



# Joint Distributions

Chris Piech

CS109, Stanford University

Review

# The Normal Distribution

- $X$  is a Normal Random Variable:  $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$

- Probability Density Function (PDF):

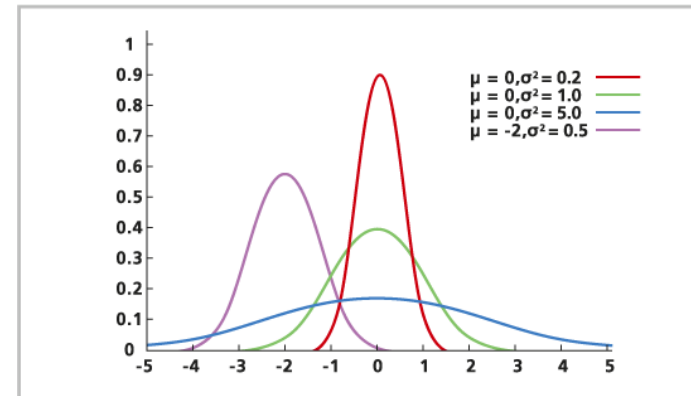
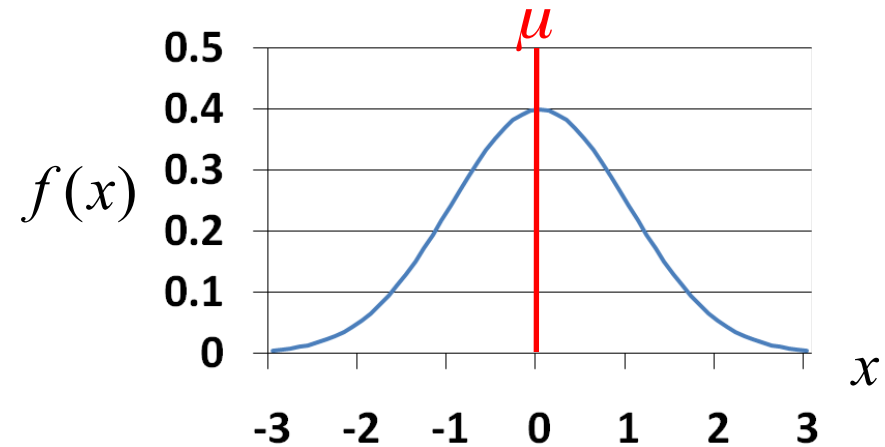
$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-(x-\mu)^2/2\sigma^2} \quad \text{where } -\infty < x < \infty$$

- $E[X] = \mu$

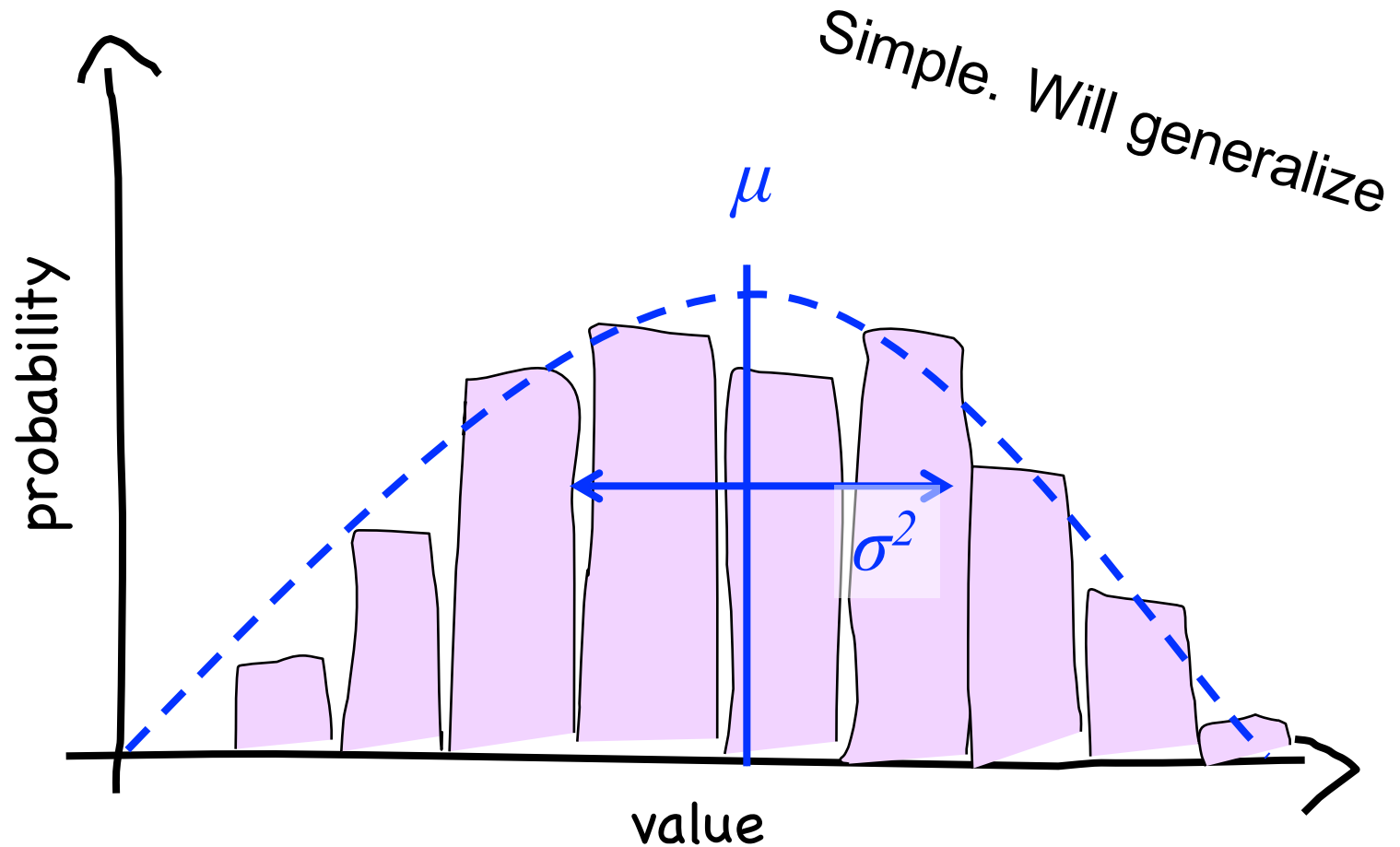
- $Var(X) = \sigma^2$

- Also called “Gaussian”

- Note:  $f(x)$  is symmetric about  $\mu$



# Simplicity is Humble



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



# Anatomy of a beautiful equation

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

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

“exponential”

the distance to the mean

probability density at  $x$

a constant

sigma shows up twice

The diagram illustrates the components of the normal distribution equation. Purple arrows point from descriptive text to specific parts of the equation: 'probability density at x' points to f(x); 'a constant' points to the denominator sigma\*sqrt(2\*pi); '“exponential”' points to the base e; 'the distance to the mean' points to the (x-mu) term in the exponent; and 'sigma shows up twice' points to the sigma^2 term in the denominator of the exponent.

# And here we are

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

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

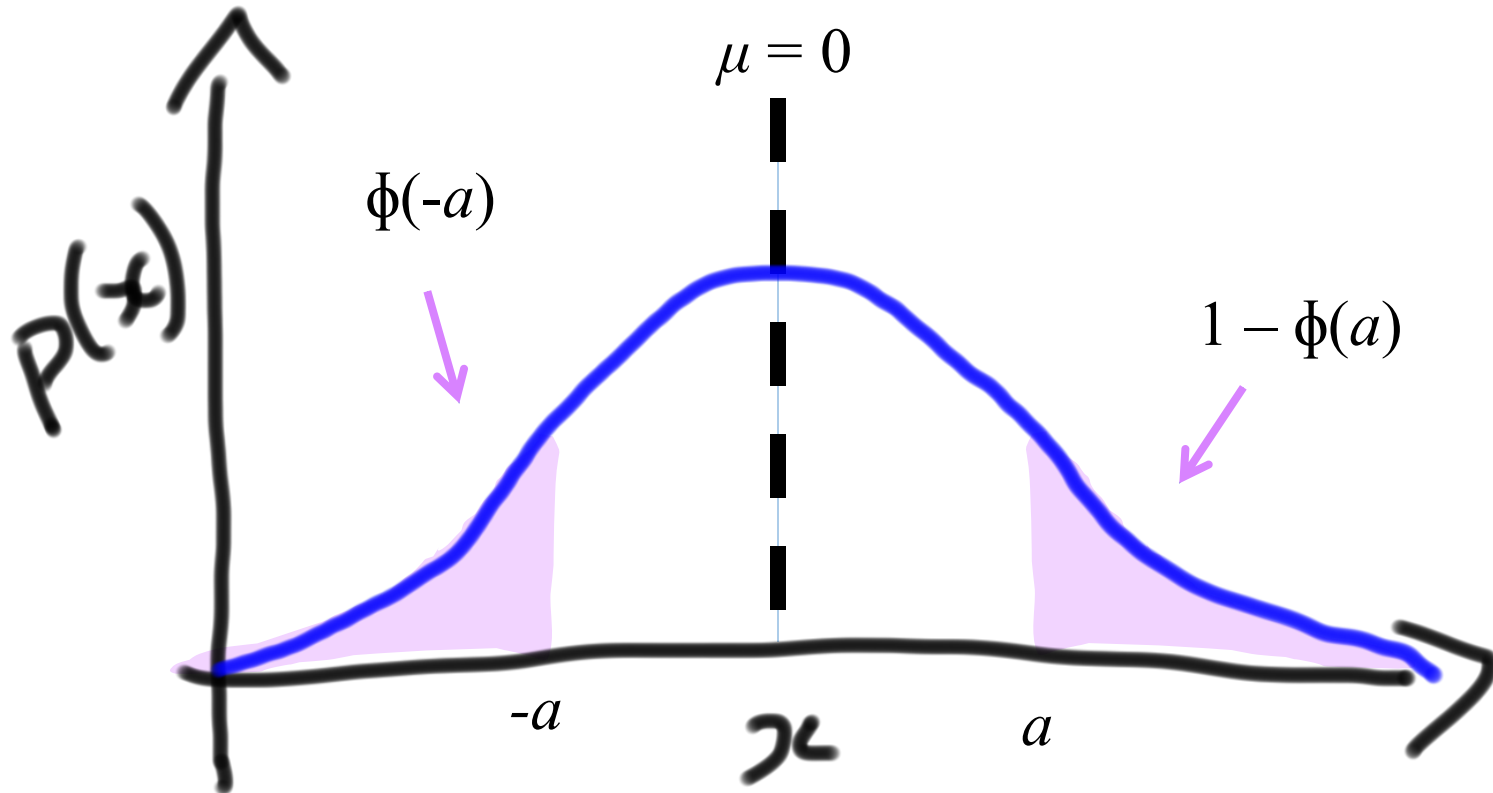
$$F(x) = \Phi\left(\frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

