

STAT 3375Q: Introduction to Mathematical Statistics I

Lecture 6: Special Discrete Distributions: Bernoulli, Binomial, Geometric

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 - ▶ Variance of Discrete Random Variables
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 - ▶ Bernoulli Distribution
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Quiz 1 Solutions (Again...)

Problem 3

In a class there are four freshman boys, six freshman girls, and six sophomore boys. How many sophomore girls must be present if sex and class are to be independent when a student is selected at random?

MAJORITY OF YOUR SOLUTIONS:

	freshmen (F)	sophomores (S)	total
boys (B)	4	6	10
girls (G)	6	x	6 + x
total	10	6 + x	

- ▶ If sex and class are independent, then

$$\begin{aligned}P(B|F) &= P(B|S) \\ \frac{4}{10} &= \frac{6}{6+x} \\ \Rightarrow x &= 9.\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Skipped the first two steps: If sex and class are independent, then
 - ▶ $P(B|F) = P(B)$
 - ▶ $P(B|S) = P(B)$

Therefore, $P(B|F) = P(B|S)$. Proceed with your solution. I'll give partial points...

Previously...

Expected Value of Discrete Random Variables

- ▶ **Expected value of Y :** is a measure of central tendency

$$\mu = E(Y) = \sum_y yp(y)$$

- ▶ **Expected value of functions of Y :** Let $g(Y)$ be a real-valued function of Y .

$$E\{g(Y)\} = \sum_y g(y)p(y)$$

- ▶ **Expected value of a constant:** Let c be a constant. Then $E(c) = c$.
- ▶ **Expected value of a scaled Y :** Let $g(Y)$ be a function of Y , and c be a constant.

$$E\{cg(Y)\} = cE\{g(Y)\}$$

- ▶ **Expected value of a sum of random variables:** Let $g_1(Y), g_2(Y), \dots, g_k(Y)$ be k functions of Y .

$$E\{g_1(Y) + g_2(Y) + \dots + g_k(Y)\} = E\{g_1(Y)\} + E\{g_2(Y)\} + \dots + E\{g_k(Y)\}$$

Variance of Discrete Random Variables

- ▶ **Variance of Y :** is a measure of the dispersion or scatter of the values of the random variable **about the mean μ** .

$$\sigma^2 = V(Y) = E\{(Y - \mu)^2\}$$

- ▶ **More useful formula to compute the variance:**

$$\sigma^2 = V(Y) = E(Y^2) - \mu^2$$

Note: The formula above can also be written as $\sigma^2 = V(Y) = E(Y^2) - \{E(Y)\}^2$.

- ▶ **Standard deviation of Y :**

$$\sigma = \sqrt{V(Y)}$$

Variance of Discrete Random Variables

- ▶ **Variance of a scaled random variable:** Let c be a constant. Then $V(cY) = c^2V(Y)$.

Note: Unlike the expected value, variance is not a linear function.

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}V(cY) &= E\{(cY)^2\} - \{E(cY)\}^2 && \text{defn of variance: } V(Y) = E(Y^2) - \{E(Y)\}^2 \\&= E(c^2Y^2) - \{cE(Y)\}^2 && \text{expected value of scaled random variables} \\&= c^2E(Y^2) - c^2\{E(Y)\}^2 && \text{expected value of scaled random variables} \\&= c^2[E(Y^2) - \{E(Y)\}^2] && \text{factor out } c^2 \\&= c^2V(Y). && \text{defn of variance}\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ **Variance of a constant:** Let c be a constant. Then $V(c) = 0$.

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}V(c) &= E(c^2) - \{E(c)\}^2 && \text{defn of variance} \\&= c^2 - (c)^2 && \text{expected value of a constant is itself} \\&= 0.\end{aligned}$$

Variance of Discrete Random Variables

- **Variance of $Y = aX + b$:** Let X be a random variable and a and b be constants. Then $V(Y) = a^2 V(X)$.

