mathcal{G}$ , then  $\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}] | \mathcal{H}] = \mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{H}]$ , a.s..
8. **irrelevance of independent information:** If  $\mathcal{H}$  is independent of  $\sigma(\mathcal{G}, \sigma(X))$  then

$$\mathbb{E}[X | \sigma(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H})] = \mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}], \text{ a.s.}$$

In particular, if  $X$  is independent of  $\mathcal{H}$ , then  $\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{H}] = \mathbb{E}[X]$ , a.s.

*Proof.* Let  $X, Y$  be random variables on the probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$  such that  $\mathbb{E}|X|, \mathbb{E}|Y| < \infty$ . Let  $\mathcal{G}$  and  $\mathcal{H}$  be event spaces such that  $\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ .

1. **linearity:** Let  $Z \triangleq \alpha\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}] + \beta\mathbb{E}[Y | \mathcal{G}]$ , then since  $\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}], \mathbb{E}[Y | \mathcal{G}]$  are  $\mathcal{G}$ -measurable, it follows that their linear combination  $Z$  is also  $\mathcal{G}$ -measurable. The integrability follows from the following triangle inequality and the monotonicity of expectation

$$|Z| \leq |\alpha| |\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}]| + |\beta| |\mathbb{E}[Y | \mathcal{G}]|.$$

Further, for any event  $F \in \mathcal{G}$ , from the linearity of expectation and definition of conditional expectation, we have

$$\mathbb{E}[Z \mathbb{1}_G] = \alpha \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}] \mathbb{1}_G] + \beta \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[Y | \mathcal{G}] \mathbb{1}_G] = \mathbb{E}[(\alpha X + \beta Y) \mathbb{1}_G].$$

2. **monotonicity:** Let  $\epsilon > 0$  and define  $A_\epsilon \triangleq \{\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}] - \mathbb{E}[Y | \mathcal{G}] > \epsilon\} \in \mathcal{G}$ . Then from the definition of conditional expectation, we have

$$0 \leq \mathbb{E}[(\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}] - \mathbb{E}[Y | \mathcal{G}]) \mathbb{1}_{A_\epsilon}] = \mathbb{E}[(X - Y) \mathbb{1}_{A_\epsilon}] \leq 0.$$

Thus, we obtain that  $P(A_\epsilon) = 0$  for all  $\epsilon > 0$ . Taking limit  $\epsilon \downarrow 0$ , we get  $0 = \lim_{\epsilon \downarrow 0} P(A_\epsilon) = P(\lim_{\epsilon \downarrow 0} A_\epsilon) = P(A_0)$ .

3. **identity:** It follows from the definition that  $X$  satisfies all three conditions for conditional expectation. The event space generated by any constant function is the trivial event space  $\{\emptyset, \Omega\} \subseteq \mathcal{G}$  for any event space. Hence,  $\mathbb{E}[c | \mathcal{G}] = c$ .

4. **conditional Jensen's inequality:** We will use the fact that a convex function can always be represented by the supremum of a family of affine functions. Accordingly, we will assume for a convex function  $\psi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , we have linear functions  $\phi_i : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and constants  $c_i \in \mathbb{R}$  for all  $i \in I$  such that  $\psi = \sup_{i \in I} (\phi_i + c_i)$ .

For each  $i \in I$ , we have  $\phi_i(\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}]) + c_i = \mathbb{E}[\phi_i(X) | \mathcal{G}] + c_i \leq \mathbb{E}[\psi(X) | \mathcal{G}]$  from the linearity and monotonicity of conditional expectation. It follows that

$$\psi(\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}]) = \sup_{i \in I} (\phi_i(\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}]) + c_i) \leq \mathbb{E}[\psi(X) | \mathcal{G}].$$

5. **pulling out what's known:** Let  $Y$  be  $\mathcal{G}$ -measurable and  $\mathbb{E}|XY| < \infty$ . Since  $Y$  is given to be  $\mathcal{G}$ -measurable, conditional expectation  $\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}]$  is  $\mathcal{G}$ -measurable by definition, and product function is Borel measurable, it follows that  $Y\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}]$  is  $\mathcal{G}$ -measurable.

