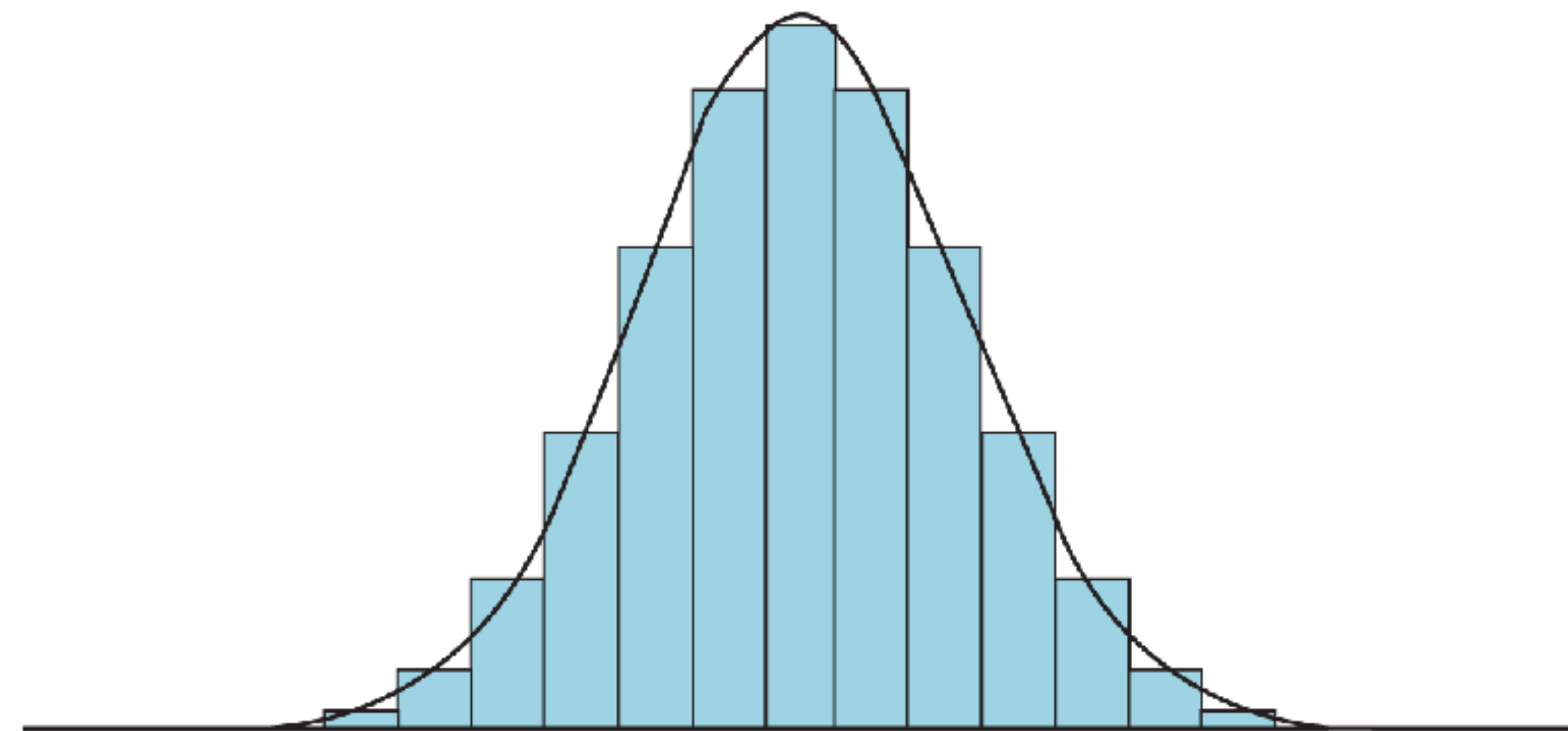


# Foundations of Data Science

## Random Variable

刘明谋 Nanjing University, 2025 Fall

# Random Variable









# “Variables” that are Random

- 令 $X$ 和 $Y$ 分别为两次掷骰子的结果：
  - 考虑 $X^2$ 和 $XY$ ——它们是相同的随机量吗？
  - $2X$ 和 $X + Y$ 呢？或者任意凸组合 $\lambda X + (1 - \lambda)Y$ 之间呢？
- 设硬币正面朝上概率为 $p$ ：令 $X$ 表示连续抛硬币直至正面朝上为止的抛硬币次数；  
令 $Y$ 表示连抛 $n$ 次硬币，其中正面朝上的次数；
- 令 $X$ 表示从一个装有 $M$ 个足球、 $N - M$ 个篮球的筐中（有/无放回地）取出 $n$ 个球中足球的个数；
- $n$ 个顶点，任意两点间独立以概率 $p$ 连一条边，产生随机图 $G$ ，令 $X = \chi(G)$ 为最小染色数；
- 令 $X$ 为 $[0,1]$ 中均匀分布的随机实数；令 $Y$ 为 $[0,\infty)$ 上满足 $\Pr(Y \geq y) = e^{-y}$ 的随机实数。













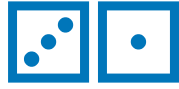























# Random Variable

- Roll a 🎲, let  $X$  be the outcome of the roll, let  $Y \in \{0,1\}$  indicate its oddness.

samples in $\Omega$	values of $X$	values of $Y$
	1	1
	2	0
	3	1
	4	0
	5	1
	6	0

# Random Variable

- Let  $X$  be the sum of two independent 🎲 rolls.

	2		3		4		5		6		7
	3		4		5		6		7		8
	4		5		6		7		8		9
	5		6		7		8		9		10
	6		7		8		9		10		11
	7		8		9		10		11		12

# Random Variable (随机变量)

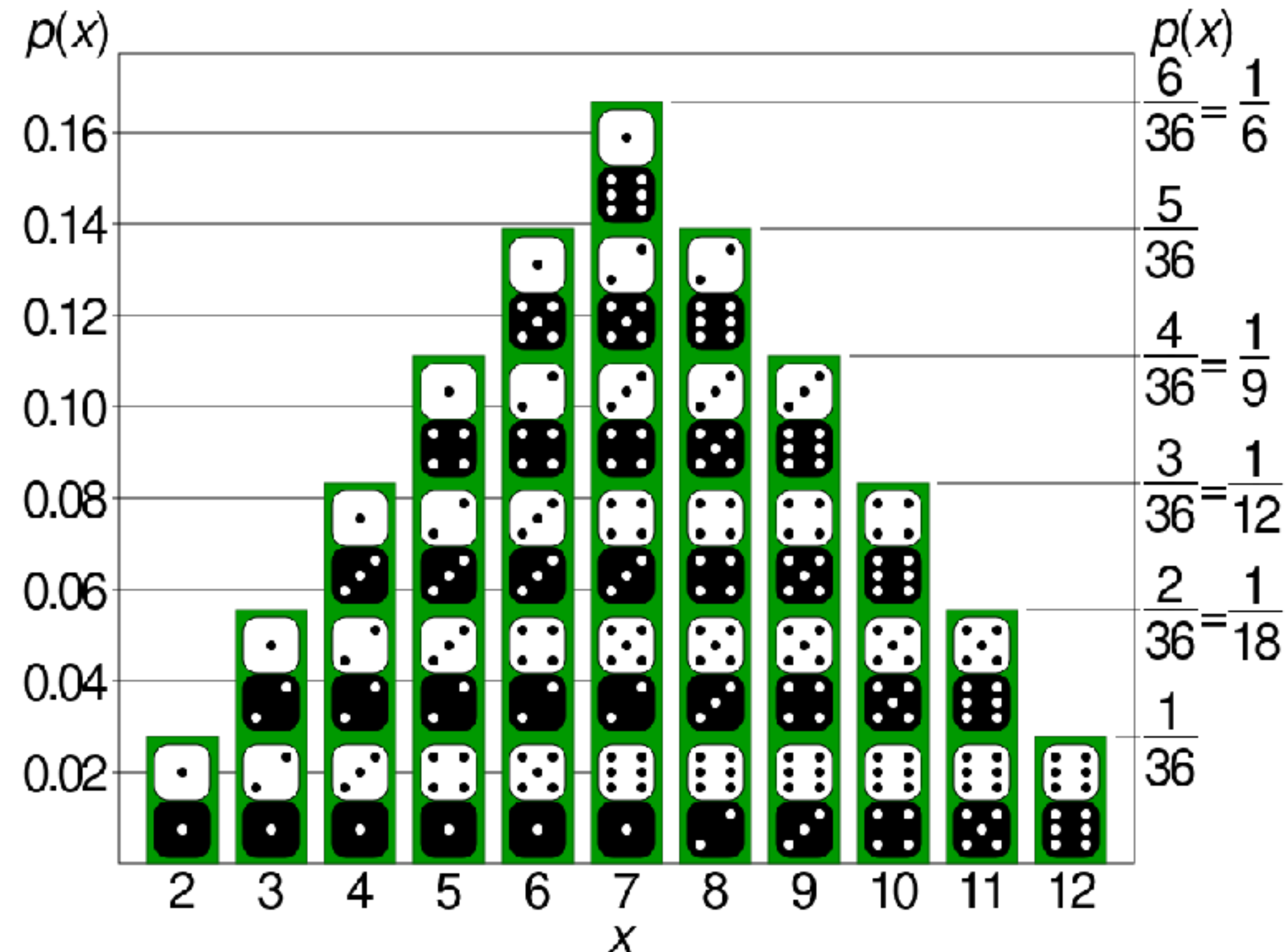
- Given  $(\Omega, \Sigma, \text{Pr})$ , a random variable is a function  $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ 
  - satisfying that  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}, \{\omega \in \Omega \mid X(\omega) \leq x\} \in \Sigma$  (i.e.  $X$  is  $\Sigma$ -measurable)
- $X \leq x$  (where  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) denotes the event  $\{\omega \in \Omega \mid X(\omega) \leq x\}$
- $X > x$  (where  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ) denotes the event  $\{\omega \in \Omega \mid X(\omega) > x\}$
- $X \in S$  (where  $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  is countable  $\cap, \cup$  of intervals  $(y, x]$ ) denotes the event  $\{\omega \in \Omega \mid X(\omega) \in S\}$
- For discrete random variable  $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ , this includes all subsets  $S \subseteq \mathbb{Z}$

$$\text{Pr}(X \in S)$$



# Distribution of Random Variable

- Let  $X$  be the sum of two **independent** 🎲 rolls.



# Distribution (分布)

- The cumulative distribution function (**CDF**) (累积分布函数) or just distribution function (分布函数) of a random variable  $X$  is the  $F_X : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0,1]$  given by

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

- All probabilities regarding  $X$  can be deduced from  $F_X$ . (Prob. space is no longer needed.)
- Two random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are identically distributed if  $F_X = F_Y$
- Monotone:  $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ , if  $x \leq y$  then  $F_X(x) \leq F_X(y)$
- Bounded:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} F_X(x) = 0$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} F_X(x) = 1$



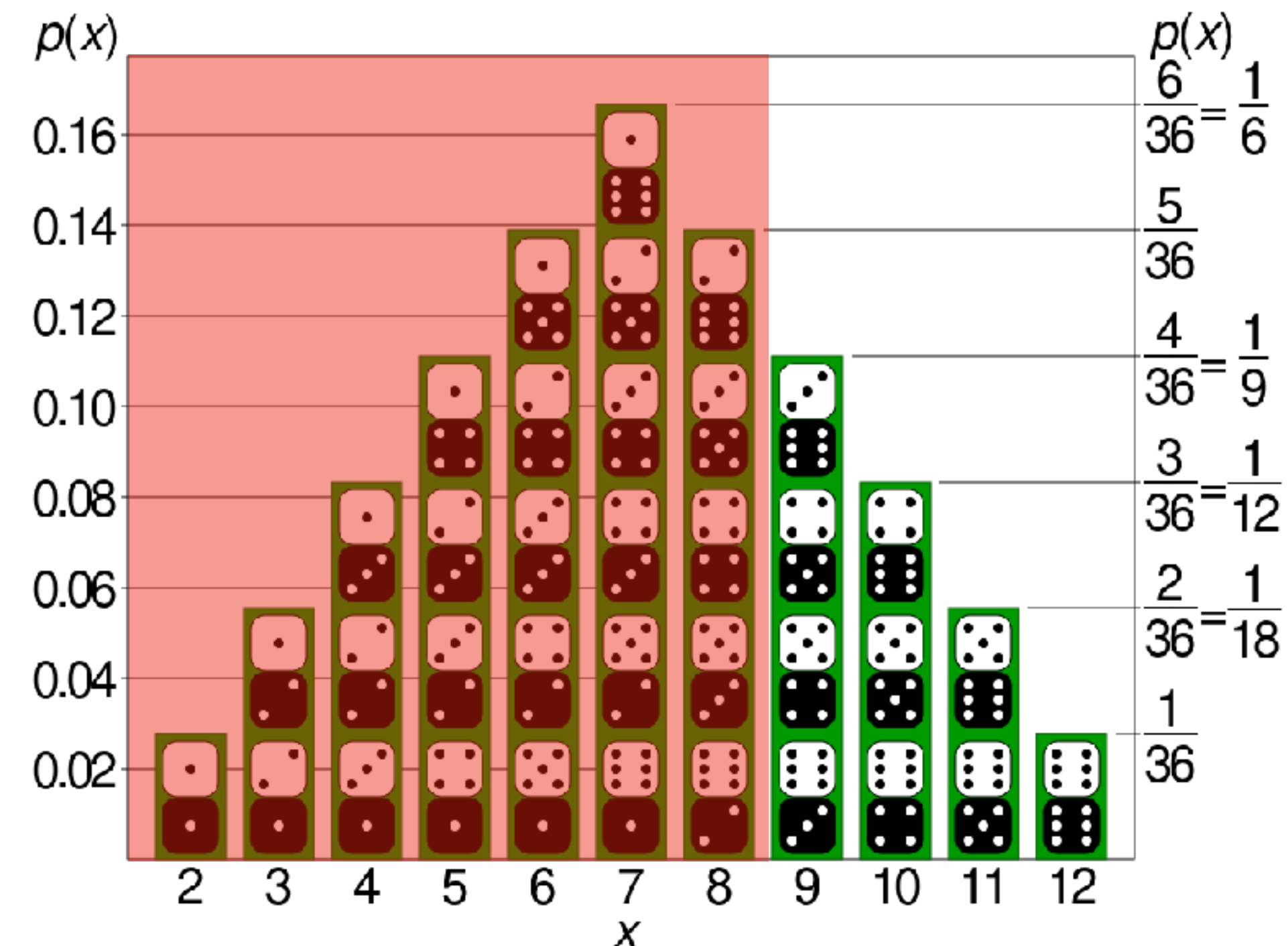
# Discrete Random Variable

- A random variable  $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is called discrete if  $X(\Omega)$  is countable.
- For a discrete random variable  $X$ , its probability mass function (pmf) (概率质量函数)  $p_X : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0,1]$  is given by

$$p_X(x) = \Pr(X = x)$$

- The CDF  $F_X$  satisfies

$$F_X(y) = \sum_{x \leq y} p_X(x)$$



# Continuous Random Variable

- A random variable  $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is called continuous, if its CDF can be expressed as

$$F_X(y) = \Pr(X \leq y) = \int_{-\infty}^y f_X(x) \, dx$$

for some integrable probability density function (*pdf*) (概率密度函数)  $f_X$ .

- Never mind what type of integral for now. (Riemann integral? Lebesgue integral?)
- There are random variables that are neither discrete nor continuous.

# Independence

- Two *discrete* random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent if  $X = x$  and  $Y = y$  are independent events for all  $x$  and  $y$ .
- *Discrete* random variables  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  are (mutually) independent if  $X_1 = x_1, \dots, X_n = x_n$  are mutually independent events for all  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ 
$$p_{(X_1, \dots, X_n)}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \Pr(X_1 = x_1 \cap \dots \cap X_n = x_n) = p_{X_1}(x_1) \cdots p_{X_n}(x_n)$$
- The pairwise (and  $k$ -wise) independence are defined in the same way.
  - **Example:** The construction of  $2^n - 1$  pairwise independent random bits out of  $n$  mutually independent random bits by XOR.
- For *general* random variables, the events  $X_i = x_i$  are replaced by  $X_i \leq x_i$ .

# Random Vector (随机向量)

- Given  $(\Omega, \Sigma, \text{Pr})$ , a random vector is an  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$  where each  $X_i$  is a random variable defined on the probability space  $(\Omega, \Sigma, \text{Pr})$ .

