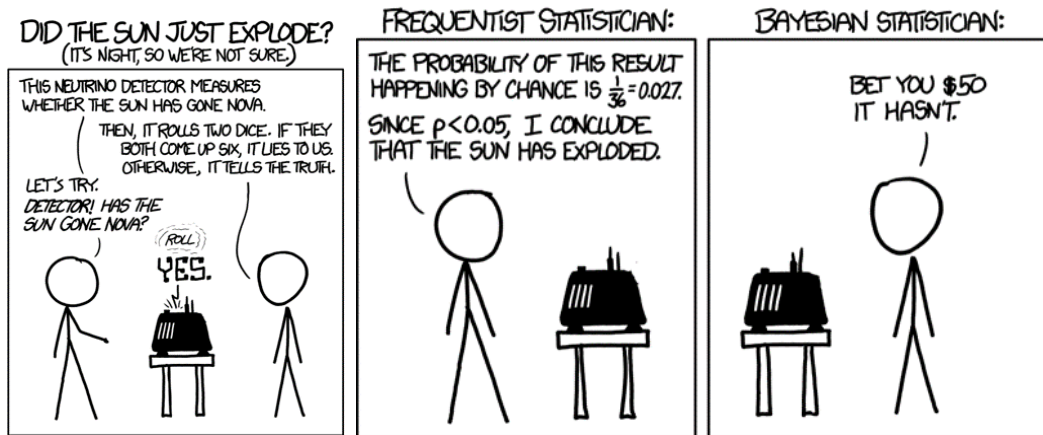


# CSCI 3022 Intro to Data Science

## Discrete pdfs



# Announcements and To-Dos

## Announcements:

1. HW 2 due Tuesday (not tonight, one extra day!)
2. Another nb day this Friday.

*2 office hours: M 3-5 Tu 3-5.*

## Last time we learned:

1. Bayes Theorem, finished up Probability theory

## To do:

1. Finish that HW!

*Sholder precip:*  
1) "Tr" → 0

2) "\*" → "

- String.replace
- Regex

*library*

*string  
re*

•  $X[-1]$

$x = x[0:4]$

3) *omit rows  
load the .txt, push backspace.*

# Probability Wrapup

- ~~If all outcomes are equally likely,~~ we can just count outcomes.

$$P(A) = \frac{|A|}{|\Omega|} = \frac{\text{\# of ways A can happen}}{\text{\# of total outcomes in sample space}}$$

- *Conditional Probability:*  $P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$ ,

$\frac{P(\text{both})}{P(\text{conditional})}$

- *Multiplication Rule:*  $P(A \cap B) = P(A|B)P(B)$

- The following are equivalent: Two events  $A$  and  $B$  are said to be independent;

$$P(A|B) = P(A); P(B|A) = P(B); \boxed{P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)}.$$

- *Law of Total Probability:* Given disjoint  $E_1, E_2, \dots, E_k$  such that  $E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \dots \cup E_k = \Omega$ ,

for any  $A$ :  $A \rightsquigarrow E_1$        $A \rightsquigarrow E_2$        $A \rightsquigarrow E_k$

$$P(\boxed{A}) = P(A|E_1)P(E_1) + P(A|E_2)P(E_2) + \dots + P(A|E_k)P(E_k)$$

- *Bayes:*  $P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)} = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)}$

$\hookrightarrow$  B happens as - 1)  $B \cap A$   
2)  $B \cap A^c$

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(A \cap B) + P(A^c \cap B)}$$

# Random Variables

## Definition: *Random Variable*

A *random variable* is a (measurable) function that maps elements or events in the sample space  $\Omega$  to the real numbers  $a_1, a_2, \dots$  (or, more generally, to a measurable space... whatever that is!) INPUT:

**Example:** Consider rolling two dice. The *Sample Space* is the full list of outcomes  $\{\omega_1, \omega_2\}$ . OUTPUT

But what if we only care about summing the two dice? We could skip the sample space and just count the *random variable*:

X := the sum of the two dice.

# Probability Distributions

## **Definition:** *Probability Density Function*

A *Probability density function* (pdf) is a function  $f$  that describes the probability distribution of a random variable  $X$ .

