



CSC380: Principles of Data Science

Probability 3
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Review: “probability cheatsheet”

Additivity:

For any *finite* or *countably infinite* sequence of disjoint events E_1, E_2, E_3, \dots , $P\left(\bigcup_{i \geq 1} E_i\right) = \sum_{i \geq 1} P(E_i)$

Inclusion-exclusion rule: $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$

Law of total probability: For events B_1, B_2, \dots that partitions Ω , $P(A) = \sum_i P(A \cap B_i)$

Conditional probability: $P(A|B) := \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$ ($P(A|B) \neq P(B|A)$ in general)

Probability chain rule: $P(A \cap B \cap C) = P(A|B \cap C)P(B|C)P(C)$

Law of total probability + Conditional probability: $P(A) = \sum_i P(A \cap B_i) = \sum_i P(B_i)P(A|B_i) = \sum_i P(A)P(B_i|A)$

Bayes' rule: $P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)} = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)}$

Independence: (definition) A and B are independent if $P(A, B) = P(A)P(B)$

(property) A and B are independent if and only if $P(A|B) = P(A)$ (or $P(B|A) = P(B)$)

Outline

- Random variables
- Distribution functions
 - probability mass functions (PMF)
 - cumulative distribution function (CDF)

Random Variables

Random variables (RVs)

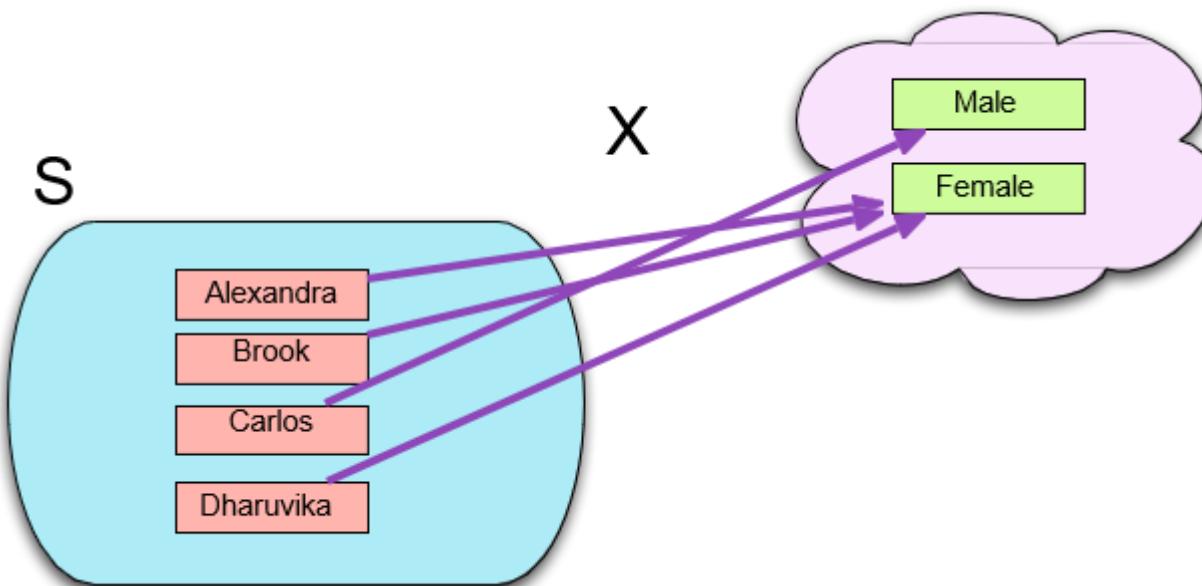
- A single random sample may have more than one characteristic that we can observe (i.e., it may be bi-/multivariate data).
- We can represent each characteristic (e.g., gender, weight, cancer status, etc.) using a separate random variable.

Random Variable

A **random variable** connects each possible outcome in the sample space to some property of interest.

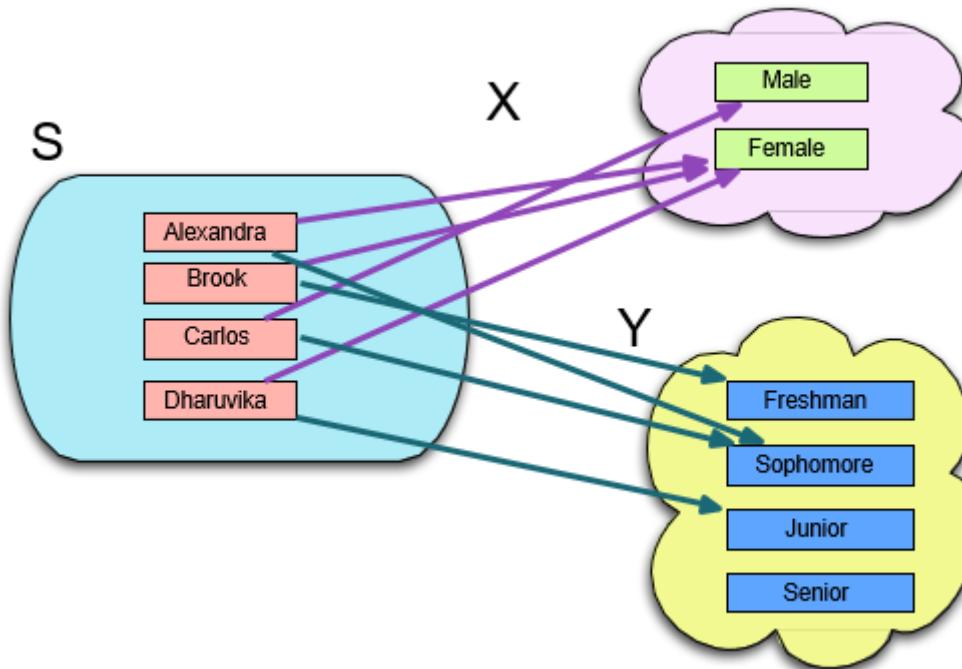
Each value of the random variable (e.g., male or female) has an associated probability.

Random Variable: Example



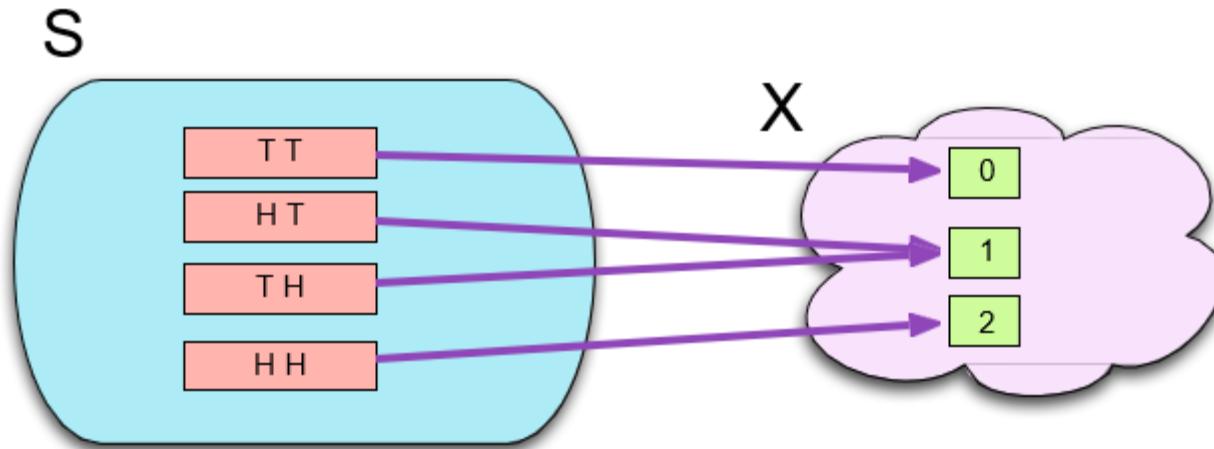
- X : people \rightarrow their genders

Random Variable: Example



- Y : people \rightarrow their class year

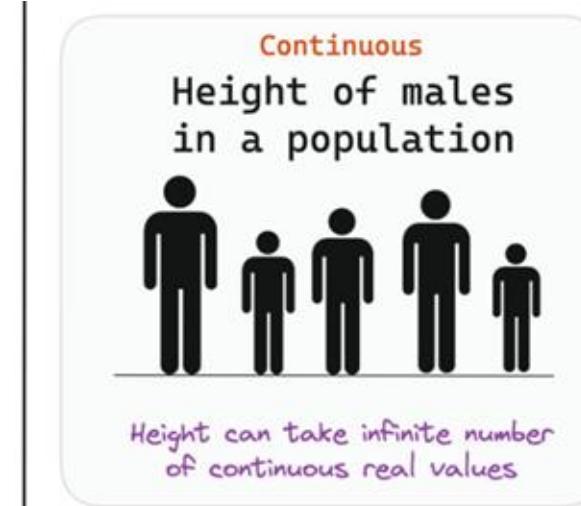
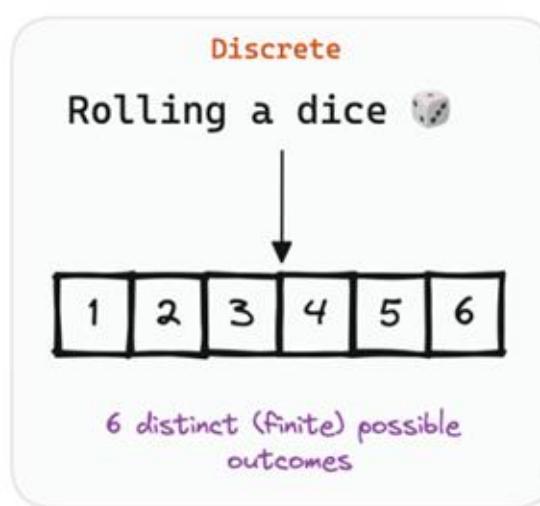
Random Variable: Example



- X : sequence of coin flips \rightarrow Number of heads

Types of Random Variables

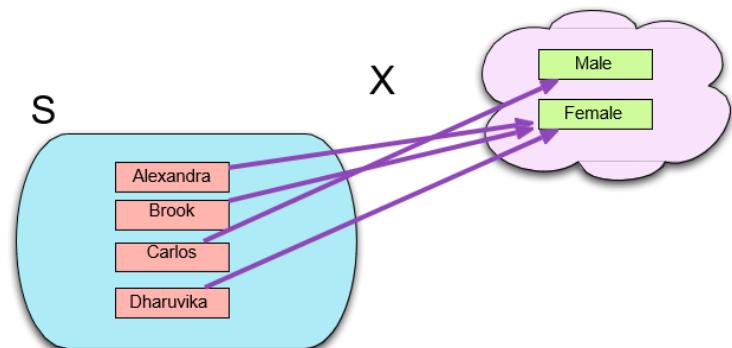
- Discrete random variable: takes a finite or countable number of distinct values.
- Continuous random variable: takes an infinite number of values within a specified range or interval.



Distribution functions

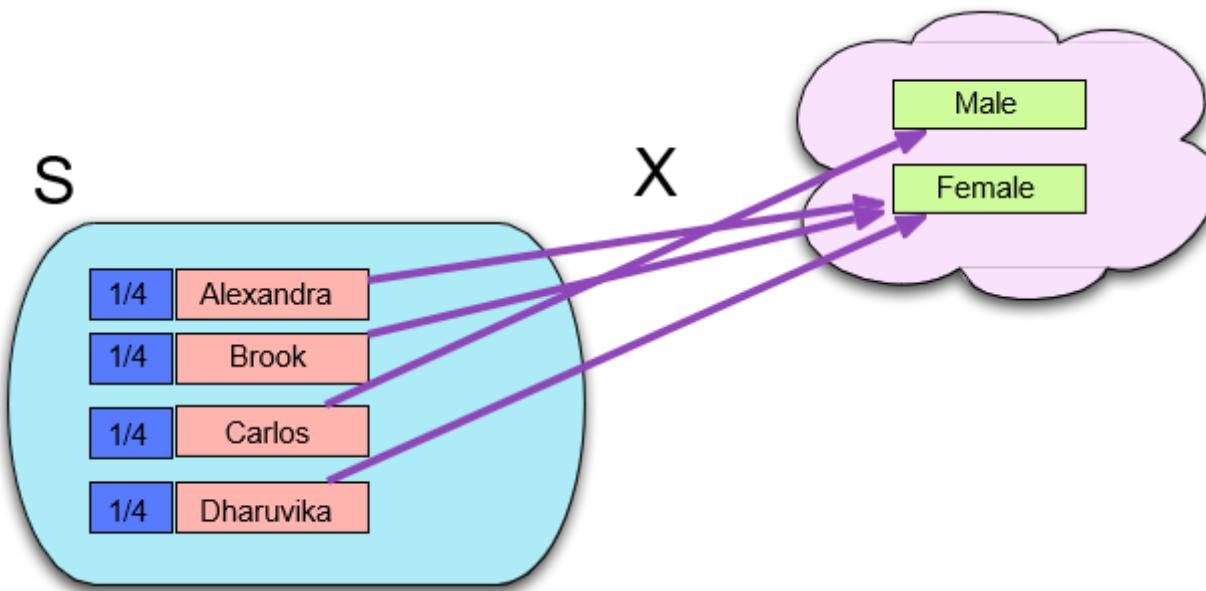
Discrete distributions

- When a random variable is discrete, its *distribution* is characterized by the probabilities assigned to each distinct value.
- The probability that the random variable takes a particular value comes from the probability associated with the set of individual outcomes that have that value.
 - This set is an event
- E.g. $P(X = \text{Female})$



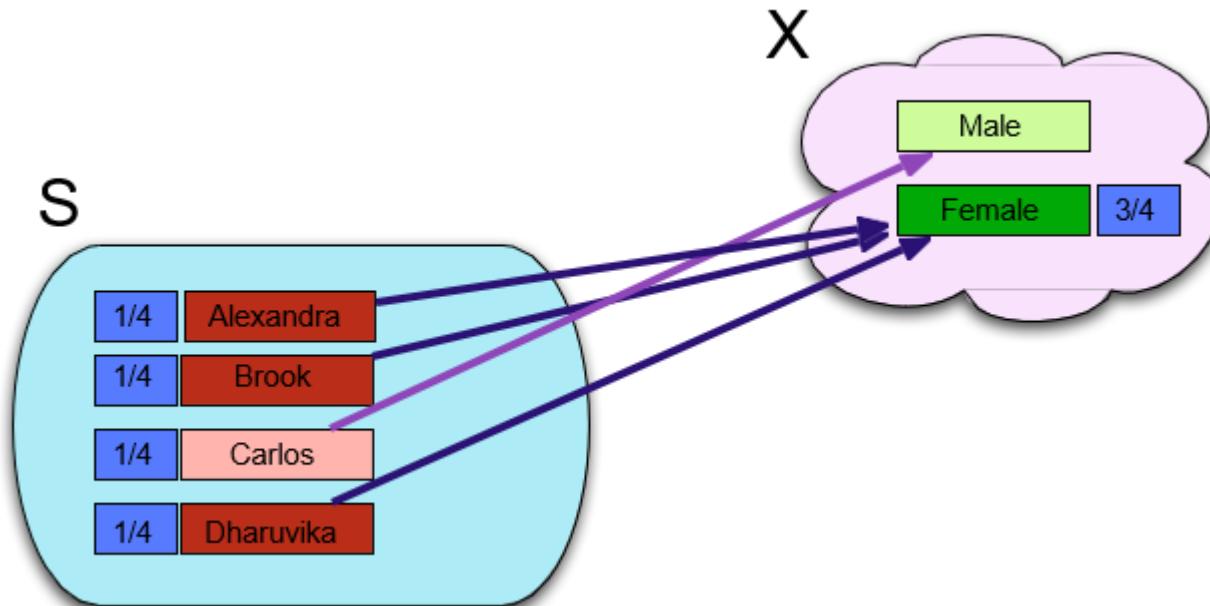
Discrete distributions

- How to find $P(X = \text{Female})$?



