



# Inference 2 (Continuous Joint)

CS109, Stanford University

# Midterm Tuesday July 25<sup>th</sup>, 7~9pm

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- Closed computer. 2 sheets of notes, front and back.



370-370

# Learning Goals

1. Understand the Continuous Joint Distribution
2. Combine Bayes Theorem and Continuous Random Variables



Review

# Where are we in CS109?

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## Overview of Topics



Counting  
Theory



Core  
Probability



Random  
Variables




Probabilistic  
Models



Uncertainty  
Theory



Machine  
Learning



YOU  
ARE  
HERE

# Where are we locally?

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**Discrete  
Models:**  
Joints,  
Multinomial

**Inference**  
Change RV  
belief from  
Observations

**Modelling:**  
Make your own!

**General  
Inference:**  
Use computers  
to infer

# Today: Inference

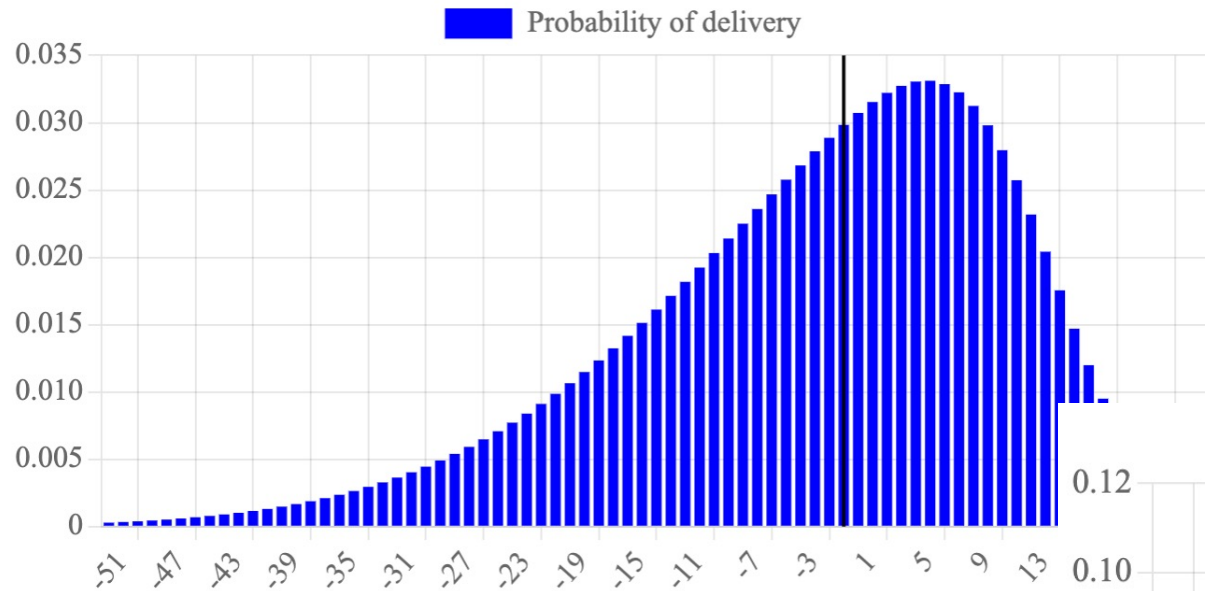
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## **Inference** *noun*

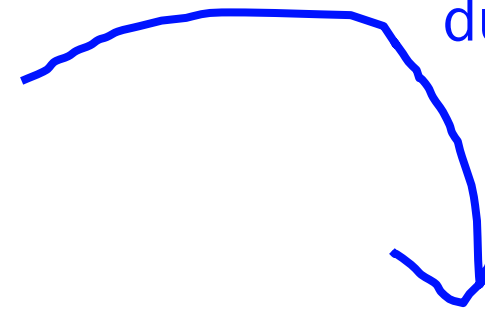
An updated belief about a random variable (or multiple) based on conditional knowledge regarding another random variable (or multiple) in a probabilistic model.

TLDR: conditional probability with random variables.

# Another example: Baby delivery

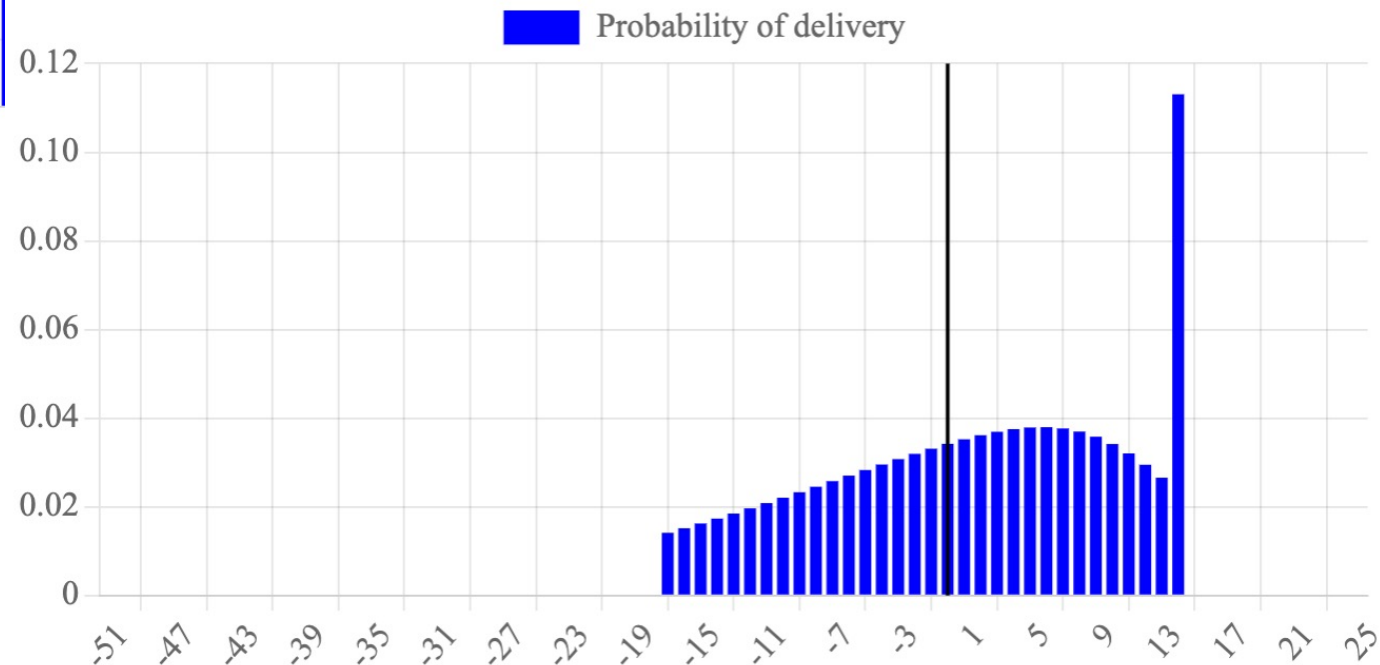


Its 19 days until the due date and no baby



For each value  $d$ :

$$P(D = d | \text{no child so far}) = \frac{P(\text{no child so far} | D = d) P(D = d)}{P(\text{no child so far})}$$



# Bayes Theorem with Discrete

Let  $M$  be a **discrete** random variable

Let  $N$  be a **discrete** random variable

$$P(M = 2|N = 3) = \frac{P(N = 3|M = 2)P(M = 2)}{P(N = 3)}$$

$$P(M = m|N = n) = \frac{P(N = n|M = m)P(M = m)}{P(N = n)}$$

More  
generally

Shorthand  
notation

$$P(m|n) = \frac{P(n|m)P(m)}{P(n)}$$

# All the Bayes Belong to Us

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**M, N are discrete. X, Y are continuous**

OG Bayes

$$P(m|n) = \frac{P(n|m)P(m)}{P(n)}$$

Mix Bayes #1

$$P(n|x) = \frac{f(x|n)P(n)}{f(x)}$$

Mix Bayes #2

$$f(x|n) = \frac{P(n|x)f(x)}{P(n)}$$

$$f(x|y) = \frac{f(y|x)f(x)}{f(y)}$$

# LOTP? Chain Rule? You can play too!

---

**N is discrete. X is continuous**

$$f(N = n, X = x) = f(X = x | N = n)P(N = n)$$

$$f(X = x) = \sum_n f(X = x | N = n)P(N = n)$$

# Inference with Continuous

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Q: At birth, girl elephant weights are distributed as a Gaussian with mean = 160kg, std = 7kg. At birth, boy elephant weights are distributed as a Gaussian with mean = 165kg, std = 3kg. All you know about a newborn elephant is that it is 163kg. What is the probability that it is a girl?



# Inference with Continuous



Q: What is  $P(G = 1 \mid X = 163)$

Let  $G$  be an indicator that the elephant is a girl.  $G$  is  $\text{Bern}(p = 0.5)$

Let  $X$  be the distribution of weight of the elephant.

$X \mid G = 1$  is  $N(\mu = 160, \sigma^2 = 7^2)$

$X \mid G = 0$  is  $N(\mu = 165, \sigma^2 = 3^2)$

# Inference with Continuous



Q: What is  $P(G = 1 \mid X = 163)$

Let  $G$  be an indicator that the elephant is a girl.  $G$  is  $\text{Bern}(p = 0.5)$

Let  $X$  be the distribution of weight of the elephant.

$X \mid G = 1$  is  $N(\mu = 160, \sigma^2 = 7^2)$

$X \mid G = 0$  is  $N(\mu = 165, \sigma^2 = 3^2)$

Joint Distribution is Implied:

$$f(G = 1, X = 72.3) = f(X = 72.3 \mid G = 1)P(G = 1)$$

$$f(G = g, X = x) = f(X = x \mid G = g)P(G = g)$$

More generally

# Inference with Continuous



Q: What is  $P(G = 1 \mid X = 163)$

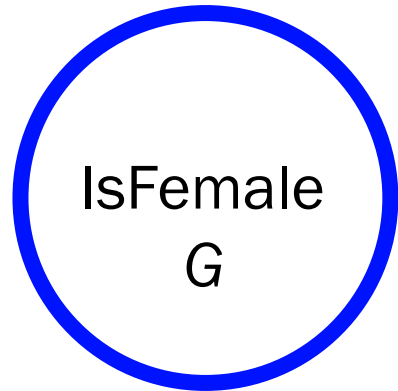
Let  $G$  be an indicator that the elephant is a girl.  $G$  is  $\text{Bern}(p = 0.5)$

Let  $X$  be the distribution of weight of the elephant.

