

# Intro to Probability



Andrei Barbu

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What explains the observed data?

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Belief functions, upper and lower probabilities

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Decisions under probability are "rational".



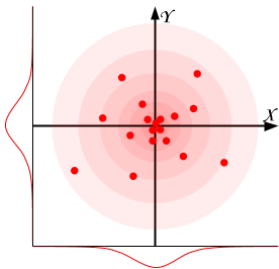
# Experiments, theory, and funding



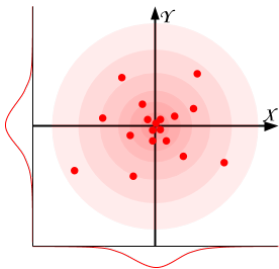
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# Data



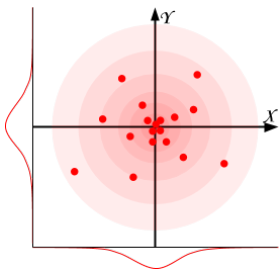
# Data



Mean

$$\mu_X = E[X] = \sum_x xp(x)$$

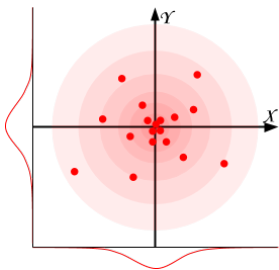
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Variance  $\sigma_X^2 = \text{var}(X) = E[(X - \mu)^2]$

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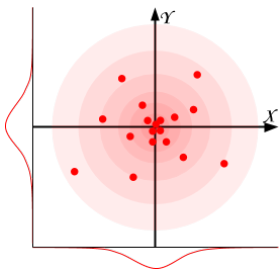


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Correlation  $\rho_{X,Y} = \frac{\text{cov}(X,Y)}{\sigma_X\sigma_Y}$

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Uncorrelated does not mean independent!

# Correlation vs independence



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$$V = N(0, 1), X = \sin(V), Y = \cos(V)$$

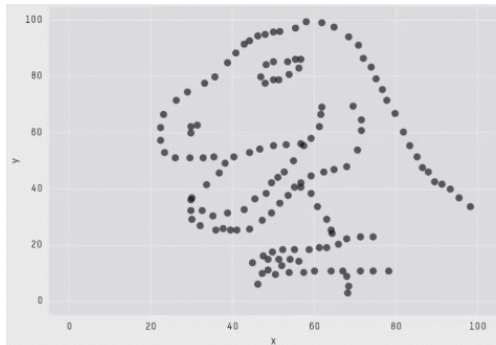
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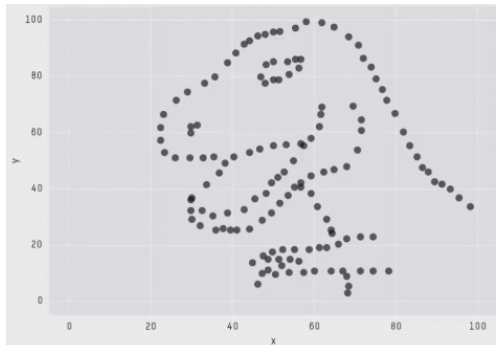
Correlation only measures linear relationships.

