

## LECTURE 10: Conditioning on a random variable; Independence; Bayes' rule

- Conditioning  $X$  on  $Y$ 
  - Total probability theorem
  - Total expectation theorem
- Independence
  - independent normals
- A comprehensive example
- Four variants of the Bayes rule

## Conditional PDFs, given another r.v.

$$p_{X|Y}(x | y) = \mathbf{P}(X = x | Y = y) = \frac{p_{X,Y}(x, y)}{p_Y(y)}, \quad \text{if } p_Y(y) > 0$$

$p_{X,Y}(x, y)$	$f_{X,Y}(x, y)$
$p_{X A}(x)$	$f_{X A}(x)$
$p_{X Y}(x   y)$	$f_{X Y}(x   y)$

**Definition:**  $f_{X|Y}(x | y) = \frac{f_{X,Y}(x, y)}{f_Y(y)}$  if  $f_Y(y) > 0$

$$\mathbf{P}(x \leq X \leq x + \delta | A) \approx f_{X|A}(x) \cdot \delta, \quad \text{where } \mathbf{P}(A) > 0$$

$$\mathbf{P}(x \leq X \leq x + \delta | y \leq Y \leq y + \epsilon)$$

Definition:  $\mathbf{P}(X \in A | Y = y) = \int_A f_{X|Y}(x | y) dx$

## Comments on conditional PDFs

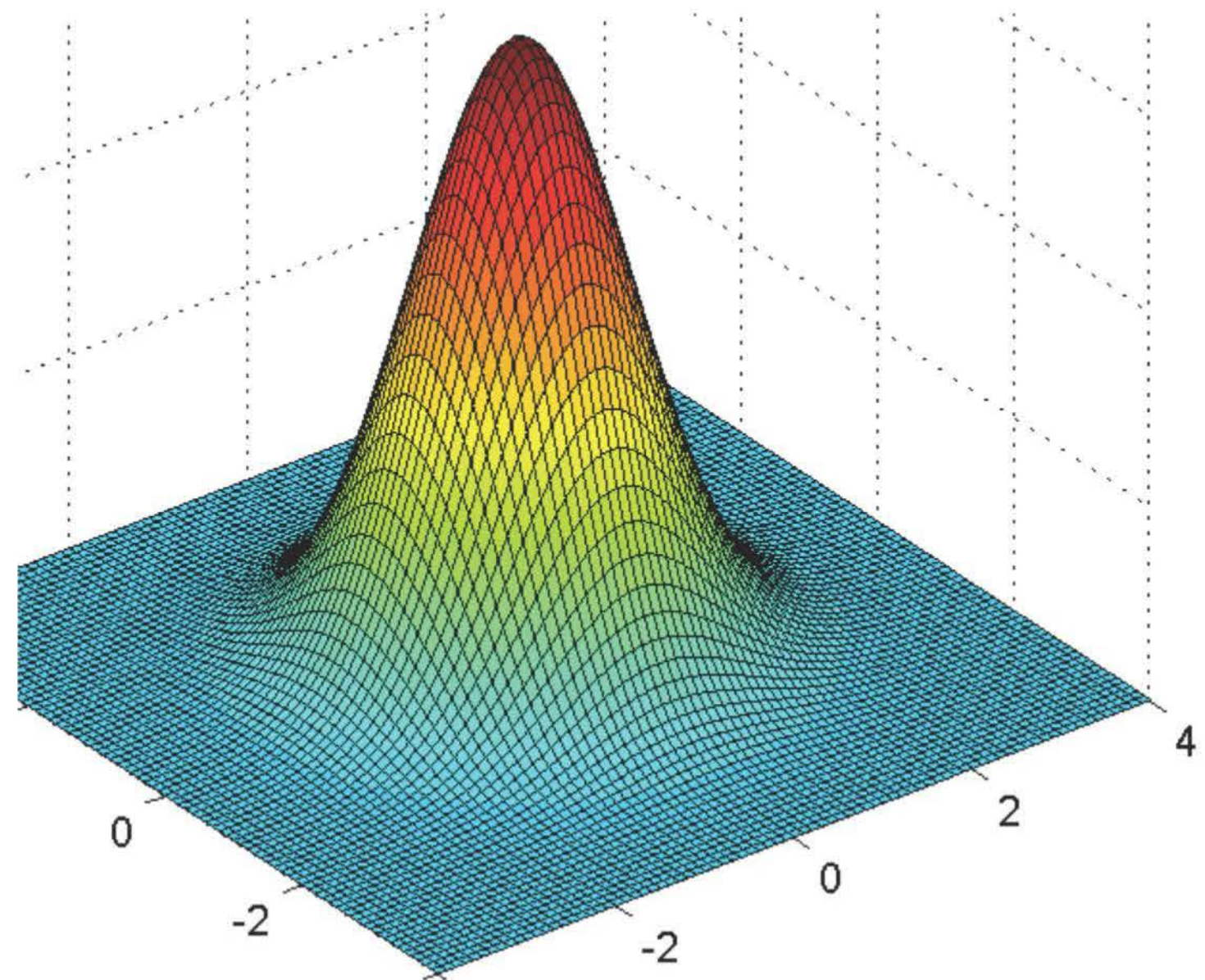
$$f_{X|Y}(x | y) = \frac{f_{X,Y}(x, y)}{f_Y(y)} \quad \bullet \quad f_{X|Y}(x | y) \geq 0$$

