

# CS 121: Lecture 23

## Probability Review

Madhu Sudan

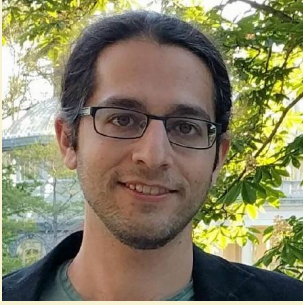
<https://madhu.seas.harvard.edu/courses/Fall2020>

Book: <https://introtcs.org>

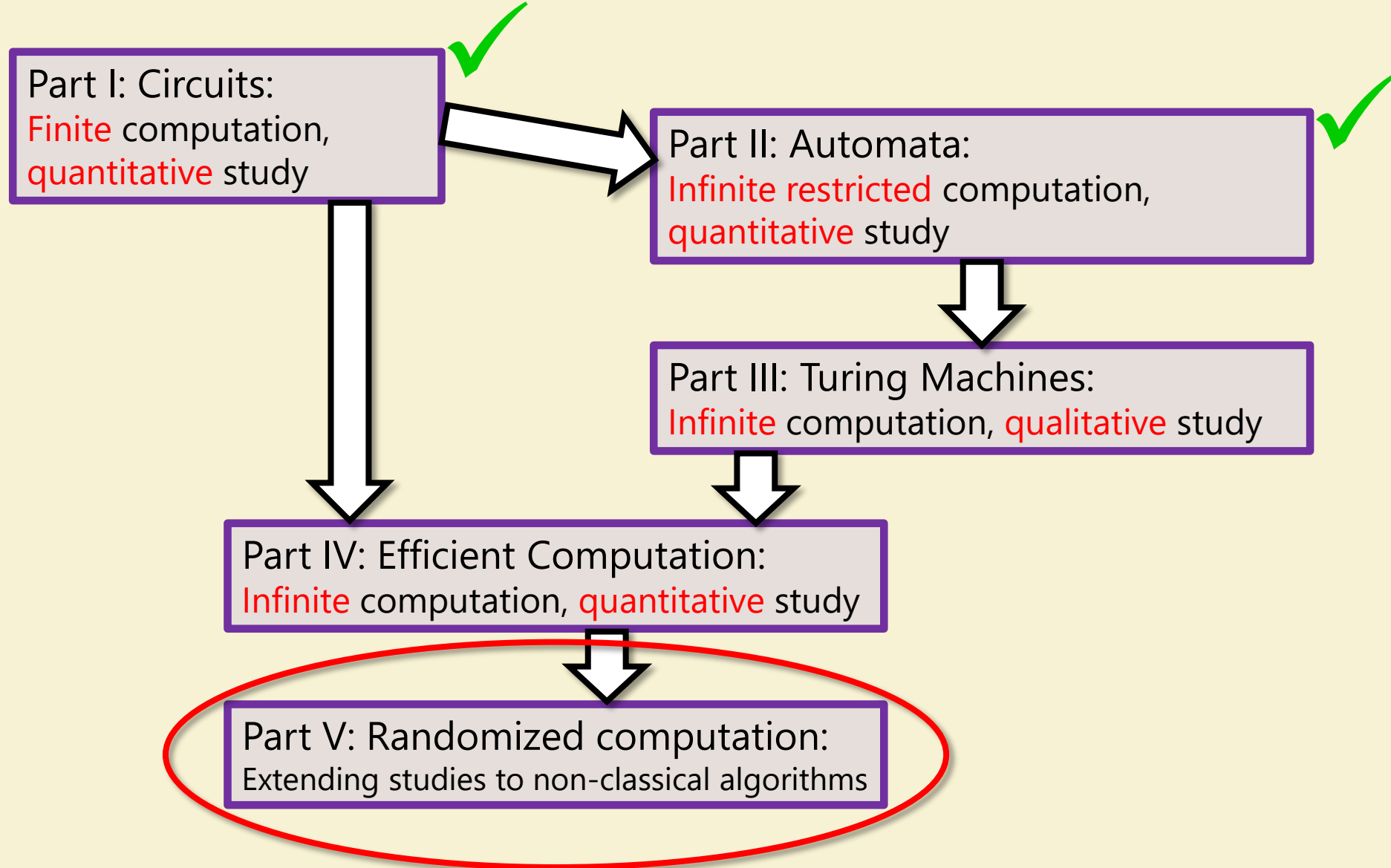
How to contact us { The whole staff (faster response): [CS 121 Piazza](#)  
Only the course heads (slower): [cs121.fall2020.course.heads@gmail.com](mailto:cs121.fall2020.course.heads@gmail.com)

# Announcements:

- Advanced section: Roei Tell (De)Randomization
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

