

CS492: Probabilistic Programming

Denotational Semantics of Probabilistic Programs

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KAIST

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2. Compiler optimisation.
3. Detection of ill-defined models.
4. Clear meaning of complex models.

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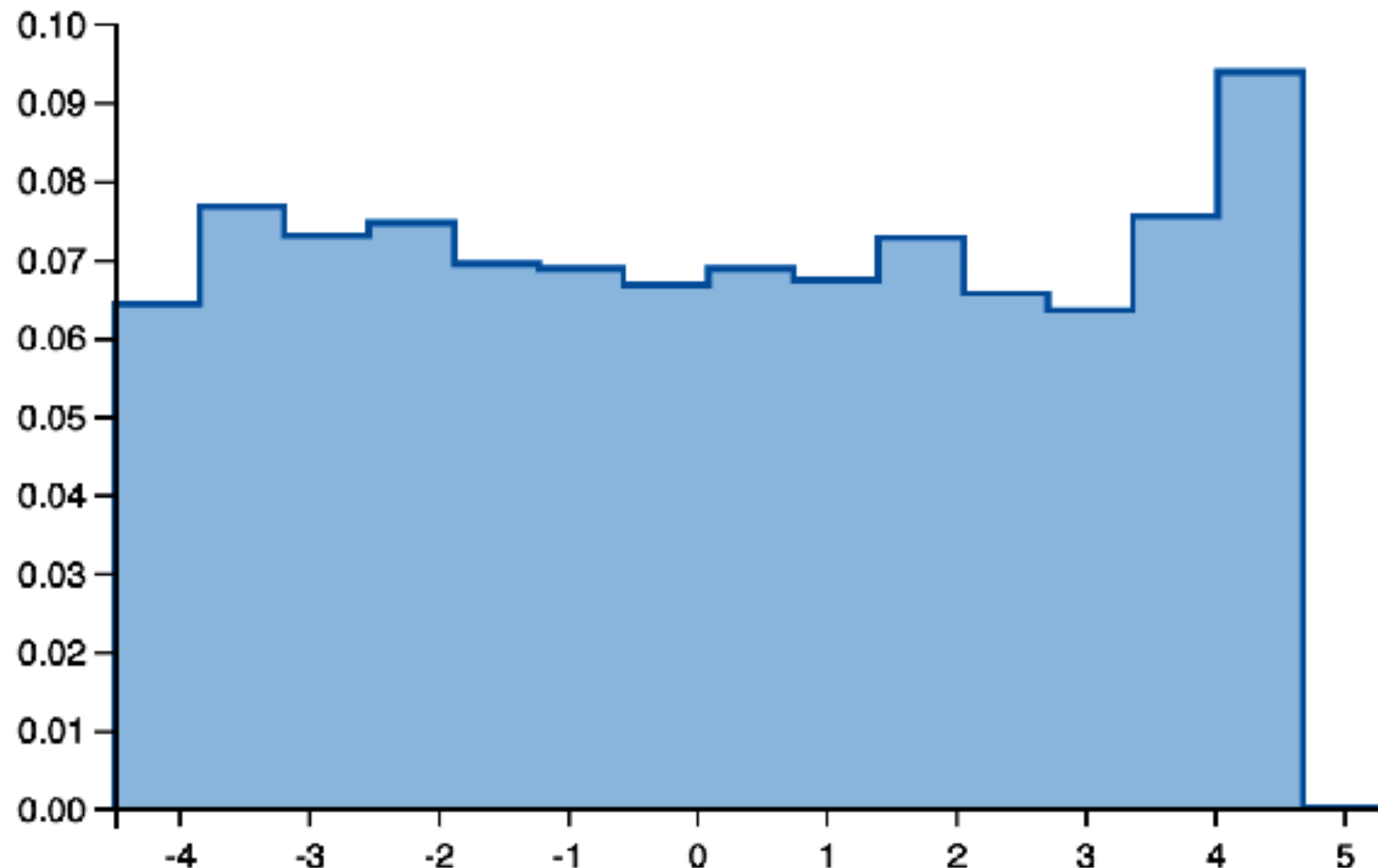
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```
(def lazy-samples (doquery :lmh example1 []))
(def samples (map :result (take-nth 100 (take 500000 (drop 100000 lazy-samples))))))
(plot/histogram samples :normalize :probability)
```

#'uppsala-pp17/lazy-samples

#'uppsala-pp17/samples

5K samples



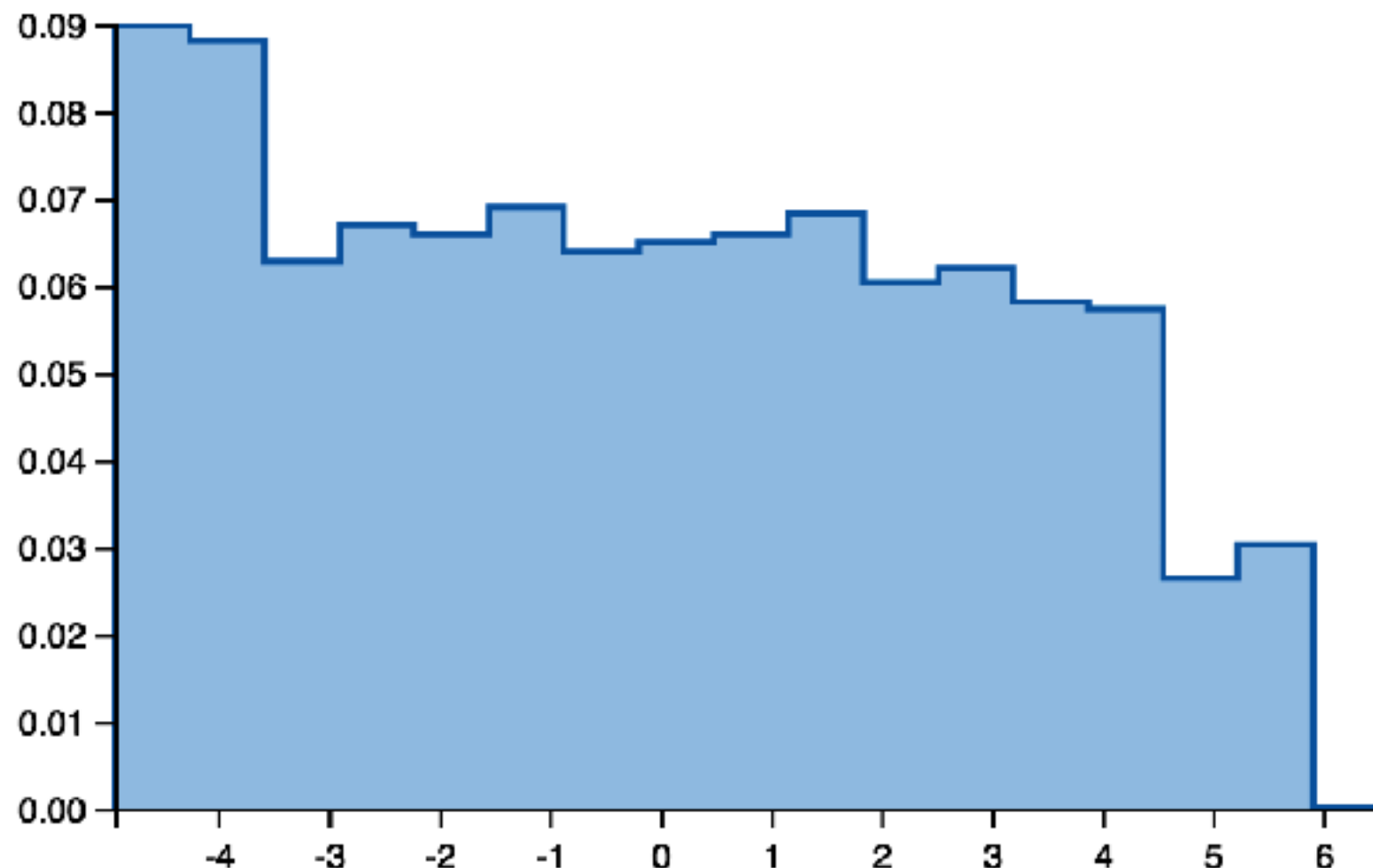
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```
(def lazy-samples (doquery :lmh example1 []))  
(def samples (map :result (take-nth 100 (take 1000000 (drop 100000 lazy-samples))))))  
(plot/histogram samples :normalize :probability)
```

