



Computer
Science

CSC380: Principles of Data Science

Probability 3

Xinchen Yu

- Independence
- Random variables
- Distribution

Independence

Independence

- Informally, given two events A and B, they are **independent** if the probability of A is not affected by whether B is true or false (and vice versa)
 - E.g., A = “die1=1” and B=“die2=1” are independent.
 \Rightarrow the probability of die1 being 1 would not be changed just because die2=1.
- Mathematically, this can be written as $P(A|B) = P(A)$ or $P(B|A) = P(B)$.
- E.g., A = “die1=1” and B=“two dice sum to 6” are **not independent**.
 - $\because P(A) = 1/6 = 0.166\dots$. However, $P(A|B) = 1/5 = 0.2$
 - A = {(1,1), (1,2), (1,3), (1,4), (1,5), (1,6)}
 - B = { (1,5), (2,4), (3,3), (4,2), (5,1) }

quiz candidate

Independence

- Informally, given two events A and B, they are **independent** if the probability of A is not affected by whether B is true or false (and vice versa)
- Mathematically, this can be written as $P(A|B) = P(A)$ or $P(B|A) = P(B)$.

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

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



$$P(A, B) = P(A)P(B)$$

$A \perp B$: A and B are independent

Independence

[Def] Two events A and B are **independent** if

$$P(A, B) = P(A)P(B)$$

“joint probability is product of two marginal probabilities”

$A \perp B$ means A and B are independent

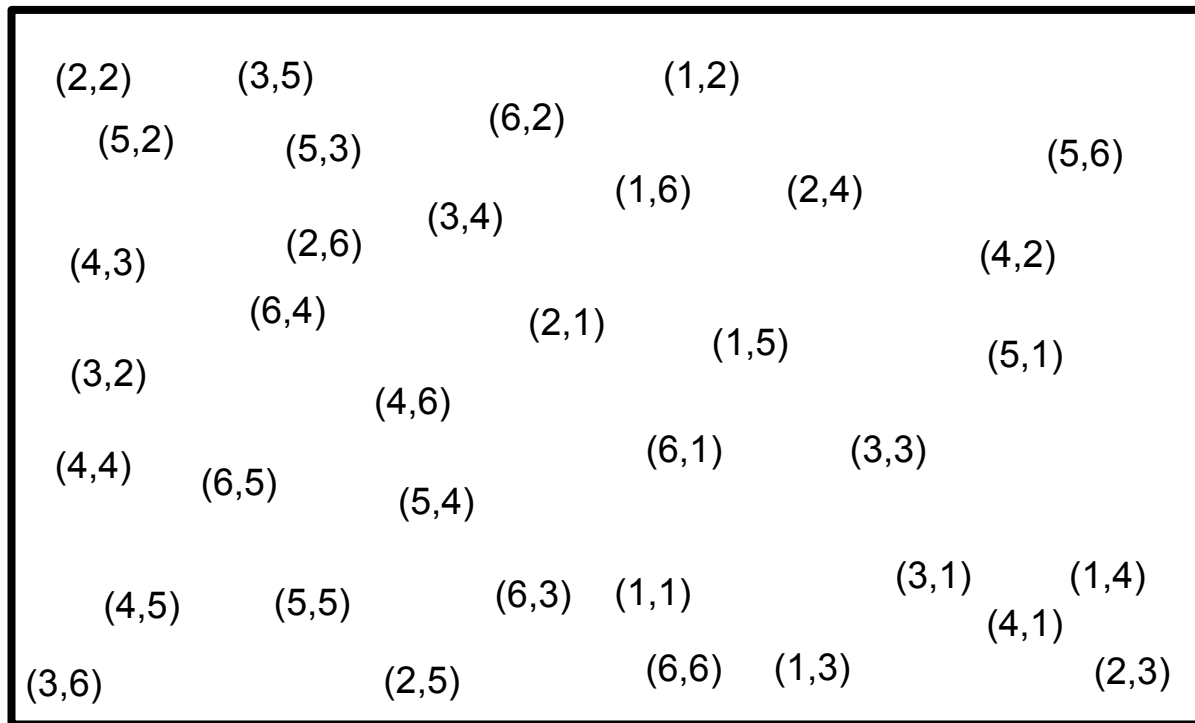
=> note: symmetric!

