

APMA E4990.02: Review of Linear Algebra and Probability

Vectors, Matrices and Solvability
Probability, Expectation, Variance

Outline

- Why do we need to review linear algebra?
- Vectors and Matrices.
- Matrix Multiplication
- Inverses and Transpose
- When do solutions exist, and when are they unique?
- What is a probability? What is Expectation and Variance?
- Conditional probabilities and joint distributions.

Why do we need linear algebra?

- All of data science is built around constructing models using a collection of ‘features’ or ‘predictors’ (ie. predict income from GPA). It is almost always the case that **there are several variables involved**. If there is **more than one, we need linear algebra to make sense of any equations**.
- For example, let y be the number of rooms that will be booked at a hotel tomorrow, and X_i be the i th observation of N variables, which could include **location, cost, rating**, etc. We can write a simple linear model as:

In [53]: df.head()

Out[53]:

	account	const	hotel_rating	location	price_per_night_avg	purchase_velocity_lastweek	rooms_left	sellouts_total
0	72722	1	1.6	9.5	584	60	198	2
1	20627	1	8.2	9.2	503	326	439	8
2	55924	1	8.0	0.9	467	327	240	8
3	14773	1	9.5	9.9	543	102	286	4
4	60469	1	1.8	5.7	144	42	335	2

$$y_i = \sum_{k=1}^N \beta_k X_{ik} + c \quad \text{or} \quad \mathbf{y} = \boldsymbol{\beta} \cdot \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{c}$$

Things I'm going to gloss over

- The abstract definitions of vector spaces
- Detailed rules about existence and uniqueness of solutions.
- Proofs about any linear algebra related theorems.
- My goal is to remind people of the basic properties of matrices and notation we will use. Any deeper results (ie. PCA) will be presented in the context of a concrete problem.

Basic Properties of Matrices

$$4x - 2y + 3z = 4$$

$$5x + 3y - z = 2$$

$$3x + 2y - 6z = 8$$

The above can be written as

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$$

Matrices are used to express systems of equations.
They can be interpreted as representations of linear
operators in a particular basis.

$$\mathbf{A} = [a_{ij}]$$

$$\mathbf{b} = [4, 2, 8]$$

$$a_{11} = 4, a_{12} = -2, a_{23} = -1, \text{etc}$$

Here, **b** is considered a **vector**.

Matrix Addition - Done by components

$$4x - 2y + 3z = 4 \quad 5x - 3y + 4z = 6$$

$$5x + 3y - z = 2 \quad 2x + y - z = 4$$

$$3x + 2y - 6z = 8 \quad 5x + 7y - 3z = 1$$

$$\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b} \qquad \mathbf{Cx} = \mathbf{d}$$

$$9x - 5y + 7z = 10$$

$$(\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{C})\mathbf{x} := \mathbf{Dx} = \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{d} := \mathbf{e} \quad 7x + 4y - 2z = 6$$

$$8x - 5y - 9z = 9$$

Matrix Multiplication

$$4x - 2y + 3z = 4$$

$$5x - 3y + 4z = 6$$

$$5x + 3y - z = 2$$

$$2x + y - z = 4$$

$$3x + 2y - 6z = 8$$

$$5x + 7y - 3z = 1$$

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b} \qquad \qquad \mathbf{C}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{d}$$

$$\mathbf{AB} := \mathbf{M} = [m_{ij}] := \sum_{i,j} a_{ik} b_{kj}$$

Matrix Multiplication

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 & 3 \\ 5 & 3 & -1 \\ 3 & 2 & -6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & -1 \\ 5 & 7 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

A **B**

$$\mathbf{AB} := \mathbf{M} = [m_{ij}] := \sum_k a_{ik} b_{kj} \quad \text{lth row of A, dotted with j th column of B}$$

$$m_{11} = 4 \cdot 5 - 2 \cdot 2 + 3 \cdot 5$$

$$m_{12} = 4 \cdot (-3) - 2 \cdot 1 + 3 \cdot 7$$

Note: $\mathbf{AB} \neq \mathbf{BA}$

Matrix Multiplication

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 & 3 \\ 5 & 3 & -1 \\ 3 & 2 & -6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} A \\[1ex] \mathbf{B} \end{matrix} \quad \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -3 & 4 \\ 2 & 1 & -1 \\ 5 & 7 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$AB := M = [m_{ij}] := \sum a_{ik} b_{kj} \quad \text{i-th row of A, dotted with j-th column of B}$$

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 31 & 7 & 9 \\ 26 & -19 & 20 \\ -11 & -49 & 28 \end{bmatrix}^{i,j}$$

Following this, we obtain
(Exercise: Verify this if you are rusty)

How does this relate to us?

- Matrices are basis representations of linear operators.
- The rows for us will always be observations, and the columns will be the variables themselves.

$$y_i = \sum_{k=1}^N \beta_k X_{ik} + c \quad \text{or} \quad \mathbf{y} = \boldsymbol{\beta} \cdot \mathbf{X} + \mathbf{c}$$

Existence and Uniqueness of Solutions

Inverse, Transpose and Fredholm Alternative

When do systems of equations have solutions?

$$4x - 2y + 3z = 4$$

$$\mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b}$$

$$5x + 3y - z = 2$$

$$3x + 2y - 6z = 8$$

$$x = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & -2 & 3 \\ 5 & 3 & -1 \\ 3 & 2 & -6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{A}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 16/115 & 6/115 & 7/115 \\ -27/115 & 33/115 & -19/115 \\ -1/115 & 14/115 & -22/115 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution is computed using by reducing to Reduced Row Echelon form. Since this isn't essential for this course, we are going to omit the details.