- Think of value of  $Y$  as fixed at some  $y$   
shape of  $f_{X|Y}(\cdot | y)$ : slice of the joint

$$\bullet \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X|Y}(x | y) dx = \frac{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, y) dx}{f_Y(y)} = 1$$

- Multiplication rule:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{X,Y}(x, y) &= f_Y(y) \cdot f_{X|Y}(x | y) \\ &= f_X(x) \cdot f_{Y|X}(y | x) \end{aligned}$$





## Total probability and expectation theorems

$$p_X(x) = \sum_y p_Y(y) p_{X|Y}(x|y)$$

$$f_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_Y(y) f_{X|Y}(x|y) dy$$

$$\mathbf{E}[X | Y = y] = \sum_x x p_{X|Y}(x|y)$$

$$\mathbf{E}[X | Y = y] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_{X|Y}(x|y) dx$$

$$\mathbf{E}[X] = \sum_y p_Y(y) \mathbf{E}[X | Y = y]$$

$$\mathbf{E}[X] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_Y(y) \mathbf{E}[X | Y = y] dy$$

- Expected value rule...

## Independence

$$p_{X,Y}(x,y) = p_X(x) p_Y(y), \quad \text{for all } x, y$$

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = f_X(x) f_Y(y), \quad \text{for all } x \text{ and } y$$

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = f_{X|Y}(x|y) f_Y(y)$$

- equivalent to:  $f_{X|Y}(x|y) = f_X(x)$ , for all  $y$  with  $f_Y(y) > 0$  and all  $x$