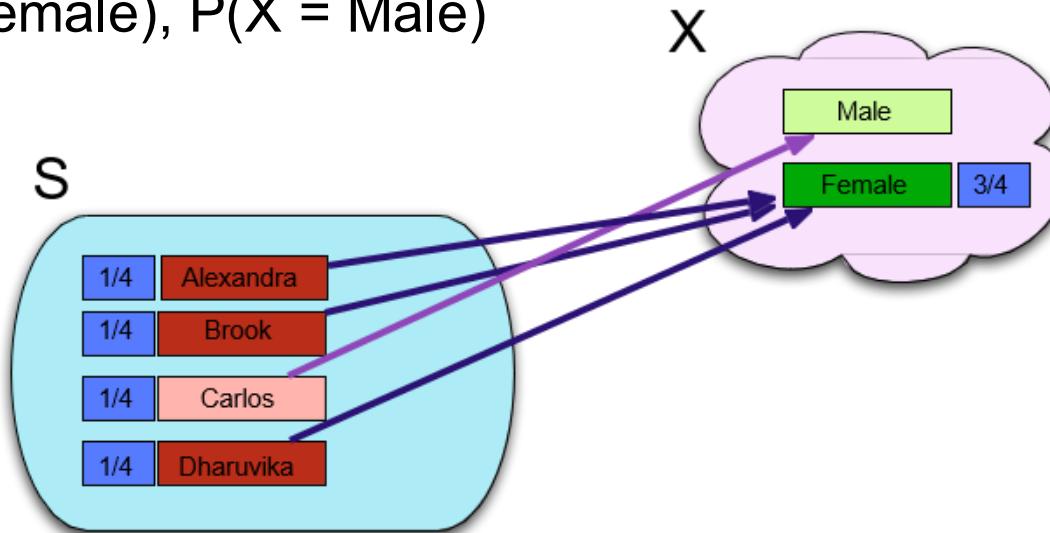
Discrete distributions

- How to find $P(X = \text{Female})$?



Discrete distributions

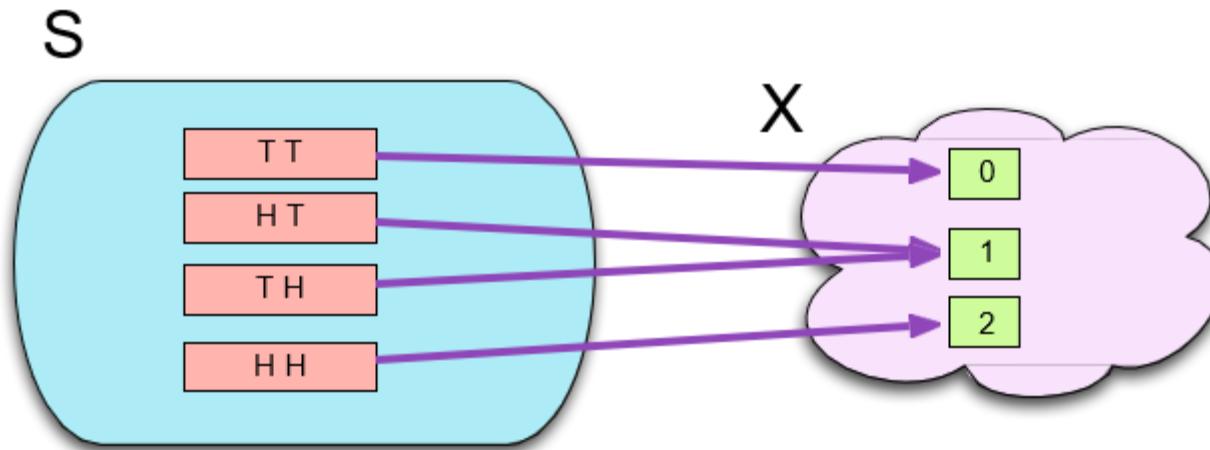
- What is the distribution of random variable X ?
 - $P(X = \text{Female})$, $P(X = \text{Male})$



| x | Male | Female |
|------------|-------|--------|
| $P(X = x)$ | $1/4$ | $3/4$ |

Discrete distributions

- What is the distribution of random variable X ?



| | | | |
|------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| x | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| $P(X = x)$ | $\frac{1}{4}$ | $\frac{1}{2}$ | $\frac{1}{4}$ |

Properties of Discrete Distributions

- We can write $P(X = x)$ to mean “The probability that the random variable X takes the value x ”.
- What must be true of these probabilities?

Properties of Discrete Distributions

1. Each $P(X = x)$ is a probability, so must be between 0 and 1.
2. The $P(X = x)$ must sum to 1 over all possible x values.

Probability Mass function (PMF)

The Probability Mass Function

A discrete random variable, X , can be characterized by its **probability mass function**, f (might sometimes write f_X if it's not clear from context which random variable we're talking about).

The PMF takes in values of the variable, and returns probabilities:

$f(x)$ is *defined* to be $P(X = x)$

PMF is a table

- Think of the PMF as a lookup table.

| x | Male | Female |
|------------|------|--------|
| $P(X = x)$ | 1/4 | 3/4 |

- Best way to think of discrete random variables: they take various values, and each value has a certain probability of happening.

Visualizing discrete distributions: spike plot

Flip two coins at the same time, probability distribution of number of heads:

- Often use the spike plot
- Like a bar plot, but with probabilities, instead of frequencies or proportions, on the y-axis.



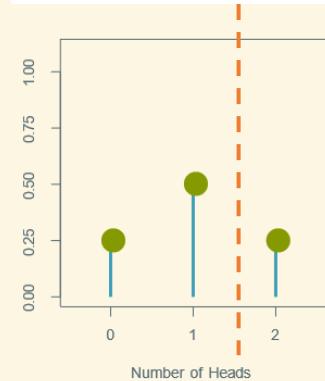
The cumulative distribution function (CDF)

- Often, we are interested in the probability of falling in some range of values.
- We can use the cumulative distribution function (CDF), which gives the “accumulated probability” up to a particular value.

The Cumulative Distribution Function

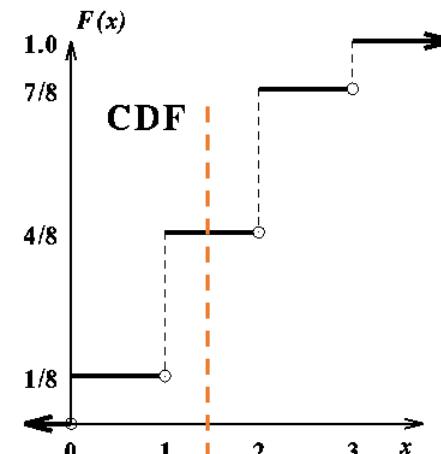
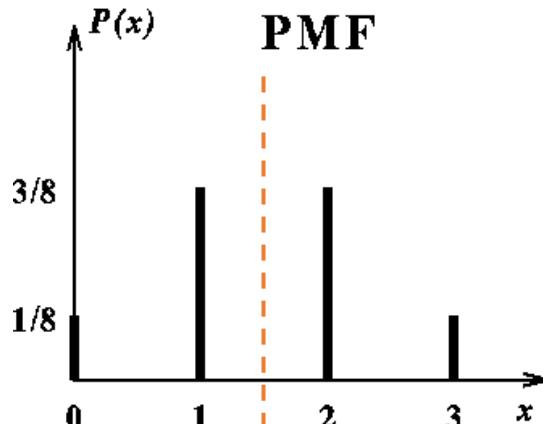
A random variable, X , can be characterized by its **cumulative distribution function**, F (or sometimes F_X if we need to be explicit), which takes values and returns *cumulative* probabilities:

$F(x)$ is defined to be $P(X \leq x)$



Relating PMF to CDF

- How can we calculate $F(x)$ from the PMF table f ?
 - Add up all the probabilities up to and including $f(x)$.
 - What is the value of $F(-0.1)$ (i.e., $P(X \leq -0.1)$)? $F(1.5)$?

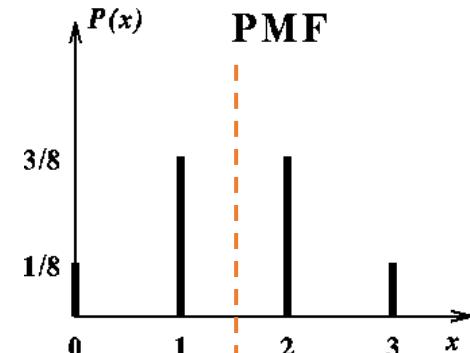


- For discrete random variables, $F(x)$ jumps at locations with nonzero probability mass

Relating PMF to CDF

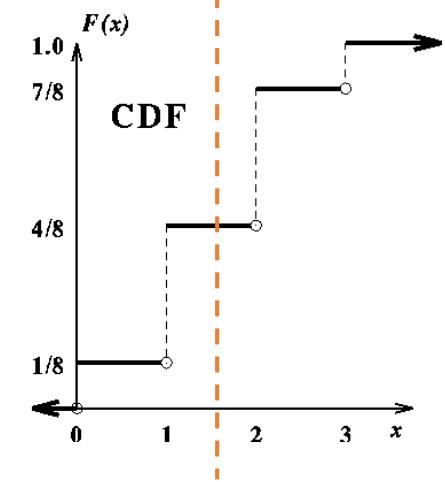
- So the PMF of X is:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1/8, & x = 0 \\ 3/8, & x = 1 \\ 3/8, & x = 2 \\ 1/8, & x = 3 \end{cases}$$



- We can write the CDF of X :

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < 0 \\ \frac{1}{8}, & 0 \leq x < 1 \\ \frac{1}{2}, & 1 \leq x < 2 \\ \frac{7}{8}, & 2 \leq x < 3 \\ 1, & x \geq 3 \end{cases}$$



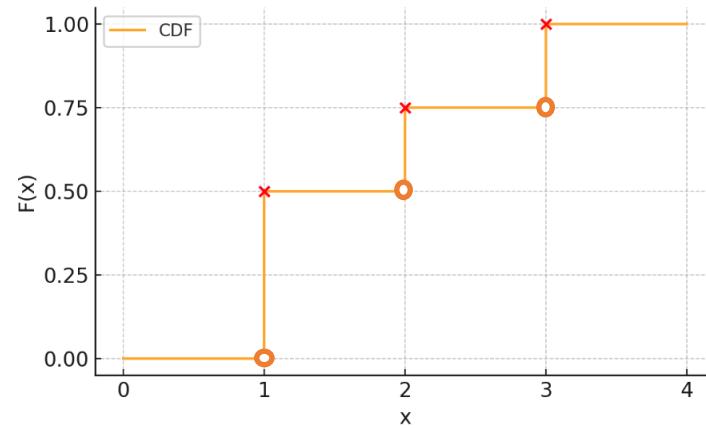
In-class activity

- Given by the PMF of X , find the CDF of X .

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1/2, & x = 1 \\ 1/4, & x = 2 \\ 1/4, & x = 3 \end{cases}$$

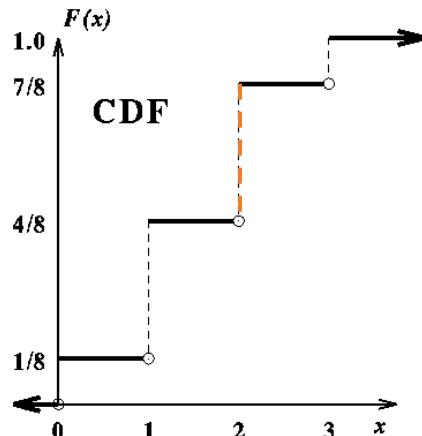
- Answer:

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < 1 \\ \frac{1}{2}, & 1 \leq x < 2 \\ \frac{3}{4}, & 2 \leq x < 3 \\ 1, & x \geq 3 \end{cases}$$



Relating CDF to PMF

- How could we find $f(x)$ from a cumulative distribution function F ? e.g., $f(2)$?