The cumulative density function (CDF) of any normal

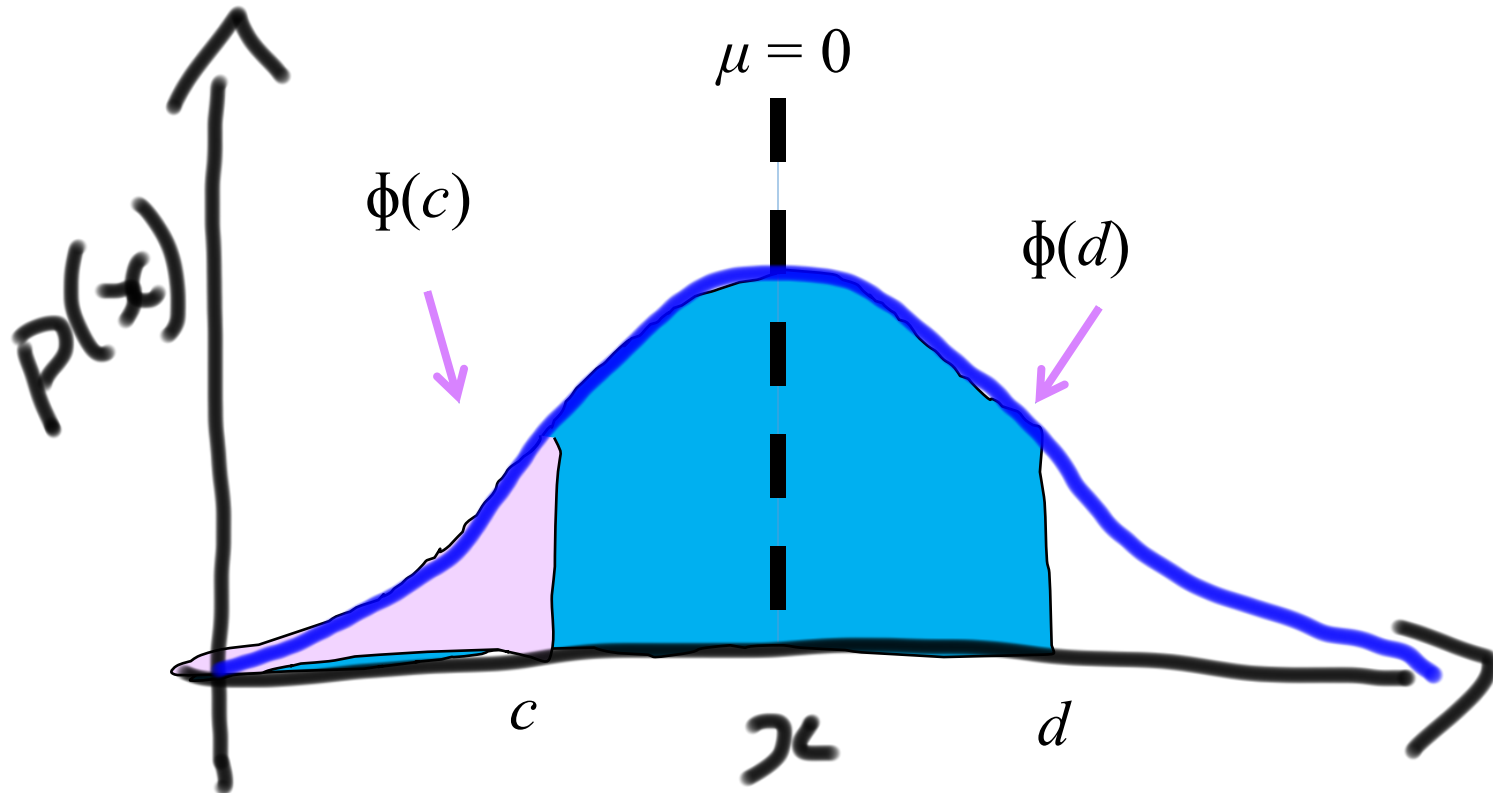
Table of  $\Phi(z)$  values in textbook, p. 201 and handout

# Symmetry of Phi

$$\Phi(-a) = 1 - \Phi(a)$$

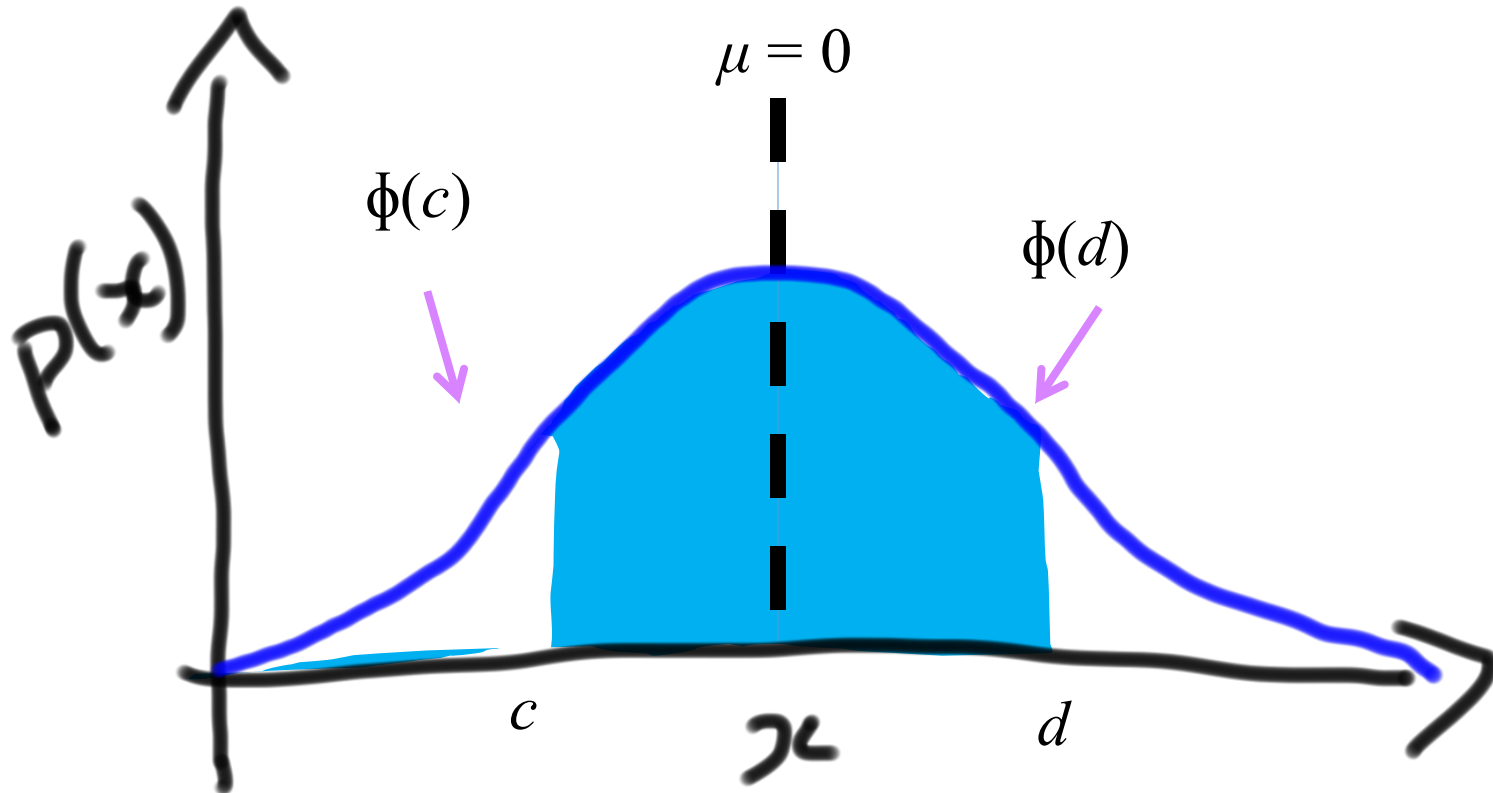


# Interval of Phi



# Interval of Phi

$$\Phi(d) - \Phi(c)$$



Great questions!

68% rule only for Gaussians?