#'uppsala-pp17/lazy-samples

#'uppsala-pp17/samples

10K samples



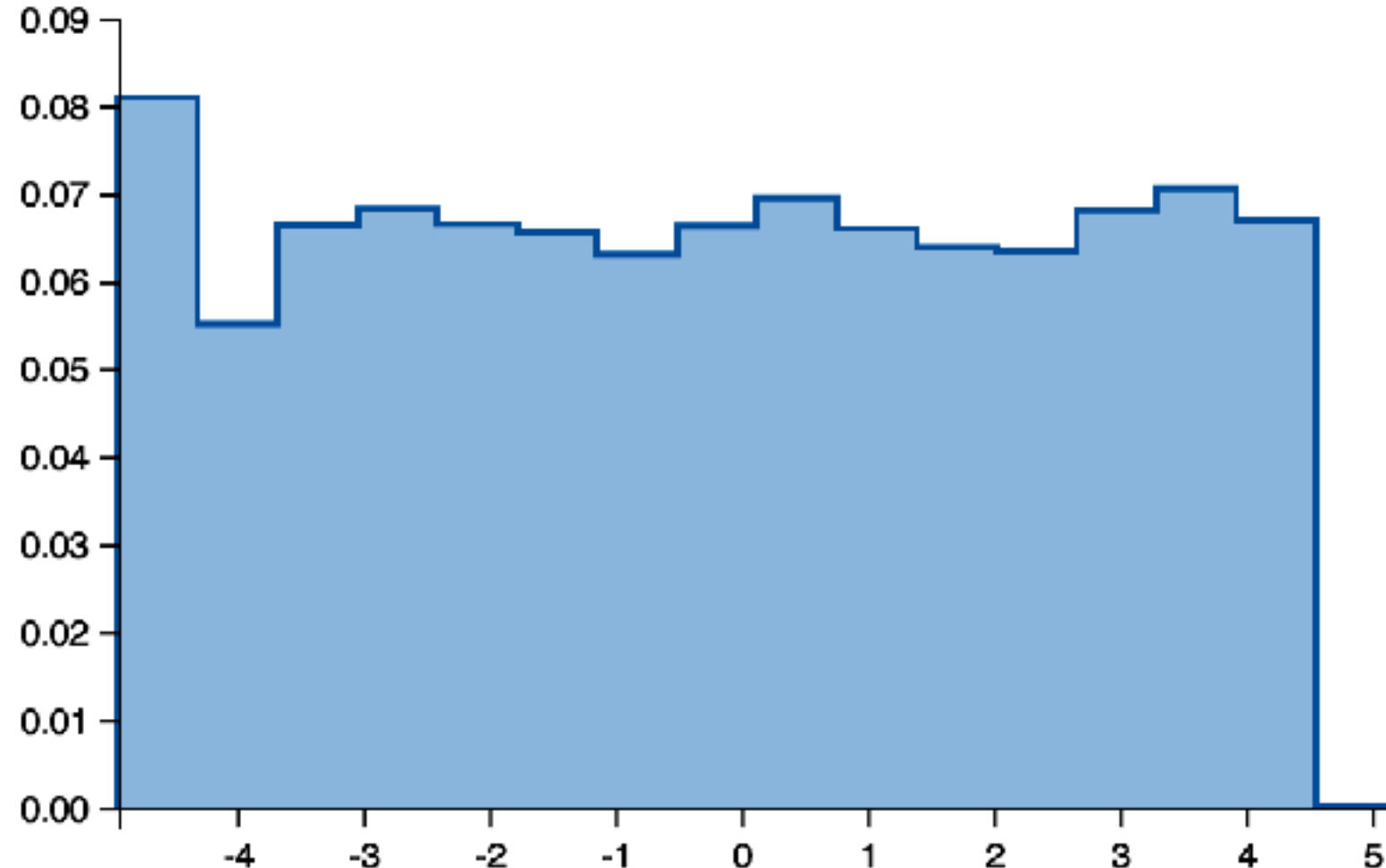
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```
(def lazy-samples (doquery :lmh example1 []))  
(def samples (map :result (take-nth 100 (take 1500000 (drop 100000 lazy-samples)))))  
(plot/histogram samples :normalize :probability)
```

#'uppsala-pp17/lazy-samples

#'uppsala-pp17/samples

15K samples



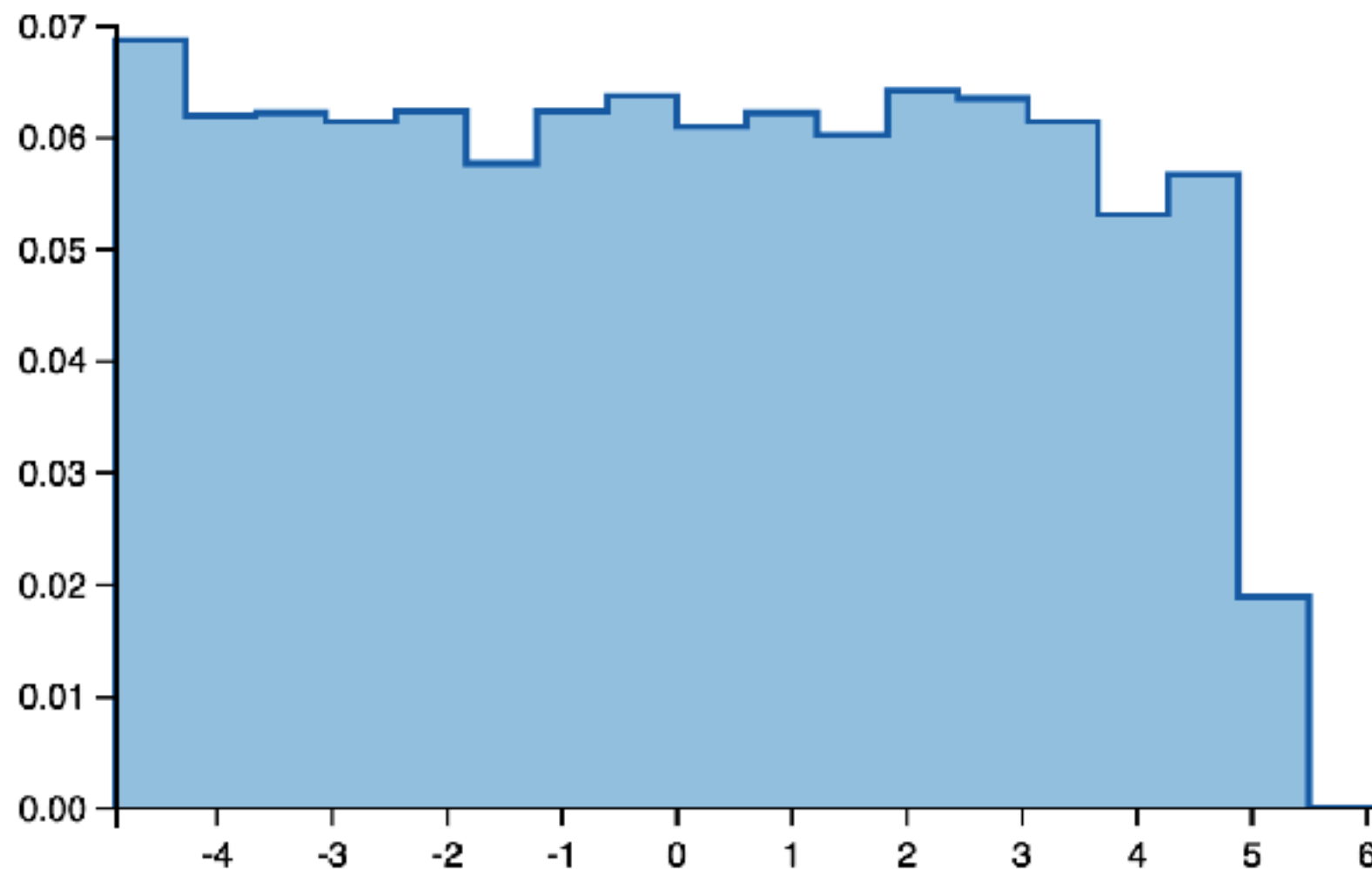
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(def samples (map :result (take-nth 100 (take 2000000 (drop 100000 lazy-samples))))))
(plot/histogram samples :normalize :probability)
```