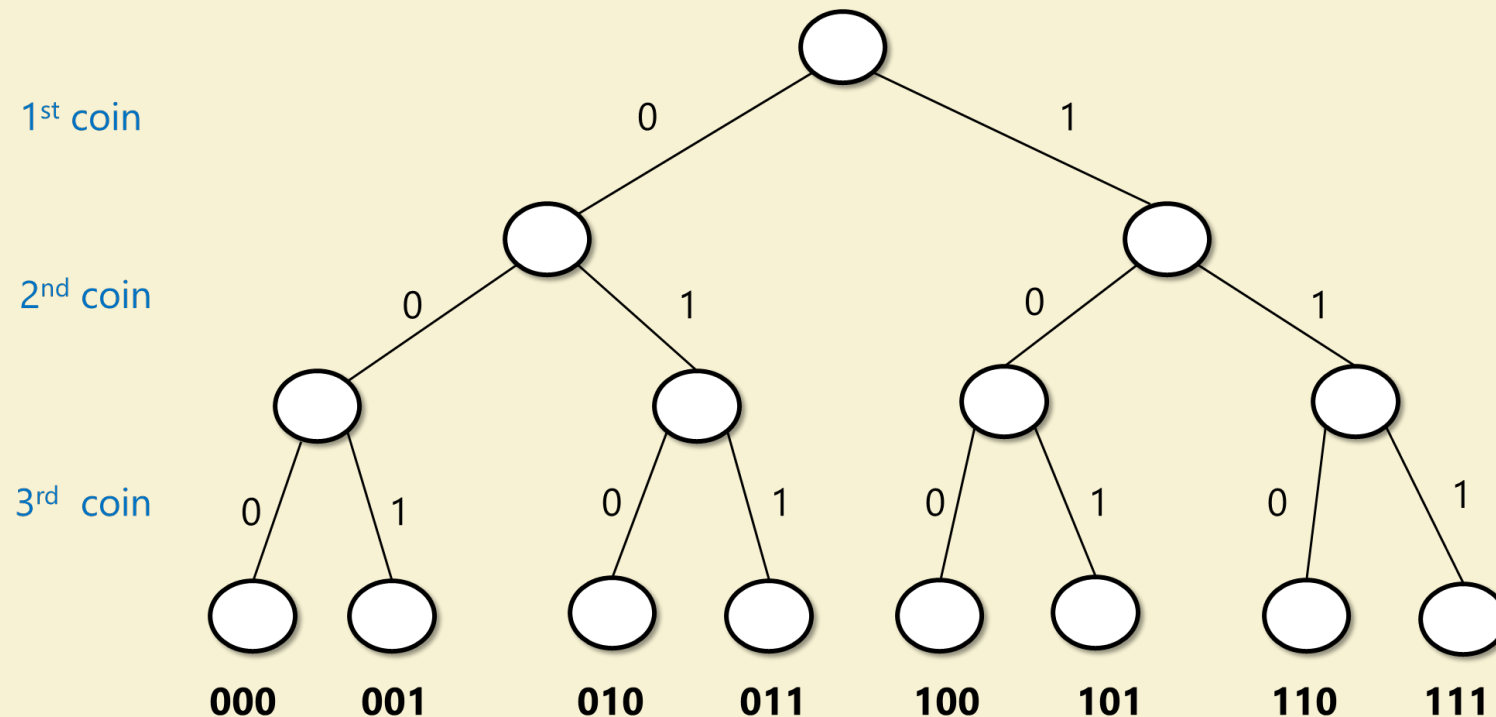
# Today: Review of Basic Probability

- 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  $x \sim \{0,1\}^n$

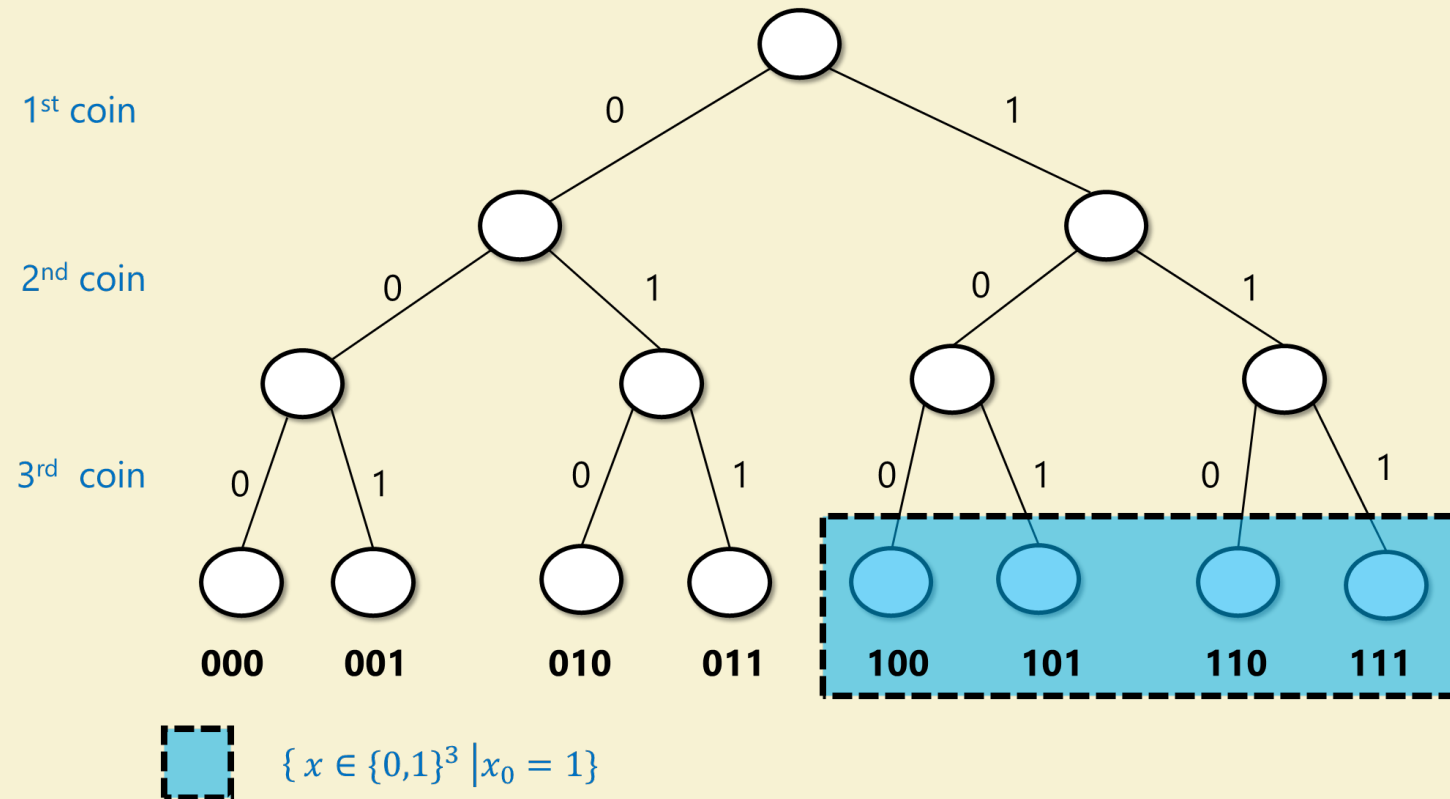


# Events

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





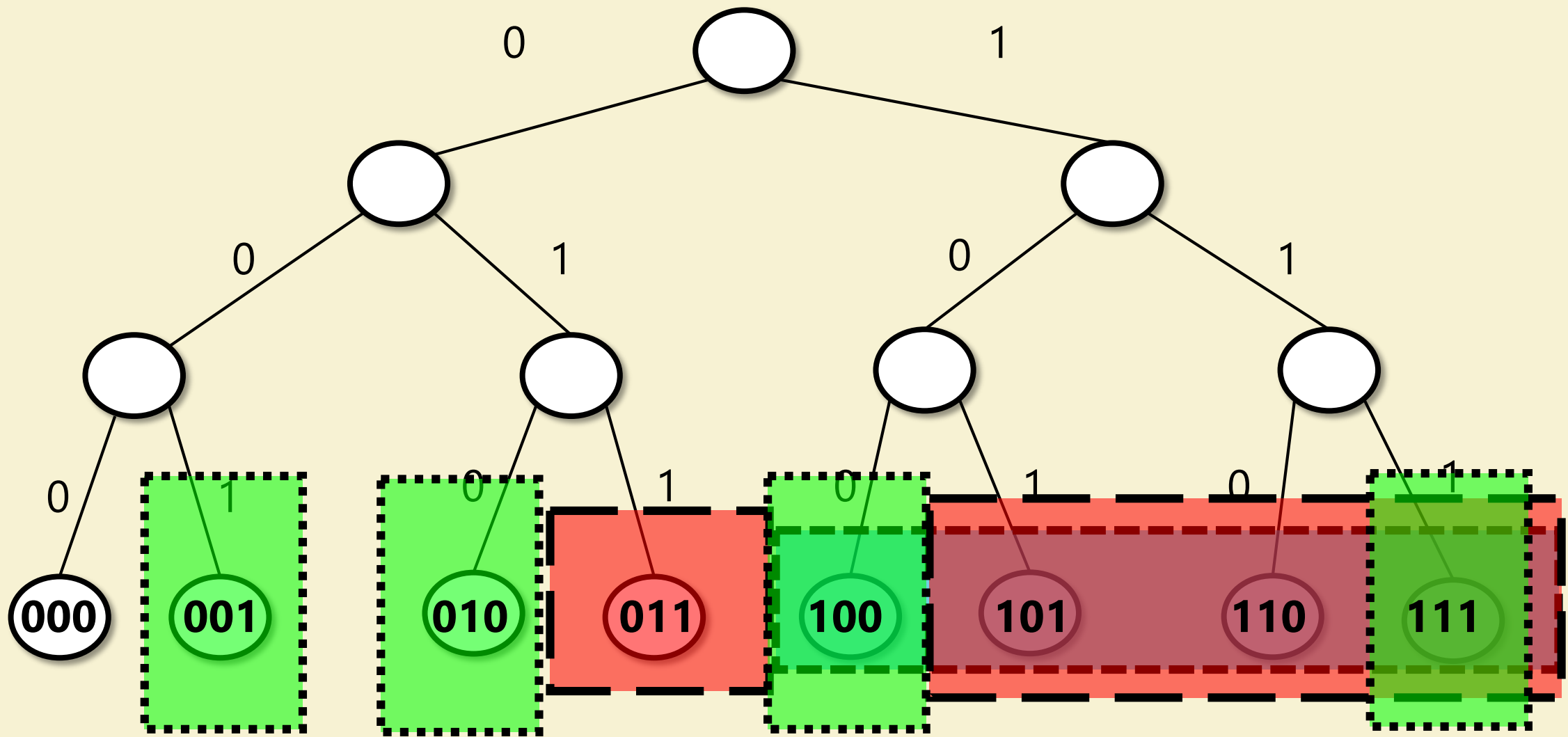
Q: Let  $n = 3$ ,

$A = \{x_0 = 1\}$

$B = \{x_0 + x_1 + x_2 \geq 2\}$

$C = \{x_0 + x_1 + x_2 = 1 \pmod 2\}$

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  $n = 3$ ,

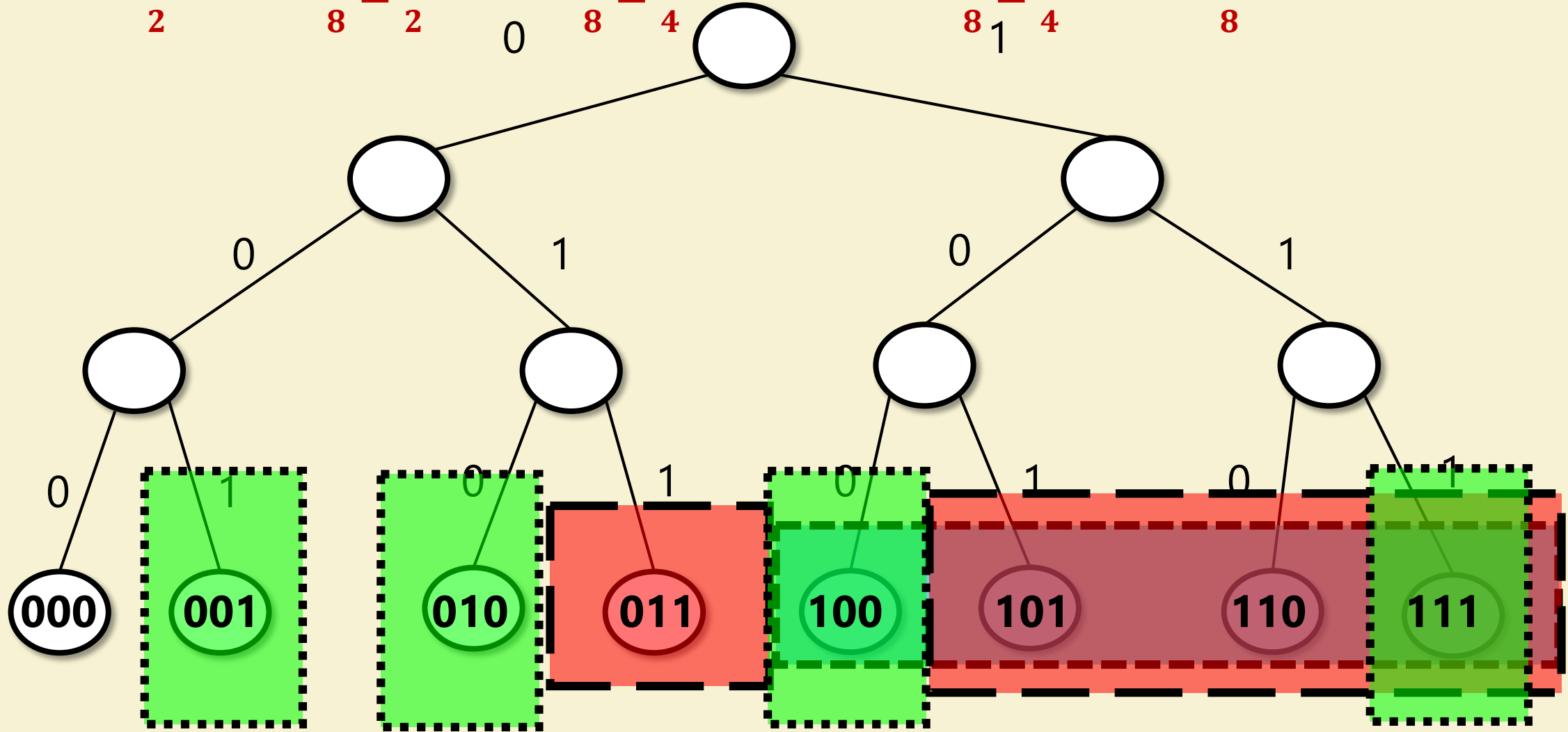
$A = \{x_0 = 1\}$

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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  $n = 3$ ,

$A = \{x_0 = 1\}$

$B = \{x_0 + x_1 + x_2 \geq 2\}$

