

CS 121: Lecture 23

Probability Review

Madhu Sudan

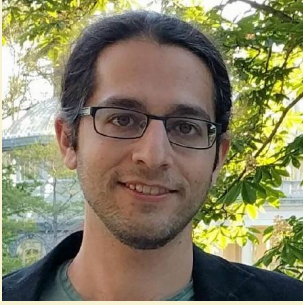
<https://madhu.seas.harvard.edu/courses/Fall2020>

Book: <https://introtcs.org>

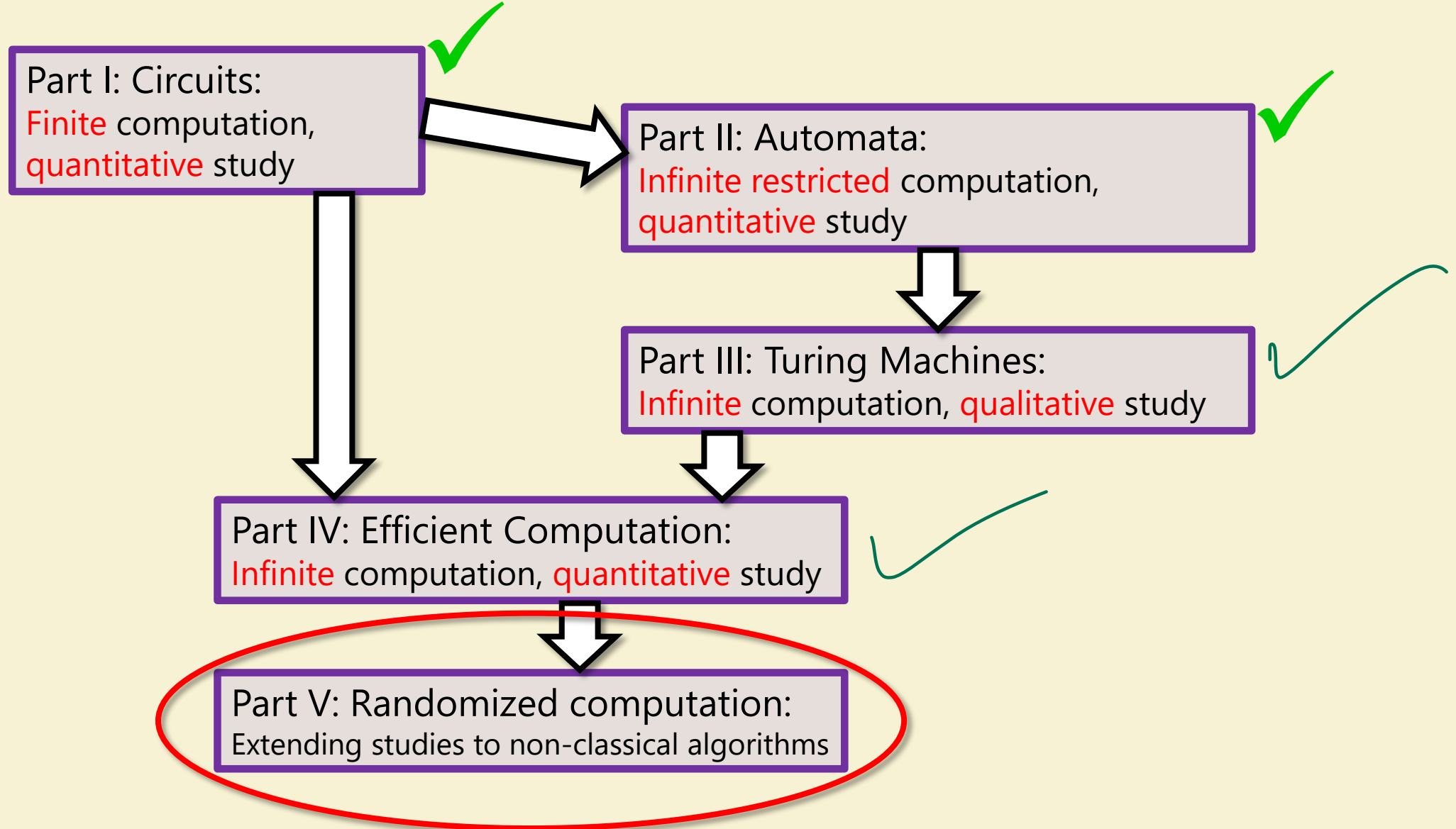
How to contact us { The whole staff (faster response): [CS 121 Piazza](#)
Only the course heads (slower): cs121.fall2020.course.heads@gmail.com

Announcements:

- Advanced section: Roei Tell (De)Randomization
- 2nd feedback survey
- Homework 6 out today. Due 12/3/2020
- Section 11 week starts



Where we are:



Review of course so far

- Circuits:

- Compute every finite function ... but no infinite function
- Measure of complexity: SIZE. $ALL_n \subseteq SIZE \left(O \left(\frac{2^n}{n} \right) \right) ; \exists f \notin SIZE \left(o \left(\frac{2^n}{n} \right) \right)$ **Counting**

- Finite Automata:

- Compute some infinite functions (all Regular functions)
- Do not compute many (easy) functions (e.g. $EQ(x, y) = 1 \Leftrightarrow x = y$) **Pumping/Pigeonhole**

- Turing Machines:

- Compute everything computable (definition/thesis)
- HALT is not computable: **Diagonalization, Reductions**

- Efficient Computation:

- P Polytime computable Boolean functions – our notion of efficiently computable
- NP Efficiently verifiable Boolean functions. Our wishlist ... **Polytime Reductions**
- NP-complete: Hardest problems in NP: 3SAT, ISET, MaxCut, EU3SAT, Subset Sum

Last Module: Challenges to STCT

- Strong Turing-Church Thesis: Everything physically computable in polynomial time can be computable in polynomial time on Turing Machine.
- Challenges:
 - Randomized algorithms: Already being computed by our computers:
 - Weather simulation, Market prediction, ...
 - Quantum algorithms:
- Status:
 - Randomized: May not add power?
 - Quantum: May add power?
 - Still can be studied with same tools. New classes: **BPP**, **BQP**:
 - **B** – bounded error; **P** – Probabilistic, **Q** - Quantum

Today: Review of Basic Probability

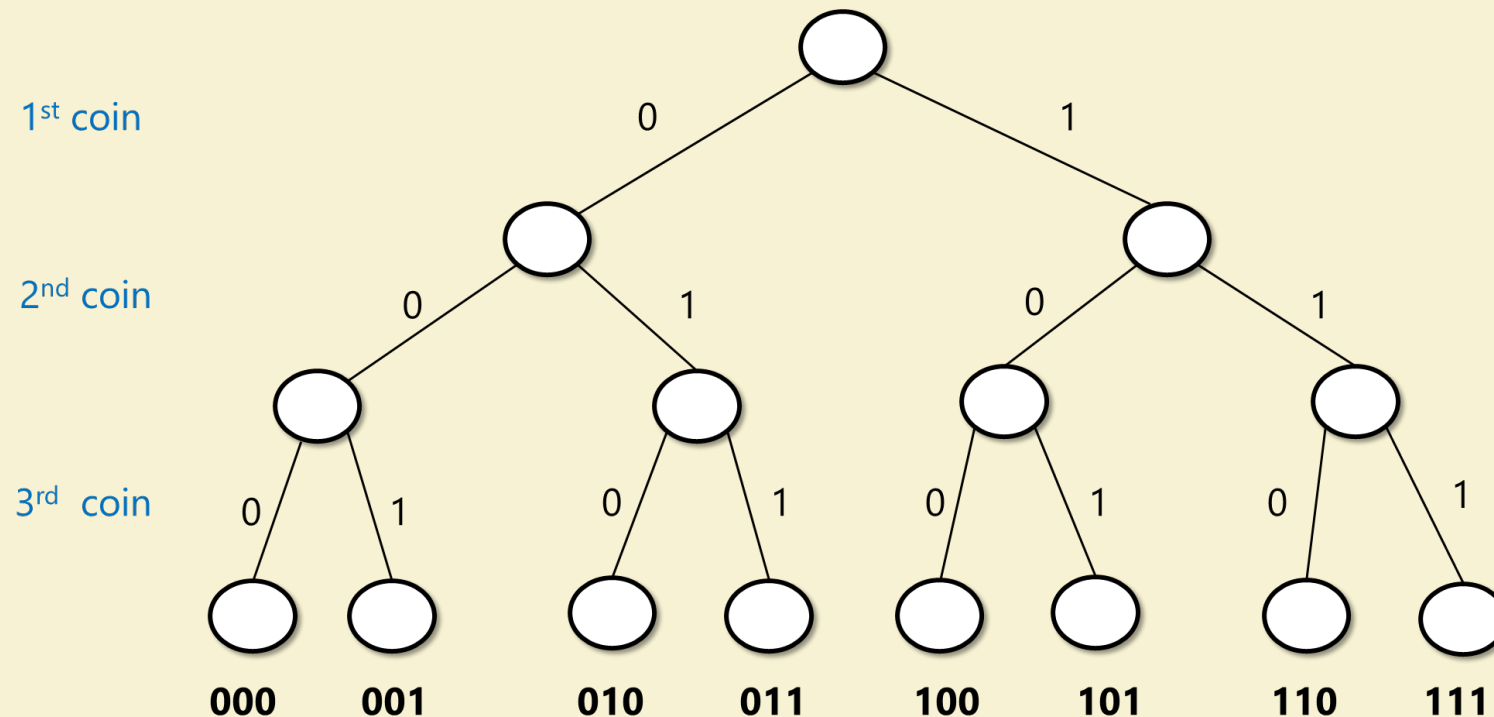
Read Chapter 18

- Sample space
- Events
- Union/intersection/negation – AND/OR/NOT of events
- Random variables
- Expectation
- Concentration / tail bounds

Throughout this lecture

Probabilistic experiment: tossing n independent unbiased coins.

