

# Topic 8: Derived Distributions

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## Lecture Outline

- Functions of One Continuous Random Variable  
Given the PDF of  $X$ , find the PDF of  $Y=g(X)$
- Function of Two Continuous Random Variable  $W=g(X, Y)$   
Given the PDF of  $X$  and  $Y$ , find the PDF of  $W=g(X, Y)$
- Joint PDF of **Multiple Functions** of Two Random Variables

$$V = g(X, Y)$$

$$W = h(X, Y)$$

## References:

1. Textbook: Section 4.1 for functions of one RV
2. H. Stark and J. Woods, ***Probability and Random Process with Applications to Signal Processing***, 3rd ed., 2002, (pp. 152 ~ 161)
3. S. Ghahramani, **Fundamentals of Probability with Stochastic Processes**, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., 2019 (Sec. 8.4)

# Review

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Discrete	Continuous
$p_X(x)$	$f_X(x)$
$p_{X,Y}(x,y)$	$f_{X,Y}(x,y)$
$p_{X Y}(x y) = \frac{p_{X,Y}(x,y)}{p_Y(y)}$	$f_{X Y}(x y) = \frac{f_{X,Y}(x,y)}{f_Y(y)}$
$p_X(x) = \sum_y p_{X,Y}(x,y)$	$f_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x,y) dy$
	$F_X(x) = \mathbf{P}(X \leq x)$
	$\mathbf{E}[X], \text{var}(X)$

# Review: Derived PMF

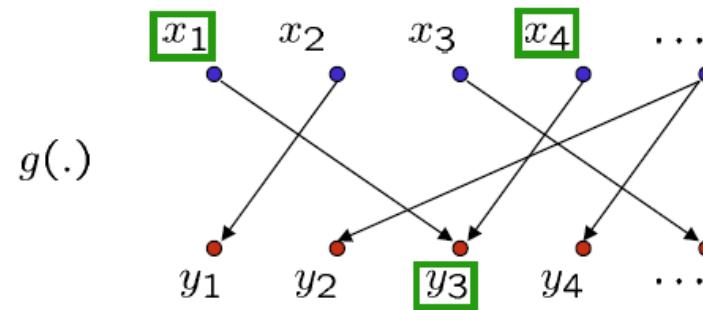
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Recall derived PMF

Given  $p_X(x)$  and a new random variable  $Y = g(X)$ , derive new PMF  $p_Y(y)$  by

$$p_Y(y) = \sum_{x:g(x)=y} p_X(x)$$

Pick up a  $y$  value, find all  $x$ 's that give  $g(x)=y$ . We sum over all  $x$ 's that give  $g(x)=y$ .



Note:

The above method cannot be immediately extended to deriving PDFs since  $X$  is continuous. PDFs are not probabilities, and we cannot add probabilities of  $\{X=x\}$  for continuous  $X$

# PDF of $Y=g(X)$ for Continuous $X$

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## Two steps to derive

1. First, calculate the **CDF**  $F_Y(y)$  of  $Y=g(X)$  using the formula

$$F_Y(y) = P(Y \leq y) = \int_{x:g(x) \leq y} f_X(x) dx$$

2. Differentiate to obtain the PDF of  $Y$ :

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{dF_Y(y)}{dy}$$

## Example 4.3

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Let  $Y = g(X) = X^2$ , where  $X$  is a uniform random variable over  $[-2,2]$ .  
Find the PDF of  $Y$ .

