



香港中文大學  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

## 10.2 Definition

**Definition 10.10** The differential entropy  $h(X)$  of a continuous random variable  $X$  with pdf  $f(x)$  is defined as

$$h(X) = - \int_{\mathcal{S}} f(x) \log f(x) dx = -E \log f(X)$$

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## Remarks

1. Differential entropy is not a measure of the average amount of information contained in a continuous r.v.
2. A continuous random variable generally contains an infinite amount of information.

**Example 10.11** Let  $X$  be uniformly distributed on  $[0, 1)$ . Then we can write

$$X = .X_1X_2X_3\cdots,$$

the dyadic expansion of  $X$ , where  $X_1, X_2, X_3, \cdots$  is a sequence of fair bits.

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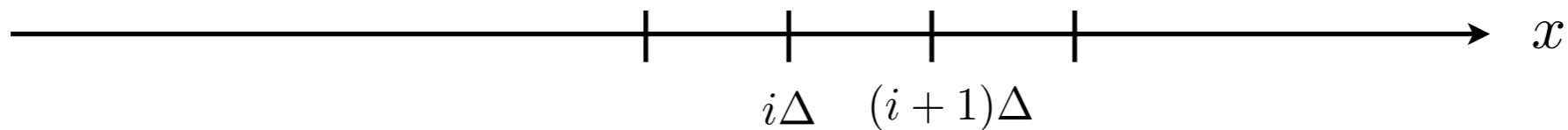
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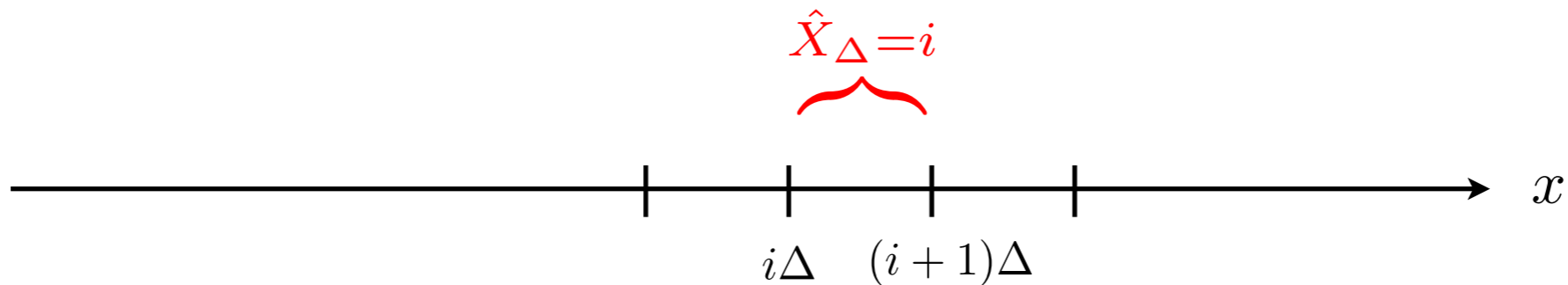
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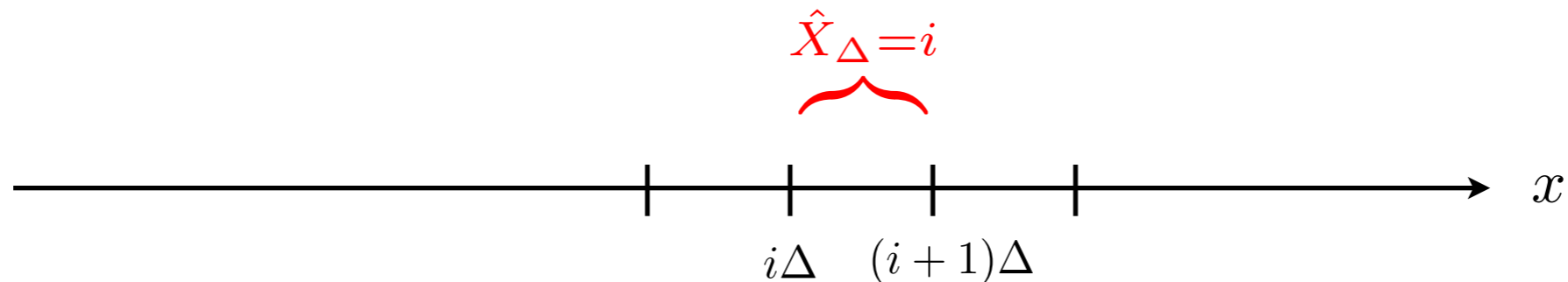