- Focus on “jumps”: $f(x) = F(x) - F(\text{jump just below } x)$

- $f(2) = F(2) - F(1) = \frac{7}{8} - \frac{4}{8} = \frac{3}{8}$

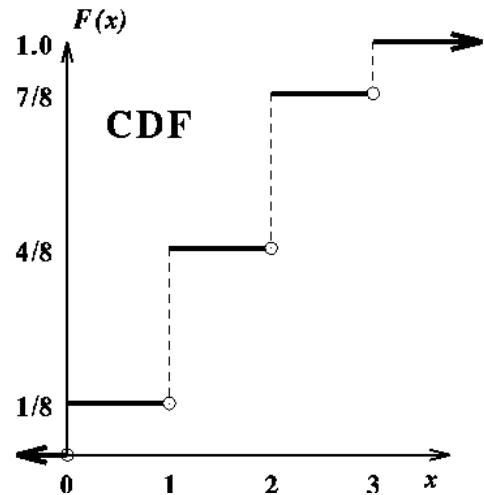
- $f(2.1) = F(2.1) - F(2) = \frac{7}{8} - \frac{7}{8} = 0$

- $f(1.5) = F(1.5) - F(1) = \frac{4}{8} - \frac{4}{8} = 0$

Exercise: using CDF and PMF

Given the CDF F :

- How to calculate $P(X > x)$?
 - $P(X > x) = 1 - P(X \leq x) = 1 - F(x)$
- How about $P(X \geq x)$?
 - $P(X \geq x) = 1 - P(X < x) = 1 - (P(X \leq x) - P(X=x))$
 - $1 - F(x) + f(x)$
 - $f(x)$ can be 0 or nonzero, depending on whether x is a jump



Exercise: using CDF and PMF

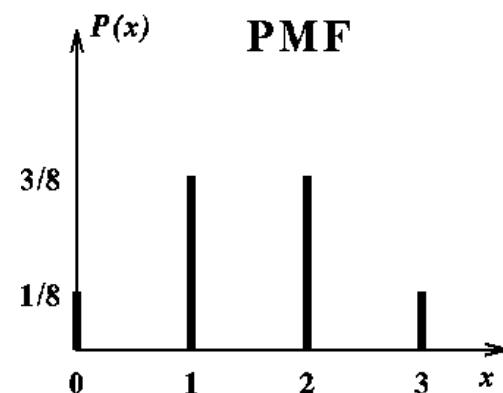
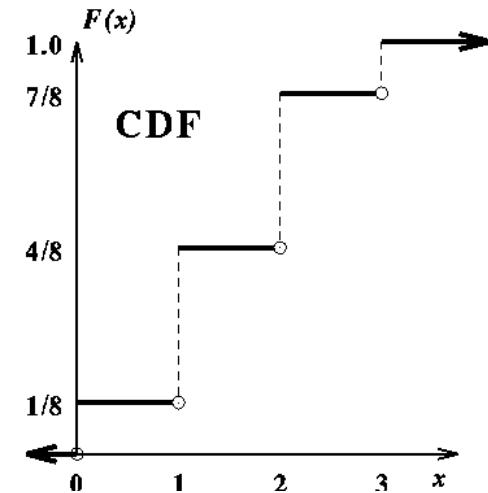
- What is $P(X \geq 2)$?
 - $P(X \geq x) = 1 - F(x) + f(x)$
 - $f(x)$ can be 0 or nonzero, depending on whether x is a jump

Using the formula:

- $P(X \geq 2) = 1 - F(2) + f(2) = 1 - \frac{7}{8} + \frac{3}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$

Another way:

- $P(X \geq 2) = P(X = 2) + P(X = 3) = \frac{3}{8} + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$



Exercise: using CDF and PMF

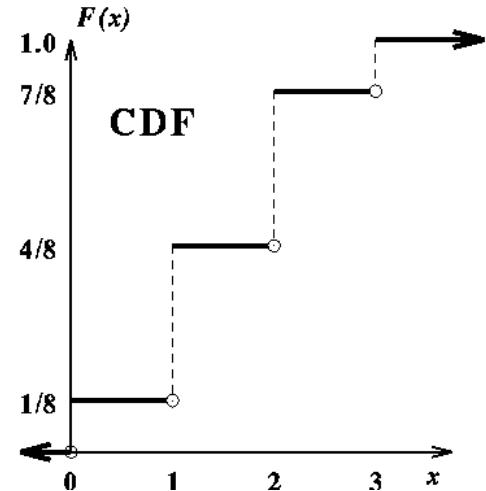
Given the CDF F:

- How to calculate $P(a < X \leq b)$?

$$= P(X \leq b) - P(X \leq a)$$

$$= F(b) - F(a)$$

- How to calculate $P(a < X < b)$?
 - (I'll leave this to you as an exercise..)



Transformations of random variables

- If X is a random variable, then $X + 5, 3X, X^2, \dots$, are all random variables
- Given any transformation function f , $f(X)$ is a random variable
- How to find the PMF of $f(X)$ based on that of X ?
 - First, find all values $f(X)$ can take
 - For each value c , try to find $P(f(X) = c)$

Examples

- Suppose X has PMF

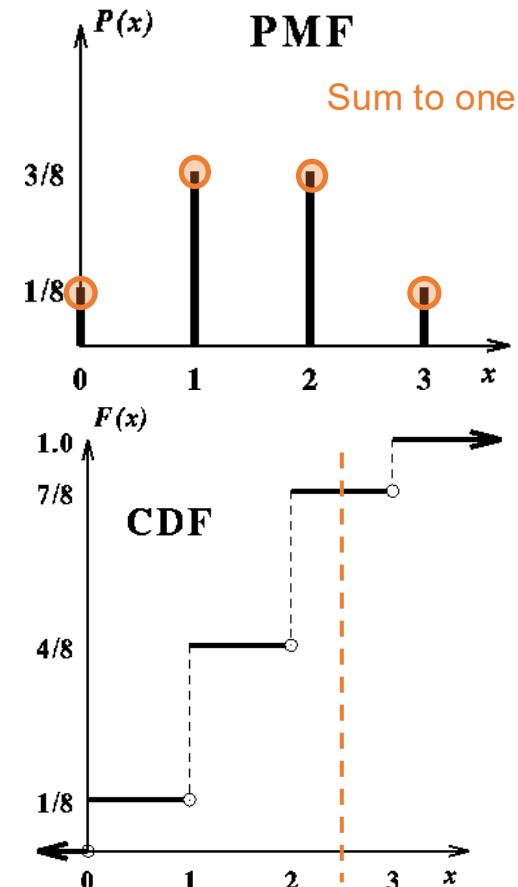
| | | |
|------------|-----|-----|
| x | 1 | -1 |
| $P(X = x)$ | 0.5 | 0.5 |

- What is the PMF of $Y = X + 5$?
 - Y can take values 6 and 4
 - $P(Y = 6) = P(X = 1) = 0.5$
 - $P(Y = 4) = P(X = -1) = 0.5$

| | | |
|------------|-----|-----|
| y | 6 | 4 |
| $P(Y = y)$ | 0.5 | 0.5 |

Recap: RV, PMF and CDF

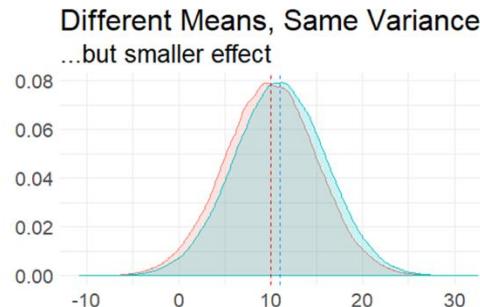
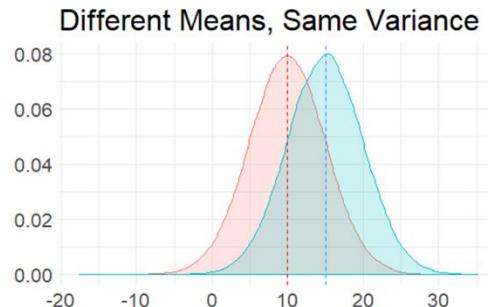
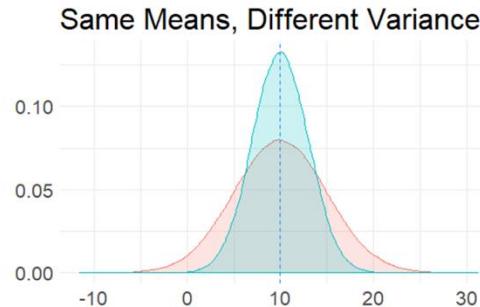
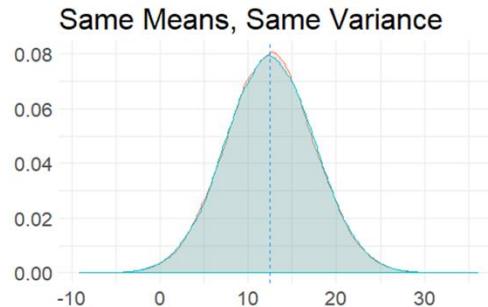
- RV: connects all outcomes to a property of interest
- A RV has a distribution, which assign a probability to each distinct value X can take
- For discrete RV X :
 - PMF: $f(x)$ defined as $P(X = x)$
 - CDF: $F(x)$ defined as $P(X \leq x)$
- Derive CDF from PMF, and vice versa
 - $f(x) = F(x) - F(\text{jump just below } x)$
 - $F(x)$: the total of all jumps (PMF values) at points less than or equal to x
- PMF of $f(X)$
 - First, find all values $f(X)$ can take
 - For each value c , try to find $P(f(X) = c)$



Mean and Variance

Summarizing random variables

- It is useful to characterize the *center* and *spread* of a probability distribution
 - “what value do we expect to occur?”, and
 - “how confident are we in our prediction?”



Mean (aka expectation, expected value)

- The mean of a random variable X is also called its *expected value*. Usually written as μ or $E[X]$.
- As with a sample mean, it represents an average over the possible values; and the average is *weighted by the probabilities*.
 - $(2 + 2 + 1 + 5)/4 = 2.5$
 - $2 * \frac{1}{2} + 1 * \frac{1}{4} + 5 * \frac{1}{4} = 2.5$
- Makes sense if you were to repeat the random process many times, the average of the observed values of X would approach $E[X]$. It doesn't mean this value will be observed directly—it's a weighted average.

Example: expected winnings at Roulette

- 38 outcomes (18 red, 18 black, 2 green: 0, 00) equally likely
- Suppose we bet on black. Define X which takes the value $1(\$)$ for outcomes where we win, and $-1(\$)$ for outcomes where we lose.
- Its probability mass function is given by



| | | |
|------------|---------|---------|
| x | -1 | 1 |
| $P(X = x)$ | $20/38$ | $18/38$ |

Example: expected winnings at Roulette

- X's PMF is

| | | |
|------------|---------|---------|
| x | -1 | 1 |
| $P(X = x)$ | $20/38$ | $18/38$ |

- Its expected value is

$$\begin{aligned}\mu &= -1 \times P(X = -1) + 1 \times P(X = 1) \\ &= -\frac{2}{38}\end{aligned}$$

- expected value : if I play this game thousands of times, what is my average profit/loss per spin?

Example: expected winnings at Roulette

- In general we have:

Expected Value of a Discrete Random Variable

$$\mu \text{ (aka } E(X)) := \sum_x xP(X = x)$$

Summation is over all values X can take

- Ex: find the mean of the random variable with PMF

| | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|
| x | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| $P(X = x)$ | 0.7 | 0.2 | 0.1 |

- Answer: $0 \times 0.7 + 1 \times 0.2 + 2 \times 0.1 = 0.4$

Expectation formula

- Given RV X and its PMF, how to find $E[X + 5]$, $E[3X]$, etc?
- Idea 1: find the PMF of the transformed RV and use the definition of expectation
- Idea 2: use the following fact:

Expectation formula

$$E[f(X)] = \sum_x f(x) \cdot P(X = x)$$

Expectation formula: example

- Suppose X has PMF
- Find: $E[X + 5]$, $E[X^2]$

| x | 1 | -1 |
|------------|-----|-----|
| $P(X = x)$ | 0.5 | 0.5 |

Expectation formula

$$E[f(X)] = \sum_x f(x) \cdot P(X = x)$$

- $E[X + 5] = (1 + 5) \times 0.5 + (-1 + 5) \times 0.5 = 5$
- $E[X^2] = 1^2 \times 0.5 + (-1)^2 \times 0.5 = 1$

Variance

- The variance, written σ^2 or $\text{Var}(X)$ or $E[(X - \mu)^2]$ is the “expected squared deviation” from the mean.
- It is a weighted average of the squared deviations corresponding to the individual values.

Variance of a Discrete Random Variable

$$\sigma^2 \text{ (aka } \text{Var}(X), \text{ aka } E((X - \mu)^2)) = \sum_x (x - \mu)^2 P(X = x)$$

- $E[(X - \mu)^2]$ – expectation of $(X - \mu)^2$, another RV

Example: Roulette

- X's PMF is

| | | |
|------------|---------|---------|
| x | -1 | 1 |
| $P(X = x)$ | $20/38$ | $18/38$ |

- Its expected value is $\mu = -\frac{2}{38}$
- Its variance is
$$\begin{aligned}\sigma^2 &= (-1 - \mu)^2 \cdot P(X = -1) + (1 - \mu)^2 \cdot P(X = 1) \\ &= \left(-1 - \left(-\frac{2}{38}\right)\right)^2 \times \frac{20}{38} + \left(1 - \left(-\frac{2}{38}\right)\right)^2 \times \frac{18}{38} \\ &= \dots \approx 0.997\end{aligned}$$

Standard deviation

- Just as with a sample, the standard deviation, σ , is the square root of the variance.
- E.g. in the roulette example, $\sigma = \sqrt{0.997} \approx 0.998$
 - In one spin, the “typical” variation of our balance is 0.998

Exercise

- Find the mean and variance for the random variable with PMF given by

| | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|
| x | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| $P(X = x)$ | 0.7 | 0.2 | 0.1 |

Ans:

- $\mu = 0 \times 0.7 + 1 \times 0.2 + 2 \times 0.1 = 0.4$
- $\sigma^2 = 0.4^2 \times 0.7 + 0.6^2 \times 0.2 + 1.6^2 \times 0.1$
 $= 0.44$
- For a random variable X , when is its σ^2 zero?

Properties of expectation

- What will happen to the roulette game if we bet \$2 instead of \$1?
- The new PMF becomes
- The new expected winnings are then

| | | |
|------------|---------|---------|
| x | -2 | 2 |
| $P(X = x)$ | $20/38$ | $18/38$ |

$$\begin{aligned}\mu &= -2 \times P(X = -2) + 2 \times P(X = 2) \\ &= -\frac{4}{38}\end{aligned}$$

- What's the relationship between this value and the old expected value?
 - Doubling the individual values (w/o changing probs) doubles the expected value

Properties of expectation

- This works in general: if we change the values of a random variable by multiplying by a constant, the expectation gets multiplied by a constant.
- To see this, recall the expectation formula:

$$E[f(X)] = \sum_x f(x) \cdot P(X = x)$$

$$E[aX] = \sum_x ax P(X = x) = a \sum_x x P(X = x) = aE[X]$$

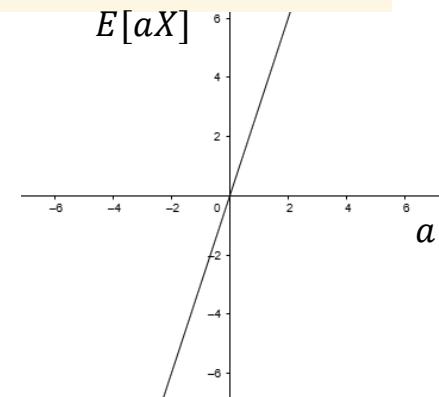
Properties of expectation

Property of Expectation

Multiplying a random variable by a constant scales the expected value by the same constant:

$$E(aX) = aE(X)$$

- Sometimes called “linearity of expectation”



Properties of Variance

- What will happen to the variance if we multiply every value of a random variable by a constant a ?
- This is as if we increase our bet in the roulette game

| | | |
|------------|---------|---------|
| x | -2 | 2 |
| $P(X = x)$ | $20/38$ | $18/38$ |

- Variance = expected *squared* deviation
- All squared deviations are scaled by a^2 , making variance also scaled by a^2

Properties of Variance

- Its old variance is

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma^2 &= (-1 - \mu)^2 \cdot P(X = -1) + (1 - \mu)^2 \cdot P(X = 1) \\ &= \left(-1 - \left(-\frac{2}{38}\right)\right)^2 \times \frac{20}{38} + \left(1 - \left(-\frac{2}{38}\right)\right)^2 \times \frac{18}{38} \\ &= \dots \approx 0.997\end{aligned}$$

- Its new variance is

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma^2 &= (-2 - 2\mu)^2 \cdot P(X = -2) + (2 - 2\mu)^2 \cdot P(X = 2) \\ &= 4 \times \left(-1 - \left(-\frac{2}{38}\right)\right)^2 \times \frac{20}{38} + 4 \times \left(1 - \left(-\frac{2}{38}\right)\right)^2 \times \frac{18}{38} \\ &= \dots \approx 4 \times 0.997\end{aligned}$$

Properties of Variance

Property of Variance

If the values of a random variable are multiplied by a constant, a , then the variance gets multiplied by a^2 .