- The joint CDF (联合累积分布函数)  $F_X : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is given by

$$F_X(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \text{Pr}(X_1 \leq x_1 \cap \dots \cap X_n \leq x_n)$$

- For *discrete* random vector, the joint mass function (联合质量函数) is given by

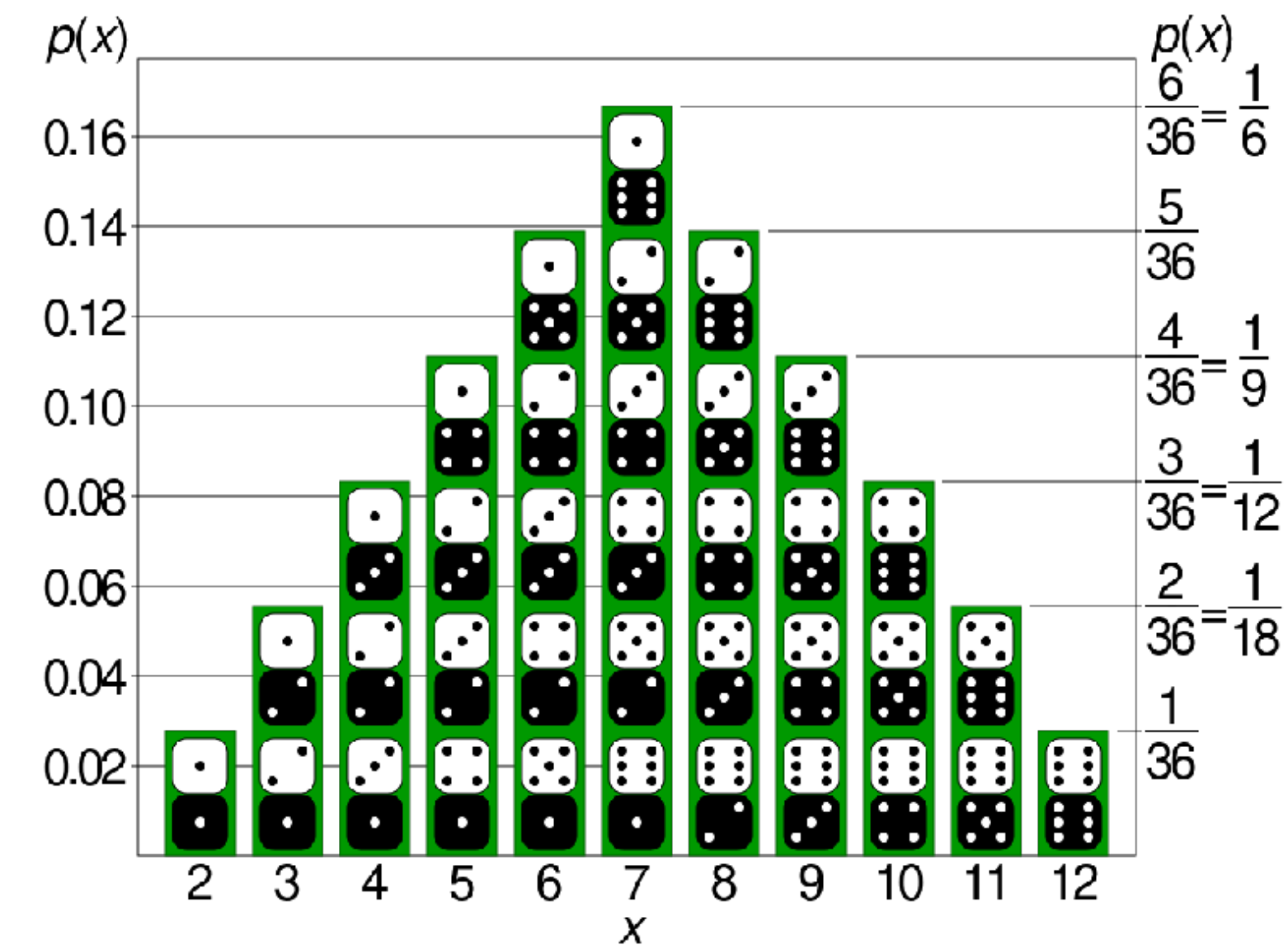
$$p_X(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \text{Pr}(X_1 = x_1 \cap \dots \cap X_n = x_n)$$

- The marginal distribution of  $X_i$  in  $(X_1, \dots, X_n)$  is given by

$$p_{X_i}(x_i) = \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n} p_{(X_1, \dots, X_n)}(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

$Y \backslash X$	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$p_Y(y) \downarrow$
$y_1$	$\frac{4}{32}$	$\frac{2}{32}$	$\frac{1}{32}$	$\frac{1}{32}$	$\frac{8}{32}$
$y_2$	$\frac{3}{32}$	$\frac{6}{32}$	$\frac{3}{32}$	$\frac{3}{32}$	$\frac{15}{32}$
$y_3$	$\frac{9}{32}$	0	0	0	$\frac{9}{32}$
$p_X(x) \rightarrow$	$\frac{16}{32}$	$\frac{8}{32}$	$\frac{4}{32}$	$\frac{4}{32}$	$\frac{32}{32}$

# Discrete Random Variable



# Probability Mass Function (概率质量函数)

- Consider *integer-valued* discrete random variable  $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$
- Its probability mass function (*pmf*)  $p_X : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow [0,1]$  is given by

$$p_X(k) = \Pr(X = k)$$

- As histogram:  $p_X$  gives the “histogram” of the probability distribution
- As vector:  $p_X$  can be seen as a vector  $p_X \in [0,1]^R$  such that  $\|p_X(x)\|_1 = 1$ , where  $R = X(\Omega)$  is the range of values of  $X$
- Its function  $Y = f(X)$  is also a discrete random variable, where  $p_Y(y) = \sum_{x:f(x)=y} p_X(x)$



# Discrete Random Variables

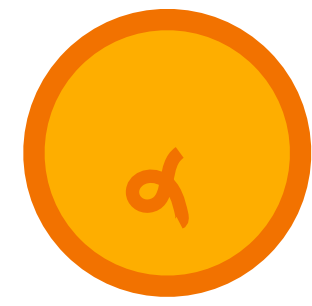
- Basic discrete probability distributions:
  - discrete uniform distribution (古典概型)
  - **Bernoulli trial** (coin flip)
  - **binomial distribution** (# of successes in  $n$  trials)
  - **geometric distribution** (# of trials to get a success)
  - negative binomial distribution
  - hypergeometric distribution
  - **Poisson distribution** (idealized binomial distribution)
  - ... ..
- Probability distributions of discrete objects:
  - multinomial distribution (balls into bins)
  - Erdős–Rényi model (random graph)
  - Galton-Watson process (random tree)
  - ... ..

# Bernoulli Trial (伯努利试验)

(A coin flip)



$p$



$1 - p$

- A Bernoulli trial is an experiment with two possible outcomes.
- A Bernoulli random variable  $X$  takes values in  $\{0,1\}$ , its *pmf* is

$$p_X(k) = \Pr(X = k) = \begin{cases} p & \text{if } k = 1 \\ 1 - p & \text{if } k = 0 \end{cases}$$

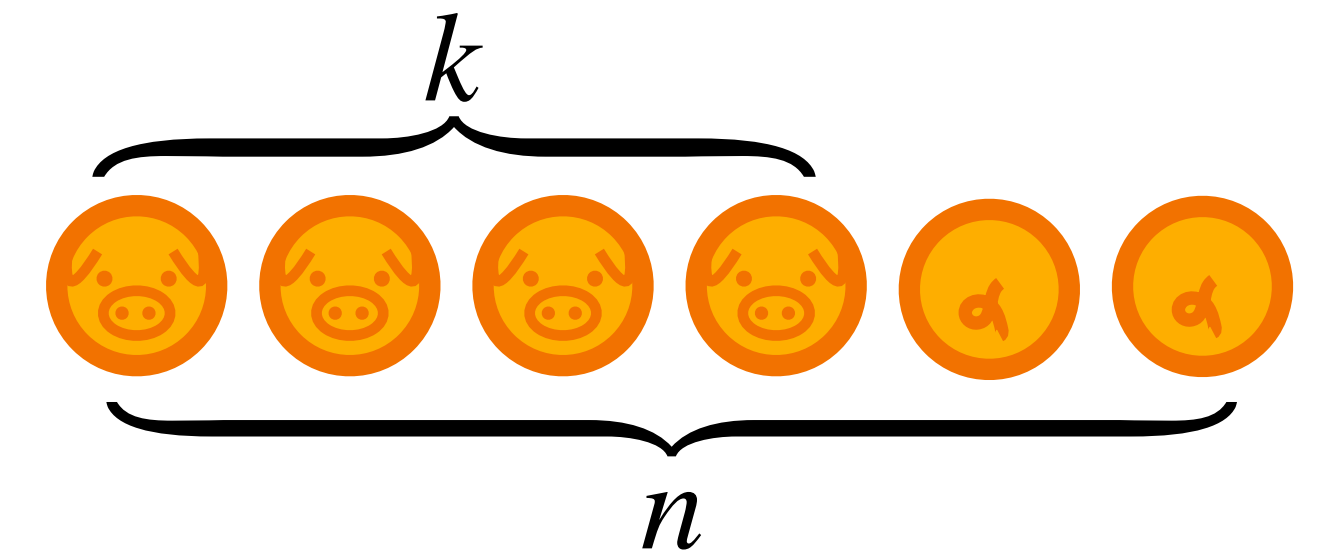
where  $p \in [0,1]$  is a parameter.

- Indicator: For event  $A$ , the indicator  $X$  of  $A$  is a random variable defined by

$$X = I(A) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } A \text{ occurs} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, \quad \text{a Bernoulli R.V. with parameter } \Pr(A)$$

# Binomial Distribution (二项分布)

(Number of HEADs in  $n$  coin flips)



- $X$ : number of successes in  $n$  *i.i.d.* (*independent and identically distributed*) Bernoulli trials with parameter  $p$
- A binomial random variable  $X$  takes values in  $\{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ , and

$$p_X(k) = \Pr(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n$$

- We say that  $X$  follows the binomial distribution with parameters  $n$  and  $p$   
denoted  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$  or  $B(n, p)$

# Geometric Distribution (几何分布)

(Number of coin flips to get a HEADs)



- $X$ : number of i.i.d. Bernoulli trials needed to get one success

- A geometric random variable  $X$  takes values in  $\{1, 2, \dots\}$ , and

$$p_X(k) = \Pr(X = k) = (1 - p)^{k-1}p, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

- We say that  $X$  follows the geometric distribution with parameter  $p \in [0, 1]$

denoted  $X \sim \text{Geo}(p)$  or  $\text{Geometric}(p)$

# Geometric Distribution (几何分布)

(Number of coin flips to get a HEADs)



- Geometric random variable  $X \sim \text{Geo}(p)$  is memoryless: for  $k \geq 1, n \geq 0$

$$\Pr(X = k + n \mid X > n) = \Pr(X = k)$$

**Proof:** 
$$\Pr(X = k + n \mid X > n) = \frac{\Pr(X = k + n)}{\Pr(X > n)} = \frac{(1 - p)^{n+k-1} p}{\sum_{k=n}^{\infty} (1 - p)^k p}$$
$$= \frac{(1 - p)^{k-1} p}{\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (1 - p)^k p} = (1 - p)^{k-1} p$$

- Geometric distribution is the **only** discrete memoryless distribution (with the range of values  $\{1, 2, \dots\}$ ).

# Two Ways of Constructing Random Variables

- As a function of random variables  $Y = f(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ 
  - Binomial  $Y$ : function  $f$  is sum, and  $(X_1, \dots, X_n)$  are i.i.d. Bernoulli trials
  - independent  $Y_1 \sim \text{Bin}(n_1, p)$ ,  $Y_2 \sim \text{Bin}(n_2, p) \implies Y_1 + Y_2 \sim \text{Bin}(n_1 + n_2, p)$
- As a stopping time  $T$  of a sequence  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_T$ 
  - A random variable  $T$  is a stopping time with respect to  $X_1, X_2, \dots$  if for all  $t \geq 1$  the occurrence of  $T = t$  is determined by the values of  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_t$
  - Geometric  $T$ : time for the first success in i.i.d. Bernoulli trials  $X_1, X_2, \dots$



# Sum of Independent Random Variables

- If discrete random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then:

$$\begin{aligned} p_{X+Y}(z) &= \Pr(X + Y = z) = \sum_x \Pr(X = x \cap Y = z - x) && \text{(total probability)} \\ &= \sum_x p_X(x)p_Y(z - x) = \sum_y p_X(z - y)p_Y(y) && \text{(independence)} \end{aligned}$$

- This defines a **convolution** (卷积) between mass functions:

$$p_{X+Y} = p_X * p_Y$$

# Sum of Independent Random Variables

- If discrete random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then:

$$p_{X+Y}(z) = \sum_x p_X(x)p_Y(z-x) = \sum_y p_X(z-y)p_Y(y)$$

- For *i.i.d.* Bernoulli random variables  $X_1, \dots, X_n \in \{0,1\}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} p_{X_1+\dots+X_n}(k) &= p \cdot p_{X_1+\dots+X_{n-1}}(k-1) + (1-p) \cdot p_{X_1+\dots+X_{n-1}}(k) \\ &= \binom{n-1}{k-1} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} + \binom{n-1}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} \end{aligned}$$

# Negative Binomial Distribution (负二项分布)

(“multiple successes” generalization of geometric distribution)

- $X$ : number of failures in a sequence of i.i.d. Bernoulli trials before  $r$  successes
- A negative binomial random variable  $X$  takes values in  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ , and

$$p_X(k) = \Pr(X = k) = \binom{k + r - 1}{k} (1 - p)^k p^r = (-1)^k \binom{-r}{k} (1 - p)^k p^r$$

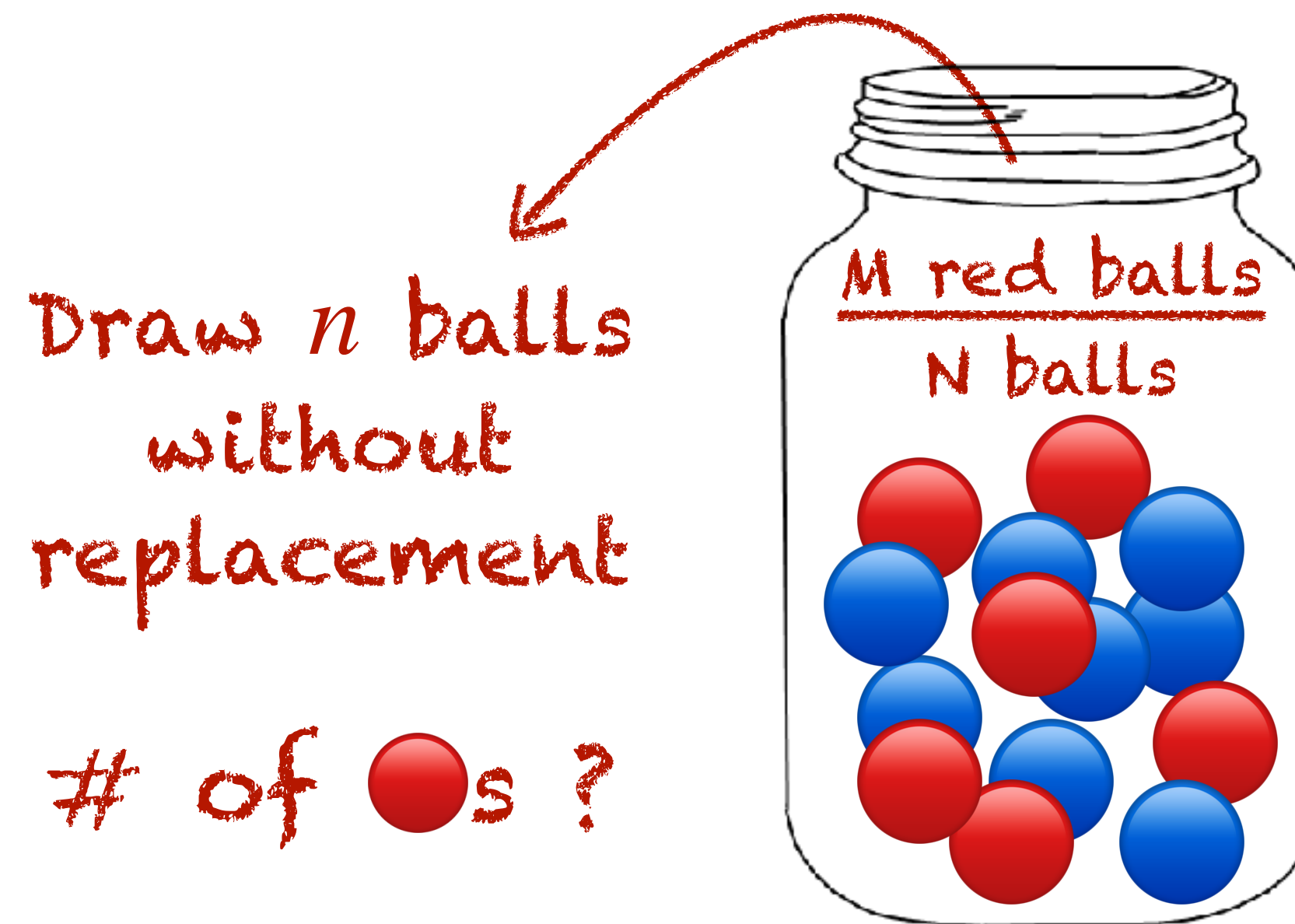
for  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

- We say that  $X$  follows the negative binomial distribution with parameters  $r, p$
- $X = (X_1 - 1) + (X_2 - 1) + \dots + (X_r - 1)$  for i.i.d.  $X_i \sim \text{Geo}(p)$