When do systems of equations have solutions?

- Inverses exist only for square matrices (ie. column dimension is the same as the row dimension)

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{b}$$

$$x = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{b}$$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{b} = [4, 2]$$

No solution

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{b} = [4, 0]$$

Infinitely many
solutions

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{b}$$

Exactly one solution

- Review this if you are not familiar. Will be important when we cover **regularization and collinearity**.
- The main point to take home here is to understand that **these three possibilities exist and only these**.

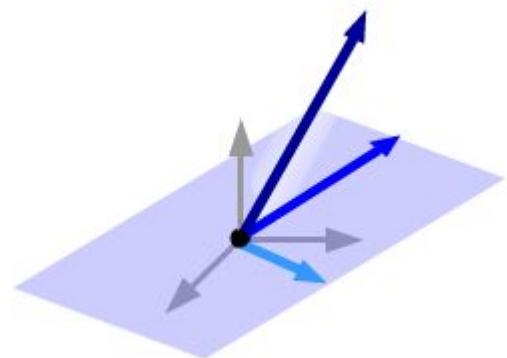
Eigenvalues, Eigenvectors and Linear Dependence.

Important for dimensionality reduction and stability.

Linear Independence

A collection of vectors (or features in our case), are **linearly dependent** if and only if

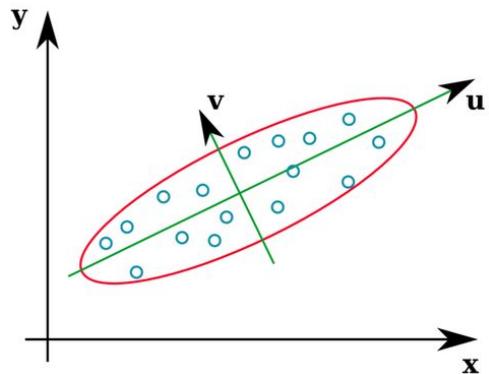
$$\sum_{j=1}^N \alpha_j X_j = 0 \text{ for some } \{\alpha_j\} \in \mathbb{R}$$



Otherwise, they are **linearly independent**.

- Important since linear dependent vectors cause instability in solutions, and take up unnecessary space/resources.
- We also often want to find a minimal spanning set of a high dimensional space (dimensionality reduction).

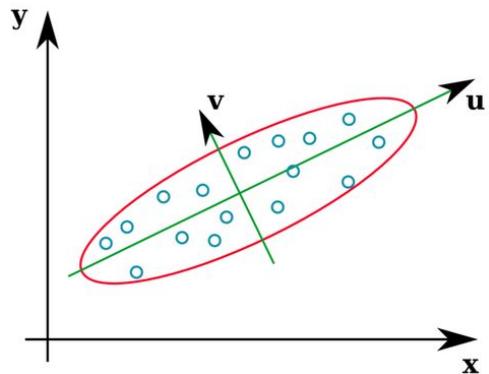
Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors



$$Ax = \lambda x \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$$
$$x \in \mathbb{R}^n$$

- If A is invertible, there exists an orthogonal set of eigenvectors x and eigenvalues $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$
- These are important for dimensionality reduction and for stability of solutions to ordinary least squares (next deck).

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

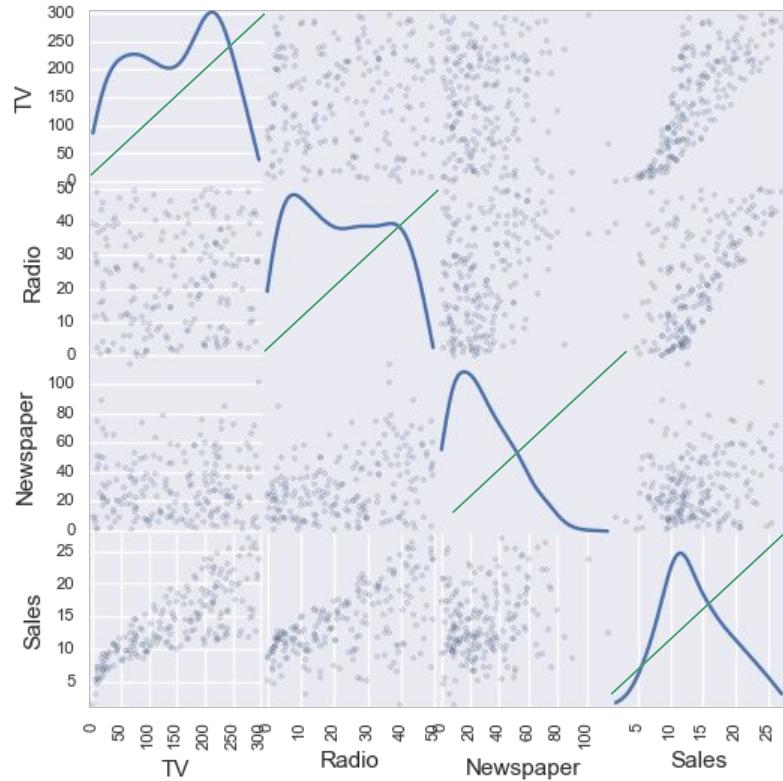


$$X^T X$$

- The matrix here will be common in the course. It is positive semi-definite.
- The matrix measures the dependence between features when X is your data. If your data is mean centered and normalized, it's the same as the correlation matrix.

