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Chapter 2 – Discrete Random Variables

Random Variables

Random Variables

- Whether an experiment yields qualitative or quantitative outcomes, methods of statistical analysis require that we focus on certain numerical aspects of the data such as a sample mean or sample standard deviation.
- The concept of a random variable allows us to pass from the experimental outcomes themselves to a numerical function of the outcomes.

Random Variables

Definition.

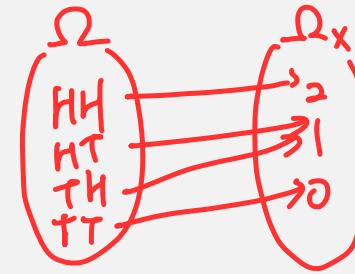
A random variable is a function from the sample space Ω to the real numbers.

- A random variable X , taking values in a set Ω_X is a function

$X: \Omega \rightarrow \Omega_X$. Ω_X is usually a set of numbers, e.g., \mathbb{R} or \mathbb{N} .

- Let $T \subseteq \Omega_X$, define $P(X \in T) = P(\{\omega \in \Omega : X(\omega) \in T\})$, i.e., the probability that the outcome is in T .

Example 2.1



A random variable is a numerical quantity that is generated by a random experiment. We just assign a numerical number on each possible outcome from the experiment.

Consider to toss a coin twice. Now, we are interested in the number of heads. Let X be the number of heads which is a random number from the random experiment.

1. The sample space $\Omega = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$

2. The range of X (all the possible values of X) is $\Omega_X = \{0, 1, 2\}$

$$\begin{aligned} P(X \in A) &= P(X = 1) \\ &= P(\{\omega \in \Omega : X(\omega) = 1\}) \end{aligned}$$

Random Variables: Notation

We usually denote random variables by capital letters, such as X , Y , or Z . And the actual values that they can take by lowercase letters, such as x , y , or z .

ex.

Let X : the number of heads in tossing a coin twice.

If we perform the experiment and we observe 2 heads (HH),
then $x = 2$,
 $\in \Omega_x$

Discrete Random Variables

Discrete Random Variables

$$A = \{a \mid 0 \leq a \leq 10\} \rightarrow X$$

$$B = \{0, 1, 2\} \rightarrow \text{Discrete}$$

Definition.

- A random variable X is discrete if X can take at most countably many different values. In this case we also say that X has a discrete distribution.
- Each discrete random variable X has a probability mass function (PMF) defined by

$$\underset{\text{함수}}{f_X}(x) = P(X = x), \text{ for all real number } x$$

Discrete Random Variables

If X is discrete, there are at most countably many values of x such that $f_X(x) > 0$ and the corresponding values of $f_X(x)$ must add to 1.

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} f_X(x_i) = 1$$

Discrete Random Variables: Examples

- Let X be the number of heads when you toss a coin. Then,

$$\Omega = ?, \{H, T\} \quad \Omega_X = ? \{0, 1\}$$

- Let X be the value shown by rolling a fair die. Then

$$\Omega_X = ?, \quad \text{PMF?} \quad f_X(x) = P(X=x) = \frac{1}{6}, \quad (x \in \Omega_X)$$
$$\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

- Suppose we roll two dice, and let the values obtained by X and Y . Then the sum can be represented by $S = X + Y$, with

$$\Omega_S = ? \{2, \dots, 12\}$$

Cumulative Distribution Function

Every random variable has a Cumulative Distribution function (CDF) defined by

$$F_X(x) = \underline{P(X \leq x)}, \text{ for all real number } x$$

And if X has a discrete distribution with PMF $f_X(x)$,

$$F_X(x) = \sum_{t \leq x} f_X(t)$$

Example 2.2

Consider three-coin tosses

{HHH, HHT, HTH, THH, TTH, THT, HTT, TTT}.

1. Define the random variable X to be the number of heads. $P(X = x)$ for $x = 0, 1, 2, 3$?

2. Find $F_X(2)$ and $F_X(2.5)$

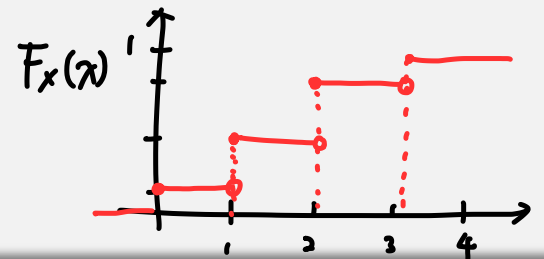
3. Draw the CDF of X

X	0	1	2	3
$P(X=x)$	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{1}{8}$

$$F_X(2) = P(X \leq 2)$$

$$= P(X=0) + P(X=1) + P(X=2) = \frac{7}{8}$$

$$F_X(2.5) = P(X \leq 2.5) = \frac{7}{8}$$



Cumulative Distribution Function

Every random variable has a CDF that satisfies the following properties:

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} F_X(x) = \underline{0}$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} F_X(x) = \underline{1}$, $F_X(x)$ is non-decreasing //
- $P(a < X \leq b) = \underline{P(X \leq b)} - \underline{P(X \leq a)} = F_X(b) - F_X(a)$
- $f_X(x) = P(X = x) = P(X \leq x) - P(X < x)$

Bernoulli trial

Consider a simple experiment with two outcomes: success, with probability p , and failure, with probability $q = (1 - p)$. Such an experiment is called a **Bernoulli trial**.

Let X be a random variable that takes only the values 0 and 1 with $P(X = 1) = p$. The distribution of X is called the **Bernoulli distribution with parameter p** .

$$X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$$

Binomial Distribution

If we perform n independent Bernoulli trials with success probability p , the total number of successes will be Binomial random variable.

A random variable X has a binomial distribution with parameters n and p .

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

Handwritten notes:
- Red arrow from p to "성공 확률" (Success Probability)
- Red arrow from n to "실험 횟수" (Number of Experiments)

and it has the PMF

$$f_x(x) = \underline{\binom{n}{x}} \underline{p^x} \underline{(1-p)^{n-x}}, \text{ for } x = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$$

Binomial Distribution

The Bernoulli distribution with parameter p , $X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$, is the binomial distribution with parameters $n = 1$ and p .

Let X be the number of successes in n independent trials. Then $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n Z_i$ is distributed according to the binomial distribution,

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^n Z_i \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p), \quad Z_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p) \quad (\text{i.i.d.})$$

identically
independent
distribution

Moments and Various Discrete R.V.

정민

Expectation

There are several one-dimensional functionals of a distribution that play important roles in probability. The first of these functionals is the mean or expectation or expected value.

The mean of a discrete random variable X with PMF $f_x(x)$ is

$$E(X) = \sum xP(X = x) = \sum \underline{xf_X(x)}$$

(If $\sum |x|f_X(x) < \infty$)

Expectation

- If X is a discrete random variable that takes on one of the values x_i , $i \geq 1$, with respective probabilities $f_x(x_i)$, then for any real-valued function g , $Y = g(X)$.

$$E(Y) = E(g(X)) = \sum \underline{g(x_i)} \underline{f_x(x_i)}$$

- If $Y = aX + b$, then $E(Y) = aE(X) + b$

Example 2.3

If $X \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p)$, then find the expectation value of random variable X .

$$E(X) = np$$

$$f_x(x) = \binom{n}{x} p^x (1-p)^{n-x}, \quad x=0, \dots, n$$

$$\begin{aligned} E(X) &= \sum_{x=0}^n x \cdot f_x(x) = \sum_{x=0}^n x \cdot \frac{n!}{x!(n-x)!} p^x (1-p)^{n-x} \\ &= \sum_{x=1}^n \frac{n!}{(x-1)!(n-x)!} p^{x-1} (1-p)^{n-x} = np \underbrace{\sum_{y=0}^{n-1} \frac{(n-1)!}{y!(n-1-y)!} p^{n-1-y} (1-p)^y}_{=1} \\ &= np \end{aligned}$$

Moments

$$V(x) = E((x-\mu)^2) = E(x^2) - \{E(x)\}^2$$

For each random variable X , and every positive integer k , the expectation $E(X^k)$ is called the *kth moment of X* . Suppose that X is a random variable for which $E(X) = \mu$.

For every integer k , the expectation $E[(X - \mu)^k]$ is called the *kth central moment of X* or *kth moment of X* about the mean.

- The 2nd central moment of X is variance, a measure of how much a distribution is spread out around its mean.

