# CS 237: Probability in Computing 

Wayne Snyder<br>Computer Science Department<br>Boston University

Lecture 21:

- Joint Random Variables: Basic Notions
- JRVs: Independence, Covariance, and Correlation


## Joint Random Variables

A Joint Random Variable is a pair of random variables:

$$
(X, Y): S \rightarrow \mathcal{R} \times \mathcal{R}
$$

Now when an outcome is requested, the sample point is translated into two real numbers by the action of each random variable responding to the same experiment:

Throw two dice: $\quad \mathrm{X}=$ = the number of heads showing," and
$\mathrm{Y}=$ " 1 if both tosses are heads, 0 otherwise."

```
def XY():
```

$a=r a n d i n t(0,2)$
$\mathrm{b}=$ randint $(0,2)$
return $(a+b, a * b)$

(1.0,0.0)

## Joint Random Variables

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$$

Now when an outcome is requested, the sample point is translated into two real numbers by the action of each random variable responding to the same experiment:

Throw two dice: $\quad \mathrm{X}=$ "the number of heads showing," and
$\mathrm{Y}=$ " 1 if both tosses are heads, 0 otherwise."

(2.0,1.0)

## Joint Random Variables

Since the sample space can be just about anything, there is wide latitude in creating the random variables and their relationship (or lack thereof):

They may be obviously dependent:
Throw two dice: $\quad \mathrm{X}=$ "the number of heads showing on both coins," and $\mathrm{Y}=$ "the number of heads showing on the first coin."

(1.0,0.0)

## Joint Random Variables

Since the sample space can be just about anything, there is wide latitude in creating the random variables and their relationship (or lack thereof):

They may be obviously independent:
Throw two dice: $\quad \mathrm{X}=$ "the number of heads showing on the second coin, and $\mathrm{Y}=$ "the number of heads showing on the first coin."


## Joint Random Variables

A joint random variable $(X, Y)$ is called discrete if both $X$ and $Y$ are discrete, and continuous if both X and Y are continuous. Other combinations are possible, but we will only consider these two.

Probability Mass Function for a Discrete JRV (X,Y):
The probability that X produces value j and Y produces value k is:

$$
f_{X, Y}(j, k)=P(X=j, Y=k)
$$

Example 1: Toss 2 coins; $X=\#$ heads on first coin, $Y=\#$ heads on second Sample Space $\underline{X} \quad \underline{Y}$

| T T | 0 | 0 | $f_{X, Y}(0,0)=0.25$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| T H | 0 | 1 | $f_{X, Y}(0,1)=0.25$ |
| H T | 1 | 0 | $f_{X, Y}(1,0)=0.25$ |
| H H | 1 | 1 | $f_{X, Y}(1,1)=0.25$ |

## Joint Random Variables: Joint Probability Function

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f_{X, Y}(j, k)=P(X=j, Y=k)
$$

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| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| T H | 0 | 1 | $f_{X, Y}(0,1)=0.25$ |
| H T | 1 | 0 | $f_{X, Y}(1,0)=0.25$ |
| H H | 1 | 1 | $f_{X, Y}(1,1)=0.25$ |

Note:
Probabilities are volumes!

X

## Joint Random Variables: Joint Probability Function

$$
f_{X, Y}(j, k)=P(X=j, Y=k)
$$

Example 2: Toss 2 coins; $X=\#$ heads on first coin, $Y=1$ if 2 heads, 0 else
Sample Space


| T T | 0 | 0 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| T H | 0 | 0 |
| H T | 1 | 0 |
| H H | 1 | 1 |

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{f}_{X, Y}(0,0)=0.5 \\
& \mathrm{f}_{X, Y}(0,1)=0.0 \\
& \mathrm{f}_{X, Y}(1,0)=0.25 \\
& \mathrm{f}_{X, Y}(1,1)=0.25
\end{aligned}
$$

|  |  | $\mathbf{Y}$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ |  | | $\mathbf{1}$ | 0.25 | 0.25 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{0}$ | 0.5 | 0 |