$C = \{x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 1 \pmod 2\}$

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

$\frac{1}{2}$

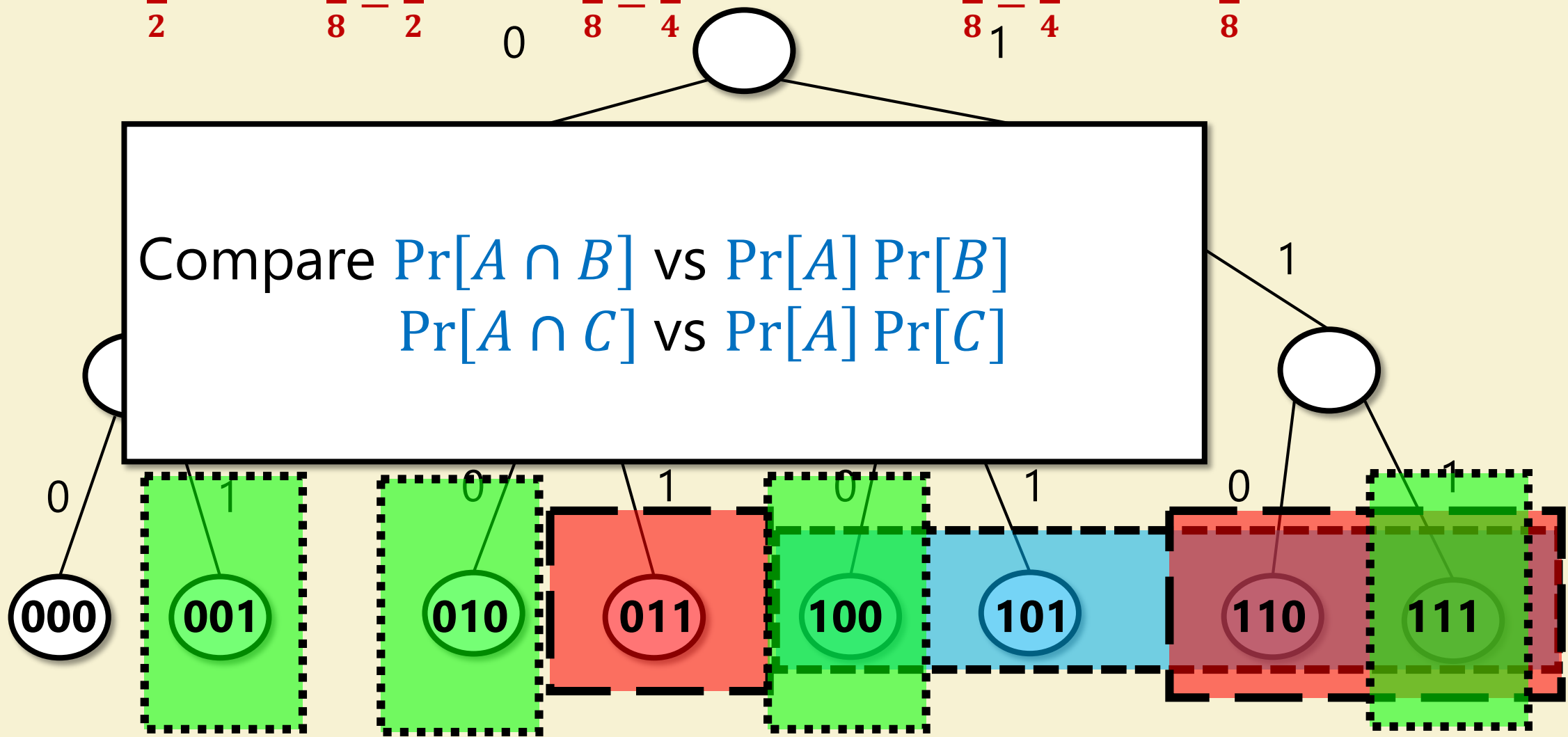
$\frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$

0

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

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

$\frac{1}{8}$



# Operations on events

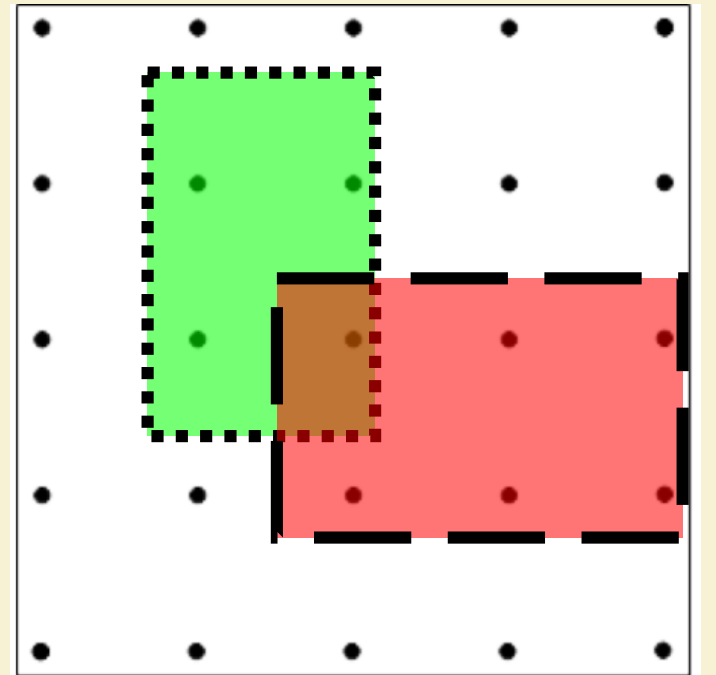
$$\Pr[ A \text{ or } B \text{ happens} ] = \Pr[ A \cup B ]$$

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

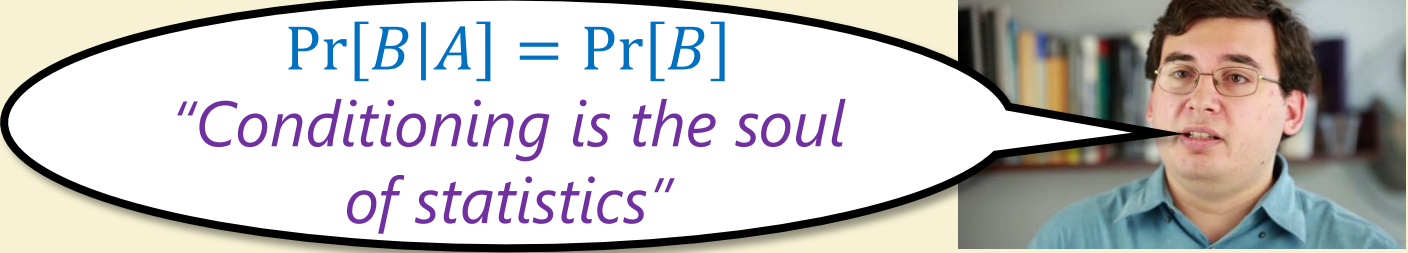
$$\Pr[ A \text{ doesn't happen} ] = \Pr[ \bar{A} ] = \Pr[ \{0,1\}^n \setminus A ] = 1 - \Pr[A]$$