If  $X$  is discrete, the pdf provides answers to questions like  $P(X=2)=f(2)$ . It is also called a probability mass function (pmf).

time  
↑

Capital  $X$ : variable  
↓  
little  $x$ : one outcome

If  $X$  is continuous, then  $P(X=x)$   $= 0$  for all  $x$ . Why?! In this case, the distribution function is called a probability density function. In the continuous case, the pdf provides answers to questions like:

# Probability Distributions

**Definition:** *Probability Density Function*

A *Probability density function* (pdf) is a function  $f$  that describes the probability distribution of a random variable  $X$ .

If  $X$  is discrete, the pdf provides answers to questions like  $f(x) = P(X = x)$ . It is also called a probability mass function (pmf).

If  $X$  is continuous, then  $P(X = x) = 0$  for all  $x$ . Why?! In this case, the distribution function is called a probability density function. In the continuous case, the pdf provides answers to questions like:

"What is the probability that  $X$  takes on a value between  $a$  and  $b$ ?"

## Properties of pdfs

For  $f(x)$  to be a legitimate pdf, it must satisfy the following two conditions:

1) Positive / non-negative

for every outcome  $x$ :

$$f(x) \geq 0$$

2. (For discrete distributions:)

2) Sum/add up to 1.

$$\sum_{\text{all } x} f(x) = 1$$

$f$  is called a *probability mass function* because it describes how all of the possible outcomes in  $\Omega$  have some probability or “mass” associated with them.

## Properties of pdfs

For  $f(x)$  to be a legitimate pdf, it must satisfy the following two conditions:

1.

$$f(x) = P(X = x) \geq 0 \quad \forall x \text{ (with events in } \Omega)$$

2. (For discrete distributions:)

$$\sum_{x \in \Omega} f(x) = \sum_{x \in \Omega} P(X = x) = 1$$

$f$  is called a *probability mass function* because it describes how all of the possible outcomes in  $\Omega$  have some probability or “mass” associated with them.



## Discrete pdfs

### Example:

A lab has 6 computers. Let  $X$  denote the number of these computers that are in use during lunch hour, so

$$\Omega = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, 6\}.$$

Suppose that the probability distribution of  $X$  is as given in the following table:

$x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
$P(X = x)$	.05,	.1	.15	.25	.2	.15	.1

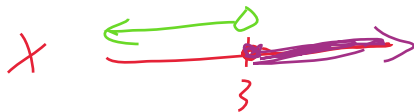
$P(\text{\# of CPUs in use} \geq 2)$

Sanity

checked

1)  $f(x) \geq 0$   
for  $x=0, 1, \dots, 6$   
2)  $\sum f(x)$   
 $= .05 + .1 + .15 + \dots$

## Discrete pdfs



## Example, cont'd:

$x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
$P(X = x)$	.05	.1	.15	.25	.2	.15	.1

From here, we can find almost anything we might want to know about  $X$ .

1. Probability that at most 2 computers are in use

$$P(0 \text{ or } 1 \text{ or } 2 \text{ (plus in use)})$$

$$P(X=0 \text{ in use}) + P(X=1 \text{ in use}) + P(X=2 \text{ in use}) = f(0) + f(1) + f(2) = .05 + .1 + .15$$

*exclusive or!*

2. Probability that at least half of the computers are in use

$$P(X \geq 3) = P(X=3 \text{ or } 4 \text{ or } 5 \text{ or } 6) = P(X \neq 0, 1, 2) = P(\text{not } X < 3)$$

$= .3$

3. Probability that there are 3 or 4 computers free

$$P(X=3 \text{ or } 4)$$

$$= f(3) + f(4)$$

$$P(X \geq 3) = 1 - P(X < 3) = 1 - .3$$

$\text{0 or 1 or 2}$

$= .7$

## Discrete pdfs

### Example, cont'd:

$x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
$P(X = x)$	.05,	.1	.15	.25	.2	.15	.1

From here, we can find almost anything we might want to know about  $X$ .