## Joint Random Variables: Joint Probability Function

Question: Toss 2 coins; $\mathrm{X}=1$ if 2 heads, 0 else, $\mathrm{Y}=$ total number of heads
What is the joint probability chart for this Joint Random Variables?

| Toss 1 | Toss 2 | $\underline{X}$ | $\underline{Y}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| H | H |  |  |
| H | T |  |  |
| T | H |  |  |
| T | T |  |  |



## Joint Random Variables: Joint Probability Function

Question: Toss 2 coins; $\mathrm{X}=1$ if 2 heads, 0 else, $\mathrm{Y}=$ total number of heads
What is the joint probability chart for this Joint Random Variables?

| Toss 1 | Toss 2 | $\underline{X}$ | $\underline{Y}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | H | 1 | 2 |
| H | T | 0 | 1 |
| T | H | 0 | 1 |
| T | T | 0 | 0 |
|  | $\mathbf{Y}$ |  |  |


$\mathbf{x}$|  | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathrm{p}\left(\mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{i}}\right)$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | $\mathbf{0}$ | 0.25 | 0.25 |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathbf{0}$ | 0.25 | 0.5 | 0 | 0.75 |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{p}\left(\mathrm{y}_{\mathrm{j}}\right):$ |  |  |  |  |  | 0.25 | 0.5 | 0.25 | 1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |



## Joint Random Variables: Marginal Distributions

The Marginal Distributions of a Joint Random Variable are the individual random variables, considered separately from each other:

$$
f_{X}(j)=P(X=j)=\sum_{k \in R_{Y}} f_{X, Y}(j, k) \quad f_{Y}(k)=P(Y=k)=\sum_{j \in R_{X}} f_{X, Y}(j, k)
$$

Example 1: Toss 2 coins; $X=\#$ heads on first coin, $x$ Y = \# heads on second

| Sample Space | $\underline{X}$ | $\underline{Y}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |
| T T | 0 | 0 |
| H T | 0 | 1 |
| H H | 1 | 0 |
|  | 1 | 1 |






## Joint Random Variables: Marginal Distributions

Example 2: Toss 2 coins; $X=\#$ heads on first coin, $Y=1$ if 2 heads, 0 else




## Joint Random Variables: Marginal Distributions

Example 3: Toss 2 coins; $X=\#$ heads on first coin, $Y=$ total \# of heads





$$
\begin{array}{llll}
\mathrm{X} \sim \operatorname{Bern}(0.5) & \mathrm{E}(\mathrm{X})=0.5 & \operatorname{Var}(\mathrm{X})=0.5 * 0.5=0.25 & \sigma_{X}=0.5 \\
\mathrm{Y} \sim \mathrm{~B}(2,0.5) & \mathrm{E}(\mathrm{Y})=1 & \operatorname{Var}(\mathrm{Y})=2 * 0.5 * 0.5=0.5 & \sigma_{\mathrm{Y}}=0.717
\end{array}
$$

## Joint Random Variables: Marginal Distributions

We will mostly concern ourselves with the bivariate case (two RVs), and in lab we will study ways of displaying 2D data.

The main insight you need for the 2 D case is that now,

- Probabilities are volumes; and

X




- The volume of a probability space must be 1.0.





## Joint Random Variables: The Continuous Case

We will not do much with the continuous case, but the modifications are straightforward (must use 2D intervals/areas, replace sums with integrals).