# Data dinosaurs



```
X Mean: 54.2659224  
Y Mean: 47.8313999  
X SD   : 16.7649829  
Y SD   : 26.9342120  
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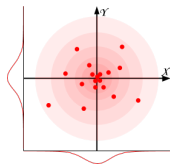


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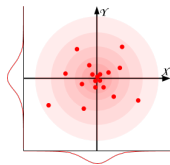
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Correlation

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Are two players the same?



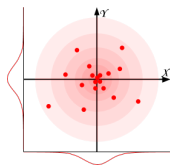
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# Data



Are two players the same?

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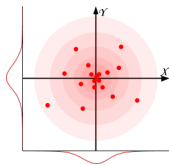
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What about two players is different?

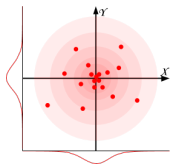
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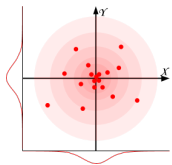
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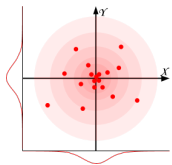
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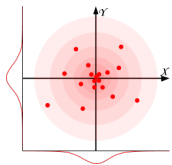
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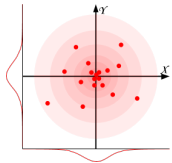
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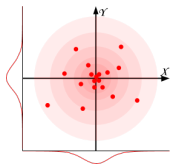
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Law of total probability  $\sum_A a = 1$  when events  $A$  are a disjoint cover

# Beating the lottery



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**Instant** **TIC TAC TOE** **\$3**  
WIN UP TO 8 TIMES  
GAGNEZ JUSQU'À 8 FOIS

**WIN UP TO \$50,000 À GAGNER**  
**VOS NUMÉROS**

Game	Prize	Winning Numbers
GAME #1	\$5	23 31 25
GAME #2	\$10	19 26 05
GAME #3	\$100	11 20 17
GAME #4	\$5	38 11 09
GAME #5	\$10	02 35 32
GAME #6	\$100	03 19 33
GAME #7	\$250	20 03 34
GAME #8	\$5	06 19 33
GAME #9	\$10	16 22 36
GAME #10	\$100	38 31 04
GAME #11	\$100	32 04 37
GAME #12	\$250	16 15 27
GAME #13	\$5	33 18 01
GAME #14	\$10	31 11 20
GAME #15	\$100	21 37 10
GAME #16	\$100	24 12 29
GAME #17	\$100	13 28 38
GAME #18	\$250	22 17 18
GAME #19	\$5	34 25 07
GAME #20	\$10	09 14 23
GAME #21	\$10	15 08 36
GAME #22	\$100	15 35 39
GAME #23	\$100	26 05 35
GAME #24	\$100	30 17 07

See back for play instructions.  
Voir les instructions de jeu au verso.

310598 43522 072471 8 34

**\$1,000**

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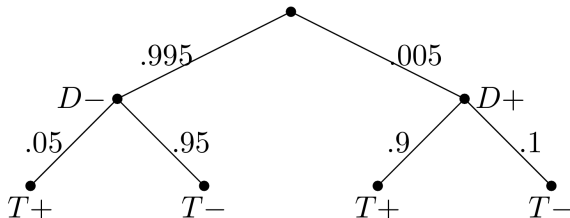
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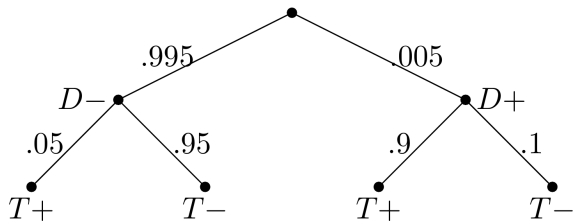
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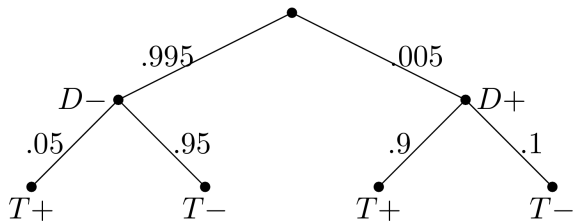
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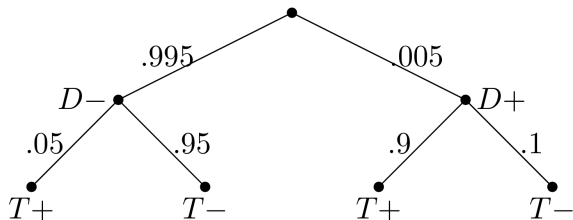