Also, a set of events $\{A_i\}_{i=1}^n$ (n can be ∞) are **mutually independent** if

for every $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$, we have $P(\cap_{i \in J} A_i) = \prod_{i \in J} P(A_i)$

Random Events and Probability

Rolling two fair dice



Each outcome is equally likely by the **independence**
=> 1/36

- Ex) recall two fair dice
 - We took it for granted that $P((1,1))$ is $1/36$.
 - But why is it true, really?

$$P(\text{die1}=1, \text{die2}=1) = P(\text{die1}=1)P(\text{die2}=1) = 1/6 \cdot 1/6$$

- E.g., two biased coin **C1** and **C2**. Suppose $P(C1=H) = 0.3$ and $P(C2=H) = 0.4$. Compute the probability of $P(C1=H, C2=T)$.

$$0.3 \cdot 0.6 = 0.18$$

Quiz candidate

Example: Dependent Coin Flips

- First coin (X_1): fair coin
- Second coin (X_2):
 - if $X_1=H$, throw a **fair** coin.
 - If $X_1=T$, throw an **unfair** coin $P(H) = 0.2$, $P(T) = 0.8$

- Q: Are $X_1=H$ and $X_2=H$ independent or not?

$$P(X_1=H) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$0.5$$

$$P(X_2=H) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$= P(X_2=H, X_1=H) + P(X_2=H, X_1=T) = 0.25 + 0.1 = 0.35$$

$$P(X_1=H, X_2=H) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

$$0.25$$

$$P(X_1=H) * P(X_2=H) = 0.175$$

Quiz candidate

Axiom 3:

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:

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

$(P(A|B) \neq P(B|A) \text{ in general})$

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 $P(B|A) = P(B)$)

Random Variables and Probability

Suppose we are interested in probabilities about the sum of two dice...

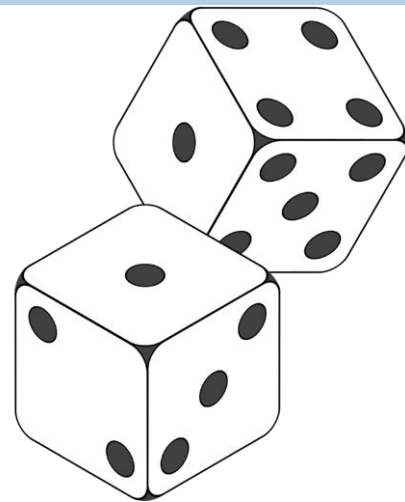
Option 1 Let E_i be event that the sum equals i

Two dice example:

$$E_2 = \{(1, 1)\} \quad E_3 = \{(1, 2), (2, 1)\} \quad E_4 = \{(1, 3), (2, 2), (3, 1)\}$$

$$E_5 = \{(1, 4), (2, 3), (3, 2), (4, 1)\} \quad E_6 = \{(1, 5), (2, 4), (3, 3), (4, 2), (5, 1)\}$$

*Enumerate all possible outcomes obtaining the desired sum.
Gets cumbersome for $N > 2$ dice...*



Suppose we are interested in probabilities about the sum of dice...

Option 2 Give it a name

Let X be the sum of two dice.

We can say the event “ $X = i$ ” to mean E_i .

X is called **random variable**.

