

## Lecture 6: Law of Large Numbers and Central Limit Theorem

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EE210: Probability and Introductory Random Processes  
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- (1) Weak Law of Large Numbers: Result and Meaning
  - (2) Central Limit Theorem: Result and Meaning
  - (3) Weak Law of Large Numbers: Proof
    - Inequalities: Markov and Chebyshev
  - (4) Central Limit Theorem: Proof
    - Moment Generating Function (MGF)
- Two most remarkable findings in probability theory

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- (1) Weak Law of Large Numbers: Result and Meaning
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- **Example 1.**  $n$  students who decide their presence, depending on their feeling. Each student is happy or sad at random, and only happy students will show their presence. How many students will show their presence?
- **Example 2.** I am hearing some sound. There are  $n$  noisy sources from outside.
- $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$ : i.i.d (independent and identically distributed) random variables
- $\mathbb{E}[X_i] = \mu, \text{var}[X_i] = \sigma^2$
- Our interest is to understand how the following sum behaves:

$$S_n = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n$$

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- Figure out the distribution of  $S_n$ . Very challenging. Even just for  $Z = X + Y$ , finding the distribution, for example, requires the complex **convolution**.

$$p_Z(z) = \mathbb{P}(X + Y = z) = \sum_x p_X(x) p_Y(z - x)$$

- Easy case: Sum of normal rvs = a normal rv, however, generally very challenging.
- Possible approach**. Take a certain **scaling** with respect to  $n$  that corresponds to a **new glass**, and investigate the system for large  $n$

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- Consider the **sample mean**, and try to understand how  $S_n$  behaves:

$$M_n = \frac{S_n}{n} = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n}{n}$$

- $\mathbb{E}(M_n) = \mu$ ,  $\text{var}(M_n) = \sigma^2/n$
- For large  $n$ , the variance  $\text{var}(M_n)$  decays. We expect that, for large  $n$ ,  $M_n$  loses its randomness and **concentrates around  $\mu$** .
- We call this **law of large numbers (LLN)**.

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$$M_n = \frac{S_n}{n} = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n}{n}$$

- What about this? What's wrong?

$$M_n \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu$$

- Ordinary convergence** for the sequence of real numbers:  $a_n \rightarrow L$

For every  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $N = N(\epsilon)$ , such that for every  $n \geq N$ ,  $|a_n - L| \leq \epsilon$ .

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nBmsRA6eVw>

- However,  $M_n$  is a random variable, which is a function from  $\Omega$  to  $\mathbb{R}$ .
- Need to build up the **new** concept of convergence for the sequence of rvs.

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- What we want: a sequence of rvs  $(Y_n)_{n=1,2,\dots}$  **converges to a rv  $Y$**  in some sense
- For any given  $\epsilon > 0$ , consider the sequence of events  $A_n = \{|Y_n - Y| \geq \epsilon\}$ , and compute its sequence of probabilities  $a_n = \mathbb{P}(A_n) = \mathbb{P}(|Y_n - Y| \geq \epsilon)$ .
- Now,  $\{a_n\}$  are just the real numbers, and show that  $a_n \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .
- To show that  $a_n \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , which is just the ordinary convergence, we show:
  - For any  $\delta > 0$ , there exists  $N = N(\delta)$ , such that for all  $n \geq N$ ,  $|a_n - 0| \leq \delta$
- Convergence in probability**:  $Y_n \xrightarrow{\text{in prob.}} Y$

- For any  $\epsilon > 0$  and for any  $\delta > 0$ , there exists  $N = N(\delta)$ , such that for all  $n \geq N$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(|Y_n - Y| \geq \epsilon) \leq \delta$ .
- For any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(|Y_n - Y| \geq \epsilon) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$ .

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- For any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(\{|Y_n - Y| \geq \epsilon\}) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$ .
- For any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(\{|Y_n - a| \geq \epsilon\}) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$ .

