



**Bahria University**  
Discovering Knowledge

# Joint Probability Distribution

# Joint Probability Distribution

- Previously we have seen one-dimensional sample space in which there was only one random variable.
- We can assume an experiment having simultaneous outcomes of more than one random variable.
- If we observe an experiment having two random variables, we will find 2 dimensional sample space (or a plane).
- For example
  - we might measure the amount of precipitate  $P$  and volume  $V$  of gas released from a controlled chemical experiment.
  - we might be interested in the hardness  $H$  and tensile strength  $T$  of cold-drawn copper

# Joint Probability Distribution

- If  $X$  and  $Y$  are two discrete random variables, the probability distribution for their simultaneous occurrence can be represented by a function  $f(x, y)$
- It contains pair of values  $(x, y)$  within the range of the random variables  $X$  and  $Y$
- This function will be called joint probability distribution of  $X$  and  $Y$ .

# Joint Probability Distribution

- **Definition 3.8:**

The function  $f(x, y)$  is a **joint probability distribution** or **probability mass function** of the discrete random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  if

1.  $f(x, y) \geq 0$  for all  $(x, y)$ ,
2.  $\sum_x \sum_y f(x, y) = 1$ ,
3.  $P(X = x, Y = y) = f(x, y)$ .

For any region  $A$  in the  $xy$  plane,  $P[(X, Y) \in A] = \sum \sum_A f(x, y)$ .

Compare with  
single RV PMF

1.  $f(x) \geq 0$ .

2.  $\sum_x f(x) = 1$ .

3.  $P(X = x) = f(x)$ .

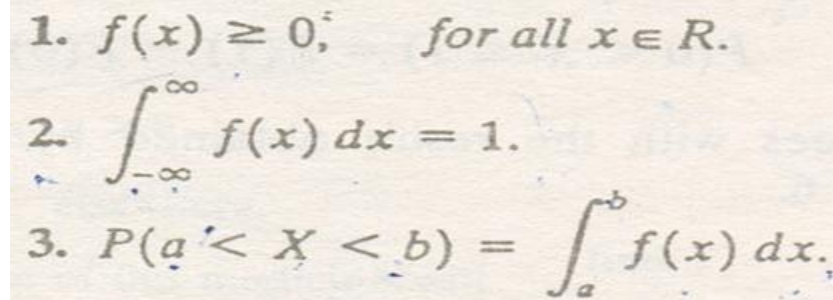
# Joint Probability Distribution

- **Definition 3.9:**

The function  $f(x, y)$  is a **joint density function** of the continuous random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  if

1.  $f(x, y) \geq 0$ , for all  $(x, y)$ ,
2.  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x, y) \, dx \, dy = 1$ ,
3.  $P[(X, Y) \in A] = \int \int_A f(x, y) \, dx \, dy$ , for any region  $A$  in the  $xy$  plane.

Compare with  
single RV pdf



Handwritten notes comparing joint and single random variable probability density functions:

1.  $f(x) \geq 0$ , for all  $x \in R$ .
2.  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \, dx = 1$ .
3.  $P(a < X < b) = \int_a^b f(x) \, dx$ .

# Joint Probability Distribution

- **Example 3.14**
  - Two ballpoint pens are selected at random from a box that contains 3 blue pens, 2 red pens, and 3 green pens. If  $X$  is the number of blue pens selected and  $Y$  is the number of red pens selected, find:
    - a) Joint probability function  $f(x, y)$
    - b)  $P[(X, Y) \in A]$ , where  $A$  is the region  $\{(x, y) \mid x + y \leq 1\}$ .

# Joint Probability Distribution

- Example 3.14-Solution

$$f(x, y) = \frac{\binom{3}{x} \binom{2}{y} \binom{3}{2-x-y}}{\binom{8}{2}},$$

for  $x = 0, 1, 2$ ;  $y = 0, 1, 2$ ; and  $0 \leq x + y \leq 2$ .