# Hypergeometric Distribution (超几何分布)

(“without replacement” variant of binomial distribution)

- $X$ : number of successes in  $n$  draws, without replacement (无放回), from a *finite population* of  $N$  objects, including exactly  $M$  ones, drawings of whom are counted as successes



# Hypergeometric Distribution (超几何分布)

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- $X$ : number of successes in  $n$  draws, without replacement (无放回), from a *finite population* of  $N$  objects, including exactly  $M$  ones, drawings of whom are counted as successes
- A hypergeometric random variable  $X$  takes values in  $\{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ , and

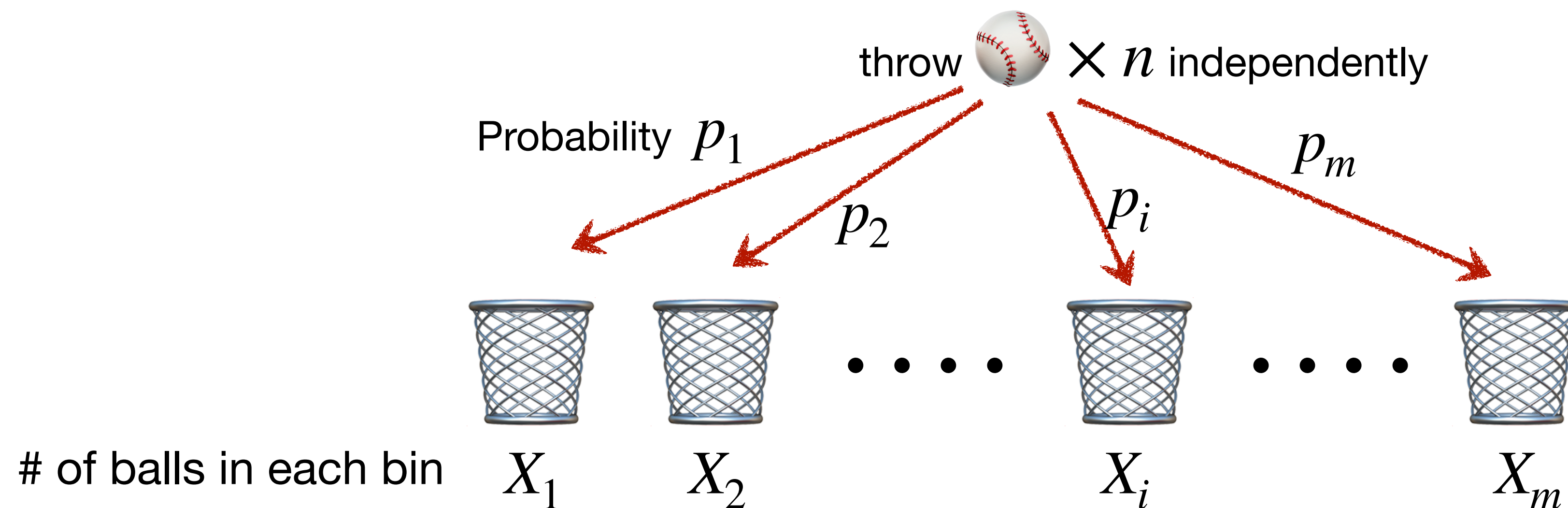
$$p_X(k) = \Pr(X = k) = \binom{M}{k} \binom{N-M}{n-k} / \binom{N}{n}, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n$$

- We say that  $X$  follows the hypergeometric distribution with parameters  $N, M, n$ , where  $N \geq 0$ ,  $0 \leq M \leq N$ , and  $0 \leq n \leq N$  are integers.

# Multinomial Distribution (多项式分布)

(“multi-dimensional” generalization of binomial distribution)

- Trials with multiple outcomes: There are  $n$  *i.i.d.* trials, each having  $m$  possible outcomes, where the probability of the  $i$ th outcome is  $p_i$ . Let  $X_i$  be the # of  $i$ th outcomes.
- Balls-into-bins model: Throw  $n$  balls into  $m$  bins. Each ball is thrown independently such that the  $i$ th bin receives the ball with probability  $p_i$ . Let  $X_i$  be the # of balls in the  $i$ th bin.





# Multinomial Distribution (多项式分布)

(“multi-dimensional” generalization of binomial distribution)

- Suppose that  $n$  balls are thrown into  $m$  bins, where each ball is thrown independently such that the  $i$ th bin receives the ball with probability  $p_i$ , where  $p_1 + \cdots + p_m = 1$  is given.

- $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_m)$ : the  $i$ th bin receives exactly  $X_i$  balls

- $(X_1, \dots, X_m)$  takes values  $(k_1, \dots, k_m) \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\}^m$  that  $k_1 + \cdots + k_m = n$ , and

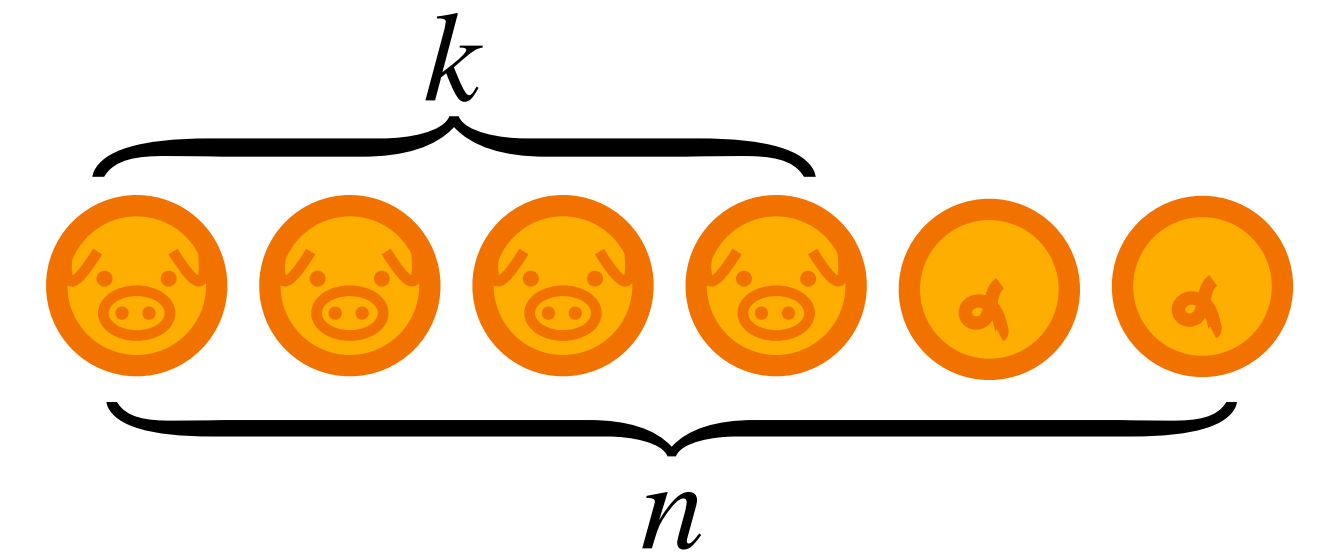
$$p_{(X_1, \dots, X_m)}(k_1, \dots, k_m) = \Pr \left( \bigcap_{i=1}^m (X_i = k_i) \right) = \frac{n!}{k_1! k_2! \cdots k_m!} p_1^{k_1} p_2^{k_2} \cdots p_m^{k_m}$$

- We say that  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_m)$  follows the multinomial distribution with parameters  $m$ ,  $n$ , and  $p = (p_1, \dots, p_m) \in [0, 1]^m$  such that  $p_1 + \cdots + p_m = 1$ .

- $X_i \sim \text{Bin}(n, p_i)$  for each individual  $1 \leq i \leq m$ . (The marginal distribution of  $X_i$  is  $\text{Bin}(n, p_i)$ )

# Binomial Distribution (二项分布)

(Number of HEADs in  $n$  coin flips)



- $X$ : number of successes in  $n$  i.i.d. Bernoulli trials with parameter  $p$
- A binomial random variable  $X$  takes values in  $\{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ , and

$$p_X(k) = \Pr(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n$$

- Typical in real life: large unknown population size  $n \rightarrow \infty$  with known  $np = \lambda$

$$p_{\text{Bin}(n, \lambda/n)}(k) = \binom{n}{k} \left(\frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^k \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^{n-k} = \frac{n}{n} \frac{n-1}{n} \dots \frac{n-k+1}{n} \cdot \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^n \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^{-k} \approx \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda}$$

**A “universal” distribution for all sufficiently large  $n$ , knowing the mean  $\lambda = np$ ?**

# Poisson Distribution (泊松分布)

(Idealized binomial distribution when  $n \rightarrow \infty$ )



- A Poisson random variable  $X$  takes values in  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ , and

$$p_X(k) = \Pr(X = k) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^k}{k!}, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

- It is a well-defined probability distribution over  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ :  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} = 1$
- We say that  $X$  follows the Poisson distribution with parameter  $\lambda > 0$

denoted  $X \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda)$

# Sum of Poisson Variables

- Independent  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n_1, p)$ ,  $Y \sim \text{Bin}(n_2, p) \implies X + Y \sim \text{Bin}(n_1 + n_2, p)$
- By the *heuristics*  $\text{Bin}(n, p) \approx \text{Pois}(np)$ , it seems that the following should hold:

- independent  $X \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda_1)$ ,  $Y \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda_2) \implies X + Y \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)$

• **Proof:** 
$$p_{X+Y}(k) = \Pr(X + Y = k) = \sum_{i=0}^k \Pr(X = i \cap Y = k - i) = \sum_{i=0}^k p_X(i)p_Y(k - i)$$
$$= \sum_{i=0}^k \frac{e^{-\lambda_1} \lambda_1^i}{i!} \frac{e^{-\lambda_2} \lambda_2^{k-i}}{(k-i)!} = \frac{e^{-(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)}}{k!} \sum_{i=0}^k \binom{k}{i} \lambda_1^i \lambda_2^{k-i} = \frac{e^{-(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)} (\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^k}{k!}$$

# Poisson Approximation

- $(X_1, \dots, X_m)$  follows the multinomial distribution with parameters  $m, n, p_1 + \dots + p_m = 1$ 
  - $n$  balls are thrown into  $m$  bins independently according to the distribution  $(p_1, \dots, p_m)$
  - after all  $n$  balls are thrown, the  $i$ th bin receives  $X_i$  balls
- $(Y_1, \dots, Y_m)$ : each  $Y_i \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda_i)$  independently, where  $\lambda_i = np_i$

**Proposition:**  $(X_1, \dots, X_m)$  is identically distributed as  $(Y_1, \dots, Y_m)$  given that  $\sum_{i=1}^m Y_i = n$

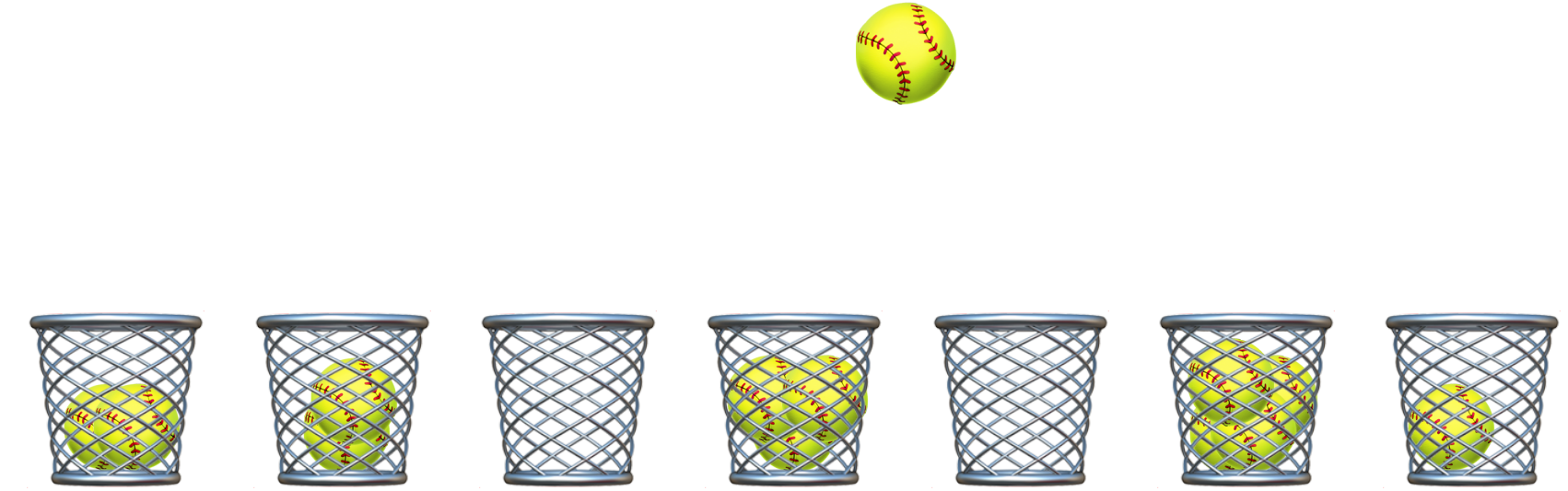
**Proof:** Observe that  $Y_1 + \dots + Y_m \sim \text{Pois}(n)$ . For any  $k_1, \dots, k_m \geq 0$  that  $k_1 + \dots + k_m = n$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[(Y_1, \dots, Y_m) = (k_1, \dots, k_m) \mid Y_1 + \dots + Y_m = n] &= \left( \prod_{i=1}^m \frac{e^{-np_i} (np_i)^{k_i}}{k_i!} \right) / \left( \frac{e^{-n} n^n}{n!} \right) \\ &= \frac{n!}{k_1! \dots k_m!} p_1^{k_1} \dots p_m^{k_m} = \Pr[(X_1, \dots, X_m) = (k_1, \dots, k_m)] \end{aligned}$$



# Balls into Bins

(Random mapping)

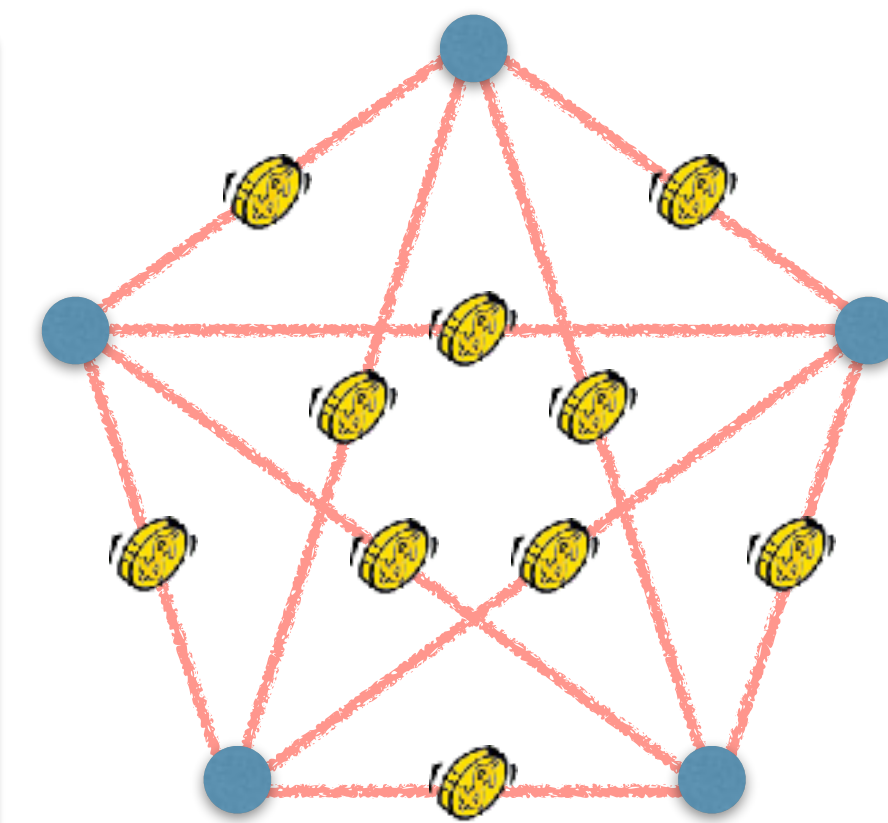
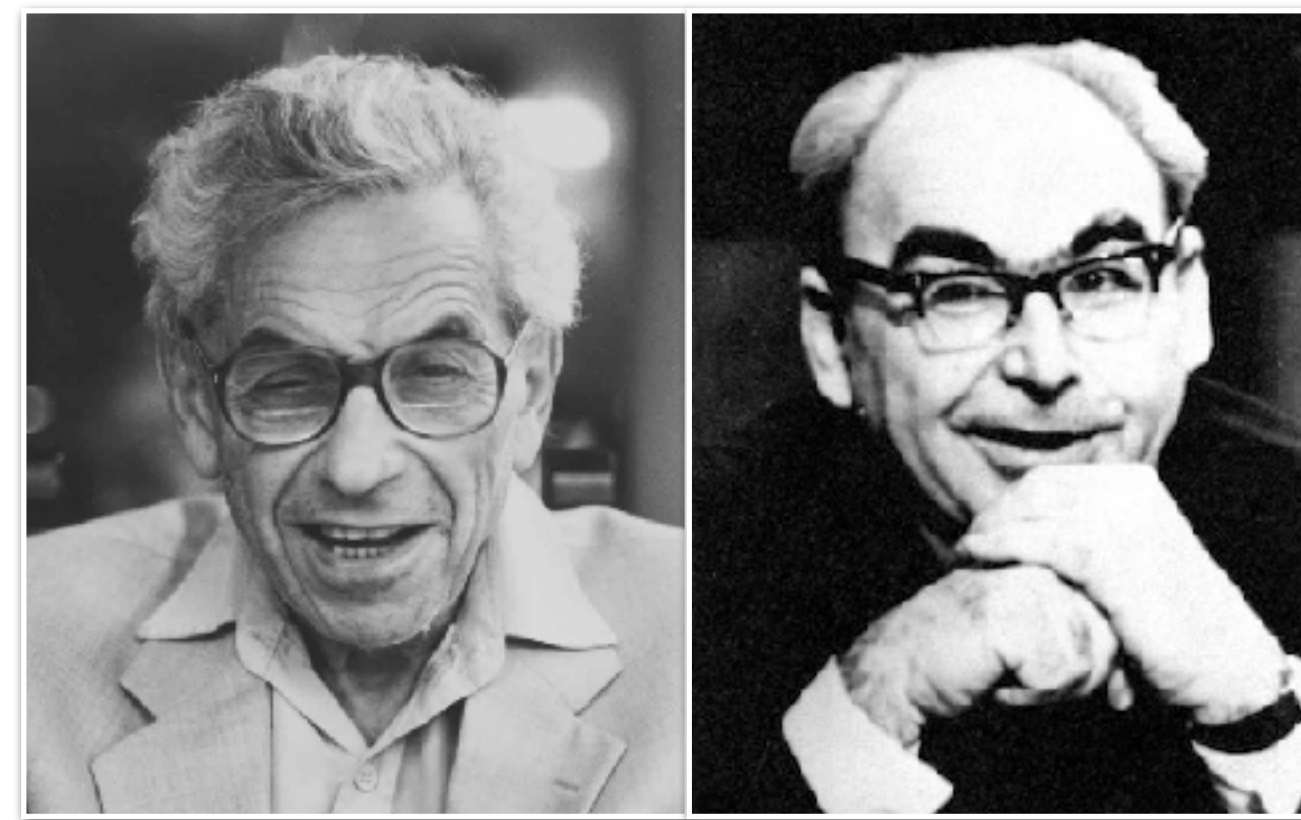


