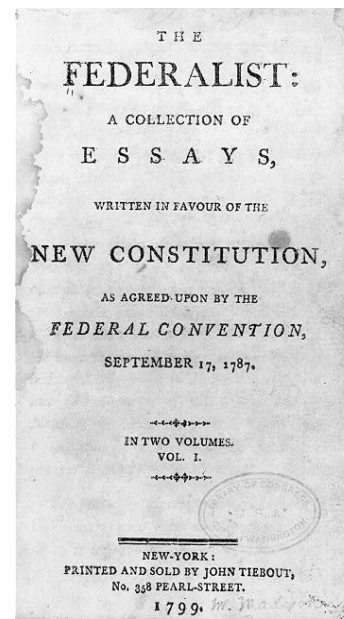




# Intro to Probabilistic Models

Chris Piech and Jerry Cain  
CS109, Stanford University

# Exciting Day



First, some review

# Where are we in CS109?

---

## Overview of Topics



Counting  
Theory



Core  
Probability



Random  
Variables



Probabilistic  
Models



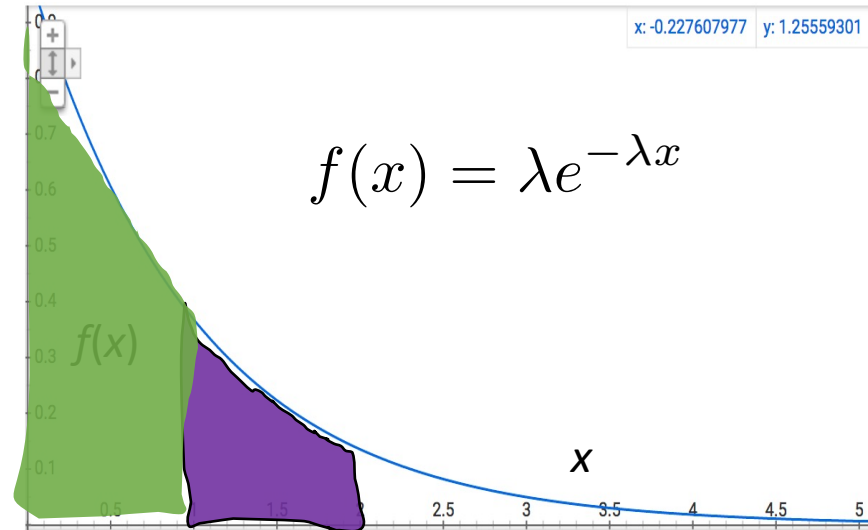
Uncertainty  
Theory



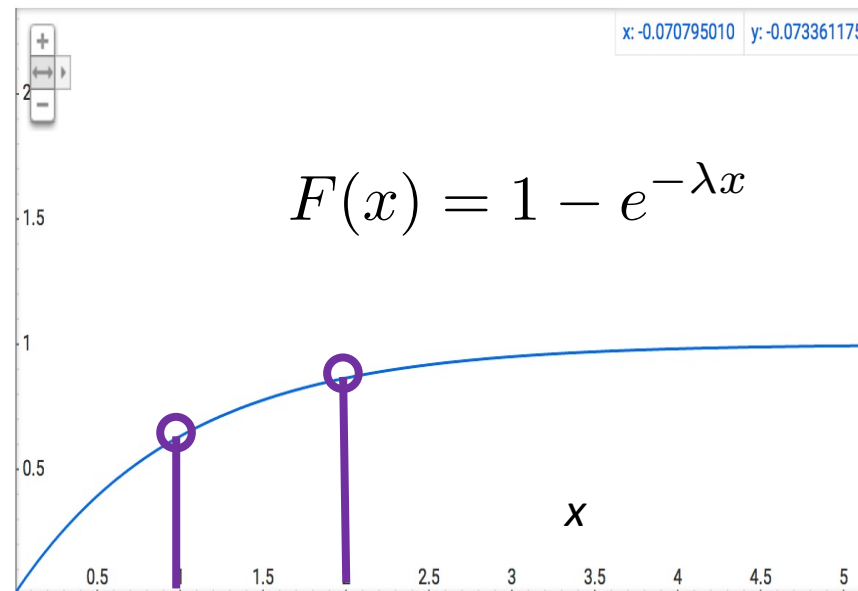
Machine  
Learning

# Using CDF Example. $X$ is $\text{Exp}(\lambda = 1)$

Probability density function



Cumulative density function



$$F_X(x) = P(X < x)$$
$$= \int_{y=-\infty}^x f(y) dy$$

$$P(1 < X < 2)$$

$$= \int_{x=1}^2 f(x) dx$$

or

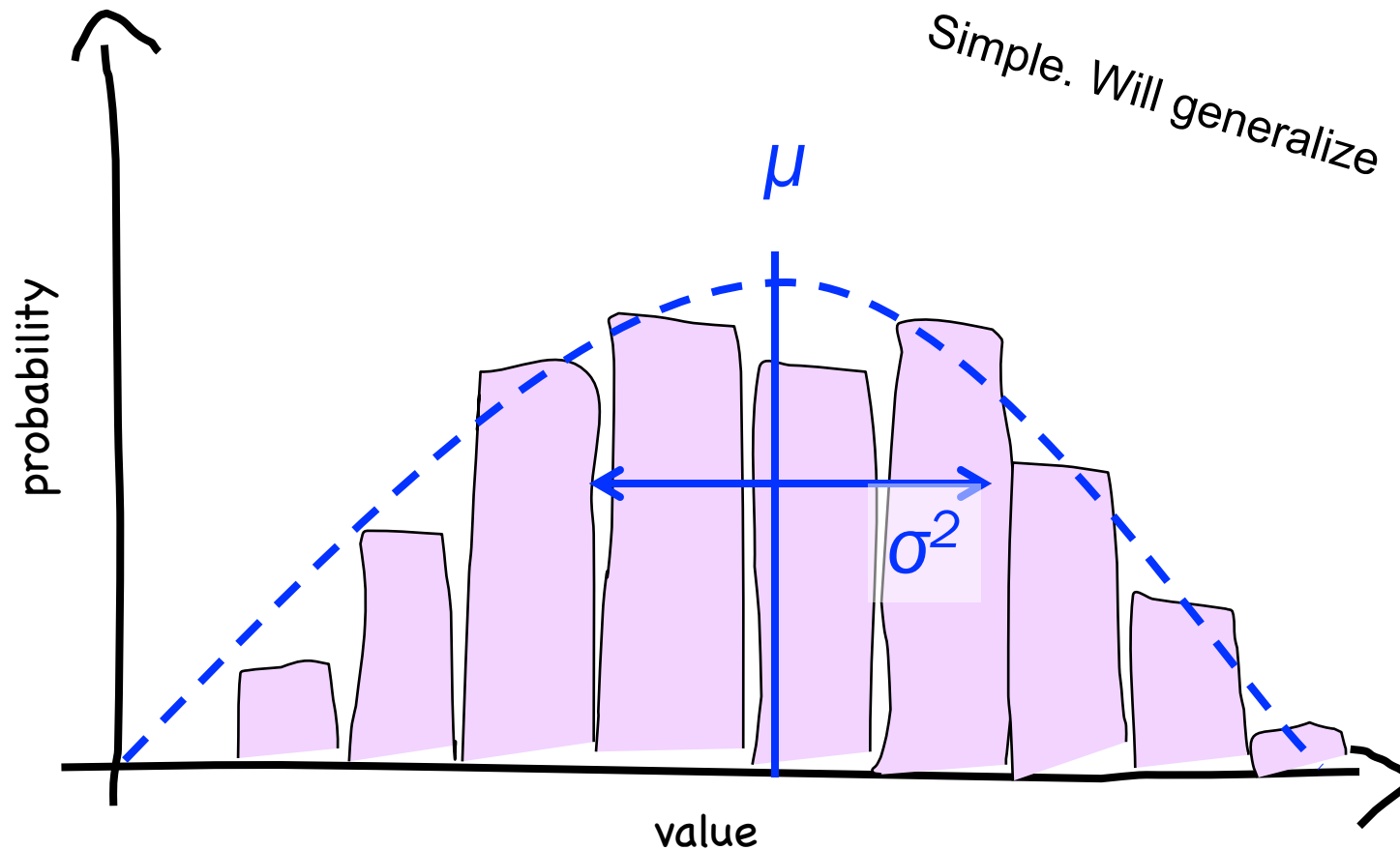
$$= F(2) - F(1)$$

$$= (1 - e^{-2})$$

$$- (1 - e^{-1})$$

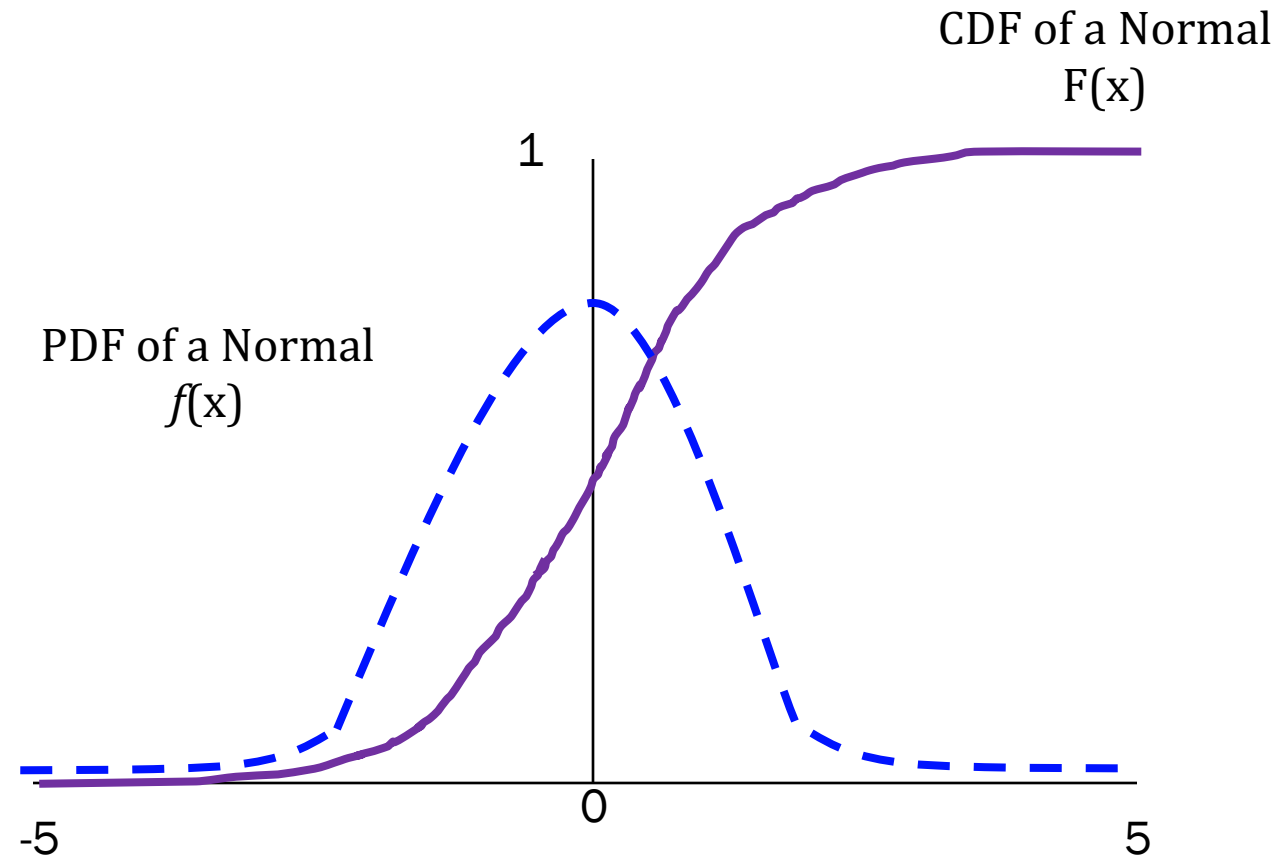
$$\approx 0.23$$

# Simplicity is Humble



\* A Gaussian maximizes entropy for a given mean and variance

# Density vs Cumulative



$f(x)$  = derivative of probability

$F(x) = P(X < x)$

# Cumulative Density Function

---