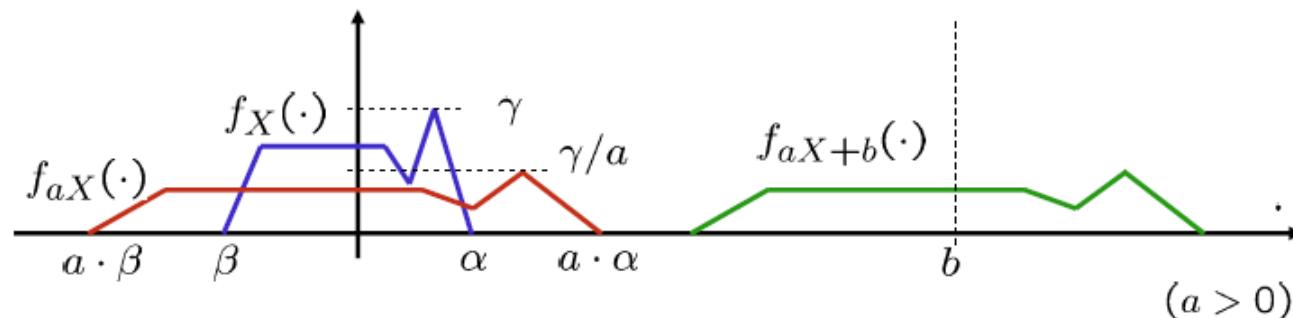
(Sol)  $f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{4}y^{-1/2}$  for  $0 \leq y \leq 4$

# The Linear Case

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Let  $X$  be a continuous random variable with PDF  $f_X(x)$ , and let  $Y = aX + b$ , for some scalars  $a \neq 0$  and  $b$ . Then,

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{|a|} f_X\left(\frac{y - b}{a}\right)$$



Two steps: **Scaling:**  $z = ax$ ; **Shift:**  $y = z + b$

Example:

1. A linear function of a normal random variable is normal
2. A linear function of an exponential random variable is **NOT** necessarily exponential

## Example 4.4: A liner function of an exponential random variable

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- Let  $X$  be an **exponential random variable** with parameter  $\lambda$ .

We have the PDF

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \lambda e^{-\lambda x} & \text{if } x \geq 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where  $\lambda$  is a positive parameter. Let  $Y = aX + b$ . Then,

$$f_Y(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{\lambda}{|a|} e^{-\lambda(y-b)/a} & \text{if } (y-b)/a \geq 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Note that if  $b = 0$  and  $a > 0$ , then  $Y$  is an exponential random variable with parameter  $\lambda/a$ . In general, however,  $Y$  need not be exponential. For example, if  $a < 0$  and  $b = 0$ , then the range of  $Y$  is the negative real axis.

# Monotonic Function of a Continuous Random Variable

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Suppose that  $g$  is **strictly monotonic** and that for some function  $h$  and all  $x$  in the range of  $X$  we have

$$y = g(x) \quad \text{if and only if} \quad x = h(y)$$

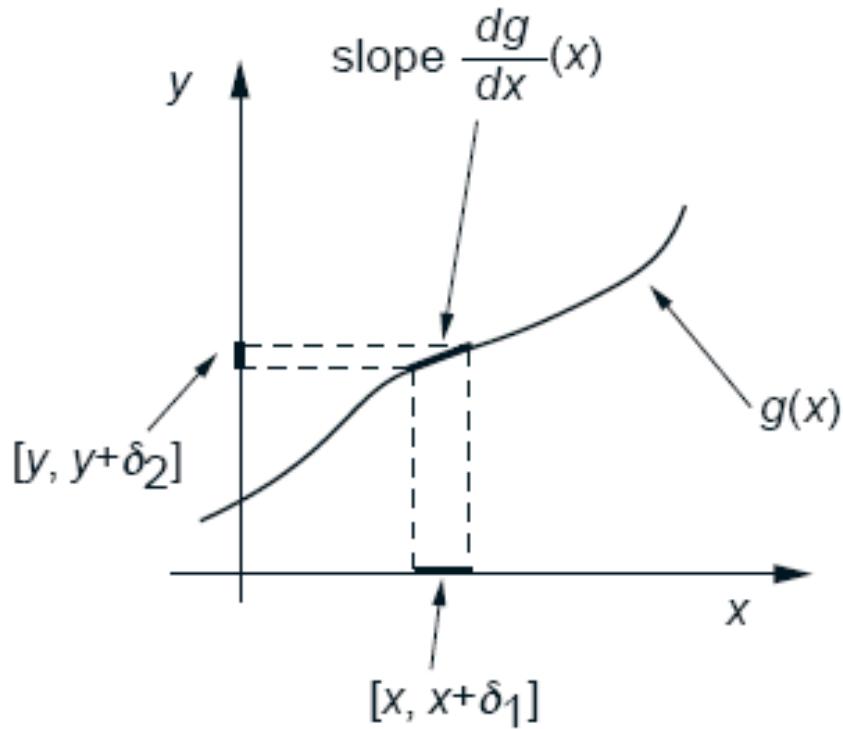
Assume that  $h$  is differentiable. Then, **the PDF of  $Y=g(X)$**  in the region is given by

