

# Jointly distributed random variables

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Mostly taken from *A first course in probability*  
by S. Ross

# Outline

- 1 Joint distribution functions
- 2 Independent random variables
- 3 Sums of independent random variables
- 4 Conditional distributions: discrete case
- 5 Conditional distributions: continuous case
- 6 Joint probability distribution of functions of random variables
- 7 Conditional expectation

# Outline

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# Joint cdf

## Definition 1.

Let

- $X, Y$  random variables
- $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$

The joint cdf describes the joint distribution of  $(X, Y)$ :

$$F(a, b) = \mathbf{P}(X \leq a, Y \leq b)$$

# Values of interest in terms of the cdf

## Proposition 2.

Let

- $X, Y$  random variables
- $F$  the joint cdf of  $X, Y$

Then the marginals cdf's of  $X$  and  $Y$  are given by

$$F_X(a) = F(a, \infty), \quad F_Y(b) = F(\infty, b)$$

We also have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}(a_1 < X \leq a_2, b_1 < Y \leq b_2) \\ = F(a_2, b_2) - F(a_2, b_1) - F(a_1, b_2) + F(a_1, b_1) \end{aligned}$$

# Discrete case: joint pmf

## Definition 3.

Consider the following situation:

- $X, Y$  discrete random variables
- $X$  takes values in  $E_1$ ,  $Y$  takes values in  $E_2$
- $x \in E_1$  and  $y \in E_2$

The joint pmf  $p$  describes the joint distribution of  $(X, Y)$ :

$$p(x, y) = \mathbf{P}(X = x, Y = y)$$

# Values of interest in terms of the pmf

## Proposition 4.

Let

- $X, Y$  random variables
- $p$  the joint pmf of  $X, Y$

Then the marginals pmf's of  $X$  and  $Y$  are given by

$$p_X(a) = \sum_{b \in E_2} p(a, b), \quad p_Y(b) = \sum_{a \in E_1} p(a, b)$$

If  $a_1 < a_2$  and  $b_1 < b_2$ , we also have

$$\mathbf{P}(a_1 < X \leq a_2, b_1 < Y \leq b_2) = \sum_{a_1 < i_1 \leq a_2, b_1 < i_2 \leq b_2} p(i_1, i_2)$$

# Example: tossing 3 coins (1)

Experiment:

Tossing a coin 3 times

Events: We consider

$A =$  "At most one Head"

$B =$  "At least one Head and one Tail"

Random variables: Set

$$X_1 = \mathbf{1}_A, \quad X_2 = \mathbf{1}_B, \quad X = (X_1, X_2)$$



## Example: tossing 3 coins (2)

Model: We take

- $S = \{h, t\}^3$
- $\mathbf{P}(\{s\}) = \frac{1}{8}$  for all  $s \in S$

Description of  $X = (X_1, X_2)$ :

$s$	$X(s)$	$s$	$X(s)$
$(t, t, t)$	$(1, 0)$	$(h, t, t)$	$(1, 1)$
$(t, t, h)$	$(1, 1)$	$(h, t, h)$	$(0, 1)$
$(t, h, t)$	$(1, 1)$	$(h, h, t)$	$(0, 1)$
$(t, h, h)$	$(0, 1)$	$(h, h, h)$	$(0, 0)$

## Example: tossing 3 coins (3)

Joint pmf for  $X$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{P}(X = (0, 0)) &= \frac{1}{8}, & \mathbf{P}(X = (0, 1)) &= \frac{3}{8} \\ \mathbf{P}(X = (1, 0)) &= \frac{1}{8}, & \mathbf{P}(X = (1, 1)) &= \frac{3}{8}\end{aligned}$$

Marginal pmf for  $X_1$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{P}(X_1 = 0) &= \sum_{i=0}^1 \mathbf{P}(X = (0, i)) \\ &= \mathbf{P}(X = (0, 0)) + \mathbf{P}(X = (0, 1)) \\ &= \frac{1}{8} + \frac{3}{8} = \frac{1}{2} \\ \mathbf{P}(X_1 = 1) &= \frac{1}{2}\end{aligned}$$

## Example: tossing 3 coins (4)

Marginal pmf for  $X_2$ :

$$\mathbf{P}(X_2 = 0) = \frac{1}{4}, \quad \mathbf{P}(X_2 = 1) = \frac{3}{4}$$

Remark:

We have  $X_1 \sim \mathcal{B}(1/2)$  and  $X_2 \sim \mathcal{B}(3/4)$

Summary in a table:

$X_1 \backslash X_2$	0	1	Marg. $X_1$
0	1/8	3/8	1/2
1	1/8	3/8	1/2
Marg. $X_2$	1/4	3/4	<b>1</b>

# Continuous case: joint density

## Definition 5.

Consider the following situation:

- $X, Y$  continuous real valued random variables

The random vector  $(X, Y)$  is said to be jointly continuous iff for "all" subsets  $C \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  we have

$$\mathbf{P}((X, Y) \in C) = \int \int_{(x,y) \in C} f(x, y) dx dy$$

# Values of interest in terms of the density

## Proposition 6.

Let

- $X, Y$  random variables
- $f$  the joint density of  $X, Y$

Then the marginal densities of  $X$  and  $Y$  are given by

$$f_X(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x, y) dy \quad f_Y(y) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x, y) dx$$

If  $a_1 < a_2$  and  $b_1 < b_2$ , we also have

$$\mathbf{P}(a_1 < X \leq a_2, b_1 < Y \leq b_2) = \int_{a_1}^{a_2} \int_{b_1}^{b_2} f(x, y) dx dy$$

# Simple example of bivariate density (1)

**Density:** Let  $(X, Y)$  be a random vector with density

$$2e^{-x}e^{-2y} \mathbf{1}_{(0,\infty)}(x) \mathbf{1}_{(0,\infty)}(y)$$

**Question:** Compute

$$\mathbf{P}(X < Y)$$

## Simple example of bivariate density (2)

Computation: We have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{P}(X < Y) &= 2 \int_{0 < x < y < \infty} e^{-x} e^{-2y} dx dy \\ &= 2 \int_0^{\infty} dy e^{-2y} \int_0^y e^{-x} dx \\ &= 2 \int_0^{\infty} e^{-2y} (1 - e^{-y}) dy \\ &= \frac{1}{3}\end{aligned}$$

# Change of variable in the plane (1)

**Density:** Let  $(X, Y)$  be a random vector with density

$$e^{-(x+y)} \mathbf{1}_{(0,\infty)}(x) \mathbf{1}_{(0,\infty)}(y)$$

**Question:**

Compute the density of the r.v  $Z = \frac{X}{Y}$



## Change of variable in the plane (2)

Characterization through expectations: Let  $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}_b(\mathbb{R})$ . Then

$$\mathbf{E}[\varphi(Z)] = \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty \varphi\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) e^{-(x+y)} dx dy$$

Change of variable: Set

$$z = \frac{x}{y}, \quad w = y \quad \iff \quad x = z w, \quad y = w$$

Jacobian:

$$J = w$$

## Change of variable in the plane (3)

Computing  $\mathbf{E}[\varphi(Z)]$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{E}[\varphi(Z)] &= \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty \varphi(z) w e^{-w(z+1)} dw dz \\ &= \int_0^\infty dz \varphi(z) \int_0^\infty w e^{-w(z+1)} dw \\ &= \int_0^\infty \varphi(z) \frac{1}{(1+z)^2} dz\end{aligned}$$

Density of  $Z$ :

$$\frac{1}{(1+z)^2} \mathbf{1}_{(0,\infty)}(z)$$

# Joint cdf in higher dimensions

## Definition 7.

Let

- $X_1, \dots, X_n$  random variables
- $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{R}$

The following joint cdf describes the joint distribution of  $(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ :

$$F(a_1, \dots, a_n) = \mathbf{P}(X_1 \leq a_1, \dots, X_n \leq a_n)$$

# Joint density in higher dimensions

## Definition 8.

Consider the following situation:

- $X_1, \dots, X_n$  real valued random variables

The random vector  $(X_1, \dots, X_n)$  is said to be jointly continuous iff for "all" subsets  $C \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  we have

$$\mathbf{P}((X_1, \dots, X_n) \in C) = \int_{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in C} f(x_1, \dots, x_n) dx_1 \cdots dx_n$$

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# Definition of independence

## Definition 9.

Let

- $X, Y$  random variables

$X$  and  $Y$  are said to be independent if for "all"  $C, D \subset \mathbb{R}$  we have

$$\mathbf{P}(X \in C, Y \in D) = \mathbf{P}(X \in C) \mathbf{P}(Y \in D)$$

# Characterizations of independence

## Proposition 10.

Let  $X, Y$  random variables.

