

# 1 PMFs and CDFs

1. To get  $X = k + 1$ , we need no matches among  $k$  people and then a match with the  $(k + 1)$ st person, so  $P(X = k + 1) = \frac{365}{365} \frac{364}{365} \cdots \frac{365-k+1}{365} \frac{k}{365}$ .
2. (a) To get  $X = k + 1$ , we need  $k$  failures and one success, so  $P(X = k + 1) = \frac{1}{2^{k+1}}$ .  
 (b) The first trial is success or failure with equal probability. After the first trial, the situation is the same as the previous problem, so  $P(X = k + 2) = \frac{1}{2^{k+1}}$ .
3.  $P(Y \leq y) = P(\mu + \sigma X \leq y) = P(X \leq \frac{y-\mu}{\sigma}) = F(\frac{y-\mu}{\sigma})$ .
4. The floor function is increasing and right-continuous, so  $F$  has the same properties.  $F(x) = 0$  for  $x \leq 0$  and  $F(x) = 1$  for  $x \geq n$ , so  $F$  also has the correct limiting behavior. The corresponding PMF is  $f(x) = \frac{1}{n}$  if  $x \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ .
5. (a) This can be realized as the PMF of the random variable  $X$  defined as the number of heads before the first tail if we flip a coin until we see heads.  
 (b)  $F(X \leq k) = \sum_{i=0}^k \frac{1}{2^{i+1}} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1-5^{k+1}}{.5}$
6. Since  $1 + 1/j$  is greater than 1, then  $\log(1 + 1/j)$  is positive. Adding these all together gives  $\log(2/1 * 3/2 * \cdots * 10/9) = \log(10) = 1$ .
7. To reach level  $j$  as the highest, Bob must reach levels  $1, \dots, j$  and not  $j + 1$  (if it exists).  $P(X = j) = p_1 \cdots p_{j-1}(1 - p_j)$  for  $1 \leq j \leq 6$  and  $P(X = 7) = p_1 \cdots p_6$ .
8. The most valuable prize is the max of the five chosen. Then  $P(X = j) = \frac{\binom{j-1}{4}}{\binom{100}{5}}$ .
9. (a) Right-continuity and increasing follow from the corresponding facts for  $F_1$  and  $F_2$ . The limiting behavior follows because  $F_1, F_2 \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow -\infty} 0$ ,  $F_1, F_2 \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow \infty} 1$  and  $p + (1 - p) = 1$ .  
 (b) Let  $X$  be the random variable described in the problem. Then  $P(X \leq x) = P(X \leq x|H)P(H) + P(X \leq x|T)P(T) = pF_1(x) + (1 - p)F_2(x)$ .
10. (a) No, since the sum  $\sum_{i \geq 1} \frac{1}{i}$  diverges, there is no constant we could multiply by to rescale the total probability to be 1.  
 (b) Yes, since the sum of the inverse squares is finite,  $\sum_{i \geq 1} \frac{1}{n^2} \leq 1 + \int_1^\infty \frac{1}{x^2} dx = 1 - \frac{1}{x} \Big|_1^\infty = 2$ .
11. If  $x$  is not an integer, then  $P(X < x) = P(X \leq x)$ . If  $x$  is an integer, then  $P(X < x) = P(X \leq x) - P(X = x)$ .
12. (a) If  $X < Y$  are constants (i.e.  $X = x$  and  $Y = y$  with probability 1), then the same inequality holds for their CDFs.  
 (b) It is impossible due to the summation condition, since then the probabilities for  $X$  will not sum to 1.