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} V(Y) &= E\{(aX + b)^2\} - \{E(aX + b)\}^2 && \text{defn of variance: } V(Y) = E(Y^2) - \{E(Y)\}^2 \\ &= E\{(aX + b)^2\} - \{aE(X) + E(b)\}^2 && \text{expected value of functions and scaled random variables} \\ &= E\{(aX + b)^2\} - \{aE(X) + b\}^2 && \text{expected value of constant is itself} \\ &= E\{(aX + b)^2\} - [a^2\{E(X)\}^2 + 2abE(X) + b^2] && \text{squaring} \\ &= E\{(aX + b)^2\} - a^2\{E(X)\}^2 - 2abE(X) - b^2 && \text{distribute neg. sign} \\ &= E(a^2X^2 + 2abX + b^2) - a^2\{E(X)\}^2 - 2abE(X) - b^2 && \text{squaring} \\ &= a^2E(X^2) + 2abE(X) + b^2 - a^2\{E(X)\}^2 - 2abE(X) - b^2 && \text{expected value of functions and scaled random variables} \\ &= a^2E(X^2) - a^2\{E(X)\}^2 && \text{cancel out terms} \\ &= a^2[E(X^2) - \{E(X)\}^2] && \text{factor out } a^2 \\ &= a^2V(X). && \text{defn of variance} \end{aligned}$$

The Probability Mass Function

The Probability Mass Function

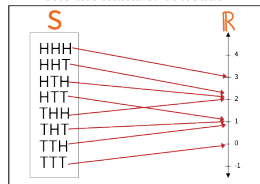
Recall in Lecture 4...

Definition 3.3

The probability distribution for a discrete variable Y can be represented by a formula, a table, or a graph that provides $p(y) = P(Y = y)$ for all y .

▶ Example:

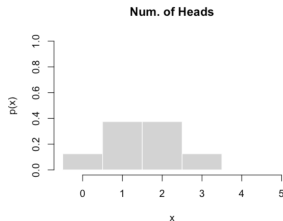
X is the number of heads



▶ Table of the probability distribution:

x	$p(x)$
0	$1/8$
1	$3/8$
2	$3/8$
3	$1/8$

▶ Histogram of the probability distribution:



We have not yet discussed how to represent the probability distribution of Y by a formula.

The Probability Mass Function

- ▶ A discrete probability distribution can be represented by a formula, commonly termed as **probability mass function (pmf)**.
- ▶ A pmf is a function that gives the probability of a discrete random variable Y being exactly equal to some value, y .
- ▶ The pmf depends on certain **constants** which are more commonly called **parameters**.
- ▶ The parameters **dictate** the **shape** and **location** of the graph of the probability distribution on the real line (histogram).
- ▶ The pmf will be an important concept in the discussion of **special** discrete distributions later...

The Probability Mass Function

Recall in Lecture 4...

A basketball player takes 4 independent free throws with a probability of 0.7 of getting a basket on each shot. Let Y = the number of baskets he gets. Write out the full probability distribution for Y .

Answer:

y	$p(y)$
0	$C_0^4(1 - 0.7)(1 - 0.7)(1 - 0.7)(1 - 0.7) = 0.0081$
1	$C_1^4(0.7)(1 - 0.7)(1 - 0.7)(1 - 0.7) = 0.0756$
2	$C_2^4(0.7)(0.7)(1 - 0.7)(1 - 0.7) = 0.2646$
3	$C_3^4(0.7)(0.7)(0.7)(1 - 0.7) = 0.4116$
4	$C_4^4(0.7)(0.7)(0.7)(0.7) = 0.2401$

We can summarize the probabilities above using the formula or pmf:

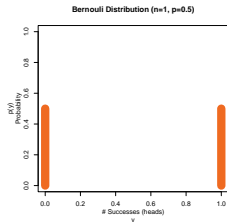
$$p(y) = C_y^4 p^y (1 - p)^{4-y},$$

where $y = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ and $p = 0.7$.

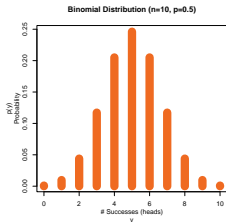
Special Discrete Distributions

Motivation

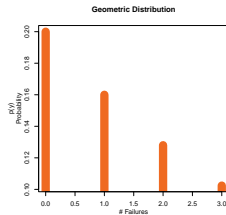
Depending on what the random variable represents, its probability distribution can be classified into one of these distributions...