$$y^T X^T X y \geq 0$$

Correlation plots



$$X^T X$$

- Sales related to advertising revenue on TV, Radio and Newspaper
- Content of Homework 1

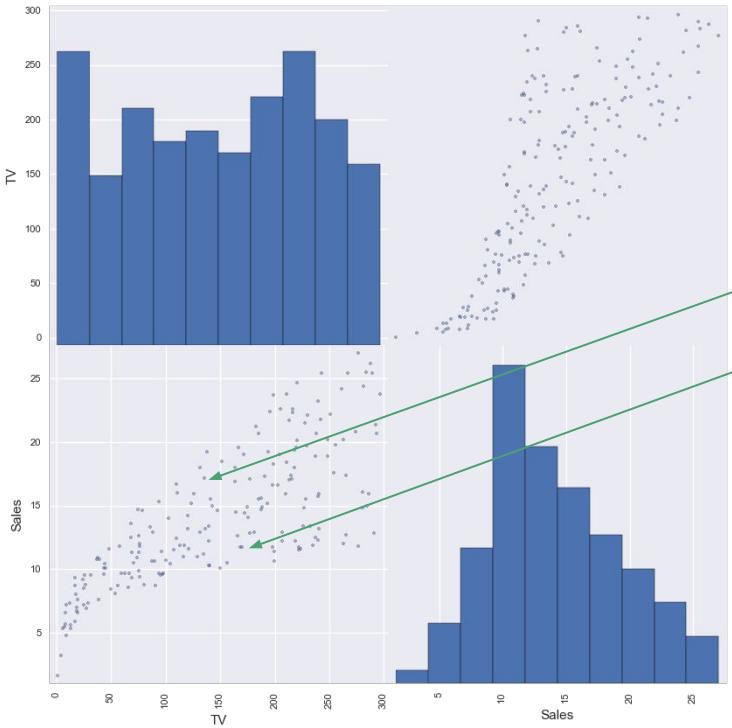
Out[20]:

	TV	Radio	Newspaper	Sales
1	230.1	37.8	69.2	22.1
2	44.5	39.3	45.1	10.4
3	17.2	45.9	69.3	9.3
4	151.5	41.3	58.5	18.5
5	180.8	10.8	58.4	12.9

What are the features?

- **TV:** advertising dollars spent on TV for a single product in a given market (in thousands of dollars)
- **Radio:** advertising dollars spent on Radio
- **Newspaper:** advertising dollars spent on Newspaper

Understanding correlation



Vectors are in n dimensions
(number of data points)

$$X^T X = \begin{bmatrix} 150 & 160 & \dots \\ 17 & 12 & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 150 & 17 \\ 160 & 12 \\ \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix}$$

$$[X^T X]_{ij} = \mathbf{x}_i \cdot \mathbf{x}_j$$

$i = \text{TV}$

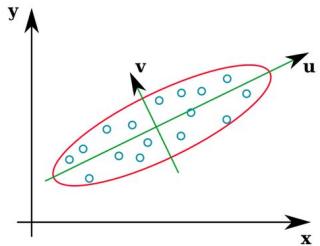


$j = \text{Sales}$

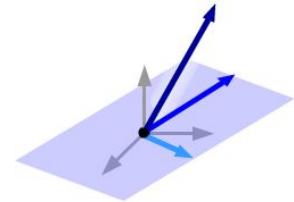


$$[\text{Corr}]_{ij} = \frac{\mathbf{x}_i \cdot \mathbf{x}_j}{\|\mathbf{x}_i\| \|\mathbf{x}_j\|} = \cos(\delta_{ij})$$

MNIST- Cosine Distance



$$\frac{X^T X}{\|X\|^2} \quad \mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{y} = \|\mathbf{x}\| \|\mathbf{y}\| \cos(\theta)$$



- The above matrix can be interpreted as the **correlation matrix**, or equivalently here, the **cosine distance**.
 - Used to measure the **distance of one feature to another**.
 - Recall the MNIST example.

```
In [94]: df = pd.read_csv('/Users/dgoldma/Downloads/train.csv')
```

In [95]: df.head()

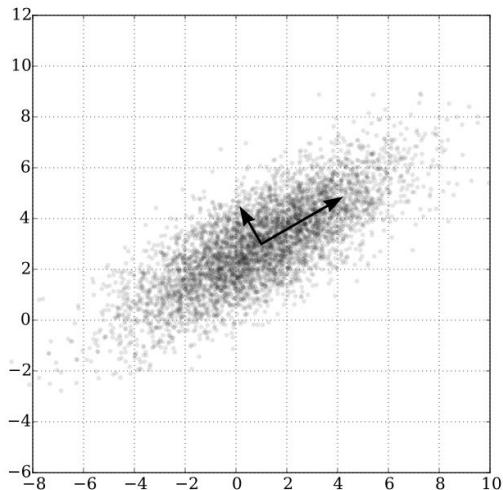
Out[95]: `ixel117` pixel

pixel117	pixel118	pixel119	pixel120	pixel121	pixel122	pixel123	pixel124	pixel125	pixel126	pixel127	pixel128	pixel129	pixel130	pixel131	pixel132
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	188
0	0	0	0	18	30	137	137	192	86	72	1	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	3	141	139	3	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
0	0	0	1	25	130	155	254	254	254	157	30	2	0	0	