Then  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent in the following cases

- 1 If the joint cdf  $F$  satisfies

$$F(a, b) = F_X(a) F_Y(b), \quad \text{for all } a, b \in \mathbb{R}$$

- 2 If  $X, Y$  are discrete and the joint pmf satisfies

$$p(x, y) = p_X(x) p_Y(y), \quad \text{for all } (x, y) \in E_1 \times E_2$$

- 3 If  $X, Y$  are jointly cont. and the joint density satisfies

$$f(x, y) = f_X(x) f_Y(y), \quad \text{for all } (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

# Example ctd: tossing 3 coins (1)

Experiment:

Tossing a coin 3 times

Events: We consider

$A = \text{"At most one Head"}$

$B = \text{"At least one Head and one Tail"}$

Random variables: Set

$$X_1 = \mathbf{1}_A, \quad X_2 = \mathbf{1}_B, \quad X = (X_1, X_2)$$



## Example ctd: tossing 3 coins (2)

We have seen:

$X_1 \setminus X_2$	0	1	Marg. $X_1$
0	1/8	3/8	1/2
1	1/8	3/8	1/2
Marg. $X_2$	1/4	3/4	1

**Checking independence:** With the help of the table, one can see that

$$\mathbf{P}(X = (i, j)) = \mathbf{P}(X_1 = i) \mathbf{P}(X_2 = j), \quad \text{for all } i, j \in \{0, 1\}$$

Therefore  $X_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp X_2$ .

**Remark:** The relation  $X_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp X_2$  is due to the fact that  $A \perp\!\!\!\perp B$ .

$\leftrightarrow$  cf. Conditional probability, Section 4.

# Example: Romeo and Juliet (1)

## Situation:

- Romeo and Juliet decide to meet on the main square of Verona
- They arrive at independent times between 12pm and 1pm
- Rule: the first to arrive leaves after 10mn

## Question:

Compute the probability that Romeo meets Juliet

## Example: Romeo and Juliet (2)

### Model:

- $X =$  Arrival time for Romeo
- $Y =$  Arrival time for Juliet
- Renormalize everything on  $[0, 1]$
- Hypothesis:  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$  and  $X, Y \sim \mathcal{U}([0, 1])$

**Joint density:** The joint density for  $(X, Y)$  is

$$f(x, y) = \mathbf{1}_{[0,1]^2}(x, y) = \mathbf{1}_{[0,1]}(x) \mathbf{1}_{[0,1]}(y)$$

## Example: Romeo and Juliet (3)

**Aim:** Compute

$$\mathbf{P} \left( |Y - X| < \frac{1}{6} \right)$$

**Complementary:** Geometrically one can see that

$$\mathbf{P} \left( |Y - X| \geq \frac{1}{6} \right) = \left( \frac{5}{6} \right)^2$$

**Conclusion:**

$$\mathbf{P} \left( |Y - X| < \frac{1}{6} \right) = 1 - \left( \frac{5}{6} \right)^2 \simeq 30.5\%$$

# Characterizations of independence

## Proposition 11.

Let  $X, Y$  random variables.

Then  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent in the following cases

- 1 If  $X, Y$  are discrete and there exist  $h, g$  such that

$$p(x, y) = h(x) g(y), \quad \text{for all } (x, y) \in E_1 \times E_2$$

- 2 If  $X, Y$  are jointly cont. and there exist  $h, g$  such that

$$f(x, y) = h(x) g(y), \quad \text{for all } (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

# Example of independence (1)

**Example 1:** If  $(X, Y)$  have joint density

$$6e^{-(2x+3y)} \mathbf{1}_{(0,\infty)^2}(x, y),$$

then  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$ .

## Example of independence (2)

Recall joint density:

$$6e^{-(2x+3y)} \mathbf{1}_{(0,\infty)^2}(x, y)$$

Decomposition of the density:

$$f(x, y) = h(x) g(y),$$

with

$$h(x) = 6e^{-2x} \mathbf{1}_{(0,\infty)}(x), \quad g(y) = e^{-3y} \mathbf{1}_{(0,\infty)}(y)$$

Conclusion:

$$X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$$

# Example of non independence (1)

Example 2: If  $(X, Y)$  have joint density

$$24xy \mathbf{1}_{(0,\infty)^2}(x, y) \mathbf{1}_{(0 < x+y < 1)},$$

then  $X, Y$  are not independent



## Example of non independence (2)

Recall density:

$$f(x, y) = 24xy \mathbf{1}_{(0, \infty)^2}(x, y) \mathbf{1}_{(0 < x+y < 1)},$$

Non product structure:

$X, Y$  satisfy the relation:  $X + Y < 1$ .