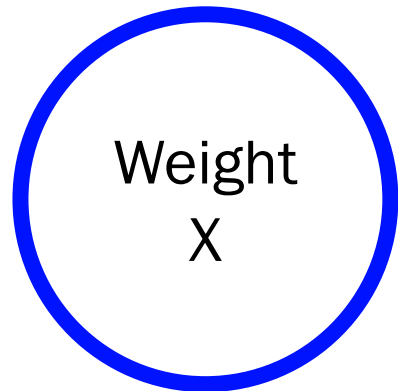
$X \mid G = 1$  is  $N(\mu = 160, \sigma^2 = 7^2)$

$X \mid G = 0$  is  $N(\mu = 165, \sigma^2 = 3^2)$

# Model Shown Graphically



$G = 1$  is  $\text{Bern}(p = 0.5)$



$X | G = 1$  is  $\text{N}(\mu = 160, \sigma^2 = 7^2)$

$X | G = 0$  is  $\text{N}(\mu = 165, \sigma^2 = 3^2)$

Does this define the joint?

$$f(G = g, X = x)$$

$$= f(X = x | G = g) P(G = g)$$

Q: What is  $P(G = 1 | X = 163)$

# I Heard That Redux

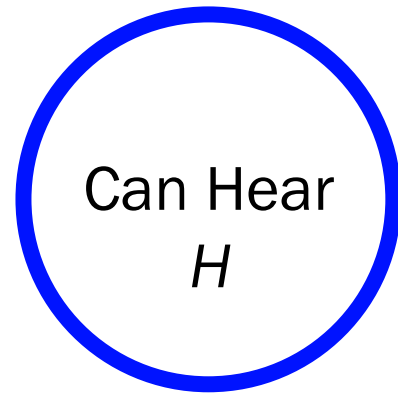
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**Normal Assumption:** We choose to approximate eye movements with normal distributions. For babies who can hear sounds, we approximate their gaze movement after the sound is played as:  $N(\mu = 15, \sigma^2 = 50)$ . For babies who can **not** hear sounds, we approximate gaze movement as  $N(\mu = 8, \sigma^2 = 50)$ .

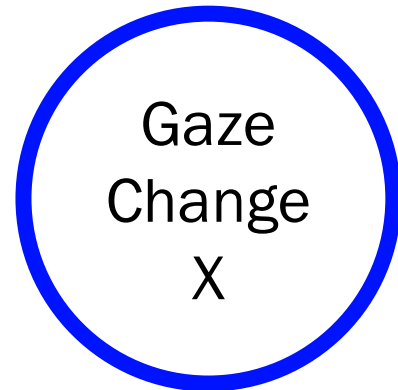
For a new baby we observe a 14 degree movement after the sound is played. What is your belief that a baby can hear, under The **Normal Assumption**?

# I Heard That Redux

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$H = 1$  is  $\text{Bern}(p = 0.75)$



$X | H = 1$  is  $\text{N}(\mu = 15, \sigma^2 = 50)$

$X | H = 0$  is  $\text{N}(\mu = 8, \sigma^2 = 50)$

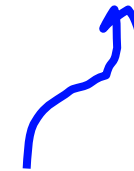
Q: What is  $P(H = 1 | X = 14)$

# Joint is Complete Information!

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



Still true when some variables are continuous

# All the Bayes Belong to Us

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**M, N are discrete. X, Y are continuous**

OG Bayes

$$P(m|n) = \frac{P(n|m)P(m)}{P(n)}$$

Mix Bayes #1

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End Review

# Continuous Joint Distribution

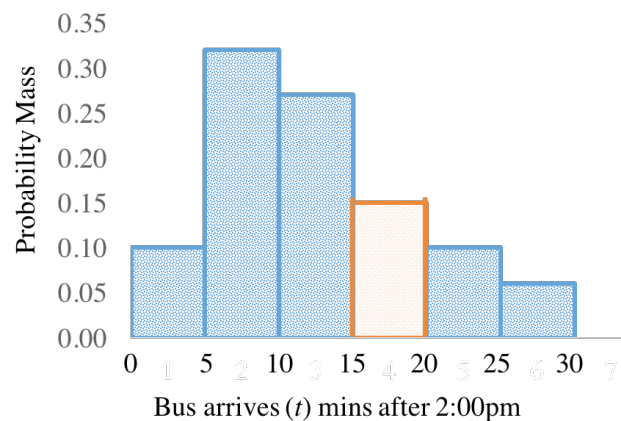
# Riding the Marguerite



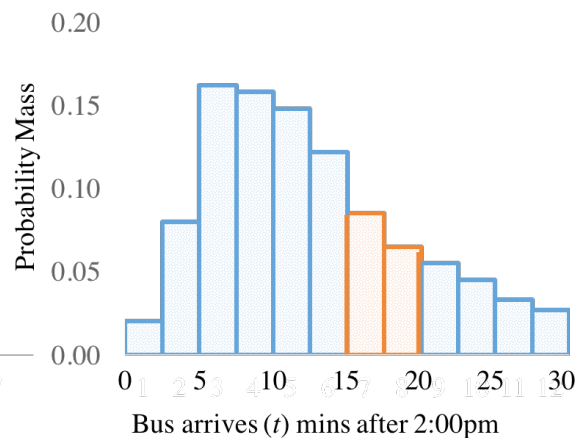
You are running to the bus stop.  
You don't know exactly when  
the bus arrives. You arrive at  
2:20pm.

What is  $P(\text{wait} < 5 \text{ min})$ ?