If  $X, Y$  are **independent**:  $\mathbf{E}[XY] = \mathbf{E}[X]\mathbf{E}[Y]$

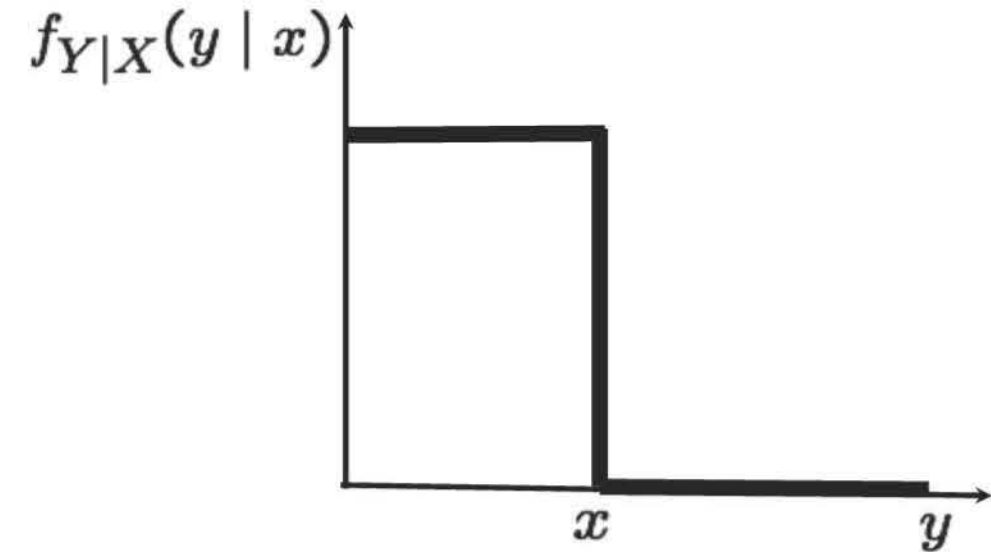
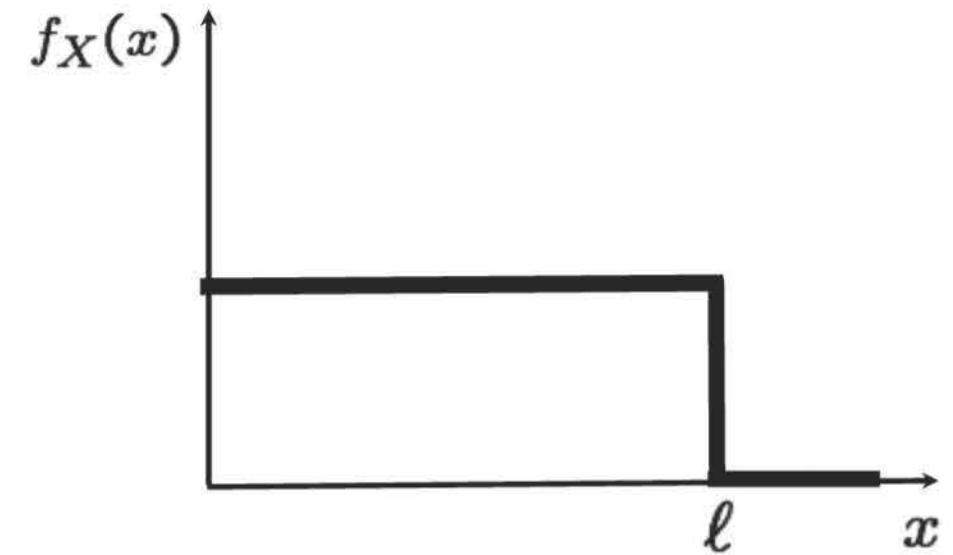
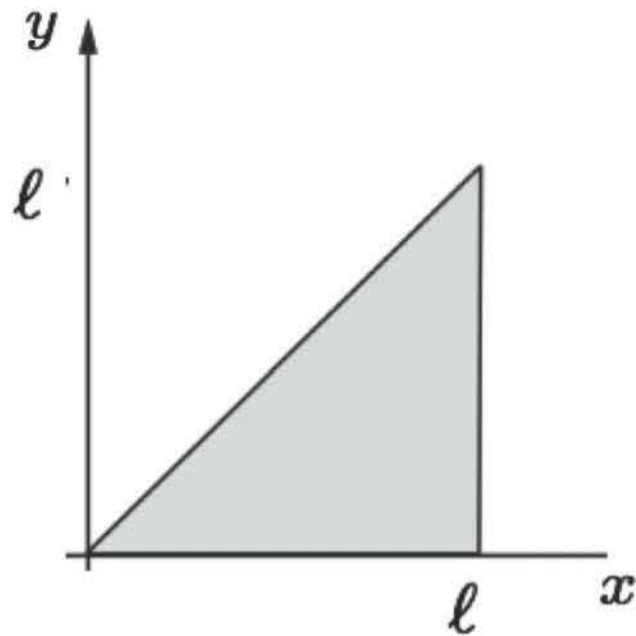
$$\mathbf{var}(X + Y) = \mathbf{var}(X) + \mathbf{var}(Y)$$