Equivalently: Choose $x \sim \{0,1\}^n$

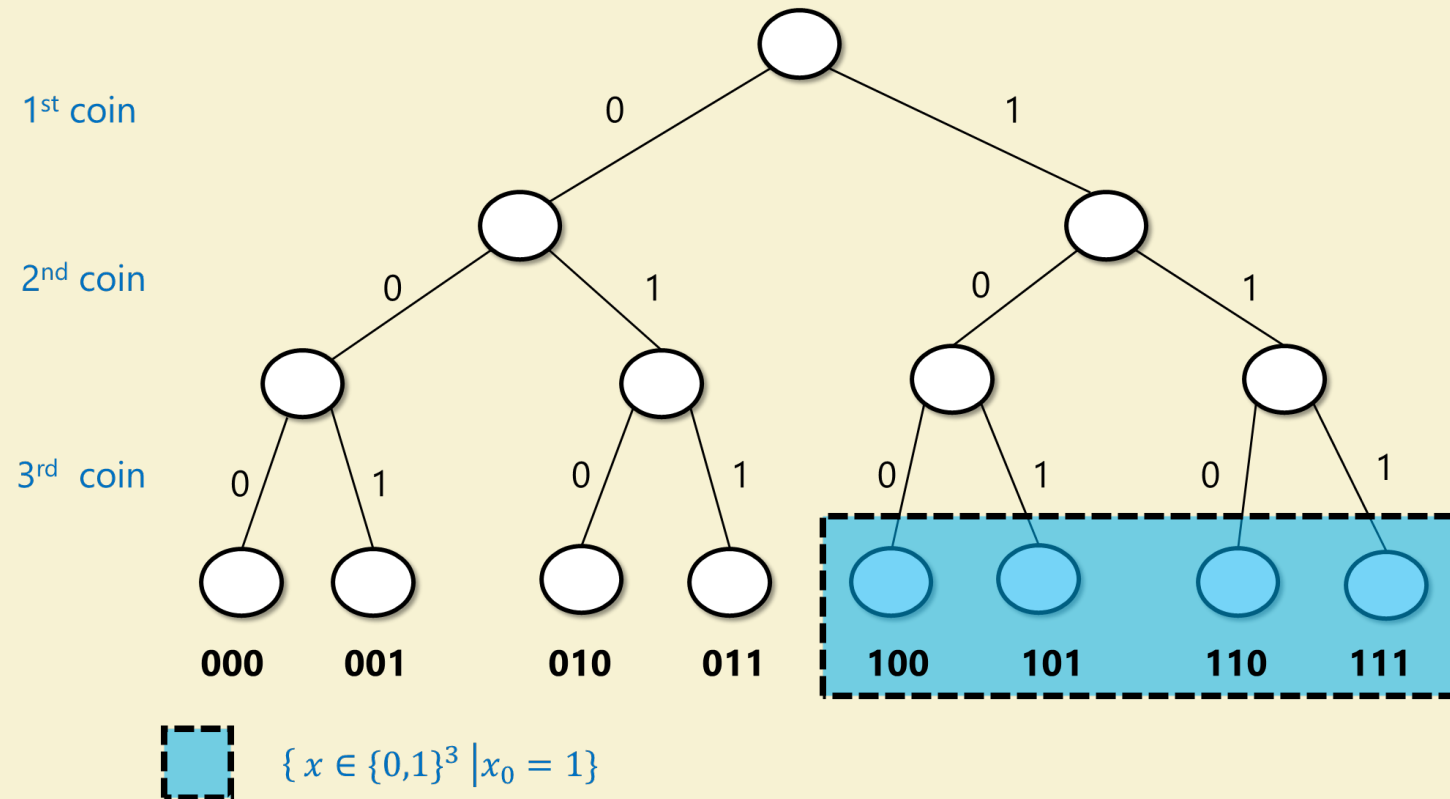


Events

Fix sample space to be $x \sim \{0,1\}^n$

An **event** is a set $A \subseteq \{0,1\}^n$. **Probability** that A happens is $\Pr[A] = \frac{|A|}{2^n}$

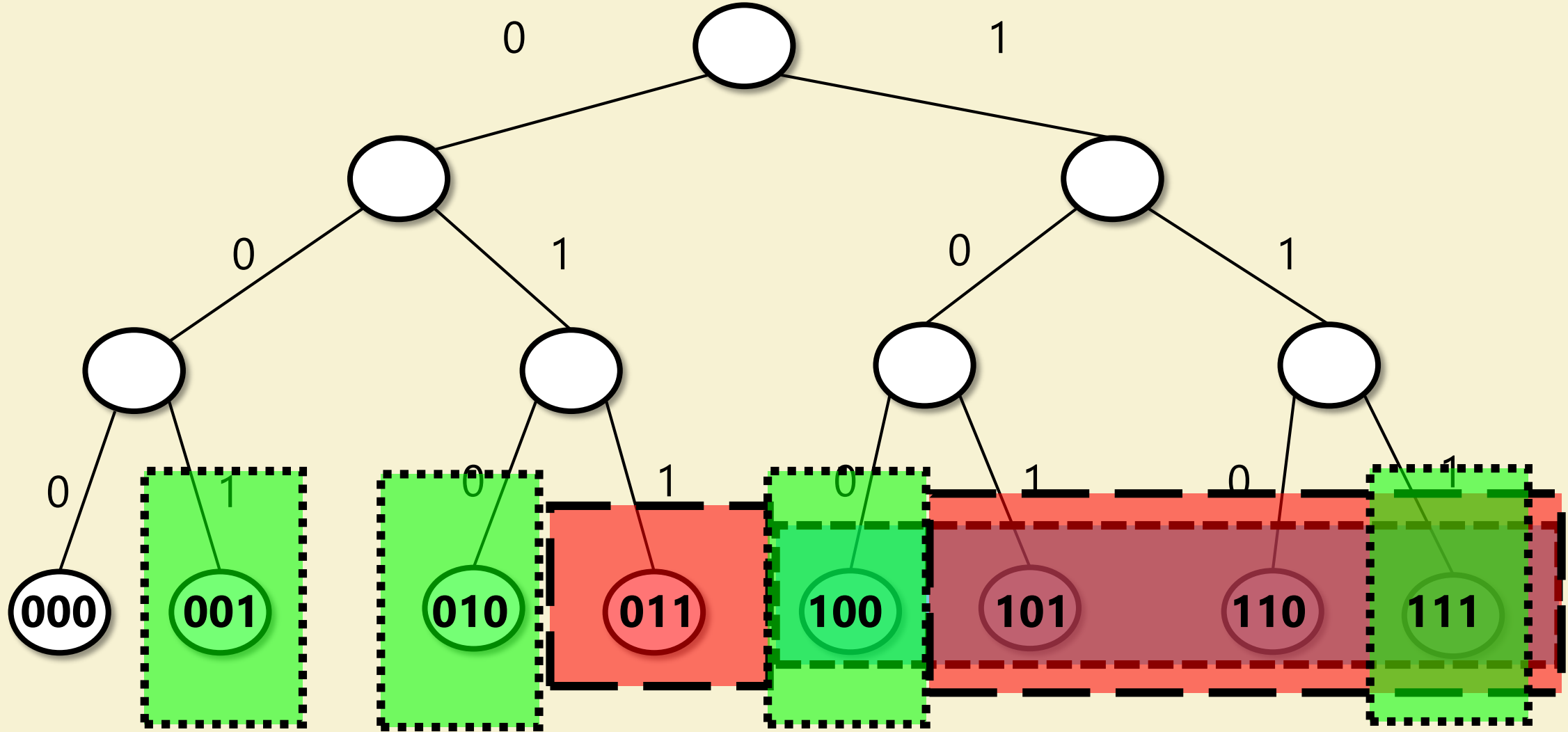
Example: If $x \sim \{0,1\}^3$, $\Pr[x_0 = 1] = \frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$



Q: Let $n = 3$,

$A = \{x_0 = 1\}$, $B = \{x_0 + x_1 + x_2 \geq 2\}$, $C = \{x_0 + x_1 + x_2 = 1 \pmod 2\}$.

What are (i) $\Pr[B]$, (ii) $\Pr[C]$, (iii) $\Pr[A \cap B]$, (iv) $\Pr[A \cap C]$ (v) $\Pr[B \cap C]$?

