

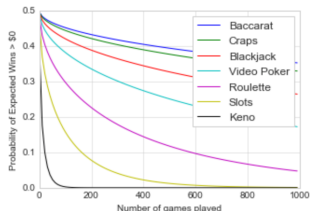
Probability

Schwartz

August 24, 2016

Beating the House

Game	House Advantage
Baccarat (no tie bets)	1.2%
Craps (pass/come)	1.4%
Blackjack (average player)	2.0%
Video Poker (average player)	0.5% - 3%
Roulette (double-zero)	5.3%
Slots	5.0%-10.0%
Keno (average)	27.0%



Blackjack can be legally beaten by keeping track of the probability of getting a high card (10,J,Q,K,A) compared to a low card (2,3,4,5,6). This is called *card counting*. In early 1979, four MIT students taught themselves card counting and along with a professional gambler and an investor who put up most of their capital (\$5,000) went to Atlantic City for spring break. They went again in December and then recruited a few more MIT students as “students” for a “blackjack class”. The “class” continued to visit Atlantic City intermittently until May 1980 (when the students graduated), during which time they increased their capital four-fold. At about the same time, Bill Kaplan returned to Cambridge after successfully running a blackjack team in Las Vegas. Kaplan earned his BA at Harvard in 1977 and was accepted into Harvard Business School but delayed admission while he ran the blackjack team. Kaplan ran his operation using funds he received upon graduation as Harvard’s “outstanding scholar-athlete” and generated more than a 35 fold rate of return in less than nine months of play. Kaplan continued to run his Las Vegas blackjack team as a sideline while attending Harvard Business School but by the time of his graduation the players were so “burnt out” the team disbanded.

Objectives

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- ▶ Counting
- ▶ Random Variables
 - ▶ Marginal, Joint, and Conditional distributions
- ▶ Distributions
 - ▶ Representations: pmf/pdf/mgf/characteristic functions
 - ▶ Examples: Bernoulli, Binomial, Geometric, Multinomial, Poisson Uniform, Normal, χ^2 , Gamma, Exponential, Beta
 - ▶ Properties: E, Var, Cov, Cor

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 - ▶ Examples: Bernoulli, Binomial, Geometric, Multinomial, Poisson Uniform, Normal, χ^2 , Gamma, Exponential, Beta
 - ▶ Properties: E, Var, Cov, Cor
- ▶ Exposure and comfort with a wide range of sophisticated statistical distribution theory concepts and notations

Counting

a.k.a., *combinatorics* – the discipline of mathematics dedicated to *counting*

- ▶ Permutation: How many ways can you *permute* things
- ▶ Combination: How many ways can you *combine* things

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E.g., AB, AC, BC
 - ▶ The number of k -sized subsets of m things ($k < m$) is

$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{(n-k)!k!}$$

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$$\binom{5}{2} \implies \Pr(PPSSS) = 1 / \binom{5}{2} = \frac{2!3!}{5!} = \frac{1}{10}$$

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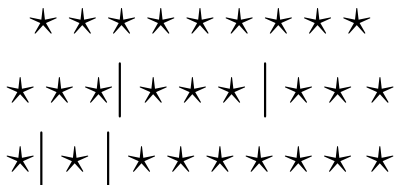
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$$\binom{n-1}{k-1} \quad \binom{8}{2}$$

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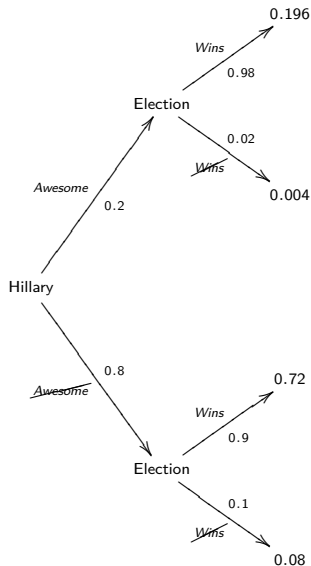
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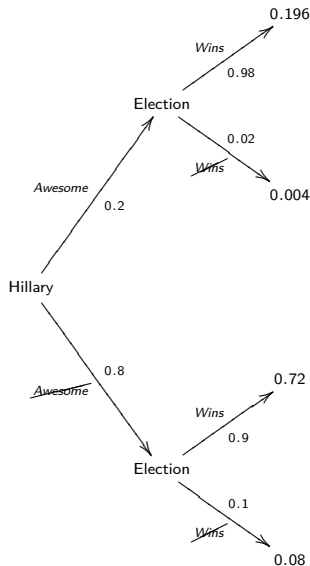
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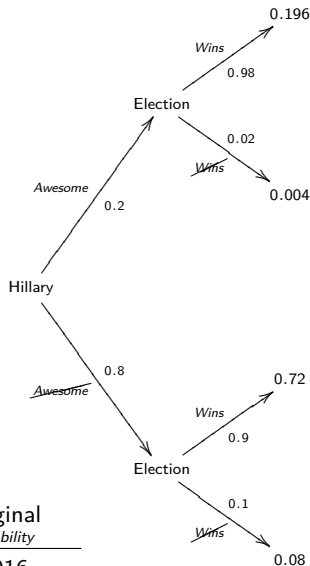
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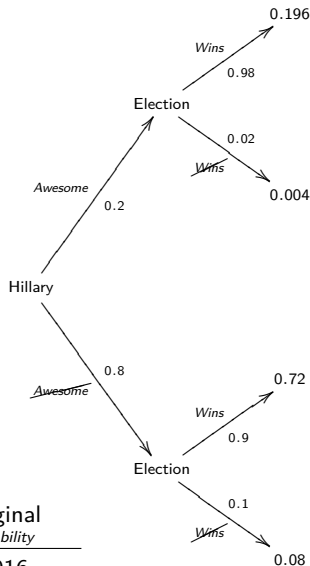
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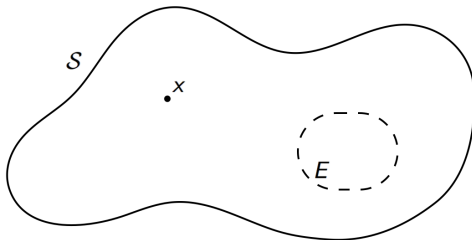
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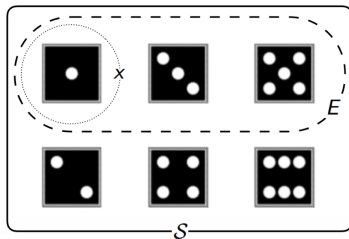
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Support space \mathcal{S} , event E , and outcome x for random variable X

