

Stat 5101ProbabilityReference:

Degroot and
Schervish
"probability and
statistics"

"outcomes": the "basic" set of possibilities of the experiment

Event: a set of outcomes, and a subset of the sample space.

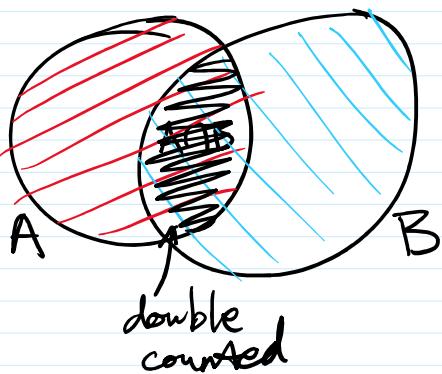
$$\binom{n}{k} \text{ "n choose k"} \\ nCk$$

→ the number of subsets of size k within a set of size n .

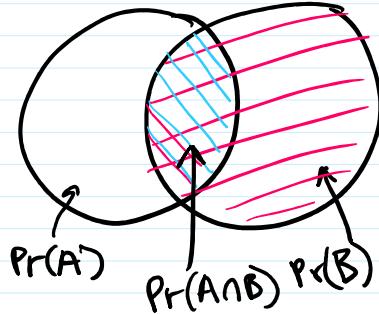
→ the number of "combinations" of k elements.

Property #2 should be:

$$0 \leq \Pr(A) \leq 1$$

Conditional Probability

$\Pr(A|B)$ probability of A given B



$$\Pr(A|B) = \frac{\Pr(A \cap B)}{\Pr(B)}$$

Independent Events

Prob. of one occurring
is not affected by
whether the other
occurred.

A and B are independent

$$\text{if } \Pr(A|B) = \Pr(A)$$

$$\text{or } \Pr(A \cap B) = \Pr(A)\Pr(B)$$

Bayes' Rule

$$\Pr(A|B) = \frac{\Pr(B|A) \cdot \Pr(A)}{\Pr(B)}$$

$\Pr(A)$, $\Pr(B)$ prior probabilities

$\Pr(A|B)$ posterior prob.
of A

Random Variables

$$X: S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

An R.V. assigns a real number
to each outcome $x \in S$.

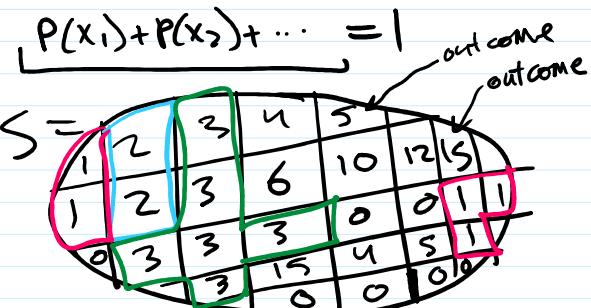
X the random variable

x the realized value

$$\Pr(x) \equiv \Pr(X=x)$$

Discrete : a finite or countably infinite set of possible values.

$$P(X=x_i) \in [0, 1] \quad \forall i$$



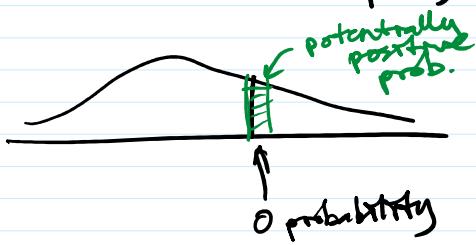
Continuous R.V.

For any $y \in \mathbb{R}$

$$Pr(X=y) = 0 \quad (\text{bec. } y \text{ is so "tiny"})$$

We can only assign positive probability to intervals.

So $Pr(y-\epsilon < X < y+\epsilon) = 0.001$
(example)



PMF - discrete

Ex coins

X	f(X)
0	1/8
1	3/8
2	3/8
3	1/8

Continuous : PDF

$f(x)$ is the pdf.

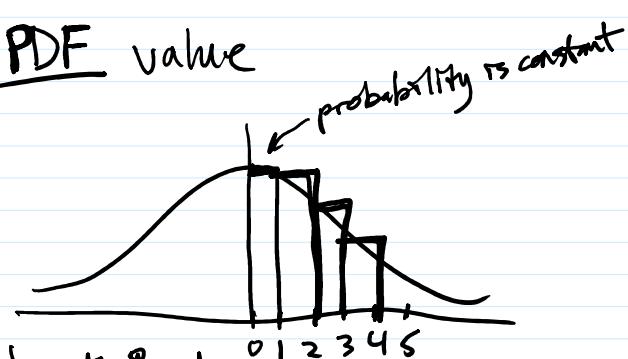
$$\int_a^b f(x)dx = \Pr(a \leq X \leq b)$$

