

Reinforcement Learning

Lecture 1

Course Organization

Intro to Reinforcement Learning

Mathematical Basics

Robert Peharz

Institute of Theoretical Computer Science
Graz University of Technology

Winter Term 2022/23

Course Organization

Robert Peharz

- Assistant Professor at TU Graz
- Institute of Theoretical Computer Science (IGI)
- Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence
- short bio
 - studied here (Telematics, PhD)
 - Meduni Graz (2015-2017)
 - Cambridge, UK (2017-2019)
 - TU Eindhoven, NL (2019-2021)
 - TU Graz , since October 2021

robert.peharz@tugraz.at

Lectures

2 x 45 min. + 10 min. break

708.061 Reinforcement Learning (2SSt VO, WS 2023/24)

Gruppe	Filter							Ereignis	Termintyp
	Tag	Datum	von	bis	Ort				
Standardgruppe									
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mi	04.10.2023	09:45	11:30	HS i11 "SIEMENS Hörsaal" (ICK1002H)	Abhaltung	fix		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mi	11.10.2023	09:45	11:30	HS i11 "SIEMENS Hörsaal" (ICK1002H)	Abhaltung	fix		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mi	18.10.2023	09:45	11:30	HS i11 "SIEMENS Hörsaal" (ICK1002H)	Abhaltung	fix		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mi	25.10.2023	09:45	11:30	HS i11 "SIEMENS Hörsaal" (ICK1002H)	Abhaltung	fix		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mi	08.11.2023	09:45	11:30	HS i11 "SIEMENS Hörsaal" (ICK1002H)	Abhaltung	fix		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mi	15.11.2023	09:45	11:30	HS i11 "SIEMENS Hörsaal" (ICK1002H)	Abhaltung	fix		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mi	22.11.2023	09:45	11:30	HS i11 "SIEMENS Hörsaal" (ICK1002H)	Abhaltung	fix		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mi	29.11.2023	09:45	11:30	HS i11 "SIEMENS Hörsaal" (ICK1002H)	Abhaltung	fix		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mi	06.12.2023	09:45	11:30	HS i11 "SIEMENS Hörsaal" (ICK1002H)	Abhaltung	fix		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mi	13.12.2023	09:45	11:30	HS i11 "SIEMENS Hörsaal" (ICK1002H)	Abhaltung	fix		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mi	20.12.2023	09:45	11:30	HS i11 "SIEMENS Hörsaal" (ICK1002H)	Abhaltung	fix		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mi	10.01.2024	09:45	11:30	HS i11 "SIEMENS Hörsaal" (ICK1002H)	Abhaltung	fix		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mi	17.01.2024	09:45	11:30	HS i11 "SIEMENS Hörsaal" (ICK1002H)	Abhaltung	fix		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mi	24.01.2024	09:45	11:30	HS i11 "SIEMENS Hörsaal" (ICK1002H)	Abhaltung	fix		

Reinforcement Learning

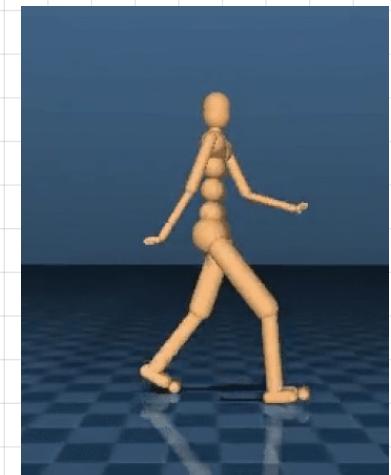
- one of the big branches in machine learning
- hot topic
 - mastering the Game of Go



- Learning to play Computer Games



- teaching robots to walk



Lecture (VO)

- theory and foundations of RL
- algorithms
- examples and applications
- discussing research papers

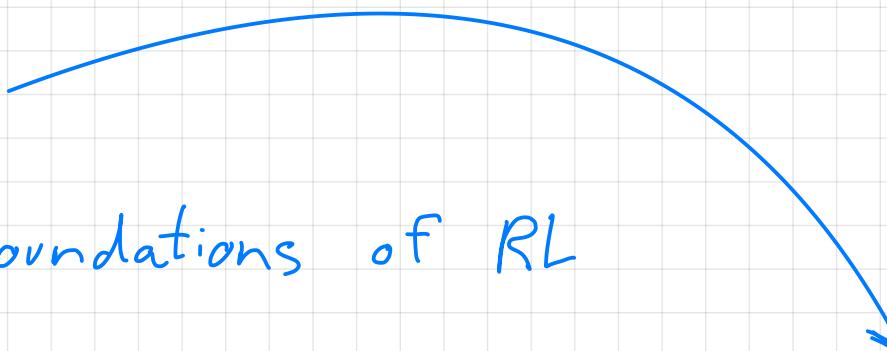
Practicals (KU)

Fr. 12:30-14:00, i11

- 2-3 Homework Assignments
- implement RL algorithms
- some theory exercises
- reading assignments + presentation

Learning Goals

- getting started in RL
- prepare for RL projects
(Master, PhD, industry)
- augment your ML tool kit



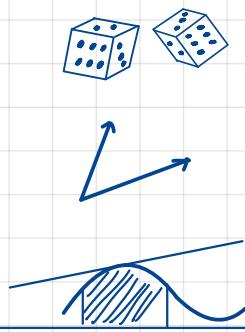
Özdenizci &

Wedenig



What do you need for this course?