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

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



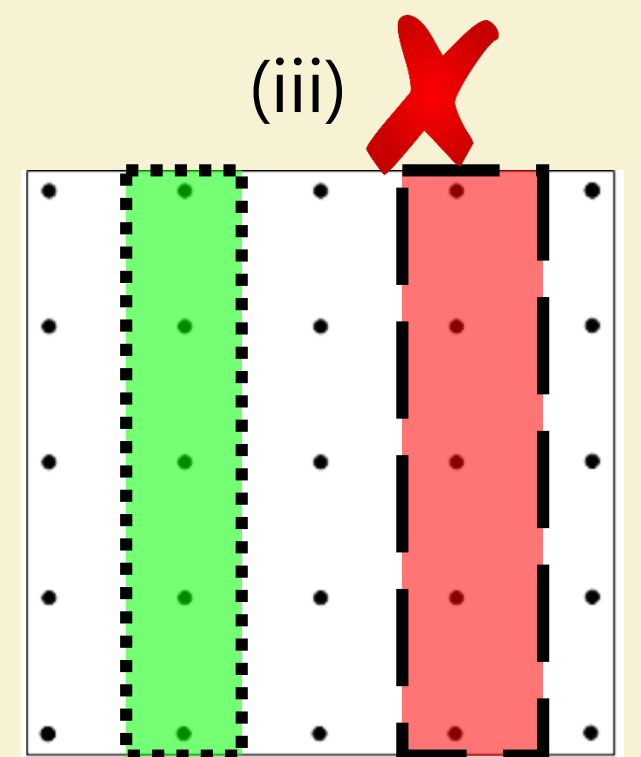
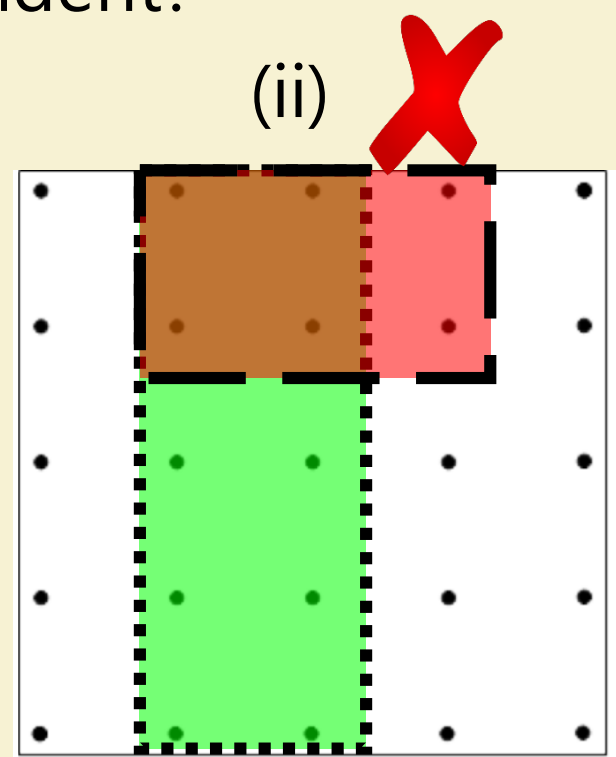
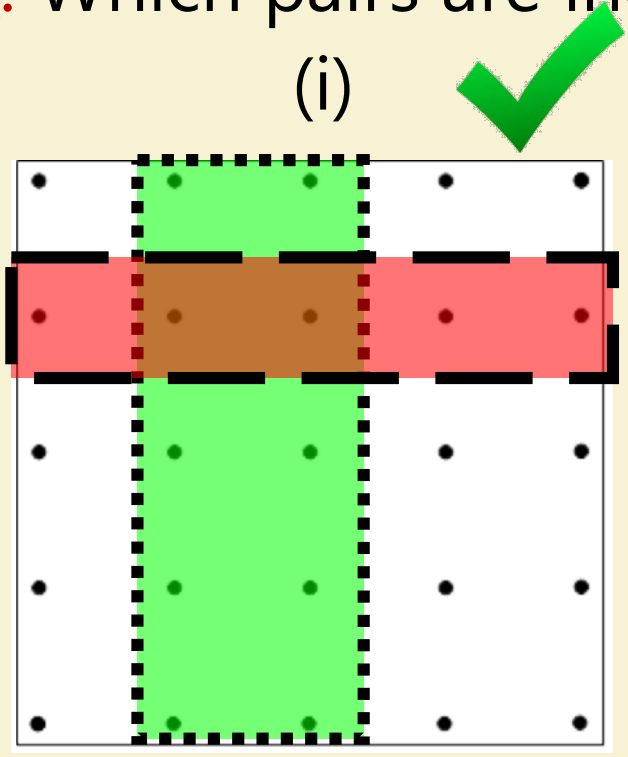
# Independence



**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?

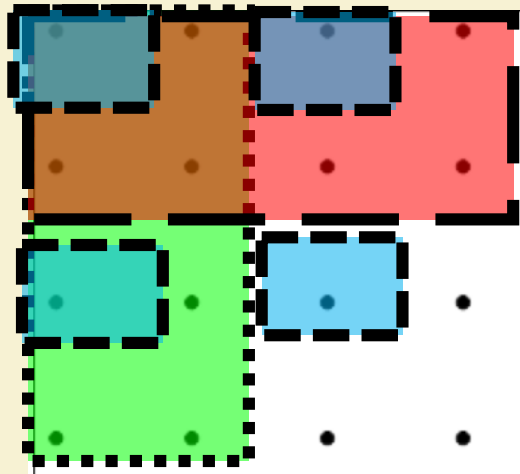


# More than 2 events

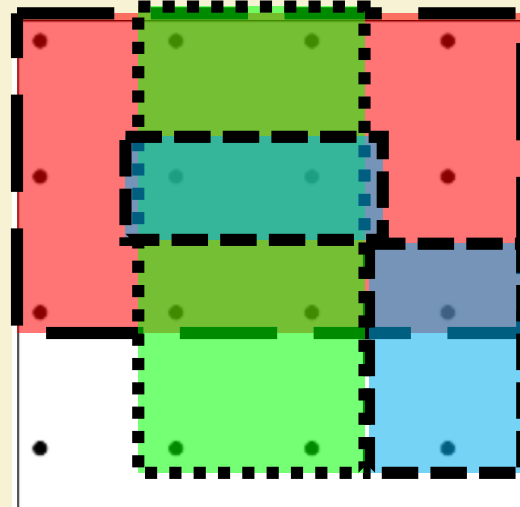
**Informal:** Two events  $A, B$  are **independent** if knowing whether  $A$  happened doesn't give any information on whether  $B$  happened.