- Throw  $n$  balls into  $m$  bins uniformly at random (*u.a.r.*).
- Uniform random  $f : [n] \rightarrow [m]$ .
- The numbers of balls received in each bins  $(X_1, \dots, X_m)$  follow the **multinomial distribution** with parameters  $m, n$  and  $(1/m, \dots, 1/m)$ .
  - **Birthday problem**: the property of being injective (1-1)
  - **Coupon collector problem**: the property of being surjective (onto)
  - **Occupancy (load balancing) problem**: the *maximum load*  $\max_i X_i$



# Random Graph

## (Erdős–Rényi random graph model)

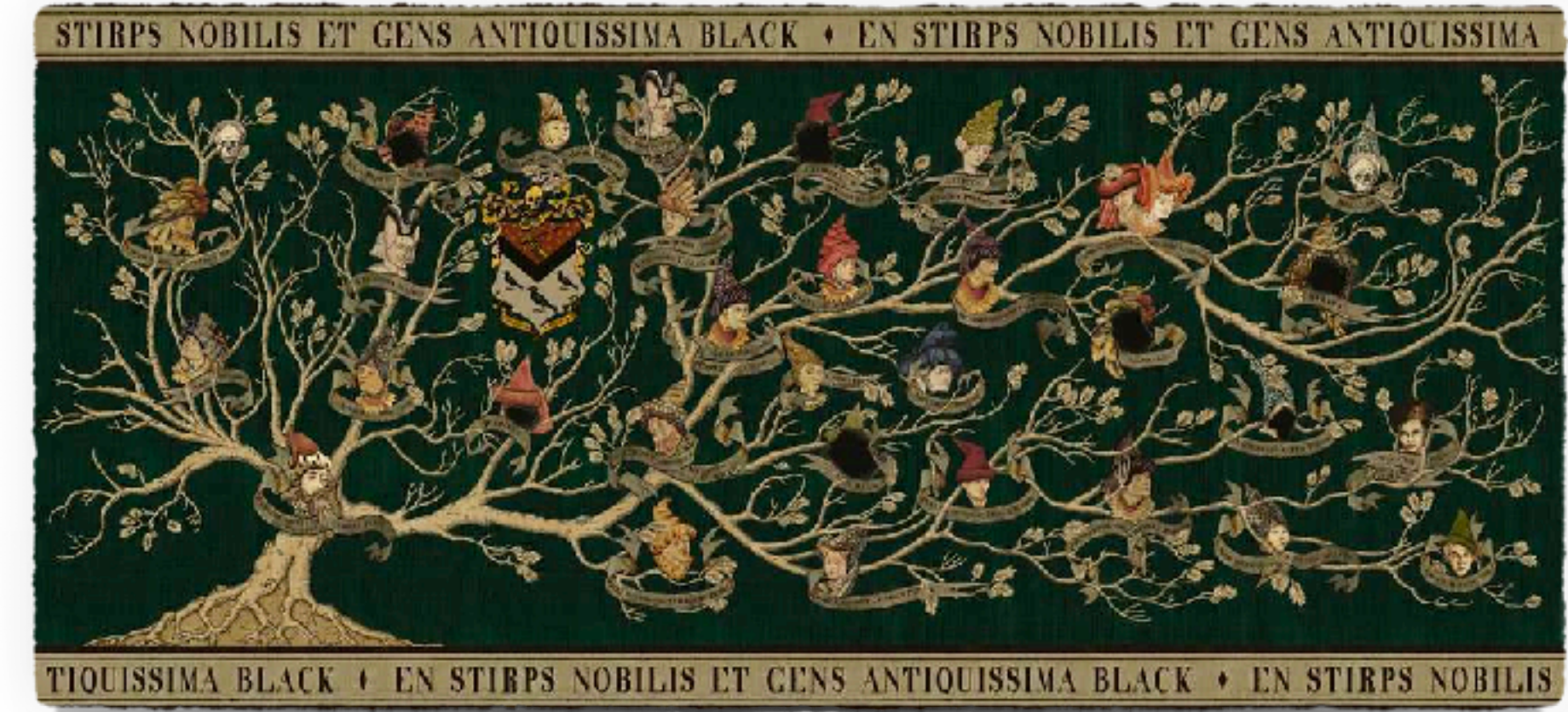


- $G \sim G(n, p)$ : There are  $n$  vertices. For each pair  $u, v$  of vertices, an *i.i.d.* Bernoulli trial with parameter  $p$  is conducted, and an edge  $\{u, v\}$  is added if the trial succeeds.
- $G(n, 1/2)$  gives the uniformly distributed random graph on  $n$  vertices.
- The number of edges in  $G \sim G(n, p)$  follows the binomial distribution  $\text{Bin} \left( \binom{n}{2}, p \right)$ .  
(Therefore,  $G(n, p)$  is sometimes also called the *binomial random graph*)
- Random variables defined by  $G \sim G(n, p)$ : *chromatic number  $\chi(G)$ , independence number  $\alpha(G)$ , clique number  $\omega(G)$ , diameter  $\text{diam}(G)$ , connectivity, max-degree  $\Delta(G)$ , number of triangles, number of hamiltonian cycles, ...*



# Random Tree

## (Galton–Watson branching process)



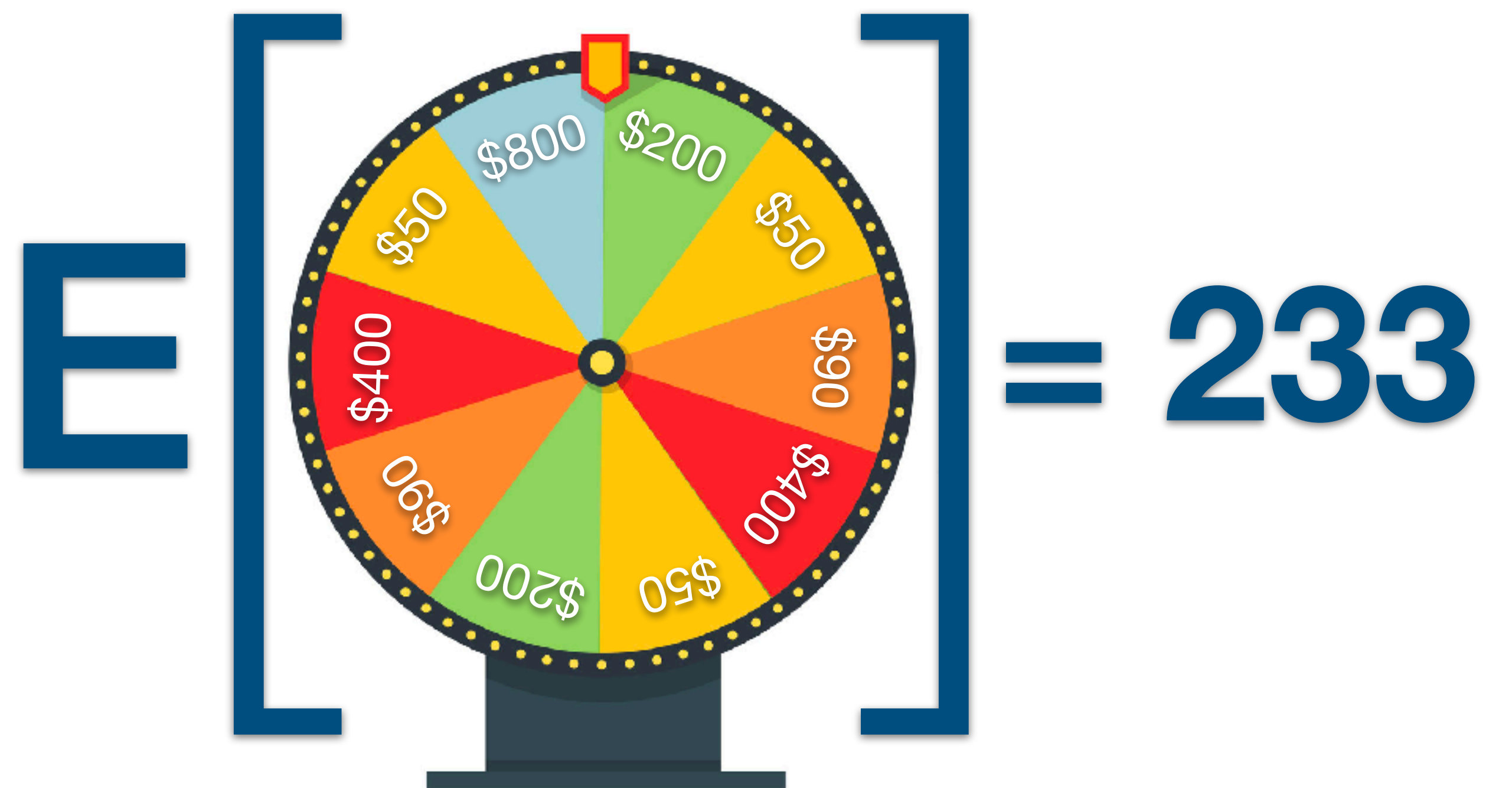
- A sequence of random variables  $X_0, X_1, X_2, \dots$  recursively defined by

$$X_0 = 1 \text{ and } X_{n+1} = \sum_{j=1}^{X_n} \xi_j^{(n)}$$

where  $\{\xi_j^{(n)} \mid n, j \geq 0\}$  are *i.i.d.* non-negative integer-valued random variables (e.g. Poisson random variables)

- Random family tree: the  $j$ th family member in the  $n$ th generation has  $\xi_j^{(n)}$  offsprings
- $X_n$ : number of family members in the  $n$ th generation

# Expectation



# Expectation (数学期望)

- The expectation (or mean) of a discrete random variable  $X$  is defined to be

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_x x \cdot p_X(x)$$

where  $p_X$  denotes the *pmf* of  $X$  and the sum is taken over all  $x$  that  $p_X(x) > 0$

- $\mathbb{E}[X]$  may be  $\infty$  (we assume *absolute convergence* for  $\mathbb{E}[X] < \infty$ )

- **Example I:**  $p_X(2^k) = 2^{-k}$  for  $k = 1, 2, \dots$  (the St. Petersburg paradox)

- **Example II:**  $X \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$  and  $p_X(k) = \frac{1}{ak^2}$  where  $a = \sum_{k \neq 0} k^{-2} = \frac{\pi^2}{3}$

# Perspectives of Expectation

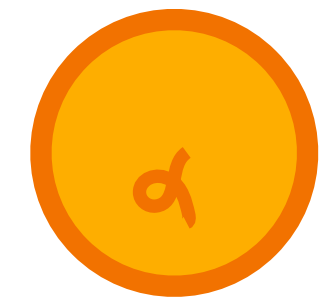
- Computation of expectation:
  - straightforward computation (by definition)
  - **linearity of expectation** (by linearity)
  - **law of total expectation** (by case)
- Upper/lower bounds of expectation:
  - **Jensen's inequality** (by convexity)
  - Double counting (tail sum for expectation)
  - monotonicity (by coupling)
- Implications of expectation:
  - **averaging principle** (the probabilistic method)
  - **tail inequalities** (the moment method)



# Expectation of Indicator



$p$



$1 - p$

- For Bernoulli random variable  $X \in \{0,1\}$  with parameter  $p$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = 0 \cdot (1 - p) + 1 \cdot p = p$$

- For the indicator random variable  $X = I(A)$  of event  $A$ , where  $X = 1$  if  $A$  occurs and  $X = 0$  if otherwise (i.e.  $\forall \omega \in \Omega$ ,  $X(\omega) = 1$  if  $\omega \in A$  and  $X(\omega) = 0$  if  $\omega \notin A$ )

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = 0 \cdot \Pr(A^c) + 1 \cdot \Pr(A) = \Pr(A)$$

# Poisson Distribution (泊松分布)

- Expectation of Poisson random variable  $X \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda)$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[X] &= \sum_{k \geq 0} k \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^k}{k!} \\ &= \sum_{k \geq 1} \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^k}{(k-1)!} \\ &= \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^{k+1}}{k!} = \lambda \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^k}{k!} \\ &= \lambda\end{aligned}$$



# Change of Variables

## (Law Of The Unconscious Statistician, *LOTUS*)

- For  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , for discrete  $X$  and  $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ :
  - $\mathbb{E}[f(X)] = \sum_x f(x)p_X(x)$
  - $\mathbb{E}[f(X_1, \dots, X_n)] = \sum_{(x_1, \dots, x_n)} f(x_1, \dots, x_n)p_X(x_1, \dots, x_n)$

**Proof:** Let  $Y = f(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[f(X_1, \dots, X_n)] &= \sum_y y \Pr(Y = y) = \sum_y y \sum_{(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in f^{-1}(y)} \Pr((X_1, \dots, X_n) = (x_1, \dots, x_n)) \\ &= \sum_{(x_1, \dots, x_n)} f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \Pr((X_1, \dots, X_n) = (x_1, \dots, x_n)) \\ &= \sum_{(x_1, \dots, x_n)} f(x_1, \dots, x_n)p_X(x_1, \dots, x_n)\end{aligned}$$

# Linearity of Expectation

- For  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  and random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ :
  - $\mathbb{E}[aX + b] = a\mathbb{E}[X] + b$
  - $\mathbb{E}[X + Y] = \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y]$

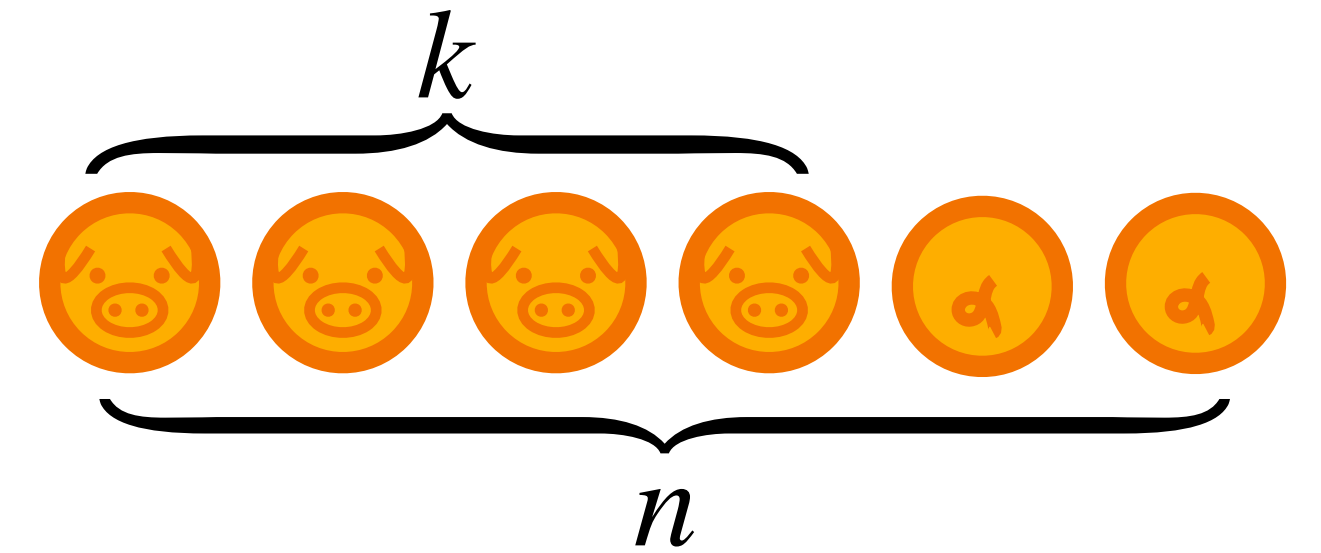
**Proof:**  $\mathbb{E}[aX + b] = \sum_x (ax + b)p_X(x) = a \sum_x xp_X(x) + b \sum_x p_X(x) = a\mathbb{E}[X] + b$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[X + Y] &= \sum_{x,y} (x + y) \Pr((X, Y) = (x, y)) \\ &= \sum_x x \sum_y \Pr((X, Y) = (x, y)) + \sum_y y \sum_x \Pr((X, Y) = (x, y)) \\ &= \sum_x x \Pr(X = x) + \sum_y y \Pr(Y = y) = \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y]\end{aligned}$$

# Linearity of Expectation

- For  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  and random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ :
  - $\mathbb{E}[aX + b] = a\mathbb{E}[X] + b$
  - $\mathbb{E}[X + Y] = \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y]$
- For linear (affine) function  $f$  on random variables  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ 
$$\mathbb{E}[f(X_1, \dots, X_n)] = f(\mathbb{E}[X_1], \dots, \mathbb{E}[X_n])$$
- It holds for *arbitrarily dependent*  $X_1, \dots, X_n$

# Binomial Distribution (二项分布)



- For binomial random variable  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{k=0}^n k \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

- **Observation:**  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$  can be expressed as  $X = X_1 + \dots + X_n$ , where  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  are i.i.d. Bernoulli random variables with parameter  $p$
- **Linearity of expectation:**

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X_1] + \dots + \mathbb{E}[X_n] = np$$

# Geometric Distribution (几何分布)



$I_k :$  1 1 1 1 0 ...