Checking non independence: We have

$$\mathbf{P} \left( (X, Y) \in \left[0, \frac{1}{2}\right]^2 \right) = \int_{[0, \frac{1}{2}]^2} 24xy \, dx dy = \frac{3}{8}$$

and

$$\mathbf{P} \left( X \in \left[0, \frac{1}{2}\right] \right) \mathbf{P} \left( Y \in \left[0, \frac{1}{2}\right] \right) = \left( 24 \int_0^{\frac{1}{2}} dx x \int_0^{1-x} y dy \right)^2 = \left( \frac{11}{16} \right)^2$$

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# Density of a sum

## Proposition 12.

Let

- $X, Y$  continuous random variables
- Hypothesis:  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$
- Set  $Z = X + Y$

Then the density of  $Z$  is given by

$$f_Z(a) = [f_X * f_Y](a) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f_X(a - y) f_Y(y) dy$$

# Proof

Characterization by expectations: Let  $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}(\mathbb{R})$ . Then

$$\mathbf{E}[\varphi(Z)] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \varphi(x+y) f_X(x) f_Y(y) dx dy$$

Change of variable:

$x + y = a$  and  $y = b$ , thus  $J = 1$

Expression for  $\mathbf{E}[\varphi(Z)]$ :

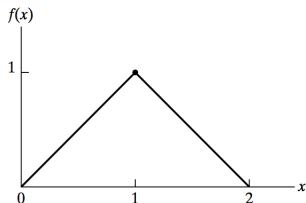
$$\mathbf{E}[\varphi(Z)] = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi(a) \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}} f_X(a-b) f_Y(b) db \right) da$$

# Triangular distribution

## Proposition 13.

Let

- $X, Y \sim \mathcal{U}([0, 1])$
- Hypothesis:  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$
- Set  $Z = X + Y$



Then the density of  $Z$  is given by

$$f_Z(a) = a \mathbf{1}_{[0,1]}(a) + (2 - a) \mathbf{1}_{[1,2]}(a)$$

# Proof

Application of Proposition 12:

$$f_Z(a) = \int_0^1 f_X(a-y) dy = \int_{[0,1] \cap [a-1,a]} dy = |[0,1] \cap [a-1,a]|$$

Case 1:  $a \in [0, 1]$ : Then  $[0, 1] \cap [a-1, a] = [0, a]$  and

$$f_Z(a) = a$$

Case 2:  $a \in (1, 2]$ : Then  $[0, 1] \cap [a-1, a] = [a-1, 1]$  and

$$f_Z(a) = 2 - a$$

# Sums of Gamma random variables

## Proposition 14.

Let

- $X_1, \dots, X_n$  independent random variables
- $X_i \sim \Gamma(t_i, \lambda)$
- $Z = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$

Then

$$Z \sim \Gamma\left(\sum_{i=1}^n t_i, \lambda\right)$$

**Remark:** This result includes

- Sums of exponential random variables
- Sums of chi-square random variables

# Sums of Gaussian random variables

## Proposition 15.

Let

- $X_1, \dots, X_n$  independent random variables
- $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_i, \sigma_i^2)$
- $Z = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$

Then

$$Z \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i, \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i^2\right)$$



# Example: basketball (1)

## Situation:

- A basketball team will play a 44-game season
- 26 games are against class A teams, with probability of win = .4
- 18 games are against class B teams, with probability of win = .7
- Results of the different games are independent.

## Question: Approximate the probability that

- 1 The team wins 25 games or more
- 2 The team wins more games against class A teams than it does against class B teams

## Example: basketball (2)

**Model:** We set

- $X_A = \#$  games the team wins against class A
- $X_B = \#$  games the team wins against class B

Then  $X_A \perp\!\!\!\perp X_B$  and

$$X_A \sim \text{Bin}(26, 0.4), \quad X_B \sim \text{Bin}(18, 0.7)$$

**Approximation for  $X_A, X_B$ :** According to DeMoivre-Laplace,

$$X_A \approx \mathcal{N}(10.24; 6.24), \quad X_B \approx \mathcal{N}(12.60; 3.78)$$

## Example: basketball (3)

Approximation for  $X_A + X_B$ : Since  $X_A \perp\!\!\!\perp X_B$ ,

$$X_A + X_B \approx \mathcal{N}(23; 10.2)$$

Question 1: We have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}(X_A + X_B \geq 25) &= \mathbf{P}(X_A + X_B \geq 24.5) \\ &= \mathbf{P}\left(\frac{X_A + X_B - 23}{\sqrt{10.2}} \geq \frac{24.5 - 23}{\sqrt{10.2}}\right) \\ &\simeq 1 - \mathbf{P}(Z < .4739) \\ &\simeq .3178 \end{aligned}$$

