

OUTCOMES, EVENTS AND SAMPLE SPACE

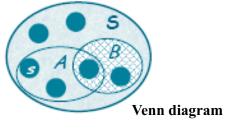
• Random experiment: repeating the experiment produces a different (*a priori* unknown) outcome each time.

• An event A is a set of outcomes:

A = { s : such that s is an even number }

• Sample space is the set of all possible outcomes.

"outcome" ∈ Event ⊂ Sample Space



EXAMPLES OF RANDOM EXPERIMENTS

• Roll a die once and record the result of the top-face:

- **S** = { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6}
- *A* = "the outcome is even" = {2, 4, 6}
- *B* = "the outcome is larger than 3" = {4, 5, 6}
- *C* = "the outcome is odd" = {1, 3, 5}
- Roll a die once and see if the top-face is even
- **S** = { even, odd } = { *A*, *C* }

AXIOMS OF PROBABILITY

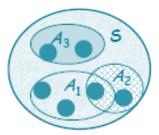
- Probability of any event A is non-negative: $P[A] \ge 0$.
- The probability that "the outcome belongs to the sample space" is 1: *P*[*S*] = 1.
- The probability of "the union of mutually-exclusive events" is the sum of their probabilities:
 - If $A_1 \cap A_2 = \emptyset$, $\Rightarrow P[A_1 \cup A_2] = P[A_1] + P[A_2]$

MUTUAL EXCLUSIVITY

o In general:

$\mathsf{P}[A_1 \cup A_2] = \mathsf{P}[A_1] + \mathsf{P}[A_2] - \mathsf{P}[A_1 \cap A_2]$

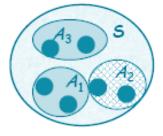
• This formula works for both mutually exclusive and non-mutuallyexclusive events



MUTUAL EXCLUSIVITY

• The probability of "the union of mutually-exclusive events" is the sum of their probabilities:

If
$$A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$$
, $i \neq j \implies P\left[\bigcup_j A_j\right] = \sum_i P[A_j]$

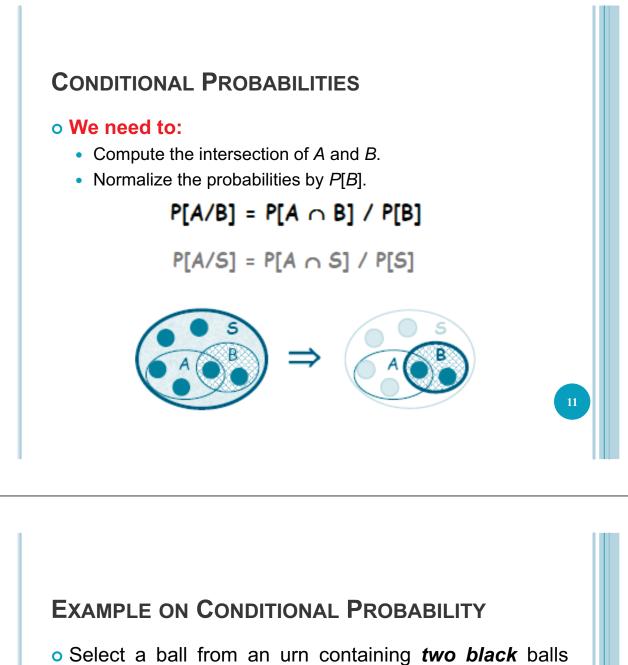


CONDITIONAL PROBABILITIES

- When two events are related, in a sense that one tells us something about the other.
- Given that an event *B* has occurred, what is the probability of *A*?