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

Moments

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(X) &= E[(X - \mu)^2] \\ &= E[X^2 - 2\mu X + \mu^2] \\ &= E[X^2] - 2\mu E[X] + \mu^2 \\ &= E[X^2] - \mu^2 \\ &= E[X^2] - (E[X])^2\end{aligned}$$

The *standard deviation of X* is the sqrt of its variance.

$$\sigma(X) = \sqrt{\text{Var}(X)}$$

Moment Generating Function (MGF)

The moment generating function $M_X(t)$ of a discrete random variable X is defined for all real values of t by

$$M_X(t) = E(e^{tX}) = \sum_x e^{tX} f_X(x)$$

Where $f_X(x)$ is the PMF of X

Example 2.4

Find the MGF of discrete random variables X and Y. where,

1) $X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$

$$M_X(t) = E(e^{tX}) = \sum_{x=0}^1 e^{tx} \cdot f_X(x) = \sum_{x=0}^1 e^{tx} \cdot p^x \cdot (1-p)^{1-x} = (1-p)e^0 + pe^t$$

$$\therefore M_X(t) = pe^t + (1-p)$$

2) $Y \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p)$

$$M_Y(t) = E(e^{tY}) = \sum_{y=0}^n e^{ty} \cdot p^y \cdot (1-p)^{n-y} = \sum_{y=0}^n (pe^t)^y (1-p)^{n-y} = (pe^t + (1-p))^n$$

$$\therefore M_Y(t) = (pe^t + 1 - p)^n$$

Property of MGF

$$\frac{d^k}{dt^k} E(e^{tX}) = E\left(\frac{d^k}{dt^k} e^{tX}\right) = E(X^k e^{tX})$$

$$\left. \frac{d^k}{dt^k} E(e^{tX}) \right|_{t=0} = E(X^k)$$

- If the MGF of X is finite in an open interval around 0, then $E(X^k)$ exists for all $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ and

$$E(X^k) = \left. \frac{d^k}{dt^k} M_X(t) \right|_{t=0}$$

- If two distribution has the same MGF, then those two $r.v.$ are i.i.d $r.v.$

Example 2.5

Let $X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$. Find an expectation value of X and a variance of X , by using MGF property.

$$M_X(t) = pe^t + (1-p)$$

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

$$E(Y) = np, \quad V(Y) = npq = np(1-p)$$

$$\textcircled{1} E(X) = \left. \frac{d}{dt} M_X(t) \right|_{t=0} = pe^t \Big|_{t=0} = p$$

$$\textcircled{2} E(X^2) = \left. \frac{d^2}{dt^2} M_X(t) \right|_{t=0} = pe^t \Big|_{t=0} = p$$

$$V(X) = p - p^2 = p(1-p)$$

Geometric Distribution

$$\begin{matrix} 1+h & 2+h & \dots & (n-1)+h & n+h \\ 1-p & 1-p & & 1-p & p \end{matrix} \rightarrow (1-p)^{n-1} \cdot p$$

Suppose that you toss a coin until you get a head. Let X be the number of trials until the first head. Suppose that the coin tosses are *i.i.d.* Bernoulli random variables with parameter p . Find the PMF of X .

A discrete random variable X whose PMF is given by

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} (1-p)^{x-1}p & \text{if } x = 1, 2, \dots \\ 0 & \text{o.w. otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Is said to have a geometric distribution with parameter p .

$$X \sim \text{Geometric}(p)$$

Example 2.6

Let $X \sim \text{Geometric}(p)$.

- 1) Find an expectation value of X and a variance of X .

$$\frac{1}{p}$$

- 2) Find a MGF of X .

$$\begin{aligned} M_X(t) &= E(e^{tX}) = \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} e^{tx} \cdot (1-p)^{x-1} \cdot p = \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} (e^t(1-p))^{x-1} \cdot \frac{p}{1-p}, \quad (e^t(1-p) < 1) \\ &= \frac{p}{1-p} \cdot \frac{e^t(1-p)}{1 - e^t(1-p)} = \frac{pe^t}{1 - (1-p)e^t} \end{aligned}$$

Memoryless property

A discrete distribution has the memoryless property if a random variable X has a distribution satisfying

$$P(X > m + n \mid X > m) = P(X > n)$$

\parallel
5 \parallel
2 \parallel
3

for all non-negative integers m, n .

$$\begin{aligned} p(X \leq k) &= \sum_{x=1}^k (1-p)^{x-1} \cdot p \\ &= \frac{p\{1 - (1-p)^k\}}{1 - (1-p)} = 1 - (1-p)^k \end{aligned}$$
$$\frac{p(X > m+n \mid X > m)}{p(X > m)} = \frac{p(X > m+n)}{p(X > m)} = \frac{(1-p)^{m+n}}{(1-p)^m} = (1-p)^n = p(X > n)$$

$$p(X > k) = (1-p)^k$$

Example 2.7

A baseball player's batting average is 0.3.

$$* p(X > k) = (1-p)^k$$

Given that the player has not had a hit after three times at bat, what is the probability the player will not get a hit after five times at bat?

$$p(X > 5 \mid X > 3) = p(X > 2)$$

x x x _ _

Example 2.8

An urn contains N white and M black balls. Balls are randomly selected, one at a time, until a black one is obtained. If we assume that each ball selected is replaced before the next one is drawn, what is the probability that

$$p = \frac{M}{N+M}$$

1. Exactly n draws are needed?
2. At least k draws are needed?

$$(1-p)^{k-1}$$

Negative Binomial Distribution

Let X be the number of trials until the r th success occurs with success probability p . Here r is a positive integer greater than or equal to one.