13.  $P(X = a) = \sum_z P(X = a|Z = z)P(Z = z) = \sum_z P(Y = a|Z = z)P(Z = z) = P(Y = a)$ .
14. (a)  $P(X \geq 1) = 1 - P(X = 0) = 1 - e^{-\lambda}$ .  $P(X \geq 2) = 1 - P(X = 1) - P(X = 0) = 1 - e^{-\lambda}\lambda - e^{-\lambda}$ .
- (b)  $P(X = k|X \geq 1) = P(X = k)/P(X \geq 1) = (e^{-\lambda}\lambda^k/k!)/(1 - e^{-\lambda})$

## 2 Named distributions

15. The CDF is  $F(x) = \frac{\lfloor x \rfloor}{n}$  for  $0 \leq x \leq n$ , 0 for  $x \leq 0$  and 1 for  $x \geq n$ .
16.  $P(X = x|X \in B) = 0$  if  $x \notin B$  and  $\frac{1}{|B|}$  if  $x \in B$ .
17. There must be at least 10 people who don't show up, so  $\sum_{i=10}^{110} \binom{110}{i}(1-p)^i p^{110-i}$ .
18. (a)  $A$  must win at least four games, so  $\sum_{i=4}^7 \binom{7}{i} p^i (1-p)^{7-i}$ .
- (b) It does not matter, since if a team wins 4 games, then no matter what the remaining games result in, that team has already one. (This is why we can compute the probability as in the previous problem.)
19. Let  $X$  be the number of drawn games. Then  $X$  is distributed as  $\text{Bin}(n, .6)$  so the PMF is  $P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} .6^k .4^{n-k}$ .
20. (a) The number of winning tickets is distributed as  $\text{Bin}(3, p)$ .
- (b) The probability of at least one ticket winning is probability of each ticket winning, minus probability of two tickets winning, plus probability of three tickets winning  $3p - 3p^2 + p^3$ .
- The probability of at least one winning ticket is 1 minus the probability of no ticket winning, so  $1 - (1 - p)^3 = 1 - (1 - 3p + 3p^2 - p^3) = 3p - 3p^2 + p^3$ .
- (c) If  $p$  is small, then  $p^2, p^3 \approx 0$ , so the probability of having at least one winning ticket is  $\approx 3p$ .
21.  $X - Y$  can have negative values, so it is not binomial.
22. (a)  $P(X = k) = P(X = k|C_1)P(C_1) + P(X = k|C_2)P(C_2) = \frac{1}{2} \binom{n}{k} (p_1^k (1 - p_1)^{n-k} + p_2^k (1 - p_2)^{n-k})$ .
- (b) If  $p_1 = p_2$ , then the above reduces to  $\binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$ .
- (c) When  $n$  is very large, there will be two distinct "local maxima" of the PMF of  $X$ , whereas a binomial distribution would only have one maximum probability at  $\frac{n}{2}$ .
23. Let  $I_j$  be the indicator of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  person voting for Kodos,  $V_j$  be the indicator of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  person voting,  $R_j$  be the indicator of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  person registering, and  $X = \sum_j I_j$ . Then  $P(I_j = 1) = P(I_j = 1|V_j = 1)P(V_j = 1) = p_3 P(V_j = 1|R_j = 1)P(R_j = 1) = p_3 p_2 p_1$ . We have simplifications in each case since if a person does not vote, then they

cannot vote for Kodos and if a person does not register, then they cannot vote. Thus  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p_1 p_2 p_3)$ .

