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TAM 598

Lecture 5 :

# COLLECTIONS OF RANDOM VARIABLES

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Announcements:

- HW 1 covers lectures 1-4 ; due on Feb 12
- to be submitted via CANVAS

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## Joint Probability Mass Function

consider two discrete random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ . The joint probability mass function  $f_{XY}(x,y)$  gives us the probability that  $X = x$  and  $Y = y$ .

$$\underline{p(x,y)} = p(X=x, Y=y) = \underline{f_{XY}(x,y)} := p(\{\omega : X(\omega) = x, Y(\omega) = y\})$$

properties of  $p(x,y)$ :

① non-negative  $p(x,y) \geq 0$

② normalized  $\sum_x \sum_y p(x,y) = 1$

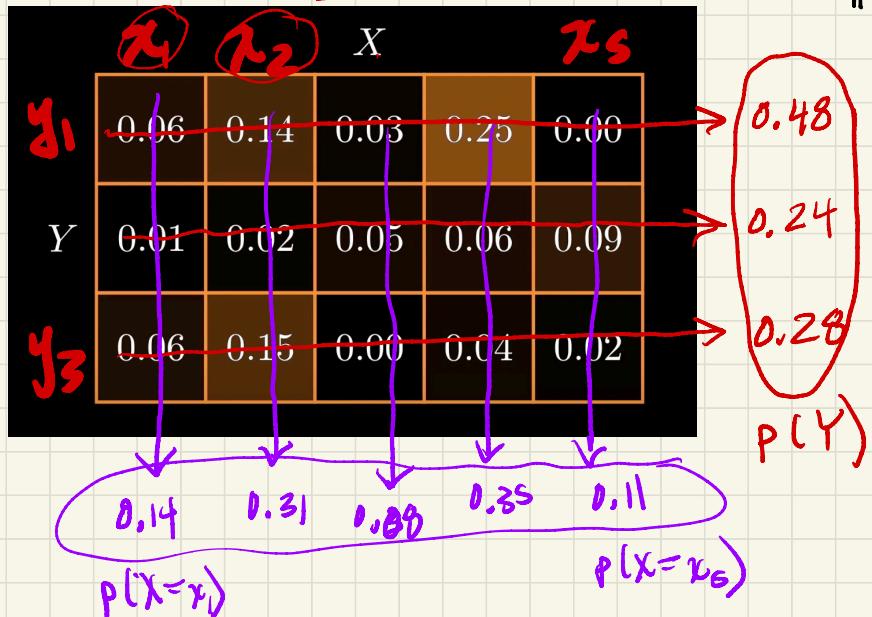
③ marginalization: if you marginalize out one of the random variables, you get the other's pmf

$$\underline{p(x)} = \sum_y p(x,y)$$

$$\underline{p(y)} = \sum_x p(x,y)$$

MARGINALIZATION : a marginal distribution contains a subset of variables

e.g) pmf of  $\underline{X, Y}$



"What is the distribution I would get for  $X$  if I ignored  $Y$"$

for  $p(x,y)$ , two marginals are available:  $p(X), p(Y)$

$$p(Y) = \sum_x p(x,y)$$

$$p(X) = \sum_y p(x,y)$$

## JOINT PROBABILITY DENSITY FUNCTION

- ④ applies now to two continuous random variables  $X, Y$
- ⑤  $f_{XY}(x,y)$  is the function that yields the probability that  $(X,Y)$  belong to any Borel subset  $A$  of  $\mathbb{R}^2$

$$P((X,Y) \in A) = \iint_A f_{XY}(x,y) dx dy$$

*or  $p(x,y)$*

- ⑥  $f_{XY}(x,y)$  is also non-negative and normalized. And, we can again marginalize out one variable at a time:

$$p(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p(x,y) dy$$

$$p(y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p(x,y) dx$$

## CONDITIONING A RANDOM VARIABLE ON ANOTHER $p(x|y)$

① a conditional distribution fixes a subset of variables. "What distribution would I get for  $X$  if I set  $Y = y$ ?"

② for both discrete and continuous, divide the joint by the marginal.

$$p(A|B) = \frac{p(A, B)}{p(B)}$$

let  $A = (X = x)$  }  
 $B = (Y = y)$  }

$A, B$  are logical sentences.  
This is just the product rule from Lecture 2.