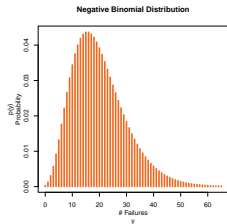
success or failure?



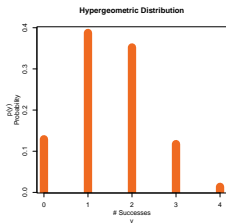
num of successes in n attempts?



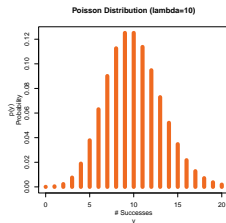
num of failures before first success?



num of failures before r successes?



num of successes in n attempts (w/o replacement)?



num of times an event occurs in a specified time interval?

Bernoulli Distribution

Definition: Bernoulli Distribution

A random variable Y is said to have a *Bernoulli distribution* with success probability p if and only if

$$p(y) = p^y(1 - p)^{1-y},$$

where $y = 0, 1$ and $0 \leq p \leq 1$.

- ▶ the probability distribution of a random variable taking on only two values, 0 (“failure”) with probability $1 - p$ and 1 (“success”) with probability p
- ▶ Appropriate for describing events having exactly **two (binary) outcomes**
Examples: a team will win a championship or not, a student will pass or fail an exam, and a rolled dice will either show a 6 or any other number.
- ▶ We call $p(y) = p^y(1 - p)^{1-y}$ as the **pmf** of a Bernoulli random variable.
- ▶ Notation: $Y \sim \text{Bern}(p)$, read as: “ Y is a Bernoulli random variable with probability p .”

Bernoulli Distribution

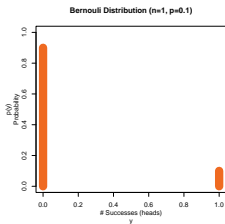
- ▶ The expected value of a Bernoulli random variable Y is:

$$E(Y) = 0(1 - p) + 1(p) = p.$$

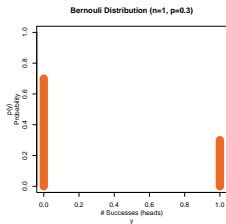
- ▶ The variance of a Bernoulli random variable Y is:

$$V(Y) = E(Y^2) - \{E(Y)\}^2 = 0^2(1 - p) + 1^2p - p^2 = p(1 - p).$$

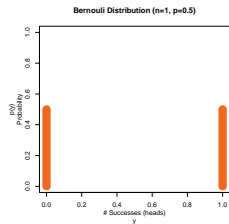
Bernoulli Distribution



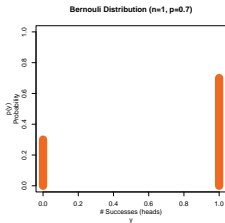
$$E(Y) = p = 0.1, V(Y) = 0.09$$



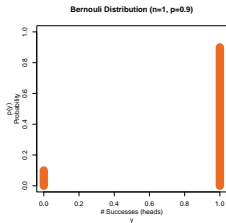
$$E(Y) = p = 0.3, V(Y) = 0.21$$



$$E(Y) = p = 0.5, V(Y) = 0.25$$



$$E(Y) = p = 0.7, V(Y) = 0.21$$



$$E(Y) = p = 0.9, V(Y) = 0.09$$

Bernoulli Distribution

Example:

The standard deviation of a Bernoulli random variable Y is $\frac{2}{5}$.

- a Calculate the variance of Y .
- b Calculate the expected value of Y .

Solution:

- a $V(Y) = \left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^2 = \frac{4}{25}$.
- b The expected value of a Bernoulli random variable Y is $E(Y) = p$. This means we need to solve for p . To solve for p , we can use the variance above. Also, recall that the variance of a Bernoulli random variable Y is $V(Y) = p(1 - p)$. Thus,
$$V(Y) = p(1 - p) = \frac{4}{25}$$
$$\Rightarrow p - p^2 = \frac{4}{25}$$
$$\Rightarrow p^2 - p + \frac{4}{25} = 0$$
$$\Rightarrow \left(p - \frac{1}{5}\right) \left(p - \frac{4}{5}\right) = 0$$
$$\Rightarrow p = \frac{1}{5} \text{ or } p = \frac{4}{5}$$
$$\Rightarrow E(Y) = \frac{1}{5} \text{ or } E(Y) = \frac{4}{5}.$$