- A special case: when  $Y = a$  for some constant  $a$ :  $Y_n \xrightarrow{\text{in prob.}} a$
- [https://youtu.be/Ajar\\_6MAOLw?t=248](https://youtu.be/Ajar_6MAOLw?t=248)

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- For any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(\{|Y_n - a| \geq \epsilon\}) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$ .

- A sequence of iid rvs  $X_n \sim \mathcal{U}[0, 1]$ , and let  

$$Y_n = \min\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$$

- Our intuition:  $Y_n$  converges to 0, as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Why?

- **Proof.** For any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(|Y_n - 0| \geq \epsilon) &= \mathbb{P}(X_1 \geq \epsilon, \dots, X_n \geq \epsilon) = \mathbb{P}(X_1 \geq \epsilon) \times \dots \times \mathbb{P}(X_n \geq \epsilon) \\ &= (1 - \epsilon)^n \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0\end{aligned}$$

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- For any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(\{|Y_n - a| \geq \epsilon\}) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$ .

- $Y$ : exponential rv with the parameter  $\lambda = 1$  (Remind:  $\mathbb{P}(Y > y) = e^{-\lambda y}$ )
- a sequence of rvs  $Y_n = Y/n$  (note that these are dependent)
- Our intuition:  $Y_n$  converges to 0
- **Proof.** For any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  

$$\mathbb{P}(|Y_n - 0| \geq \epsilon) = \mathbb{P}(Y \geq n\epsilon) = e^{-n\epsilon} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$$

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- For any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $\mathbb{P}(\{|Y_n - a| \geq \epsilon\}) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$ .

- Consider a sequence of rvs  $Y_n$  with the following distribution:

$$\mathbb{P}(Y_n = y) = \begin{cases} 1 - \frac{1}{n}, & \text{for } y = 0 \\ \frac{1}{n}, & \text{for } y = n^2 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- For any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

$$\mathbb{P}(|Y_n| \geq \epsilon) = \frac{1}{n} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$$

- Thus,  $Y_n$  converges to 0 in probability.

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$$M_n = \frac{S_n}{n} = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n}{n}$$

- Roughly,  $M_n$  concentrates around  $\mu$

#### Weak law of large numbers

$M_n$  converges to  $\mu$  in probability, i.e.,  $M_n \xrightarrow{\text{in prob.}} \mu$

- Why “Weak”? There exists a stronger version, which we call “strong” law of large numbers. We will not cover the strong law of large numbers in this class.
- The proof requires some knowledge about useful inequalities, which we will cover later.

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$$M_n = \frac{S_n}{n} = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n}{n}$$

- If we take the scaling of  $S_n$  by  $1/n$ , it behaves like a **deterministic** number. This significantly simplifies how we understand the world.
- For example, assume that a large number of identically distributed noises come to you. Then, you can roughly approximate it as **( $n \times$  average noise)**
- Provides an interpretation of expectations (as well as probabilities) in terms of a long sequence of identical independent experiments. For example, what is the probability of head of a coin? Toss 1000 times, and count the number of heads.

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- (1) Weak Law of Large Numbers: Result and Meaning
- (2) **Central Limit Theorem: Result and Meaning**
- (3) Weak Law of Large Numbers: Proof
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- (4) Central Limit Theorem: Proof
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- Loosely speaking, WLLG says:
 
$$(M_n - \mu) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$$
- However, we don't know **how**  $M_n - \mu$  converges to 0. For example, what's the speed of convergence?
- Question.** What should be “something”? Something should blow up for large  $n$ .
 

$$(\text{something}) \times (M_n - \mu) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{meaningful thing}$$

$$n^\alpha \times (M_n - \mu) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{meaningful thing}$$
- What's  $\alpha$  for our magic?
- The answer is  $\frac{1}{2}$

L7(2)

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- Reshaping the equation:

$$\frac{\sqrt{n}}{\sigma} \times (M_n - \mu) = \sqrt{n} \left( \frac{S_n - n\mu}{\sigma n} \right) = \frac{S_n - n\mu}{\sigma \sqrt{n}}.$$

- Let  $Z_n = \frac{S_n - n\mu}{\sigma \sqrt{n}}$ . Then,  $\mathbb{E}[Z_n] = 0$  and  $\text{var}(Z_n) = 1$ .
- $Z_n$  is well-centered with a variance irrespective of  $n$ .
- We expect that  $Z_n$  converges to something meaningful as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , but what?
- Some deterministic number just like WLLG?
- Interestingly, it converges to some **well-known random variable**.
  - Need a new concept of convergence: "convergence in distribution"

L7(2)

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- Consider a sequence of rvs  $(Y_n)_{n=1,2,\dots}$  and a rv  $Y$ .