\*  $p(x|y) = \frac{p(x, y)}{p(y)}$

③ we can also say

$$p(x|y) = \frac{p(x, y)}{\int p(x', y) dx'}$$

\* Knowing the joint pdf, can find any conditional

eg) pmf of  $X, Y$

		X				
		0.06	0.14	0.03	0.25	0.00
Y		0.01	0.02	0.05	0.06	0.09
		0.06	0.15	0.00	0.04	0.02
		0.06	0.14	0.03	0.25	0.00

say we want  $P(X | Y = y_2)$

0.24  
 $P(Y = y_2)$

$$X \xrightarrow{0.24} \frac{1}{0.24} \quad \frac{1}{0.24} \quad \frac{1}{0.24} \quad \frac{1}{0.24} \quad \frac{1}{0.24}$$

0.05	0.10	0.21	0.25	0.39
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$$\rightarrow P(X | Y = y_2)$$

$$P(x_i | y_2)$$

## EXPECTATION OF TWO RANDOM VARIABLES

let  $\underline{X, Y}$  be two random variables. Let  $\underline{Z = g(X, Y)}$  be a third random variable. Then the expectation of  $Z$  is

$$E[Z] = E[g(X, Y)]$$

$$= \iint_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x, y) p(x, y) dx dy$$

if  $Z = X + Y$

$$\underline{E[X+Y] = E[X] + E[Y]}$$



## INDEPENDENCE, DEPENDENCE, COVARIANCE, AND CORRELATION

- ① Two random variables  $X, Y$  are **independent** if they don't influence each other. Knowing  $X = x$  conveys no info about  $Y$
- ② Independence means that the joint probability distribution factorizes

$$P(X, Y) = P(X) P(Y)$$

we write

$$X \perp Y$$

This also implies that the two conditionals are equal to their marginals:

$$P(x|Y) = P(x) \quad \text{and} \quad P(Y|x) = P(Y)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & P(x|y) \\ &= P(x+y) \\ &\quad P(y) \\ &= \frac{P(x)P(y)}{P(y)} \\ &= P(x) \end{aligned}$$

- ③ Independence also tells us that the expectation of  $X Y$  also factorizes

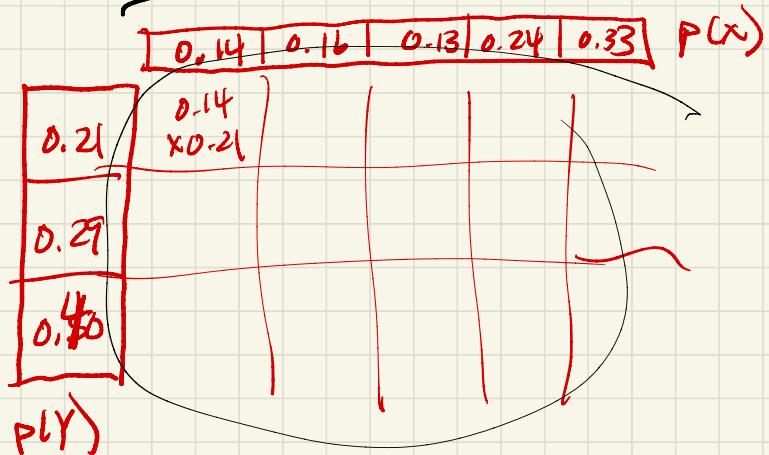
$$\underline{E[XY] = E[X]E[Y]}$$

Example:  $p(x, Y)$  pmf

If independent, only need 3 variables  
to obtain the full matrix

		X				
		0.03	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.07
Y		0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.10
		0.07	0.08	0.06	0.12	0.16

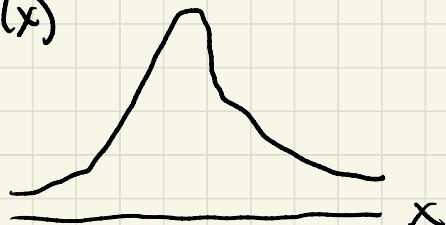
3x5 matrix,  
elements that sum to 1



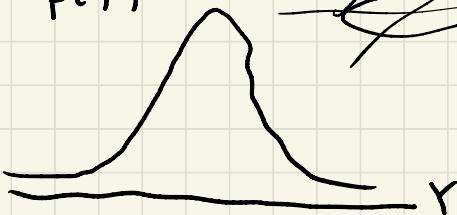
this is a "rank 1" matrix

Example: two independent continuous RVs.

