

# Random Variable

---

Random experiment

Sample Space = Set of possible  
outcomes of Random experiment.

Motivation: We are not interested

in the whole experiment, but

Value of a numerical quantity

which comes out of random experiment.

Random Variable  $\rightarrow$  A function which  
takes input from Sample Space  
and map it to Real Numbers.

Or Real Valued Function defined on  
Sample Space.

Random experiment.

E.g. Rolling a dice twice.

Q1 What is the probability that sum is 5.

Q2 What is the probability that the smaller of the outcomes is 3.

$$S = \{(1,1), (1,2), \dots, (1,6), (2,1), \dots, (2,6) \\ \dots, (6,1), \dots, (6,6)\}$$

$X$  — Sum of outcomes of two rolls.

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

$$X \in \{2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12\}$$

$y =$  Minimum of outcome of a roll.

$$y \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$



X  
2  
3  
5  
12

Events

$$\{(1,1)\}$$

$$\{(1,2), (2,1)\}$$

$$\{(1,3), (2,2), (3,1)\}$$

Probability.

$$\frac{1}{36}$$

$$\frac{2}{36}$$

$$\frac{3}{36}$$

$$\frac{1}{36}$$

X	P	X	P
2	$\frac{1}{36}$	9	$\frac{4}{36}$
3	$\frac{2}{36}$	10	$\frac{3}{36}$
4	$\frac{3}{36}$	11	$\frac{2}{36}$
5	$\frac{4}{36}$	12	$\frac{1}{36}$
6	$\frac{5}{36}$		
7	$\frac{6}{36}$		
8	$\frac{5}{36}$		

Y

Events

$\{(1,1), \dots, (1,6), (2,1), (3,1), (4,1), (5,1), (6,1)\}$

$\frac{11}{36}$

2

$\{(2,2), \dots, (2,6), (3,2), (4,2), (5,2), (6,2)\}$

$\frac{9}{36}$

3

$\frac{7}{36}$

5

$\frac{5}{36}$

6

$\frac{3}{36}$

1

$\frac{1}{36}$

Probability

Random experiment.

E.g.:

Tossing a Coin three times.

$$S = \{HHH, HHT, HTH, HTH, THT, THH, TTH, TTT\}.$$

Q1 of three tosses, how many times will be head?

Q2. Of three tosses, which toss results in a head first?

$X$ — No. of heads that appears.	$X$	$Y$
HHH	3	1
HHT	2	1
HTH	2	1
HTT	1	1
THH	2	2
THT	1	2
TTH	1	3
TTT	0	Nil

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(X=0) &= \frac{1}{8} \\
 P(X=1) &= \frac{3}{8} \\
 P(X=2) &= \frac{3}{8} \\
 P(X=3) &= \frac{1}{8} \\
 P(Y=1) &= \frac{4}{8} \\
 P(Y=2) &= \frac{2}{8} \\
 P(Y=3) &= \frac{1}{8}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$X \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$$

$Y$  — Toss in  
which  
head  
appears

first.  
 $Y \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ .

Discrete Random Variable  $\rightarrow$  A random

Variable is called Discrete Random Variable if it takes only Countably finite or infinite Values.

## Apartment Complex data

- There are 12 apartments in a apartment Complex.
- Each floor has 3 apartments:  
One bedroom, two bedroom, three  
bedroom.

Apartment  
No.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

Floor No.

No. of  
bedrooms.

Size of  
apartment

900.23

1175.11

1785.09

900.12

:

:

:

1786.30

[900, 1800]

Distance of  
apartment  
from lift -

500.23

325.3

:

:

:

455.37

Random Experiment - Choosing Random

apartment out of 12 apartments.

X - Floor no. —  $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$

W - Distance of  
apartment

Y - No. of bedrooms -  $\{1, 2, 3\}$

from lift

Z - Size of apartment -  $[900, 1800]$

$[300, 50]$

## Discrete Random Variables.

- ① Maximum from a set of finite numbers.
- ② Outcome of rolling a die.
- ③ No. of students in class.
- ④ No. of spelling mistakes in a paragraph.

## Continuous Random Variable

- ① Area of apartment -
- ② Height and weight of students.
- ③ Temperature in a room.

Continuous Random Variable's

A Random Variable Which takes  
Values in an interval.

---

Discrete RV.