$$\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$$

CDF of Standard Normal: A function that has been solved for numerically

$$F(x) = \Phi\left(\frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

The cumulative density function (CDF) of any normal

# Probability Density Function

$$\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$$

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

“exponential”

the distance to the mean

probability density at x

a constant

sigma shows up twice

# Does it look less scary like this?

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

This means "e to the power of" and  
is common function in code math  
libraries

$$f(x) \propto \frac{1}{\sigma} \cdot \exp\left[\frac{-(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right]$$

This means "proportional to". There is a  
constant but there are many cases where we  
don't care what it is!

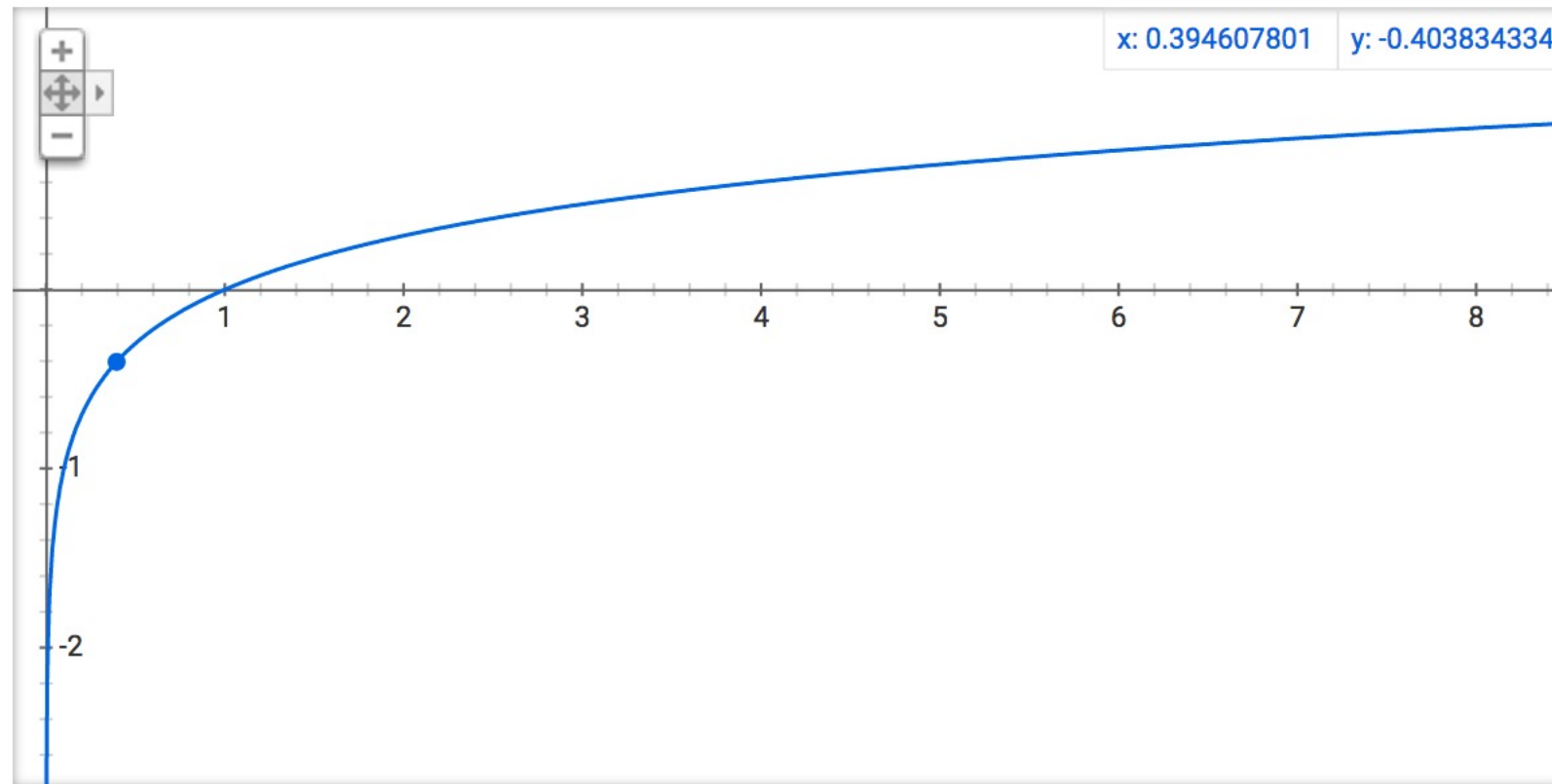
What if you had to take the log of this function?