and $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)dx = 1$

equal to $P(x_1) + P(x_2) + \dots = 1$

in the discrete case

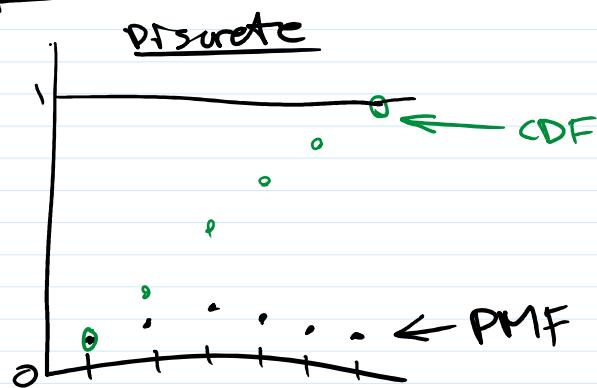
PDF value



break R into intervals, each w/ constant value of the PDF within R.

$$f(x) = 0.10 \text{ for } x \in (1, 2)$$

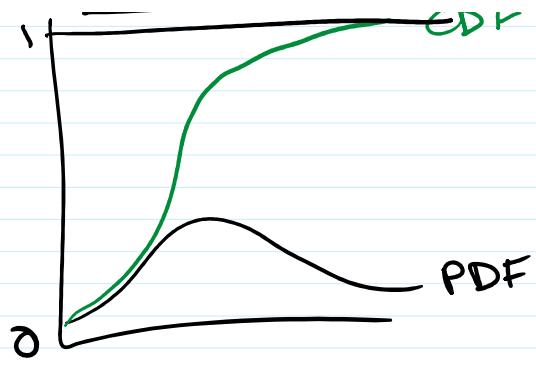
then $\Pr(X \in (1, 2)) = f(x)$



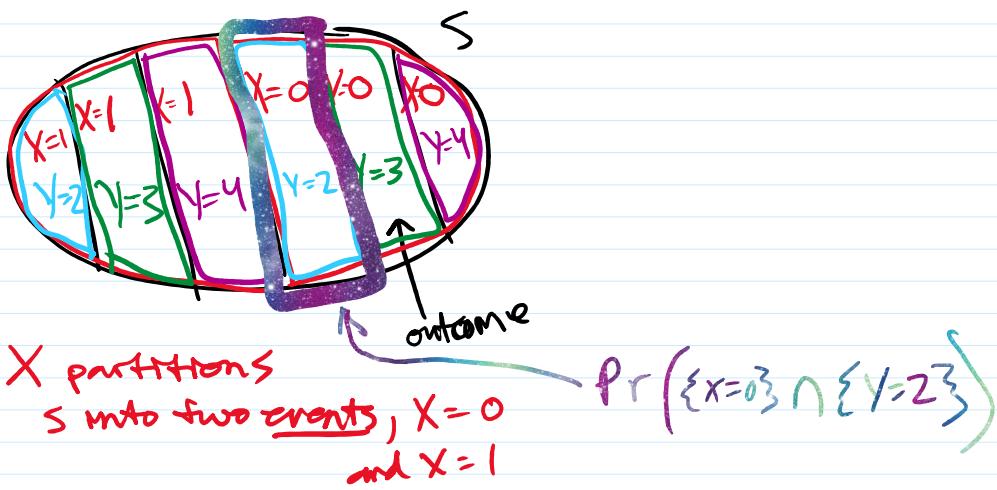
$$CDF(-\infty) = 0$$

$$CDF(\infty) = 1$$





$$\frac{d}{dx} \text{CDF} = \text{PDF}$$



What is the probability of $\{X=0\} \cap \{Y=2\}$?

If two RV's are independent

$$f(x, y) = f_x(x) f_y(y)$$

continuous case:

$$f(x,y) = f_x(x)f_y(y)$$

↑ ↑ ↑
pdf pdf pdf

$$\text{CDF} = F(x,y) = \Pr(X \leq x \cap Y \leq y)$$

Example : recode (H, T)
as $(1, 0)$

Contingency table

		die	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
		win	a	b	c	d	e	f	α
		H(1)	g	h	i	j	k	l	β
Total		γ	δ	ε	ζ	θ	ψ	ω	

$f_y(1), f_y(0)$
Marginal dist. of Y.

$$f(1,1) = a$$

$f_x(1), f_x(2), \dots$

$$f(0,3) = i$$

Marginal distribution
of X.

$$f(0,6) = l$$

"The distribution"

$$f(0,6) = 1$$

$$\omega = ?$$

"The distribution
of X, ignoring Y"