Convergence in Distribution:  $Y_n \xrightarrow{\text{in dist.}} Y$

For every  $y$ ,

$$\mathbb{P}(Y_n \leq y) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(Y \leq y)$$

- Another type of convergence of rvs
- Comparison with convergence in probability?
  - Convergence in probability  $\implies$  Convergence in distribution, but the reverse is not true.
  - The proof is beyond what this class covers, but it will be interesting to find an example that shows convergence in distribution, which is not convergence in probability.

L7(2)

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- $X_n \sim \text{Bernoulli}(1/2)$ , for all  $n \geq 1$ .
- $X = 1 - X_n$ .
- Note that  $X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(1/2)$ . It means that the distributions of  $X_n$  and  $X$  are equal. It is trivial that  $X_n$  converges to  $X$  in distribution.
- What about convergence in probability?
 
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(|X_n - X| \geq \epsilon) &= \mathbb{P}(|X_n - 1 + X_n| \geq \epsilon) = \mathbb{P}(|2X_n - 1| \geq \epsilon) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(1 \geq \epsilon) \quad (\text{because } |2X_n - 1| = 1) \end{aligned}$$
- We can find  $\epsilon$  small enough so that the above does not go to zero.

L7(2)

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$$S_n = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n, \quad Z_n = \frac{S_n - n\mu}{\sigma \sqrt{n}}$$

Central Limit Theorem

$Z_n$  converges to  $Z$  in distribution, where  $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ .

- Very surprising!
- Irrespective of the distribution of  $X_i$ ,  $Z$  is normal.

L7(2)

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- For simplicity, assume that  $\mathbb{E}(X_i) = 0$  and  $\text{var}(X_i) = 1$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$

- Law of Large Numbers

Scaling  $S_n$  by  $1/n$ , you go to a **deterministic** world.

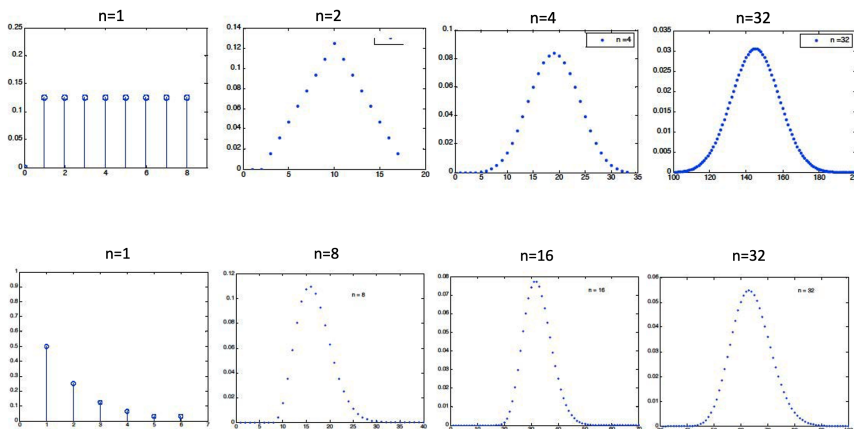
- Central Limit Theorem

Scaling  $S_n$  by  $1/\sqrt{n}$ , you still stay at the **random** world, but not an arbitrary random world. That's the **normal** random world, not depending on the distribution of each  $X_i$ .

$$Z_n = \frac{S_n - n\mu}{\sigma\sqrt{n}}, \quad \mathbb{P}(Z_n \leq z) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(Z \leq z), \quad Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

- Can approximate  $Z_n$  with a standard normal rv
- Can approximate  $S_n$  with a normal rv  $\sim (n\mu, n\sigma^2)$   
-  $S_n = n\mu + Z_n\sigma\sqrt{n}$
- How large should  $n$  be?
  - A moderate  $n$  (20 or 30) usually works, which is the power of CLT.
  - If  $X_i$  resembles a normal rv more, smaller  $n$  works: symmetry and unimodality<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Only unique mode. A single maximum or minimum.