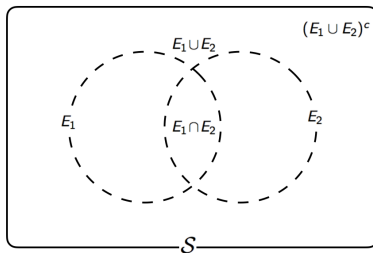
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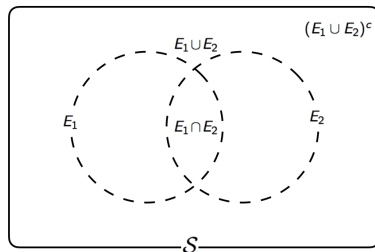
Random Variables: Obvious Rules



Venn Diagram

► $\Pr(E^c) = 1 - \Pr(E)$

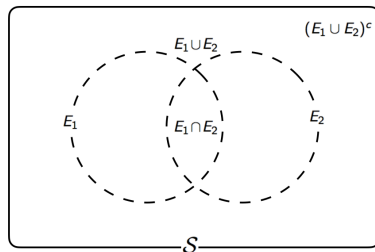
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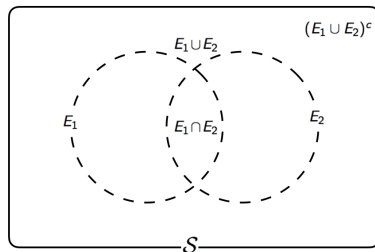
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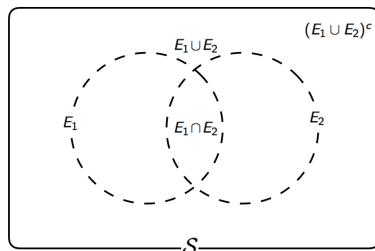
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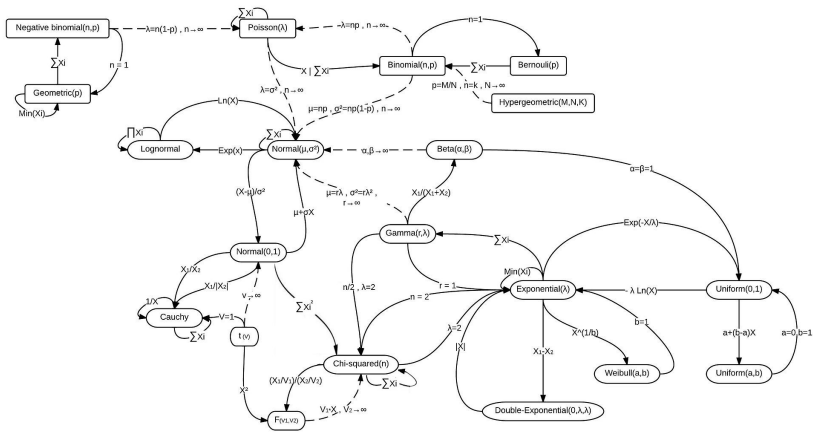
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- ▶ $\Pr(E \cap E^c) = 0$
- ▶ DeMorgan's Laws
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Distributions



Discrete Distributions: *Bernoulli*

The “coin flip”

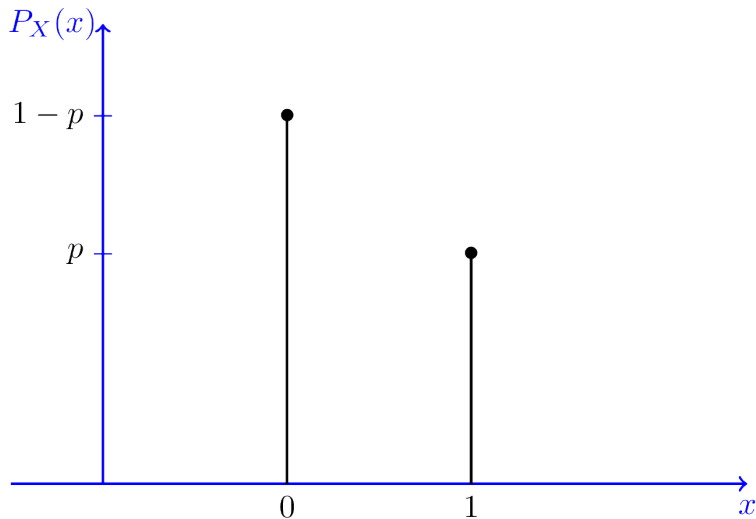
$$y \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$\Pr(Y = y) = \theta^y (1 - \theta)^{1-y}$$