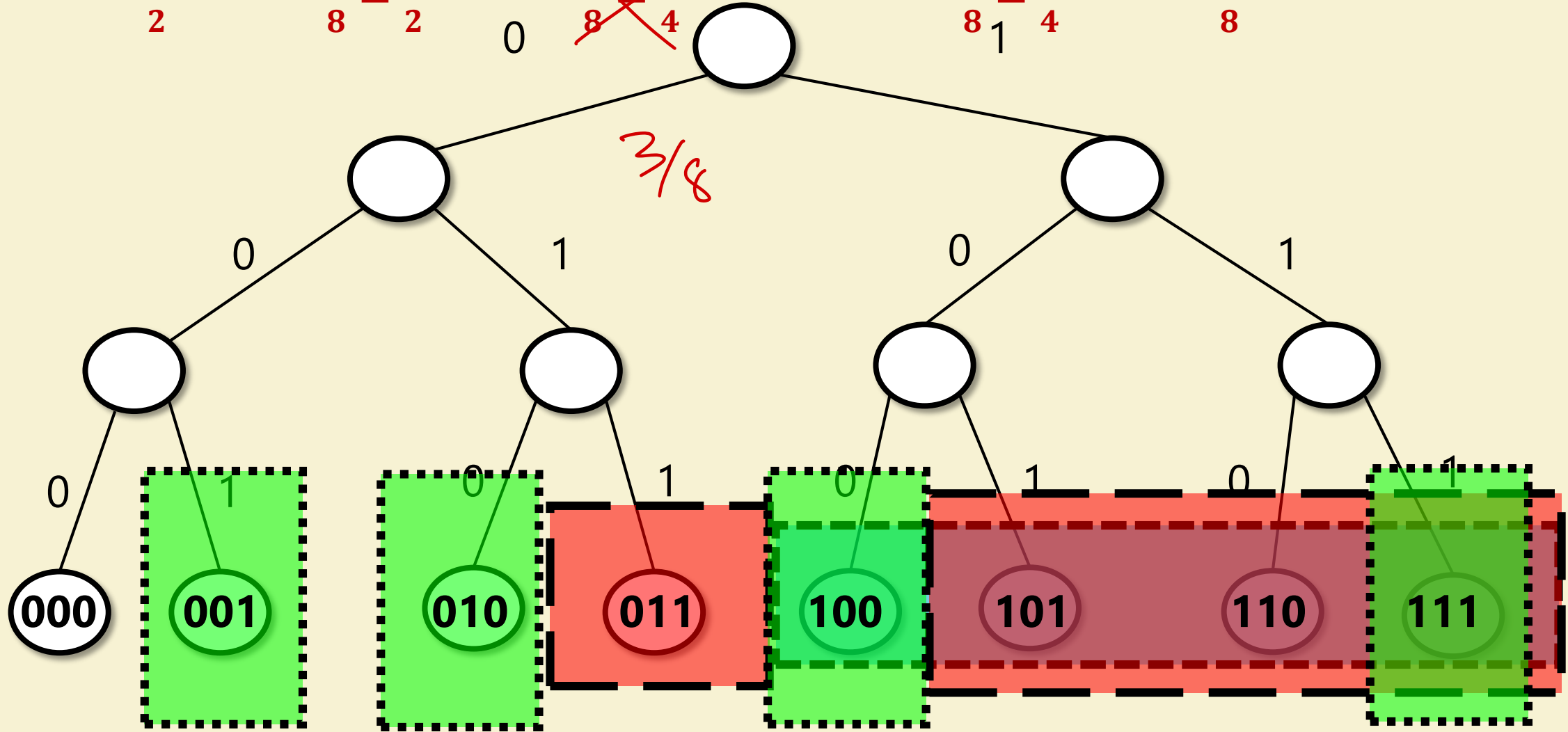


Q: Let $n = 3$,

$A = \{x_0 = 1\}$, $B = \{x_0 + x_1 + x_2 \geq 2\}$, $C = \{x_0 + x_1 + x_2 = 1 \pmod{2}\}$.

What are (i) $\Pr[B]$, (ii) $\Pr[C]$, (iii) $\Pr[A \cap B]$, (iv) $\Pr[A \cap C]$ (v) $\Pr[B \cap C]$?

$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$ 0 ~~$\frac{2}{8} = \frac{1}{4}$~~ $\frac{2}{8} = \frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{8}$



Q: Let $n = 3$,

$A = \{x_0 = 1\}$, $B = \{x_0 + x_1 + x_2 \geq 2\}$, $C = \{x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 1 \pmod 2\}$.

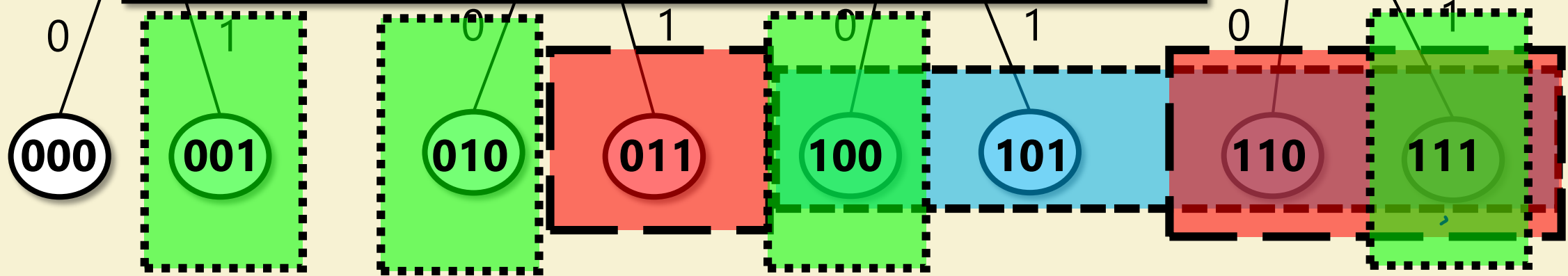
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$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$ 0 ~~$\frac{2}{8} = \frac{1}{4}$~~ $\frac{2}{8} = \frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{8}$

A & C are independent

A & B not independent

Compare $\Pr[A \cap B]$ vs $\Pr[A] \Pr[B]$
 $\Pr[A \cap C]$ vs $\Pr[A] \Pr[C]$
 $\frac{3}{8} > \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$
 $\frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$



Operations on events

$$\Pr[A \text{ or } B \text{ happens}] = \Pr[A \cup B]$$

$$\Pr[A \text{ and } B \text{ happen}] = \Pr[A \cap B]$$

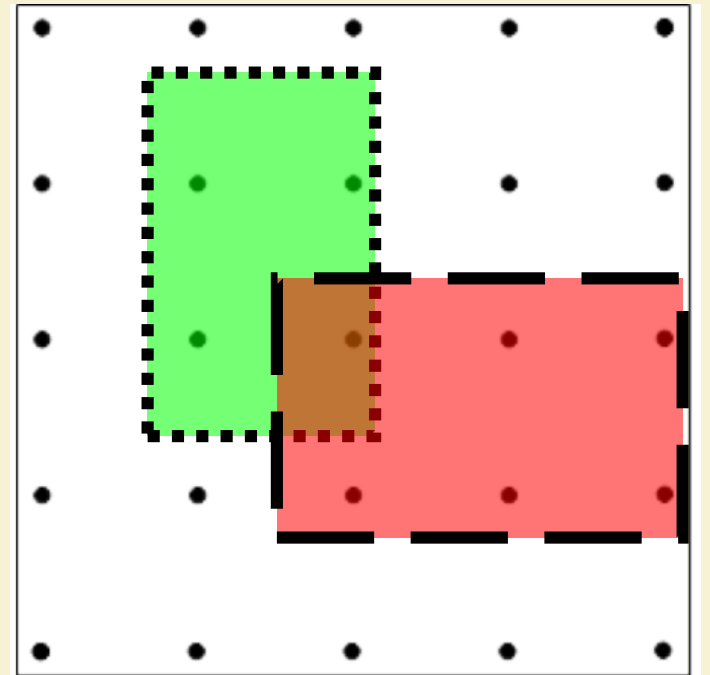
$$\Pr[A \text{ doesn't happen}] = \Pr[\bar{A}] = \Pr[\{0,1\}^n \setminus A] = 1 - \Pr[A]$$

Exercise

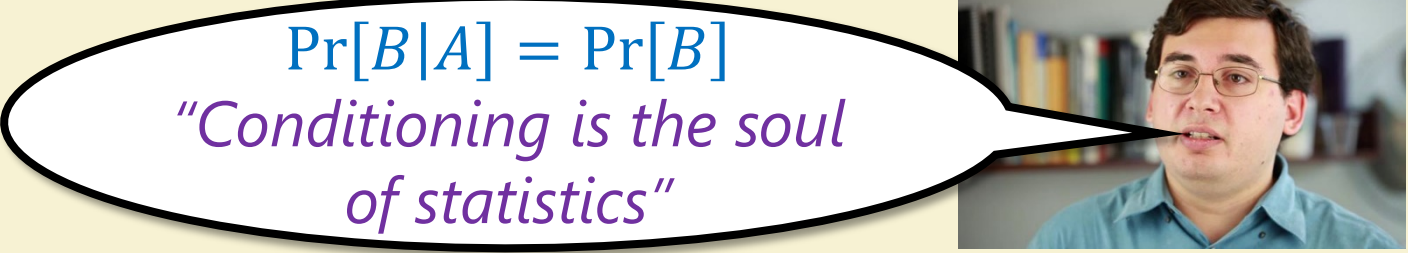
Q: Prove the union bound: $\Pr[A \cup B] \leq \Pr[A] + \Pr[B]$

Example: $\Pr[A] = 4/25$, $\Pr[B] = 6/25$, $\Pr[A \cup B] = 9/25$

$$|A \cup B| = |A| + |B| - |A \cap B| \leq |A| + |B|$$



Independence



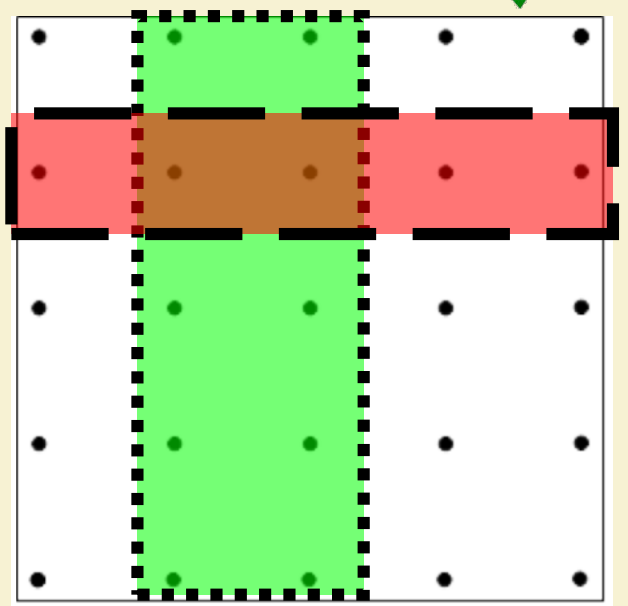
Informal: Two events A, B are **independent** if knowing A happened doesn't give any information on whether B happened.

