

Joint Distributions II

Chris Piech

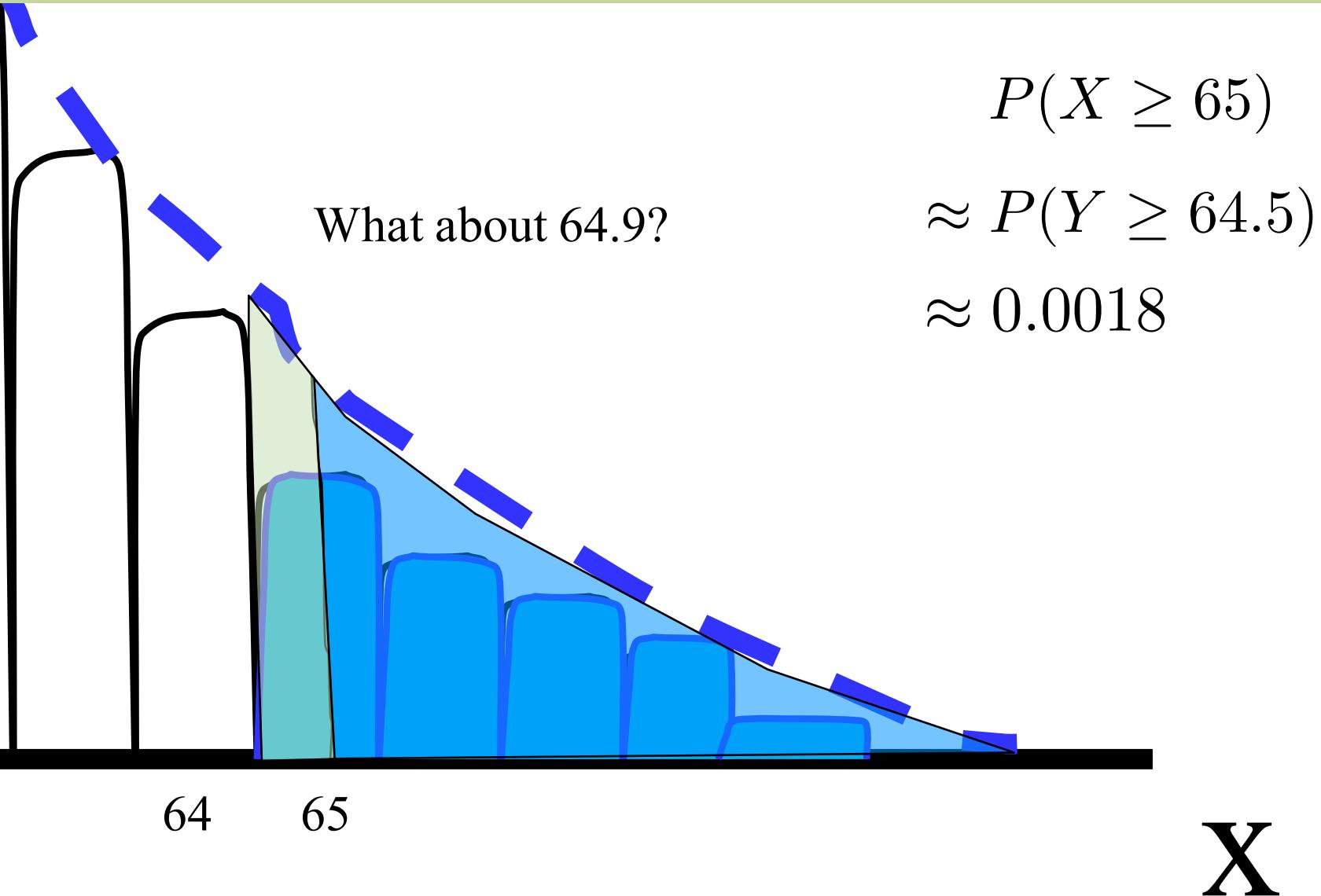
CS109, Stanford University

Today:

1. Multi variable RVs
2. Expectation with multiple RVs

Review

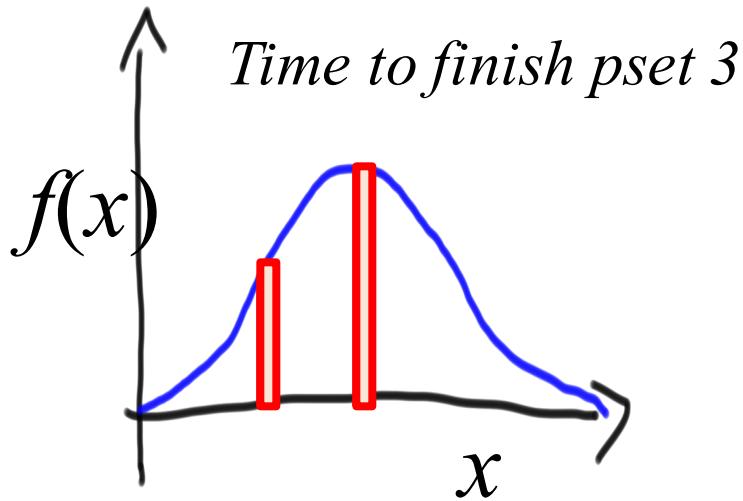
Continuity Correction



Continuous RV Relative Probability

$X = \text{time to finish pset 3}$

$X \sim N(10, 2)$



How much more likely
are you to complete in
10 hours than in 5?