$$\theta \in [0, 1]$$

Discrete Distributions: *Bernoulli*

$$X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$$



Discrete Distributions: *Geometric*

The “how many times until”

$$k \in \{0, 1, \dots, \infty\}$$

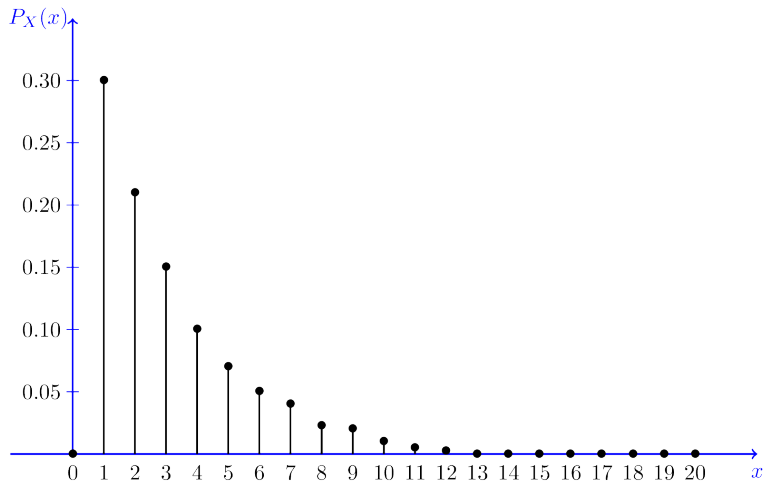
$$\Pr(X = k|\theta) = (1 - \theta)^{k-1}\theta$$

$$\theta \in [0, 1]$$

“If at first you don’t succeed, Try, try, try again” – William Edward Hickson

Discrete Distributions: *Geometric*

$$X \sim \text{Geometric}(p = 0.3)$$



Discrete Distributions: *Binomial*

The “number of success in n trials”

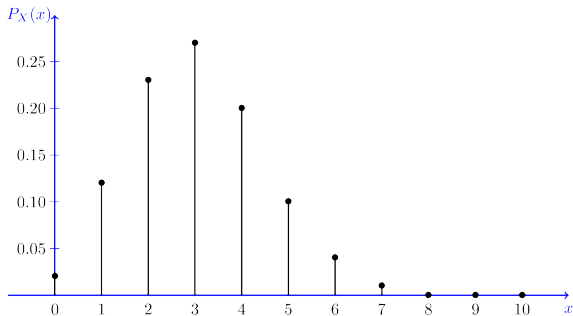
$$k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$$

$$\Pr(X = x | \theta, n) = \binom{n}{k} \theta^x (1 - \theta)^{n-x}$$

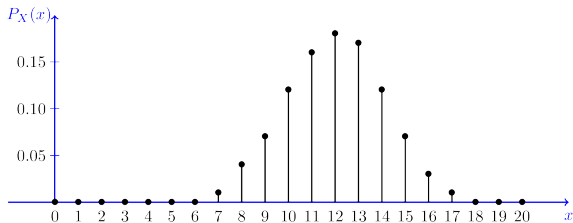
$$\theta \in [0, 1]$$

Discrete Distributions: *Binomial*

$$X \sim \text{Binomial}(n = 10, p = 0.3)$$



$$X \sim \text{Binomial}(n = 20, p = 0.6)$$



Discrete Distributions: *Multinomial*

The “fancy binomial”

$$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k)$$

$$x_j \in \{0, 1, \dots, m\} \text{ such that } \sum x_j = m$$

$$\Pr(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x} | \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k, m) = \frac{m!}{x_1! x_2! \dots x_k!} \prod_{j=1}^k \theta_j^{x_j}$$

$$\theta_j \in [0, 1] \text{ such that } \sum \theta_j = 1$$

Discrete Distributions: *Poisson*

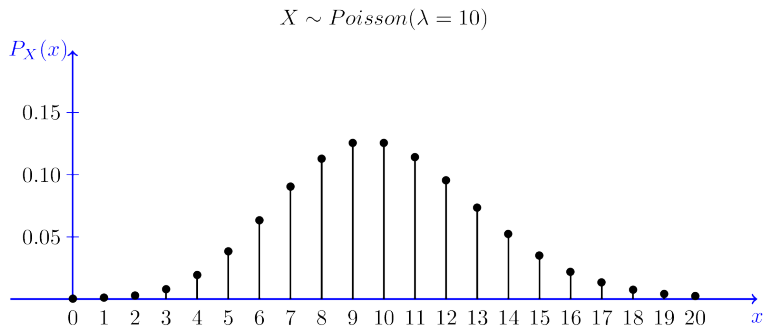
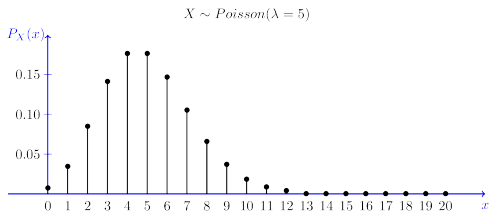
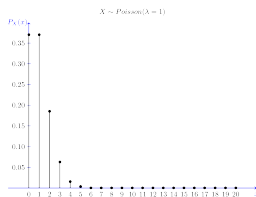
The “number of arrivals”

$$k \in \{0, 1, \dots, \infty\}$$

$$\Pr(X = x|\lambda) = \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!}$$