Probability mass function: Let  $X$  be a random variable which takes values  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N$ , then probability mass function (pmf) is defined as

$$p(x_i) = P(X=x_i)$$

Properties of pmf.

①  $p(x_i) \geq 0$

②  $\sum_{i=1}^N p(x_i) = 1$ .

E.g X takes Values			
X	0	1	2
$p(x_i)$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$
↓			
Is it pmf?			
Yes.			

E.g. D

X	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$x_5$	
$p(x_i)$	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	— Not a pmf

E.g.

X	1	2	3	4	5	
$p(x_i)$	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	Not a pmf.

Example.

$X$

$x_0 \quad x_1 \quad x_2 \quad x_3 \quad \dots$

$b > 0$

$$p(x_i) = P(X=x_i)$$

$$\frac{c x^0}{0!} \quad \frac{c x^1}{1!} \quad \frac{c x^2}{2!} \quad \frac{c x^3}{3!}$$

Can you find  $c$  such that  $p(x_i)$

①  $p(x_i) \geq 0 \Rightarrow c \geq 0.$

$$c \frac{\lambda^0}{0!} + c \frac{\lambda^1}{1!} + c \frac{\lambda^2}{2!} + \dots = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \left( 1 + \frac{\lambda}{1!} + \frac{\lambda^2}{2!} + \dots \right) = 1 \quad \begin{array}{l} e^\lambda = 1 + \lambda \\ \quad + \frac{\lambda^2}{2!} + \dots \end{array}$$