**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)



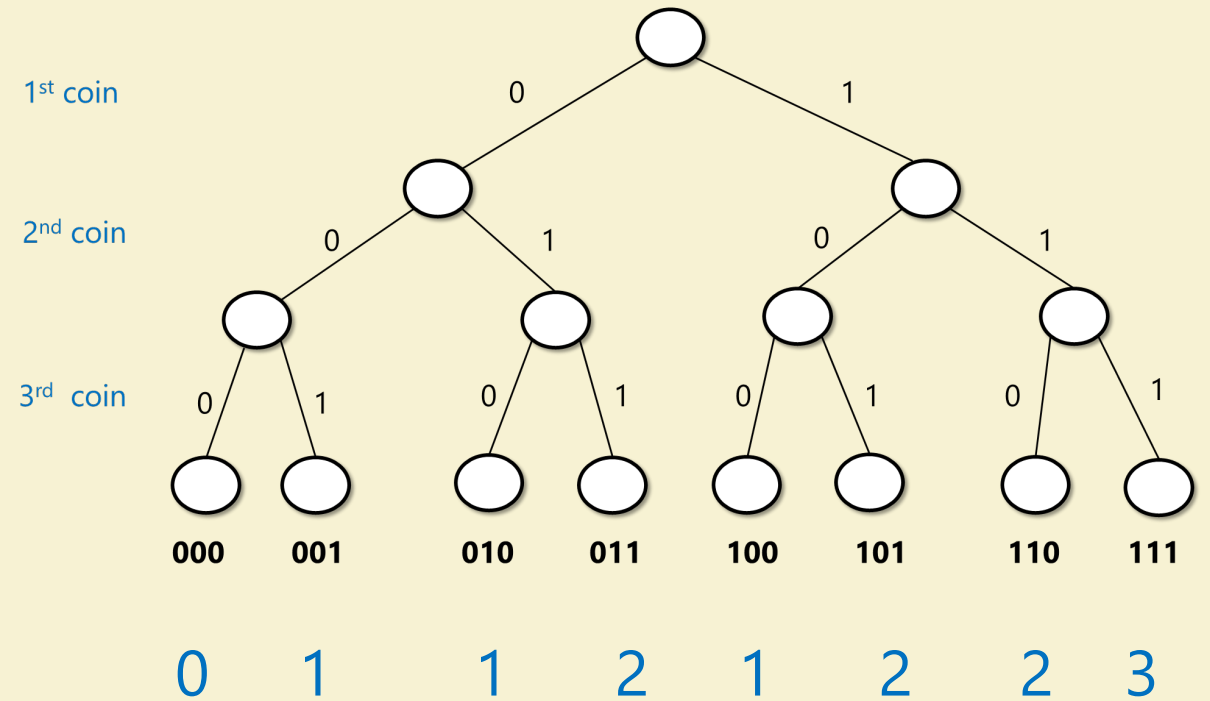
# Random variables

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

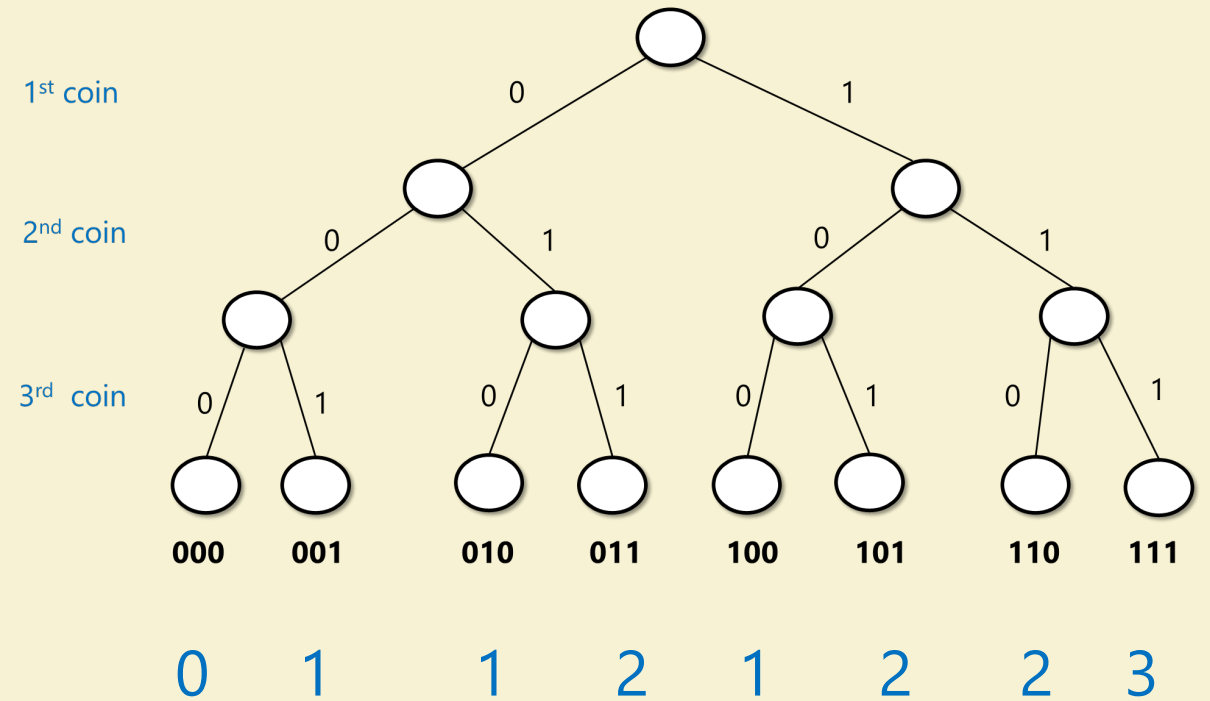


# Expectation

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  $X_0 = x_0, X_1 = x_1, \dots, X_{n-1} = x_{n-1}$

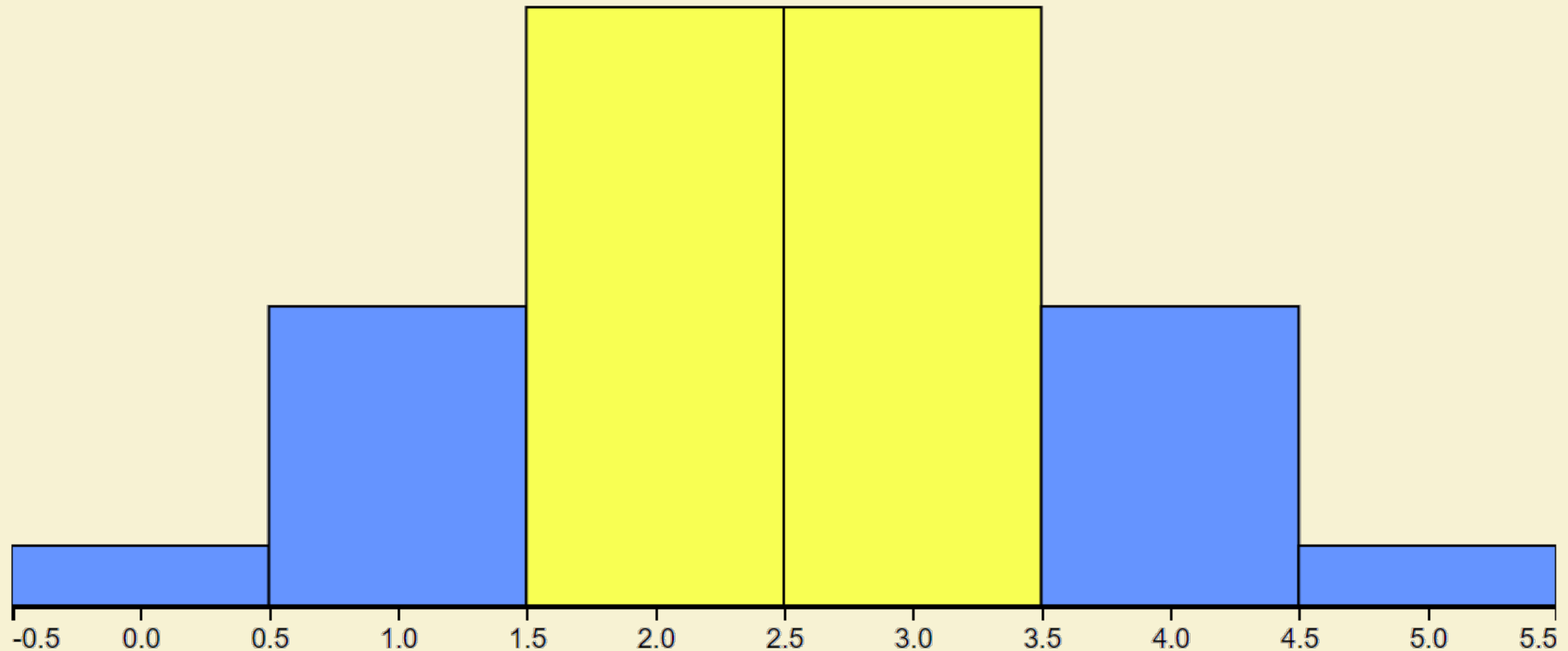
Let  $Y_0 = Y_1 = \dots = Y_{k-1} = x_0$

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  $\Pr[Y \notin (0.4n, 0.6n)]$ ,  $\Pr[X \notin (0.4n, 0.6n)]$

