

# Discrete Probability Mass Functions

Dr. Daniel B. Rowe  
Professor of Computational Statistics  
Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences  
Marquette University



# Outline

Probability Rules

Binomial PMF

Expectation of a RV

Discussion

Homework

# Probability Rules

## Properties

For a bivariate probability mass function (PMF) of  $X$  and  $Y$ ,  $P(X, Y)$

$$1. \quad 0 \leq P(X, Y) \leq 1$$

$$2. \quad \sum_X \sum_Y P(X, Y) = 1$$

$$3. \quad P(X) = \sum_Y P(X, Y)$$

can swap  
 $X$  and  $Y$

$$4. \quad P(X, Y) = P(Y | X)P(X)$$
$$P(Y | X) = \frac{P(X, Y)}{P(X)}$$

can swap  
 $X$  and  $Y$

$$5. \quad P(Y | X) = \frac{P(X | Y)P(Y)}{P(X)}$$

can swap  
 $X$  and  $Y$

# Probability Rules

Birth Gender	
$x=0$	Female
$x=1$	Male

Shirt Size	
$y=0$	Small
$y=1$	Medium
$y=2$	Large
$y=3$	X-Large

## Example: Bivariate PMF

Consider two random variables of Marquette Undergraduate students, birth gender ( $X$ ) and shirt size ( $Y$ ).

$P(X = x, Y = y)$		Shirt Size ( $Y$ )			
		$y=0$	$y=1$	$y=2$	$y=3$
Birth Gender ( $X$ )	$x=0$	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.05
	$x=1$	0.05	0.15	0.20	0.10

The probability of a randomly selected Marquette Undergraduate student being a male ( $X=1$ ) that wears a large shirt ( $Y=2$ ) is 0.20.

$$P(X = 1, Y = 2) = 0.20$$

# Probability Rules

Birth Gender	
$x=0$	Female
$x=1$	Male

Shirt Size	
$y=0$	Small
$y=1$	Medium
$y=2$	Large
$y=3$	X-Large

## Example: Bivariate PMF

Consider two random variables of Marquette Undergraduate students, birth gender ( $X$ ) and shirt size ( $Y$ ).

$P(X = x, Y = y)$		Shirt Size ( $Y$ )			
		$y=0$	$y=1$	$y=2$	$y=3$
Birth Gender ( $X$ )	$x=0$	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.05
	$x=1$	0.05	0.15	0.20	0.10

- $0 \leq P(X, Y) \leq 1$

$$0 \leq P(X = x, Y = y) \leq 1$$

# Probability Rules

Birth Gender	
x=0	Female
x=1	Male

Shirt Size	
y=0	Small
y=1	Medium
y=2	Large
y=3	X-Large

## Example: Bivariate PMF

Consider two random variables of Marquette Undergraduate students, birth gender ( $X$ ) and shirt size ( $Y$ ).

$P(X = x, Y = y)$		Shirt Size ( $Y$ )			
		y=0	y=1	y=2	y=3
Birth Gender ( $X$ )	x=0	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.05
	x=1	0.05	0.15	0.20	0.10

$$2. \sum_x \sum_y P(X, Y) = 1$$

# Probability Rules

Birth Gender	
x=0	Female
x=1	Male

Shirt Size	
y=0	Small
y=1	Medium
y=2	Large
y=3	X-Large

## Example: Bivariate PMF

Consider two random variables of Marquette Undergraduate students, birth gender ( $X$ ) and shirt size ( $Y$ ).

$P(X = x, Y = y)$		Shirt Size ( $Y$ )			
		y=0	y=1	y=2	y=3
Birth Gender ( $X$ )	x=0	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.05
	x=1	0.05	0.15	0.20	0.10

$$2. \sum_X \sum_Y P(X, Y) = 1$$

$$\sum_{x=0}^1 \sum_{y=0}^3 P(X = x, Y = y) = 1$$

# Probability Rules

Birth Gender	
$x=0$	Female
$x=1$	Male

Shirt Size	
$y=0$	Small
$y=1$	Medium
$y=2$	Large
$y=3$	X-Large

## Example: Bivariate PMF

Consider two random variables of Marquette Undergraduate students, birth gender ( $X$ ) and shirt size ( $Y$ ).

