COMPSCI 514: Algorithms for Data Science

Prof. Cameron Musco

University of Massachusetts Amherst. Fall 2026

Lecture 1

Motivation For this Class

The ability to analyze and learn from massive datasets is critical across many industries, the sciences, and beyond.

Motivation For this Class

The ability to analyze and learn from massive datasets is critical across many industries, the sciences, and beyond.

- Google receives 99,000 searches per second, 8.5 billion/day.
  - How do they process them to target advertisements? To predict trends? To improve their products?

Motivation For this Class

The ability to analyze and learn from massive datasets is critical across many industries, the sciences, and beyond.

- Google receives 99,000 searches per second, 8.5 billion/day.
  - How do they process them to target advertisements? To predict trends? To improve their products?
- The Vera C. Rubin Observatory in Chile produces $\approx$ 1.3 petabytes of image data per year.
  - How do they denoise and compress the images? How do they detect anomalies such as changing object brightness? Can generate roughly 10 million alerts per night, within 60 seconds of the triggering event.

Motivation For this Class

The ability to analyze and learn from massive datasets is critical across many industries, the sciences, and beyond.

- Google receives 99,000 searches per second, 8.5 billion/day.
  - How do they process them to target advertisements? To predict trends? To improve their products?
- The Vera C. Rubin Observatory in Chile produces $\approx$ 1.3 petabytes of image data per year.
  - How do they denoise and compress the images? How do they detect anomalies such as changing object brightness? Can generate roughly 10 million alerts per night, within 60 seconds of the triggering event.
- Meta's LLaMA-4 large language model was trained on 40 trillion+ tokens of data.
  - How is this data collected and cleaned? How is it used to train a model with hundreds of billions of parameters?

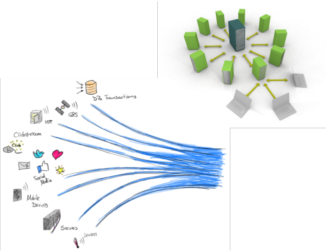
New Paradigms for Algorithm Design

- Traditional algorithm design focuses on fast computation when data is stored in an efficiently accessible centralized manner (e.g., RAM on one machine).

New Paradigms for Algorithm Design

- Traditional algorithm design focuses on fast computation when data is stored in an efficiently accessible centralized manner (e.g., RAM on one machine).
- Massive data sets require storage in a distributed manner or processing in a continuous stream.

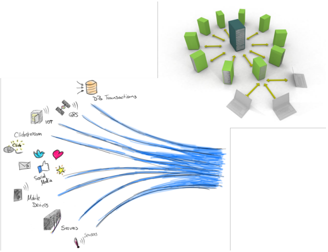
vs.



New Paradigms for Algorithm Design

- Traditional algorithm design focuses on fast computation when data is stored in an efficiently accessible centralized manner (e.g., RAM on one machine).
- Massive data sets require storage in a distributed manner or processing in a continuous stream.

vs.



- Even 'simple' problems can become very difficult in this setting.

New Paradigms for Algorithm Design

For example:

New Paradigms for Algorithm Design

For example:

- How can a social media platform rapidly detect if a post is an exact duplicate of another made in the last year? Given that no machine can store all posts made in a year.

For example:

- How can a social media platform rapidly detect if a post is an exact duplicate of another made in the last year? Given that no machine can store all posts made in a year.
- How can Google estimate the number of unique search queries that are made in a given week? Given that no machine can store the full list of queries.

New Paradigms for Algorithm Design

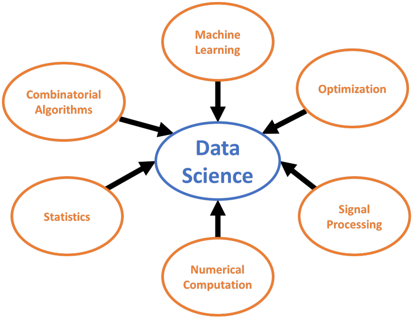
For example:

- How can a social media platform rapidly detect if a post is an exact duplicate of another made in the last year? Given that no machine can store all posts made in a year.
- How can Google estimate the number of unique search queries that are made in a given week? Given that no machine can store the full list of queries.
- How do audio search methods like Shazam or image search methods like Google reverse image search provide answers in $<$ 10 seconds, without scanning over all of the millions or billions of possible images/audio files.

A Second Motivation: Data Science is highly interdisciplinary.