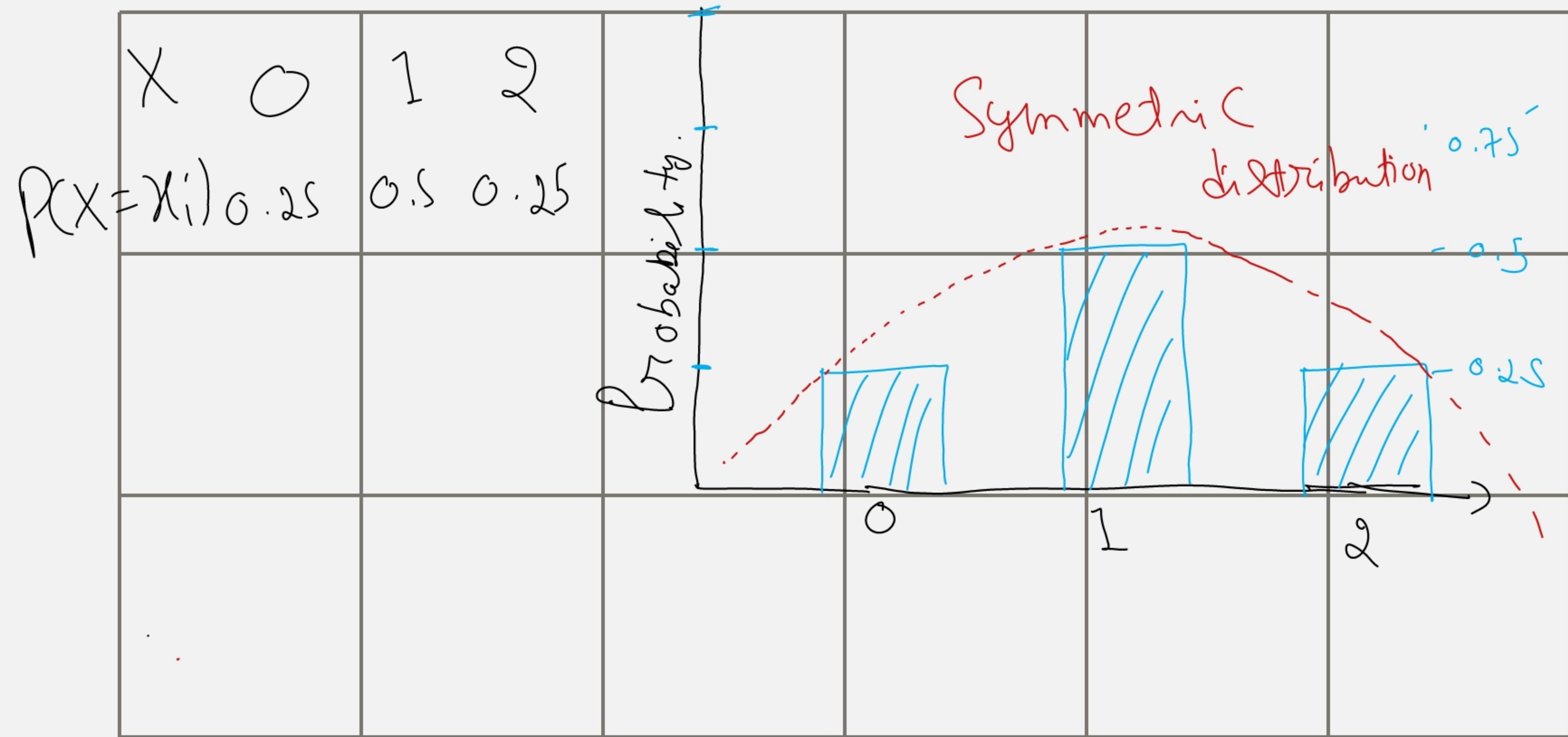
$$\Rightarrow e^\lambda = 1$$

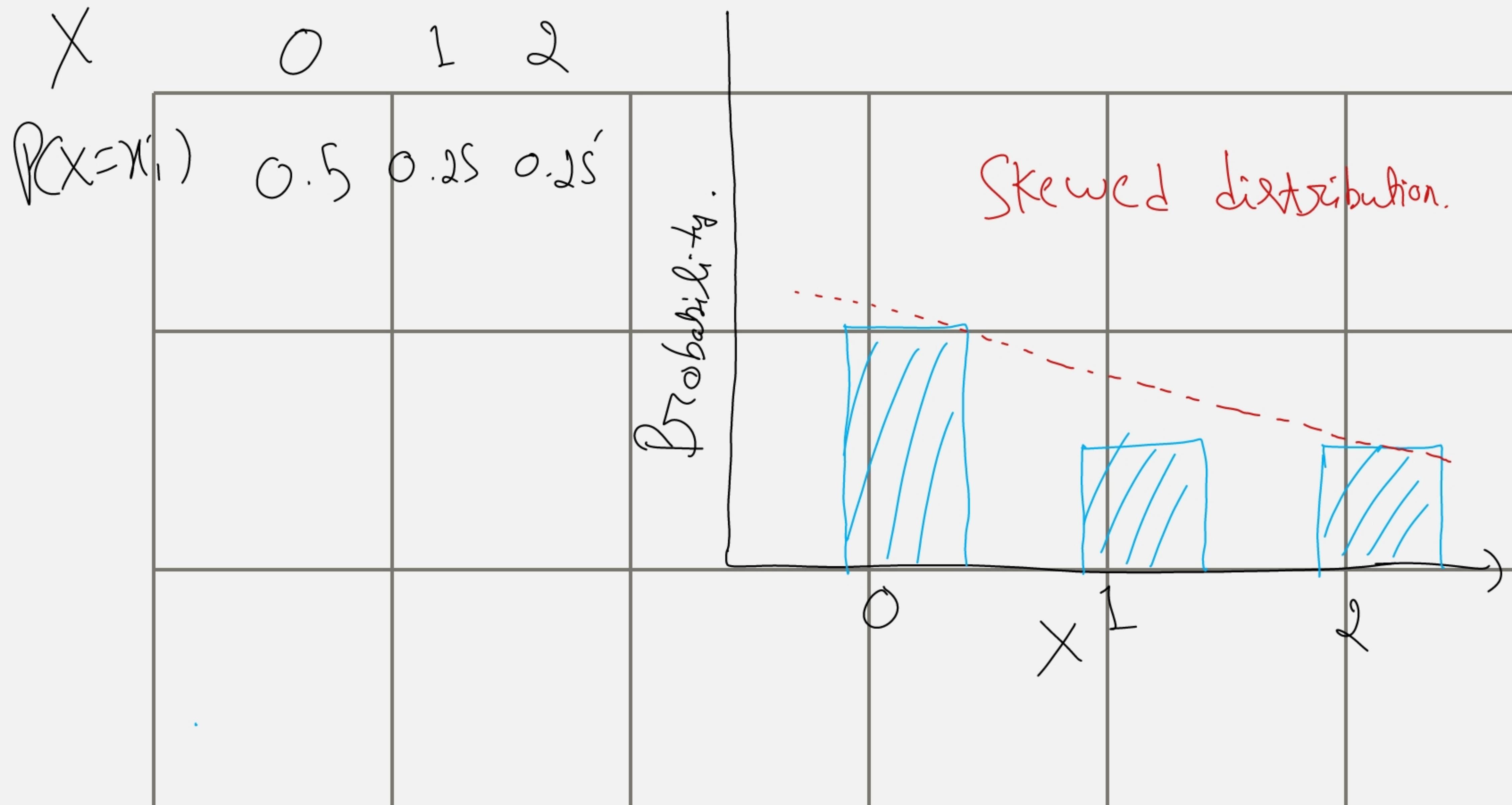