# Log Review

$$e^y = x$$

$$\log(x) = y$$

Graph for  $\log(x)$



[More info](#)

# Log Identities

---

$$\log(a \cdot b) = \log(a) + \log(b)$$

$$\log(a/b) = \log(a) - \log(b)$$

$$\log(a^n) = n \cdot \log(a)$$

# Products become sums!

---

$$\log(a \cdot b) = \log(a) + \log(b)$$

---

$$\log\left(\prod_i a_i\right) = \sum_i \log(a_i)$$

\* Spoiler alert: This is important because the product of many small numbers gets hard for computers to represent.

Log for normal pdf

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

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

$$\log(f(x)) = -\frac{1}{2} \log(2\pi) - \log(\sigma) - \frac{(x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}$$



(happy tears)

# Cumulative Density Function

---

$$\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$$

CDF of Standard Normal: A function that has been solved for numerically

$$F(x) = \Phi\left(\frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

The cumulative density function (CDF) of any normal

# Stanford Admissions (a while back)

---

Stanford accepts 2480 students.

- Each admitted student matriculates w.p. 0.68 (independent trials)
- Let  $X = \#$  of students who will attend

What is  $P(X > 1745)$ ? *Give a numerical approximation.*

- Strategy:
- A. Just Binomial
  - B. Poisson
  - C. Normal
  - D. None/other



# Stanford Admissions

Stanford accepts 2480 students.

- Each admitted student matriculates w.p. 0.68 (independent trials)
- Let  $X = \#$  of students who will attend

What is  $P(X > 1745)$ ? Give a numerical approximation.

- Strategy:
- A. Just Binomial not an approximation (also computationally expensive)
  - B. Poisson  $p = 0.68$ , not small enough
  - C. Normal** ✓ Variance  $np(1 - p) = 540 > 10$
  - D. None/other

Define an approximation

Let  $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(E[X], \text{Var}(X))$

$$E[X] = np = 1686$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = np(1 - p) \approx 540 \rightarrow \sigma = 23.3$$

$$P(X > 1745) \approx P(Y \geq 1745.5) \quad \text{! Continuity correction}$$

Solve

SciPy can do this

$$\begin{aligned} P(Y \geq 1745.5) &= 1 - F(1745.5) \\ &= 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{1745.5 - 1686}{23.3}\right) \end{aligned}$$

$$= 1 - \Phi(2.54) \approx 0.0055$$

# Continuity correction

If  $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(np, np(1 - p))$  approximates  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$ , how do we approximate the following probabilities?

Discrete (e.g., Binomial)  
probability question



Continuous (Normal)  
probability question

$$P(X = 6)$$

$$P(X \geq 6)$$

$$P(X > 6)$$

$$P(X < 6)$$

$$P(X \leq 6)$$

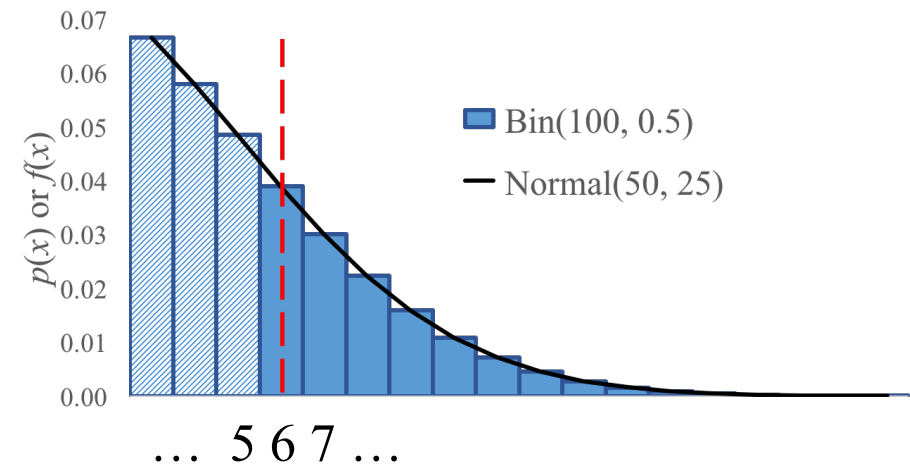
$$P(5.5 \leq Y \leq 6.5)$$

$$P(Y \geq 5.5)$$

$$P(Y \geq 6.5)$$

$$P(Y \leq 5.5)$$

$$P(Y \leq 6.5)$$



# How many students should Stanford admit?

## The Stanford Daily

NEWS SPORTS OPINIONS ARTS & LIFE THE GRIND MULTIMEDIA FEATURES ARCHIVES

### Class of 2018 admit rates lowest in University history

March 28, 2014 [16 Comments](#) [Tweet](#)

[Like 901](#)

Alex Zivkovic  
Desk Editor

Stanford admitted 2,138 students to the Class of 2018 in this year's admissions cycle, producing – at 5.07 percent – the lowest admit rate in University history.

The [University](#) received a total of 42,167 applications this year, a record total and a 8.6 percent increase over [last year's figure of 38,828](#). Stanford [accepted 748 students](#)



Admit rate: 4.3%

Yield rate: 81.9%

Great questions!  
Great thinkers start with great  
questions. Ask away!!!

How does python sample from a  
Gaussian?

```
from random import *
```

```
for i in range(10):
```

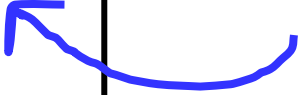
```
    mean = 5
```

```
    std = 1
```

```
    sample = gauss(mean, std)
```

```
    print sample
```

How does  
this work?



```
3.79317794179
```

```
5.19104589315
```

```
4.209360629
```

```
5.39633891584
```

```
7.10044176511
```

```
6.72655475942
```

