

# Lecture 19

## Random Variables II

## Plan for Today:

- Poisson Distribution (continued)
- Joint Distributions
- Linearity of Expectation
- Independence

## Lecture 18 Summary

- A r.v. is a function  $X: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .
- A r.v. induces a partition on the sample space to events  $X^{-1}(a) = \{\omega \in \Omega : X(\omega) = a\}$
- A distribution of a r.v. is the collection of values  $\{(a, \Pr[X=a]) : a \in \text{range}(X)\}$
- The expectation of a r.v.  $X$  is defined as
$$E[X] = \sum_{a \in \text{range}(X)} a \cdot \Pr[X=a]$$
- $\text{Ber}(p)$  - one trial, success probability  $p$ .
- $\text{Bin}(n, p)$  -  $n$  trials, success probability  $p$
- $\text{Geom}(p)$  - number of trials upto first success, suc. prob.  $p$ .
- uniform distribution, Poisson distribution

# Poisson Distribution

Q: How many customers arrive to McDonalds in 1 hour?

Suppose you know: the average is  $\lambda$ .

Assumption: Arrivals in disjoint time intervals are independent.

Idea: Cut 1 hour to equal intervals of length  $\frac{1}{n}$  for  $n$  extremely large.

Average arrivals per interval  $\frac{\lambda}{n}$ .