Discrete Case (can use PMF)

$$
\begin{gathered}
f_{X, Y}(x, y)=P(X=x, Y=y) \\
F_{X, Y}(x, y)=P(X \leq x, Y \leq y) \\
f_{X}(x)=\Sigma_{y \in R_{Y}} P(X=x, y) \\
f_{Y}(y)=\Sigma_{x \in R_{X}} P(x, Y=y)
\end{gathered}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& f_{X, Y}(x, y)=P(X=x, Y=y) \\
& F_{X, Y}(x, y)=P(X \leq x, Y \leq y) \\
& f_{X}(x)=\int_{y \in R_{Y}} P(X=x, y) \\
& f_{Y}(y)=\int_{x \in R_{X}} P(x, Y=y)
\end{aligned}
$$

## Joint Random Variables: The Continuous Case

It is often useful to display the marginal distributions along with the joint distribution:


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## Joint Random Variables: The Continuous Case

Example: Bivariate Uniform Distribution (X,Y)

```
def uniform2D():
    return ( random(), random() )
```

PDF is a unit cube of volume 1.0:
But in the uniform case it can be viewed from ABOVE as a unit square:


## Joint Random Variables: Independence (Review!)

Again, we can easily define the notion of independence, using the expected definition; e.g., two random variables are independent if and only if

$$
f_{X, Y}(j, k)=f_{X}(j) * f_{Y}(k)
$$

That is, each joint probability is the product of the marginal probabilities.
INDEPENDENT:






## Joint Random Variables: Independence

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$$
f_{X, Y}(j, k)=f_{X}(j) * f_{Y}(k)
$$

That is, each joint probability is the product of the marginal probabilities.

## DEPENDENT:






## Joint Random Variables as Multivariate Points

The standard way of presenting a Joint Random Variable is to specify the range of each marginal distribution and the probabilities of each tuple returned by the JRV:

Example 3: Toss 2 coins; $X=$ \# heads on first coin, $Y=$ total \# of heads


$$
\begin{array}{llll}
\mathrm{X} \sim \operatorname{Bern}(0.5) & \mathrm{E}(\mathrm{X})=0.5 & \operatorname{Var}(\mathrm{X})=0.5 * 0.5=0.25 & \sigma_{X}=0.5 \\
\mathrm{Y} \sim \mathrm{~B}(2,0.5) & \mathrm{E}(\mathrm{Y})=1 & \operatorname{Var}(\mathrm{Y})=2 * 0.5 * 0.5=0.5 & \sigma_{\mathrm{Y}}=0.717
\end{array}
$$

## Joint Random Variables as Equiprobable Tuples

However, when not all possible tuples are possible (there are 0's in the matrix), but those that are possible are equiprobable, then it may be simpler to simply list the tuples:


## Joint Random Variables as Equiprobable Tuples

This is particularly true when thinking about sampling points from a large population, such as tuples of real numbers.

For example, suppose you have two thermometers, one showing Fahrenheit, and one showing Celsius, and you test them by taking 10 samples, yielding 10 pairs of floating-point numbers, which can be shown by a scatterplot:

```
[(45.2, 9.1),
    (48.2, 9.4),
    (49.1, 10.5),
    (49.8, 12.1),
    (52.4, 13.2),
    (55.9, 12.3),
    (58.6, 15.7),
    (61.7, 16.1),
    (63.1, 17.1),
    (64.1, 18.2) ]
```


$X=[45.2,48.2,49.1,49.8,52.4,55.9,58.6,61.7,63.1,64.1]$
$Y=[9.1, \quad 9.4,10.5,12.1,13.2,12.3,15.7,16.1,17.1,18.2]$

## Joint Random Variables as Equiprobable Tuples

When the number of points is not too large, then we can represent the sampled points as a matrix, giving all the equiprobable tuples equal probability:

Example: Roll a single die.
$\mathrm{X}=$ number showing on the die

$$
Y=7-X
$$

Sampling Version:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{R}_{X, Y}=\{(1,6),(2,5),(3,4),(4,3),(5,2),(6,1)\} \\
& X=[1,2,3,4,5,6] \quad Y=[6,5,4,3,2,1] \\
& f_{X, Y}=\{1 / 6,1 / 6,1 / 6,1 / 6,1 / 6,1 / 6\}
\end{aligned}
$$