From the MNIST Database of Hand-written Digits



Explaining Variance



```
In [94]: df = pd.read_csv('/Users/dgoldmai/Downloads/train.csv')
```

```
In [95]: df.head()
```

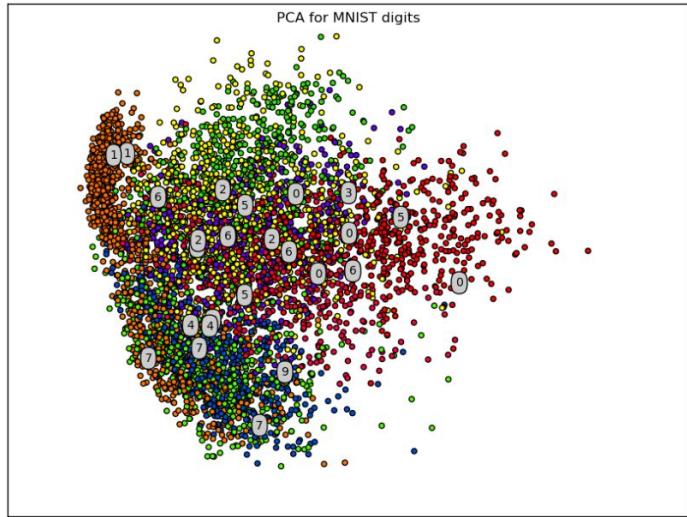
	pixel117	pixel118	pixel119	pixel120	pixel121	pixel122	pixel123	pixel124	pixel125	pixel126	pixel127	pixel128	pixel129	pixel130	pixel131	pixel13
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	188
	0	0	0	0	18	30	137	137	192	86	72	1	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	141	139	3	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	1	25	130	155	254	254	254	157	30	2	0	0	

$$\max_{\mathbf{v}} \frac{\mathbf{v}^T X^T X \mathbf{v}}{\|\mathbf{v}\|^2}$$

$$X^T X \mathbf{v} = \lambda \mathbf{v}$$

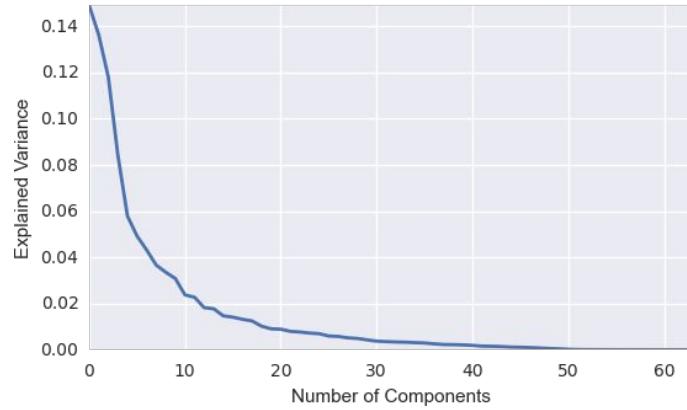
- Plot to the left is the first two eigenvectors with the largest eigenvalues. Note, **data is assumed to be mean centered**.
- Can be interpreted as - the two components with the largest ‘variance’ - or in other words, the **most significant directions in the 28x28 dimensional space**.

Top Eigenvalues - PCA



$$\max_{\mathbf{v}} \frac{\mathbf{v}^T X^T X \mathbf{v}}{\|\mathbf{v}\|^2}$$

$$X^T X \mathbf{v} = \lambda \mathbf{v}$$



Review of Probability

Expectation, Variance and Conditional Distributions

Outline for this lecture

- Review concepts of probability and statistics - most of you said you could benefit from a review, and these concepts will become more important as time goes on.
- Complete discussion on Linear Regression (and introduce decision trees if time permits).
 - Existence, Uniqueness and Stability of solution in L2.
 - Correlation of features, eigenvalues and how it affects the solution.
 - Feature importance and significance.
- Gradient Descent - when we don't have an analytical solution.
- Go over an example in an IPython notebook related to hotel bookings.
- Work on Homework 1 in class and work through concepts as people have questions.

Outline for Probability Review

- Definitions of a probability, expectation, variance.
- Basic examples and some problems we will work out.
- Conditional probability distributions
 - Conditional Expectation
 - Linearity of Expectation
 - Law of Total Expectation

Goals of these slides

The goal of this section is to **briefly review definitions and some basic examples** - only so that we can understand a few statements made about errors in regression and about decision trees (if time permits).

We will explain more advanced concepts later in the course such as the central limit theorem and maximum likelihood.