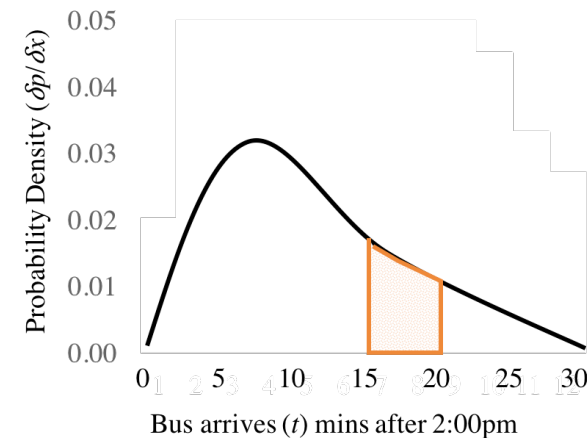
Discretize into 5 min chunks



Discretize into 2.5 min chunks



The limit at discretization size  $\rightarrow 0$



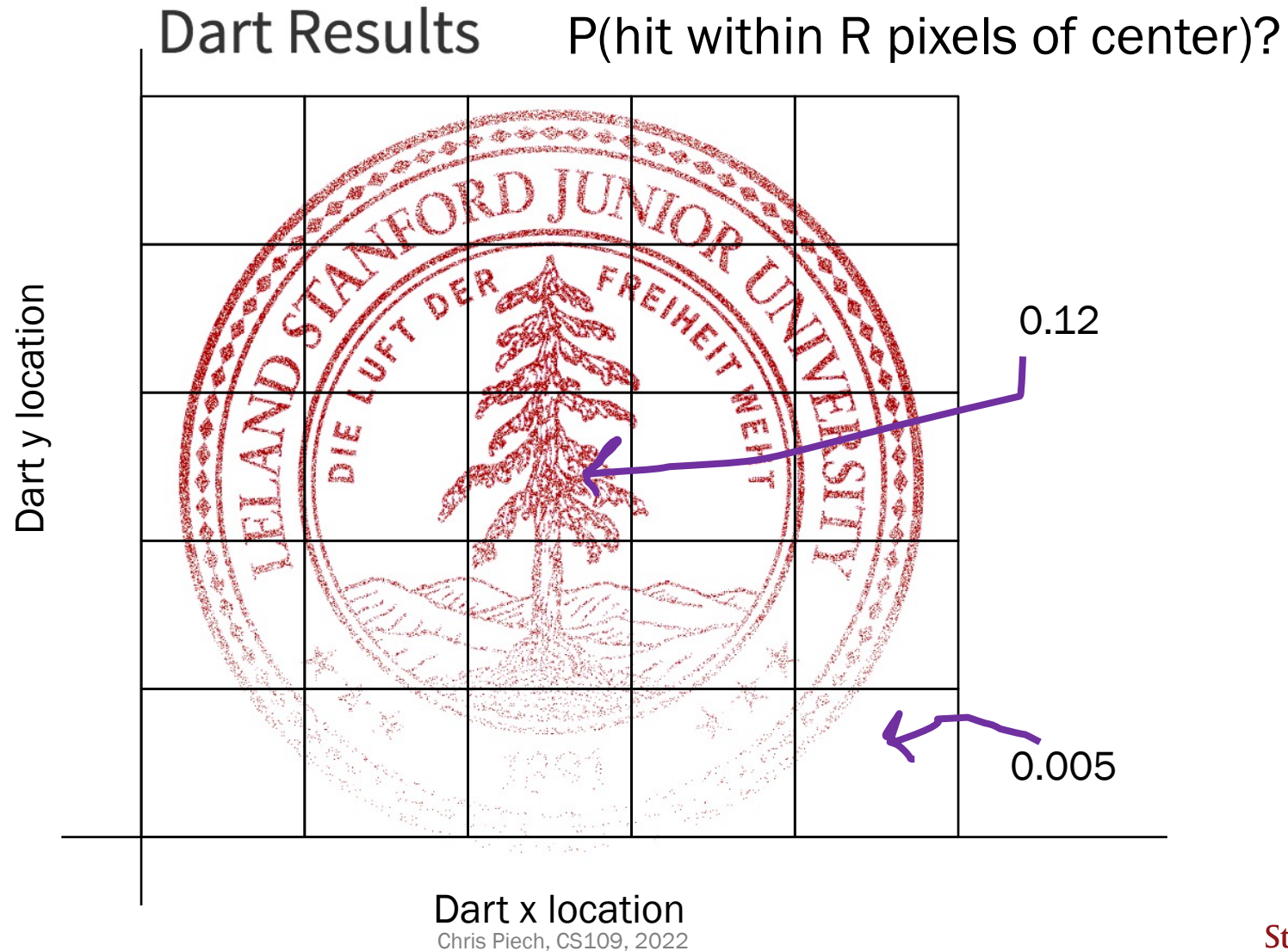
# Joint Dart Distribution

Dart Results       $P(\text{hit within } R \text{ pixels of center})?$

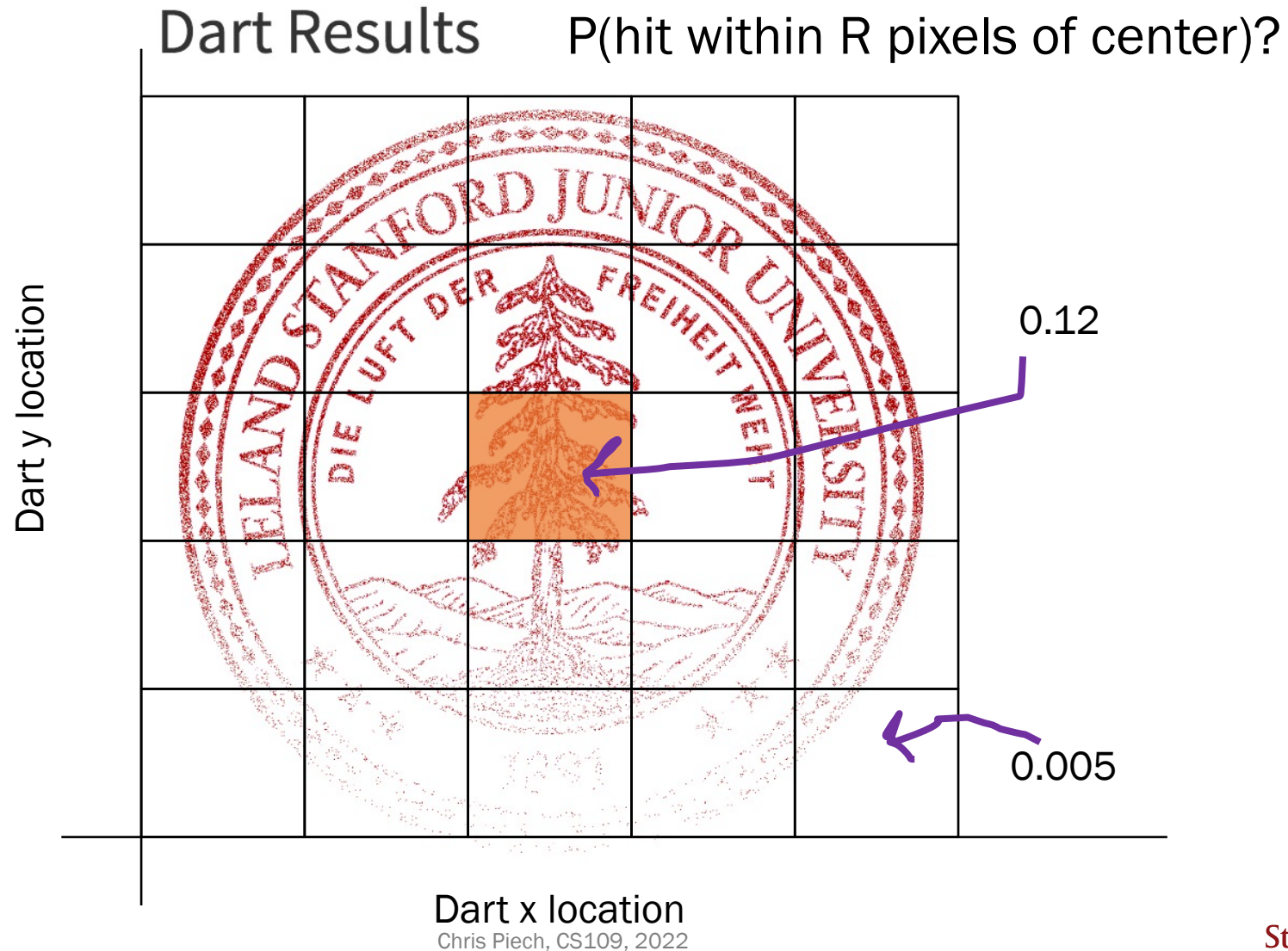


What is the probability that a dart hits at (456.234231234122355, 532.12344123456)?

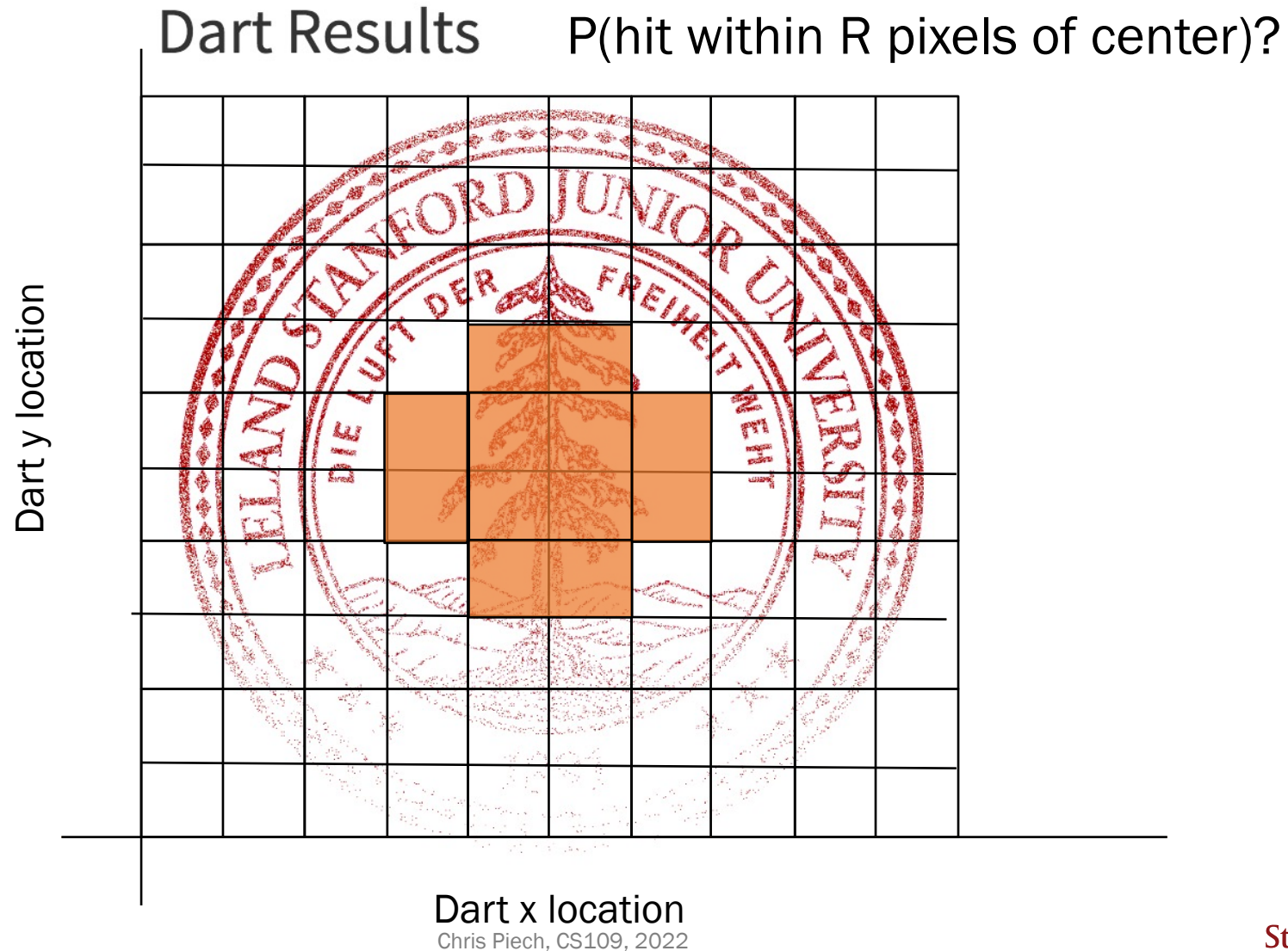
# Joint Dart Distribution



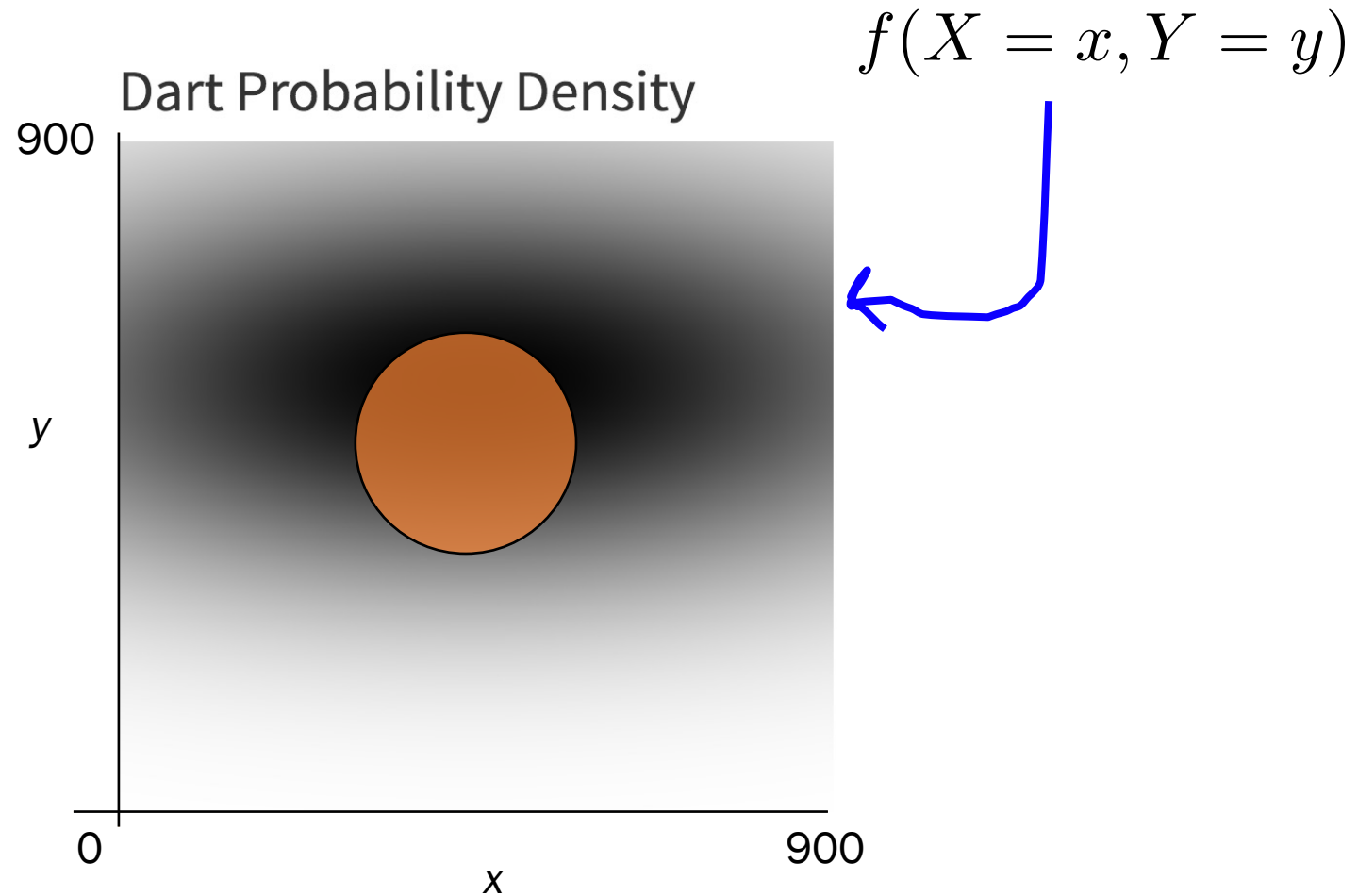
# Joint Dart Distribution



# Joint Dart Distribution



# Joint Dart Distribution

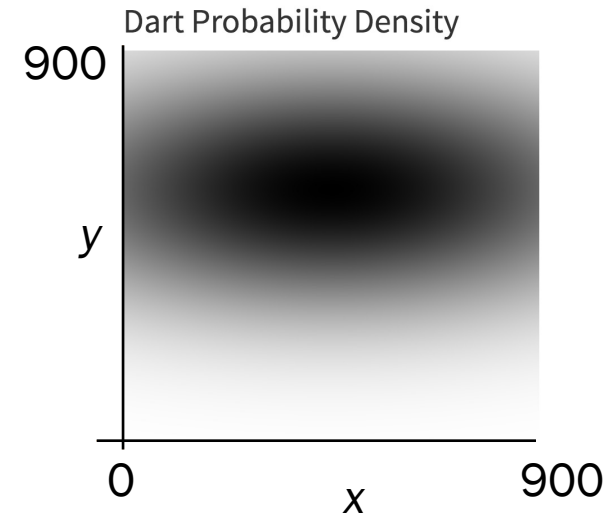
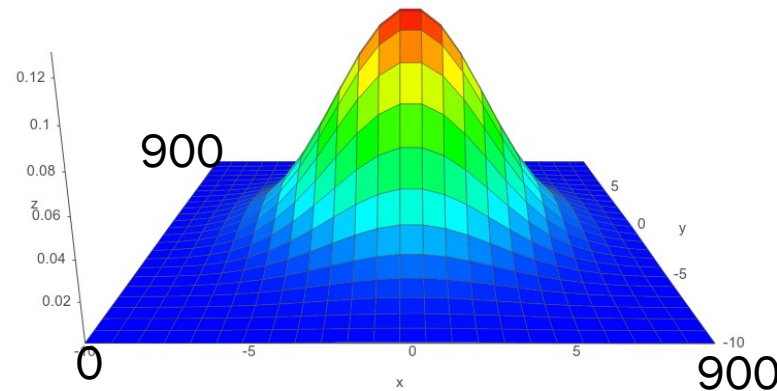