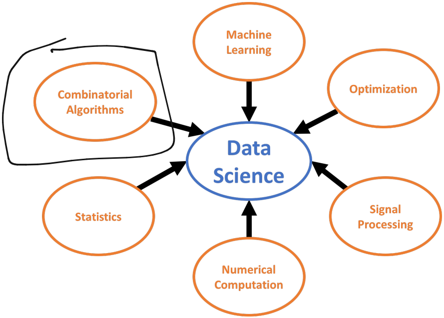
Motivation for This Class

A Second Motivation: Data Science is highly interdisciplinary.



Motivation for This Class

A Second Motivation: Data Science is highly interdisciplinary.



- Many techniques that aren't covered in the traditional CS algorithms curriculum.
- Emphasis on building comfort with mathematical tools that underly data science and machine learning.

What We'll Cover

What We'll Cover

Section 1: Randomized Methods & Sketching

What We'll Cover

Section 1: Randomized Methods & Sketching

How can we efficiently compress large data sets in a way that lets us answer important algorithmic questions rapidly?

What We'll Cover

(Probability)

Section 1: Randomized Methods & Sketching

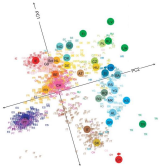
How can we efficiently compress large data sets in a way that lets us answer important algorithmic questions rapidly?

- Probability tools and concentration inequalities.
- Randomized hashing for efficient lookup, load balancing, and estimation. Bloom filters.
- Streaming algorithms: identifying frequent items in a data stream, counting distinct items, etc.
- Locality sensitive hashing and application to vector databases and nearest neighbor search.
- Random compression of high-dimensional vectors: the Johnson-Lindenstrauss lemma, applications to vector quantization (e.g., RabitQ and TurboQuant).

What We'll Cover

What We'll Cover

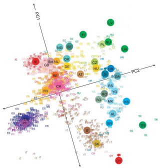
Section 2: Spectral Methods



What We'll Cover

(Linear Algebra)

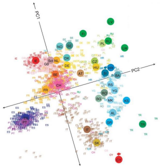
Section 2: Spectral Methods



How do we identify the most important features of a dataset using linear algebraic techniques?

What We'll Cover

Section 2: Spectral Methods

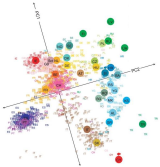


How do we identify the most important features of a dataset using linear algebraic techniques?

- Principal component analysis, low-rank approximation, dimensionality reduction.
- The singular value decomposition (SVD) and its applications to PCA, low-rank approximation, LSI, MDS, …
- Spectral graph theory. Spectral clustering, community detection, network visualization.
- Computing the SVD on large matrices via iterative methods.

What We'll Cover

Section 2: Spectral Methods



How do we identify the most important features of a dataset using linear algebraic techniques?

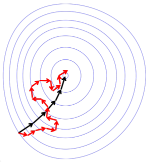
If you open up the codes that are underneath [most data science applications] this is all linear algebra on arrays.

– Michael Stonebraker

What We’ll Cover

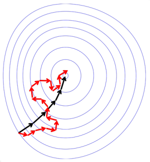
What We'll Cover

Section 3: Optimization



What We'll Cover

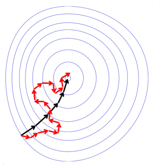
Section 3: Optimization



Fundamental continuous optimization approaches that drive methods in machine learning and statistics.

What We'll Cover

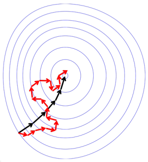
Section 3: Optimization



Fundamental continuous optimization approaches that drive methods in machine learning and statistics.

- Gradient descent. Analysis for convex functions.
- Stochastic and online gradient descent.
- Focus on convergence analysis.

Section 3: Optimization



Fundamental continuous optimization approaches that drive methods in machine learning and statistics.

- Gradient descent. Analysis for convex functions.
- Stochastic and online gradient descent.
- Focus on convergence analysis.

A small taste of what you can find in COMPSCI 651.

Important Topics We Won't Cover

Important Topics We Won't Cover

- Systems/Software Tools.

Important Topics We Won't Cover

- Systems/Software Tools.

  - COMPSCI 532: Systems for Data Science

Important Topics We Won't Cover

- Systems/Software Tools.
  - COMPSCI 532: Systems for Data Science
- Machine Learning/Data Analysis Methods and Models.
  - E.g., regression methods, kernel methods, random forests, SVM, deep neural networks, tranformers.