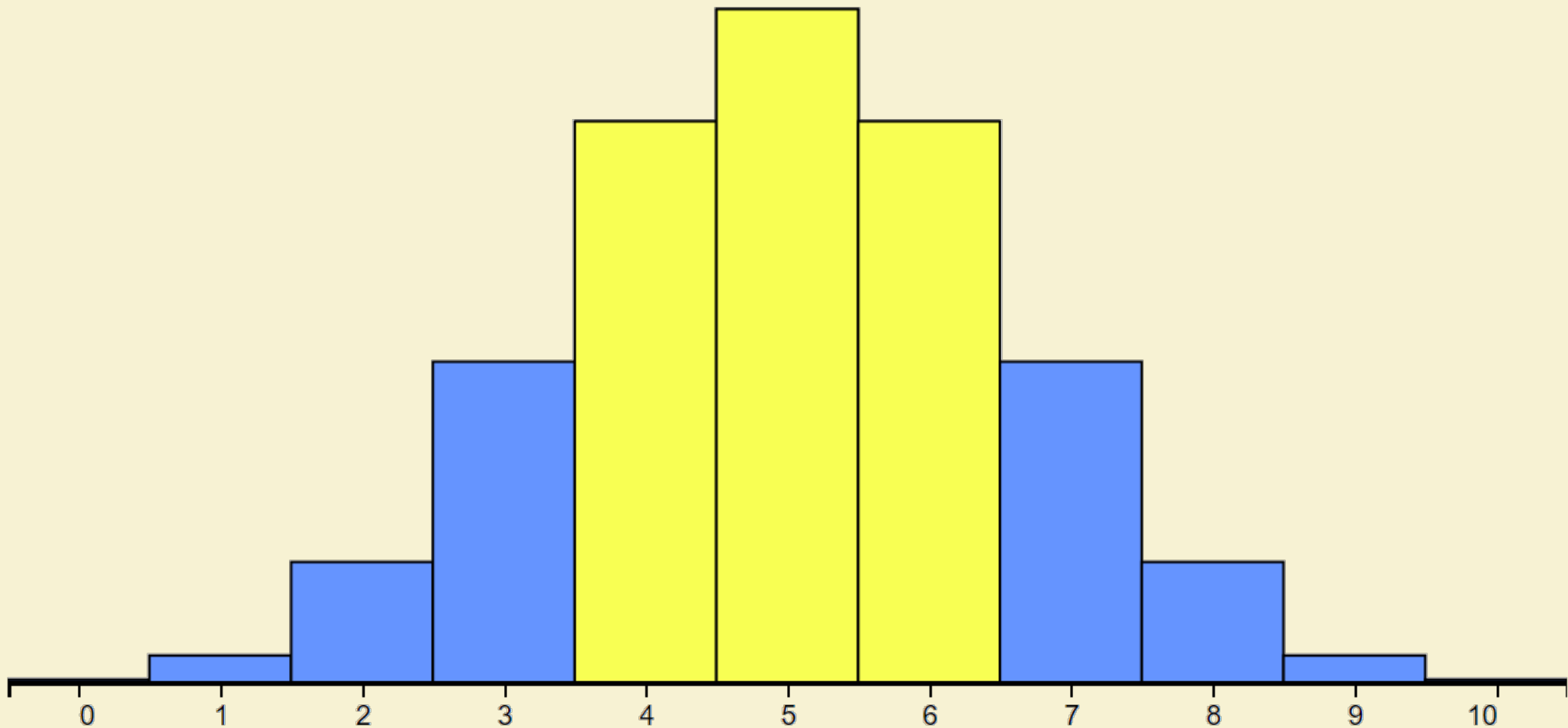
# Sums of independent random variables



$$n = 5$$

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

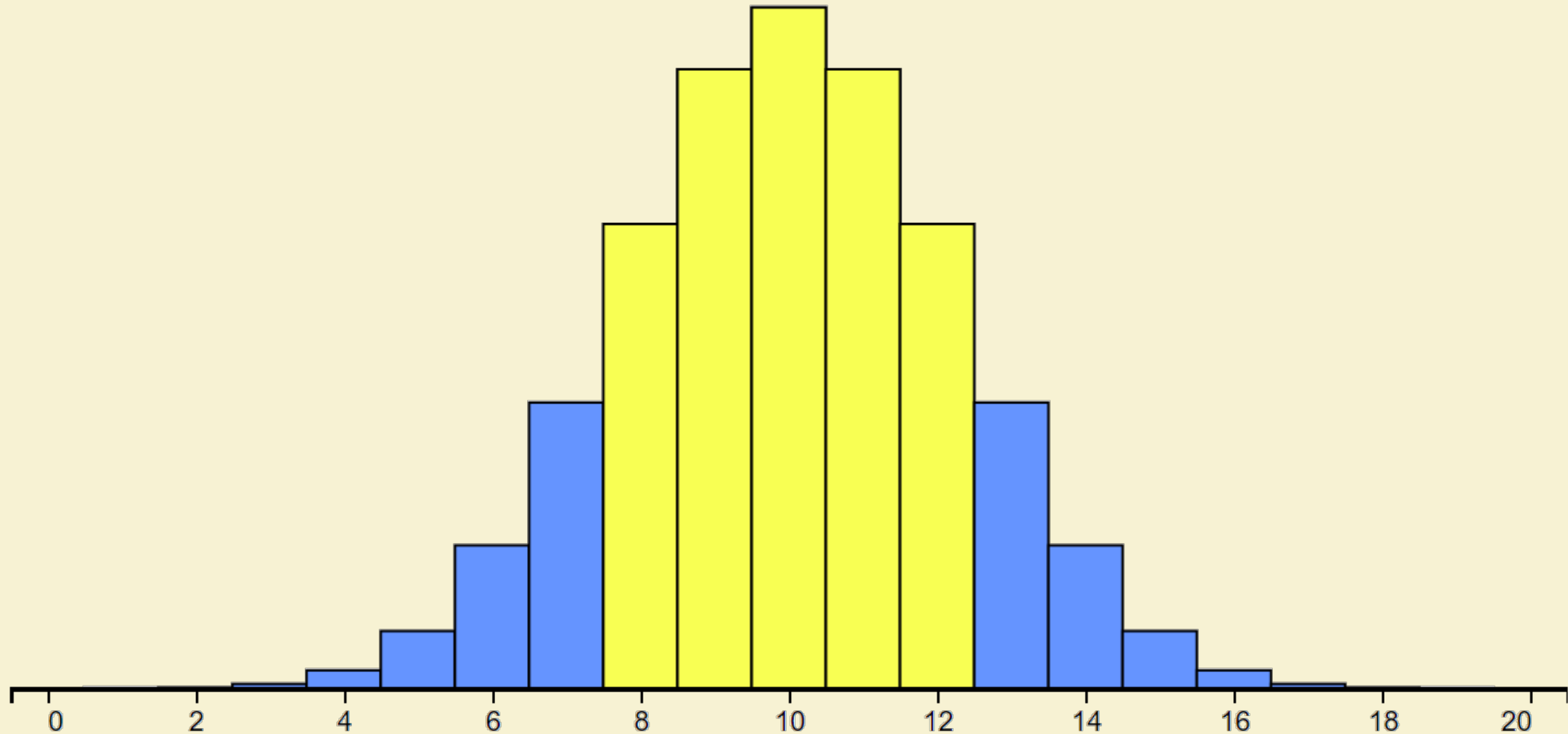
# Sums of independent random variables



$n = 10$

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

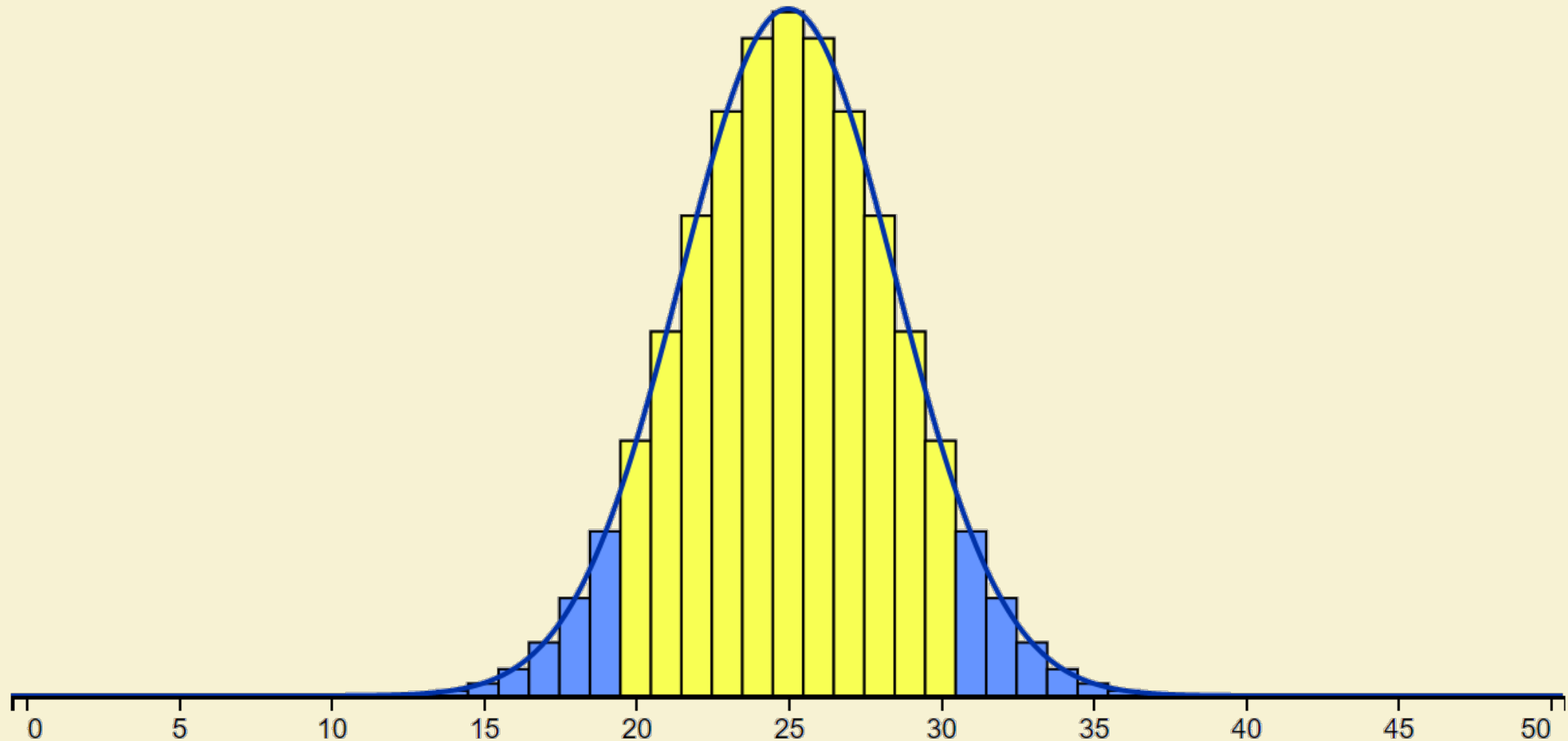
# Sums of independent random variables



$n = 20$

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

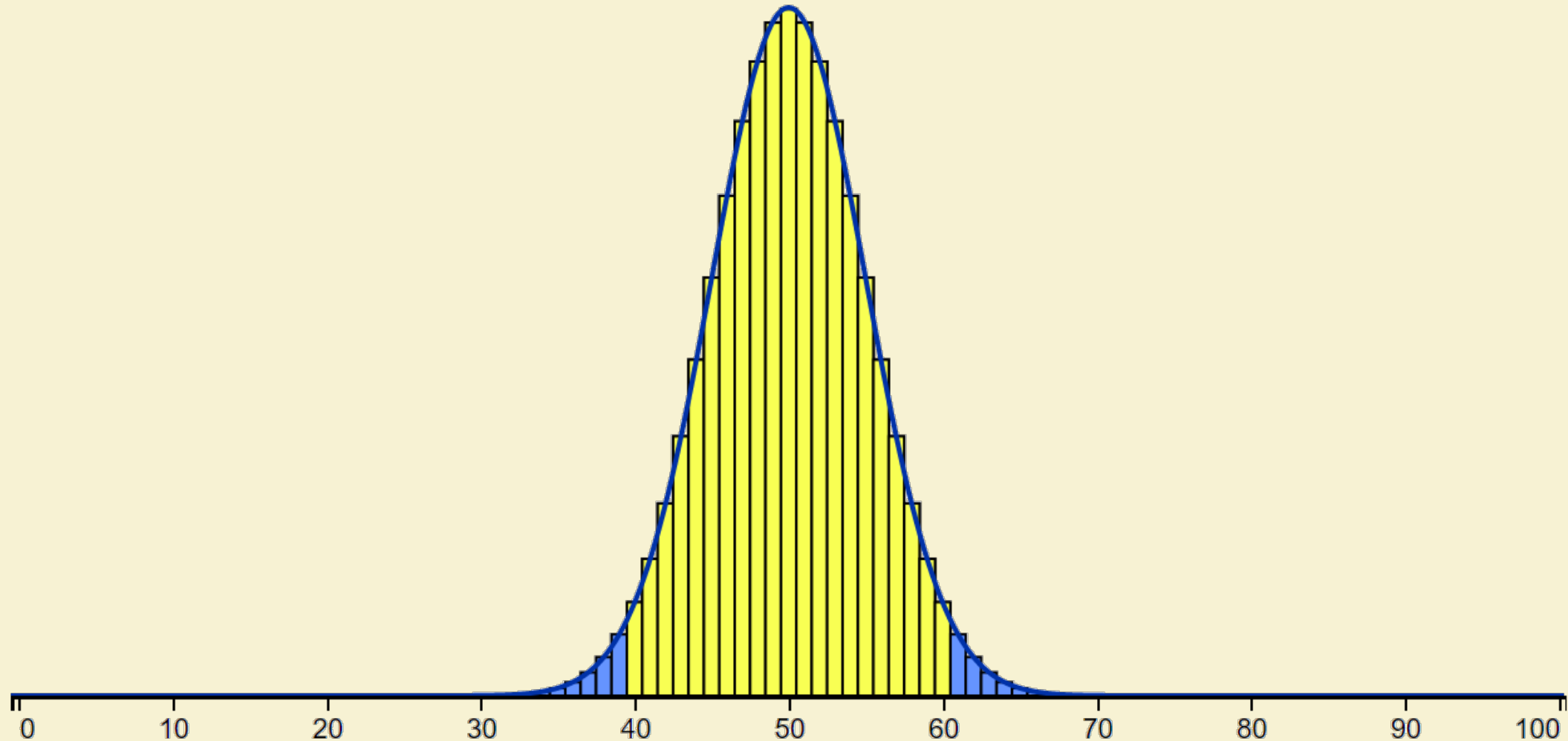
# Sums of independent random variables



$n = 50$

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

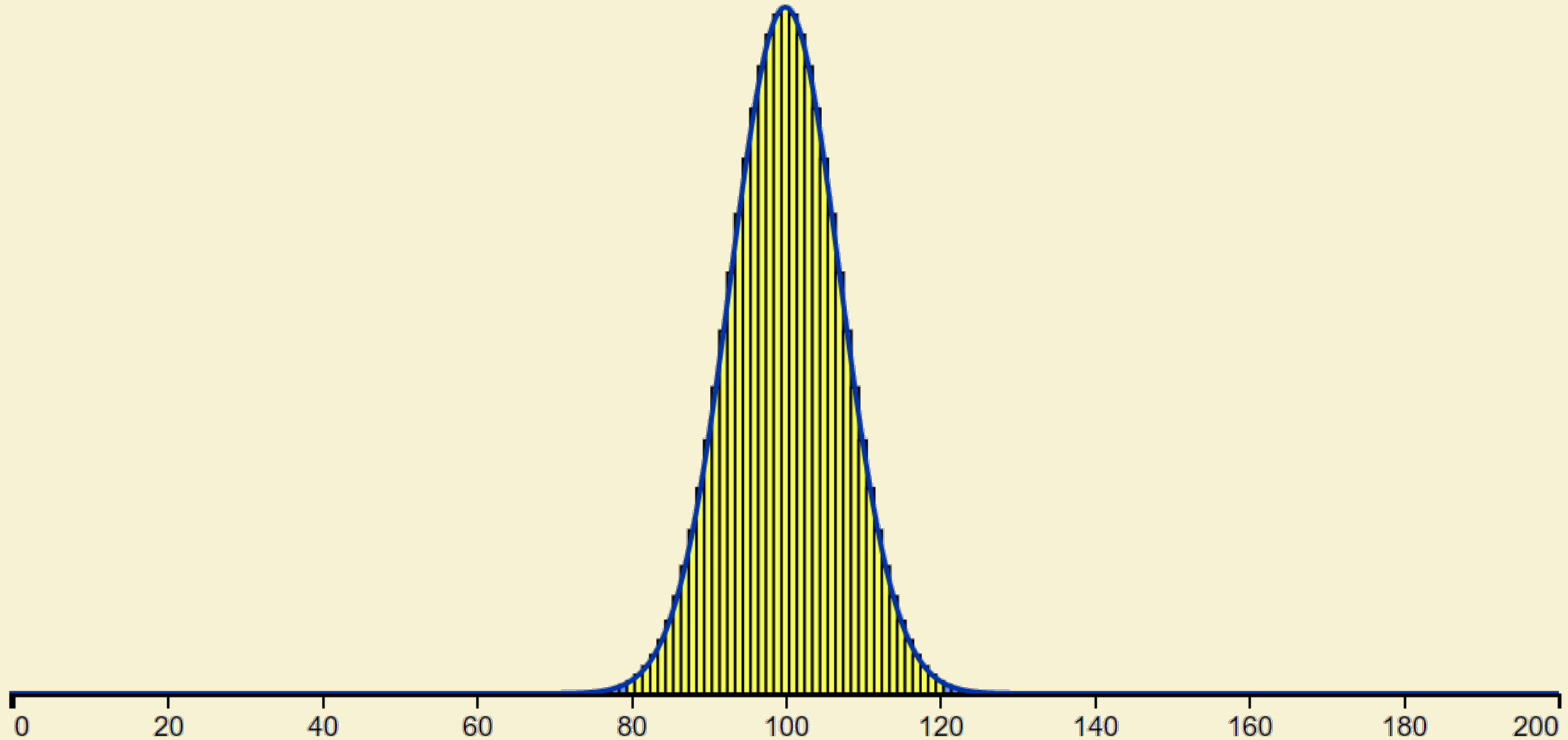
# Sums of independent random variables



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