Some definitions

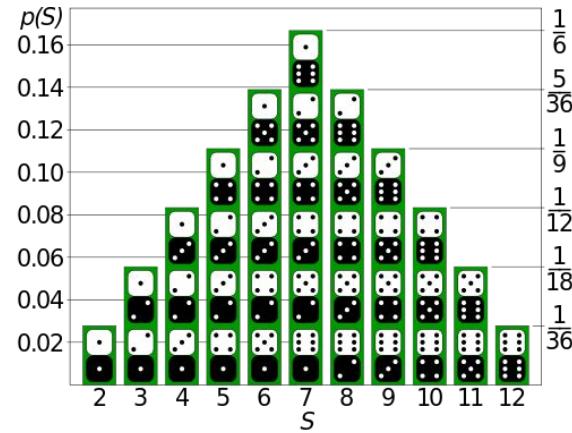
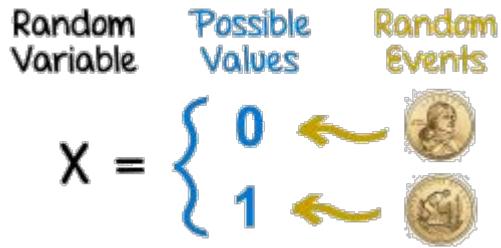
- A probability p takes events $\{A_i\}$ as inputs, and outputs a value between 0 and 1 inclusive.
- The closer to 1, the more probable the event. The closer to 0, the less probable.

$$\sum_i p(A_i) = 1$$

$$P\left(\bigcup_i A_i\right) = \sum_i p(A_i) \quad \text{when } \{A_i\} \text{ are disjoint}$$

Some definitions

Y and X denote **Random Variables** - they are just the outcome of experiments, such as rolling a die, or how many newspapers will be purchased at Starbucks.

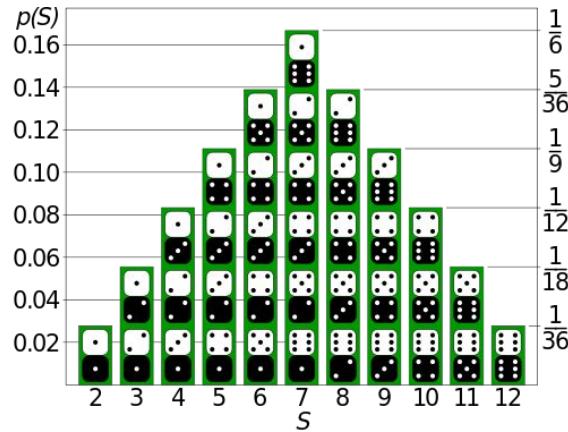
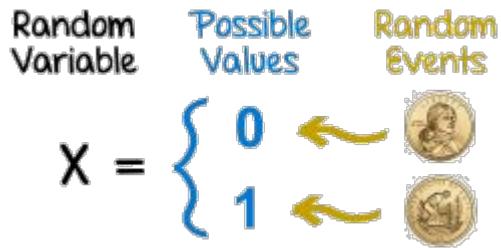


Anything which represents the outcome of an event which is not deterministic

Some definitions

X and Y are said to be independent, if

$$P(X = x \text{ and } Y = y) = P(X = x)P(Y = y)$$



Examples later in this deck.

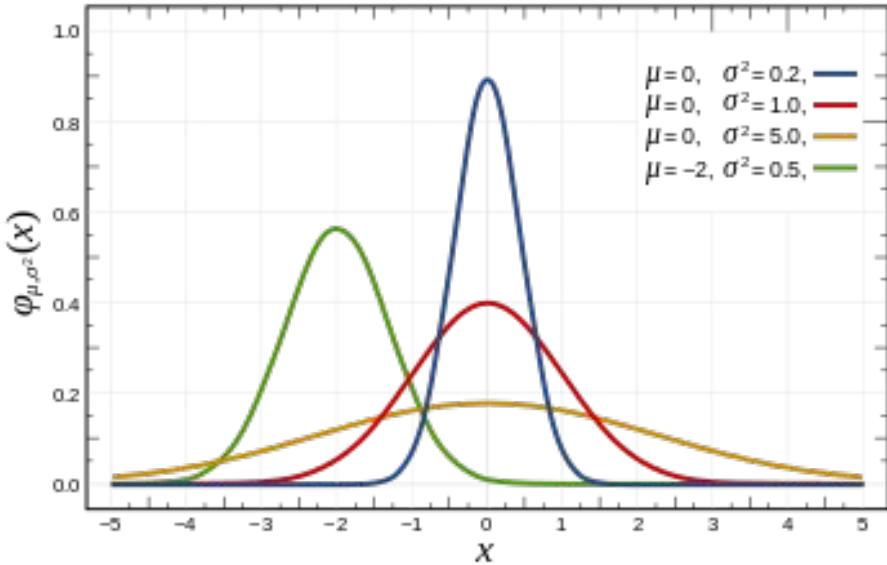
Normal Random Variables

When we write

$$X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$$

We mean that X has mean μ and Variance σ^2 and is distributed normally:

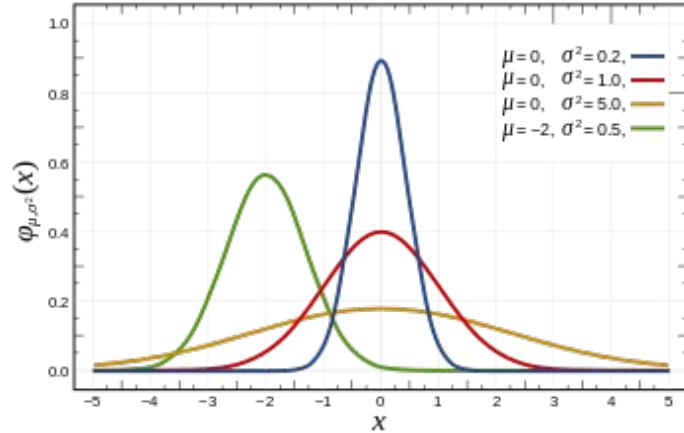
$$p(X|\mu, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2\pi} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$