$\mathbb{P}(S_n \leq a) \approx b$ : Given two parameters, find the third

- Package weights  $X_i$ : iid exponential  $\lambda = 1/2$  ( $\mu = 1/\lambda = 2$  and  $\sigma^2 = 1/\lambda^2 = 4$ )
- Load container with  $n = 100$  packages

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(S_{100} \geq 210) &= \mathbb{P}\left[\frac{S_{100} - 100 \cdot 2}{2\sqrt{100}} \geq \frac{210 - 200}{20}\right] = \mathbb{P}(Z_{100} \geq 0.5) \\ &\approx \mathbb{P}(Z \geq 0.5) = 1 - \mathbb{P}(Z \leq 0.5) = 1 - \Phi(0.5) \end{aligned}$$

$\mathbb{P}(S_n \leq a) \approx b$ : Given two parameters, find the third

- Package weights  $X_i$ : iid exponential  $\lambda = 1/2$  ( $\mu = 1/\lambda = 2$  and  $\sigma^2 = 1/\lambda^2 = 4$ )
- $n = 100$  packages, and choose the “capacity”  $a$ , so that  $\mathbb{P}(S_n \geq a) \approx 0.05$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(S_{100} \geq a) &= \mathbb{P}\left[\frac{S_{100} - 100 \cdot 2}{2\sqrt{100}} \geq \frac{a - 200}{20}\right] = \mathbb{P}(Z_{100} \geq \frac{a - 200}{20}) \\ &\approx \mathbb{P}(Z \geq \frac{a - 200}{20}) = 1 - \mathbb{P}(Z \leq \frac{a - 200}{20}) = 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{a - 200}{20}\right) = 0.05\end{aligned}$$

- The value of  $a$  such that  $\Phi\left(\frac{a-200}{20}\right) = 0.95$ ?  $\frac{a-200}{20} = 1.645$  and  $a = 232.9$

$\mathbb{P}(S_n \leq a) \approx b$ : Given two parameters, find the third

- Package weights  $X_i$ : iid exponential  $\lambda = 1/2$  ( $\mu = 1/\lambda = 2$  and  $\sigma^2 = 1/\lambda^2 = 4$ )
- How large  $n$ , so that  $\mathbb{P}(S_n \geq 210) \approx 0.05$ ?

$$\mathbb{P}(S_n \geq 210) = \mathbb{P}\left[\frac{S_n - 2n}{2\sqrt{n}} \geq \frac{210 - 2n}{2\sqrt{n}}\right] \approx 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{210 - 2n}{2\sqrt{n}}\right) = 0.05$$

- The value of  $n$  such that  $\frac{210-2n}{2\sqrt{n}} = 1.645$ ?  $n = 89$

- (1) Weak Law of Large Numbers: Result and Meaning
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- (3) Weak Law of Large Numbers: Proof  
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- (4) Central Limit Theorem: Proof  
- Moment Generating Function (MGF)

- (Q) Knowing  $\mathbb{E}(X)$ , can we say something about the distribution of  $X$ ?
- Intuition: small  $\mathbb{E}(X) \implies$  small  $\mathbb{P}(X \geq a)$

#### Markov Inequality

If  $X \geq 0$  and  $a > 0$ , then  $\mathbb{P}(X \geq a) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}(X)}{a}$ .

**Proof.** For any  $a > 0$ , define  $Y_a$  as:

$$Y_a \triangleq \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } X < a, \\ a, & \text{if } X \geq a \end{cases}$$

Then, using non-negativity of  $X$ ,  $Y_a \leq X$ , which leads to  $\mathbb{E}[Y_a] \leq \mathbb{E}[X]$ .