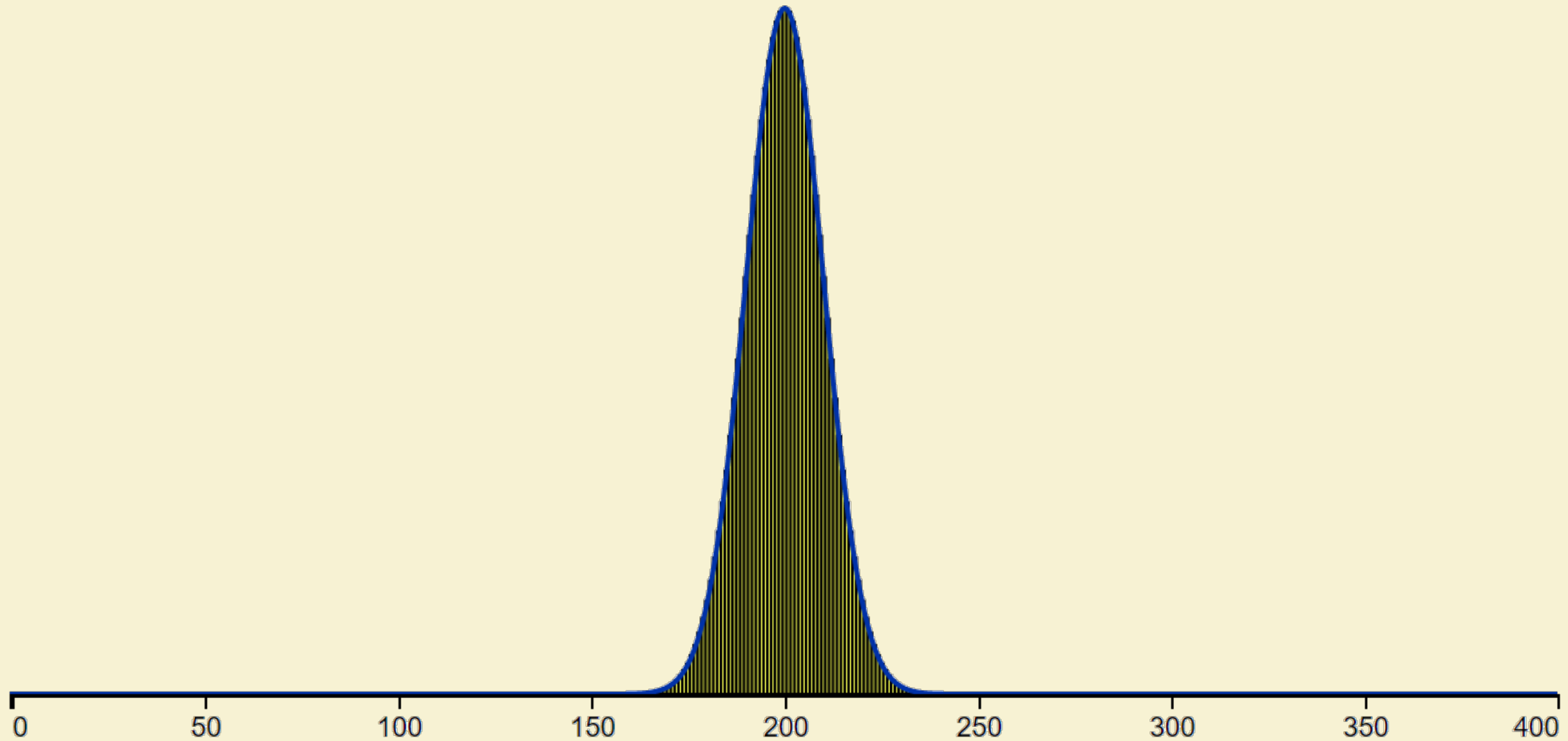


# Sums of independent random variables



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

# Sums of independent random variables

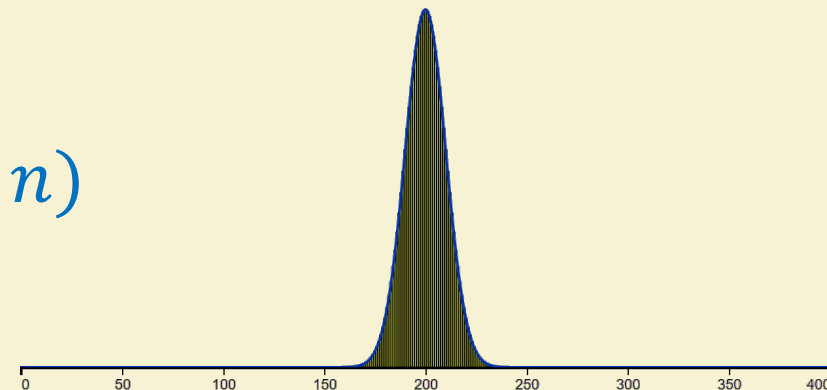


$$n = 400 \quad \Pr[X \notin (0.4, 0.6)n] = 0.01\%$$

# 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

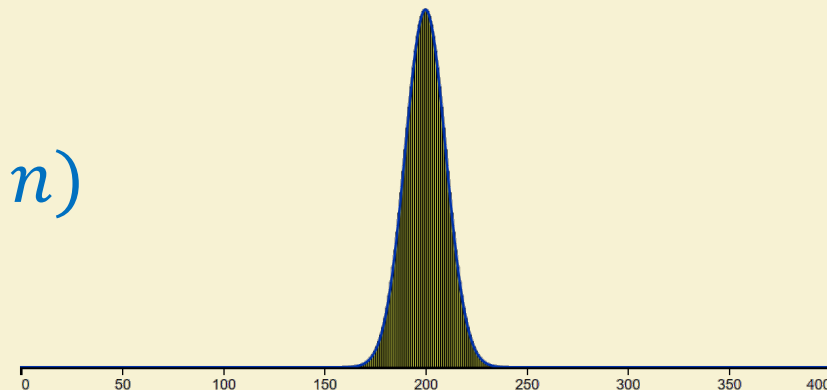
**Chernoff Bound:** Let  $X_0, \dots, X_{n-1}$  i.i.d. r.v.'s with  $X_i \in [0, 1]$ .  
Then if  $X = X_0 + \dots + X_{n-1}$  and  $p = \mathbb{E}[X]$  for every  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

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

# Concentration bounds

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