Then, the PMF of X is given by

$$f_X(x) = \binom{x-1}{r-1} \underline{p^r} \underline{(1-p)^{x-r}}, \quad x = r, r+1,$$

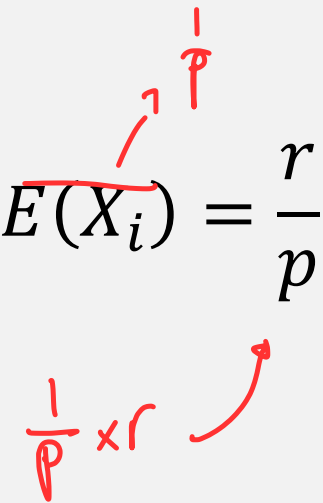


When $r = 1$, X has a geometric distribution. For a general r , we say that X has a negative binomial distribution. $X \sim \text{Negbin}(r, p)$

Negative Binomial Distribution

Let $Y \sim \text{Negbin}(r, p)$

Then we can write $Y = X_1 + \dots + X_r$ where X_i are *i.i.d.* as $\text{Geo}(p)$.
The expected waiting time to complete r successes is

$$E(X) = \sum_{i=1}^r E(X_i) = \frac{r}{p}$$


Waiting time

Poisson Distribution

The PMF of the Poisson distribution with parameter λ is

$$X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda), \quad f_X(x) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \cdot \lambda^x}{x!} \quad \text{for } x = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

The parameter λ must be positive.

Example 2.9

Let $X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$. Find that

1. Expected value of X

$$M_x'(t) = \lambda e^t \cdot e^{\lambda(e^t-1)}, \quad E(X) = M_x'(0) = \lambda$$

2. Variance of X

$$M_x''(t) = \lambda e^t \cdot e^{\lambda(e^t-1)} + \lambda^2 e^{2t} \cdot e^{\lambda(e^t-1)}, \quad E(X^2) = M_x''(0) = \lambda^2 + \lambda$$
$$\text{Var}(X) = E(X^2) - \{E(X)\}^2 = \lambda^2 + \lambda - \lambda^2 = \lambda$$

3. MGF of X

$$M_x(t) = E(e^{tX}) = \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} e^{tx} \cdot \frac{e^{-\lambda} \cdot \lambda^x}{x!}$$
$$= e^{-\lambda} \cdot \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\lambda e^t)^x}{x!} = e^{-\lambda} \cdot e^{\lambda e^t} = e^{\lambda(e^t-1)}$$

Formal Definition of Poisson Dist.

Poisson distribution arises in situations where “events” occur at certain points in time. Poisson event is the one that satisfies three following assumptions:

- (i) The probability that exactly one event occurs in a given interval of length h is equal to $\lambda h + o(h)$;
- (ii) The probability that more than two events occur in an interval of length h is equal to $o(h)$;
- (iii) The occurrences of the events for any non-overlapping intervals are independent,

Formal Definition of Poisson Dist.

where $o(h)$ (called small o) stands for any function $f(h)$ for which $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} f(h)/h = 0$

If we let $N(t)$ be the number of the Poisson events occurring in the interval $[0, t]$, then

$$N(t) \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda t)$$

Poisson approximation to Binomial

$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$, If $n \uparrow$ and $p \downarrow$, $\lambda = np \rightarrow X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$

Example 2.10

In a manufacturing process where glass products are made, defects or bubbles occur, occasionally rendering the piece undesirable for marketing. It is known that, on average, 1 in every 1000 of these items produced has one or more bubbles.

$$p = \frac{1}{1000}$$

What is the probability that a random sample of 8000 will yield fewer than 7 items possessing bubbles?

$$n = 8000$$

$$X \sim \text{Bin}\left(8000, \frac{1}{1000}\right) \sim \text{Poisson}(8)$$

$$f_x(x) = \frac{e^{-8} \cdot 8^x}{x!}$$

$$P(X \leq 6) = \sum_{x=0}^6 \frac{e^{-8} \cdot 8^x}{x!} \approx 0.3134$$