Formal: Two events A, B are **independent** if $\Pr[A \cap B] = \Pr[A]\Pr[B]$

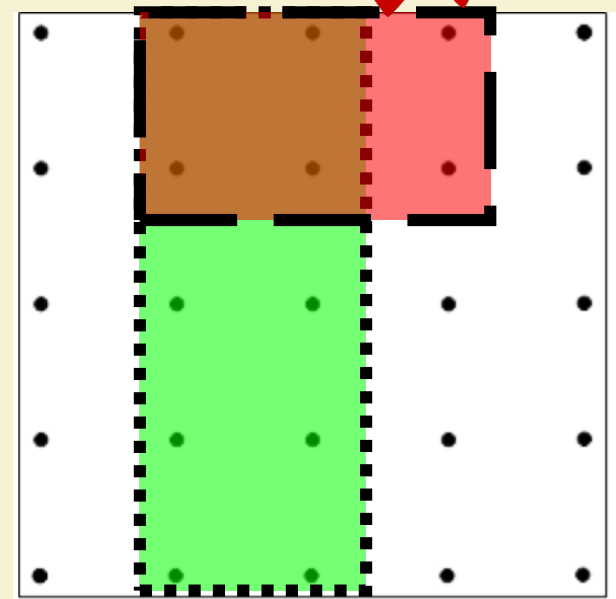
Q: Which pairs are independent?

$A = \text{Green}$
 $B = \text{Red}$

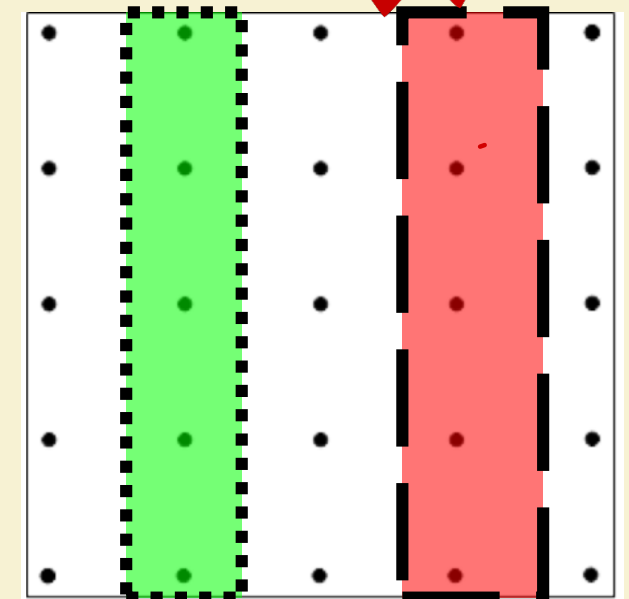
(i)



(ii)



(iii)

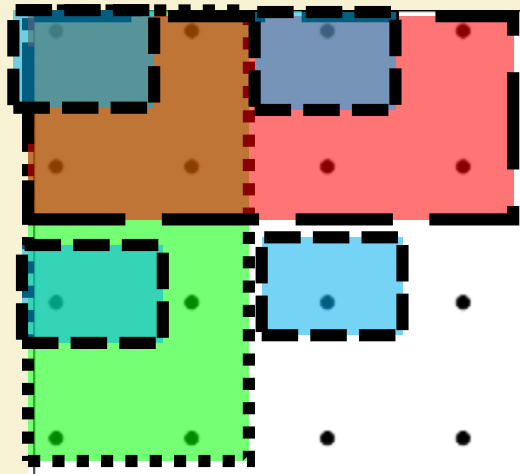


More than 2 events

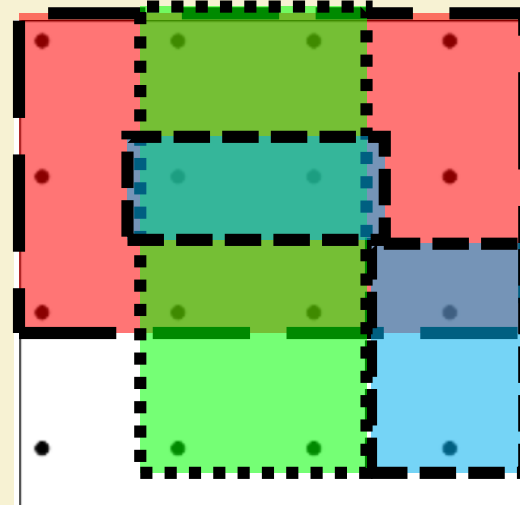
Informal: Two events A, B are **independent** if knowing whether A happened doesn't give any information on whether B happened.

Formal: Three events A, B, C are **independent** if every pair A, B , A, C and B, C is independent and $\Pr[A \cap B \cap C] = \Pr[A]\Pr[B]\Pr[C]$

(i)



(ii)



Random variables

$$f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

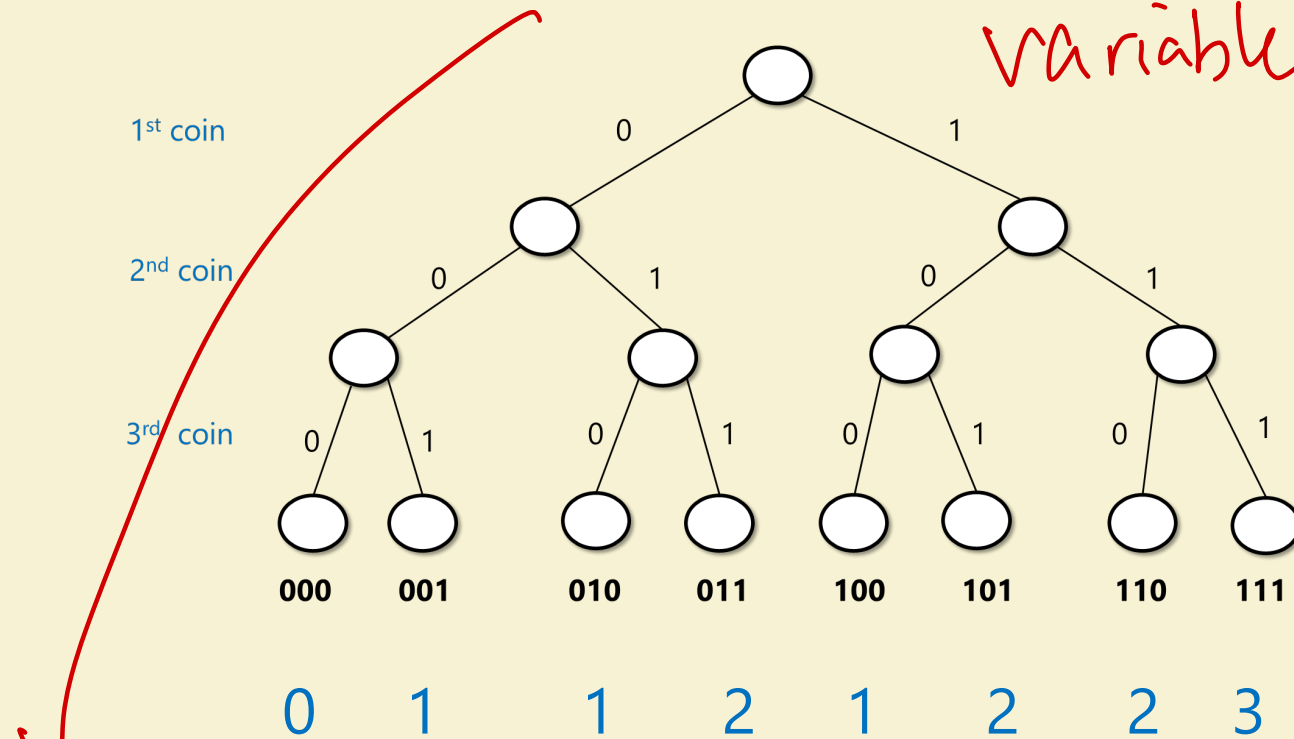
is a random variable

Assign a **number** to every outcome of the coins.

