

**CSCI 3022**

# intro to data science with probability & statistics

Lecture 11  
February 19, 2018

1. Plinko!
2. Variance of discrete and continuous RVs



Department of Computer Science  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Dan Larremore

# Stuff & Things

- **Homework 3** due next Friday, March 2. Suggested **milestones**:
  - Probs 1, and 2, done before the end of the week.
  - Probs 3 and 4 done next week
- **Midterm coming up** next week. Weds, Feb 28th, ~~7:30~~ PM. Room TBD.
- Midterm review *in class* next Monday, Feb 26.

6:30 - 8:00

Duane G130

# Last time on CSCI 3022

- **Definition:** The expectation or expected value of a discrete random variable  $X$  that takes the values  $a_1, a_2, \dots$  and with PMF  $p$  is given by:

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_i a_i P(X = a_i) = \sum_i a_i p(a_i)$$

- **Definition:** The expectation or expected value of a continuous random variable  $X$  with PDF  $f$  is the number:

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) dx$$

- **Change of Variables:** Let  $X$  be a RV and let  $g : \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$  be a function

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X)] = \sum_i g(a_i) f(a_i)$$

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) f(x) dx$$

# The Fergusons

- Maureen Ferguson is having her whole crazy extended family over for dinner. What a bunch! They are considering a random variable X:

$$P(X = -1) = \frac{1}{5}, \quad P(X = 0) = \frac{1}{5}, \quad P(X = 1) = \frac{3}{5}$$

**maureen ferguson & family**



1. Is X a discrete or continuous random variable?
2. Compute  $E[X]$

a "raft"

# The Fergusons

- Maureen Ferguson is having her whole crazy extended family over for dinner. What a bunch! They are considering a random variable  $X$ :

$$P(X = -1) = \frac{1}{5}, \quad P(X = 0) = \frac{1}{5}, \quad P(X = 1) = \frac{3}{5}$$

3. Tony Ferguson is sleepy from dinner, but considering a new random variable  $Y$ . If  $Y = X^2 + 2$ , what is the probability distribution of  $Y$ ?  
Is it a PMF or a PDF?

4. What is  $E[Y]$ ?

**tony ferguson**



# Stacy.

- It is mid-November, and Stacy is floating in the bay, watching the pups learn to swim. A drizzle begins, and a bird on the shoreline contemplates flying South for the winter. Is it too early? No matter. Rain drops fall softly on Stacy's silky otter-coat at an average rate of 17 drops per minute. You watch a drop fall on Stacy's silky coat and check your watch. Let **X** be a random variable that represents the time you wait until the next drop lands (on Stacy's silky otter-coat). Which distribution does **X** follow?

- A. Binomial
- B. Geometric
- C. Poisson
- D. Uniform
- E. Exponential
- F. None of the Above

