

(<https://stanford.edu/~shervine/teaching/cme-106/cheatsheet-probability#cme-106---introduction-to-probability-and-statistics-for-engineers>) CME 106 - Introduction to Probability and Statistics for Engineers (teaching/cme-106)

English Français ([l/fr/teaching/cme-106/pense-bete-probabilites](https://stanford.edu/~shervine/teaching/cme-106/pense-bete-probabilites))

Probability

Statistics

# (<https://stanford.edu/~shervine/teaching/cme-106/cheatsheet-probability#cheatsheet>) Probability cheatsheet

★ Star 102

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## (<https://stanford.edu/~shervine/teaching/cme-106/cheatsheet-probability#introduction>) Introduction to Probability and Combinatorics

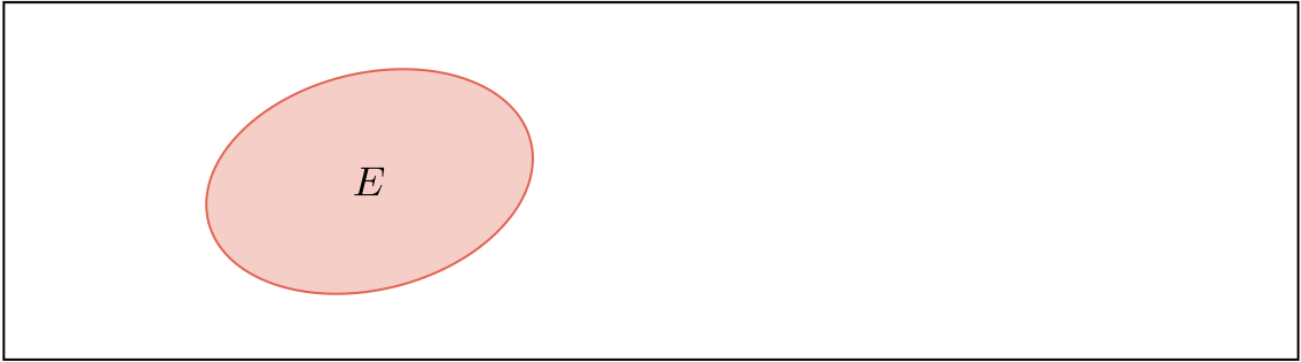
**Sample space** — The set of all possible outcomes of an experiment is known as the sample space of the experiment and is denoted by  $S$ .

**Event** — Any subset  $E$  of the sample space is known as an event. That is, an event is a set consisting of possible outcomes of the experiment. If the outcome of the experiment is contained in  $E$ , then we say that  $E$  has occurred.

**Axioms of probability** For each event  $E$ , we denote  $P(E)$  as the probability of event  $E$  occurring.

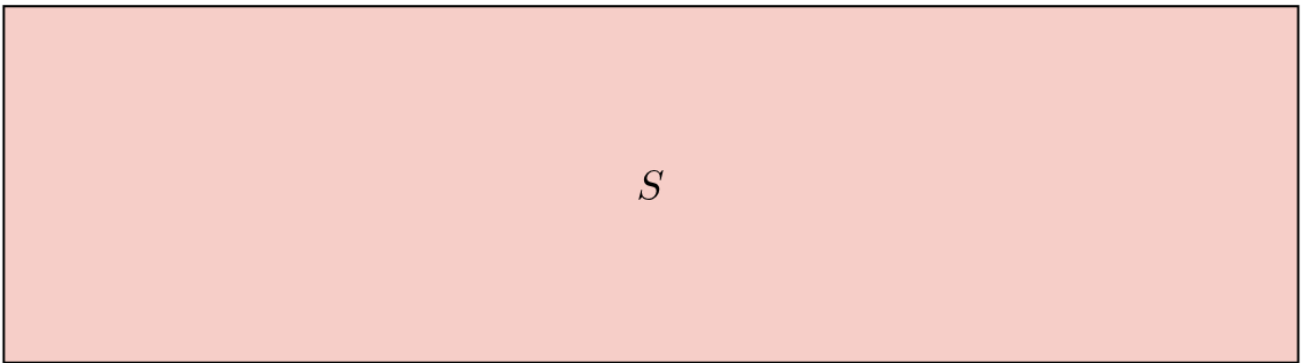
*Axiom 1* — Every probability is between 0 and 1 included, i.e:

$$0 \leq P(E) \leq 1$$



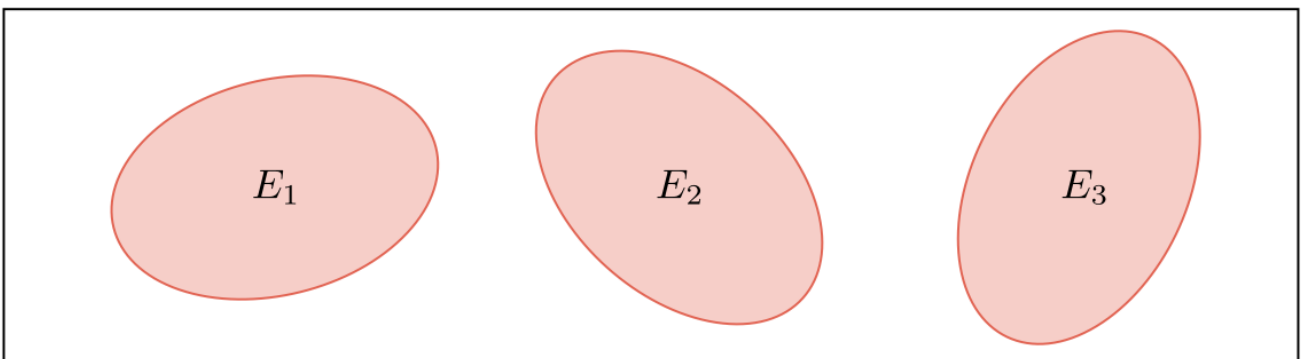
*Axiom 2* — The probability that at least one of the elementary events in the entire sample space will occur is 1, i.e:

$$P(S) = 1$$



*Axiom 3* — For any sequence of mutually exclusive events  $E_1, \dots, E_n$ , we have:

$$P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n E_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(E_i)$$



**Permutation** — A permutation is an arrangement of  $r$  objects from a pool of  $n$  objects, in a given order. The number of such arrangements is given by  $P(n, r)$ , defined as:

$$P(n, r) = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!}$$

**Combination** — A combination is an arrangement of  $r$  objects from a pool of  $n$  objects, where the order does not matter. The number of such arrangements is given by  $C(n, r)$ , defined as:

$$C(n, r) = \frac{P(n, r)}{r!} = \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}$$

*Remark: we note that for  $0 \leq r \leq n$ , we have  $P(n, r) \geq C(n, r)$ .*

(<https://stanford.edu/~shervine/teaching/cme-106/cheatsheet-probability#conditional-probability>)

## Conditional Probability

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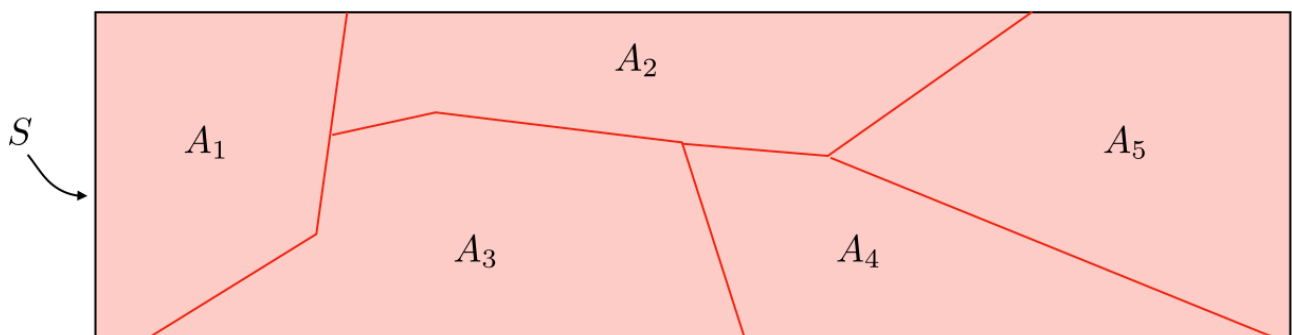
**Bayes' rule** — For events  $A$  and  $B$  such that  $P(B) > 0$ , we have:

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)}$$

*Remark: we have  $P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B|A) = P(A|B)P(B)$ .*

**Partition** — Let  $\{A_i, i \in \llbracket 1, n \rrbracket\}$  be such that for all  $i$ ,  $A_i \neq \emptyset$ . We say that  $\{A_i\}$  is a partition if we have:

$$\forall i \neq j, A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset \quad \text{and} \quad \bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i = S$$



*Remark: for any event  $B$  in the sample space, we have  $P(B) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(B|A_i)P(A_i)$ .*

**Extended form of Bayes' rule** — Let  $\{A_i, i \in \llbracket 1, n \rrbracket\}$  be a partition of the sample space. We have:

$$P(A_k|B) = \frac{P(B|A_k)P(A_k)}{\sum_{i=1}^n P(B|A_i)P(A_i)}$$

**Independence** — Two events  $A$  and  $B$  are independent if and only if we have:

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B)$$

(<https://stanford.edu/~shervine/teaching/cme-106/cheatsheet-probability#random-variables>)

## Random Variables

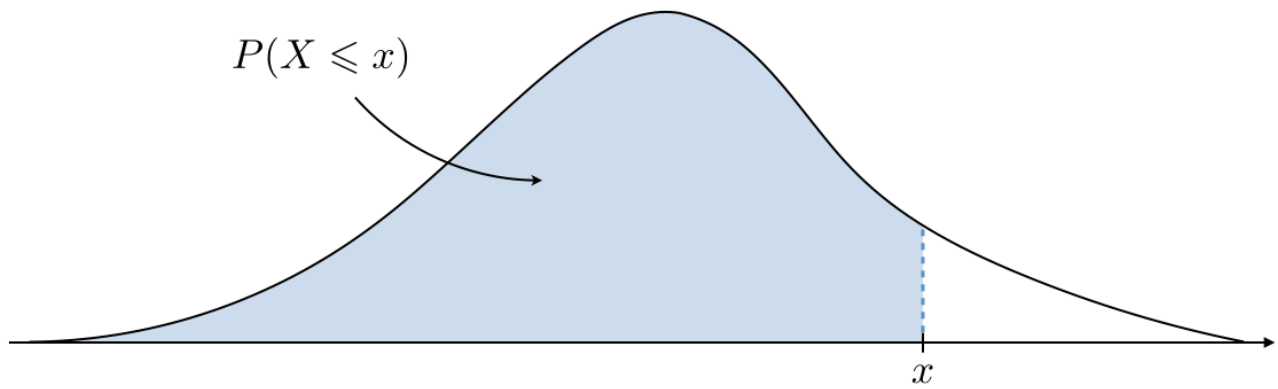
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### Definitions

**Random variable** — A random variable, often noted  $X$ , is a function that maps every element in a sample space to a real line.

**Cumulative distribution function (CDF)** — The cumulative distribution function  $F$ , which is monotonically non-decreasing and is such that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} F(x) = 0$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} F(x) = 1$ , is defined as:

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x)$$



Remark: we have  $P(a < X \leq B) = F(b) - F(a)$ .

**Probability density function (PDF)** — The probability density function  $f$  is the probability that  $X$  takes on values between two adjacent realizations of the random variable.