Matrix Version:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{X}, \mathrm{Y}}=\{ & (1,1),(1,2), \ldots,(1,6), \\
& \cdot \\
& (6,1),(6,2), \ldots,(6,6)\}
\end{aligned}
$$

|  |  |  |  | $\mathbf{Y}$ |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|  | 1 | 0.1667 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | 2 | 0 | 0.1667 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| $\mathbf{X}$ | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0.1667 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|  | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.1667 | 0 | 0 |
|  | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.1667 | 0 |
|  | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.1667 |

## Joint Random Variables as Equiprobable Tuples

The standard libraries for statistics will give you the option of specifying the PDF (as "weights") or leaving it out, in which case the assumption is that it is equiprobable:

## numpy.average

numpy.average( $a$, axis=Nond weights=None, weturned=False)
Compute the weighted average atong thé specified axis.
Parameters: a : array_like
Array containing data to b attempted.
axis : None or int or tuple of ini
Axis or axes along which $t$ over all of the elements of last to the first axis.
New in version 1.7.0.
If axis is a tuple of ints, avi
the tuple instead of a sing
. 9
3.5000000000000004
weights: array_like, optional

-     - Ar-array of weights associated with the values in $a$. Each value in a contributes to the average according to its associated weight. The weights array can either be 1-D (in which case its length must be the size of $a$ along the given axis) or of the same shape as $a$. If weights=None, then all data in $a$ are assumed to have a weight equal to one.


## Joint Random Variables as Equiprobable Tuples

The standard libraries for statistics will give you the option of specifying the PDF (as "weights") or leaving it out, in which case the assumption is that it is equiprobable:

```
numpy.cov
numpy.cov(m, y=None, rowvar=True, bias=False, ddof={\one, fweights=None, aweights=None) \[source]
Estimate a covariance matrix, given data and weights.'
Covariance indicates the level to which two variables vary together. If we examine N -dimensional samples, \(X=\left[x_{-} 1, x_{-} 2, \ldots x \_N\right]^{\wedge} T\), then the covariance matrix element C_(ij\} is the covariance of \(\mathrm{x} \_i\) and \(x_{\_} \mathrm{j}\). The element C_(ii\} is the variance of \(\mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{l}} \mathrm{i}\).
See the notes for an outline of the algorithm.
```

fweights : array_like, int, optional
1-D array of integer frequency weights; the number of times each observation vector should be repeated.
New in version 1.10.
aweights : array_like, optional
1-D array of observation vector weights. These relative weights are typically
large for observations considered "important" and smaller for observations considered less "important". If ddof $=0$ the array of weights can be used to assign probabilities to observation vectors.
New in version 1.10.
fweights = frequency
counts, as in a histogram
aweights = probabilities, as in a PDF

## Joint Random Variables as Equiprobable Tuples

The standard libraries for statistics will give you the option of specifying the PDF (as "weights") or leaving it out, in which case the assumption is that it is equiprobable:

```
In [21]:
X = [1,2,3,4,5,6]
Y = [6,5,4,3,2,1]
XX = [ X, X ]
XY = [ X, Y ]
print(XX)
print(XY)
print()
print( np.cov(xx,bias=True) ) #Default is equiprobable
print()
print(np.cov(XX,bias=True)[0][1] in #Default is equiprobable
print()**
print( np.cov(XY,bias=True)[0][1] ) # Default is equiprobable
print()
# Weights same as frequency counts for (x1,y1), ....
print( np.cov(XY,bias=True,fweights=[10, 20, 10, 20, 10, 30])[0][1] )
print()
# Weights same as PDF = probabilities for each member of X
print( np.cov(XY,bias=True,aweights=[0.1,0.2,0.1,0.2,0.1,0.3])[0][1] )
[[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6], [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]]
[[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6], [6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1]]
[[2.91666660* 2.91666667] **
[2.91666667*"2:916666667#")
2.91666666666666665
-2.91666666666666665
-3.09
-3.09
```


