

Recall: a r.v. is a fn  $X: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Defn: CDF For a r.v.  $X$  the CDF is

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Defn: Identically Distributed RVs  
(equal in distribution)

We say two RVs  $X$  and  $Y$  are equal in distribution if  $\forall A \subset \mathbb{R}$

$$P(X \in A) = P(Y \in A).$$

We denote this as  $X \stackrel{d}{=} Y$ .

This doesn't mean  $X = Y$  as functions.

Ex. 3 coin flips.

$X = \# \text{ heads}$  and  $Y = \# \text{ tails}$ .

Notice:  $X(\text{HTT}) = 1$  but  $Y(\text{HTT}) = 2$   
So  $X$  and  $Y$  are different RVs.

but they are equal in dist.

Ex.  $P(X = 1) = 3/8 = P(Y = 1)$

$$P(X = 0) = 1/8 = P(Y = 0)$$

$\vdots$

Theorem:  $X \stackrel{d}{=} Y$  iff  $F_X = F_Y$ .

Theorem:  $X \stackrel{d}{=} Y$  iff  $F_X = F_Y$ .

$\uparrow$  CDF of  $X$        $\uparrow$  CDF of  $Y$ .

Ex. Toss coins (independently) until a H appears.

$$S = \{H, TH, TTH, TTTT, \dots\}$$

note  $|S| = \infty$

Let  $p$  be the prob. of getting a H on any flip.

Define  $X = \# \text{ flips to get a H}$

$s \in S$	$X(s)$
H	1
TH	2
TTH	3
TTTH	4
$\vdots$	$\vdots$

Q: What is the CDF of  $X$ ?

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

To determine  $F$  let's consider

prob. it takes  $x$  flips to get a H  $\rightarrow P(X=x)$  for  $x \in \mathbb{R}$

$\{ \text{let } T_i = \text{getting a T on } i^{\text{th}}$

takes  $x$  to get a  $H$ .

$$\begin{cases} \text{let } T_i = \text{getting a } T \text{ on } i \\ H_i = T_i^c \end{cases}$$

then  $"X = x" = T_1 T_2 T_3 \dots T_{x-1} H_x$

So  $P(X = x) = P(T_1 T_2 T_3 \dots T_{x-1} H_x)$  independence

$$= P(T_1) P(T_2) \dots P(T_{x-1}) P(H_x)$$

$$= (1-p)(1-p) \dots (1-p) p$$

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

Notice that if  $W_i = "X = i"$  disjoint union

then  $"X \leq x" = W_1 \cup W_2 \cup W_3 \cup \dots \cup W_x$

hence

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x) = P(W_1 \cup W_2 \cup \dots \cup W_x)$$

recall:

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} r^i = \frac{1-r^n}{1-r}$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{\lfloor x \rfloor} P(W_i)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{\lfloor x \rfloor} (1-p)^{i-1} p$$

$\lfloor x \rfloor = \text{round } x \text{ down}$

$$= p \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor x \rfloor - 1} (1-p)^i$$

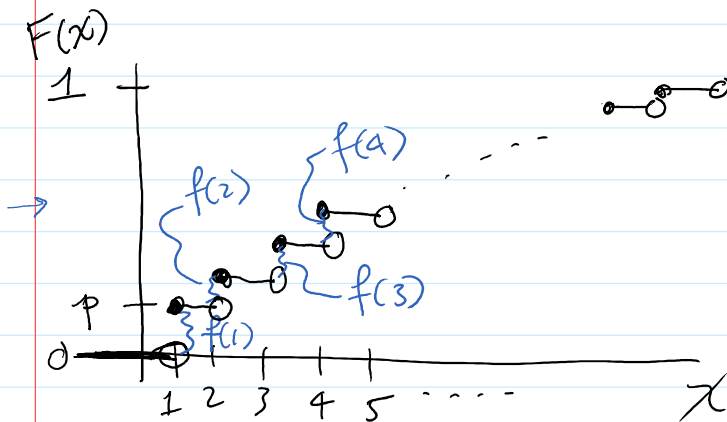
$r = 1-p$

$$= p \frac{1 - (1-p)^{\lfloor x \rfloor}}{1 - (1-p)}$$

$$F(x) = 1 - (1-p)^{\lfloor x \rfloor}$$

$$F(x) = 1 - (1-p)^x$$

for  $x > 0$



We call this a geometric RV.

Notice: We derived the CDF using  $P(X=x)$  ←

Defn: Discrete/Continuous

A discrete RVs is one whose CDF is a step function.

A continuous RV is one whose CDF is continuous.

Defn: Probability Mass Function (PMF)

For a discrete RV  $X$ , the pmf is a function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , defined as

$$f(x) = P(X=x) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

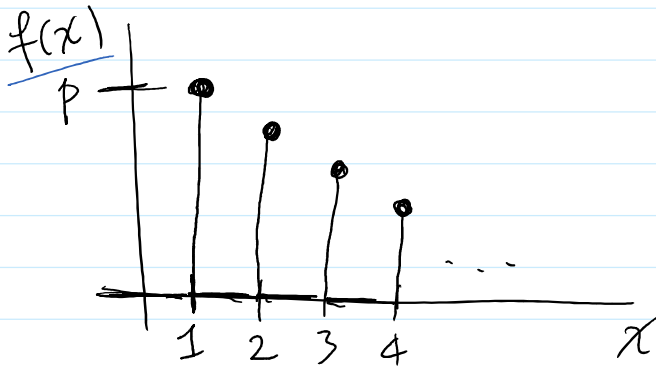
This is also called the distribution of  $X$ .