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{P(X = 10)}{P(X = 5)} &= \frac{\varepsilon f(X = 10)}{\varepsilon f(X = 5)} \\&= \frac{f(X = 10)}{f(X = 5)} \\&= \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\sigma^2\pi}}e^{-\frac{(10-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\sigma^2\pi}}e^{-\frac{(5-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}} \\&= \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}}e^{-\frac{(10-10)^2}{4}}}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}}e^{-\frac{(5-10)^2}{4}}} \\&= \frac{e^0}{e^{-\frac{25}{4}}} = 518\end{aligned}$$

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

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

Joint Probability Table for Discrete

- 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

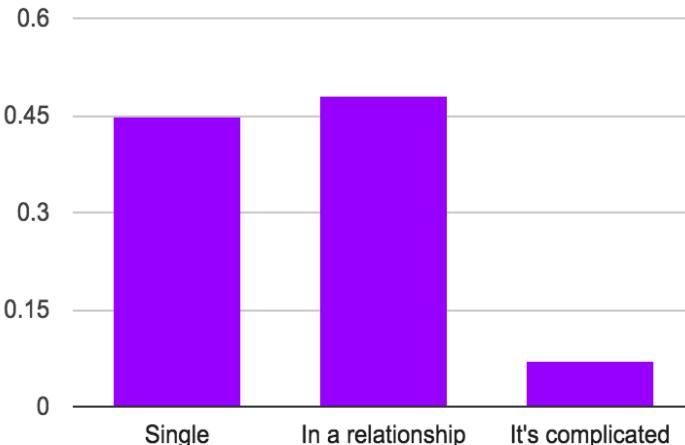
| All values of A | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 0 | 1 | 2 |
| 0 | | |
| 1 | $P(A = 1, B = 1)$ | Every outcome falls into a bucket |
| 2 | | |

Remember “,” means “and”

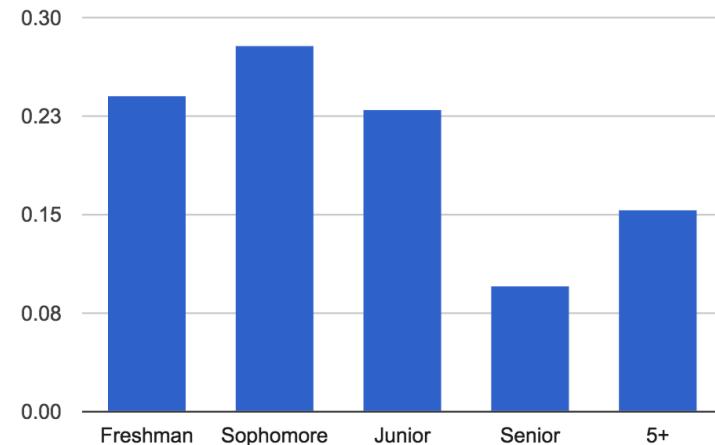
Probability Table

| Joint Probability Table | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Single | In a relationship | It's complicated | Marginal Year |
| Freshman | 0.13 | 0.09 | 0.02 | 0.24 |
| Sophomore | 0.16 | 0.10 | 0.02 | 0.28 |
| Junior | 0.12 | 0.10 | 0.02 | 0.23 |
| Senior | 0.01 | 0.09 | 0.00 | 0.10 |
| 5+ | 0.03 | 0.12 | 0.01 | 0.15 |
| Marginal Status | 0.45 | 0.48 | 0.07 | |