## Relationships involving the PDF and CDF

**Discrete case** — Here,  $X$  takes discrete values, such as outcomes of coin flips. By noting  $f$  and  $F$  the PDF and CDF respectively, we have the following relations:

$$F(x) = \sum_{x_i \leq x} P(X = x_i) \quad \text{and} \quad f(x_j) = P(X = x_j)$$

On top of that, the PDF is such that:

$$0 \leq f(x_j) \leq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_j f(x_j) = 1$$

**Continuous case** — Here,  $X$  takes continuous values, such as the temperature in the room. By noting  $f$  and  $F$  the PDF and CDF respectively, we have the following relations:

$$F(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(y) dy \quad \text{and} \quad f(x) = \frac{dF}{dx}$$

On top of that, the PDF is such that:

$$f(x) \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(x) dx = 1$$

(<https://stanford.edu/~shervine/teaching/cme-106/cheatsheet-probability#expectation>)

## Expectation and Moments of the Distribution

In the following sections, we are going to keep the same notations as before and the formulas will be explicitly detailed for the discrete **(D)** and continuous **(C)** cases.

**Expected value** — The expected value of a random variable, also known as the mean value or the first moment, is often noted  $E[X]$  or  $\mu$  and is the value that we would obtain by averaging the results of the experiment infinitely many times. It is computed as follows:

$$(D) \quad E[X] = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i f(x_i) \quad \text{and} \quad (C) \quad E[X] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x f(x) dx$$

**Generalization of the expected value** — The expected value of a function of a random variable  $g(X)$  is computed as follows:

$$(D) \quad E[g(X)] = \sum_{i=1}^n g(x_i) f(x_i) \quad \text{and} \quad (C) \quad E[g(X)] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} g(x) f(x) dx$$

**$k^{th}$  moment** — The  $k^{th}$  moment, noted  $E[X^k]$ , is the value of  $X^k$  that we expect to observe on average on infinitely many trials. It is computed as follows:

$$(D) \quad E[X^k] = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^k f(x_i) \quad \text{and} \quad (C) \quad E[X^k] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x^k f(x) dx$$

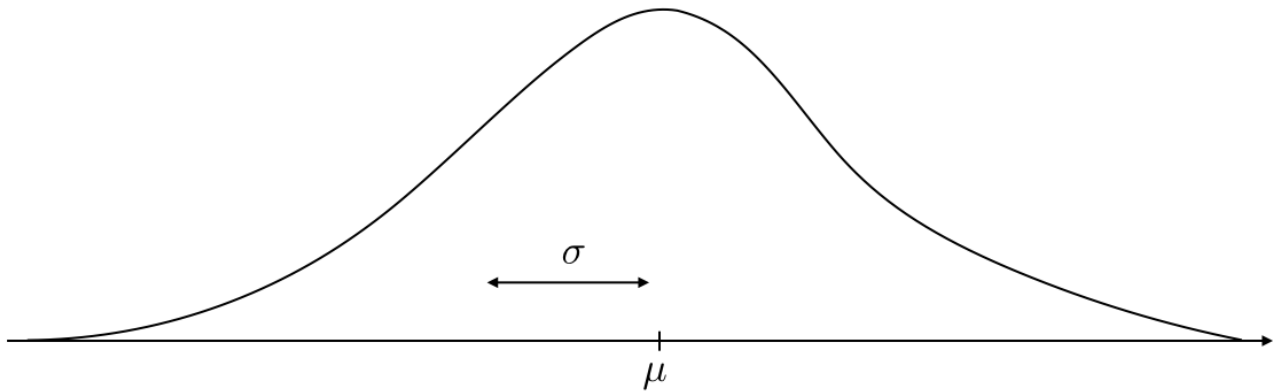
*Remark: the  $k^{th}$  moment is a particular case of the previous definition with  $g : X \mapsto X^k$ .*

**Variance** — The variance of a random variable, often noted  $\text{Var}(X)$  or  $\sigma^2$ , is a measure of the spread of its distribution function. It is determined as follows:

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

**Standard deviation** — The standard deviation of a random variable, often noted  $\sigma$ , is a measure of the spread of its distribution function which is compatible with the units of the actual random variable. It is determined as follows:

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\text{Var}(X)}$$

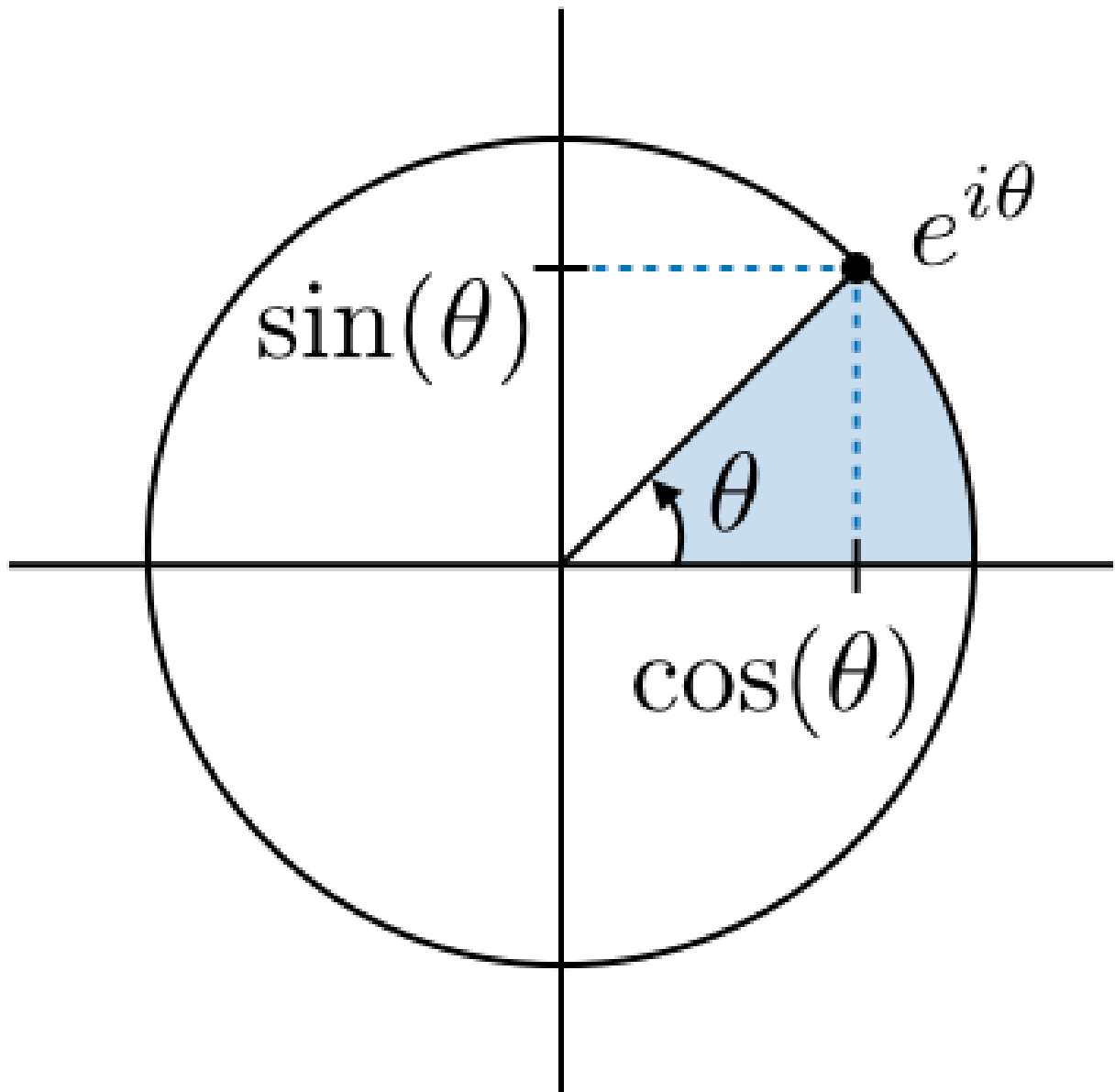


**Characteristic function** — A characteristic function  $\psi(\omega)$  is derived from a probability density function  $f(x)$  and is defined as:

$$(D) \quad \psi(\omega) = \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i) e^{i\omega x_i} \quad \text{and} \quad (C) \quad \psi(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(x) e^{i\omega x} dx$$