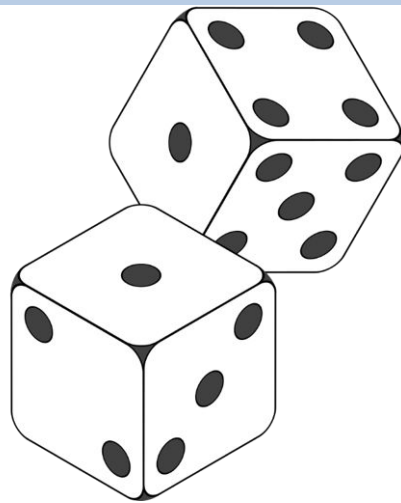
$$P(X = 2) = 1/36$$

$$P(X = 3) = 2/36$$

$$P(X = 4) = 3/36$$

...

$$P(X = 12) = 1/36$$



A random variable is a numerical description of the outcomes of a statistical experiment.

Example 1

- let X = sum of two dice;
- probability of X on different values:

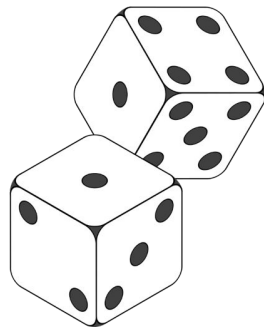
$$P(X = 2) = 1/36$$

$$P(X = 3) = 2/36$$

$$P(X = 4) = 3/36$$

...

$$P(X = 12) = 1/36$$

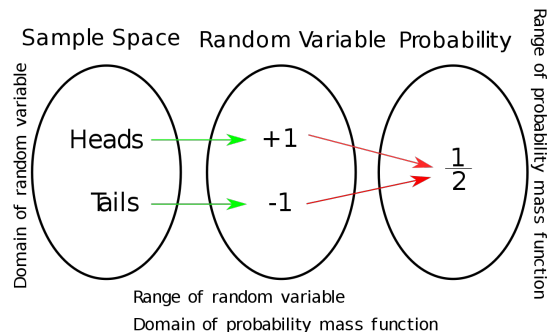


Example 2.

- let Y = outcomes of one coin toss;
- probability of Y on 1 (head) and -1 (tail):

$$P(Y = 1) = 1/2$$

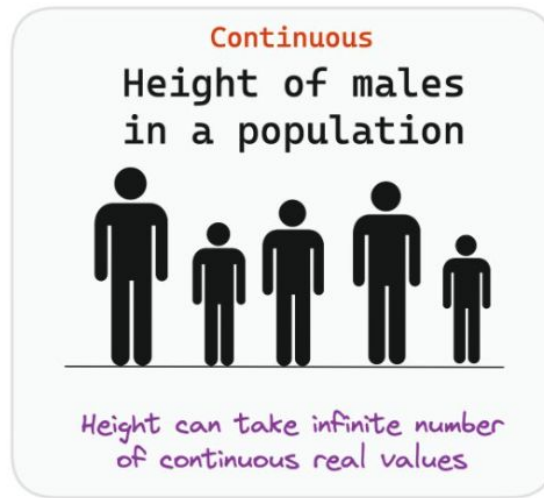
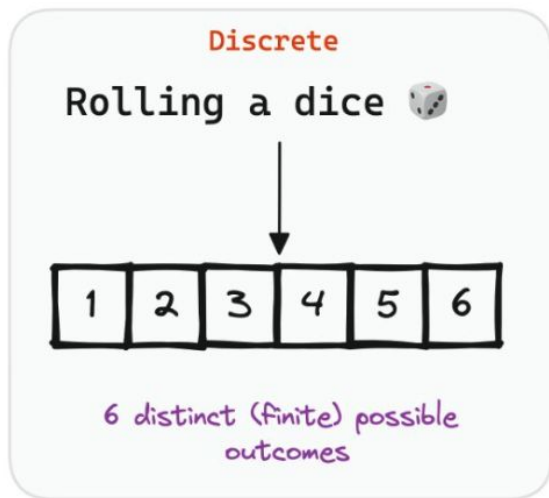
$$P(Y = -1) = 1/2$$



Random Variables and Probability

15

- 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.



All the laws/rules about events applies to RVs.