Given that *B* has occurred, this reduces the sample space:
S → B ⊂ S



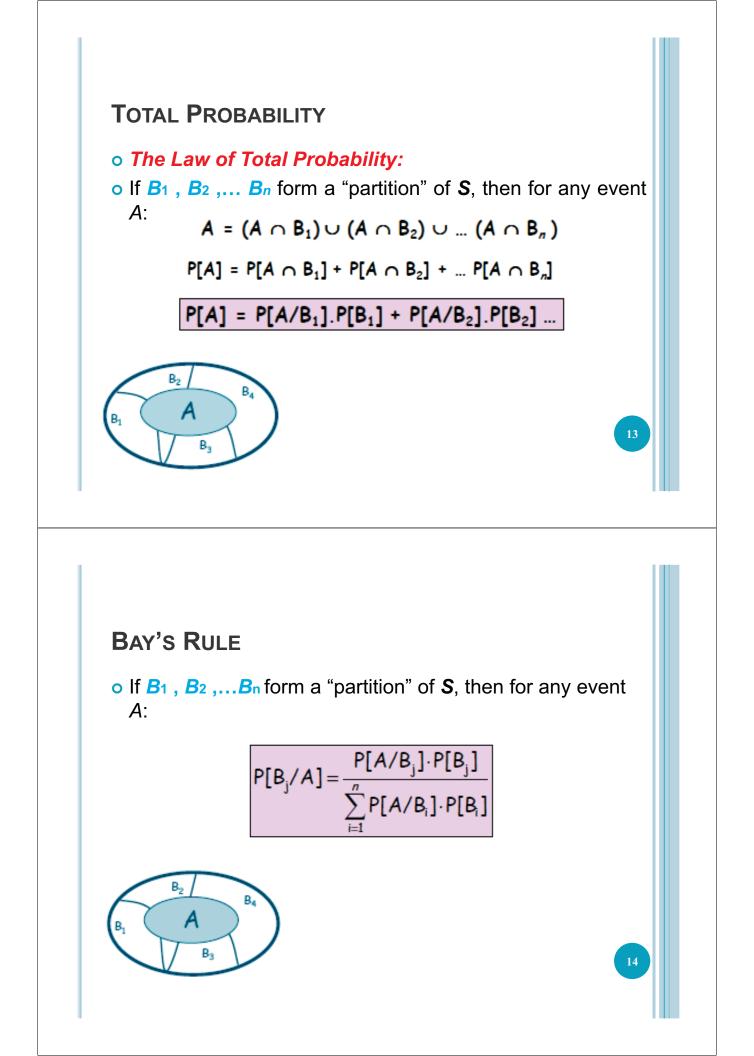


- labeled 1 and 2, and *two white* balls labeled 3 and 4.
- Assuming equi-probable outcomes, find P[A/B].

 $\pmb{S} = \{(1,b),(2,b),(3,W),(4,W)\}$

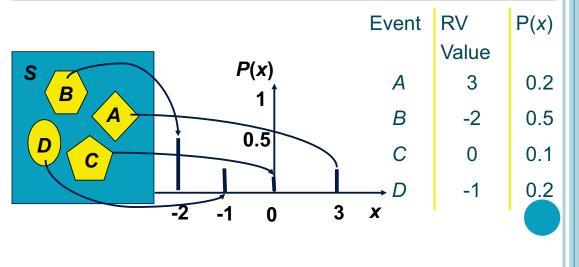
- A = {(1,b),(2,b)}, "black ball selected".
- B = {(2,b),(4,W)}, "even-numbered ball selected".

$$P[A/B] = \frac{P[A \cap B]}{P[B]} = \frac{0.25}{0.5} = 0.5$$



RANDOM VARIABLES

Random Variable: assigns a number to each outcome of a random experiment, or, equivalently, to each unit in a population.



WHAT IS A RANDOM VARIABLE?

"Numerical outcome of a random circumstance"

Two different broad classes of random variables:

- 1. A **continuous random variable** can take any value in an interval or collection of intervals.
- 2. A **discrete random variable** can take one of a countable list of distinct values.

DISCRETE RANDOM VARIABLES

X the random variable.

k = a number the discrete r.v. could assume.

P(X = k) is the probability that X equals k.

Discrete random variable: can only result in a countable set of possibilities – often a finite number of outcomes, but can be infinite.

Example: It is Possible to Toss Forever

Repeatedly tossing a fair coin, and define: X = number of tosses until the first head occurs Any number of flips is a possible outcome. $P(X = k) = (1/2)^k$

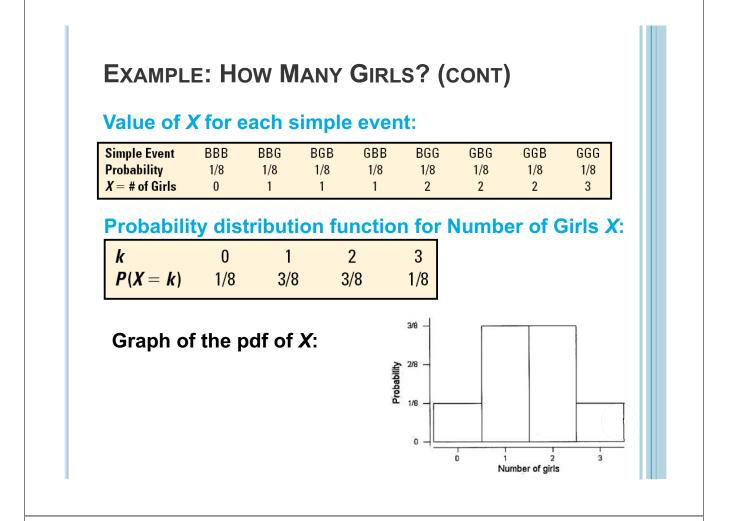
EXAMPLE: HOW MANY GIRLS ARE LIKELY?