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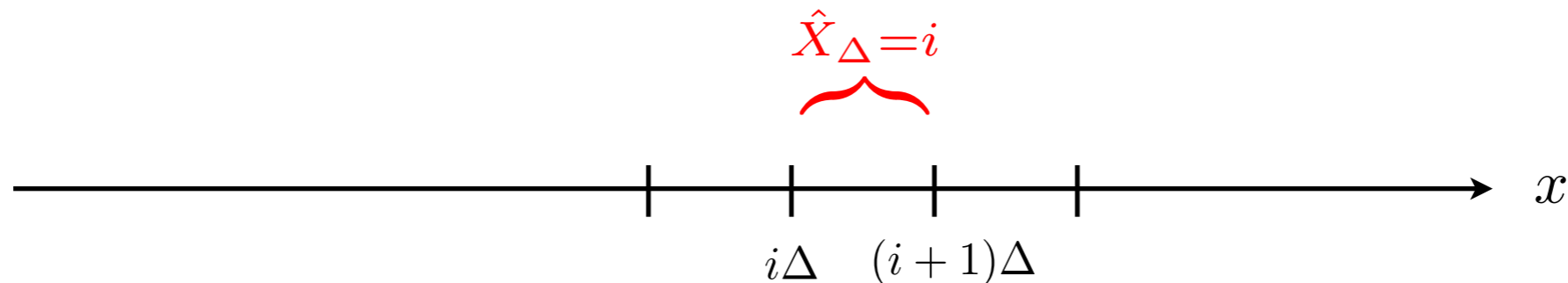
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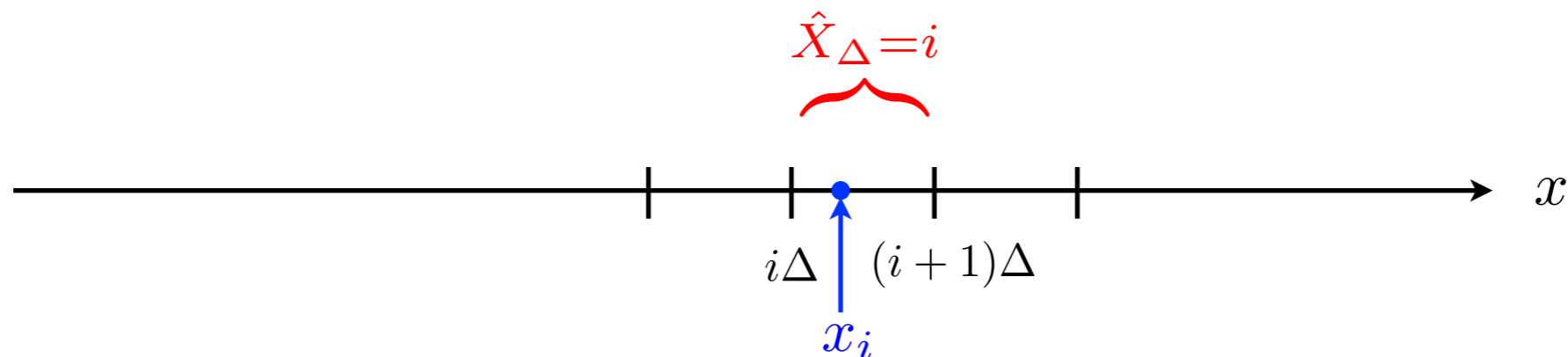
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- Note that  $H(\hat{X}_\Delta) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $\Delta \rightarrow 0$ .

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**Example 10.13 (Gaussian Distribution)** Let  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ . Then

$$h(X) = \frac{1}{2} \log(2\pi e\sigma^2).$$

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$$h(X + c) = h(X).$$

**Proof**

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4. Hence,

$$h(aX) = h(X) + \log |a|.$$