The **law of total probability** for random variable is,

$$P(y) = \sum_i P(y, x_i)$$

$$P(Y = y) = \sum_x P(Y = y, X = x)$$

for all x : $P(X=x) > 0$

... you will also see people write down $p(Y) = \sum_x p(Y, X = x)$

This means $p(Y = y) = \sum_x p(Y = y, X = x)$ for all y

Random Variables and Probability

17

- I have three bags that each contain 100 marbles:

- Bag A has 75 red and 25 blue marbles;
- Bag B has 60 red and 40 blue marbles;
- Bag C has 45 red and 55 blue marbles.

$$P(Y = y) = \sum_x P(Y = y, X = x)$$

I choose one of the bags at random and then pick a marble from the chosen bag, also at random. What is the probability that the chosen marble is red? (A: $X=1$, B: $X=2$, C: $X=3$)

$$P(Y = 1|X = 1) = 0.75$$

$$P(Y = 1|X = 2) = 0.60$$

$$P(Y = 1|X = 3) = 0.45$$

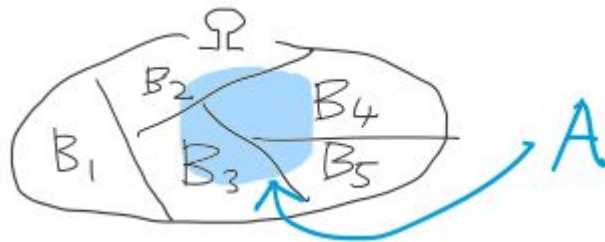
Y: pick a marble

X: choose a bag

$$P(X = 1) = P(X = 2) = P(X = 3) = \frac{100}{300} = 1/3$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(Y = 1) &= P(Y = 1, X = 1) + P(Y = 1, X = 2) + P(Y = 1, X = 3) \\ &= P(Y = 1|X = 1)P(X = 1) + P(Y = 1|X = 2)P(X = 2) + P(Y = 1|X = 3)P(X = 3) \\ &= 0.75 \times \frac{1}{3} + 0.60 \times \frac{1}{3} + 0.45 \times \frac{1}{3} \\ &= 0.60 \end{aligned}$$

$$P(Y) = \sum_x P(Y, X = x)$$



Also works for conditional probabilities,

$$p(Y \mid Z) = \sum_x p(Y, X = x \mid Z) \quad \text{HW1, hint 3}$$

Rule: Any rules about the probability still works for the conditional probabilities!!

(just make sure you add the conditioning part for every $p()$!)

Proof:

$$P(Y|Z) = \frac{P(Y,Z)}{P(Z)} = \frac{\sum_x P(Y,Z,X=x)}{P(Z)} = \frac{\sum_x P(Y,X=x|Z)P(Z)}{P(Z)} = \sum_x P(Y, X = x|Z)$$

Conditional Probability

19

Conditional
probability

$$p(X | Y) = \frac{p(X, Y)}{p(Y)}$$

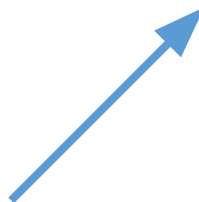
Conditional probability version

$$p(X|Y, Z) = \frac{p(X, Y|Z)}{p(Y|Z)}$$

Proof:

$$p(X|Y, Z) = \frac{p(X, Y, Z)}{p(Y, Z)} = \frac{p(X, Y|Z)p(Z)}{p(Y|Z)p(Z)}$$

chain rule



Conditional probability $p(X | Y) = \frac{p(X, Y)}{p(Y)}$

Chain rule: $p(X, Y) = p(X|Y)p(Y)$

Bayes rule: $p(X|Y) = \frac{p(Y|X)p(X)}{p(Y)}$

Proof:

$$p(X|Y, Z) = \frac{p(X, Y, Z)}{p(Y, Z)} = \frac{p(Y|X, Z)p(X, Z)}{p(Y, Z)} = \frac{p(Y|X, Z)p(X|Z)p(Z)}{p(Y|Z)p(Z)}$$