#'uppsala-pp17/lazy-samples

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20K samples



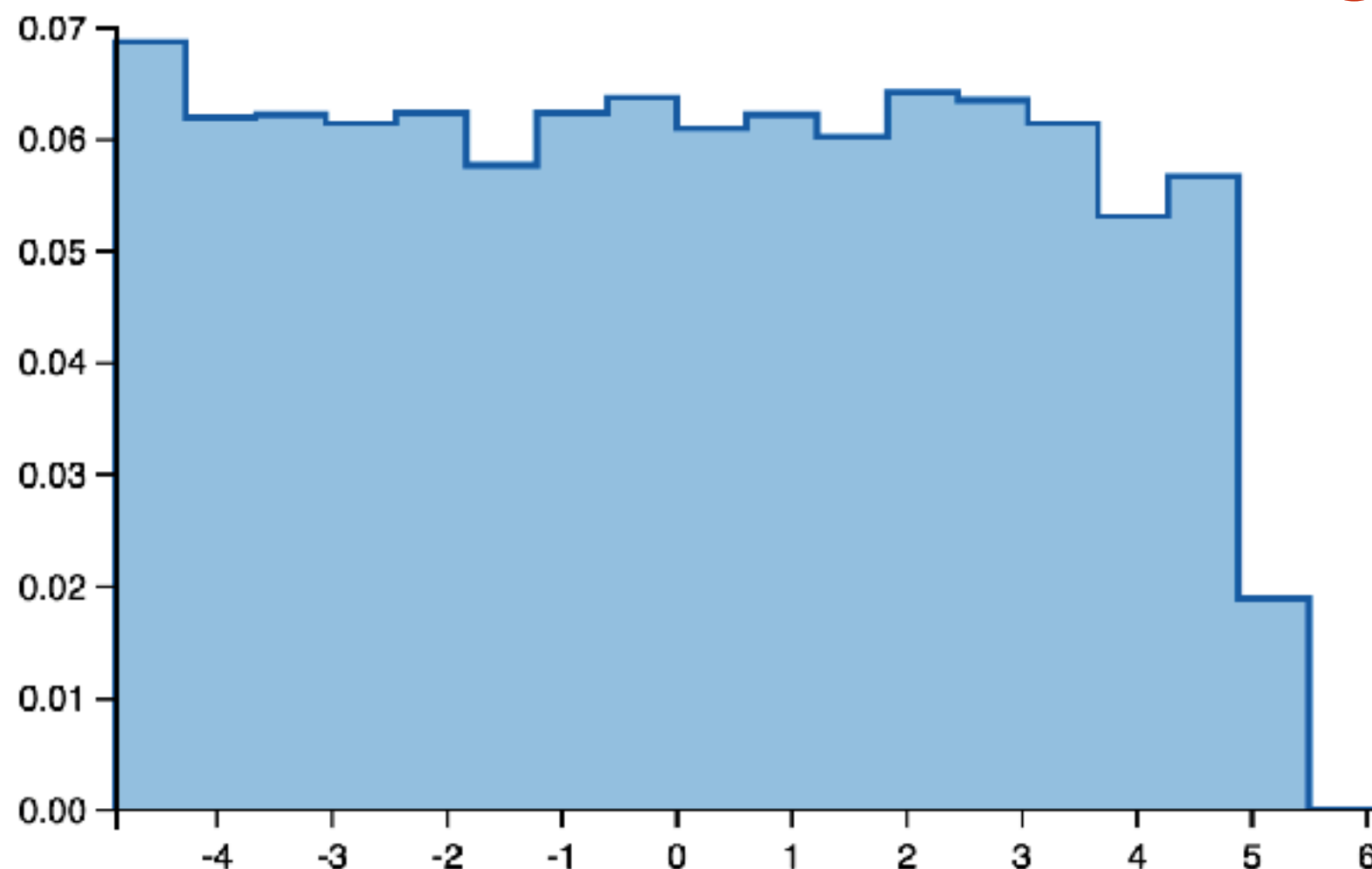
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20K samples
Uniform[-6,6]?

