



Variance, Bernoulli, Binomial

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Review

Conditional Independence

- Two events E and F are called **conditionally independent given G** , if

$$P(EF|G) = P(E|G)P(F|G)$$

- Or, equivalently if:

$$P(E|FG) = P(E|G)$$

Conditional Independence

What does conditional independence tell you about independence and vice versa?

Nothing

Random Variable

- A **Random Variable** is a variable will have a value. But there is uncertainty as to what value.
- Example:
 - 3 fair coins are flipped.
 - Y = number of “heads” on 3 coins
 - **Y is a random variable**
 - $P(Y = 0) = 1/8$ (T, T, T)
 - $P(Y = 1) = 3/8$ (H, T, T), (T, H, T), (T, T, H)
 - $P(Y = 2) = 3/8$ (H, H, T), (H, T, H), (T, H, H)
 - $P(Y = 3) = 1/8$ (H, H, H)
 - $P(Y \geq 4) = 0$

Probability Mass Function

Let X be a random variable that represents the result of a **single dice roll**. X can take on the values $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$

$$P(X = x)$$

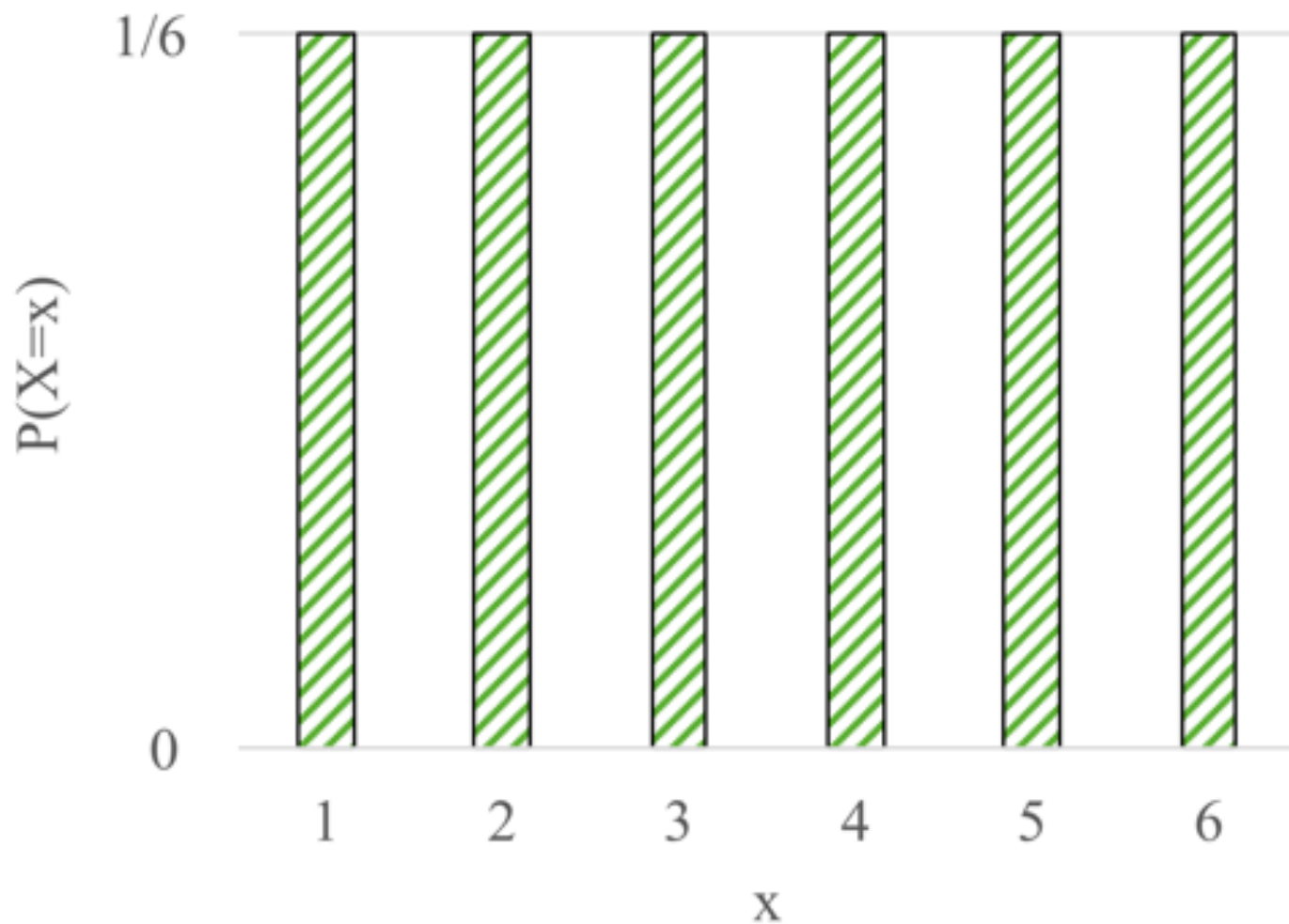
$$p(x)$$

This is shorthand notation for the PMF

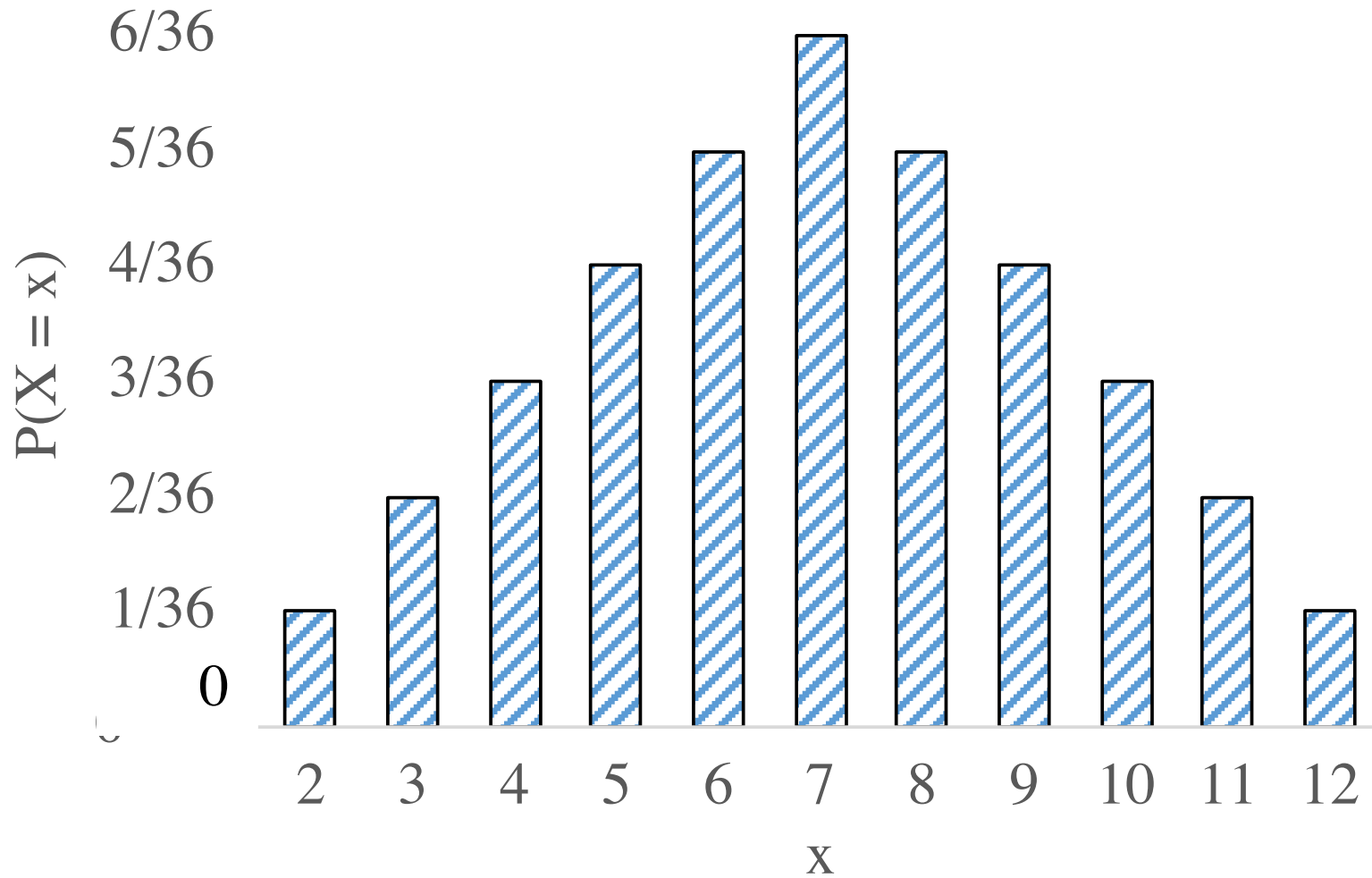
$$p_X(x)$$

This is also shorthand notation for the PMF

PMF For a Single 6 Sided Dice

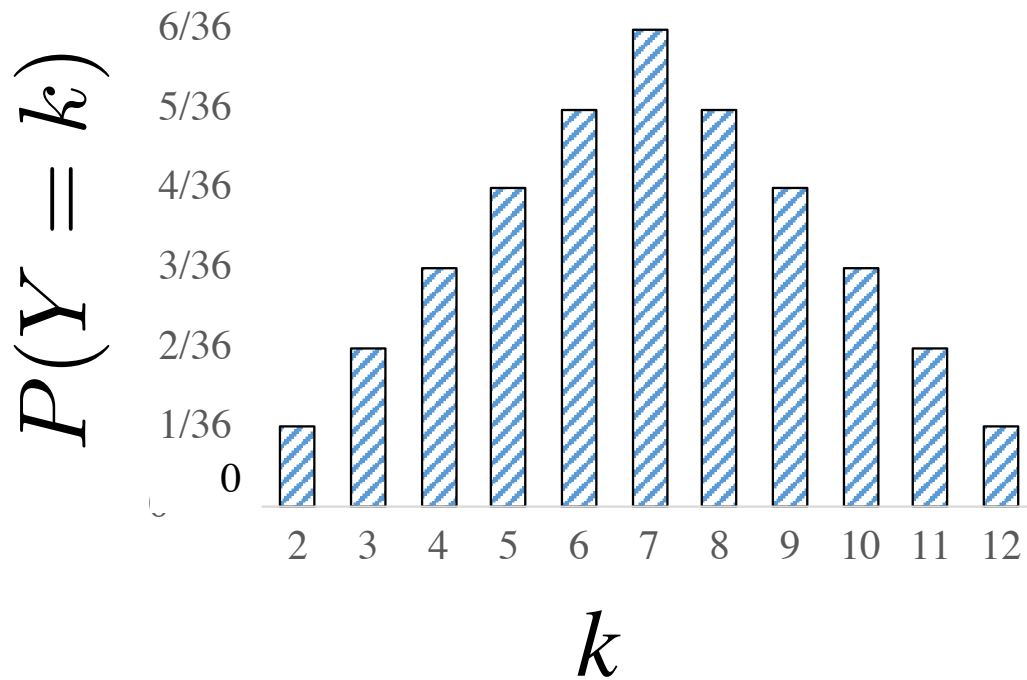


PMF for the sum of two dice



Sanity Check

$$\sum_k P(Y = k) = 1$$



Expected Value

- The Expected Values for a discrete random variable X is defined as:

$$E[X] = \sum_{x:p(x)>0} x \cdot p(x)$$

- Note: sum over all values of x that have $p(x) > 0$.
- Expected value also called: **Mean**, *Expectation*, **Weighted Average**, **Center of Mass**, *1st Moment*

Properties of Expectation

- **Linearity:**

$$E[aX + b] = aE[X] + b$$

- Consider $X = 6$ -sided die roll, $Y = 2X - 1$.
- $E[X] = 3.5$ $E[Y] = 6$

- **Expectation of a sum** is the sum of expectations

$$E[X + Y] = E[X] + E[Y]$$

- **Unconscious statistician:**

$$E[g(x)] = \sum_x g(x)p(x)$$

Deriving Linearity

Let's say we want to know $E[aX + b]$...