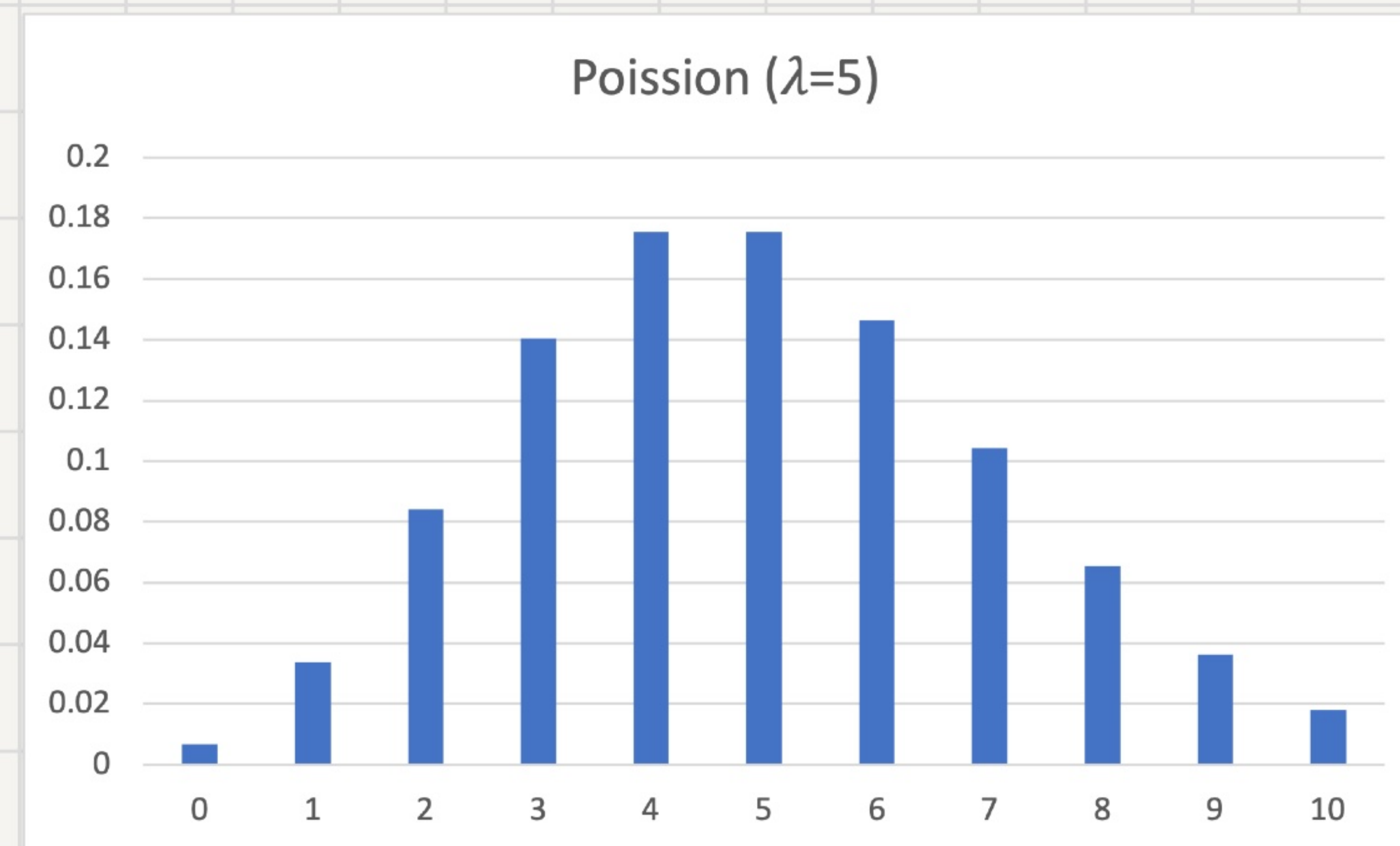
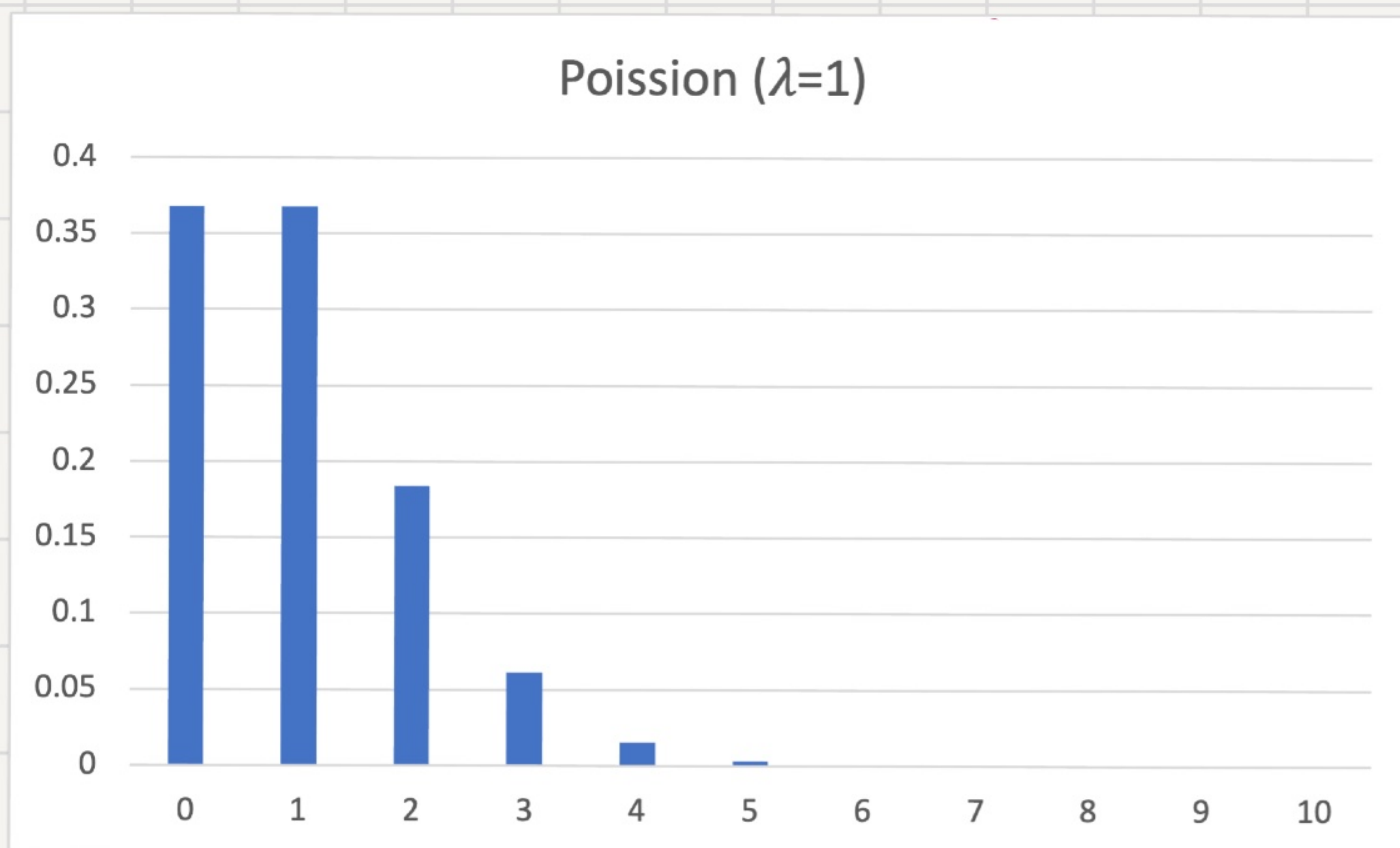
Assumption 2: no two arrivals in the same interval.