24. (a) Let  $Y$  be the number of heads in 8 fair coin tosses. Then  $P(X = k|HH) = P(Y = k - 2)$ .  
 (b) Let  $H_2$  be at least two heads.  $P(X = k) = P(X = k|H_2)P(H_2) + P(X = k|H_2^c)P(H_2^c)$ . If  $k \geq 2$ , then  $P(X = k|H_2^c) = 0$  so  $p(X = k|H_2) = P(X = k)/P(H_2)$ .  $P(H_2) = 1 - \frac{11}{2^{10}}$ . Else, if  $k \leq 1$ , then  $P(X = k|H_2) = 0$ .
25. (a)  $X$  and  $n - X$  are identically distributed and  $Y$  and  $n + 1 - Y$  are identically distributed. Thus the two probabilities are equal.  
 (b)  $P(X < Y) = P(X + 1 > Y) = P(X \geq Y)$ . Furthermore,  $P(X < Y) + P(X \geq Y) = 1$  since  $X < Y$  and  $X \geq Y$  are disjoint and exhaustive. Thus  $P(X < Y) = \frac{1}{2}$ .
26. From the story proof,  $n - X$  is the number of black balls, so  $n - X$  is distributed as  $\text{HGeom}(b, w, n)$ .
27. If  $I_j$  is the indicator variable of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  card being in the correct position, then it is Bernoulli with probability  $\frac{1}{n}$ . However, the  $I_j$  are not independent, so  $X$  is not Binomial.  $X$  is also not hypergeometric, for example it is impossible to have  $X = n - 1$  while it is possible to have  $X + n - 2$  or  $X = n$ .
28. Let  $H$  be the number of hatches. Then  $H \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$ . Let  $S$  be number of survives and  $I_j$  the indicator of whether the  $j^{\text{th}}$  chick survives (so  $S = \sum_j I_j$ ). Then  $P(I_j = 1) = P(I_j = 1|H_j = 1)P(H_j) = pr$ . Thus  $S \sim \text{Bin}(n, pr)$ .
29. Given a fixed number of successes  $k$ , the probability of any outcome with  $k$  successes is  $p^k q^{n-k}$ . Then  $P(\text{outcome}|ksuccesses) = P(ksuccesses, \text{outcome})/P(ksuccesses) = P(\text{outcome})/P(ksuccesses)$ .
30. (a) There are  $m$  men and  $n$  women, and we select  $t$  random employees and see how many women are among them. This is  $\text{HGeom}(n, m, t)$ .  
 (b) The number of women promoted is distributed as  $\text{Bin}(n, p)$ , the number of women who are not promoted is distributed as  $\text{Bin}(n, 1 - p)$ , and the distribution of the number of employees who are promoted is  $\text{Bin}(m + n, p)$ .  
 (c) Let  $X$  be the number of women promoted and  $Y$  be the number of men promoted, both of which are binomially distributed by the previous part. Then the conditional distribution of  $X$  given  $X + Y = t$  is  $\text{HGeom}(n, m, t)$ .
31. (a) If she has no ability, then all  $\binom{6}{3}$  choices are equally likely. In order to get at least 2 correct, there are  $\binom{3}{2}\binom{3}{1} + \binom{3}{3}$  ways, so the probability is  $10/20 = \frac{1}{2}$ . (I guess this makes sense, at least 2/3 correct means at most 1/3 incorrect and at most 1 correct means at least 2/3 incorrect.)  
 (b) Let  $A$  be milk first and  $B$  be lady says milk first. Then  $\frac{P(A|B)}{P(A^c|B)} = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B|A^c)P(A^c)} = p_1/(1 - p_2)$ .