Formally r.v. is $X: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

Example: $X(x) = x_0 + x_1 + x_2$

v	$Pr[X = v]$
0	1/8
1	3/8
2	3/8
3	1/8



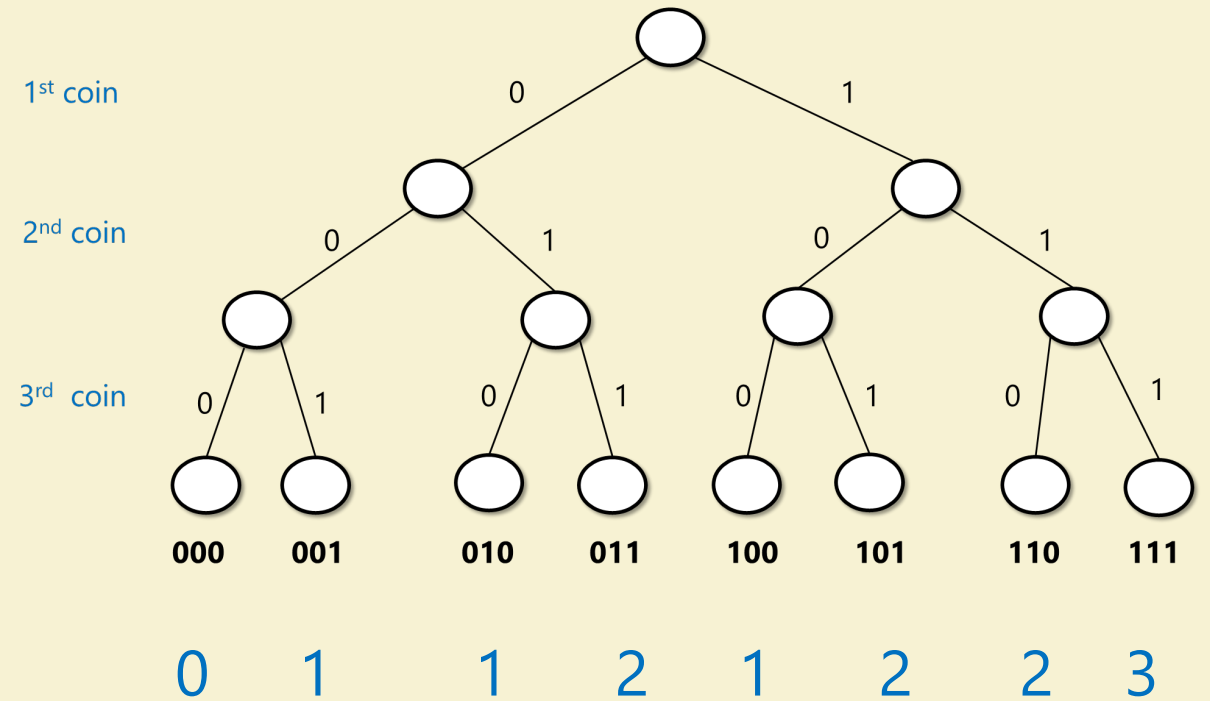
if $\{0,1\}^n$ is our prob. space.

Expectation

Average value of X : $\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^n} 2^{-n} X(x) = \sum_{v \in \mathbb{R}} v \cdot \Pr[X = v]$

Example: $X(x) = x_0 + x_1 + x_2$

v	$\Pr[X = v]$
0	1/8
1	3/8
2	3/8
3	1/8



Q: What is $\mathbb{E}[X]$?

$$0 \cdot \frac{1}{8} + 1 \cdot \frac{3}{8} + 2 \cdot \frac{3}{8} + 3 \cdot \frac{1}{8} = \frac{12}{8} = 1.5$$

Linearity of expectation

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

Corollary: $\mathbb{E}[x_0 + x_1 + x_2] = \mathbb{E}[x_0] + \mathbb{E}[x_1] + \mathbb{E}[x_2] = 1.5$

Proof:

$$\mathbb{E}[X + Y] = 2^{-n} \sum_x (X(x) + Y(x)) = 2^{-n} \sum_x X(x) + 2^{-n} \sum_x Y(x) = \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y]$$

Independent random variables

Def: X, Y are independent if $\{X = u\}$ and $\{Y = v\}$ are independent $\forall u, v$

Def: X_0, \dots, X_{k-1} , independent if $\{X_0 = v_0\}, \dots, \{X_{k-1} = v_{k-1}\}$ ind. $\forall u_0 \dots u_{k-1}$

i.e. $\forall v, \dots, v_{k-1} \forall S \subseteq [k]$

$$\Pr \left[\bigwedge_{i \in S} X_i = v_i \right] = \prod_{i \in S} \Pr[X_i = v_i]$$

Q: Let $x \sim \{0,1\}^n$. Let $X_0 = x_0, X_1 = x_1, \dots, X_{n-1} = x_{n-1}$

Let $Y_0 = Y_1 = \dots = Y_{k-1} = x_0$

Are X_0, \dots, X_{n-1} independent?

Are Y_0, \dots, Y_{n-1} independent?

Independence and concentration

Q: Let $x \sim \{0,1\}^n$. Let $X_0 = x_0, X_1 = x_1, \dots, X_{n-1} = x_{n-1}$

Let $Y_0 = Y_1 = \dots = Y_{k-1} = x_0$

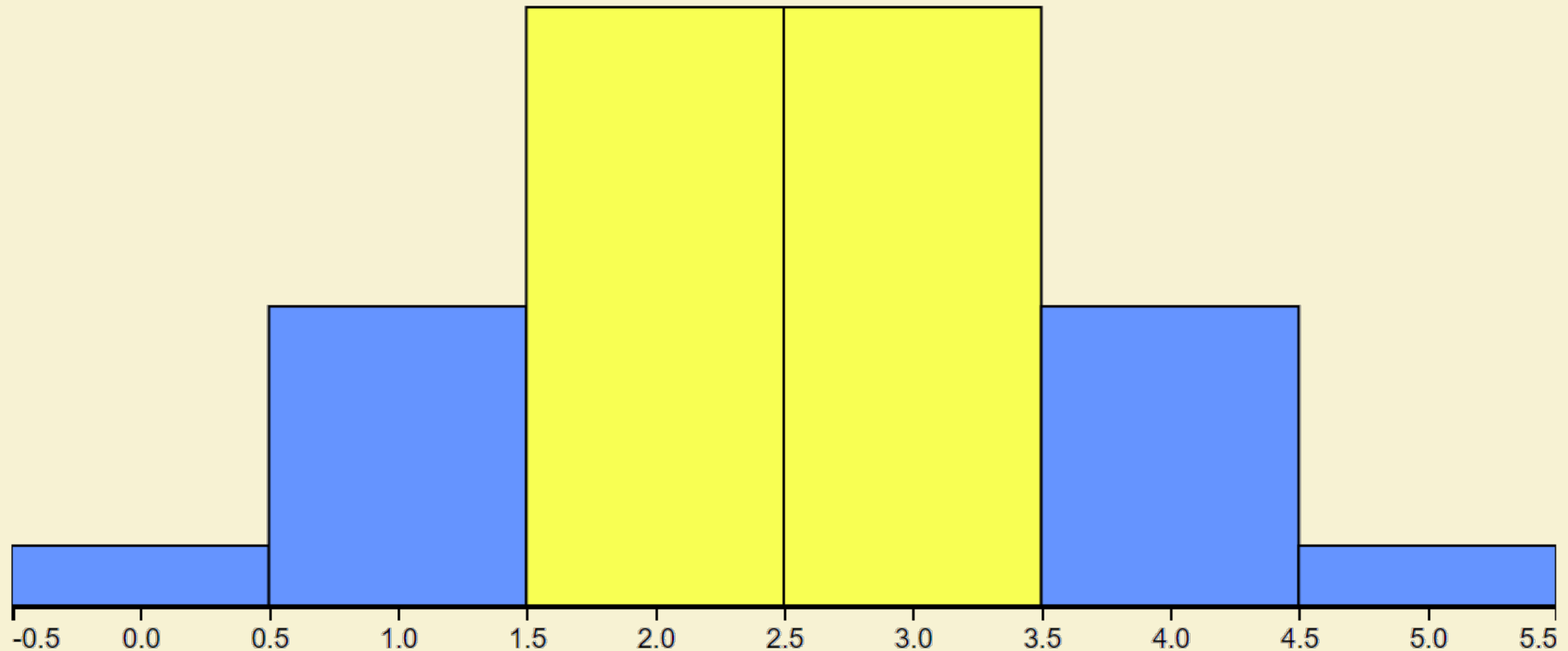
Let $X = X_0 + \dots + X_{n-1}, Y = Y_0 + \dots + Y_{n-1}$

Compute $\mathbb{E}[X]$, compute $\mathbb{E}[Y]$

For $n = 100$, estimate $\Pr[Y \notin (0.4n, 0.6n)]$, $\Pr[X \notin (0.4n, 0.6n)]$