stacy



# Plinko!

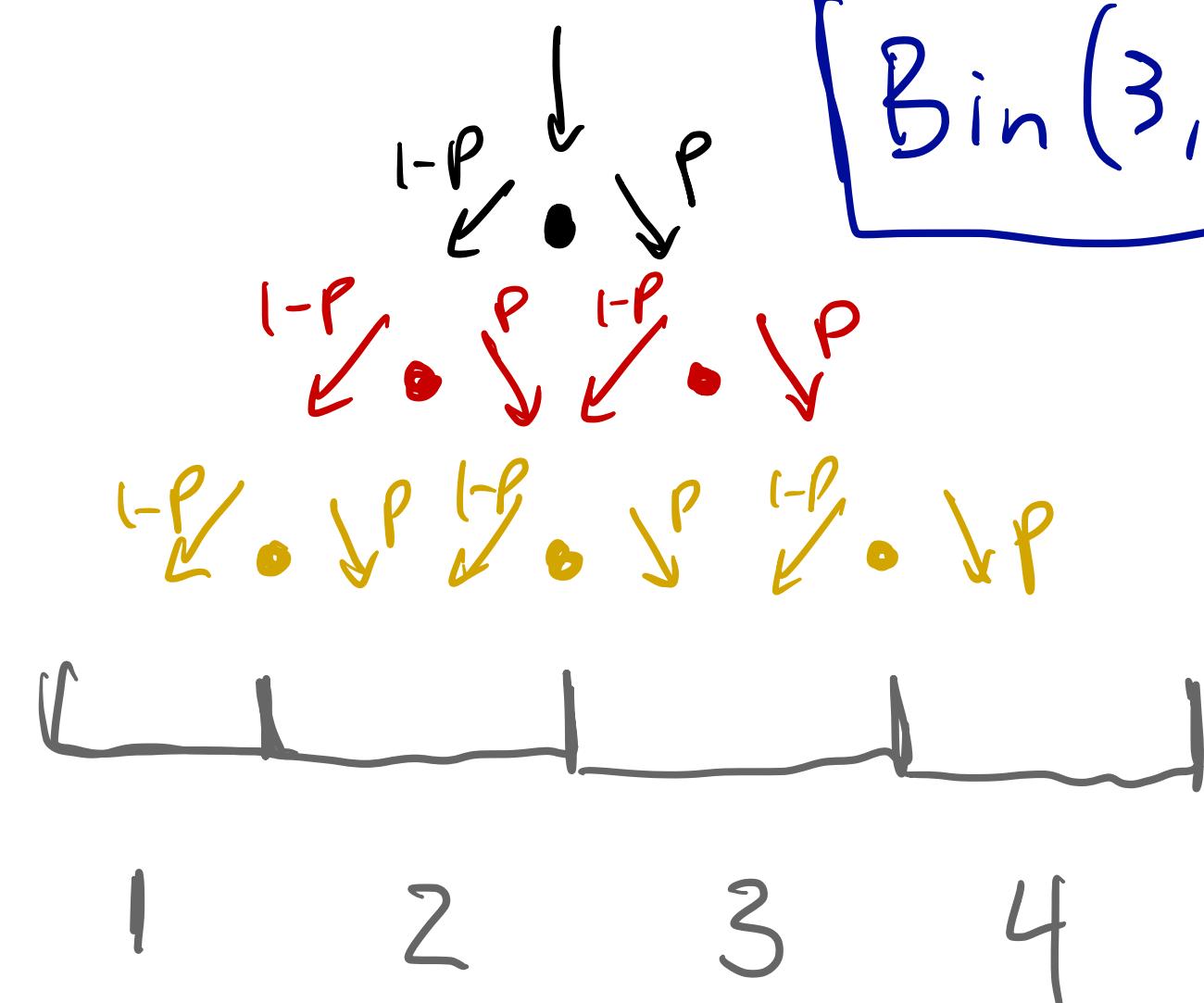
\$31.5k



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=naUppHrHJpl>

# Plinko on paper

- Let  $X$  be the RV describing the winnings in each round of Plinko with  $n$  rows and a probability  $p$  of moving to the right off of each peg.
- Question:** what distribution does  $X$  follow?



$$\text{Bin}(3, p) + 1$$

If indep, "AND"  $\rightarrow X$

If indep, "OR"  $\rightarrow +$

$$P(X=1) = (1-p)^3$$

$$P(X=4) = p^3$$

$$P(X=2) = 3 (1-p)^2 p^1$$

# orders  
 $\binom{3}{1}$

$$\text{Bin}(n, p)$$

Binomial

# Plinko on paper

- Let  $X$  be the RV describing the winnings in each round of Plinko with  $n$  rows and a probability  $p$  of moving to the right off of each peg.
- **Question:** what is the expected value of  $X$ ? What is  $E[X]$ , where  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$

$$E[X] = \sum_i a_i p(a_i)$$

instead, use a trick!

# Plinko on paper

- Let  $X$  be the RV describing the winnings in each round of Plinko with  $n$  rows and a probability  $p$  of moving to the right off of each peg.
- Question:** what is the expected value of  $X$ ?

