

# Theory of Probability - 2022/10/06

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## Recap

### • Expectation ( $E(X)$ )

- $E(X) = \sum_{x \in X} xP(x)$

### • LOTUS:

- $E(g(X)) = \sum g(x)p(x)$

### • Linearity:

- $E(aX + b) = aE(X) + b$

# Variance

## Motivation:

Recall from a statistics, a discrete data set,

$$X = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots\}$$

$$E(X) = \frac{\sum x_i}{n} = \mu$$

It only gives us the average, but we don't know the spread.

What is the average distance each data point is from the mean?

Note that we can't simply use  $x_i - \mu$ , because  $\frac{\sum (x_i - \mu)}{n} = 0$

We can use  $|x_i - \mu|$  or  $(x_i - \mu)^2$

$$\text{Variance: } \frac{\sum (x_i - \mu)^2}{n}$$

## • Definition

If  $X$  is a RV with  $E(X) = \mu$ , then define Variance of  $X$ ,  $Var(X)$  by,

$$Var(X) = E[(X - \mu)^2]$$

and Standard Deviation of  $X$ ,  $SD(X)$

$$SD(X) = \sqrt{Var(X)}$$

## • Formula

Given DRV,  $X$ ,

Note that  $\sum xp(x) = E(X) = \mu$ ,  $\sum p(x) = 1$

$$\begin{aligned} Var(X) &= E[(X - \mu)^2] \\ &= \sum_{x \in X} (x - \mu)^2 p(x) \\ &= \sum_{x \in X} (x^2 - 2x\mu + \mu^2) p(x) \\ &= \sum x^2 p(x) - 2x\mu p(x) + \mu^2 p(x) \\ &= \sum x^2 p(x) - 2\mu \sum xp(x) + \mu^2 \sum p(x) \\ &= E(X^2) - 2E(X)^2 + E(X)^2 \\ &= E(X^2) - E(X)^2 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$Var(X) = E(X^2) - E(X)^2$$

which is [The mean of the squares - the square of the mean]

- **Example**

$X$	$p(x)$	$xp(x)$	$x^2p(x)$
0	1/8	0	0
1	3/8	3/8	3/8
2	3/8	6/8	12/8
3	1/8	3/8	9/8
Sum	1	$E(X) = 12/8$	$E(X^2) = 24/8$

$$Var(X) = E(X^2) - (E(X))^2 = 3/4$$

$$SD(X) = \sqrt{3/4}$$

- **Variance is NOT linear**

Remember that  $E(X)$  is linear, that is  $E(aX + b) = aE(X) + b$

Determine  $g(X) = aX + b$  for Variance

$$\begin{aligned}
 Var(aX + b) &= E((aX + b)^2) - (E(aX + b))^2 \\
 &= E(a^2X^2 + 2abX + b^2) - (aE(X) + b)^2 \\
 &= a^2E(X^2) + 2abE(X) + b^2 - a^2E(X)^2 - 2abE(X) - b^2 \\
 &= a^2E(X^2) - a^2E(X)^2 \\
 &= a^2[E(X^2) - E(X)^2] \\
 &= a^2 \cdot Var(X) \\
 &\neq aVar(X) + b
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore Variance is NOT linear

Given  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  are Random Variables,

$$Var(\sum X_i) \neq \sum Var(X_i)$$

BUT when  $X_i$  are independent,

$$Var(\sum X_i) = \sum Var(X_i)$$

## Named Discrete Distributions

## • Bernoulli Distribution

### - Bernoulli Trial

- A trial with exactly two outcomes: Success (with probability  $p$ ) or Failure (with probability  $1 - p$ )
- Given an experiment  $\rightarrow S$  and an event  $A$ .
  - Success:  $A$  occurs
  - Failure:  $A$  does not occur
- Note: A Bernoulli Trial is only a single trial.

### - Definition

- Define  $X$  to be the RV that counts the number of success in a Bernoulli Trial

- $X = \{0, 1\}$

- | $x$ | $P(X)$  |
|-----|---------|
| 0   | $1 - p$ |
| 1   | $p$     |

- $E(X) = \sum xp(x) = p$

- $Var(X) = E(X^2) - E(X)^2 = p - p^2 = p(1 - p)$

### - Properties

- $X \sim Ber(p)$ 
  - $X = \{0, 1\}$  count number of success
  - $p(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - p & , x = 0 \\ p & , x = 1 \end{cases}$
  - $E(X) = p$
  - $Var(X) = p(1 - p)$

### - Example

- Given an experiment  $\rightarrow S$  and an event  $A$ .
  - Success:  $A$  occurs
  - Failure:  $A$  does not occur
- Define  $I_A$  as an indicator RV
  - $I_A = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } A \text{ occurs} \\ 0 & \text{if } A \text{ not occur} \end{cases}$
  - $I_A \sim Bern(p)$  where  $p = P(A)$

## • Binomial Distribution

## - Definition

If we perform " $n$ " independent, identical Bernoulli trials, each with probability of success,  $p$ , and we let  $X$  be the R.V. that counts the number of successes in " $n$ " trials, Then we say