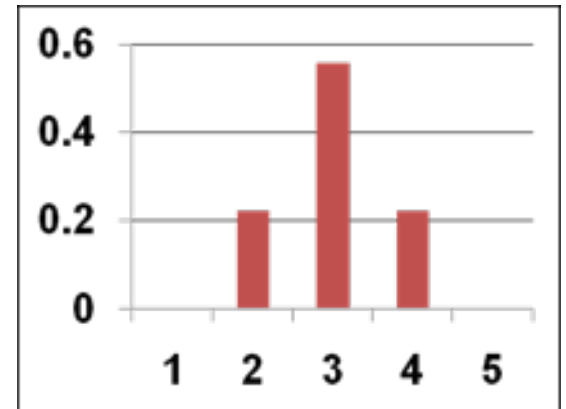
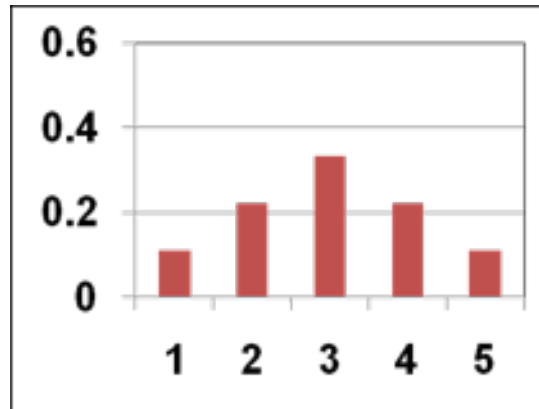
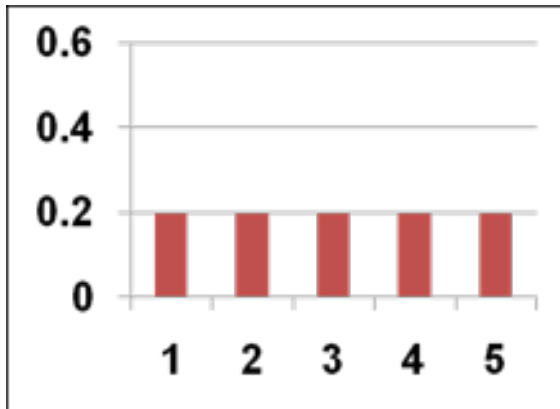
First let $g(x) = ax + b$ meaning that we want $E[g(X)]$

By Unconscious Statistian:

$$\begin{aligned} E[g(X)] &= \sum_x g(x)P(X = x) \\ &= \sum_x (ax + b)P(X = x) \\ &= a \sum_x xP(X = x) + b \sum_x P(X = x) \\ &= aE[X] + b \end{aligned}$$

Variance

- Consider the following 3 distributions (PMFs)



- All have the same expected value, $E[X] = 3$
- But “spread” in distributions is different
- Variance = a formal quantification of “spread”

Variance

- If X is a random variable with mean μ then the **variance** of X , denoted $\text{Var}(X)$, is:

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[(X - \mu)^2]$$

- Note: $\text{Var}(X) \geq 0$
- Also known as the 2nd **Central** Moment, or square of the Standard Deviation

Computing Variance

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(X) &= E[(X - \mu)^2] \\ &= \sum_x (x - \mu)^2 p(x)\end{aligned}$$

$$= \sum_x (x^2 - 2\mu x + \mu^2) p(x)$$

$$= \sum_x x^2 p(x) - 2\mu \sum_x x p(x) + \mu^2 \sum_x p(x)$$

$$= \boxed{E[X^2]} - 2\mu E[X] + \mu^2$$

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the 2nd moment!

$$= E[X^2] - 2\mu^2 + \mu^2$$

$$= E[X^2] - \mu^2$$

$$\boxed{= E[X^2] - (E[X])^2}$$

Note: $\mu = E[X]$

Variance of a 6 sided dice

- Let X = value on roll of 6 sided die
- Recall that $E[X] = 7/2$
- Compute $E[X^2]$

$$E[X^2] = (1^2)\frac{1}{6} + (2^2)\frac{1}{6} + (3^2)\frac{1}{6} + (4^2)\frac{1}{6} + (5^2)\frac{1}{6} + (6^2)\frac{1}{6} = \frac{91}{6}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(X) &= E[X^2] - (E[X])^2 \\ &= \frac{91}{6} - \left(\frac{7}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{35}{12}\end{aligned}$$

End Review

Properties of Variance

- $\text{Var}(aX + b) = a^2 \text{Var}(X)$

- Proof:

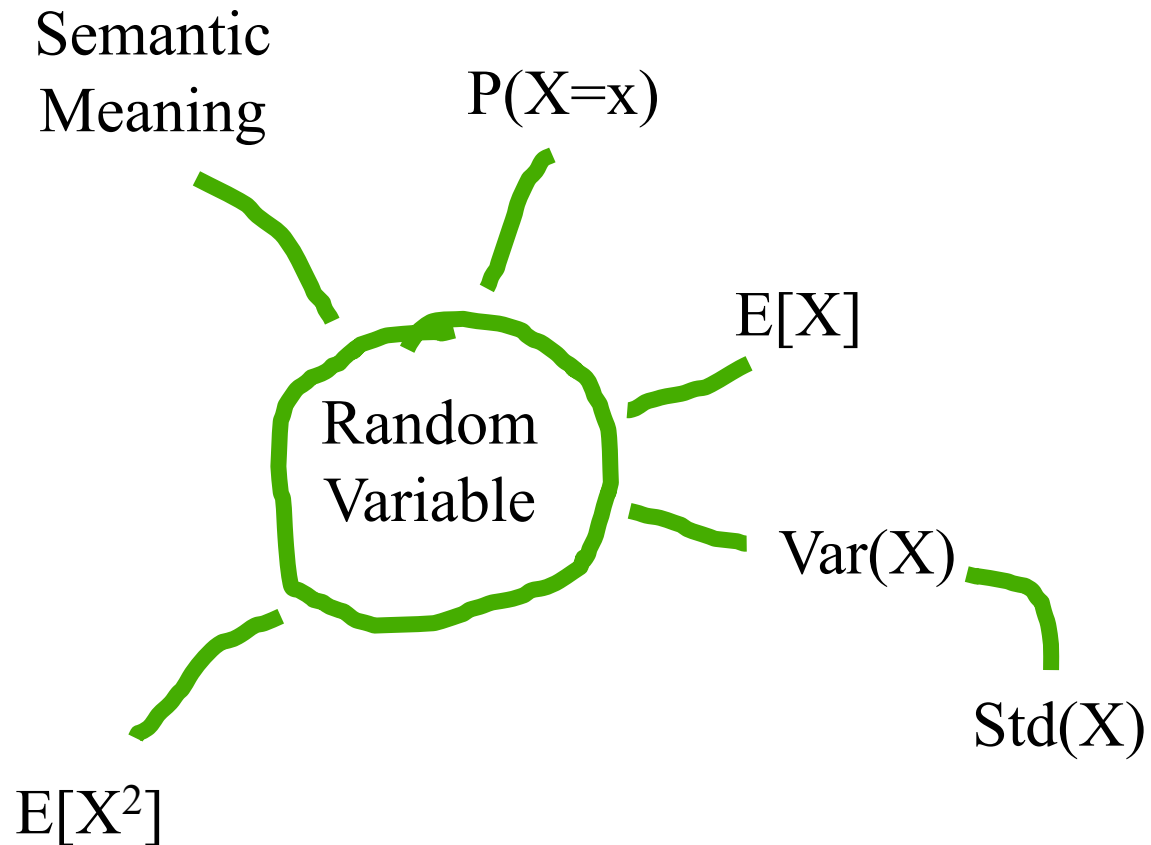
$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(aX + b) &= E[(aX + b)^2] - (E[aX + b])^2 \\ &= E[a^2X^2 + 2abX + b^2] - (aE[X] + b)^2 \\ &= a^2E[X^2] + 2abE[X] + b^2 - (a^2(E[X])^2 + 2abE[X] + b^2) \\ &= a^2E[X^2] - a^2(E[X])^2 = a^2(E[X^2] - (E[X])^2) \\ &= a^2 \text{Var}(X)\end{aligned}$$

- Standard Deviation of X , denoted $\text{SD}(X)$, is:

$$\text{SD}(X) = \sqrt{\text{Var}(X)}$$

- $\text{Var}(X)$ is in units of X^2
- $\text{SD}(X)$ is in same units as X

Fundamental Properties



Classics



Jacob Bernoulli

- Jacob Bernoulli (1654-1705), also known as “James”, was a Swiss mathematician



- One of many mathematicians in Bernoulli family
- The Bernoulli Random Variable is named for him
- He is my *academic* great¹³-grandfather

Bernoulli Random Variable

- Experiment results in “Success” or “Failure”
 - X is random **indicator** variable (1 = success, 0 = failure)
 - $P(X = 1) = p(1) = p$ $P(X = 0) = p(0) = 1 - p$
 - X is a **Bernoulli** Random Variable: $X \sim \text{Ber}(p)$
 - $E[X] = p$
 - $\text{Var}(X) = p(1 - p)$
- Examples
 - coin flip
 - random binary digit
 - whether a disk drive crashed
 - whether someone likes a netflix movie

Does a Program Crash?



Run a program, crashes with prob. p , works with prob. $(1 - p)$

X : 1 if program crashes

$$P(X = 1) = p$$

$$P(X = 0) = 1 - p$$

$$\underline{X \sim \text{Ber}(p)}$$

Does a User Click an Ad?



Serve an ad, clicked with prob. p , ignored with prob. $(1 - p)$

C: 1 if ad is clicked

$$P(\mathbf{C} = 1) = p$$

$$P(\mathbf{C} = 0) = 1 - p$$

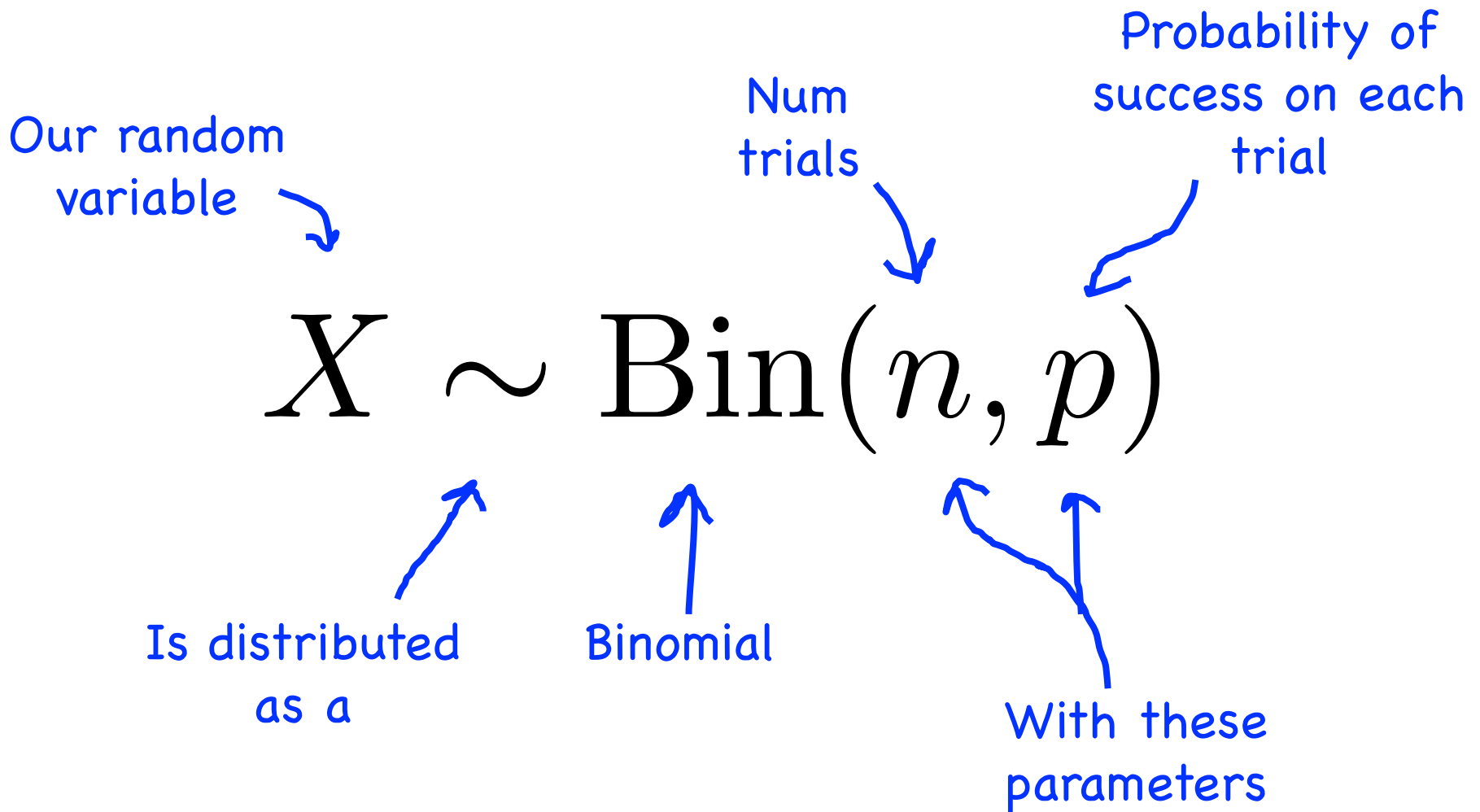
$$\underline{\mathbf{C}} \sim \text{Ber}(p)$$

Binomial Random Variable

- Consider n independent trials of Ber(p) rand. var.
 - X is number of successes in n trials
 - X is a **Binomial** Random Variable: $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$

$$P(X = i) = p(i) = \binom{n}{i} p^i (1-p)^{n-i} \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, n$$

- By Binomial Theorem, we know that $\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} P(X = i) = 1$
- Examples
 - # of heads in n coin flips
 - # of 1's in randomly generated length n bit string
 - # of disk drives crashed in 1000 computer cluster
 - Assuming disks crash independently



If X is a binomial with parameters n and p

Probability Mass Function
for a Binomial

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



Probability that our
variable takes on the
value k

Bernoulli vs Binomial



Bernoulli is an indicator RV



Binomial is the sum of n
Bernoullis

Three Coin Flips

- Three fair (“heads” with $p = 0.5$) coins are flipped
 - X is number of heads
 - $X \sim \text{Bin}(n = 3, p = 0.5)$

$$P(X = 0) = \binom{3}{0} p^0 (1-p)^3 = \frac{1}{8}$$

$$P(X = 1) = \binom{3}{1} p^1 (1-p)^2 = \frac{3}{8}$$

$$P(X = 2) = \binom{3}{2} p^2 (1-p)^1 = \frac{3}{8}$$

$$P(X = 3) = \binom{3}{3} p^3 (1-p)^0 = \frac{1}{8}$$

Properties of Bin(n , p)

Consider: $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$

- $P(X = i) = p(i) = \binom{n}{i} p^i (1 - p)^{n-i} \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, n$
- $E[X] = np$
- $\text{Var}(X) = np(1 - p)$
- Note: $\text{Ber}(p) = \text{Bin}(1, p)$

I Really Want the Proof of Var :)

$$\begin{aligned}E(X^2) &= \sum_{k \geq 0} k^2 \binom{n}{k} p^k q^{n-k} \\&= \sum_{k=0}^n kn \binom{n-1}{k-1} p^k q^{n-k} \\&= np \sum_{k=1}^n k \binom{n-1}{k-1} p^{k-1} q^{(n-1)-(k-1)} \\&= np \sum_{j=0}^m (j+1) \binom{m}{j} p^j q^{m-j} \\&= np \left(\sum_{j=0}^m j \binom{m}{j} p^j q^{m-j} + \sum_{j=0}^m \binom{m}{j} p^j q^{m-j} \right) \\&= np \left(\sum_{j=0}^m m \binom{m-1}{j-1} p^j q^{m-j} + \sum_{j=0}^m \binom{m}{j} p^j q^{m-j} \right) \\&= np \left((n-1)p \sum_{j=1}^m \binom{m-1}{j-1} p^{j-1} q^{(m-1)-(j-1)} + \sum_{j=0}^m \binom{m}{j} p^j q^{m-j} \right) \\&= np ((n-1)p(p+q)^{m-1} + (p+q)^m) \\&= np ((n-1)p + 1) \\&= n^2 p^2 + np(1-p)\end{aligned}$$

Definition of Binomial Distribution: $p + q = 1$

Factors of Binomial Coefficient: $k \binom{n}{k} = n \binom{n-1}{k-1}$

Change of limit: term is zero when $k - 1 = 0$

putting $j = k - 1, m = n - 1$

splitting sum up into two

Factors of Binomial Coefficient: $j \binom{m}{j} = m \binom{m-1}{j-1}$

Change of limit: term is zero when $j - 1 = 0$

Binomial Theorem

as $p + q = 1$

by algebra

How Many Program Crashes?



n runs of program, each crashes with prob. p , works with prob. $(1 - p)$

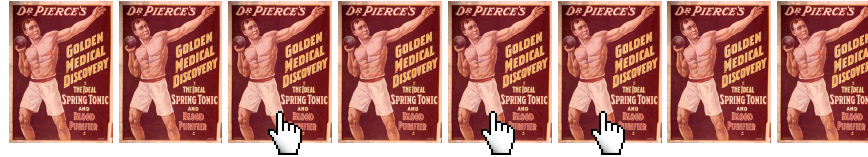
H: number of crashes

$$\mathbf{H} \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$$

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

$$\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{H} \geq z) = \sum_{k=z}^n \binom{n}{k} (p)^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$$

How Many Ads Clicked?