In the limit, as you break down continuous values into infinitesimally small buckets, you end up with multidimensional probability density

# Joint Probability Density Function



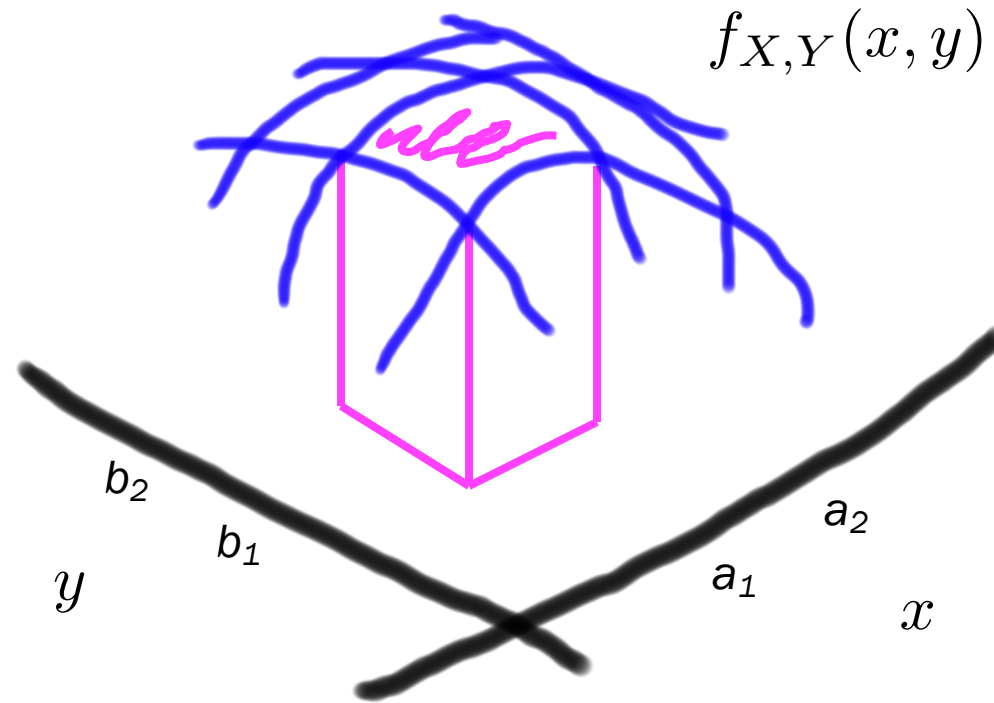
A **joint probability density function** gives the relative likelihood of **more than one** continuous random variable **each** taking on a specific value.



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

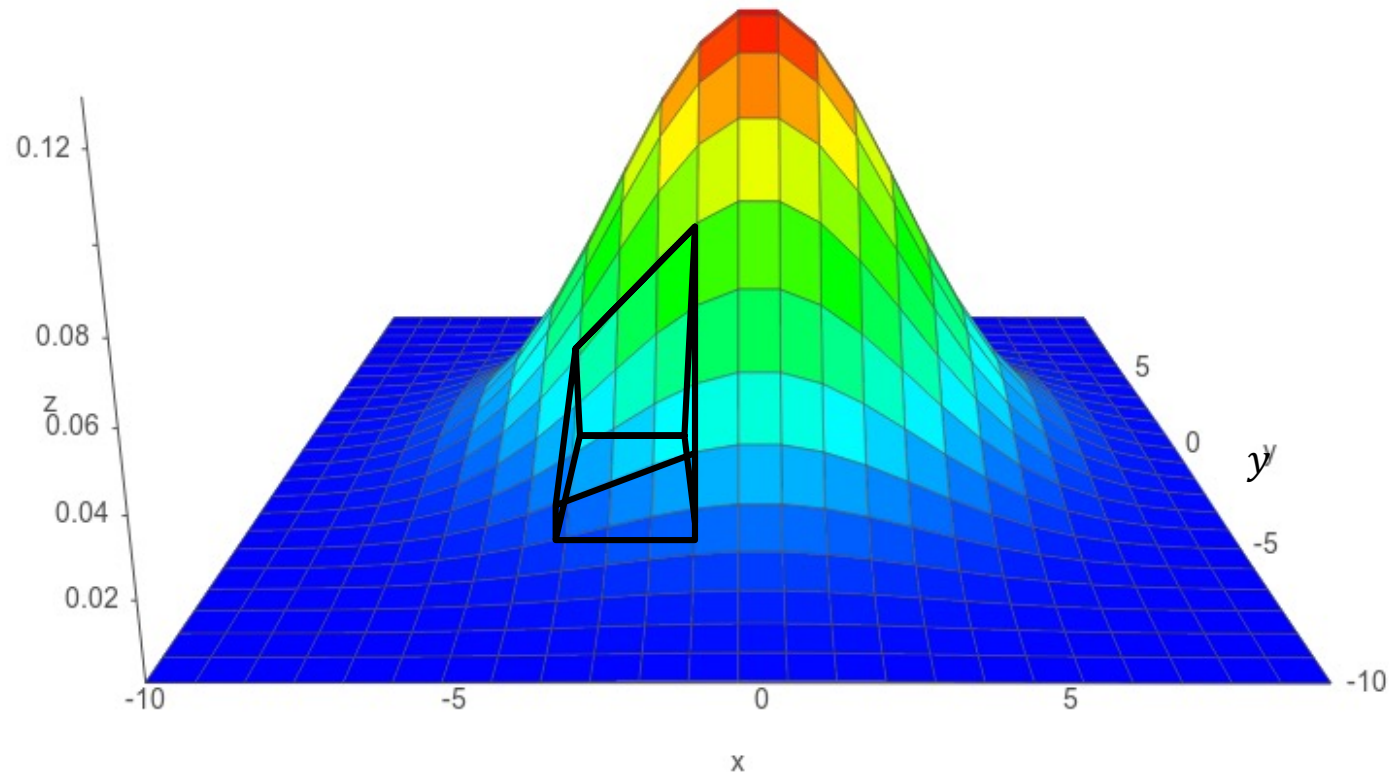
# Joint Probability Density Function

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



# Joint Probability Density Function

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



# Multiple Integrals Without Tears

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be two continuous random variables

- where  $0 \leq X \leq 1$  and  $0 \leq Y \leq 2$

We want to integrate  $g(x,y) = xy$  w.r.t.  $X$  and  $Y$ :

- First, do “innermost” integral (treat  $y$  as a constant):

$$\int_{y=0}^2 \int_{x=0}^1 xy \, dx \, dy = \int_{y=0}^2 \left( \int_{x=0}^1 xy \, dx \right) dy = \int_{y=0}^2 y \left[ \frac{x^2}{2} \right]_0^1 dy = \int_{y=0}^2 y \frac{1}{2} dy$$

- Then, evaluate remaining (single) integral:

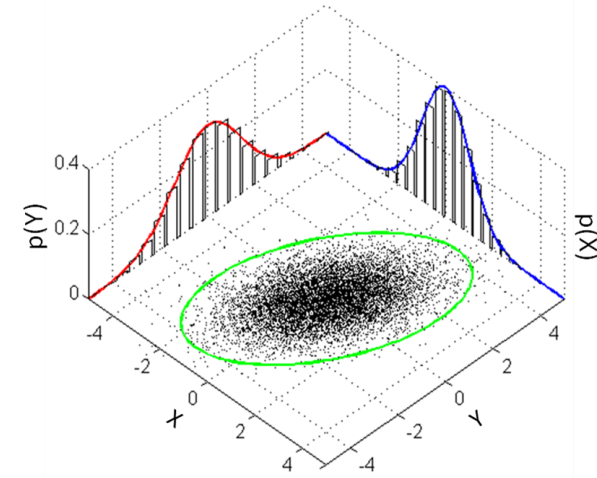
$$\int_{y=0}^2 y \frac{1}{2} dy = \left[ \frac{y^2}{4} \right]_0^2 = 1 - 0 = 1$$



# Marginalization

**Marginal probabilities** give the distribution of a subset of the variables (often, just one) of a joint distribution.

Sum/integrate over the variables you don't care about.



$$p_X(a) = \sum_y p_{X,Y}(a, y)$$

$$f_X(a) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(a, y) dy$$

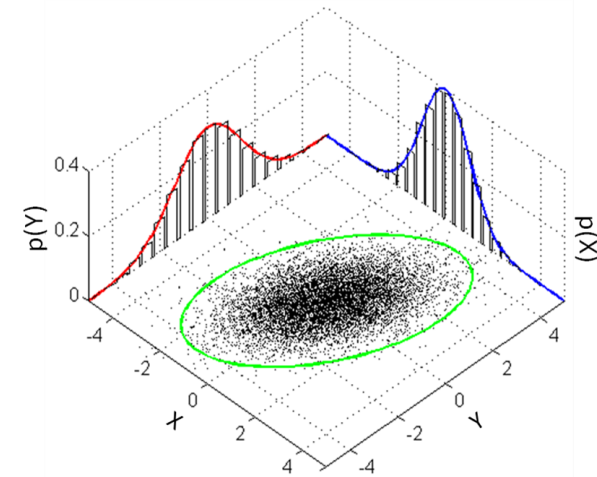
$$f_Y(b) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, b) dx$$



# Marginalization

**Marginal probabilities** give the distribution of a subset of the variables (often, just one) of a joint distribution.

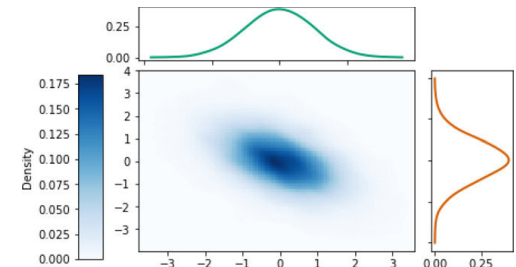
Sum/integrate over the variables you don't care about.



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

$$f_X(a) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(a, y) dy$$

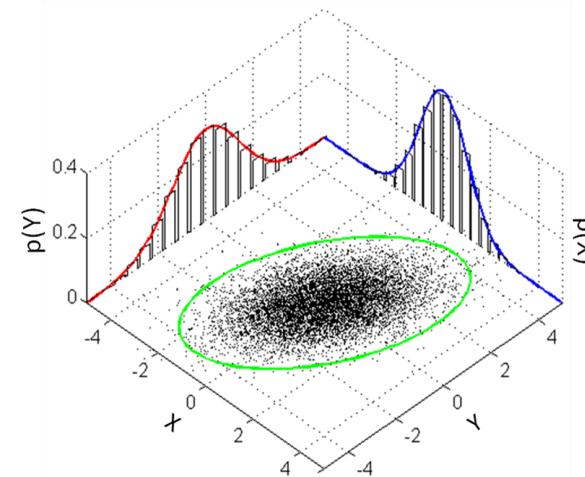
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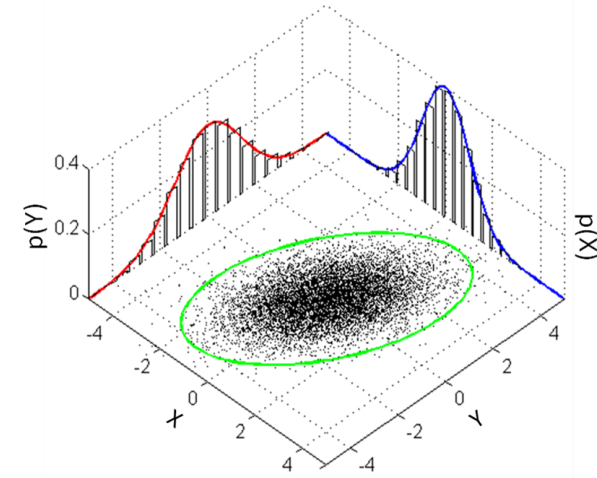
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# Marginalization

**Marginal probabilities** give the distribution of a subset of the variables (often, just one) of a joint distribution.

Sum/integrate over the variables you don't care about.