- For geometric random variable  $X \sim \text{Geo}(p)$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{k \geq 1} k(1-p)^{k-1}p$$

- Observation:**  $X \sim \text{Geo}(p)$  can be calculated by  $X = \sum_{k \geq 1} I_k$ ,  
where  $I_k \in \{0,1\}$  *indicates whether all of the first  $(k-1)$  trials fail*

- Linearity of expectation:**

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{k \geq 1} \mathbb{E}[I_k] = \sum_{k \geq 1} (1-p)^{k-1} = \frac{1}{p}$$

# Negative Binomial Distribution (负二项分布)

- For negative binomial random variable  $X$  with parameters  $r, p$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{k \geq 1} k \binom{k+r-1}{k} (1-p)^k p^r$$

- **Observation:**  $X$  can be expressed as  $X = (X_1 - 1) + \dots + (X_r - 1)$ , where  $X_1, \dots, X_r$  are i.i.d. geometric random variables with parameter  $p$
- **Linearity of expectation:**

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X_1] + \dots + \mathbb{E}[X_r] - r = r(1-p)/p$$



# Hypergeometric Distribution (超几何分布)

- For hypergeometric random variable  $X$  with parameters  $N, M, n$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{k=0}^n k \binom{M}{k} \binom{N-M}{n-k} / \binom{N}{n}$$

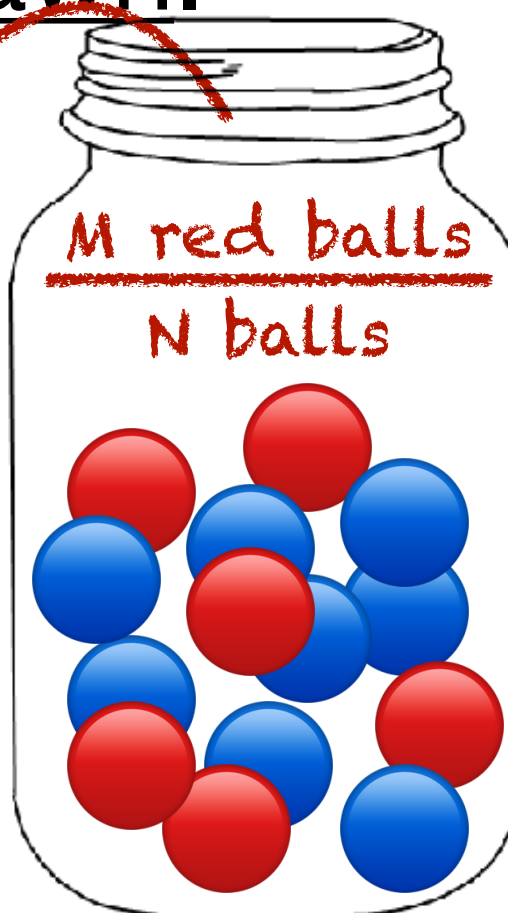
- Observation:** each red ball (success) is drawn with probability  $\binom{N-1}{n-1} / \binom{N}{n} = \frac{n}{N}$ .

Then  $X = X_1 + \dots + X_M$ , where  $X_i \in \{0,1\}$  indicates whether the  $i$ th red ball is drawn.

- Linearity of expectation:

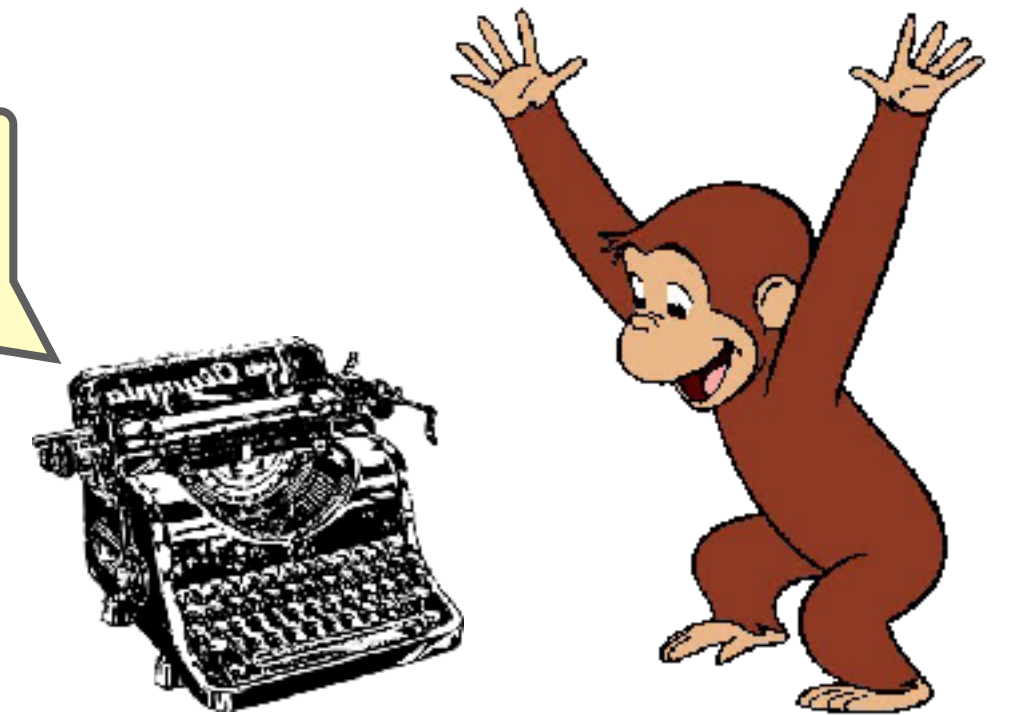
$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X_1] + \dots + \mathbb{E}[X_M] = \frac{nM}{N}$$

Draw  $n$  balls  
without  
replacement



# Pattern Matching

Hamlet



- $s = (s_1, \dots, s_n) \in Q^n$ : uniform random string of  $n$  letters from alphabet  $Q$  with  $|Q| = q$
- For pattern  $\pi \in Q^k$ , let  $X$  be the number of appearances of  $\pi$  in  $s$  as substring

• Let  $I_i \in \{0, 1\}$  indicate that  $\pi = (s_i, s_{i+1}, \dots, s_{i+k-1})$ . Then  $X = \sum_{i=1}^{n-k+1} I_i$

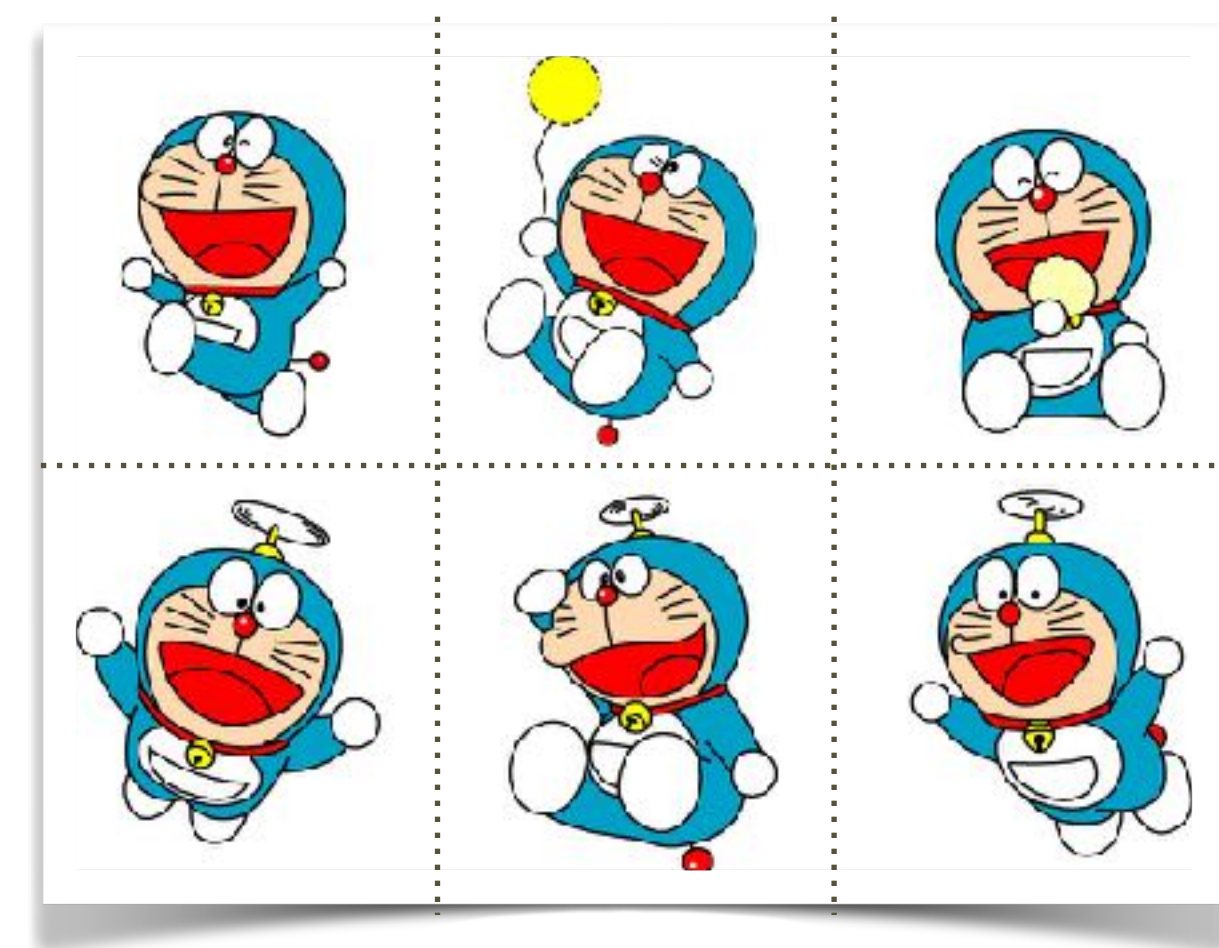
- Linearity of expectation:

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{i=1}^{n-k+1} \mathbb{E}[I_i] = (n - k + 1)q^{-k}$$

- Expected time (position) for the first appearance? It may depend on the pattern  $\pi$ .

Optional Stopping Theorem (OST)

# Coupon Collector



- Each cookie box comes with a uniform random coupon.
  - Number of cookie boxes opened to collect all  $n$  types of coupons
- **Balls-into-bins model:** throw balls one-by-one *u.a.r.* to occupy all  $n$  bins
  - $X$  : total number of balls thrown to make all  $n$  bins nonempty
  - $X_i$  : number of balls thrown while there are exactly  $(i - 1)$  nonempty bins

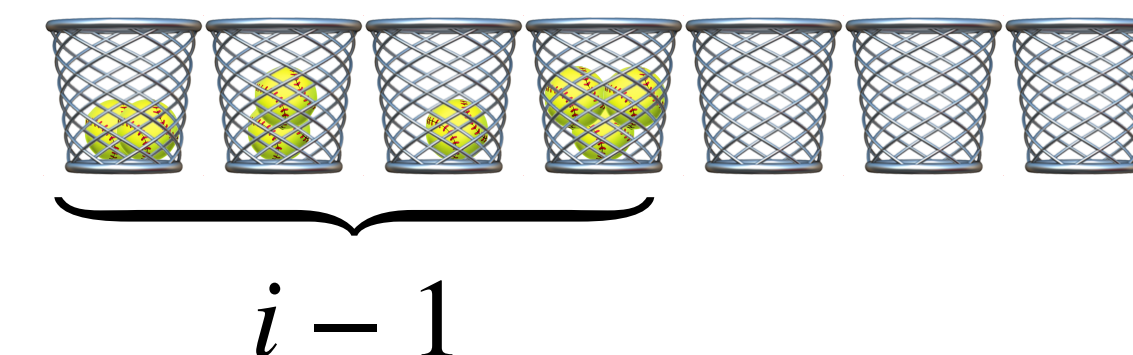
- $X_i$  is geometric with parameter  $p_i = \frac{i}{n}$  and  $X = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$



- **Linearity of expectation:**

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}[X_i] = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{n}{n - i + 1} = n \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{i} = nH(n) \approx n \ln n$$

(Harmonic number)



# Double Counting (Tail sum for expectation)

- For nonnegative random variable  $X$  that takes values in  $\{0,1,2,\dots\}$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \Pr[X > k]$$

- **Proof I (Double Counting):**

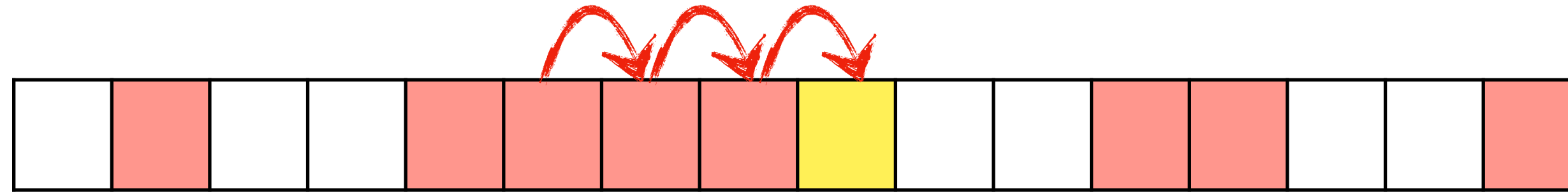
$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{x \geq 0} x \Pr[X = x] = \sum_{x \geq 0} \sum_{k=0}^{x-1} \Pr[X = x] = \sum_{k \geq 0} \sum_{x > k} \Pr[X = x] = \sum_{k \geq 0} \Pr[X > k]$$

- **Proof II (Linearity of Expectation):** Let  $I_k \in \{0,1\}$  indicate whether  $X > k$ .

