

# Making Probabilistic Statements

Using Univariate and Joint Distributions



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://fivethirtyeight.com/features/when-we-say-70-percent-it-really-means-70-percent/

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## FiveThirtyEight

Politics Sports Science & Health Economics Culture

APR. 4, 2019, AT 5:16 PM

### When We Say 70 Percent, It Really Means 70 Percent

By Nate Silver

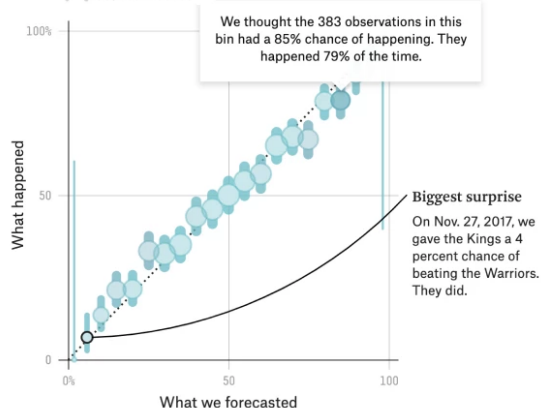
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### NBA games calibration

The chance that FiveThirtyEight's forecast gave each team of winning each game on the day it was played vs. how often they actually won, 2015-16 through 2017-18

Key 60 ○ 500 observations  
95% confidence



A probabilistic statement



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## Probabilistic Statements – Bernoulli Distribution

Mathematically Precise Statements

$$X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(\theta = 90\%)$$

What values of  $X$  are possible?

What is the probability  $X = 0$ ?

What is the probability  $X = 0.9$ ?

What is the probability  $X \leq 1$ ?



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## Probabilistic Statements – Bernoulli Distribution

Estimates From **Representative Sample**

Majority of Our Work Is Making  
Statements from Representative Samples

Trial #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Outcome	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1

What is the  
probability  $X = 0$ ?

What is the  
probability  $X = 0.9$ ?

What is the  
probability  $X \leq 0.9$ ?



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## Making Probabilistic Statements About Distributions With Known CDF's Cumulative Distribution Functions (CDF)

*CDF notation:*

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



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Assuming:  $X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(\theta = 0.8)$

Bernoulli Distribution CDF

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x < 0 \\ 1 - \theta & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } x \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

*CDF notation:*  
 $F(x) = P(X \leq x)$

What is the  
probability  $X \leq 0.9$ ?



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## Making Probabilistic Statements About Distributions With Known CDF's

$X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(\theta = 0.8)$

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x < 0 \\ 1 - \theta & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } x \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

*CDF notation:*  
 $F(x) = P(X \leq x)$

What is the  
probability  $X \leq 0.9$ ?

$$P(X \leq 0.9) = F(0.9) = 1 - \theta = 0.1 = 10\%$$



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## Making Probabilistic Statements About Distributions With Fancy Names

$X \sim \text{Fleischhacker}$   $\leftarrow$  Zero-Parameter Distribution

CDF notation:  
 $F(x) = P(X \leq x)$

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x < 0 \\ 3x^2 - 2x^3 & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } x \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

What is the  
probability  $X \leq 7$ ?

What is the  
probability  $X \leq \frac{1}{2}$ ?



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## Making Probabilistic Statements About Distributions With Fancy Names

$X \sim \text{Fleischhacker}$

CDF notation:  
 $F(x) = P(X \leq x)$

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x < 0 \\ 3x^2 - 2x^3 & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } x \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

What is the  
probability  $X \leq \frac{1}{2}$ ?

$$P\left(X \leq \frac{1}{2}\right) = F\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 3 \times \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 - 2 \times \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 = \frac{3}{4} - \frac{2}{8} = \frac{1}{2} = 50\%$$



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## Using R's CDF Functions

$$F(x) = \text{pfoo}$$

foo is called a placeholder name in computer programming. The word foo itself is meaningless, but you will substitute more meaningful words in its place. In the examples here, foo will be replaced by an abbreviated probability distribution name like binom or norm.

$$X \sim \text{Normal}(\mu = 30, \sigma = 10)$$

What is the probability  $X \leq 14$ ?

`pnorm(q = 14, mean = 30, sd = 10)`



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## Using R's CDF Functions

$$X \sim \text{Normal}(\mu = 30, \sigma = 10)$$

argument for  $x$   
(i.e. **q**uantile)

What is the probability  $X \leq 14$ ?

