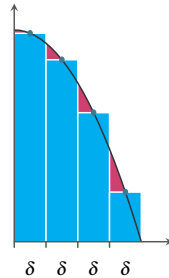


## Survey

Fill it out!!  
[tinyurl.com/cs70-survey](http://tinyurl.com/cs70-survey)

## Calculus



Riemann Sum/Integral:  $\int_a^b f(x) dx = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \sum_i \delta f(a_i)$   
 "Area is defined as rectangles and add up some thin ones."

Derivative (Rate of change):  
 $F'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{F(x+h) - F(x)}{h}$   
 "Rise over run of close together points."

Fundamental Theorem:  $F(b) - F(a) = \int_a^b F'(x) dx$ .  
 "Area ( $F(\cdot)$ ) under  $f(x)$  grows at  $x$ ,  $F'(x)$ , by  $f(x)$ "  
 Thus  $F'(x) = f(x)$ .

## CS70: Continuous Probability.

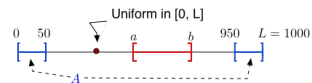
Continuous Probability 1

1. Examples
2. Events
3. Continuous Random Variables

## Uniformly at Random in $[0, 1]$ .

Choose a real number  $X$ , uniformly at random in  $[0, 1]$ .

What is the probability that  $X$  is exactly equal to  $1/3$ ? Well, ..., 0.



What is the probability that  $X$  is exactly equal to 0.6? Again, 0.

In fact, for any  $x \in [0, 1]$ , one has  $Pr[X = x] = 0$ .

How should we then describe 'choosing uniformly at random in  $[0, 1]$ '?

Here is the way to do it:

$$Pr[X \in [a, b]] = b - a, \forall 0 \leq a \leq b \leq 1.$$

Makes sense:  $b - a$  is the fraction of  $[0, 1]$  that  $[a, b]$  covers.

## Poll

$$F_X(x) = Pr[X \leq x]$$

$$f_X(x) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{Pr[X \in (x, x + \delta)]}{\delta}$$

What is true?

- (A)  $F_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(y) dy$
- (B)  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) = 1$
- (C)  $F_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(y) dy$ .
- (D)  $f(x) = F'_X(x)$ .
- (E)  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F_X(x) dx = 1$ .
- (F)  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (1 - F(x)) dx$ .

- (A) False. limits wrong. (B) cuz probability distribution.
- (C) "sums up probability of rectangles", e.g. calculus.
- (D) calculus, fundamental theorem.

(F) is true since  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F(x) dx = E[X]$ .

Next lecture.

## Uniformly at Random in $[0, 1]$ .

Let  $[a, b]$  denote the **event** that the point  $X$  is in the interval  $[a, b]$ .

$$Pr[[a, b]] = \frac{\text{length of } [a, b]}{\text{length of } [0, 1]} = \frac{b - a}{1} = b - a.$$

Intervals like  $[a, b] \subseteq \Omega = [0, 1]$  are **events**.

More generally, events in this space are **unions of intervals**.

Example: the event  $A$  - "within 0.2 of 0 or 1" is  $A = [0, 0.2] \cup [0.8, 1]$ .

Thus,

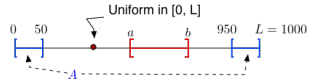
$$Pr[A] = Pr[[0, 0.2]] + Pr[[0.8, 1]] = 0.4.$$

More generally, if  $A_n$  are pairwise disjoint intervals in  $[0, 1]$ , then

$$Pr[\cup_n A_n] := \sum_n Pr[A_n].$$

Many subsets of  $[0, 1]$  are of this form. Thus, the probability of those sets is well defined. We call such sets **events**.

### Uniformly at Random in [0, 1].



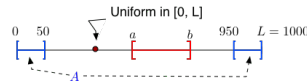
Note: A radical change in approach.

**Finite prob. space:**  $\Omega = \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$ , with  $Pr[\omega] = p_\omega$ .  
 $\implies Pr[A] = \sum_{\omega \in A} p_\omega$  for  $A \subset \Omega$ .