Model: Binomial distribution with params  $(n, \frac{\lambda}{n})$ .

Theorem: Fix  $\lambda, i$ . Let  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, \frac{\lambda}{n})$ . Then,

$$\Pr[X=i] \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} e^{-\lambda} \cdot \frac{\lambda^i}{i!}$$

↑  
these define  
the Poisson distribution



Theorem: Fix  $\lambda, i$ . Let  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, \frac{\lambda}{n})$ . Then,

$$\Pr[X=i] \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} e^{-\lambda} \cdot \frac{\lambda^i}{i!}$$

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Proof:

$$\Pr[X=i] = \binom{n}{i} \cdot p^i \cdot (1-p)^{n-i}$$

$$= \frac{n \cdot (n-1) \cdots (n-i+1)}{i!} \cdot \left(\frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^i \cdot \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^{n-i}$$

$$= \frac{n \cdot (n-1) \cdots (n-i+1)}{n \cdot n \cdots n} \cdot \frac{\lambda^i}{i!} \cdot \frac{\left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^n}{\left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^i}$$

$$\xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 1 \cdot \frac{\lambda^i}{i!} \cdot \frac{e^{-\lambda}}{1}$$

In the last line we used  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^n = e^{-\lambda}$ . ■

# Expectation

If  $X$  is a r.v. then

$$E[X] = \sum_{a \in \text{range}(X)} a \cdot P_r[X=a]$$

Theorem: If  $X: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a r.v. then

$$E[X] = \sum_{\omega \in \Omega} X(\omega) \cdot P_r[\omega]$$

Example: Toss three coins.  $X = \#$  of heads -  $\#$  of tails

$$\Omega = \{HHH, HHT, HTH, THH, TTH, THT, HTT, TTT\}$$

$$X = 3, 1, 1, 1, -1, -1, -1, -3$$

$$E[X] = 3 \cdot \frac{1}{8} + 1 \cdot \frac{3}{8} + (-1) \cdot \frac{3}{8} + (-3) \cdot \frac{1}{8} = 0$$

$$E[X] = \frac{3 + 1 + 1 + 1 + (-1) + (-1) + (-1) + (-3)}{8} = 0$$

## Expectation of a Poisson R.V.

If  $X$  is a r.v. then

$$E[X] = \sum_{a \in \text{range}(X)} a \cdot \Pr[X=a]$$

Theorem: If  $X: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a r.v. then

$$E[X] = \sum_{\omega \in \Omega} X(\omega) \cdot \Pr[\omega]$$

$X$  is a Poisson r.v. with parameter  $\lambda$ . ( $X \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda)$ )

For any  $i=0, 1, \dots$   $\Pr[X=i] = e^{-\lambda} \cdot \frac{\lambda^i}{i!}$

$$\begin{aligned} E[X] &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} i \cdot \Pr[X=i] = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} i \cdot e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^i}{i!} = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^i}{(i-1)!} \\ &= \lambda \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^{i-1}}{(i-1)!} = \lambda \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^i}{i!} = \lambda \end{aligned}$$



## Multiple Random Variables

Experiment: toss 2 coins

$$\Omega = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$$

$$X(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if coin \#1 is heads} \\ 0, & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

$$Y(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if coin \#2 is heads} \\ 0, & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

$X$  and  $Y$  are two different r.v.s  
on the same sample space.