$$f_Y(y) = f_X(h(y)) \left| \frac{dh}{dy}(y) \right|$$

This can be justified by first **finding the CDF of  $Y$** , then **taking the derivative**.

- Monotonically increasing:  $g(x) < g(x')$  for all  $x, x'$  satisfying  $x < x'$
- Monotonically decreasing
- 上式絕對值的物理意義?

## Illustration (page 210)



**Fig. 4.4:** Consider an interval,  $[x, x+\delta_1]$ , where  $\delta_1$  is a small number. Under the mapping  $g$ , the image of this interval is another interval  $[y, y+\delta_2]$ . Since  $(dg/dx)$  is the slope of  $g$ , we have  $\frac{\delta_2}{\delta_1} \approx \frac{dg}{dx}(x)$   
Or in terms of the inverse function,

$$\frac{\delta_1}{\delta_2} \approx \frac{dh}{dy}(y), \quad h = g^{-1}$$

- We now note the event  $\{x \leq X \leq x+\delta_1\}$  is the same as the event  $\{y \leq Y \leq y+\delta_2\}$ . Thus,  

$$f_Y(y)\delta_2 \approx \Pr(y \leq Y \leq y + \delta_2)$$

$$= \Pr(x \leq X \leq x + \delta_1) \approx f_X(x)\delta_1$$

## Examples

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- Let  $Y = g(X) = X^2$ , where  $X$  is a uniform random variable on  $[0,2]$ . Find the PDF of  $Y$ .
- Sol:

$$f_Y(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{4}y^{-\frac{1}{2}}, & 0 \leq y \leq 4, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- Let  $Y = g(X) = X^2$ , where  $X$  is a uniform random variable on  $[-2,2]$ . Find the PDF of  $Y$ . **<Non-monotonic>**
- Sol:

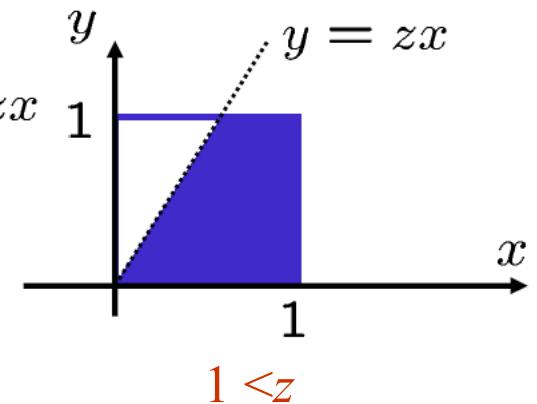
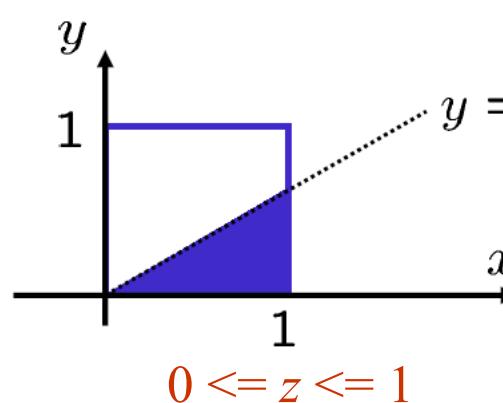
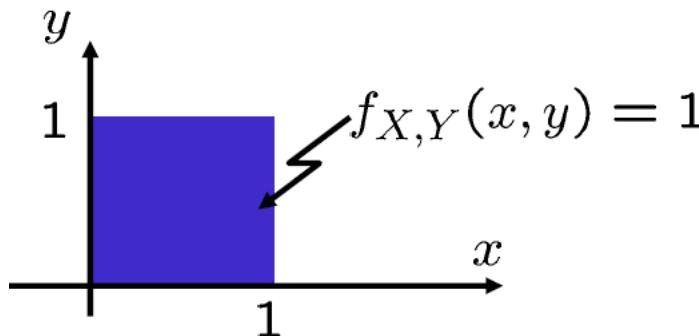
# Functions of Two Random Variables