**Continuous space:** e.g.,  $\Omega = [0, 1]$ ,  
 $Pr[\omega]$  is typically 0.

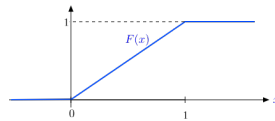
Instead, start with  $Pr[A]$  for some events  $A$ .  
 Event  $A$  = interval, or union of intervals.

### Uniformly at Random in [0, 1].



$Pr[X \leq x] = x$  for  $x \in [0, 1]$ . Also,  $Pr[X \leq x] = 0$  for  $x < 0$ .  
 $Pr[X \leq x] = 1$  for  $.2x > 1$ .

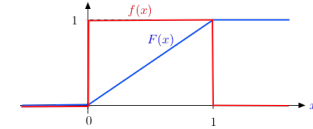
Define  $F(x) = Pr[X \leq x]$ .



Then we have  $Pr[X \in (a, b)] = Pr[X \leq b] - Pr[X \leq a] = F(b) - F(a)$ .

Thus,  $F(\cdot)$  specifies the probability of all the events!

### Uniformly at Random in [0, 1].



$$Pr[X \in (a, b)] = Pr[X \leq b] - Pr[X \leq a] = F(b) - F(a).$$

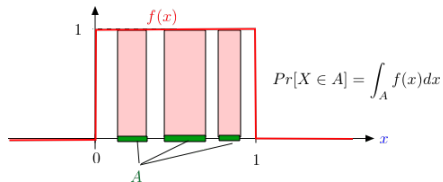
An alternative view is to define  $f(x) = \frac{d}{dx} F(x) = 1 \{x \in [0, 1]\}$ . Then

$$F(b) - F(a) = \int_a^b f(x) dx.$$

Thus, the probability of an event is the integral of  $f(x)$  over the event:

$$Pr[X \in A] = \int_A f(x) dx.$$

### Uniformly at Random in [0, 1].



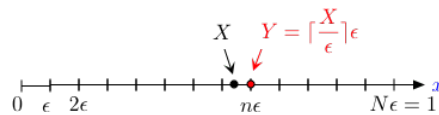
Think of  $f(x)$  as describing how  
 one unit of probability is spread over  $[0, 1]$ : uniformly!

Then  $Pr[X \in A]$  is the probability mass over  $A$ .

Observe:

- ▶ This makes the probability automatically additive.
- ▶ We need  $f(x) \geq 0$  and  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = 1$ .

### Uniformly at Random in [0, 1].



**Discrete Approximation:** Fix  $N \gg 1$  and let  $\epsilon = 1/N$ .

Define  $Y = n\epsilon$  if  $(n-1)\epsilon < X \leq n\epsilon$  for  $n = 1, \dots, N$ .

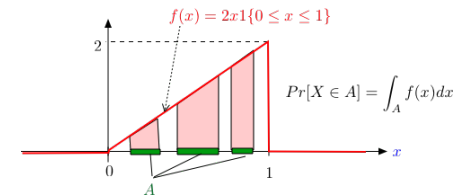
Then  $|X - Y| \leq \epsilon$  and  $Y$  is discrete:  $Y \in \{\epsilon, 2\epsilon, \dots, N\epsilon\}$ .

Also,  $Pr[Y = n\epsilon] = \frac{1}{N}$  for  $n = 1, \dots, N$ .

Thus,  $X$  is 'almost discrete.'

Calculus view:  $Pr[Y = n\epsilon]$  is area of rectangle in Riemann sum.

### Nonuniformly at Random in [0, 1].



This figure shows a different choice of  $f(x) \geq 0$  with  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = 1$ .

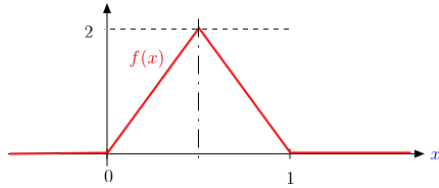
It defines another way of choosing  $X$  at random in  $[0, 1]$ .

Note that  $X$  is more likely to be closer to 1 than to 0.

One has  $Pr[X \leq x] = \int_{-\infty}^x f(u) du = x^2$  for  $x \in [0, 1]$ .

Also,  $Pr[X \in (x, x + \epsilon)] = \int_x^{x+\epsilon} f(u) du \approx f(x)\epsilon$ .