$g(X)$  and  $h(Y)$  are also independent:  $\mathbf{E}[g(X)h(Y)] = \mathbf{E}[g(X)] \cdot \mathbf{E}[h(Y)]$

## Stick-breaking example

- Break a stick of length  $\ell$  twice
  - first break at  $X$ : uniform in  $[0, \ell]$
  - second break at  $Y$ : uniform in  $[0, X]$

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = f_X(x)f_{Y|X}(y|x) =$$



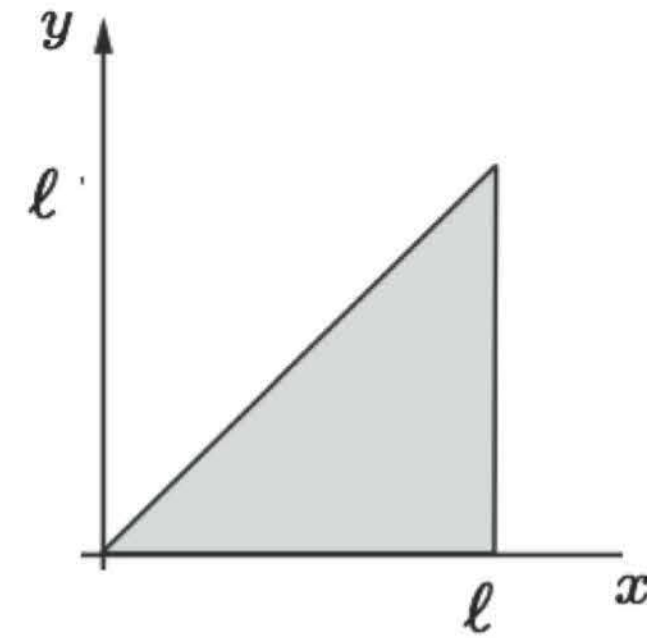
## Stick-breaking example

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = \frac{1}{lx}, \quad 0 \leq y \leq x \leq l$$

$$f_Y(y) =$$

$$\mathbf{E}[Y] =$$

- Using total expectation theorem:

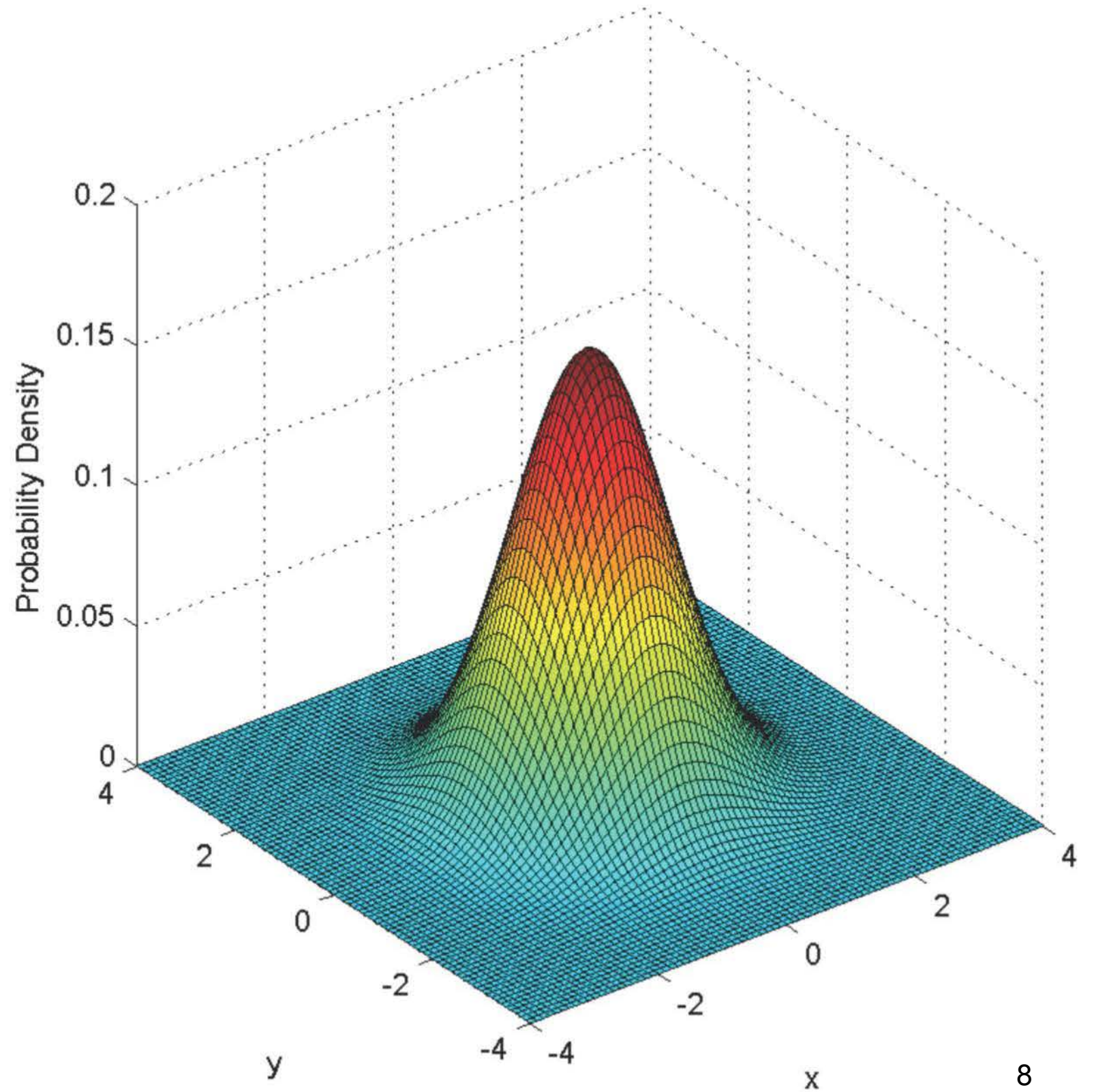




## Independent standard normals

$$\begin{aligned} f_{X,Y}(x,y) &= f_X(x)f_Y(y) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left\{-\frac{x^2}{2}\right\} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left\{-\frac{y^2}{2}\right\} \end{aligned}$$