Note that we have:

$$\mathbb{E}[Y_a] = a\mathbb{P}(Y_a = a) = a\mathbb{P}(X \geq a).$$

$$\text{Thus, } a \cdot \mathbb{P}(X \geq a) \leq \mathbb{E}[X]. \quad \square$$

- (Q) Knowing both  $\mathbb{E}(X)$  and  $\text{var}(X)$ , can we say something about the **distribution** of  $X$ ?
- Intuition: small  $\text{var}(X) \implies X$  is unlikely to be too far away from its mean.
- $\mathbb{E}(X) = \mu$ ,  $\text{var}(X) = \sigma^2$ .

## Chebyshev Inequality

$$\mathbb{P}(|X - \mu| \geq c) \leq \frac{\sigma^2}{c^2}, \quad \text{for all } c > 0$$

- **Proof.**

$$\mathbb{P}(|X - \mu| \geq c) = \mathbb{P}((X - \mu)^2 \geq c^2) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[(X - \mu)^2]}{c^2} = \frac{\text{var}(X)}{c^2}$$

L7(3)

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- $X \sim \text{exp}(1)$ . Then,  $\mathbb{E}[X] = 1/\lambda = 1$  and  $\text{var}[X] = 1/\lambda^2 = 1$ .
- Exact CCDF:  $\mathbb{P}(X \geq a) = e^{-a}$

- **Markov inequality**

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geq a) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[X]}{a} = \frac{1}{a}$$

- **Chebyshev inequality**

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(X \geq a) &= \mathbb{P}(X - 1 \geq a - 1) \\ &\leq \mathbb{P}(|X - 1| \geq a - 1) \leq \frac{1}{(a - 1)^2} \end{aligned}$$

- For reasonably large  $a$ , CI provides much better bound.
- Knowing the variance helps
- Both bounds are the ones that bound the **probability of rare events**.

L7(3)

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$$M_n = \frac{S_n}{n} = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n}{n}$$

## Weak law of large numbers

$M_n$  converges to  $\mu$  in probability.

**Proof.** For any given  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

$$\mathbb{P}(|M_n - \mu| \geq \epsilon) \leq \frac{\text{var}(M_n)}{\epsilon^2} = \frac{\sigma^2}{n\epsilon^2} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$$

L7(3)

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We ask the same question, and try to answer it, using WLLN or CLT.

See how the answers becomes different.

L7(3)

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- $p$ : fraction of voters who support “Yung”.
- Interview  $n$  randomly selected voters and record the result in  $M_n = \frac{X_1 + \dots + X_n}{n}$  which is an estimate of  $p$ , where the Bernoulli rv  $X_i = 1$  if  $i$ -th interviewee answers “yes”, and 0 otherwise.
- $\mathbb{P}(|M_n - p| \geq \epsilon) \leq \frac{\sigma^2}{n\epsilon^2} = \frac{p(1-p)}{n\epsilon^2} \leq \frac{1}{4n\epsilon^2}$  (because  $p(1-p) \leq 1/4$ )
- **Question.** What is  $n$  so that the probability that our estimate is incorrect by more than 0.1 is no larger than 0.25?
  - $\epsilon = 0.1$  and  $\frac{1}{4n\epsilon^2} \leq 0.25 \implies n \geq 100$
- **Question.** What is  $n$  so that the probability that our estimate is incorrect by more than 0.01 is no larger than 0.05?
  - $\epsilon = 0.01$  and  $\frac{1}{4n\epsilon^2} \leq 0.05 \implies n \geq 50000$

L7(3)

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$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(|M_n - p| \geq \epsilon) &= \mathbb{P}\left[\left|\frac{S_n - np}{n}\right| \geq \epsilon\right] = \mathbb{P}\left[\left|\frac{S_n - np}{\sigma\sqrt{n}}\right| \geq \frac{\epsilon\sqrt{n}}{\sigma}\right] \\ &\leq \mathbb{P}\left[\left|\frac{S_n - np}{\sigma\sqrt{n}}\right| \geq 2\epsilon\sqrt{n}\right] = 2\left(1 - \Phi(2\epsilon\sqrt{n})\right) \text{ (because } \sigma = \sqrt{p(1-p)} \leq 1/2) \end{aligned}$$