## Example: basketball (4)

Approximation for  $X_A - X_B$ : Since  $X_A \perp\!\!\!\perp X_B$ ,

$$X_A - X_B \approx \mathcal{N}(-2.2; 10.2)$$

Question 2: We have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}(X_A - X_B > 0) &= \mathbf{P}(X_A - X_B \geq .5) \\ &= \mathbf{P}\left(\frac{X_A - X_B + 2.2}{\sqrt{10.2}} \geq \frac{.5 + 2.2}{\sqrt{10.2}}\right) \\ &\simeq 1 - \mathbf{P}(Z < .8530) \\ &\simeq .1968 \end{aligned}$$

# Sums of Poisson random variables

## Proposition 16.

Let

- $X_1, \dots, X_n$  independent random variables
- $X_i \sim \mathcal{P}(\lambda_i)$
- $Z = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$

Then

$$Z \sim \mathcal{P}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i\right)$$

# Proof for 2 random variables

Hypothesis:

$X_1 \sim \mathcal{P}(\lambda_1)$ ,  $X_2 \sim \mathcal{P}(\lambda_2)$  and  $X_1 \perp\!\!\!\perp X_2$

Computation: For  $n \geq 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{P}(X_1 + X_2 = n) &= \sum_{k=0}^n \mathbf{P}(X_1 = k) \mathbf{P}(X_2 = n - k) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n e^{-\lambda_1} \frac{\lambda_1^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda_2} \frac{\lambda_2^{n-k}}{(n-k)!} \\ &= e^{-(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)} \frac{(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^n}{n!}\end{aligned}$$

# Sums of Binomial random variables

## Proposition 17.

Let

- $X_1, \dots, X_n$  independent random variables
- $X_i \sim \text{Bin}(n_i, p)$
- $Z = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$

Then

$$Z \sim \text{Bin} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n n_i, p \right)$$

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# General definition

## Definition 18.

Let

- $(X, Y)$  couple of discrete random variables
- Joint pmf  $p$
- Marginal pmf's  $p_X, p_Y$
- $y$  such that  $p_Y(y) > 0$

Then the conditional pmf of  $X$  given  $Y = y$  is defined by

$$p_{X|Y}(x|y) = \mathbf{P}(X = x | Y = y) = \frac{p(x, y)}{p_Y(y)}$$

# Example ctd: tossing 3 coins (1)

Experiment:

Tossing a coin 3 times

Events: We consider

$A = \text{"At most one Head"}$

$B = \text{"At least one Head and one Tail"}$

Random variables: Set

$$X_1 = \mathbf{1}_A, \quad X_2 = \mathbf{1}_B, \quad X = (X_1, X_2)$$

## Example ctd: tossing 3 coins (2)

We have seen:

$X_1 \setminus X_2$	0	1	Marg. $X_1$
0	1/8	3/8	1/2
1	1/8	3/8	1/2
Marg. $X_2$	1/4	3/4	1

Conditional probabilities given  $X_1 = 0$ :

$$p_{X_2|X_1}(0|0) = \frac{1/8}{1/2} = \frac{1}{4}, \quad p_{X_2|X_1}(1|0) = \frac{3/8}{1/2} = \frac{3}{4}$$

Conditional probabilities given  $X_2 = 1$ :

$$p_{X_1|X_2}(0|1) = \frac{3/8}{3/4} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad p_{X_1|X_2}(1|1) = \frac{3/8}{3/4} = \frac{1}{2}$$

# Conditioning Poisson random variables

## Proposition 19.

Let

- $X \sim \mathcal{P}(\lambda_1), Y \sim \mathcal{P}(\lambda_2)$
- $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$
- $p = \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2}$

Then

$$\mathcal{L}(X | X + Y = n) = \text{Bin}(n, p)$$

# Proof (1)

Expression for the conditional probabilities:

Let  $0 \leq k \leq n$ . Then invoking  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$ ,

$$\mathbf{P}(X = k | X + Y = n) = \frac{\mathbf{P}(X = k) \mathbf{P}(Y = n - k)}{\mathbf{P}(X + Y = n)}$$

Law of  $X + Y$ : We have seen

$$X + Y \sim \mathcal{P}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)$$

## Proof (2)

Computation of the conditional probabilities:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}(X = k | X + Y = n) &= e^{-\lambda_1} \frac{\lambda_1^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda_2} \frac{\lambda_2^{n-k}}{(n-k)!} \left[ e^{-(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)} \frac{(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^n}{n!} \right]^{-1} \\ &= \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} \end{aligned}$$