Marginal Status Probability

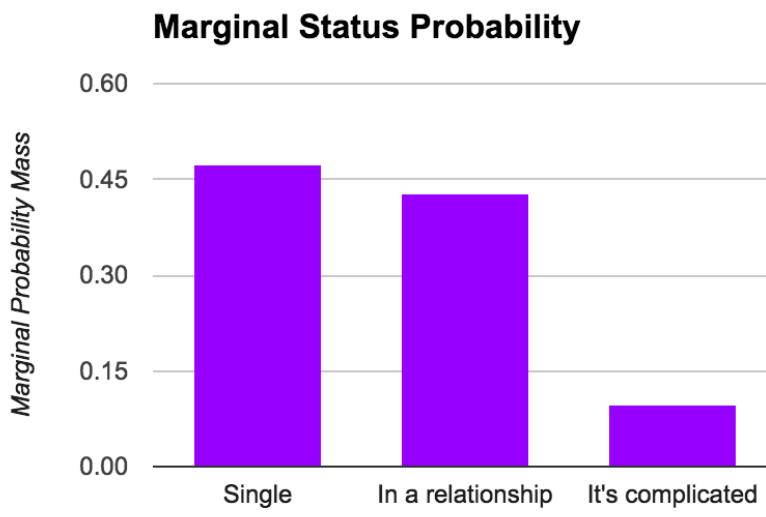


Marginal Year Probability

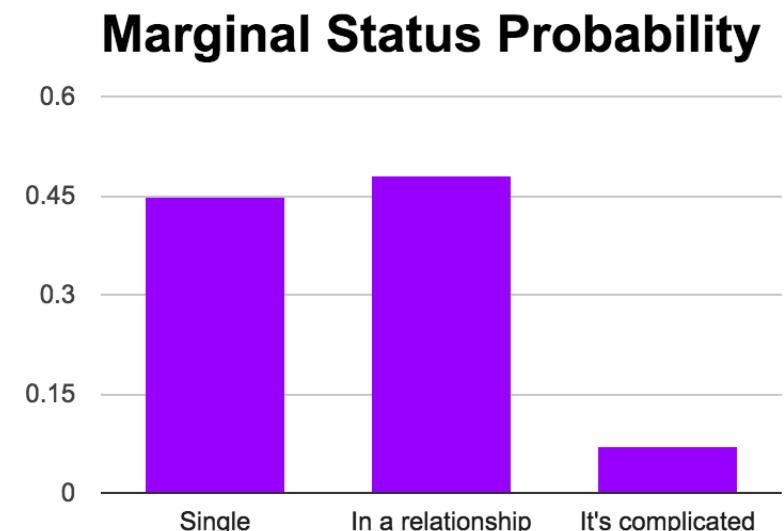


Quite Consistent

2016



2017

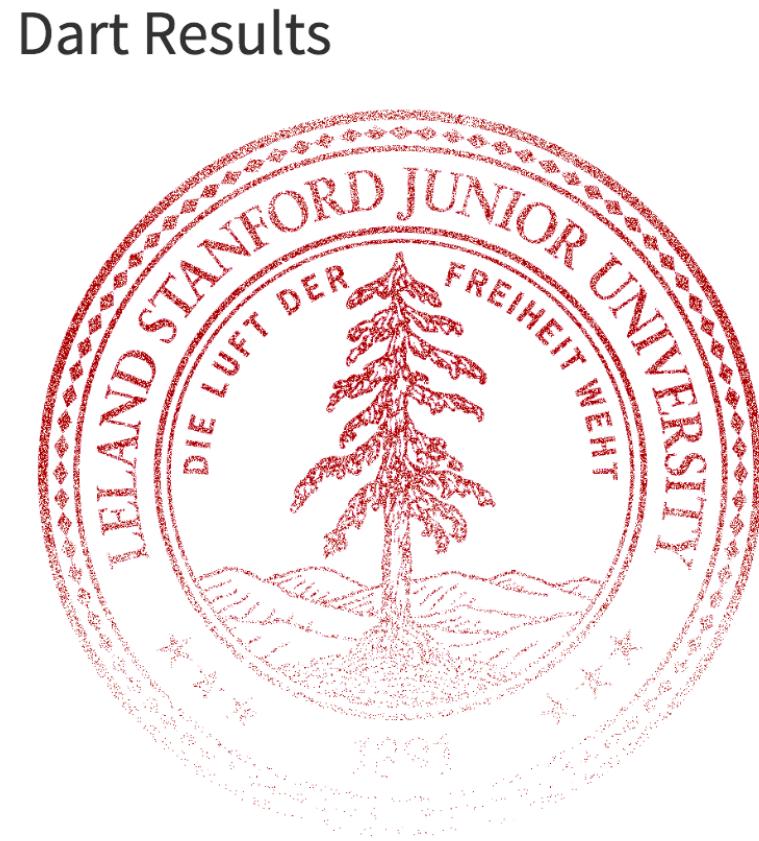
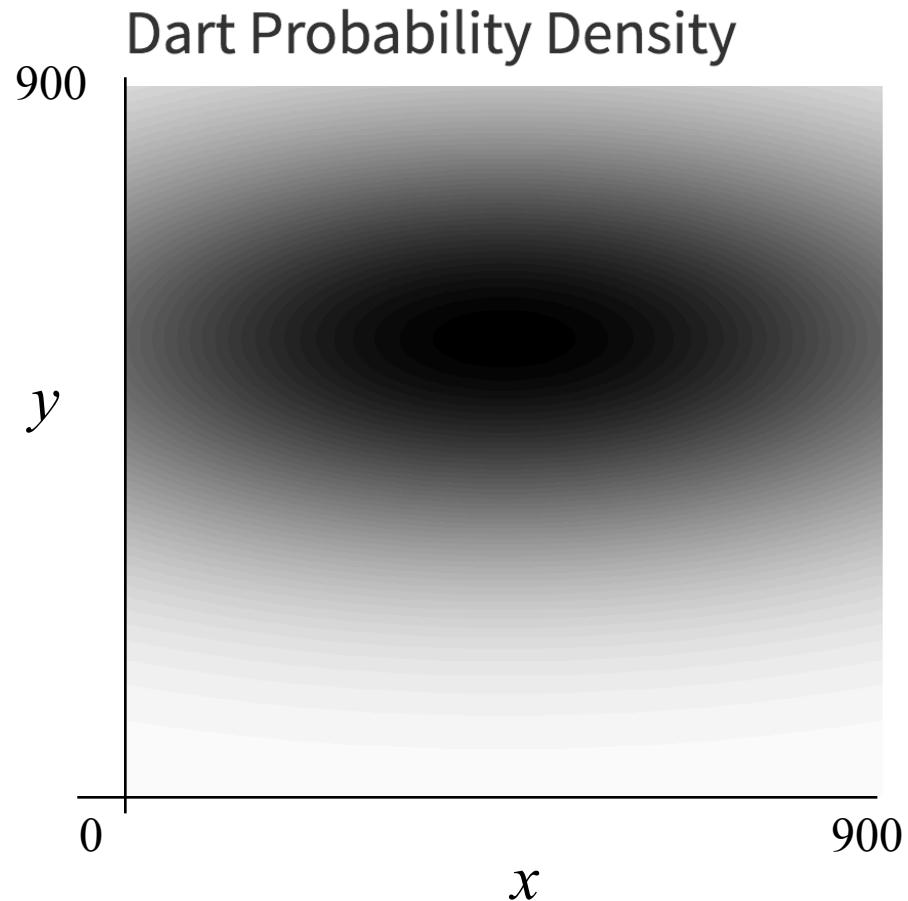