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$(D-, T+)$   $(D-, T-)$   $(D+, T+)$   $(D+, T-)$

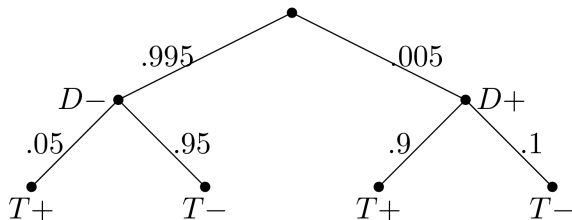
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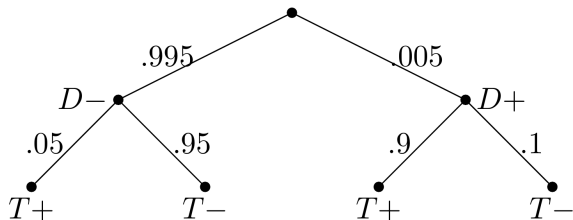


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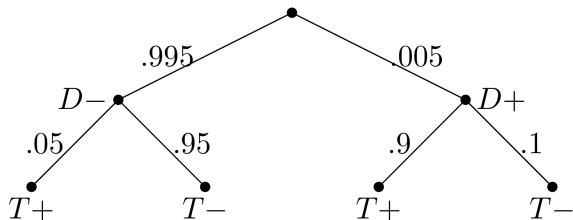


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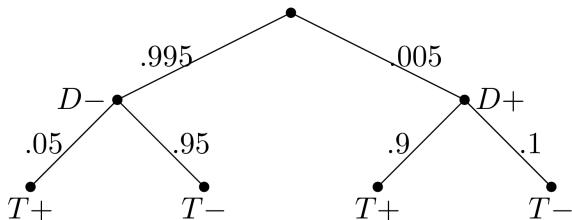


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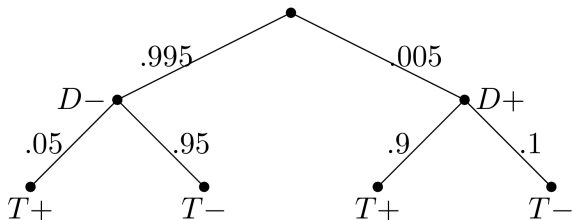


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$$\frac{D+ \cap T+}{T+} = \frac{0.9 \times 0.005}{0.9 \times 0.005 + 0.995 \times 0.05} = 8.3\% = \frac{P(T+ | D+)P(D+)}{P(T+)}$$

## Is this test useful?



$(D-, T+)$   $(D-, T-)$   $(D+, T+)$   $(D+, T-)$

What percent of the time when my test comes up true am I winner?

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$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)} \quad \text{posterior} = \frac{\text{likelihood} \times \text{prior}}{\text{probability of data}}$$



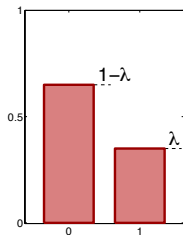
## Bernoulli Distribution

- Given a **Bernoulli experiment**, that is, a **yes/no experiment** with outcomes **0** ("failure") or **1** ("success")
- The Bernoulli distribution is a **discrete** probability distribution, which takes value 1 with success probability  $\lambda$  and value 0 with failure probability  $1 - \lambda$
- Probability mass function**

$$\left. \begin{aligned} p(x=0) &= 1 - \lambda \\ p(x=1) &= \lambda \end{aligned} \right\} p(x) = \lambda^x (1 - \lambda)^{1-x}$$

- Notation

$$\text{Bern}_x(\lambda) = \lambda^x (1 - \lambda)^{1-x}$$



### Parameters

- $\lambda$  : probability of observing a success

### Expectation

- $E[x] = \lambda$

### Variance

- $\text{Var}[x] = \lambda(1 - \lambda)$



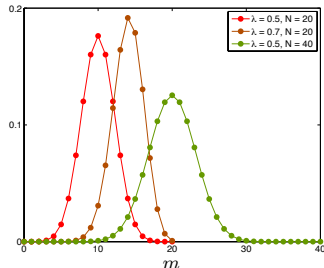
## Binomial Distribution

- Given a **sequence** of Bernoulli experiments
- The binomial distribution is the **discrete** probability distribution of the **number of successes**  $m$  in a **sequence** of  $N$  independent yes/no experiments, each of which yields success with probability  $\lambda$
- Probability mass function**

$$p(m) = \binom{N}{m} \lambda^m (1 - \lambda)^{N-m}$$

- Notation

$$\text{Bin}_m(N, \lambda) = \binom{N}{m} \lambda^m (1 - \lambda)^{N-m}$$



### Parameters

- $N$  : number of trials
- $\lambda$  : success probability

### Expectation

- $E[m] = N \lambda$

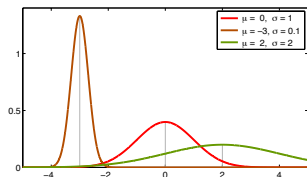
### Variance

- $\text{Var}[m] = N \lambda (1 - \lambda)$

## Gaussian Distribution

- **Most widely** used distribution for **continuous** variables