1. Probability that at most 2 computers are in use

$$P(X = 0) + P(X = 1) + P(X = 2) = .3$$

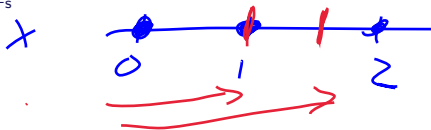
2. Probability that at least half of the computers are in use

$$P(X \geq 3) = 1 - P(X < 3) = 1 - (P(X = 0) + P(X = 1) + P(X = 2)) = 1 - .3 = .7$$

3. Probability that there are 3 or 4 computers free

$$P(X \geq 3) = 1 - P(X = 3 \text{ or } X = 4) = 1 - (P(X = 3) + P(X = 4)) = 1 - (.25 + .2) = .55$$

# A Discrete pdf Example



**Example:** Suppose we are given the following pmf:

Prob	Outcomes
.5	$x = 0$
.167	$x = 1$
.333	$x = 2$
0	else

between  $P(X \leq 1.5) = P(X \leq 1)$

1. Calculate:  $F(0), F(1), F(2)$ .
2. What is  $F(1.5)$ ?  $F(20.5)$ ?  
= F(1)
3. Is  $P(X < 1) = P(X \leq 1)$ ?

$$F(0) = P(X \leq 0) = \underbrace{P(X=0)}_{.5} + \underbrace{P(X < 0)}_0 = .5$$

$$F(1) = P(X \text{ "up to" } 1) = P(X \leq 1) = .5 + .167$$

$$F(2) = P(X \leq 2) = P(X=0 \text{ or } 1 \text{ or } 2) = 1.$$

## pdf Example; Soln

**Example:** Suppose we are given the following pmf:

$$P(X = x) = f(x) = \begin{cases} .5 & x = 0 \\ .167 & x = 1 \\ .333 & x = 2 \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

1. Calculate:  $F(0), F(1), F(2)$ .
2. What is  $F(1.5)$ ?  $F(20.5)$ ?
3. Is  $P(X < 1) = P(X \leq 1)$ ?

⌋

## pdf Example; Soln

**Example:** Suppose we are given the following pmf:

$$P(X = x) = f(x) = \begin{cases} .5 & x = 0 \\ .167 & x = 1 \\ .333 & x = 2 \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

*every thing else is not supported*

1. Calculate:  $F(0), F(1), F(2)$ .

$$F(0) = P(X \leq 0) = .5; F(1) = P(X \leq 1) = .667; F(2) = P(X \leq 2) = 1$$

2. What is  $F(1.5)$ ?  $F(20.5)$ ?

$$F(1.5) = P(X \leq 1.5) = P(X \leq 1) = .667; F(20.5) = P(X \leq 2) = 1$$

3. Is  $P(X < 1) = P(X \leq 1)$ ?

Most certainly not!

$$P(X \leq 1) = P(X < 1) + P(X = 1)$$

# Cumulative Distribution Functions

## Definition: Cumulative Density Function

For a discrete r.v.  $X$  with pdf  $f(x) = P(X = x)$ , the *cumulative density function*, denoted  $F(x)$ , is defined for every real number  $x$  to be the probability that the observed value of  $X$  will be at most  $x$ .

Mathematically:

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x)$$

**Example:** If I roll a single fair die, what is the cdf?

- random variable  
 $\downarrow$   
 $\uparrow$  up to  $x$ .
1.  $F(0): P(X \leq 0)$  6 outcomes;  $P(X=x) = f(x) = 1/6 \quad \forall x$ .  
 $= P(\text{die is } 0 \text{ or less}) = 0$
  2.  $F(1): P(X \leq 1) = P(\text{die is } 1 \text{ or less}) = P(\text{die} = 1) = 1/6$ .
  3.  $F(2): P(X \leq 2) = P(\text{die is } 2 \text{ or less}) = P(1 \text{ or } 2) = 1/6 + 1/6 = 1/3$
  4.  $F(6): P(X \leq 6) = P(\text{"all outcomes up to 6 on fair die"}) = 1$ .