Ex. For the geometric RV,

$$f(x) = P(X=x) = (1-p)^{x-1} p, \quad x \in \mathbb{N}$$

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

"stick plot"  
"distribution of  $X$ "



Theorem: For discrete RVs,

$$F(x) = \sum_{i \leq x} f(i)$$

$\nwarrow$   $P(X \leq x)$        $\nearrow$   $P(X=i)$

pf: " $X \leq x$ " =  $\bigcup_{i \leq x} "X=i"$

$\nwarrow$  disjoint union

hence

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x) = P\left(\bigcup_{i \leq x} "X=i"$$

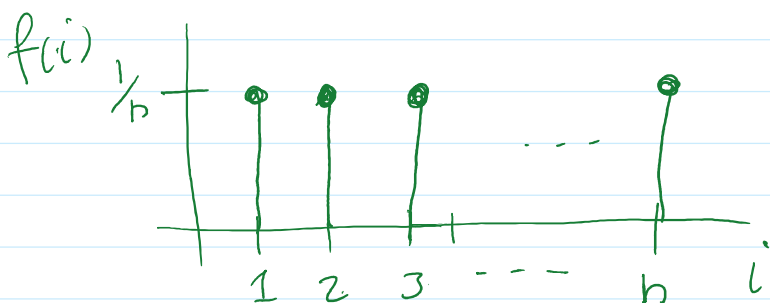
$$= \sum_{i \leq x} P(X=i) = \sum_{i \leq x} f(i).$$

Ex. Say  $X$  has a discrete uniform dist.  
over the values  $1, \dots, n$   
denote

$$X \sim U(\{1, \dots, n\})$$

"dist.  
as"

means that  $f(i) = \begin{cases} 1/n & \text{for } i=1, \dots, n \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$



mass uniformly  
dist. over  
 $1, \dots, n$

Q: What is the CDF?

$$F(x) = \sum_{i \leq x} f(i) = \sum_{i=1}^{\lfloor x \rfloor} f(i) = \sum_{i=1}^{\lfloor x \rfloor} 1/n = \frac{\lfloor x \rfloor}{n}.$$

Said:  $F(x) = \sum_{i \leq x} f(i)$   
 $P(X \leq x)$

More generally: If  $A \subset \mathbb{R}$ ,

over values  
in  $A$

for discrete r.v.s.

Ex.  $X \sim U(\{1, \dots, n\})$ .

$$P(2 \leq X < 5)$$

$$= P(X \in \{2, 3, 4\}) = \sum f(x) = 1/n + 1/n + 1/n$$

$$\text{Ex, } P(X \in \{1, 7, 3\})$$

$$= \sum_{x=1,7,3} f(x) = 3/n.$$

$$x=2,3,4$$

$$= 3/n.$$

Ex. Roll a die 60 times (independently)

$X = \#$  of 6s I roll.

Let's derive the pmf.

$$f(x) = P(X=x) = \text{prob. I roll } x \text{ 6s in my 60 rolls.}$$

$$f(0) = P(X=0) = \underbrace{\left(\frac{5}{6}\right)\left(\frac{5}{6}\right)\left(\frac{5}{6}\right) \cdots \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)}_{60 \text{ times}} = \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^{60}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f(1) &= P(X=1) = 60 \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{6}\right)\left(\frac{5}{6}\right)\left(\frac{5}{6}\right) \cdots \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)}_{59 \text{ other places}} \\ &\quad \uparrow \text{choose where 6 goes} \\ &\quad \uparrow \text{prob of 6} \\ &= 60 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right) \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^{59} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f(2) &= P(X=2) = \binom{60}{2} \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{6}\right)\left(\frac{1}{6}\right)\left(\frac{5}{6}\right) \cdots \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)}_{58 \text{ times}} \\ &= \binom{60}{2} \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^2 \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^{58} \end{aligned}$$

$$= (2 / (1/6) / (7/6))$$

General pattern:

$$f(x) = P(X=x) = \binom{60}{x} \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^x \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^{60-x}$$

binomial coef.

We call this a Binomial RV.

If I do  $n$  experiments, each w/ a yes/no answer (independently) each has a prob. of getting a "yes" of  $p \in [0, 1]$

$X = \#$  of "yes" experiments.