- solid understanding of basic
 - probability theory
 - Linear algebra
 - calculus
- ideally, an introductory machine learning course (e.g. ML1)
- python skills, ideally PyTorch (for the KU)



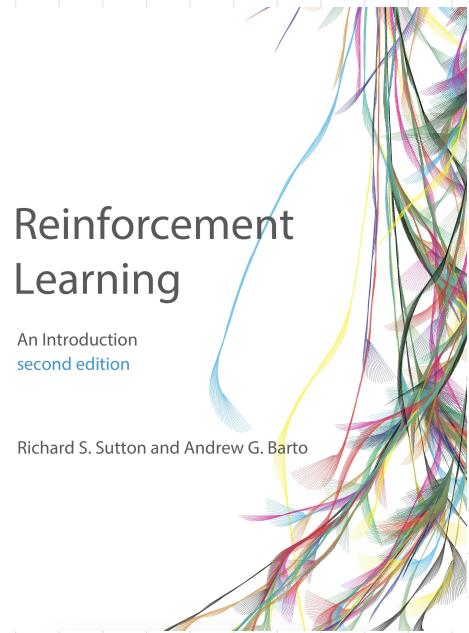
Exam

- written exam of 90 minutes
- open questions and/or multiple choice, checking understanding and analytic skills
- small computational examples checking ability to apply concepts and algorithms (pocket calculator needed)
- 100 points

> 90	Sehr gut	(1)
75.1 - 90	Gut	(2)
65.1 - 75	Befriedigend	(3)
50.1 - 65	Genügend	(4)
0 - 50	Nicht Genügend	(5)

next exam: Thur. 12 Oct, 10:00 , 11; then end of semester

Relevant Materials



- accessible introduction
- written by two pioneers of modern RL
- freely available

<https://www.andrew.cmu.edu/course/10-703/textbook/BartoSutton.pdf>



DeepMind x UCL

This classic 10 part course, taught by Reinforcement Learning (RL) pioneer David Silver, was recorded in 2015 and remains a popular resource for anyone wanting to understand the fundamentals of RL.

- excellent video lectures
- by a leading RL researcher
- 10 lectures of 1.5 hours
- slides & videos freely available

<https://deepmind.com/learning-resources/introduction-reinforcement-learning-david-silver>

More Materials

Stanford RL course

Course Instructor



Emma Brunskill

Course Assistants



Haojun Li
(Head CA)



Andrea Zanette



Dilip Arumugam



Garrett Thomas



Jasdeep Singh



Jean Betterton



Ramtin Keramati



Woody Wang



Yuqian Cheng



<https://web.stanford.edu/class/cs234/>

Algorithms for Reinforcement Learning , Szepesvari

- short and concise book
- more of a "mathematical style"

<https://sites.ualberta.ca/~szepesva/rlbook.html>

Contact

- Teach Center, Forum
- robert.peharz@tugraz.at

Color Codes in the Notes

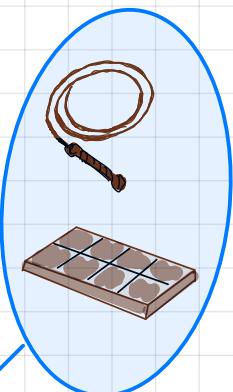
-  narrator's voice
-  math
-  definition, introducing notions
-  example
-  recap, summary
-  important note, question to think about
-  algorithm (as font color)
-  side note

Not 100% consistent

And sometimes colors are used as (hopefully) visual aids

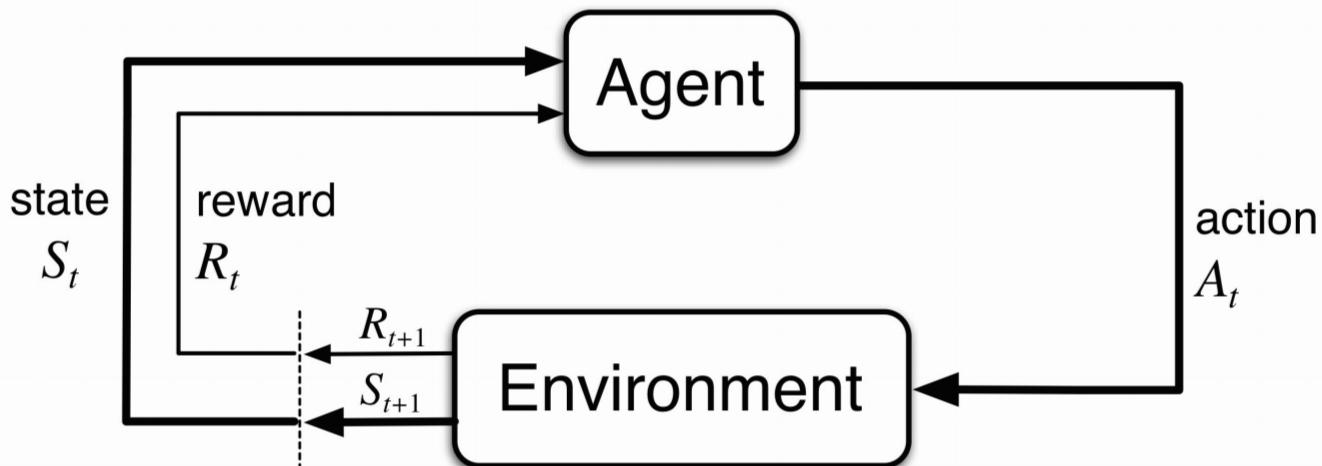
Introduction: What is Reinforcement Learning?

Reinforcement Learning is about...