## Joint Random Variables: Mean and Variance?

The notion of a mean (a single number representing the "center" of the distribution) can be extended to a

$$
\text { Midpoint }=\text { Mean Vector }=\text { means of the marginal distributions }
$$

This defines the "centroid" or "center of gravity" of the distribution:
Example:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& X= {[0,1,2,3] } \\
& Y= {[0,2,4,3] } \\
& X Y= {\left[\begin{array}{ll}
(0,0), \\
& (1,2), \\
& (2,4), \\
& (3,3)]
\end{array}\right.} \\
&
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\text { Midpoint }=\left(\mu_{X}, \mu_{Y}\right)
$$

$$
=(3 / 2,9 / 4)
$$



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```
X = [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10]
Y}=[0,1,4,9,16,25,36,49,64, 81, 100
```



## Joint Random Variables: Mean and Variance?

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& X Y= {\left[\begin{array}{ll}
(0,0), \\
& (1,2), \\
& (2,4), \\
& (3,3)]
\end{array}\right.} \\
&
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\text { Midpoint }=\left(\mu_{X}, \mu_{Y}\right)
$$

$$
=(3 / 2,9 / 4)
$$



## Joint Random Variables: Mean and Variance?

The notion of a mean (a single number representing the "center" of the distribution) for a can be extended to a

$$
\text { Midpoint }=\text { Mean Vector }=\text { means of the marginal distributions }
$$

This defines the "centroid" or "center of gravity" of the distribution:


## Joint Random Variables: Covariance

Recall: The Variance of $X$ is defined $b y$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
\operatorname{Var}(X) & =E\left[\left(X-\mu_{X}\right)^{2}\right]=E\left[\left(X-\mu_{X}\right) *\left(X-\mu_{X}\right)\right] \\
& =E\left(X^{2}\right)-\mu_{X}^{2} \quad=E(X * X)-\mu_{X} * \mu_{X}
\end{aligned}
$$

The Covariance of two JRVs X and Y is defined as follows:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\operatorname{Cov}(X, Y) & =E\left[\left(X-\mu_{X}\right) *\left(Y-\mu_{Y}\right)\right] \\
& =E(X * Y)-\mu_{X} * \mu_{Y}
\end{aligned}
$$

The Covariance of two JRVs X and Y has the same defects as the variance of a single RV:

- The units are the product of the units of X and Y : if $\mathrm{X}=$ height and $\mathrm{Y}=$ weight, then the units might be foot-pounds!
- The scale is hard to work with: What does a covariance of 123.445 foot-pounds mean?


## JRVs: Covariance and Correlation Coefficient

Therefore we standardize the covariance so it is unit-less and in the interval [-1 .. 1].
The Correlation Coefficient of X and Y is defined as:
$\rho_{X, Y}=\frac{\operatorname{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_{X} * \sigma_{Y}}=\frac{E\left[\left(X-\mu_{X}\right) *\left(Y-\mu_{Y}\right)\right.}{\sigma_{X} * \sigma_{Y}}=E\left[\frac{X-\mu_{X}}{\sigma_{X}} * \frac{Y-\mu_{Y}}{\sigma_{X}}\right]=E\left[Z_{X} * Z_{Y}\right]$
where $Z_{X}$ and $Z_{Y}$ are the standardized forms of $X$ and $Y$.
To compute, it is best to use:

$$
\rho_{X, Y}=\frac{E(X * Y)-\mu_{X} * \mu_{Y}}{\sigma_{X} * \sigma_{Y}}
$$