$p(x)$

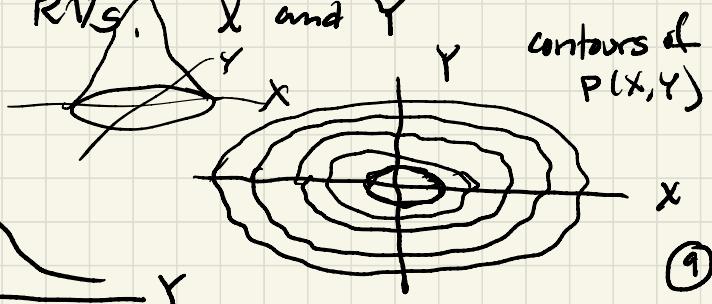


$p(Y)$



$X$  and  $Y$

contours of  
 $p(X, Y)$



①

conditional independence: R.V.s X and Y are conditionally independent given Z if

$$p(X, Y | Z = z) = p(X | Z = z) p(Y | Z = z)$$

for all  $Z = z$ .

example: customers buy umbrellas at a store

$B_i$  = event that customer  $i$  buys an umbrella  $i=1, 2, \dots$

$R$  = event that it is raining today

say  $p(B_i|R) = 0.7$

$$p(B_i|\neg R) = 0.1$$

$$p(R) = 0.25$$

}

marginalize:

$$\begin{aligned} p(B_i) &= p(B_i|R)p(R) + p(B_i|\neg R)p(\neg R) \\ &= (0.7)(0.25) + (0.1)(0.75) \\ &= \underline{\underline{0.25}} \end{aligned}$$

consider the joint probability  $p(B_1, B_2)$

$$\begin{aligned} p(B_1, B_2) &= p(B_1, B_2, R) + p(B_1, B_2, \neg R) && \text{marginalization} \\ &= p(B_1, B_2|R)p(R) + p(B_1, B_2|\neg R)p(\neg R) && \text{sum rule} \\ &= p(B_1|R)p(B_2|R)p(R) + p(B_1|\neg R)p(B_2|\neg R)p(\neg R) \\ &= (0.7)(0.7)(0.25) + (0.1)(0.1)(0.75) && = \underline{\underline{0.13}} \end{aligned}$$

used  $B_1|R$   
and  $B_2|R$   
are independent

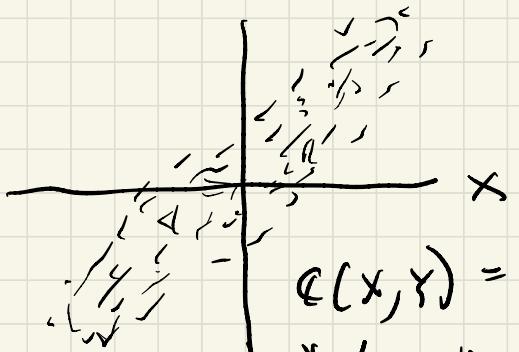
Note:  $p(B_1, B_2) \neq p(B_1)p(B_2) = (0.25)^2$