`pnorm(q = 14, mean = 30, sd = 10)`

foo replacement

parameters for the distribution  
(note: mathematicians love Greek letters, but R does not always use the same notation.  
 $\mu = \text{mean}$  &  $\sigma = \text{sd}$  )



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## Your turn to use R

The number of **months** the average Amazon warehouse employee works until they quit or get fired follows a Weibull distribution with shape parameter 1 (i.e.  $\alpha = 1$ ) and scale parameter equal to 10 (i.e.  $\beta = 10$ ).

pfoo

**Question 1:** What is the probability that a worker is employed with Amazon for less than one **year**?

**Question 2:** What is the probability that a worker is employed for **more than 6 months**?



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## Probabilistic Statements – Weibull Distribution

Estimates From Representative Sample

Obs #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Outcome	13.71	41.24	7.15	7.64	15.98	42.64	9.07	7.08

What is the probability  $X \leq 12$ ?

What is the probability  $12 \leq X \leq 24$ ?



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*If Time and Energy Permit:*

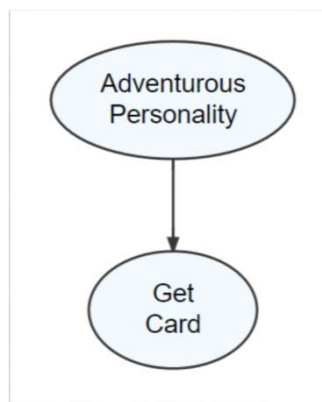
## Making Probabilistic Statements

Using Joint Distributions




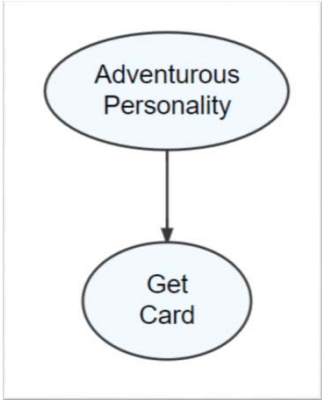
### Joint Distributions

Making probabilistic statements over sets of random variables.






The Business Story



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The Business Story

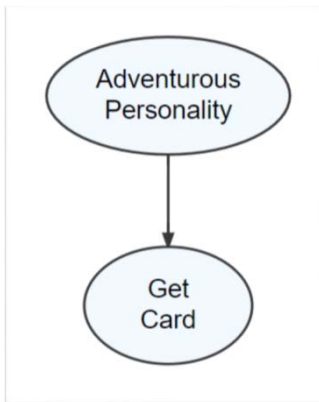


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### The DAG

Making The Math Story

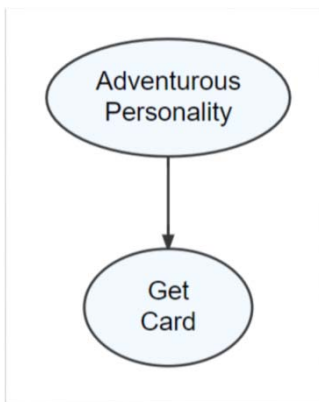


$$Y \equiv \begin{cases} 1, & \text{Customer Owns Car Model \#1} \\ 2, & \text{Customer Owns Car Model \#2} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ K, & \text{Customer Owns Car Model \#K} \end{cases}$$

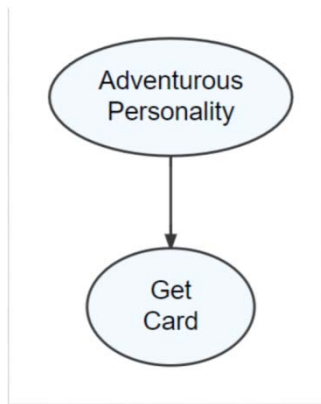
$$X \equiv \begin{cases} 0, & \text{customer does not get card} \\ 1, & \text{customer gets the card} \end{cases}$$

### The DAG

Joint Distributions Are The Gold  
Standard of Data Analysis



$X$	$Y$	$P(X, Y)$
<i>no</i>	car model 1	??
<i>no</i>	car model 2	??
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
<i>no</i>	car model $K$	??
<i>yes</i>	car model 1	??
<i>yes</i>	car model 2	??
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
<i>yes</i>	car model $K$	??