- Reasons: (i) **simplicity** (fully represented by only two moments, mean and variance) and (ii) the **central limit theorem** (CLT)
- The CLT states that, under mild conditions, the **mean** (or sum) of many independently drawn random variables is distributed approximately **normally**, irrespective of the form of the original distribution
- **Probability density function**

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$



### Parameters

- $\mu$  : mean
- $\sigma^2$  : variance

### Expectation

- $E[x] = \mu$

### Variance

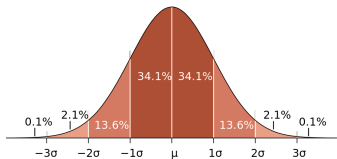
- $\text{Var}[x] = \sigma^2$

## Gaussian Distribution

- Notation

$$\mathcal{N}_x(\mu, \sigma^2) = p(x)$$

- Called **standard normal distribution** for  $\mu = 0$  and  $\sigma = 1$
- **About 68%** (~two third) of values drawn from a normal distribution are within a **range of  $\pm 1$  standard deviations** around the mean
- **About 95%** of the values lie within a **range of  $\pm 2$  standard deviations** around the mean
- Important e.g. for **hypothesis testing**



### Parameters

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- $\sigma^2$  : variance

### Expectation

- $E[x] = \mu$

### Variance

- $\text{Var}[x] = \sigma^2$

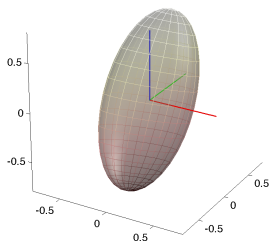
## Multivariate Gaussian Distribution

- For  $d$ -dimensional random vectors, the **multivariate Gaussian distribution** is governed by a  $d$ -dimensional **mean vector**  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  and a  $D \times D$  **covariance matrix**  $\Sigma$  that must be symmetric and positive semi-definite
- Probability density function**

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{D/2} |\Sigma|^{1/2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T \Sigma^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})\right\}$$

- Notation

$$\mathcal{N}_x(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \Sigma) = p(\mathbf{x})$$



### Parameters

- $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ : mean vector
- $\Sigma$ : covariance matrix

### Expectation

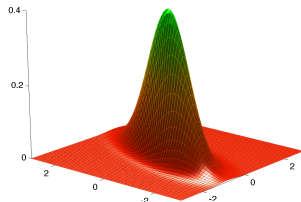
- $E[\mathbf{x}] = \boldsymbol{\mu}$

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## Multivariate Gaussian Distribution

- For  $d = 2$ , we have the **bivariate** Gaussian distribution
- The covariance matrix  $\Sigma$  (often  $C$ ) determines the **shape of the distribution** (video)



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### Expectation

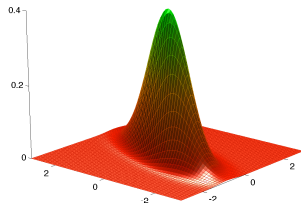
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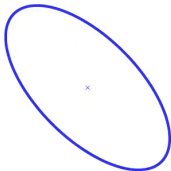


$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 0.020 & -0.012 \\ -0.012 & 0.020 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_1 = 0.008$$