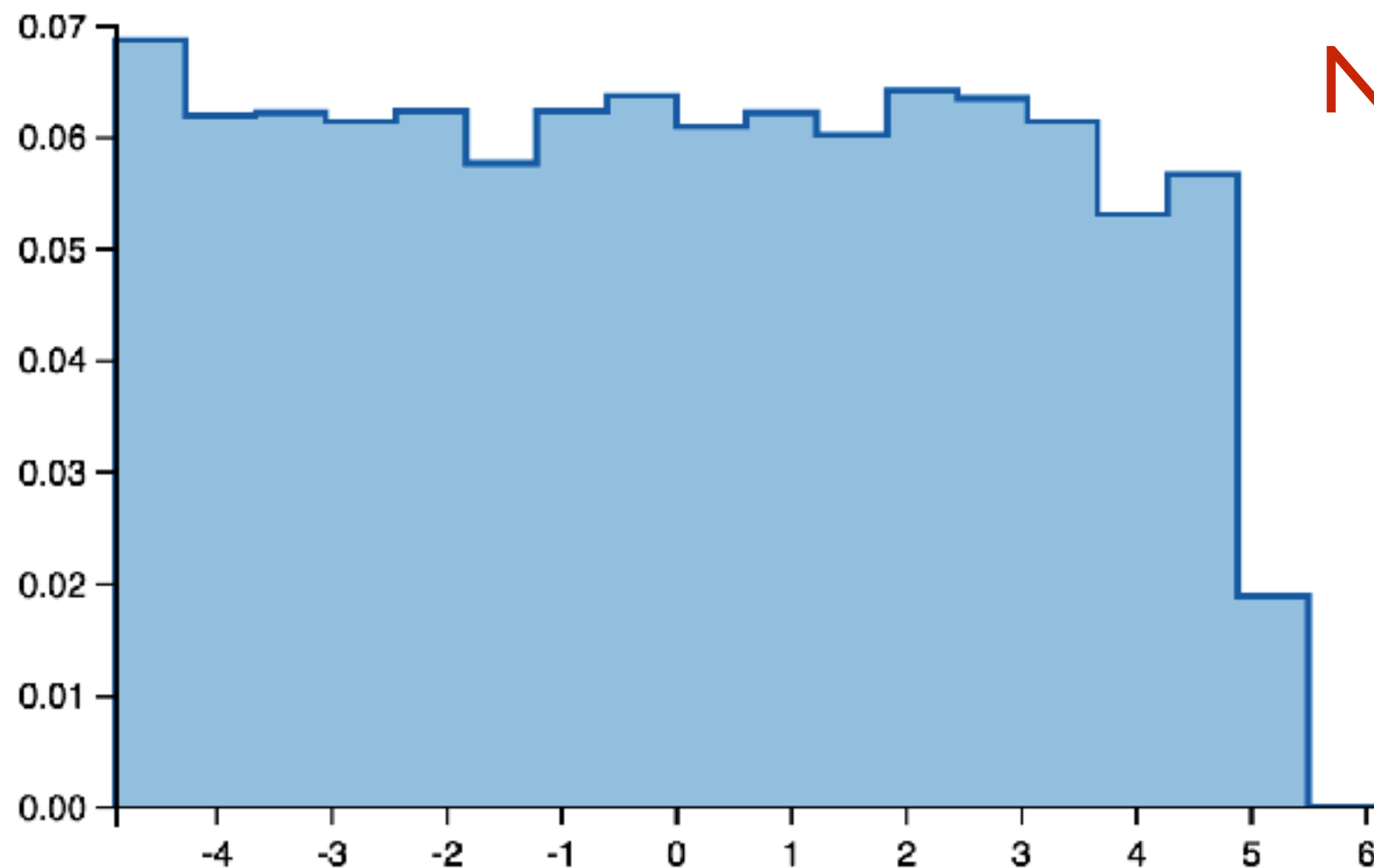


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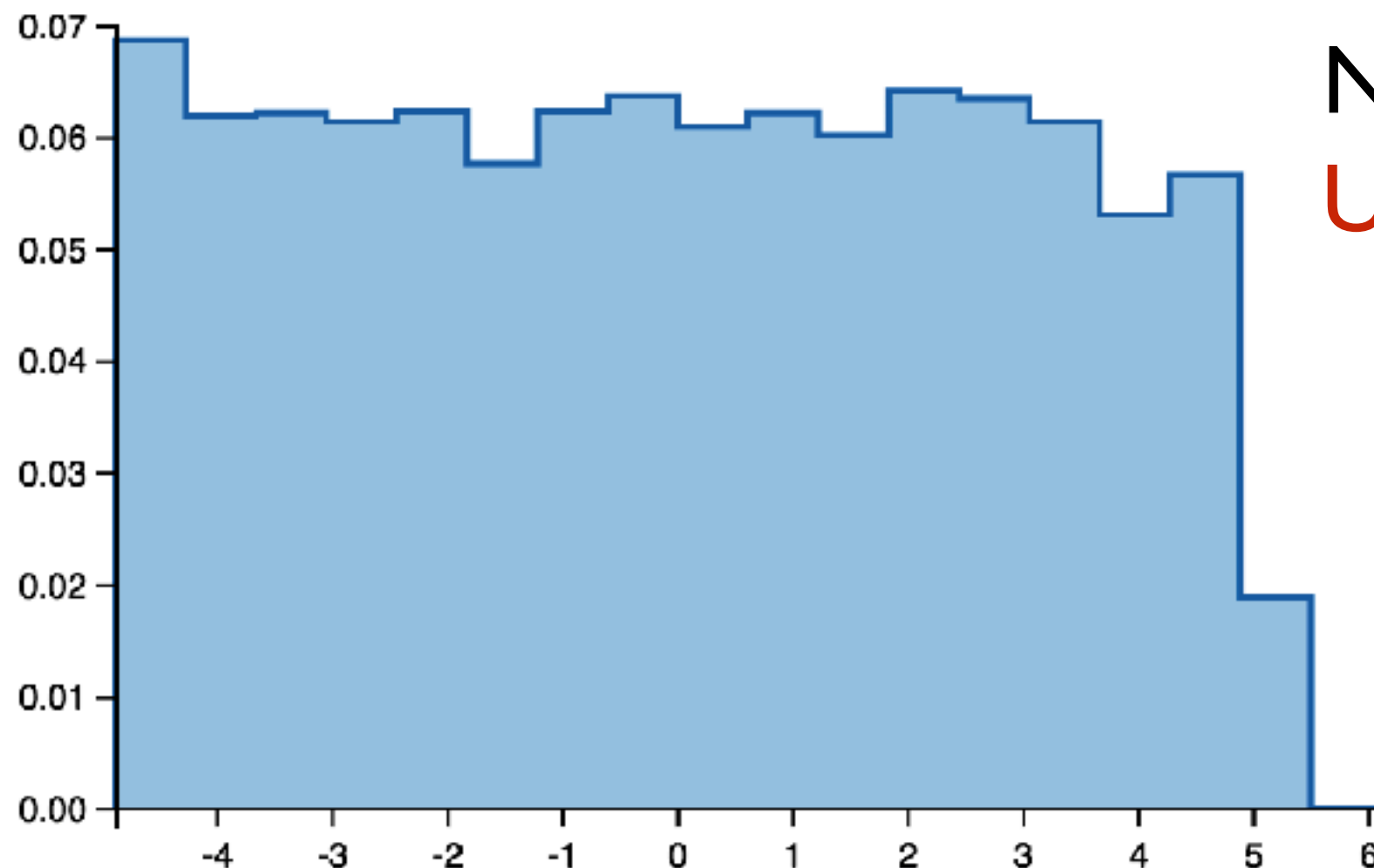
20K samples
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No posterior.