1000 ads served, each clicked with $p = 0.01$, otherwise ignored.

H: number of clicks

$$\mathbf{H} \sim \text{Bin}(n = 1000, p = 0.01)$$

$$\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{H} = k) = \binom{1000}{k} (0.01)^k (0.99)^{1000-k}$$

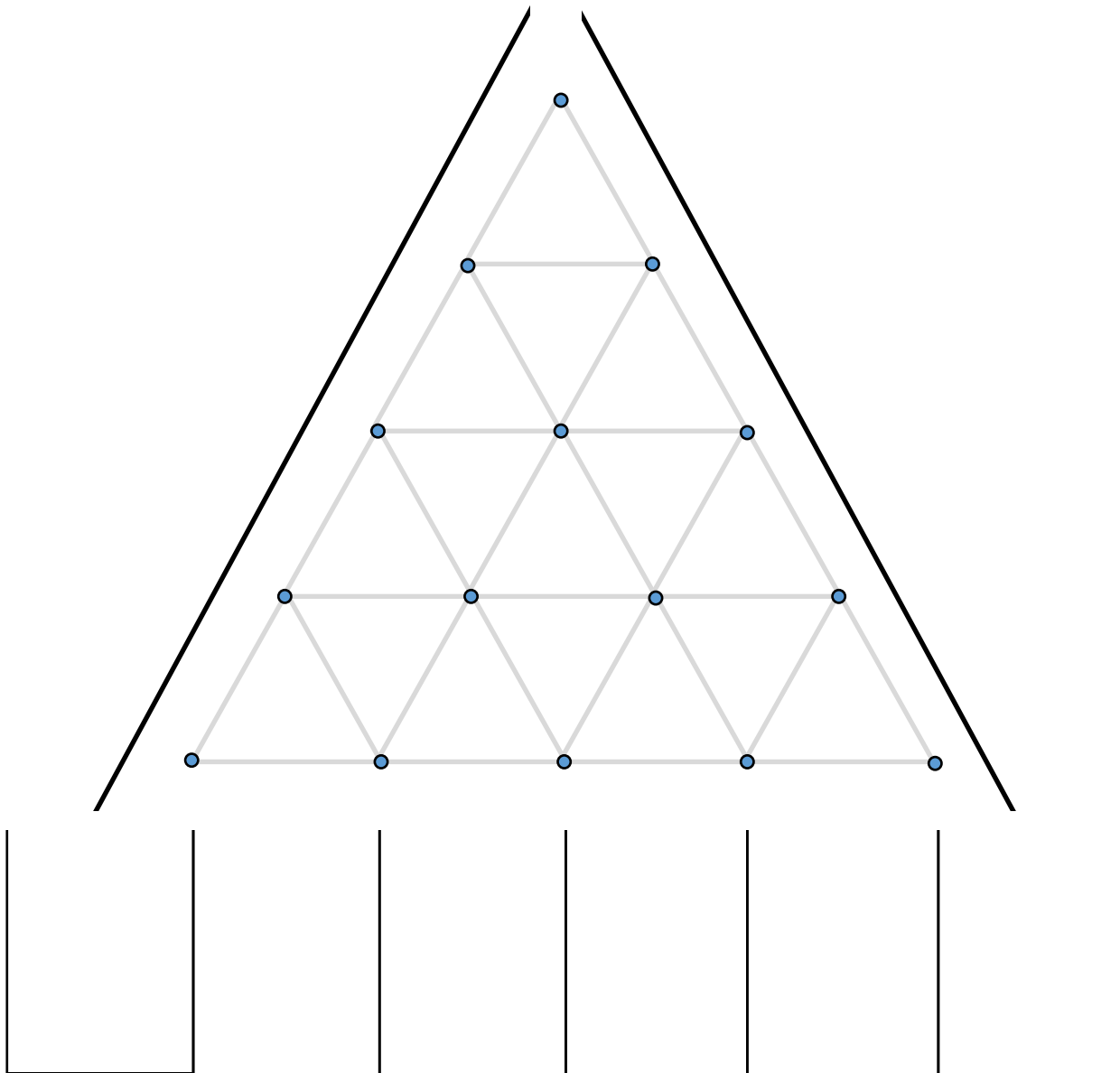
Variance of number of ads clicked?

$$E[\mathbf{H}] = np = 10$$

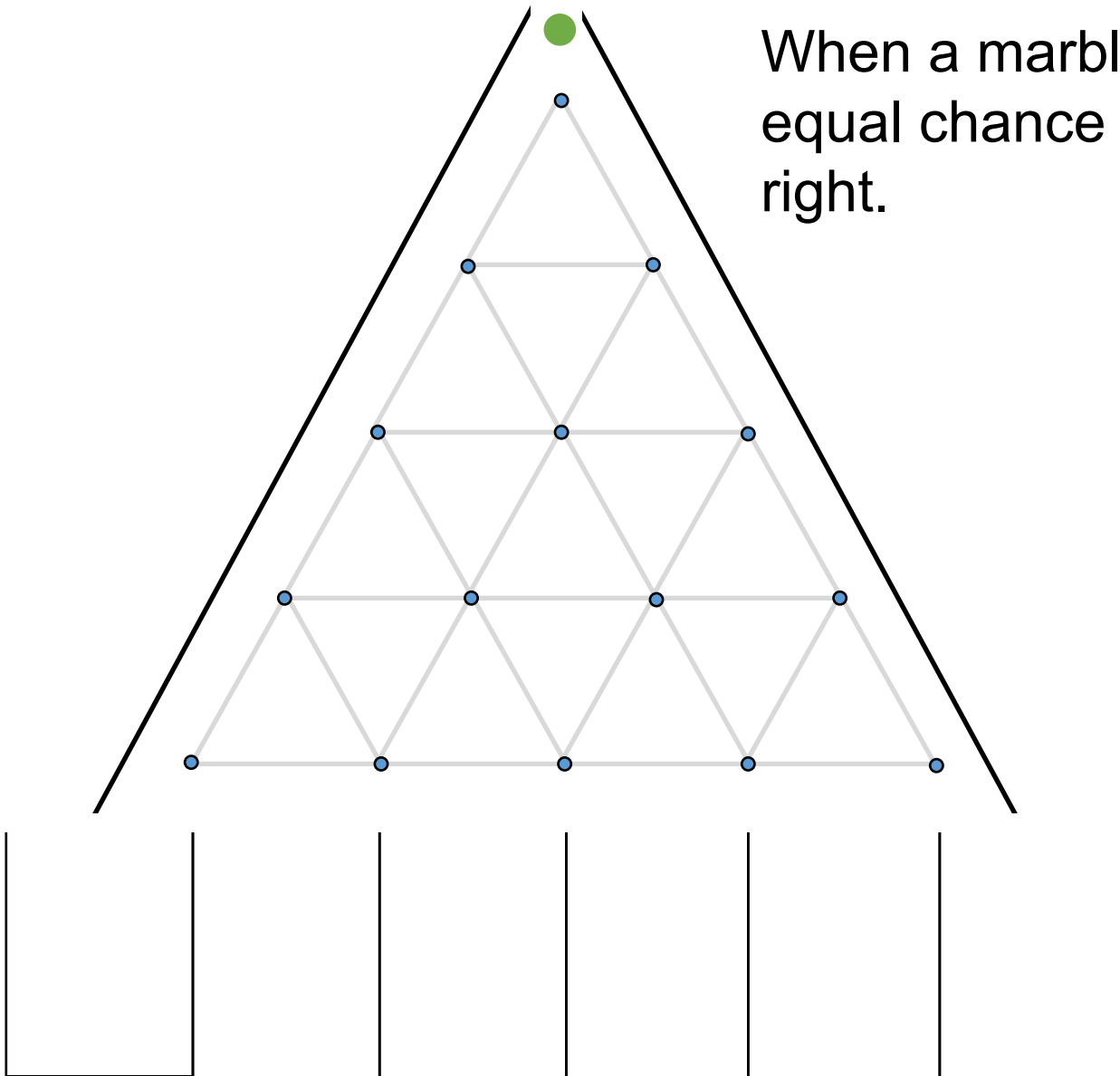
$$\text{Var}(\mathbf{H}) = np(1-p) = 9.9$$

$$\text{Std}(\mathbf{H}) = 3.15$$

Galton Board

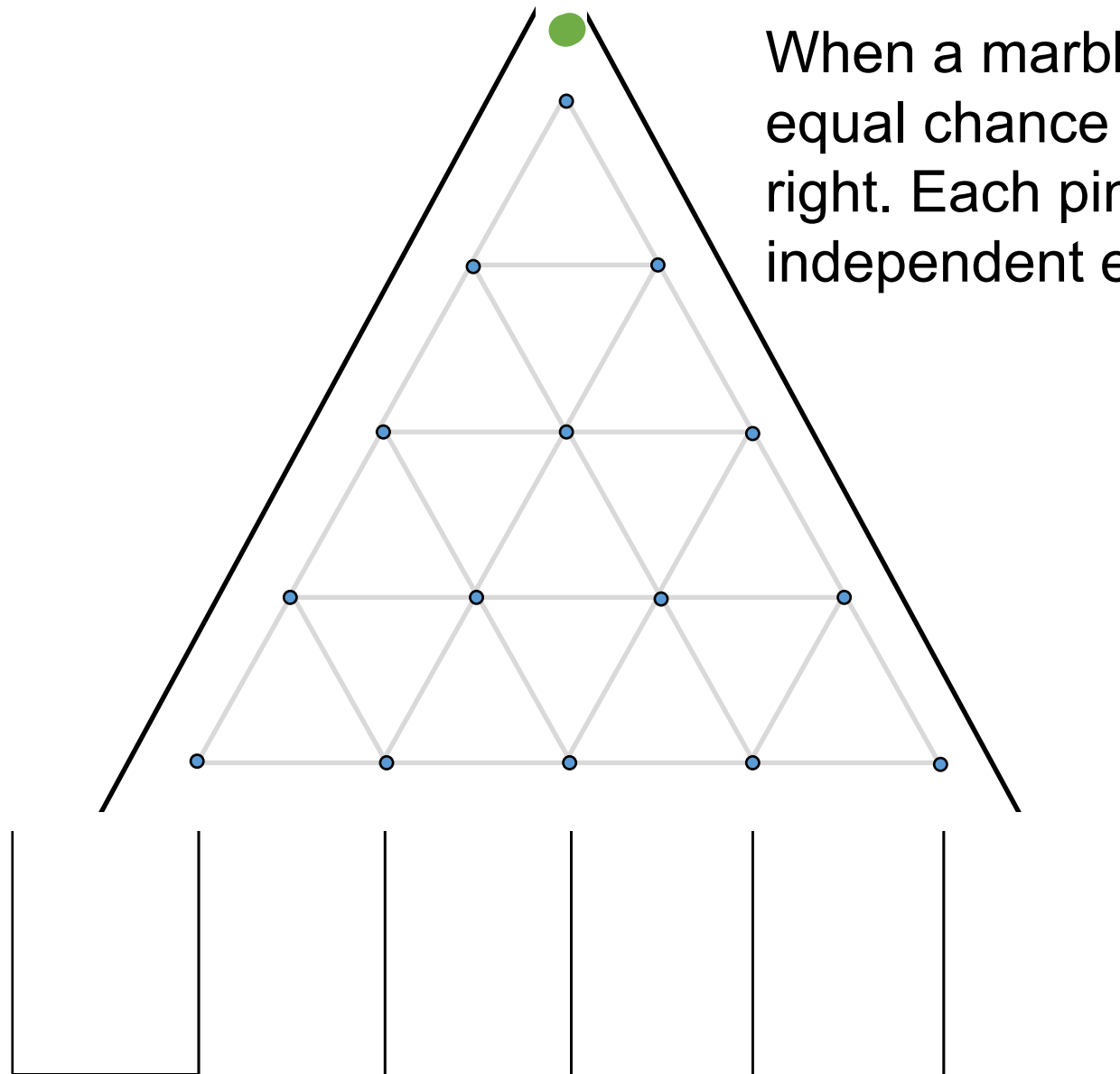


Galton Board



When a marble hits a pin, it has equal chance of going left or right.