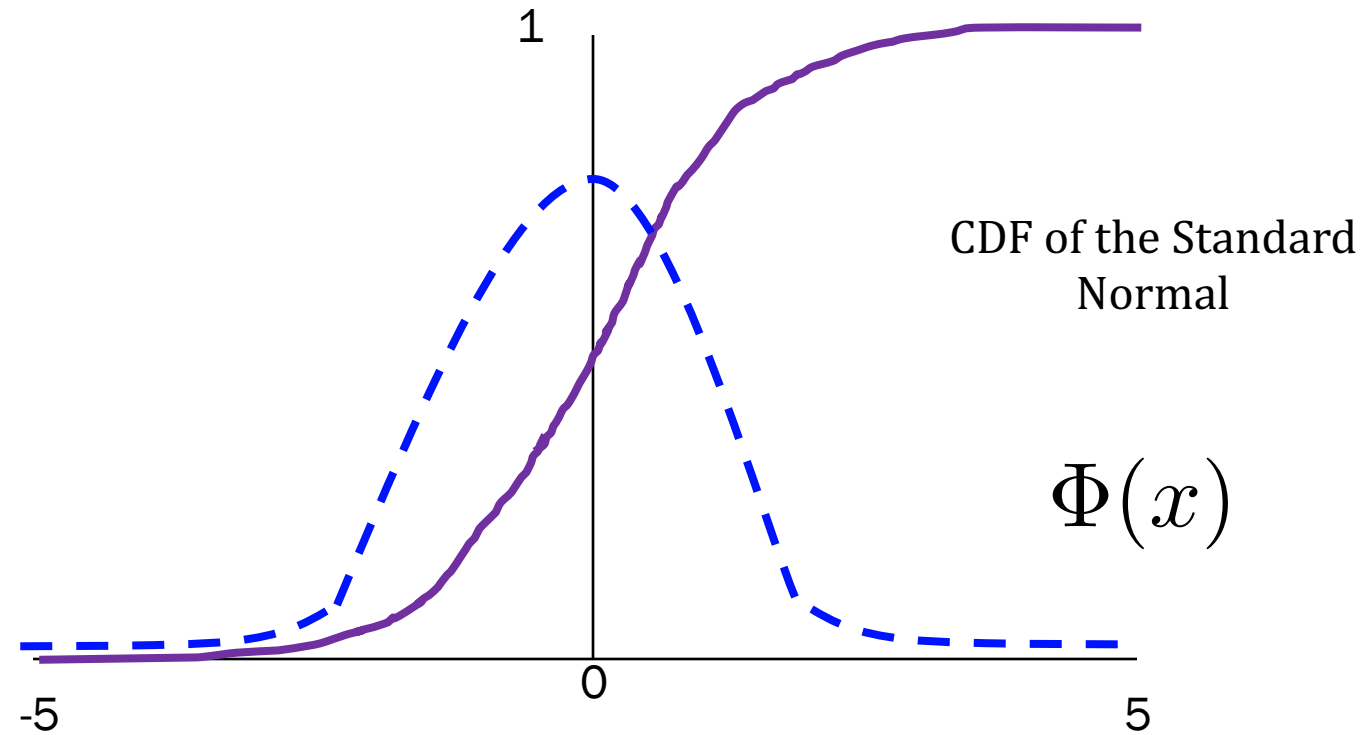
```
5.51485158841
```

```
4.94570606131
```

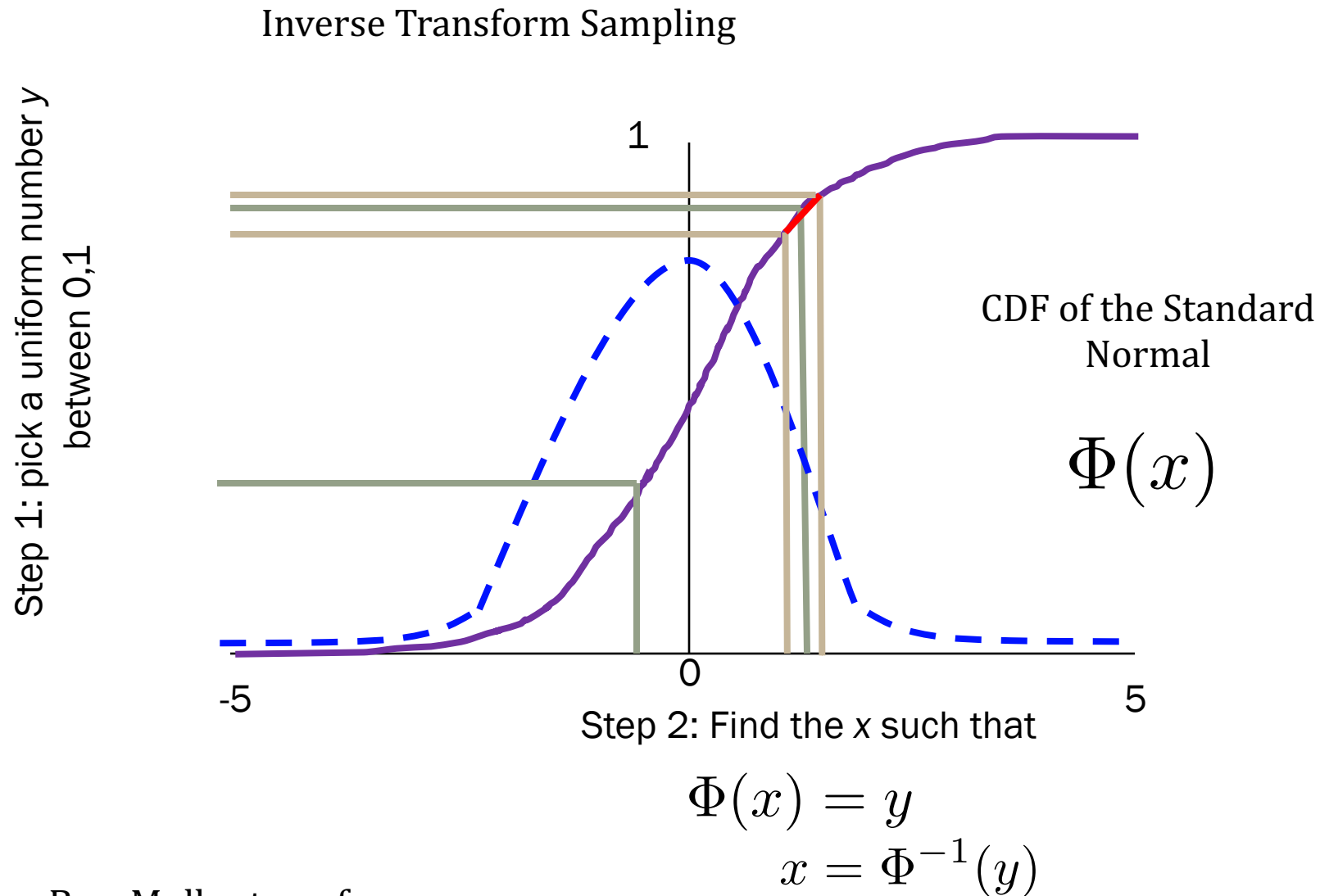
```
6.14724644482
```

```
4.73774184354
```

# How Does a Computer Sample a Normal?



# How Does a Computer Sample a Normal?

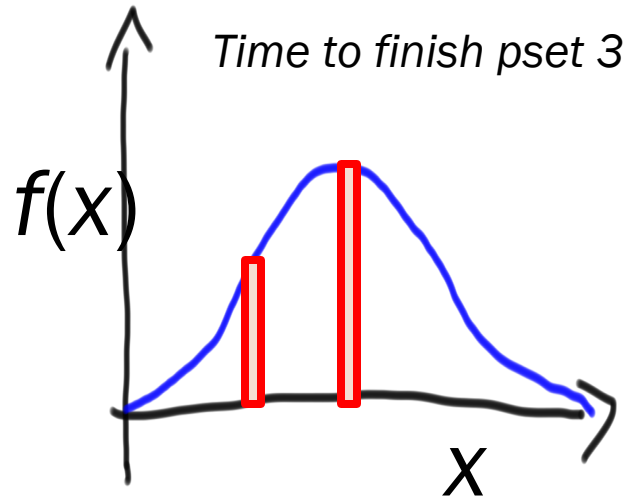


Further reading: Box-Muller transform

# Relative Probability of Continuous Variables

$X =$  time to finish pset 3

$X \sim N(\mu = 10, \sigma^2 = 2)$



How much more likely are you to complete in 10 hours than in 5?