## Two-step procedure

1. Calculate the CDF  $F_Z(z)$  of  $Z=g(X,Y)$
2. Differentiate to obtain the PDF of  $Z$

Example: (4.8) (p.211)

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be two independent uniform (continuous) random variables over  $[0,1]$ . Find the PDF of  $Z=Y/X$ .



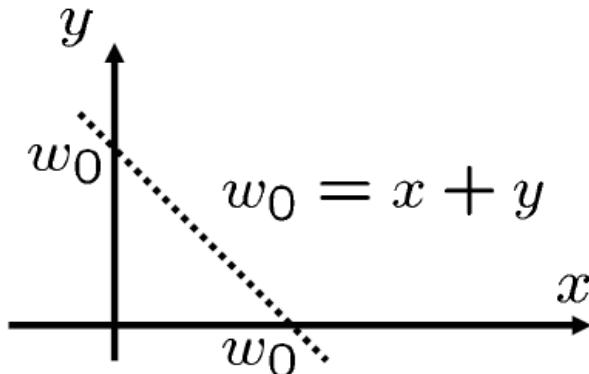
$$F_Z(z) = z/2 \quad 0 \leq z \leq 1$$

$$F_Z(z) = 1 - 1/2z \quad z \geq 1$$

# The Distribution of $X+Y$

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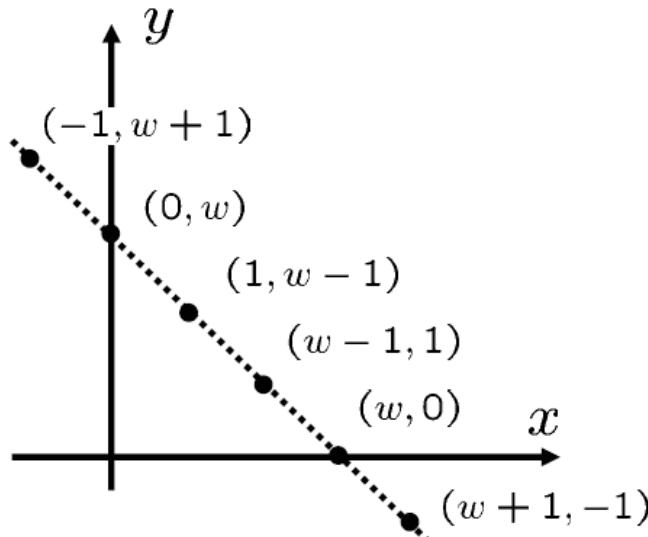
- Let  $X, Y$  be two RVs, and let  $W = X + Y$ . Find the PMF (*if  $X, Y$  discrete*) or PDF of  $W$  (*if  $X, Y$  continuous*).
- Points where the value  $W = w_0$  is some constant lie on the following line



- Idea
  - Discrete case: add probabilities of all points on this line.
  - Continuous case: integrate the joint density on this line.