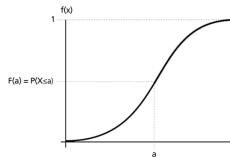
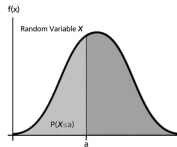
$$\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^+$$

Discrete Distributions: *Poisson*



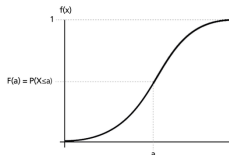
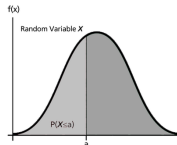
pmf's, cdf's, and characteristic functions

1. We have thus far defined the distribution of a random variable by it's *probability mass function*



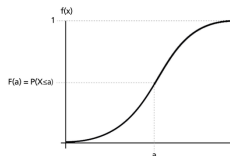
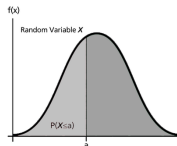
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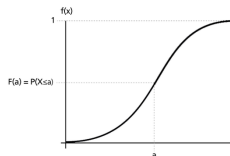
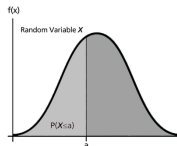


3. Yet another way to define the distribution of X is by its *moment generating function* or its *characteristic function*:

$$E[tX], \text{ or } E[itX], \text{ respectively}$$

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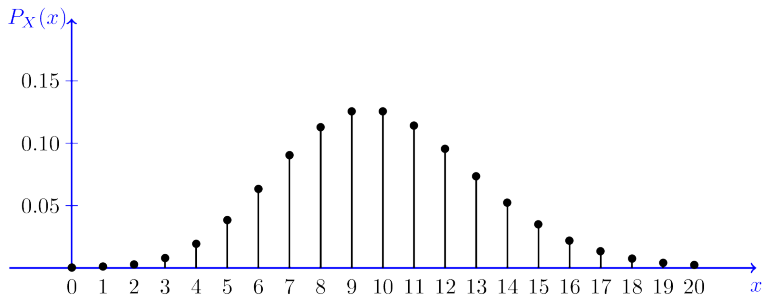
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Interestingly, the characteristic function of $X + Y$ for independent random variables X and Y is the product of the characteristic functions of X and Y

CDF's

$$X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda = 10)$$



Discrete Distributions: *Poisson* + *Poisson*

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$$e^{\lambda(e^{it}-1)}$$

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- ▶ Quiz: name the distributions of $X + X$ and $Y + Y$ if

$$X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(\theta) \text{ and } Y \sim \text{Binomial}(\theta, n)$$

with respective characteristic functions

$$1 - \theta + \theta e^{it} \text{ and } (1 - \theta + \theta e^{it})^n$$

Discrete Distributions: *Poisson* \approx *Bionomial*

► If $\lambda = \theta p$ then $\theta = \frac{\lambda}{n}$ so that

$$\begin{aligned} &= \binom{n}{k} \theta^k (1 - \theta)^{n-k} \\ &= \frac{n \cdot (n-1) \cdots (n-k+1)}{k!} \left(\frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^k \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^{n-k} \\ &= \frac{n \cdot (n-1) \cdots (n-k+1)}{n^k k!} \lambda^k \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^n \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^{-k} \\ &\approx \frac{1}{k!} \lambda^k e^{-\lambda} 1 \quad (\text{as } n \rightarrow \infty) \\ &= \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!} \end{aligned}$$

Continuous Distributions: *Uniform*

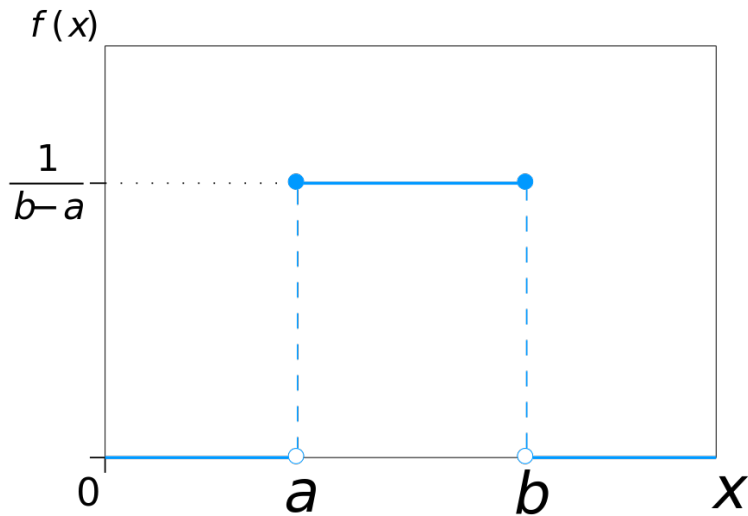
The “random continuous number”

$$x \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$f(X = x|a, b) = \frac{1}{b - a} 1_{[a, b]}(x)$$