Conditional probability version

$$p(X|Y, Z) = \frac{p(X, Y|Z)}{p(Y|Z)}$$

↑ there is no 'double' conditioning

$$p(X, Y|Z) = p(X|Y, Z)p(Y|Z)$$

HW1, hint 4

$$p(X|Y, Z) = \frac{p(Y|X, Z)p(X|Z)}{p(Y|Z)}$$


Tabular representation of two binary RVs (joint probability)

Use K-by-K probability table for K-valued discrete RVs

e.g., X = disease, Y = test result

$$P(Y) = \sum_x P(Y, X = x)$$

		Y		
		y_1	y_2	
X	x_1	0.04	0.36	<div> <div>0.4</div> <div>0.6</div> <div>P(X)</div> </div>
	x_2	0.30	0.30	
		0.34	0.66	

$P(Y)$

$P(y_1)$

$P(y_2)$

$P(x_1)$

$P(x_2)$

$P(X=x_1)=P(x_1,y_1)+P(x_1,y_2)$
 $P(X=x_2)=P(x_2,y_1)+P(x_2,y_2)$
 [i.e., sum across rows]

$$P(y_1)=P(x_1,y_1)+P(x_2,y_1)$$

$$P(y_2)=P(x_1,y_2)+P(x_2,y_2)$$

[i.e., sum down columns]

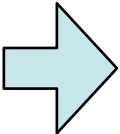
e.g., X = disease, Y = test result

		Y	
		y_1	y_2
X	x_1	0.04	<div>Censored!</div>
	x_2	0.30	

$P(X | Y = y_1)?$

0.34 $\nearrow P(y_1)$

We don't care about event $Y=y_2$

		$Y=y_1$		
X	x_1	0.04		<div> $0.04 / 0.34$ $0.30 / 0.34$ </div> $P(X y_1)$
	x_2	0.30		

$$P(X=x_1 | Y = y_1) = P(x_1, y_1) / P(y_1)$$

0.34

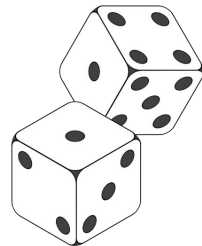
 $P(y_1)$

These sum to one:
A conditional probability is still a
'probability'.

Definition Two random variables X and Y are independent given if and only if

$$p(X = x, Y = y) = p(X = x)p(Y = y)$$

for all values x and y , and we say $X \perp Y$.



- From now on, we will just write it down as $p(X, Y) = p(X)p(Y)$
- Property: X and Y are independent if and only if $p(X) = p(X|Y)$ (or $p(Y) = p(Y|X)$)

N RVs are independent if

$$p(X_1, \dots, X_N) = \prod_{i=1}^N p(X_i)$$

Definition Two random variables X and Y are conditionally independent given Z if and only if,

$$p(X = x, Y = y \mid Z = z) = p(X = x \mid Z = z)p(Y = y \mid Z = z)$$

for all values x , y , and z , and we say that $X \perp Y \mid Z$.

N RVs conditionally independent, given Z , if and only if:

$$p(X_1, \dots, X_N \mid Z) = \prod_{i=1}^N p(X_i \mid Z)$$

Caveat: $X \perp Y \neq X \perp Y \mid Z$

Discrete Distributions

Distribution and PMF

- If X is a random variable, then we can talk about its 'distribution'
- **Distribution**: the set of values X can take and the probability assigned to each value.

- Examples:

X_1 : unfair coin

value	prob.
1	0.2
2	0.8

X_2 : unfair die

value	prob.
1	0.1
2	0.15
3	0.15
4	0.15
5	0.15
6	0.3

- Such a table can be viewed as a function $f(x)$. This is called **probability mass function (PMF)**.

Distribution and PMF

Another example.