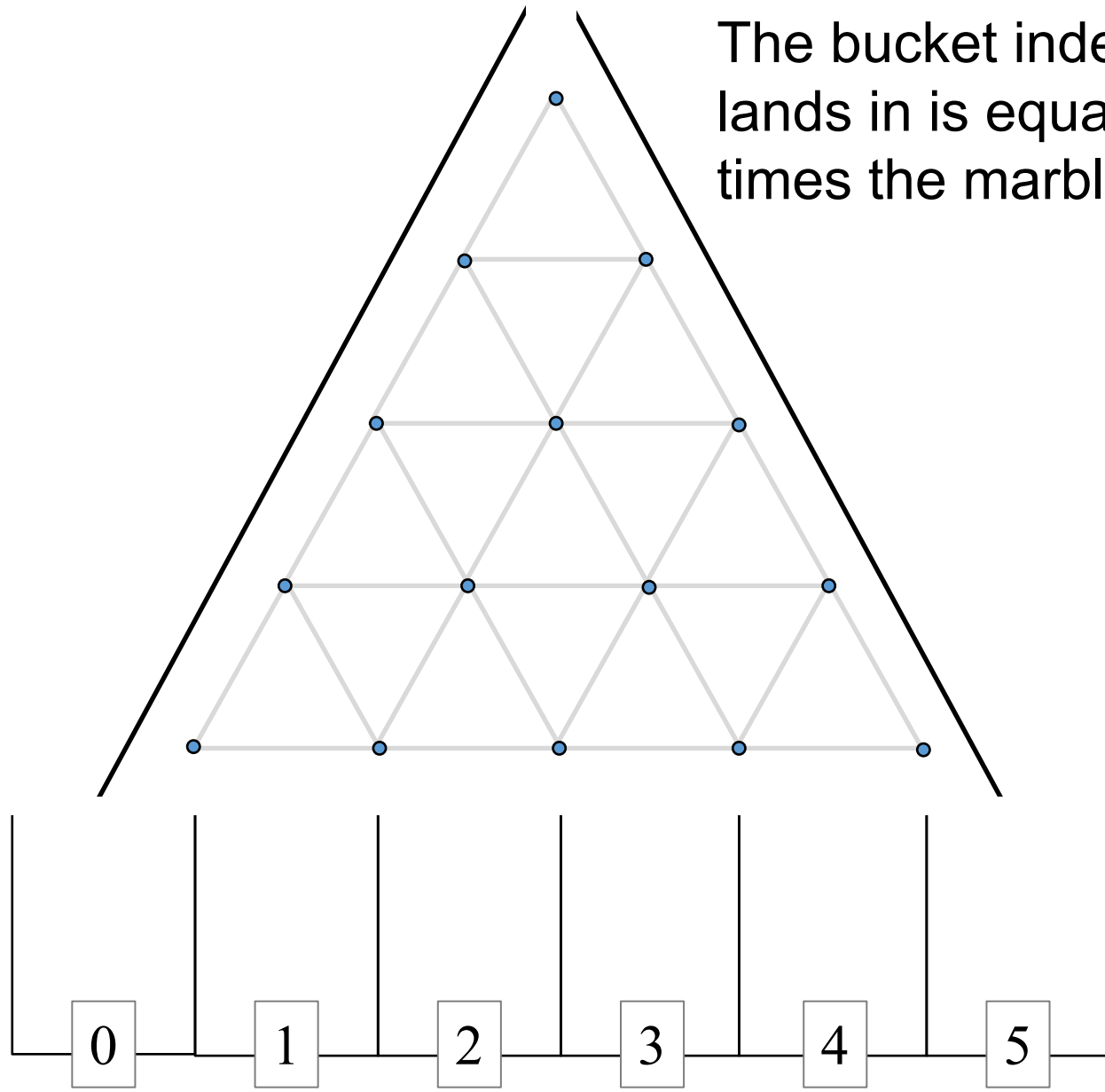
Galton Board



When a marble hits a pin, it has equal chance of going left or right. Each pin represents an independent event.

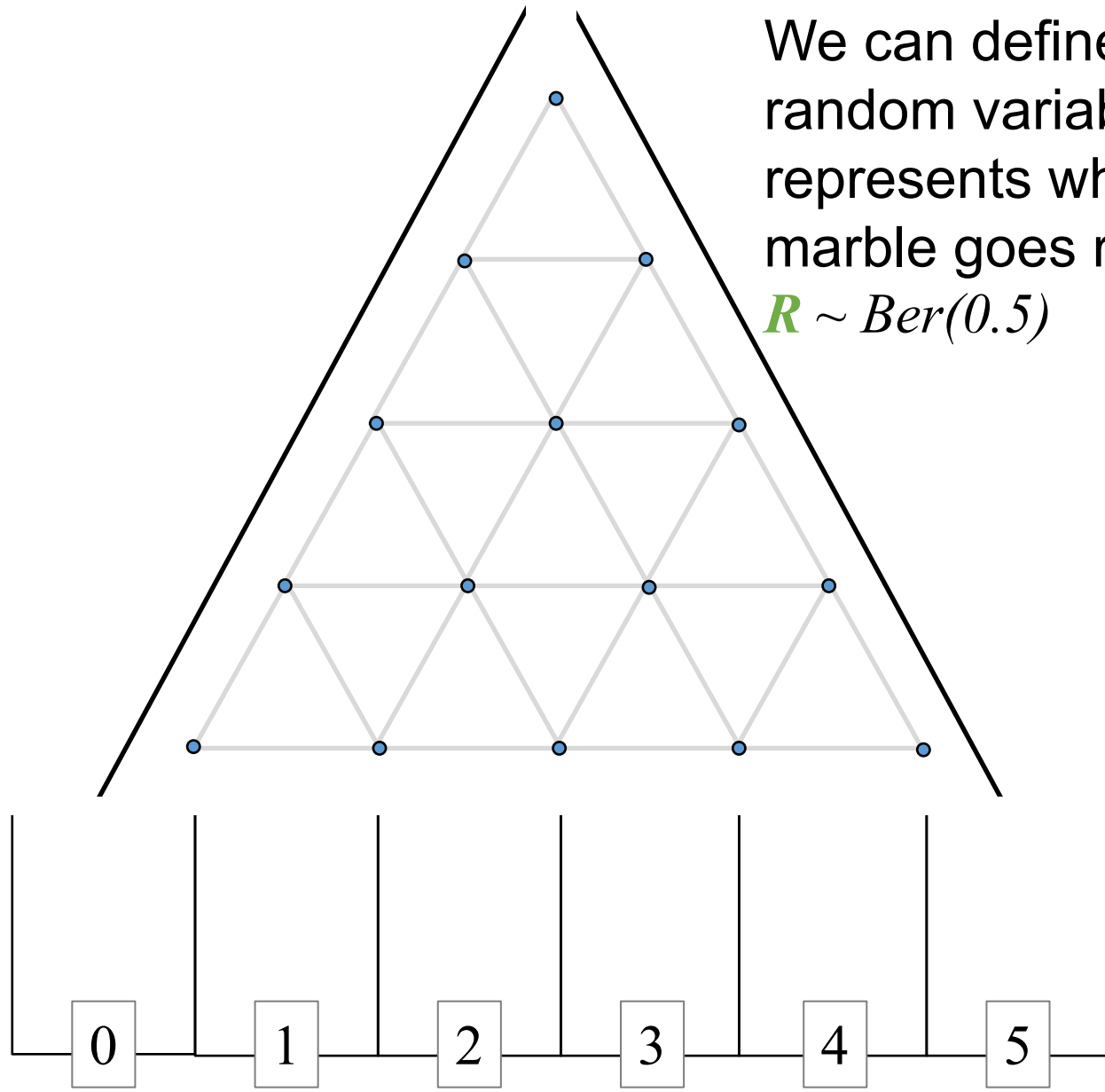
Galton Board

The bucket index that a marble lands in is equal to the number of times the marble went right



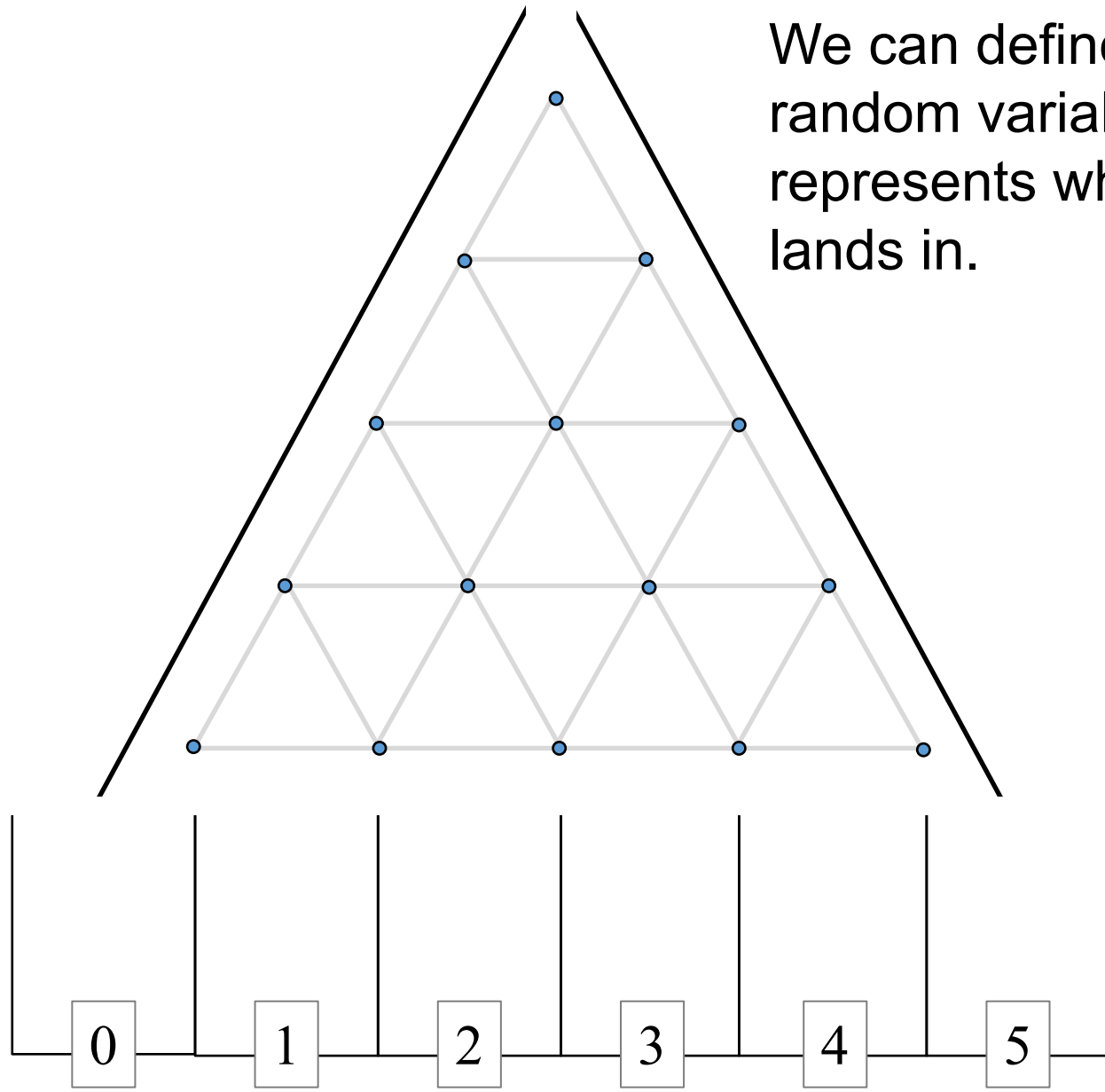
Galton Board

We can define an indicator random variable (R) which represents whether a particular marble goes right as a Bernoulli $R \sim \text{Ber}(0.5)$



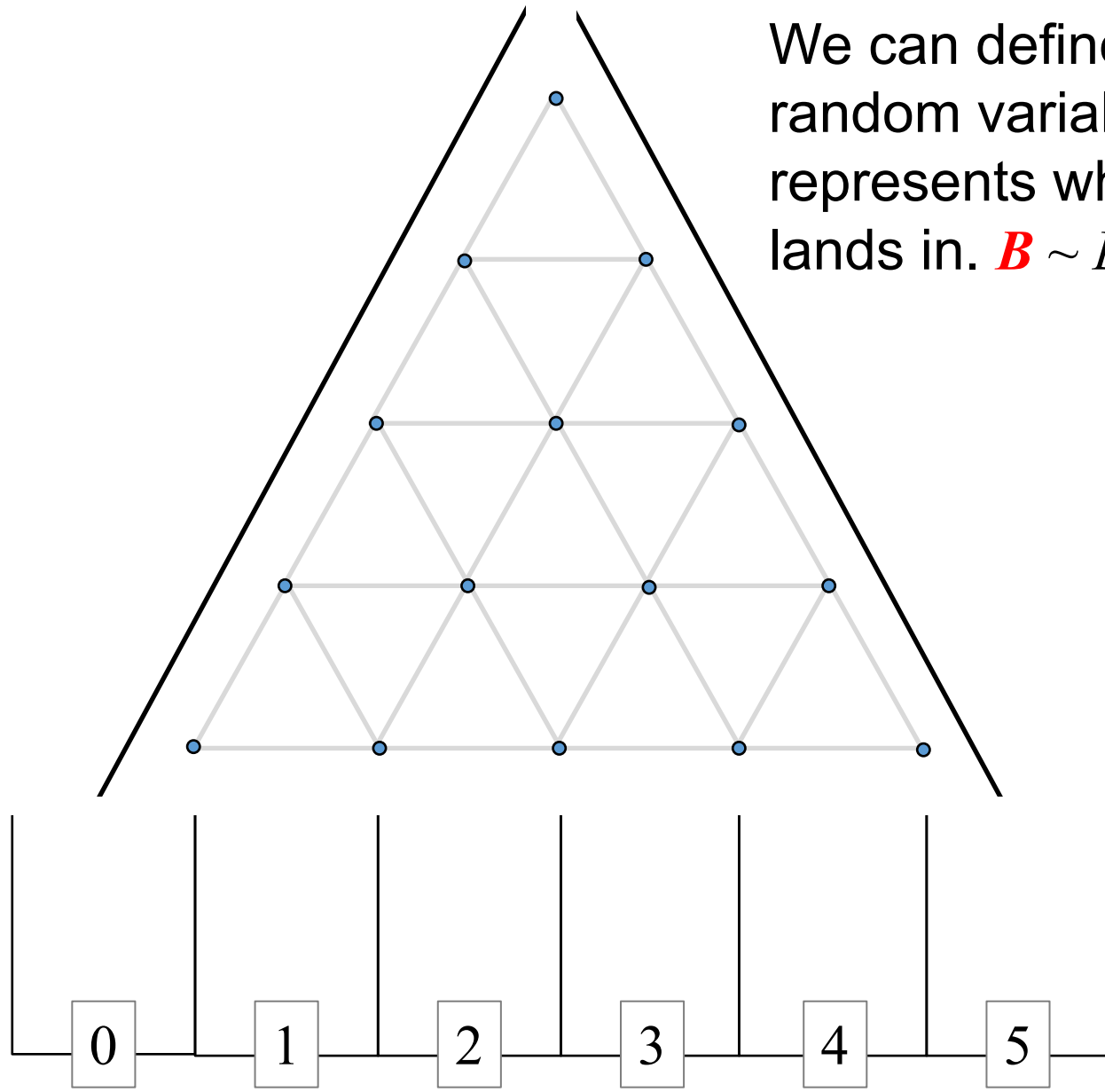
Galton Board

We can define an indicator random variable (B) which represents what bucket a marble lands in.