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$$p(x, y=0) = p(x) * p(y=0|x)$$

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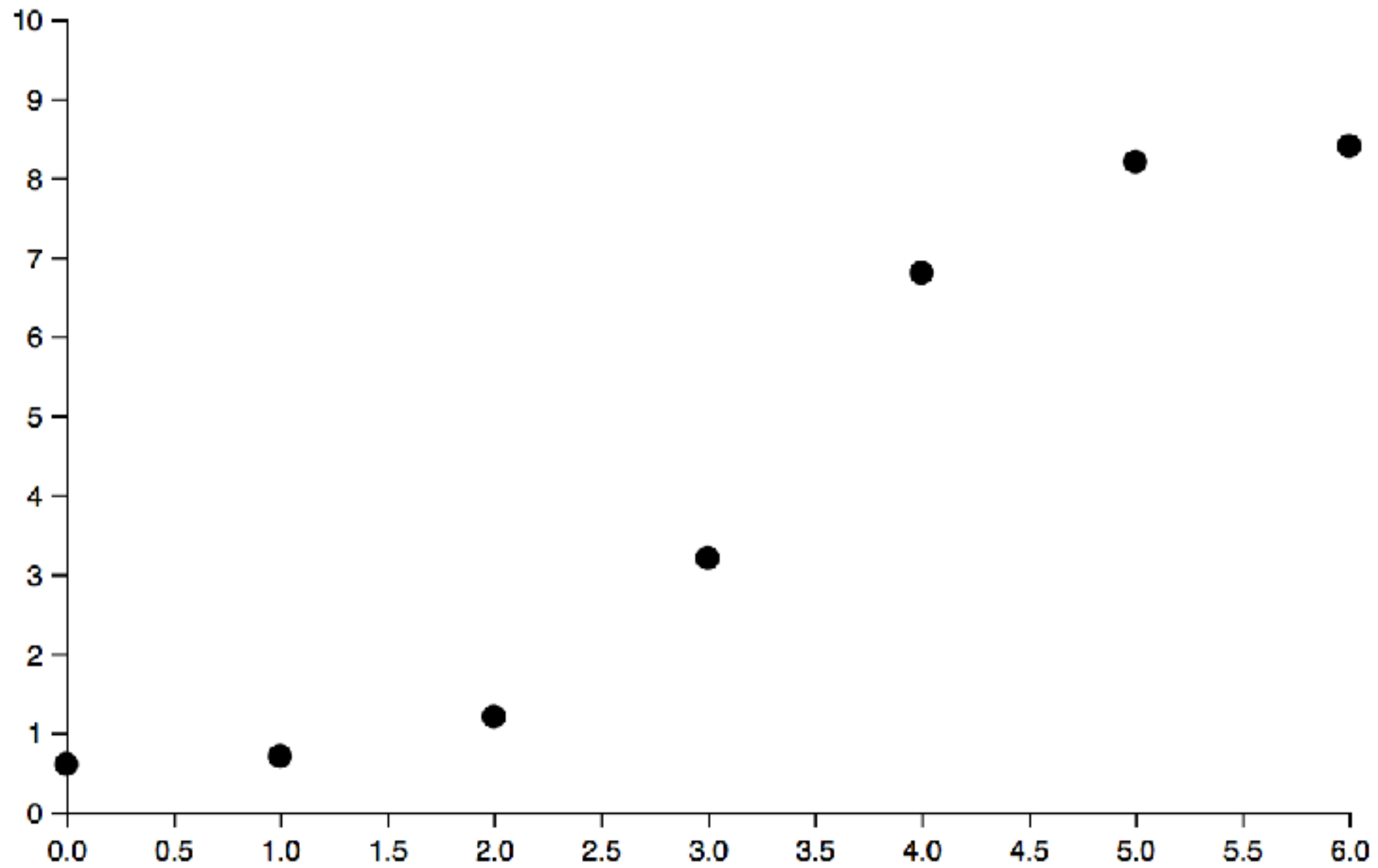
$$p(x, y=0) = p(x) * p(y=0|x) = p(x) * 1/p(x) = 1$$

$$p(y=0) = \int p(x, y=0) dx = \int dx = \infty$$

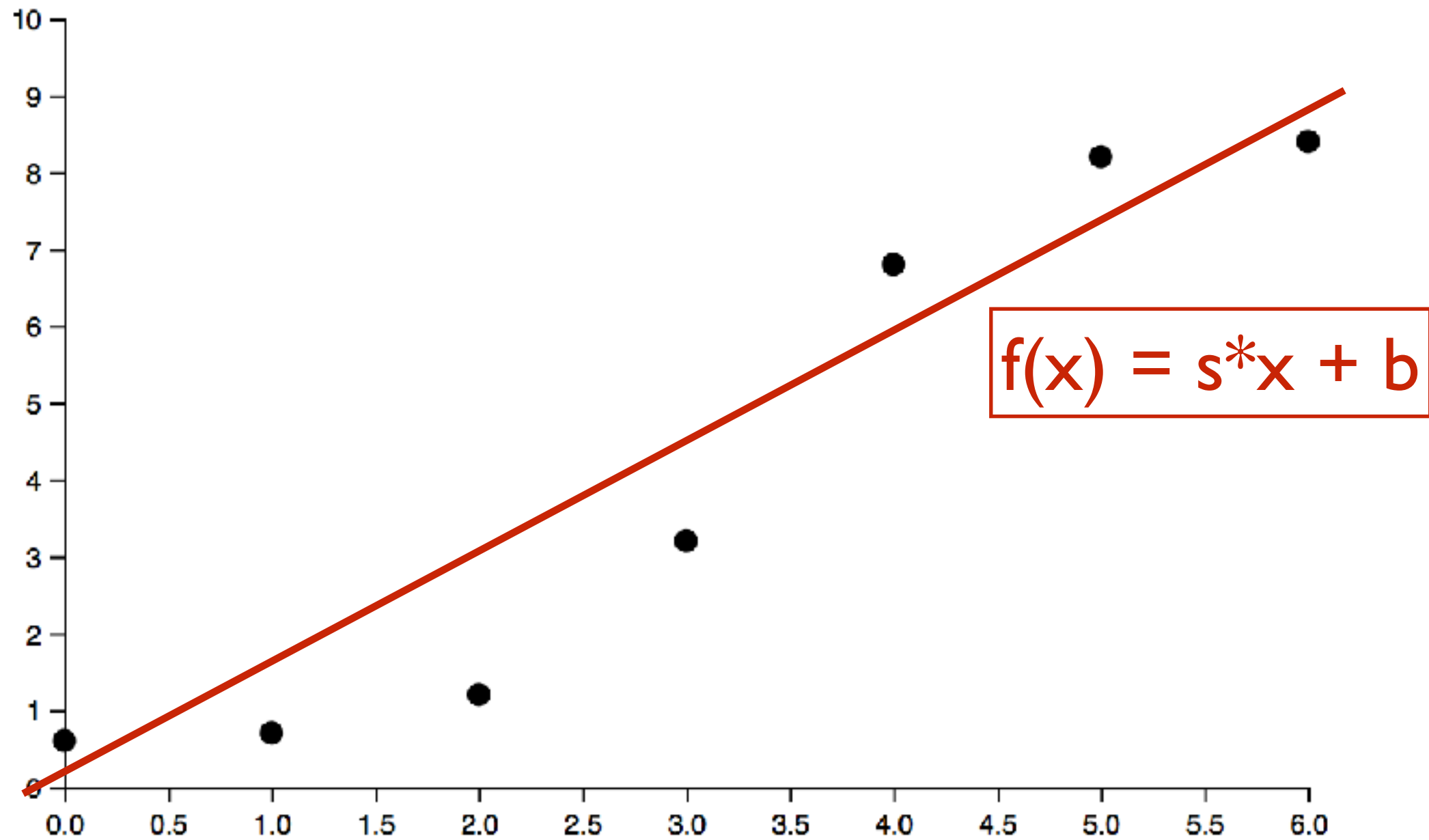
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Line fitting