- let S = sum of two dice;
- probability of S on different values:

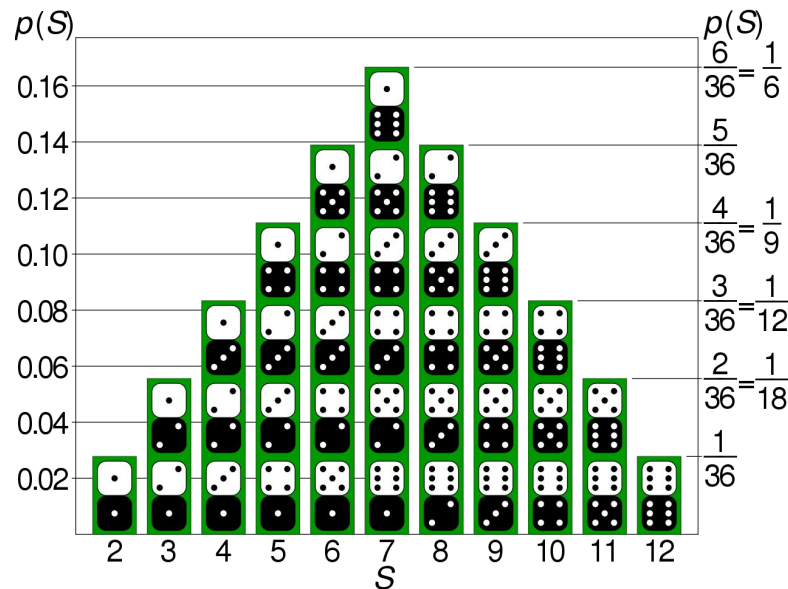
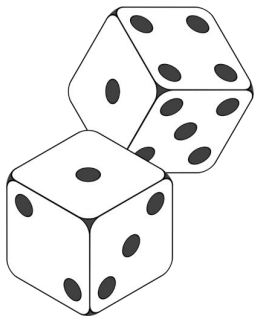
$$P(S = 2) = 1/36$$

$$P(S = 3) = 2/36$$

$$P(S = 4) = 3/36$$

...

$$P(S = 12) = 1/36$$



$$\text{PMF: } f_X(S) = \frac{\min(S - 1, 13 - S)}{36}, \text{ for } S \in \{2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12\}$$

Uniform Distribution

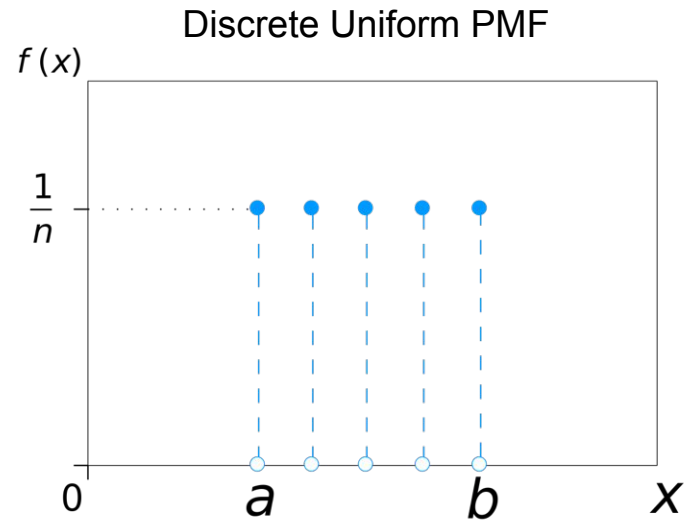
Generalization of fair die with N-faced die. Its PMF is:

$$p(X = k) = \frac{1}{N}$$

More generally, we define a set of numbers $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_N\}$

$$\text{Uniform}(X=k; \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_N\}) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{N} & \text{if } k \in \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_N\} \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

↑ it's like $P(X=k)$
but being explicit
about 'what' distribution
X follows.