Family has 3 children. Probability of a girl is ? What are the probabilities of having 0, 1, 2, or 3 girls?

Sample Space: For each birth, write either B or G. There are eight possible arrangements of B and G for three births. These are the simple events.

Sample Space and Probabilities: The eight simple events are equally likely.

Random Variable X: number of girls in three births. For each simple event, the value of X is the number of G's listed.



CONDITIONS FOR PROBABILITIES FOR DISCRETE RANDOM VARIABLES

Condition 1

The sum of the probabilities over all possible values of a discrete random variable must equal 1.

Condition 2

The probability of any specific outcome for a discrete random variable must be between 0 and 1.

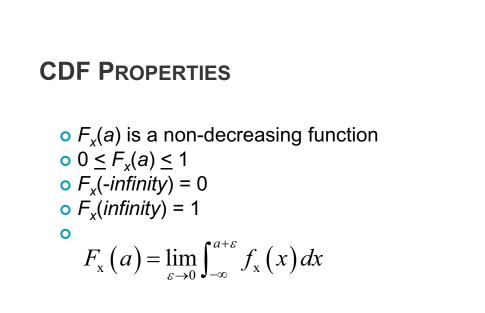
CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION (CDF) OF A DISCRETE RANDOM VARIABLE

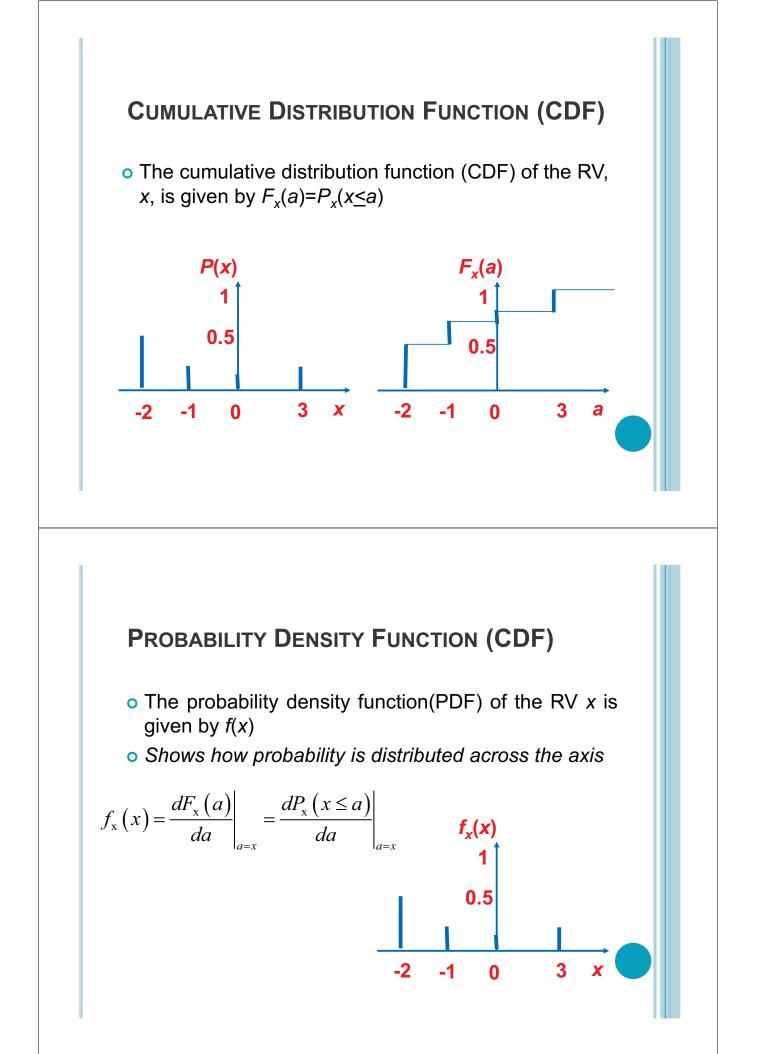
Cumulative distribution function (cdf) for a random variable X is a rule or table that provides the probabilities $P(X \le k)$ for any real number k.