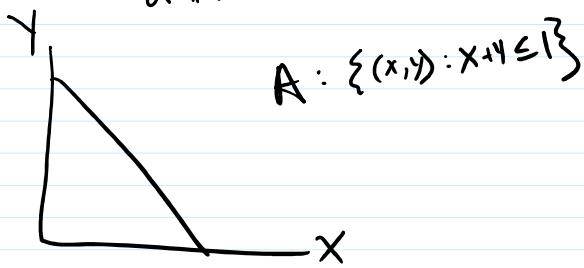
$$a = ? \quad \frac{1}{12} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{6}$$

$$a = b = \dots = \ell = \frac{1}{12}$$

Joint PDF

$$\Pr((x,y) \in A) = \iint_A f(x,y) dA$$

↑
region
of \mathbb{R}^2



Example

$$f(x,y) = \begin{cases} \frac{2}{3}(x+2y), & 0 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq y \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases}$$

Find $P(X \leq \frac{1}{2} \text{ and } Y \leq \frac{1}{2})$

$$= \int_0^{0.5} \int_0^{0.5} \frac{2}{3}(x+2y) dx dy$$

$$\int_0^3 \int_0^y$$

$$= \frac{2}{3} \int_0^{0.5} \left[\int_0^{0.5} (x+2y) dx \right] dy$$

$$= \frac{2}{3} \int_0^{0.5} \left[\frac{x^2}{2} + 2yx \right]_0^{0.5} dy$$

$$= \frac{2}{3} \int_0^{0.5} \left(\frac{0.25}{2} + y - 0 \right) dy$$

$$= \frac{2}{3} \left[0.125y + \frac{y^2}{2} \right]_0^{0.5}$$

$$= \frac{2}{3} \cdot \left[0.0625 + 0.125 \right]$$

$$= \frac{2}{3} \cdot \left[\frac{1}{16} + \frac{1}{8} \right]$$

$$= \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{3}{16} = \frac{1}{8} \quad \checkmark$$

Marginal distributions

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

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

()
summing $f(x,y)$
over all y

Conditional Distributions

$$f(y|x) = \frac{f(x,y)}{f_x(x)} \leftarrow \frac{\Pr(X=x \cap Y=y)}{\Pr(X=x)}$$

$$= \Pr(Y=y | X=x)$$

X, Y are independent

iff $f(y|x) = f_y(y)$

and $f(x|y) = f_x(x)$

Ex Ans: No, not independent.

If they were, then we'd need

$$f(1|1) = f(1|0)$$

$$f(0|1) = f(0|0)$$

Expectation

$$E(X) = \sum_{x_i} x_i f(x_i) \quad (\text{discrete})$$

$$E(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) dx \quad (\text{contin.})$$

Properties

If $g(x)$ is a function of X then $E(g(x)) = \sum_i g(x_i) f(x_i)$

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

$G=g(x)$ is its own r.v. - but this says we don't need to find the distribution of G in order to find its expectation.

• Linearity: $E(Ax+b) = A E(x) + b$
for any constants A, b .

Moments

$E(X^k)$ is the k^{th} moment of X .

1st moment is the expected value/mean.

$E[(x-\mu)^k]$ is the k^{th}

$E[(x-\mu)^k]$ is the k^{th} central moment of X .

Eg. $E[(x-\mu)^2]$ is the 2nd central moment and is known as the variance.

$$E[(x-\mu)^2] = E[x^2 - 2\mu x + \mu^2]$$

$$= E(x^2) - 2\mu E(x) + \mu^2$$

(but $\mu = E(x)$)

$$\boxed{\text{Var}(x) = E(x^2) - E(x)^2}$$

↑
2nd raw moment

↑
1st raw moment

Properties

HOMEWORK

$$\star \boxed{\text{Var}(ax + by) = a^2 \text{Var}(x) + b^2 \text{Var}(y) + 2ab \text{Cov}(x, y)}$$

$$\text{cov}(x, y) = E[(x - \bar{x})(y - \bar{y})]$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Var}(x) = \text{Cov}(x, x)$$

Standard deviation: $sd(X)$ or σ_x

$$\sigma_x = \sqrt{\text{Var}(x)}$$

$$sd(ax) = |a| sd(x)$$

Example:

$$\text{Var}(X) = ?$$

$$\text{Mean} : 0.3 \cdot 3 + 0.4 \cdot 4 + 0.3 \cdot 5$$

$$= 0.09 + 1.6 + 1.5 = 4$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = (3-4)^2 \cdot 0.3 + (4-4)^2 \cdot 0.4$$

$$+ (5-4)^2 \cdot 0.3$$

$$= 0.6$$

$$\sigma_x = \sqrt{0.6} = 0.77$$

Covariance

X, Y independent $\Rightarrow \text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$



Covariance is bilinear:

linear in each argument

$$\text{Cov}(aX+bY, Z) =$$

$$a\text{Cov}(X, Z) + b\text{Cov}(Y, Z)$$

$$|\text{Cov}(X, Y)| \leq \sigma_x \sigma_y \quad (\text{a version of the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality})$$

Recall: $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$ is
an inner product on
the vector space of
random variables.