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{P(X = 10)}{P(X = 5)} &= \frac{\varepsilon f(X = 10)}{\varepsilon f(X = 5)} \\ &= \frac{f(X = 10)}{f(X = 5)} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\sigma^2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(10-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\sigma^2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(5-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} e^{-\frac{(10-10)^2}{4}}}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi}} e^{-\frac{(5-10)^2}{4}}} \\ &= \frac{e^0}{e^{-\frac{25}{4}}} = 518 \end{aligned}$$

End of review

Machine Learning

Uncertainty Theory

Single Random  
Variables

Probabilistic Models

Counting

Probability Fundamentals

[suspense]

# Discrete Probabilistic Models

# The world is full of interesting probability problems

---



Have multiple random variables interacting with one another

# Multiple Random Variables. Start of Digital Revolution

---



# Multiple Random Variables. Start of Digital Revolution

## Conditions that match your symptoms

UNDERSTANDING YOUR RESULTS [i](#)

### Migraine headache (adult)



Moderate match



### Acute Sinusitis



Fair match



### Stroke



Fair match



---

Gender **Male**

Age **30**

[Edit](#)

---

My Symptoms

[Edit](#)

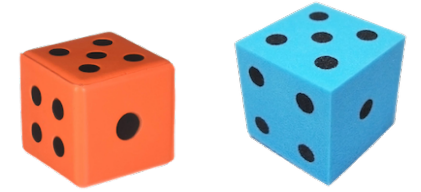
**dizziness, one sided headache**

---

# Joint probability mass functions

---

Roll two 6-sided dice, yielding values  $X$  and  $Y$ .



$X$

random variable

$$P(X = 1)$$

probability of  
an event

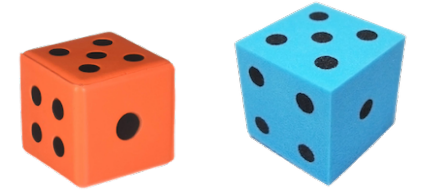
$$P(X = k)$$

probability mass function

---

# Joint probability mass functions

Roll two 6-sided dice, yielding values  $X$  and  $Y$ .

 $X$ 

random variable

$$P(X = 1)$$

probability of  
an event

$$P(X = k)$$

probability mass function

 $X, Y$ 

random variables

$$P(X = 1 \text{ and } Y = 6)$$

$$P(X = 1, Y = 6)$$

recall: the comma

probability of the intersection  
of two events

$$P(X = a, Y = b)$$

joint probability mass function

# Marginal Distribution

---

For two discrete joint random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ , the **joint probability mass function** is defined as:

$$p_{X,Y}(a, b) = P(X = a, Y = b)$$

The **marginal distributions** of the joint PMF are defined as:

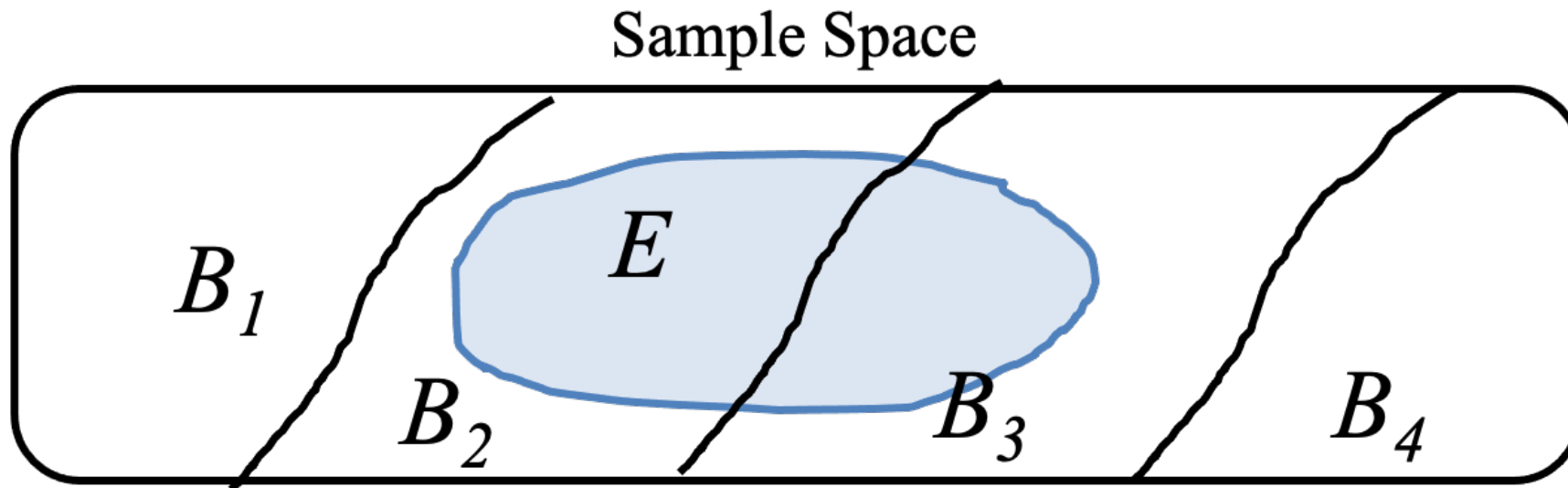
$$P(X = a) = \sum_y P(X = a, Y = y)$$

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

Use marginal distributions to get a 1-D RV from a joint PMF.

# Marginal Distribution. Law of Total Probability for RVs

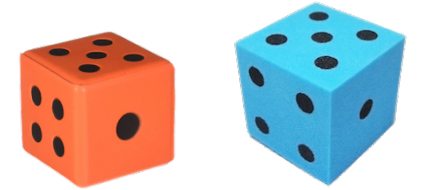
$$P(X = a) = \sum_y P(X = a, Y = y)$$



# Two dice

Roll two 6-sided dice, yielding values  $X$  and  $Y$ .

1. What is the joint PMF of  $X$  and  $Y$ ?



$$P(X = a, Y = b) = 1/36 \quad (a, b) \in \{(1,1), \dots, (6,6)\}$$

		$X$					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
$Y$	1	1/36	...	...	...	...	1/36
	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
	6	1/36	...	...	...	...	1/36

$P(X = 4, Y = 2)$

## Probability table

- All possible outcomes for several discrete RVs
- Not parametric (e.g., parameter  $p$  in  $\text{Ber}(p)$ )

# Dating at Stanford. Data from a few years ago

	Single	In a relationship	It's complicated
Freshman	0.13	0.08	0.02
Sophomore	0.17	0.11	0.02
Junior	0.09	0.10	0.02
Senior	0.02	0.07	0.76
5+	0.06	0.09	0.04

# Joint is Complete Information!

	Single	Relationship	Complicated
Frosh	0.13	0.08	0.02
Soph	0.17	0.11	0.02
Junior	0.09	0.10	0.02
Senior	0.02	0.07	0.01
5+	0.06	0.09	0.04



A joint distribution is complete information. It can be used to answer any probability question.

# Joint table: mutually exclusive and covers sample space.

	Single	Relationship	Complicated
Frosh	0.13	0.08	0.02
Soph	0.17	0.11	0.02
Junior	0.09	0.10	0.02
Senior	0.02	0.07	0.01
5+	0.06	0.09	0.04

Each combination is mutually exclusive, and they span the sample space

$$\sum_{x \in X} \sum_{y \in Y} P(x, y) = 1$$

X is dating status.  
Y is year.

# Joint table: mutually exclusive and covers sample space.

	Single	Relationship	Complicated
Frosh	0.13	0.08	0.02
Soph	0.17	0.11	0.02
Junior	0.09	?	0.02
Senior	0.02	0.07	0.01
5+	0.06	0.09	0.04

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$$\sum_{x \in X} \sum_{y \in Y} P(x, y) = 1$$

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Senior	0.02	0.07	0.01
5+	0.06	0.09	0.04

Each combination is mutually exclusive, and they span the sample space

$$\sum_{x \in X} \sum_{y \in Y} P(x, y) = 1$$

X is dating status.  
Y is year.

# What is the probability someone is in a relationship?

	Single	Relationship	Complicated
Frosh	0.13	0.08	0.02
Soph	0.17	0.11	0.02
Junior	0.09	0.10	0.02
Senior	0.02	0.07	0.01
5+	0.06	0.09	0.04

We can use the law of total probability!  
X is dating status. Y is year.

$$P(X = \text{single}) =$$

$$\sum_{y \in Y} P(X = \text{single}, Y = y)$$

$$P(X = \text{relation}) =$$

$$\sum_{y \in Y} P(X = \text{relation}, Y = y)$$

$$P(Y = \text{frosh}) = \sum_{x \in X} P(X = x, Y = \text{frosh}) \quad P(Y = \text{soph}) = \sum_{x \in X} P(X = x, Y = \text{soph})$$

Why is that called the marginal?