(b) The probability that  $(X, Y)$  fall in the region  $A$  is

$$\begin{aligned} P[(X, Y) \in A] &= P(X + Y \leq 1) = f(0, 0) + f(0, 1) + f(1, 0) \\ &= \frac{3}{28} + \frac{3}{14} + \frac{9}{28} = \frac{9}{14}. \end{aligned}$$

Table 3.1: Joint Probability Distribution for Example 3.14

$f(x, y)$		$x$			Row Totals
		0	1	2	
$y$	0	$\frac{3}{28}$	$\frac{9}{28}$	$\frac{3}{28}$	$\frac{15}{28}$
	1	$\frac{3}{14}$	$\frac{3}{14}$	0	$\frac{3}{7}$
	2	$\frac{1}{28}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{28}$
Column Totals		$\frac{5}{14}$	$\frac{15}{28}$	$\frac{3}{28}$	1

# Joint Probability Distribution

- **Example 3.15:**

- A privately owned business operates both a drive-in facility and a walk-in facility. On a randomly selected day, let  $X$  and  $Y$ , respectively, be the proportions of the time that the drive-in and the walk-in facilities are in use, and suppose that the joint density function of these random variables is:

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{2}{5}(2x + 3y), & 0 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq y \leq 1, \\ 0, & \text{elsewhere.} \end{cases}$$

- (a) Verify condition 2 of Definition 3.9.
- (b) Find  $P[(X, Y) \in A]$ , where  $A = \{(x, y) \mid 0 < x < \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4} < y < \frac{1}{2}\}$ .



# Joint Probability Distribution

- **Example 3.15 - Solution:**

(a) The integration of  $f(x, y)$  over the whole region is

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x, y) \, dx \, dy &= \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \frac{2}{5}(2x + 3y) \, dx \, dy \\ &= \int_0^1 \left( \frac{2x^2}{5} + \frac{6xy}{5} \right) \Big|_{x=0}^{x=1} dy \\ &= \int_0^1 \left( \frac{2}{5} + \frac{6y}{5} \right) dy = \left( \frac{2y}{5} + \frac{3y^2}{5} \right) \Big|_0^1 = \frac{2}{5} + \frac{3}{5} = 1.\end{aligned}$$

# Joint Probability Distribution

- **Example 3.15 - Solution:**

(b) To calculate the probability, we use

$$\begin{aligned} P[(X, Y) \in A] &= P\left(0 < X < \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4} < Y < \frac{1}{2}\right) \\ &= \int_{1/4}^{1/2} \int_0^{1/2} \frac{2}{5}(2x + 3y) \, dx \, dy \\ &= \int_{1/4}^{1/2} \left(\frac{2x^2}{5} + \frac{6xy}{5}\right) \Big|_{x=0}^{x=1/2} dy = \int_{1/4}^{1/2} \left(\frac{1}{10} + \frac{3y}{5}\right) dy \\ &= \left(\frac{y}{10} + \frac{3y^2}{10}\right) \Big|_{1/4}^{1/2} \\ &= \frac{1}{10} \left[\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{4}\right) - \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{3}{16}\right)\right] = \frac{13}{160}. \end{aligned}$$

# Marginal Distributions

- Given the joint probability distribution  $f(x, y)$  of the discrete random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ .
- Probability distribution  $g(x)$  of  $X$  alone is obtained by summing  $f(x, y)$  over the values of  $Y$ .

$$g(x) = \sum_y f(x, y)$$

- Similarly, the probability distribution  $h(y)$  of  $Y$  alone is obtained by summing  $f(x, y)$  over the values of  $X$ .
- We define  $g(x)$  and  $h(y)$  to be the marginal distributions of  $X$  and  $Y$ , respectively

$$h(y) = \sum_x f(x, y)$$

- If working in continuous space, we will do **integration**.
- The fact that the marginal distributions  $g(x)$  and  $h(y)$  are indeed the probability distributions. Their value will be 1.

# Marginal Distributions

- **Definition 3.10:**

The **marginal distributions** of  $X$  alone and of  $Y$  alone are

$$g(x) = \sum_y f(x, y) \quad \text{and} \quad h(y) = \sum_x f(x, y)$$

for the discrete case, and

$$g(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x, y) \, dy \quad \text{and} \quad h(y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x, y) \, dx$$

for the continuous case.

# Marginal Distributions

- **Example 3.16:**
  - Show that the column and row totals of given table give the marginal distribution of  $X$  alone and of  $Y$  alone.

$f(x, y)$		$x$			Row Totals
		0	1	2	
$y$	0	$\frac{3}{28}$	$\frac{9}{28}$	$\frac{3}{28}$	$\frac{15}{28}$
	1	$\frac{3}{14}$	$\frac{3}{14}$	0	$\frac{3}{7}$
	2	$\frac{1}{28}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{28}$
Column Totals		$\frac{5}{14}$	$\frac{15}{28}$	$\frac{3}{28}$	1