$P(X = x, Y = y)$		Shirt Size ( $Y$ )			
		$y=0$	$y=1$	$y=2$	$y=3$
Birth Gender ( $X$ )	$x=0$	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.05
	$x=1$	0.05	0.15	0.20	0.10

$$2. \sum_X \sum_Y P(X, Y) = 1$$

$$\sum_{x=0}^1 \sum_{y=0}^3 P(X = x, Y = y) = 1$$

$$\sum_{y=0}^3 P(X = 0, Y = y) + \sum_{y=0}^3 P(X = 1, Y = y) = 1$$



# Probability Rules

Birth Gender	
x=0	Female
x=1	Male

Shirt Size	
y=0	Small
y=1	Medium
y=2	Large
y=3	X-Large

## Example: Bivariate PMF

Consider two random variables of Marquette Undergraduate students, birth gender ( $X$ ) and shirt size ( $Y$ ).

$P(X = x, Y = y)$		Shirt Size ( $Y$ )			
		y=0	y=1	y=2	y=3
Birth Gender ( $X$ )	x=0	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.05
	x=1	0.05	0.15	0.20	0.10

$$3. P(Y) = \sum_x P(X, Y)$$

# Probability Rules

Birth Gender	
$x=0$	Female
$x=1$	Male

Shirt Size	
$y=0$	Small
$y=1$	Medium
$y=2$	Large
$y=3$	X-Large

## Example: Bivariate PMF

Consider two random variables of Marquette Undergraduate students, birth gender ( $X$ ) and shirt size ( $Y$ ).

$P(X = x, Y = y)$		Shirt Size ( $Y$ )			
		$y=0$	$y=1$	$y=2$	$y=3$
Birth Gender ( $X$ )	$x=0$	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.05
	$x=1$	0.05	0.15	0.20	0.10

$$3. \quad P(Y) = \sum_x P(X, Y)$$

$$P(Y = y) = \sum_{x=0}^1 P(X = x, Y = y)$$

# Probability Rules

Birth Gender	
$x=0$	Female
$x=1$	Male

Shirt Size	
$y=0$	Small
$y=1$	Medium
$y=2$	Large
$y=3$	X-Large

## Example: Bivariate PMF

Consider two random variables of Marquette Undergraduate students, birth gender ( $X$ ) and shirt size ( $Y$ ).

$P(X = x, Y = y)$		Shirt Size ( $Y$ )			
		$y=0$	$y=1$	$y=2$	$y=3$
Birth Gender ( $X$ )	$x=0$	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.05
	$x=1$	0.05	0.15	0.20	0.10

$$3. P(Y) = \sum_X P(X, Y)$$

$$P(Y = y) = \sum_{x=0}^1 P(X = x, Y = y)$$

$$P(Y = 0) = \sum_{x=0}^1 P(X = x, Y = 0)$$

$$P(Y = 0) = 0.10 + 0.05 = 0.15$$

Shirt Size	
$P(y=0)$	0.15
$P(y=1)$	0.35
$P(y=2)$	0.35
$P(y=3)$	0.15

Birth Gender	
$P(x=0)$	0.50
$P(x=1)$	0.50

# Probability Rules

Birth Gender	
x=0	Female
x=1	Male

Shirt Size	
y=0	Small
y=1	Medium
y=2	Large
y=3	X-Large

## Example: Bivariate PMF

Consider two random variables of Marquette Undergraduate students, birth gender ( $X$ ) and shirt size ( $Y$ ).

$P(X = x, Y = y)$		Shirt Size ( $Y$ )			
		y=0	y=1	y=2	y=3
Birth Gender ( $X$ )	x=0	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.05
	x=1	0.05	0.15	0.20	0.10

$$4. \quad P(X | Y) = \frac{P(X, Y)}{P(Y)}$$

Shirt Size	
$P(y=0)$	0.15
$P(y=1)$	0.35
$P(y=2)$	0.35
$P(y=3)$	0.15

Birth Gender	
$P(x=0)$	0.50
$P(x=1)$	0.50

# Probability Rules

Birth Gender	
x=0	Female
x=1	Male

Shirt Size	
y=0	Small
y=1	Medium
y=2	Large
y=3	X-Large

## Example: Bivariate PMF

Consider two random variables of Marquette Undergraduate students, birth gender ( $X$ ) and shirt size ( $Y$ ).

