



Probability for Machine Learning

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Random Variable (= r.v.)

- (Rough) Definition: Variable with a probability

- Probability that $x = a$

$$\triangleq P_X(x = a) = P(x = a) \implies \begin{cases} 1) P(x = a) \geq 0 \\ 2) \sum_{\text{all}} P(x) = 1 \end{cases}$$

- $\begin{cases} \text{continuous r.v.} & \text{if } x \text{ is continuous} \\ \text{discrete r.v.} & \text{if } x \text{ is discrete} \end{cases}$

Example

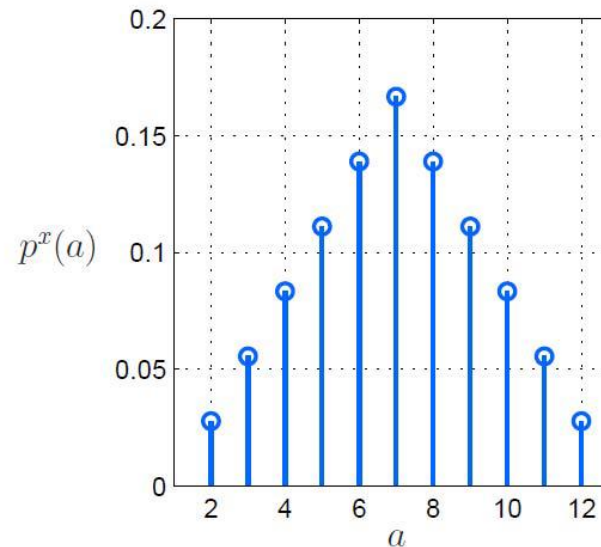
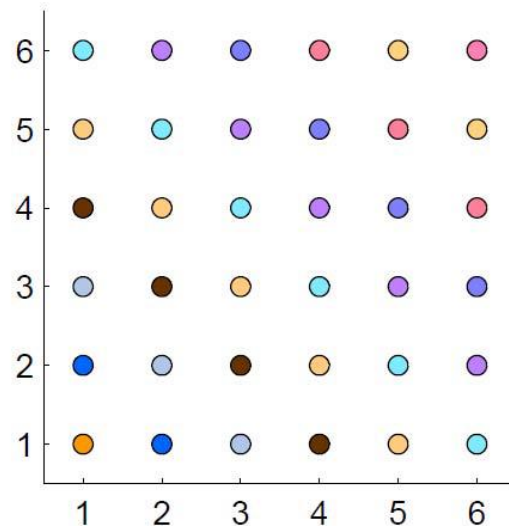
- x : die outcome

$$P(X = 1) = P(X = 2) = \dots = P(X = 6) = \frac{1}{6}$$

- Question

$y = x_1 + x_2$: sum of two dice

$$P_Y(y = 5) = ?$$



Random Variable (= r.v.)

- Expectation = mean

$$E[x] = \begin{cases} \sum_x xP(x) & \text{discrete} \\ \int_x xP(x)dx & \text{continuous} \end{cases}$$

- Example

Sample mean $E[x] = \sum_x x \cdot \frac{1}{m}$ (\because uniform distribution assumed)

Variance $\text{var}[x] = E[(x - E[x])^2]$: mean square deviation from mean

Random Vectors (Multivariate R.V.)

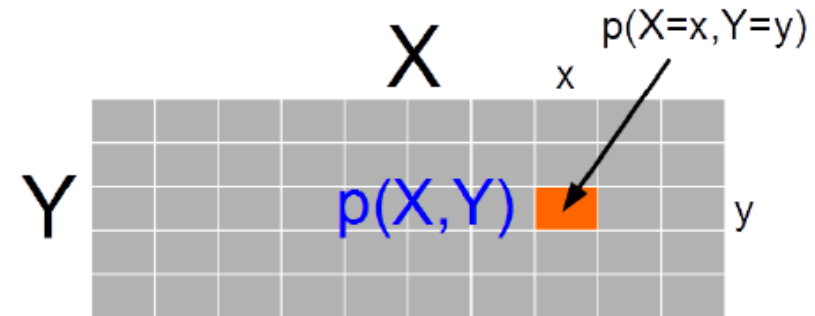
$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}, \quad n \text{ random variables}$$

Joint Density Probability

- Joint density probability models probability of co-occurrence of many r.v.