- **Question.** What is  $n$  so that the probability that our estimate is incorrect by more than 0.01 is no larger than 0.05?
  - $\epsilon = 0.01$  and  $2\left(1 - \Phi(2\epsilon\sqrt{n})\right) = 0.05$ , i.e.,  $\Phi(2\epsilon\sqrt{n}) = 0.975 \implies 2 \times 0.01 \times \sqrt{n} = 1.96$  and thus  $n = 9604$
- Compare: 50,000 from LLN vs. 9604 from CLT

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- (4) **Central Limit Theorem: Proof**
  - **Moment Generating Function (MGF)**

L7(4)

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- For a rv  $X$ , it is a kind of transform
- The **moment generating function (MGF)**  $M_X(s)$  of a rv  $X$  is a function of a scalar parameter  $s$ , defined by:

$$M_X(s) = \mathbb{E}[e^{sX}]$$

$$M(s) = \sum_x e^{sx} p_X(x) \quad (\text{discrete})$$

$$M(s) = \int e^{sx} f_X(x) dx \quad (\text{continuous})$$

- If the context is clear, we omit  $X$  and use just  $M(s)$ .

L7(4)

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Ex1) Let  $p_X(x)$  is given as:

$$p_X(x) = \begin{cases} 1/2, & \text{if } x = 2 \\ 1/6, & \text{if } x = 3 \\ 1/3, & \text{if } x = 5 \end{cases}$$

$$M(s) = \mathbb{E}(e^{sX}) = \frac{1}{2}e^{2s} + \frac{1}{6}e^{3s} + \frac{1}{3}e^{5s}$$

Ex2)  $X \sim \exp(\lambda)$ ,  $f_X(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}$ ,  $x \geq 0$

$$\begin{aligned} M(s) &= \lambda \int_0^\infty e^{sx} e^{-\lambda x} dx \\ &= \lambda \left. \frac{e^{(s-\lambda)x}}{s-\lambda} \right|_0^\infty \quad (\text{if } s < \lambda) = \frac{\lambda}{\lambda - s} \end{aligned}$$

Ex3) Let a rv  $Y = aX + b$ .

$$\begin{aligned} M_Y(s) &= \mathbb{E}(e^{sY}) = \mathbb{E}(e^{s(aX+b)}) \\ &= e^{sb} \mathbb{E}(e^{saX}) = e^{sb} M_X(sa) \end{aligned}$$

Ex4)  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

$$\begin{aligned} M(s) &= \int_{-\infty}^\infty \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} e^{sy} dy + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^\infty e^{-\frac{y^2}{2} + sy} dy \\ &= e^{\frac{s^2}{2}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^\infty e^{-(y-s)^2} dy \\ &= e^{s^2/2} \quad (\text{because it is the pdf of } \mathcal{N}(s, 1)) \end{aligned}$$

- **Question.** MGF of  $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ ?

1.  $M'(0) = \mathbb{E}[X]$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{ds} M(s) &= \frac{d}{ds} \int_{-\infty}^\infty e^{sx} f_X(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^\infty \frac{d}{ds} e^{sx} f_X(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^\infty x e^{sx} f_X(x) dx \\ &= \left. \frac{d}{ds} M(s) \right|_{s=0} = \mathbb{E}[X] \end{aligned}$$

2. Similarly,  $M''(0) = \mathbb{E}[X^2]$

3.  $\left. \frac{d^n}{ds^n} M(s) \right|_{s=0} = \mathbb{E}[X^n]$

4. MGF provides a convenient way of generating **moments**. That's why it is called moment generating function.

L7(4)

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L7(4)

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- Exponential rv with parameter  $\lambda$ . We know that  $\mathbb{E}(X) = 1/\lambda$  and  $\text{var}(X) = 1/\lambda^2$ , which we will compute using the MGF.