$P(X = x, Y = y)$		Shirt Size ( $Y$ )			
		y=0	y=1	y=2	y=3
Birth Gender ( $X$ )	x=0	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.05
	x=1	0.05	0.15	0.20	0.10

$$4. \quad P(X | Y) = \frac{P(X, Y)}{P(Y)}$$

$$P(X = x | Y = y) = \frac{P(X = x, Y = y)}{P(Y = y)}$$

Shirt Size	
$P(y=0)$	0.15
$P(y=1)$	0.35
$P(y=2)$	0.35
$P(y=3)$	0.15

Birth Gender	
$P(x=0)$	0.50
$P(x=1)$	0.50

# Probability Rules

Birth Gender	
$x=0$	Female
$x=1$	Male

Shirt Size	
$y=0$	Small
$y=1$	Medium
$y=2$	Large
$y=3$	X-Large

## Example: Bivariate PMF

Consider two random variables of Marquette Undergraduate students, birth gender ( $X$ ) and shirt size ( $Y$ ).

$P(X = x, Y = y)$		Shirt Size ( $Y$ )			
		$y=0$	$y=1$	$y=2$	$y=3$
Birth Gender ( $X$ )	$x=0$	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.05
	$x=1$	0.05	0.15	0.20	0.10

$$4. \quad P(X | Y) = \frac{P(X, Y)}{P(Y)}$$

$$P(X = 1 | Y = 2) = \frac{P(X = 1, Y = 2)}{P(Y = 2)}$$

$$P(X = 1 | Y = 2) = \frac{0.20}{0.35} = 0.57$$

Shirt Size	
$P(y=0)$	0.15
$P(y=1)$	0.35
$P(y=2)$	0.35
$P(y=3)$	0.15

Birth Gender	
$P(x=0)$	0.50
$P(x=1)$	0.50

# Probability Rules

Birth Gender	
x=0	Female
x=1	Male

Shirt Size	
y=0	Small
y=1	Medium
y=2	Large
y=3	X-Large

## Example: Bivariate PMF

Consider two random variables of Marquette Undergraduate students, birth gender ( $X$ ) and shirt size ( $Y$ ).

$P(X = x, Y = y)$		Shirt Size ( $Y$ )			
		y=0	y=1	y=2	y=3
Birth Gender ( $X$ )	x=0	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.05
	x=1	0.05	0.15	0.20	0.10

$$5. \quad P(Y | X) = \frac{P(X | Y)P(Y)}{P(X)}$$

Shirt Size	
$P(y=0)$	0.15
$P(y=1)$	0.35
$P(y=2)$	0.35
$P(y=3)$	0.15

Birth Gender	
$P(x=0)$	0.50
$P(x=1)$	0.50

# Probability Rules

Birth Gender	
x=0	Female
x=1	Male

Shirt Size	
y=0	Small
y=1	Medium
y=2	Large
y=3	X-Large

## Example: Bivariate PMF

Consider two random variables of Marquette Undergraduate students, birth gender ( $X$ ) and shirt size ( $Y$ ).

$P(X = x, Y = y)$		Shirt Size ( $Y$ )			
		y=0	y=1	y=2	y=3
Birth Gender ( $X$ )	x=0	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.05
	x=1	0.05	0.15	0.20	0.10

$$5. \quad P(Y | X) = \frac{P(X | Y)P(Y)}{P(X)}$$

$$P(Y = 2 | X = 1) = \frac{P(X = 1 | Y = 2)P(Y = 2)}{P(X = 1)}$$

Shirt Size	
$P(y=0)$	0.15
$P(y=1)$	0.35
$P(y=2)$	0.35
$P(y=3)$	0.15

Birth Gender	
$P(x=0)$	0.50
$P(x=1)$	0.50



# Probability Rules

Birth Gender	
x=0	Female
x=1	Male

Shirt Size	
y=0	Small
y=1	Medium
y=2	Large
y=3	X-Large

## Example: Bivariate PMF

Consider two random variables of Marquette Undergraduate students, birth gender ( $X$ ) and shirt size ( $Y$ ).

$P(X = x, Y = y)$		Shirt Size ( $Y$ )			
		y=0	y=1	y=2	y=3
Birth Gender ( $X$ )	x=0	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.05
	x=1	0.05	0.15	0.20	0.10

$$5. \quad P(Y | X) = \frac{P(X | Y)P(Y)}{P(X)}$$

$$P(Y = 2 | X = 1) = \frac{P(X = 1 | Y = 2)P(Y = 2)}{P(X = 1)}$$

$$P(Y = 2 | X = 1) = \frac{(0.57)(.35)}{0.50} = 0.40$$

Shirt Size	
$P(y=0)$	0.15
$P(y=1)$	0.35
$P(y=2)$	0.35
$P(y=3)$	0.15

Birth Gender	
$P(x=0)$	0.50
$P(x=1)$	0.50

$$P(X = 1 | Y = 2) = 0.57$$

## Binomial PMF

Let's assume we have two independent events  $E_1$  and  $E_2$ .