Line fitting



Anglican program

```
(defquery lin-regression [])
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Anglican program

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(defquery lin-regression []  
  (let [s (sample (normal 0 2))  
        b (sample (normal 0 6))  
        f (fn [x] (+ (* s x) b))])
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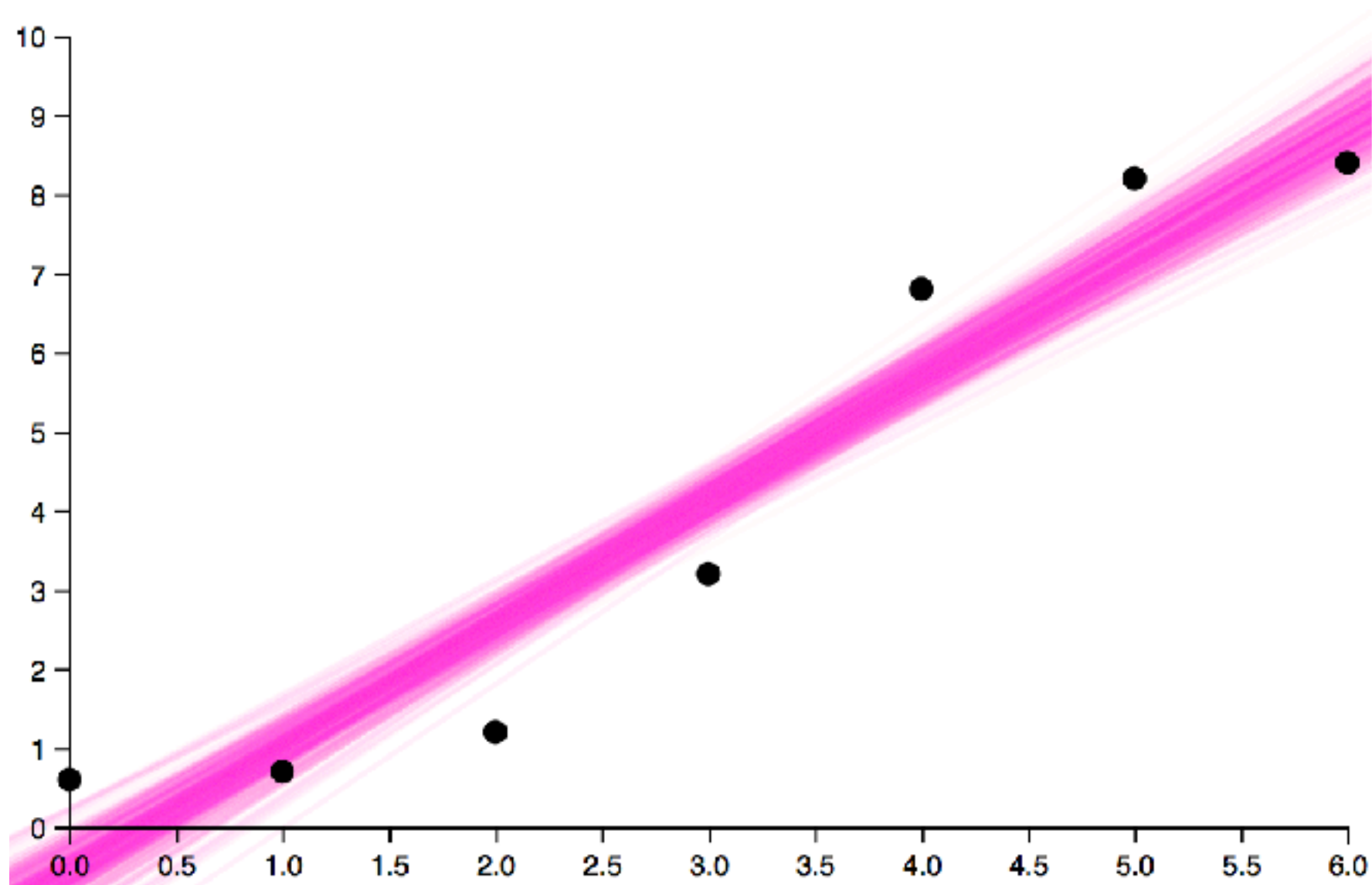
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(observe (normal (f 0) .5) .6)  
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Samples from posterior



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[Q] Which posterior?


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only approximation.

Should define distr. on
functions. Not easy.

Foundational question

Measure theory provides a foundation for modern probability theory.

But it doesn't support higher-order fns well.

$$\text{ev} : (\mathbb{R} \rightarrow_m \mathbb{R}) \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad \text{ev}(f, x) = f(x).$$

[Aumann 61] ev is not measurable no matter which σ -algebra is used for $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow_m \mathbb{R}$.

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Denotational semantics:
Compositional method.
Answers a deep Q.

Learning outcome

- Can define a denotational semantics for a simple programming language.
- Can use measure theory to interpret prob. prog. with continuous distributions.
- Can use quasi-Borel space to interpret higher-order prob. prog.

References

1. A convenient category for higher-order probability theory. Heunen et al. LICS'17.
2. Commutative semantics for probabilistic programs. Staton. ESOP'17.
3. Reynolds's "Theories of Programming Languages".
4. Billingsley's "Probability and Measure".

Plan for the rest

1. Denotational semantics.
PL with discrete random choices.
2. Baby measure theory.
PL with cont. distribution.
3. Quasi-Borel space (QBS).
PL with cont. distr. & higher-order (HO) fns.
4. [To be skipped] SFinKer monad on QBS.
PL with cont. distr., HO fns & conditioning.

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linear regression
example

ill-defined model

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- Defines formal meanings of programs.
- Interprets type and expr. mathematically.
 - Type as space (e.g. set, measurable space).
 - Expr. as good function between spaces.
- Used for justifying compiler optimisation, inference algorithms and language constructs.

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First-order PL with discrete random choices

$t ::= \text{bool} \mid \text{rational} \mid \text{dist}[\text{bool}] \mid \text{dist}[\text{rational}]$

$e ::= c \mid x \mid (p\ e \dots e) \mid (\text{let } [x\ e]\ e) \mid (\text{if } e\ e\ e)$

$c ::= \text{true} \mid \text{false} \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid \dots$

$p ::= \text{sample} \mid \text{flip} \mid \text{poisson} \mid \text{and} \mid + \mid \dots$

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Only primitive functions can be applied.

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[Q] Denotational semantics of this PL?

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[Q] Denotational semantics of this PL?

Interpret type as set and expr. as function.

Types mean sets

$\llbracket t \rrbracket$ is the meaning of t .

$\llbracket \text{bool} \rrbracket = \dots$

$\llbracket \text{rational} \rrbracket = \dots$

$\llbracket \text{dist}[\text{bool}] \rrbracket = \dots$

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Types mean sets

$\llbracket t \rrbracket$ is the meaning of t .

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Typed expressions

$$x_1:t_1, x_2:t_2, \dots, x_n:t_n \vdash e : t$$

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typing context Γ


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$x:\text{bool}, y:\text{bool} \vdash (\text{if } x \ y \ y) : \text{bool}$

$x:\text{bool}, y:\text{rational} \vdash (\text{if } x \ y \ y) : \text{rational}$

$x:\text{rational} \vdash (\text{sample } (\text{flip } x)) : \text{bool}$

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[Q] Define the interpretation recursively.

Compiler optimisation

Show the following equations:

$$\llbracket \Gamma \vdash (\text{if true } e_1 \ e_2) : t \rrbracket = \llbracket \Gamma \vdash e_1 : t \rrbracket$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\llbracket \Gamma \vdash (\text{sample } (\text{flip } (+ \ 0.1 \ 0.2)) : \text{bool}) \rrbracket \\ &= \llbracket \Gamma \vdash (\text{sample } (\text{flip } 0.3)) : \text{bool} \rrbracket \end{aligned}$$

Plan for the rest

1. Denotational semantics.
PL with discrete random choices.
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PL with cont. distr. & higher-order (HO) fns.
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First-order PL with discrete random choices

$t ::= \text{bool} \mid \text{rational} \mid \text{dist}[\text{bool}] \mid \text{dist}[\text{rational}]$

$e ::= c \mid x \mid (p\ e \dots e) \mid (\text{let } [x\ e]\ e) \mid (\text{if } e\ e\ e)$

$c ::= \text{true} \mid \text{false} \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid \dots$

$p ::= \text{sample} \mid \text{flip} \mid \text{poisson} \mid \text{and} \mid + \mid \dots$

First-order PL with discrete random choices and continuous

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 $\mid \text{normal} \mid \text{uniform-continuous} \mid \dots$

How to define denotational semantics?

Types as spaces and expressions as functions.

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[Try] Interpret $\llbracket t \rrbracket$ as a set.