• **Pro Tip:** expectation is a linear function!  $E[rX+s] = rE[X] + s$

$$E[X+Y] = E[X] + E[Y]$$

$$E[X] = E[Y_1 + Y_2 + \dots + Y_n] = E[Y_1] + E[Y_2] + \dots + E[Y_n] = n E[\text{Ber}(p)] = np$$

$\uparrow$   
 $\text{Bin}(n, p)$

$\uparrow$   
each is  $\text{Ber}(p)$

for example  $\rightarrow E[5X + 2Y - e^{\pi}] = 5E[X] + 2E[Y] - e^{\pi}$

$$\begin{aligned} E[\text{Ber}(p)] &= \sum_i a_i p(a_i) \\ &= 0(1-p) + 1(p) = p \end{aligned}$$

# Plinko on paper

- Let  $X$  be the RV describing the winnings in each round of Plinko with  $n$  rows and a probability  $p$  of moving to the right off of each peg.
- Question:** what is the variance of  $X$ ?

Defined variance for  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$

draws (data)

$$\text{Variance: } \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{k=1}^n (x_k - \bar{x})^2$$

st. dev:  $\sqrt{\text{variance}}$

# Plinko on paper

- Let  $X$  be the RV describing the winnings in each round of Plinko with  $n$  rows and a probability  $p$  of moving to the right off of each peg.
- **Question:** what is the variance of  $X$ ?
- **Well ok but maybe first:** what is variance?

# Variance

- Recall that the sample variance of data  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  is given by

$$\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{k=1}^n (x_k - \bar{x})^2$$

$\uparrow$   
average of data

Average  $([datum - average\ of\ data]^2)$

# Variance

- **Definition:** the variance  $\text{Var}(X)$  of a random variable  $X$  is the number

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[(X - E[X])^2]$$

$$E \left[ (X - E[X])^2 \right]$$

# Variance

- **Definition:** the variance  $\text{Var}(X)$  of a random variable  $X$  is the number

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[(X - E[X])^2]$$

- **Definition:** the standard deviation of  $X$  is the sq. root of the variance:  $\sqrt{\text{Var}(X)}$

- How to compute:

- First, compute  $\mu = E[X]$

(From last time)

- Second, use the change-of-variables formula with  $g(x) = (x - \mu)^2$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \sum_i (a_i - \mu)^2 p(a_i)$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu)^2 f(x) dx$$

# Variance

- **Definition:** the variance  $\text{Var}(X)$  of a random variable  $X$  is the number

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[(X - E[X])^2]$$

- **Even better:** Can we use  $E[rX+s] = rE[X]+s$ ?

$$\begin{aligned} E[(X - E[X])^2] &= E\left[X^2 - 2XE[X] + E[X]^2\right] \\ &= E[X^2] - E[2XE[X]] + E[E[X]^2] \\ &= E[X^2] - \underbrace{2E[X]E[X]}_{E[X]^2} + E[X]^2 = \boxed{E[X^2] - E[X]^2} \end{aligned}$$

nice formula  
for variance

# Variance

- **Definition:** the variance  $\text{Var}(X)$  of a random variable  $X$  is the number

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[(X - E[X])^2]$$

- **Even better:** Can we use  $E[rX+s] = rE[X]+s$ ?

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[X^2] - E[X]^2$$

legible!

# Binomial Variance

- Let  $X$  be the RV describing the winnings in each round of Plinko with  $n$  rows and a probability  $p$  of moving to the right off of each peg.
- **Question:** what is the variance of  $X$ , if  $\underline{X \sim Bin(n, p)}$

# Bernoulli Variance

$$E[g(X)] = \sum_i g(a_i) p(a_i)$$

- Let  $X$  be the RV describing the winnings in each round of Plinko with  $n$  rows and a probability  $p$  of moving to the right off of each peg.
- Question:** what is the variance of  $X$ , if  $X \sim Bin(n, p)$
- How about: what is the variance of  $Y$ , if  $\underline{Y \sim Ber(p)}$