Look at some statistical relationships related to dependence, independence

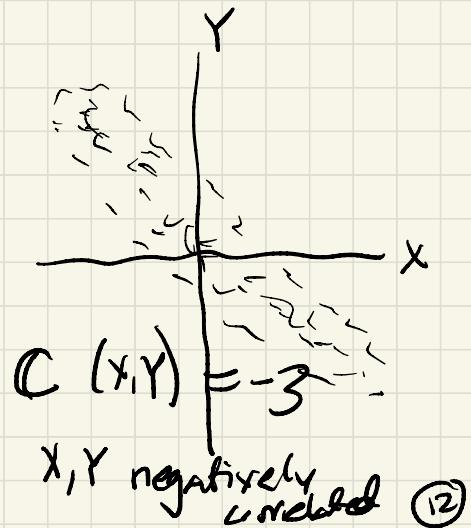
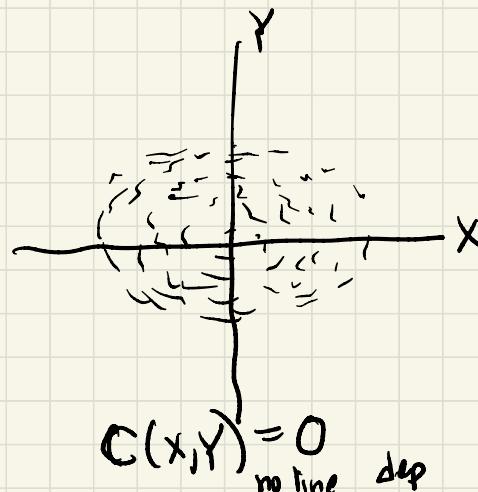
the COVARIANCE OPERATOR measures linear dependence between two R.V.s

$$\begin{aligned} C[X, Y] &= E[(X - E[X])(Y - E[Y])] \\ &= E[XY - \underline{X E[Y]} - \underline{Y E[X]} + \underline{E[X]E[Y]}] \\ &= \underline{E[XY]} - \underline{E[X]E[Y]} \end{aligned}$$

example:  $y$

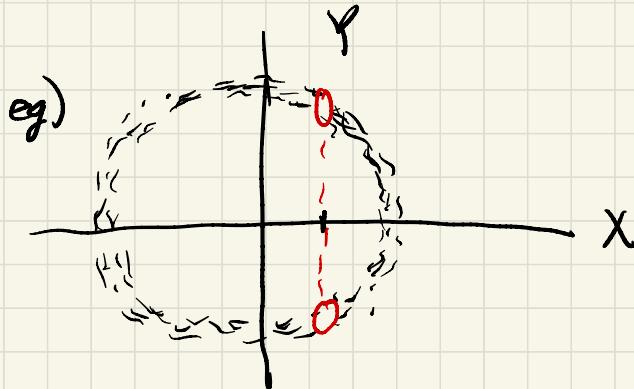


$X, Y$  positively correlated



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be aware: covariance only captures linear dependence. Just because  $C(X, Y) = 0$  does not mean that  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent



① Knowing  $X$  gives info about  $Y$  and v.v  $\Rightarrow$  not independent

② but  $C(X, Y) = 0$  because the dependence is not linear

properties of covariance:

① symmetric  $C(X, Y) = C(Y, X)$

② linear  $C(aX + bY, Z) = aC(X, Z) + bC(Y, Z)$

③ relationship to variance

$$V(X+Y) = V(X) + V(Y) + 2C(X, Y)$$

① relationship to variance

$$\mathbb{V}[X+Y] = \mathbb{V}[X] + \mathbb{V}[Y] + 2C(X,Y)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{pf: } \mathbb{V}[X+Y] &= \mathbb{E}[(X+Y) - \mathbb{E}(X+Y)]^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}[(X+Y - \mathbb{E}[X] - \mathbb{E}[Y])^2] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[\underbrace{(X-\mathbb{E}[X])^2}_{+ 2 \underbrace{\mathbb{E}[(X-\mathbb{E}[X])(Y-\mathbb{E}[Y])]}_{}} + \underbrace{(Y-\mathbb{E}[Y])^2}_{}] \\ &= \mathbb{V}[X] + \mathbb{V}[Y] + 2C(X,Y) \end{aligned}$$

## The PEARSON CORRELATION COEFFICIENT:

- ① covariance is sensitive to units, and it's generally unknown what range it can take
- ② correlation coefficient addresses this problem by normalizing the covariance by each of the std deviations

$$\text{corr}(X, Y) = \rho_{x,y} = \frac{C(X, Y)}{\sqrt{V[X]V[Y]}}$$

$$\text{corr}(x, y) \in [-1, 1]$$

i.e.) define new RV's

$$X' = \frac{X}{\sqrt{V[X]}} \quad \text{and} \quad Y' = \frac{Y}{\sqrt{V[Y]}}$$

$$\text{corr}(X, Y) = \rho_{x,y} = C[X', Y']$$

correlation  
is  
scale  
free