$$\Rightarrow \boxed{c = e^\lambda}$$

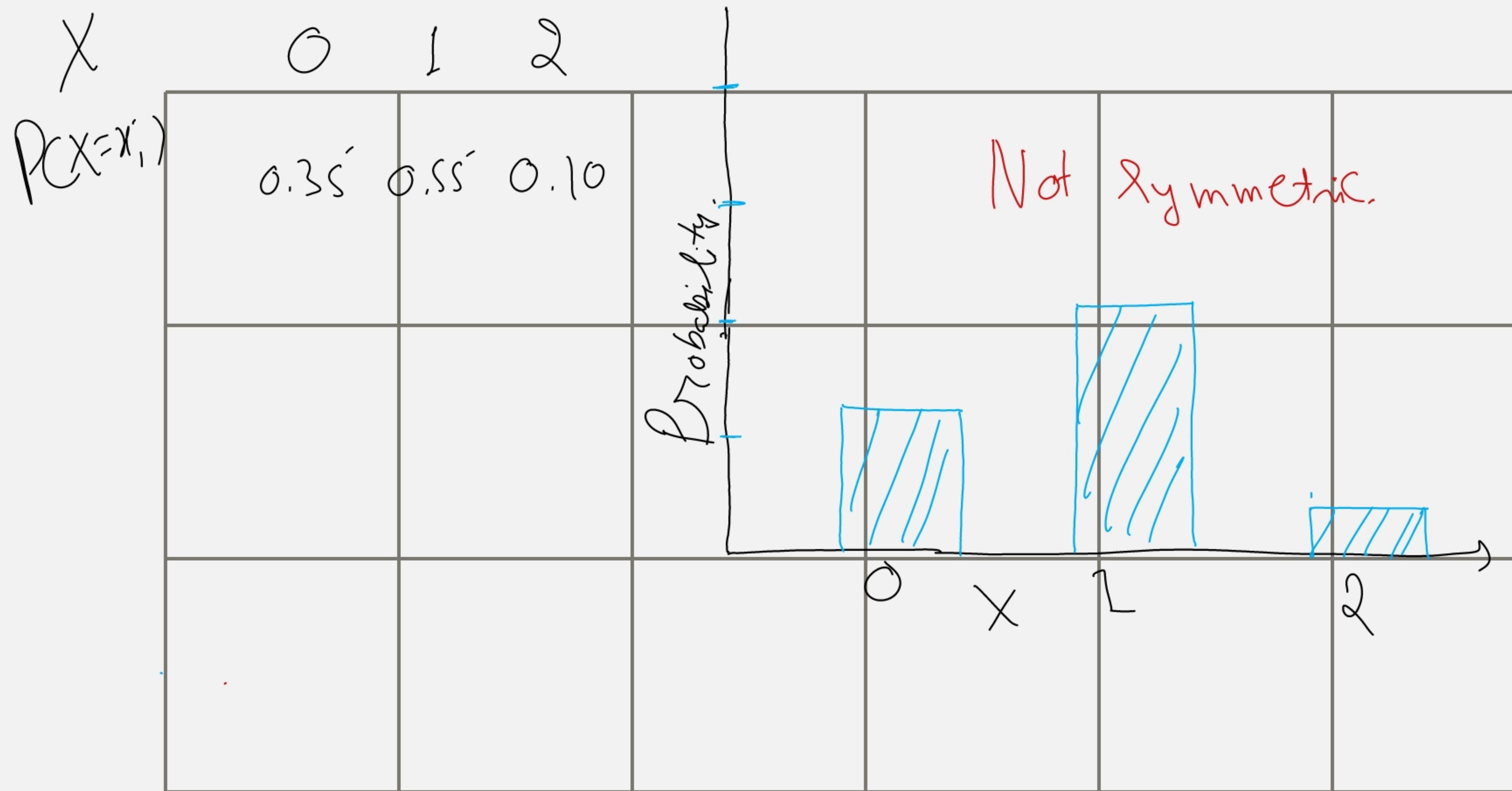
$$p(x_i) = P(X=x_i) = C \cdot \frac{i}{i!}$$