- an agent interacting with an environment
- agent makes decisions (picks actions) over time
 - sequential decision making
- agent's actions influence environment
 - environment changes its state
 - environment returns a Reward 
 - "low ≈ pain"
 - "high ≈ pleasure"
- goal: maximize reward over agent's lifetime
- learn behavior (policy) from weak feedback
 - behavior leading to high reward gets reinforced
 - ↑
(term from psychology)

Agent-Environment Interface

Image: Sutton & Barto



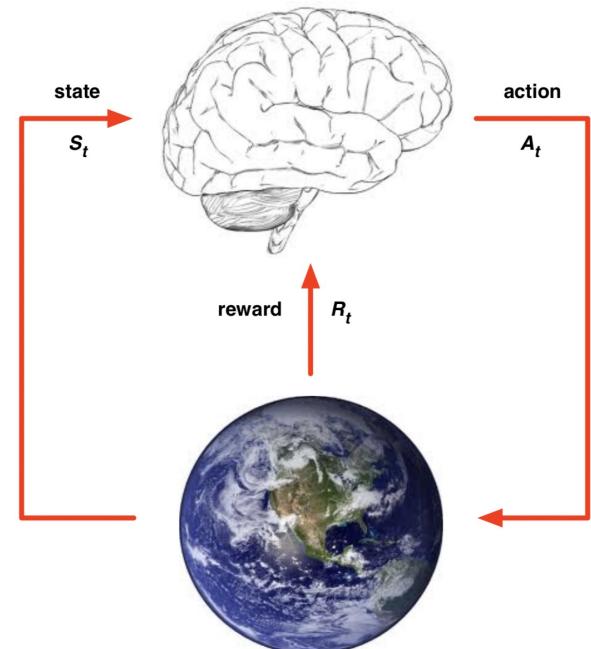
- discrete time (usually, and so in this course)
- at time t , environment is in state S_t
- agent plays action A_t
- based on S_t and A_t , environment
 - switches to state S_{t+1}
 - emits reward R_{t+1}

} observed by agent
- agent selects next action A_{t+1} (and so on...)

Agent vs. Environment

- what belongs to agent, what to environment?
- boundary is often closer to the agent than expected
- "anything which cannot be changed completely arbitrarily should be seen as part of the environment" (Sutton & Barto)
- boundary of absolute control (not of knowledge)
- e.g.
 - position of a robot,
 - angles of your limbs,
 - etc.

should be seen as part of the environment

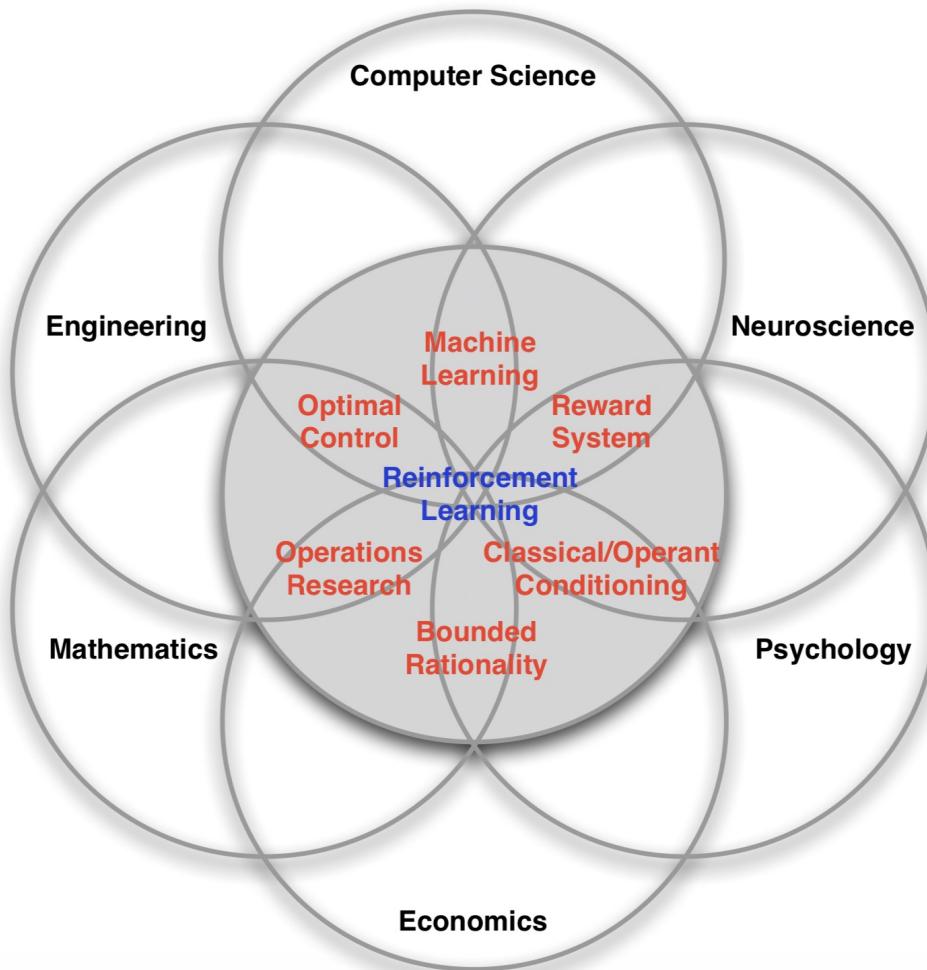


Examples of Reinforcement Learning

- cleaning robot
- battery control system in same robot (nested RL)
- controller in a petroleum refinery
- new-born gazelle : barely able to stand, but runs 20 Km/h after 30 min.
- advertisement placement (websites)
- portfolio optimization

What would be good reward signals ?

The Many Facets of Reinforcement Learning



Reinforcement Learning: the science of decision making

RL as Third Pillar of Machine Learning (?)

- RL is not supervised learning
(only rewards as "weak feedback", but no expert labels)
- RL is not unsupervised learning
(finding structure in data might help, but is not a goal per se)
- RL is interactive (agent needs to explore the environment)
and sequential (i.e. inherently time-dependent).
These are not typical features of supervised/unsupervised learning.