- In other words, $\text{Var}(aX) = a^2\text{Var}(X)$
- How would standard deviation change accordingly?
 - scaled by $|a|$ (!)

Properties of Variance

Alternative formula for finding variance

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

This sometimes simplifies calculations quite a bit

Example X has PMF

- $\text{E}[X^2] = 1$
- $\text{E}[X] = -\frac{2}{38}$
- $\Rightarrow \text{Var}(X) = 1 - \left(\frac{2}{38}\right)^2 = 0.997$

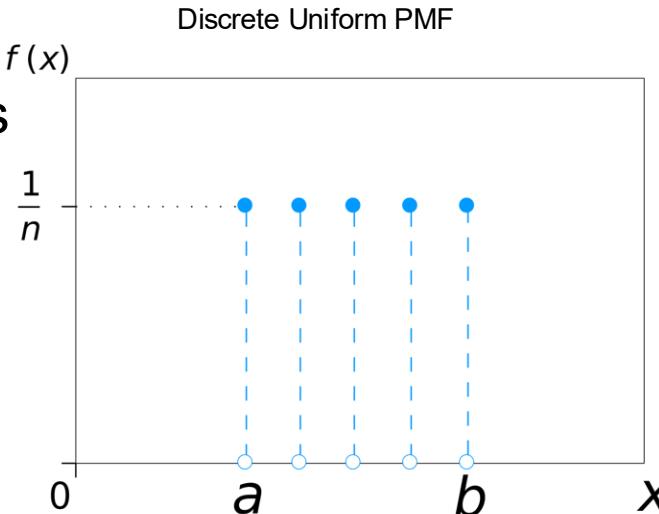
| | | |
|------------|---------|---------|
| x | -1 | 1 |
| $P(X = x)$ | $20/38$ | $18/38$ |

Example Discrete Random Variables

Uniform distribution over a set

More generally, consider $S = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_N\}$; X is drawn from the uniform distribution of S , then

$$P(X = k) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{N} & \text{if } k \in \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_N\} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



We denote this by $X \sim \text{Uniform}(S)$

- Selecting a student from a class
- Drawing a card from a shuffled deck
- Choosing a letter from the alphabet

numpy.random

To generate a sample from a uniform discrete distribution,

```
random.choice(a, size=None, replace=True, p=None)
```

Generates a random sample from a given 1-D array

```
numpy.random.choice([2,5,6])
```

Example output: 2

Binomial distribution

- Suppose we perform n repeated independent trials, each with success probability p , what is the distribution of the number of successes X ?

- What values can X take?

$$m = 0, 1, \dots, n$$

- We have seen that $P(X = m) =$

$$\binom{n}{m} \cdot p^m (1 - p)^{n-m}$$

- In this case, X is said to be drawn from a *binomial distribution*, denoted by

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$$



Galton Boards

- Illustration of binomial distribution
 - Bead has 10 chances hitting pegs (10 rows of pegs)
 - each time a peg is hit, bead randomly bounces to the left or the right with equal probabilities
-
- Number of times it bounces to the left:
$$X \sim \text{Bin}(10, 0.5)$$

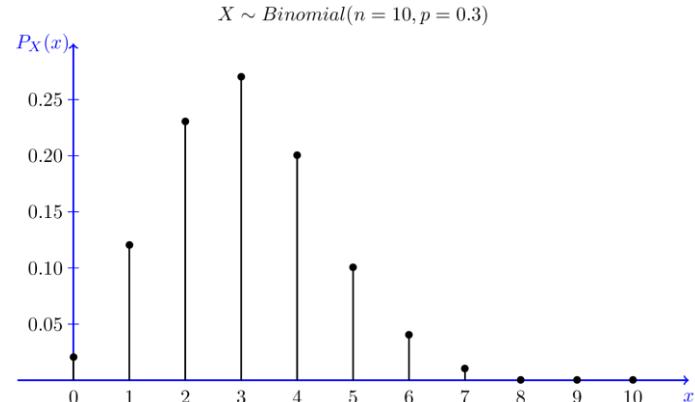


Binomial distribution

- $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$
- X 's PMF is “Bell-shaped”

Facts:

- $E[X] = E[n \cdot X_i] = n \cdot E[X_i] = np$
- $\text{Var}[X] = np(1 - p)$
 - Small when p is close to 0 or 1



Bernoulli distribution

- What does $X \sim \text{Bin}(1, p)$ mean?

| x | 0 | 1 |
|------------|-------|-----|
| $P(X = x)$ | $1-p$ | p |

- This is called the Bernoulli distribution with parameter p , abbreviated as $\text{Bernoulli}(p)$
- $E[X] = 0 \cdot (1 - p) + 1 \cdot p = p$

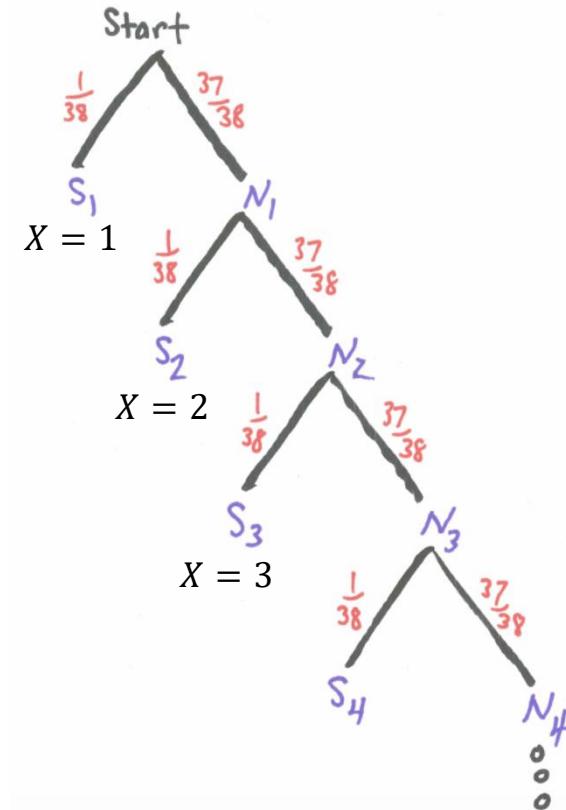


Geometric distribution

- Suppose we perform repeated independent trials with success probability p . What is the distribution of X , the number of trials needed to get a success? (related to Q4 in HW3)
- Applications:
 - Call center: # calls before encountering first dissatisfied customer
 - Basketball: # shots before scoring the first
 - Networking: # attempts before a successful transmission
 - Gambling: # plays before first win

Geometric distribution

- How to find $P(X = x)$?
- Let's draw a probability tree..
- Example: $p = \frac{1}{38}$ (roulette)
- $P(X = 1) = p$
- $P(X = 2) = (1 - p) p$
- $P(X = 3) = (1 - p)^2 p$
- ...



Geometric distribution

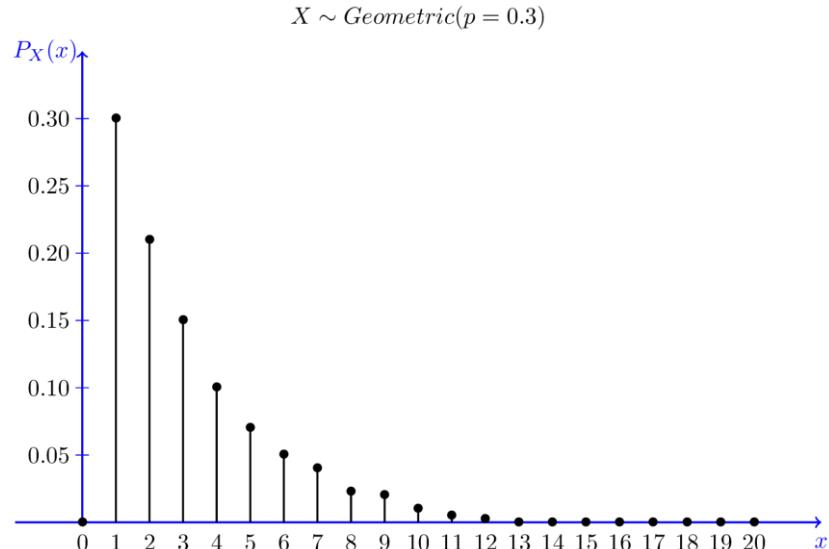
- In conclusion,

$$P(X = x) = p (1 - p)^{x-1}$$

for $x = 1, 2, \dots$

Fact:

- $E[X] = \frac{1}{p}$
- $\text{Var}[X] = \frac{1-p}{p^2}$
 - Smaller when p closes to 1



Recap

- Mean:
 - $\mu = E[X] = \sum_x x \cdot P(X = x)$
 - $E[f(X)] = \sum_x f(x) \cdot P(X = x)$
 - $E[a \cdot X] = a \cdot E[X]$
- Variance:
 - $\text{Var}(X) = \sigma^2 = E[(X - \mu)^2] = \sum_x (x - \mu)^2 \cdot P(X = x)$
 - $\text{Var}(X) = E[X^2] - (E[X])^2$
 - $\text{Var}(a \cdot X) = a^2 \cdot \text{Var}(X)$
- Example discrete RVs and their summary statistics (i.e., mean, variance)

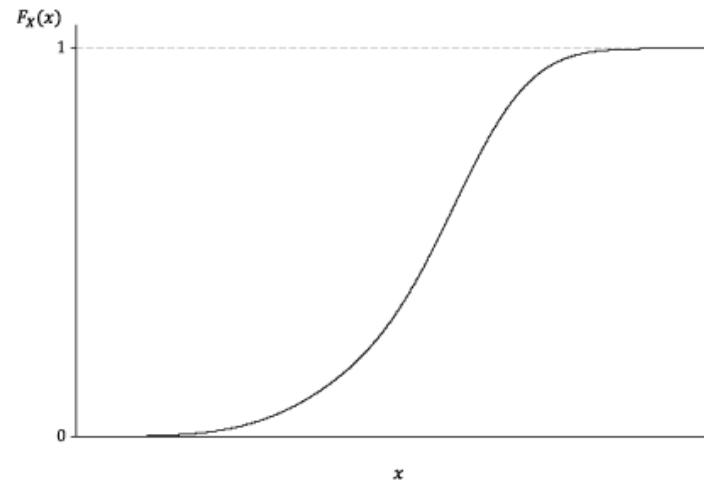
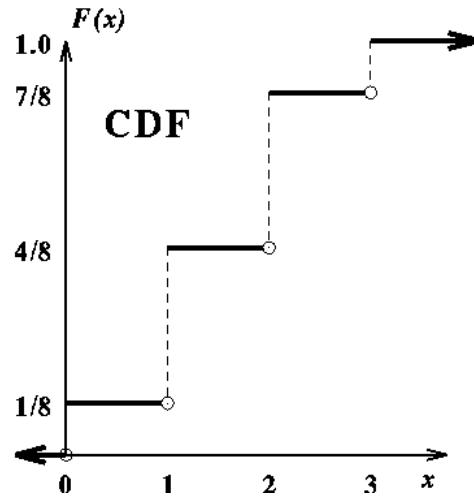
Continuous Random Variables

Plan

- Properties of CDF
- For continuous RV X , what is $P(X = x)$?
- PDF and its properties
- Relation of CDF and PDF

Continuous random variables

- Discrete random variables (RVs) take values in a discrete set
- Their CDFs are discontinuous
- Continuous RVs take values in a continuous set
- Their CDFs ($P(X \leq x)$) are continuous



Example: throwing dart

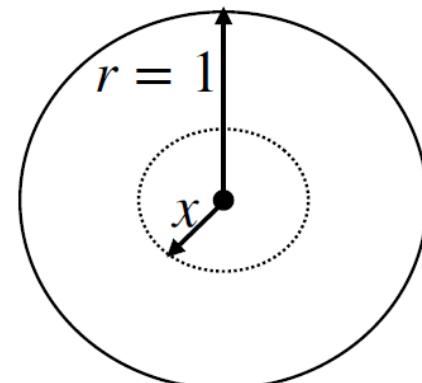
Dartboard with radius 1; dart lands uniformly at random on the board. X is the distance to the center.

What is the CDF of X (the probability that the dart lands at a distance less than or equal to x from the center)?

- $P(X \leq x) = \frac{\pi x^2}{\pi 1^2} = x^2$ for $x \in [0,1]$

Thus,

- $F(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < 0 \\ x^2, & x \in [0,1] \\ 1, & x > 1 \end{cases}$



Example: throwing dart

Dartboard with radius 1; dart lands uniformly at random on the board. X is the distance to the center.

What is the CDF of X (the probability that the dart lands at a distance less than or equal to x from the center)?

- E.g. $P(X \leq 0.3) = 0.3^2 = 0.09$
- Can you find $P(X = 0.3)$?
 - $P(X = 0.3) = 0!$
 - The probability that lands at exactly a distance of 0.3 from the center is 0

Maybe it is not that weird..

Fact for a continuous random variable X , the probability that it takes a specific value x is 0.

Q1: Probability that your house water usage tomorrow is 20.58 gallon?

- 0

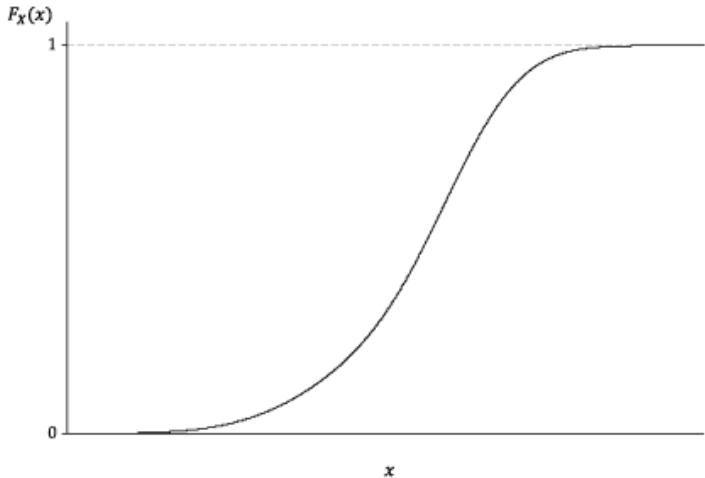
Q2: Probability that your house water usage tomorrow is between 20 and 25 gallon?

