



# **DISCRETE PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTION**



# CONTENT

**BINOMIAL DISTRIBUTION**



**POISSON DISTRIBUTION**





# INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICAL PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTION

# **VARIABLE**

The characteristics of the population of interest.

For example: Monthly income, respondents' age, gender, level of education, type of house etc.

## **QUANTITATIVE (NUMERICAL)**

- Measured on numerical scale
- Yields numerical response
- For example: How tall are you?

### **DISCRETE**

- Numerical response arises from a counting process
- For example: How many siblings do you have?

### **CONTINUOUS**

- Numerical response arises from a measuring process
- For example: What is your weight?

**IT IS RELATED TO  
RANDOM VARIABLE**

# PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION

## PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION

If  $X$  is a random variable, the function given by  $P(X = x_i) = f(x)$  for each  $X$  within the range of  $x_i$  is called probability distribution function of  $X$ .



## PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION

where the value of  $P(X = x_i) = f(x)$  should satisfy the conditions

- (i)  $P(X = x_i) \geq 0$
- (ii)  $\sum_{x_i \in X} P(X = x_i) = 1$



# MEAN AND VARIANCE OF A DISCRETE RANDOM VARIABLE

## MEAN (EXPECTED VALUE)

Let  $X$  be a **discrete random variable** with **probability function**  $\Pr(X = x_i)$   
Then, the **expected value** of  $X$  denoted by  $E(X)$ , defined by

$$\mu = E(X) = \sum_{x_i \in X} x_i \cdot \Pr(X = x_i)$$

## VARIANCE

The **variance** of a **discrete random variable**  $X$  is defined by

$$\sigma^2 = \text{Var}(X) = E(X^2) - (E(X))^2 = \left( \sum_{x_i \in X} x_i^2 \cdot \Pr(X = x_i) \right) - \mu^2$$

## SOME PROPERTIES OF MEAN AND VARIANCE

Let  $a$  and  $b$  be constants. Then the following results hold:

- (i)  $E(a) = a$
- (ii)  $E(aX) = aE(X)$
- (iii)  $\text{Var}(aX + b) = a^2 \text{Var}(X)$ . In particular,  $\text{Var}(aX) = a^2 \text{Var}(X)$ ,  $\text{Var}(b) = 0$ .





# BINOMIAL DISTRIBUTION

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## PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTIONS

A discrete random variable,  $X$  is said to follow binomial probability distribution with parameters  $n$  and  $p$ , denoted by  $\text{bin}(x; n, p)$  if

$$f(x) = P(X = x) = \binom{n}{x} (p)^x (1-p)^{n-x}, \quad x = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$$

where  $p$  is probability of success and  $q = 1 - p$  is probability of failure on a single trial.

## MEAN AND VARIANCE

If  $X$  is binomial random variable with parameters  $n$  and  $p$ , then

Mean,  $E(X) = \mu = np$

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



# EXAMPLE 1

It is believed that **20% of Malaysians do not have any health insurance**. Suppose that this is true and let a random variable,  $X$  represents the **number with no health insurance** in a random sample of **10 Malaysians**.

- (i) How is  $X$  distributed?
- (ii) Give the **mean, variance and standard deviation** of  $X$ .
- (iii) Find  $P(X \geq 5)$

SOLUTION



## EXAMPLE 2

Let  $p$  equal the **proportion** of all college and university students who would **say yes** to the question, “Would you drink from the same glass as your friend if you suspected that this friend were an AIDS virus carrier?”. Assume that  $p = 0.10$ . Let a random variable,  $X$  represents the **number of students** out of a random **sample of size nine** who would **say yes** to this question.

- (i) How is  $X$  distributed?
- (ii) Give the **mean, variance** and **standard deviation** of  $X$ .
- (iii) Find  $P(X = 2)$  and  $P(X \geq 2)$



## EXAMPLE 3

Suppose that, in manufacturing, the **probability of a certain item being defective is**  $p = 0.05$ . Suppose further that the quality of an item is independent of the quality of the other manufactured items. An inspector **selects five items at random**. Let a random variable,  $X$  represents the **number of defective items** in the sample.

- (i) How is  $X$  distributed?
- (ii) Determine the values of  $E(X)$  and  $\text{Var}(X)$ .
- (iii) Find  $P(X = 0)$ ,  $P(X \leq 1)$  and  $P(X \geq 2)$





# EXAMPLE 4

A student majoring in project management is trying to decide upon the number of firms to which she should apply. With her excellent academic qualification and working experience, she believes that **50% of the firms will offer her a place**. Wanting save time, **the student applies to only five firms**. Assuming the **student's estimate is correct**, find the **probability** that the student receives the following.

- (i) No offers.
- (ii) At most two offers.
- (iii) Between two and four offers.





# POISSON DISTRIBUTION

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A discrete random variable,  $X$  is said to follow Poisson probability distribution with parameters,  $\lambda > 0$ , denoted by  $Po(x; \lambda)$  if

$$f(x) = P(X = x) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!}, \quad x = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

## MEAN AND VARIANCE

If  $X$  is a Poisson random variable with parameters  $\lambda$ , then

Mean,  $E(X) = \mu = \lambda$

Variance,  $\text{Var}(X) = \sigma^2 = \lambda$



# EXAMPLE 1

Let a random variable,  $X$  have a Poisson distribution with a mean of 4. Find

- (i)  $P(2 \leq X \leq 5)$       (ii)  $P(X \geq 3)$       (iii)  $P(X \leq 3)$

## EXAMPLE 2

The **average number of trucks arriving on any one day** at a truck depot in a certain city is known to be **12**. What is the **probability** that on a given day **fewer than nine trucks** will arrive at this depot?

## EXAMPLE 3

Customer arrive at a travel agency at a mean rate of 11 per hour. Assuming that the number of arrivals per hour has a Poisson distribution, determine the probability that more than 10 customers arrive in any given hour.

## EXAMPLE 4

In a certain desert region the **number of persons** who become **seriously ill** each year from eating a certain poisonous plant is a **random variable** having a **Poisson distribution** with **average 5.2**. Find the **probabilities** of

- (i) three such illness in a given year.
- (ii) at least 10 such illness in a given year.
- (iii) anywhere from four to six (inclusive) such illness in a given year.





**THANK YOU**