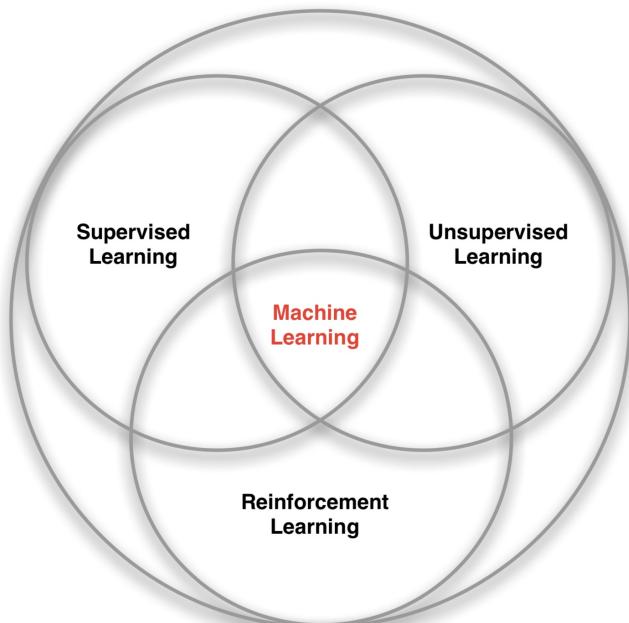


Image: D. Silver

There are, however, many other ML paradigms, which **do** have these characteristics as well:
active learning, semi-supervised learning, Bayesian optimization, coactive learning, ... !

Atari Breakout

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

Go

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7L2sUGcOgh0>

Star Craft

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuhECwm31dM>

Cart Pole

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiigTGKZfks>

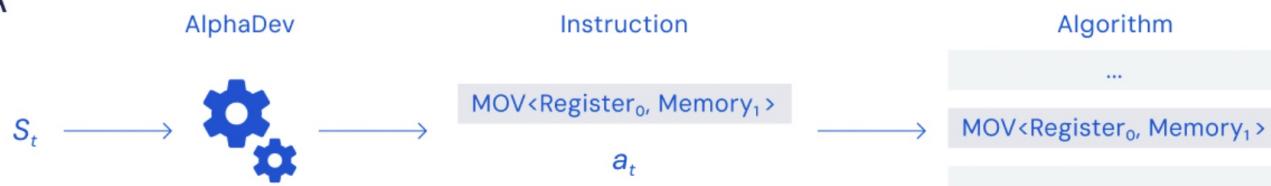
Robot Learning to Walk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=goxCjGPQH7U>

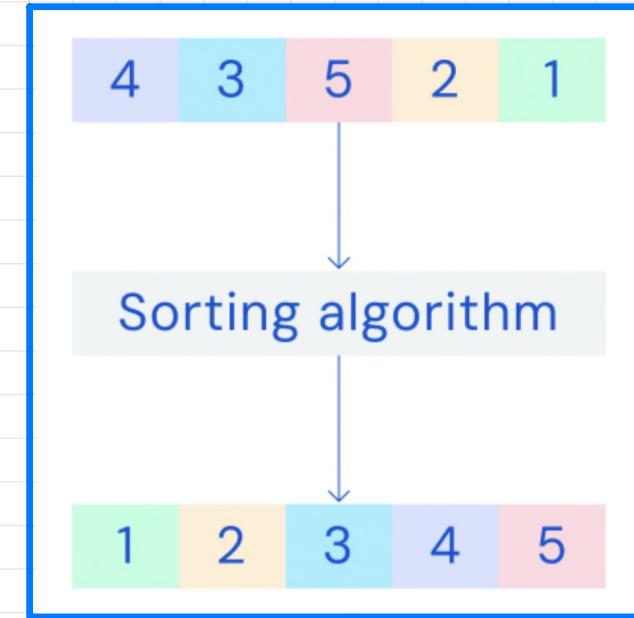
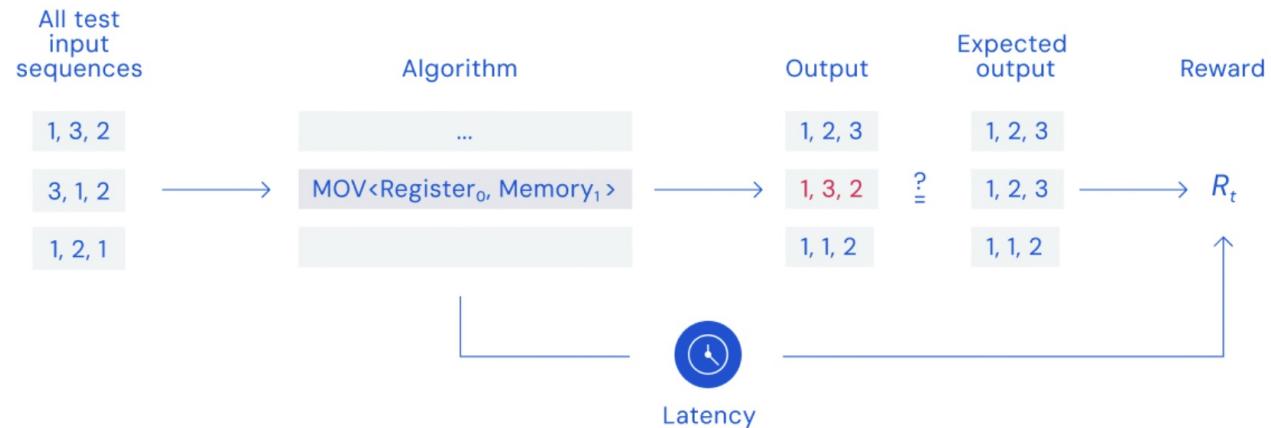
Discovering New Algorithms

Mankowitz, D.J., Michi, A., Zhernov, A. et al. Faster sorting algorithms discovered using deep reinforcement learning. *Nature* **618**, 257–263 (2023).