## Cumulative Distribution Functions

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Mathematically:

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x)$$

**Example:** If I roll a single fair die, what is the cdf?

1.  $F(0) = 0$
2.  $F(1) = 1/6$
3.  $F(2) = 2/6$
4.  $F(6) = 1$  : with probability 1, our roll will be  $\leq 6$ .



## pdf to cdf

The relationship between pdf and cdf is very important!

$$F(a) = P(X \leq a) = \sum_{x \leq a} P(X = x)$$

*every 'x' up to 'a'*      *add up!*

**Example:** What is the probability that if I roll two dice, they add up to at least 9. Write in terms of  $F(x)$ , then compute.

Die 1	1
Die 2	2
Sum	

## pdf to cdf

The relationship between pdf and cdf is very important!

$$F(a) = P(X \leq a) = \sum_{x \leq a} P(X = x)$$

**Example:** What is the probability that if I roll two dice, they add up to at least 9. Write in terms of  $F(x)$ , then compute.

$X$  := the sum of the two dice, we want

$$\boxed{P(X \geq 9)} = 1 - \underbrace{P(X < 9)} = 1 - \underbrace{P(X \leq 8)} = 1 - F(8).$$

Cumulative  
density  
function

The easier probability is probably the

$$P(X \geq 9) = \underbrace{P(X = 9)}_{4/36} + \underbrace{P(X = 10)}_{3/36} + \underbrace{P(X = 11)}_{2/36} + \underbrace{P(X = 12)}_{1/36} = 10/36.$$

## 2d6; $\Omega$ and $X$

Suppose we roll two fair, 6-sided dice. Let  $X :=$  the value representing the maximum of the two dice.

Process:

Die 1  $\Rightarrow 36$  outcomes?  $\Rightarrow$  MAX  
Die 2  $\Rightarrow$  6 outcomes

1. What are the possible values of  $X$ ?
2. Which elements of the sample space map to which values of  $X$ ?
3. What is the pmf of  $X$ ?

$$\Omega = \{ \text{Die 1}, \text{Die 2} \}$$

$$w = \{ 3, 2 \} \Rightarrow X = 3$$

## 2d6; $\Omega$ and $X$

Suppose we roll two fair, 6-sided dice. Let  $X :=$  the value representing the maximum of the two dice.

1. What are the possible values of  $X$ ?
2. Which elements of the sample space map to which values of  $X$ ?
3. What is the pmf of  $X$ ?

1.  $X \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$

3. The pmf is:  $P(X = x)$ ; or

*All equally likely! : count the ways.*

2.

		Die 2					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Die 1	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
	2	2	2	3	4	5	6
	3	3	3	3	4	5	6
	4	4	4	4	4	5	6
	5	5	5	5	5	5	6
	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

*Blue die* (circled in blue), *Red die* (circled in red)

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1/36 & X = 1 \\ 3/36 & X = 2 \\ 5/36 & X = 3 \\ 7/36 & X = 4 \\ 9/36 & X = 5 \\ 11/36 & X = 6 \end{cases}$$

## 2d6; The Max

Now we have

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1/36 & X = 1 \\ 3/36 & X = 2 \\ 5/36 & X = 3 \\ 7/36 & X = 4 \\ 9/36 & X = 5 \\ 11/36 & X = 6 \end{cases}$$

2.  $P(X \text{ is 3 or less})?$

3. What is the cdf for  $X$ ?

$F(x)$  sums up rows of  $f(x)$

What are:

1.  $P(X \text{ is even})?$

## 2d6; The Max

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$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1/36 & X = 1 \\ 3/36 & X = 2 \\ 5/36 & X = 3 \\ 7/36 & X = 4 \\ 9/36 & X = 5 \\ 11/36 & X = 6 \end{cases}$$

What are:

1.  $P(X \text{ is even})?$

$$\frac{3 + 5 + 7}{36}$$

2.  $P(X \text{ is 3 or less})?$

$$\frac{1 + 3 + 5}{36}$$

3. What is the cdf for  $X$ ?

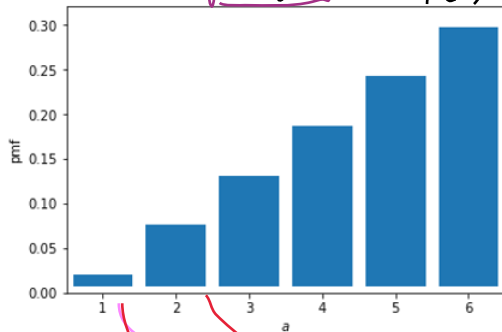
$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & X < 1 \\ 1/36 & 1 \leq X < 2 \\ 4/36 & 2 \leq X < 3 \\ 9/36 & 3 \leq X < 4 \\ 16/36 & 4 \leq X < 5 \\ 25/36 & 5 \leq X < 6 \\ 36/36 & X > 6 \end{cases}$$

$$P(\text{surv} | P_{\text{class}}=1) = \frac{P(\text{both})}{P(P_{\text{class}}=1)} = \frac{\overset{\text{CDFs}}{\text{Count}(\text{both}=1)}}{\text{Count}(\text{died}=1)} \cdot \text{hist}$$

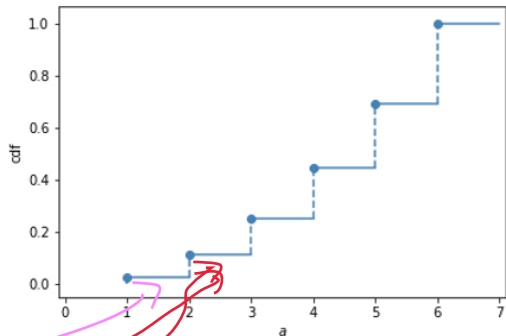
A picture denoting the pdf and cdf of our  $X$ :

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(\text{Both})}{P(B)} = \frac{P(B|A) \cdot P(A)}{P(B)}$$

PDF:



CDF:



$P(\text{young} | \text{Surv.})$   
versus

$P(\text{young} | \text{died})$

## Making a pdf

Recall: we did an opening **example**: Suppose we flip a coin with a  $p$  chance per flip of landing on heads. Define  $X$  = the number of tails flips before we see a heads. What is  $P(X = 0)$ ?  $P(X = 1)$ ?  $P(X = i)$ ? Verify that  $P(X) = 1$  over all of  $\Omega$ .

- ▶ State space:
- ▶ Associated r.v. possible values or *support*:
- ▶ pdf  $P(X = x)$  = probability of  $x$  tails before a heads:



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- ▶ State space:  $\{H, TH, TTH, TTTH, \dots\}$
- ▶ Associated r.v. possible values or *support*:  $\{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$
- ▶ pdf  $P(X = x)$  = probability of  $x$  tails before a heads:

$$P(X = x) = P(\{T \dots TH\}) = P(\{T\})^x P(\{H\}) = (1 - p)^x \cdot p$$

So we report  $f(x) = (1 - p)^x \cdot p$

# Discrete Random Variables

Discrete random variables can be categorized into different types or classes. Each type/class models many different real-world situations. They can loosely be broken down into a few groups:

1. The *Discrete Uniform* for modeling  $n$  equally likely (*fair*) outcomes
2. Distributions built on counting trials-until-event (how rolls until I get a 6, etc.) when the trials are identical and repeated  
Examples: Binomial, Geometric, etc.
3. Counting occurrences of an event over fixed areas of time/space.  
Example: Poisson

## The Bernoulli

A random variable whose only possible values are 0 or 1.

This is a discrete random variable – why?

This distribution is specified by a single parameter:

The probability of a heads/“success”  $p$ ! This gives the pdf:

We denote the Bernoulli random variable  $X$  by

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### Countable outcomes

This distribution is specified by a single parameter:

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$$P(X = x) = f(x) = \begin{cases} p & x = 1 \\ (1 - p) & x = 0 \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

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The probability of a heads/“success”  $p$ ! This gives the pdf:

$$P(X = x) = f(x) = \begin{cases} p & x = 1 \\ (1 - p) & x = 0 \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

It turns out, it's nice to write the pdf as a single line whenever possible. The nicest way to do so for the Bernoulli:

$$f(x) = p^x(1 - p)^{1-x}$$

which works as long as we remember  $x$  can only be 0 or 1.