32. (a) The key terms have two taggings: first by whether they appear on the exam and second by whether Evan studies them. Then  $X \sim \text{HGeom}(10, 90, s) = \text{HGeom}(s, 100 - s, 10)$ .
- (b)  $P(X \geq 7) = P(X = 7) + \dots + P(X = 10) = \frac{1}{\binom{100}{75}} (\binom{10}{7} \binom{90}{68} + \binom{10}{8} \binom{90}{67} + \binom{10}{9} \binom{90}{66} + \binom{10}{10} \binom{90}{65}) = 0.7853844(R) = 0.7853843668965791(\text{python})$
33. (a) Let  $I_j$  be the indicator of at least one proofreader catching the  $j^{\text{th}}$  typo. Then  $P(I_j = 1) = 1 - P(I_j = 0) = 1 - (1 - p_1)(1 - p_2) = 1 - (1 - p_1 - p_2 + p_1 p_2) = p_1 + p_2 - p_1 p_2$ . Then  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p_1 + p_2 - p_1 p_2)$ .
- (b) In this situation, we can consider tagging the typos both with who is reading as well as whether they are caught by Prue. Thus  $X_1 \sim \text{HGeom}(n, n, t)$ .
34. (a) Let  $Y$  be the number of statistics majors in the sample. Since  $X$  is binomial, each student has independent probability  $p$  of being a statistics major, so  $Y \sim \text{Bin}(m, p)$ . (If  $I_j$  is the indicator of student  $j$  being a statistics major, then  $X = \sum_j I_j$  and  $Y = \sum_{j \in S} I_j$  where  $S$  is the sample of size  $m$ .)
- (b) See previous part.
35. (a) Let  $A$  be the number of questions  $A$  gets right. Then  $A \sim \text{Bin}(m, p_1)$ .
- (b) Let  $B$  be the number of questions  $B$  gets right. Then  $B \sim \text{Bin}(n, p_2)$ . The total number is  $A + B$  which has PMF  $P(A + B = k) = \sum_{i=0}^k P(A = i)P(B = k - i)$ . This is a binomial distribution if and only if  $p_1 = p_2$  or  $m = 0$  or  $n = 0$ .
- (c) Let  $A$  be  $A$  wins. If  $A$  gets the first question right, then  $A$  wins. If  $A$  gets the first question wrong, then  $A$  loses if  $B$  gets the second question right and returns to the original scenario if  $A$  gets the second question wrong. Thus  $P(A) = p_1 + (1 - p_1)(1 - p_2)P(A) \implies P(A) = \frac{p_1}{p_1 + p_2 - p_1 p_2}$ .
36. (a)  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, .5)$ , so the probability of a tie is  $\binom{n}{n/2} .5^n$ .
- (b)  $n!/(n/2)!^2 * .5^n \approx \sqrt{2\pi n}(n/e)^n / \sqrt{\pi n^2}(n/2e)^n * 2^n = 1/\sqrt{(\pi/2)n}$
37. (a) This method only detects an odd number of errors, so there are undetected errors if and only if there are 2 errors or 4 errors:  $\binom{5}{2} .1^2 .9^3 + \binom{5}{4} .1^4 .9^1$ .
- (b)  $\sum_{i=1}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \binom{n}{2i} p^{2i} (1 - p)^{n-2i}$ .
- (c) Let  $b$  be as suggested. Then  $(a + (1 - p)^n) + b = (p + (1 - p))^n = 1$  and  $(a + (1 - p)^n) - b = (1 - p - p)^n = (1 - 2p)^n$ . Thus  $b = 1 - (a + (1 - p)^n)$  so  $(a + (1 - p)^n) - (1 - (a + (1 - p)^n)) = 2a + 2(1 - p)^n - 1 = (1 - 2p)^n \implies a = \frac{1 + (1 - 2p)^n}{2} - (1 - p)^n$ .

### 3 Independence of r.v.s

38. (a)  $X$  is any RV and  $Y = X + 1$ .

- (b)  $X$  is negative number of heads and  $Y$  is number of heads plus one.
39.  $X$  be discrete uniform, and  $Y$  be an arbitrary permutation of  $X$ . If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then it is impossible since  $P(X = Y) = \sum_{i=1}^{10} P(X = i)P(Y = i) > 0$ .
40. (a) If  $P(X = Y) = 1$ , then  $P(X = i) = P(Y = i)$  for all  $i$ .  
 (b) It is not possible unless  $X$  and  $Y$  are trivial, since if  $j \neq k$  but  $j$  in support of  $X$  and  $k$  in support of  $Y$ , then  $0 = P(X = j, Y = k) \neq P(X = j)P(Y = k)$ .
41. No, for example if  $Z = X$ .
42.  $X$  and  $Y$  have the same distribution, but  $X < Y$  with probability  $\frac{6}{7}$ .
43. (a) Yes, to have  $P(X < Y) \geq \frac{b-1}{b}$ , we can set  $n = b$ , or let  $n$  be infinite.  
 (b) Yes, the answers change. Since for independent random variables with the same distribution,  $P(X < Y) = P(Y < X) \leq \frac{1}{2}$ .
44. (a)  $X \oplus Y = 0$  if  $X = Y$  (which has probability  $\frac{p+q}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$ ) and  $X \oplus Y = 1$  if  $X \neq Y$  (which has probability  $\frac{p+q}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$ ), so  $X \oplus Y \sim \text{Bern}(.5)$ .  
 (b)  $P(X \oplus Y = i | X = j) = P(j \oplus Y = i) = \frac{1}{2} = P(X \oplus Y = i)$  so  $X \oplus Y$  and  $X$  are independent no matter what  $p$  is.  $P(X \oplus Y = i | Y = j) = P(X \oplus j = i) \neq \frac{1}{2}$  so  $X \oplus Y$  and  $Y$  are not independent unless  $p = \frac{1}{2}$ .  
 (c) Induction on (a) shows that  $Y_J \sim \text{Bern}(1/2)$ . For any  $Y_J, Y_{J'}$ , we can write  $Y_J = (Y_J \oplus Y_{J'}) \oplus Y_{J'}$  and  $Y_J \oplus Y_{J'}$  is of the form  $Y_{J''}$  for  $J'' = J \Delta J'$  denoting the symmetric difference. Thus by (b)  $Y_J$  and  $Y_{J'}$  are independent. However, not all the  $Y_J$  are independent since knowing  $Y_{\{i\}}$  for all  $i$  determines all the  $Y_J$ .