Important Topics We Won't Cover

- **Systems/Software Tools.**
  - COMPSCI 532: Systems for Data Science
- **Machine Learning/Data Analysis Methods and Models.**
  - E.g., regression methods, kernel methods, random forests, SVM, deep neural networks, tranformers.
  - COMPSCI 589/689: Machine Learning, other 500/600 level ML courses.

Style of the Course

This is a theory course.

Style of the Course

This is a theory course.

- Build general mathematical tools and algorithmic strategies that can be applied to a wide range of problems.

Style of the Course

This is a theory course.

- Build general mathematical tools and algorithmic strategies that can be applied to a wide range of problems.
- Emphasis on algorithm design, correctness proofs, and asymptotic analysis (relatively little required coding).

Style of the Course

This is a theory course.

- Build general mathematical tools and algorithmic strategies that can be applied to a wide range of problems.
- Emphasis on algorithm design, correctness proofs, and asymptotic analysis (relatively little required coding).
- A strong algorithms and mathematical background (particularly in linear algebra and probability) **are required**.
- Prereqs: COMPSCI 240 and COMPSCI 311. If you are an MS student and unsure about your background, email me or come chat.

Style of the Course

This is a theory course.

- Build general mathematical tools and algorithmic strategies that can be applied to a wide range of problems.
- Emphasis on algorithm design, correctness proofs, and asymptotic analysis (relatively little required coding).
- A strong algorithms and mathematical background (particularly in linear algebra and probability) **are required**.
- Prereqs: COMPSCI 240 and COMPSCI 311. If you are an MS student and unsure about your background, email me or come chat.

For example: Baye's rule in conditional probability. What it means for a vector x to be an eigenvector of a matrix A, orthogonal projection, greedy algorithms, divide-and-conquer algorithms.

Course Logistics

See course webpage for logistics, policies, lecture notes, assignments, etc.:

http://people.cs.umass.edu/~cmusco/CS514F26/

If you lose this link, search my name and follow the link from my homepage.

Canvas will be used only for weekly quizzes and posting grades and problem set solutions. Use the course page for mostly everything else.

Personnel

Professor: Cameron Musco

- Email: cmusco@cs.umass.edu
- Office Hours: Mondays, 11:00am-12:00pm in CS 3234.
- I encourage you to come as regularly as possible to ask questions/work together on practice problems.
- If you need to chat individually, please email meet to set up a time.

Course Staff:

- **TAs:** Kevin Chen and Garrett Hinkley
- **UCAs:** Kevin Murphy, Hung Ngo
- See website for office hours (some TBD) and contact info.

Piazza and Participation

We will use Piazza for class discussion and questions. See website for sign-up link.

You may earn up to 5% extra credit for participation.

- Asking good clarifying questions and answering student/instructor questions during the lecture, on Piazza, or in office hours.
- Posting helpful links on Piazza, e.g., resources that cover class material, research articles related to the class, etc.
- It is completely fine to post private questions on Piazza, but these don't count towards participation credit.
- You can post anonymously on Piazza. Instructors will see the author behind all posts, so we can assign participation credit.
- Regularly attending office hours is highly encouraged but doesn't itself count towards participation credit.

Textbooks and Materials

We will use material from three textbooks (links to free online versions on the course webpage): *Foundations of Data Science*, *Mining of Massive Datasets*, and *Probability and Computing*, but will follow none of them closely.

- I will post optional readings before each class.
- Lecture notes will be posted before each class, and annotated notes posted after class.
- Recordings of the live lectures should also be posted on Echo360.
- Sometimes it takes a lecture or two to get the Echo360 set up working properly. And typically at least a few lectures are not properly recorded due to technical issues.

Grading

Grade Breakdown:

- Midterm 1 (Oct 19th, in class) + Midterm 2 (Nov 18th in class): 40% total. 25% for highest midterm, 15% for lowest.
- Final (Dec 17th, 3:30pm-5:30pm): 25%.
- Problem Sets (4 total): 15%.
- Weekly Canvas Quizzes: 10%.
- Weekly In-Class Quizzes: 10%.
- Extra Credit: Up to 5% for participation.

There is no option to take the exams remotely. If you miss an exam due to sickness or another emergency, we'll schedule an in-person make-up.