- A more useful question



CDF for continuous RVs

- Suppose F is the CDF of continuous random variable X
- What is $P(a < X \leq b)$?
 - $F(b) - F(a)$
- What is $P(a \leq X \leq b)$?
 - Same!
 - $P(a < X < b)$, $P(a \leq X < b)$ also have the same value
 - Why? $P(X = a) = P(X = b) = 0$

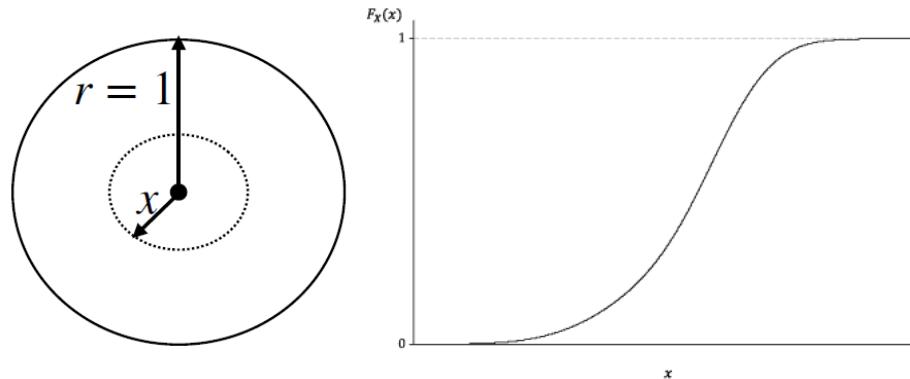


CDF for continuous RVs

- Continuous RVs are those whose CDFs are continuous (no jumps)
- For example, X is the distance to the center

F generally satisfies properties:

- F is continuous (no jumps)
- F is monotonically increasing
- F goes to 0 as $x \rightarrow -\infty$
 - Abbrev. $F(-\infty) = 0$
- F goes to 1 as $x \rightarrow +\infty$



Continuous random variables

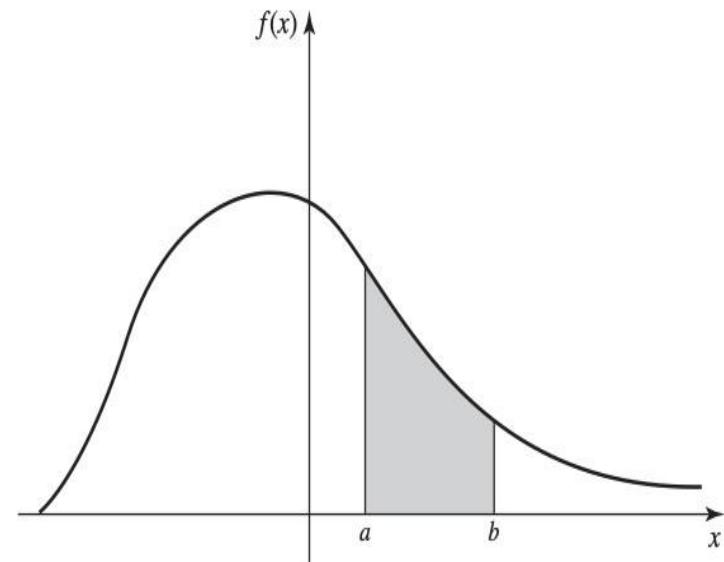
- For discrete RVs, we have PMF and CDF.
- For continuous RVs, what is the analogue of PMF?
- Can we use $P(X = x)$ and sum over all x ?
 - No, $P(X = x)$ is always 0
- Maybe we can define function f such that
$$P(a \leq X \leq b) = \text{"sum over } f(x), x \in [a, b]\text{"}$$

Math interlude: integration

- Summing over $f(x)$, $x \in [a, b]$ is the same as calculating the area under the curve of $f(x)$, for $x \in [a, b]$
- This problem is called integration,
and the area of interest is denoted by:

$$\int_a^b f(x) dx$$

Reads “the integral of f from a to b ”



Math interlude: integration

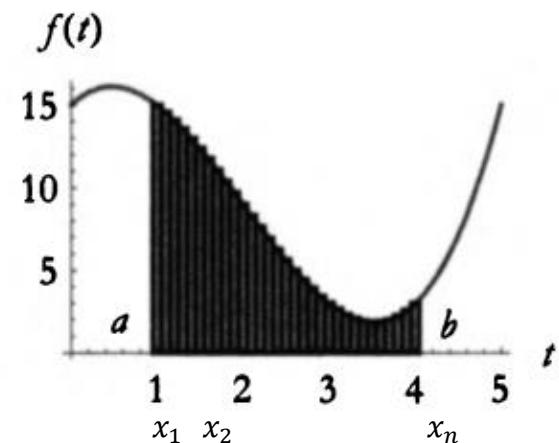
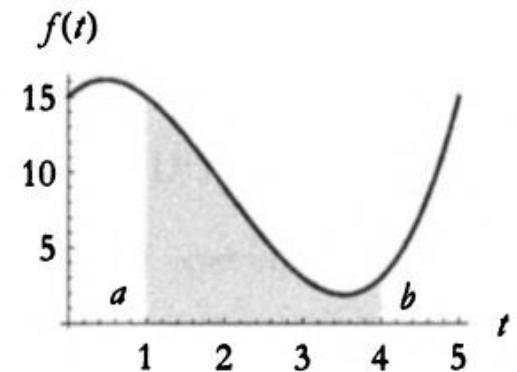
Why the weird \int symbol?

\int ' is a stylized version of 'S', representing sum

This comes from approximating the area using a series of small rectangles

$$\sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i) (x_{i+1} - x_i) := \sum f(x) \Delta x$$

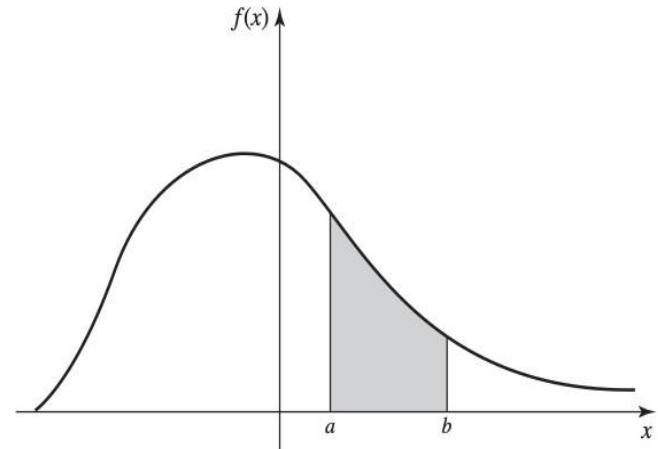
With the partition being finer, this tends to $\int_a^b f(x) dx$



Math interlude: integration

Applications of integration

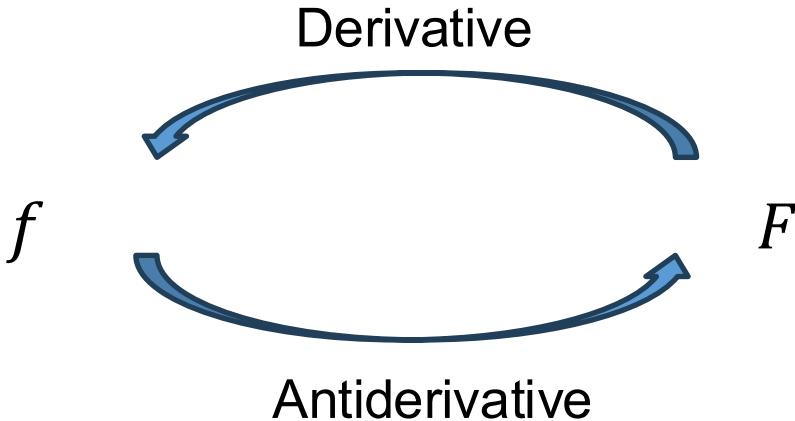
- x : time, $f(x)$: speed
- $\int_a^b f(x) dx$: total distance traveled within time $[a, b]$, or displacement at time b (relative to time a)
- x : time (hour), $f(x)$: power consumption (in Watts)
- $\int_a^b f(x) dx$: total energy used (in Watt-hours)



Math interlude: integration

- How to calculate $F_a(b)$, in other words, $\int_a^b f(x) dx$?
- **Fact (Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, Newton-Leibniz)**
 - $\int_a^b f(x) dx$ can be calculated by:
 - Finding F , the antiderivative of f
 - Evaluate $F(b) - F(a)$ (abbrev. $F(x)|_a^b$)
- What is antiderivative?

Math interlude: integration



- Examples

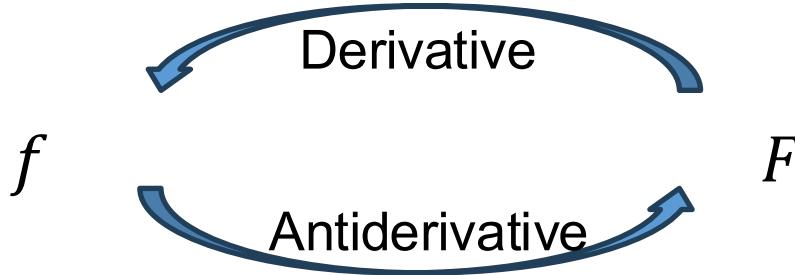
- $f(x) = x$
- $f(x) = x^m$
- $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$

$$F(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^2$$

$$F(x) = \frac{x^{m+1}}{m+1} \quad (m \neq -1)$$

$$F(x) = \ln x$$

Math interlude: integration

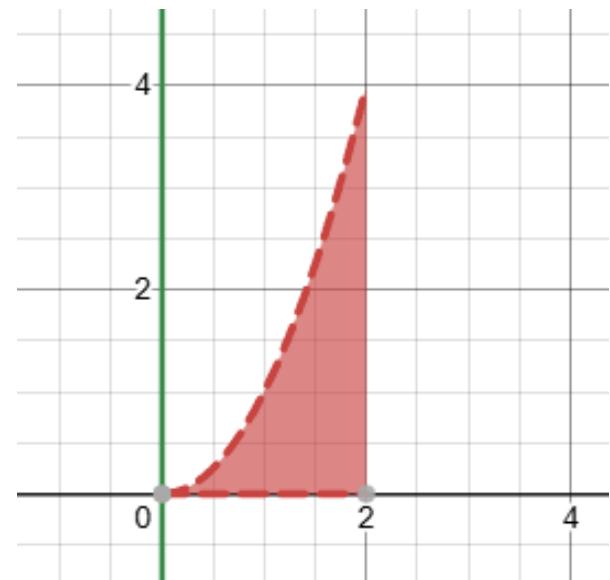


- f can have many antiderivatives
- Useful example
 - f : speed(time); F : distance(time)
- E.g. $f(x) = 1$
 - $F(x) = x$, $F(x) = x + 2$ are all valid antiderivatives
 - All antiderivatives of f are equal up to a constant
 - We use the shorthand $F(x) = x + C$ to emphasize this

Math interlude: integration

Example find $\int_0^2 x^2 dx$

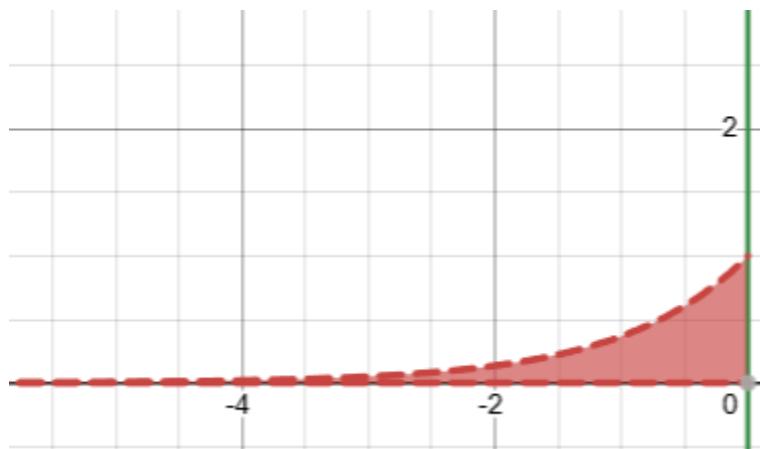
- Step 1: find F , antiderivative of x^2
 - $F(x) = \frac{x^3}{3}$
- Step 2: evaluate F at both end points
 - $F(2) = \frac{8}{3}, F(0) = 0$
 - Ans = $F(2) - F(0) = \frac{8}{3}$



Math interlude: integration

Example find $\int_{-\infty}^0 e^x dx$

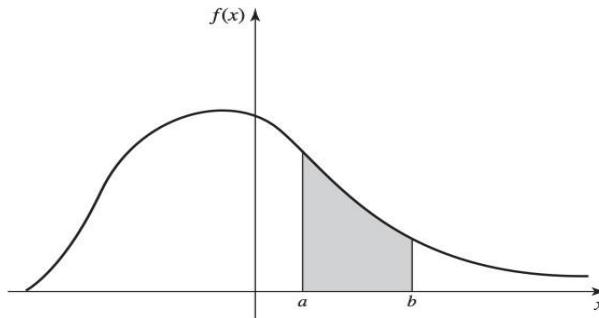
- Step 1: find F , antiderivative of e^x
 - $F(x) = e^x$
- Step 2: evaluate F at both end points
 - $F(0) = 1, F(-\infty) = 0$
 - Ans = $F(0) - F(-\infty) = 1$



Probability density function (PDF)

Fact For continuous random variable X , there is a function f_X (abbrev. f) such that for any a, b ,

$$P(a \leq X \leq b) = \int_a^b f(x) dx$$



Function f is called the *probability density function (PDF)* of X .
 $f(x)$ measures how likely X takes value in the *neighborhood* of x .