Bernoulli distribution

Bernoulli *a.k.a. the **coin flip** distribution on binary RVs $X \in \{0, 1\}$*

$$\text{PMF: } p(X = x) = \pi^x (1 - \pi)^{1-x}$$

Where π is the probability of **success** (e.g., heads)

used when you only have
2 possible outcomes

Example:

$$X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(0.2)$$

$$p(X = 0) = 0.2^0 \cdot (1 - 0.2)^{1-0} = 0.8$$

$$p(X = 1) = 0.2^1 \cdot (1 - 0.2)^{1-1} = 0.2$$



Binomial distribution

Suppose we flip N independent coins X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N , what is the distribution over their sum $Y = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i$

Num. “successes” out of N trials

Num. ways to obtain k successes out of N

Binomial Dist.

$$p(Y = k) = \binom{N}{k} \pi^k (1 - \pi)^{N-k}$$

$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n(n-1) \cdots (n-k+1)}{k(k-1) \cdots 1}$$



Binomial distribution

Binomial Dist.

$$p(Y = k) = \binom{N}{k} \pi^k (1 - \pi)^{N-k}$$

Why is this true?

Say $N=5$. Compute $p(Y=3)$

$$p(\text{HTTHH}) = \pi(1 - \pi)(1 - \pi)\pi\pi$$

$$p(\text{TTHHH}) = (1 - \pi)(1 - \pi)\pi\pi\pi$$

...

$$\begin{aligned} p(Y=3) &= p(\text{HTTHH}, \text{TTHHH}, \text{HHTTH}, \dots, \text{HHHTT}) \\ &= p(\text{HTTHH}) + p(\text{TTHHH}) + \dots + p(\text{HHHTT}) \\ &= \binom{5}{3} \pi^3 (1 - \pi)^2 \end{aligned}$$

The values are the same: $\pi^3 (1 - \pi)^2$!

By axiom 3, just add up $\pi^3 (1 - \pi)^2$ over all possible outcomes with the # of H is 3.

⇒ count: **N choose k**!

You'll use the same argument for HW1

Categorical distribution

Categorical Distribution on integer-valued RV $X \in \{1, \dots, K\}$ that takes $X = k$ with probability π_k .

$$p(X) = \prod_{k=1}^K \pi_k^{\mathbf{I}(X=k)} \quad \text{or} \quad p(X) = \sum_{k=1}^K \mathbf{I}(X = k) \cdot \pi_k$$

$$p(X = x) = \prod_{k=1}^K \pi_k^{\mathbf{I}(x=k)}$$

Indicator function

$$\mathbf{I}(A) := \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } A \text{ is true} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

3 sided die example:

$$\begin{aligned} p(X = 2) &= \pi_1^{\mathbf{I}(2=1)} \cdot \pi_2^{\mathbf{I}(2=2)} \cdot \pi_3^{\mathbf{I}(2=3)} \\ &= \pi_1^0 \cdot \pi_2^1 \cdot \pi_3^0 \\ &= \pi_2 \\ &= 0.1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\pi_1 = 0.2$$

$$\pi_2 = 0.1$$

$$\pi_3 = 0.7$$



Homework 1

Law of total probability for conditional probability $p(Y | Z) = \sum_x p(Y, X = x | Z)$

$$P(W | S = (i, j)) = P(W, R_{i+j+1} = 1 | S = (i, j)) + P(W, R_{i+j+1} = 0 | S = (i, j))$$

Chain rule $p(X, Y | Z) = p(X | Y, Z)p(Y | Z)$

$$P(W, R_{i+j+1} | S = (i, j)) = P(W | R_{i+j+1}, S = (i, j)) P(R_{i+j+1} | S = (i, j)) \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}$$

round $i+j+1$ you win and you have already win i rounds, opponents win j rounds = you win $i+1$, opponents win j

$$P(W | R_{i+j+1} = 1, S = (i, j)) = P(W | S = (i + 1, j))$$

round $i+j+1$ you lose and you have already win i rounds, opponents win j rounds = you win i , opponents win $j+1$

$$P(W | R_{i+j+1} = 0, S = (i, j)) = P(W | S = (i, j + 1))$$

We can get the probability of win in this round based on the probabilities of next round (recursive)

$$P(W | S = (i, j)) = P(W | S = (i, j + 1)) \times 1/2 + P(W | S = (i + 1, j)) \times 1/2$$

Homework 1

35