Grading

Grade Breakdown:

- Midterm 1 (Oct 19th, in class) + Midterm 2 (Nov 18th in class): 40% total. 25% for highest midterm, 15% for lowest. Assessment.
- Final (Dec 17th, 3:30pm-5:30pm): 25%. Assessment.
- Problem Sets (4 total): 15%. Practice
- Weekly Canvas Quizzes: 10%. Practice
- Weekly In-Class Quizzes: 10%. Assessment
- Extra Credit: Up to 5% for participation.

There is no option to take the exams remotely. If you miss an exam due to sickness or another emergency, we'll schedule an in-person make-up.

Problem Sets

We will have 4 problem sets. They can be completed in groups of up to 3 students, and we encourage working in groups.

- The problem sets are for your own practice, and to help you prepare for exams/in-class quizzes.
- For this reason, if working in a group we encourage all students to collaborate on and understand all answers.
- We discourage the use of LLMs to directly solve the problems.
- The problems will be graded lightly, on a $\checkmark+$, $\checkmark-$, X scale – see course page for details.

Problem Sets

We will have 4 problem sets. They can be completed in groups of up to 3 students, and we encourage working in groups.

- The problem sets are for your own practice, and to help you prepare for exams/in-class quizzes.
- For this reason, if working in a group we encourage all students to collaborate on and understand all answers.
- We discourage the use of LLMs to directly solve the problems.
- The problems will be graded lightly, on a $\checkmark+$, $\checkmark-$, X scale – see course page for details.
- See Piazza for a thread to help you organize groups.
- You can change groups as you like over the course of the semester.
- Problem set submissions will be via Gradescope – see website for a link to join and an entry code

Weekly Quizzes

We will release an online quiz in Canvas each Wednesday after lecture, due the next Sunday at 8pm.

- Designed as and an opportunity to practice with the newly presented material.
- Will also include free response check-in questions to get your feedback on how the course is going.
- No makeups/extensions, but lowest two grades dropped.

Weekly Quizzes

We will release an online quiz in Canvas each Wednesday after lecture, due the next Sunday at 8pm.

- Designed as and an opportunity to practice with the newly presented material.
- Will also include free response check-in questions to get your feedback on how the course is going.
- No makeups/extensions, but lowest two grades dropped.

Most Mondays we will have a 10 min long quiz at the start of class.

- Will contain a few short questions, similar to the online quiz that week, or a recently completed problem set.
- Designed as a check-in to make sure you are keeping up with the material.
- No make-ups but lowest two grades dropped.

Academic Honesty and Exceptions

- No late homework submissions, unless there are extenuating circumstances, approved by the instructor before the deadline.
- No excused/missed quizzes. Instead, we just drop the lowest two grades for all students.

Academic Honesty and Exceptions

- No late homework submissions, unless there are extenuating circumstances, approved by the instructor before the deadline.
- No excused/missed quizzes. Instead, we just drop the lowest two grades for all students.

Academic Honesty:

- A first violation cheating on a homework, quiz, or other assignment will result in a 0 on that assignment.
- A second violation, or cheating on an exam will result in failing the class.
- For fairness, I adhere very strictly to these policies.

Disability Services and Accomodations

UMass Amherst is committed to making reasonable, effective, and appropriate accommodations to meet the needs to students with disabilities.

- If you have a documented disability **on file with Disability Services**, you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in this course.
- If your disability requires an accommodation, please email me by **next Monday 9/14** so that we can make arrangements.

I understand that people have different learning needs, home situations, etc. If something isn't working for you in the class, please reach out and let's try to work it out.

Questions?

Section 1: Randomized Methods & Sketching

Some Probability Review

Some Probability Review

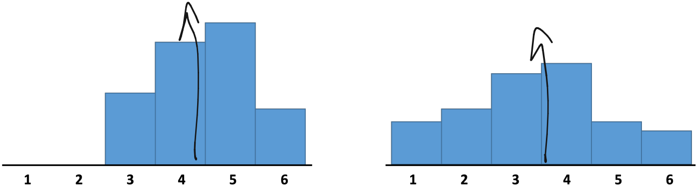
Consider a random variable X taking values in some finite set $S \subset \mathbb{R}$. E.g., for a random dice roll, $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$.

Some Probability Review

Consider a random variable X taking values in some finite set $S \subset \mathbb{R}$. E.g., for a random dice roll, $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$.

- **Expectation:** $\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{s \in S} \Pr(X = s) \cdot s$.