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

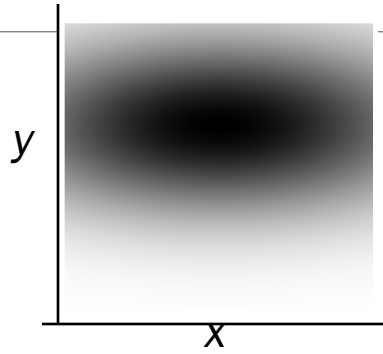


$$f(X = a) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(X = a, Y = y)$$

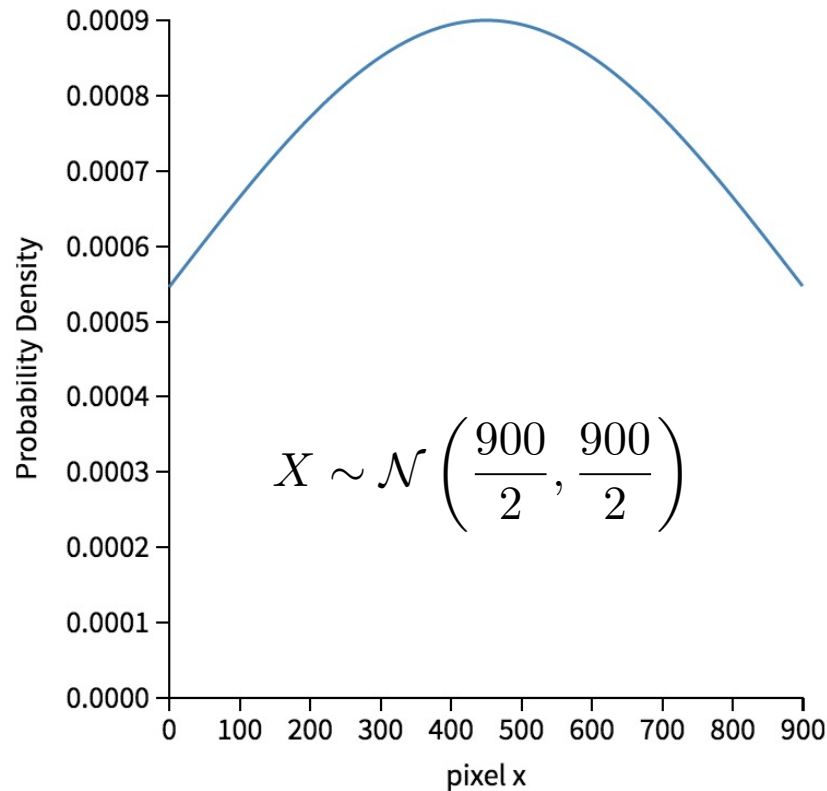
$$f_Y(b) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, b) dx$$

# Darts!

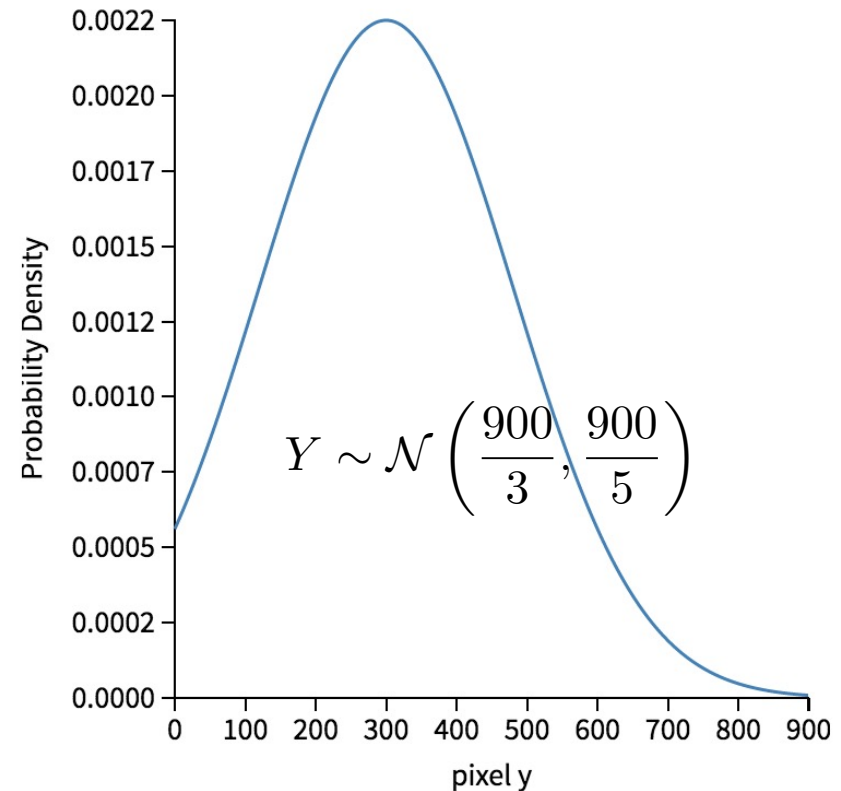
Dart PDF



X-Pixel Marginal



Y-Pixel Marginal



# Inference in the Wild!



# Warmup: Bayes Revisited

$$P(B|E) = \frac{P(E|B) P(B)}{P(E)}$$

Posterior belief

Likelihood of evidence

Prior belief

Normalization constant

# Warmup: Bivariate Normal

$X, Y$  follow a symmetric bivariate normal distribution if they have joint PDF:

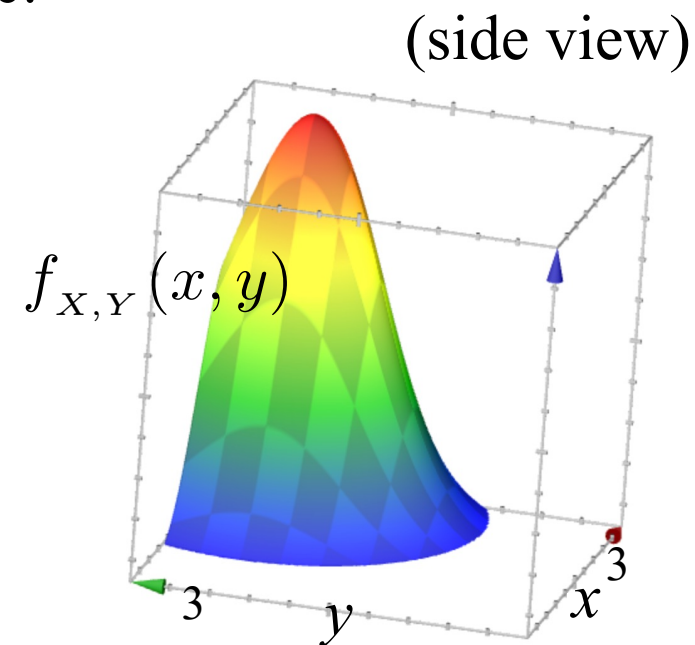
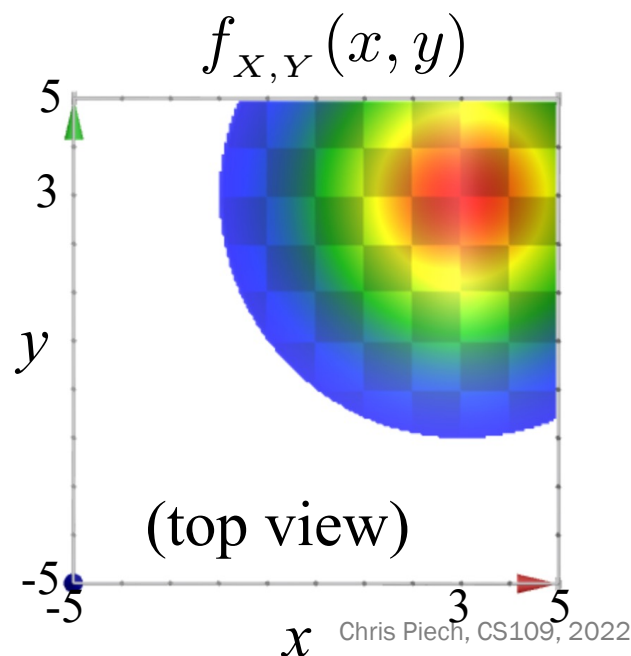
$$f_{X,Y}(x, y) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} \cdot e^{-\frac{[(x-\mu_x)^2 + (y-\mu_y)^2]}{2\cdot\sigma^2}}$$

Here is an example where:

$$\mu_x = 3$$

$$\mu_y = 3$$

$$\sigma = 2$$

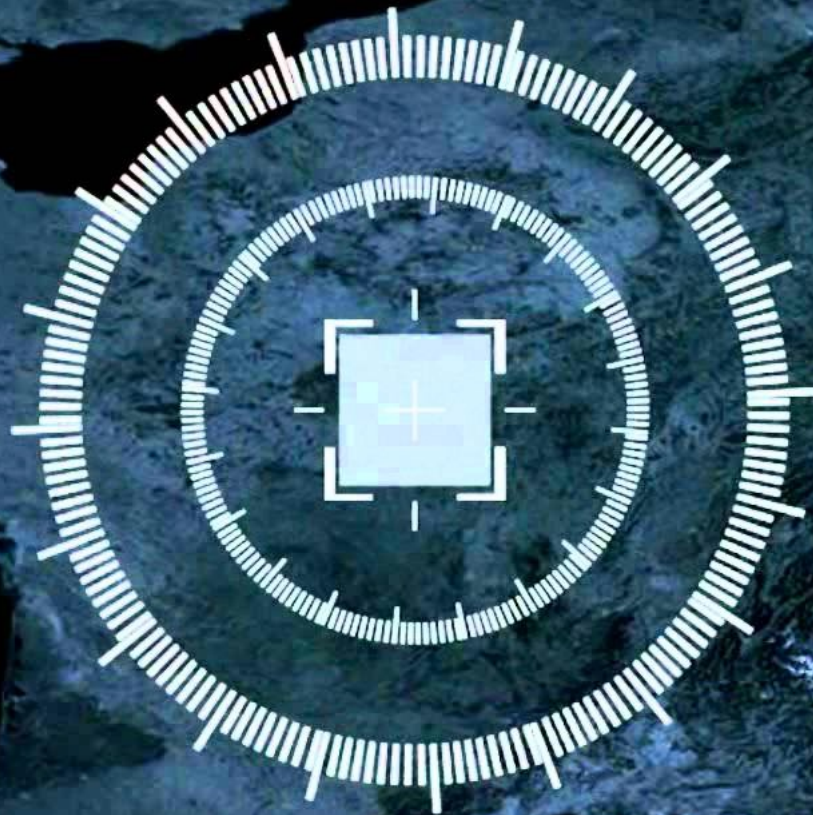


# Tracking in 2D Space?

CRS



1060

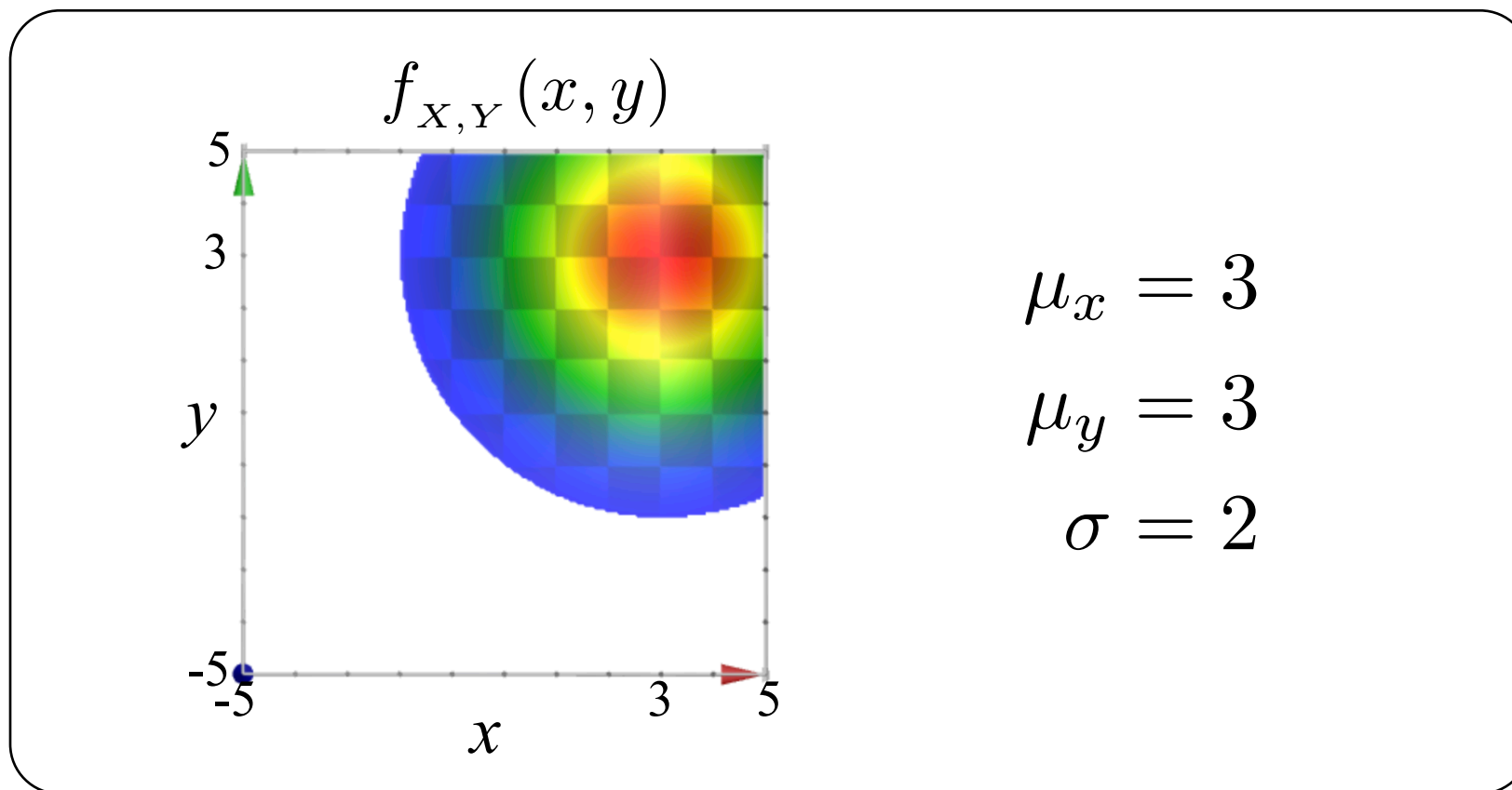


GEO data



# Tracking in 2D Space: Prior

Prior belief:  $f_{X,Y}(x,y) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} \cdot e^{-\frac{[(x-\mu_x)^2 + (y-\mu_y)^2]}{2 \cdot \sigma^2}}$



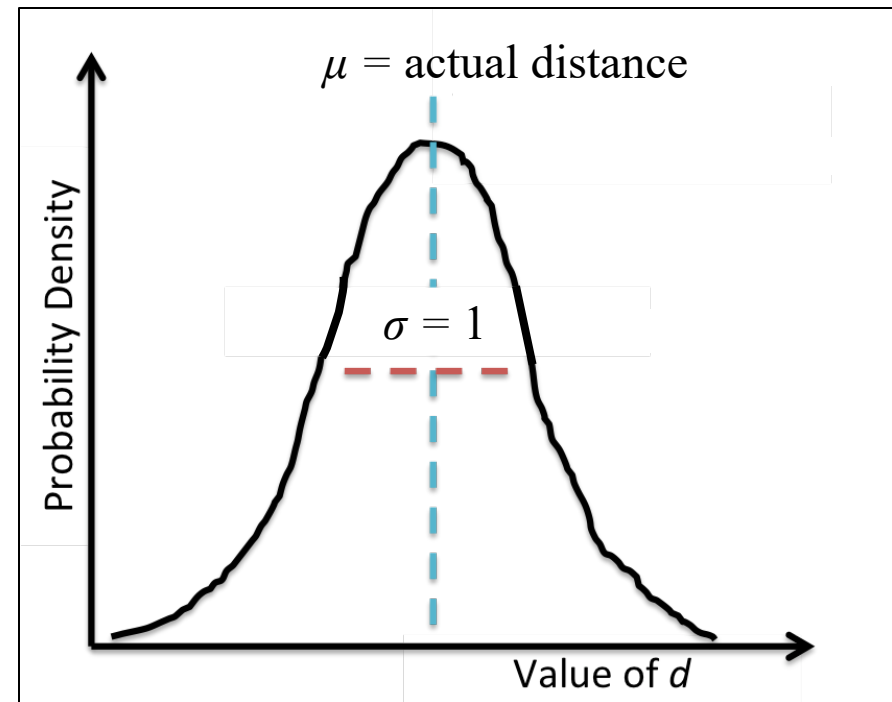
Prior belief with K:  $f_{X,Y}(x,y) = K \cdot e^{-\frac{[(x-3)^2 + (y-3)^2]}{8}}$

# Tracking in 2D Space: Observation!

You now observe a noisy distance reading.  
It says that your object is distance  $D$  away

We can say how likely that  
reading is if we know the  
actual location of the object...

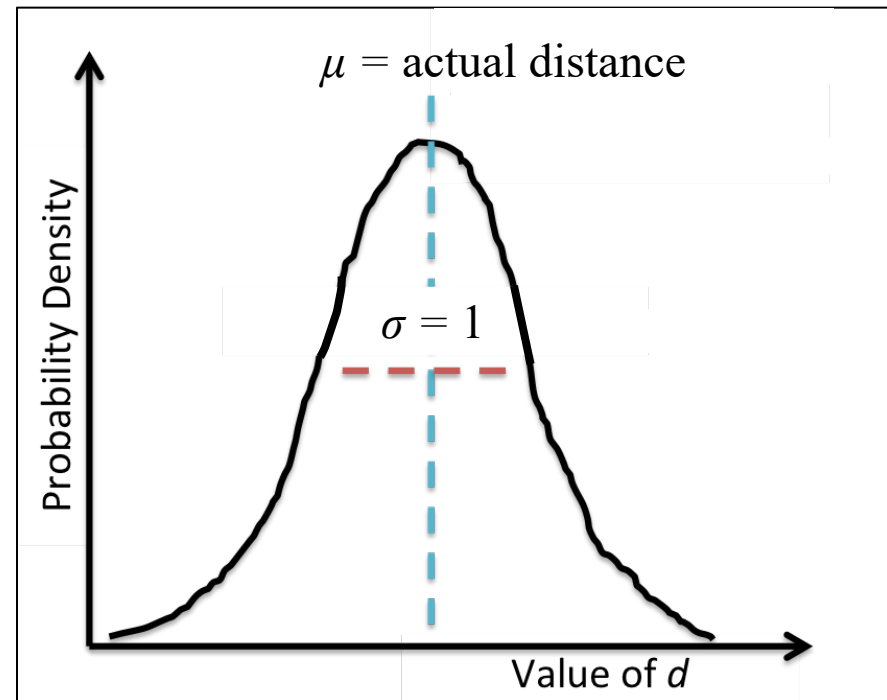
$f(D | X, Y)$  is knowable!



# Tracking in 2D Space: Observation!

Observe a ping of the object that is distance  $D$  away from satellite!

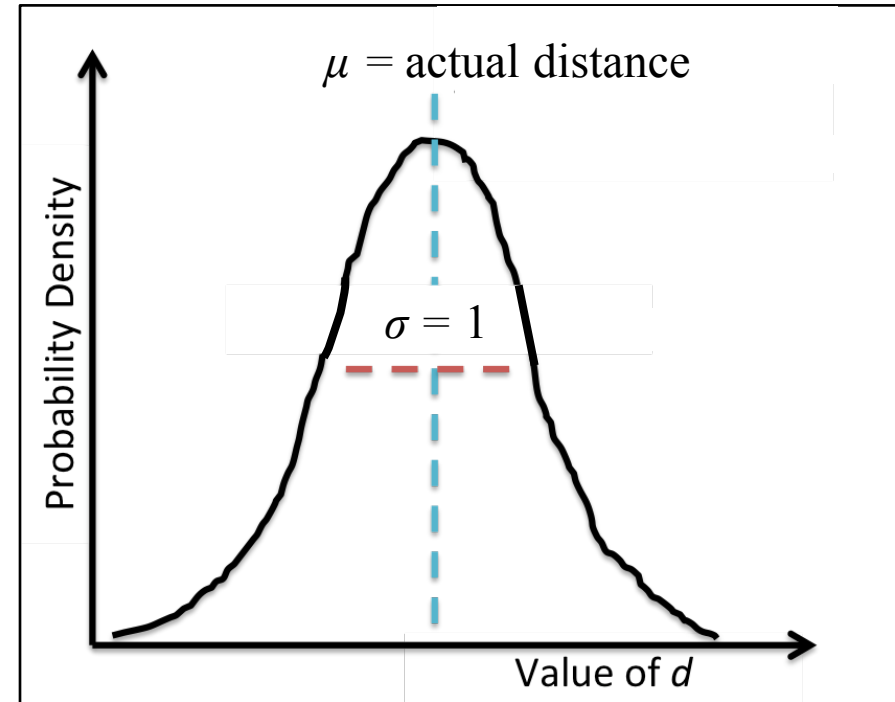
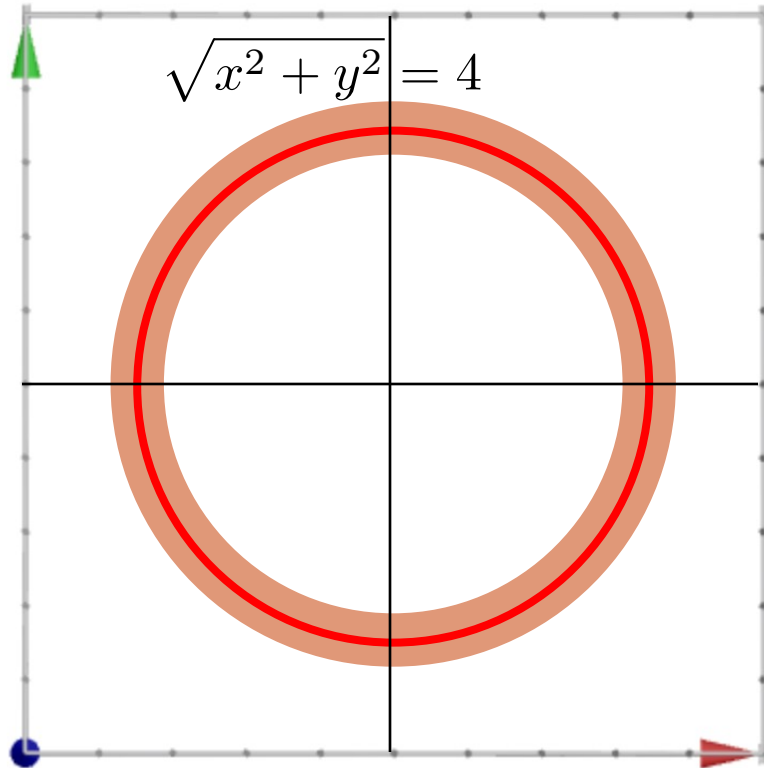
$$D|X, Y \sim N(\mu = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}, \sigma^2 = 1)$$