### Another Nonuniform Choice at Random in $[0, 1]$ .



This figure shows yet a different choice of  $f(x) \geq 0$  with  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x)dx = 1$ .

It defines another way of choosing  $X$  at random in  $[0, 1]$ .

Note that  $X$  is more likely to be closer to  $1/2$  than to 0 or 1.

For instance,  $Pr[X \in [0, 1/3]] = \int_0^{1/3} 4x dx = 2[x^2]_0^{1/3} = \frac{2}{9}$ .

Thus,  $Pr[X \in [0, 1/3]] = Pr[X \in [2/3, 1]] = \frac{2}{9}$  and  $Pr[X \in [1/3, 2/3]] = \frac{5}{9}$ .

### Discrete Approximation

Fix  $\epsilon \ll 1$  and let  $Y = n\epsilon$  if  $X \in (n\epsilon, (n+1)\epsilon]$ .

Thus,  $Pr[Y = n\epsilon] = F_X((n+1)\epsilon) - F_X(n\epsilon)$ .

Note that  $|X - Y| \leq \epsilon$  and  $Y$  is a discrete random variable.

Also, if  $f_X(x) = \frac{d}{dx} F_X(x)$ , then  $F_X(x + \epsilon) - F_X(x) \approx f_X(x)\epsilon$ .

Hence,  $Pr[Y = n\epsilon] \approx f_X(n\epsilon)\epsilon$ .

Thus, we can think of  $X$  as being almost discrete with

$Pr[X = n\epsilon] \approx f_X(n\epsilon)\epsilon$ .

### General Random Choice in $\mathfrak{R}$

Let  $F(x)$  be a nondecreasing function with  $F(-\infty) = 0$  and  $F(+\infty) = 1$ .

Define  $X$  by  $Pr[X \in (a, b]] = F(b) - F(a)$  for  $a < b$ . Also, for  $a_1 < b_1 < a_2 < b_2 < \dots < b_n$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} Pr[X \in (a_1, b_1] \cup (a_2, b_2] \cup (a_n, b_n)] \\ &= Pr[X \in (a_1, b_1]] + \dots + Pr[X \in (a_n, b_n)] \\ &= F(b_1) - F(a_1) + \dots + F(b_n) - F(a_n). \end{aligned}$$

Let  $f(x) = \frac{d}{dx} F(x)$ . Then,

$$Pr[X \in (x, x + \epsilon]] = F(x + \epsilon) - F(x) \approx f(x)\epsilon.$$

$F(x)$  is **cumulative distribution function (cdf)** of  $X$

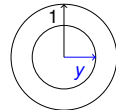
$f(x)$  is the **probability density function (pdf)** of  $X$ .

When  $F$  and  $f$  correspond RV  $X$ :  $F_X(x)$  and  $f_X(x)$ .

### Example: CDF, pre-poll

Example: hitting random location on gas tank.

Random location on circle.

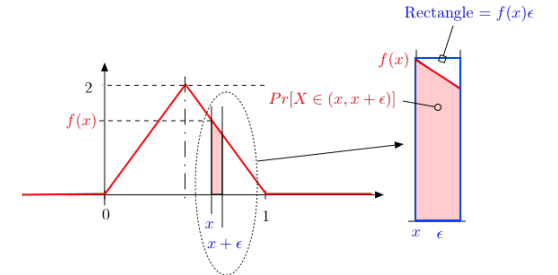


What is probability of being within  $y$  of the center, for non-negative  $y \leq 1$ ?

- (A) 1.
  - (B) 0.
  - (C)  $\int_0^y (2\pi y) dy$
  - (D)  $y^2$ .
- (D) Next slide.

### $Pr[X \in (x, x + \epsilon)]$

An illustration of  $Pr[X \in (x, x + \epsilon)] \approx f_X(x)\epsilon$ :



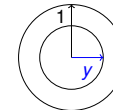
Thus, the pdf is the 'local probability by unit length.'

It is the 'probability density.'

### Example: CDF

Example: hitting random location on gas tank.

Random location on circle.



Random Variable:  $Y$  distance from center.

