

W271, Unit 1 Question 1

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1. Expectation of binomial distribution

We can think of binomially distributed random variable X as a sum of outcomes of n independent Bernoulli trials x_i .

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$$

$$E[X] = E\left[\sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right] = \sum_{i=1}^n E[x_i], \text{ due to linearity of expectation}$$

note that $E[x] = \pi$ for all i , by definition and independence

$$E[X] = \sum_{i=1}^n \pi = n\pi$$

2. Variance of binomially distributed random variable

$V[x] = E[x^2] - E^2[x]$, almost definition

$$E^2[x] = \pi^2$$

$E[x^2] = 1^2 * \pi + 0^2 * (1 - \pi) = \pi$, therefore:

$$V[x] = \pi - \pi^2 = \pi(1 - \pi)$$

similarly to expectation of X , variance of X is also a sum of variances of x :

$$V[X] = V\left[\sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right] = \sum_{i=1}^n V[x_i], \text{ therefore:}$$

$$V[X] = nV[x] = n\pi(1 - \pi)$$