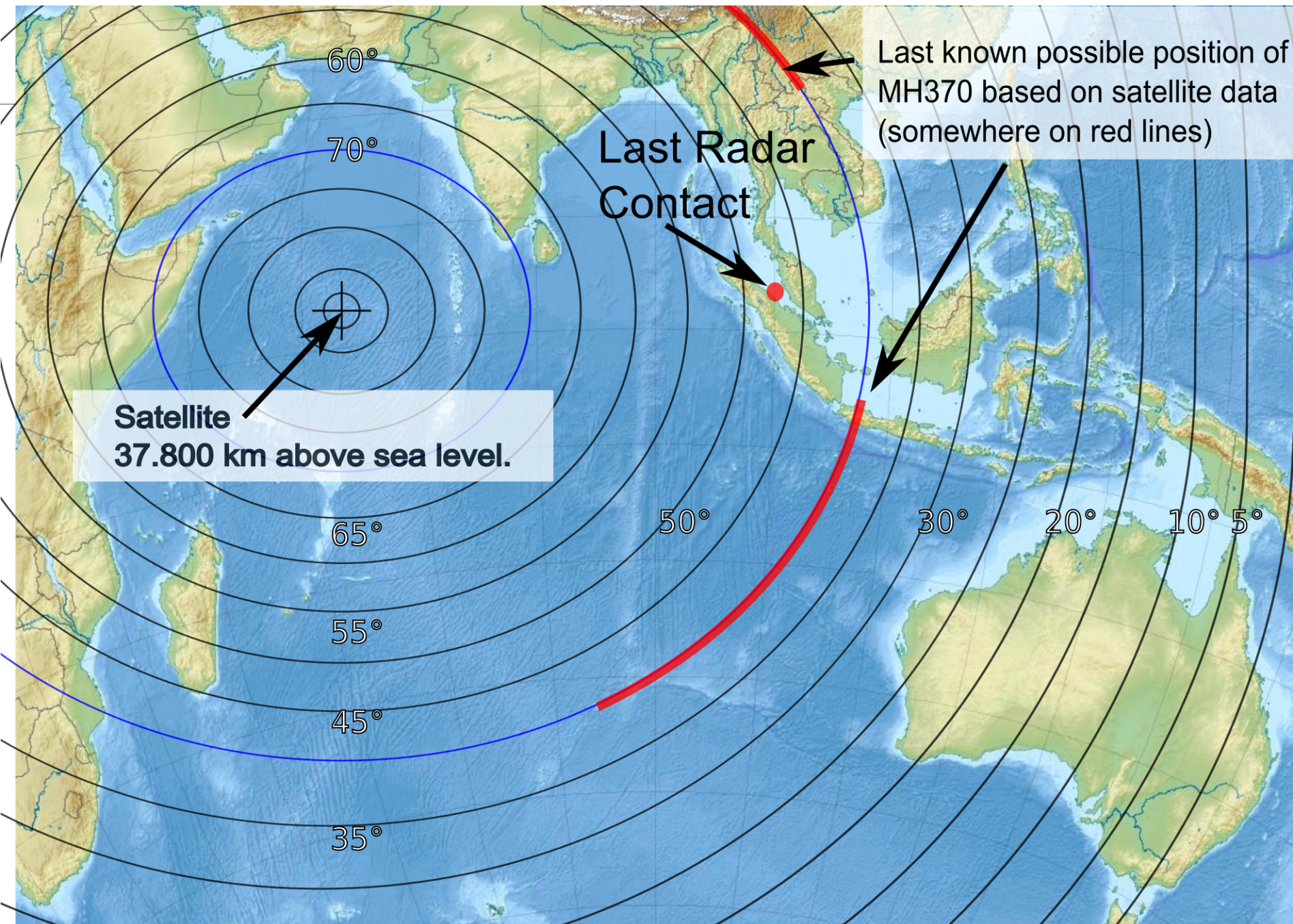
Know that the distance of a ping is normal with respect to the true distance.

# Tracking in 2D Space: Observation!

Observe a ping of the object that is distance  $D = 4$  away!



Know that the distance of a ping is normal with respect to the true  
distance



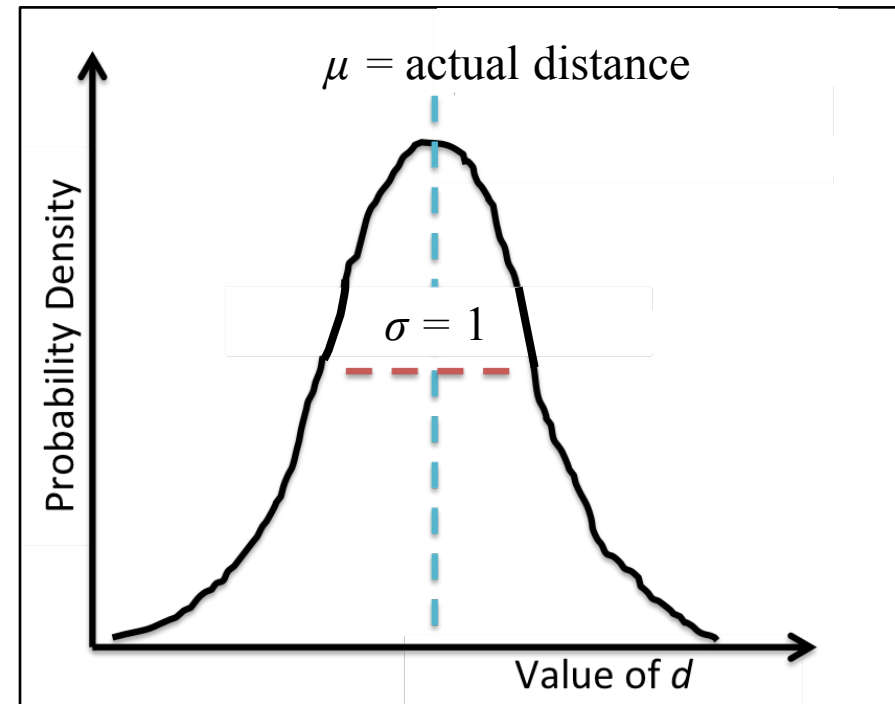
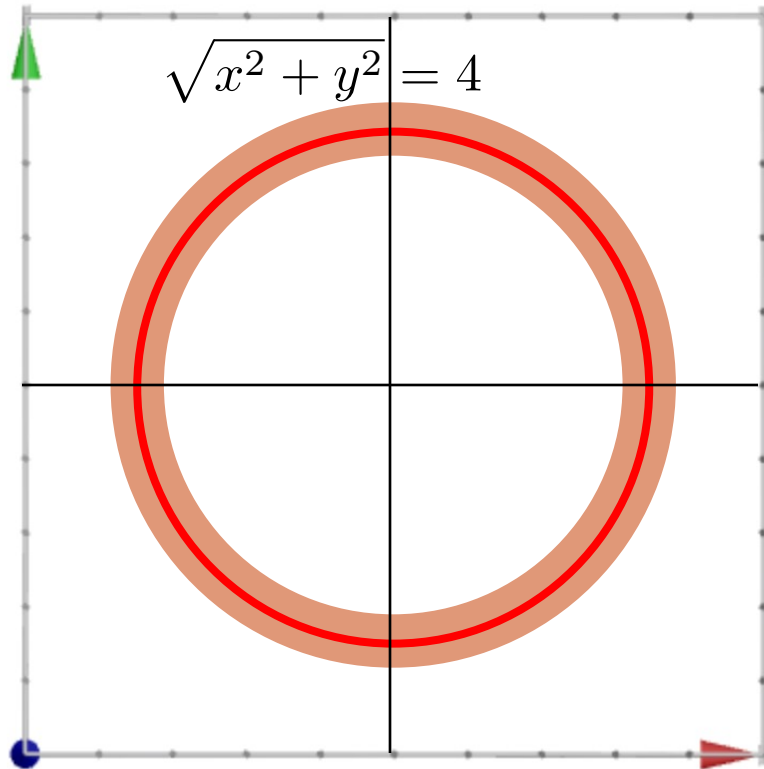
**Satellite**  
37.800 km above sea level.

**Last Radar Contact**

Last known possible position of MH370 based on satellite data (somewhere on red lines)

# Tracking in 2D Space: Observation!

Observe a ping of the object that is distance  $D = 4$  away!



Know that the distance of a ping is normal with respect to the true  
distance

# Tracking in 2D Space: Observation!

Observe a ping of the object that is distance  $D = 4$  away from satellite!