It suffices to show that  $\mathbb{E}[XY \mathbb{1}_G] = \mathbb{E}[Y\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}] \mathbb{1}_G]$  for all events  $G \in \mathcal{G}$  and  $\mathbb{E}|Y\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}]| < \infty$ , when  $Y$  is a simple  $\mathcal{G}$ -measurable random variable such that  $\mathbb{E}|XY| < \infty$ . It follows that, we can write  $Y = \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} y \mathbb{1}_{E_y}$  for finite  $\mathcal{Y}$  and  $E_y \triangleq Y^{-1}\{y\} \in \mathcal{G}$  for all  $y \in \mathcal{Y}$ . From the definition of conditional expectation and linearity, we obtain for any  $G \in \mathcal{G}$

$$\mathbb{E}[Y\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}] \mathbb{1}_G] = \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} y \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{1}_{G \cap E_y} \mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}]] = \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} y \mathbb{E}[X \mathbb{1}_{G \cap E_y}] = \mathbb{E}[X \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} y \mathbb{1}_{G \cap E_y}] = \mathbb{E}[XY \mathbb{1}_G].$$

Conditional Jensen's inequality applied to convex function  $|\cdot| : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ , we get  $|\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}]| \leq \mathbb{E}[|X| | \mathcal{G}]$ . Therefore,

$$\mathbb{E}[|Y| |\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}]|] = \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} |y| \mathbb{E}[|\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}]| \mathbb{1}_{E_y}] \leq \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} |y| \mathbb{E}[|X| \mathbb{1}_{E_y}] = \mathbb{E}|XY|.$$

6.  **$L^2$ -projection:** We define  $L^2(\mathcal{G}) \triangleq \{\zeta \text{ a } \mathcal{G} \text{ measurable random variable : } \mathbb{E}\zeta^2 < \infty\}$ . From the conditional Jensen's inequality applied to convex function  $(\cdot)^2 : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ , we get that  $\mathbb{E}(\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}])^2 \leq \mathbb{E}[X^2 | \mathcal{G}]$ . Since  $X \in L^2$ , it follows that  $X^2 \in L^1$  and hence  $\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}] \in L^2$ . It follows that  $\zeta^* \triangleq \mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}] \in L^2(\mathcal{G})$  from the definition of conditional expectation.

We first show that  $X - \zeta^*$  is uncorrelated with all  $\zeta \in L^2(\mathcal{G})$ . Towards this end, we let  $\zeta \in L^2(\mathcal{G})$  and observe that

$$\mathbb{E}[(X - \zeta^*)\zeta] = \mathbb{E}[\zeta X] - \mathbb{E}[\zeta \mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}]] = \mathbb{E}[\zeta X] - \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[\zeta X | \mathcal{G}]] = 0.$$

The above equality follows from the linearity of expectation, the  $\mathcal{G}$ -measurability of  $\zeta$ , and the definition of conditional expectation. Since  $\zeta^* \in L^2(\mathcal{G})$ , we have  $(\zeta - \zeta^*) \in L^2(\mathcal{G})$ . Therefore,  $\mathbb{E}[(X - \zeta^*)(\zeta - \zeta^*)] = 0$ . For any  $\zeta \in L^2(\mathcal{G})$ , we can write from the linearity of expectation

$$\mathbb{E}(X - \zeta)^2 = \mathbb{E}(X - \zeta^*)^2 + \mathbb{E}(\zeta - \zeta^*)^2 - 2\mathbb{E}(X - \zeta^*)(\zeta - \zeta^*) \geq \mathbb{E}(X - \zeta^*)^2.$$

7. **tower property:** Measurability follows from the definition of conditional expectation, since  $\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{H}]$  is  $\mathcal{H}$  measurable. Integrability follows from the application of conditional Jensen's inequality to convex function  $|\cdot| : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  to get  $|\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{H}]| \leq \mathbb{E}[|X| | \mathcal{H}]$ , which implies  $\mathbb{E}|\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{H}]| \leq \mathbb{E}|X| < \infty$ . Orthogonality follows from the definition of conditional expectation, since for any  $H \in \mathcal{H} \subseteq \mathcal{G}$ , we have

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}] | \mathcal{H}] \mathbb{1}_H] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}] \mathbb{1}_H] = \mathbb{E}[X \mathbb{1}_H] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{H}] \mathbb{1}_H].$$

8. **irrelevance of independent information:** Measurability follows from the definition of conditional expectation and the definition of  $\sigma(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H})$ . Since  $\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}]$  is  $\mathcal{G}$ -measurable, it is  $\sigma(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H})$  measurable. Integrability follows from the conditional Jensen's inequality applied to convex function  $|\cdot| : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$  to get  $|\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}]| \leq \mathbb{E}[|X| | \mathcal{G}]$ , which implies that  $\mathbb{E}|\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}]| \leq \mathbb{E}|X| < \infty$ .