Properties of PDF

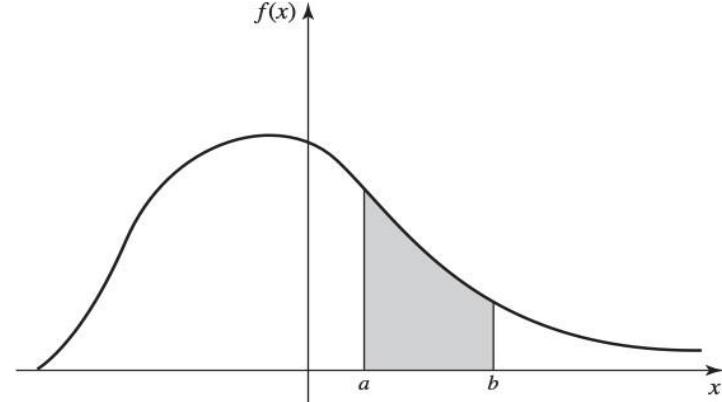
- Nonnegativity: $f(x) \geq 0$ for all x

- But $P(X = x) = 0!$

- Normalized:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} f(x) dx = 1$$

- Reason: the integral represents $P(-\infty \leq X \leq +\infty)$

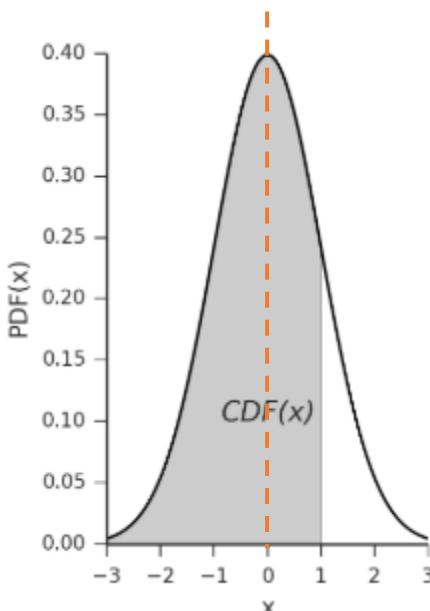


Relationship between PDF and CDF

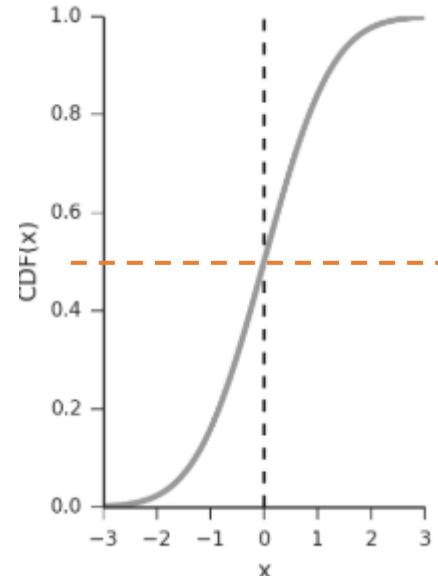
- How to find CDF F based on PDF f ?

$$P(a \leq X \leq b) = \int_a^b f(x) dx$$

$$F(b) = P(X \leq b) = \int_{-\infty}^b f(x) dx$$



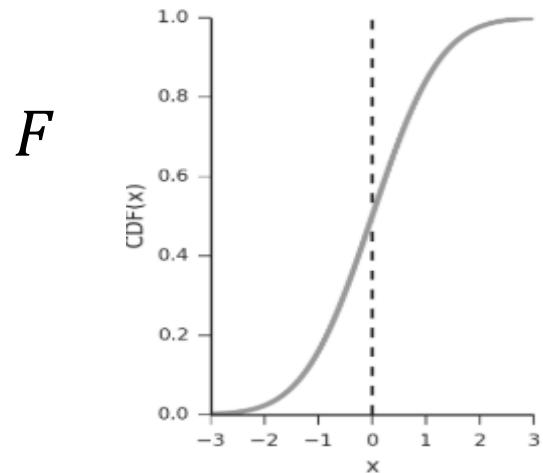
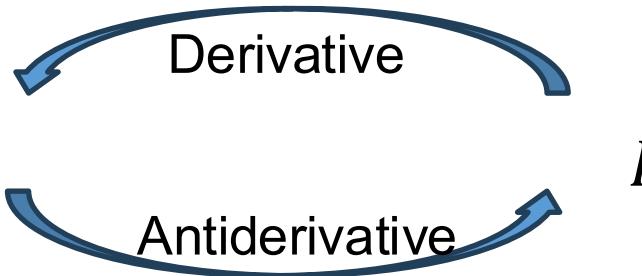
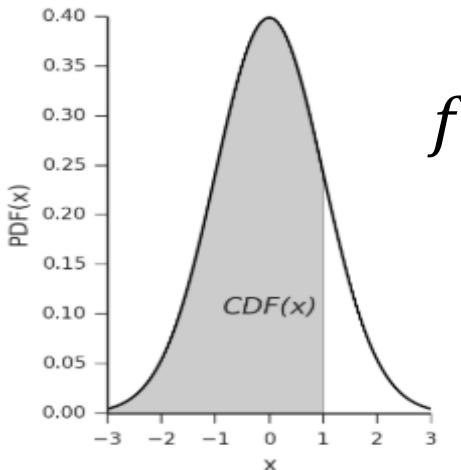
$$F(0) = 0.5$$



area under the curve when $X \leq 0$ is 0.5

Relationship between PDF and CDF

- F is an indefinite integral of f : $f(x) = F'(x)$
- F has large slope at x : $f(x)$ is large



Probability density function (PDF)

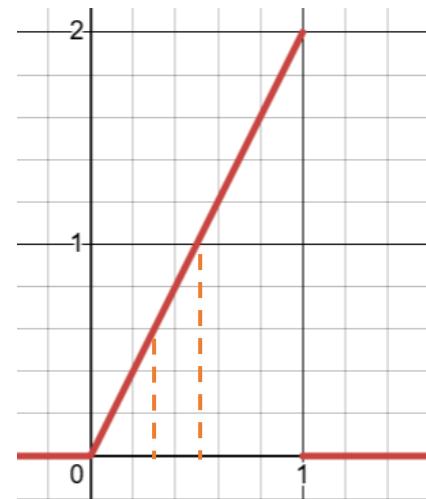
Example X : lifetime of a lightbulb, has PDF

$$f(x) = 2x, 0 < x < 1$$

Find $P(0.3 < X < 0.5)$

Soln This is equal to

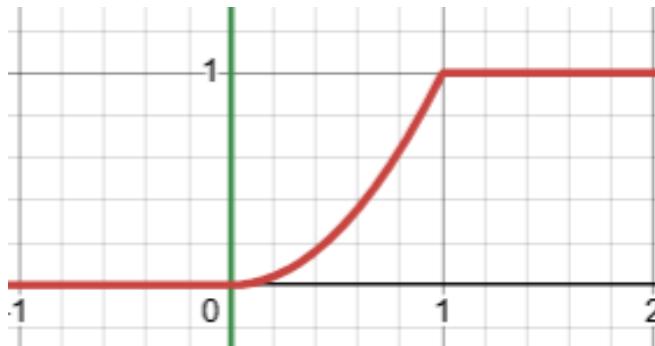
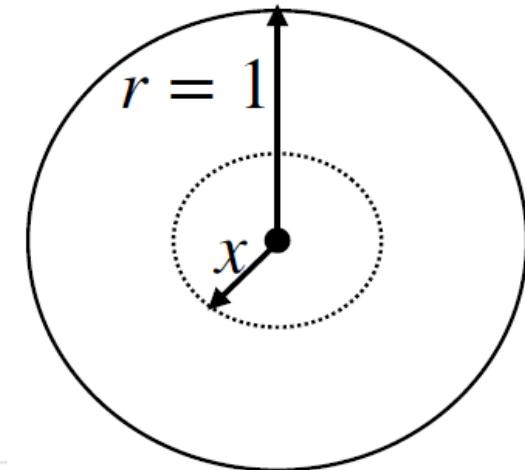
$$\int_{0.3}^{0.5} 2x \, dx = x^2 \Big|_{0.3}^{0.5} = 0.5^2 - 0.3^2 = 0.16$$



Example: dart

- X : distance to the center, given CDF:

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < 0 \\ x^2, & x \in [0,1] \\ 1, & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

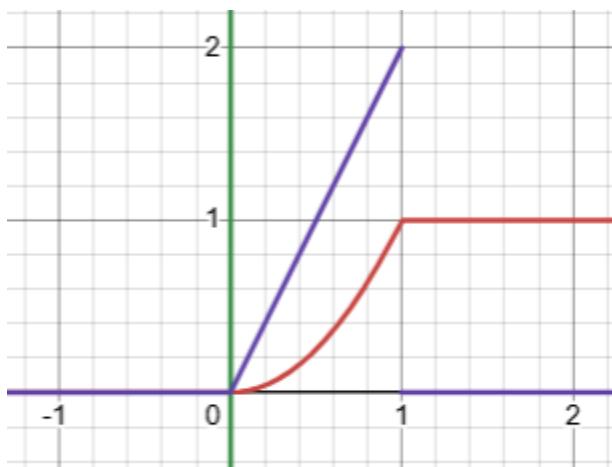
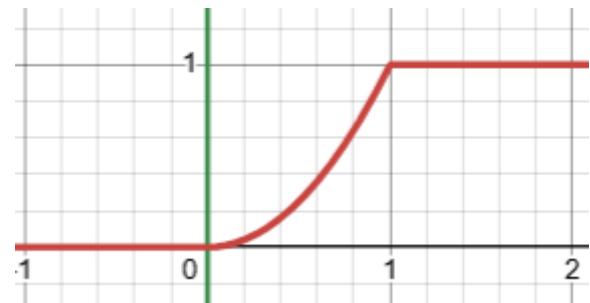


- What is the PDF of X ?

Example: dart

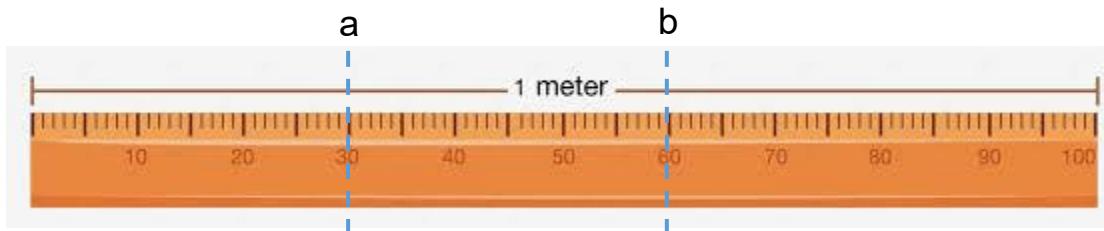
What is the PDF of X ?

- $f(x)$ is the derivative of F
 - $f(x) = 0, x < 0$
 - $f(x) = 2x, x \in [0,1]$
 - $f(x) = 0, x > 1$



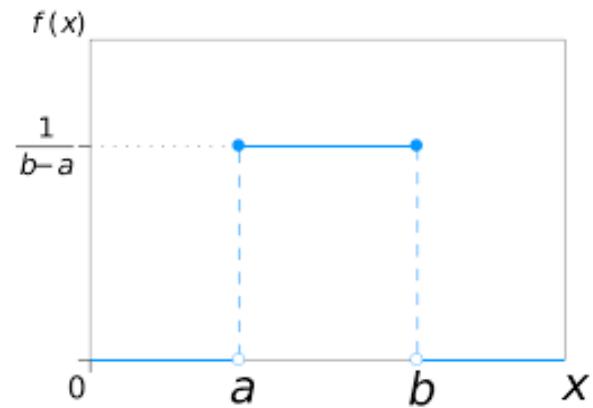
In-class activity: ruler

- We choose X uniformly at random from $[a, b]$, two points in a ruler. In other words, X can land anywhere between $[a, b]$ with equal likelihood.
- Find the PDF and CDF of X



In-class activity: ruler

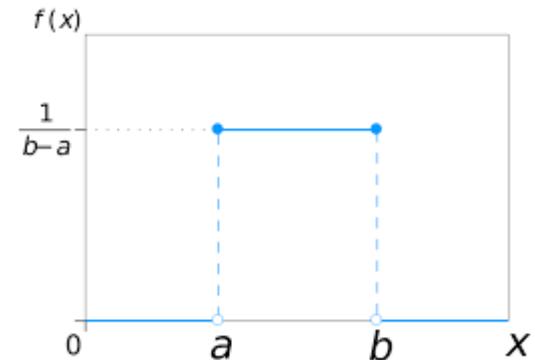
- We know $P(a \leq X \leq b) = 1$, and $f(x)$ is constant on $[a, b]$
- $f(x)$ is constant: say c
- $\int_a^b f(x) dx = \int_a^b c dx = cx \Big|_a^b = cb - ca = 1$
- $c = \frac{1}{b-a}$
- So $f(x) = \frac{1}{b-a}, x \in [a, b]$



In-class activity: ruler

- What is the PDF $f(x)$?

- $f(x) = 0, x < a$
- $f(x) = \frac{1}{b-a}, x \in [a, b]$
- $f(x) = 0, x > b$



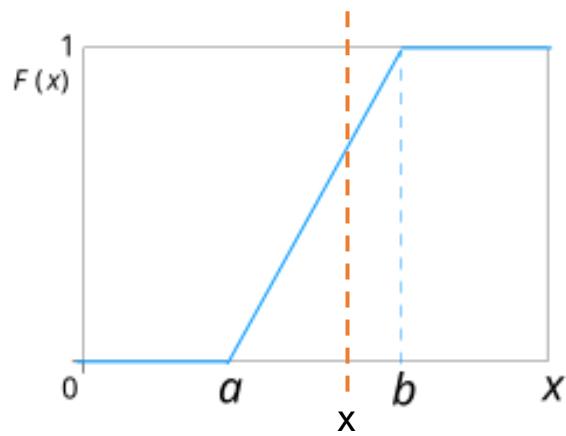
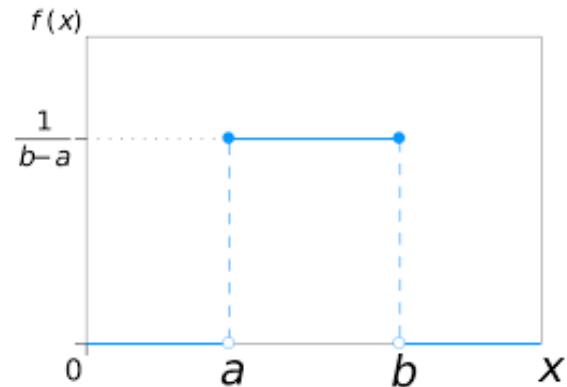
- This is also known as the *uniform distribution* over $[a, b]$, abbrev.
 $\text{Uniform}([a, b])$
- What is the CDF $F(x) = P(X \leq x)$?

In-class activity: ruler

- What is the CDF $F(x) = P(X \leq x)$?
 - $F(x) = 0, x < a$
 - $F(x) = \frac{x-a}{b-a}, x \in [a, b]$
 - $F(x) = 1, x > b$

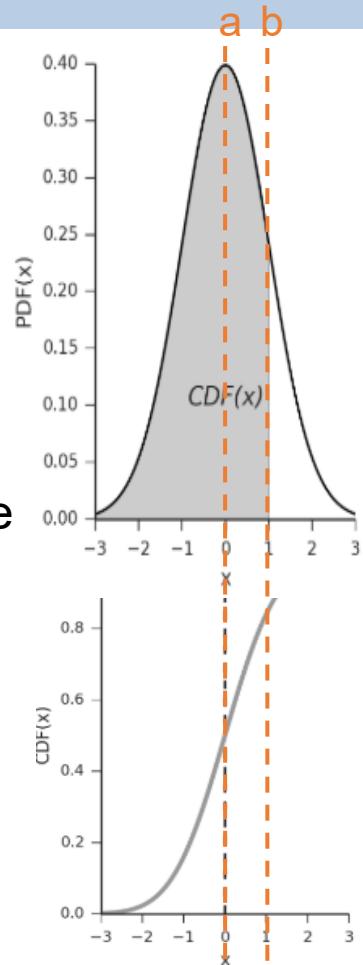


$$F(x) = \int_a^x f(x) dt = \int_a^x \frac{1}{b-a} dt = \frac{1}{b-a}(x - a)$$



Recap

- Is $f(x)$ equal to $P(X = x)$?
 - No -- $P(X = x) = 0$ always
 - Correct interpretation: probability *density* (not probability)
- $P(a \leq X \leq b) = \int_a^b f(x) dx = F(b) - F(a)$
 - the probability that a RV lies between a and b is given by the area under the PDF from a to b = the difference between the CDF values at b and a.
 - F is the antiderivative of f
- Are there real-world RVs that are neither discrete nor continuous?



