

# Independent Random Variables



CS 109  
Lecture 12  
April 22th, 2016

**Today:**

1. Multi variable RVs
2. Expectation with multiple RVs
3. Independence with multiple RVs

# Review

# Discrete Joint Mass Function

- For two discrete random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ , the **Joint Probability Mass Function** is:

$$p_{X,Y}(a,b) = P(X = a, Y = b)$$

- Marginal distributions:

$$p_X(a) = P(X = a) = \sum_y p_{X,Y}(a,y)$$

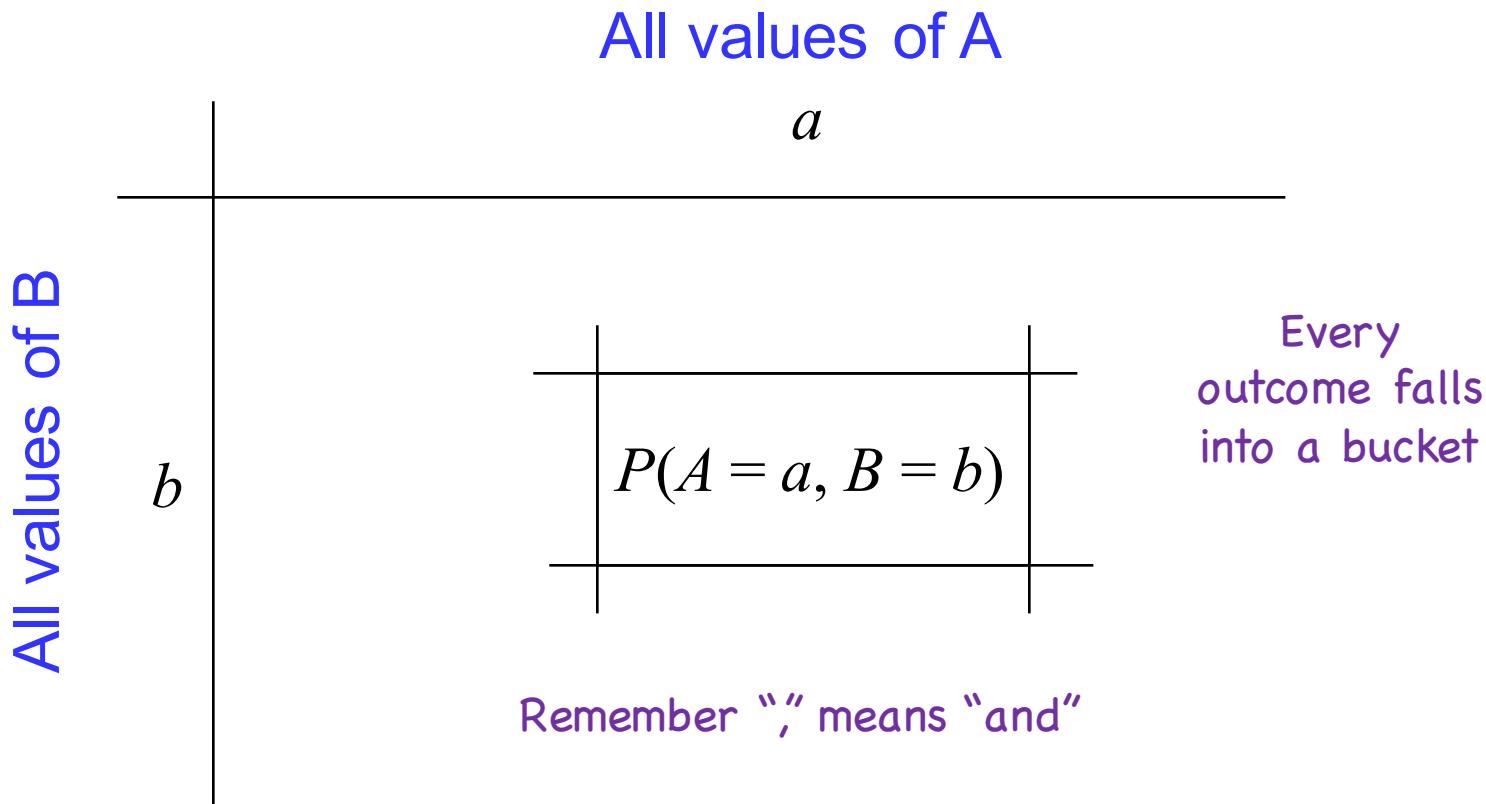
$$p_Y(b) = P(Y = b) = \sum_x p_{X,Y}(x,b)$$

- Example:  $X$  = value of die  $D_1$ ,  $Y$  = value of die  $D_2$

$$P(X = 1) = \sum_{y=1}^6 p_{X,Y}(1,y) = \sum_{y=1}^6 \frac{1}{36} = \frac{1}{6}$$