Orthogonality follows from the fact that it suffices to show for events  $A = G \cap H \in \sigma(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H})$  where  $G \in \mathcal{G}$  and  $H \in \mathcal{H}$ . In this case,

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}] \mathbb{1}_{G \cap H}] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}] \mathbb{1}_G \mathbb{1}_H] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X | \mathcal{G}] \mathbb{1}_G] \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{1}_H] = \mathbb{E}[X \mathbb{1}_G] \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{1}_H] = \mathbb{E}[X \mathbb{1}_{G \cap H}].$$

□

**Example 1.10 (Conditioning on simple random variables).** Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be random variables defined on the probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ , where  $Y = \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} y \mathbb{1}_{E_y}$  is simple with finite  $\mathcal{Y}$ ,  $E_y \triangleq Y^{-1}\{y\} \in \mathcal{F}$  for all  $y \in \mathcal{Y}$  are mutually disjoint, and  $p_y \triangleq P(E_y) > 0$  for all  $y \in \mathcal{Y}$ . Then, we observe that

$$\mathbb{E}[X|Y] = \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} \mathbb{E}[X | E_y] \mathbb{1}_{E_y} \text{ a.s.}$$

To show this, we will use the almost sure uniqueness of conditional expectation that satisfies three properties in the definition. For measurability, we observe that  $\sigma(Y) = \sigma(E_y : y \in \mathcal{Y})$ , and RHS is a simple  $\sigma(Y)$ -measurable random variable. For integrability, we observe that

$$\mathbb{E} \left| \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} \mathbb{E}[X | E_y] \mathbb{1}_{E_y} \right| \leq \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} |\mathbb{E}[X | Y]| P(E_y).$$

Thus, integrability follows from the finiteness of  $|\mathbb{E}[X | E_y]|$ . For orthogonality, we observe that any  $G \in \sigma(Y) = \cup_{y \in F} E_y$  for some finite subset  $F \subseteq \mathcal{Y}$ . Further, we observe that  $\mathbb{E}[X \mathbb{1}_{E_y}] = \mathbb{E}[X | E_y] P(E_y)$ . Therefore, we have

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{z \in F} \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} \mathbb{E}[X | E_y] \mathbb{1}_{E_y} \mathbb{1}_{E_z} \right] = \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{z \in F} \mathbb{E}[X | E_z] \mathbb{1}_{E_z} \right] = \mathbb{E}[X \mathbb{1}_G].$$

**Example 1.11 (Conditioning on simple random variables).** Consider two random variables  $X, Y$  defined on the same probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ , where  $Y$  is a simple random variable such that  $\mathcal{Y} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  is finite alphabet,  $E_y \triangleq Y^{-1}(\{y\}) \in \sigma(Y) \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ , and  $p_y \triangleq P(E_y) > 0$ . Thus, we can write

$$Y = \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} y \mathbb{1}_{E_y}.$$

The collection  $(E_y \in \mathcal{F} : y \in \mathcal{Y})$  forms a finite partition of the outcome space  $\Omega$  and generates  $\sigma(Y) = \{\cup_{y \in F} E_y \in \mathcal{F} : F \subseteq \mathcal{Y}\}$ . For an event space  $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ , we claim

$$\mathbb{E}[X | \sigma(\mathcal{E}, Y)] = \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} \mathbb{E}[X | \sigma(\mathcal{E}, E_y)] \mathbb{1}_{E_y} \text{ a.s.}$$

We will show this by uniqueness of conditional expectation that satisfies the following three properties. First, we verify that RHS is  $\sigma(\mathcal{E}, Y)$  measurable, which follows from the definition since  $\mathbb{E}[X | \sigma(\mathcal{E}, E_y)] \in \sigma(\mathcal{E}, E_y) \subseteq \sigma(\mathcal{E}, Y)$ . Second, it follows from the triangular and conditional Jensen's inequality, that

$$\mathbb{E} \left| \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} \mathbb{E}[X | \sigma(\mathcal{E}, E_y)] \mathbb{1}_{E_y} \right| \leq \sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[|X| \mathbb{1}_{E_y} | \sigma(\mathcal{E}, E_y)]] \leq \mathbb{E}|X|.$$

It suffices to show that for any  $A \in \mathcal{E}$ , we have  $\mathbb{E}[\sum_{y \in \mathcal{Y}} \mathbb{E}[X | \sigma(\mathcal{E}, E_y)] \mathbb{1}_{E_y} \mathbb{1}_A \mathbb{1}_{E_z}] = \mathbb{E}[X \mathbb{1}_A \mathbb{1}_{E_z}]$ . To this end, we observe that LHS of above equation is equal to

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X \mathbb{1}_{A \cap E_z} | \sigma(\mathcal{E}, E_z)]] = \mathbb{E}[X \mathbb{1}_{A \cap E_z}].$$