### Joint Distribution

$x$	$y$	$P(x, y)$
0	Toyota Corolla	50%
0	Jeep Wrangler	5%
0	Subaru Outback	5%
0	Kia Forte	4%
1	Toyota Corolla	10%
1	Jeep Wrangler	15%
1	Subaru Outback	10%
1	Kia Forte	1%

### Joint Distribution

plug in values, get a probability

$x$	$y$	$P(x, y)$
0	Toyota Corolla	50%
0	Jeep Wrangler	5%
0	Subaru Outback	5%
0	Kia Forte	4%
1	Toyota Corolla	10%
1	Jeep Wrangler	15%
1	Subaru Outback	10%
1	Kia Forte	1%

**What is the probability that a potential customer drives a Jeep Wrangler and gets the card?**

## Joint Distribution

marginal distribuiton

$x$	$y$	$P(x, y)$
0	Toyota Corolla	50%
0	Jeep Wrangler	5%
0	Subaru Outback	5%
0	Kia Forte	4%
1	Toyota Corolla	10%
1	Jeep Wrangler	15%
1	Subaru Outback	10%
1	Kia Forte	1%

**What is the probability that a potential customer drives a Jeep Wrangler?**

## Joint Distribution

marginal distribuiton

$x$	$y$	$P(x, y)$
0	Toyota Corolla	50%
0	Jeep Wrangler	5%
0	Subaru Outback	5%
0	Kia Forte	4%
1	Toyota Corolla	10%
1	Jeep Wrangler	15%
1	Subaru Outback	10%
1	Kia Forte	1%

$$P(Y) = \sum_{x \in X} P(X = x, Y = y)$$

**What is the probability that a potential customer drives a Jeep Wrangler?**

$x$	$y$	$P(x, y)$
0	Toyota Corolla	50%
0	Jeep Wrangler	5%
0	Subaru Outback	5%
0	Kia Forte	4%
1	Toyota Corolla	10%
1	Jeep Wrangler	15%
1	Subaru Outback	10%
1	Kia Forte	1%

**Joint Distribution**  
marginal distribution

What is the probability that a potential customer drives a Jeep Wrangler?

$$P(Y) = \sum_{x \in X} P(X = x, Y = y)$$

$$P(Y = Jeep) = \sum_{x \in X} P(X = x, Y = Jeep)$$

$$= P(X = 0, Y = Jeep) + P(X = 1, Y = Jeep)$$

$$= 5\% + 15\%$$

$$= 20\%$$

$x$	$y$	$P(x, y)$
0	Toyota Corolla	50%
0	Jeep Wrangler	5%
0	Subaru Outback	5%
0	Kia Forte	4%
1	Toyota Corolla	10%
1	Jeep Wrangler	15%
1	Subaru Outback	10%
1	Kia Forte	1%

**Joint Distribution**  
conditional distribution

What is the probability that a potential customer gets the card given that they drive a Jeep Wrangler?

**Joint Distribution**

conditional distribution

$x$	$y$	$P(x, y)$
0	Toyota Corolla	50%
0	Jeep Wrangler	5%
0	Subaru Outback	5%
0	Kia Forte	4%
1	Toyota Corolla	10%
1	Jeep Wrangler	15%
1	Subaru Outback	10%
1	Kia Forte	1%

$$P(X|Y) = \frac{P(X, Y)}{P(Y)}$$

**What is the probability that a potential customer gets the card given that they drive a Jeep Wrangler?**

$x$	$y$	$P(x, y)$
0	Toyota Corolla	50%
0	Jeep Wrangler	5%
0	Subaru Outback	5%
0	Kia Forte	4%
1	Toyota Corolla	10%
1	Jeep Wrangler	15%
1	Subaru Outback	
1	Kia Forte	

**What is the probability that a potential customer gets the card given that they drive a Jeep Wrangler?**

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(X|Y) &= \frac{P(X, Y)}{P(Y)} \\
 P(X = 1|Y = \text{Jeep}) &= \frac{P(X = 1, Y = \text{Jeep})}{P(Y = \text{Jeep})} \\
 &= \frac{15\%}{P(X = 0, Y = \text{Jeep}) + P(X = 1, Y = \text{Jeep})} \\
 &= \frac{15\%}{5\% + 15\%} = \frac{15\%}{20\%} = 75\%
 \end{aligned}$$

$x$	$y$	<i>Count of Instances From Representative Sample</i>
0	Toyota Corolla	312
0	Jeep Wrangler	5
0	Subaru Outback	10
0	Kia Forte	20
1	Toyota Corolla	167
1	Jeep Wrangler	45
1	Subaru Outback	5
1	Kia Forte	5

### Representative Sample Joint Distribution

What is the probability that  
a potential customer gets  
the card given that they  
drive a Jeep Wrangler?

### Class Exercise