# Probability Table

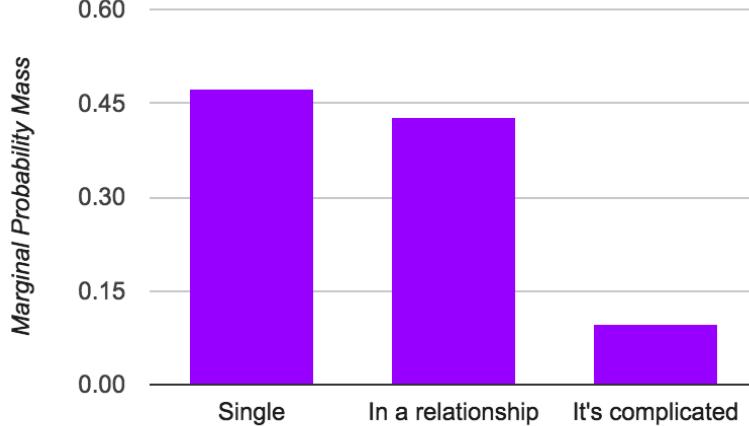
- States all possible outcomes with several discrete variables
- Often is not “parametric”
- If #variables is  $> 2$ , you can have a probability table, but you can’t draw it on a slide



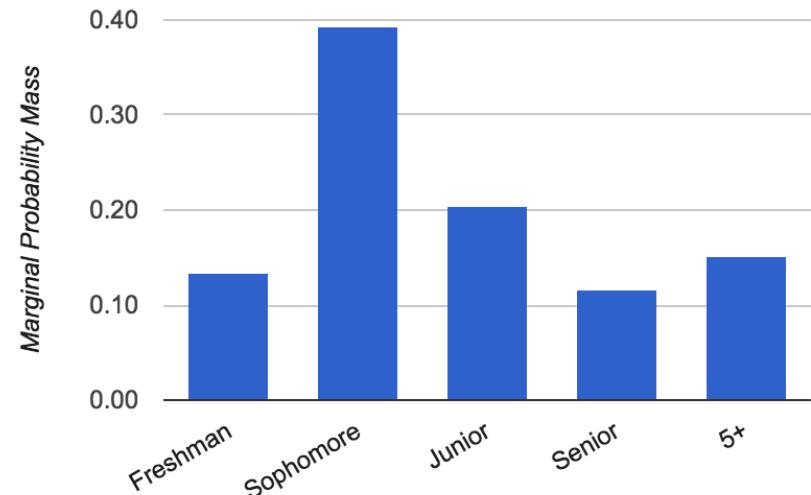
# Probability Table

Joint Probability Table				
	Single	In a relationship	It's complicated	Marginal Year
Freshman	0.06	0.04	0.03	0.13
Sophomore	0.21	0.16	0.02	0.39
Junior	0.13	0.06	0.02	0.21
Senior	0.04	0.07	0.01	0.12
5+	0.04	0.09	0.03	0.15
<b>Marginal Status</b>	0.47	0.43	0.10	1.00

**Marginal Status Probability**



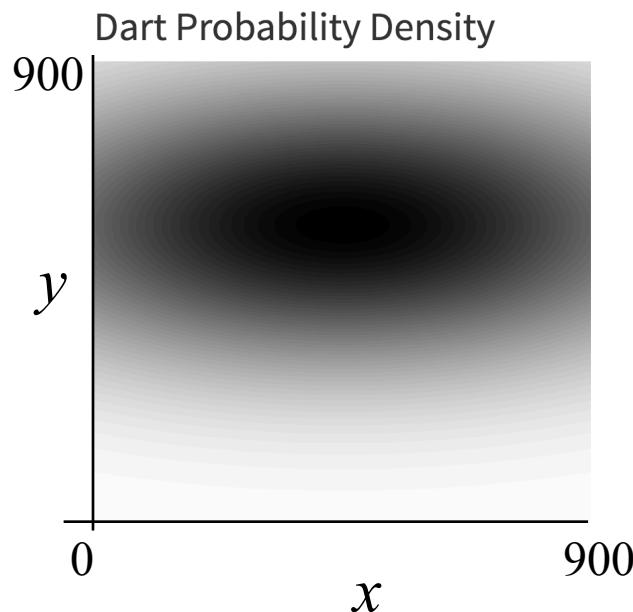
**Marginal Year Probability**



# Jointly Continuous

- Random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ , are **Jointly Continuous** if there exists PDF  $f_{X,Y}(x, y)$  defined over  $-\infty < x, y < \infty$  such that:

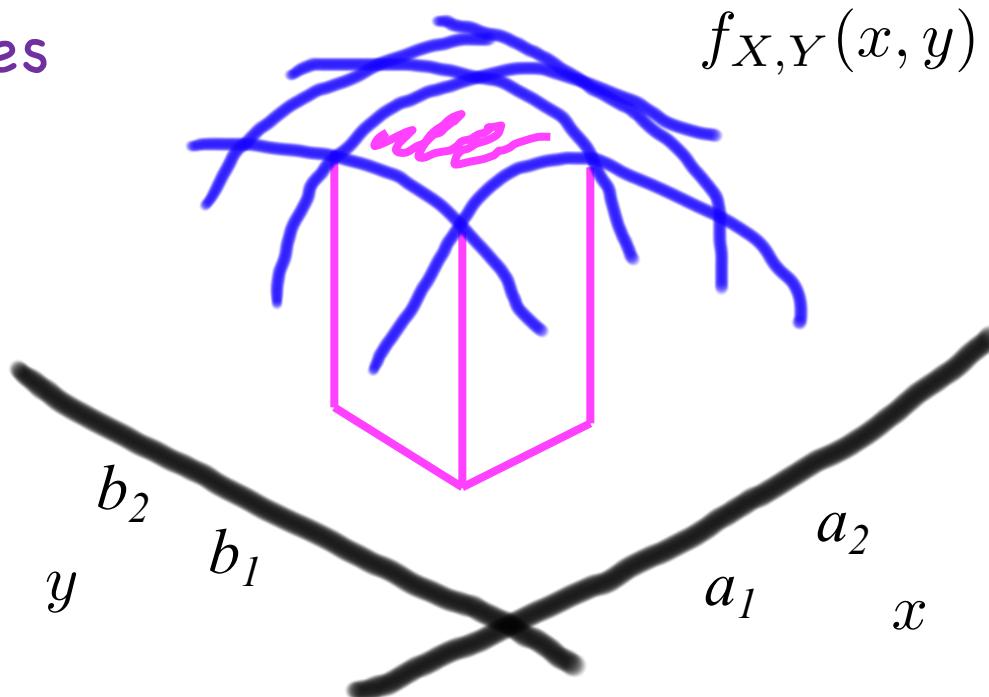
$$P(a_1 < X \leq a_2, b_1 < Y \leq b_2) = \int_{a_1}^{a_2} \int_{b_1}^{b_2} f_{X,Y}(x, y) dy dx$$



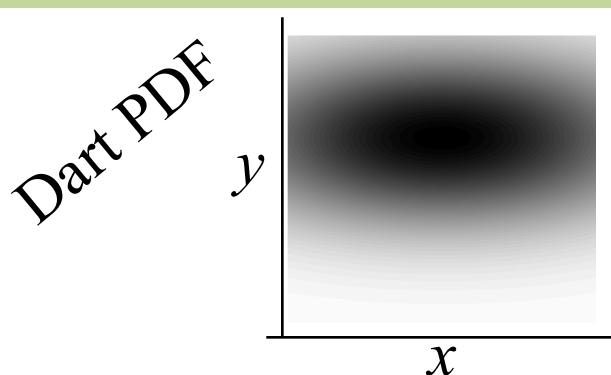
# Jointly Continuous

$$P(a_1 < X \leq a_2, b_1 < Y \leq b_2) = \int_{a_1}^{a_2} \int_{b_1}^{b_2} f_{X,Y}(x, y) dy dx$$