Binomial Distribution

Definition 3.7: Binomial Distribution

A random variable Y is said to have a *binomial distribution* based on n trials with success probability p if and only if

$$p(y) = \binom{n}{y} p^y (1-p)^{n-y},$$

where $\binom{n}{y} = \frac{n!}{y!(n-y)!}$, $y = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$ and $0 \leq p \leq 1$.

- ▶ the probability distribution of a random variable **counting the number of successes in n independent trials**, such that the **probability of success** at each trial is p
- ▶ We call $p(y) = \binom{n}{y} p^y (1-p)^{n-y}$ as the **pmf** of a binomial random variable.
- ▶ Notation: $Y \sim B(n, p)$, read as: “ Y is a binomial random variable with n trials and probability of success p .”
- ▶ The **Bernoulli** distribution is a special case of the binomial distribution wherein $n = 1$.

Binomial Distribution

Theorem 3.7

Let Y be a binomial random variable based on n trials and success probability p . Then

$$\mu = E(Y) = np \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma^2 = V(Y) = np(1 - p).$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} E(Y) &= \sum_y y p(y) \quad \text{defn of expected value} \\ &= \sum_{y=0}^n y \binom{n}{y} p^y (1-p)^{n-y} \quad \text{pmf of binomial distribution} \\ &= \sum_{y=1}^n y \frac{n!}{y!(n-y)!} p^y (1-p)^{n-y} \\ &\quad \text{start index at } y = 1 \text{ since } y = 0 \text{ does not contribute to the summation} \\ &\quad \text{(continued next slide...)} \end{aligned}$$

Binomial Distribution

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} E(Y) &= \sum_{y=1}^n y \frac{n!}{y!(n-y)!} p^y (1-p)^{n-y} \\ &= \sum_{y=1}^n \frac{n!}{(y-1)!(n-y)!} p^y (1-p)^{n-y} && \text{cancel out } y \text{ in num. \& denom.} \\ &= np \sum_{y=1}^n \frac{(n-1)!}{(y-1)!(n-y)!} p^{y-1} (1-p)^{n-y} && \text{factor out } np \\ &= np \sum_{z=0}^{n-1} \frac{(n-1)!}{z!(n-1-z)!} p^z (1-p)^{n-1-z} && \text{Let } z = y - 1. \\ &= np \sum_{z=0}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{z} p^z (1-p)^{n-1-z} \\ &= np \sum_z p(z) && \text{binomial pmf with } n-1 \text{ trials \& } z \text{ successes: } p(y) = \binom{n}{y} p^y (1-p)^{n-y} \\ &= np. && \text{probabilities sum to 1} \end{aligned}$$



Binomial Distribution

Proof: To compute the variance, we need to solve for $E(Y^2)$. However, the techniques we used earlier when solving for the expected value are not helpful for $E(Y^2)$ since we will get $E(Y^2) = \sum_{y=0}^n y^2 \frac{n!}{y!(n-y)!} p^y (1-p)^{n-y}$, wherein y^2 is not a factor of $y!$.

Instead, note that $E\{Y(Y-1)\} = E(Y^2 - Y) = E(Y^2) - E(Y)$.

Therefore, $E(Y^2) = E\{Y(Y-1)\} + E(Y)$.

Hence, we solve first $E\{Y(Y-1)\}$.

$$\begin{aligned} E\{Y(Y-1)\} &= \sum_y y(y-1)p(y) && \text{defn of expected value} \\ &= \sum_{y=0}^n y(y-1) \binom{n}{y} p^y (1-p)^{n-y} && \text{pmf of binomial distribution} \\ &= \sum_{y=2}^n y(y-1) \frac{n!}{y!(n-y)!} p^y (1-p)^{n-y} \end{aligned}$$

start index at $y = 2$ since $y = 0, 1$ don't contribute to the summation

(continued next slide...)