$$\text{Var}(Y) = E[Y^2] - E[Y]^2$$

$Y = 0$  with prob.  $1-p$

$Y = 1$  with prob.  $p$

1st:  $E[Y^2] = \sum_i y_i^2 p(y_i) = 0^2(1-p) + 1^2 p = p$

2nd:  $E[Y]^2 = p^2$

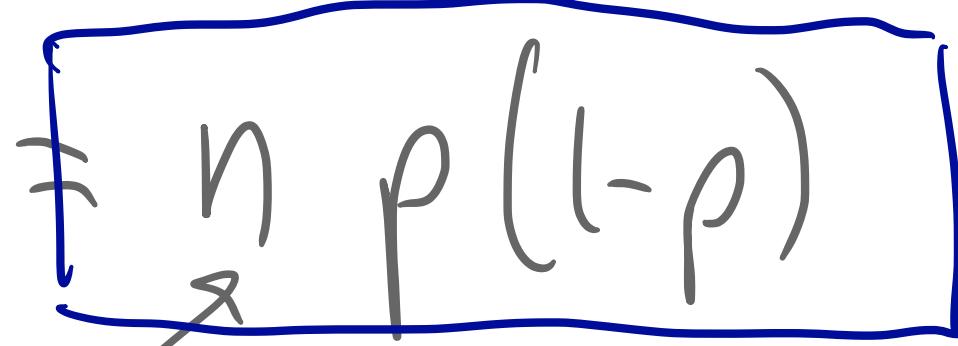
$$\text{Var}(Y) = p - p^2 = p(1-p) = \boxed{\text{Var}(Ber(p))}$$

# Independence & Variance

$$X = \text{Bin}(n, p) = Y_1 + Y_2 + Y_3 + \dots + Y_n \quad \text{where each } Y_i \text{ is } \text{Ber}(p)$$

- Let  $X$  be the RV describing the winnings in each round of Plinko with  $n$  rows and a probability  $p$  of moving to the right off of each peg.
- Question:** what is the variance of  $X$ , if  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$
- How about: what is the variance of  $Y$ , if  $Y \sim \text{Ber}(p)$
- Fact: if  $X$  and  $Y$  are **independent**, then  $\text{Var}(X + Y) = \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y)$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \text{Var}(\text{Ber}(p)) + \text{Var}(\text{Ber}(p)) + \dots$$

  
 $n$  of them  $\text{Var}(\text{Ber}(p))$

$\uparrow$   
 $n$  of these.