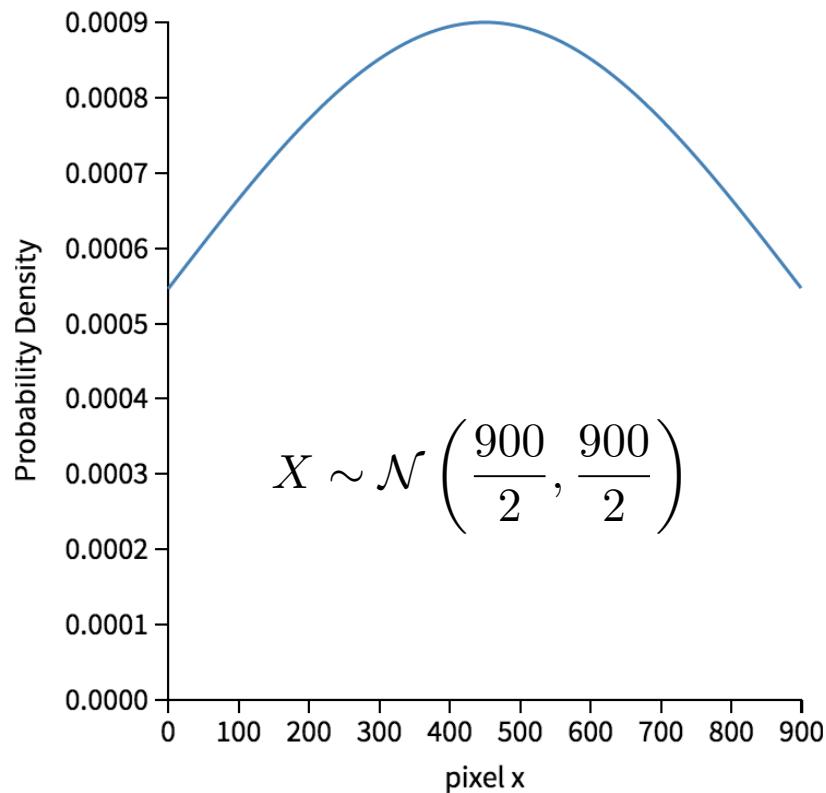
Can calculate  
probabilities



# Darts!

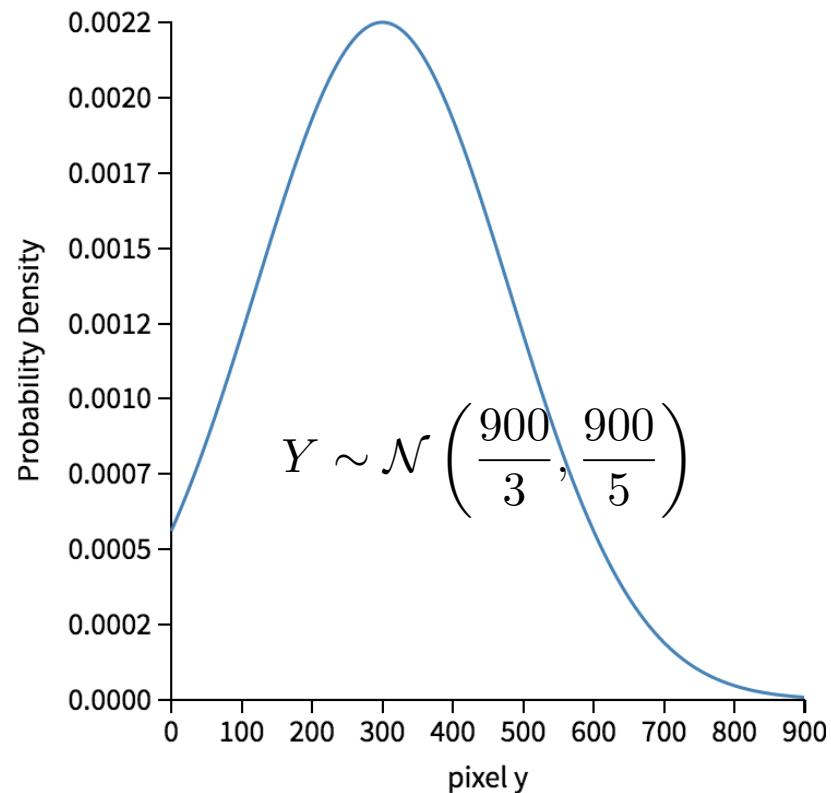


X-Pixel Marginal



Can calculate marginal probabilities

Y-Pixel Marginal



# Transfer Learning

Way Back

# Permutations

How many ways are there to order  $n$  distinct objects?

$$n!$$

# Multinomial

How many ways are there to order  $n$  objects such that:

$n_1$  are the same (indistinguishable)

$n_2$  are the same (indistinguishable)

...

$n_r$  are the same (indistinguishable)?

$$\frac{n!}{n_1! n_2! \dots n_r!} = \binom{n}{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_r}$$

Called the “multinomial” because of something from Algebra

# Binomial

How many ways are there to make an unordered selection of  $r$  objects from  $n$  objects?

How many ways are there to order  $n$  objects such that:  
 $r$  are the same (indistinguishable)  
 $(n - r)$  are the same (indistinguishable)?

$$\frac{n!}{r!(n - r)!} = \binom{n}{r}$$

Called the Binomial (Multi -> Bi)

# Binomial Distribution

- Consider  $n$  independent trials of  $\text{Ber}(p)$  rand. var.
  - $X$  is number of successes in  $n$  trials
  - $X$  is a Binomial Random Variable:  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$

Binomial # ways  
of ordering the  
successes

Probability of exactly  $i$  successes

$$P(X = i) = p(i) = \binom{n}{i} p^i (1 - p)^{n-i} \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, n$$