$$a, b \in \mathbb{R}, a < b$$

Discrete Distributions: *Uniform*



Continuous Distributions: *Normal*

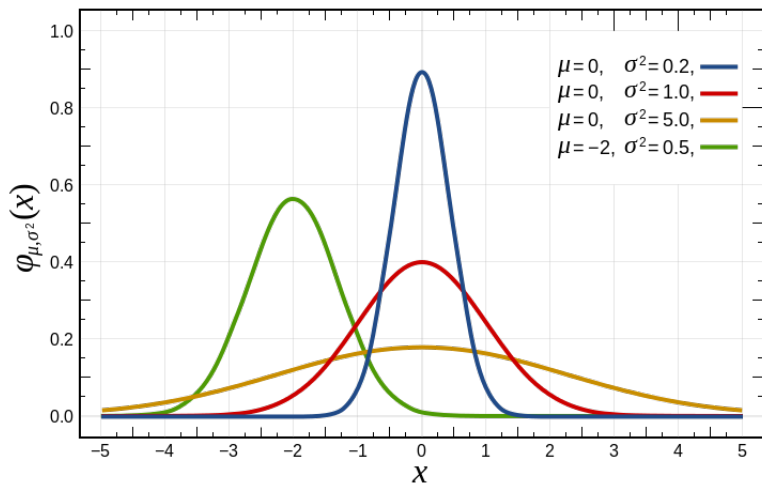
The “bell curve”

$$x \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$f(X = x | \mu, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x-\mu)^2}$$

$$\mu \in \mathbb{R}, \sigma^2 \in \mathbb{R}^+$$

Continuos Distributions: *Normal*



Continuous Distributions: *Normal*²

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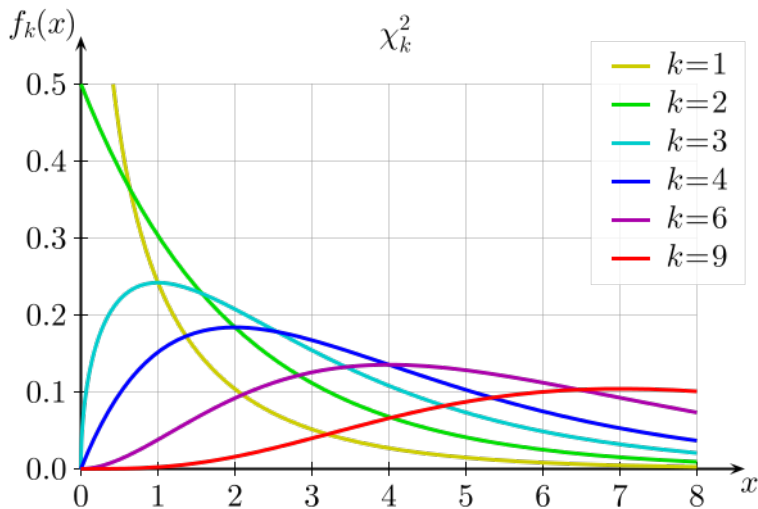
i.e., $Z_j \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$, and

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is *chi-squared* random variable with k “degrees of freedom”

The χ_{df}^2 distribution is a key distribution in hypothesis testing

Continuous Distributions: $\text{Normal}^2 : \chi_{df}^2$



Continuous Distributions: *Normal + Normal*

- ▶ The characteristic function of a normal random variable is

$$e^{it\mu + -\frac{1}{2}t^2\sigma^2}$$

Continuous Distributions: *Normal + Normal*

- ▶ The characteristic function of a normal random variable is

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What is the distribution of $X + Y$ if

$$X \sim \text{Normal}(\mu_X, \sigma_X^2) \text{ and } Y \sim \text{Normal}(\mu_Y, \sigma_Y^2)?$$

Continuos Distributions: *Normal* $\sim X_1 + X_2 + \cdots + X_n$

- The moment generating function (MGF) of a normal random variable is

$$e^{t\mu + \frac{1}{2}t^2\sigma^2}$$

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The MGF of the sum of n arbitrary *i.i.d.* random variables is

$$\left(1 + tE[X] + \frac{t^2E[X^2]}{2!} + \frac{t^3E[X^3]}{3!} + \dots \right)^n$$

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$$\begin{aligned} & n \log \left(tE[X] + \frac{t^2E[X^2]}{2} + \dots - \frac{t^2E[X]^2}{2} - \dots + \dots \right) \\ &= n \log \left(tE[X] + \frac{t^2(E[X^2] - E[X]^2)}{2!} + \dots \right) \\ &= e^{tnE[X] + \frac{1}{2}t^2n(E[X^2] - E[X]^2) + n(\dots)} \\ &\approx e^{tnE[X] + \frac{1}{2}t^2n(E[X^2] - E[X]^2)} \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned}$$

So why is binomial with large n approximately normal?

