

UNIVERSITY OF OSLO
ASSIGNMENT 1
STK1100

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March 8, 2015

Problem 1. *In a game of roulette the roulette wheel is subdivided into 37 numbered fields. The fields are alternating red and black with the field numbered 0 as the only green field. Assuming a player bets 100\$ on a group consisting of k fields, and the ball stops at one of them, the player wins $100 \cdot (36/k)$ \$. If, on the other hand, the ball stops at any of the other fields, the player lose their bet of 100\$. Assuming we are looking at a player that are involved in 20 games, and every time the player bets 100\$ at 18 fields.*

Solution 1.

a) Since we are looking at a scenario where there for each spin of the wheel are two different outcomes, the player either wins or loses. The probability p of winning is constant across all $n = 20$ games. Therefore, X , being the number of wins in 20 games, is binomially distributed.

We want to examine the expected value of X , that is - what is the expected number of wins given 20 games and with a probability p ?

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_{x=1}^{n=20} x \cdot p(x) = \sum_{x=1}^{n=20} x \cdot \binom{n}{x} \cdot p^x \cdot (1-p)^{n-1} = np. \quad (1)$$

The simplification of (1) to np can be shown using Newton's binomial theorem. Evaluating this for $n = 20$ and $p = \frac{18}{37}$ we get:

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \mu_X = np = 20 \cdot \frac{18}{37} \approx 9.73.$$

In order to find the standard deviation of X , $SD(X)$, we must first find the variance $\mathbb{V}(X)$.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{V}(X) &= \mathbb{E}\left((X - \mu_X)^2\right) = \mathbb{E}(X^2) - \mu_X^2 = \mathbb{E}(X^2) - \mu_X \\ &= \sum_{x=1}^{n=20} x^2 p(x) - \mu_X^2 \approx 99.66 - 94.66 = 4.99 = \sigma_X^2. \end{aligned}$$

Based on this, we can find the standard deviation $SD(X) = \sigma_X$.

$$\sigma_X = \sqrt{\sigma_X^2} \approx \sqrt{4.99} = 2.23.$$

b) Letting Y be the collected net gain in the 20 games we see that we can write Y in terms of the number of won games X :

$$\begin{aligned} Y &= 100 \cdot \left(\frac{36}{18} - 1 \right) \cdot X - 100 \cdot (n - X) \\ &= 200 \cdot (X - 10). \end{aligned}$$

To find the expected value of Y we observe that $Y(X)$ is a linear function, therefore we can write:

$$\mathbb{E}(Y) = \mathbb{E}(200(X - 10)) = 200\mathbb{E}(X) - 2000.$$

Evaluating this, we find:

$$\mu_Y = 200\mu_X - 2000 \approx -54.$$

Now, for the variance of Y . This can easily be found by using the fact that $\mathbb{V}(aX + b) = a^2\mathbb{V}(X)$. Thus:

$$\mathbb{V}(Y) = \sigma_Y^2 = 200^2\mathbb{V}(X) \approx 200^2 \cdot 4.99 = 199600.$$

Based on this, the standard deviation σ_Y is equal to

$$\sigma_Y = \sqrt{199600} \approx 446.77$$

c) We now want to investigate what the probability of winning a certain number of money. We do this by looking at the cumulative distribution of Y in terms of X . First off, we want to find the probability that the player wins at least 1000. We want to write this probability in terms of the random variable X .

$$\begin{aligned} P(Y \geq 1000) &= P(200X - 2000 \geq 1000) = P(X \geq 15) \\ &= 1 - P(X \leq 14) = 1 - F(14) = 1 - \sum_{x=0}^{14} p(x) \\ &\approx 0.015 \end{aligned}$$

Now, we want to find the probability that the player loses more than 1000. That is,

$$P(Y \leq -1000)$$

Again, we write Y in terms of X and use the cumulative distribution of X .

$$\begin{aligned} P(Y \leq -1000) &= P(200X - 2000 \leq -1000) = P(X \leq 5) \\ &= F(5) = \sum_{x=0}^5 p(x) \approx 0.027 \end{aligned}$$

d) We're now reducing the number of fields the player bets on from 18 to 6. We therefore have to rewrite our Y random variable. We also have to update our probability $p = \frac{6}{37}$. In this situation, we have

$$Y = 100 \cdot \left(\frac{36}{6} - 1 \right) X - 100(20 - X) = 600X - 2000.$$

Using the same method as above, we get

$$P(Y \geq 1000) = P(X \geq 5) = 1 - P(X \leq 4) = 0.214,$$

$$P(Y \leq -1000) = P(X \leq \frac{5}{3}) = P(X \leq 1) = 0.000032.$$

e) We're now looking at a player repeatedly bets 100\$ on a single field until he wins once, then he stops playing. Letting Z denote the number of times he plays. This gives us $p = \frac{1}{37}$ and Y in terms of Z :

$$Y = -100(Z - 1) + 3500 = -100Z + 3600$$

The probability distribution for Z is a special case of the negative binomial distribution. Since the player keeps playing until he has won once, we're looking at the probability of $Z - 1$ losses followed by a win. The probabilities for playing x times is given as follows: (Since there is only one way of distributing $Z - 1$ losses in Z games, we can disregard the binomial coefficient.) This is what we call the geometric probability distribution.

$$p(x) = p \cdot (1 - p)^{x-1}, \quad x \in \mathbb{N}.$$

f) We're now examining the probability that the player wins at least 1000, and the probability that he loses more than a 1000.

$$\begin{aligned} P(Y \geq 1000) &= P(-100Z + 3600 \geq 1000) = P(Z \leq 26) \\ &= F(26) \approx 0.51 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(Y \leq -1000) &= P(-100Z + 3600 \leq -1000) \\ &= 1 - P(Z \geq 46) \approx 0.28 \end{aligned}$$

Problem 2. Letting the stochastic variable X denote the womans remaining years in whole years. That is, the lifespan in whole years subtracted 30. We want to determine the point probability $p(x) = P(X = x)$ for this stochastic variable.

Solution 2.

a) Let q_x denote the probability that a x year old person dies within one year. We want to show that the cumulative distribution function $F(X)$ is then $F(X) = 1 - S(X)$, where

$$S(X) = P(X > x) = \prod_{y=0}^x (1 - q_{30+y}).$$

The probability that a person dies within x years is given by 1 minus the probability said person lives longer than x years. The probability that a person lives longer than x years is the probability that the person lives 1 year longer, multiplied by the probability that the person lives 2 years longer, and so on and so forth all the way to x years. Therefore, it is easily deduced that $F(X) = 1 - S(X)$.

b) We want to figure out what the probability of having exactly x years remaining. This has to be the probability of dying within x years, minus the probability of dying within $x - 1$ years. Therefore,

$$p(x) = F(x) - F(x - 1).$$