

Bernoulli distribution

A random variable with two possible values 0 and 1, is called a Bernoulli variable, its distribution is Bernoulli distribution, and any experiment with a binary outcome is called a Bernoulli trial.

examples heads and tails, good or defective components, pass or fail tests, transmitted or lost signals etc.

Let p be the probability of success (i.e., $x=1$) and $q=1-p$ be the probability of failure (i.e., $x=0$),

$$\begin{aligned}\text{then } E(x) &= \sum x p(x) \\ &= 1 \times p + 0 \times q\end{aligned}$$

$$E(x) = p$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(x) &= \sum (x-p)^2 p(x) \\ &= (1-p)^2 \times p + (0-p)^2 \times q \\ &= p(1-p)^2 + p^2(1-p) \\ &= p(1-p)(1-p+p) \\ &= p(1-p)\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Var}(x) = pq$$

Geometric distribution

Consider a sequence of independent Bernoulli trials. Each trial results in a success or a failure.

The number of Bernoulli trials needed to get the first success has Geometric distribution.

example: A search engine goes through a list of sites looking for a given key phrase. Suppose the search terminates as soon as the key phrase is found. The number of sites visited is Geometric.

A hiring manager interviews candidates, one by one, to fill a vacancy. The number of candidates interviewed until one candidate receives an offer has Geometric distribution.

Geometric random variables can take any integer value from 1 to infinity, because one needs at least 1 trial to have the first success, and the number of trials needed is not limited by any specific number. The only parameter is p , the probability of a success.

Geometric probability mass function has the form,

$$P(x) = P\{\text{the 1st success occurs on the } x^{\text{th}} \text{ trial}\}$$

$$= (1-p)^{x-1} p, \quad x=1, 2, \dots,$$

which is the probability of $(x-1)$ failures followed by 1 success.

The mean of the Geometric distribution is given by:

$$\mu = E(X) = \frac{1}{p}$$

The variance of the Geometric distribution is given by:

$$\sigma^2 = \text{Var}(X) = \frac{1-p}{p^2}$$

The CDF of the Geometric distribution is given by:

$$P(X \leq x) = 1 - (1-p)^x$$

We have the geometric series, $s(q) = \sum_0^{\infty} q^x = (1-q)^{-1}$

Differentiating w.r.t $q \Rightarrow s'(q) = \frac{1}{(1-q)^2}$ | $s''(q) = \frac{2}{(1-q)^3}$

$$\text{or } \frac{1}{(1-q)^2} = s'(q) \\ = \left(\sum_0^{\infty} q^x \right)'$$

$$= \sum_0^{\infty} x q^{x-1}$$

$$\frac{1}{(1-q)^2} = \sum_1^{\infty} x q^{x-1}$$

$$\text{or } \frac{2}{(1-q)^3} = \left(\sum_0^{\infty} q^x \right)'' \\ \frac{2}{(1-q)^3} = \sum_0^{\infty} x(x-1) q^{x-2} \\ \frac{2}{(1-q)^3} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_1^{\infty} x^2 q^{x-1} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_1^{\infty} x q^{x-1} \\ \Rightarrow \sum_1^{\infty} x^2 q^{x-1} = \frac{2q}{(1-q)^3} + \frac{1}{(1-q)^2}$$

$$\therefore E(x) = \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x(1-p)^{x-1} p$$

$$= p \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x q^{x-1}$$

$$= p \times \frac{1}{(1-q)^2}$$

$$= \frac{p}{1-p^2}$$

$$E[x] = \frac{1}{p}$$

$$\therefore \text{Var}[x] = E[x^2] - (E[x])^2$$

$$= \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x^2 (1-p)^{x-1} p - \frac{1}{p^2}$$

$$= p \left(\frac{1+q}{p^3} \right) - \frac{1}{p^2}$$

$$= \frac{q}{p^2}$$

$$\text{Var}[x] = \frac{1-p}{p^2}$$

$$P(X \geq x) = \sum_x^{\infty} (1-p)^{x-1} p \\ = (1-p)^{x-1} p + (1-p)^x p + (1-p)^{x+1} p + \dots$$

$$P(X \geq x) = \frac{(1-p)^{x-1} p}{1-(1-p)} = (1-p)^{x-1}$$

$$P(X > x) = \sum_{x+1}^{\infty} (1-p)^{x-1} p \\ = (1-p)^x p + (1-p)^{x+1} p + \dots$$

$$P(X > x) = \frac{(1-p)^x p}{1-(1-p)} = (1-p)^x$$

$$P(X \leq x) = 1 - (1-p)^x$$

* An internet search engine looks for a certain keyword in a sequence of independent web sites. It is believed that 20% of the sites contain this keyword.

(i) Compute the probability that at least 5 of the first 10 sites contain the given keyword.

(ii) Compute the probability that the search engine had to visit at least 5 sites in order to find the first occurrence of the keyword.

solⁿ (i) $p=0.2$, $n=10$, $q=0.8$

$$\begin{aligned} P(X \geq 5) &= 1 - [P(X=0) + P(X=1) + P(X=2) + P(X=3) + P(X=4)] \\ &= 1 - [(0.8)^{10} + 5 \times 0.2 \times (0.8)^9 + 10 \times 0.2^2 \times (0.8)^8 + 10 \times (0.2)^3 \times (0.8)^7 + 5 \times (0.2)^4 \times (0.8)^6] \\ &= 1 - 0.9672 \\ &= 0.0328 \end{aligned}$$

(ii) $p=0.2$

$$\begin{aligned} P(X \geq 5) &= (1-p)^{n-1} \\ &= (1-0.2)^{5-1} \\ &= 0.4096 \end{aligned}$$

* About ten percent of users do not close windows properly. Suppose that Windows is installed in a public library that is used by ~~car~~ random people in a random order.

(i) On the average, how many users of this computer do not close Windows properly before someone does close it properly?

(ii) What is the probability that exactly 8 of the next 10 users will close windows properly?

solⁿ (i) $p=0.1$, $n=1 \Rightarrow p=0.1 \therefore E[X] = \frac{1}{p} = \frac{1}{0.1} = 10$

(ii) $p=0.1$, $q=0.9 \therefore P(X=8) = {}^{10}C_8 (0.9)^8 (0.1)^2 = 0.1937$