Then  $X = \sum_{k \geq 0} I_k$ . By linearity,  $\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{k \geq 0} \mathbb{E}[I_k] = \sum_{k \geq 0} \Pr[X > k]$



# Open Addressing with Uniform Hashing



- Hash table:  $n$  keys from a universe  $U$  are mapped to  $m$  slots by hash function
$$h : U \rightarrow [m]$$
- Open addressing (开放寻址): hash collision is resolved by a probing strategy
  - when searching for a key  $x \in U$ , the  $i$ th probed slot is given by  $h(x, i)$
- Linear probing:  $h(x, i) = h(x) + i \pmod{m}$
- Quadratic probing:  $h(x, i) = h(x) + c_1 i + c_2 i^2 \pmod{m}$
- Double hashing:  $h(x, i) = h_1(x) + i \cdot h_2(x) \pmod{m}$
- Uniform hashing:  $h(x, i) = \pi(i)$  where  $\pi$  is a uniform random permutation of  $[m]$

# Open Addressing with Uniform Hashing

- In a hash table with load factor  $\alpha = n/m$ , assuming uniform hashing, the expected number of probes in an unsuccessful search is at most  $1/(1 - \alpha)$ .
- **Proof:** Let  $X$  be the number of probes in an unsuccessful search.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[X] &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \Pr(X > k) = 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \Pr(X > k) \\&= 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \Pr\left(\cap_{i=1}^k A_i\right) \text{ (where } A_i \text{ is the event that the } i\text{th probed slot is occupied)} \\&= 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^k \Pr\left(A_i \mid \cap_{j<i} A_j\right) \text{ (by chain rule)} \\&= 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^k \frac{n - i + 1}{m - i + 1} \leq 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1}^k \frac{n}{m} = 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \alpha^k = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \alpha^k = \frac{1}{1 - \alpha}\end{aligned}$$



# Principle of Inclusion-Exclusion

- Let  $I(A) \in \{0,1\}$  be the indicator random variable of event  $A$ . It's easy to verify:

★  $I(A^c) = 1 - I(A)$

♣  $I(A \cap B) = I(A) \cdot I(B)$

- For events  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$ :

$$I\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right) \stackrel{(\star)}{=} 1 - I\left(\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right)^c\right) \stackrel{\text{(De Morgan's law)}}{=} 1 - I\left(\bigcap_{i=1}^n A_i^c\right) \stackrel{(\clubsuit)}{=} 1 - \prod_{i=1}^n I(A_i^c) \stackrel{(\star)}{=} 1 - \prod_{i=1}^n (1 - I(A_i))$$

$$\stackrel{\text{(binomial theorem)}}{=} 1 - \sum_{S \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}} (-1)^{|S|} \prod_{i \in S} I(A_i) \stackrel{(\clubsuit)}{=} \sum_{\emptyset \neq S \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}} (-1)^{|S|-1} I\left(\bigcap_{i \in S} A_i\right)$$

# Principle of Inclusion-Exclusion

- Let  $I(A) \in \{0,1\}$  be the indicator random variable of event  $A$ .
- For events  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$ :

$$I\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right) = \sum_{\emptyset \neq S \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}} (-1)^{|S|-1} I\left(\bigcap_{i \in S} A_i\right)$$

- By linearity of expectation:

$$\Pr\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right) = \sum_{\emptyset \neq S \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}} (-1)^{|S|-1} \Pr\left(\bigcap_{i \in S} A_i\right)$$

# Boole-Bonferroni Inequality

- For events  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_n$ :

$$I\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n A_i\right) = 1 - \prod_{i=1}^n (1 - I(A_i)) = \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^{k-1} \sum_{S \in \binom{\{1, \dots, n\}}{k}} I\left(\bigcap_{i \in S} A_i\right)$$

- Observation:**  $X_k \triangleq \binom{\sum_{i=1}^n I(A_i)}{k} = \sum_{S \in \binom{\{1, \dots, n\}}{k}} \prod_{i \in S} I(A_i) = \sum_{S \in \binom{\{1, \dots, n\}}{k}} I\left(\bigcap_{i \in S} A_i\right)$

and  $X_k$  as a binomial coefficient is *unimodal* in  $k$

- For unimodal sequence  $X_k$ :  $\sum_{k \leq 2t} (-1)^{k-1} X_k \leq \sum_{k=1}^n (-1)^{k-1} X_k \leq \sum_{k \leq 2t+1} (-1)^{k-1} X_k$

- Take expectation. By linearity of expectation  $\implies$  Bonferroni inequality

# Limitation of Linearity

- Infinite sum:  $X_1, X_2, \dots$

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} X_i \right] = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}[X_i] \text{ if the absolute convergence } \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}[|X_i|] < \infty \text{ holds}$$

$$\text{This is possible: } \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} X_i \right] < \infty \text{ and } \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}[X_i] < \infty \text{ but } \mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} X_i \right] \neq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}[X_i]$$

Counterexample: the **martingale** betting strategy in a fair gambling game

- A random number of random variables:  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N$  for random  $N$

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N X_i \right] = \mathbb{E}[N] \mathbb{E}[X_1] \text{ ?}$$

# Conditional Expectation (条件期望)

- The conditional expectation of a discrete random variable  $X$  given that event  $A$  occurs, is defined by

$$\mathbb{E}[X \mid A] = \sum_x x \Pr(X = x \mid A)$$

where the sum is taken over all  $x$  that  $\Pr(X = x \mid A) > 0$

- To be well-defined, assume:
  - $\Pr(A) > 0$
  - the sum  $\sum_x x \Pr(X = x \mid A)$  converges absolutely

# Conditional Distribution (条件分布)

- The probability mass function  $p_{X|A} : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow [0,1]$  of a discrete random variable  $X$  given that event  $A$  occurs, is given by

$$p_{X|A}(x) = \Pr(X = x \mid A)$$

- $(X \mid A)$  can now be seen as a well-defined discrete random variable, whose distribution is described by the *pmf*  $p_{X|A}$
- $\mathbb{E}[X \mid A] = \sum_x x \Pr(X = x \mid A)$  is just the expectation of  $(X \mid A)$
- $\mathbb{E}[X \mid A]$  satisfies the properties of expectation, e.g. linearity of expectation



# Law of Total Expectation

- Let  $X$  be a discrete random variable with finite  $\mathbb{E}[X]$ . Let events  $B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n$  be a partition of  $\Omega$  such that  $\Pr(B_i) > 0$  for all  $i$ .

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}[X \mid B_i] \Pr(B_i)$$

- The law of total probability is now a special case with  $X = I(A)$

**Proof:**  $\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_x x \Pr(X = x) = \sum_x x \sum_{i=1}^n \Pr(X = x \mid B_i) \Pr(B_i)$  (law of total prob.)

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \Pr(B_i) \sum_x x \Pr(X = x \mid B_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}[X \mid B_i] \Pr(B_i)$$

# QuickSort

**QSort( $A[1 \dots n]$ ):** an array  $A[1 \dots n]$  of distinct numbers

If  $n > 1$  then do:

choose a **pivot**  $x = A[n]$ ;

partition  $A$  into  $L$  with all entries  $< x$ ,  
and  $R$  with all entries  $> x$ ;

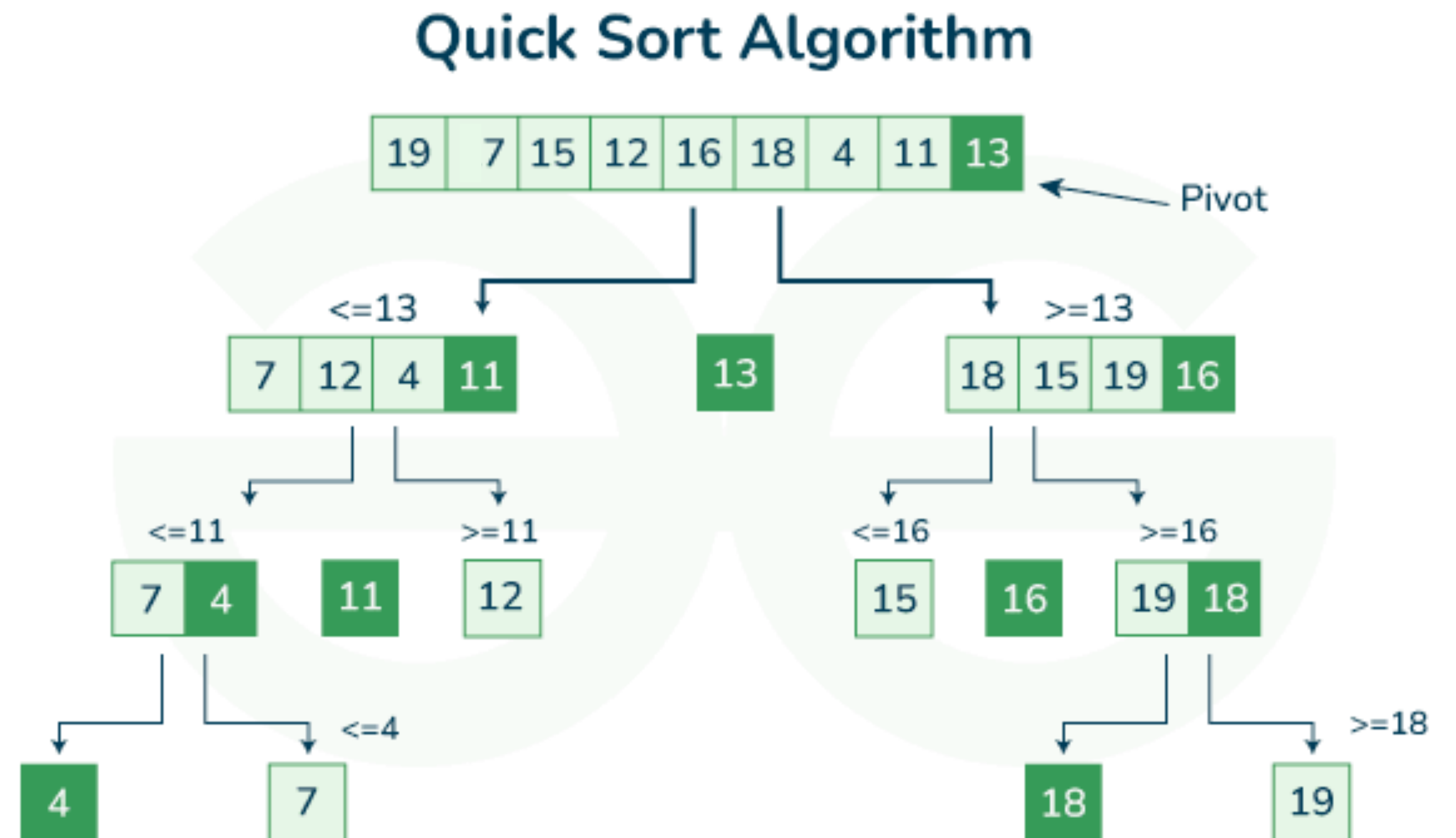
store  $A[|L| + 1] \leftarrow x$ ,

$A[1, \dots, |L|] \leftarrow L$ ,

$A[|L| + 2, \dots, n] \leftarrow R$ ;

QSort( $A[1, \dots, |L|]$ )

and QSort( $A[|L| + 2, \dots, n]$ );



# QuickSort

**QSort( $A[1 \dots n]$ ):** an array  $A[1 \dots n]$  of distinct numbers

If  $n > 1$  then do:

    choose a pivot  $x = A[n]$ ;

    partition  $A$  into  $L$  with all entries  $< x$ ,  
        and  $R$  with all entries  $> x$ ;

    store  $A[|L| + 1] \leftarrow x$ ,

$A[1, \dots, |L|] \leftarrow L$ ,

$A[|L| + 2, \dots, n] \leftarrow R$ ;

    QSort( $A[1, \dots, |L|]$ )

    and QSort( $A[|L| + 2, \dots, n]$ );

- A *comparison-based* sorting algorithm
- # of comparisons
  - worst-case complexity:  $O(n^2)$ 
    - always picks smallest/largest one
    - $T(n) = (n - 1) + T(n - 1)$ ,  $T(1) = 0$
    - $T(n) = \sum_{i=1}^n (i - 1) = \binom{n}{2} \approx n^2$

# QuickSort

**QSort( $A[1 \dots n]$ ):** an array  $A[1 \dots n]$  of distinct numbers

If  $n > 1$  then do:

choose a pivot  $x = A[n]$ ;

partition  $A$  into  $L$  with all entries  $< x$ ,  
and  $R$  with all entries  $> x$ ;

store  $A[|L| + 1] \leftarrow x$ ,

$A[1, \dots, |L|] \leftarrow L$ ,

$A[|L| + 2, \dots, n] \leftarrow R$ ;

QSort( $A[1, \dots, |L|]$ )

and QSort( $A[|L| + 2, \dots, n]$ );

- A *comparison-based* sorting algorithm
- # of comparisons
  - worst-case complexity:  $O(n^2)$
  - best-case?
    - always picks median
    - $T(n) = n - 1 + 2 \cdot T(n/2)$ ,  $T(1) = 0$
    - $T(n) = O(n \log n)$
  - average-case?

# QuickSort

**QSort( $A[1 \dots n]$ ):** an array  $A[1 \dots n]$  of distinct numbers

If  $n > 1$  then do:

choose a pivot  $x = A[n]$ ;

partition  $A$  into  $L$  with all entries  $< x$ ,  
and  $R$  with all entries  $> x$ ;

store  $A[|L| + 1] \leftarrow x$ ,

$A[1, \dots, |L|] \leftarrow L$ ,

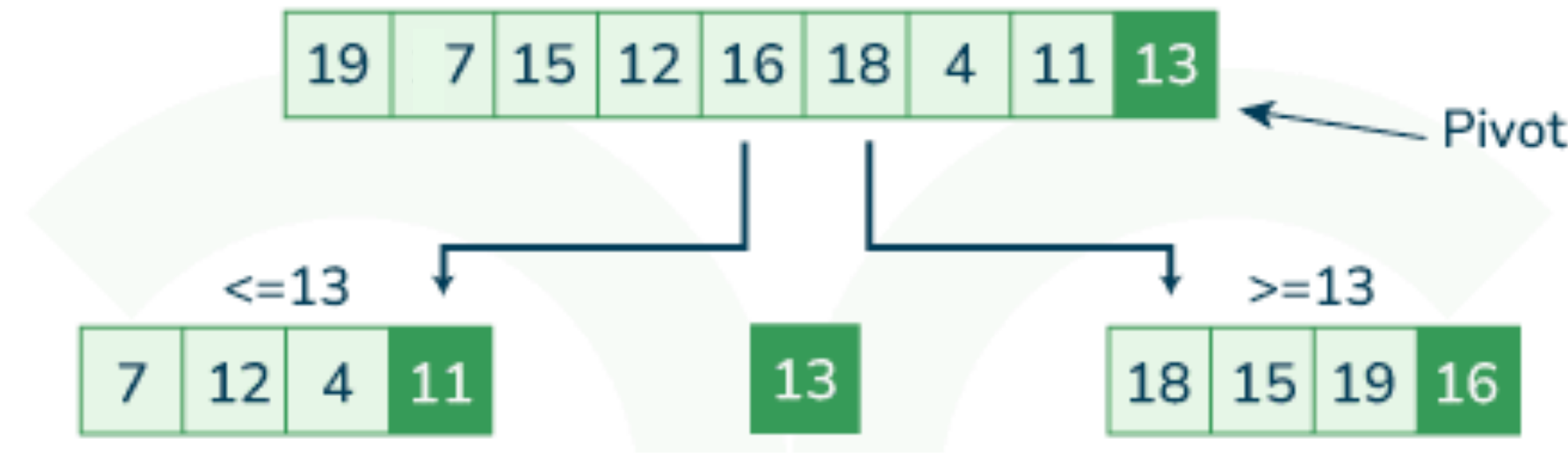
$A[|L| + 2, \dots, n] \leftarrow R$ ;

QSort( $A[1, \dots, |L|]$ )

and QSort( $A[|L| + 2, \dots, n]$ );

- A *comparison-based* sorting algorithm
- # of comparisons
  - worst-case complexity:  $O(n^2)$
  - best-case complexity:  $O(n \log n)$
  - average-case?
    - $\mathbb{E}[X]$ , where  $X$  is # of comparisons used in QSort( $A$ ) on a **uniform random permutation**  $A$  of  $n$  distinct numbers

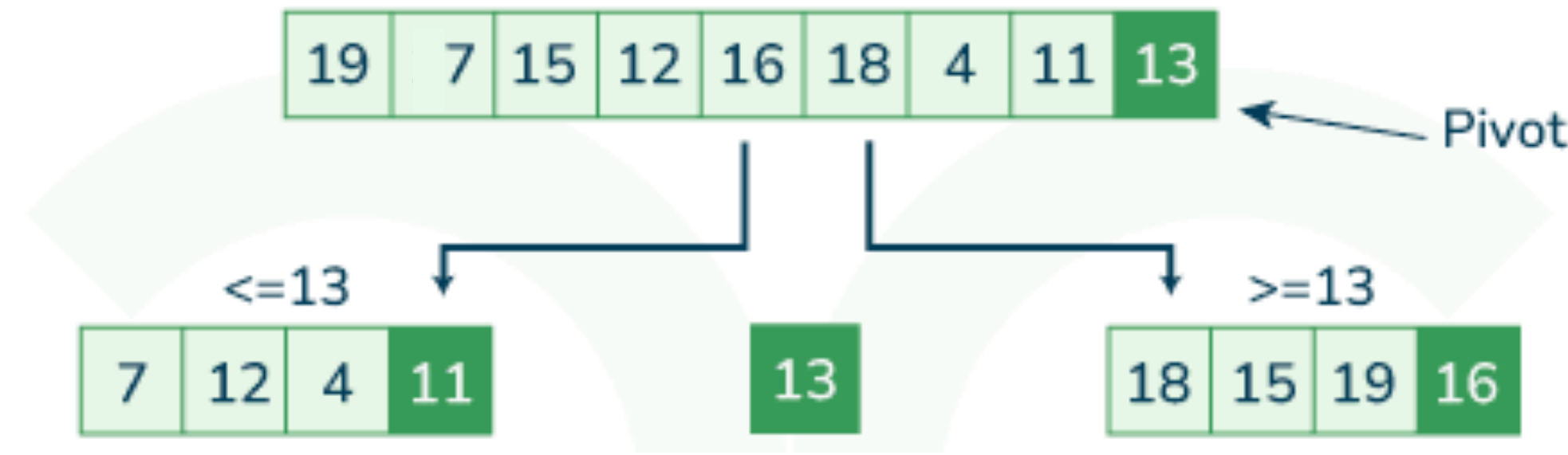
# QuickSort in Average Case



- Uniform random input & order-preserving:
  - $A$  is a uniform random permutation of  $a_1 < \dots < a_n$
- **Observation I:** each pair of  $a_i, a_j$  are compared at most once.
  - Compare iff  $a_i$  or  $a_j$  is pivot when they are in the same array, never compare again.
    - Let  $X_{ij} \in \{0,1\}$  indicate whether  $a_i$  and  $a_j$  are compared within  $\text{QSort}(A)$ .
    - Total number of comparisons is  $X = \sum_{i < j} X_{ij}$