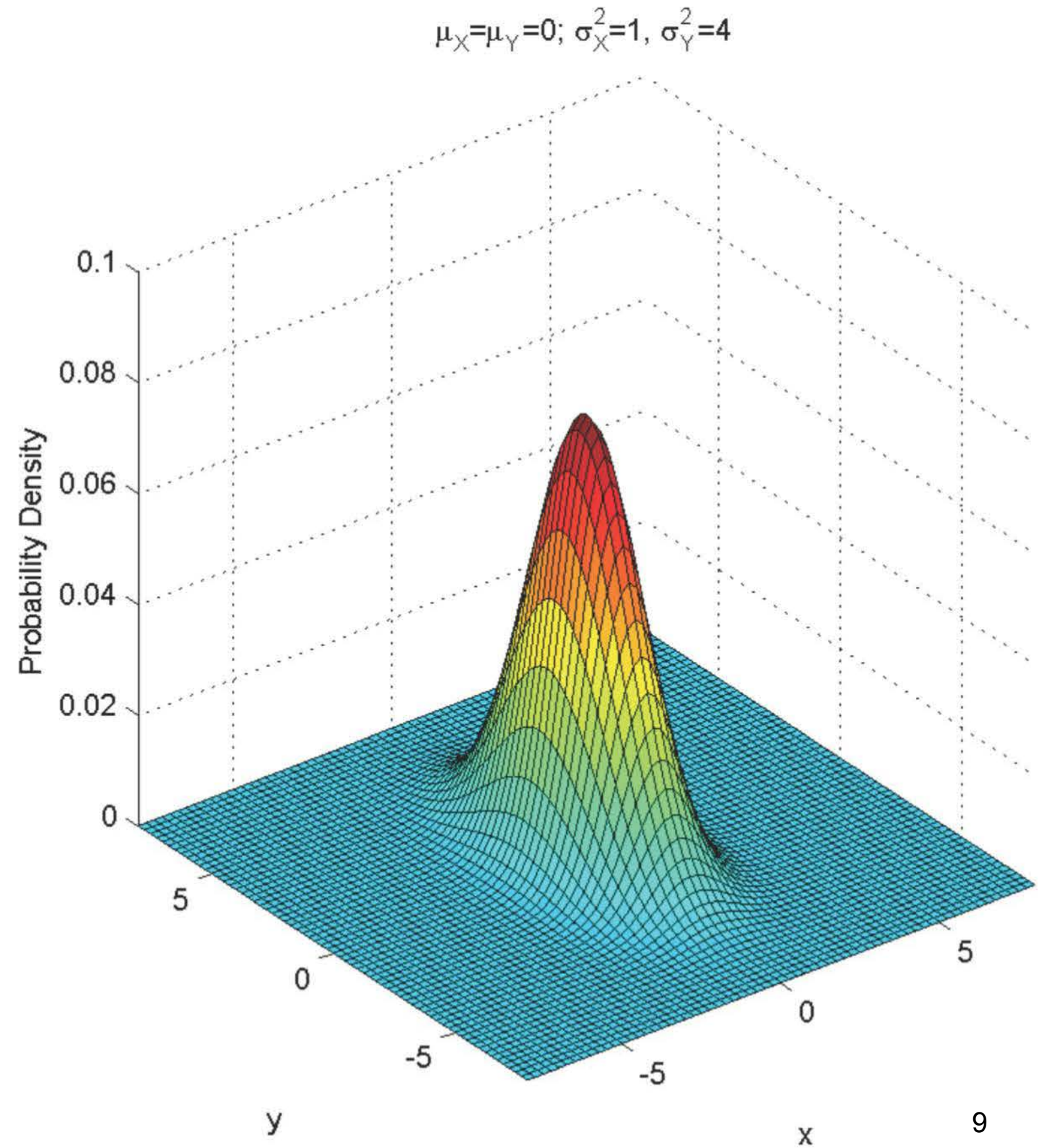
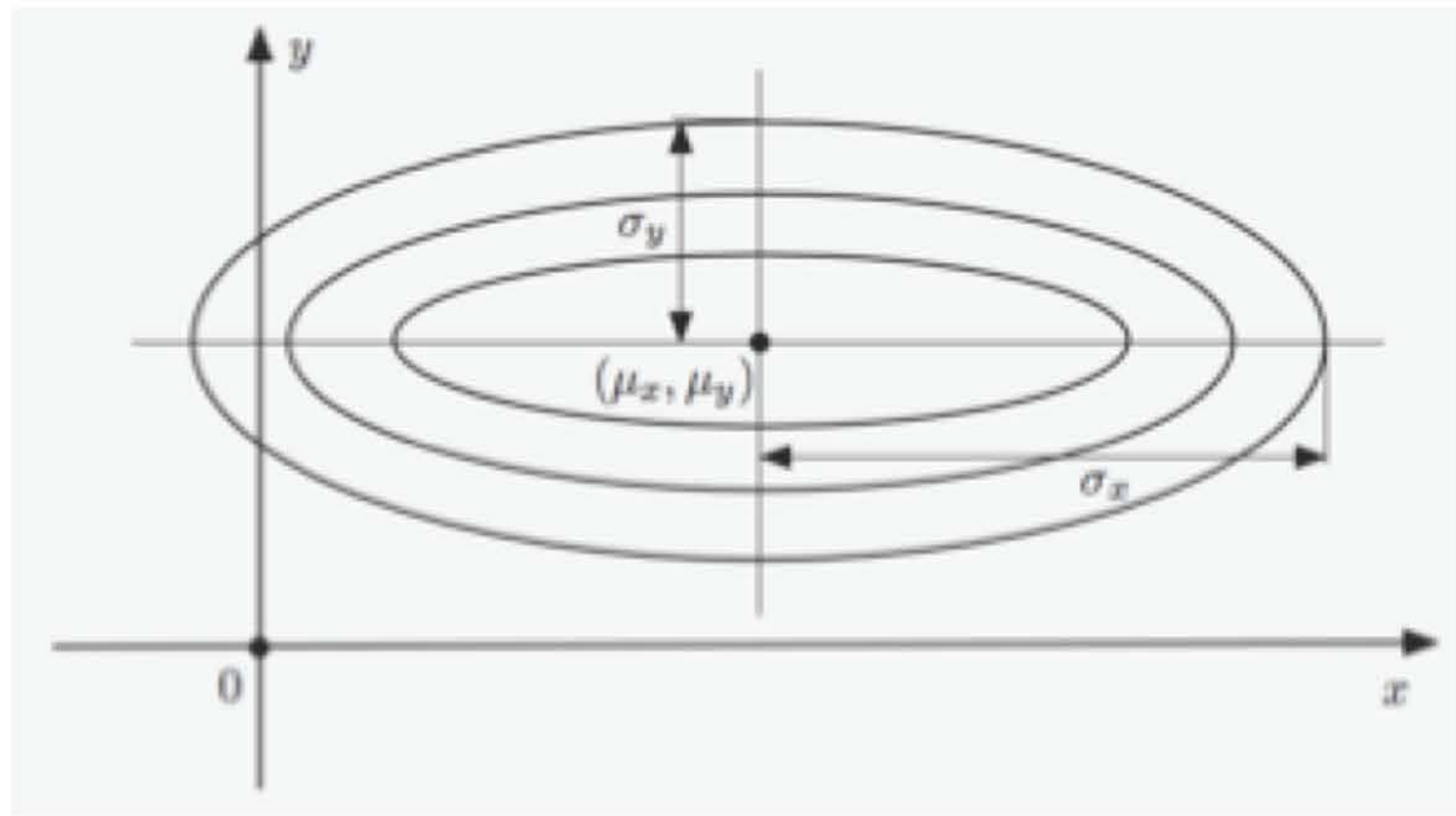
$$\mu_X = \mu_Y = 0; \sigma_X^2 = \sigma_Y^2 = 1$$