Some definitions

Examples:

- Age, height, IQ of the population.
- Number of clicks that an article gets.
- The number of heads in a large number of coin tosses.
- Any kind of counting data for which you have a **sufficient number of samples** - this is related to the **Central Limit Theorem**, which will be covered in this class.
- This is why we will often assume the error in a linear regression is normally distributed - **this will be covered in more detail later.**



Properties of summing random variables

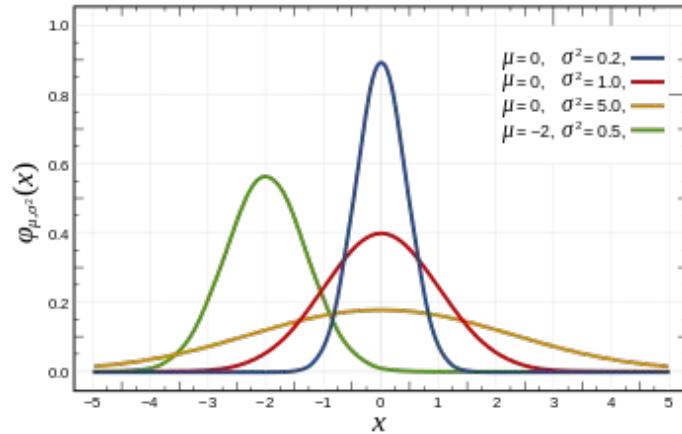
$$X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_X, \sigma_X^2)$$

$$Y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_Y, \sigma_Y^2)$$

$$Z = X + Y$$

If X and Y are **independent**,
then:

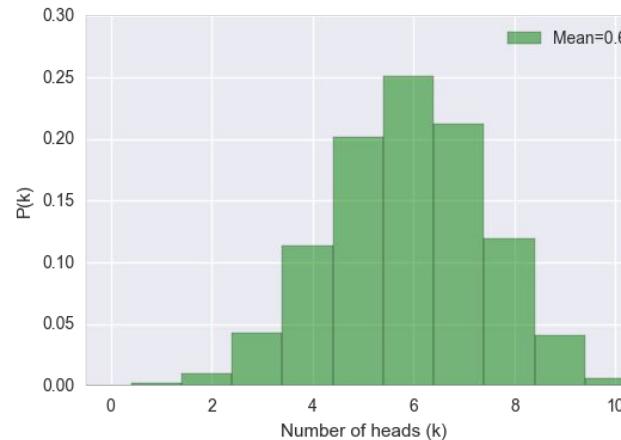
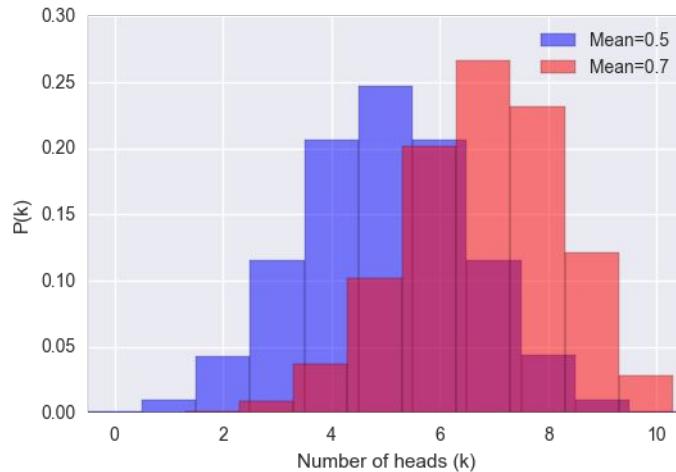
$$Z \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_X + \mu_Y, \sigma_X^2 + \sigma_Y^2)$$



Intuition of Reason

- The number of heads when flipping a coin many times is (approximately) normally distributed.
- If you flip **two coins** N times, it's the same as flipping one coin with the average mean of the two coins 2N times (ie. another coin!), which is also normally distributed.

Sum of Two Normal Random Variables



$$Z \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_X + \mu_Y, \sigma_X^2 + \sigma_Y^2)$$

<https://github.com/Columbia-Intro-Data-Science/APMAE4990-/blob/master/notebooks/Example%20of%20summing%20two%20normal%20random%20variables.ipynb>

Some definitions

- The **expected value** of a random variable Y is the sum over all outcomes x the probability of that outcome - it's the same as the mean, but has a different interpretation.

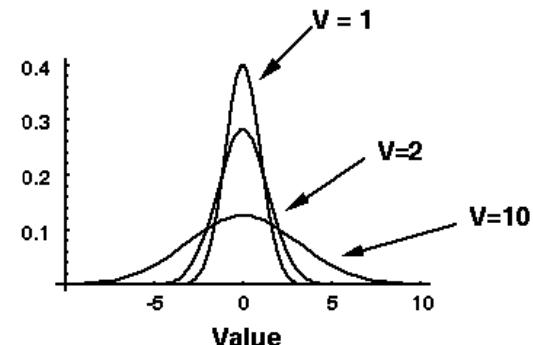
$$\mathbb{E}(Y) = \sum_{i=1}^N y_i p(y_i)$$

- The **variance** of a random variable is the L_2 distance to the mean with respect to the probability distribution. It's the same as the standard deviation when calculating on a list of numbers.

$$\text{Var}(Y) = \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \mathbb{E}(y))^2 p(y_i)$$

Special case for uniformly distributed data:

$$p(y_i) = \frac{1}{N}$$



An Example - Coin Flipping

$$p(Y = k) = \begin{cases} p & \text{if } k \text{ is 1} \\ 1 - p & \text{if } k \text{ is 0} \end{cases}$$



What is the mean and variance of the random variable Y?