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[Sol] Use measure theory. $\llbracket t \rrbracket$ as a measurable space, and $\llbracket \Gamma \vdash e : t \rrbracket$ as a measurable function.

How to specify prob. p ?

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$X = \{0, 1, 2\}$.

Define $p : X \rightarrow [0, 1]$. E.g., $p = [0.4, 0.4, 0.2]$.

Lifted $p : 2^X \rightarrow [0, 1]$ by $p(A) = \sum_{x \in A} p(x)$.

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$$X = \mathbb{R}.$$

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Uncountable sum.
Typically ∞ .

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Pick a good collection $\Sigma \subseteq 2^X$.

Define $p : \Sigma \rightarrow [0, 1]$ with some care.

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σ -algebra

Pick a **good** collection $\Sigma \subseteq 2^X$.

Define **p** : $\Sigma \rightarrow [0, 1]$ with some **care**.
probability measure

Let $\Sigma \subseteq 2^X$.

Σ is a σ -algebra if it contains X , and is closed under countable union and set subtraction.

(X, Σ) is a measurable space if Σ is a σ -algebra.

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(X, Σ) is a measurable space if Σ is a σ -algebra.

$p : \Sigma \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is a probability measure if $p(X) = 1$ and $p(\bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} p(A_n)$ for all disjoint A_n 's.

(X, Σ, p) is a probability space if ...

[Q] What are not measurable spaces?

1. $(\mathbb{B}, 2^{\mathbb{B}})$.
2. $(\mathbb{B} \times \mathbb{B}, \{ A \times B \mid A \in 2^{\mathbb{B}} \text{ and } B \in 2^{\mathbb{B}} \})$.
3. $(\mathbb{R}, \{ A \subseteq \mathbb{R} \mid A \text{ or } (\mathbb{R} - A) \text{ finite or countable} \})$.
4. $(\mathbb{R}, \{ (r, s] \mid r < s \})$.

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Closure exists.

$\sigma(\Pi)$ smallest σ -algebra containing Π .

$(X, \Sigma), (Y, \Theta)$ - mBle spaces.

Product σ -algebra: $\Sigma \otimes \Theta = \sigma\{A \times B \mid A \in \Sigma, B \in \Theta\}$.

Product space: $(X, \Sigma) \times_m (Y, \Theta) = (X \times Y, \Sigma \otimes \Theta)$.

Borel σ -algebra on \mathbb{R} : $\mathfrak{B} = \sigma\{(r, s] \mid r < s\}$.

Borel space: $(\mathbb{R}, \mathfrak{B})$.

$(X, \Sigma), (Y, \Theta)$ - mBle spaces.

$\text{Pr}(\Sigma) = \dots$

Probability space: $\text{Pr}(X, \Sigma) = (\text{Pr}(X), \text{Pr}(\Sigma))$

[Q] What is $\text{Pr}(\Sigma)$?

$(X, \Sigma), (Y, \Theta)$ - mBle spaces.

$$\Pr(\Sigma) = \sigma\{ \{p \mid p(A) < r\} \mid A \in \Sigma, r \in \mathbb{R} \}.$$

Probability space: $\Pr(X, \Sigma) = (\Pr(X), \Pr(\Sigma))$

[Q] What is $\Pr(\Sigma)$?

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where

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[Q] Fill in ...

$(X, \Sigma), (Y, \Theta)$ - mBle spaces.

$f: X \rightarrow Y$ is measurable (denoted $f: X \rightarrow_m Y$) if $f^{-1}(A) \in \Sigma$ for all $A \in \Theta$.

Exprs mean mBle fns

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Defined recursively. Complex but doable.

Plan for the rest

1. Denotational semantics.
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Prob. PL with HO fns and continuous random choices

$t ::= \text{bool} \mid \text{real} \mid \text{dist}[\text{bool}] \mid \text{dist}[\text{real}] \mid (t_1, \dots, t_n) \rightarrow t$

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Function type.

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General fn decl. and app.

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Function type.
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General constants.

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$t ::= \text{bool} \mid \text{real} \mid \text{dist}[\text{bool}] \mid \text{dist}[\text{real}] \mid (t_1, \dots, t_n) \rightarrow t$

$e ::= c \mid x \mid (\text{fn } [x \dots x] e) \mid (e \ e \dots e) \mid (\text{if } e \ e \ e)$

$c ::= \text{true} \mid \text{false} \mid 0 \mid 1 \mid 2 \mid \text{and} \mid + \mid \dots$
 $\mid \text{sample} \mid \text{flip} \mid \text{normal} \mid \dots$

Function type.
General fn decl. and app.
General constants.

Measure theory insufficient due to HO fns.

Use a new foundation of probability theory based on quasi-Borel spaces.

Interpret $\llbracket t \rrbracket$ as a quasi-Borel space (QBS), and $\llbracket \Gamma \vdash e : t \rrbracket$ as a QBS morphism.

High-level idea:
Random variable first.

Random variable α in X

Random variable α in X

$$\alpha : \Omega \rightarrow X$$

- X - set of values.
- Ω - set of random seeds.
- Random seed generator.

Random variable α in X in measure theory

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$$I. \Sigma \subseteq 2^\Omega, \Theta \subseteq 2^X$$

Random variable α in X in measure theory

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$\begin{aligned} 1. \Sigma &\subseteq 2^\Omega, \Theta \subseteq 2^X \\ 2. \mu &: \Sigma \rightarrow [0, 1] \end{aligned}$
--

Random variable α in X in measure theory

$\alpha : \Omega \rightarrow X$ is a random element
if $\alpha^{-1}(A) \in \Sigma$ for all $A \in \Theta$

- X - set of values.
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Random variable α in X in quasi-Borel spaces

$$\alpha : \Omega \rightarrow X$$

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Random variable α in X in quasi-Borel spaces

$$\alpha : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow X$$

- X - set of values.
- \mathbb{R} - set of random seeds.
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1. \mathbb{R} as random source
2. Borel subsets $\mathcal{B} \subseteq 2^{\mathbb{R}}$