Probability within  $y$  of center:

$$\begin{aligned} Pr[Y \leq y] &= \frac{\text{area of small circle}}{\text{area of dartboard}} \\ &= \frac{\pi y^2}{\pi} = y^2. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$F_Y(y) = Pr[Y \leq y] = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } y < 0 \\ y^2 & \text{for } 0 \leq y \leq 1 \\ 1 & \text{for } y > 1 \end{cases}$$

### Calculation of event with dartboard..

Probability between .5 and .6 of center?  
Recall CDF.

$$F_Y(y) = Pr[Y \leq y] = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } y < 0 \\ y^2 & \text{for } 0 \leq y \leq 1 \\ 1 & \text{for } y > 1 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} Pr[0.5 < Y \leq 0.6] &= Pr[Y \leq 0.6] - Pr[Y \leq 0.5] \\ &= F_Y(0.6) - F_Y(0.5) \\ &= .36 - .25 \\ &= .11 \end{aligned}$$

### PDF.

Example: "Dart" board.  
Recall that

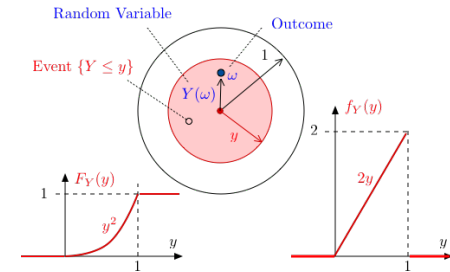
$$F_Y(y) = Pr[Y \leq y] = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } y < 0 \\ y^2 & \text{for } 0 \leq y \leq 1 \\ 1 & \text{for } y > 1 \end{cases}$$

$$f_Y(y) = F'_Y(y) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } y < 0 \\ 2y & \text{for } 0 \leq y \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{for } y > 1 \end{cases}$$

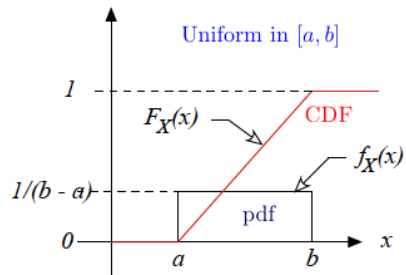
The cumulative distribution function (cdf) and probability distribution function (pdf) give full information.

Use whichever is convenient.

### Target



### U[a, b]



### Exponential derivation: Poll.

$$Pr[X = i] = (1 - p)^{i-1} p.$$

Let  $p = \lambda/n$ . and  $Y = X/n$ .

What is true?

- (A)  $X \sim G(p)$
- (B)  $Pr[X > i] = (1 - p)^i$ .
- (C)  $Pr[Y > i/n] = (1 - \lambda/n)^i$ .
- (D)  $Pr[Y > y] = (1 - \lambda/n)^{ny}$ .
- (E)  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 - \lambda/n)^{ny} = e^{-\lambda y}$ .

- (A) True by definition.
- (B)  $Pr[X > i] = (1 - p)^i$  at least  $i$  coin flips fail.
- (C) True, definition of  $Y$
- (D) True,  $y = i/n$  means  $i = ny$ .
- (E)  $(1 - \lambda/n)^{ny} = ((1 - \lambda/n)^{n/\lambda})^{\lambda y}$   
and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 - \frac{\lambda}{n})^{n/\lambda} = e^{-\lambda}$ .

The limit as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  of  $Y$  has  $Pr[Y > y] = e^{-\lambda y}$ .

$Pr[Y > y]$  is defined as "Survival function."

### Expo( $\lambda$ )

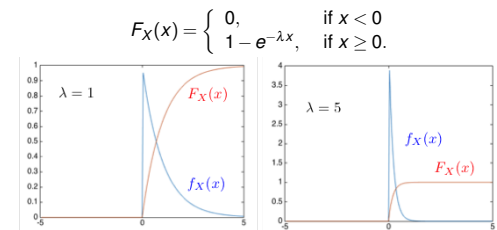
"Limit of geometric."

From last slide:  $S(t) = Pr[X > t] = e^{-\lambda t}$  for  $t > 0$ .