$$\lambda_2 = 0.032$$

$$\rho = \sigma_{XY} / \sigma_X \sigma_Y = -0.618$$



### Parameters

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### Expectation

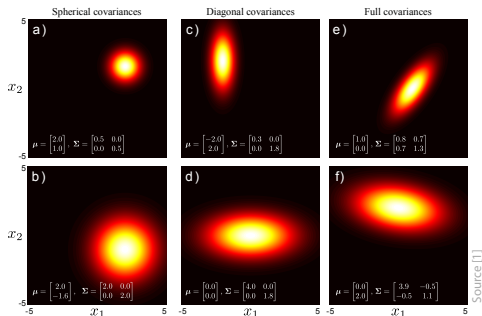
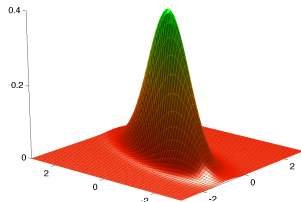
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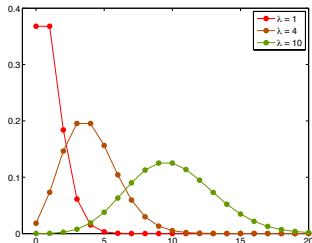
## Poisson Distribution

- Consider independent **events** that **happen with an average rate** of  $\lambda$  over time
- The Poisson distribution is a **discrete** distribution that describes the **probability** of a **given number of events** occurring in a **fixed interval of time**
- Can also be defined over other intervals such as **distance, area** or **volume**
- **Probability mass function**

$$p(x) = \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!}$$

- Notation

$$\text{Pois}_x(\lambda) = p(x)$$



### Parameters

- $\lambda$  : average rate of events over time or space

### Expectation

- $E[x] = \lambda$

### Variance

- $\text{Var}[x] = \lambda$

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$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log P(\theta|X) = 0$$

# Graphical models

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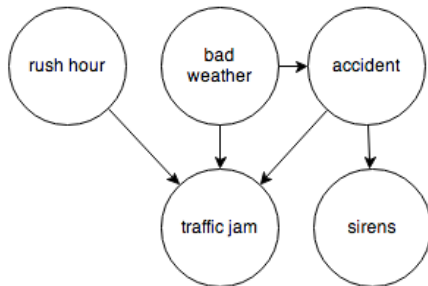
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A toolkit to discuss these at a higher level of abstraction.

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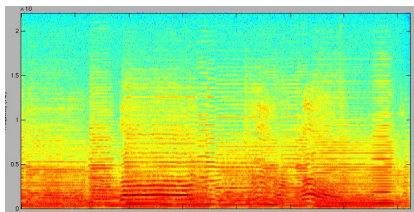
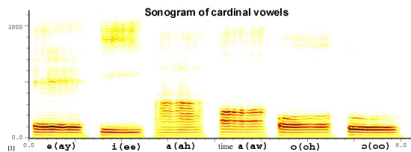
# Speech recognition: Naïve bayes

Break down a speech signal into parts.



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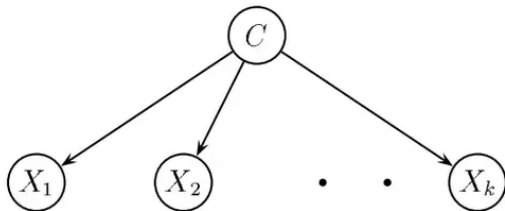
Recover the original speech

# Speech recognition: Naïve bayes

Create a set of features, each sound is composed of combinations of features.

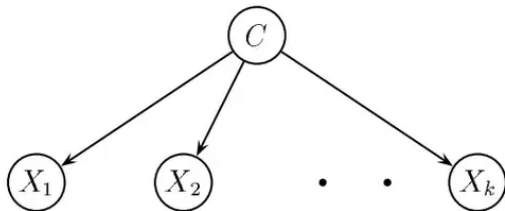
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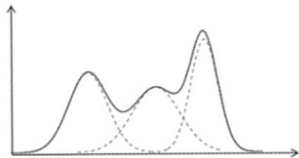
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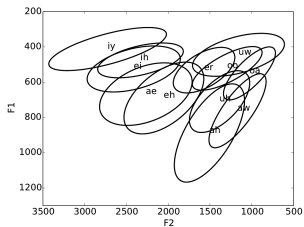
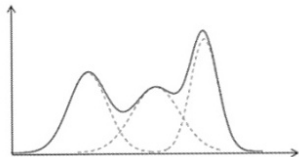


$$P(c|X) \propto \prod_K P(X_k|c)P(c)$$

# Speech recognition: Gaussian mixture model

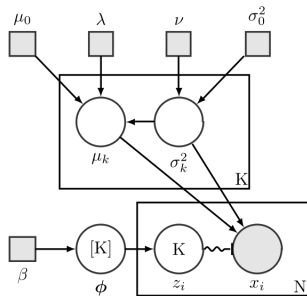
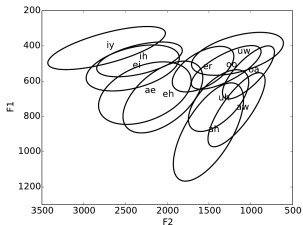
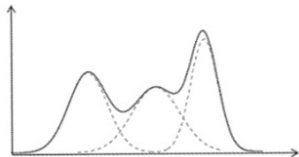


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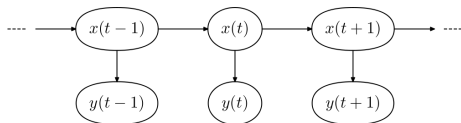




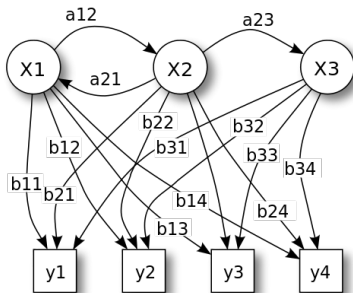
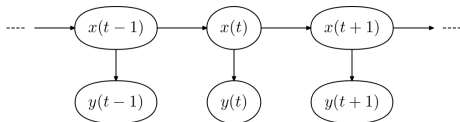
# Speech recognition: Gaussian mixture model



# Speech recognition: Hidden Markov model



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A quick tour of how we would build a more complex model