Plans

- Transformation of a continuous RV, its CDF and PDF
- Expectation and variance of continuous RVs
- Useful continuous probability distributions

Transformations of a continuous RV

- Given a continuous RV X and any transformation f , $f(X)$ is a random variable (e.g. $X + 5, 3X, X^2$)
- Applications:
 - X : temperature tomorrow in Celsius, $1.8X + 32$: temp in Fahrenheit
- How to find the distribution of $Y = f(X)$ based on that of X ?
 - First, find Y 's CDF
 - Take derivative to find Y 's PDF

Transformations of a continuous RV

Example Suppose $X \sim \text{Uniform}([0,1])$. Find the distribution of $Y = X + b$.

Step 1: write down the CDF of X

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < 0 \\ 1, & x \in [0,1] \\ 0, & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

$$F(x) = P(X \leq \textcolor{brown}{x}) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < 0 \\ \textcolor{brown}{x}, & x \in [0,1] \\ 1, & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

Uniform([a, b]): $f(x) = \frac{1}{b-a}$, $x \in [a, b]$

Step 2: write down the CDF of Y

$$P(Y \leq y) = P(X + b \leq y) = P(X \leq \textcolor{brown}{y} - b) = F(\textcolor{brown}{y} - b)$$


$$F(y) = P(Y \leq y) = \begin{cases} 0, & y < b \\ \textcolor{brown}{y} - b, & y \in [b, b+1] \\ 1, & y > b+1 \end{cases}$$

Transformations of a continuous RV

Step 2: write down the CDF of Y

$$P(Y \leq y) = \begin{cases} 0, & y < b \\ y - b, & y \in [b, b + 1] \\ 1, & y > b + 1 \end{cases}$$

Step 3: Take derivative to get the PDF of Y

$$f(y) = \begin{cases} 0, & y < b \\ 1, & y \in [b, b + 1] \\ 0, & y > b + 1 \end{cases}$$

In summary, $Y \sim \text{Uniform}([b, b + 1])$

Transformations of a continuous RV: $X + b$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < 0 \\ 1, & x \in [0,1] \\ 0, & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x < 0 \\ x, & x \in [0,1] \\ 1, & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

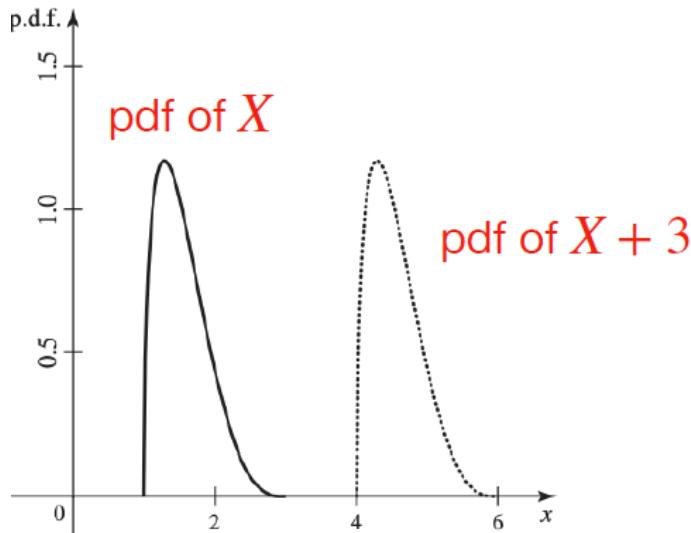
$$f(y) = \begin{cases} 0, & y < b \\ 1, & y \in [b, b+1] \\ 0, & y > b+1 \end{cases}$$

$$F(y) = P(Y \leq y) = \begin{cases} 0, & y < b \\ y - b, & y \in [b, b+1] \\ 1, & y > b+1 \end{cases}$$

$X + b$ has a PDF that is a translation of X 's PDF (by b units)

Shifting a continuous RV

- In general:
- $Y = X + b$ has a PDF that is a translation of X 's PDF (by b units)



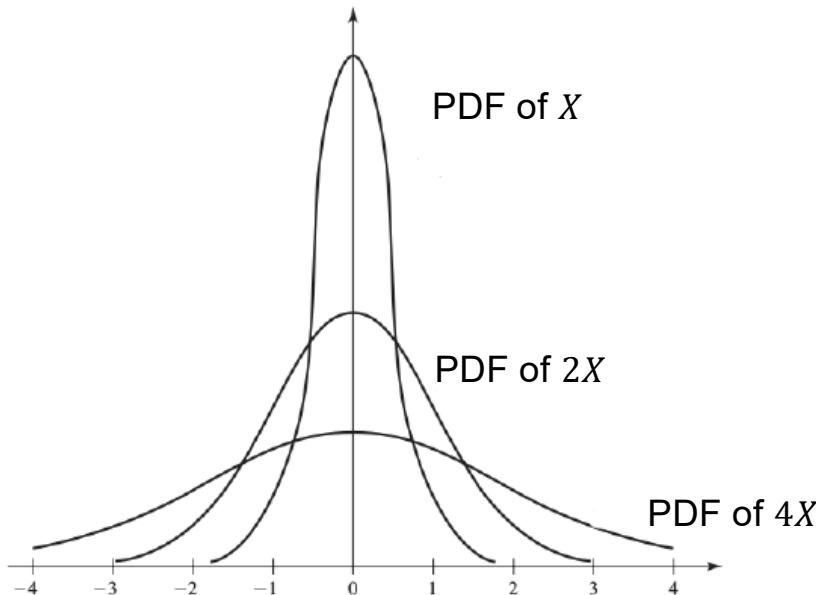
- $f_{X+b}(x) = f_X(x - b)$: $f_Y(4) = f_X(1)$:

In-class activity: scaling an RV

- **Example** Suppose $X \sim \text{Uniform}([0,1])$. Find the distribution of $Z = aX$.
- Step 1: write down the CDF of X
- Step 2: write down the CDF of Z
- Step 3: Take derivative to get the PDF of Z

Scaling a continuous RV

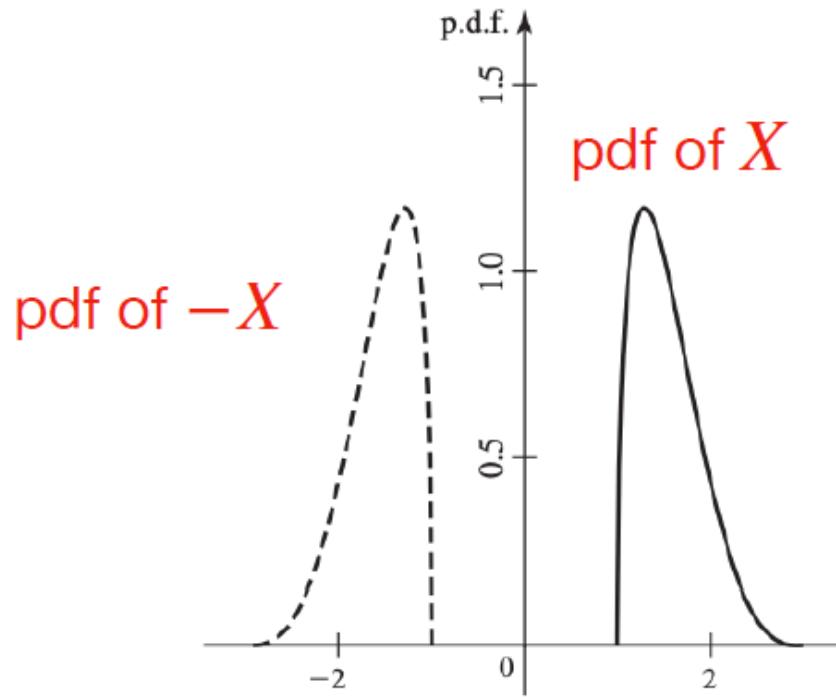
- $Z = aX$'s PDF is X 's PDF stretched by a factor of a horizontally



- $f_{aX}(x) = \frac{1}{|a|} f_X\left(\frac{x}{a}\right)$: $f_{2X}(0) = \frac{1}{2} f_X(0)$

Scaling a continuous RV

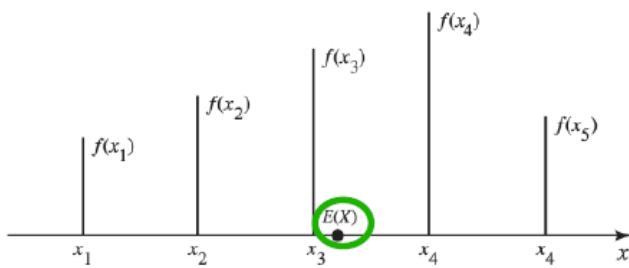
- Given X 's PDF; what does $-X$'s PDF look like?



Summarizing Continuous Random Variables

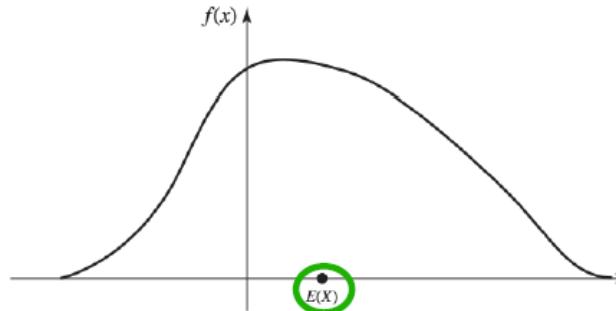
Mean (aka Expected Value, Expectation)

- Weighted average of values of a random variable where weights are probabilities, denoted as μ , or $E[X]$
- Expectation as center of gravity



Discrete

$$E[X] = \sum_x x \cdot P(X = x)$$



Continuous

$$E[X] = \int x f(x) dx$$

Expectation formula

- How to find $E[r(X)]$ given the probability distribution of X ?
- For discrete RVs we saw:

$$E[r(X)] = \sum_x r(x) \cdot P(X = x)$$

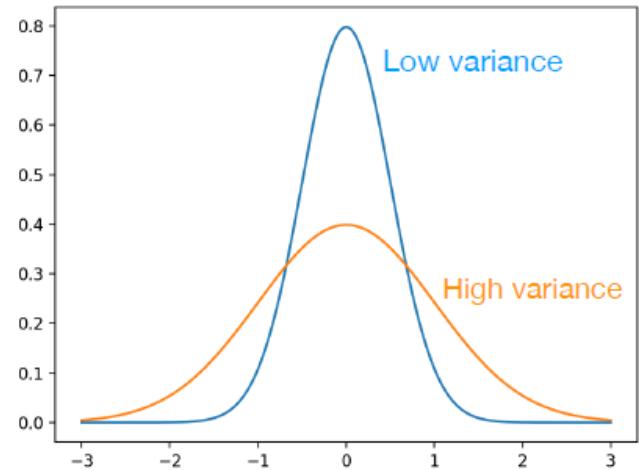
- For continuous RVs,

$$E[r(X)] = \int r(x) f(x) dx$$

Rule of the lazy statistician: could also find it by first finding pdf of $r(X)$ which would require many further calculations. Lazy prefers easy.

Variance

- Variance of X measures how spread out the distribution of X is
- Defn: $\text{Var}(X) = \sigma^2 = E[(X - \mu)^2]$
Mean of X
- Fact: $\text{Var}(X) = E[X^2] - (E[X])^2$ continues to hold

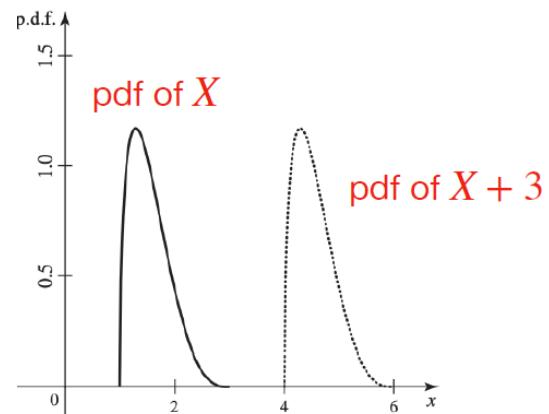
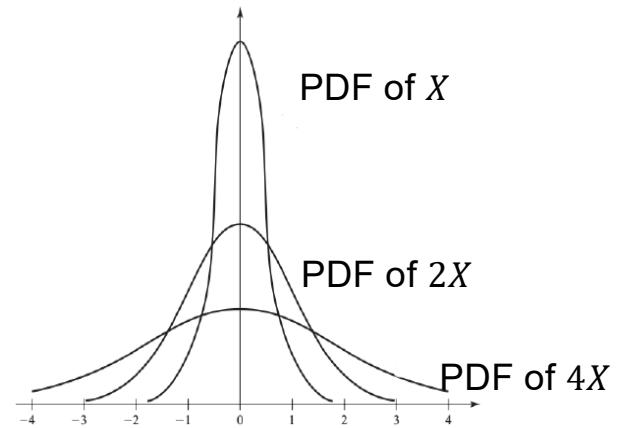


Properties of Mean & variance

How does aX 's mean & variance relate to those of X ?