**Euler's formula** - For  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$ , the Euler formula is the name given to the identity:

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos(\theta) + i \sin(\theta)$$



**Revisiting the  $k^{th}$  moment** — The  $k^{th}$  moment can also be computed with the characteristic function as follows:

$$E[X^k] = \frac{1}{i^k} \left[ \frac{\partial^k \psi}{\partial \omega^k} \right]_{\omega=0}$$

**Transformation of random variables** — Let the variables  $X$  and  $Y$  be linked by some function. By noting  $f_X$  and  $f_Y$  the distribution function of  $X$  and  $Y$  respectively, we have:

$$f_Y(y) = f_X(x) \left| \frac{dx}{dy} \right|$$



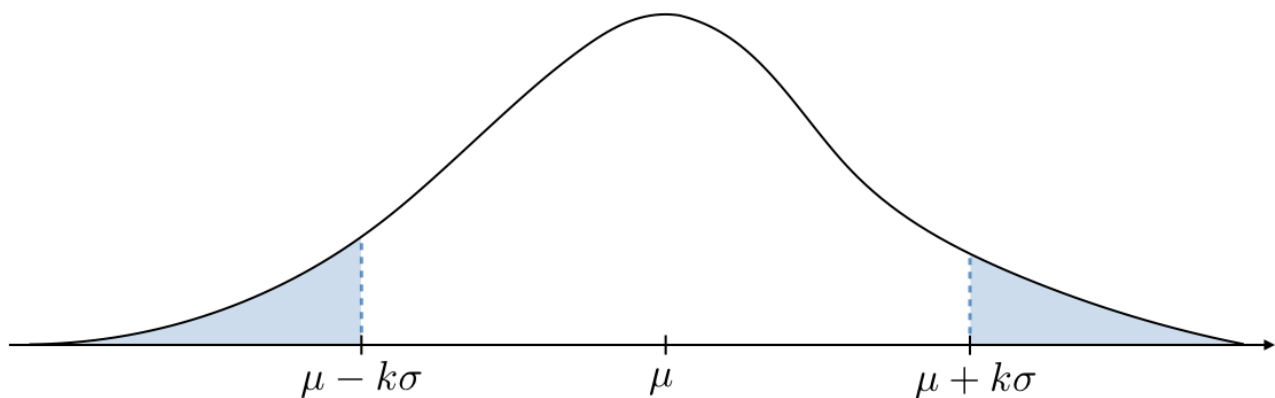
**Leibniz integral rule** — Let  $g$  be a function of  $x$  and potentially  $c$ , and  $a, b$  boundaries that may depend on  $c$ . We have:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial c} \left( \int_a^b g(x) dx \right) = \frac{\partial b}{\partial c} \cdot g(b) - \frac{\partial a}{\partial c} \cdot g(a) + \int_a^b \frac{\partial g}{\partial c}(x) dx$$

(<https://stanford.edu/~shervine/teaching/cme-106/cheatsheet-probability#probability-distributions>)  
**Probability Distributions**

**Chebyshev's inequality** — Let  $X$  be a random variable with expected value  $\mu$ . For  $k, \sigma > 0$ , we have the following inequality:

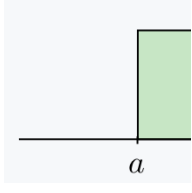
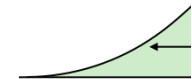
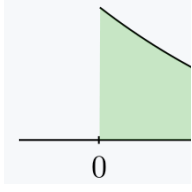
$$P(|X - \mu| \geq k\sigma) \leq \frac{1}{k^2}$$



**Discrete distributions** — Here are the main discrete distributions to have in mind:

Distribution	$P(X = x)$	$\psi(\omega)$	$E[X]$	$\text{Var}(X)$	Illustration
$X \sim \mathcal{B}(n, p)$	$\binom{n}{x} p^x q^{n-x}$	$(pe^{i\omega} + q)^n$	$np$	$npq$	
$X \sim \text{Po}(\mu)$	$\frac{\mu^x}{x!} e^{-\mu}$	$e^{\mu(e^{i\omega} - 1)}$	$\mu$	$\mu$	