Probability of each ordering of  $i$  successes is equal + mutually exclusive

End Review

# Welcome Back the Multinomial

- Multinomial distribution
  - $n$  independent trials of experiment performed
  - Each trial results in one of  $m$  outcomes, with respective probabilities:  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m$  where  $\sum_{i=1}^m p_i = 1$
  - $X_i$  = number of trials with outcome  $i$

$$P(X_1 = c_1, X_2 = c_2, \dots, X_m = c_m) = \binom{n}{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m} p_1^{c_1} p_2^{c_2} \dots p_m^{c_m}$$

Joint distribution

Multinomial # ways of ordering the successes

Probabilities of each ordering are equal and mutually exclusive

where  $\sum_{i=1}^m c_i = n$  and

$$\binom{n}{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m} = \frac{n!}{c_1! c_2! \cdots c_m!}$$

# Hello Die Rolls, My Old Friends

- 6-sided die is rolled 7 times
  - Roll results: 1 one, 1 two, 0 three, 2 four, 0 five, 3 six

$$P(X_1 = 1, X_2 = 1, X_3 = 0, X_4 = 2, X_5 = 0, X_6 = 3)$$

$$= \frac{7!}{1!1!0!2!0!3!} \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^1 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^1 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^0 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^2 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^0 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^3 = 420 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^7$$

- This is generalization of Binomial distribution
  - Binomial: each trial had 2 possible outcomes
  - Multinomial: each trial has  $m$  possible outcomes

# Probabilistic Text Analysis

- Ignoring order of words, what is probability of any given word you write in English?
  - $P(\text{word} = \text{"the"}) > P(\text{word} = \text{"transatlantic"})$
  - $P(\text{word} = \text{"Stanford"}) > P(\text{word} = \text{"Cal"})$
  - Probability of each word is just multinomial distribution
- What about probability of those same words in someone else's writing?
  - $P(\text{word} = \text{"probability"} \mid \text{writer} = \text{you}) > P(\text{word} = \text{"probability"} \mid \text{writer} = \text{non-CS109 student})$
  - After estimating  $P(\text{word} \mid \text{writer})$  from known writings, use Bayes' Theorem to determine  $P(\text{writer} \mid \text{word})$  for new writings!

# Text is a Multinomial

Example document:

“Pay for Viagra with a credit-card. Viagra is great.  
So are credit-cards. Risk free Viagra. Click for free.”

$$n = 18$$

$$P \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{Viagra} = 2 \\ \text{Free} = 2 \\ \text{Risk} = 1 \\ \text{Credit-card: } 2 \\ \dots \\ \text{For} = 2 \end{array} \mid \text{spam} \right) = \frac{n!}{2!2!\dots2!} p_{\text{viagra}}^2 p_{\text{free}}^2 \dots p_{\text{for}}^2$$

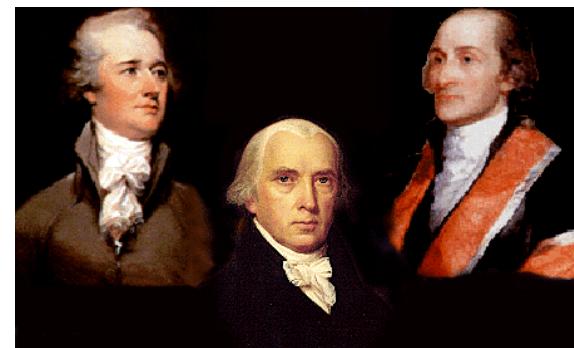
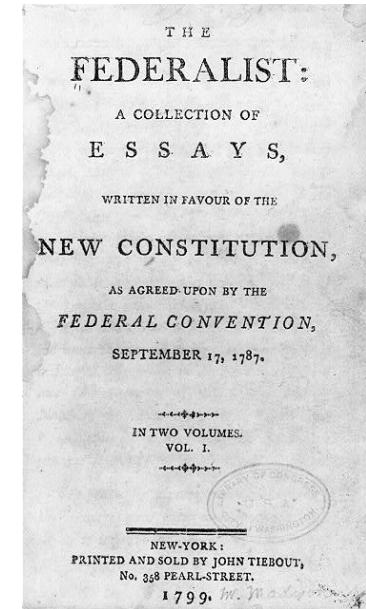
Probability of seeing this document | spam

It's a Multinomial!