Binomial Distribution

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}E\{Y(Y-1)\} &= \sum_{y=2}^n y(y-1) \frac{n!}{y!(n-y)!} p^y (1-p)^{n-y} \\&= \sum_{y=2}^n \frac{n!}{(y-2)!(n-y)!} p^y (1-p)^{n-y} \quad \text{cancel out } y(y-1) \text{ in num. \& denom.} \\&= n(n-1)p^2 \sum_{y=2}^n \frac{(n-2)!}{(y-2)!(n-y)!} p^{y-2} (1-p)^{n-y} \quad \text{factor out } n(n-1)p^2 \\&= n(n-1)p^2 \sum_{z=0}^{n-2} \frac{(n-2)!}{z!(n-2-z)!} p^z (1-p)^{n-2-z} \quad \text{Let } z = y - 2. \\&= n(n-1)p^2 \sum_{z=0}^{n-2} \binom{n-2}{z} p^z (1-p)^{n-2-z} \\&= n(n-1)p^2 \sum_z p(z) \quad \text{binomial pmf with } n-2 \text{ trials \& } z \text{ successes:} \\&= n(n-1)p^2. \quad \text{probabilities sum to 1}\end{aligned}$$

$p(y) = \binom{n}{y} p^y (1-p)^{n-y}$

Binomial Distribution

Proof:

We have $E\{Y(Y - 1)\} = n(n - 1)p^2$.

But we need $E(Y^2)$ which is:

$$\begin{aligned} E(Y^2) &= E\{Y(Y - 1)\} + E(Y) \\ &= n(n - 1)p^2 + np. \end{aligned}$$

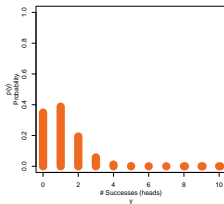
We can now solve for $V(Y)$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} V(Y) &= E(Y^2) - \{E(Y)\}^2 \\ &= n(n - 1)p^2 + np - (np)^2 \\ &= n^2 p^2 - np^2 + np - n^2 p^2 \\ &= -np^2 + np \\ &= np(-p + 1) = np(1 - p) \end{aligned}$$



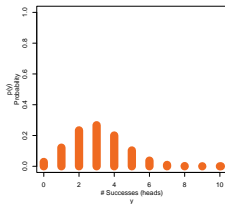
Binomial Distribution

Binomial Distribution ($n=10, p=0.1$)



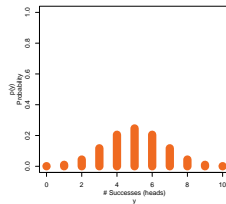
$$E(Y) = 1, V(Y) = 0.9$$

Binomial Distribution ($n=10, p=0.3$)



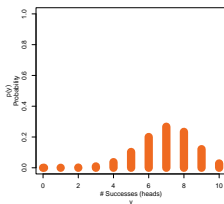
$$E(Y) = 3, V(Y) = 2.1$$

Binomial Distribution ($n=10, p=0.5$)



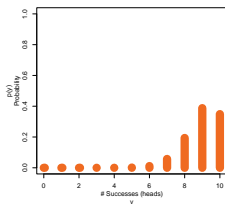
$$E(Y) = 5, V(Y) = 2.5$$

Binomial Distribution ($n=10, p=0.7$)



$$E(Y) = 7, V(Y) = 2.1$$

Binomial Distribution ($n=10, p=0.9$)



$$E(Y) = 9, V(Y) = 0.9$$

Binomial Distribution

Example 1:

The manufacturer of a low-calorie dairy drink wishes to compare the taste appeal of a new formula (formula B) with that of the standard formula (formula A). Each of four judges is given three glasses in random order, two containing formula A and the other containing formula B. Each judge is asked to state which glass he or she most enjoyed. Suppose that the two formulas are equally attractive. Let Y be the number of judges stating a preference for the new formula.

- Find the probability (mass) function for Y .
- What is the probability that at least three of the four judges state a preference for the new formula?
- Find the expected value of Y .
- Find the variance of Y .