**Continuous distributions** — Here are the main continuous distributions to have in mind:

Distribution	$f(x)$	$\psi(\omega)$	$E[X]$	$\text{Var}(X)$	
$X \sim \mathcal{U}(a, b)$	$\frac{1}{b-a}$	$\frac{e^{i\omega b} - e^{i\omega a}}{(b-a)i\omega}$	$\frac{a+b}{2}$	$\frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$	
$X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right)^2}$	$e^{i\omega\mu - \frac{1}{2}\omega^2\sigma^2}$	$\mu$	$\sigma^2$	
$X \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$	$\lambda e^{-\lambda x}$	$\frac{1}{1 - \frac{i\omega}{\lambda}}$	$\frac{1}{\lambda}$	$\frac{1}{\lambda^2}$	

(<https://stanford.edu/~shervine/teaching/cme-106/cheatsheet-probability#joint-rv>)

## Jointly Distributed Random Variables

**Joint probability density function** — The joint probability density function of two random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ , that we note  $f_{XY}$ , is defined as follows:

$$(D) \quad \boxed{f_{XY}(x_i, y_j) = P(X = x_i \text{ and } Y = y_j)}$$

$$(C) \quad \boxed{f_{XY}(x, y) \Delta x \Delta y = P(x \leq X \leq x + \Delta x \text{ and } y \leq Y \leq y + \Delta y)}$$

**Marginal density** — We define the marginal density for the variable  $X$  as follows:

$$(D) \quad \boxed{f_X(x_i) = \sum_j f_{XY}(x_i, y_j)} \quad \text{and} \quad (C) \quad \boxed{f_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f_{XY}(x, y) dy}$$

**Cumulative distribution** — We define cumulative distribution  $F_{XY}$  as follows:

$$(D) \quad F_{XY}(x, y) = \sum_{x_i \leq x} \sum_{y_j \leq y} f_{XY}(x_i, y_j) \quad \text{and} \quad (C) \quad F_{XY}(x, y) = \int_{-\infty}^x \int_{-\infty}^y f_{XY}(x', y') dx' dy'$$

**Conditional density** — The conditional density of  $X$  with respect to  $Y$ , often noted  $f_{X|Y}$ , is defined as follows:

$$f_{X|Y}(x) = \frac{f_{XY}(x, y)}{f_Y(y)}$$

**Independence** — Two random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are said to be independent if we have:

$$f_{XY}(x, y) = f_X(x)f_Y(y)$$

**Moments of joint distributions** — We define the moments of joint distributions of random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  as follows:

$$(D) \quad E[X^p Y^q] = \sum_i \sum_j x_i^p y_j^q f(x_i, y_j) \quad \text{and} \quad (C) \quad E[X^p Y^q] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x^p y^q f(x, y) dx dy$$

**Distribution of a sum of independent random variables** — Let  $Y = X_1 + \dots + X_n$  with  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  independent. We have:

$$\psi_Y(\omega) = \prod_{k=1}^n \psi_{X_k}(\omega)$$

**Covariance** — We define the covariance of two random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ , that we note  $\sigma_{XY}^2$  or more commonly  $\text{Cov}(X, Y)$ , as follows:

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) \triangleq \sigma_{XY}^2 = E[(X - \mu_X)(Y - \mu_Y)] = E[XY] - \mu_X \mu_Y$$

**Correlation** — By noting  $\sigma_X, \sigma_Y$  the standard deviations of  $X$  and  $Y$ , we define the correlation between the random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ , noted  $\rho_{XY}$ , as follows:

$$\rho_{XY} = \frac{\sigma_{XY}^2}{\sigma_X \sigma_Y}$$

*Remark 1: we note that for any random variables  $X, Y$ , we have  $\rho_{XY} \in [-1, 1]$ .*

*Remark 2: If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then  $\rho_{XY} = 0$ .*



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