

Solution

1.

To facilitate the probability computation, we assign X as the value of twice the absolute difference, and we have $X \in \{0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10\}$. The sample space contains 36 outcomes and the PMF of each value of X is determined as:

$$p(0) = \frac{6}{36} = \frac{1}{6}, \quad p(2) = \frac{10}{36} = \frac{5}{18}, \quad p(4) = \frac{8}{36} = \frac{2}{9}, \quad p(6) = \frac{6}{36} = \frac{1}{6}, \quad p(8) = \frac{4}{36} = \frac{1}{9}, \\ p(10) = \frac{2}{36} = \frac{1}{18}$$

The required probability is:

$$P(X > 5) = p(6) + p(8) + p(10) = \frac{1}{3}$$

2.

Define this event as A. The possible combination includes 5+5 or 6+4 or 4+6.

The probability of A in one trial is:

$$P(A) = 3/36 = 1/12$$

Hence, the required probability is:

$$P = (11/12)^4(1/12) = 0.0588$$

3.

We have $n = 100$ and $p = 0.5$, assuming that a head corresponds to a success. The required probability is the sum of two PMFs of the binomial RV:

$$p(49) + p(50) + p(51) \\ = C(100, 49)0.5^{49}(1 - 0.5)^{100-49} + C(100, 50)0.5^{50}(1 - 0.5)^{100-50} + C(100, 51)0.5^{51}(1 - 0.5)^{100-51} \\ = (C(100, 49) + C(100, 50) + C(100, 51))0.5^{100} = 0.2356$$

Using Poisson approximation, we have $\lambda = np = 50$, the probability is:

$$p(49) + p(50) + p(51) = e^{-50} \frac{\lambda^{49}}{49!} + e^{-50} \frac{\lambda^{50}}{50!} + e^{-50} \frac{\lambda^{51}}{51!} = e^{-50} \left(\frac{\lambda^{49}}{49!} + \frac{\lambda^{50}}{50!} + \frac{\lambda^{51}}{51!} \right) = 0.1679$$

The approximation is not accurate enough. It is because the approximation will be accurate for large n and small p . However, in this case, $p = 0.5$ is not a small value.

4.(a)

Using the fact that the sum of all PMFs should be equal to 1, we have:

$$\frac{1}{\alpha^2} \left[1 + \frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\alpha^2} + \dots \right] \frac{1}{\alpha^2} \left[\frac{1}{1 - 1/\alpha} \right] = \frac{1}{6} \Rightarrow \alpha^2 - \alpha - 6 = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha = 3$$

Note that α should be positive because PMF is nonnegative.

4.(b)

Let $F(r) = P(X \leq r)$. We have

$$F(1) = \frac{5}{6}$$

For $r \geq 2$, we

$$F(r) = \frac{5}{6} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{3^r} = \frac{5}{6} + \frac{1}{6} \left[1 - \frac{1}{3^{r-1}} \right]$$

Combining the results yields:

$$F(r) = \begin{cases} 0, & r < 1 \\ \frac{5}{6} + \frac{1}{6} \left[1 - \frac{1}{3^{r-1}} \right], & r \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

5.

We can convert to standard Gaussian RV for computation as follows.

$X \sim N(175, 25)$ which implies $\frac{X-175}{5} \sim N(0, 1)$

$$P(X > x) = 1 - P(X \leq x) = 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{x-175}{5}\right) < 0.05$$

Hence $\Phi\left(\frac{x-175}{5}\right) \geq 0.95$, resulting in $\frac{x-175}{5} \geq 1.65$.

Finally, the door height is 183.25m.

Same answer can also be obtained without performing the standardization.

6.(a)

When Peter arrives at the platform on or before 8:32:00, he takes the train at 8:32:00.
When Peter arrives at the platform after 8:32:00, he takes the train at 8:34:00.

Hence there are 2 cases:

- (i) The waiting time is equal or less than 60s, when Peter arrives at [8:31,8:32] or [8:33,8:34].
- (ii) The waiting time is between 60s and 120s, when Peter arrives at [8:32,8:33] or [8:33,8:34].

As Peter's arrival time is uniformly distributed between [8:31,8:34], the probability of case (i) is $\frac{2}{3}$ while that of case (ii) is $\frac{1}{3}$. Together with the fact that the area of the PDF should be equal to 1, we have:

$$P(X = x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{90}, & \text{if } 0 < x \leq 60 \\ \frac{1}{180}, & \text{if } 60 < x \leq 120 \end{cases}$$

6.(b)

$$\mathbb{E}\{X\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xp(x)dx = \int_0^{60} \frac{1}{90}x dx + \int_{60}^{120} \frac{1}{180}x dx = 50$$

Hence the mean waiting time is 50s.

7.(a)

$$E(X) = \frac{1}{5}(-2 + -1 + 0 + 1 + 2) = 0$$

7.(b)

$$E(Z) = \frac{1}{5}(4 + 2 + 0 + 2 + 4) = 2.4$$

8.

It is clear that $p = 0.01$ is the probability of getting the diamond ring while the failure probability is 0.99. It can be modelled as a geometric distribution such that the diamond ring is selected at the r th draw is:

$$p(r) = P(X = r) = (1 - p)^{r-1}p, \quad 1 \leq r < \infty$$

Now the required probability is:

$$\sum_{r=21}^{\infty} p(r) = \sum_{r=21}^{\infty} (1 - p)^{r-1}p = (1 - p)^{20}p [1 + (1 - p) + (1 - p)^2 + \cdots +] = (1 - p)^{20} = 0.99^{20} = 0.8179$$

9.

Let $\mu = \mathbb{E}\{X\}$ and the PMF of X be $p(x)$ with range $R_x = \{x_i\}$. The variance is

$$\text{var}(X) = \sum_{x_i} (x_i - \mu)^2 p(x_i)$$

As PMF is nonnegative or $p(x_i) \geq 0$, $\text{var}(X) = 0$ implies that $x_i - \mu = 0$ for all x_i or all x_i are constants having the same value μ . Hence X must be a constant with value μ .

In this case, there is no uncertainty in X for a zero spread.

10.(a)

Differentiating the CDF yields the PDF:

$$p(x) = \begin{cases} 0.5, & -1 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbb{E}\{X\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xp(x)dx = \int_{-1}^1 0.5x dx = 0$$

10.(b)

$$\mathbb{E}\{X^2\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 p(x) dx = \int_{-1}^1 0.5x^2 dx = \frac{1}{3}$$