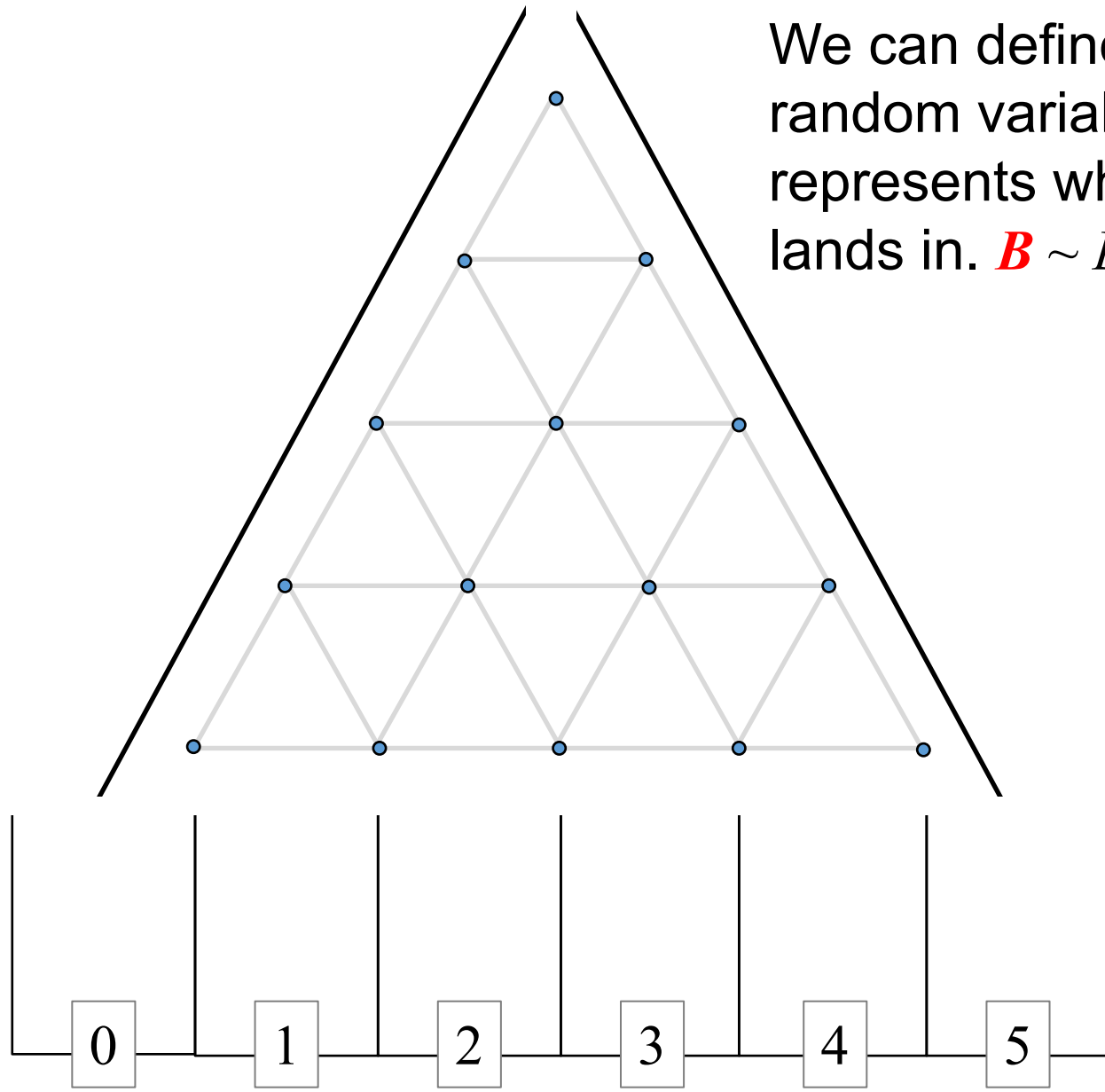
Galton Board

We can define an indicator random variable (B) which represents what bucket a marble lands in. $B \sim \text{Bin}(\text{levels}, 0.5)$

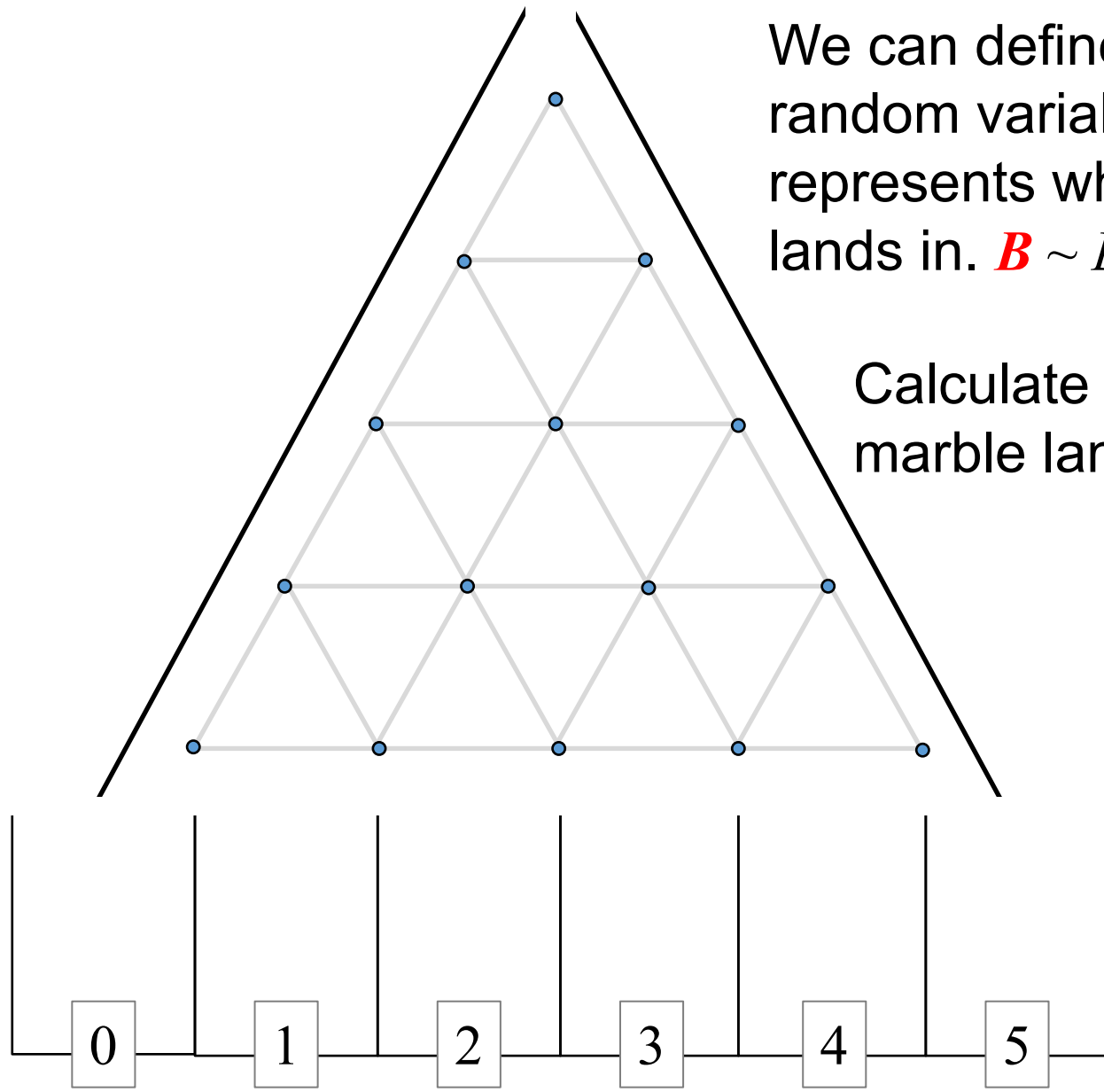


Galton Board

We can define an indicator random variable (B) which represents what bucket a marble lands in. $B \sim \text{Bin}(5, 0.5)$



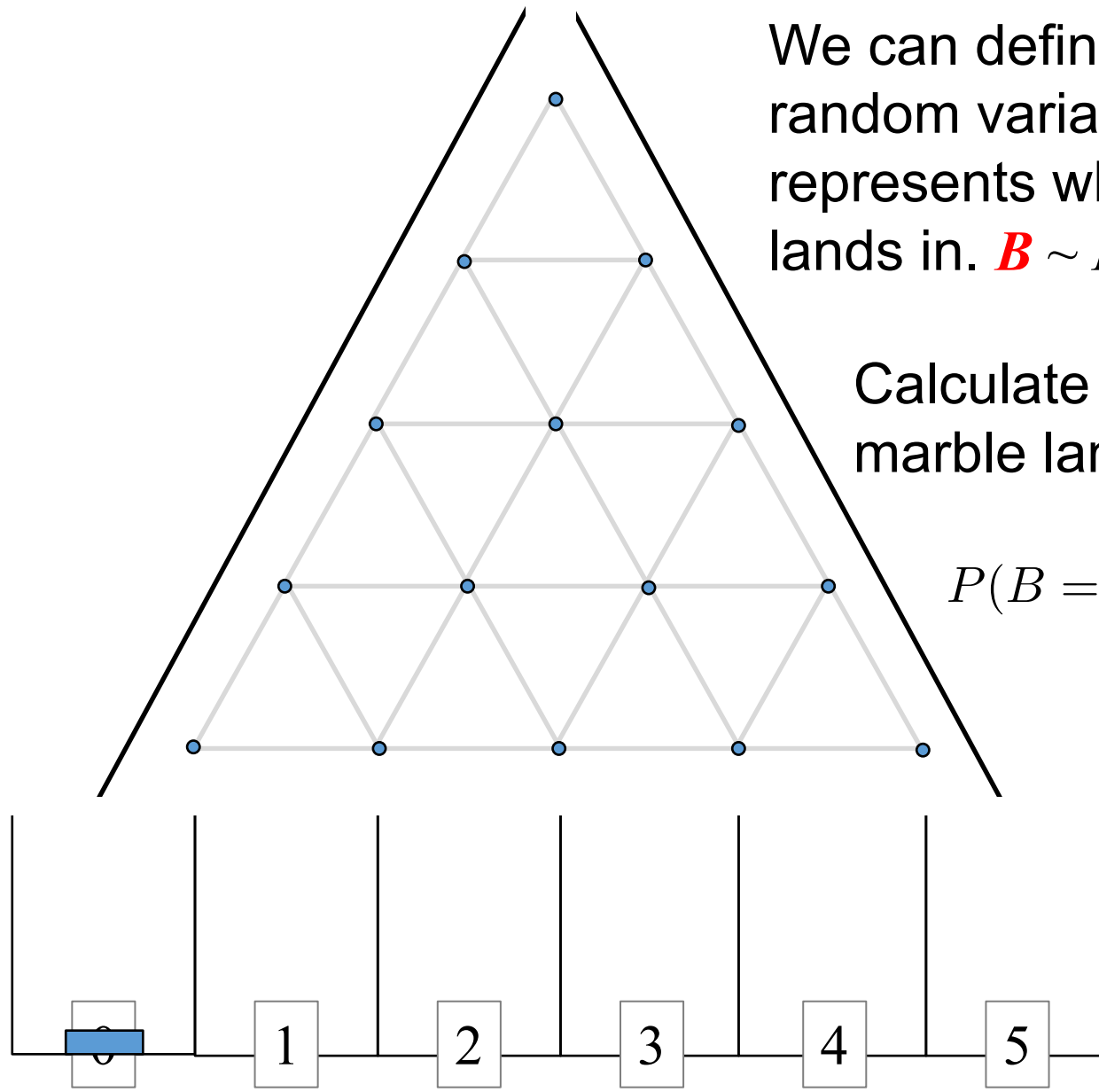
Galton Board



We can define an indicator random variable (B) which represents what bucket a marble lands in. $B \sim \text{Bin}(5, 0.5)$

Calculate the probability of a marble landing in a bucket.

Galton Board



We can define an indicator random variable (B) which represents what bucket a marble lands in. $B \sim \text{Bin}(5, 0.5)$

Calculate the probability of a marble landing in a bucket.