# Marginal Distributions

- **Example 3.16 - Solution:**

For the random variable  $X$ , we see that

$$g(0) = f(0, 0) + f(0, 1) + f(0, 2) = \frac{3}{28} + \frac{3}{14} + \frac{1}{28} = \frac{5}{14},$$

$$g(1) = f(1, 0) + f(1, 1) + f(1, 2) = \frac{9}{28} + \frac{3}{14} + 0 = \frac{15}{28},$$

and

$$g(2) = f(2, 0) + f(2, 1) + f(2, 2) = \frac{3}{28} + 0 + 0 = \frac{3}{28},$$

which are just the column totals of Table 3.1. In a similar manner we could show that the values of  $h(y)$  are given by the row totals. In tabular form, these marginal distributions may be written as follows:

$x$	0	1	2
$g(x)$	$\frac{5}{14}$	$\frac{15}{28}$	$\frac{3}{28}$

$y$	0	1	2
$h(y)$	$\frac{15}{28}$	$\frac{3}{7}$	$\frac{1}{28}$

# Marginal Distributions

- **Example 3.17:**

- Find  $g(x)$  and  $h(y)$  for the joint density function of

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{2}{5}(2x + 3y), & 0 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq y \leq 1, \\ 0, & \text{elsewhere.} \end{cases}$$

- **Solution:**

$$g(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x, y) \, dy = \int_0^1 \frac{2}{5}(2x + 3y) \, dy = \left( \frac{4xy}{5} + \frac{6y^2}{10} \right) \bigg|_{y=0}^{y=1} = \frac{4x + 3}{5},$$

for  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ , and  $g(x) = 0$  elsewhere. Similarly,

$$h(y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x, y) \, dx = \int_0^1 \frac{2}{5}(2x + 3y) \, dx = \frac{2(1 + 3y)}{5},$$

# Conditional Distribution

- **Definition 3.11:**

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be two random variables, discrete or continuous. The **conditional distribution** of the random variable  $Y$  given that  $X = x$  is

$$f(y|x) = \frac{f(x, y)}{g(x)}, \text{ provided } g(x) > 0.$$

Similarly, the conditional distribution of  $X$  given that  $Y = y$  is

$$f(x|y) = \frac{f(x, y)}{h(y)}, \text{ provided } h(y) > 0.$$

Compare with  
Conditional Probability:

$$P(B|A) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(A)}, \text{ provided } P(A) > 0,$$



# Conditional Distribution

- **Example 3.18:**
  - Referring to Example 3.14, find the conditional distribution of  $X$ , given that  $Y = 1$ ,
  - and use it to determine  $P(X = 0 \mid Y = 1)$ .
- **Ref. Example:**

$f(x, y)$		$x$			Row Totals
		0	1	2	
$y$	0	$\frac{3}{28}$	$\frac{9}{28}$	$\frac{3}{28}$	$\frac{15}{28}$
	1	$\frac{3}{14}$	$\frac{3}{14}$	0	$\frac{3}{7}$
	2	$\frac{1}{28}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{28}$
Column Totals		$\frac{5}{14}$	$\frac{15}{28}$	$\frac{3}{28}$	1

$$f(x, y) = \frac{\binom{3}{x} \binom{2}{y} \binom{3}{2-x-y}}{\binom{8}{2}},$$

# Conditional Distribution

- **Example 3.18-Solution:**

We need to find  $f(x|y)$ , where  $y = 1$ . First, we find that

$$f(x|1) = \frac{f(x, 1)}{h(1)}$$

$$h(1) = \sum_{x=0}^2 f(x, 1) = \frac{3}{14} + \frac{3}{14} + 0 = \frac{3}{7}.$$

$$f(x|1) = \frac{f(x, 1)}{h(1)} = \left(\frac{7}{3}\right) f(x, 1), \quad x = 0, 1, 2.$$

# Conditional Distribution

- **Example 3.18-Solution:**

$$f(0|1) = \binom{7}{3} f(0, 1) = \binom{7}{3} \left( \frac{3}{14} \right) = \frac{1}{2},$$

$$f(1|1) = \binom{7}{3} f(1, 1) = \binom{7}{3} \left( \frac{3}{14} \right) = \frac{1}{2},$$

$$f(2|1) = \binom{7}{3} f(2, 1) = \binom{7}{3} (0) = 0,$$

and the conditional distribution of  $X$ , given that  $Y = 1$ , is

$x$	0	1	2
$f(x 1)$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0

Finally,

$$P(X = 0 \mid Y = 1) = f(0|1) = \frac{1}{2}.$$

# Conditional Distribution

- **Example 3.19:**

The joint density for the random variables  $(X, Y)$ , where  $X$  is the unit temperature change and  $Y$  is the proportion of spectrum shift that a certain atomic particle produces, is

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} 10xy^2, & 0 < x < y < 1, \\ 0, & \text{elsewhere.} \end{cases}$$

- (a) Find the marginal densities  $g(x)$ ,  $h(y)$ , and the conditional density  $f(y|x)$ .
- (b) Find the probability that the spectrum shifts more than half of the total observations, given that the temperature is increased by 0.25 unit.