A



B



Original

```

Memory[0] = A
Memory[1] = B
Memory[2] = C

mov Memory[0] P // P = A
mov Memory[1] Q // Q = B
mov Memory[2] R // R = C

mov R S
cmp P R
cmovg P R // R = max(A, C)
cmovl P S // S = min(A, C)
mov S P // P = min(A, C)
cmp S Q
cmovg Q P // P = min(A, B, C)
cmovg S Q // Q = max(min(A, C), B)

mov P Memory[0] // = min(A, B, C)
mov Q Memory[1] // = max(min(A, C), B)
mov R Memory[2] // = max(A, C)
  
```

AlphaDev

```

Memory[0] = A
Memory[1] = B
Memory[2] = C

mov Memory[0] P // P = A
mov Memory[1] Q // Q = B
mov Memory[2] R // R = C

mov R S
cmp P R
cmovg P R // R = max(A, C)
cmovl P S // S = min(A, C)

cmp S Q
cmovg Q P // P = min(A, B)
cmovg S Q // Q = max(min(A, C), B)

mov P Memory[0] // = min(A, B)
mov Q Memory[1] // = max(min(A, C), B)
mov R Memory[2] // = max(A, C)
  
```

Left: The original implementation with $\min(A, B, C)$.

Right: AlphaDev Swap Move – AlphaDev discovers that you only need $\min(A, B)$.

- 70% faster for short sequences
- 1.7% faster for long sequences
- new "moves"



Recap: Probability

Notation for Random Variables

- random variables (RVs) are denoted by upper-case letters

X, Y, Z, S_t, A_t, R_t

- states of RVs are denoted by lower-case letters

x, y, z, s, α, τ

- state spaces of RVs (set of all states) as calligraphic letters

$\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}, \mathcal{Z}$

- underline for random vectors (multivariate RVs)

$\underline{X}, \underline{Y}, \underline{Z}$

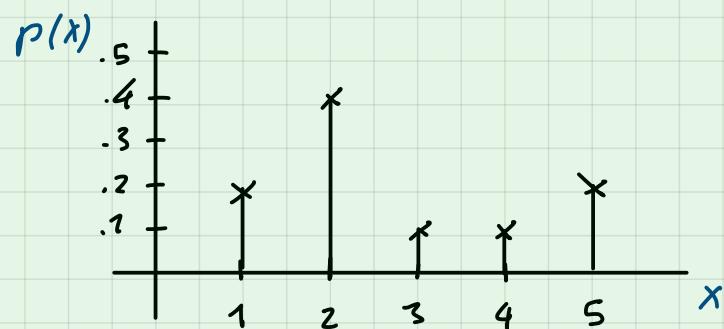
Discrete Random Variable, Probability Mass Function

Let X be a random variable with state space \mathcal{X} (i.e. the set of values X can assume). If \mathcal{X} is countable then X is called a discrete random variable.

countable set: finite or of same cardinality as \mathbb{N} .
E.g. $\{1, 2, 3\}, \mathbb{N}, \mathbb{Z}, \mathbb{Q}$

Let p_X be the function $p_X: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ with $p_X(x) = P(X = x)$, i.e. the function which assigns each state $x \in \mathcal{X}$ the probability that $X = x$. This function p_X is called the probability mass function (pmf) of X .

Example pmf of a random variable X with $\mathcal{X} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$.



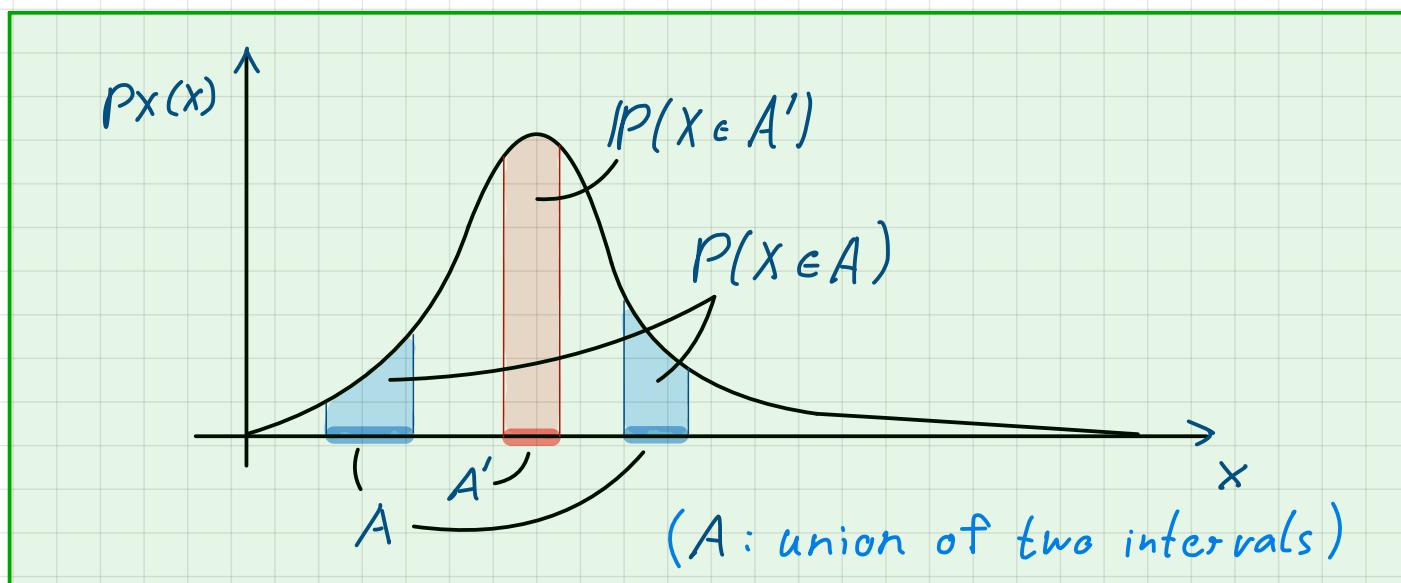
Continuous Random Variable, Probability Density

Let X be a random variable with state space $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}$. If there exists a function $p_X: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ (\mathbb{R}_+ are the non-negative real numbers) with

$$\int_A p_X(x) dx = P(X \in A)$$

then p_X is called a probability density function (pdf) (or just density) of X . Often we omit the subscript and write p .