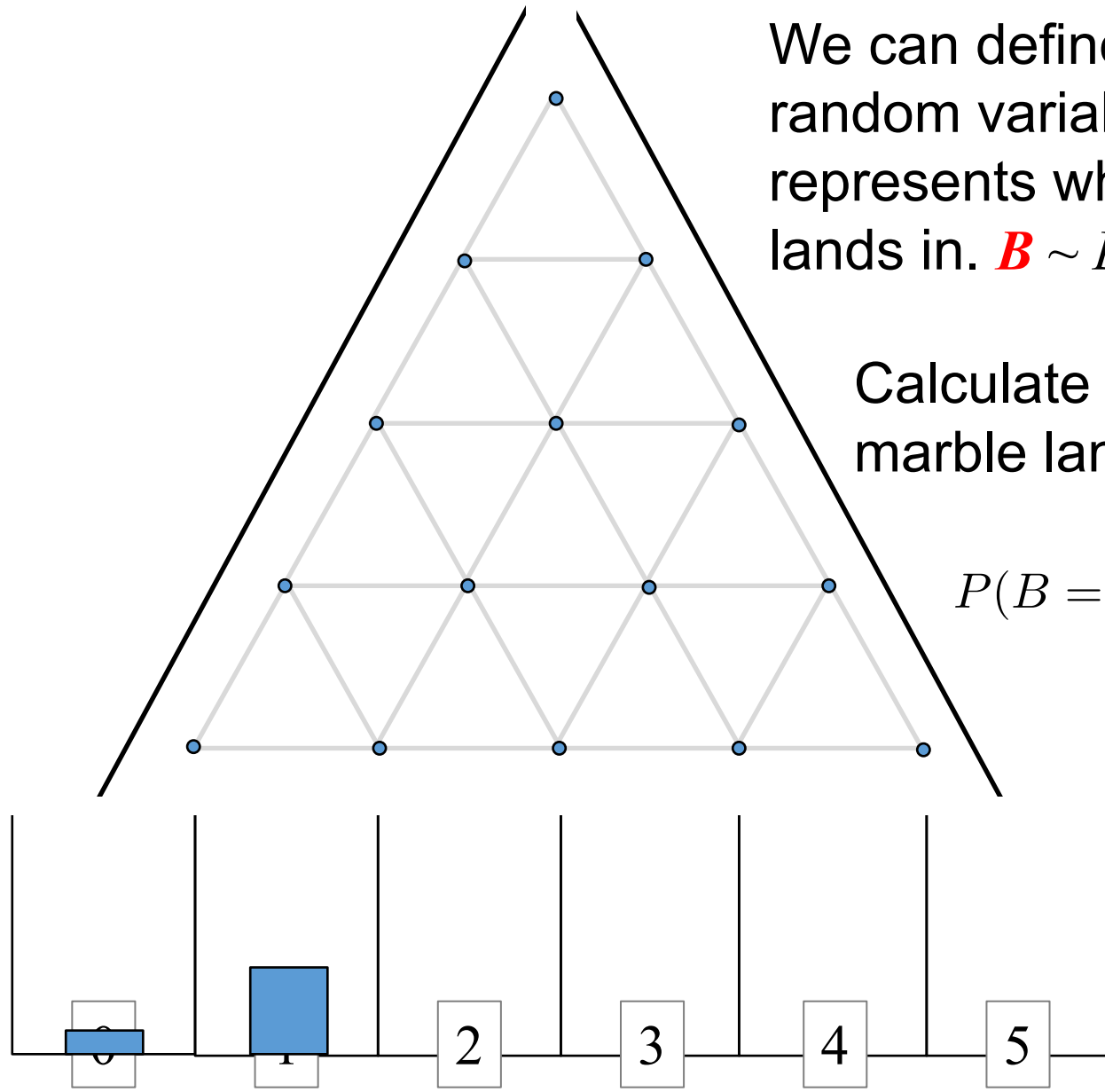
$$P(B = 0) = \binom{5}{0} \frac{1}{2}^5 \approx 0.03$$

Galton Board

We can define an indicator random variable (B) which represents what bucket a marble lands in. $B \sim \text{Bin}(5, 0.5)$

Calculate the probability of a marble landing in a bucket.

$$P(B = 1) = \binom{5}{1} \frac{1}{2}^5 \approx 0.16$$

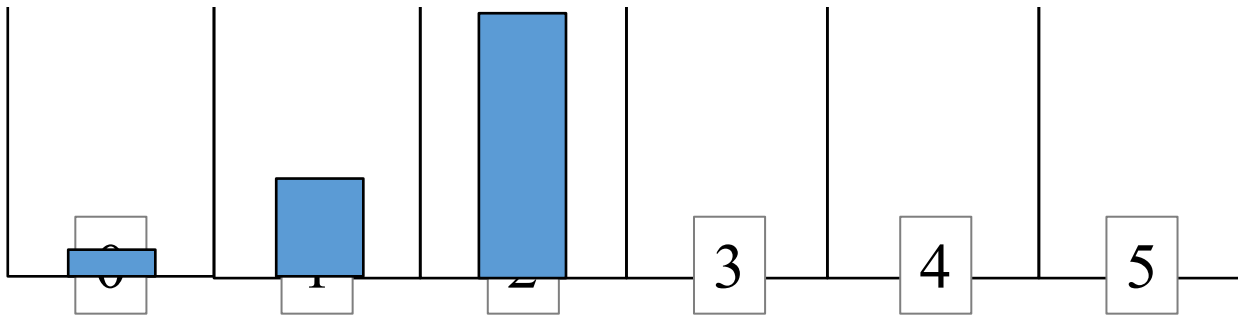
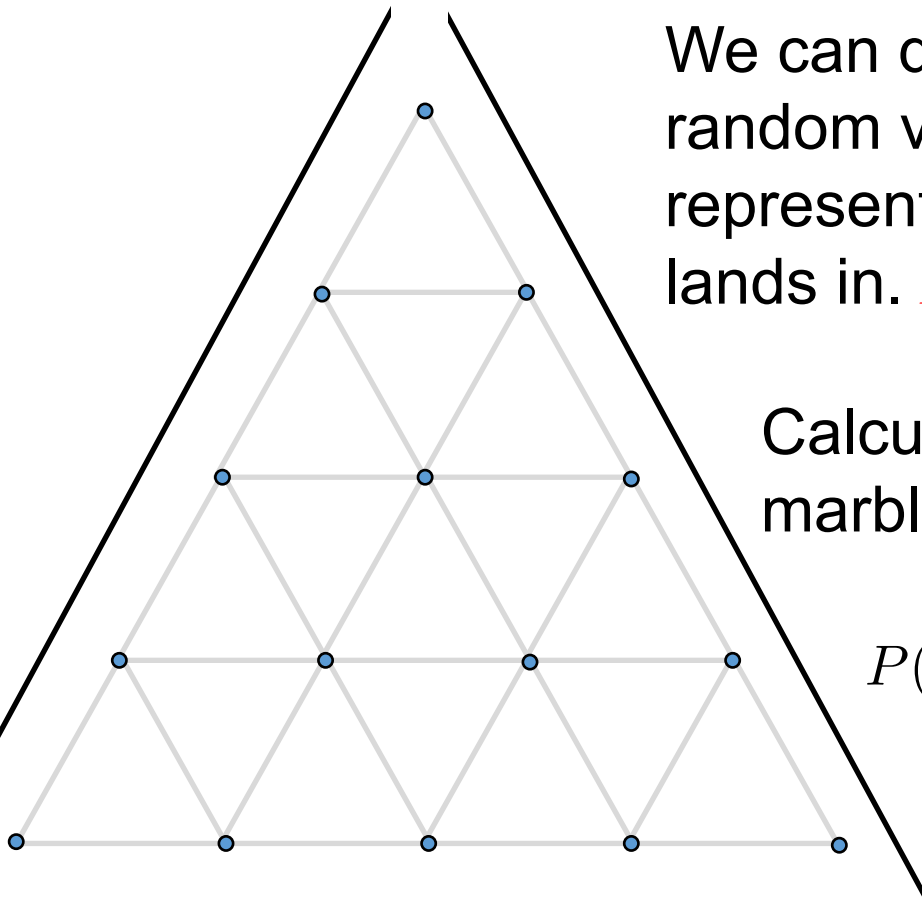


Galton Board

We can define an indicator random variable (B) which represents what bucket a marble lands in. $B \sim \text{Bin}(5, 0.5)$

Calculate the probability of a marble landing in a bucket.

$$P(B = 2) = \binom{5}{2} \frac{1}{2}^5 \approx 0.31$$

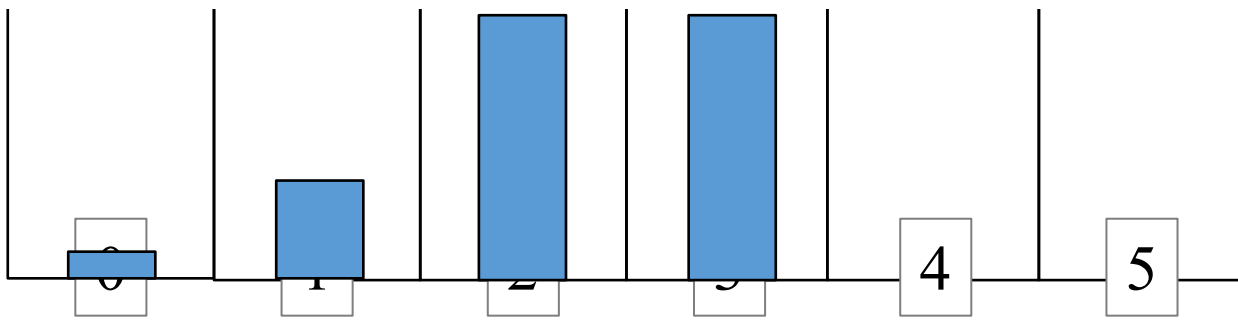
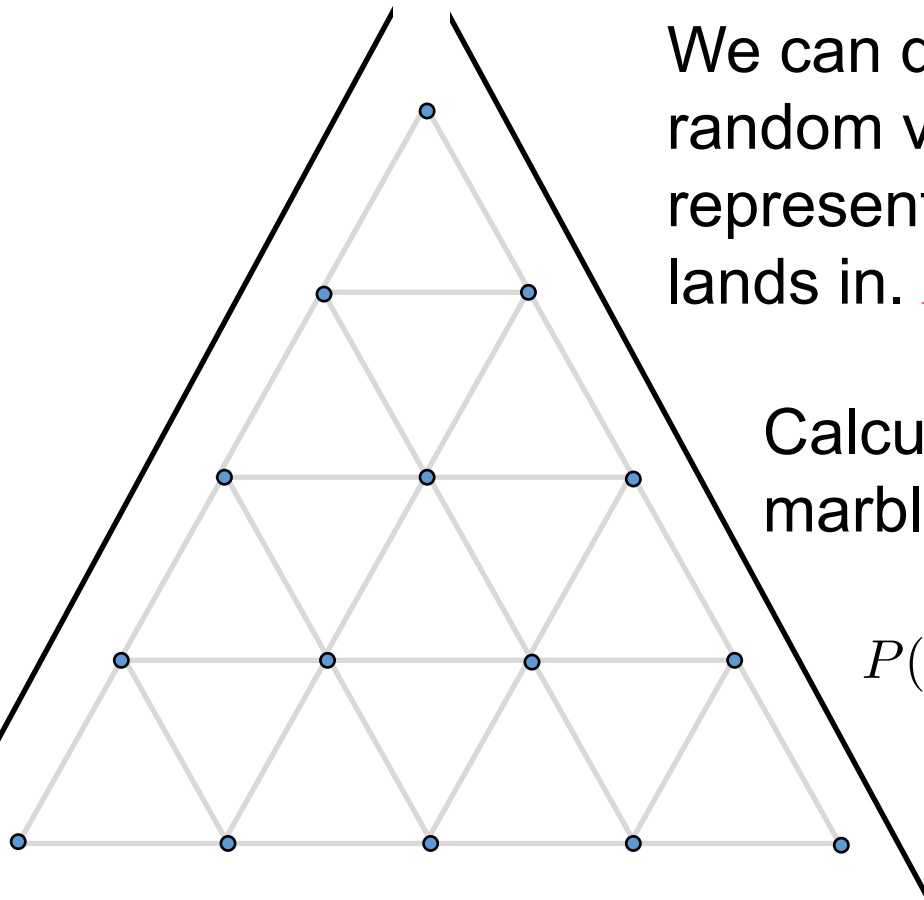


Galton Board

We can define an indicator random variable (B) which represents what bucket a marble lands in. $B \sim \text{Bin}(5, 0.5)$

Calculate the probability of a marble landing in a bucket.