The probability of a word in spam email being viagra

# Old and New Analysis

- Authorship of “Federalist Papers”
  - 85 essays advocating ratification of US constitution
  - Written under pseudonym “Publius”
    - Really, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay
  - Who wrote which essays?
    - Analyzed probability of words in each essay versus word distributions from known writings of three authors
- Filtering Spam
  - $P(\text{word} = \text{"Viagra"} \mid \text{writer} = \text{you})$   
 $\ll P(\text{word} = \text{"Viagra"} \mid \text{writer} = \text{spammer})$





# Expectation with Multiple Variables?

# Joint Expectation

$$E[X] = \sum_x xp(x)$$

- Expectation over a joint isn't nicely defined because it is not clear how to compose the multiple variables:
  - Add them? Multiply them?
- Lemma: For a function  $g(X, Y)$  we can calculate the expectation of that function:

$$E[g(X, Y)] = \sum_{x,y} g(x, y)p(x, y)$$

- By the way, this also holds for single random variables:

$$E[g(X)] = \sum_x g(x)p(x)$$

# Expected Values of Sums

Big deal lemma: first  
stated without proof

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

Generalized:  $E\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right] = \sum_{i=1}^n E[X_i]$

Holds regardless of dependency between  $X_i$ 's

# Skeptical Chris Wants a Proof!

Let  $g(X, Y) = [X + Y]$

$$\begin{aligned} E[X + Y] &= E[g(X, Y)] = \sum_{x,y} g(x, y)p(x, y) && \text{What a useful lemma} \\ &= \sum_{x,y} [x + y]p(x, y) && \text{By the definition of } g(x,y) \\ &= \sum_{x,y} xp(x, y) + \sum_{x,y} yp(x, y) \\ &= \sum_x x \sum_y p(x, y) + \sum_y y \sum_x p(x, y) \\ &= \sum_x xp(x) + \sum_y yp(y) \\ &= E[X] + E[Y] \end{aligned}$$

Break that sum into parts!

Change the sum of  $(x,y)$  into separate sums

That is the definition of marginal probability

That is the definition of expectation

# Independence and Random Variables

# Independent Discrete Variables

- Two discrete random variables X and Y are called independent if:
$$p(x, y) = p_X(x)p_Y(y) \text{ for all } x, y$$
- Intuitively: knowing the value of X tells us nothing about the distribution of Y (and vice versa)
  - If two variables are not independent, they are called dependent
- Similar conceptually to independent *events*, but we are dealing with multiple variables
  - Keep your events and variables distinct (and clear)!

# Coin Flips

- Flip coin with probability  $p$  of “heads”
  - Flip coin a total of  $n + m$  times
  - Let  $X$  = number of heads in first  $n$  flips
  - Let  $Y$  = number of heads in next  $m$  flips

$$\begin{aligned} P(X = x, Y = y) &= \binom{n}{x} p^x (1 - p)^{n-x} \binom{m}{y} p^y (1 - p)^{m-y} \\ &= P(X = x)P(Y = y) \end{aligned}$$

- $X$  and  $Y$  are independent
- Let  $Z$  = number of total heads in  $n + m$  flips
- Are  $X$  and  $Z$  independent?
  - What if you are told  $Z = 0$ ?

# Web Server Requests

- Let  $N = \#$  of requests to web server/day
  - Suppose  $N \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda)$
  - Each request comes from a human (probability =  $p$ ) or from a “bot” (probability =  $(1 - p)$ ), independently
  - $X = \#$  requests from humans/day     $(X | N) \sim \text{Bin}(N, p)$
  - $Y = \#$  requests from bots/day         $(Y | N) \sim \text{Bin}(N, 1 - p)$

$$P(X = i, Y = j) = P(X = i, Y = j | X + Y = i + j)P(X + Y = i + j) + P(X = i, Y = j | X + Y \neq i + j)P(X + Y \neq i + j)$$

Probability of  $i$  human  
requests and  $j$  bot  
requests

Probability of number of  
requests in a day was  $i + j$

Probability of  $i$  human  
requests and  $j$  bot requests |  
we got  $i + j$  requests

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- Note:  $P(X = i, Y = j | X + Y \neq i + j) = 0$

You got  $i$  human requests  
and  $j$  bot requests

You did not get  $i + j$   
requests

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$$P(X = i, Y = j) = P(X = i, Y = j | X + Y = i + j)P(X + Y = i + j)$$

$$P(X = i, Y = j | X + Y = i + j) = \binom{i+j}{i} p^i (1-p)^j$$

$$P(X + Y = i + j) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^{i+j}}{(i+j)!}$$

$$P(X = i, Y = j) = \binom{i+j}{i} p^i (1-p)^j e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^{i+j}}{(i+j)!}$$

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$$P(X = i, Y = j) = \frac{(i+j)!}{i! j!} p^i (1-p)^j e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^{i+j}}{(i+j)!} = e^{-\lambda} \frac{(\lambda p)^i}{i!} \cdot \frac{(\lambda(1-p))^j}{j!}$$

Reorder terms

$$= e^{-\lambda p} \frac{(\lambda p)^i}{i!} \cdot e^{-\lambda(1-p)} \frac{(\lambda(1-p))^j}{j!} = P(X = i)P(Y = j)$$

- Where  $X \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda p)$  and  $Y \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda(1 - p))$
- $X$  and  $Y$  are independent!