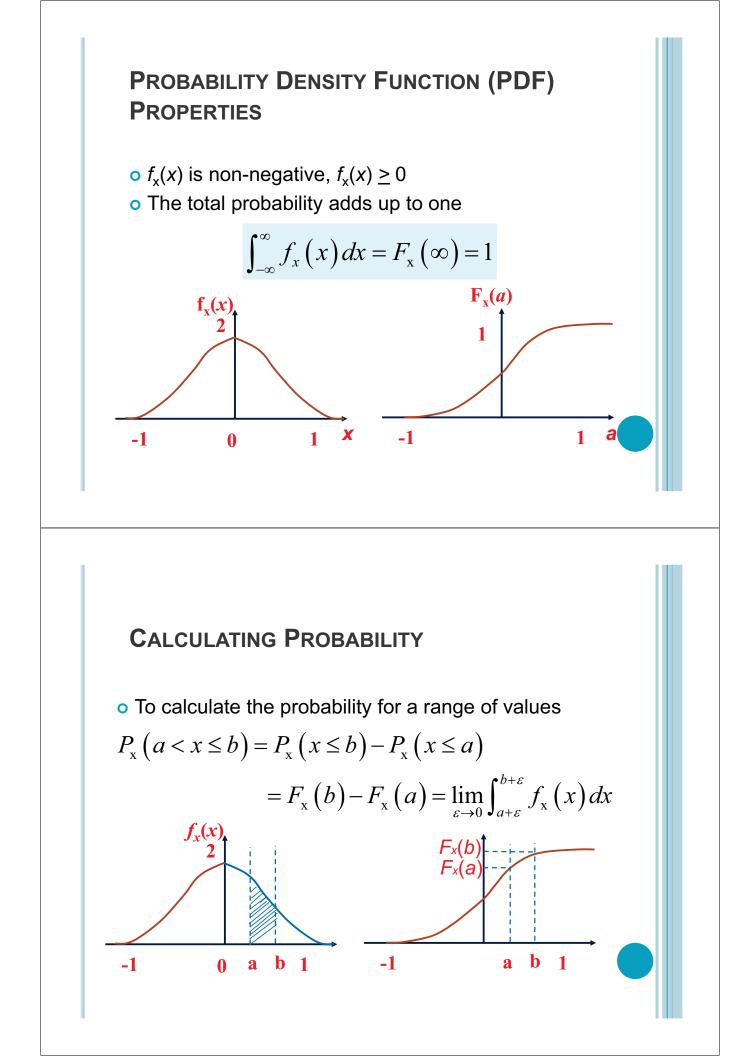
Cumulative probability = probability that *X* is less than or equal to a particular value.

Example: Cumulative Distribution Function for the Number of Girls (cont)

k	0	1	2	3
$P(X \leq k)$	1/8	4/8	7/8	1







Mean of a Random Variable

• Discrete Random Variable

$$E(X) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i P(X = x_i)$$

- E(.) is called expectation of (.)
- Continuous Random Variable

$$\mathrm{E}(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_X(x) \, dx$$

 $f_X(x)$ is probability density function of x

Moments of a Random Variable

• Discrete Random Variable

$$E(X^{k}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{i}^{k} P(X = x_{i})$$

• Continuous Random Variable

$$\mathrm{E}(X^k) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^k f_X(x) \, dx$$

Central Moments

Discrete Random Variable

$$E((X - E(X))^{k}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_{i} - E(X))^{k} P(X = x_{i})$$

• Continuous Random Variable

$$E(X - E(x))^k) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - E(x))^k f_X(x) dx$$

Variance of the random variable

$$\operatorname{Var}(X) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - E(X))^2 P(X = x_i)$$
$$\operatorname{Std}(X) = \sqrt{\operatorname{Var}(X)}$$

- Std : is the standard deviation.
- · Variance is a measure of random variable's randomness

STANDARD DEVIATION FOR A DISCRETE RANDOM VARIABLE

The **standard deviation** of a random variable is essentially the average distance the random variable falls from its mean over the long run.

If *X* is a random variable with possible values x_1 , x_2 , x_3 , . . . , occurring with probabilities p_1 , p_2 , p_3 , . . . , and **expected value** E(X) = m, then

Variance of $X = V(X) = \sigma^2 = \sum (x_i - \mu)^2 p_i$ Standard Deviation of $X = \sigma = \sqrt{\sum (x_i - \mu)^2 p_i}$

CONTINUOUS RANDOM VARIABLES

Continuous random variable: the outcome can be any value in an interval or collection of intervals.

Example of CRV = height, time, weight, and money.

Probability density function for a continuous random variable X is a curve such that the area under the curve over an interval equals the probability that X is in that interval.

 $P(a \le X \le b)$ = area under density curve over the interval between the values *a* and *b*.



A density curve (or probability density function) is a graph of a continuous probability distribution. It must satisfy the following 2 properties.

✓ Total area under the curve = 1.0

✓ Every point on the curve must have a vertical height that is 0 or greater (the curve cannot fall below the x-axis)