We denote the Bernoulli random variable  $X$  by  $X \sim \text{Bern}(p)$

## Overview

The Bernoulli random variable is the building block for numerous important probability distributions that reflect **repeated** measurements.

Statistics and data science on repeated measurements requires us understand principles of **counting**!

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Statistics and data science on repeated measurements requires us understand principles of **counting**!

1. Some counting is easy: how many integers are there in  $[0, 9]$ ?

## Overview

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2. Zach, Felix, Rachel, and Ioana line up at a coffee stand. How many different orders could they stand in?



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This is a *permutation*: it counts distinct orderings

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This is a *combination*: it counts ways a set can be split into subsets

# Permutations

How many ways can you order a set of one object; e.g.  $\{A\}$ ?

How many ways can you order a set of two objects; e.g.  $\{A, B\}$ ?

How many ways can you order a set of three objects; e.g.  $\{ABC\}$ ?

What's the pattern? How many ways could you order  $n$  objects?

# Permutations

How many ways can you order a set of one object; e.g.  $\{A\}$ ?

**A:** 1 way.  $\{A\}$ .

How many ways can you order a set of two objects; e.g.  $\{A, B\}$ ?

**A:** 2 ways.  $\{AB, BA\}$ .

How many ways can you order a set of three objects; e.g.  $\{ABC\}$ ?

**A:** 6 ways.  $\{ABC, ACB, BAC, BCA, CBA, CAB\}$ .

What's the pattern? How many ways could you order  $n$  objects?

**A:**  $n!$

## Permutations; General

What if you have  $n$  objects, but only want to permute  $r$  of them?

How many 3-character strings can we make if each character is a distinct letter from the English alphabet?

What is the general form for an  $r$ -permutation of  $n$  objects?

## Permutations; General

What if you have  $n$  objects, but only want to permute  $r$  of them?

How many 3-character strings can we make if each character is a distinct letter from the English alphabet?

**A:** There are 24 that start with  $\{AB\}$ . There are 25 letters (including  $B$ ) that could have followed an  $A$ . There are 26 options to start with. That multiplies to  $26 \cdot 25 \cdot 24$ .

What is the general form for an  $r$ -permutation of  $n$  objects?

**A:**  $P(n, r) = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!}$

This should feel a lot like **sampling without replacement**.. because it is, only without probabilities.

## Combinations

Counting *combinations* means counting the number of ways an object can be sliced into subsets. The big difference: **order doesn't matter**.

How many 3-character *combinations* can we make if each character is a distinct letter from the English alphabet?



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Start with the number of permutations:  $P(n, r) = 26 \cdot 25 \cdot 24$ , then ask how many times we "overcounted," because now we don't want subsets with the same elements.

**Ex:** How many times did we include a subset with  $\{A, B, C\}$ ?

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**Ex:** How many times did we include a subset with  $\{A, B, C\}$ ?

Our permutation set had  $\{ABC\}, \{ACB\}, \{BAC\}, \{BCA\}, \{CBA\}$ , and  $\{CAB\}$  as distinct... or all 6 orderings of those 3 elements! So:

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

## Combinations; Example

Combinations often use a variety of notations, including

$$C(n, r) = \binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!r!} := \text{"n choose k"}$$

**Example:** If there are 10 problems on an exam, and you need 7 correct to pass, how many different ways are there to pass?

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Combinations often use a variety of notations, including