# Independent Continuous Variables

- Two continuous random variables X and Y are called independent if:

$$P(X \leq a, Y \leq b) = P(X \leq a) P(Y \leq b) \text{ for any } a, b$$

- Equivalently:

$$F_{X,Y}(a,b) = F_X(a)F_Y(b) \text{ for all } a,b$$

$$f_{X,Y}(a,b) = f_X(a)f_Y(b) \text{ for all } a,b$$

- More generally, joint density factors separately:

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = h(x)g(y) \text{ where } -\infty < x, y < \infty$$

# Pop Quiz (just kidding)

- Consider joint density function of X and Y:

$$f_{X,Y}(x, y) = 6e^{-3x}e^{-2y} \quad \text{for } 0 < x, y < \infty$$

- Are X and Y independent? Yes!

Let  $h(x) = 3e^{-3x}$  and  $g(y) = 2e^{-2y}$ , so  $f_{X,Y}(x, y) = h(x)g(y)$

- Consider joint density function of X and Y:

$$f_{X,Y}(x, y) = 4xy \quad \text{for } 0 < x, y < 1$$

- Are X and Y independent? Yes!

Let  $h(x) = 2x$  and  $g(y) = 2y$ , so  $f_{X,Y}(x, y) = h(x)g(y)$

- Now add constraint that:  $0 < (x + y) < 1$
  - Are X and Y independent? No!
  - Cannot capture constraint on  $x + y$  in factorization!

# Dating at Stanford

- Two people set up a meeting for 12pm
  - Each arrives independently at time uniformly distributed between 12pm and 12:30pm
  - $X = \# \text{ min. past 12pm person 1 arrives}$   $X \sim \text{Uni}(0, 30)$
  - $Y = \# \text{ min. past 12pm person 2 arrives}$   $Y \sim \text{Uni}(0, 30)$
  - What is  $P(\text{first to arrive waits} > 10 \text{ min. for other})$ ?

$$P(X + 10 < Y) + P(Y + 10 < X) = 2P(X + 10 < Y) \text{ by symmetry}$$

$$2P(X + 10 < Y) = 2 \iint_{x+10 < y} f(x, y) dx dy = 2 \iint_{x+10 < y} f_X(x) f_Y(y) dx dy$$

$$= 2 \int_{y=10}^{30} \int_{x=0}^{y-10} \left( \frac{1}{30} \right)^2 dx dy = \frac{2}{30^2} \int_{y=10}^{30} \left( \int_{x=0}^{y-10} dx \right) dy = \frac{2}{30^2} \int_{y=10}^{30} \left( x \Big|_0^{y-10} \right) dy = \frac{2}{30^2} \int_{y=10}^{30} (y - 10) dy$$

$$= \frac{2}{30^2} \left( \frac{y^2}{2} - 10y \right) \Big|_{10}^{30} = \frac{2}{30^2} \left[ \left( \frac{30^2}{2} - 300 \right) - \left( \frac{10^2}{2} - 100 \right) \right] = \frac{4}{9}$$

# Independence of Multiple Variables

- $n$  random variables  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  are called **independent** if:

$$P(X_1 = x_1, X_2 = x_2, \dots, X_n = x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(X_i = x_i) \text{ for all subsets of } x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$$

- Analogously, for continuous random variables:

$$P(X_1 \leq a_1, X_2 \leq a_2, \dots, X_n \leq a_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(X_i \leq a_i) \text{ for all subsets of } a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n$$

# Independence is Symmetric

- If random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  independent, then
  - $X$  independent of  $Y$ , and  $Y$  independent of  $X$
- Duh!? Duh, indeed...
  - Let  $X_1, X_2, \dots$  be a sequence of independent and identically distributed (I.I.D.) continuous random vars
  - Say  $X_n > X_i$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n - 1$  (i.e.  $X_n = \max(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ )
    - Call  $X_n$  a “record value”
  - Let event  $A_i$  indicate  $X_i$  is “record value”
    - Is  $A_{n+1}$  independent of  $A_n$ ?
    - Is  $A_n$  independent of  $A_{n+1}$ ?
    - Easier to answer: Yes!
    - By symmetry,  $P(A_n) = 1/n$  and  $P(A_{n+1}) = 1/(n+1)$
    - $P(A_n A_{n+1}) = (1/n)(1/(n+1)) = P(A_n)P(A_{n+1})$

# Earth Day

# Choosing a Random Subset

- From set of  $n$  elements, choose a subset of size  $k$  such that all  $\binom{n}{k}$  possibilities are equally likely
  - Only have `random()`, which simulates  $X \sim \text{Uni}(0, 1)$
- Brute force:
  - Generate (an ordering of) all subsets of size  $k$
  - Randomly pick one (divide  $(0, 1)$  into  $\binom{n}{k}$  intervals)
  - Expensive with regard to time and space
  - Bad times!

