

Lecture 10: Some Important Discrete Probability Distributions (Part 1)

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Statistics (MAT1003)

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Outline

1 Binomial, Multinomial Distributions

- Preliminaries
- Binomial Distribution
- Multinomial Distribution

2 Hypergeometric Distribution

3 Geometric Distribution

book: Sections 5.3, 5.4

And now ...

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- $P(SNSSNNSNN) = 0.25 \cdot 0.75 \cdot 0.25 \cdot 0.25 \cdot 0.75 \cdot 0.75 \cdot 0.25 \cdot 0.75 \cdot 0.75 \cdot 0.75 = (0.25)^4 \cdot (0.75)^6$

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We say: X has a **binomial distribution** with parameters $n = 10$ (the number of trials) and $p = 0.25$ (success probability)

Binomial distribution

If we do n independent trials, where each time the success probability is $p \in [0, 1]$, and we define X to be the number of successes, then $X \sim B(n, p)$, and hence

$$P(X = k) = \underbrace{\binom{n}{k}}_{\substack{\text{pick} \\ k \text{ out} \\ \text{of } n}} \cdot \underbrace{p^k}_{\substack{k \text{ successes,} \\ \text{each with} \\ \text{probability } p}} \cdot \underbrace{(1-p)^{n-k}}_{\substack{n-k \\ \text{failures}}, k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$$

Moreover, $X \sim B(n, p) \Rightarrow E(X) = np, V(X) = np(1-p)$

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Look in book:

Appendix 1 (pp. 726-731): Table of $P(X \leq k)$

Apply: $P(X = k) = P(X \leq k) - P(X \leq k - 1)$

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Apply: $P(X = k) = P(X \leq k) - P(X \leq k-1)$

In Example 1 (a)

$$P(1 \leq X \leq 3) = P(X \leq 3) - P(X \leq 0) = 0.7759 - 0.0563 = 0.7196$$

If (n, p) is not in the table, then make the calculation yourself!

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- $P(X = 4) = \binom{7}{4} \cdot (0.3)^4 \cdot (0.7)^3 \approx 0.0972$

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- Define $X := \#$ blue marbles, $Y := \#$ red marbles
- $X \sim B(7, 0.3)$, $Y \sim B(7, 0.2) \Rightarrow X + Y \sim B(n, p)$ with $n = 7$,
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- $P(X = 2, Y = 1) = P(X = 2|Y = 1) \cdot P(Y = 1)$
 $= P(X = 2|Y = 1) \cdot \binom{7}{1} \left(\frac{2}{10}\right)^1 \left(\frac{8}{10}\right)^6 = \dots$

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- For $Y = 1$: $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textcircled{1} \text{ 6 trials left, still independent} \\ \textcircled{2} \text{ } P(\{\text{blue}\}) = \frac{3}{8} \text{ all the time} \end{array} \right\} \left. \begin{array}{l} \textit{Bernoulli} \\ \textit{process} \\ \textit{with} \\ n = 6, p = \frac{3}{8} \end{array} \right\}$

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$$\dots = \binom{6}{2} \cdot \left(\frac{3}{8}\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{5}{8}\right)^4 \cdot \binom{7}{1} \left(\frac{2}{10}\right)^1 \left(\frac{8}{10}\right)^6 = \frac{189}{1600} \approx 0.118$$

Observation

In the previous example ...

$$P(\overbrace{X=2}^B, \overbrace{Y=1}^R) = \binom{6}{2} \cdot \left(\frac{3}{8}\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{5}{8}\right)^4 \cdot \binom{7}{1} \left(\frac{2}{10}\right)^1 \left(\frac{8}{10}\right)^6$$

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 &= \binom{7}{1} \cdot \binom{6}{2} \cdot \frac{3^2 \cdot 5^4}{8^6} \cdot \frac{2^1 \cdot 8^6}{10^7}
 \end{aligned}$$

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 &= \binom{7}{1} \cdot \binom{6}{2} \cdot \frac{3^2 \cdot 5^4}{8^6} \cdot \frac{2^1 \cdot 8^6}{10^7} \\
 &= \frac{7!}{1!2!4!} \cdot \left(\frac{3}{10}\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{5}{10}\right)^4 \cdot \left(\frac{2}{10}\right)^1
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 &\stackrel{\text{book}}{=} \underbrace{\binom{7}{1,2,4}}_{\substack{\# \text{ divisions} \\ \text{of group of size 7} \\ \text{into groups of} \\ \text{size 1, 2, and 4}}} \cdot \underbrace{\binom{3}{10}}_{\substack{P(\{\text{blue}\}) \\ 2 \times}} \cdot \underbrace{\binom{5}{10}}_{\substack{P(\{\text{black}\}) \\ 4 \times}} \cdot \underbrace{\binom{2}{10}}_{\substack{P(\{\text{red}\}) \\ 1 \times}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Observation (cont.)

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$\underline{\underline{\text{book}}}$

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book

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⇒ “**Trinomial**” distribution: $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \textcircled{1} \text{ } n \text{ independent trials} \\ \textcircled{2} \text{ } 3 \text{ possible outcomes per trial} \\ \text{with constant probabilities} \end{array} \right.$

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$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \frac{7!}{1!2!4!} \cdot \left(\frac{3}{10}\right)^2 \cdot \left(\frac{5}{10}\right)^4 \cdot \left(\frac{2}{10}\right)^1 & & & & & & \\
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 & \text{of group of size 7} & 2 \times & & 4 \times & & 1 \times \\
 & \text{into groups of} & & & & & \\
 & \text{size 1, 2, and 4} & & & & &
 \end{array}$$

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- ⇒ corresponding process very similar to Bernoulli process

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If we have more than 2 possible outcomes, we call the distribution **multinomial**.

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with $\sum_{i=1}^m p_i = 1$, $\sum_{j=1}^m k_j = n$

Multinomial distribution - formulation

If we have more than 2 possible outcomes, we call the distribution **multinomial**.

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And now ...

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Corresponding distribution: **Hypergeometric** (HW: derive general formula + try odd exercises from Sections 5.3 & 5.4)

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Let $X \sim G(p)$. Derive $E(X)$:

$$E(X) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k(1 - p)^{k-1} p$$

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book: Theorem 5.4

Geometric distribution

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Geometric distribution

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- $P(X = k) = (1 - p)^{k-1} \cdot p$
- $E(X) = \frac{1}{p}$
- $V(X) = \frac{1-p}{p^2}$