End Review

Our CS109 Logo



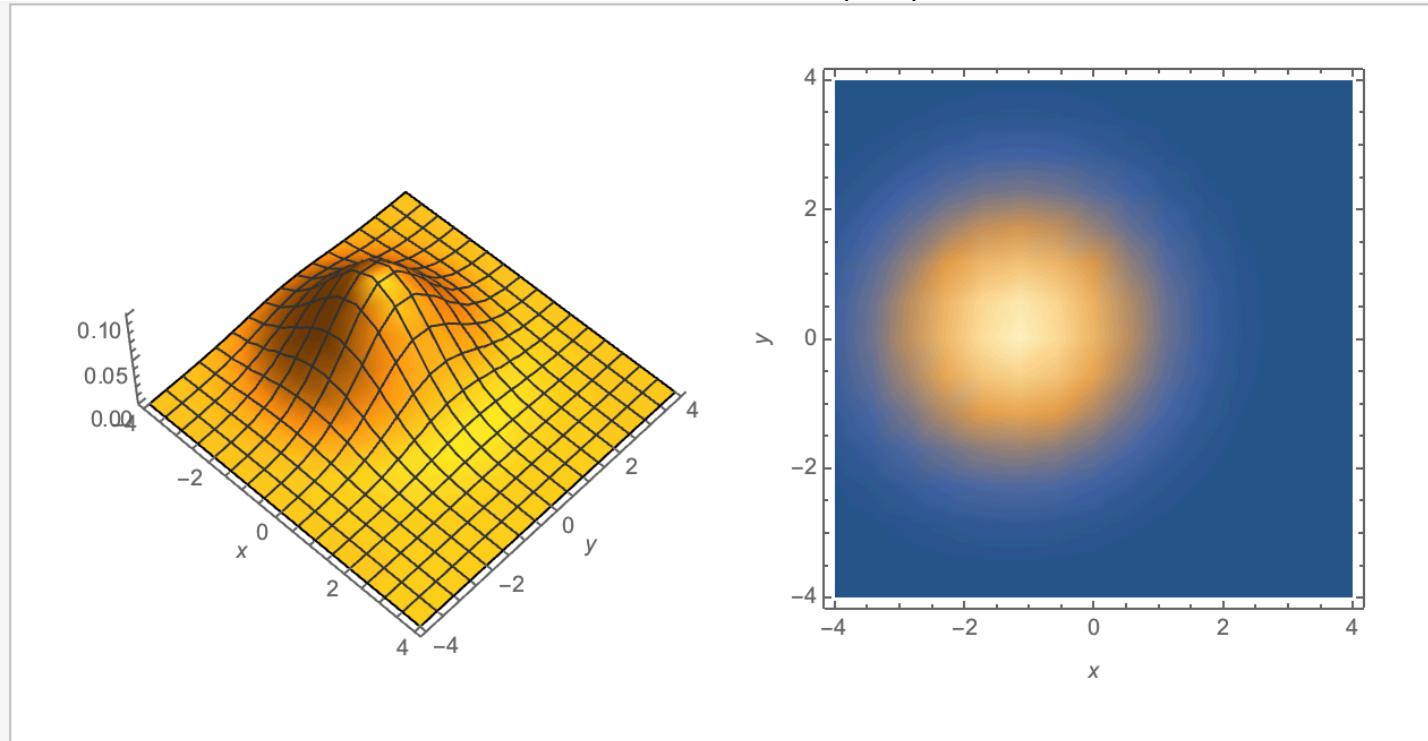
Joint Dart Distribution



Jointly Continuous

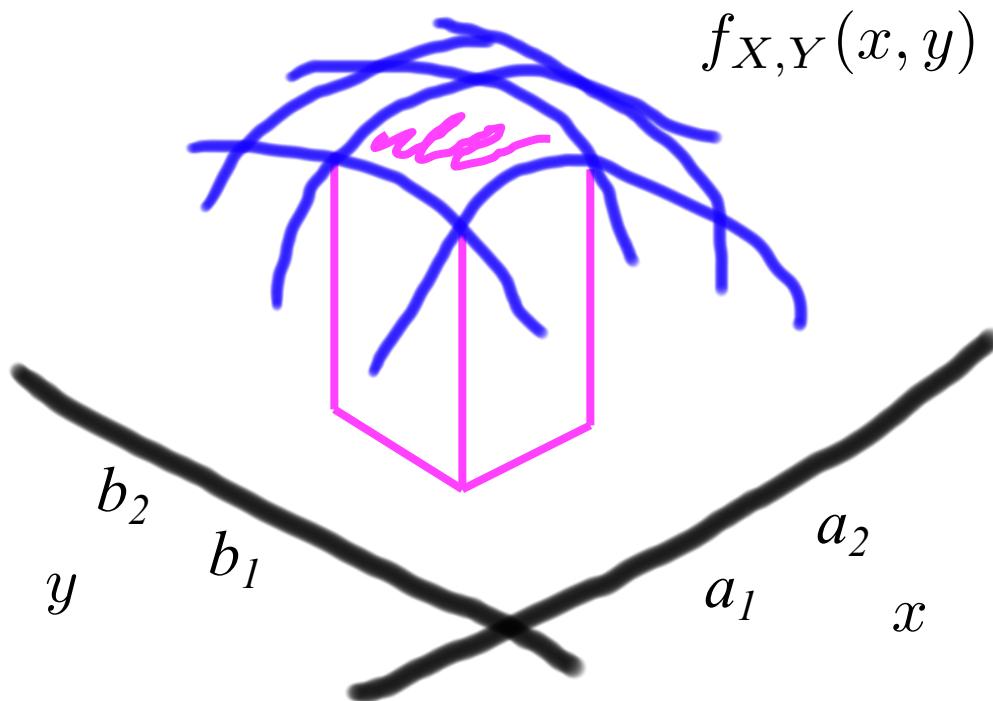
- Random variables X and Y , are **Jointly Continuous** if there exists PDF $f_{X,Y}(x,y)$ defined over $-\infty < x, y < \infty$ such that:

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



Jointly Continuous

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



Jointly Continuous

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

- Cumulative Density Function (CDF):