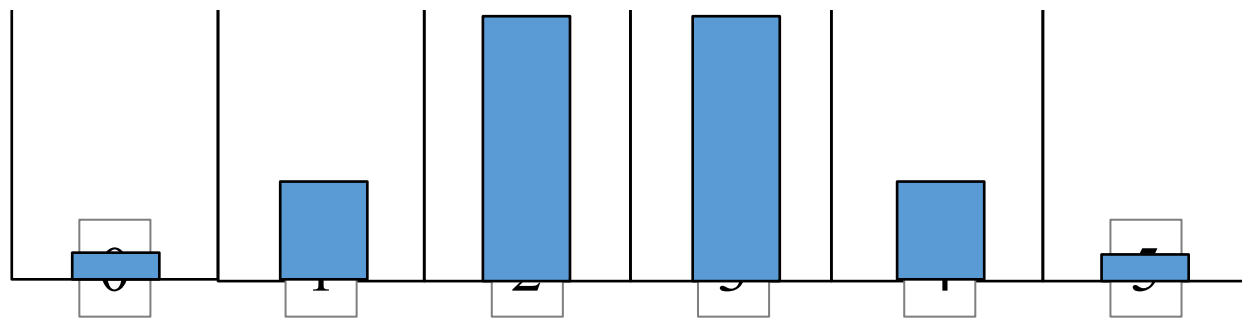
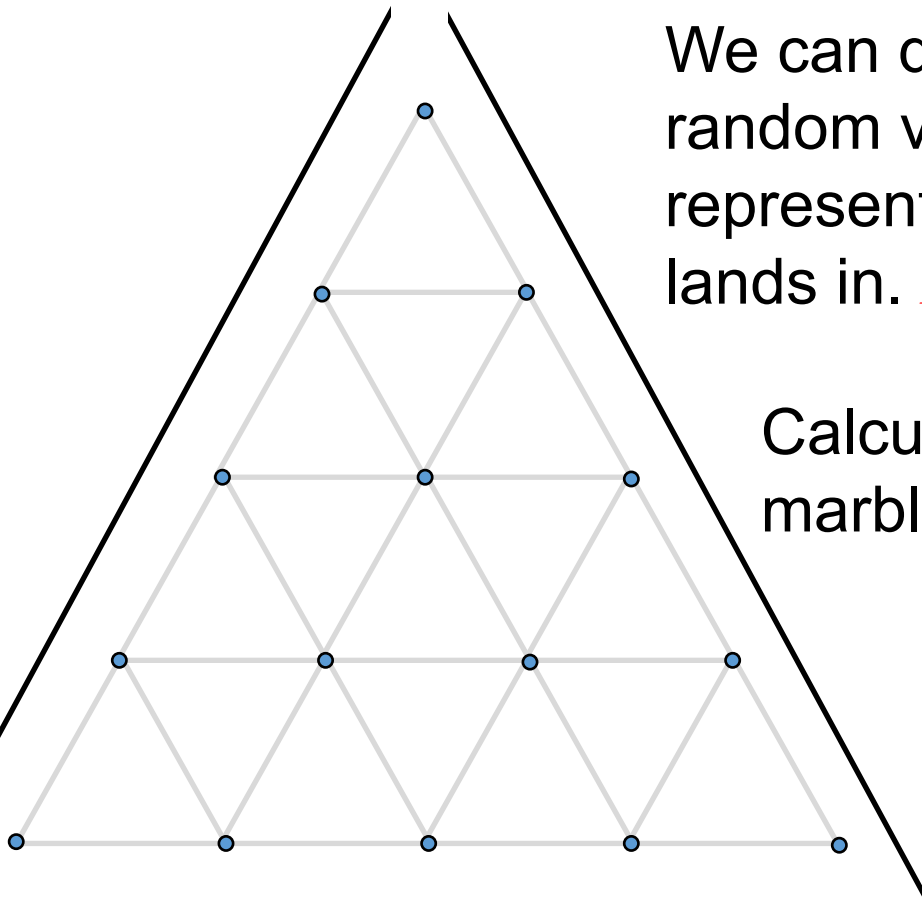
$$P(B = 3) = \binom{5}{2} \frac{1}{2}^5 \approx 0.31$$



Galton Board

We can define an indicator random variable (B) which represents what bucket a marble lands in. $B \sim \text{Bin}(5, 0.5)$

Calculate the probability of a marble landing in a bucket.

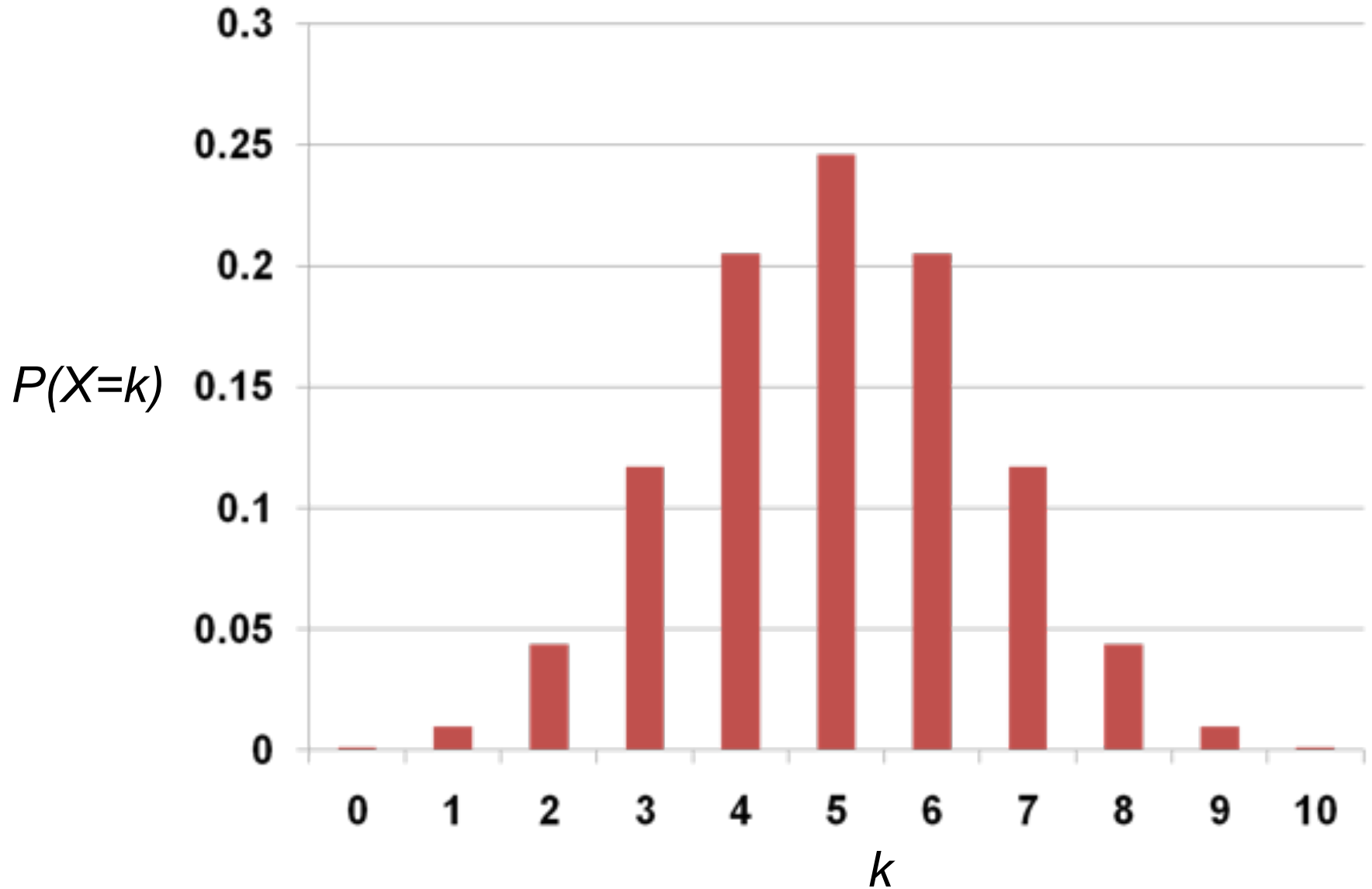


PMF

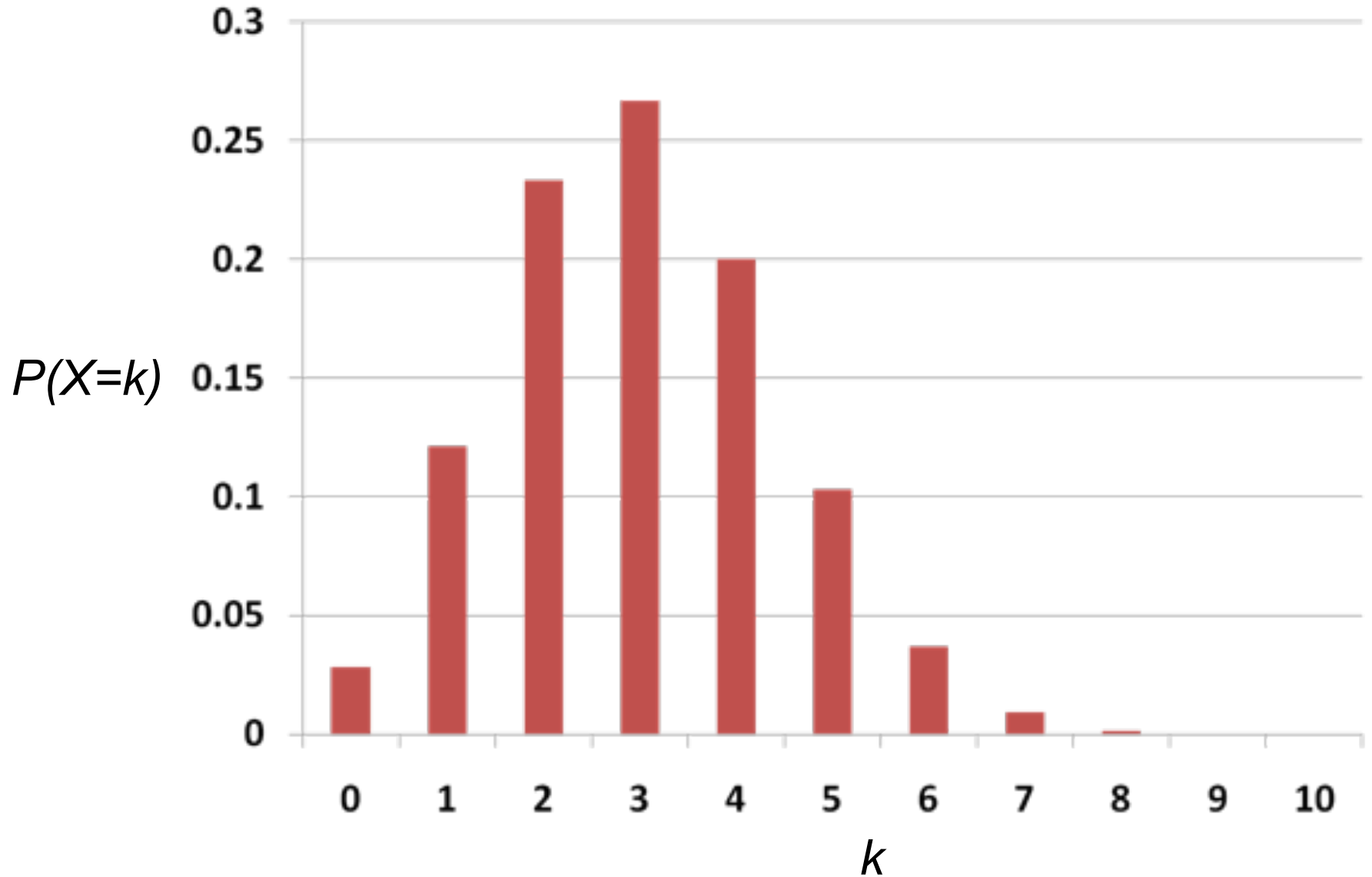


FROM CHAOS TO ORDER

PMF for $X \sim \text{Bin}(10, 0.5)$



PMF for $X \sim \text{Bin}(10, 0.3)$



Genetic Inheritance

- Person has 2 genes for trait (eye color)
 - Child receives 1 gene (equally likely) from each parent
 - Child has brown eyes if either (or both) genes brown
 - Child only has blue eyes if both genes blue
 - Brown is “dominant” (d) , Blue is “recessive” (r)
 - Parents each have 1 brown and 1 blue gene
- 4 children, what is $P(3 \text{ children with brown eyes})$?
 - Child has blue eyes: $p = (1/2) (1/2) = 1/4$ (2 blue genes)
 - $P(\text{child has brown eyes}) = 1 - (1/4) = 0.75$
 - $X = \#$ of children with brown eyes. $X \sim \text{Bin}(4, 0.75)$

$$P(X = 3) = \binom{4}{3} (0.75)^3 (0.25)^1 \approx 0.4219$$



Probability you win a series?

Warriors played the Raptors in a best of 7 series during the 2019 NBA finals. What was the probability (going in) that the warriors would win the series? Each game is **independent**. Each game, the warriors have a 0.55 probability of winning? Win series if you win at least 4 games.

Let X be the number of games won. $X \sim \text{Bin}(n=7, p=0.55)$.
 $P(X > 3)$?

$$\begin{aligned} P(X \geq 4) &= \sum_{i=4}^7 P(X = i) \\ &= \sum_{i=4}^7 \binom{7}{i} p^i (1-p)^{7-i} \\ &= \sum_{i=4}^7 \binom{7}{i} 0.55^i (0.45)^{7-i} \approx 0.61 \end{aligned}$$

Stretch!





Poisson

Noah Arthurs
CS109, Stanford University

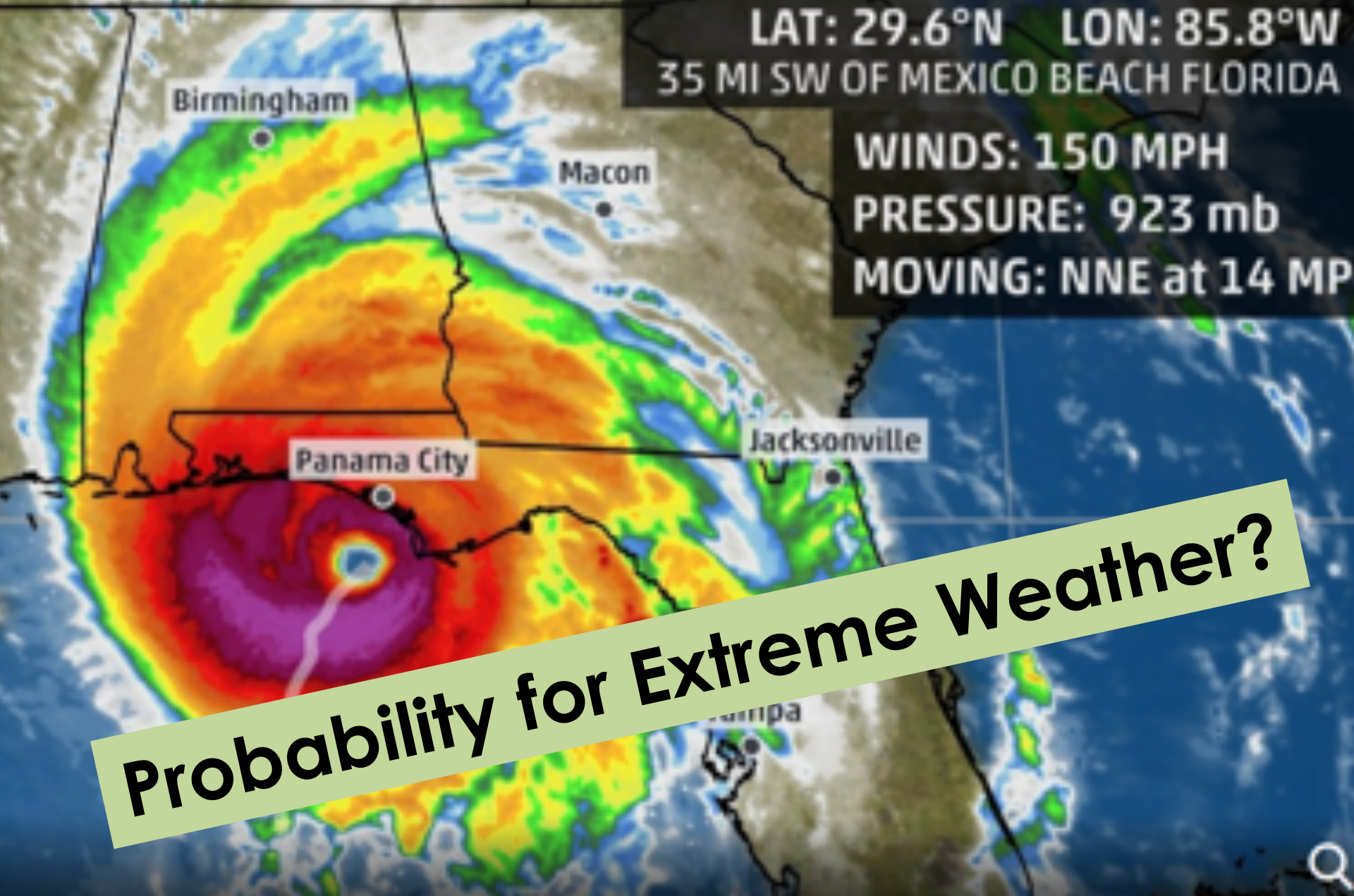


HURRICANE MICHAEL

11:00 AM CDT

LAT: 29.6°N LON: 85.8°W
35 MI SW OF MEXICO BEACH FLORIDA

WINDS: 150 MPH
PRESSURE: 923 mb
MOVING: NNE at 14 MP



Probability for Extreme Weather?