# X+Y: Independent Discrete Integers

- Let  $X, Y$  be discrete, independent RVs.
- Then  $W = X + Y$  is also integer-valued.



- Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} p_W(w) &= \Pr(X + Y = w) = \sum_x \Pr(X = x) \Pr(Y = w - x) \\ &= \sum_x p_X(x) p_Y(w - x) \end{aligned}$$

This operation is called **discrete convolution** (摺積、迴旋積)

## Obtaining $p_W(w)$ by Discrete Convolution

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- Problem10 (p. 246): Let  $X, Y$  be two indep. RVs with PMFs

$$p_X(x) = \begin{cases} 1/3, & \text{if } x = 1, 2, 3, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad p_Y(y) = \begin{cases} 1/2, & \text{if } y = 0, \\ 1/3, & \text{if } y = 1, \\ 1/6, & \text{if } y = 2, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

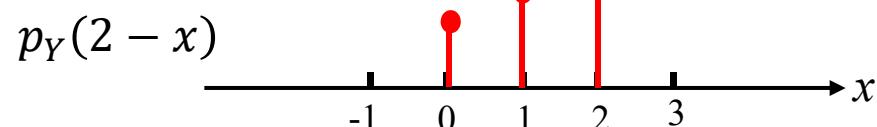
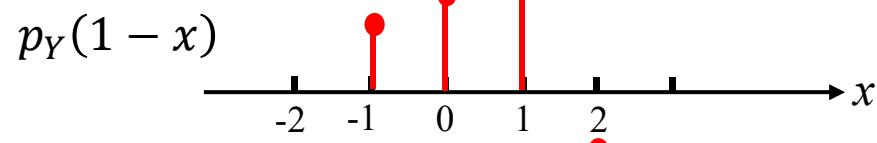
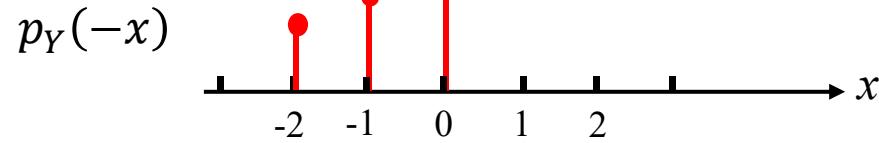
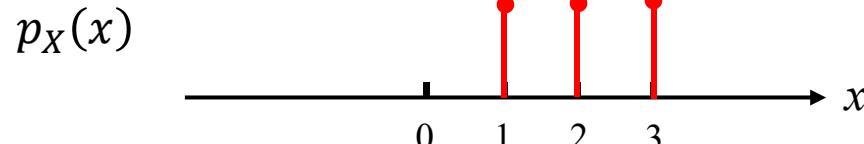
Find the PMF of  $W = X + Y$ .

$$p_W(w) = \sum_x p_X(x) p_Y(w-x)$$

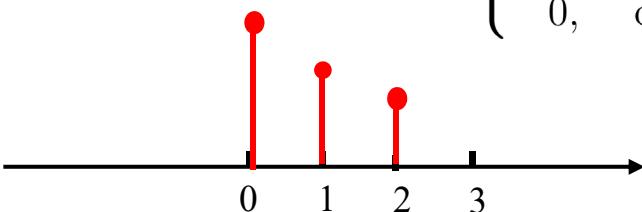
# Discrete Convolution

$$p_W(w) = \sum_x p_X(x)p_Y(w-x)$$

$$p_X(x) = \begin{cases} 1/3, & \text{if } x = 1, 2, 3, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



$$p_Y(y) = \begin{cases} 1/2, & \text{if } y = 0, \\ 1/3, & \text{if } y = 1, \\ 1/6, & \text{if } y = 2, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$



w = 0:  $\sum_x p_X(x)p_Y(-x)=0$

w = 1:  $\sum_x p_X(x)p_Y(1 - x)=1/6$

w = 2:  $\sum_x p_X(x)p_Y(2 - x) = \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{5}{18}$