$$p(x_i) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^i}{i!}$$

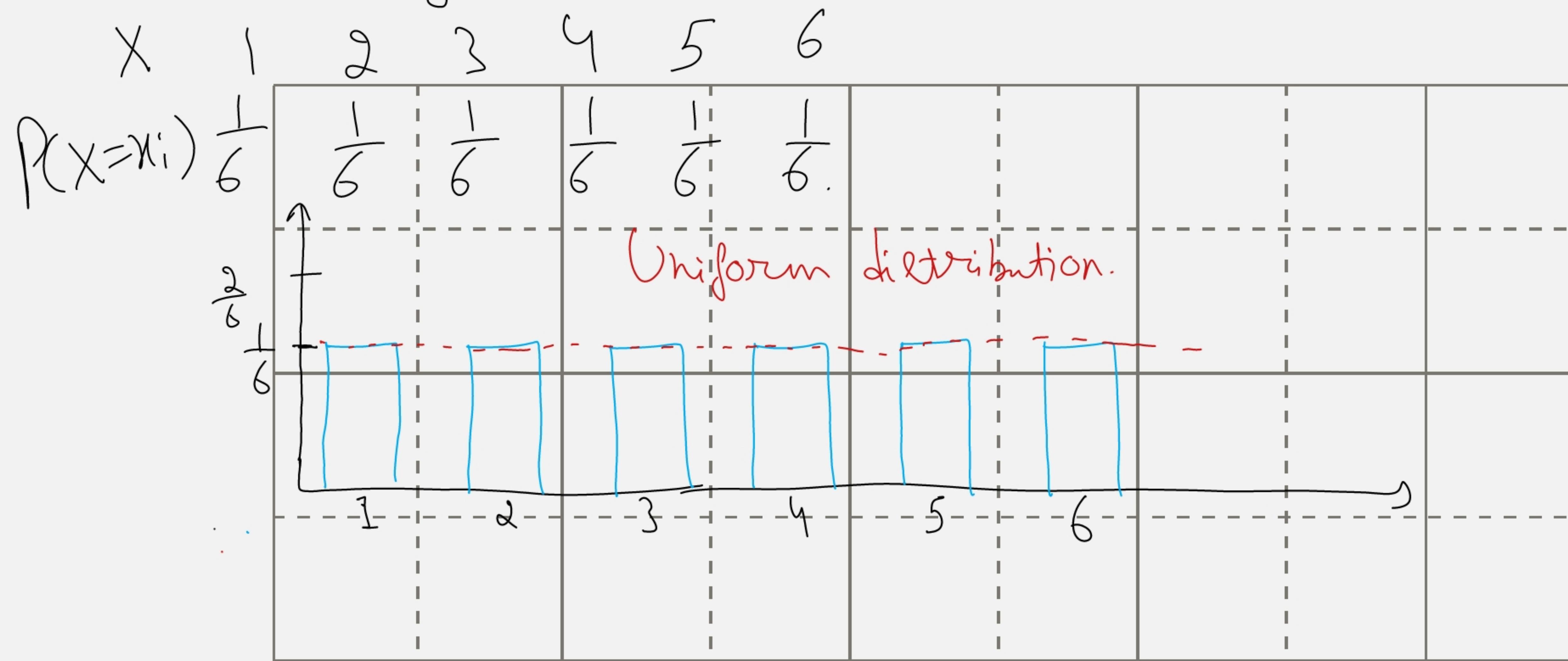
# Graph of probability mass function







E.g. Rolling a die



$X$	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
$P(X=X_i)$	$\frac{1}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{3}{36}$	$\frac{9}{36}$	$\frac{5}{36}$	$\frac{6}{36}$	$\frac{5}{36}$	$\frac{9}{36}$	$\frac{3}{36}$	$\frac{2}{36}$	$\frac{1}{36}$

Try it for  
Y also?