$$F_{X,Y}(a, b) = \int_{-\infty}^a \int_{-\infty}^b f_{X,Y}(x, y) dy dx \quad f_{X,Y}(a, b) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial a \partial b} F_{X,Y}(a, b)$$

- Marginal density functions:

$$f_X(a) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(a, y) dy$$

$$f_Y(b) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, b) dx$$

Continuous Joint Distribution Functions

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

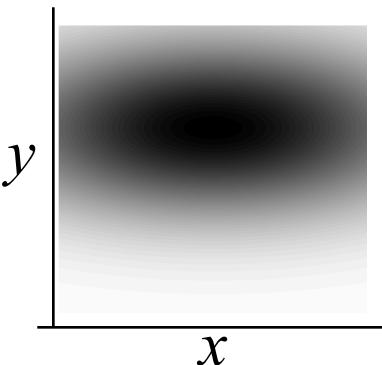
- Marginal distributions:

$$F_X(a) = P(X \leq a) = P(X \leq a, Y < \infty) = F_{X,Y}(a, \infty)$$

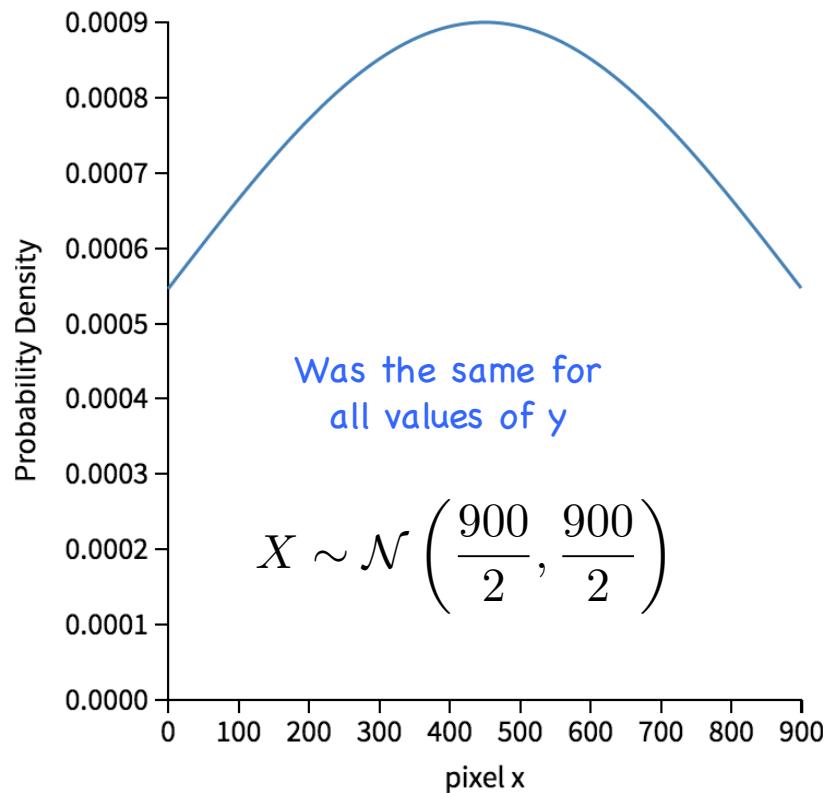
$$F_Y(b) = P(Y \leq b) = P(X < \infty, Y \leq b) = F_{X,Y}(\infty, b)$$

Darts!