$\Pr \left[\overset{\text{not}}{\cdot} 4n \leq Y \leq \cdot 6n \right]$

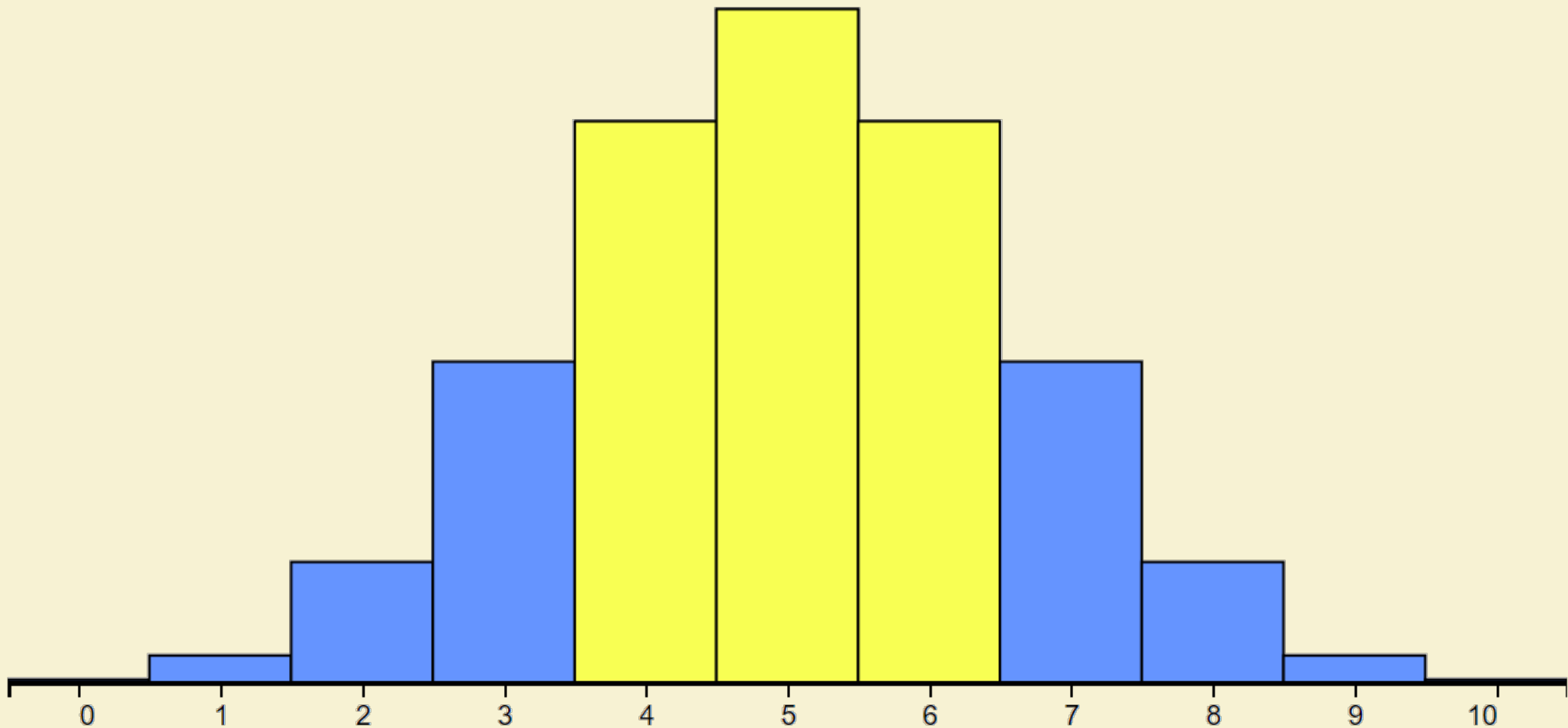
Sums of independent random variables



$$n = 5$$

$$\Pr[X \notin (0.4, 0.6)n] = 37.5\%$$

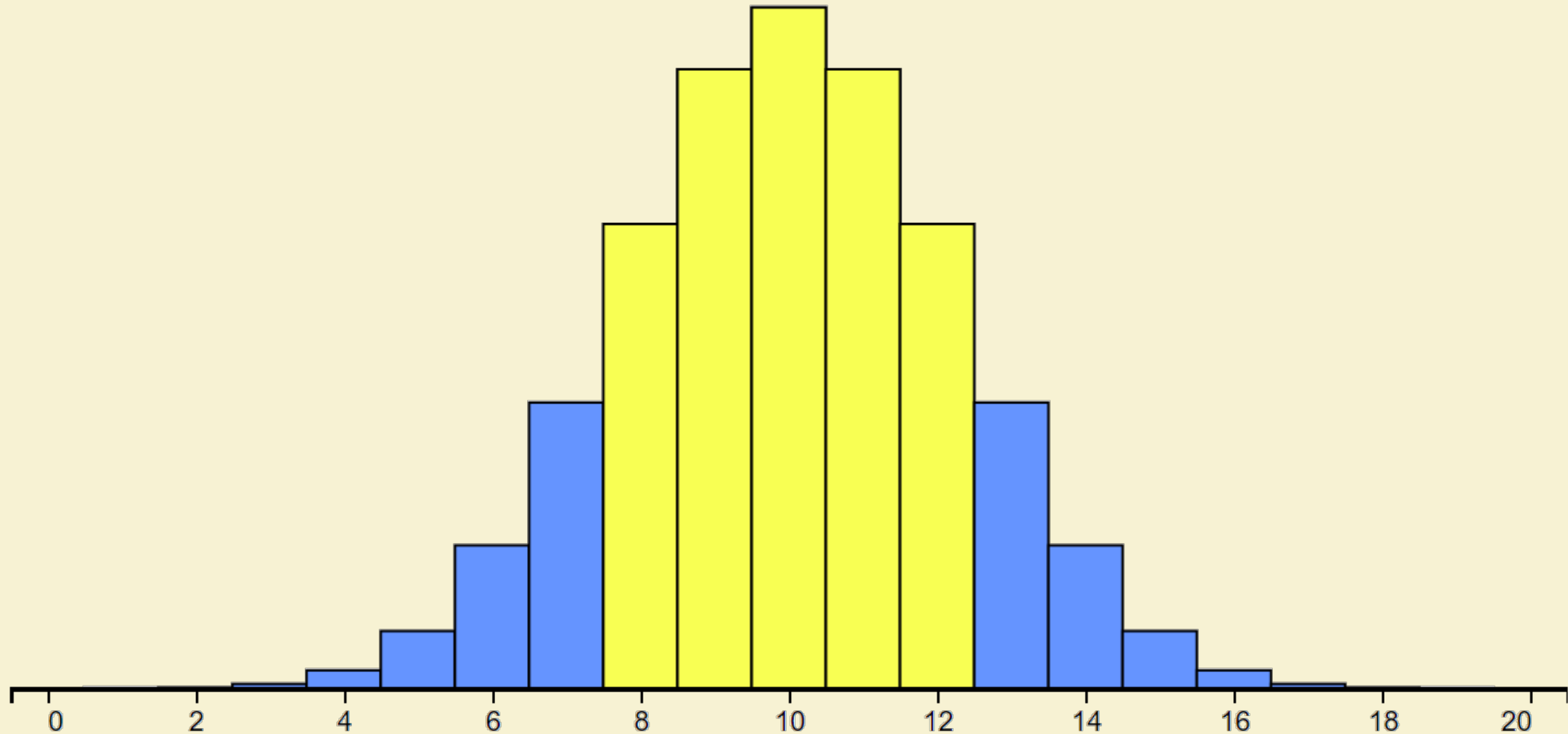
Sums of independent random variables



$n = 10$

$$\Pr[X \notin (0.4, 0.6)n] = 34.4\%$$

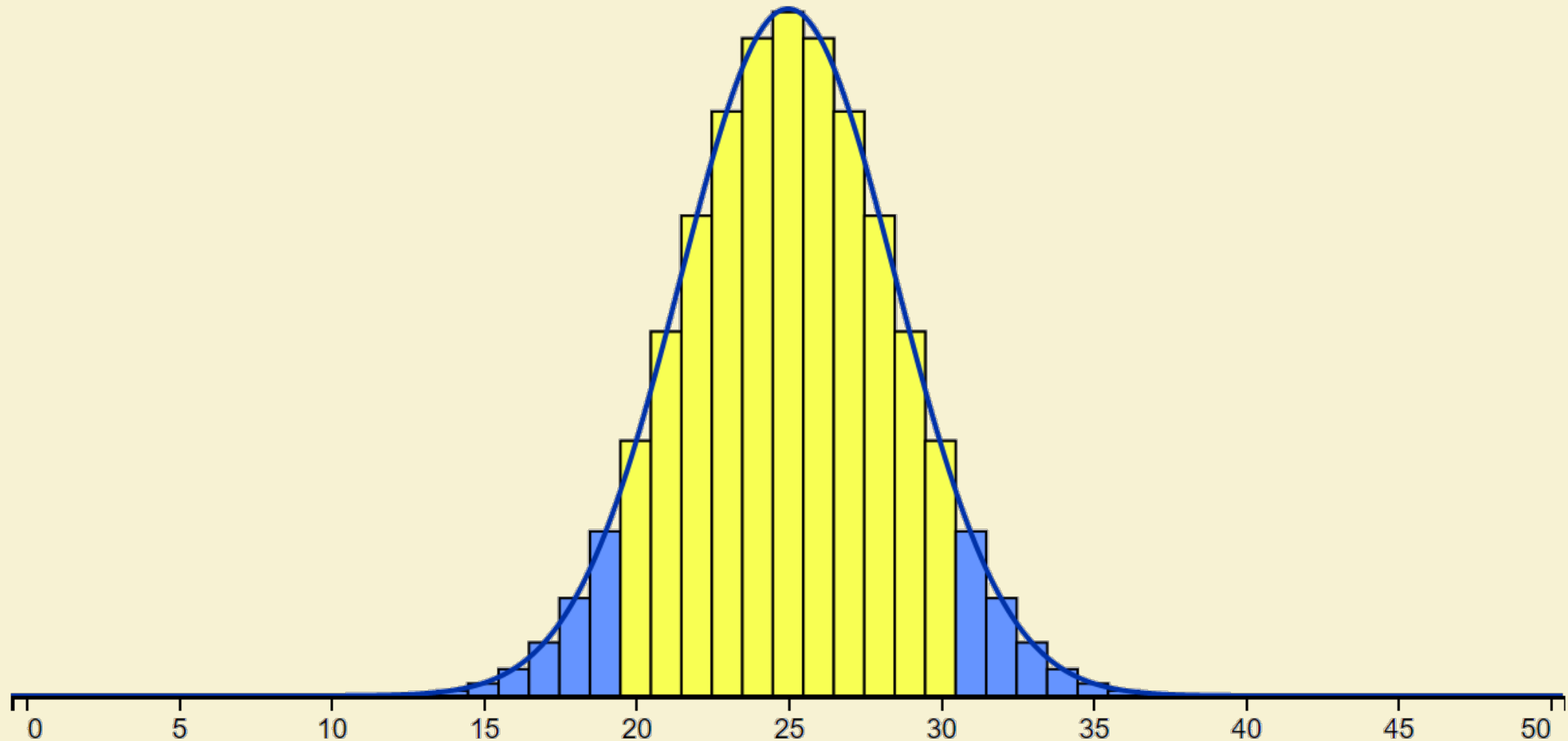
Sums of independent random variables



$n = 20$

$$\Pr[X \notin (0.4, 0.6)n] = 26.3\%$$

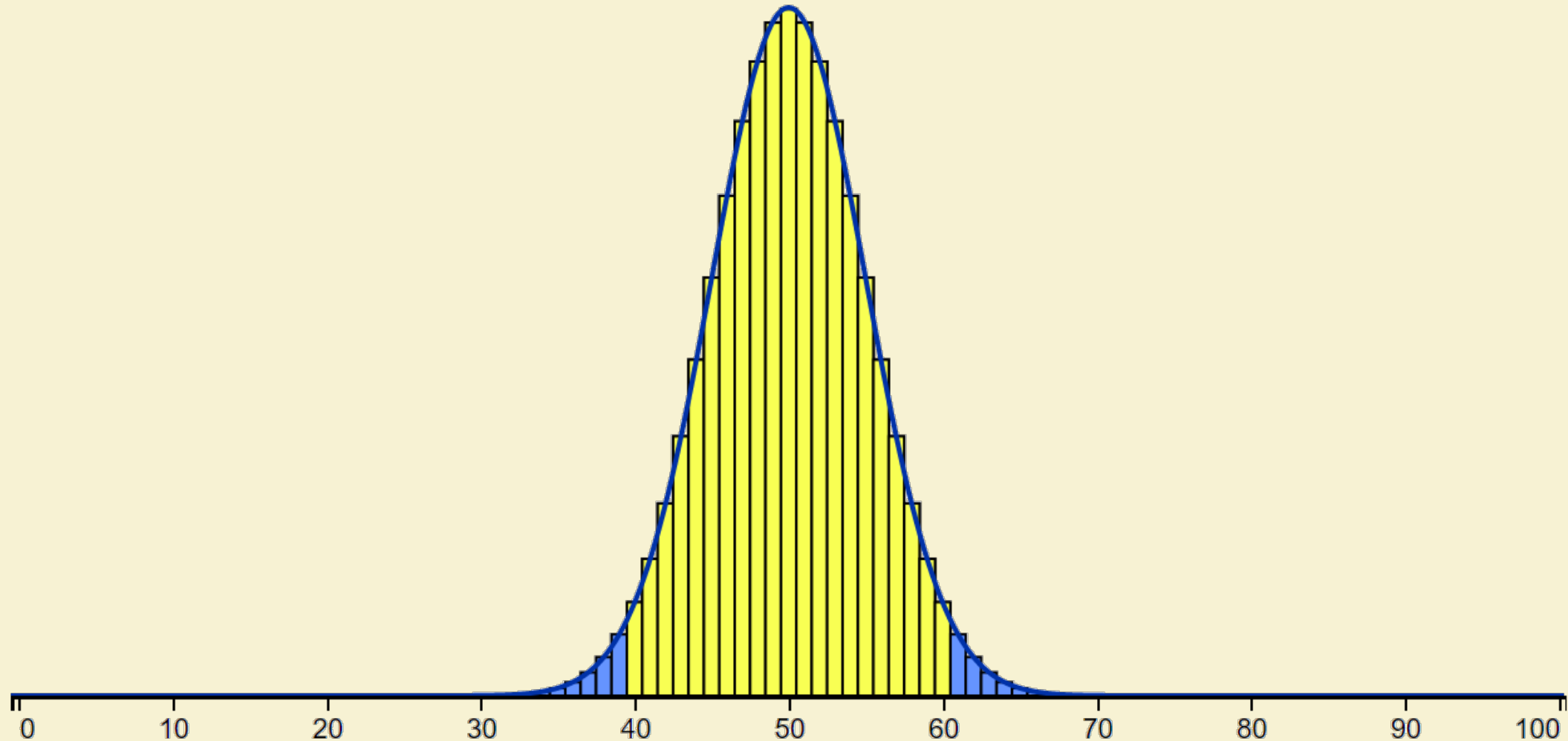
Sums of independent random variables



$n = 50$

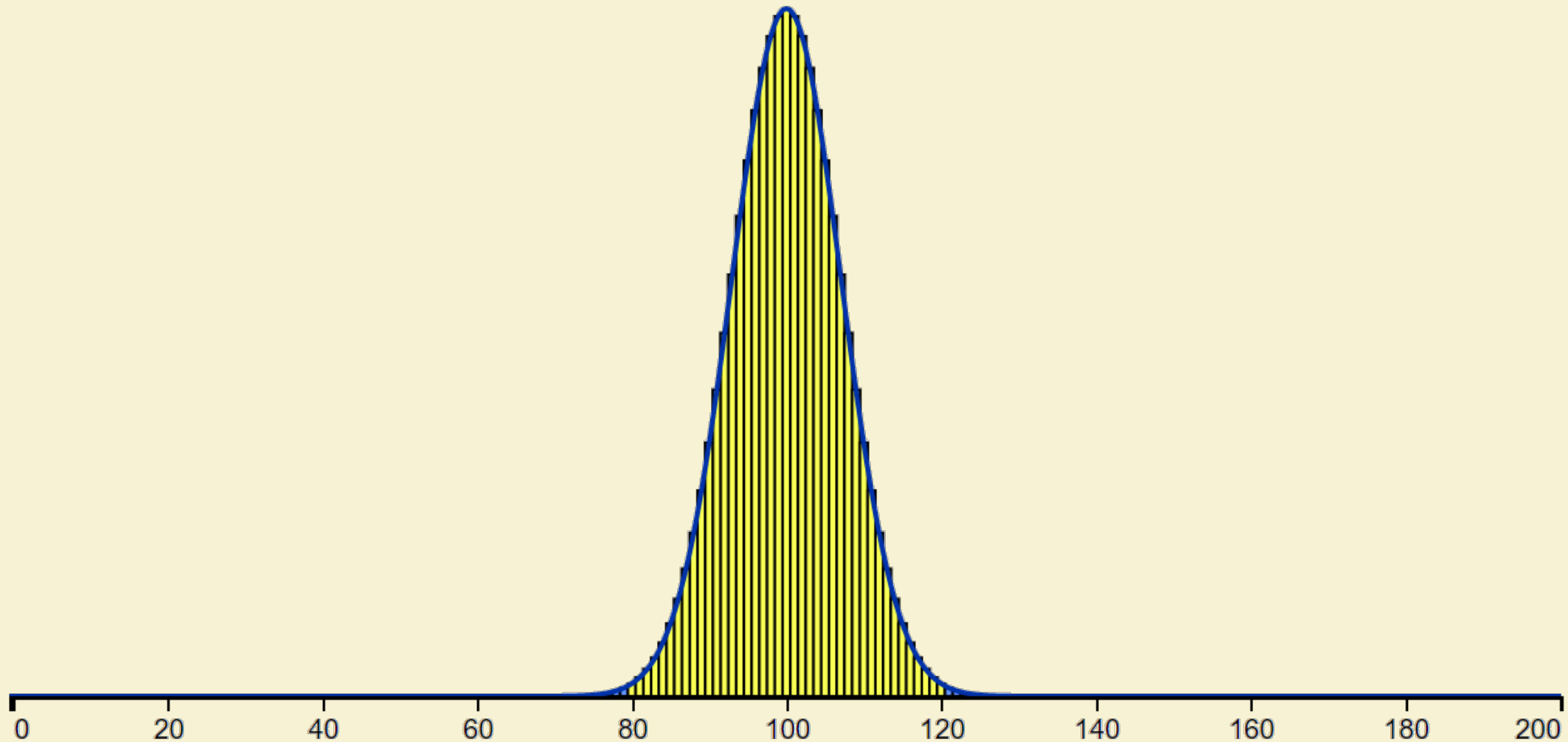
$$\Pr[X \notin (0.4, 0.6)n] = 11.9\%$$

Sums of independent random variables



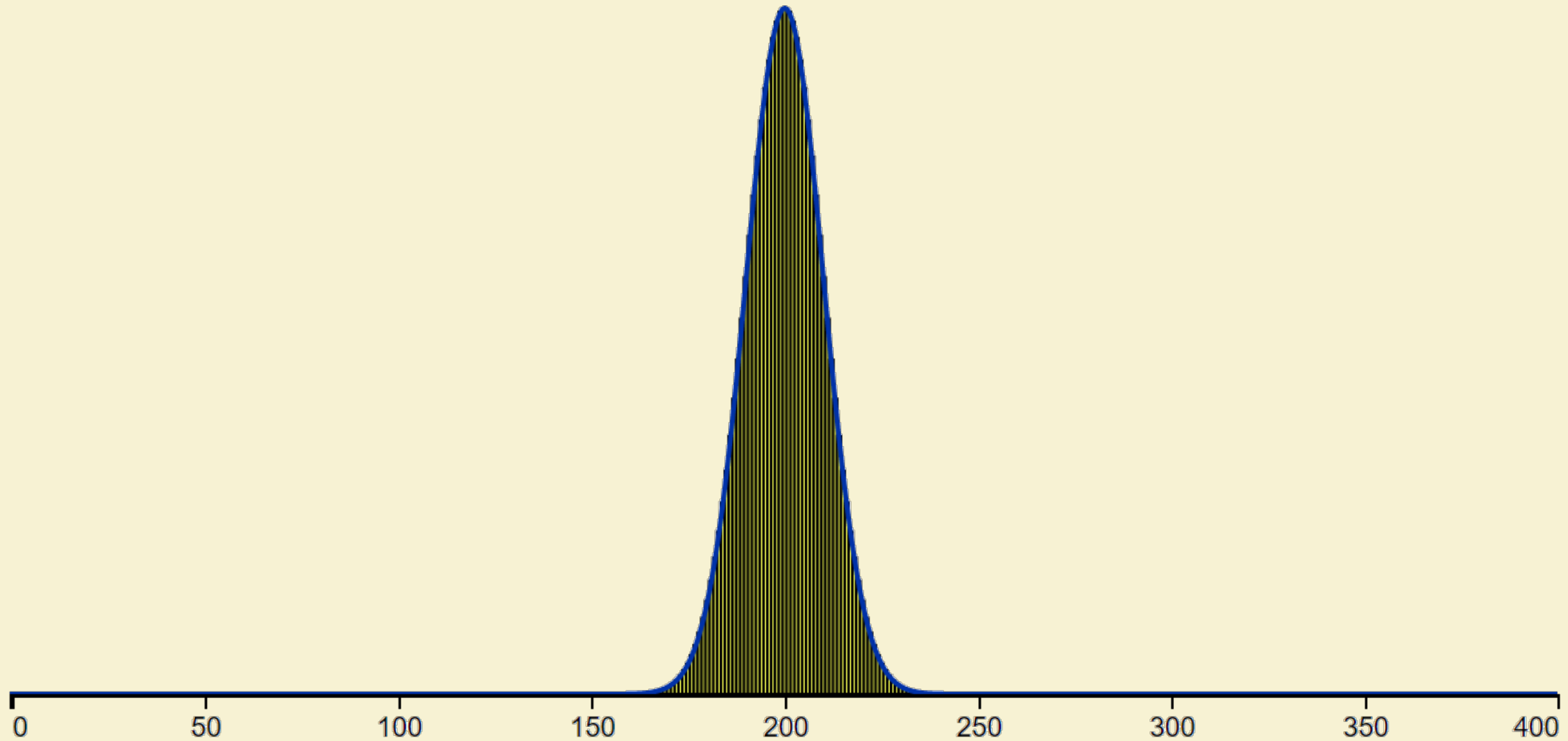
$$n = 100 \quad \Pr[X \notin (0.4, 0.6)n] = 3.6\%$$

Sums of independent random variables



$$n = 200 \quad \Pr[X \notin (0.4, 0.6)n] = 0.4\%$$

Sums of independent random variables

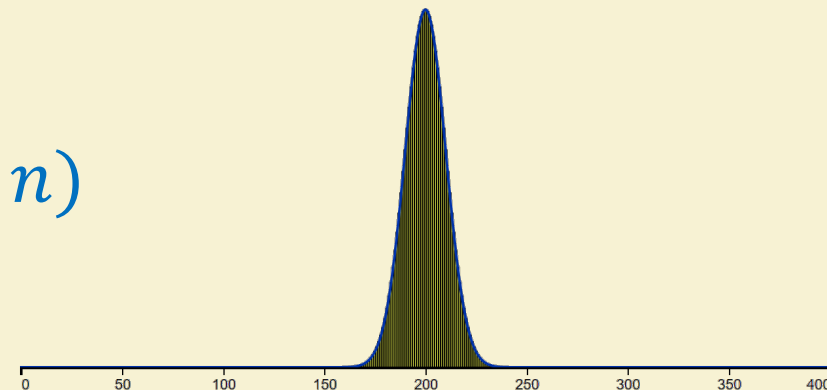


$$n = 400 \quad \Pr[X \notin (0.4, 0.6)n] = 0.01\%$$

Concentration bounds