A random variable X which has a density is called continuous.



Multivariate Random Variable, Joint Distributions

Both pmfs and pdfs generalize to multivariate random variables (random vectors) $\underline{X} = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_D)$. Here, X_d , $d=1..D$, are random variables combined to a random vector \underline{X} .

Joint pmf

$$p_{\underline{X}}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_D) := \Pr(\underline{X} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_D))$$

Joint pdf

$$\int_A p_{\underline{X}}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_D) d\underline{x} = \Pr(\underline{X} \in A) \quad A \subseteq \mathbb{R}^D$$

- sloppy notation: $p(x)$ to mean either p_X or $p_{\underline{X}}(x)$, i.e. getting rid of subscript
- use the same symbol p for pmfs and pdfs. We do this since both have the same purpose: compact representation of a distribution.

Marginal Distribution

Assume random variables $\underline{X} = \{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_b\}$ with joint distribution $P_{\underline{X}}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_b)$

Split $\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_b\}$ into two arbitrary disjoint sets

$\underline{Y} = \{Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_I\}$ and $\underline{Z} = \{Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_J\}$, $\underline{Y} \cup \underline{Z} = \underline{X}$, $\underline{Y} \cap \underline{Z} = \{\}$.

The marginal distribution over \underline{Y} is given as

$$P_{\underline{Y}}(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_I) = \sum_{z_1} \sum_{z_2} \dots \sum_{z_J} P_{\underline{X}}(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_I, z_1, z_2, \dots, z_J)$$

- for continuous random variables replace \sum_{z_i} with $\int \dots dz_j$.
- $P_{\underline{X}}$: describes all random variables
- $P_{\underline{Y}}$: describes $\underline{Y} \subseteq \underline{X}$, ignoring (accounting for) $\underline{Z} = \underline{X} / \underline{Y}$

Example: Marginal Distribution

Assume 3 binary random variables X, Y, Z and let the joint pmf be

x	y	z	$p(x, y, z)$
0	0	0	0.1
0	0	1	0.15
0	1	0	0.05
0	1	1	0.2
1	0	0	0.1
1	0	1	0.1
1	1	0	0.15
1	1	1	0.15

marginalizing Y

The pmf $p(x, z)$ is given by

marginalizing Z

x	z	$p(x, z)$
0	0	0.15
0	1	0.35
1	0	0.25
1	1	0.25

marginalizing X

Further, we can compute $\frac{x}{p(x)}$

x	$p(x)$
0	0.5
1	0.5

and $\frac{z}{p(z)}$

z	$p(z)$
0	0.4
1	0.6

Conditional Distribution

Assume random variables $\underline{X} = \{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_b\}$ with joint distribution

$$P_{\underline{X}}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_b)$$

Split $\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_b\}$ into two arbitrary disjoint sets

$$\underline{Y} = \{Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_I\} \text{ and } \underline{Z} = \{Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_J\}, \underline{Y} \cup \underline{Z} = \underline{X}, \underline{Y} \cap \underline{Z} = \{\}.$$

The conditional distribution over \underline{Y} given \underline{Z} is given as

$$P_{\underline{Y}|\underline{Z}}(y_1, \dots, y_I | z_1, \dots, z_J) = \frac{P_{\underline{X}}(y_1, \dots, y_I, z_1, \dots, z_J)}{P_{\underline{Z}}(z_1, \dots, z_J)} \quad \left(P_{\underline{Y}|\underline{Z}}(y | z) = \frac{P_{\underline{X}}(y, z)}{P_{\underline{Z}}(z)} \right)$$

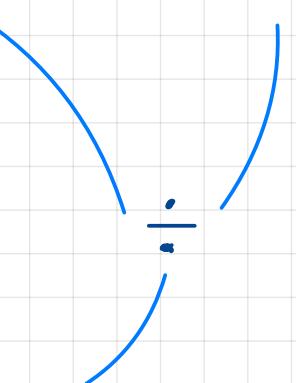
whenever $P_{\underline{Z}}(z_1, \dots, z_J) = P_{\underline{Z}}(\underline{Z}) > 0$.

Alternatively, we can define conditional distributions as "first-class citizens", i.e. $P_{\underline{Y}|\underline{Z}}(y | z)$ is a collection of distributions over \underline{Y} , one for each value z of \underline{Z} . Together with $P_{\underline{Z}}$ it gives rise to the joint $P_{\underline{X}}(y, z) := P_{\underline{Y}|\underline{Z}}(y | z) P_{\underline{Z}}(z)$.