Continuous Distributions: *Gamma*

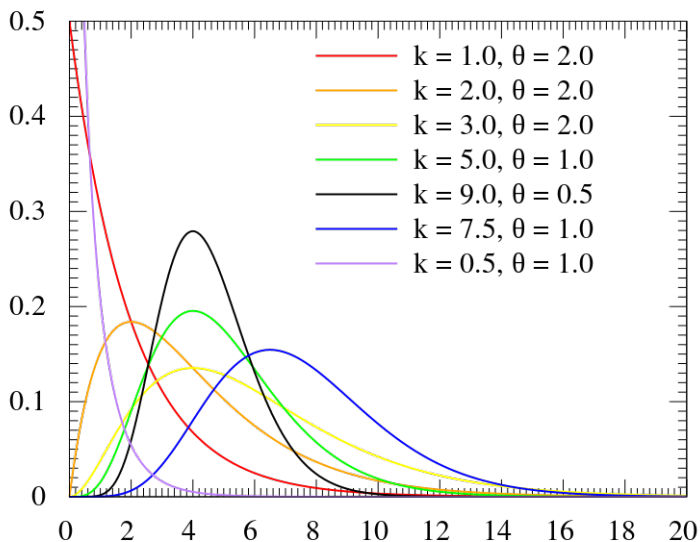
The “Bayesian model for variance”

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^+$$

$$f(X = x|\theta) = \frac{\theta^k}{\Gamma(k)} x^{k-1} e^{-x\theta}$$

$$\theta \in \mathbb{R}^+$$

Continuos Distributions: *Gamma*



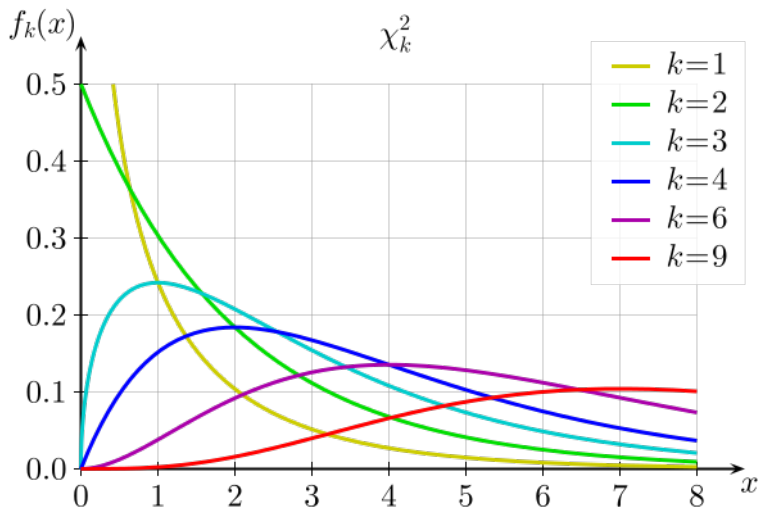
Continuous Distributions: *Gamma* ($\theta = 1/2$, *Chi-squared*)

- ▶ We previously derived the χ^2_{df} distribution as the “sum of squared standard normal distributions”
- ▶ and noted its importance in hypothesis testing
- ▶ The χ^2_{df} is also a special case of the gamma distribution

$$\begin{aligned}x &\in \mathbb{R}^+ \\f(X = x|k) &= \frac{\frac{1}{2}^{\frac{k}{2}}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{k}{2}\right)} x^{\frac{k}{2}-1} e^{-\frac{x}{2}} \\k &\in \mathbb{R}^+\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Bonus: if $X \sim \chi^2_v$ and $Y \sim \chi^2_w$, then $\frac{\frac{1}{v}\chi^2_v}{\frac{1}{w}\chi^2_w} \sim F_{v,w}$

Continuous Distributions: *Gamma* ($\theta = 1/2, \chi^2_{df}$)



Continuous Distributions: *Gamma* ($k=1$, *Exponential*)

- ▶ The *Exponential* is another special case of the gamma
- ▶ The Exponential is often used to model time to failure
- ▶ It has an interesting “ageless” property, however, in that

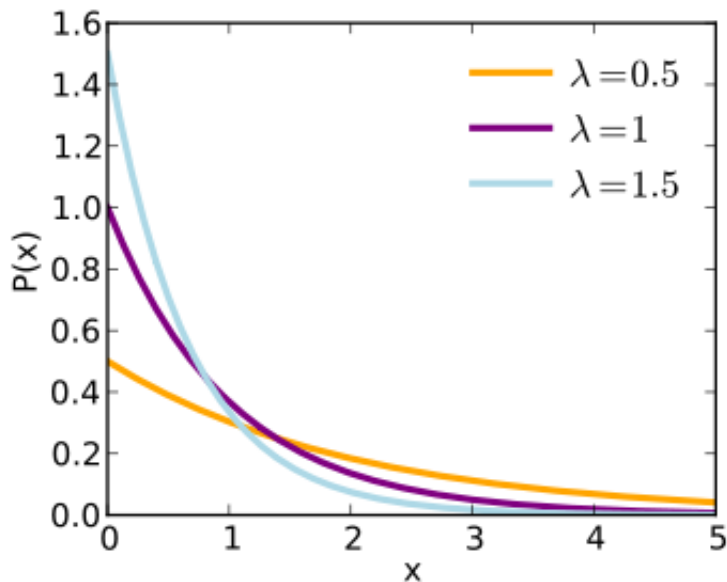
$$\Pr(X = x + c | x = 0) = \Pr(X = x + c | x) \text{ for any value of } x$$

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^+$$

$$f(X = x | \theta) = \theta e^{-x\theta}$$

$$\theta \in \mathbb{R}^+$$

Continuous Distributions: *Gamma* ($k=1$, *Exponential*)



Continuous Distributions: *Beta*

The “distribution for modeling random probabilities”