# QuickSort in Average Case



- Uniform random input & order-preserving:
  - $A$  is a uniform random permutation of  $a_1 < \dots < a_n$
- **Observation I:** Total number of comparisons is  $X = \sum_{i < j} X_{ij}$ 
  - Let  $X_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$  indicate whether  $a_i$  and  $a_j$  are compared within  $\text{QSort}(A)$ .
- **Observation II:**  $X_{ij}$  is fixed iff  $a_i, \dots, a_j$  are in same array and  $a_k$  is pivot, with  $i \leq k \leq j$



# QuickSort

- **Observation II:**  $X_{ij}$  is fixed iff  $a_i, \dots, a_j$  are in same array and  $a_k$  is pivot, with  $i \leq k \leq j$

**QSort( $A[1 \dots n]$ ):** an array  $A[1 \dots n]$  of distinct numbers

If  $n > 1$  then do:

choose a **pivot**  $x = A[n]$ ;

partition  $A$  into  $L$  with all entries  $< x$ ,  
and  $R$  with all entries  $> x$ ;

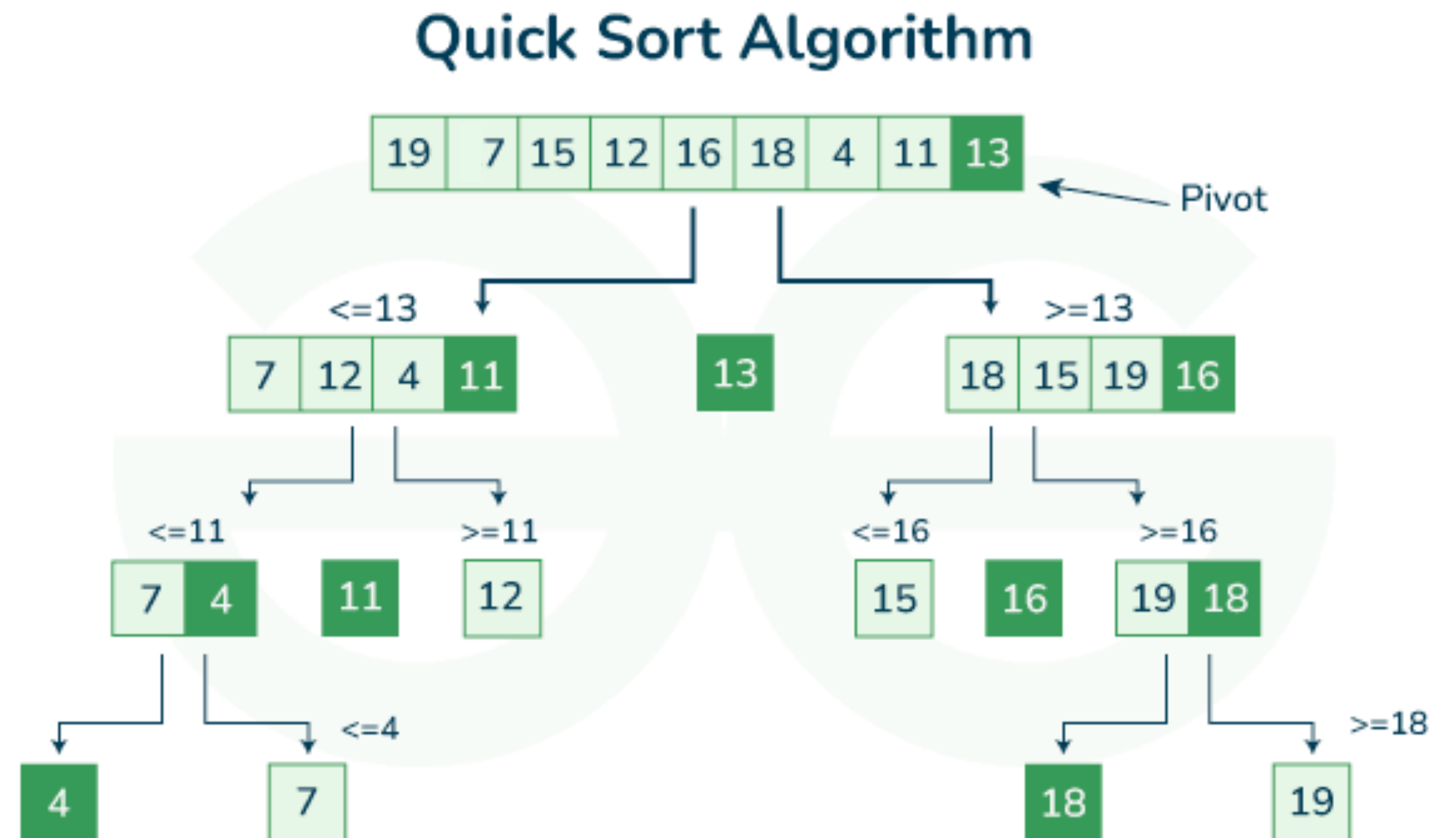
store  $A[|L| + 1] \leftarrow x$ ,

$A[1, \dots, |L|] \leftarrow L$ ,

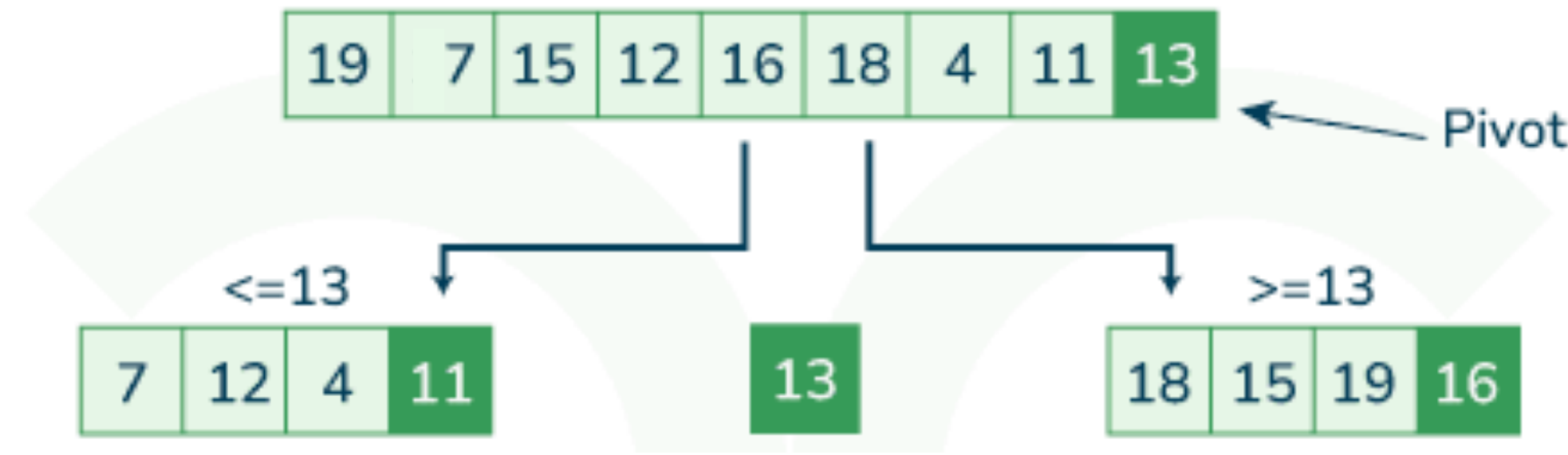
$A[|L| + 2, \dots, n] \leftarrow R$ ;

QSort( $A[1, \dots, |L|]$ )

and QSort( $A[|L| + 2, \dots, n]$ );

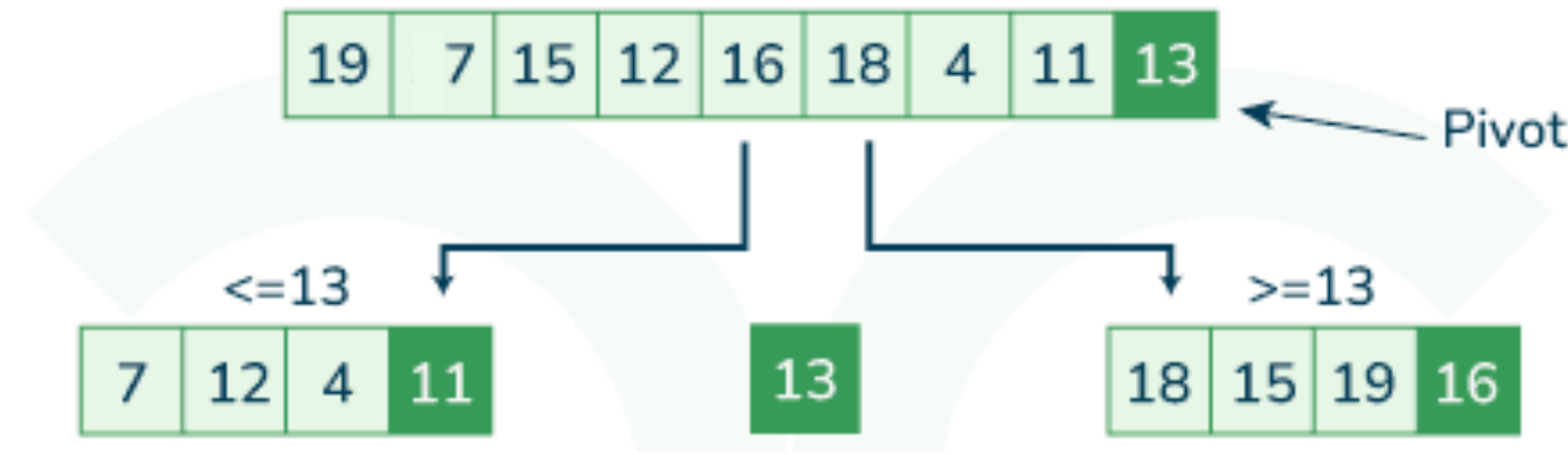


# QuickSort in Average Case



- Uniform random input & order-preserving:
  - $A$  is a uniform random permutation of  $a_1 < \dots < a_n$
- **Observation I:** Total number of comparisons is  $X = \sum_{i < j} X_{ij}$ 
  - Let  $X_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$  indicate whether  $a_i$  and  $a_j$  are compared within  $\text{QSort}(A)$ .
- **Observation II:**  $X_{ij}$  is fixed iff  $a_i, \dots, a_j$  are in same array and  $a_k$  is pivot, with  $i \leq k \leq j$ 
  - $X_{ij} = 0$  iff  $a_i, \dots, a_j$  are in the same array and  $a_k$  is pivot, where  $i < k < j$
  - $X_{ij} = 1$  iff  $a_i, \dots, a_j$  are in the same array and  $a_i$  or  $a_j$  is pivot
  - $\Pr[X_{ij} = 1] = 2/(j - i + 1) = \mathbb{E}[X_{ij}]$

# QuickSort in Average Case



- Uniform random input & order-preserving:
  - $A$  is a uniform random permutation of  $a_1 < \dots < a_n$
- **Observation I:** Total number of comparisons is  $X = \sum_{i < j} X_{ij}$ 
  - Let  $X_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}$  indicate whether  $a_i$  and  $a_j$  are compared within  $\text{QSort}(A)$ .
- **Observation II:**  $\mathbb{E}[X_{ij}] = \Pr[X_{ij} = 1] = 2/(j - i + 1)$
- **Linearity of expectation:**

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{i < j} \mathbb{E}[X_{ij}] = \sum_{i < j} \frac{2}{j - i + 1} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=2}^{n-i+1} \frac{2}{k} \leq 2 \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k} = 2nH(n) = 2n \ln n + O(n)$$

# Conditional Expectation (条件期望)

$Y \backslash X$	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$p_Y(y) \downarrow$
$y_1$	$\frac{4}{32}$	$\frac{2}{32}$	$\frac{1}{32}$	$\frac{1}{32}$	$\frac{8}{32}$
$y_2$	$\frac{3}{32}$	$\frac{6}{32}$	$\frac{3}{32}$	$\frac{3}{32}$	$\frac{15}{32}$
$y_3$	$\frac{9}{32}$	0	0	0	$\frac{9}{32}$
$p_X(x) \rightarrow$	$\frac{16}{32}$	$\frac{8}{32}$	$\frac{4}{32}$	$\frac{4}{32}$	$\frac{32}{32}$

- For random variables  $X, Y$ , the conditional expectation:

$$\mathbb{E}[X \mid Y]$$

is a random variable  $f(Y)$  whose value is  $f(y) = \mathbb{E}[X \mid Y = y]$  when  $Y = y$

- Naturally generalized to  $\mathbb{E}[X \mid Y, Z]$  for random variables  $X, Y, Z$
- Examples:**
  - $\mathbb{E}[X \mid Y]$ : average height of the country of a random person on earth
  - $\mathbb{E}[X \mid Y, Z]$ : average height of the gender of the country of a random person

# Conditional Expectation (条件期望)

$Y \backslash X$	$x_1$	$x_2$	$x_3$	$x_4$	$p_Y(y) \downarrow$
$y_1$	$\frac{4}{32}$	$\frac{2}{32}$	$\frac{1}{32}$	$\frac{1}{32}$	$\frac{8}{32}$
$y_2$	$\frac{3}{32}$	$\frac{6}{32}$	$\frac{3}{32}$	$\frac{3}{32}$	$\frac{15}{32}$
$y_3$	$\frac{9}{32}$	0	0	0	$\frac{9}{32}$
$p_X(x) \rightarrow$	$\frac{16}{32}$	$\frac{8}{32}$	$\frac{4}{32}$	$\frac{4}{32}$	$\frac{32}{32}$

- For random variables  $X, Y$ , the conditional expectation:

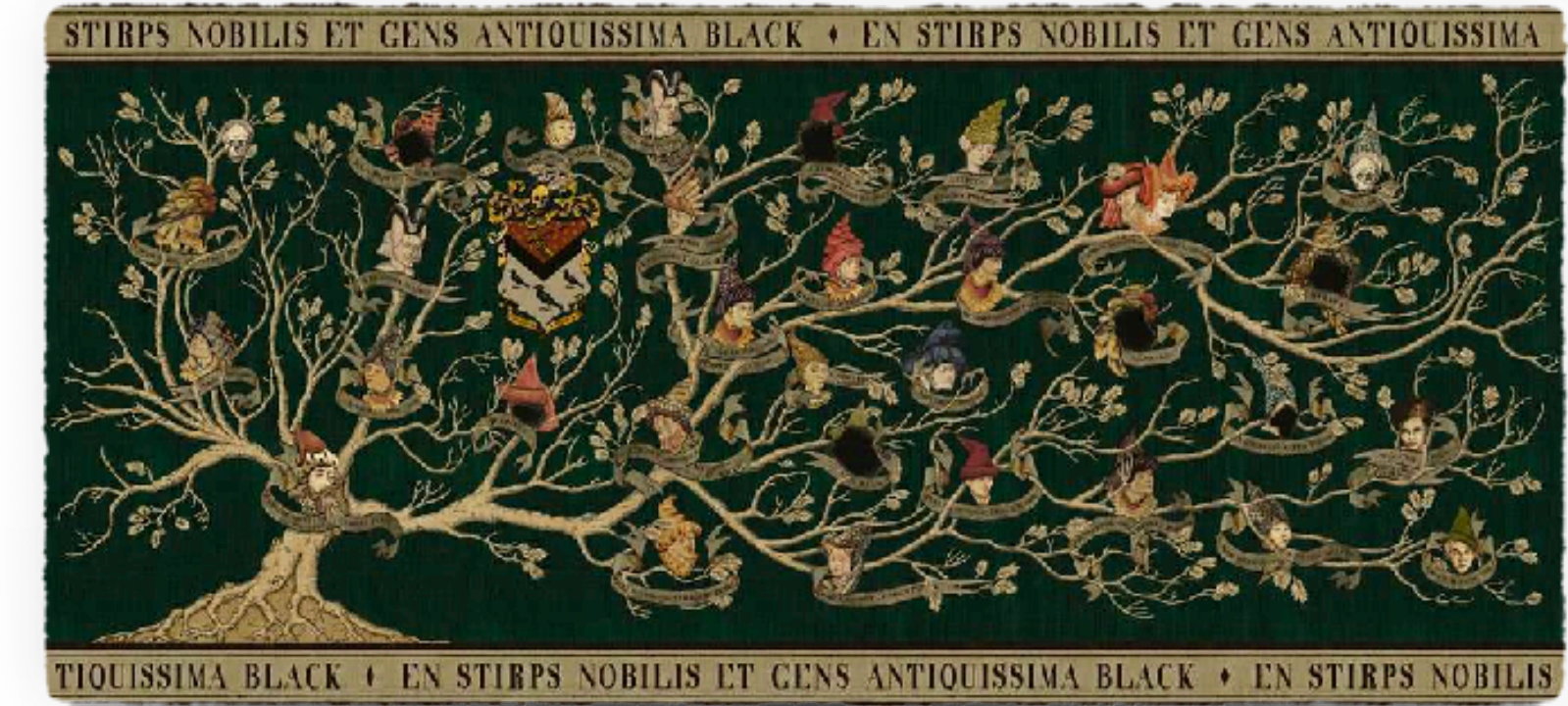
$$\mathbb{E}[X \mid Y]$$

is a random variable  $f(Y)$  whose value is  $f(y) = \mathbb{E}[X \mid Y = y]$  when  $Y = y$