This is known as the Bernoulli distribution, and is very important in machine learning and for A/B tests.

An Example - Coin Flipping

$$p(Y = k) = \begin{cases} p & \text{if } k \text{ is 1} \\ 1 - p & \text{if } k \text{ is 0} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbb{E}(Y) = p \cdot (1) + (1 - p) \cdot 0 = p$$

$$\text{Var}(Y) = (1 - p)^2 p + (0 - p)^2 (1 - p) = p - 2p^2 + p^2 = p(1 - p)$$



This is known as the Bernoulli distribution, and is very important in machine learning and for A/B tests.

An Example - Dice Rolling

$$p(X = k) = \frac{1}{6}$$



What is the mean and variance of the random variable X?

An Example - Dice Rolling

$$p(X = k) = \frac{1}{6}$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_{k=1}^6 \frac{k}{6} = 3.5$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{1}{6} \sum_{k=1}^6 (k - 3.5)^2 = \frac{17.5}{6}$$



Joint Distributions & Conditional Probability

Suppose the discrete random variables X and Y have supports S_x and S_y . Then we require P to satisfy

$$\sum_{x \in S_x, y \in S_y} P(X = x, Y = y) = 1$$

$$P(X|Y = y) = \frac{P(X \text{ and } Y = y)}{P(y)}$$

	$Y = -1$	$Y = 0$	$Y = 1$
$X = 0$	0	$\frac{1}{3}$	0
$X = 1$	$\frac{1}{3}$	0	$\frac{1}{3}$

What is the conditional probability when $Y=-1$?

Are X and Y independent?

Can be read as - probability of $X = x$ and $Y = y$ is X conditioned on $Y=y$ times the probability that $Y=y$.

Joint Distributions & Conditional Probability

Suppose the discrete random variables X and Y have supports S_x and S_y . Then we require P to satisfy

$$\sum_{x \in S_x, y \in S_y} P(X = x, Y = y) = 1$$

$$P(X|Y = y) = \frac{P(X \text{ and } Y = y)}{P(y)}$$

	$Y = -1$	$Y = 0$	$Y = 1$
$X = 0$	0	$\frac{1}{3}$	0
$X = 1$	$\frac{1}{3}$	0	$\frac{1}{3}$

$$P(X = 0|Y = -1) = \frac{0}{0 + \frac{1}{3}} = 0$$

$$P(X = 1|Y = -1) = \frac{1/3}{0 + \frac{1}{3}} = 1$$

Can be read as - probability of $X = x$ and $Y = y$ is X conditioned on $Y=y$ times the probability that $Y=y$.

Conditional Expectation

	$Y = -1$	$Y = 0$	$Y = 1$
$X = 0$	0	$\frac{1}{3}$	0
$X = 1$	$\frac{1}{3}$	0	$\frac{1}{3}$

$$\mathbb{E}(X|Y = y) = \sum_x x P(X = x|Y = y)$$

$$P(X = 0|Y = -1) = \frac{0}{0 + \frac{1}{3}} = 0$$

$$P(X = 1|Y = -1) = \frac{1/3}{0 + \frac{1}{3}} = 1$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X|Y = -1) = 0 \cdot 0 + 1 \cdot 1 = 1 \quad \text{Why is this intuitive?}$$

Conditional Variance

	$Y = -1$	$Y = 0$	$Y = 1$
$X = 0$	0	$\frac{1}{3}$	0
$X = 1$	$\frac{1}{3}$	0	$\frac{1}{3}$

$$\text{Var}(X|Y = y) = \sum_x (x - \mathbb{E}(X|Y = y))^2 p(X = x|Y = y)$$

$$P(X = 0|Y = -1) = \frac{0}{0 + \frac{1}{3}} = 0$$

$$P(X = 1|Y = -1) = \frac{1/3}{0 + \frac{1}{3}} = 1$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X|Y = -1) = 0 \cdot 0 + 1 \cdot 1 = 1$$

Why is the result below obvious as well?

$$\text{Var}(X|Y = -1) = (0 - 1)^2 \cdot 0 + (1 - 1)^2 \cdot 1 = 0$$

Properties of Expectations

Linearity of Expectation

$$\mathbb{E}(cX + bY) = c\mathbb{E}(X) + b\mathbb{E}(Y)$$

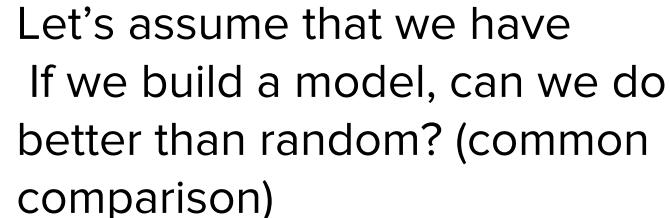
Knowing these rules well also covers most **job interview questions about probability.**

Law of Total Expectation

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_i \mathbb{E}(X|A_i)P(A_i)$$

A problem I recently encountered

Problem: Can we match users who use multiple devices who visit The New Yorker?