We know that  $P(E_1 \text{ and } E_2) = P(E_1)P(E_2)$ .

More generally, if we have  $n$  independent events  $E_1, \dots, E_n$ .

We know that  $P(E_1 \text{ and } E_2 \dots \text{ and } E_n) = P(E_1)P(E_2) \dots P(E_n)$ .

## Binomial PMF

Let's assume we are flipping a coin twice.

$E_1$ =Head on first flip,  $E_2$ =Tail on second flip.

The probability of heads on any given flip is  $p = P(H)$ .

The probability of tails (not heads) on any given flip is  $q = (1-p)$ .



## Binomial PMF

Let's assume we are flipping a coin twice.

$E_1$ =Head on first flip,  $E_2$ =Tail on second flip.

The probability of heads on any given flip is  $p = P(H)$ .

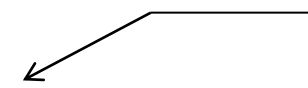
The probability of tails (not heads) on any given flip is  $q = (1-p)$ .

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Then } P(HT)=P(H)P(T) & \text{Similarly } P(TH) = P(T)P(H) \\ =p(1-p). & = (1-p)p. \end{array}$$

Let  $x = \#$  of heads in two flips of a coin.

$$\begin{aligned} P(x=1) &= P(HT)+P(TH) \\ &= p(1-p)+(1-p)p = 2p(1-p). \end{aligned}$$

2 ways to get one  $H$  and one  $T$   
 2 ways to get  $x=1$  heads



# Binomial PMF

Bi means two like bicycle

An experiment with only two outcomes is called a Binomial exp.  
 Call one outcome *Success* and the other *Failure*.  
 Each performance of expt. is called a trial and are independent.

$$P(X = x | p) = \frac{n!}{x!(n-x)!} p^x (1-p)^{n-x} \quad x = 0, \dots, n$$

↑  
 Prob of exactly  $x$  successes

└──────────┬──────────┘  
 num( $x$  successes and  $n-x$  failures )     $P(x$  successes and  $n-x$  failures)

$$\binom{n}{x} = \frac{n!}{x!(n-x)!}$$

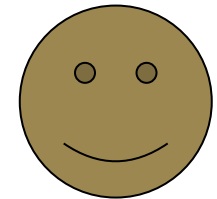
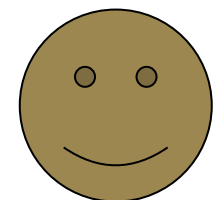
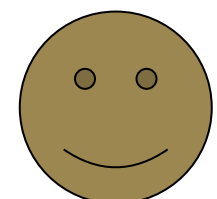
$n$  = number of trials or times we repeat the experiment.  
 $x$  = the number of successes out of  $n$  trials.  
 $p$  = the probability of success on an individual trial.

# Binomial PMF

Flip coin three times.

$p=2/3$   $x=$  # of Heads

$n(x)=$  ways to get  $x$  Heads



$O$	$P(O)$
HHH	8 / 27
HHT	4 / 27
HTH	4 / 27
HTT	2 / 27
THH	4 / 27
THT	2 / 27
TTH	2 / 27
TTT	1 / 27

$n=3$   
 $x=1$   
 $p=2/3$

$x$	$n(x)$
0	1
1	3
2	3
3	1

$x$	$P(x)$
0	1 / 27
1	6 / 27
2	12 / 27
3	8 / 27

$$P(x | p) = \frac{n!}{x!(n-x)!} p^x (1-p)^{n-x}$$

$$P(1) = \frac{3!}{1!(3-1)!} (2/3)^1 (1-2/3)^{3-1}$$

$$P(1) = 6 / 27$$

## Binomial PMF

The Binomial PMF can equivalently be represented as.

$$P(X_1 = x_1, X_2 = x_2 | p_1, p_2) = \frac{n!}{x_1!x_2!} p_1^{x_1} p_2^{x_2}$$

for the probability of exactly  $x_1$  of outcome 1 and  $x_2$  of outcome 2 in  $n$  trials where the probability of outcome 1 is  $p_1$  and of outcome 2 is  $p_2$  where  $x_1 + x_2 = n$  and  $p_1 + p_2 = 1$ .