- Law of Total Expectation:**  $\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X \mid Y]] = \mathbb{E}[X]$
- Proof:**  $\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X \mid Y]] = \sum_y \mathbb{E}[X \mid Y = y] \Pr(Y = y)$  (by definition)  
 $= \mathbb{E}[X]$  (law of total expectation)



# Random Family Tree

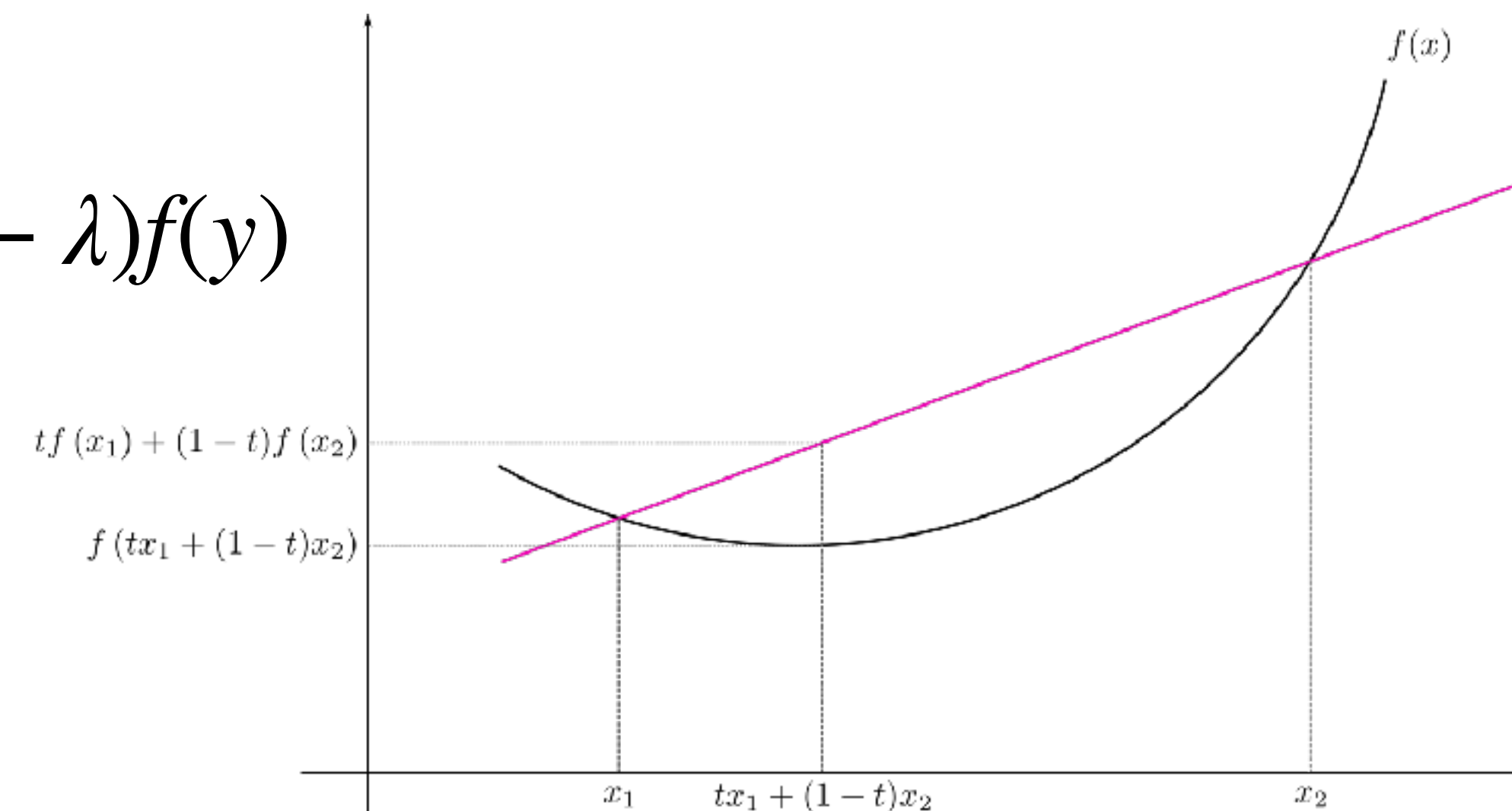


- $X_0, X_1, X_2, \dots$  is defined by  $X_0 = 1$  and  $X_{n+1} = \sum_{j=1}^{X_n} \xi_j^{(n)}$   
 where  $\xi_j^{(n)} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  are *i.i.d.* random variables with mean value  $\mu = \mathbb{E}[\xi_j^{(n)}]$
- $X_0 = 1$  and  $\mathbb{E}[X_1] = \mathbb{E}[\xi_1^{(0)}] = \mu$
- $\mathbb{E}[X_n \mid X_{n-1} = k] = \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{j=1}^k \xi_j^{(n-1)} \mid X_{n-1} = k\right] = k\mu \implies \mathbb{E}[X_n \mid X_{n-1}] = X_{n-1}\mu$
- $\mathbb{E}[X_n] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X_n \mid X_{n-1}]] = \mathbb{E}[X_{n-1}\mu] = \mathbb{E}[X_{n-1}] \cdot \mu = \mu^n$   

$$\implies \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{n \geq 0} X_n\right] = \sum_{n \geq 0} \mathbb{E}[X_n] = \sum_{n \geq 0} \mu^n = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{1-\mu} & \text{if } 0 < \mu < 1 \\ \infty & \text{if } \mu \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

# Jensen's Inequality

- For general (non-linear) function  $f(X)$  of random variable  $X$   
we don't have  $\mathbb{E}[f(X)] = f(\mathbb{E}[X])$
- But if the convexity of  $f$  is known, then the **Jensen's inequality** applies:
  - $f$  is **convex**  $\iff f(\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y) \leq \lambda f(x) + (1 - \lambda)f(y)$   
 $\implies \mathbb{E}[f(X)] \geq f(\mathbb{E}[X])$
  - $f$  is **concave**  $\iff f(\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y) \geq \lambda f(x) + (1 - \lambda)f(y)$   
 $\implies \mathbb{E}[f(X)] \leq f(\mathbb{E}[X])$





# Monotonicity of Expectation

- For random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ , for  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ :  
( $Y$  stochastically dominates  $X$ )
  - If  $X \leq Y$  *a.s.* (almost surely, i.e.  $\Pr(X \leq Y) = 1$ ), then  $\mathbb{E}[X] \leq \mathbb{E}[Y]$
  - If  $X \leq c$  ( $X \geq c$ ) *a.s.*, then  $\mathbb{E}[X] \leq c$  ( $\mathbb{E}[X] \geq c$ )
  - $\mathbb{E}[|X|] \geq |\mathbb{E}[X]| \geq 0$

**Proof:** 
$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[X] &= \sum_x x \Pr(X = x) = \sum_x x \left( \Pr(X = x, Y < X) + \Pr(X = x, Y \geq X) \right) \\ &= \sum_x x \sum_{y \geq x} \Pr((X, Y) = (x, y)) = \sum_y \sum_{x \leq y} x \Pr((X, Y) = (x, y)) \\ &\leq \sum_y \sum_{x \leq y} y \Pr((X, Y) = (x, y)) = \sum_y y \Pr(Y = y) = \mathbb{E}[Y]\end{aligned}$$

# Averaging Principle

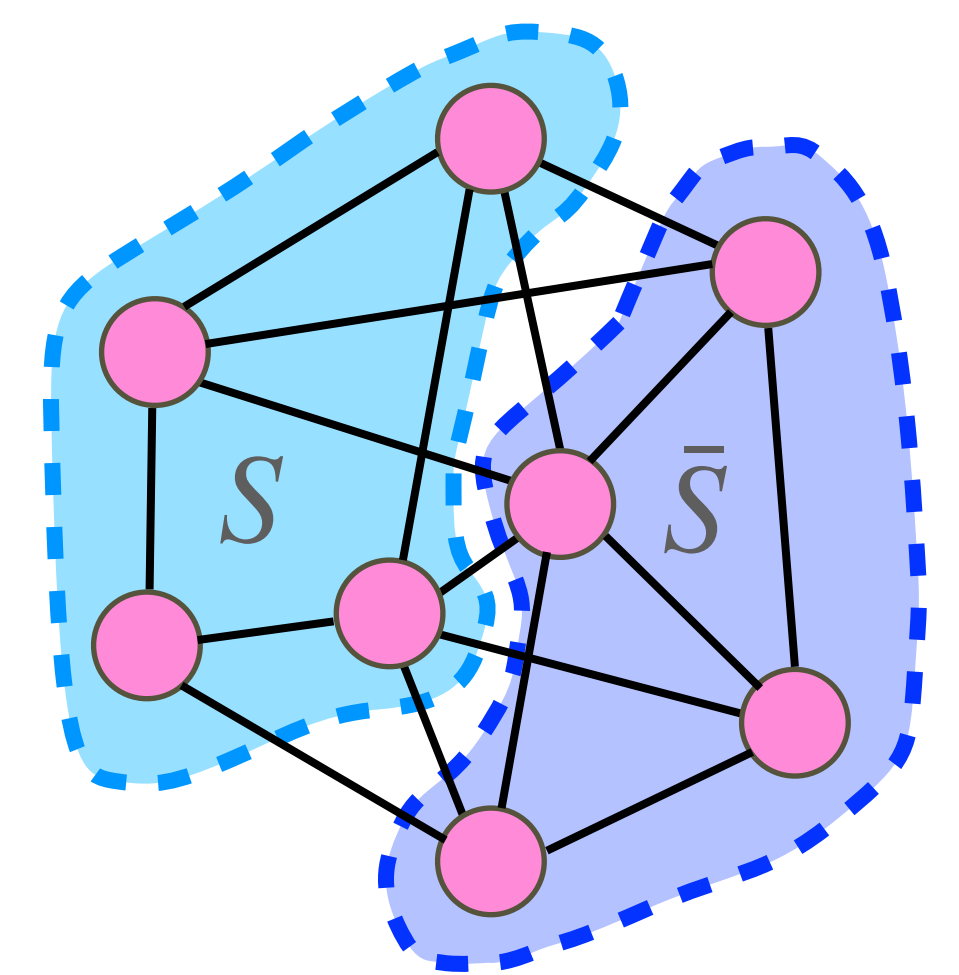
- $\Pr(X \geq \mathbb{E}[X]) > 0 \iff$  if  $\Pr(X < c) = 1$  then  $\mathbb{E}[X] < c$ , where  $c = \mathbb{E}[X]$
- $\Pr(X \leq \mathbb{E}[X]) > 0 \iff$  if  $\Pr(X > c) = 1$  then  $\mathbb{E}[X] > c$ , where  $c = \mathbb{E}[X]$
- By the Probabilistic Method:

$\exists \omega \in \Omega$  such that  $X(\omega) \geq \mathbb{E}[X]$

$\exists \omega \in \Omega$  such that  $X(\omega) \leq \mathbb{E}[X]$



# Maximum Cut



- For an undirected graph  $G(V, E)$ :
  - Find an  $S \subseteq V$  with largest cut  $\delta S \triangleq \{ \{u, v\} \in E \mid u \in S \wedge v \notin S \}$
- **NP-hard** problem (very unlikely to have efficient algorithms)

The average cut generated by pairwise independent bits is  $\geq |E|/2$ .

**Proposition:** There always exists a large enough cut of size  $|\delta S| \geq |E|/2$ .

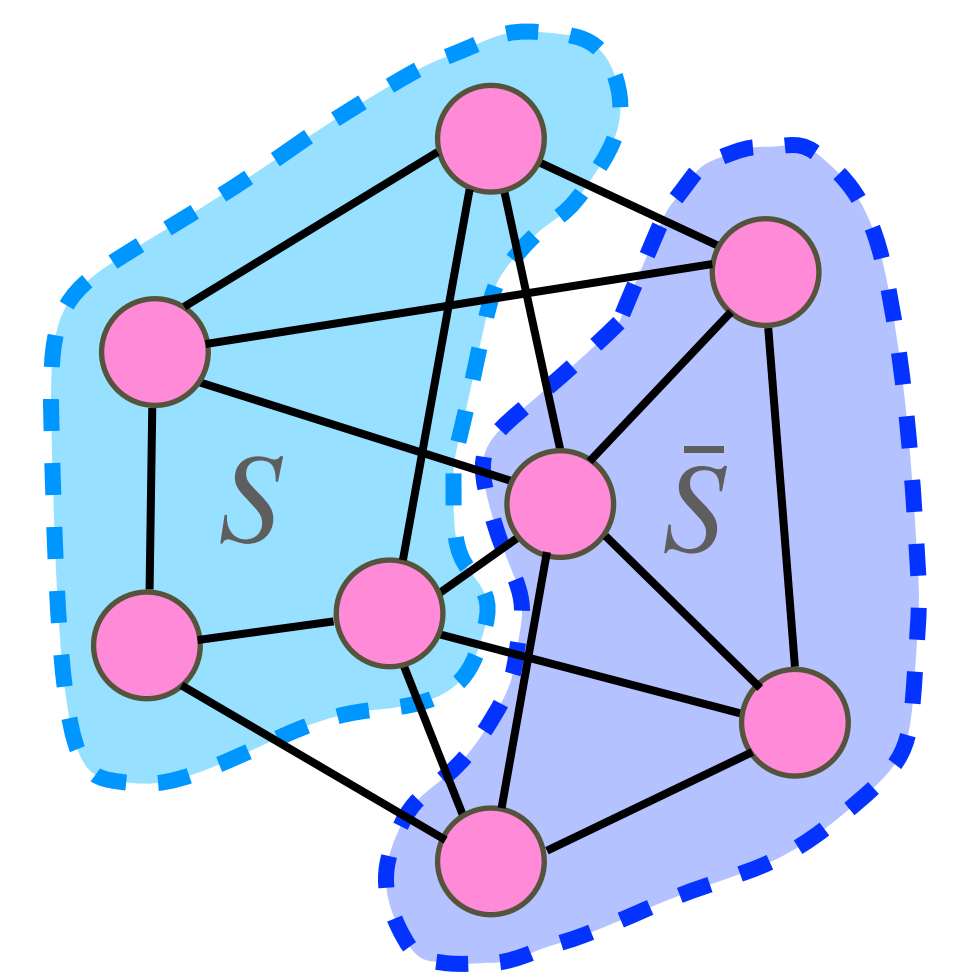
**Proof:** Let  $Y_v \in \{0, 1\}$ , for  $v \in V$ , be pairwise ~~mutually~~ independent uniform random bits.

Each  $v \in V$  joins  $S$  iff  $Y_v = 1$ . Then it holds that  $|\delta S| = \sum_{\{u, v\} \in E} I(Y_u \neq Y_v)$ .

By linearity of expectation:  $\mathbb{E}[|\delta S|] = \sum_{\{u, v\} \in E} \Pr(Y_u \neq Y_v) = |E|/2$ .

Due to the probabilistic method: There exists such  $S \subseteq V$  with  $|\delta S| \geq |E|/2$ .

# Maximum Cut



- For an undirected graph  $G(V, E)$ :
  - Find an  $S \subseteq V$  with largest cut  $\delta S \triangleq \{ \{u, v\} \in E \mid u \in S \wedge v \notin S \}$
- **NP-hard** problem (very unlikely to have efficient algorithms)

## Parity Search:

for all  $\mathbf{b} \in \{0, 1\}^{\lceil \log_2(n+1) \rceil}$ :

    initialize  $S_{\mathbf{b}} = \emptyset$ ;

    for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ :

        if  $\bigoplus_{j: \lfloor i/2^j \rfloor \bmod 2 = 1} b_j = 1$  then  $v_i$  joins  $S_{\mathbf{b}}$ ;

return the  $S_{\mathbf{b}}$  with the largest cut  $\delta S_{\mathbf{b}}$ ;

Guarantees to return an  $S \subseteq V$  with  $|\delta S| \geq |E|/2$ .