# 68% Rule?

What is the probability that a normal variable  $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$  has a value within one standard deviation of its mean?

$$\begin{aligned} P(\mu - \sigma < X < \mu + \sigma) &= P\left(\frac{\mu - \sigma - \mu}{\sigma} < \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma} < \frac{\mu + \sigma - \mu}{\sigma}\right) \\ &= P(-1 < Z < 1) \\ &= \Phi(1) - \Phi(-1) \\ &= \Phi(1) - [1 - \Phi(1)] \\ &= 2\Phi(1) - 1 \\ &= 2[0.8413] - 1 = 0.683 \end{aligned}$$

Only applies to normal

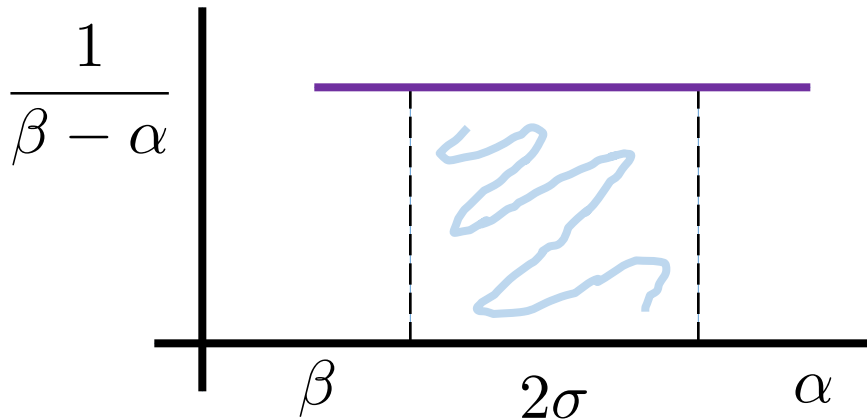


# 68% Rule?

Counter example: Uniform  $X \sim Uni(\alpha, \beta)$

$$Var(X) = \frac{(\beta - \alpha)^2}{12}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma &= \sqrt{Var(X)} \\ &= \frac{\beta - \alpha}{\sqrt{12}}\end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}P(\mu - \sigma < X < \mu + \sigma) \\ &= \frac{1}{\beta - \alpha} \left[ \frac{2(\beta - \alpha)}{\sqrt{12}} \right] \\ &= \frac{2}{\sqrt{12}} \\ &= 0.58\end{aligned}$$