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In concentrated r.v.'s, expectation, median,  $\mu$

Independent &  
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**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  $p = \mathbb{E}[X]$  for every  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

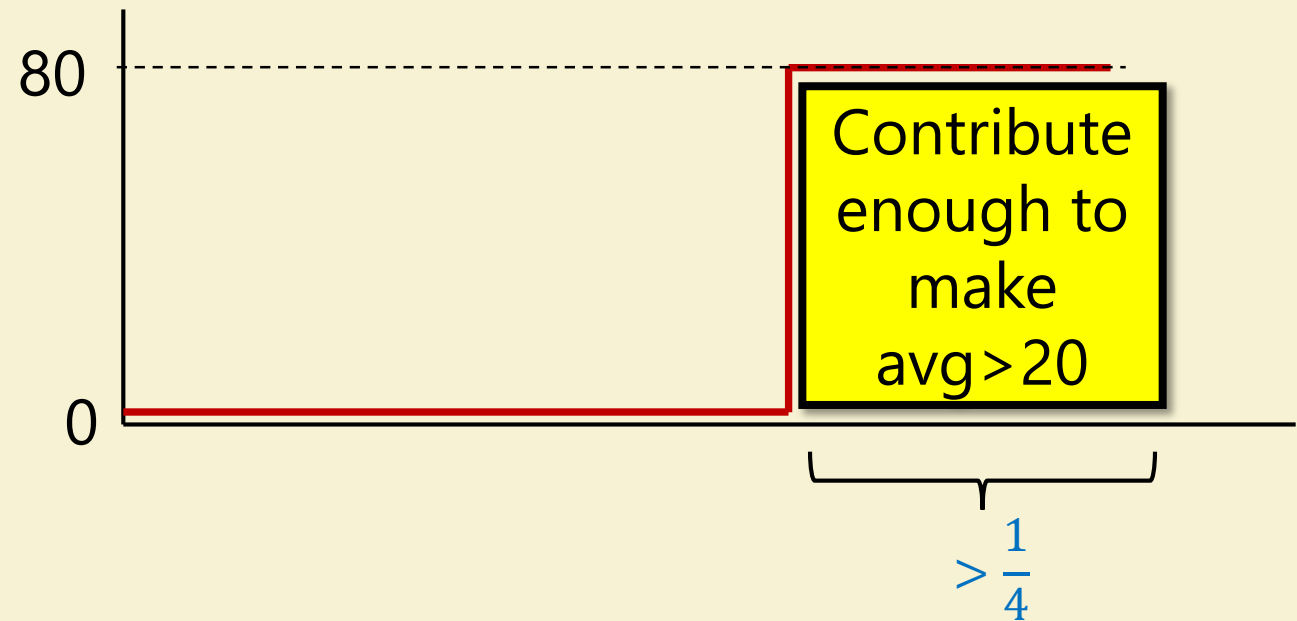
$$\Pr[|X - np| > \epsilon n] < 2 \cdot \exp(-2\epsilon^2 \cdot n) < \exp(-\epsilon^2 \cdot n) \left( \text{if } n > \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \right)$$

# 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
  - $BPTIME(T(n))$ , BPP
  - Properties of randomized computation (Reducing error ...)