# Multiple Random Variables

Joint Distribution: If  $X$  and  $Y$  are two r.v.s over the same probability space then their joint distribution is defined as

$$\{(a, b, \Pr[X=a, Y=b]) : a \in \text{range}(X), b \in \text{range}(Y)\}$$

## Example

Flip two coins

$X=1$  iff first coin is heads  
 $Y=1$  iff second coin is heads

$X \backslash Y$	0	1
0	$1/4$	$1/4$
1	$1/4$	$1/4$

# Multiple Random Variables

Joint Distribution: If  $X$  and  $Y$  are two r.v.s over the same probability space then their joint distribution is defined as

$$\{(a, b, \Pr[X=a, Y=b]) : a \in \text{range}(X), b \in \text{range}(Y)\}$$

## Example

Flip two biased coins with heads prob.  $p$

$X=1$  iff first coin is H  
 $Y=1$  iff second coin is H

		$Y$	
		$0$	$1$
$X$	$0$	$(1-p)^2$	$(1-p) \cdot p$
	$1$	$p \cdot (1-p)$	$p^2$

# Multiple Random Variables

Joint Distribution: If  $X$  and  $Y$  are two r.v.s over the same probability space then their joint distribution is defined as

$$\{(a, b, \Pr[X=a, Y=b]) : a \in \text{range}(X), b \in \text{range}(Y)\}$$

## Marginal Distributions

Marginal for  $X$ :  $\Pr[X=a] = \sum_{b \in \text{range}(Y)} \Pr[X=a, Y=b]$

Marginal for  $Y$ :  $\Pr[Y=b] = \sum_{a \in \text{range}(X)} \Pr[X=a, Y=b]$

# Multiple Random Variables

Joint Distribution:

$\{(a, b, \Pr[X=a, Y=b]) : a \in \text{range}(X), b \in \text{range}(Y)\}$

Marginal for X:  $\Pr[X=a] = \sum_{b \in \text{range}(Y)} \Pr[X=a, Y=b]$

Marginal for Y:  $\Pr[Y=b] = \sum_{a \in \text{range}(X)} \Pr[X=a, Y=b]$

Example:

X \ Y	1	2	3
1	0	0.1	0.2
2	0.3	0	0
3	0.1	0.2	0.1

$$\Pr[X=1] =$$

$$\Pr[Y=3] =$$

$$\Pr[X=1 | Y=3] =$$

Recap

# Independence

Definition: We say that events A and B are independent if

$$Pr[A \cap B] = Pr[A] \cdot Pr[B].$$

or equivalently  
"