Note:  $f_X(x) = F'(t) = (1 - S(t))' = -S'(t)$ .

The exponential distribution with parameter  $\lambda > 0$  is defined by

$$f_X(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x} 1\{x \geq 0\}$$



## Continuous Random Variables

Continuous random variable  $X$ , specified by

1.  $F_X(x) = Pr[X \leq x]$  for all  $x$ .

**Cumulative Distribution Function (cdf).**

$$Pr[a < X \leq b] = F_X(b) - F_X(a)$$

$$1.1 \quad 0 \leq F_X(x) \leq 1 \text{ for all } x \in \mathfrak{R}.$$

$$1.2 \quad F_X(x) \leq F_X(y) \text{ if } x \leq y.$$

2. Or  $f_X(x)$ , where  $F_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f_X(u) du$  or  $f_X(x) = \frac{d(F_X(x))}{dx}$ .

**Probability Density Function (pdf).**

$$Pr[a < X \leq b] = \int_a^b f_X(x) dx = F_X(b) - F_X(a)$$

$$2.1 \quad f_X(x) \geq 0 \text{ for all } x \in \mathfrak{R}.$$

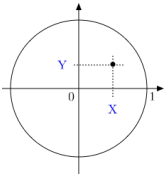
$$2.2 \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_X(x) dx = 1.$$

Recall that  $Pr[X \in (x, x + \delta)] \approx f_X(x)\delta$ .

$X$  "takes" value  $n\delta$ , for  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , with  $Pr[X = n\delta] = f_X(n\delta)\delta$

## Example of Continuous $(X, Y)$

Pick a point  $(X, Y)$  uniformly in the unit circle.



Thus,  $f_{X,Y}(x,y) = \frac{1}{\pi} 1\{x^2 + y^2 \leq 1\}$ .

Consequently,

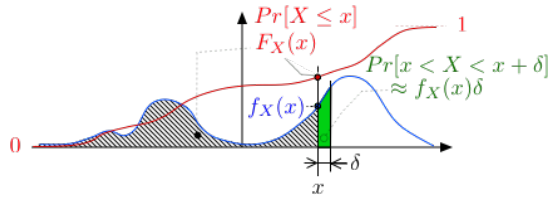
$$Pr[X > 0, Y > 0] = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$Pr[X < 0, Y > 0] = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$Pr[X^2 + Y^2 \leq r^2] = \frac{\pi r^2}{\pi} = r^2$$

$$Pr[X > Y] = \frac{1}{2}$$

## A Picture



The pdf  $f_X(x)$  is a nonnegative function that integrates to 1.

The cdf  $F_X(x)$  is the integral of  $f_X$ .

$$Pr[x < X < x + \delta] \approx f_X(x)\delta$$

$$Pr[X \leq x] = F_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f_X(u) du$$

## Independent Continuous Random Variables

**Definition:** Continuous RVs  $X$  and  $Y$  independent if and only if

$$Pr[X \in A, Y \in B] = Pr[X \in A]Pr[Y \in B], \forall A, B.$$

**Theorem:** Continuous RVs  $X$  and  $Y$  independent if and only if

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = f_X(x)f_Y(y).$$

Note:  $f_X(x)$  ( $f_Y(y)$ ) is (marginal) distribution of  $X$  ( $Y$ ).

**Proof:** Intervals:  $A = [x, x + dx]$ ,  $B = [y, y + dy]$ .

$$\begin{aligned} Pr[X \in A, Y \in B] &= Pr[X \in A] \times Pr[Y \in B] \\ &\approx f_X(x) dx \times f_Y(y) dy \\ &= f_X(x)f_Y(y) dx dy. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $f_{X,Y}(x,y) = f_X(x)f_Y(y)$ .

□

## Multiple Continuous Random Variables

One defines a pair  $(X, Y)$  of continuous RVs by specifying  $f_{X,Y}(x,y)$  for  $x, y \in \mathfrak{R}$  where

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) dx dy = Pr[X \in (x, x + dx), Y \in (y, y + dy)].$$

The function  $f_{X,Y}(x,y)$  is called the **joint pdf** of  $X$  and  $Y$ .