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}, \quad n \text{ random variables}$$

$$P_{X_1, \dots, X_n}(X_1 = x_1, \dots, X_n = x_n)$$



Marginal Density Probability

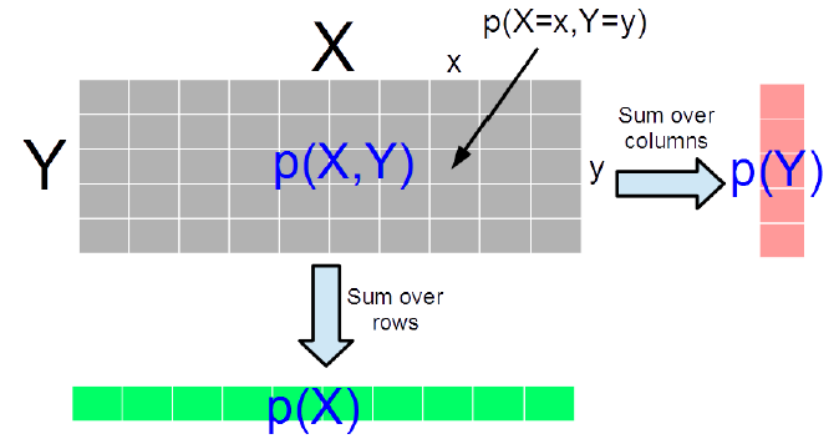
$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}, \quad n \text{ random variables}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P_{X_1}(X_1 = x_1) \\ P_{X_2}(X_2 = x_2) \\ \vdots \\ P_{X_n}(X_n = x_n) \end{aligned}$$

- For two r.v.

$$P(X) = \sum_y P(X, Y = y)$$

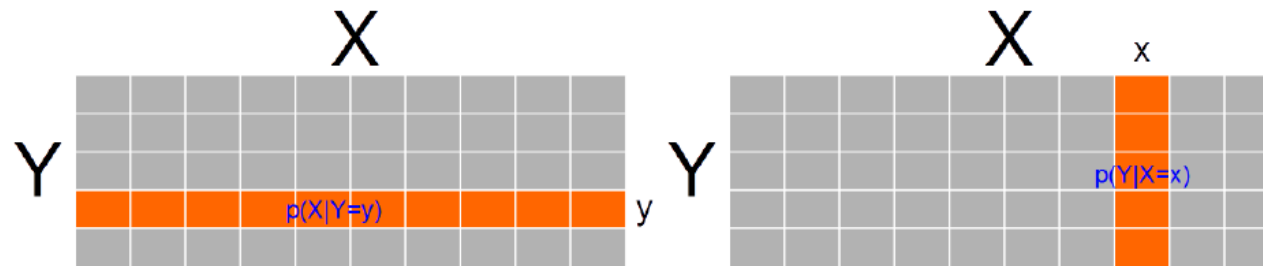
$$P(Y) = \sum_x P(X = x, Y)$$



Conditional Probability

- Probability of one event when we know the outcome of the other
- Conditional probability of x_1 given x_2

$$P_{X_1|X_2}(X_1 = x_1 \mid X_2 = x_2) = \frac{P(X_1 = x_1, X_2 = x_2)}{P(X_2 = x_2)}$$