# (Happily) Choosing a Random Subset

- Good times:

```
int indicator(double p) {
    if (random() < p) return 1; else return 0;
}

// array I[] indexed from 1 to n
subset rSubset(k, set of size n) {
    subset_size = 0;
    I[1] = indicator((double)k/n);
    for(i = 1; i < n; i++) {
        subset_size += I[i];
        I[i+1] = indicator((k - subset_size)/(n - i));
    }
    return (subset containing element[i] iff I[i] == 1);
}
```

$$P(I[1] = 1) = \frac{k}{n} \text{ and } P(I[i+1] = 1 | I[1], \dots, I[i]) = \frac{k - \sum_{j=1}^i I[j]}{n-i} \text{ where } 1 < i < n$$

# Random Subsets the Happy Way

- Proof (Induction on  $(k + n)$ ): (i.e., why this algorithm works)
  - Base Case:  $k = 1, n = 1$ , Set  $S = \{a\}$ , `rSubset` returns  $\{a\}$  with  $p = 1 / \binom{1}{1}$
  - Inductive Hypoth. (IH): for  $k + x \leq c$ , Given set  $S$ ,  $|S| = x$  and  $k \leq x$ , `rSubset` returns any subset  $S'$  of  $S$ , where  $|S'| = k$ , with  $p = 1 / \binom{x}{k}$
  - Inductive Case 1: (where  $k + n \leq c + 1$ )  $|S| = n (= x + 1)$ ,  $I[1] = 1$ 
    - Elem 1 in subset, choose  $k - 1$  elems from remaining  $n - 1$
    - By IH: `rSubset` returns subset  $S'$  of size  $k - 1$  with  $p = 1 / \binom{n-1}{k-1}$
    - $P(I[1] = 1, \text{subset } S') = \frac{k}{n} \cdot 1 / \binom{n-1}{k-1} = 1 / \binom{n}{k}$
  - Inductive Case 2: (where  $k + n \leq c + 1$ )  $|S| = n (= x + 1)$ ,  $I[1] = 0$ 
    - Elem 1 not in subset, choose  $k$  elems from remaining  $n - 1$
    - By IH: `rSubset` returns subset  $S'$  of size  $k$  with  $p = 1 / \binom{n-1}{k}$
    - $P(I[1] = 0, \text{subset } S') = \left(1 - \frac{k}{n}\right) \cdot 1 / \binom{n-1}{k} = \left(\frac{n-k}{n}\right) \cdot 1 / \binom{n-1}{k} = 1 / \binom{n}{k}$

# Sum of Independent Binomial RVs

- Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be independent random variables
  - $X \sim \text{Bin}(n_1, p)$  and  $Y \sim \text{Bin}(n_2, p)$
  - $X + Y \sim \text{Bin}(n_1 + n_2, p)$
- Intuition:
  - $X$  has  $n_1$  trials and  $Y$  has  $n_2$  trials
    - Each trial has same “success” probability  $p$
  - Define  $Z$  to be  $n_1 + n_2$  trials, each with success prob.  $p$
  - $Z \sim \text{Bin}(n_1 + n_2, p)$ , and also  $Z = X + Y$
- More generally:  $X_i \sim \text{Bin}(n_i, p)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq N$

$$\left( \sum_{i=1}^N X_i \right) \sim \text{Bin}\left( \sum_{i=1}^N n_i, p \right)$$

# Sum of Independent Poisson RVs

- Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be independent random variables
  - $X \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda_1)$  and  $Y \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda_2)$
  - $X + Y \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)$
- Proof: (just for reference)
  - Rewrite  $(X + Y = n)$  as  $(X = k, Y = n - k)$  where  $0 \leq k \leq n$

$$P(X + Y = n) = \sum_{k=0}^n P(X = k, Y = n - k) = \sum_{k=0}^n P(X = k)P(Y = n - k)$$
$$= \sum_{k=0}^n e^{-\lambda_1} \frac{\lambda_1^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda_2} \frac{\lambda_2^{n-k}}{(n-k)!} = e^{-(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)} \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{\lambda_1^k \lambda_2^{n-k}}{k!(n-k)!} = \frac{e^{-(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)}}{n!} \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} \lambda_1^k \lambda_2^{n-k}$$

- Noting Binomial theorem:  $(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} \lambda_1^k \lambda_2^{n-k}$
- $P(X + Y = n) = \frac{e^{-(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)}}{n!} (\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^n$  so,  $X + Y = n \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)$