

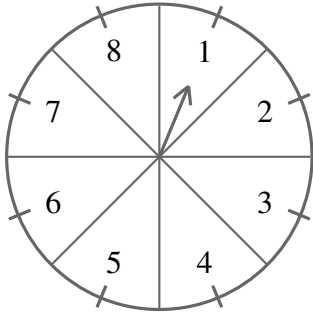
Assignment 2

AI1110: Probability and Random Variables
Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad

Gunethra Bommineni*

10.15.1.12 A game of chance consists of spinning an arrow which comes to rest pointing at one of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 (see Fig. 15.5), and these are equally likely outcomes. What is the probability that it will point at:

- (i) 8?
- (ii) an odd number?
- (iii) a number greater than 2?
- (iv) a number less than 9?



Solution: Let X be a random variable defined as the value given by the pointer. The distribution is uniform since all the outcomes are equally likely. Probability of the pointer pointing a number is;

$$p = \frac{1}{8} \quad (1)$$

$$n = 8 \quad (2)$$

Let $F_X(i)$ be the Cumulative distribution function(CDF) such that;

$$F_X(i) = \sum_{j=0}^i {}^nC_j \times p^j \times (1-p)^{(n-j)} \quad (3)$$

- (i) For $i = 8$, required probability is equivalent to;

$$\Pr(X = 8) = F_X(8) - F_X(7) \quad (4)$$

$$= \frac{1}{8} \quad (5)$$

$$= 0.125 \quad (6)$$

- (ii) For i being odd, required probability is equivalent to;

$$\Pr(X = \{1, 3, 5, 7\})$$

$$= F_X(7) - F_X(6) + F_X(5) - F_X(4)$$

$$+ F_X(3) - F_X(2) + F_X(1) - F_X(0)$$

$$= \frac{4}{8} \quad (7)$$

- (iii) For i greater than 2, required probability is equivalent to;

$$\Pr(X > 2) = 1 - \Pr(X \leq 2) \quad (8)$$

$$= 1 - (F_X(2) - F_X(0)) \quad (9)$$

$$= \frac{6}{8} \quad (10)$$

$$= 0.75 \quad (11)$$

- (iv) For i less than 9, required probability is equivalent to;

$$\Pr(1 \leq X < 9) = F_X(8) - F_X(0) \quad (12)$$

$$= \frac{8}{8} \quad (13)$$

$$= 1 \quad (14)$$

*The student is with the Department of Electrical Engineering,
Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad 502285 India e-mail:
ee22btech11205@iith.ac.in.