Independent Random Variables

- When one tells nothing about the other

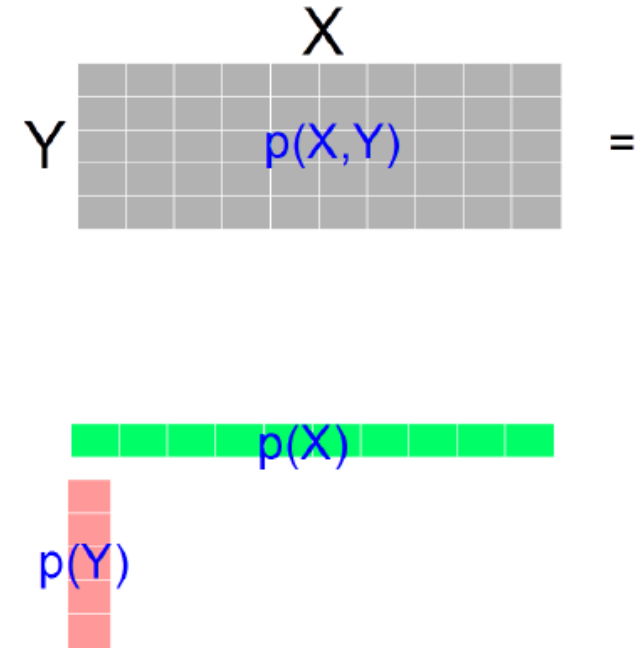
$$P(X_1 = x_1 \mid X_2 = x_2) = P(X_1 = x_1)$$

\Updownarrow

$$P(X_2 = x_2 \mid X_1 = x_1) = P(X_2 = x_2)$$

\Updownarrow

$$P(X_1 = x_1, X_2 = x_2) = P(X_1 = x_1)P(X_2 = x_2)$$



Example: Conditional Probability

- Four dice $\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3, \omega_4$

$x = \omega_1 + \omega_2$: sum of the first two dice

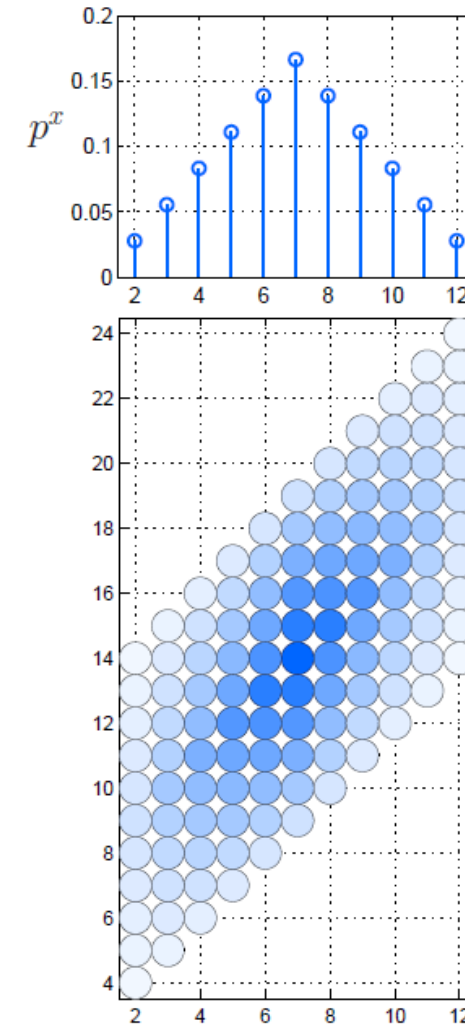
$y = \omega_1 + \omega_2 + \omega_3 + \omega_4$: sum of all four dice