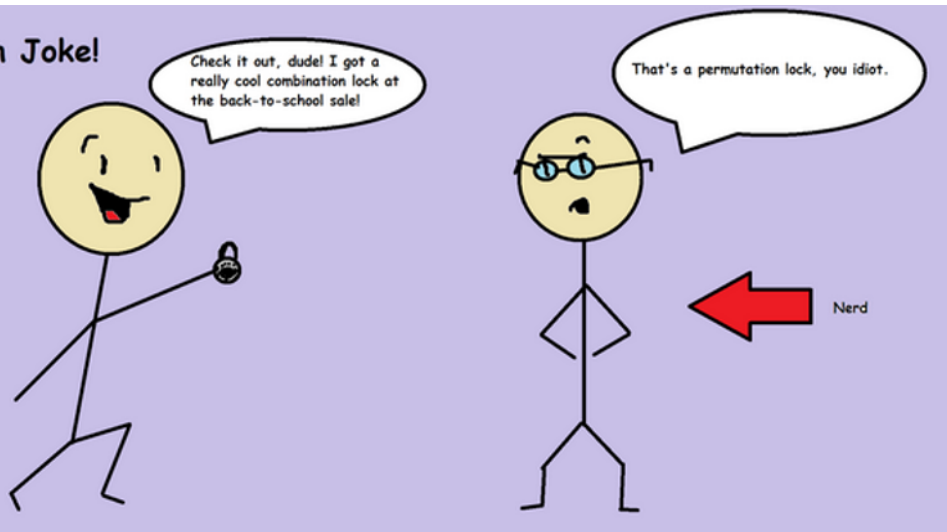
$$C(n, r) = \binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!r!} := \text{"n choose k"}$$

**Example:** If there are 10 problems on an exam, and you need 7 correct to pass, how many different ways are there to pass?

**Answer:**  $C(10, 7) + C(10, 8) + C(10, 9) + C(10, 10)$

## Perms and Combs; Summary

### Cheesy Math Joke!



# Binomials

Exponents are useful, and pretty common: a lot of both data science and computational problems often involve solutions that look like polynomials. For example, let's consider:

1. Expand  $(x + y)^1$

2. Expand  $(x + y)^2$

3. Expand  $(x + y)^3$

4. Expand  $(x + y)^4$

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**Solution:**  $(x + y)^1 = x + y$

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**Solution:**  $(x + y)^2 = x^2 + 2xy + y^2$

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**Solution:**  $(x + y)^3 = (x + y)(x^2 + 2xy + y^2) = x^3 + 3x^2y + 3xy^2 + 1$

4. Expand  $(x + y)^4$

**Solution:**  $(x + y)^4 = (x + y)(x^3 + 3x^2y + 3xy^2 + 1) = x^4 + 4x^3y + 6x^2y^2 + 4xy^3 + 1$

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What are some patterns? It's definitely symmetric - the coefficients are palindromic - and it seems to always start with 1 and then  $n$  (the power)



## Binomials

One way to think about a binomial (two term) expansion is using "choose." Think about foiling:

$$(x_0 + x_1)(a + b) = \underbrace{ax_0}_{\text{first}} + \underbrace{bx_0}_{\text{outer}} + \underbrace{ax_1}_{\text{inner}} + \underbrace{bx_1}_{\text{last}}$$

There are 4 terms, but these are the same 4 terms as we would get from a multiplication rule: "choose" one of the first 2 terms and "choose" one of the second 2 terms for  $2 \cdot 2$  total.

For our problem, we have to worry about repeating terms, though! If we think about:

$$(x + y)^4 = (x + y)(x + y)(x + y)(x + y)$$

it's making 4 choices: "choose  $x$  or  $y$ ," then "choose  $x$  or  $y$ ," then "choose  $x$  or  $y$ ," then "choose  $x$  or  $y$ ." The coefficient of the  $x^2y^2$  term is the number of ways we could "choose  $x$  or  $y$ " 4 times and end up with 2  $x$ 's and 2  $y$ 's.

## Binomials, Cont'd

So we're expanding

$$\begin{aligned}(x + y)^4 &= (x + y)(x + y)(x + y)(x + y) \\ &= (x + y)(x^3 + 3x^2y + 3xy^2 + 1) \\ &= x^4 + 4x^3y + 6x^2y^2 + 4xy^3 + 1\end{aligned}$$

and the coefficient of the  $x^2y^2$  term is the number of ways we could “choose  $x$  or  $y$ ” 4 times and end up with 2  $x$ 's and 2  $y$ 's.