Correlation

Normalized covariance

$$\begin{aligned} \text{corr}(X, Y) &= \frac{\text{cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_x \sigma_y} \\ &= \text{cov}\left(\frac{X}{\sigma_x}, \frac{Y}{\sigma_y}\right) \end{aligned}$$

↑
deviation scores

$$\text{corr} \in [-1, 1]$$

$$\text{corr}(X, Y) = 0 \equiv \text{uncorrelated}$$

\nRightarrow independence

$$\text{corr}(ax + b, y) = \text{corr}(x, y)$$



these will
have the
same
correlation

Consider $\text{corr}(ax, by)$

$$= \frac{\text{cov}(ax, by)}{\text{sd}(ax) \text{sd}(by)}$$

$$= \frac{ab \text{cov}(x, y)}{|a| \sigma_x |b| \sigma_y}$$

$$= \pm \frac{\text{cov}(x, y)}{\sigma_x \sigma_y} = \pm \text{corr}(x, y)$$

Therefore $\text{corr}(ax, by) = \text{corr}(x, y)$

if a, b are
both positive

if a, b are
both positive
or negative

$$= - \text{corr}(x, y)$$

if a and b
have opposite signs

So in particular:

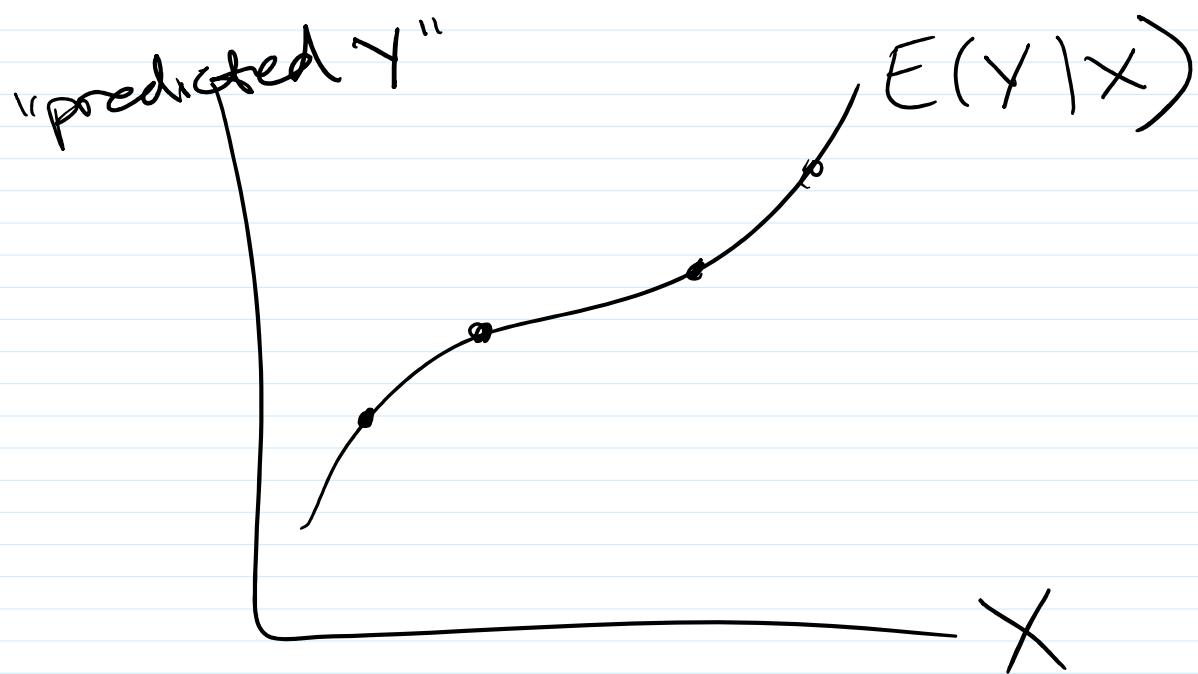
$$\text{corr}(x, -y) = - \text{corr}(x, y)$$

Conditional Expectation

$$E(Y|x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y f(y|x) dy$$

replace pdf
w/ the conditional pdf

In econometrics we care a lot
about the CEF (cond. exp. fn)
which is $E(Y|x)$ viewed
as a fn of X .



conditional variance

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

Law of Iterated Expectations
(LIE)

$$E_X(E(Y|X)) = E(Y)$$