probability of $\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = ?$

Example: Conditional Probability

- Marginal probability

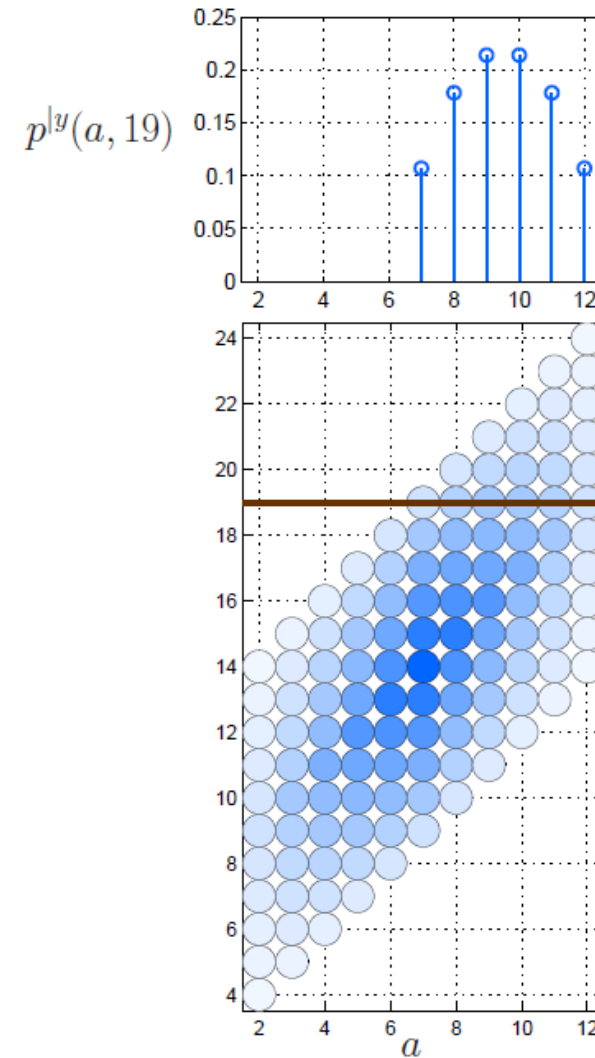
$$P_X(x) = \sum_y P_{XY}(x, y)$$



Example: Conditional Probability

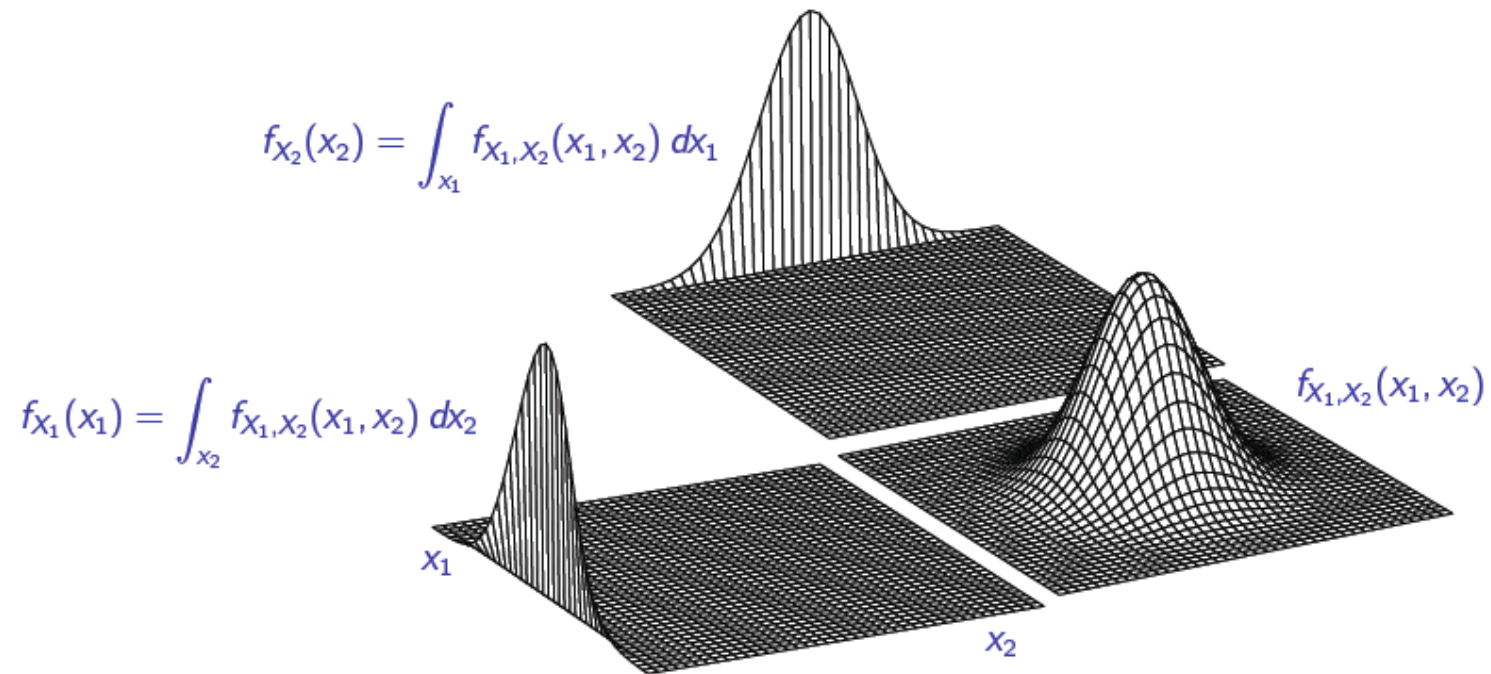
- Conditional probability
 - Suppose we measured $y = 19$

