

Binomial Probability Distributions

Objectives

- 1 Calculate probabilities of binomial distributions
- 2 Calculate the mean, variance, and standard deviation of a binomial distribution

Binomial Probability Experiment

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- There are a fixed number of n repeated independent trials
- Each trial's outcome is either a success or failure
- The probability of success, p , never changes

Flipping a Coin

Number of heads when flipping a coin 3 times:

x	Outcomes	$P(X = x)$
0	TTT	1/8
1	HTT THT TTH	3/8
2	HHT HTH THH	3/8
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Thus, combinations play a role in binomial probability distributions.

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$$\begin{aligned} P(X = x) &= \binom{n}{x} \cdot p^x \cdot (1 - p)^{n-x} \\ &= \frac{n!}{x!(n-x)!} \cdot p^x \cdot (1 - p)^{n-x} \end{aligned}$$

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It is more likely you will obtain 4 heads from 5 flips than 8 heads from 10 flips.

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$$\begin{aligned}P(x \geq 6) &= 1 - P(x < 6) \\ &\approx 0.00637\end{aligned}$$

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