# Conditional Distribution

- **Example 3.19-Solution:**

(a) By definition,

$$\begin{aligned}g(x) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x, y) \, dy = \int_x^1 10xy^2 \, dy \\&= \frac{10}{3}xy^3 \Big|_{y=x}^{y=1} = \frac{10}{3}x(1 - x^3), \quad 0 < x < 1, \\h(y) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x, y) \, dx = \int_0^y 10xy^2 \, dx = 5x^2y^2 \Big|_{x=0}^{x=y} = 5y^4, \quad 0 < y < 1.\end{aligned}$$

Now

$$f(y|x) = \frac{f(x, y)}{g(x)} = \frac{10xy^2}{\frac{10}{3}x(1 - x^3)} = \frac{3y^2}{1 - x^3}, \quad 0 < x < y < 1.$$

(b) Therefore,

$$P\left(Y > \frac{1}{2} \mid X = 0.25\right) = \int_{1/2}^1 f(y \mid x = 0.25) \, dy = \int_{1/2}^1 \frac{3y^2}{1 - 0.25^3} \, dy = \frac{8}{9}.$$

# Conditional Distribution

- **Example 3.20:**

Given the joint density function

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} \frac{x(1+3y^2)}{4}, & 0 < x < 2, \ 0 < y < 1, \\ 0, & \text{elsewhere,} \end{cases}$$

find  $g(x)$ ,  $h(y)$ ,  $f(x|y)$ , and evaluate  $P(\frac{1}{4} < X < \frac{1}{2} \mid Y = \frac{1}{3})$ .

# Conditional Distribution

- Example 3.20-Solution:**

$$g(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x, y) \, dy = \int_0^1 \frac{x(1 + 3y^2)}{4} dy = \left( \frac{xy}{4} + \frac{xy^3}{4} \right) \Big|_{y=0}^{y=1} = \frac{x}{2},$$

$$h(y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x, y) \, dx = \int_0^2 \frac{x(1 + 3y^2)}{4} dx = \left( \frac{x^2}{8} + \frac{3x^2y^2}{8} \right) \Big|_{x=0}^{x=2} = \frac{1 + 3y^2}{2}.$$

Therefore, using the conditional density definition, for  $0 < x < 2$ ,

$$f(x|y) = \frac{f(x, y)}{h(y)} = \frac{x(1 + 3y^2)/4}{(1 + 3y^2)/2} = \frac{x}{2},$$

and

$$P\left(\frac{1}{4} < X < \frac{1}{2} \mid Y = \frac{1}{3}\right) = \int_{1/4}^{1/2} \frac{x}{2} dx = \frac{3}{64}.$$

# Statistically Independent

- **Definition 3.12**

- Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be two random variables, discrete or continuous, with joint probability distribution  $f(x, y)$  and marginal distributions  $g(x)$  and  $h(y)$ , respectively. The random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are said to be **statistically independent** if and only if:

$$f(x, y) = g(x)h(y)$$

- for all  $(x, y)$  within their range

– Compare with

$P(A   B) = P(A) \text{ and } P(B   A) = P(B).$
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# Statistically Independent

- Example 3.21:**

- Show that the random variables of Example 3.14 are not statistically independent.

$f(x, y)$		$x$			Row Totals
		0	1	2	
$y$	0	$\frac{3}{28}$	$\frac{9}{28}$	$\frac{3}{28}$	$\frac{15}{28}$
	1	$\frac{3}{14}$	$\frac{3}{14}$	0	$\frac{3}{7}$
	2	$\frac{1}{28}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{28}$
Column Totals		$\frac{5}{14}$	$\frac{15}{28}$	$\frac{3}{28}$	1

# Statistically Independent

- **Example 3.21-Proof:**

$$f(0, 1) = \frac{3}{14},$$

$$g(0) = \sum_{y=0}^2 f(0, y) = \frac{3}{28} + \frac{3}{14} + \frac{1}{28} = \frac{5}{14},$$

$$h(1) = \sum_{x=0}^2 f(x, 1) = \frac{3}{14} + \frac{3}{14} + 0 = \frac{3}{7}.$$

$$\boxed{f(0, 1) \neq g(0)h(1),}$$

Therefore X and Y are not statistically independent.