## Joint Random Variables: Correlation Coefficient

Motivation for the Correlation Coefficient $\quad \rho_{X, Y}=\frac{\operatorname{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_{X} * \sigma_{Y}}=E\left[Z_{X} * Z_{Y}\right]$
Example: Two Sine Waves in Phase (Perfectly Correlated)


## Joint Random Variables: Correlation Coefficient

Motivation for the Correlation Coefficient $\quad \rho_{X, Y}=\frac{\operatorname{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_{X} * \sigma_{Y}}=E\left[Z_{X} * Z_{Y}\right]$
Example: Two Sine Waves $180^{\circ}$ out of Phase (Perfectly Anti-Correlated)


## Joint Random Variables: Correlation Coefficient

Motivation for the Correlation Coefficient $\quad \rho_{X, Y}=\frac{\operatorname{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_{X} * \sigma_{Y}}=E\left[Z_{X} * Z_{Y}\right]$
Example: Two Random Sine Waves (No Correlation)

$$
Z_{X}
$$


$Z_{Y}$


Product of Sine Waves A and B in Random Phase
$Z_{X} * Z_{Y}$


$$
E\left[Z_{X} * Z_{Y}\right]=0
$$

## JRVs: Covariance and Correlation Coefficient

The range of the Correlation Coefficient of X and Y is from -1 to 1 :

$$
\rho_{X, Y}=\frac{E(X * Y)-\mu_{X} * \mu_{Y}}{\sigma_{X} * \sigma_{Y}}
$$



## Joint Random Variables

Example 1: Toss 2 coins; $\mathrm{X}=$ \# heads on first, $\mathrm{Y}=$ \# heads on second


$$
\begin{aligned}
& E(X * Y)=0 * 0.25+1 * 0.25+0 * 0.25+0 * 0.25=0.25 \\
& \rho_{X, Y}=\frac{\operatorname{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_{X} * \sigma_{Y}}=\frac{E(X * Y)-\mu_{X} * \mu_{Y}}{\sigma_{X} * \sigma_{Y}}=\frac{0.25-0.5 * 0.5}{0.5 * 0.5}=0.0
\end{aligned}
$$

## Joint Random Variables

Calculating the Covariance and Correlation Coefficient is best done with either a spreadsheet or Python:

Example: Toss 1 coin; $\mathrm{X}=$ \# heads, $\mathrm{Y}=$ \# heads


## Joint Random Variables

Calculating the Covariance and Correlation Coefficient is best done with either a spreadsheet or Python:

Example: Toss 2 coins; $\mathrm{X}=$ \# heads on first coin, $\mathrm{Y}=$ total \# of heads

$$
\begin{array}{cc}
\operatorname{cov}(X, Y): & 0.25 \\
\rho(X, Y): & 0.707
\end{array}
$$

$\left(x_{i}-m u_{x}\right) *\left(y_{j}-m u_{y}\right){ }^{*} p\left(x_{x_{i}} y_{j}\right):$

| 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.1250 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0.1250 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |


|  | 0 | 1 | 2 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 0 | 0.0 | 1 | 0.25 |
| 0 | 0 | 2.25 | 0.25 |  |
| 0 | 0.25 | 0 | 0.0 |  |

$$
\rho_{X, Y}=\frac{\operatorname{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_{X} * \sigma_{Y}}=\frac{E(X * Y)-\mu_{X} * \mu_{Y}}{\sigma_{X} * \sigma_{Y}}=\frac{0.75-0.5 * 1.0}{0.5 * 0.707}=\frac{0.25}{0.354}=0.707
$$

## Joint Random Variables

Calculating the Covariance and Correlation Coefficient is best done with either a spreadsheet or Python:

Example: Toss 2 coins; $\mathrm{X}=$ \# heads on first coin, $\mathrm{Y}=$ total \# of heads

H H => $(1,2)$


H T => $(1,1)$
. 0.50
0.35 : $00_{x}^{*} 0_{0}$

TH => $(0,1)$
T T => $(0,0)$
$X=[1,1,0,0]$
$\mathrm{Y}=[2,1,1,0]$