How does python sample from a  
Gaussian?

```
from random import *
```

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

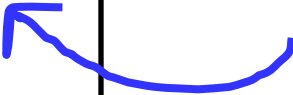
```
    mean = 5
```

```
    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

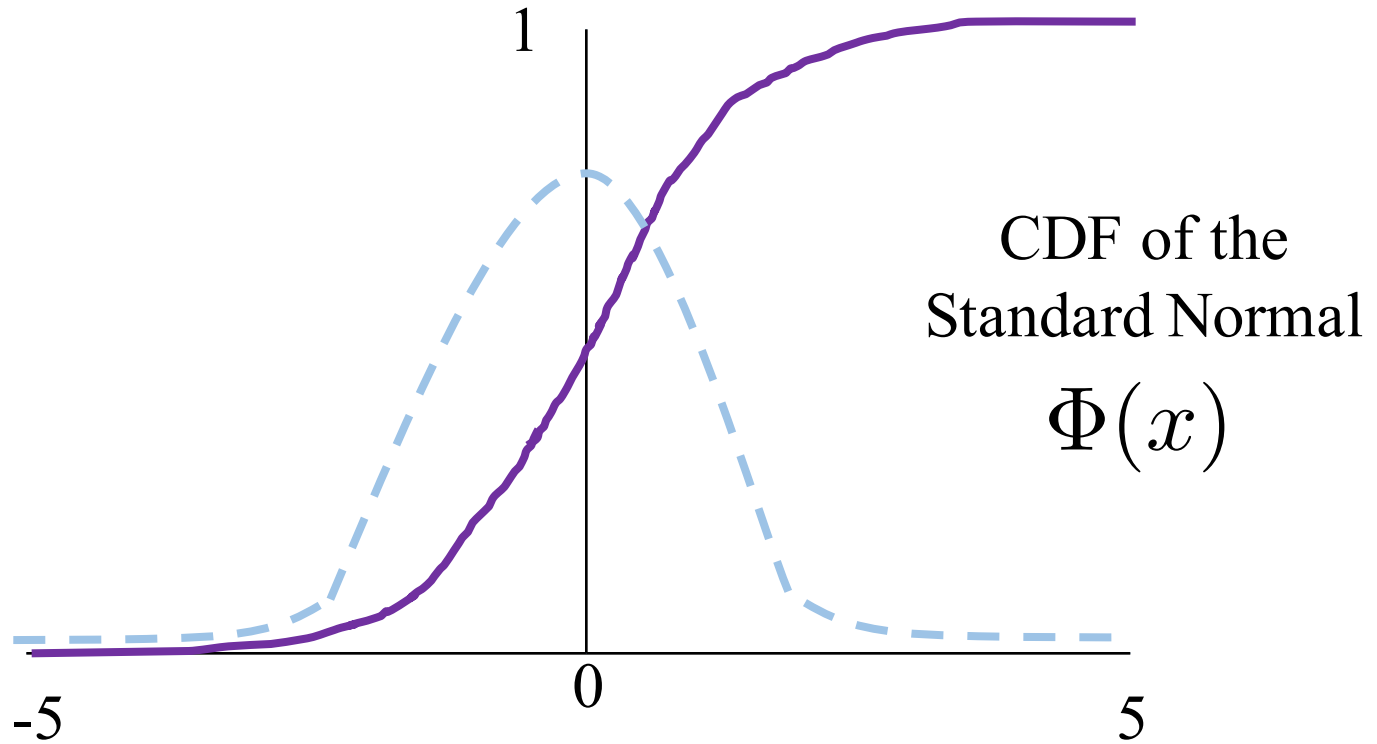
4.94570606131

6.14724644482

4.73774184354

# How Does a Computer Sample Normal?

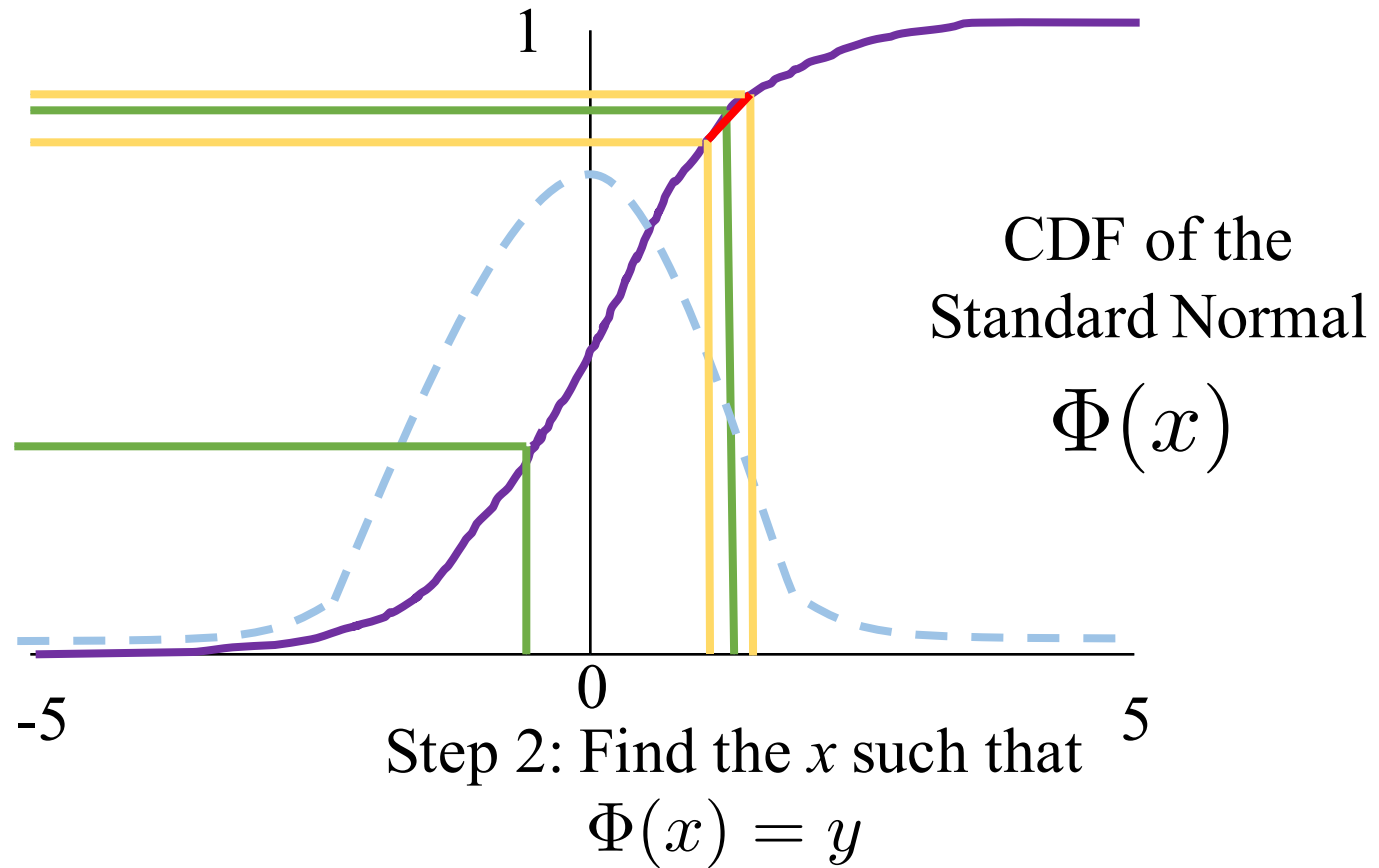
## Inverse Transform Sampling



# How Does a Computer Sample Normal?

## Inverse Transform Sampling

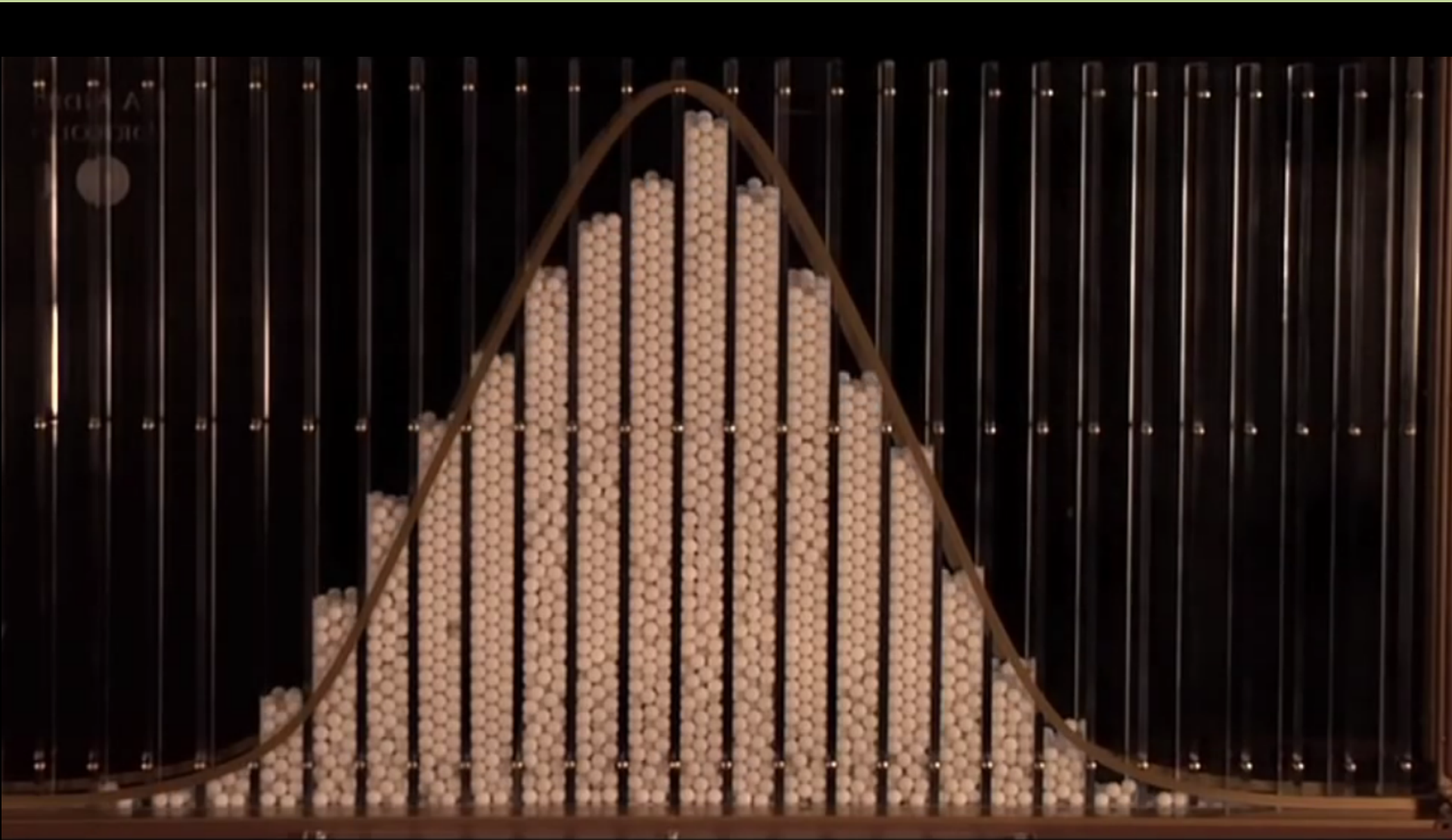
Step 1: pick a uniform number  $y$   
between 0,1



Further reading: Box–Muller transform

End Review

# Normal Approximates Binomial



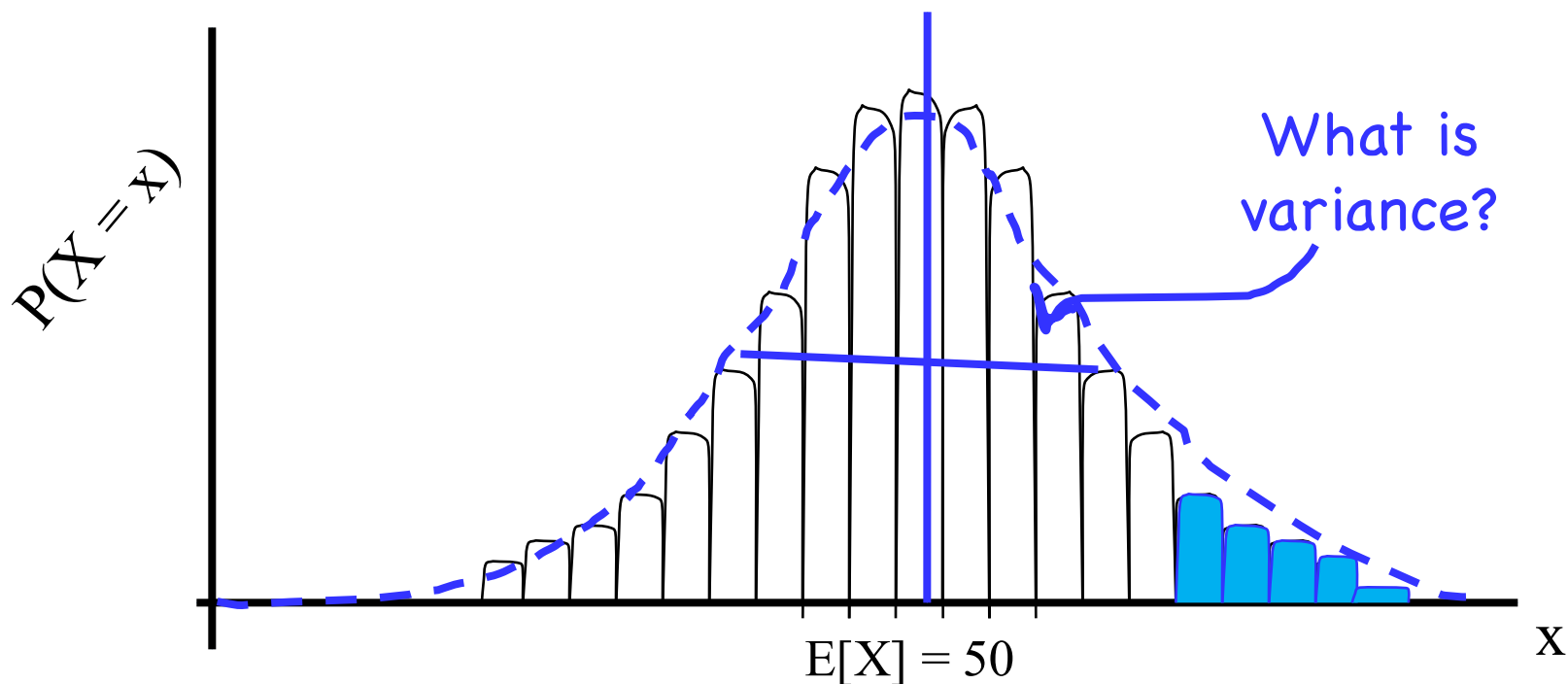
There is a deep reason for the Binomial/Normal similarity...

Let's invent it



# Website Testing

- 100 people are given a new website design
  - $X$  = # people whose time on site increases
  - CEO will endorse new design if  $X \geq 65$  What is  $P(\text{CEO endorses change} | \text{it has no effect})$ ?
  - $X \sim \text{Bin}(100, 0.5)$ . Want to calculate  $P(X \geq 65)$



# Website Testing

- 100 people are given a new website design
  - $X$  = # people whose time on site increases
  - CEO will endorse new design if  $X \geq 65$  What is  $P(\text{CEO endorses change} | \text{it has no effect})$ ?
  - $X \sim \text{Bin}(100, 0.5)$ . Want to calculate  $P(X \geq 65)$

$$np = 50 \quad np(1-p) = 25 \quad \sqrt{np(1-p)} = 5$$

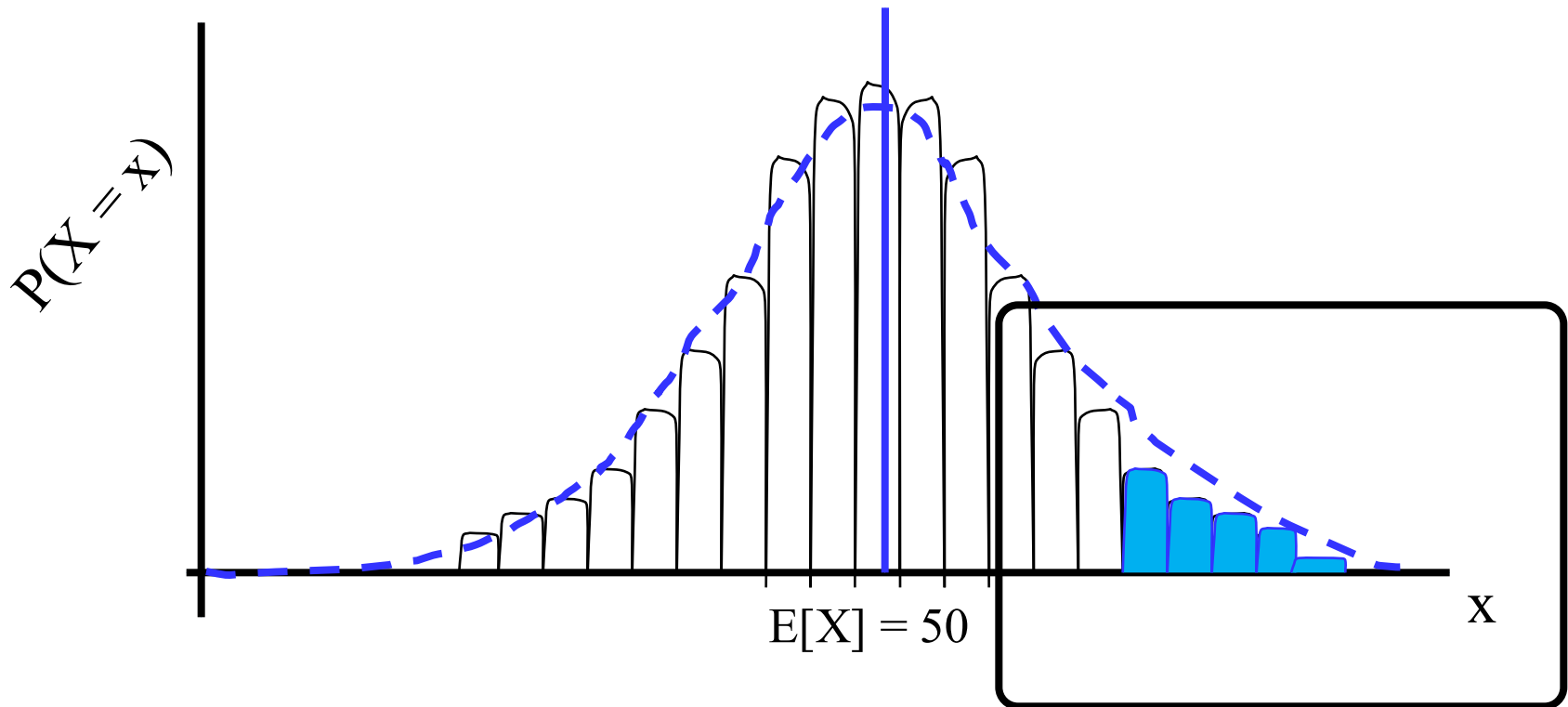
- Use Normal approximation:  $Y \sim N(50, 25)$

$$P(Y \geq 65) = P\left(\frac{Y - 50}{5} > \frac{65 - 50}{5}\right) = P(Z > 3) = 1 - \phi(3) \approx 0.002$$

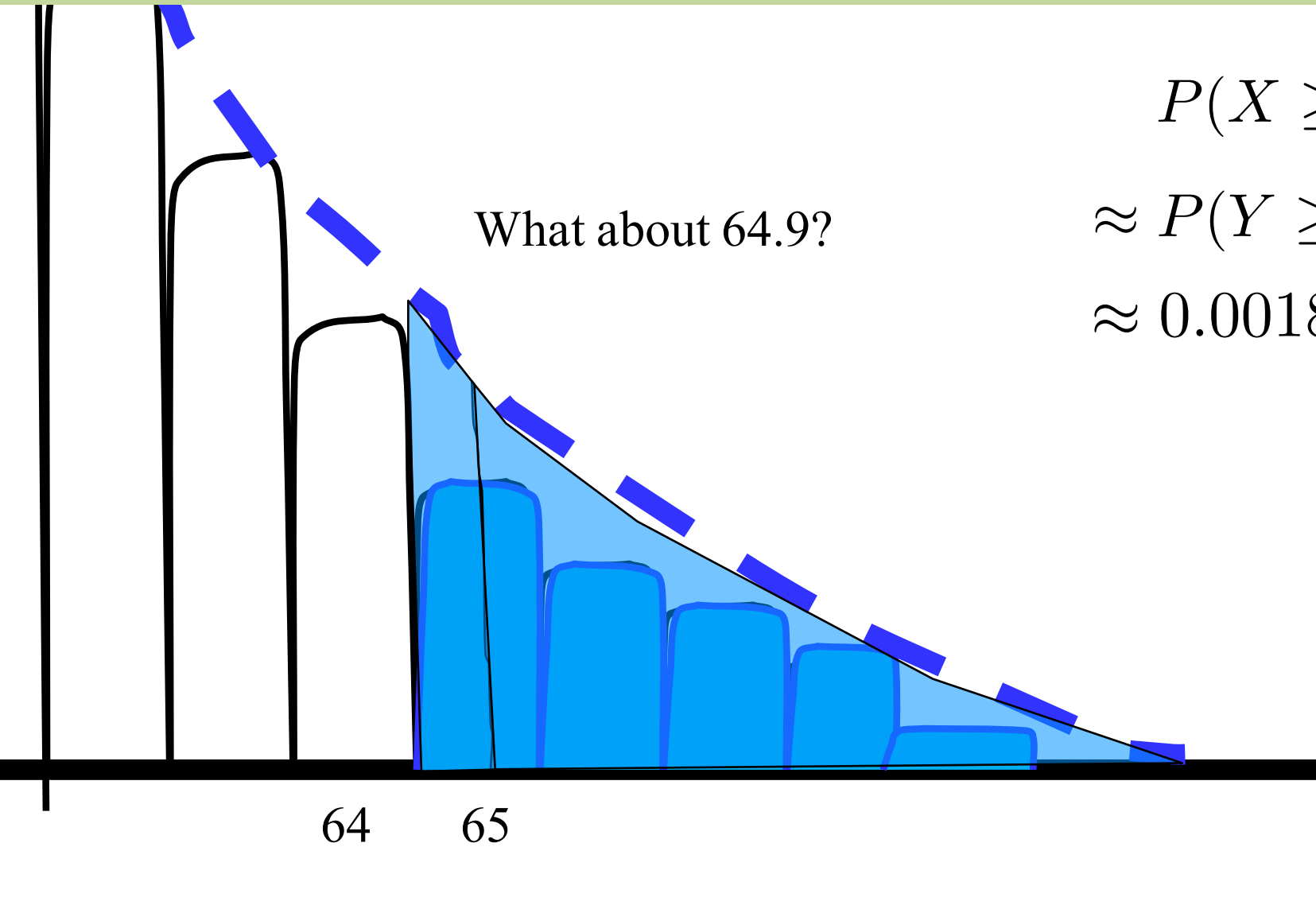
- Using Binomial:  $P(X \geq 65) \approx 0.0018$



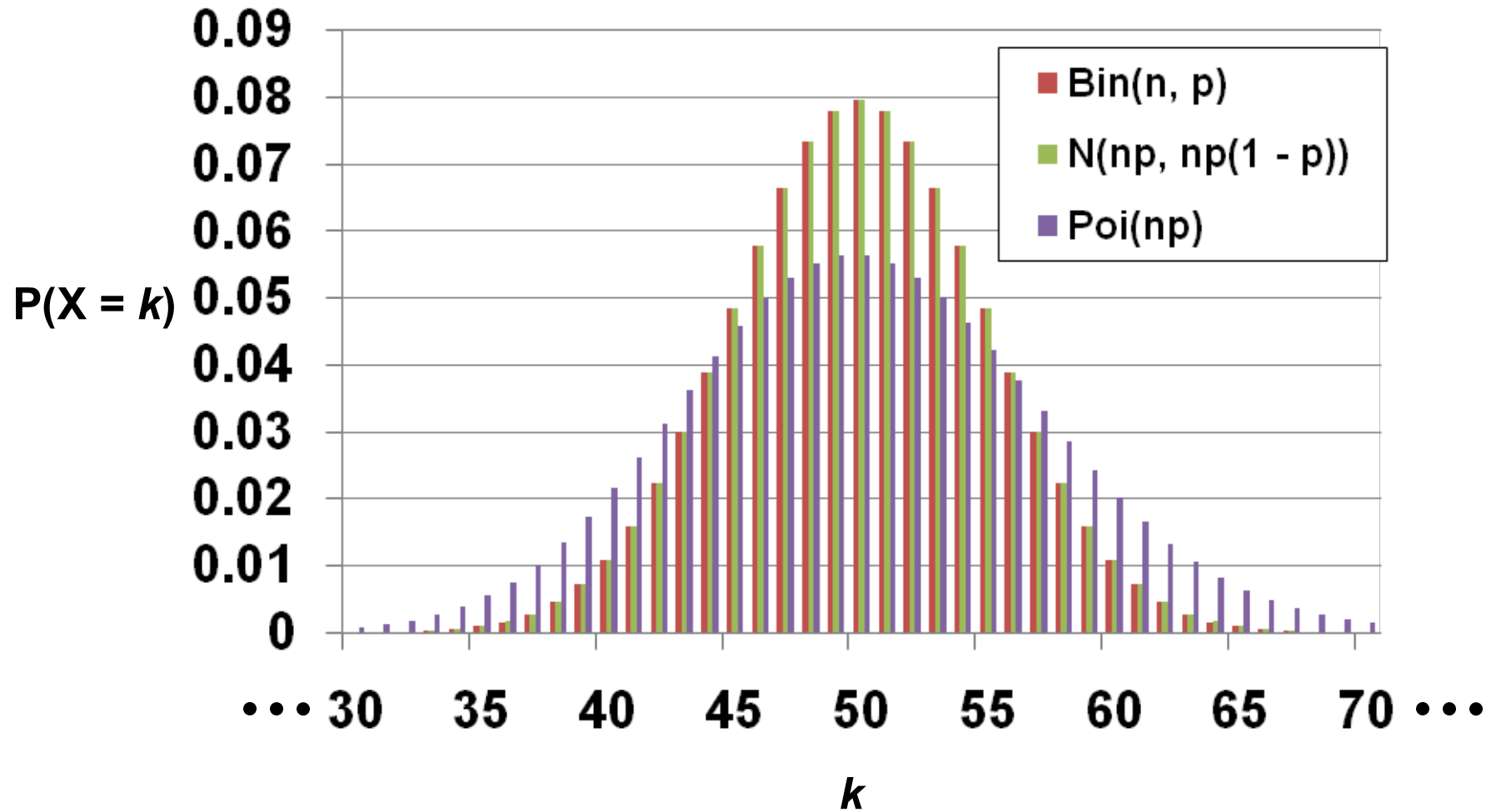
# Website Testing



# Continuity Correction



# Comparison when $n = 100$ , $p = 0.5$



# Normal Approximation of Binomial

- $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$ 
  - $E[X] = np$        $\text{Var}(X) = np(1 - p)$
  - Poisson approx. good:  $n$  large ( $> 20$ ),  $p$  small ( $< 0.05$ )
  - For large  $n$ :  $X \approx Y \sim N(E[X], \text{Var}(X)) = N(np, np(1 - p))$
  - Normal approx. good :  $\text{Var}(X) = np(1 - p) \geq 10$

$$P(X = k) \approx P\left(k - \frac{1}{2} < Y < k + \frac{1}{2}\right) = \Phi\left(\frac{k - np + 0.5}{\sqrt{np(1 - p)}}\right) - \Phi\left(\frac{k - np - 0.5}{\sqrt{np(1 - p)}}\right)$$



*“Continuity correction”*

# Continuity Correction

| Discrete (eg Binomial)<br>probability question | Continuous (Normal)<br>probability question |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| $x = 6$                                        | $5.5 < x < 6.5$                             |
| $x \geq 6$                                     | $x > 5.5$                                   |
| $x > 6$                                        | $x > 6.5$                                   |
| $x < 6$                                        | $x < 5.5$                                   |
| $x \leq 6$                                     | $x < 6.5$                                   |

# Stanford Admissions

- Stanford accepts 2050 students this year
  - Each accepted student has 84% chance of attending