**Example:** Choose a point  $(X, Y)$  uniformly in the set  $A \subset \mathfrak{R}^2$ . Then

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = \frac{1}{|A|} 1\{(x,y) \in A\}$$

where  $|A|$  is the area of  $A$ .

**Interpretation.** Think of  $(X, Y)$  as being discrete on a grid with mesh size  $\epsilon$  and  $Pr[X = m\epsilon, Y = n\epsilon] = f_{X,Y}(m\epsilon, n\epsilon)\epsilon^2$ .

Recall Marginal Distribution:

$$Pr[X = x] = \sum_y Pr[X = x, Y = y].$$

Similarly:

$$f_X(x) = \int f_{X,Y}(x,y) dy.$$

Sum "goes to" integral.

## Mutual Independence.

**Definition:** Continuous RVs  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  are mutually independent if

$$Pr[X_1 \in A_1, \dots, X_n \in A_n] = Pr[X_1 \in A_1] \cdots Pr[X_n \in A_n], \forall A_1, \dots, A_n.$$

**Theorem:** Continuous RVs  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  are mutually independent if and only if

$$f_{\mathbf{X}}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = f_{X_1}(x_1) \cdots f_{X_n}(x_n).$$

**Proof:** As in the discrete case.

## Conditional density.

Conditional Density:  $f_{X|Y}(x, y)$ .

Conditional Probability:  $Pr[X \in A | Y \in B] = \frac{Pr[X \in A, Y \in B]}{Pr[Y \in B]}$

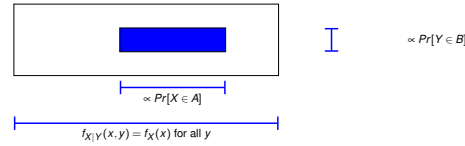
$$Pr[X \in [x, x + dx] | Y \in [y, y + dy]] = \frac{f_{X,Y}(x,y) dx dy}{f_Y dy}$$

$$f_{X|Y}(x, y) = \frac{f_{X,Y}(x,y)}{f_Y(y)} = \frac{f_{X,Y}(x,y)}{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x,y) dx}$$

Corollary: For independent random variables,  $f_{X|Y}(x, y) = f_X(x)$ .

## Independent Random Variables?

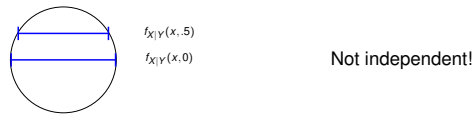
Uniform on a rectangle? Independent?



Also:  $Pr[X \in A, Y \in B] \propto \text{Area of rectangle} \propto Pr[X \in A] \times Pr[Y \in B]$ .

Independent!

Uniform on a circle? Independent?



## Summary

### Continuous Probability 1

1. pdf:  $Pr[X \in (x, x + \delta)] = f_X(x)\delta$ .
2. CDF:  $Pr[X \leq x] = F_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f_X(y) dy$ .
3.  $U[a, b]$ :  $f_X(x) = \frac{1}{b-a} 1\{a \leq x \leq b\}$ ;  $F_X(x) = \frac{x-a}{b-a}$  for  $a \leq x \leq b$ .
4.  $Expo(\lambda)$ :  $f_X(x) = \lambda \exp\{-\lambda x\} 1\{x \geq 0\}$ ;  $F_X(x) = 1 - \exp\{-\lambda x\}$  for  $x \geq 0$ .
5. Target:  $f_X(x) = 2x 1\{0 \leq x \leq 1\}$ ;  $F_X(x) = x^2$  for  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ .
6. Joint pdf:  $Pr[X \in (x, x + \delta), Y \in (y, y + \delta)] = f_{X,Y}(x, y)\delta^2$ .
  - 6.1 Conditional Distribution:  $f_{X|Y}(x, y) = \frac{f_{X,Y}(x,y)}{f_Y(y)}$ .
  - 6.2 Independence:  $f_{X|Y}(x, y) = f_X(x)$ .

## Summary

### Continuous Probability

- ▶ Continuous RVs are similar to discrete RVs (break into intervals.)
- ▶ Think that  $X \approx x$  with probability  $f_X(x)\epsilon$
- ▶ Sums become integrals, ....