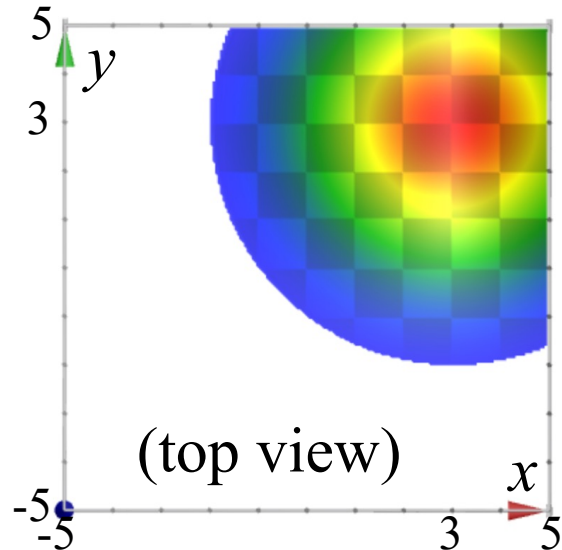
$$D|X, Y \sim N(\mu = \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}, \sigma^2 = 1)$$

---

$$\begin{aligned} f(D = d|X = x, Y = y) &= \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(d-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(d-\mu)^2}{2}} \\ &= K_2 \cdot e^{-\frac{(d-\mu)^2}{2}} \\ &= K_2 \cdot e^{-\frac{(d-\sqrt{x^2+y^2})^2}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

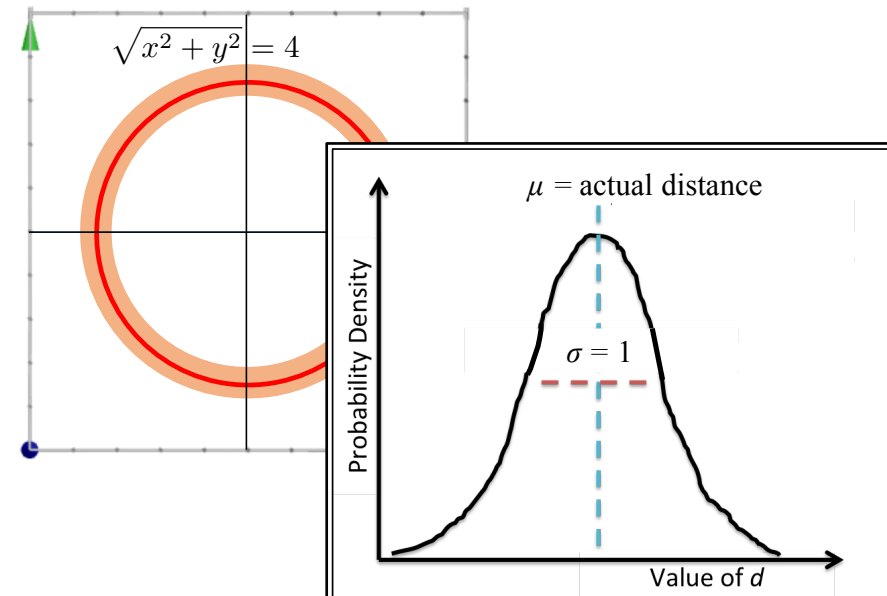
# Tracking in 2D Space: New Belief

$$f(X = x, Y = y) = K_1 \cdot e^{-\frac{[(x-3)^2 + (y-3)^2]}{8}}$$



Prior

Observation



$$f(D = d | X = x, Y = y) = K_2 \cdot e^{-\frac{[d - \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}]^2}{2}}$$

What is your *new* belief for the location of the object being tracked?  
Your joint probability density function can be expressed with a constant

# Prior

$$f(X = x, Y = y) = K \cdot e^{-\frac{[(x-3)^2 + (y-3)^2]}{8}}$$

# Observation

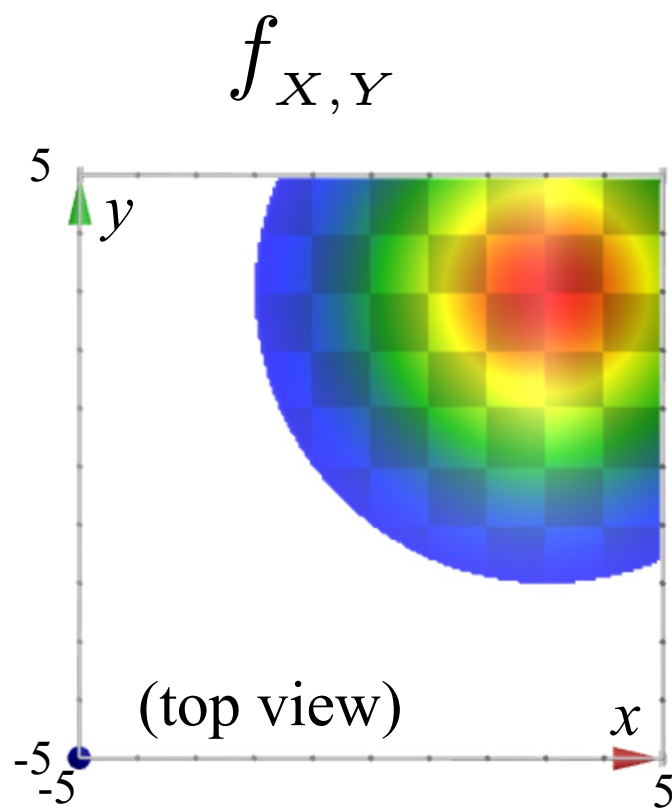
$$f(D = d | X = x, Y = y) = K \cdot e^{-[d - \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}]^2}$$

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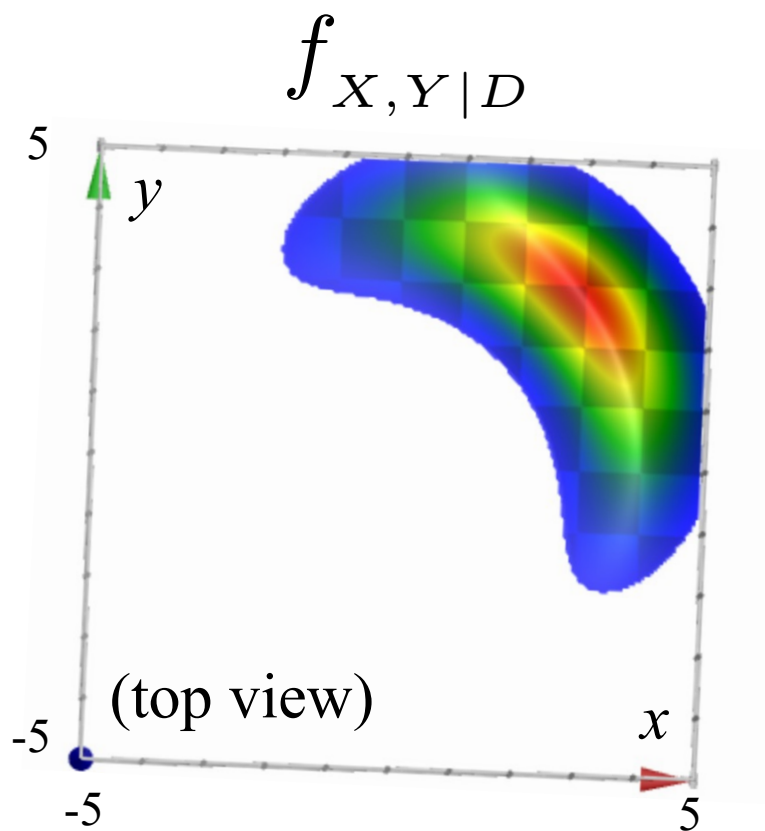
# Tracking in 2D Space: New Belief

$$\begin{aligned} f(X = x, Y = y | D = 4) &= \frac{f(D = 4 | X = x, Y = y) \cdot f(X = x, Y = y)}{f(D = 4)} \\ &= \frac{K_1 \cdot e^{-\frac{[4 - \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}]^2}{2}} \cdot K_2 \cdot e^{-\frac{[(x-3)^2 + (y-3)^2]}{8}}}{f(D = 4)} \\ &= \frac{K_3 \cdot e^{-\left[\frac{[4 - \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}]^2}{2} + \frac{[(x-3)^2 + (y-3)^2]}{8}\right]}}{f(D = 4)} \\ &= K_4 \cdot e^{-\left[\frac{(4 - \sqrt{x^2 + y^2})^2}{2} + \frac{[(x-3)^2 + (y-3)^2]}{8}\right]} \end{aligned}$$

# Tracking in 2D Space: Posterior

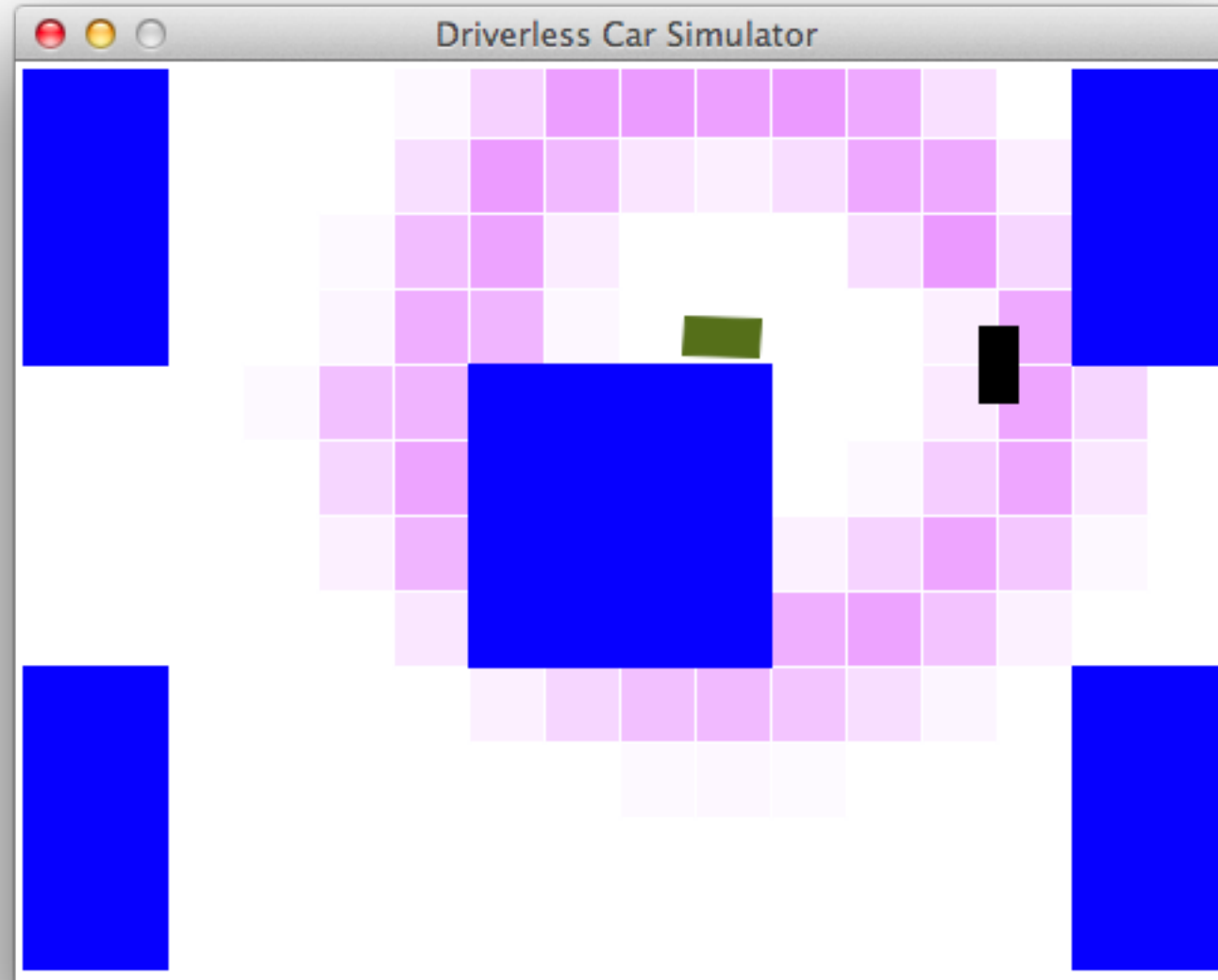


Prior



Posterior

# Tracking in 2D Space: CS221



# Joint Random Variables



Use a joint table, or joint function to solve probability question



Think about **conditional** probabilities with joint variables (which might be continuous)



Use and find **independence** of random variables



Use and find **expectation** of random variables