Solution:

Note that Y is binomial with $n = 4$ and $p = 1/3 = P(\text{judge chooses formula } B)$.

a $p(y) = \binom{4}{y} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^y \left(1 - \frac{1}{3}\right)^{4-y}, y = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4.$ pmf of binom: $p(y) = \binom{n}{y} p^y (1-p)^{n-y}$

Binomial Distribution

Example 1:

The manufacturer of a low-calorie dairy drink wishes to compare the taste appeal of a new formula (formula B) with that of the standard formula (formula A). Each of four judges is given three glasses in random order, two containing formula A and the other containing formula B. Each judge is asked to state which glass he or she most enjoyed. Suppose that the two formulas are equally attractive. Let Y be the number of judges stating a preference for the new formula.

- a Find the probability (mass) function for Y .
- b What is the probability that at least three of the four judges state a preference for the new formula?
- c Find the expected value of Y .
- d Find the variance of Y .

Solution:

Note from a), the pmf of Y is $p(y) = \binom{4}{y} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^y \left(1 - \frac{1}{3}\right)^{4-y}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b } P(Y \geq 3) &= p(3) + p(4) = \binom{4}{3} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^3 \left(1 - \frac{1}{3}\right)^{4-3} + \binom{4}{4} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^4 \left(1 - \frac{1}{3}\right)^{4-4} = \\ &= \frac{8}{81} + \frac{1}{81} = \frac{9}{81} = \frac{1}{9}. \end{aligned}$$

Binomial Distribution

Example 1:

The manufacturer of a low-calorie dairy drink wishes to compare the taste appeal of a new formula (formula B) with that of the standard formula (formula A). Each of four judges is given three glasses in random order, two containing formula A and the other containing formula B. Each judge is asked to state which glass he or she most enjoyed. Suppose that the two formulas are equally attractive. Let Y be the number of judges stating a preference for the new formula.

- a Find the probability (mass) function for Y .
- b What is the probability that at least three of the four judges state a preference for the new formula?
- c Find the expected value of Y .
- d Find the variance of Y .

Solution:

Note that the expected value of a binomial r.v. is np and Y is a binomial r.v. with $n = 4$ and $p = 1/3 = P(\text{judge chooses formula B})$.

c $E(Y) = np = 4 \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)$.

Binomial Distribution

Example 1:

The manufacturer of a low-calorie dairy drink wishes to compare the taste appeal of a new formula (formula B) with that of the standard formula (formula A). Each of four judges is given three glasses in random order, two containing formula A and the other containing formula B. Each judge is asked to state which glass he or she most enjoyed. Suppose that the two formulas are equally attractive. Let Y be the number of judges stating a preference for the new formula.

- a Find the probability (mass) function for Y .
- b What is the probability that at least three of the four judges state a preference for the new formula?
- c Find the expected value of Y .
- d Find the variance of Y .

Solution:

Note that the variance of a binomial r.v. is $np(1-p)$ and Y is a binomial r.v. with $n = 4$ and $p = 1/3 = P(\text{judge chooses formula B})$.

$$\text{d } V(Y) = np(1-p) = 4 \left(\frac{1}{3}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{3}\right) = \frac{8}{9}.$$

Binomial Distribution

Example 2:

Suppose that Terry and Chris are dating. Terry's ex-boyfriend John is jealous and is snooping on Terry's text messages without Terry knowing. Because John is busy, he can only snoop each text message with a probability of 0.8, independently of the other text messages. Suppose that Terry and Chris exchanged a total of 8 text messages today. Let X be the number of those eight text messages that John read.

- Find the probability (mass) function of X and $E(X)$.
- Given that at least one text message was read by John, find the probability that John read exactly two text messages.
- Suppose that if John has read least 6 of the text messages, he can figure out Terry's plans for this weekend. Find the probability that he can figure out Terry's plans for this weekend.

Solution:

Note that X is binomial with $n = 8$ and $p = 0.8$.

- $p(x) = \binom{8}{x} (0.8)^x (1 - 0.8)^{8-x}$, $x = 0, 1, \dots, 8$, and $E(X) = np = 8(0.8) = 6.4$.
pmf of binom: $p(y) = \binom{n}{y} p^y (1 - p)^{n-y}$

Binomial Distribution

Example 2:

Suppose that Terry and Chris are dating. Terry's ex-boyfriend John is jealous and is snooping on Terry's text messages without Terry knowing. Because John is busy, he can only snoop each text message with a probability of 0.8, independently of the other text messages. Suppose that Terry and Chris exchanged a total of 8 text messages today. Let X be the number of those eight text messages that John read.