## 4 Mixed practice

45. (a) Let  $B$  be new treatment better. Then

$$P(B|15) = \frac{P(15|B)P(B)}{P(15)} = \frac{2\binom{20}{15}.6^{15}.4^5}{2\binom{20}{15}.6^{15}.4^5 + \binom{20}{15}.5^{20}}$$

- (b) We update to use  $p$  and  $1 - p$  instead of  $2/3$ . Let  $I_j$  be the indicator of whether the treatment is more effective on patient  $j$ . Then  $P(I_j = 1|15) = P(I_j = 1|B, 15)P(B|15) + P(I_j = 1|B^c, 15)P(B^c|15) = .6p + .5(1 - p) = .5 + .1p$ .  
 Thus the desired random variable is a mixture of  $Y = pX_1 + (1 - p)X_2$  where  $X_1 \sim \text{Bin}(20, .6)$  and  $X_2 \sim \text{Bin}(20, .5)$ .
46. (a)  $p_k$  is the probability of  $A$  having  $k$  more losses than twice the number of wins. Each gamble can be thought of as an experiment, and we stop if we ever reach 0 but otherwise keep going forever. Thus the union of all the events  $\cup_{i \geq 1} A_i$  is the probability that we have more than twice as many losses as wins, and the union is contained within  $A_1$ .

- (b)  $p_0 = 1$ .  $2p_k = p_{k-1} + p_{k+2}$ . This difference equation has the characteristic equation  $x^3 - 2x + 1 = 0$ , which factors as  $(x - 1)(x^2 + x - 1)$ , thus whose roots are  $x = 1, \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{5}}{2}$ . Thus the general solution is  $p_k = a(1)^k + b(\frac{-1 + \sqrt{5}}{2})^k + c(\frac{-1 - \sqrt{5}}{2})^k$ . When  $n = 0$ , we have  $a + b + c = 1$ . As  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we have  $(\frac{-1 + \sqrt{5}}{2})^n \rightarrow 0$  and  $|(\frac{-1 - \sqrt{5}}{2})^n| \rightarrow \infty$ . In particular, since  $a(1)^n + b(\frac{-1 + \sqrt{5}}{2})^n$  is finite and probabilities must lie between 0 and 1, then  $c = 0$ . Furthermore, since  $p_n \rightarrow 0$ , then  $a = 0$  since otherwise  $p_n$  will converge to a nonzero constant. Thus  $b = 1$ .
- (c)  $p_1 = \varphi - 1$ .
47. (a) The probability is 0 for  $m < \frac{n}{2}$  and 1 for  $m > n$ . If we consider a success as taking from tray 1 and a failure as taking from tray 2, then we want the probability that  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, .5)$  lies between  $a = \max(n - m, 0)$  and  $b = \min(n, m)$  (inclusive), so  $p_{\text{binom}}(b, n, .5) - p_{\text{binom}}(a - 1, n, .5)$ .
- (b) 8, 60, 531, 5098 for  $n = 10, 100, 1000, 10000$ .