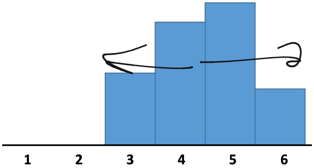
(mean)

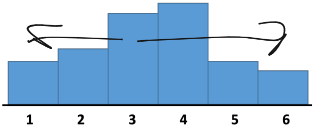


$$\mathbb{E}[x] = \frac{1}{6} \cdot 1 + \frac{1}{6} \cdot 2 + \ldots \frac{1}{6} \cdot 6 = 3.5$$

Consider a random variable X taking values in some finite set $S \subset \mathbb{R}$. E.g., for a random dice roll, $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$.

- **Expectation:** $\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{s \in S} \Pr(X = s) \cdot s$.
- **Variance:** $\mathrm{Var}[X] = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X])^2]$.





$$\mathrm{Var}[X] = \frac{1}{6} \cdot (1 - 3.5)^2 + \frac{1}{6} \cdot (2 - 3.5)^2 + \ldots \frac{1}{6} \cdot (6 - 3.5)^2$$

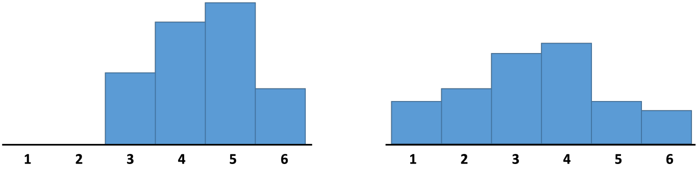
$$= ?$$

Some Probability Review

Consider a random variable X taking values in some finite set $S \subset \mathbb{R}$. E.g., for a random dice roll, $S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$.

2 4 6 8 10 12

- **Expectation:** $\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{s \in S} \Pr(X = s) \cdot s$.
- **Variance:** $\mathrm{Var}[X] = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X])^2]$.



Exercise: Show that for any scalar α, $\mathbb{E}[\alpha \cdot X] = \alpha \cdot \mathbb{E}[X]$ and $\mathrm{Var}[\alpha \cdot X] = \alpha^2 \cdot \mathrm{Var}[X]$.

Independence

Consider two random events A and B.

$A \cap B$: event that both events *A and B* happen.

Consider two random events A and B.

- **Conditional Probability:**

$$\Pr(A|B) = \frac{\Pr(A \cap B)}{\Pr(B)}.$$

Prob(raining | cloudy) = $\dfrac{\text{Pr(raining + cloudy)}}{\text{Pr(cloudy)}}$

$A \cap B$: event that both events A *and* B happen.

Independence

Consider two random events A and B.

- **Conditional Probability:**

$$\Pr(A|B) = \frac{\Pr(A \cap B)}{\Pr(B)}.$$

- **Independence:** A and B are independent if:

$$\Pr(A|B) = \Pr(A).$$

$A \cap B$: event that both events *A and B* happen.

Independence

Consider two random events A and B.

- **Conditional Probability:**

$$\Pr(A|B) = \frac{\Pr(A \cap B)}{\Pr(B)}.$$

- **Independence:** A and B are independent if:

$$\Pr(A|B) = \Pr(A).$$

Using the definition of conditional probability, independence means:

$$\Pr(A|B)\ \frac{\Pr(A \cap B)}{\Pr(B)} = \Pr(A) \implies \Pr(A \cap B) = \Pr(A) \cdot \Pr(B).$$

> $A \cap B$: event that both events A *and* B happen.

Independence

Example 1: What is the probability that for two independent fair dice rolls the first is a 6 and the second is odd?

$$Pr(A \cap B) = Pr(A) \cdot Pr(B) = \frac{1}{6} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{12}$$

A: die 1 is 6 B: die 2 is odd

Example 1: What is the probability that for two independent dice rolls the first is a 6 and the second is odd?

Example 2: What is the probability that a random dice roll is a prime number, conditioned on it being even.

$$Pr(A|B) = \frac{Pr(A \cap B)}{Pr(B)} = \frac{1/6}{1/2} = \frac{1}{3}$$

A: dice is prime B: dice is even

Independent Random Variables: Two random variables X, Y are independent if for all s, t, $\mathsf{X} = s$ and $\mathsf{Y} = t$ are independent events. In other words:

$$\Pr(\underbrace{\mathsf{X} = s} \cap \underbrace{\mathsf{Y} = t}) = \Pr(\mathsf{X} = s) \cdot \Pr(\mathsf{Y} = t).$$

X role die $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$

Y coin $\{H, T\}$

$\Pr(X = 2 \cap Y = H) = \frac{1}{6} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{12}$

Linearity of Expectation and Variance

Think-Pair-Share: When are the expectation and variance linear?