$$Pr[B|A] = Pr[B]$$

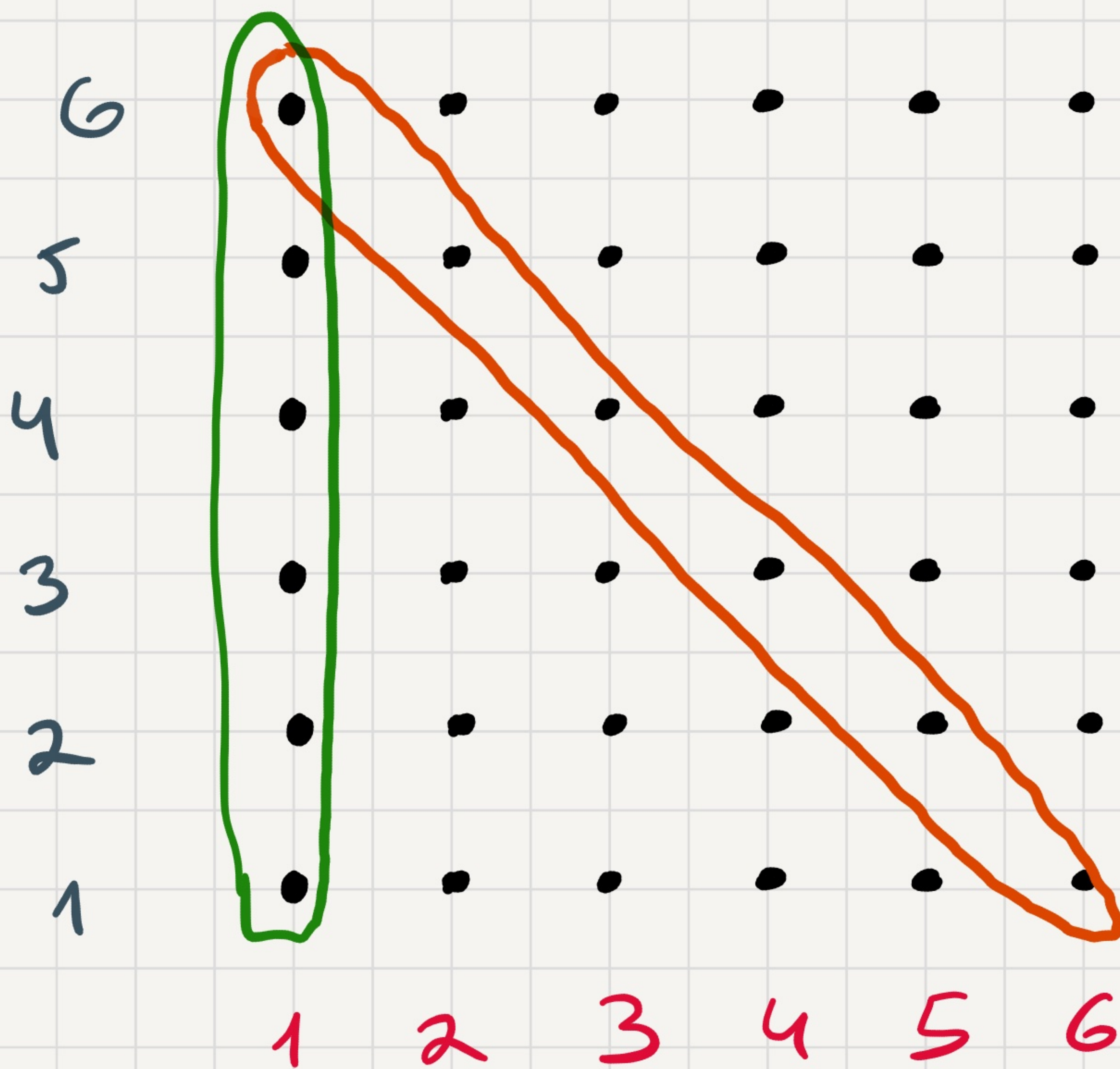
$$Pr[A|B] = Pr[A].$$

Recap

# Rolling two dice

A = "sum is 7"

B = "red die is 1"



Pr. of each outcome = 1/36.

$$Pr[A \cap B] = 1/36 = Pr[A] \cdot Pr[B]$$

independent!

## Definition Pairwise Independence

We say that events  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  are pairwise independent if

$\forall i \neq j$   $A_i$  and  $A_j$  are independent.

## Definition Mutual Independence

We say that events  $A_1, A_2, A_3$  are **mutually** independent if

they are pairwise indep. and  $P_r[A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3] = P_r[A_1] \cdot P_r[A_2] \cdot P_r[A_3]$



Recap

## Definition Pairwise Independence

We say that events  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  are pairwise independent if

$\forall i \neq j$   $A_i$  and  $A_j$  are independent.