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Random variable α in X in quasi-Borel spaces

$\alpha : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow X$ is a random variable
if $\alpha \in M$

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- Measure theory:
 - Measurable space $(X, \Theta \subseteq 2^X)$.
 - Random variable is an induced concept.
- QBS:
 - Quasi-Borel space $(X, M \subseteq [\mathbb{R} \rightarrow X])$.
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Quasi-Borel space - set with random variables.

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such that M has enough random variables.

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I. **M contains all constant functions.**

Quasi-Borel space - set with random variables.

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such that M has **enough** random variables.

1. M contains all constant functions.
2. **$(\alpha \circ \beta) \in M$ for all $\alpha \in M$ and measurable $\beta: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.**

Quasi-Borel space - set with random variables.

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such that M has **enough** random variables.

1. M contains all constant functions.
2. $(\alpha \circ \beta) \in M$ for all $\alpha \in M$ and measurable $\beta: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.
3. If $\mathbb{R} = \biguplus_{i \in \mathbb{N}} R_i$ with $R_i \in \mathfrak{B}$ and $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots \in M$,
then $(\alpha_i \text{ when } R_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \in M$.

Here $(\alpha_i \text{ when } R_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}(r) = \alpha_i(r)$ for all $r \in R_i$.

[Q] Pick a non-QBS.

1. $(\mathbb{R}, \{\alpha: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid \alpha \text{ is a constant function}\})$.
2. $(\mathbb{R}, [\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}])$.
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Standard way of converting a mBle space to a QBS.

(QBS) morphism

$(X, M), (Y, N)$ - QBSes.

$f : X \rightarrow Y$ is a morphism if $(f \circ \alpha) \in N$ for all $\alpha \in M$.

Maps random elements to random elements.

We will write $f : X \rightarrow_q Y$.

[Th] QBSes support higher-order functions well.
(The category of QBSes is cartesian closed.)

[Q] What are the sets of random variables?

1. Product: $(X, \mathcal{M}) \times_q (Y, \mathcal{N}) = (Z, \mathcal{O})$.

- $Z = X \times Y$, $\pi_1(x, y) = x$, $\pi_2(x, y) = y$.

- $\mathcal{O} = ???$

2. Fn space: $[(X, \mathcal{M}) \rightarrow_q (Y, \mathcal{N})] = (Z, \mathcal{O})$

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[Q] What are the sets of random elements?

1. Product: $(X, M) \times_q (Y, N) = (Z, O)$.

- $Z = X \times Y$, $\pi_1(x, y) = x$, $\pi_2(x, y) = y$.
- $O = \{ r \mapsto (\alpha(r), \beta(r)) \mid \alpha \in M \text{ and } \beta \in N \}$.

2. Fn space: $[(X, M) \rightarrow_q (Y, N)] = (Z, O)$

- $Z = \{ f \mid f : X \rightarrow_q Y \}$, $\text{ev}(f, x) = f(x)$
- $O = \{ g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow Z \mid r \mapsto g(\gamma(r))(\alpha(r)) \in N \text{ for all } \gamma : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow_m \mathbb{R} \text{ and } \alpha \in M \}$.

Why works?

$$[\text{NO}] \text{ ev} : (\mathbb{R} \rightarrow_m \mathbb{R}) \times_m \mathbb{R} \rightarrow_m \mathbb{R}$$

vs

$$[\text{YES}] \text{ ev} : (\mathbb{R} \rightarrow_q \mathbb{R}) \times_q \mathbb{R} \rightarrow_q \mathbb{R}$$

Why works?

$$[\text{NO}] \text{ ev} : (\mathbb{R} \rightarrow_{\mathbf{m}} \mathbb{R}) \mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{m}} \mathbb{R} \rightarrow_{\mathbf{m}} \mathbb{R}$$

vs

$$[\text{YES}] \text{ ev} : (\mathbb{R} \rightarrow_{\mathbf{q}} \mathbb{R}) \mathbf{x}_{\mathbf{q}} \mathbb{R} \rightarrow_{\mathbf{q}} \mathbb{R}$$

Because the QBS product is more permissive.

Types mean QBSes

$$\llbracket \text{bool} \rrbracket = \text{MStoQBS}(\mathbb{B}, 2^{\mathbb{B}})$$

$$\llbracket \text{dist}[\text{bool}] \rrbracket = \text{Pr}_q(\llbracket \text{bool} \rrbracket)$$

Types mean QBSes

Conversion of
mBle space to QBS



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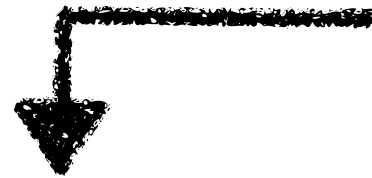
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QBS prob. space



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QBS prob. space



$$\llbracket \text{dist}[\text{real}] \rrbracket = \dots$$

$$\llbracket (t_1, t_2) \rightarrow t \rrbracket = \dots$$

[Q] Fill in ...

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QBS prob. space



$$\llbracket (t_1, t_2) \rightarrow t \rrbracket = \llbracket t_1 \rrbracket \times_q \llbracket t_2 \rrbracket \rightarrow_q \text{Pr}_q(\llbracket t \rrbracket)$$

[Q] Fill in ...

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$$M = \{r \mapsto (\mathbf{x}_i \mapsto \alpha_i(r)) \mid \alpha_i \in M_i \text{ for all } i\}$$

[Q] Fill in ...

Exprs mean QBS morphisms

$\llbracket \Gamma \vdash e : t \rrbracket$ is a QBS **morphism** from $\llbracket \Gamma \rrbracket$ to $\text{Pr}_q\llbracket t \rrbracket$.

We couldn't cover:

1. QBS probability space.
2. SFinKer Monad on QBSes and semantics of conditioning.

If you want to know about them, look at:

1. A convenient category for higher-order probability theory. Heunen et al. LICS'17.
2. Commutative semantics for probabilistic programs. Staton. ESOP'17.

References

1. A convenient category for higher-order probability theory. Heunen et al. LICS'17.
2. Commutative semantics for probabilistic programs. Staton. ESOP'17.
3. Reynolds's "Theories of Programming Languages".
4. Billingsley's "Probability and Measure".