Key limitation of the joint: it is too big

# What about 3 Random Variables?

$D$  is disease,  $S$  is can smell,  $F$  is fever status

$D = 0$

	$S = 0$	$S = 1$
$F = \text{none}$	0.024	0.783
$F = \text{low}$	0.003	0.092
$F = \text{high}$	0.001	0.046

$D = 1$

	$S = 0$	$S = 1$
$F = \text{none}$	0.006	0.014
$F = \text{low}$	0.005	0.011
$F = \text{high}$	0.004	0.011

$$P(D = 1) = \sum_f \sum_s P(D = 1, F = f, S = s)$$

# What about 10 Random Variables?

---

Imagine you have **10 discrete** RVs which can each take on **5 values**

$$\# \text{ unique assignments} = 5^{10}$$

10 million entries in your joint table.

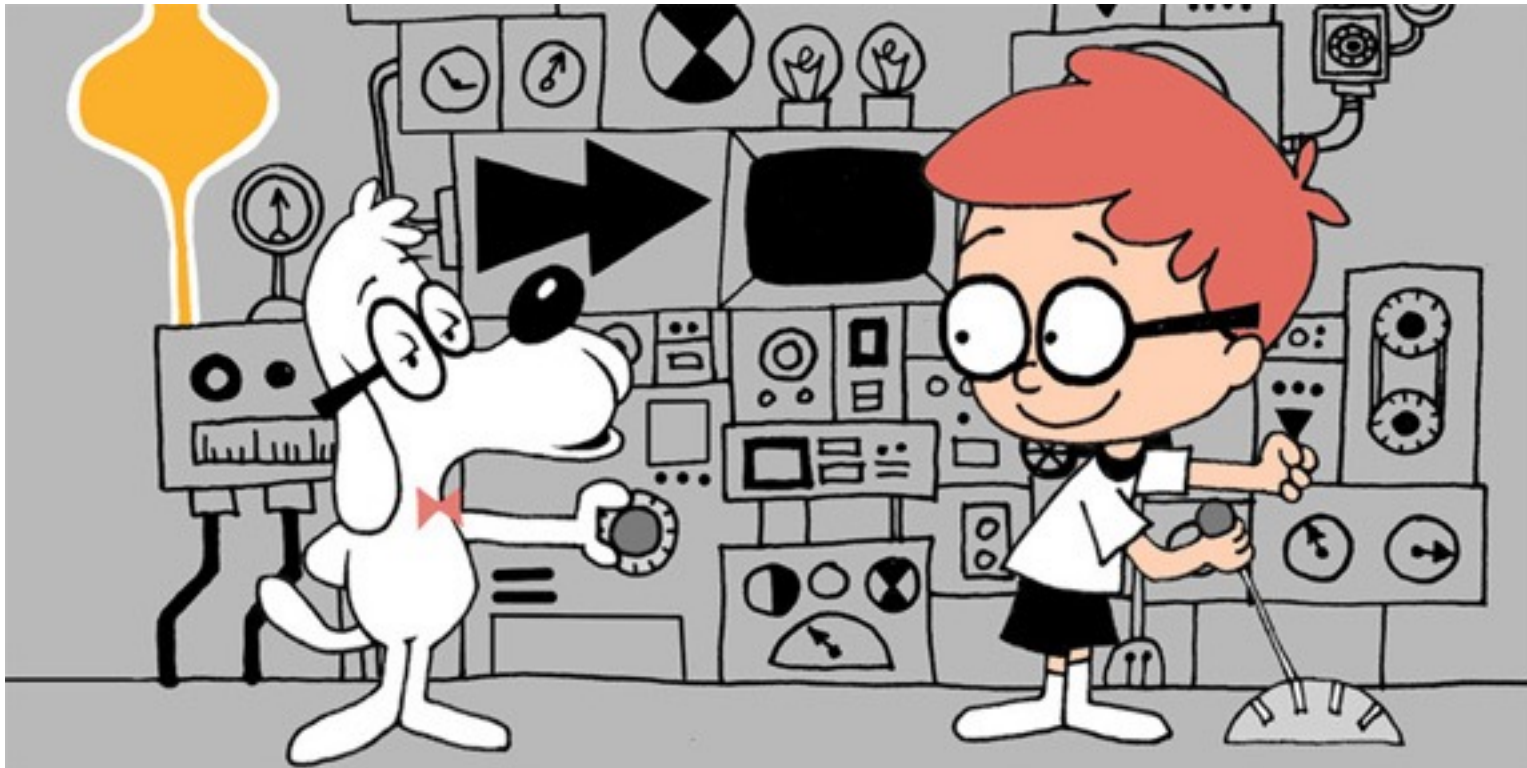
So, we are going to need models ...

... **probabilistic models** ...

# Multinomial RV

# Recall the good times

---



Permutations

$n!$

How many ways are  
there to order  $n$   
objects?

# Ways to put elements into fixed size containers

---

How many ways are there to put  $n$  objects into  $r$  buckets such that:

$n_1$  go into bucket 1

$n_2$  go into bucket 2

...

$n_r$  go into bucket  $r$ ?

$$\frac{n!}{n_1!n_2!\dots n_r!} = \binom{n}{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_r}$$

Note: Multinomial > Binomial

# Counting unordered objects

---

## Binomial coefficient

How many ways are there to order  $n$  objects such that  $k$  are indistinct and  $(n-k)$  are indistinct

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

Called the binomial coefficient because of something from Algebra

## Multinomial coefficient

How many ways are there to order  $n$  objects such that  $n_1$  are indistinct,  $n_2$  are indistinct etc.

$$\binom{n}{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_r} = \frac{n!}{n_1! n_2! \cdots n_r!}$$

Multinomials generalize Binomials for counting.

# Probability

---

## Binomial RV

What is the probability of getting  $k$  successes and  $n - k$  failures in  $n$  trials?

$$P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$$

Binomial # of ways of ordering the successes

Probability of each ordering of  $k$  successes is equal + mutually exclusive

## Multinomial RV

What is the probability of getting  $c_1$  of outcome 1,  $c_2$  of outcome 2, ..., and  $c_m$  of outcome  $m$  in  $n$  trials?

Multinomial RVs also generalize Binomial RVs for probability!

# Multinomial Random Variable?

Consider an experiment of  $n$  independent trials:

- Each trial results in one of  $m$  outcomes.  $P(\text{outcome } i) = p_i$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^m p_i = 1$
- Let  $X_i = \#$  trials with outcome  $i$

Joint PMF

$$P(X_1 = c_1, X_2 = c_2, \dots, X_m = c_m) =$$

$$p_1^{c_1} p_2^{c_2} \cdots p_m^{c_m}$$

where  $\sum_{i=1}^m c_i = n$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^m p_i = 1$

↑  
Probability of each ordering is equal + mutually exclusive

# Multinomial Random Variable

Consider an experiment of  $n$  independent trials:

- Each trial results in one of  $m$  outcomes.  $P(\text{outcome } i) = p_i$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^m p_i = 1$
- Let  $X_i = \#$  trials with outcome  $i$

Joint PMF

$$P(X_1 = c_1, X_2 = c_2, \dots, X_m = c_m) = \binom{n}{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m} p_1^{c_1} p_2^{c_2} \dots p_m^{c_m}$$

where  $\sum_{i=1}^m c_i = n$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^m p_i = 1$

**Multinomial** # of ways of ordering the outcomes

**Probability** of each ordering is equal + mutually exclusive

# Hello dice rolls, my old friends

---

A 6-sided die is rolled 7 times.

What is the probability of getting:

- 1 one
- 0 threes
- 0 fives
- 1 two
- 2 fours
- 3 sixes



# Hello dice rolls, my old friends

---

A 6-sided die is rolled 7 times.