Fact same as discrete RVs, for continuous RVs, it continues to hold :

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



Properties of Mean & variance

- How about $E[aX + b]$ and $\text{Var}[aX + b]$?
- E.g. Celsius to Fahrenheit, $a = 1.8$, $b = 32$
- We can now combine the previous results to get:
- $E[aX + b] = E[aX] + b = aE[X] + b$
- $\text{Var}[aX + b] = \text{Var}[aX] = a^2 \cdot \text{Var}[X]$

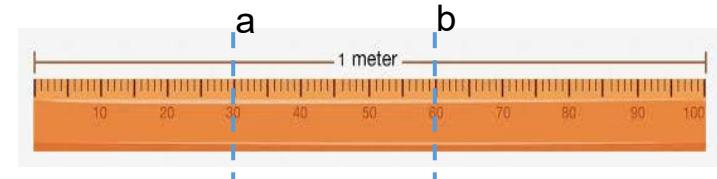
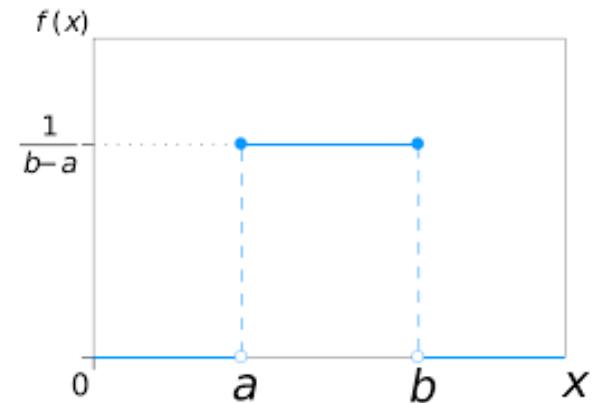
Useful Continuous Probability Distributions

Uniform Distribution

- $X \sim \text{Uniform}([a, b])$

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & y < a \\ \frac{1}{b-a}, & y \in [a, b] \\ 0, & y > b \end{cases}$$

- Mean: $E[X] = \frac{a+b}{2}$
- Variance:
 - $\text{Var}[X] = \frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$
 - Uniform([0,1]) has a variance of 1/12



Uniform distribution

numpy.random.uniform

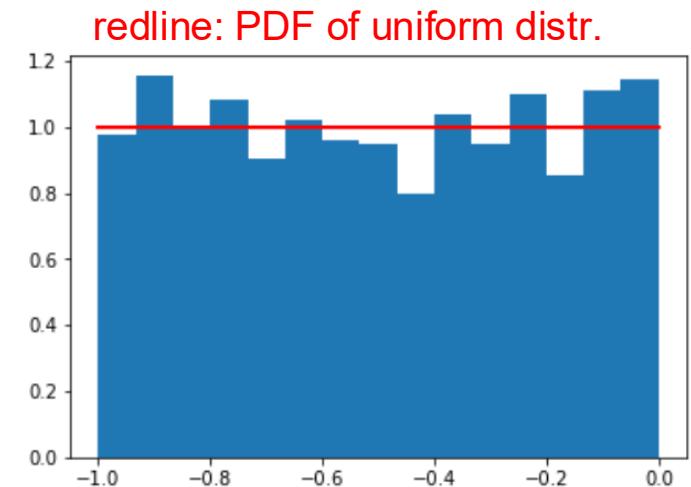
```
numpy.random.uniform(low=0.0, high=1.0, size=None)
```

Draw samples from a uniform distribution.

Samples are uniformly distributed over the half-open interval `[low, high]` (includes low, but excludes high). In other words, any value within the given interval is equally likely to be drawn by [uniform](#).

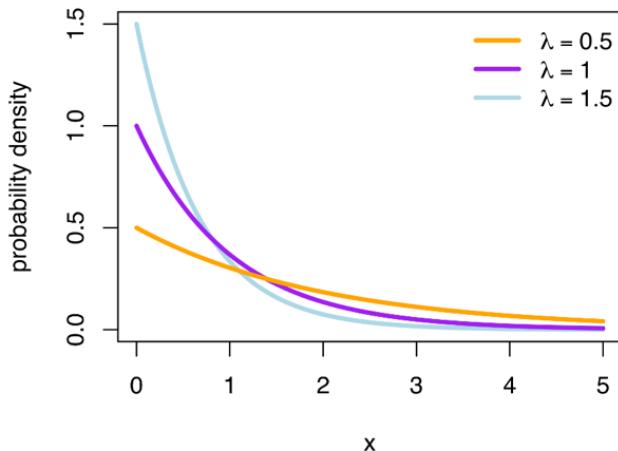
Example Draw 1,000 samples from a uniform distribution on [-1,0),

```
a = -1
b = 0
N = 1000
X = np.random.uniform(a,b,N)
count, bins, ignored = plt.hist(X, 15, density=True)
plt.plot(bins, np.ones_like(bins), linewidth=2, color='r')
plt.show()
```



Exponential Distribution

- Denoted as $X \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$
 - $f(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}, x > 0$
 - λ : scale parameter
 - $E[X] = \frac{1}{\lambda}$
 - $\text{Var}[X] = \left(\frac{1}{\lambda}\right)^2$
 - the continuous analogue of geometric distribution



Examples:

- Time between geyser eruptions
- Lifetime of lightbulbs
- Time of radioactive particle decays

Exponential Distribution

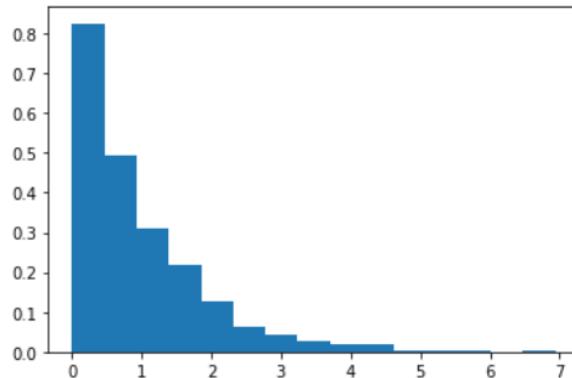
`numpy.random.exponential`

`numpy.random.exponential(scale=1.0, size=None)`

$\text{scale} = \lambda$

Example Draw 1,000 samples from exponential with $\lambda = 1.0$

```
lam = 1.0
N = 1000
X = np.random.exponential(lam, N)
count, bins, ignored = plt.hist(X, 15, density=True)
plt.show()
```



Gaussian Distribution

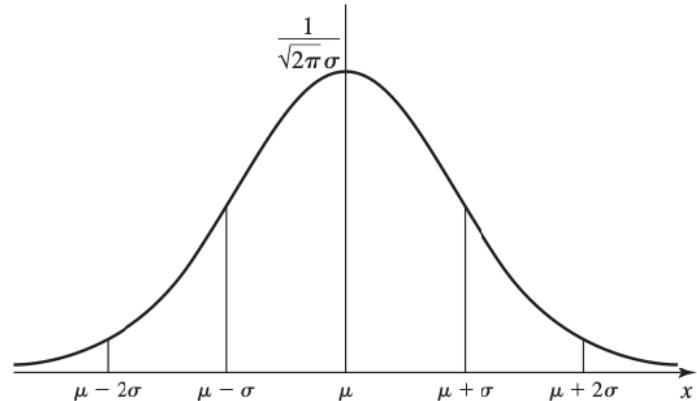
Gaussian (a.k.a. Normal) distribution with location μ and scale σ^2 parameters,

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} E[X] &= \mu \\ \text{Var}[X] &= \sigma^2 \end{aligned}$$

Abbreviated as $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$

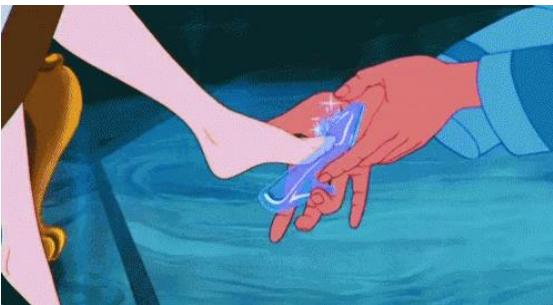
Perhaps *the most important* distribution
in prob & stats



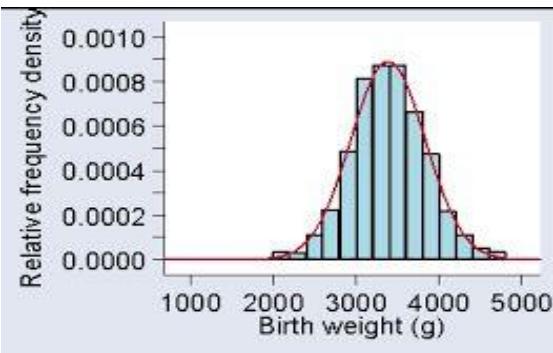
Similar to binomial distribution

Distributions that follow Gaussian

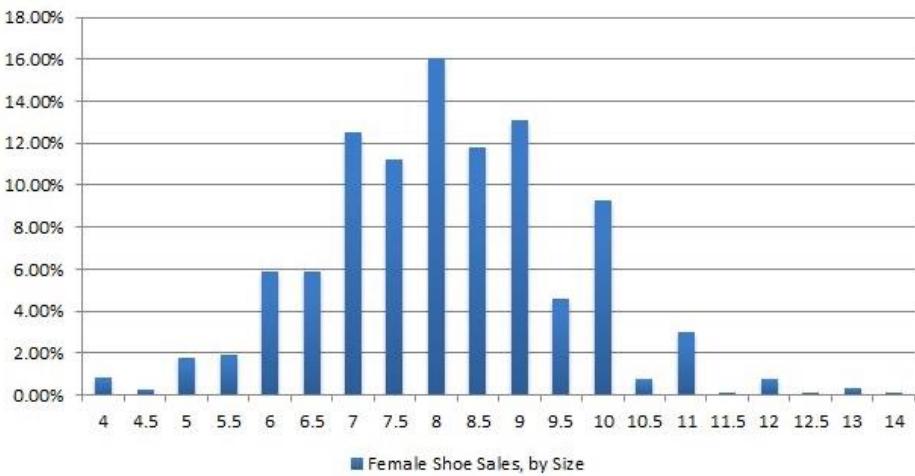
Shoe size



Birth Weight



(From <https://studiousguy.com/real-life-examples-normal-distribution/>)

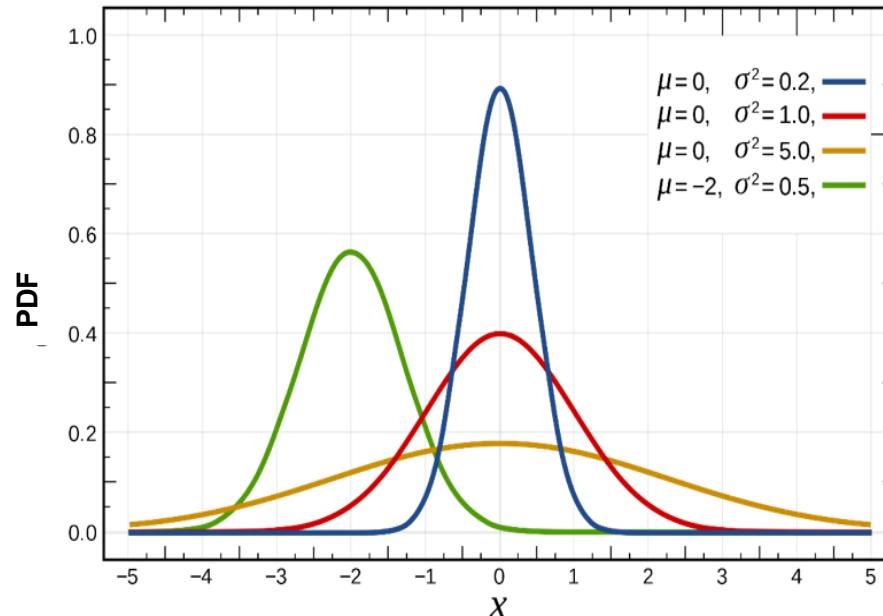


They do not actually follow exact Gaussians, but very close

Gaussian Distribution

Observations:

- Larger $\sigma^2 \Rightarrow p(x)$ more “spread out”
- Larger $\mu \Rightarrow p(x)$ ’s center shifts to the right more



Fact if $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$

- $E[X] = \mu$
- $\text{Var}[X] = \sigma^2$

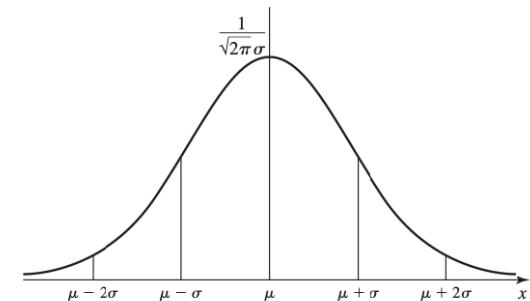
Gaussian Distribution

Linear transformations of Gaussian is still Gaussian

Fact if $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$, then $Y = aX + b$ is still Gaussian.

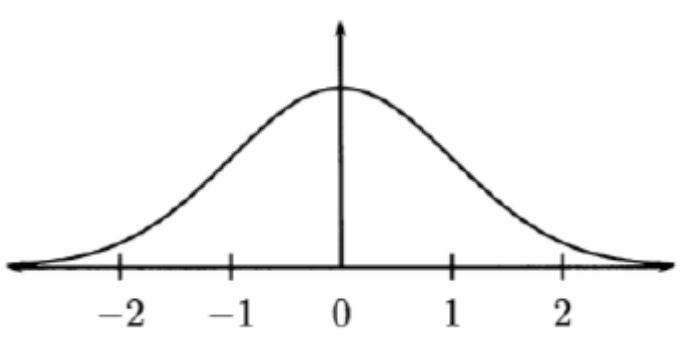
What are the parameters of Y 's Gaussian distribution, $E[Y]$, $\text{Var}[Y]$?

- $E[Y] = E[aX + b] = a\mu + b$
- $\text{Var}[Y] = \text{Var}[aX + b] = \text{Var}[aX] = a^2\sigma^2$
- So, $Y \sim N(a\mu + b, a^2\sigma^2)$



The standard Gaussian distribution

- Gaussian distribution with $\mu = 0$ and $\sigma^2 = 1$

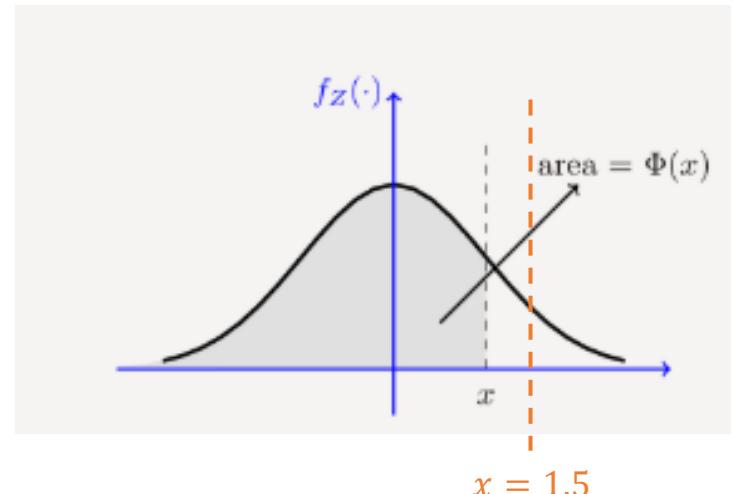


- Denoted by $Z \sim N(0,1)$
- Its PDF denoted by $\phi(z)$, and CDF denoted by $\Phi(z)$

The standard Gaussian distribution

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right), \mu = 0, \sigma = 1$$

- PDF: $\phi(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{z^2}{2}\right)$
- CDF: $\Phi(z) = \int_{-\infty}^z \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{z^2}{2}\right) dz$



- We can find the value of Φ by calling `scipy.stats.norm.cdf`

```
from scipy.stats import norm  
norm.cdf(1.5)
```