- Find the probability (mass) function of X and $E(X)$.
- Given that at least one text message was read by John, find the probability that John read exactly two text messages.
- Suppose that if John has read least 6 of the text messages, he can figure out Terry's plans for this weekend. Find the probability that he can figure out Terry's plans for this weekend.

Solution:

Note that X is binomial with $n = 8$ and $p = 0.8$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } P(X = 2 | X \geq 1) &= \frac{P(X=2, X \geq 1)}{P(X \geq 1)} = \frac{P(X=2)}{P(X \geq 1)} = \frac{P(X=2)}{1 - P(X=0)} = \frac{\binom{8}{2} (0.8)^2 (1-0.8)^{8-2}}{1 - (0.2)^8} = \\ &= \frac{28(0.64)(0.000064)}{1 - 0.0000256} = \frac{0.00114688}{0.999974} \approx 0.0011. \end{aligned}$$

Binomial Distribution

Example 2:

Suppose that Terry and Chris are dating. Terry's ex-boyfriend John is jealous and is snooping on Terry's text messages without Terry knowing. Because John is busy, he can only snoop each text message with a probability of 0.8, independently of the other text messages. Suppose that Terry and Chris exchanged a total of 8 text messages today. Let X be the number of those eight text messages that John read.

- Find the probability (mass) function of X and $E(X)$.
- Given that at least one text message was read by John, find the probability that John read exactly two text messages.
- Suppose that if John has read least 6 of the text messages, he can figure out Terry's plans for this weekend. Find the probability that he can figure out Terry's plans for this weekend.

Solution:

Note that X is binomial with $n = 8$ and $p = 0.8$.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{c} \quad P(X \geq 6) &= \sum_{x=6}^8 p(x) = \sum_{x=6}^8 \binom{8}{x} (0.8)^x (1 - 0.8)^{8-x} = \\ &28(0.26)(0.04) + 8(0.21)(0.2) + 0.167 \approx 0.79. \end{aligned}$$

Bernoulli vs. Binomial Distributions

	Bernoulli	Binomial
Usage	single trial	multiple trials
Parameters	p (success probability)	n (num. of trials), p (success probability)
Values Y can take	$y = 0, 1$	$y = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$
PMF	$p(y) = p^y(1-p)^{1-y}$	$p(y) = \binom{n}{y} p^y(1-p)^{n-y}$
Mean	p	np
Variance	$p(1-p)$	$np(1-p)$
Example	a lightbulb working or not	num. of successes in 10 lightbulb tests

Definition 3.8: Geometric Distribution

A random variable Y is said to have a *geometric distribution* if and only if

$$p(y) = (1 - p)^{y-1}p,$$

where $y = 1, 2, \dots$ and $0 \leq p \leq 1$.

- ▶ the probability distribution of a random variable **counting the number of failures** before **first success**
- ▶ We call $p(y) = (1 - p)^{y-1}p$ as the **pmf** of a geometric random variable.
- ▶ Notation: $Y \sim G(p)$, read as: “ Y is a geometric random variable with probability of success p .”

Geometric Distribution

Theorem 3.8

If Y is a random variable with a geometric distribution. Then

$$\mu = E(Y) = \frac{1}{p} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma^2 = V(Y) = \frac{1-p}{p^2}.$$

Proof:

Let $q = 1 - p$.

$$\begin{aligned} E(Y) &= \sum_y yp(y) && \text{defn of expected value} \\ &= \sum_{y=1}^{\infty} yq^{y-1}p && \text{pmf of geometric distribution} \\ &= p \sum_{y=1}^{\infty} yq^{y-1} && \text{factor out the } p \text{ that doesn't depend on } y \end{aligned}$$

(continued next slide...)