What is the probability of getting:

- 1 one
- 1 two
- 0 threes
- 2 fours
- 0 fives
- 3 sixes

$$P(X_1 = 1, X_2 = 1, X_3 = 0, X_4 = 2, X_5 = 0, X_6 = 3)$$

$$= \binom{7}{1,1,0,2,0,3} \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^1 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^1 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^0 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^2 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^0 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^3 = 420 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^7$$

# Hello dice rolls, my old friends

A 6-sided die is rolled 7 times.

What is the probability of getting:

- 1 one
- 1 two
- 0 threes
- 2 fours
- 0 fives
- 3 sixes

# of times  
a six appears

$$P(X_1 = 1, X_2 = 1, X_3 = 0, X_4 = 2, X_5 = 0, X_6 = 3)$$

$$= \binom{7}{1,1,0,2,0,3} \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^1 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^1 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^0 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^2 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^0 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^3 = 420 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^7$$

choose where  
the sixes appear

probability  
of rolling a six

this many times

Consider an experiment of  $n$  independent trials:

- Each trial results in one of  $m$  outcomes.  $P(\text{outcome } i) = p_i$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^m p_i = 1$
- Let  $X_i = \#$  trials with outcome  $i$

Joint PMF

$$P(X_1 = c_1, X_2 = c_2, \dots, X_m = c_m) = \binom{n}{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m} p_1^{c_1} p_2^{c_2} \cdots p_m^{c_m}$$

where  $\sum_{i=1}^m c_i = n$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^m p_i = 1$

Example:

- Rolling 2 twos, 3 threes, and 5 fives on 10 rolls of a fair-sided die
- Generating a random 5-word phrase with 1 “the”, 2 “bacon”, 1 “put”, 1 “on”

# Hello dice rolls, my old friends

A 6-sided die is rolled 7 times.

What is the probability of getting:

- 1 one
- 1 two
- 0 threes
- 2 fours
- 0 fives
- 3 sixes

# of times  
a six appears

$$P(X_1 = 1, X_2 = 1, X_3 = 0, X_4 = 2, X_5 = 0, X_6 = 3)$$

$$= \binom{7}{1,1,0,2,0,3} \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^1 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^1 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^0 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^2 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^0 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^3 = 420 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^7$$

choose where  
the sixes appear

probability  
of rolling a six

this many times

# Parameters of a Multinomial RV?

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

$$P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$$

$p$ : probability of success outcome on a single trial

A Multinomial RV has parameters  $n, p_1, p_2, \dots, p_m$  (Note  $p_m = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{m-1} p_i$ )

$$P(X_1 = c_1, X_2 = c_2, \dots, X_m = c_m) = \binom{n}{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_m} p_1^{c_1} p_2^{c_2} \dots p_m^{c_m}$$

$p_i$ : probability of outcome  $i$  on a single trial

Where do we get  $p_i$  from?

Pedagogic pause

# The Federalist Papers

# Intro to Natural Language Processing

# Probabilistic text analysis

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Ignoring the order of words...

What is the probability of any given word that you write in English?

- $P(\text{word} = \text{"the"}) > P(\text{word} = \text{"pokemon"})$
- $P(\text{word} = \text{"Stanford"}) > P(\text{word} = \text{"Cal"})$

Probabilities of *counts* of words = Multinomial distribution



A document is a large multinomial.

(according to the Global Language Monitor, there are 988,968 words in the English language used on the internet.)

# Model text as a multinomial

Example document:

“Pay for Viagra with a credit-card. Viagra is great. So are credit-cards. Risk free Viagra. Click for free.”

$n = 18$

$$P \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{Viagra} = 2 \\ \text{Free} = 2 \\ \text{Risk} = 1 \\ \text{Credit-card: } 2 \\ \dots \\ \text{For} = 2 \end{array} \middle| \text{spam} \right) = \frac{n!}{2!2! \dots 2!} p_{\text{viagra}}^2 p_{\text{free}}^2 \dots p_{\text{for}}^2$$

It's a Multinomial!

Probability of seeing  
this document | spam

The probability of a word in  
spam email being viagra

Who wrote the federalist papers?



# Old and New Analysis

## Authorship of the Federalist Papers

- 85 essays advocating ratification of the US constitution
- Written under the pseudonym “Publius” (really, Alexander **Hamilton**, James **Madison**, John **Jay**)



## Who wrote which essays?

- Analyze probability of words in each essay and compare against word distributions from known writings of three authors

# Who wrote Federalist Paper 53?

## madison.txt

```
1 To the People of the State of New York:
2
3 AMONG the numerous advantages promised by a
wellconstructed Union, none deserves to be more
accurately developed than its tendency to break
and control the violence of faction. The friend
of popular governments never finds himself so
much alarmed for their character and fate, as
when he contemplates their propensity to this
dangerous vice. He will not fail, therefore, to
set a due value on any plan which, without
violating the principles to which he is attached,
provides a proper cure for it. The instability,
injustice, and confusion introduced into the
public councils, have, in truth, been the mortal
diseases under which popular governments have
everywhere perished; as they continue to be the
favorite and fruitful topics from which the
adversaries to liberty derive their most specious
declamations. The valuable improvements made by
the American constitutions on the popular models,
both ancient and modern, cannot certainly be too
much admired; but it would be an unwarrantable
partiality, to contend that they have as
effectually obviated the danger on this side, as
was wished and expected. Complaints are
everywhere heard from our most considerate and
virtuous citizens, equally the friends of public
and private faith, and of public and personal
liberty, that our governments are too unstable,
that the public good is disregarded in the
conflicts of rival parties, and that measures are
too often decided, not according to the rules of
justice and the rights of the minor party, but by
the superior force of an interested and
overbearing majority. However anxiously we may
wish that these complaints had no foundation, the
evidence, of known facts will not permit us to
deny that they are in some degree true. It will
be found, indeed, on a candid review of our
situation, that some of the distresses under
which we labor have been erroneously charged on
the operation of our governments; but it will be
found, at the same time, that other causes will
not alone account for many of our heaviest
misfortunes; and, particularly, for that
prevailing and increasing distrust of public
```

## hamilton.txt

```
1 The Utility of the Union in Respect to Commercial
Relations and a Navy
2 Hamilton for the Independent Journal.
3
4 To the People of the State of New York:
5 THE importance of the Union, in a commercial
light, is one of those points about which there
is least room to entertain a difference of
opinion, and which has, in fact, commanded the
most general assent of men who have any
acquaintance with the subject. This applies as
well to our intercourse with foreign countries as
with each other.
6
7 There are appearances to authorize a supposition
that the adventurous spirit, which distinguishes
the commercial character of America, has already
excited uneasy sensations in several of the
maritime powers of Europe. They seem to be
apprehensive of our too great interference in
that carrying trade, which is the support of
their navigation and the foundation of their
naval strength. Those of them which have colonies
in America look forward to what this country is
capable of becoming, with painful solicitude.
They foresee the dangers that may threaten their
American dominions from the neighborhood of
States, which have all the dispositions, and
would possess all the means, requisite to the
creation of a powerful marine. Impressions of
this kind will naturally indicate the policy of
fostering divisions among us, and of depriving
us, as far as possible, of an active commerce in
our own bottoms. This would answer the threefold
purpose of preventing our interference in their
navigation, of monopolizing the profits of our
trade, and of clipping the wings by which we
might soar to a dangerous greatness. Did not
prudence forbid the detail, it would not be
difficult to trace, by facts, the workings of
this policy to the cabinets of ministers.
8
9 If we continue united, we may counteract a policy
so unfriendly to our prosperity in a variety of
ways. By prohibitory regulations, extending, at
the same time, throughout the States, we may
oblige foreign countries to bid against each
```