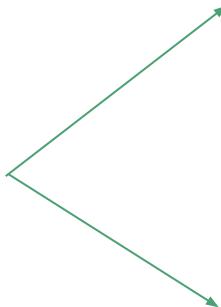
A problem I recently encountered

What is the expected number of correct guesses if we guessed randomly?

```
xids = pd.read_csv('xdevrecon.csv')
```

In [2]: xids

Out[2]:	xid	match	score	sde	sos	sbr	lat	long	lci	lco
0	33b4073a-369e-4752-9311-cc17d424b911	9366ff38-4aad-4faf-85aa-53999128613a	1	desktop	Mac OS X	Safari	41.4184	-72.9073	Hamden	United States
1	fe3ea415-a5fa-4ec2-a576-1d741da9ec50	f78c194b-67a2-4f6a-8553-caed9f529bef	1	mobile	iOS	Mobile Safari	38.8822	-77.1411	Arlington	United States
2	fe3ea415-a5fa-4ec2-a576-1d741da9ec50	715bb439-d4a5-4b3b-ba5a-83d49577e04a	1	mobile	iOS	Mobile Safari	38.8822	-77.1411	Arlington	United States
3	d30c366d-0665-42f9-915c-06569bbe5789	988eb87c-a07e-4dd3-988d-f3f843acd986	1	desktop	Windows 7	Chrome	25.7651	-80.3603	Miami	United States
4	d30c366d-0665-42f9-915c-06569bbe5789	366095ad-95df-44a3-a405-9f77cf38f38	1	desktop	Windows 7	Chrome	25.7651	-80.3603	Miami	United States
5	d30c366d-0665-42f9-915c-06569bbe5789	0e568f75-4e72-4a27-8211-9ca0e84b2e4c	1	desktop	Windows 7	Chrome	25.7651	-80.3603	Miami	United States



A problem I recently encountered

Often problems with expectation require a clever definition of a random variable:

$$X_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \text{ matches } j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Arrange users j randomly and let's compute the expected number of matches.

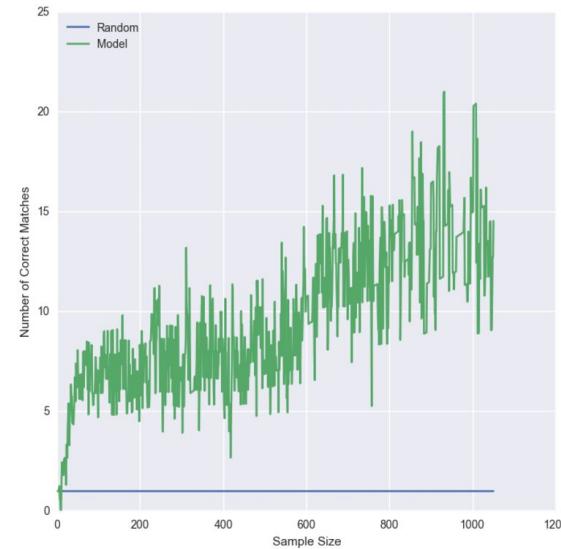
A problem I recently encountered

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Arrange users j randomly and let's compute the expected number of matches.

$$\mathbb{E}\left(\sum_i X_{ij}\right) = \sum_i \mathbb{E}(X_{ij}) = \sum_i \frac{1}{n} = n \cdot n = 1.$$



Used linearity of expectation - prove this.

Example for law of total expectation

What's the expected number of tosses of an unfair coin until you get a heads?

Hint: Condition on the first step



Example for law of total expectation

What's the expected number of tosses of an unfair coin until you get a heads?

Let X denote the number of flips until we see a heads. We could compute:

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} p(1 - p)^{n-1} n$$



Example for law of total expectation

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(X) &= p\mathbb{E}(X \mid \text{heads on first flip}) + (1 - p)\mathbb{E}(X \mid \text{tails on first flip}) \\ &= p \cdot 1 + (1 - p)(\mathbb{E}(X) + 1)\end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \frac{1}{p}$$



Probability Review

Please review Discrete Probability Distributions if you feel rusty.

<https://github.com/Columbia-Intro-Data-Science/APMAE4990-/blob/master/pdfs/Discrete-Probabilities.pdf>

Please review Conditional Probability and Random Variables if you feel rusty.

<https://github.com/Columbia-Intro-Data-Science/APMAE4990-/blob/master/pdfs/Conditional-Probability.pdf>

Excellent source for job interview questions (**Chapter 3**) and mastering probability basics.

[https://github.com/Columbia-Intro-Data-Science/APMAE4990-/blob/master/pdfs/%5BMark%20Joshi%5DQuant%20Job%20Interview%20Questions%20And%20Answers%20\(1\).pdf](https://github.com/Columbia-Intro-Data-Science/APMAE4990-/blob/master/pdfs/%5BMark%20Joshi%5DQuant%20Job%20Interview%20Questions%20And%20Answers%20(1).pdf)

Summary

- **If the above was quick, don't worry!** - we will cover it again, and in more detail.
- Conditional probabilities are extremely important in data science / machine learning, since in all cases we want to maximize some reward function, subject to some constraints (usually attributes of what we are trying to predict). In fact..
- In **predictive machine learning** we often try to solve:

$$\max_{\theta} p(Y|X, \theta)$$

- In **prescriptive machine learning**, we try to solve:

$$\max_{a,\theta} \mathbb{E}(Y|X, a, \theta)$$