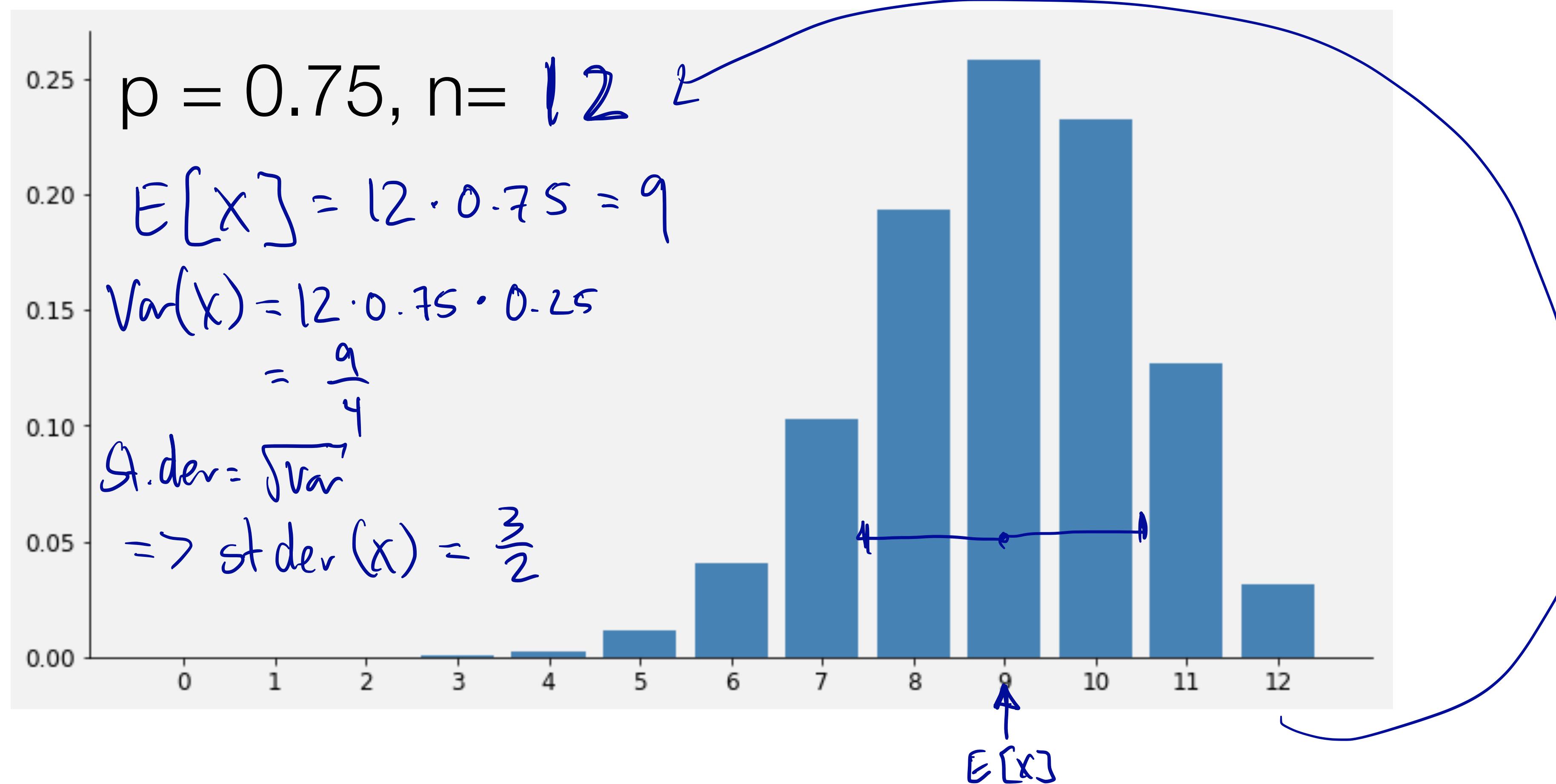
# Binomial Variance

- Let  $X$  be the RV describing the winnings in each round of Plinko with  $n$  rows and a probability  $p$  of moving to the right off of each peg.
- **Question:** what is the variance of  $X$ , if  $X \sim Bin(n, p)$
- How about: what is the variance of  $Y$ , if  $Y \sim Ber(p)$
- Fact: if  $X$  and  $Y$  are **independent**, then  $\text{Var}(X + Y) = \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y)$
- **Theorem:** Let  $X \sim Bin(n, p)$ . Then  $E[X] = np$  and  $\text{Var}(X) = np(1 - p)$



# Plinko on paper

- **Theorem:** Let  $X \sim Bin(n, p)$ . Then  $E[X] = np$  and  $\text{Var}(X) = np(1 - p)$



# Variance Facts!

- **Expectation** is linear:  $E[rX + s] = rE[X] + s$
- What about **Variance**?

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(X+s) &= E[(X+s - E[X+s])^2] \\ &\stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} E[(X+s - E[X]-s)^2] \\ &= E[(X - E[X])^2] \\ &= \text{Var}(X) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(rX) &= E[(rX)^2] - (E[rX])^2 \\ &\stackrel{\text{other def'n!}}{=} E[r^2 X^2] - (r E[X])^2 \\ &= r^2 E[X^2] - r^2 E[X]^2 \\ &= r^2(E[X^2] - E[X]^2) \\ &= r^2 \text{Var}(X) \end{aligned}$$

# Variance Facts!

- **Expectation** is linear:  $E[rX + s] = rE[X] + s$
- **Variance** is not linear:  $\text{Var}(rX + s) = r^2\text{Var}(X)$

# Mean & Variance: Uniform

- Suppose  $X \sim U[\alpha, \beta]$ . Find  $E[X]$  and  $\text{Var}(X)$ .

$$E[\text{Unif}[\alpha, \beta]] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) dx$$

$$= \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} x f(x) dx$$

$$= \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} x \frac{1}{\beta - \alpha} dx$$

$$= \frac{x^2}{2} \Big|_{\alpha}^{\beta} \cdot \frac{1}{\beta - \alpha}$$

$$= \frac{\beta^2 - \alpha^2}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\beta - \alpha}$$

$$= \frac{(\beta - \alpha)(\beta + \alpha)}{2(\beta - \alpha)}$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{\beta + \alpha}{2}}$$

average  
of endpoints