## unknown.txt

```
1 To the People of the State of New York:
2 I SHALL here, perhaps, be reminded of a current
observation, that where annual elections end,
tyranny begins. If it be true, as has often
been remarked, that sayings which become
proverbial are generally founded in reason, it
is not less true, that when once established,
they are often applied to cases to which the
reason of them does not extend. I need not look
for a proof beyond the case before us. What is
the reason on which this proverbial observation
is founded? No man will subject himself to the
ridicule of pretending that any natural
connection subsists between the sun or the
seasons, and the period within which human
virtue can bear the temptations of power.
Happily for mankind, liberty is not, in this
respect, confined to any single point of time;
but lies within extremes, which afford
sufficient latitude for all the variations which
may be required by the various situations and
circumstances of civil society. The election of
magistrates might be, if it were found
expedient, as in some instances it actually has
been, daily, weekly, or monthly, as well as
annual; and if circumstances may require a
deviation from the rule on one side, why not
also on the other side? Turning our attention
to the periods established among ourselves, for
the election of the most numerous branches of
the State legislatures, we find them by no
means coinciding any more in this instance,
than in the elections of other civil
magistrates. In Connecticut and Rhode Island,
the periods are half-yearly. In the other
States, South Carolina excepted, they are
annual. In South Carolina they are biennial as
is proposed in the federal government. Here is
a difference, as four to one, between the
longest and shortest periods; and yet it would
be not easy to show, that Connecticut or
Rhode Island is better governed, or enjoys a
greater share of rational liberty, than South
Carolina; or that either the one or the other
of these States is distinguished in these
respects, and by these causes, from the
States whose elections are different from both.
In searching for the grounds of this doctrine,
I can discover but one, and that is wholly
inapplicable to our case. The important
distinction so well
```

# Where to start?

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We have words, we want to know probability of authorship. We also know probability of words given author...



Well hello again...

# Who wrote Federalist Paper 53?

---

Prob Document given Hamilton

Prior belief it was Hamilton

$$P(H|D) = \frac{P(D|H)P(H)}{P(D)}$$

Prob Hamilton given Document

Prob of the document???

# Who wrote Federalist Paper 53?

---

Model document as a multinomial where we care about count of words

$$P(H|D) = \frac{P(D|H)P(H)}{P(D)}$$

# Who wrote Federalist Paper 53?

Loop over unique words

Prob hamilton would write word i

Number of times word i is in the doc

Prior belief it was Hamilton

Prob Hamilton given Document

Prob of the document???

$$P(H|D) = \frac{\binom{n}{c_1 \dots c_k} \cdot \prod_i h_i^{c_i} \cdot P(H)}{P(D)}$$

# Who wrote Federalist Paper 53?

Prob that Hamilton wrote it

$$\begin{aligned} P(H|D) &= \frac{P(D|H)P(H)}{P(D)} \\ &= \frac{P(H) \cdot \binom{n}{c_1 \dots c_m} \cdot \prod_i h_i^{c_i}}{P(D)} \end{aligned}$$

Prob that Madison wrote it

$$\begin{aligned} P(M|D) &= \frac{P(D|M)P(M)}{P(D)} \\ &= \frac{P(M) \cdot \binom{n}{c_1 \dots c_m} \cdot \prod_i m_i^{c_i}}{P(D)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{P(H|D)}{P(M|D)} &= \frac{P(H) \cdot \binom{n}{c_1 \dots c_m} \cdot \prod_i h_i^{c_i}}{P(M) \cdot \binom{n}{c_1 \dots c_m} \cdot \prod_i m_i^{c_i}} \\ &= \frac{\prod_i h_i^{c_i}}{\prod_i m_i^{c_i}} \end{aligned}$$

# To the code

---



What happened?

All our probabilities are zero...



# Use logs when probabilities become too small!

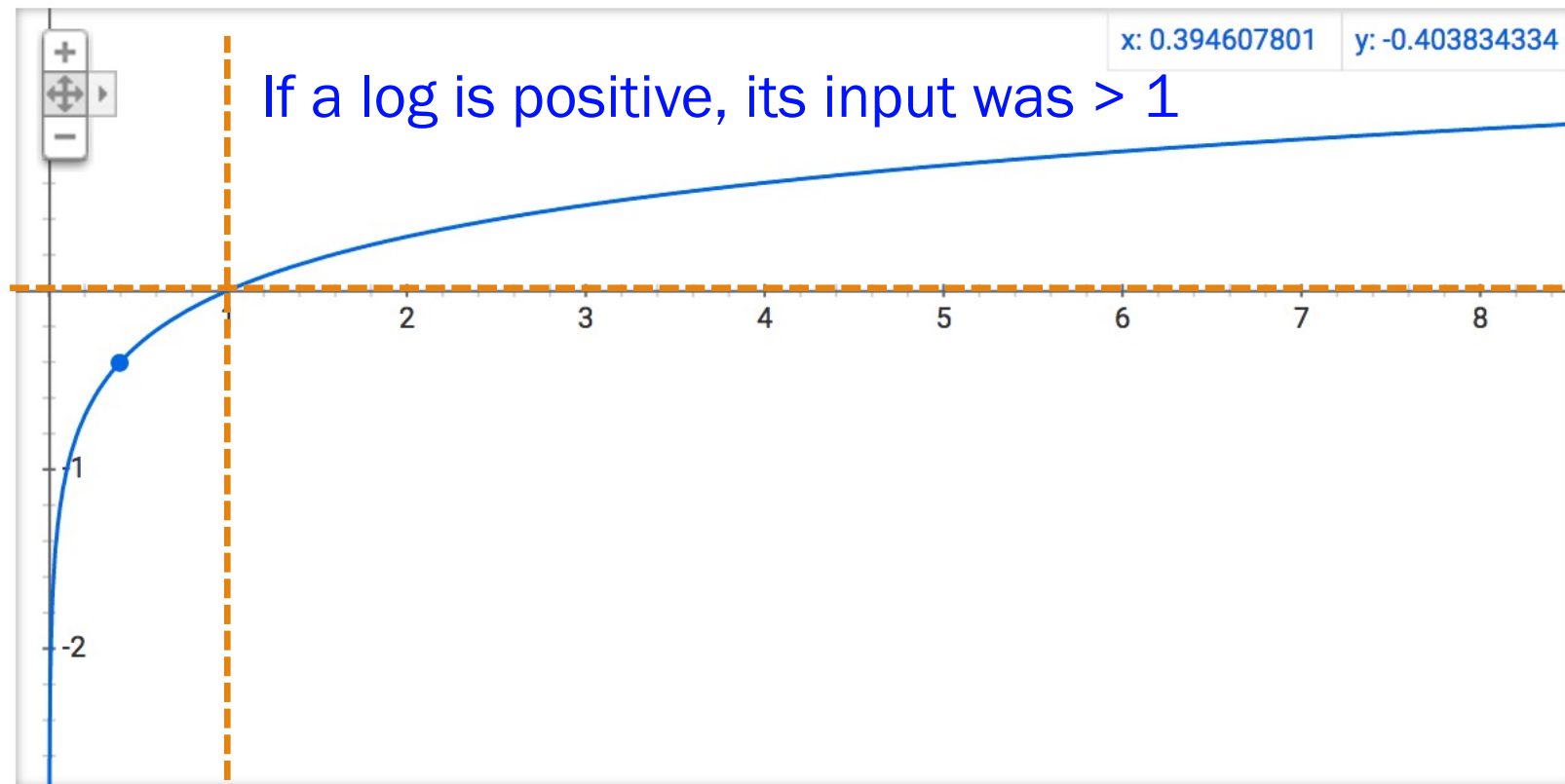
---

$$\frac{P(H|D)}{P(M|D)} = \frac{\prod_i m_i^{c_i}}{\prod_i h_i^{c_i}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\log \frac{P(H|D)}{P(M|D)} &= \log \frac{\prod_i h_i^{c_i}}{\prod_i m_i^{c_i}} \\ &= \sum_i \log h_i^{c_i} - \sum_i \log m_i^{c_i} \\ &= \sum_i c_i \cdot \log h_i - \sum_i c_i \log m_i\end{aligned}$$

# What does it mean if a log value is positive / negative

Graph for  $\log(x)$



If a log is negative, its input was between 0 and 1

[More info](#)

To be continued...