If we define vectors  $x = (x_1, x_2)'$  and  $p = (p_1, p_2)'$  then

$$P(x | p) = \frac{n!}{x_1!x_2!} p_1^{x_1} p_2^{x_2}$$



## Binomial PMF

A generalization of the binomial PMF is the Multinomial PMF where there are  $K$  different possibilities with  $p_k$  and  $x_k$  being the probability and count for the  $k^{\text{th}}$  category,  $k=1, \dots, K$ .

$$P(X_1 = x_1, \dots, X_K = x_K \mid p_1, p_2, \dots, p_K) = \frac{n!}{x_1! x_2! \dots x_K!} p_1^{x_1} p_2^{x_2} \dots p_K^{x_K}$$

Define vectors  $x=(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_K)'$  and  $p=(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_K)'$  then

$$P(x \mid p) = \frac{n!}{\prod_{k=1}^K x_k!} \prod_{k=1}^K p_k^{x_k}$$

where  $x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_K = n$  and  $p_1 + p_2 + \dots + p_K = 1$ .

## Expectation of RV

### PMF

$$E(Y) = \sum_Y YP(Y)$$

$$\text{var}(Y) = \sum_Y (Y - E(Y))^2 P(Y)$$

### Conditional PMF

$$E(Y | X) = \sum_Y YP(Y | X)$$

$$\text{var}(Y | X) = \sum_Y (Y - E(Y | X))^2 P(Y | X)$$

# Expectation of RV

## PMF

$$\begin{aligned} E(Y) &= \sum_{y=0}^3 yP(Y = y) \\ &= 0(0.15) + 1(0.35) + 2(0.35) + 3(0.15) \\ &= 1.50 \end{aligned}$$

Shirt Size	
$P(y=0)$	0.15
$P(y=1)$	0.35
$P(y=2)$	0.35
$P(y=3)$	0.15

$$\text{var}(Y) = \sum_{y=0}^3 (y - E(Y))^2 P(Y = y)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{var}(Y) &= (0 - 1.5)^2 (0.15) + (1 - 1.5)^2 (0.35) \\ &\quad + (2 - 1.5)^2 (0.35) + (3 - 1.5)^2 (0.15) \\ &= 0.85 \end{aligned}$$

# Expectation of RV

## Conditional PMF

$$\begin{aligned}
 E(Y | X = 1) &= \sum_{y=0}^3 yP(Y = y | X = 1) \\
 &= 0(0.10) + 1(0.30) + 2(0.4) + 3(0.20) \\
 &= 1.70
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{var}(Y | X = 1) &= \sum_{y=0}^3 (y - E(Y = y | X = 1))^2 P(Y = y | X = 1) \\
 &= 0(0 - 1.7)^2 (0.10) + (1 - 1.7)^2 (0.30) \\
 &\quad + (2 - 1.7)^2 (0.4) + (3 - 1.7)^2 (0.20) \\
 &= 0.52
 \end{aligned}$$

$P(Y = y   X = x)$		Shirt Size (Y)			
		y=0	y=1	y=2	y=3
Birth Gender (X)	x=0	0.20	0.40	0.30	0.10
	x=1	0.10	0.30	0.40	0.20

# Discussion

# Questions?

# Homework 2

1. Use Matlab to generate 1000 observations from the Birth Gender ( $X$ ) and Shirt Size ( $Y$ ) bivariate PMF.

$P(X = x, Y = y)$		Shirt Size ( $Y$ )			
		$y=0$	$y=1$	$y=2$	$y=3$
Birth Gender ( $X$ )	$x=0$	0.10	0.20	0.15	0.05
	$x=1$	0.05	0.15	0.20	0.10

a. Fill in a table of counts.

$n(X = x, Y = y)$		Shirt Size ( $Y$ )			
		$y=0$	$y=1$	$y=2$	$y=3$
Birth Gender ( $X$ )	$x=0$				
	$x=1$				

b. Estimate the bivariate PMF.

$\hat{P}(X = x, Y = y)$		Shirt Size ( $Y$ )			
		$y=0$	$y=1$	$y=2$	$y=3$
Birth Gender ( $X$ )	$x=0$				
	$x=1$				

c. Estimate  $P(Y=2|X=1)$ .

d. Estimate  $E(Y)$  and  $E(Y|X=1)$ ,  $y=0,1,2,3$ .

## Homework 2

2. Use Matlab to generate 1000 observations from the Binomial PMF with  $n=2$  and  $p=2/3$ .

a. Fill in a table of counts.

$x$	$x=0$	$x=1$	$x=2$
$n(X=x)$			

b. Estimate the univariate PMF.

$x$	$x=0$	$x=1$	$x=2$
$P(X=x)$			

c. Estimate  $E(X)$ .