$$P_{X|Y}(x \mid y = 19) = ?$$



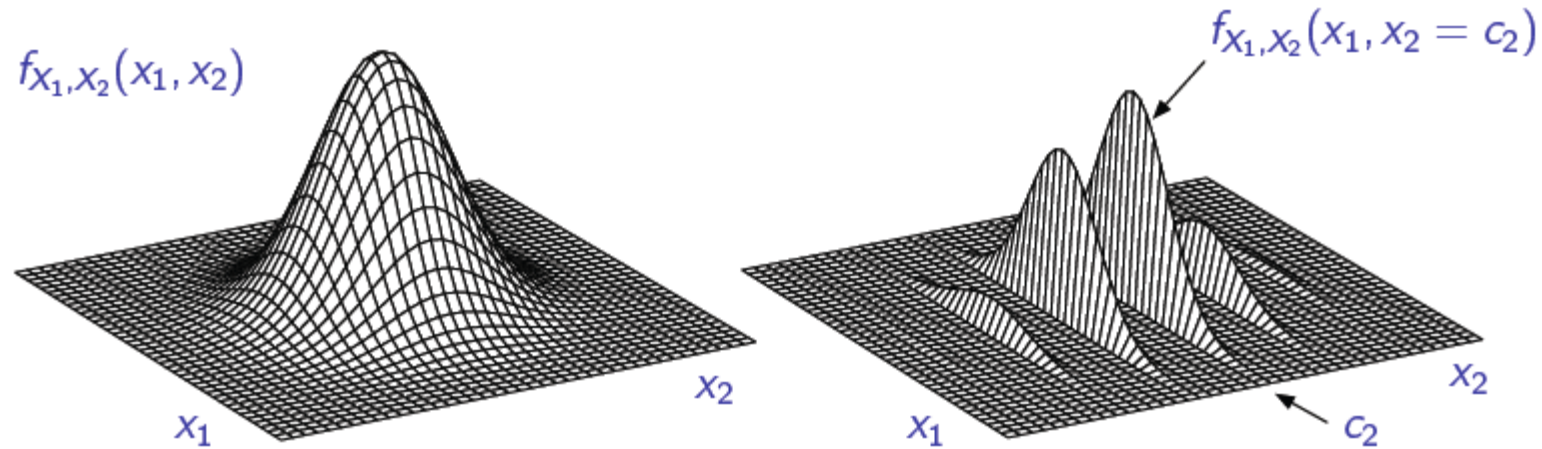
Pictorial Explanation

- Marginal probability for continuous r.v.