Above:

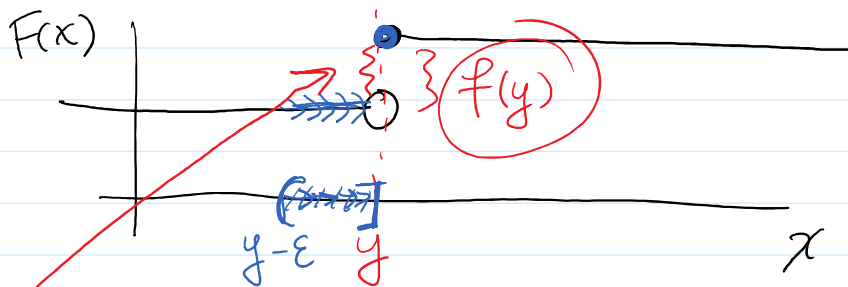
$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow n &= 60 \\ \rightarrow p &= 1/6 \end{aligned}$$

We call  $X$  a binomial RV,  
denote  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$ .

Recall:

$$P(a < X \leq b) = F(b) - F(a)$$

discrete  
RV

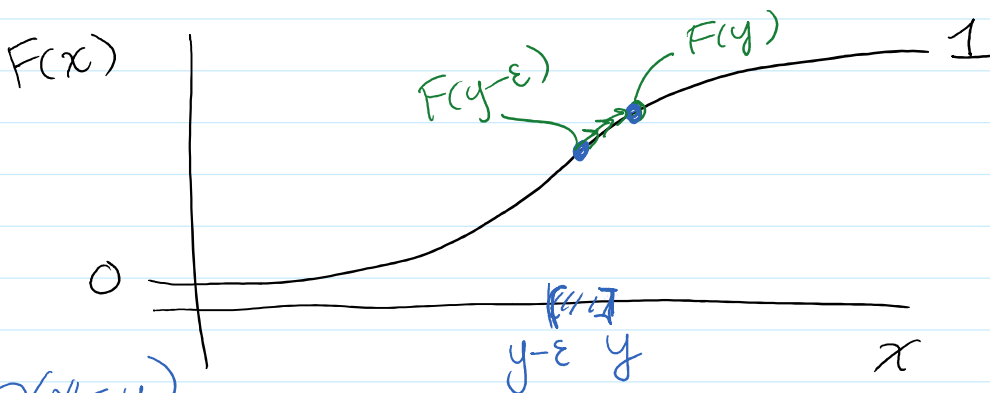


$$P(X=y) = \lim_{\epsilon \downarrow 0} P(y-\epsilon < X \leq y)$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 & \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} [F(y) - F(y - \varepsilon)] \\
 & = \text{gap} = \underline{f(y)}
 \end{aligned}$$

Consider the same limit for continuous RVs



$$\begin{aligned}
 f(y) &= \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} P(y - \varepsilon < X \leq y) \\
 &= \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} F(y) - F(y - \varepsilon) \\
 &= F(y) - F(y) = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

continuous

Punchline! can't define a pmf like this for continuous RVs.

Can we do something similar?

Want:

$$F(x) = \sum_{i \leq x} f(i)$$

recall -

$$F(x) = \sum_{i \leq x} f(i) \quad \leftarrow$$

Defn: Probability Density Function (PDF)

Analogy of PMF for cts RVs.

The pmf is a fn  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined so that  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$F(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(t) dt$$

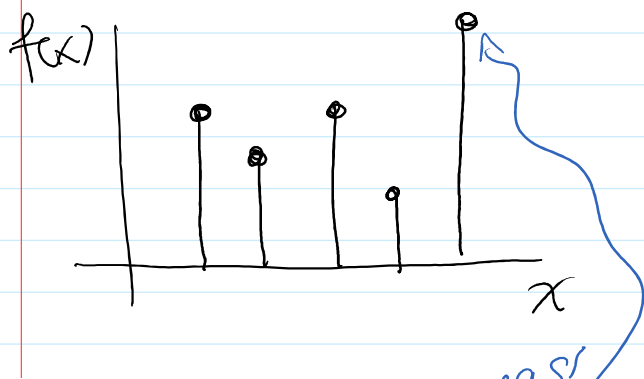
note by Fund. Theorem of Calc:

$$\frac{d}{dx} F(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \int_{-\infty}^x f(t) dt = f(x)$$

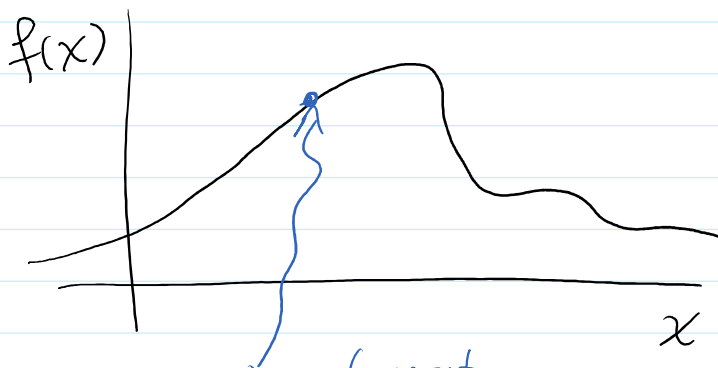
important:  $f(x) = \frac{d}{dx} F(x)$ .

pdf = derivative of CDF.

discrete (PMF)



continuous case (PDF)



prob. mass  
at  
a pt.  
 $P(X \text{ at that pt})$

prob. density  
at a pt  
 $\neq$   
a prob. of  $X$  being  
at that pt.