

# Markov's inequality

If  $X \geq 0$  and  $a > 0$ , then

$$P(X \geq a) \leq \frac{E(X)}{a}$$

Proof (discrete case)

$$x_i \geq 0 \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq n$$
$$E(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i P(X=x_i)$$

$$= \underbrace{\sum_{x_i \leq a} x_i P(X=x_i)}_{\geq 0} + \sum_{x_i \geq a} x_i P(X=x_i)$$

$$\Rightarrow E(X) \geq \sum_{x_i \geq a} x_i P(X=x_i) \quad (1)$$

$$x_i \geq a \Rightarrow x_i P(X=x_i) \geq a P(X=x_i)$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{x_i \geq a} x_i P(X=x_i) \geq \sum_{x_i \geq a} a P(X=x_i)$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{x_i \geq a} x_i P(X=x_i) \geq a \underbrace{\sum_{x_i \geq a} P(X=x_i)}_{P(X \geq a)}$$

by (1):  $E(X) \geq a P(X \geq a)$

So:  $P(X \geq a) \leq \frac{E(X)}{a}$

- (continuous case):

$$E(X) = \int_0^{+\infty} x f_X(x) dx \geq \int_a^{+\infty} x f_X(x) dx \geq a \underbrace{\int_a^{+\infty} f_X(x) dx}_{P(X \geq a)}$$

$$\Rightarrow P(X \geq a) \leq \frac{E(X)}{a}$$