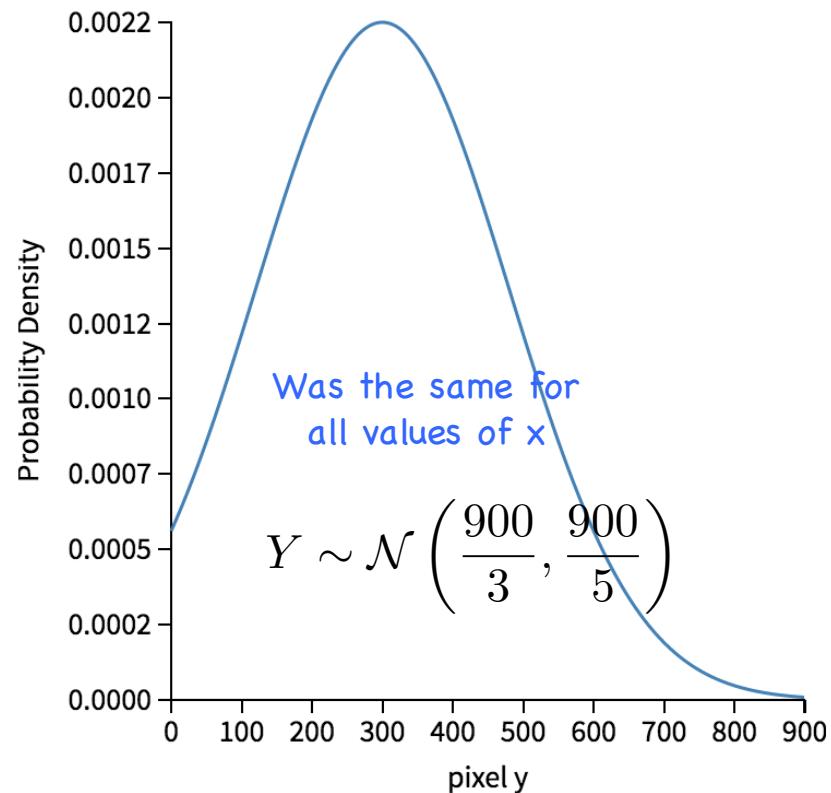
Dart PDF



X-Pixel Marginal



Y-Pixel Marginal



Multiple Integrals Without Tears

- Let X and Y be two continuous random variables
 - where $0 \leq X \leq 1$ and $0 \leq Y \leq 2$
- We want to integrate $g(x,y) = xy$ w.r.t. X and Y :
 - First, do “innermost” integral (treat y as a constant):

$$\int_{y=0}^2 \int_{x=0}^1 xy \, dx \, dy = \int_{y=0}^2 \left(\int_{x=0}^1 xy \, dx \right) dy = \int_{y=0}^2 y \left[\frac{x^2}{2} \right]_0^1 dy = \int_{y=0}^2 y \frac{1}{2} dy$$

- Then, evaluate remaining (single) integral:

$$\int_{y=0}^2 y \frac{1}{2} dy = \left[\frac{y^2}{4} \right]_0^2 = 1 - 0 = 1$$

Computing Joint Probabilities

Let $F_{X,Y}(x, y)$ be joint CDF for X and Y

$$\begin{aligned} P(X > a, Y > b) &= 1 - P((X > a, Y > b)^c) \\ &= 1 - P((X > a)^c \cup (Y > b)^c) \\ &= 1 - P((X \leq a) \cup (Y \leq b)) \\ &= 1 - (P(X \leq a) + P(Y \leq b) - P(X \leq a, Y \leq b)) \\ &= 1 - F_X(a) - F_Y(b) + F_{X,Y}(a,b) \end{aligned}$$

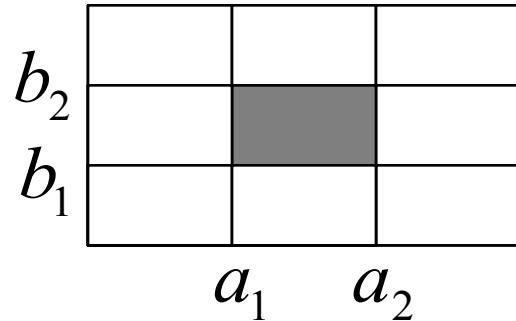


The General Rule Given Joint CDF

Let $F_{X,Y}(x,y)$ be joint CDF for X and Y

$$\text{P}(a_1 < X \leq a_2, b_1 < Y \leq b_2)$$

$$= F(a_2, b_2) - F(a_1, b_2) + F(a_1, b_1) - F(a_2, b_1)$$





For joint, continuous
random variables:

We still have a PDF and a
CDF. They are still key.