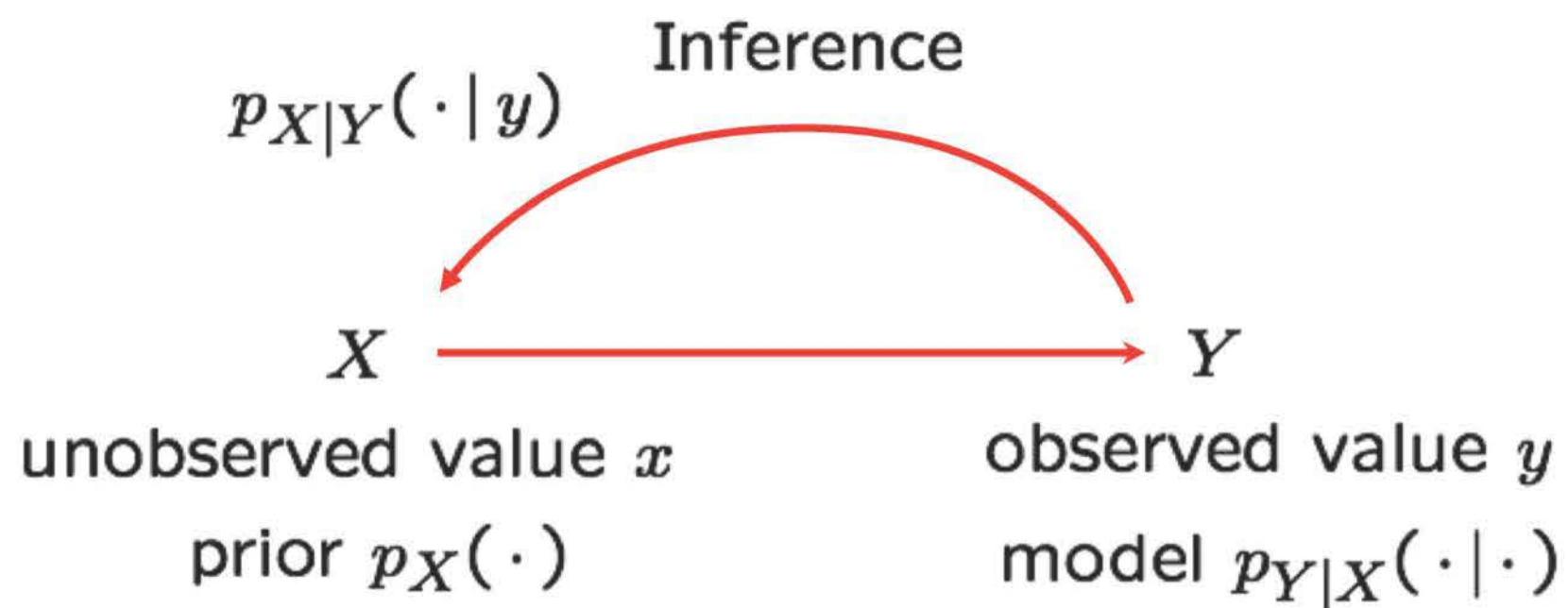


## Independent normals

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = f_X(x)f_Y(y)$$
$$= \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_x\sigma_y} \exp\left\{-\frac{(x-\mu_x)^2}{2\sigma_x^2} - \frac{(y-\mu_y)^2}{2\sigma_y^2}\right\}$$



## The Bayes rule — a theme with variations



$$\begin{aligned} p_{X,Y}(x,y) &= p_X(x) p_{Y|X}(y|x) \\ &= p_Y(y) p_{X|Y}(x|y) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_{X,Y}(x,y) &= f_X(x) f_{Y|X}(y|x) \\ &= f_Y(y) f_{X|Y}(x|y) \end{aligned}$$

$$p_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{p_X(x) p_{Y|X}(y|x)}{p_Y(y)}$$

$$f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{f_X(x) f_{Y|X}(y|x)}{f_Y(y)}$$

$$p_Y(y) = \sum_{x'} p_X(x') p_{Y|X}(y|x')$$

$$f_Y(y) = \int f_X(x') f_{Y|X}(y|x') dx'$$

## The Bayes rule — one discrete and one continuous random variable

$K$ : discrete

$Y$ : continuous

$$p_{K|Y}(k|y) = \frac{p_K(k) f_{Y|K}(y|k)}{f_Y(y)}$$

$$f_Y(y) = \sum_{k'} p_K(k') f_{Y|K}(y|k')$$

$$f_{Y|K}(y|k) = \frac{f_Y(y) p_{K|Y}(k|y)}{p_K(k)}$$

$$p_K(k) = \int f_Y(y') p_{K|Y}(k|y') dy'$$



## The Bayes rule — discrete unknown, continuous measurement

- unknown  $K$ : equally likely to be  $-1$  or  $+1$
- measurement  $Y$ :  $Y = K + W$ ;  $W \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$
  
- Probability that  $K = 1$ , given that  $Y = y$ ?

$$p_K(k) = \quad f_{Y|K}(y | k) =$$

$$f_Y(y) =$$

$$p_{K|Y}(1 | y) =$$

$$p_{K|Y}(k | y) = \frac{p_K(k) f_{Y|K}(y | k)}{f_Y(y)}$$

$$f_Y(y) = \sum_{k'} p_K(k') f_{Y|K}(y | k')$$

## The Bayes rule — continuous unknown, discrete measurement

- measurement  $K$ : Bernoulli with parameter  $Y$

$$f_{Y|K}(y|k) = \frac{f_Y(y) p_{K|Y}(k|y)}{p_K(k)}$$

- unknown  $Y$ : uniform on  $[0, 1]$
- Distribution of  $Y$  given that  $K = 1$ ?

$$p_K(k) = \int f_Y(y') p_{K|Y}(k|y') dy'$$

$$f_Y(y) =$$

$$p_{K|Y}(1|y) =$$

$$p_K(1) =$$

$$f_{Y|K}(y|1) =$$

MIT OpenCourseWare  
<https://ocw.mit.edu>

Resource: Introduction to Probability  
John Tsitsiklis and Patrick Jaillet

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