I.e., under what conditions on X and Y do we have:

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

and

$$\mathrm{Var}[X + Y] = \mathrm{Var}[X] + \mathrm{Var}[Y].$$

X, Y: any two random variables.

Linearity of Expectation

X & Y ~~are~~ independent

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

Linearity of Expectation

$\mathbb{E}[X + Y] = \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y]$ for any random variables X and Y.

Linearity of Expectation

$\mathbb{E}[X + Y] = \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y]$ for any random variables X and Y.

Proof:

$\mathbb{E}[X+Y] = \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y]$ for any random variables X and Y.

Proof:

$$\mathbb{E}[X+Y] = \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{t \in T} \Pr(X = s \cap Y = t) \cdot (s+t)$$

$(1,1) \rightarrow X+Y = 2 \cdot \frac{1}{36}$

$(1,2) \rightarrow X+Y = 3 \cdot \frac{1}{36}$

$(1,3)$

$\vdots$

$(2,1)$

Linearity of Expectation

$\mathbb{E}[X+Y] = \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y]$ for any random variables X and Y.

Proof:

$$\mathbb{E}[X+Y] = \sum_{s\in S}\sum_{t\in T} \Pr(X = s \cap Y = t)\cdot \underline{(s+t)}$$

$$= \sum_{s\in S}\underbrace{\sum_{t\in T} \Pr(X = s \cap Y = t)}_{Pr(X=s)}\cdot s + \sum_{t\in T}\underbrace{\sum_{s\in S} \Pr(X = s \cap Y = t)}_{Pr(Y=t)}\cdot t$$

$Pr(X=1 \,\&\, Y=1) + Pr(X=1 \,\&\, Y=2) \ldots + Pr(X=1 \,\&\, Y=6)$

"law of total probability"

Linearity of Expectation

$\mathbb{E}[X + Y] = \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y]$ for any random variables X and Y.

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[X+Y] &= \sum_{s\in S}\sum_{t\in T} \Pr(X = s \cap Y = t)\cdot(s+t) \\ &= \sum_{s\in S}\sum_{t\in T} \Pr(X = s \cap Y = t)\cdot s + \sum_{t\in T}\sum_{s\in S} \Pr(X = s \cap Y = t)\cdot t\end{aligned}$$

Linearity of Expectation

$\mathbb{E}[X+Y] = \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y]$ for any random variables X and Y.

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}[X+Y] &= \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{t \in T} \Pr(X = s \cap Y = t) \cdot (s+t) \\
&= \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{t \in T} \Pr(X = s \cap Y = t) \cdot s + \sum_{t \in T} \sum_{s \in S} \Pr(X = s \cap Y = t) \cdot t \\
&= \sum_{s \in S} \Pr(X = s) \cdot s + \sum_{t \in T} \Pr(Y = t) \cdot t
\end{aligned}$$

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

(law of total probability)

$X = \{0,1\}$ each w.p. $\frac{1}{2}$

$Y = \{0,1\}$ each w.p. $\frac{1}{2}$

independent

$\mathbb{E}[X+Y] = \frac{1}{4}(0+0) + \frac{1}{4}(0+1) + \frac{1}{4}(1+0) + \frac{1}{4}(1+1) = 1$

perfectly correlated $X = Y$

$\mathbb{E}[X+Y] = \frac{1}{2}(0+0) + \frac{1}{2}(1+1) = 1$

Linearity of Expectation

$\mathbb{E}[X + Y] = \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y]$ for any random variables X and Y.