Let's check. We're looking for all of the ways you could get e.g.  $xxyy$ ,  $yyxx$ ,  $xyyx$ , etc. This is the same as asking for the number of ways to choose 2 of the 4 “slots” to be  $x$  or choosing 2 of the 4 slots to be  $y$ , or  $C(4, 2) = \frac{4!}{2!}$ .

# Binomial Theorem

**Theorem:** Let  $x$  and  $y$  be variables and  $n$  be a non-negative integer. Then

$$(x + y)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n C(n, k)x^{n-k}y^k = C(n, 0)x^ny^0 + C(n, 1)x^{n-1}y^1 + \cdots + C(n, n)x^0y^n$$

In other words,  $C(n, k)$  is the coefficient of  $x^ky^{n-k}$  and  $x^{n-k}y^k$ . We usually write the  $C$  numbers in choose notation:

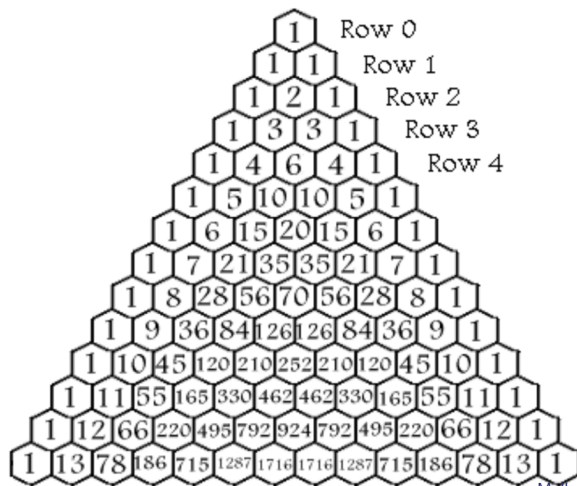
$$(x + y)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^{n-k}y^k = \binom{n}{0}x^ny^0 + \binom{n}{1}x^{n-1}y^1 + \cdots + \binom{n}{n}x^0y^n$$

## Pascal's Triangle

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# The Binomial

**Example:** A fair Bernoulli coin is tossed eight times. A "successful toss" is defined to be the coin landing on heads.

Let  $X = \#$  of successes or heads in 8 tosses.

1. How many ways in  $\Omega$  can  $X = 3$ ?
2. What is  $P(X = 3)$  for each *one* of those ways?
3. What is  $P(X = 3)$ ?

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Let  $X = \#$  of successes or heads in 8 tosses.

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$$C(8, 3) \text{ OR } C(8, 5)$$

2. What is  $P(X = 3)$  for each *one* of those ways?

One such way is  $\{HHHTTTTT\}$  which has probability  $P(\{H\})^3 \cdot P(\{T\})^5$ .

3. What is  $P(X = 3)$ ? The product of these two things!

## The Binomial

Lets generalize those ideas to derive the Binomial pdf for  $n$  trials of an underlying  $\text{Bern}(p)$ .

Let  $X :=$  the number of successes of  $n$  trials of a  $\text{Bern}(p)$ . Then:

NOTATION: We write \_\_\_\_\_ to indicate that  $X$  is a Binomial rv with success probability  $p$  and  $n$  trials.



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$$P(X = i) = (\# \text{ of ways that } X = i) \cdot P(\text{of one such outcome})$$

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$$P(X = i) = \binom{n}{i} \cdot P(n \text{ successes}) \cdot P(n - i \text{ failures}).$$

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

$$f(x) = P(X = x) = \binom{n}{x} p^x (1 - p)^{(n-x)}; \quad x \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n\}$$

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# The Binomial

The Binomial r.v. counts the total number of successes out of  $n$  trials, where  $X$  is the number of successes.

Important Assumptions:

1. Each trial must be *independent* of the previous experiment.
2. The probability of success must be *identical* for each trial.

The binomial is often defined and derived as the sum of  $n$  *independent, identically distributed* Bernoulli random variables.

In practice, any time we try to study a proportion on an underlying population, we gather a smaller sample where the observed proportion can often be thought of as a binomial random variable.

# Daily Recap

Today we learned

1. pdfs and cdfs!

Moving forward:

- nb day Friday!
- Tuesday: HW 2

Next time in lecture:

- More common pdfs names!