

N.I. Lobachevsky State University  
of Nizhni Novgorod

Probability theory and mathematical statistics:

Random vectors — Practice

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**Problem.** From the table of the joint distribution

$x_i \setminus y_j$	$-1$	$0$	$1$
$-2$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{8}$
$2$	$\frac{1}{12}$	$\frac{1}{3}$	$\frac{1}{12}$

of random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  find distribution of  $X$  and compute  $P(Y \geq 0)$ . Find probability distribution of  $X + Y$ .

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**Solution.**

$$\begin{aligned} P(X = -2) &= P(X = -2, Y = -1) + P(X = -2, Y = 0) \\ &\quad + P(X = -2, Y = 1) = \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(X = 2) &= P(X = 2, Y = -1) + P(X = 2, Y = 0) \\ &\quad + P(X = 2, Y = 1) = \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{P}(Y \geq 0) &= 1 - \mathbf{P}(Y < 0) \\ &= 1 - (\mathbf{P}(Y = -1, X = -2) + \mathbf{P}(Y = -1, X = 2)) \\ &= 1 - \frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{12} = \frac{19}{24}.\end{aligned}$$

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 &= 1 - \frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{12} = \frac{19}{24}.
 \end{aligned}$$

$$P(X + Y = -3) = P(X = -3, Y = -1) = \frac{1}{8},$$

$$P(X + Y = -2) = P(X = -2, Y = 0) = \frac{1}{4},$$

$$P(X + Y = -1) = P(X = -2, Y = 1) = \frac{1}{8},$$

...

The joint probability distribution of random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  is given in the following table:

$x_i \setminus y_j$	0	1	2	3
-1	0.1265625	0.1265625	0.0421875	0.0046875
1	0.2953125	0.2953125	0.0984375	0.0109375

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**Solution.** Marginal probability distributions are:

$y_j$	0	1	2	3
$P(Y = y_j)$	0.421875	0.421875	0.140625	0.015625

$x_i$	-1	1
$P(X = x_i)$	0.3	0.7

With means of exhausting calculations we verify that







$$P(X = x_i, Y = y_j) = P(X = x_i)P(Y = y_j).$$

**Problem.** A die is rolled once. Let  $X$  denote the number of times 1 points appeared,  $Y$  denote the number of times 6 points appeared. Find the joint probability distribution of  $X$  and  $Y$ . Are these random variables dependent?









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**Solution.** From definition of  $X$  and  $Y$ ,

$\omega$						
$X(\omega)$	1	0	0	0	0	0
$Y(\omega)$	0	0	0	0	0	1

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So,







$$P(X = 0, Y = 0) = \frac{4}{6},$$

$$P(X = 1, Y = 0) = P(X = 0, Y = 1) = \frac{1}{6},$$

$$P(X = 1, Y = 1) = 0.$$

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$$P(X = 0, Y = 0) = \frac{4}{6},$$

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$$P(X = 1, Y = 1) = 0.$$

For example,  $P(X = 1, Y = 1) \neq P(X = 1)P(Y = 1)$ , thus the random variables are dependent.

**Problem.** Let  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k$  be independent identically distributed (i.i.d) random variables with uniform distribution on the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . Find the probability distribution of  $Y = \min\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k\}$ .

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**Solution.**

From

$$\{Y = m\} = \{Y > m - 1\} \setminus \{Y > m\}$$

and

$$\{Y > m\} \subset \{Y > m - 1\}$$

conclude that

$$P(Y = m) = P(Y > m - 1) - P(Y > m).$$

For  $m = 0, 1, \dots, m$ .

$$\begin{aligned} P(Y > m) &= P(\min\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k\} > m) \\ &= P(X_1 > m, X_2 > m, \dots, X_k > m) \\ &= P(X_1 > m)P(X_2 > m) \cdots P(X_k > m) \\ &= \left(\frac{n-m}{n}\right)^k \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$P(Y = m) = \frac{(n-m+1)^k - (n-m)^k}{n^k}.$$

**Problem.** Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be independent random variables with geometric distribution with parameter  $p$ . Find distribution of  $X + Y$  and conditional distribution of  $X$  given  $X + Y = n$ .

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**Solution.**

$$P(X = m) = P(Y = m) = (1 - p)^{m-1}p, \quad m = 1, 2, \dots$$

Now, for  $n = 2, 3, \dots$

$$\begin{aligned} P(X + Y = n) &= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} P(X = k)P(Y = n - k) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} p^2(1 - p)^{k-1}(1 - p)^{n-k-1} = (n - 1)p^2(1 - p)^{n-2}, \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} P(X = k | X + Y = n) &= \frac{P(X = k, X + Y = n)}{P(X + Y = n)} = \\ &= \frac{p(1-p)^{k-1}p(1-p)^{n-k-1}}{(n-1)p^2(1-p)^{n-2}} = \frac{1}{n-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Conditional distribution of  $X$  given  $X + Y = n$  is uniform on the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$ .

**Problem.** 3 dice are rolled. Denote by  $X$  the total number of 1's, by  $Y$  the total number of even numbers. Find the joint probability distribution of  $X$  and  $Y$ .

**Problem.** 3 dice are rolled. Denote by  $X$  the total number of 6's, by  $Y$  the total number of even numbers. Find the joint probability distribution of  $X$  and  $Y$ .

**Solution.** We have 3 independent trials with 3 events of interest:  $E_1$  — a die shows 6 points,  $E_2$  — a die shows 2 or 4 points,  $E_3$  — a die shows 1, or 3, or 5 points, with probabilities  $\frac{1}{6}$ ,  $\frac{2}{6}$ ,  $\frac{3}{6}$  in a single trial. For  $0 \leq k \leq m \leq 3$ . Event  $\{X = k, Y = m\}$  means that there are  $k$  occurrences of event  $E_1$ ,  $m - k$  occurrences of event  $E_2$ , and  $3 - m$  occurrences of  $E_3$ .

$$P(X = k, Y = m) = \frac{3!}{k!(m - k)!(3 - m)!} \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^k \left(\frac{2}{6}\right)^{m-k} \left(\frac{3}{6}\right)^{3-m}$$

due to multinomial formula.

**Problem.** There are 10 yellow M&Ms, 10 blue M&Ms and 2 red M&Ms in a jar. Three candies are taken out. Let  $X$  denote the number of red ones and  $Y$  denote the number of blue ones. Find the joint probability distribution of  $X$  and  $Y$ .

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Obviously,  $Y$  can be either 0, or 1, or 2 and  $X$  can be any number from 0 to  $3 - Y$ . We'll use classical probability here. There are  $C_{12}^3$  elementary outcomes in total Consider event  $\{X = k, Y = m\}$ ,  $0 \leq m \leq 2, 0 \leq k \leq 3 - m$ .