Example: Conditional Distribution

Recall the joint and marginal distributions from the previous example

x	y	z	$p(x, y, z)$	z	$p(z)$
0	0	0	0.1	0	0.4
0	0	1	0.15	1	0.6
0	1	0	0.05		
0	1	1	0.2		
1	0	0	0.1		
1	0	1	0.1		
1	1	0	0.15		
1	1	1	0.15		



Then:

x	y	z	$p(x, y z)$
0	0	0	0.25
0	1	0	0.125
1	0	0	0.25
1	1	0	0.375
x	y	z	
0	0	1	0.25
0	1	1	0.333
1	0	1	0.166
1	1	1	0.25

Intuitive Semantics

Joint distribution P_x

"Knowledge base," dependencies + uncertainty

Marginalization

"ignore," "forget," "account for"

Conditioning

"inject evidence," "observe"

(Conditional) Independence

Let $\underline{X}, \underline{Y}, \underline{Z}$ be random vectors (or single random variables).

\underline{X} and \underline{Y} are independent if the following equivalent* conditions hold:

- $p(\underline{x}, \underline{y}) = p(\underline{x}) \cdot p(\underline{y})$ $\forall \underline{x}, \underline{y}$
- $p(\underline{x} | \underline{y}) = p(\underline{x})$ } observing one RV does not change our belief over the other RV $\forall \underline{x}, \underline{y}$
- $p(\underline{y} | \underline{x}) = p(\underline{y})$ } belief over the other RV $\forall \underline{x}, \underline{y}$

Moreover, \underline{X} and \underline{Y} are conditionally independent given \underline{Z} if the following equivalent* conditions hold:

- $p(\underline{x}, \underline{y} | \underline{z}) = p(\underline{x} | \underline{z}) p(\underline{y} | \underline{z})$ $\forall \underline{x}, \underline{y}, \underline{z}$
- $p(\underline{x} | \underline{y}, \underline{z}) = p(\underline{x} | \underline{z})$ $\forall \underline{x}, \underline{y}, \underline{z}$
- $p(\underline{y} | \underline{x}, \underline{z}) = p(\underline{y} | \underline{z})$ $\forall \underline{x}, \underline{y}, \underline{z}$

* homework: show that the conditions are equivalent.

The Chain Rule

- Let $p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_D)$ be any distribution function.
- We can always factor it as

$$p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_D) = p(x_1) p(x_2 | x_1) p(x_3 | x_2, x_1) \dots p(x_D | x_1, \dots, x_{D-1})$$

- In short $p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_D) = \prod_{i=1}^D p(x_i | x_1, \dots, x_{i-1})$
- This also works with any ordering, e.g.

$$\begin{aligned} p(x_1, x_2, x_3) &= p(x_1) p(x_2 | x_1) p(x_3 | x_1, x_2) \\ &= p(x_2) p(x_3 | x_2) p(x_1 | x_2, x_3) \\ &= p(x_2) p(x_1 | x_2) p(x_3 | x_2, x_1) \\ &= \dots \end{aligned}$$

Expectation

Let \underline{X} be a random vector (or a single random variable).
The expectation (expected value) of \underline{X} is defined as

$$\mathbb{E}[\underline{X}] = \sum_{\underline{x}} \underline{x} p(\underline{x}) \quad (\text{discrete random variables})$$

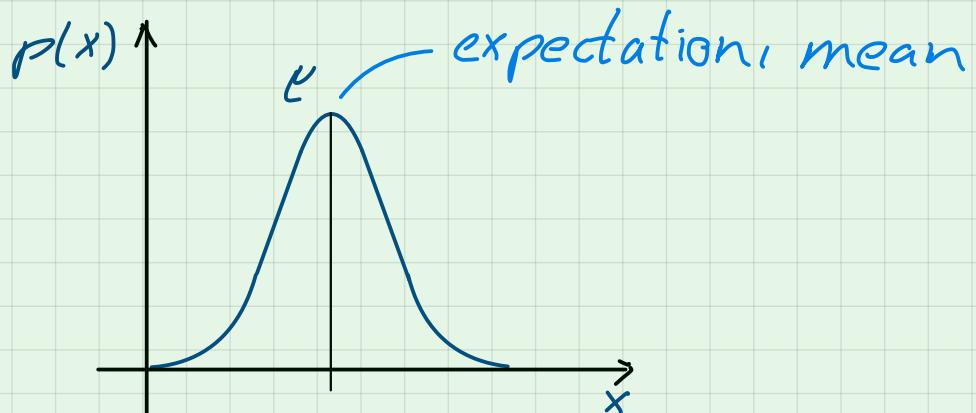
sum runs over all (joint) states of \underline{X}

$$\mathbb{E}[\underline{X}] = \int \underline{x} p(\underline{x}) d\underline{x} \quad (\text{continuous random variables})$$

integral over whole state space of \underline{X}

Gaussian

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right)^2}$$



Discrete Random Variable X

$$\mathcal{X} = \{1, 2, 3\}$$

$$p(1) = 0.4, p(2) = 0.3, p(3) = 0.3$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[X] &= 0.4 \times 1 + 0.3 \times 2 + 0.3 \times 3 \\ &= 1.9 \end{aligned}$$

Law of the Unconscious Statistician (LOTUS)

Let \underline{X} be a random vector (or single RV) with distribution $p(\underline{x})$.
Let f be some function. Then

$$\underline{Y} := f(\underline{X})$$

is another random vector (or RV).

Then

often tricky to compute

$$\text{IE}[\underline{Y}] = \sum_y p(y) = \text{IE}[f(\underline{X})] = \sum_x f(x) p(x) \quad (\text{discrete RVs})$$

$$\text{IE}[\underline{Y}] = \int p(y) dy = \text{IE}[f(\underline{X})] = \int f(x) p(x) dx \quad (\text{continuous RVs})$$

Often used as a definition, but actually a non-trivial result.
→ Law of the unconscious statistician

Conditional Expectation

Let $p(\underline{x} | \underline{y})$ be a conditional distribution over \underline{X} , conditional on \underline{Y} .