Conclusion:

$$\mathcal{L}(X | X + Y = n) = \text{Bin}(n, p)$$

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# General definition

## Definition 20.

Let

- $(X, Y)$  couple of continuous random variables
- Joint density  $f$
- Marginal densities  $f_X, f_Y$
- $y$  such that  $f_Y(y) > 0$

Then the conditional density of  $X$  given  $Y = y$  is defined by

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



# Justification of the definition

**Heuristics:**  $f_{X|Y}(x|y)$  can be interpreted as

$$\begin{aligned} f_{X|Y}(x|y) dx &= \frac{f(x, y) dx dy}{f_Y(y) dy} \\ &\approx \frac{\mathbf{P}(x \leq X \leq x + dx, y \leq Y \leq y + dy)}{\mathbf{P}(y \leq Y \leq y + dy)} \\ &= \mathbf{P}(x \leq X \leq x + dx | y \leq Y \leq y + dy) \end{aligned}$$

**Use of the conditional probability:** compute probabilities like

$$\mathbf{P}(X \in A | Y = y) = \int_A f_{X|Y}(x|y) dx$$

Rigorous definition: see MA 539

# Simple example of continuous conditioning (1)

**Density:** Let  $(X, Y)$  be a random vector with density

$$\frac{e^{-\frac{x}{y}} e^{-y}}{y} \mathbf{1}_{(0, \infty)}(x) \mathbf{1}_{(0, \infty)}(y)$$

**Question:** Compute

$$\mathbf{P}(X > 1 | Y = y)$$

## Simple example of continuous conditioning (2)

Marginal distribution of  $Y$ : We have

$$\begin{aligned}f_Y(y) &= \int_0^{\infty} f(x, y) dx \\&= \frac{e^{-y}}{y} \left( \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\frac{x}{y}} dx \right) \mathbf{1}_{(0, \infty)}(y) \\&= e^{-y} \mathbf{1}_{(0, \infty)}(y)\end{aligned}$$

Conditional density: For  $y > 0$  we have

$$f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{f(x, y)}{f_Y(y)} = \frac{e^{-\frac{x}{y}}}{y} \mathbf{1}_{(0, \infty)}(x)$$

Namely  $\mathcal{L}(X|Y = y) = \mathcal{E}\left(\frac{1}{y}\right)$

## Simple example of continuous conditioning (3)

Conditional probability:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{P}(X > 1 | Y = y) &= \int_1^{\infty} f_{X|Y}(x|y) dx \\ &= \int_1^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\frac{x}{y}}}{y} dx \\ &= e^{-\frac{1}{y}}\end{aligned}$$

# Outline

- 1 Joint distribution functions
- 2 Independent random variables
- 3 Sums of independent random variables
- 4 Conditional distributions: discrete case
- 5 Conditional distributions: continuous case
- 6 Joint probability distribution of functions of random variables**
- 7 Conditional expectation

# Characterizing r.v by expected values

## Notation:

$C_b(\mathbb{R}^2) \equiv$  set of continuous and bounded functions on  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .

### Theorem 21.

Let  $X = (X_1, X_2)$  be a r.v in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . We assume that

$$\mathbf{E}[\varphi(X_1, X_2)] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \varphi(x_1, x_2) f(x_1, x_2) dx_1 dx_2,$$

for all functions  $\varphi \in C_b(\mathbb{R}^2)$ .

Then  $(X_1, X_2)$  is continuous, with density  $f$ .

# Application: change of variable

**Problem:** Let

- $X = (X_1, X_2)$  random variable with density  $f$ .
- Set  $Y = h(X)$  with  $h : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ .

We wish to find the density of  $Y$ .

# Application: change of variable (2)

**Recipe:** One proceeds as follows

- 1 For  $\varphi \in C_b(\mathbb{R}^2)$ , write

$$\mathbf{E}[\varphi(Y)] = \mathbf{E}[\varphi(h(X))] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \varphi(h(x_1, x_2)) f(x_1, x_2) dx_1 dx_2.$$

- 2 Change variables  $y = h(x)$  in the integral.  
After some elementary computations we get

$$\mathbf{E}[\varphi(Y)] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \varphi(y_1, y_2) g(y_1, y_2) dy_1 dy_2.$$

- 3 This characterizes  $Y$ , which admits a density  $g$



# Polar coordinates of Gaussian vectors (1)

Standard Gaussian vector in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ : Consider

- $X, Y \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ , with  $X \perp\!\!\!\perp Y$
- $Z = (X, Y)$

Polar coordinates: Set

$$(X, Y) = (R \cos(\Theta), R \sin(\Theta))$$

Question:

Find the joint density of  $(R, \Theta)$

## Polar coordinates of Gaussian vectors (2)

Decomposition of the expected value: For  $\varphi \in \mathcal{C}_b(\mathbb{R}^2)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{E}[\varphi(R, \Theta)] &= \mathbf{E}[\varphi(R, \Theta) \mathbf{1}_{(Y>0)}] + \mathbf{E}[\varphi(R, \Theta) \mathbf{1}_{(Y<0)}] \\ &\equiv A_+ + A_-\end{aligned}$$

Expression for  $A_+$ :

$$\begin{aligned}A_+ &= \mathbf{E}\left[\varphi\left((X^2 + Y^2)^{1/2}, \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{Y}{X}\right)\right) \mathbf{1}_{(X>0)}\right] \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_+} \varphi\left((x^2 + y^2)^{1/2}, \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)\right) \frac{e^{-\frac{x^2+y^2}{2}}}{2\pi} dx dy\end{aligned}$$

# Polar coordinates of Gaussian vectors (3)

Change of variable for  $A_+$ : Set

$$x = r \cos(\theta), \quad y = r \sin(\theta) \quad \implies \quad J(r, \theta) = r$$

Then

$$A_+ = \int_{\mathbb{R}_+ \times (0, \pi)} \varphi(r, \theta) \frac{r e^{-\frac{r^2}{2}}}{2\pi} dr d\theta$$

Change of variable for  $A_-$ : We find

$$A_- = \int_{\mathbb{R}_+ \times (\pi, 2\pi)} \varphi(r, \theta) \frac{r e^{-\frac{r^2}{2}}}{2\pi} dr d\theta$$

# Polar coordinates of Gaussian vectors (4)

Expression for the expected value:

$$\mathbf{E}[\varphi(R, \Theta)] = \int_{\mathbb{R}_+ \times (0, 2\pi)} \varphi(r, \theta) \frac{r e^{-\frac{r^2}{2}}}{2\pi} dr d\theta$$

Joint density for  $(R, \Theta)$ :

$$f(r, \theta) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \mathbf{1}_{(0, 2\pi)}(\theta) \times r e^{-\frac{r^2}{2}} \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{R}_+}(r)$$

Otherwise stated:

- $R \sim \text{Rayleigh}$ ,  $\Theta \sim \mathcal{U}([0, 2\pi])$
- $R \perp\!\!\!\perp \Theta$

# Change of variable: general result

## Theorem 22.

Let

- $X = (X_1, X_2)$  continuous random variable
- Density:  $f_X$
- $g$  diffeomorphism of  $\mathbb{R}^2$
- $Y = g(X)$

Then  $Y$  has a density  $f_Y$  given by

$$f_Y(y) = f_X(g^{-1}(y)) J(y) \mathbf{1}_{\{y=g(x) \text{ for some } x\}}$$

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## Cond. pmf in the discrete case (repeated)

### Definition 23.

Let

- $(X, Y)$  couple of discrete random variables
- Joint pmf  $p$
- Marginal pmf's  $p_X, p_Y$
- $y$  such that  $p_Y(y) > 0$

Then the conditional pmf of  $X$  given  $Y = y$  is defined by

$$p_{X|Y}(x|y) = \mathbf{P}(X = x | Y = y) = \frac{p(x, y)}{p_Y(y)}$$

## Cond. expectation in the discrete case

### Definition 24.

Let

- $(X, Y)$  couple of discrete random variables
- Joint pmf  $p$
- Marginal pmf's  $p_X, p_Y$ ,  $y$  such that  $p_Y(y) > 0$
- $p_{X|Y}(x|y)$  conditional distribution

Then the conditional exp. of  $X$  given  $Y = y$  is defined by

$$\mathbf{E}[X|Y = y] = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{E}} x p_{X|Y}(x|y)$$



# Binomial example (1)

Situation: Let

- $X, Y \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$
- $Z = X + Y$

Problem: We wish to compute

$$\mathbf{E}[X | Z = m]$$

## Binomial example (2)

Distribution for  $Z$ :

$$Z = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i + \sum_{j=1}^n Y_j \sim \text{Bin}(2n, p)$$

Computation for conditional pmf: For  $k \leq \min(n, m)$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}(X = k | Z = m) &= \frac{\mathbf{P}(X = k, X + Y = m)}{\mathbf{P}(Z = m)} \\ &= \frac{\mathbf{P}(X = k, Y = m - k)}{\mathbf{P}(Z = m)} \\ &= \frac{\binom{n}{k} \binom{n}{m-k}}{\binom{2n}{m}} \end{aligned}$$