- Remind:  $M(s) = \frac{\lambda}{\lambda - s}$

- The first and the second moments are:

$$M'(s) = \frac{\lambda}{(\lambda - s)^2} \rightarrow \mathbb{E}(X) = M'(0) = 1/\lambda$$

$$M''(s) = \frac{2\lambda}{(\lambda - s)^3} \rightarrow \mathbb{E}(X^2) = M''(0) = 2/\lambda^2$$

- Thus,  $\text{var}(X) = 2/\lambda^2 - 1/\lambda^2 = 1/\lambda^2$

### Inversion Property

The transform  $M_X(s)$  associated with a random variable  $X$  **uniquely** determines the **CDF of  $X$** , assuming that  $M_X(s)$  is finite for all  $s$  in some interval  $[-a, a]$ , where  $a$  is a positive number.

- In easy words, we can recover the distribution if we know the MGF.
- Thus, each rv has its own unique MGF.

L7(4)

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L7(4)

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- Given the following MGF of rv  $X$ , what is the distribution of  $X$ ?

$$M(s) = \frac{1}{4}e^{-s} + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{8}e^{4s} + \frac{1}{8}e^{5s}$$

- Note that  $M(s) = \sum_x e^{sx} p_X(x)$

- We can see that

$$p_X(-1) = \frac{1}{4}, p_X(0) = \frac{1}{2}, p_X(4) = \frac{1}{8}, p_X(5) = \frac{1}{8}$$

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- Given the following MGF of rv  $X$ , what is the distribution of  $X$ ?

$$M(s) = \frac{pe^s}{1 - (1-p)e^s}$$

- Note that  $M(s) = \sum_x e^{sx} p_X(x)$
- $M(s)$  can be reexpressed as the following geometric sum: when  $(1-p)e^s < 1$ ,  

$$M(s) = pe^s(1 + (1-p)e^s + (1-p)^2e^{2s} + (1-p)^3e^{3s} + \dots)$$
- $p_X(k)$ : coefficient of the term  $e^{ks}$ , which means:  

$$p_X(1) = p, p_X(2) = p(1-p), p_X(3) = p(1-p)^2, p_X(4) = p(1-p)^3, \dots$$
- $X$  is a geometric rv with parameter  $p$

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- Without loss of generality, assume  $\mathbb{E}(X_i) = 0$  and  $\text{var}(X_i) = 1$
- $$Z_n = \frac{S_n}{\sqrt{n}} = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n}{\sqrt{n}}$$
- We will show: MGF of  $Z_n$  converges to MFG of  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  (using inversion property)

**Proof.**

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}\left[e^{sS_n/\sqrt{n}}\right] &= \mathbb{E}\left[e^{sX_1/\sqrt{n}}\right] \times \dots \times \mathbb{E}\left[e^{sX_n/\sqrt{n}}\right] \\ &= \left(\mathbb{E}\left[e^{sX_1/\sqrt{n}}\right]\right)^n = \left(M_{X_1}\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}\right)\right)^n \end{aligned}$$

- For simplicity, let  $M(\cdot) = M_{X_1}(\cdot)$

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- $M(0) = 1, M'(0) = 0, M''(0) = 1$
- $\left(M\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}\right)\right)^n \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{what???$
- Taking log,  $n \log M\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{n}}\right) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{what???$
- For convenience, do the change of variable  $y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$ . Then,  $\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log M(ys)}{y^2}$
- If we apply l'hospital's rule twice (please check), we get  

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log M(ys)}{y^2} = \frac{s^2}{2}$$

□

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## Questions?

- 1) What's the practical value of LLN and CLT?
- 2) Explain LLN and CLT from the scaling perspective.
- 3) Why are LLN and CLT great?
- 4) Why do we need different concepts of convergence for random variables?
- 5) Explain what is convergence in probability.
- 6) Explain what is convergence in distribution.
- 7) Why is MGF useful?