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}[X+Y] &= \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{t \in T} \Pr(X = s \cap Y = t) \cdot (s + t) \\
&= \sum_{s \in S} \sum_{t \in T} \Pr(X = s \cap Y = t) \cdot s + \sum_{t \in T} \sum_{s \in S} \Pr(X = s \cap Y = t) \cdot t \\
&= \sum_{s \in S} \Pr(X = s) \cdot s + \sum_{t \in T} \Pr(Y = t) \cdot t \\
&\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad \text{(law of total probability)} \\
&= \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y].
\end{aligned}$$

Linearity of Variance

$$\mathrm{Var}[X + Y] = \mathrm{Var}[X] + \mathrm{Var}[Y]$$

$\mathrm{Var}[X+Y] = \mathrm{Var}[X] + \mathrm{Var}[Y]$ when X and Y are uncorrelated, and in particular, when they are independent.

example where $\mathrm{Var}(X+Y) \neq \mathrm{Var}(X) + \mathrm{Var}(Y)$

for depnd X and Y

$X = Y$ $\quad\quad$ $X = -Y$

$\mathrm{Var}(X+Y) = \mathrm{Var}(2X) = 4 \cdot \mathrm{Var}(X)$

$\mathrm{Var}(X+Y) = \mathrm{Var}(0) = 0$

Linearity of Variance

$\mathrm{Var}[X+Y] = \mathrm{Var}[X] + \mathrm{Var}[Y]$ when X and Y are uncorrelated, and in particular, when they are independent.

Claim 1: (exercise) $\mathrm{Var}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2$ (via linearity of expectation)

$$\mathrm{Var}[X] = \mathbb{E}[(\underbrace{X}_{\text{r.v.}} - \underbrace{\mathbb{E}[X]}_{\text{"constant"}})^2]$$

Linearity of Variance

$\mathrm{Var}[X+Y] = \mathrm{Var}[X] + \mathrm{Var}[Y]$ when X and Y are uncorrelated, and in particular, when they are independent.

Claim 1: (exercise) $\mathrm{Var}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2$ (via linearity of expectation)

Claim 2: (exercise) $\underline{\mathbb{E}[XY]} = \mathbb{E}[X] \cdot \mathbb{E}[Y]$ (i.e., X and Y are uncorrelated) when X, Y are independent.

$$\mathbb{E}[XY] - \mathbb{E}[X] \cdot \mathbb{E}[Y] = 0$$

Linearity of Variance

$\text{Var}[X+Y] = \text{Var}[X] + \text{Var}[Y]$ when X and Y are uncorrelated, and in particular, when they are independent.

Claim 1: (exercise) $\text{Var}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2$ (via linearity of expectation)

Claim 2: (exercise) $\mathbb{E}[XY] = \mathbb{E}[X] \cdot \mathbb{E}[Y]$ (i.e., X and Y are uncorrelated) when X, Y are independent.

Together give:

Linearity of Variance

$\mathrm{Var}[X+Y] = \mathrm{Var}[X] + \mathrm{Var}[Y]$ when X and Y are uncorrelated, and in particular, when they are independent.

Claim 1: (exercise) $\mathrm{Var}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2$ (via linearity of expectation)

Claim 2: (exercise) $\mathbb{E}[XY] = \mathbb{E}[X] \cdot \mathbb{E}[Y]$ (i.e., X and Y are uncorrelated) when X, Y are independent.

Together give: claim

$$\mathrm{Var}[X+Y] = \mathbb{E}[(X+Y)^2] - \mathbb{E}[X+Y]^2$$

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

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

Linearity of Variance

$\mathrm{Var}[X+Y] = \mathrm{Var}[X] + \mathrm{Var}[Y]$ when X and Y are uncorrelated, and in particular, when they are independent.

Claim 1: (exercise) $\mathrm{Var}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2$ (via linearity of expectation)

Claim 2: (exercise) $\mathbb{E}[XY] = \mathbb{E}[X] \cdot \mathbb{E}[Y]$ (i.e., X and Y are uncorrelated) when X, Y are independent.

Together give:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathrm{Var}[X+Y] &= \mathbb{E}[(X+Y)^2] - \mathbb{E}[X+Y]^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X^2] + 2\mathbb{E}[XY] + \mathbb{E}[Y^2] - (\mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y])^2 \\ &\qquad\qquad\text{(linearity of expectation)}\end{aligned}$$

Linearity of Variance

$\text{Var}[X+Y] = \text{Var}[X] + \text{Var}[Y]$ when X and Y are uncorrelated, and in particular, when they are independent.

Claim 1: (exercise) $\text{Var}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2$ (via linearity of expectation)

Claim 2: (exercise) $\mathbb{E}[XY] = \mathbb{E}[X] \cdot \mathbb{E}[Y]$ (i.e., X and Y are uncorrelated) when X, Y are independent.