Pictorial Explanation

- Conditional probability for continuous r.v.



Example: Conditional Probability

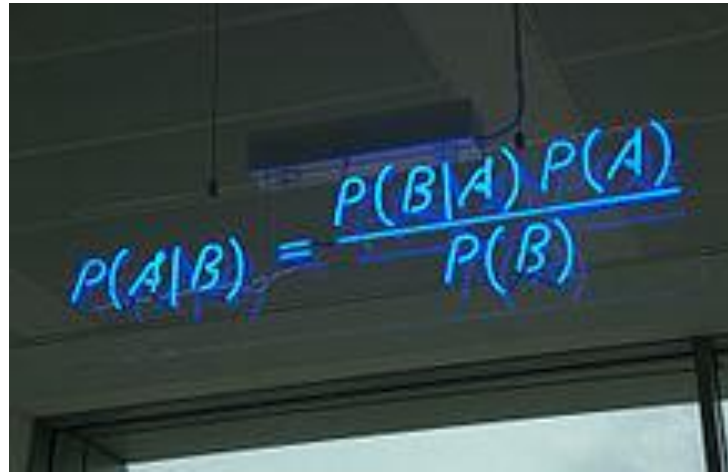
- Suppose we have three bins, labeled A, B, and C.
 - Two of the bins have only white balls, and one bin has only black balls
- 1) We take one ball, what is the probability that it is white? (white = 1)
 - 2) When a white ball has been drawn from bin C, what is the probability of drawing a white ball from bin B?
 - 3) When two balls have been drawn from two different bins, what is the probability of drawing two white balls?

$$P(X_1 = 1) = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$P(X_2 = 1 \mid X_1 = 1) = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$P(X_1 = 1, X_2 = 1) = P(X_2 = 1 \mid X_1 = 1)P(X_1 = 1) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{2}{3} = \frac{1}{3}$$

Bayes Rule


$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)}$$

- Enables us to swap A and B in conditional probability

$$P(X_2, X_1) = P(X_2 | X_1)P(X_1) = P(X_1 | X_2)P(X_2)$$

$$\therefore P(X_2 | X_1) = \frac{P(X_1 | X_2)P(X_2)}{P(X_1)}$$

Example: Bayes Rule

- Suppose that in a group of people, 40% are male and 60% are female.
- 50% of the males are smokers, 30% of the females are smokers.
- Find the probability that a smoker is male

$x = \text{M or F}$

$y = \text{S or N}$

$$P(x = \text{M}) = 0.4$$

$$P(x = \text{F}) = 0.6$$

$$P(y = \text{S} \mid x = \text{M}) = 0.5$$

$$P(y = \text{S} \mid x = \text{F}) = 0.3$$

$$P(x = \text{M} \mid y = \text{S}) = ?$$

- Bayes rule + conditional probability

Example: Bayes Rule

- Bayes rule + conditional probability

$x = \text{M or F}$

$y = \text{S or N}$

$$P(x = \text{M}) = 0.4$$

$$P(x = \text{F}) = 0.6$$

$$P(y = \text{S} \mid x = \text{M}) = 0.5$$

$$P(y = \text{S} \mid x = \text{F}) = 0.3$$

$$P(x = \text{M} \mid y = \text{S}) = ?$$

$$P(x = \text{M} \mid y = \text{S}) = \frac{P(y = \text{S} \mid x = \text{M})P(x = \text{M})}{P(y = \text{S})} = \frac{0.20}{0.38} \approx 0.53$$

$$P(y = \text{S}) = P(y = \text{S} \mid x = \text{M})P(x = \text{M}) + P(y = \text{S} \mid x = \text{F})P(x = \text{F})$$

$$= 0.5 \times 0.4 + 0.3 \times 0.6 = 0.38$$

Linear Transformation of Random Variables

Linear Transformation For Single R. V.