The conditional expectation $E[\underline{X} | \underline{y}]$ is defined as

$$E[\underline{X} | \underline{y}] := \int \underline{x} p(\underline{x} | \underline{y}) d\underline{x} \quad (\text{use } \Sigma \text{ for discrete RVs})$$

Of course, we can condition on many RVs as well:

$$E[\underline{X} | \underline{y}, \underline{z}] = \int \underline{x} p(\underline{x} | \underline{y}, \underline{z}) d\underline{x}$$

$$E[\underline{X} | \underline{u}, \underline{v}, \underline{w}] = \int \underline{x} p(\underline{x} | \underline{u}, \underline{v}, \underline{w}) d\underline{x}$$

⋮
⋮
⋮

Iterated Expectation

Let $p(\underline{x} | \underline{y})$ be a conditional distribution over \underline{X} , conditional on \underline{Y} .
Let $p(\underline{y})$ be the (marginal) distribution over \underline{Y} .

Then

$$\mathbb{E}[\underline{X}] = \mathbb{E}_{\underline{Y}} \left[\mathbb{E}_{\underline{X}} [\underline{X} | \underline{Y}] \right] \quad (\text{iterated expectation})$$

(we use subscripts to make explicit which RVs we sum/integrate out)

Proof: $\mathbb{E}[\underline{X}] = \int p(\underline{x}) \underline{x} d\underline{x}$

$$= \int \underbrace{\int p(\underline{x}, \underline{y}) dy}_{= p(\underline{x}) \text{ (marginal)}} \underline{x} d\underline{x}$$

chain rule

$$= \int \int \underbrace{p(\underline{x} | \underline{y}) p(\underline{y})}_{\text{chain rule}} dy \underline{x} d\underline{x}$$
$$= \int \underbrace{\int p(\underline{x} | \underline{y}) \underline{x} d\underline{x}}_{= \mathbb{E}_{\underline{X}} [\underline{X} | \underline{y}]} \cdot p(\underline{y}) dy = \mathbb{E}_{\underline{Y}} \left[\mathbb{E}_{\underline{X}} [\underline{X} | \underline{Y}] \right]$$

Iterated Expectations cont'd

Iterated expectations generalize and can be "nested"

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{\underline{z}} \left[\mathbb{E}_{\underline{y}} \left[\mathbb{E}_{\underline{x}} [\underline{x} | \underline{y}, \underline{z}] | \underline{z} \right] \right] &= \int p(\underline{z}) \int p(\underline{y} | \underline{z}) \underbrace{\int \underline{x} p(\underline{x} | \underline{y}, \underline{z}) d\underline{x} dy d\underline{z}}_{= \mathbb{E}_{\underline{x}} [\underline{x} | \underline{y}, \underline{z}]} \\ &= \int \underline{x} \iint p(\underline{x} | \underline{y}, \underline{z}) \cdot p(\underline{y} | \underline{z}) \cdot p(\underline{z}) dy dz dx \\ &= \underbrace{\int \underline{x} p(\underline{x})}_{= \mathbb{E}[\underline{x}]} \end{aligned}$$

How does this simplify, when \underline{x} is conditionally independent of \underline{z} given \underline{y} ?

Linear Algebra (extra slides)

Vector Space

A vector space is a set V on which addition $+$ is defined

- For any $\underline{u}, \underline{v} \in V$:
- For any $\underline{u}, \underline{v} \in V$:
- For any $\underline{u}, \underline{v}, \underline{w} \in V$:

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{u} + \underline{v} &\in V \\ \underline{u} + \underline{v} &= \underline{v} + \underline{u} && \text{commutativity} \\ \underline{u} + (\underline{v} + \underline{w}) &= (\underline{u} + \underline{v}) + \underline{w} && \text{associativity}\end{aligned}$$

- There is a neutral element $\underline{0} \in V$, with $\underline{v} + \underline{0} = \underline{v}, \underline{v} \in V$
- For each $\underline{v} \in V$, there is an inverse element $-\underline{v}$, with $\underline{v} + (-\underline{v}) = \underline{0}$

Moreover, multiplication with a scalar is defined

- For any $a, b \in \mathbb{R}, \underline{v} \in V$:
- For any $\underline{u} \in V$:
- For any $a \in \mathbb{R}, \underline{u}, \underline{v} \in V$:
- For any $a, b \in \mathbb{R}, \underline{v} \in V$:

$$\begin{aligned}a(b\underline{v}) &= (ab)\underline{v} \\ 1\underline{v} &= \underline{v} \\ a(\underline{u} + \underline{v}) &= a\underline{u} + a\underline{v} \\ (a+b)\underline{v} &= a\underline{v} + b\underline{v}\end{aligned}$$

Canonical example:

Euclidean space

\mathbb{R}^n

$$\underline{v} = \begin{pmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_N \end{pmatrix}$$

Norm

Assigns a notion of length to vectors

Let V be a vector space. A norm on V is a function

$$\|\cdot\|: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

with

- $\|\underline{v}\| \geq 0$ $\underline{v} \in V$

- $\|\underline{v}\| = 0 \iff \underline{v} = \underline{0}$

positive definiteness

- $\|\underline{u} + \underline{v}\| \leq \|\underline{u}\| + \|\underline{v}\|$ $\underline{u}, \underline{v} \in V$

triangle inequality

- $\|a\underline{v}\| = |a| \cdot \|\underline{v}\|$ $a \in \mathbb{R}, \underline{v} \in V$

homogeneity

For example, let $V = \mathbb{R}^n$.

Euclidean norm (ℓ_2 -norm)

$$\|\underline{v}\|_2 = \sqrt{\sum_{k=1}^n v_k^2}$$

max-norm (union norm, infinity norm)

$$\|\underline{v}\|_\infty = \max_k |v_k|$$