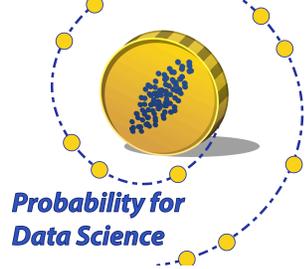


DATA 140



Spring 2026 WEEK 9 STUDY GUIDE

The Big Picture

More technique! And establishing some normal distribution results we have taken for granted without proof.

- To study the joint behavior of two random variables, we define their joint density, which is the analog of the discrete joint distribution. Probabilities and expectations are now double integrals.
- The family of *beta* densities is important for machine learning and offers a good example of how joint densities can be constructed.
- We establish some basic properties of the standard normal. We notice connections with gamma distributions. By simulation, we notice key properties of sums: sums of independent normals are normal, and sums of independent gammas (with the same rate) are gamma.
- The two most important branches of the gamma family have integer or half-integer shape parameters.

Week At a Glance

Mon 3/16	Tue 3/17	Wed 3/18	Thu 3/19	Fri 3/20
Regular OH 10AM - 3PM in Warren 101B	Lecture	Sections	Lecture	No mega sections Happy Spring Break!
Lab 6A Due Lab 6B (due Mon 3/30, the day after Spring Break)			Lab 6B party 3-5 PM in Warren 101B	
HW 8 Due HW 9 (due Mon 3/30, the day after Spring Break)				HW 8 party 2-5 PM in Evans 330
Skim Sec 17.1	Work through Sec 17.1 carefully, skim Sections 17.2-3	Work through Chapter 17	Work through Chapter 18	

Reading, Practice, and Class Meetings

Book	Topic	Lectures: Prof. A	Sections: TAs	Optional Additional Practice
Ch 17	<p>Joint Densities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 17.1-17.3 are the 2-dimensional counterparts of Ch 15 and the density version of Chapter 4. The examples in the videos aren't always the same as those in the text. - 17.4 is one of the "big name" families of densities 	<p>Tuesday 3/17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint densities - The beta family 	<p>Wednesday 3/18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ch 17 Ex 2, 4, 7 	<p>Ch 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ex 1, 9
Ch 18	<p>Normal and gamma families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 18.1 establishes the normal density, mean, and variance, and in the process discovers an important fact about sums of squares of standard normals. You <i>have</i> to know the results even if you don't follow some of the proofs. - 18.2 observes by simulation that sums of independent normals are normal, and uses this in exercises - 18.3 observes by simulation that sums of independent gammas with the same rate are gamma, and studies one major branch of the gamma family - 18.4 studies the other major branch 	<p>Thursday 3/19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fundamental properties of the standard normal - The gamma family and its relation to squares of centered normals 	<p>Friday 3/20</p> <p>No mega-sections</p>	