X sum of n independent random variables – \approx "Normal/Gaussian/bell curve":

$$\Pr[X \notin (0.99, 1.01)\mathbb{E}[X]] < \exp(-\delta \cdot n)$$



Otherwise: weaker bounds

In concentrated r.v.'s, expectation, median, p

Independent & identically distributed

Chernoff Bound: Let X_0, \dots, X_{n-1} i.i.d. r.v.'s with $X_i \in [0, 1]$.

Then if $X = X_0 + \dots + X_{n-1}$ and $p = \mathbb{E}[X_i]$ for every $\epsilon > 0$,

$$0 \leq p \leq 1$$

$$\Pr[|X - np| > \epsilon n] < 2 \cdot \exp(-2\epsilon^2 \cdot n)$$

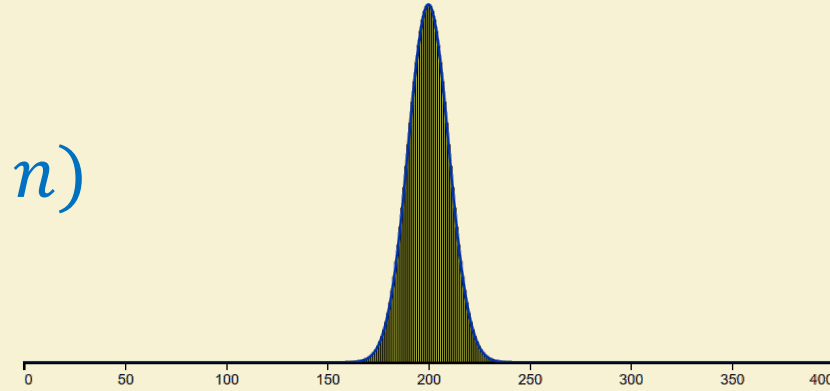
$$\text{NOT } (np - \epsilon n < X < np + \epsilon n)$$

$$\epsilon = \cdot \downarrow$$

Concentration bounds

X sum of n independent random variables – \approx "Normal/Gaussian/bell curve":

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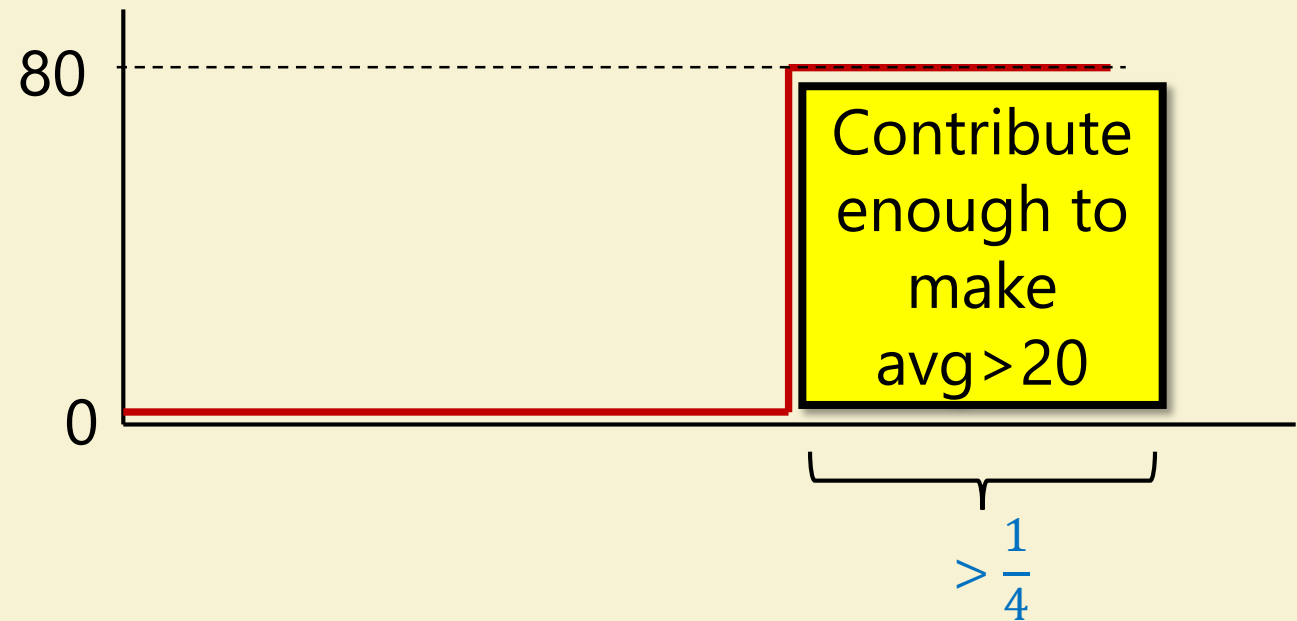
$$\Pr[|X - np| > \epsilon n] < 2 \cdot \exp(-2\epsilon^2 \cdot n) < \exp(-\epsilon^2 \cdot n) \left(\text{if } n > \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \right)$$

Simplest Bound: Markov's Inequality

Q: Suppose that the average age in a neighborhood is 20. Prove that at most $1/4$ of the residents are 80 or older.

A: Suppose otherwise:

$$\text{Avg} > \frac{1}{4} \cdot 80 = 20$$



Thm (Markov's Inequality): Let X be non-negative r.v. and $\mu = \mathbb{E}[X]$. Then for every $k > 1$, $\Pr[X \geq k\mu] \leq 1/k$

Proof: Same as question above

Variance & Chebychev

If X is r.v. with $\mu = \mathbb{E}[X]$ then $Var(X) = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mu)^2] = \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2$

$$\sigma(X) = \sqrt{Var(X)}$$

Chebychev's Inequality: For every r.v. X

$$\Pr[X \geq k \text{ deviations from } \mu] \leq \frac{1}{k^2}$$

(Proof: Markov on $Y = (X - \mu)^2$)

Compare with $X = \sum X_i$ i.i.d or other r.v.'s well approx. by Normal where

$$\Pr[X \geq k \text{ deviations from } \mu] \approx \exp(-k^2)$$

Next Lectures

- Randomized Algorithms
 - Some examples
- Randomized Complexity Classes
 - $\text{BPTIME}(T(n))$, BPP
 - Properties of randomized computation (Reducing error ...)