Together give:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Var}[X+Y] &= \mathbb{E}[(X+Y)^2] - \mathbb{E}[X+Y]^2 \\
&= \mathbb{E}[X^2] + 2\mathbb{E}[XY] + \mathbb{E}[Y^2] - (\mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y])^2 \\
&\qquad \text{(linearity of expectation)} \\
&= \mathbb{E}[X^2] + 2\mathbb{E}[XY] + \mathbb{E}[Y^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2 - 2\mathbb{E}[X]\cdot\mathbb{E}[Y] - \mathbb{E}[Y]^2 \\
&= \underbrace{\mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2}_{\text{Var}(X)} + \underbrace{\mathbb{E}[Y^2] - \mathbb{E}[Y]^2}_{\text{Var}(Y)}
\end{aligned}$$

Linearity of Variance

$\text{Var}[X+Y] = \text{Var}[X] + \text{Var}[Y]$ when X and Y are uncorrelated, and in particular, when they are independent.

Claim 1: (exercise) $\text{Var}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2$ (via linearity of expectation)

Claim 2: (exercise) $\mathbb{E}[XY] = \mathbb{E}[X] \cdot \mathbb{E}[Y]$ (i.e., X and Y are uncorrelated) when X, Y are independent.

Together give:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\text{Var}[X+Y] &= \mathbb{E}[(X+Y)^2] - \mathbb{E}[X+Y]^2 \\
&= \mathbb{E}[X^2] + 2\mathbb{E}[XY] + \mathbb{E}[Y^2] - (\mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y])^2 \\
&\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad \text{(linearity of expectation)} \\
&= \mathbb{E}[X^2] + 2\mathbb{E}[XY] + \mathbb{E}[Y^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2 - 2\mathbb{E}[X] \cdot \mathbb{E}[Y] - \mathbb{E}[Y]^2
\end{aligned}
$$

Linearity of Variance

$\text{Var}[X + Y] = \text{Var}[X] + \text{Var}[Y]$ when X and Y are uncorrelated, and in particular, when they are independent.

Claim 1: (exercise) $\text{Var}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2$ (via linearity of expectation)

Claim 2: (exercise) $\mathbb{E}[XY] = \mathbb{E}[X] \cdot \mathbb{E}[Y]$ (i.e., X and Y are uncorrelated) when X, Y are independent.

Together give:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Var}[X + Y] &= \mathbb{E}[(X + Y)^2] - \mathbb{E}[X + Y]^2 \\
&= \mathbb{E}[X^2] + 2\mathbb{E}[XY] + \mathbb{E}[Y^2] - (\mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y])^2 \\
&\hphantom{=}\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad\qquad \text{(linearity of expectation)} \\
&= \mathbb{E}[X^2] + 2\mathbb{E}[XY] + \mathbb{E}[Y^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2 - 2\mathbb{E}[X] \cdot \mathbb{E}[Y] - \mathbb{E}[Y]^2 \\
&= \mathbb{E}[X^2] + \mathbb{E}[Y^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2 - \mathbb{E}[Y]^2
\end{aligned}$$

Linearity of Variance

$\mathrm{Var}[X+Y] = \mathrm{Var}[X] + \mathrm{Var}[Y]$ when X and Y are uncorrelated, and in particular, when they are independent.

Claim 1: (exercise) $\mathrm{Var}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2$ (via linearity of expectation)

Claim 2: (exercise) $\mathbb{E}[XY] = \mathbb{E}[X] \cdot \mathbb{E}[Y]$ (i.e., X and Y are uncorrelated) when X, Y are independent.

Together give:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{Var}[X+Y] &= \mathbb{E}[(X+Y)^2] - \mathbb{E}[X+Y]^2 \quad \text{(applied Claim 1)} \\
&= \mathbb{E}[X^2] + 2\mathbb{E}[XY] + \mathbb{E}[Y^2] - (\mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y])^2 \\
&\qquad\qquad \text{(linearity of expectation)} \\
&= \mathbb{E}[X^2] + 2\mathbb{E}[XY] + \mathbb{E}[Y^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2 - 2\mathbb{E}[X] \cdot \mathbb{E}[Y] - \mathbb{E}[Y]^2 \\
&= \mathbb{E}[X^2] + \mathbb{E}[Y^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2 - \mathbb{E}[Y]^2 \quad \text{(Applied Claim 2)} \\
&= \mathrm{Var}[X] + \mathrm{Var}[Y]. \quad \text{(Applied Claim 1 again)}
\end{aligned}$$