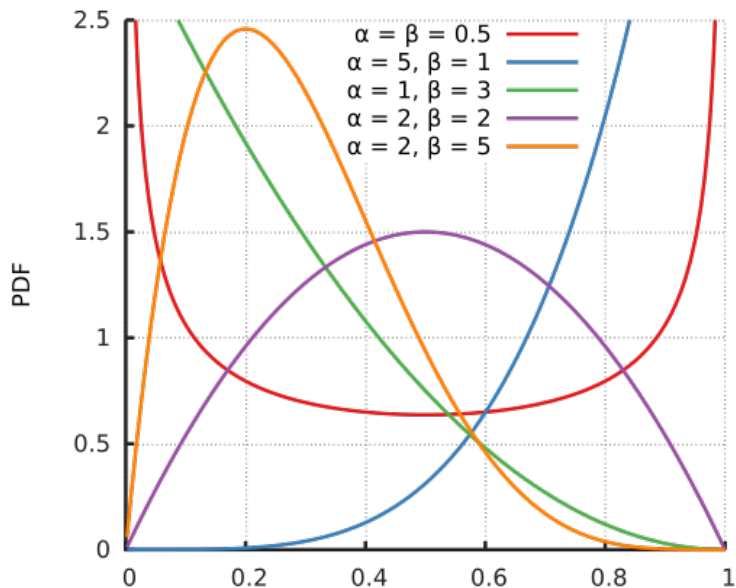
$$x \in [0, 1]$$

$$f(X = x | \alpha, \beta) = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)} x^{\alpha-1} (1-x)^{\beta-1}$$

$$\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}^+$$

$\alpha = \beta = 1$ results in a *uniform distribution* over the unit interval

Continuos Distributions: *Beta*



Joint Distributions

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$$\Pr(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k)$$

- ▶ We'll use a *multinomial distribution* for the *joint distribution*

$$\Pr(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x} | \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k, m) = \frac{m!}{x_1! x_2! \dots x_k!} \prod_{j=1}^k \theta_j^{x_j}$$

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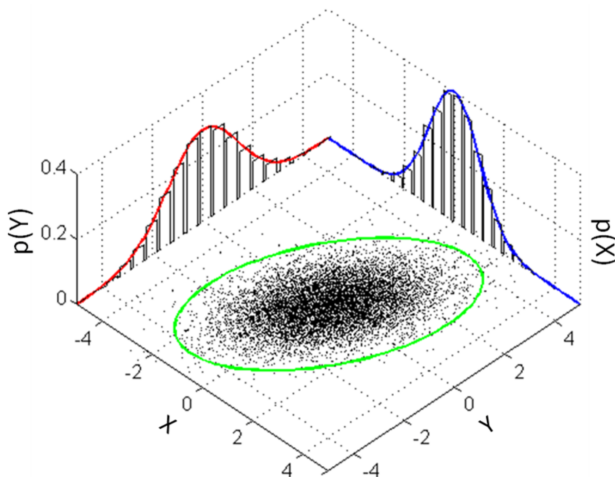
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- ▶ *Joint distributions* are just a collection of random variables that may or may not have some dependencies on each other

Joint Distributions



It turns out this is a multivariate normal distribution – the marginals are themselves normal and strength of relationship between X and Y is determined by a correlation parameter ρ

Joint Distributions: *discrete*

- ▶ *Joint distributions factor as conditional \times marginal dist.'s*

$$\Pr(\mathbf{X}_1, \mathbf{X}_2) = \Pr(\mathbf{X}_1 | \mathbf{X}_2) \Pr(\mathbf{X}_2)$$

Joint Distributions: *discrete*

- ▶ *Joint distributions* factor as *conditional* \times *marginal* dist.'s

$$\Pr(\mathbf{X}_1, \mathbf{X}_2) = \Pr(\mathbf{X}_1 | \mathbf{X}_2) \Pr(\mathbf{X}_2)$$

- ▶ *Bayes theorem* is derived from joint distribution factoring

$$\Pr(\mathbf{X}_2 | \mathbf{X}_1) = \frac{\Pr(\mathbf{X}_1 | \mathbf{X}_2) \Pr(\mathbf{X}_2)}{\Pr(\mathbf{X}_1)}$$

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- ▶ *Marginal distributions are derived from joint distributions*

$$\Pr(\mathbf{X}_1) = \sum_{x_2 \in \mathcal{S}_{X_2}} \Pr(\mathbf{X}_1, X_2 = x_2)$$

Joint Distributions: *continuous*

- ▶ *Joint distributions factor as conditional \times marginal dist.'s*

$$f(\mathbf{X}_1, \mathbf{X}_2) = f(\mathbf{X}_1 | \mathbf{X}_2) f(\mathbf{X}_2)$$

- ▶ *Bayes theorem* is derived from joint distribution factoring

$$f(\mathbf{X}_2 | \mathbf{X}_1) = \frac{f(\mathbf{X}_1 | \mathbf{X}_2) f(\mathbf{X}_2)}{f(\mathbf{X}_1)}$$

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$$f(\mathbf{X}_1, \mathbf{X}_2) = f(\mathbf{X}_1) f(\mathbf{X}_2)$$

- ▶ *Marginal distributions* are derived from *joint distributions*

$$f(\mathbf{X}_1) = \int_{S_{X_2}} f(\mathbf{X}_1, X_2 = x_2) dx_2$$

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 $= E[X^2] - E[X]^2$

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$$\text{Cov}[X, Y] = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}_X} \sum_{y \in \mathcal{S}_Y} (x - E[X])(y - E[Y]) \Pr(X = x, Y = y)$$