$$X \mapsto Y = aX$$

$$E[aX] = aE[X]$$

$$\text{var}(aX) = a^2 \text{var}(X)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{var}(X) &= E[(X - E[X])^2] = E[(X - \bar{X})^2] = E[X^2 - 2X\bar{X} + \bar{X}^2] \\ &= E[X^2] - 2E[X\bar{X}] + \bar{X}^2 = E[X^2] - 2E[X]\bar{X} + \bar{X}^2 \\ &= E[X^2] - E[X]^2\end{aligned}$$

Sum of Two Random Variables X and Y

$$Z = X + Y \text{ (still univariate)}$$

$$E[X + Y] = E[X] + E[Y]$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{var}(X + Y) &= E[(X + Y - E[X + Y])^2] = E[((X - \bar{X}) + (Y - \bar{Y}))^2] \\ &= E[(X - \bar{X})^2] + E[(Y - \bar{Y})^2] + 2E[(X - \bar{X})(Y - \bar{Y})] \\ &= \text{var}(X) + \text{var}(Y) + 2\text{cov}(X, Y)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{cov}(X, Y) &= E[(X - \bar{X})(Y - \bar{Y})] = E[XY - X\bar{Y} - \bar{X}Y + \bar{X}\bar{Y}] \\ &= E[XY] - E[X]\bar{Y} - \bar{X}E[Y] + \bar{X}\bar{Y} = E[XY] - E[X]E[Y]\end{aligned}$$

- Note: quality control in manufacturing process

$$\text{var}(X + Y) = \text{var}(X) + \text{var}(Y) + 2\text{cov}(X, Y)$$

Sum of Two Random Variables X and Y

- Remark
 - Variance for univariable
 - Covariance for bivariable
- Covariance for two r.v.

$$\text{cov}(x, y) = E[(x - \mu_x)(y - \mu_y)]$$

- Covariance matrix for random vectors

$$\begin{aligned}\text{cov}(X) = E[(X - \mu)(X - \mu)^T] &= \begin{bmatrix} \text{cov}(X_1, X_1) & \text{cov}(X_1, X_2) \\ \text{cov}(X_2, X_1) & \text{cov}(X_2, X_2) \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \text{var}(X_1) & \text{cov}(X_1, X_2) \\ \text{cov}(X_2, X_1) & \text{var}(X_2) \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

- Moments: provide rough clues on probability distribution

$$\int x^k P_x(x) dx \quad \text{or} \quad \sum x^k P_x(x)$$

Affine Transformation of Random Vectors

$$y = Ax + b$$

$$E[y] = AE[x] + b$$

$$\text{cov}(y) = A \text{cov}(x) A^T$$

- IID random variables
 - identically distributed
 - independent
- Suppose x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m are IID with mean μ and variance σ^2

$$\text{Let } x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_m \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{then } E[x] = \begin{bmatrix} \mu \\ \vdots \\ \mu \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{cov}(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma^2 & & & \\ & \sigma^2 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \sigma^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Affine Transformation of Random Vectors

- Sum of IID random variables (\rightarrow single r.v.)

$$S_m = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m x_i \implies S_m = Ax \text{ where } A = \frac{1}{m} [1 \ \dots \ 1]$$

$$E[S_m] = AE[x] = \frac{1}{m} [1 \ \dots \ 1] \begin{bmatrix} \mu \\ \vdots \\ \mu \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{m} m\mu = \mu$$

$$\text{var}(S_m) = A \text{cov}(x) A^T = A \begin{bmatrix} \sigma^2 & & & \\ & \sigma^2 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \sigma^2 \end{bmatrix} A^T = \frac{\sigma^2}{m}$$

- Reduce the variance by a factor of $m \implies$ Law of large numbers or central limit theorem

$$\bar{x} \longrightarrow N \left(\mu, \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{m}} \right)^2 \right)$$