## Binomial example (3)

Conditional pmf: For  $k \leq \min(n, m)$  we have

$$p_{X|Z}(k|m) = \frac{\binom{n}{k} \binom{n}{m-k}}{\binom{2n}{m}}$$

Recall: If  $V \sim \text{HypG}(n, N, m)$  then

$$\mathbf{P}(X = k) = \frac{\binom{m}{k} \binom{N-m}{n-k}}{\binom{N}{n}}$$

Identification of the conditional pmf: We have

$$p_{X|Z}(k|m) = \text{Pmf of HypG}(2n, m, n)$$

## Binomial example (4)

Conditional expectation: Let  $V \sim \text{HypG}(2n, m, n)$ . Then

$$\mathbf{E}[X | Z = m] = \mathbf{E}[V]$$

Numerical value:

According to the values for hypergeometric distributions,

$$\mathbf{E}[X | Z = m] = m \times \frac{n}{2n} = \frac{m}{2}$$

# Cond. density in the continuous case (repeated)

## Definition 25.

Let

- $(X, Y)$  couple of continuous random variables
- Joint density  $f$
- Marginal densities  $f_X, f_Y$
- $y$  such that  $f_Y(y) > 0$

Then the conditional density of  $X$  given  $Y = y$  is defined by

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

# Cond. expectation in the continuous case

## Definition 26.

Let

- $(X, Y)$  couple of continuous random variables
- Joint density  $f$
- Marginal densities  $f_X, f_Y, y$  such that  $f_Y(y) > 0$
- $f_{X|Y}(x|y)$  conditional density

Then the conditional exp. of  $X$  given  $Y = y$  is defined by

$$\mathbf{E}[X|Y = y] = \int_{\mathbb{R}} x f_{X|Y}(x|y) dx$$

# Example of continuous conditional expectation (1)

**Density:** Let  $(X, Y)$  be a random vector with density

$$\frac{e^{-\frac{x}{y}} e^{-y}}{y} \mathbf{1}_{(0, \infty)}(x) \mathbf{1}_{(0, \infty)}(y)$$

**Question:** Compute

$$\mathbf{E}[X | Y = y]$$

## Example of continuous conditional expectation (2)

**Conditional density:** For  $y > 0$  we have seen that

$$f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{f(x, y)}{f_Y(y)} = \frac{e^{-\frac{x}{y}}}{y} \mathbf{1}_{(0, \infty)}(x)$$

Namely  $\mathcal{L}(X|Y = y) = \mathcal{E}(\frac{1}{y})$

**Conditional expectation:** We have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}[X|Y = y] &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} x f_{X|Y}(x|y) dx \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} x \frac{e^{-\frac{x}{y}}}{y} \\ &= y \end{aligned}$$



# Expectation and conditioning

## Proposition 27.

Let  $X, Y$  be two random variables. Then

- 1 If  $X, Y$  are discrete we have

$$\mathbf{E}[X] = \sum_y \mathbf{E}[X | Y = y] p_Y(y)$$

- 2 If  $X, Y$  are continuous we have

$$\mathbf{E}[X] = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbf{E}[X | Y = y] f_Y(y) dy$$

- 3 Unified notation:

$$\mathbf{E}[X] = \mathbf{E}\{\mathbf{E}[X | Y]\}$$

# Example: sales in a store (1)

## Situation:

We consider a store on a given day. We assume

- # of people entering in the store has mean 50
- Amount of money spent by each person is \$8
- Indep. between # persons entering and amount of money spent

## Question:

Expected amount of money spent in the store on a given day?

## Example: sales in a store (2)

**Notation:** We set

- $N = \#$  of customers entering the store
- $X_i =$  Amount spent by  $i$ -th customer, for  $i \geq 1$
- $Z =$  Total amount spent

**Expression for  $Z$ :** We have (double randomness)

$$Z = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i$$

**Hypothesis:**

- $X_i$ 's follow the same distribution  $X$
- $(X_i)_{i \geq 1} \perp\!\!\!\perp N$

## Example: sales in a store (3)

Computation:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}[Z] &= \mathbf{E} \left\{ \mathbf{E} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N X_i \mid N \right] \right\} \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{E} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N X_i \mid N = n \right] p_N(n) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{E} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \mid N = n \right] p_N(n) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{E} [X_i \mid N = n] p_N(n) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \mathbf{E}[X] p_N(n) \\ &= \mathbf{E}[N] \mathbf{E}[X] \end{aligned}$$