But they are now multi-
dimensional



Lovely Lemma

- Y is a non-negative continuous random variable
 - Probability Density Function: $f_Y(y)$
 - Already knew that:

$$E[Y] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y f_Y(y) dy$$

- But, did you know that:

$$E[Y] = \int_0^{\infty} P(Y > y) dy ?!?$$

- Analogously, in the discrete case, where $X = 1, 2, \dots, n$

$$E[X] = \sum_{i=1}^n P(X \geq i)$$

How this lemma was made

In the discrete case, where $X = 1, 2, \dots, n$

$$E[X] = \sum_{i=1}^n P(X \geq i)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n P(X \geq i) &= \\ &\quad P(X = 1) + P(X = 2) + P(X = 3) + \cdots + P(X = n) \\ &\quad + P(X = 2) + P(X = 3) + \cdots + P(X = n) \\ &\quad + P(X = 3) + \cdots + P(X = n) \\ &\quad \vdots \\ &\quad + P(X = n) \end{aligned}$$

Each row is an expansion for one value of i

$$\begin{aligned} &= 1P(X = 1) + 2P(X = 2) + \cdots + n(PX = n) \\ &= E[X] \end{aligned}$$

Life gives you lemmas,
make lemmade!

Imperfections on a Disk

- Disk surface is a circle of radius R
 - A single point imperfection uniformly distributed on disk

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\pi R^2} & \text{if } x^2 + y^2 \leq R^2 \\ 0 & \text{if } x^2 + y^2 > R^2 \end{cases} \quad \text{where } -\infty < x, y < \infty$$

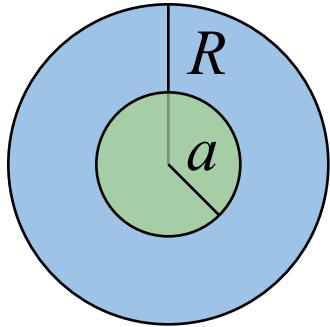
$$\begin{aligned} f_X(x) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x,y) dy = \frac{1}{\pi R^2} \int_{x^2+y^2 \leq R^2} dy \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi R^2} \int_{-\sqrt{R^2-x^2}}^{\sqrt{R^2-x^2}} dy \\ &= \frac{2\sqrt{R^2 - x^2}}{\pi R^2} \end{aligned}$$

Only integrate over
the support range

Marginal of Y is the same by symmetry

Imperfections on a Disk

- Disk surface is a circle of radius R
 - A single point imperfection uniformly distributed on disk
 - Distance to origin: $D = \sqrt{X^2 + Y^2}$
 - What is $E[D]$?