  - $X = \#$  students who will attend.  $X \sim \text{Bin}(2050, 0.84)$
  - What is  $P(X > 1745)$ ?

$$np = 1722 \quad np(1 - p) = 276 \quad \sqrt{np(1 - p)} = 16.6$$

- Use Normal approximation:  $Y \sim N(1722, 276)$

$$P(X > 1745) \approx P(Y > 1745.5)$$

$$P(Y \geq 1745.5) = P\left(\frac{Y - 1722}{16.6} > \frac{1745.5 - 1722}{16.6}\right) = P(Z > 1.4)$$

$$\approx 0.08$$



# Changes in Stanford Admissions

## Class of 2020 Admit Rates Lowest in University History

*“Fewer students were admitted to the Class of 2020 than the Class of 2019, due to the increase in Stanford’s yield rate which has increased over 5 percent in the past four years, according to Colleen Lim M.A. ’80, Director of Undergraduate Admission.”*

68% 10 years ago

84% last year

More practice with continuous random  
variables: Exponential

# Exponential Random Variable

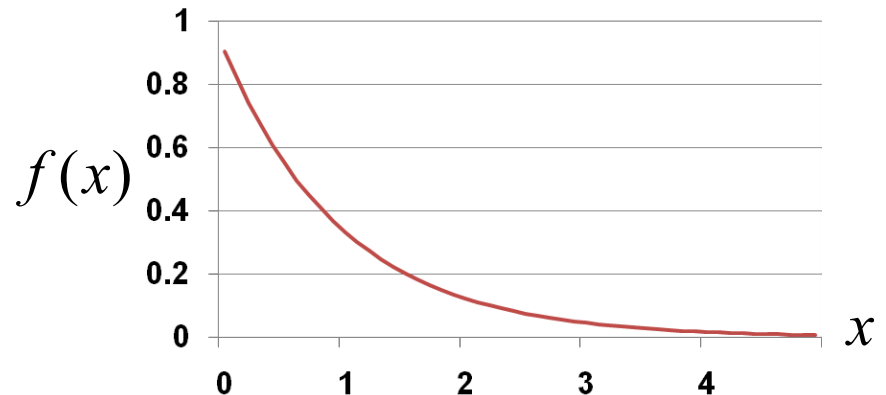
- $X$  is an **Exponential RV**:  $X \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$  Rate:  $\lambda > 0$

- Probability Density Function (PDF):

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \lambda e^{-\lambda x} & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases} \quad \text{where } -\infty < x < \infty$$

- $E[X] = \frac{1}{\lambda}$

- $\text{Var}(X) = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$



- Cumulative distribution function (CDF),  $F(X) = P(X \leq x)$ :

$$F(x) = 1 - e^{-\lambda x} \quad \text{where } x \geq 0$$

- Represents time until some event
  - Earthquake, request to web server, end cell phone contract, etc.

# Visits to a Website

- Say visitor to your web site leaves after  $X$  minutes
  - On average, visitors leave site after 5 minutes
  - Assume length of stay is Exponentially distributed
  - $X \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda = 1/5)$ , since  $E[X] = 1/\lambda = 5$
  - What is  $P(X > 10)$ ?

$$P(X > 10) = 1 - F(10) = 1 - (1 - e^{-\lambda 10}) = e^{-2} \approx 0.1353$$

- What is  $P(10 < X < 20)$ ?

$$P(10 < X < 20) = F(20) - F(10) = (1 - e^{-4}) - (1 - e^{-2}) \approx 0.1170$$

# Replacing Your Laptop

- $X$  = # hours of use until your laptop dies
  - On average, laptops die after 5000 hours of use
  - $X \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda = 1/5000)$ , since  $E[X] = 1/\lambda = 5000$
  - You use your laptop 5 hours/day.
  - What is  $P(\text{your laptop lasts 4 years})$ ?
  - That is:  $P(X > (5)(365)(4) = 7300)$

$$P(X > 7300) = 1 - F(7300) = 1 - (1 - e^{-7300/5000}) = e^{-1.46} \approx 0.2322$$

- Better plan ahead... especially if you are cotermining:

$$P(X > 9125) = 1 - F(9125) = e^{-1.825} \approx 0.1612 \quad (5 \text{ year plan})$$

$$P(X > 10950) = 1 - F(10950) = e^{-2.19} \approx 0.1119 \quad (6 \text{ year plan})$$

# Exponential is Memoryless

- $X$  = time until some event occurs
  - $X \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$
  - What is  $P(X > s + t \mid X > s)$ ?

$$P(X > s + t \mid X > s) = \frac{P(X > s + t \text{ and } X > s)}{P(X > s)} = \frac{P(X > s + t)}{P(X > s)}$$

$$\frac{P(X > s + t)}{P(X > s)} = \frac{1 - F(s + t)}{1 - F(s)} = \frac{e^{-\lambda(s+t)}}{e^{-\lambda s}} = e^{-\lambda t} = 1 - F(t) = P(X > t)$$

$$\text{So, } P(X > s + t \mid X > s) = P(X > t)$$