- $X$  is a Binomial Random Variable with parameters  $n, p$

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$$

- $X = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n\}$

Note:

- We have **Fixed** number of trials ( $n$ )
- Trials are **Independent**
- Each trial has **Same probability of Success** ( $p$ )

## - Example

1. Flip 3 coins, with  $p(H) = p$ ,  $p(T) = 1 - p$

- Fixed trials:  $n = 3$
- Trials Independent
- Trial has  $P(\text{Success}) = p$

⇒ Satisfies the requirements for binomial distribution

Let  $X$  count number of successes, then  $X \sim \text{Bin}(3, p)$ .

$$X = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$$

S	X	$P(x)$
TTT	0	$(1 - p)(1 - p)(1 - p) = (1 - p)^3$
HTT, THT, TTH	1	$p(1 - p)^2 + (1 - p)p(1 - p) + (1 - p)^2p = 3p(1 - p)^2$
HHT, HTH, THH	2	$3p^2(1 - p)$
HHH	3	$p^3$

2. Let's consider  $X \sim \text{Bin}(4, p)$

$$X = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$$

	X	P(X)
TTTT	0	$\binom{4}{0}(1-p)^4p^0$
HTTT, ....	1	$\binom{4}{1}(1-p)^3p^1$
HHTT, ....	2	$\binom{4}{2}(1-p)^2p^2$
HHHT, ....	3	$\binom{4}{3}(1-p)^1p^3$
HHHH	4	$\binom{4}{4}(1-p)^0p^4$

### - Properties

- Therefore, If we have  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$ 
  - $P(X = a) = \binom{n}{a}(1-p)^{n-a}p^a$
- We think of  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$  as  $x = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ ,  $X_i \sim \text{Ber}(p)$ 
  - $E(X) = E(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n E(X_i) = np$
  - $\text{Var}(X) = \text{Var}(\sum X_i) = \sum \text{Var}(X_i) = np(1-p)$  (independent)

#### Properties:

- $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$ 
  - $P(X = a) = \binom{n}{a}p^a(1-p)^{n-a}$
  - $E(X) = np$
  - $\text{Var}(X) = np(1-p)$
  - $SD(X) = \sqrt{np(1-p)}$

$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$   
 $P(X=a) = \binom{n}{a} p^a (1-p)^{n-a}$   
 $E(X) = np$      $\text{Var}(X) = np(1-p)$   
 $SD(X) = \sqrt{np(1-p)}$

“

Bernoulli is a special case of Binomial when  $n = 1$

## • Geometric Distribution

### - Motivation

Consider the experiment

Perform independent, identical Bernoulli trials each with probability of success  $p$ , UNTIL you achieve first success.

Let  $X$  count the number of trials needed to achieve first success

$$X = \{1, 2, \dots\}$$

- We have:
  - Independent Bernoulli trials,
  - Each with same probability of success  $p$
- We don't have:
  - A fixed number of trials
- $\Rightarrow$  *NOT Binomial*

### - Definition

- We say  $X$  is a Geometric R.V. with parameter,  $p$
- pmf:

X	P(X)
1	$p$
2	$p(1 - p)$
3	$p(1 - p)^2$
...	....
$n$	$p(1 - p)^{n-1}$

- Notation:  $X \sim Geo(p)$
- Expectation:

$$\begin{aligned}
E(X) &= \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} xp(x) \\
&= \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x(1-p)^{x-1}p \\
&= \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} (x-1+1)(1-p)^{x-1}p \\
&= \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} (x-1)(1-p)^{x-1}p + \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} (1-p)^{x-1}p \\
&= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x(1-p)^x p + \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} p(x) \\
&= \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x(1-p)^x p + 1 \\
&= (1-p) \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x(1-p)^{x-1}p + 1 \\
&= (1-p)E(X) + 1
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
E(X) &= (1-p)E(X) + 1 \\
\Rightarrow E(X) &= \frac{1}{p}
\end{aligned}$$

- Variance:

To determine  $\text{Var}(X)$ , let us first compute  $E[X^2]$ . With  $q = 1 - p$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
E[X^2] &= \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} i^2 q^{i-1} p \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (i-1+1)^2 q^{i-1} p \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (i-1)^2 q^{i-1} p + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} 2(i-1)q^{i-1}p + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} q^{i-1}p \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} j^2 q^j p + 2 \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} jq^j p + 1 \\
&= qE[X^2] + 2qE[X] + 1
\end{aligned}$$

Using  $E[X] = 1/p$ , the equation for  $E[X^2]$  yields

$$pE[X^2] = \frac{2q}{p} + 1$$

Hence,

$$E[X^2] = \frac{2q + p}{p^2} = \frac{q + 1}{p^2}$$

giving the result

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{q + 1}{p^2} - \frac{1}{p^2} = \frac{q}{p^2} = \frac{1-p}{p^2}$$



## - Properties

- $X \sim \text{Geo}(p)$ 
  - $X$  counts number of trials until first success
  - $X = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$
  - $P(X = x) = (1 - p)^{x-1}p$
  - $E(X) = 1/p$
  - $\text{Var}(X) = \frac{1-p}{p^2}$