## X+Y: Convolution Integral

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- Let  $X, Y$  be independent, continuous RVs.
- Then the PDF of  $W = X + Y$  is given by

$$f_W(w) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) f_Y(w-x) dx$$

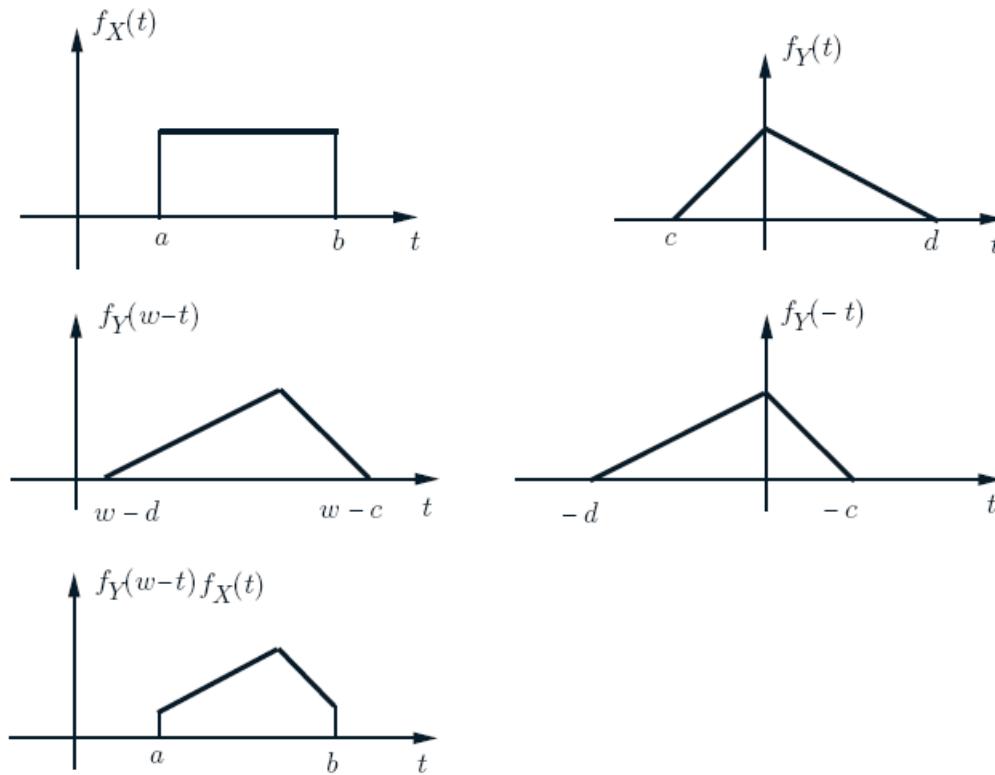
- This integral is called (continuous) **convolution** (摺疊積分)

# Graphical Understanding of Continuous Convolutions

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Convolution can be perceived with the help of [graphical illustration](#).

- Key step: how to draw  $f_Y(w-t)$  from  $f_Y(t)$  for a fixed  $w$  and variable  $t$