## Definition Mutual Independence

We say that events  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  are **mutually** independent if for each

non-empty subset  $I \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$   $\Pr\left[\bigcap_{i \in I} A_i\right] = \prod_{i \in I} \Pr[A_i]$

## Independent Random Variables

Def'n: We say that two r.v.s  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent if

$$\Pr[X=a, Y=b] = \Pr[X=a] \cdot \Pr[Y=b]$$

for all  $a \in \text{range}(X)$   
 $b \in \text{range}(Y)$ .

Fact: If  $X$  &  $Y$  are indep.

$$\Pr[X=a \mid Y=b] = \Pr[X=a]$$

# Independence - Examples

Example 1: Roll two dice.  $X$  - result of first die  
 $Y$  - " " " second "

Example 2: Roll two dice.  $X$  - result of first die  
 $Y$  - sum of two dice.

Example 3: Flip a fair coin 10 times  
 $X$  - number of heads in first 5 flips  
 $Y$  - " " " " " last 5 flips.

# Independence - Examples

Example 1: Roll two dice.  $X$  - result of first die  
 $Y$  - " " second "

Are  $X$  &  $Y$  independent? **Yes.**

for  $a, b \in \{1, \dots, 6\}$ :  $\Pr[X=a, Y=b] = \frac{1}{36} = \Pr[X=a] \cdot \Pr[Y=b]$

Example 2: Roll two dice.  $X$  - result of first die  
 $Y$  - sum of two dice.

Are  $X$  &  $Y$  Independent?

Example 3: Flip a fair coin 10 times

$X$  - number of heads in first 5 flips

$Y$  - " " " " last 5 flips.

Are  $X$  &  $Y$  independent? Yes

for  $a, b \in \{0, 1, \dots, 5\}$

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[X=a, Y=b] &= \binom{5}{a} \binom{5}{b} \cdot \frac{1}{2^{10}} = \binom{5}{a} \frac{1}{2^5} \cdot \binom{5}{b} \cdot \frac{1}{2^5} \\ &= \Pr[X=a] \cdot \Pr[Y=b] \end{aligned}$$

# Linearity of Expectation

Theorem: If  $X$  and  $Y$  are r.v.s (over the same prob. space)

then 
$$\mathbb{E}[X+Y] = \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y]$$

Note: No need for  $X$  &  $Y$  to be independent!

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[X+Y] &= \sum_{\omega \in \Omega} (X+Y)(\omega) \cdot P_r[\omega] \\ &= \sum_{\omega \in \Omega} (X(\omega) + Y(\omega)) \cdot P_r[\omega] \\ &= \left( \sum_{\omega \in \Omega} X(\omega) \cdot P_r[\omega] \right) + \left( \sum_{\omega \in \Omega} Y(\omega) \cdot P_r[\omega] \right) \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y].\end{aligned}$$

**Theorem:** If  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  are r.v.s

$a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{R}$  then

$$E[a_1 X_1 + \dots + a_n X_n] = a_1 E[X_1] + \dots + a_n E[X_n]$$

**Proof:** Induction on  $n$ .



# Rolling two dice

$X$  - the sum of the two dice

6	•	•	•	•	•	•
5	•	•	•	•	•	•
4	•	•	•	•	•	•
3	•	•	•	•	•	•
2	•	•	•	•	•	•
1	•	•	•	•	•	•
	1	2	3	4	5	6



Pr. of each outcome  
=  $1/36$ .

Dist. of  $X$

$$\Pr[X=a] = \begin{cases} 1/36, & a=2 \\ 2/36, & a=3 \\ \vdots & \\ 1/36, & a=12 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E[X] &= 2 \cdot \frac{1}{36} + 3 \cdot \frac{2}{36} + 4 \cdot \frac{3}{36} + \dots + 12 \cdot \frac{1}{36} \\ &= 7. \end{aligned}$$

# Rolling two dice

$X_1$  - result of first die

$X_2$  - " " second die

$$X = X_1 + X_2$$

6	•	•	•	•	•	•
5	•	•	•	•	•	•
4	•	•	•	•	•	•
3	•	•	•	•	•	•
2	•	•	•	•	•	•
1	•	•	•	•	•	•



Pr. of each outcome  
=  $1/36$ .

$$E[X] = E[X_1 + X_2] = E[X_1] + E[X_2] = \frac{1+2+\dots+6}{6} + \frac{1+\dots+6}{6} = 3.5 + 3.5 = 7$$

## Rolling 100 dice

$X$  - total sum of dice.