Good to know

Natural Exponent def:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^n = e^{-\lambda}$$

Jacob
Bernoulli



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E_\(mathematical_constant\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E_(mathematical_constant))

Algorithmic Ride Sharing



Probability of k requests from this area in the next 1 min



Probability of k requests from this area in the next 1 min



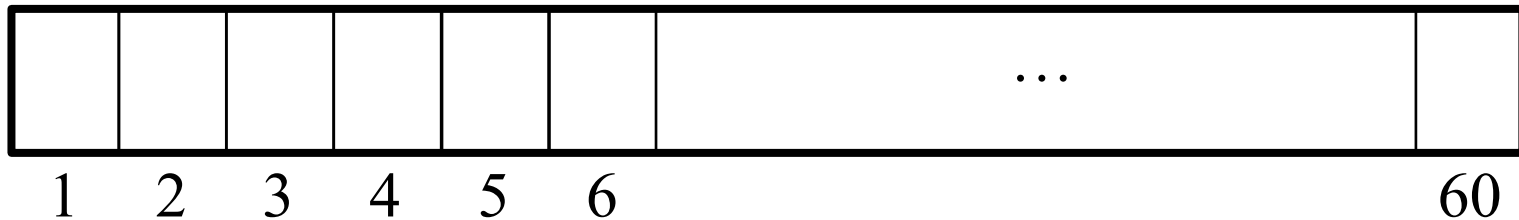
Probability of k requests from this area in the next 1 min



Probability of k requests from this area in the next 1 min

On average $\lambda = 5$ requests per minute

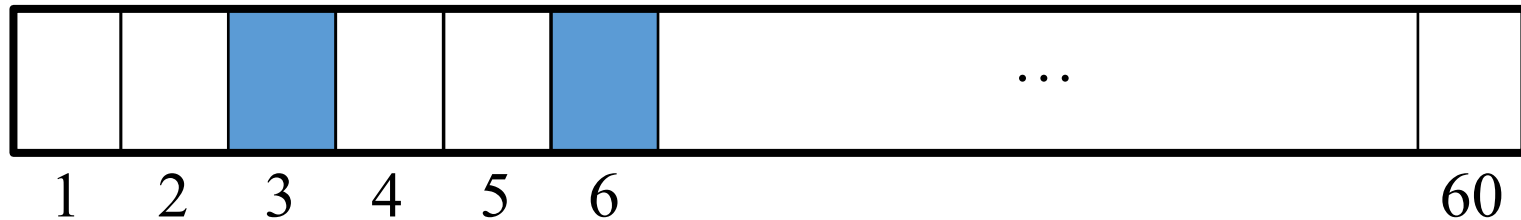
We can break the next minute down into seconds



Probability of k requests from this area in the next 1 min

On average $\lambda = 5$ requests per minute

We can break the next minute down into seconds

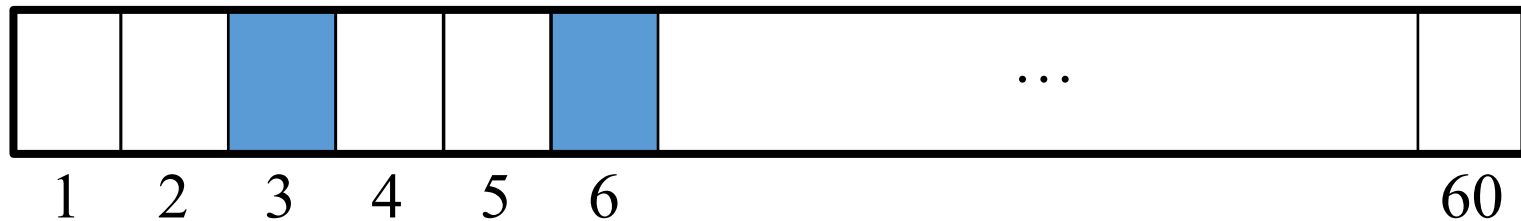


At each second either get a request or you don't.

Probability of k requests from this area in the next 1 min

On average $\lambda = 5$ requests per minute

We can break the next minute down into seconds



At each second either get a request or you don't.

Let $X =$ Number of requests in the minute

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n = 60, p = 5/60)$$

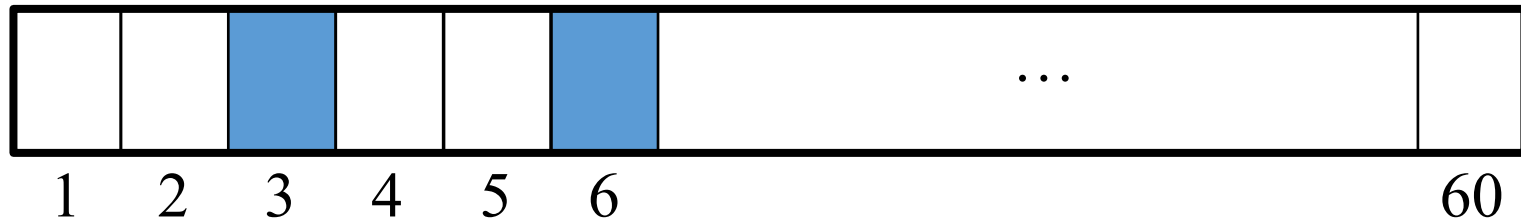
$$P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} (p)^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$$

$$P(X = 3) = \binom{60}{3} (5/60)^3 (1 - 5/60)^{57}$$

Probability of k requests from this area in the next 1 min

On average $\lambda = 5$ requests per minute

We can break the next minute down into seconds



At each second either get a request or you don't.

Let $X =$ Number of requests in the minute

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n = 60, p = 5/60)$$

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

But what if there are two requests in the same second?

Probability of k requests from this area in the next 1 min

On average $\lambda = 5$ requests per minute

We can break that next minute down into *milli*-seconds



At each *milli*-second either get a request or you don't.

Let X = Number of requests in the minute

But what if there are two requests in the same milli-second?

Probability of k requests from this area in the next 1 min

On average $\lambda = 5$ requests per minute

We can break that next minute down into *milli*-seconds



At each *milli*-second either get a request or you don't.

Let $X =$ Number of requests in the minute

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n = 60000, p = \lambda/n)$$

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

Can we do any better than milli-seconds?

Binomial in the Limit

On average $\lambda = 5$ requests per minute

We can break that minute down into *infinitely small* buckets

OMG so small

1

∞

Let $X =$ Number of requests in the minute

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p = \lambda/n)$$

$$P(X = k) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \binom{n}{k} (\lambda/n)^k (1 - \lambda/n)^{n-k}$$

Who wants to see some cool math?

Binomial in the Limit

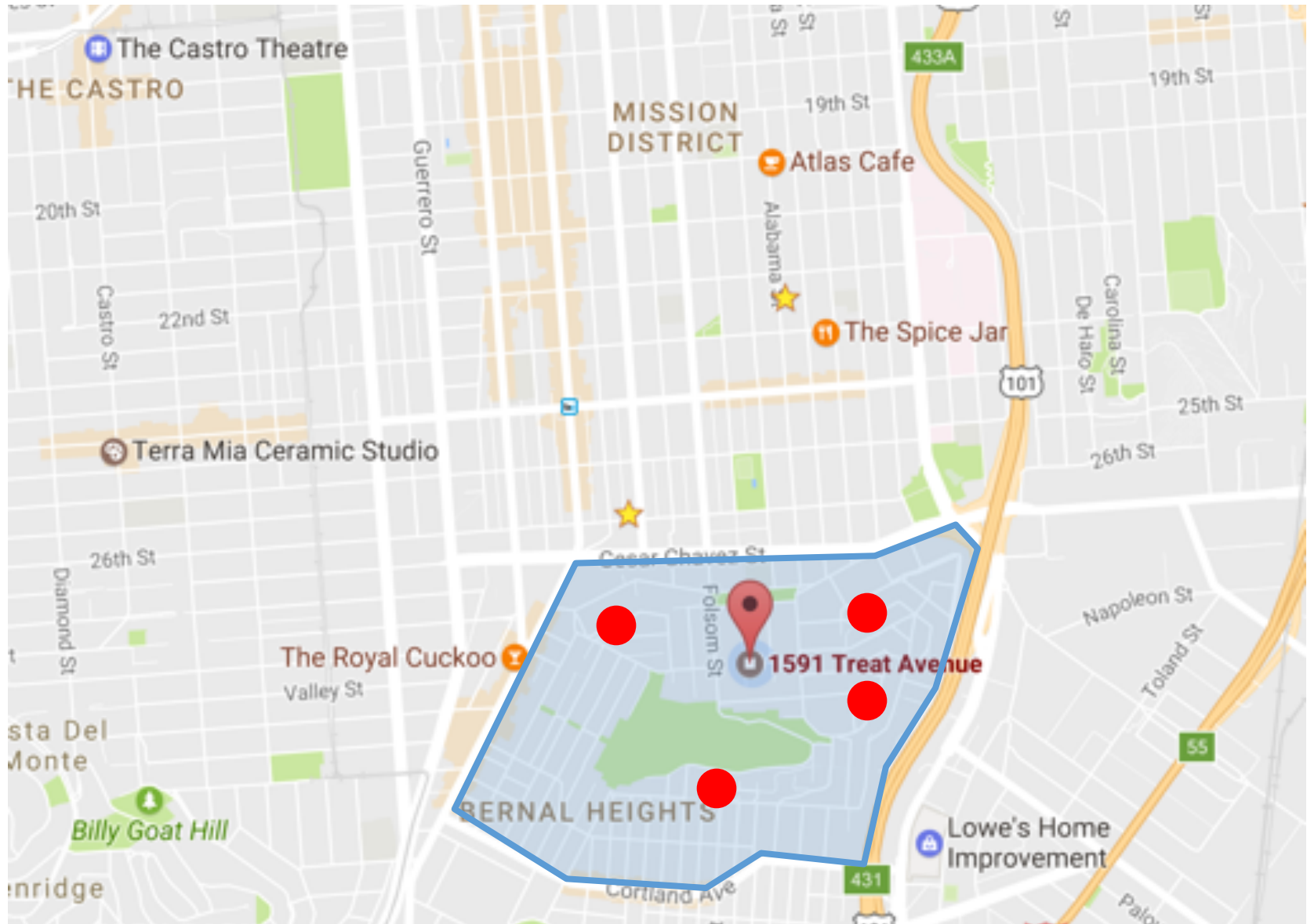
$$\begin{aligned}P(X = k) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \binom{n}{k} (\lambda/n)^k (1 - \lambda/n)^{n-k} \\&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n!}{(n-k)!k!} \cdot \frac{\lambda^k}{n^k} \cdot \frac{(1 - \lambda/n)^n}{(1 - \lambda/n)^k} \\&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n!}{(n-k)!k!} \cdot \frac{\lambda^k}{n^k} \cdot \frac{e^{-\lambda}}{1} \\&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n!}{(n-k)!n^k} \cdot \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} \cdot \frac{e^{-\lambda}}{1} \\&= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n^k}{n^k} \cdot \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} \cdot \frac{e^{-\lambda}}{1} \\&= \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!}\end{aligned}$$

By expanding each term

cal exp



Probability of k requests from this area in the next 1 min



Simeon-Denis Poisson

- Simeon-Denis Poisson (1781-1840) was a prolific French mathematician



- Published his first paper at 18, became professor at 21, and published over 300 papers in his life
 - He reportedly said *“Life is good for only two things, discovering mathematics and teaching mathematics.”*

Poisson Random Variable

- X is a **Poisson** Random Variable: the number of occurrences in a fixed interval of time.

$$X \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda)$$

- λ is the “rate”
- X takes on values 0, 1, 2...
- has distribution (PMF):

$$P(X = k) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^k}{k!}$$

Poisson Process

- Consider events that occur over time
 - Earthquakes, radioactive decay, hits to web server, etc.
 - Have time interval for events (1 year, 1 sec, whatever...)
 - Events arrive at rate: λ events per interval of time
- Split time interval into $n \rightarrow \infty$ sub-intervals
 - Assume at most one event per sub-interval
 - Event occurrences in sub-intervals are independent
 - With many sub-intervals, probability of event occurring in any given sub-interval is small
- $N(t) = \#$ events in original time interval $\sim \text{Poi}(\lambda)$



Poisson is great when you
have a rate and you care
about # of occurrences!



Make sure that the rate is the expected number of occurrences within the timeframe you care about.