- After initial period of time  $s$ ,  $P(X > t \mid \bullet)$  for waiting another  $t$  units of time until event is same as at start
- “Memoryless” = no impact from preceding period  $s$

# Continuous Random Variables

**Uniform Random Variable**  $X \sim Uni(\alpha, \beta)$

All values of  $x$  between  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are equally likely.

**Normal Random Variable**  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$

Aka Gaussian. Defined by mean and variance. Goldilocks distribution.

**Exponential Random Variable**  $X \sim Exp(\lambda)$

Time until an event happens. Parameterized by  $\lambda$  (same as Poisson).

**Alpha Beta Random Variable**

How mysterious and curious. You must wait a few classes 😊.

# Joint Distributions



Events occur with other events

# Probability Table

- States all possible outcomes with several discrete variables
- Often is not “parametric”
- If #variables is  $> 2$ , you can have a probability table, but you can't draw it on a slide

All values of A

|                          |   | All values of A |                   |                                   |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                          |   | 0               | 1                 | 2                                 |
| All values of B          | 0 |                 |                   | Every outcome falls into a bucket |
|                          | 1 |                 | $P(A = 1, B = 1)$ |                                   |
|                          | 2 |                 |                   |                                   |
| Remember “,” means “and” |   |                 |                   |                                   |

# It's Complicated Demo



Relationship Status:

Interested in:

Looking for:

Single  
In a Relationship  
Engaged  
Married  
**It's Complicated**  
In an Open Relationship  
Widowed

Go to this URL: <https://goo.gl/jCMY18>

# Discrete Joint Mass Function

- For two discrete random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ , the **Joint Probability Mass Function** is:

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

- Marginal distributions:

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

$$p_Y(b) = P(Y = b) = \sum_x p_{X,Y}(x, b)$$

- Example:  $X$  = value of die  $D_1$ ,  $Y$  = value of die  $D_2$

$$P(X = 1) = \sum_{y=1}^6 p_{X,Y}(1, y) = \sum_{y=1}^6 \frac{1}{36} = \frac{1}{6}$$

# A Computer (or Three) In Every House

- Consider households in Silicon Valley
  - A household has  $C$  computers:  $C = X$  Macs +  $Y$  PCs
  - Assume each computer equally likely to be Mac or PC

|              |         | $X$      |      |      |      | $p_Y(y)$ |   |
|--------------|---------|----------|------|------|------|----------|---|
|              |         | $Y$      | 0    | 1    | 2    |          | 3 |
| $P(C = c) =$ | $c = 0$ | 0        | 0.16 | 0.12 | ?    | 0.04     |   |
|              | $c = 1$ | 1        | 0.12 | 0.14 | 0.12 | 0        |   |
|              | $c = 2$ | 2        | 0.07 | 0.12 | 0    | 0        |   |
|              | $c = 3$ | 3        | 0.04 | 0    | 0    | 0        |   |
|              |         | $p_X(x)$ |      |      |      |          |   |