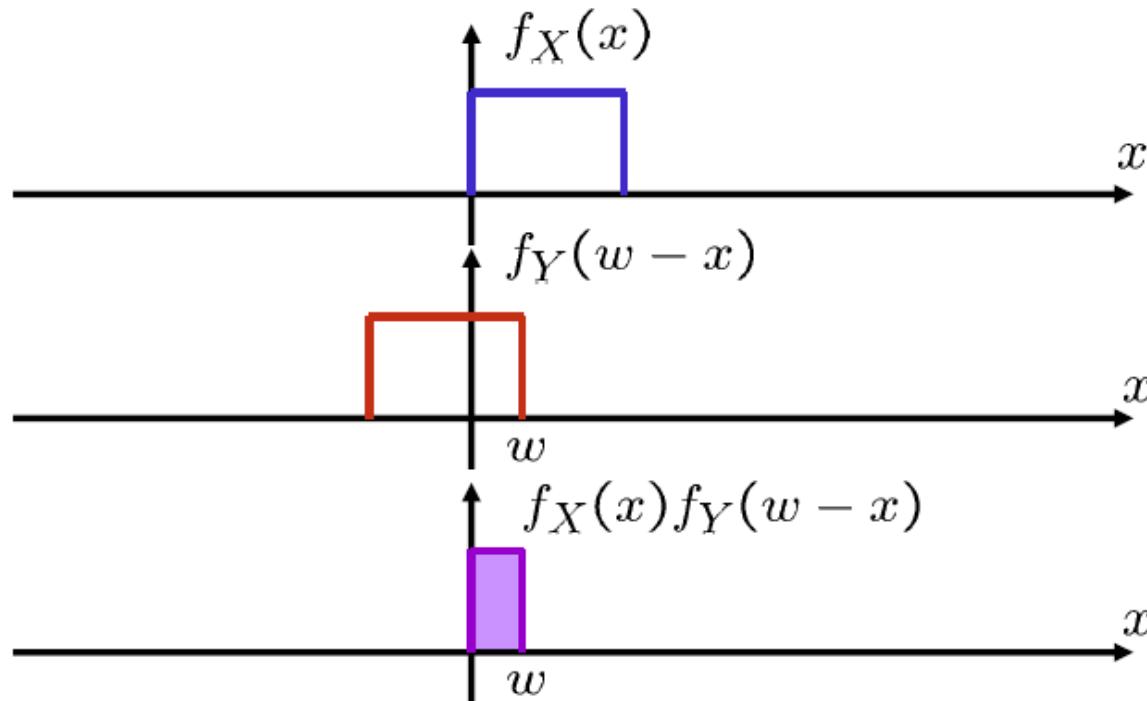
## $X+Y$ Example: Independent Continuous

- Let  $X, Y$  be independent, uniform on  $[0, 1]$ .

Find the PDF of  $W = X + Y$ .

- Convolution idea applies:

$$f_W(w) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x)f_Y(w-x)dx$$



# Sum of Independent Normals

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- Let  $X, Y$  be *independent*, *normal* RVs.

$$X \sim N(0, \sigma_x^2) \quad Y \sim N(0, \sigma_y^2)$$

- What is the PDF of  $W = X + Y$  ?

$$\begin{aligned} f_W(w) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) f_Y(w-x) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_x\sigma_y} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-x^2/2\sigma_x^2) \exp(-(w-x)^2/2\sigma_y^2) dx \\ &= C \cdot \exp(-w^2/2(\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_y^2)), \quad C = 1/(2\pi(\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_y^2))^{1/2} \end{aligned}$$

- 上式積分的結果很 neat，但推導有些繁瑣。推導關鍵有兩點：1) 配方法；  
2)  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) dx = 1$  for any PDF  $f_X(x)$ .
- Hence,  $W$  is normal with mean = 0, and  $\sigma_w^2 = \sigma_x^2 + \sigma_y^2$
- Note: More generally,  $aX+bY$  is also normal for any two constants  $a$  and  $b$
- 此結果若將 Independent 的條件移除則未必成立

# Review

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## Review: Monotonic Function of a Continuous RV

Suppose that  $g$  is **strictly monotonic** and that for some function  $h$  and all  $x$  in the range of  $X$  we have

$$y = g(x) \quad \text{if and only if} \quad x = h(y)$$

Assume that  $h$  is differentiable. Then, the **PDF of  $Y=g(X)$**  in the region is given by

$$f_Y(y) = f_X(h(y)) \left| \frac{dh}{dy}(y) \right|$$

這個式子不需要背，其實本質上就是先找  $Y$  的 CDF，再取微分即可！

# Joint Density of Two Functions of Two RVs

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## Problem:

Given joint PDF  $f_{X,Y}(x,y)$  of two continuous random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ .

We now have two newly defined random variables  $V$  and  $W$

$$V = g(X, Y)$$

$$W = h(X, Y)$$

where  $g(\cdot)$  and  $h(\cdot)$  are two real-valued functions. How do we compute the joint PDF  $f_{VW}(v,w)$  from  $f_{X,Y}(x,y)$  ?

## Important Remarks:

1. In general,  $g(\cdot)$  and  $h(\cdot)$  can be **any** 2 real-valued functions
2. In this topic, we will consider a special case of  $g(\cdot)$  and  $h(\cdot)$ . We assume that the system of two equations in two unknowns has a **unique** solution  $x=p(v,w)$  and  $y=q(v,w)$  for  $x$  and  $y$  in terms of  $v$  and  $w$ , similar to the monotonic case mentioned on the previous page.

# Basic Concept

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- By properly selecting the values of  $dv$ ,  $dw$ ,  $dx$ , and  $dy$ , we have  
[probability before mapping] = [probability after mapping].

$$P(v \leq V \leq v + dv, w \leq W \leq w + dw) = P(x \leq X \leq x + dx, y \leq Y \leq y + dy)$$

When  $dv$ ,  $dw$ ,  $dx$ , and  $dy$  are very small,

$$P(v \leq V \leq v + dv, w \leq W \leq w + dw) \approx f_{VW}(v, w)(dv dw)$$

$$P(x \leq X \leq x + dx, y \leq Y \leq y + dy) \approx f_{XY}(x, y)(dx dy)$$

- The above amounts to

$$f_{VW}(v, w) = f_{XY}(x, y) \cdot \underbrace{\left( \frac{dxdy}{dvdw} \right)}_{\text{ratio of two areas}}$$

So, the question now is how do we find the ratio?

⇒ Use change of variable theorem in calculus

# Formula to the Joint Density

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$$f_{VW}(v, w) = f_{XY}(x, y) \cdot \underbrace{\left( \frac{dxdy}{dvdw} \right)}_{\text{ratio of two areas}}$$

Using **change of variable theorem** in calculus,

$$f_{VW}(v, w) = f_{XY}(x, y) \cdot |J|^{-1} \quad (\text{evaluated at } x=p(v,w) \text{ and } y=q(v,w))$$

where  $J$  is the **Jacobian** representing the (inverse) **ratio of the areas** and is the determinant

$$J = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial g(x,y)}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial g(x,y)}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial h(x,y)}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial h(x,y)}{\partial y} \end{vmatrix} = \frac{\partial g(x,y)}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial h(x,y)}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial g(x,y)}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial h(x,y)}{\partial x}$$

- H. Stark and J. Woods, ***Probability and Random Process with Applications to Signal Processing***, 3rd ed., 2002, (pp. 152 ~ 161)

# Example

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- Let  $V=X+Y$ , and  $W=X-Y$ . Find the joint PDF of  $V$  and  $W$  in terms of the joint PDF of  $X$  and  $Y$ . (S&W, p.153)
- **Solutions:**

We use the formula  $f_{VW}(v, w) = f_{XY}(x, y) \cdot |J|^{-1}$

First, we solve for  $x$  and  $y$  in terms of  $v$  and  $w$ . It is clear that

$$\begin{aligned}x &= \frac{1}{2}(v + w) \\y &= \frac{1}{2}(v - w)\end{aligned}$$

The Jacobian is

$$J = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{vmatrix} = -2$$

Thus,  $f_{VW}(v, w) = \frac{1}{2}f_{XY}\left(\frac{v+w}{2}, \frac{v-w}{2}\right)$  ■