Q: Calculate  $E[X]$ .

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$X_1$  - result of first die

$X_2$  - " " second die

⋮

$X_{100}$  - " " 100th die

$$X = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_{100}$$

$$E[X] = E[X_1 + \dots + X_{100}] = E[X_1] + \dots + E[X_{100}]$$

$$= 3.5 \cdot 100 = 350.$$

## Indicator Random Variable

Def'n: Let  $A$  be an event. The r.v.  $X$  defined as

$$X(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1, & \omega \in A \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

is called the indicator of  $A$ .

Usually we denote  $X$  by  $\mathbb{1}_A$ .

$$\Pr[X=1] = \Pr[A], \quad \Pr[X=0] = 1 - \Pr[A]$$

$$E[X] = 1 \cdot \Pr[X=1] + 0 \cdot \Pr[X=0] = \Pr[A].$$

Recap

# Binomial Distribution

Random Experiment: Flip  $n$  biased coins with heads prob.  $p$ .

Random Variable:  $X$  - number of heads  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$

$$\Omega = \{ HHH \dots H, HHH \dots HT, \dots, TTT \dots T \}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P_r [X = i] &= (\# \text{ of sequences with } i \text{ heads}) \cdot p^i \cdot (1-p)^{n-i} \\ &= \binom{n}{i} \cdot p^i (1-p)^{n-i} \end{aligned}$$

$$E[X] = ?$$

# Binomial Distribution

Random Experiment: Flip  $n$  biased coins with heads prob.  $p$ .

Random Variable:  $X$  - number of heads  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$

$$\Omega = \{HHH\dots H, HHH\dots HT, \dots, TTT\dots T\}$$

Define r.v.s  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$

$$X_i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{i'th coin flip is heads} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$X = X_1 + \dots + X_n$$

$$\mathbb{E} X = \mathbb{E} X_1 + \dots + \mathbb{E} X_n = n \cdot \mathbb{E} X_1 = n \cdot p.$$

## Using Linearity of Expectation

Handout assignment at random to  $n$  students

$X$  = number of students who got their own assignment.

$$X = X_1 + \dots + X_n \quad X_i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if student } i \text{ got} \\ & \text{their assignment} \\ 0, & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

$$E[X] = E[X_1] + \dots + E[X_n]$$

$$\forall i \quad E[X_i] = \frac{1}{n}$$

$$\text{Thus, } E[X] = 1$$

## n balls in n bins

$X$  - number of empty bins.

$X_i$  - indicator for bin  $i$  being empty.

$$X = X_1 + \dots + X_n$$

$$\Pr[X_i = 1] = \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)^n \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{e}$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = n \cdot \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)^n$$



## Summary

- Joint distribution for r.v.s  $X$  and  $Y$

$$\{(a, b, \Pr[X=a, Y=b]) : a \in \text{range}(X), b \in \text{range}(Y)\}$$

- Marginal for  $X$ :  $\Pr[X=a] = \sum_{b \in \text{range}(Y)} \Pr[X=a, Y=b]$

- Marginal for  $Y$ :  $\Pr[Y=b] = \sum_{a \in \text{range}(X)} \Pr[X=a, Y=b]$

- $X$  and  $Y$  are independent r.v.s if for all  $a, b$

$$\Pr[X=a, Y=b] = \Pr[X=a] \Pr[Y=b]$$

- Linearity of expectation: for any two r.v.s  $X, Y$

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

- $X$  is an indicator r.v. for event  $A$  if  $X(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1, & \omega \in A \\ 0, & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$