



Department of Computer Science  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**



# Mathematical Foundations

## Introduction to Data Science Algorithms

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SLIDES ADAPTED FROM DAVE BLEI AND LAUREN HANNAH

## Marginalization

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If we are given a joint distribution, what if we are only interested in the distribution of one of the variables?

We can compute the distribution of  $P(X)$  from  $P(X, Y, Z)$  through *marginalization*:

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_y \sum_z P(X, Y = y, Z = z) &= \sum_y \sum_z P(X) P(Y = y, Z = z | X) \\ &= P(X) \sum_y \sum_z P(Y = y, Z = z | X) \\ &= P(X)\end{aligned}$$

## Marginalization (from Leyton-Brown)

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### Joint distribution

temperature (T) and weather (W)

	T=Hot	T=Mild	T=Cold
W=Sunny	.10	.20	.10
W=Cloudy	.05	.35	.20

Marginalization allows us to compute distributions over smaller sets of variables:

- $P(X, Y) = \sum_z P(X, Y, Z = z)$
- Corresponds to summing out a table dimension
- New table still sums to 1

- Marginalize out weather
- Marginalize out temperature

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<u>.15</u>		
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- Marginalize out temperature  

W=Sunny	.40
W=Cloudy	

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.15	.55	.30
- Marginalize out temperature  

W=Sunny	.40
W=Cloudy	.60