Geometric Distribution

Proof:

$$\text{Recall: } \frac{d}{dq}(q^y) = yq^{y-1} \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dq} \left(\sum_{y=1}^{\infty} q^y \right) = \sum_{y=1}^{\infty} yq^{y-1}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} E(Y) &= p \sum_{y=1}^{\infty} yq^{y-1} \\ &= p \frac{d}{dq} \left(\sum_{y=1}^{\infty} q^y \right) && \text{substitute with the derived expression above} \\ &= p \frac{d}{dq} \left(\frac{q}{1-q} \right) && \text{sum of geometric series with common ratio } 0 \leq q \leq 1 \\ &= p \left\{ \frac{1-q - q(-1)}{(1-q)^2} \right\} && \text{derivative} \\ &= \frac{p}{(1-q)^2} \\ &= \frac{p}{p^2} \quad q = 1-p \\ &= \frac{1}{p}. \end{aligned}$$

Geometric Distribution

Proof:

$$\text{Recall: } \frac{d^2}{dq^2}(q^y) = y(y-1)q^{y-2} \Rightarrow \frac{d^2}{dq^2} \left(\sum_{y=2}^{\infty} q^y \right) = \sum_{y=2}^{\infty} y(y-1)q^{y-2}.$$

(start summation index at $y = 2$ since $y = 1$ does not contribute to the summation)

$$\begin{aligned} E\{Y(Y-1)\} &= \sum_y y(y-1)p(y) && \text{defn of expected value} \\ &= \sum_{y=1}^{\infty} y(y-1)q^{y-1}p && \text{pmf of geometric distribution} \\ &= pq \sum_{y=1}^{\infty} y(y-1)q^{y-2} && \text{factor out } pq \\ &= pq \frac{d^2}{dq^2} \left(\sum_{y=2}^{\infty} q^y \right) && \text{substitute with the derived expression above} \\ &= pq \frac{d^2}{dq^2} \left(\frac{q^2}{1-q} \right) && \text{sum of geometric series with common ratio } 0 \leq q \leq 1 \\ &= pq \frac{d}{dq} \left\{ \frac{(1-q)(2q) - q^2(-1)}{(1-q)^2} \right\} && \text{first derivative} \end{aligned}$$

(continued next slide...)

Geometric Distribution

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} E\{Y(Y-1)\} &= pq \frac{d}{dq} \left\{ \frac{(1-q)(2q) - q^2(-1)}{(1-q)^2} \right\} \\ &= pq \frac{d}{dq} \left\{ \frac{2q - 2q^2 + q^2}{(1-q)^2} \right\} = pq \frac{d}{dq} \left\{ \frac{2q - q^2}{(1-q)^2} \right\} \\ &= pq \left\{ \frac{(1-q)^2(2-2q) - (2q-q^2)\{-2(1-q)\}}{(1-q)^4} \right\} \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{second derivative} \\ &= pq \left\{ \frac{(1-q)(2-2q) + 2(2q-q^2)}{(1-q)^3} \right\} \quad \text{cancel } 1-q \text{ in num \& denom} \\ &= pq \left\{ \frac{2-2q-2q+2q^2+4q-2q^2}{(1-q)^3} \right\} \\ &= \frac{2pq}{(1-q)^3} = \frac{2pq}{p^3} = \frac{2q}{p^2} \cdot \quad q = 1-p \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{(continued next slide...)} \end{aligned}$$

Geometric Distribution

Proof:

We have $E\{Y(Y - 1)\} = \frac{2q}{p^2}$.

But we need $E(Y^2)$ which is:

$$\begin{aligned} E(Y^2) &= E\{Y(Y - 1)\} + E(Y) \\ &= \frac{2q}{p^2} + \frac{1}{p}. \end{aligned}$$

We can now solve for $V(Y)$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} V(Y) &= E(Y^2) - \{E(Y)\}^2 \\ &= \frac{2q}{p^2} + \frac{1}{p} - \left(\frac{1}{p}\right)^2 \\ &= \frac{2q + p - 1}{p^2} \\ &= \frac{2(1 - p) + p - 1}{p^2} \quad q = 1 - p \\ &= \frac{2 - 2p + p - 1}{p^2} = \frac{1 - p}{p^2}. \end{aligned}$$



Questions?

Homework Exercises: 3.37, 3.43, 3.55, 3.57, 3.65

Solutions will be discussed this Friday by the TA.