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- ▶ For $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$, $E[aX + bY + c] = ?$

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$$\text{Cov}[X, Y] = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}_X} \sum_{y \in \mathcal{S}_Y} (x - E[X])(y - E[Y]) \Pr(X = x, Y = y)$$
- ▶ The *Correlation* of X & Y $\text{Cor}[X, Y] = \frac{\text{Cov}[X, Y]}{\sqrt{\text{Var}[X]\text{Var}[Y]}} \in [-1, 1]$
- ▶ For $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$, $E[aX + bY + c] = ?$
- ▶ $\text{Var}[aX + bY + c] \stackrel{?}{=} a^2\text{Var}[X] + b^2\text{Var}[Y] + 2ab\text{Cov}[X, Y]$

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- ▶ The *Expected Value* of X $E[X] = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{S}_X} x \Pr(X = x)$
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- ▶ If X and Y are *independent*, $E[XY] \stackrel{?}{=} E[X]E[Y]$

For Continuous DISTRIBUTIONS

- ▶ The *Expected Value* of X $E[X] = \int_{x \in \mathcal{S}_X} x \Pr(X = x) dx$
- ▶ The *Variance* of X
$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}[X] &= \int_{x \in \mathcal{S}_X} (x - E[X])^2 \Pr(X = x) dx \\ &= E[X^2] - E[X]^2\end{aligned}$$
- ▶ The *Covariance* of X and Y
$$\text{Cov}[X, Y] = \int_{\substack{x \in \mathcal{S}_X \\ y \in \mathcal{S}_Y}} (x - E[X])(y - E[Y]) \Pr(X = x, Y = y) dx dy$$
- ▶ The *Correlation* of X & Y $\text{Cor}[X, Y] = \frac{\text{Cov}[X, Y]}{\sqrt{\text{Var}[X]\text{Var}[Y]}} \in [-1, 1]$
- ▶ For $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$, $E[aX + bY + c] = ?$
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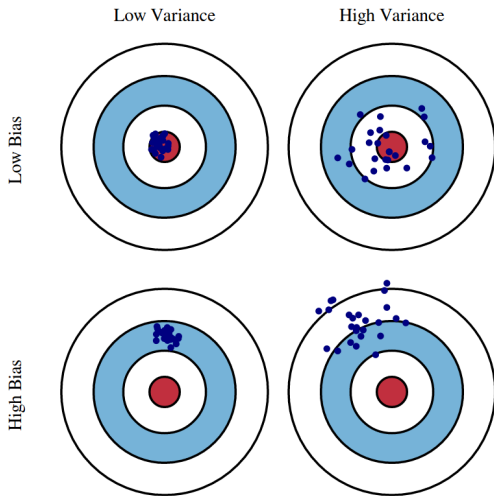
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- ▶ The *Sample Correlation** $R_{XY} = \frac{S_{XY}}{\sqrt{S_X^2 S_Y^2}} \in [-1, 1]$

*not robust... correlation of ranks?

Why $n - 1$?

$$\begin{aligned} E \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \left(x_i^2 - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n x_j \right)^2 \right] &= E \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \left(x_i^2 - \frac{2x_i}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n x_j + \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n x_j \right)^2 \right) \right] \\ &= E \left[\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n x_i x_j + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n x_i x_j \right] \\ &= E \left[\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - \frac{2}{n} \sum_{j \neq i} x_i x_j + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j \neq i} x_i x_j \right] \\ &= E \left[\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - \frac{2}{n} \sum_{j \neq i} x_i x_j + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j \neq i} x_i x_j \right] \\ &= E \left[\frac{n-1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j \neq i} x_i x_j \right] = \frac{n-1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n E \left[x_i^2 \right] - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j \neq i} E \left[x_i x_j \right] \\ &= \frac{n-1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (\sigma^2 + \mu^2) - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j \neq i} \mu^2 \quad (\text{why?}) \\ &= (n-1)(\sigma^2 + \mu^2) - \frac{n^2 - n}{n} \mu^2 = (n-1)\sigma^2 \end{aligned}$$

Bias versus Variance of Estimators



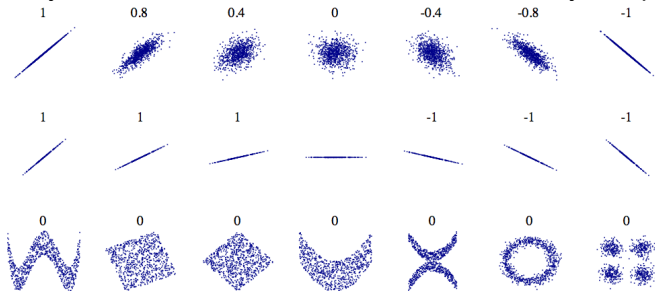
Covariance is not Correlation is not Causation

$$\text{Cov}[X, Y] \neq \text{Cor}[X, Y] = \frac{\text{Cov}[X, Y]}{\sqrt{\text{Var}[X]\text{Var}[Y]}}$$

and “correlation *is not* causation”

or more generally, “association *is not* causation”

Conversely, *uncorrelated variables* **are not** necessarily *independent*



*Also, *mutually exclusive events* E_1 and E_2 quite *dependent* as opposed to independent