# A Computer (or Three) In Every House

- Consider households in Silicon Valley
  - A household has  $C$  computers:  $C = X$  Macs +  $Y$  PCs
  - Assume each computer equally likely to be Mac or PC

|              |              | $X$      |      |      |      | $p_Y(y)$ |   |
|--------------|--------------|----------|------|------|------|----------|---|
|              |              | $Y$      | 0    | 1    | 2    |          | 3 |
| $P(C = c) =$ | 0.16 $c = 0$ | 0        | 0.16 | 0.12 | 0.07 | 0.04     |   |
|              | 0.24 $c = 1$ | 1        | 0.12 | 0.14 | 0.12 | 0        |   |
|              | 0.28 $c = 2$ | 2        | 0.07 | 0.12 | 0    | 0        |   |
|              | 0.32 $c = 3$ | 3        | 0.04 | 0    | 0    | 0        |   |
|              |              | $p_X(x)$ |      |      |      |          |   |

# A Computer (or Three) In Every House

- Consider households in Silicon Valley
  - A household has  $C$  computers:  $C = X$  Macs +  $Y$  PCs
  - Assume each computer equally likely to be Mac or PC

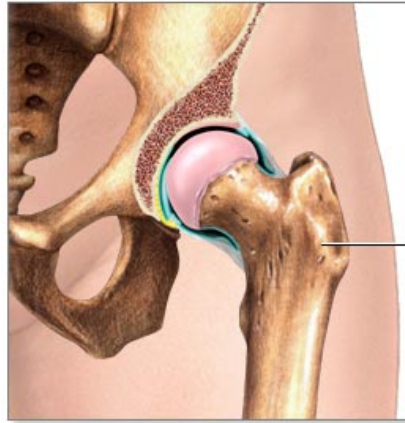
|              |              | $X$      |      |      |      | $p_Y(y)$ |      |
|--------------|--------------|----------|------|------|------|----------|------|
|              |              | $Y$      | 0    | 1    | 2    | 3        |      |
| $P(C = c) =$ | 0.16 $c = 0$ | 0        | 0.16 | 0.12 | 0.07 | 0.04     | 0.39 |
|              | 0.24 $c = 1$ | 1        | 0.12 | 0.14 | 0.12 | 0        | 0.38 |
|              | 0.28 $c = 2$ | 2        | 0.07 | 0.12 | 0    | 0        | 0.19 |
|              | 0.32 $c = 3$ | 3        | 0.04 | 0    | 0    | 0        | 0.04 |
|              |              | $p_X(x)$ | 0.39 | 0.38 | 0.19 | 0.04     | 1.00 |

Marginal distributions

# Joint

- This is a joint

Normal hip joint



- A joint is not a mathematician
  - It did not start doing mathematics at an early age
  - It is not the reason we have “joint distributions”
  - And, no, Charlie Sheen does not look like a joint
    - But he does have them...
    - He also has **joint** custody of his children with Denise Richards



What about the continuous world?

# Jointly Continuous

- Random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ , are **Jointly Continuous** if there exists PDF  $f_{X,Y}(x,y)$  defined over  $-\infty < x, y < \infty$  such that:

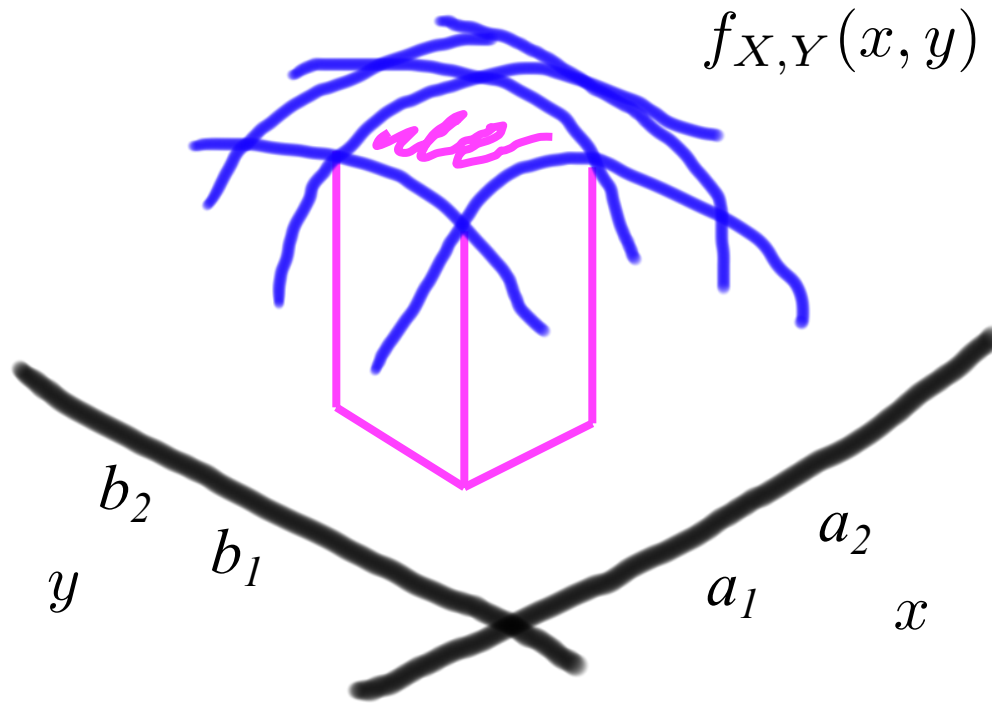
$$P(a_1 < X \leq a_2, b_1 < Y \leq b_2) = \int_{a_1}^{a_2} \int_{b_1}^{b_2} f_{X,Y}(x,y) dy dx$$

Let's look at one:

Demo

# Jointly Continuous

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



# Jointly Continuous

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

- Cumulative Density Function (CDF):

$$F_{X,Y}(a, b) = \int_{-\infty}^a \int_{-\infty}^b f_{X,Y}(x, y) dy dx \quad f_{X,Y}(a, b) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial a \partial b} F_{X,Y}(a, b)$$

- Marginal density functions:

$$f_X(a) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(a, y) dy \quad f_Y(b) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, b) dx$$

# Continuous Joint Distribution Functions

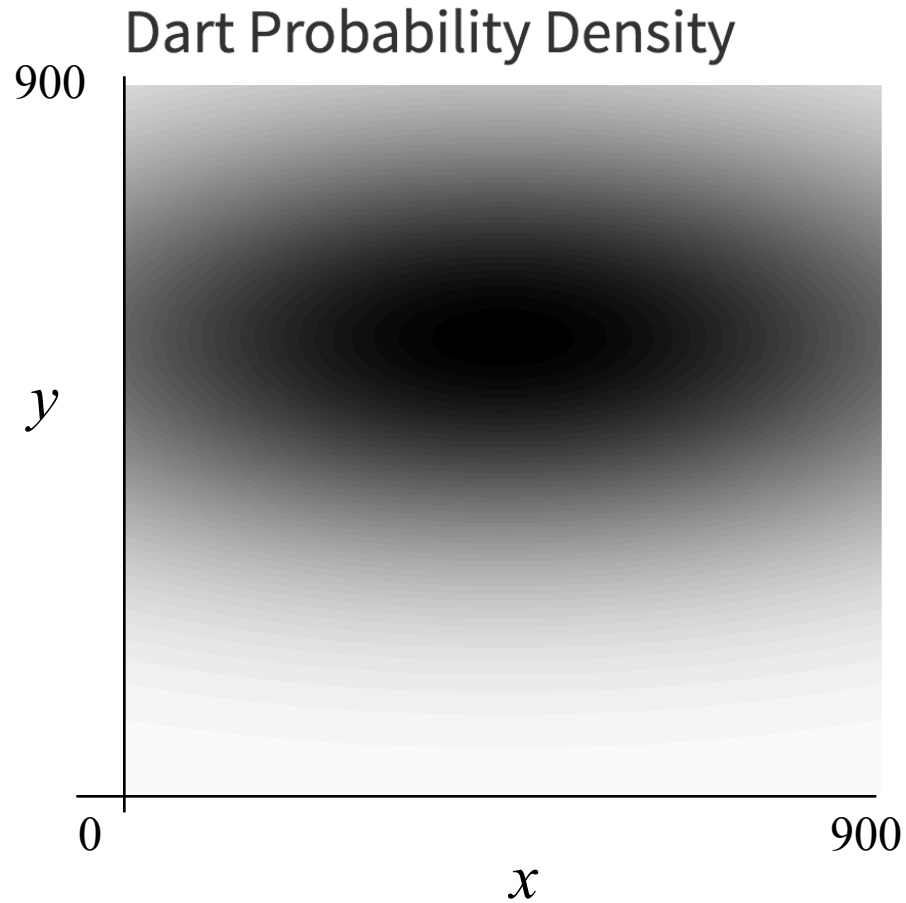
$$P(a_1 < X \leq a_2, b_1 < Y \leq b_2) = \int_{a_1}^{a_2} \int_{b_1}^{b_2} f_{X,Y}(x, y) dy dx$$

- Marginal distributions:

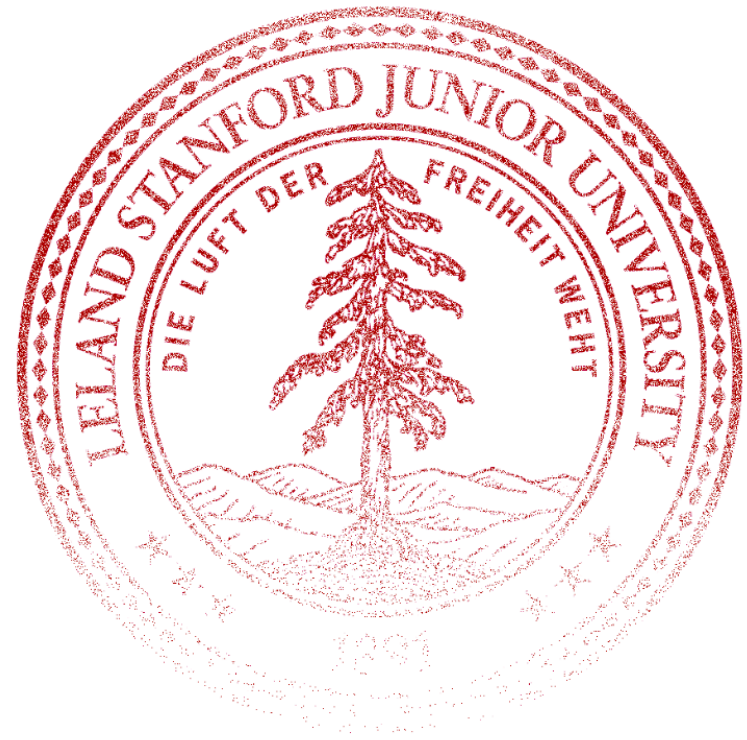
$$F_X(a) = P(X \leq a) = P(X \leq a, Y < \infty) = F_{X,Y}(a, \infty)$$

$$F_Y(b) = P(Y \leq b) = P(X < \infty, Y \leq b) = F_{X,Y}(\infty, b)$$

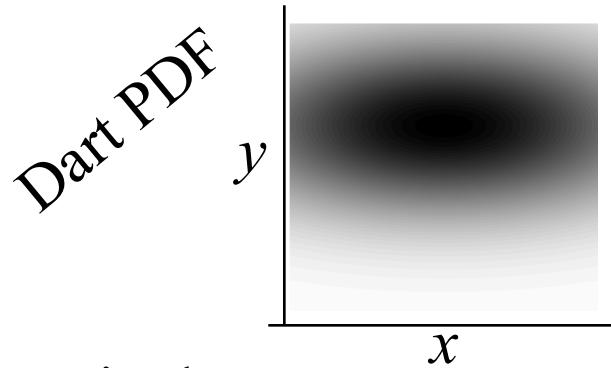
# Joint Dart Distribution



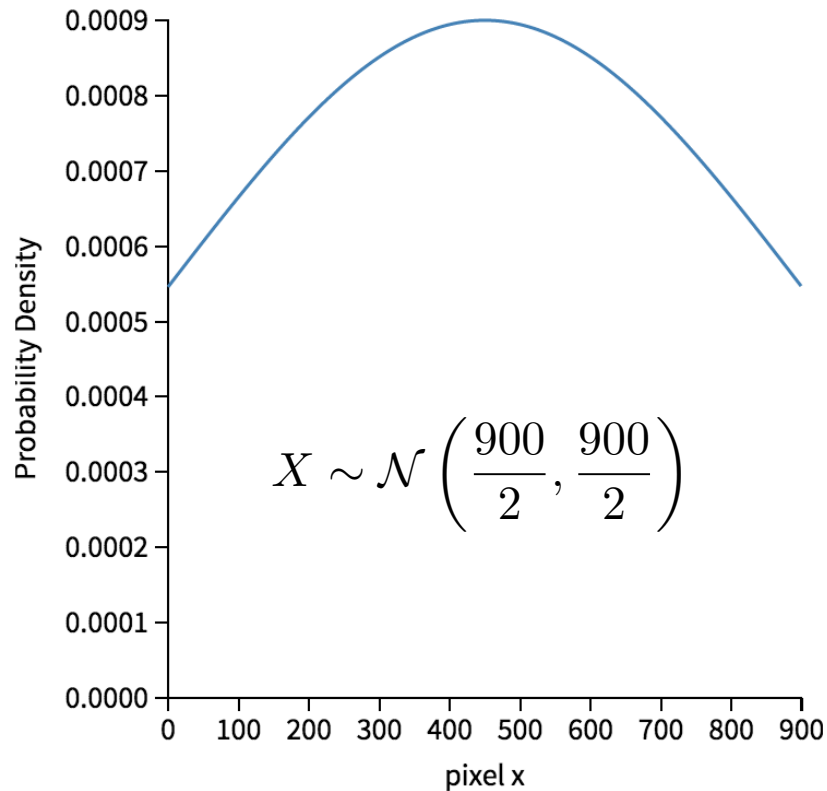
Dart Results



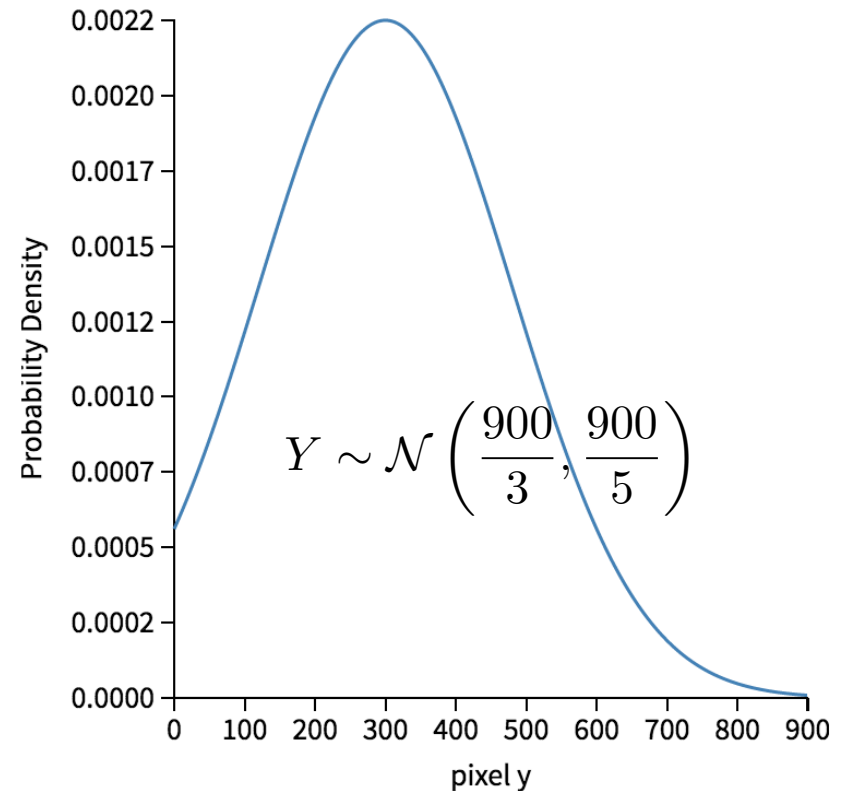
# Darts!



X-Pixel Marginal



Y-Pixel Marginal



# 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:

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



# Computing Joint Probabilities

Let  $F_{X,Y}(x, y)$  be joint CDF for  $X$  and  $Y$

$$\begin{aligned}P(X > a, Y > b) &= 1 - P((X > a, Y > b)^c) \\&= 1 - P((X > a)^c \cup (Y > b)^c) \\&= 1 - P((X \leq a) \cup (Y \leq b)) \\&= 1 - (P(X \leq a) + P(Y \leq b) - P(X \leq a, Y \leq b)) \\&= 1 - F_X(a) - F_Y(b) + F_{X,Y}(a, b)\end{aligned}$$

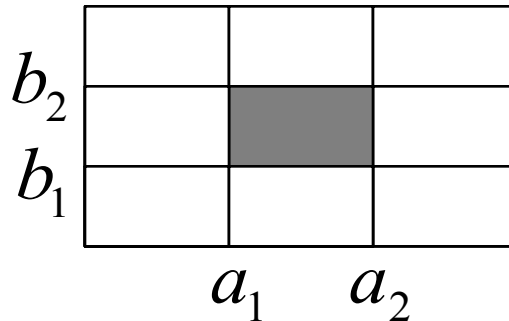


Captain Morgan®

# The General Rule Given Joint CDF

Let  $F_{X,Y}(x,y)$  be joint CDF for  $X$  and  $Y$

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



# Lovely Lemma

- $Y$  is a non-negative continuous random variable
  - Probability Density Function:  $f_Y(y)$
  - Already knew that:

$$E[Y] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y f_Y(y) dy$$

- But, did you know that:

$$E[Y] = \int_0^{\infty} P(Y > y) dy \text{ ?!?$$

- Analogously, in the discrete case, where  $X = 1, 2, \dots, n$

$$E[X] = \sum_{i=1}^n P(X \geq i)$$

# How this lemma was made

In the discrete case, where  $X = 1, 2, \dots, n$

$$E[X] = \sum_{i=1}^n P(X \geq i)$$

Each row is an expansion for one value of  $i$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n P(X \geq i) = & \left. \begin{aligned} & P(X = 1) + P(X = 2) + P(X = 3) + \dots + P(X = n) \\ & + P(X = 2) + P(X = 3) + \dots + P(X = n) \\ & + P(X = 3) + \dots + P(X = n) \\ & \vdots \\ & + P(X = n) \end{aligned} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$= 1P(X = 1) + 2P(X = 2) + \dots + n(PX = n)$$

$$= E[X]$$

Life gives you lemmas,  
make lemmanade!

# Imperfections on a Disk

- Disk surface is a circle of radius  $R$ 
  - A single point imperfection uniformly distributed on disk

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\pi R^2} & \text{if } x^2 + y^2 \leq R^2 \\ 0 & \text{if } x^2 + y^2 > R^2 \end{cases} \quad \text{where } -\infty < x, y < \infty$$

$$f_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x,y) dy = \frac{1}{\pi R^2} \int_{x^2+y^2 \leq R^2} dy$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi R^2} \int_{-\sqrt{R^2-x^2}}^{\sqrt{R^2-x^2}} dy$$

$$= \frac{2\sqrt{R^2-x^2}}{\pi R^2}$$

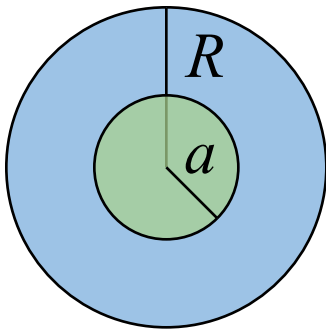
Only integrate over the support range



Marginal of  $Y$  is the same by symmetry

# Imperfections on a Disk

- Disk surface is a circle of radius  $R$ 
  - A single point imperfection uniformly distributed on disk
  - Distance to origin:  $D = \sqrt{X^2 + Y^2}$
  - What is  $E[D]$ ?



$$P(D \leq a) = \frac{\pi a^2}{\pi R^2} = \frac{a^2}{R^2}$$

Because of  
equally likely  
outcomes

$$\begin{aligned} E[D] &= \int_0^R P(D > a) da = \int_0^R 1 - P(D \leq a) da \\ &= \int_0^R 1 - \frac{a^2}{R^2} da \\ &= \left[ a - \frac{a^3}{3R^2} \right]_0^R = \frac{2R}{3} \end{aligned}$$