$$P(D \leq a) = \frac{\pi a^2}{\pi R^2} = \frac{a^2}{R^2}$$

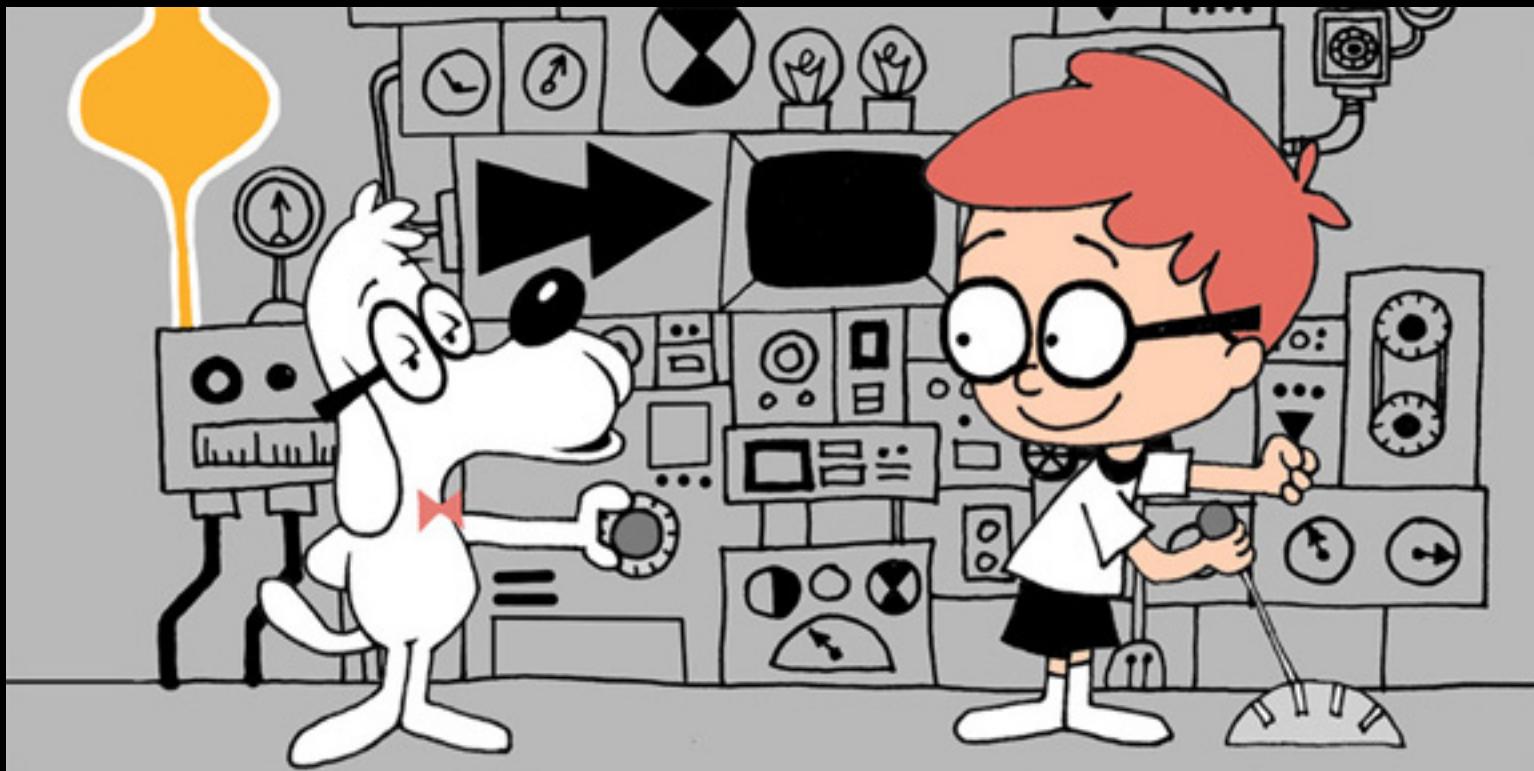
Because of
equally likely
outcomes

$$\begin{aligned} E[D] &= \int_0^R P(D > a) da = \int_0^R 1 - P(D \leq a) da \\ &= \int_0^R 1 - \frac{a^2}{R^2} da \\ &= \left[a - \frac{a^3}{3R^2} \right]_0^R = \frac{2R}{3} \end{aligned}$$



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 Way Back

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.”

$$n = 18$$

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

Probability of seeing this document | spam

It's a Multinomial!

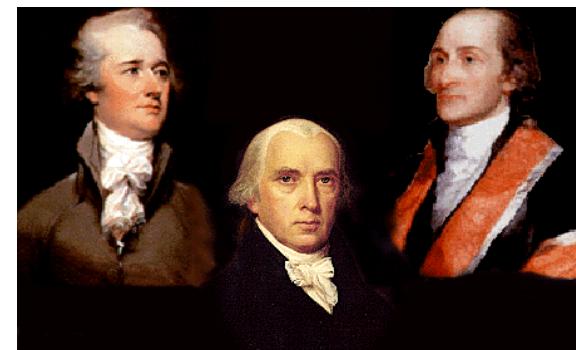
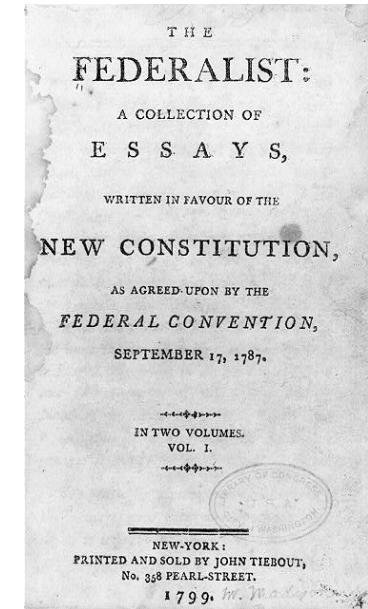
The probability of a word in spam email being viagra

Who wrote the federalist papers?



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 $Z = 0$?

Is Year Independent of Status?

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

For all values of Year, Status:

$$P(\text{Year} = y, \text{Status} = s) = P(\text{Year} = y)P(\text{Status} = s)$$

$$0.06 \qquad \qquad \qquad 0.13 \qquad \qquad 0.47$$

Yes!

Is Year Independent of Status?

| Joint Probability Table | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Single | In a relationship | It's complicated | Marginal Year |
| Freshman | 0.06 | 0.04 | 0.03 | 0.13 |
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For all values of Year, Status:

$$P(\text{Year} = y, \text{Status} = s) = P(\text{Year} = y)P(\text{Status} = s)$$
$$\quad\quad\quad 0.21 \quad\quad\quad 0.39 \quad\quad\quad 0.47$$

No 😞

Aside: Butterfly Effect



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

Web Server Requests

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

- 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

Web Server Requests

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Web Server Requests

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

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

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

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

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 $(Y | N) \sim \text{Bin}(N, 1 - p)$

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

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 $P(A_{n+1}) = 1/(n+1)$
 - $P(A_n A_{n+1}) = (1/n)(1/(n+1)) = P(A_n)P(A_{n+1})$