

1. For each of the following descriptions, say whether the random variable  $X$  is or is not a Binomial random variable. If  $X$  is Binomial, give the values of the parameters  $n$  and  $p$ . If  $X$  is not Binomial, give a brief (few words) reason why not.

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**Example questions:**

- (E1)  $X$  is the number of Heads in 10 tosses of a fair coin.  
(E2)  $X$  is the number of tosses of a fair coin needed before 10 heads are obtained.

**Example answers:**

- (E1) Yes:  $X \sim \text{Binomial}(n = 10; p = 0.5)$ .  
(E2) No: not a fixed number of trials.
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Give similar answers for the questions below.

- (a) An opinion poll samples 500 people at random and asks which party they plan to vote for at the next election. Nationwide, support for the Green Party is currently at 14%.  $X$  is the number of the 500 people who say they plan to vote for the Green Party.
- (b) There are 50 lecture theatres on the university campus. Each lecture theatre has a clock, which shows the right time with probability 0.7, independently of all other clocks. Amy has lectures in 8 different lecture theatres during the week.  $X$  is the number of Amy's lecture theatres in which the clock is correct.  
(Assume that clocks are never fixed.)
- (c) Valerie practises throwing the shot-put for the Olympics. She is satisfied with 80% of her throws, and all throws are independent.  $X$  is the number of throws Valerie makes before she makes a satisfactory throw.
- (d) Suppose that 2% of free-range eggs bought at the supermarket would hatch into chickens if they were incubated in the right conditions. Assume all eggs in a box of 12 are independent of each other.  $X$  is the number of chickens that would hatch from incubating a box of 12 eggs.
- (e) Jill runs a cafe. 40% of people take sugar in their coffee. Jill only has enough sugar for 15 coffees today. She gets about 60 customers each day.  $X$  is the number of coffees that Jill serves before she runs out of sugar.

2. In Stats 101, students have to complete four multi-choice tests. Each test has 10 questions with 5 possible answers to each question. Tom wonders if he can get by on the tests just by guessing. Consider *one* test of 10 questions, with 5 multi-choice answers for each question. Tom guesses each question completely at random. Let  $X$  be the number of the 10 questions he gets correct.



- (a)  $X$  has a Binomial distribution. State the values of  $n$  and  $p$ .

The table shows the probability mass function,  $f_X(x)$ , and the cumulative distribution function,  $F_X(x)$ , of  $X$ . (You could check your answer to part (a) using some of the entries in the table.) Some of the probabilities are missing.

$x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
$f_X(x) = \mathbb{P}(X = x)$	0.11	0.27	$p_2$	$p_3$	0.09	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
$F_X(x) = \mathbb{P}(X \leq x)$	$c_0$	0.38	0.68	0.88	$c_4$	$c_5$	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

- (b) Use the formula for Binomial probabilities to calculate  $p_2$  and  $p_3$ , showing your calculation as part of your answer. **Quote your answer to 2 decimal places only.**
- (c) Using values taken from the table, and your answer to (b), calculate  $c_0$ ,  $c_4$ , and  $c_5$ . Show your working. You do **not** need to use the formula for Binomial probabilities. Again, quote your answer to 2 decimal places only.

Tom wants to know the probability that he will get at least 6 questions correct, just by guessing. Unfortunately, he has done no Stats study whatsoever, so is unable to calculate his probability himself. We will have to help him out.

- (d) Write down Tom's probability as  $\mathbb{P}(X \dots)$ . Then rewrite it in terms of the cumulative distribution function,  $F_X(\cdot)$ . Hence read off the table the probability that Tom will get at least 6 out of 10, just by guessing.

Now remember that there are four tests in total. Tom guesses for all of them. Write Tom's four scores from the four tests as  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$ ,  $X_3$ , and  $X_4$ . Define  $T = X_1 + X_2 + X_3 + X_4$  to be Tom's total mark out of 40 for the multi-choice tests. Assume  $X_1, \dots, X_4$  are independent.

- (e) Name the distribution of  $T$ , with parameters.
- (f) Find  $\mathbb{P}(T = 10)$ , the probability that Tom scores 10/40 on the multi-choice tests.
- (g) In order to pass this component of the coursework, Tom needs a score of at least 20/40, in other words  $T$  must be at least 20. You are given the information that  $F_T(18) = 0.9999148$ , where  $F_T(t)$  is the cumulative distribution function of  $T$ . Using this information, do some extra calculation and find the probability that Tom passes the multi-choice tests just by guessing. Quote your answer to 3 significant figures. Would you recommend this strategy?

**Note:** If Tom could exclude TWO wrong answers from each question, and only guess among the other three answers, his chance of passing is still only  $\mathbb{P}(\text{pass}) = 0.02$ .

3. Answer the following questions. Show your working for each part.

- (a) Suppose that  $X$  is a random variable that represents the number shown when we roll the die  $D_1$  which has 9 sides. The probability function of  $X$  is given by

$$\mathbb{P}(X = x) = \log_{10} \left( \frac{x+1}{x} \right), \text{ for } x \in \{1, 2, \dots, 9\},$$

where  $\log_{10}(\cdot)$  denotes the logarithm base 10. Show that the cumulative distribution function of  $X$  is:

$$F_X(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \in (-\infty, 1), \\ \log_{10}(\lfloor x \rfloor + 1), & \text{if } x \in [1, 9], \\ 1, & \text{if } x \in (9, \infty), \end{cases}$$

where  $\lfloor \cdot \rfloor$  is the greatest integer less than or equal to the real number in the argument. For example,  $\lfloor 2.0 \rfloor = 2$ ,  $\lfloor 2.5 \rfloor = 2$ ,  $\lfloor 2.999999 \rfloor = 2$ .

- (b) Let  $Y$  be a random variable that represents the number shown when we roll the 9-sided die  $D_2$  which is known to be fair. Hence, we have:

$$\mathbb{P}(Y = y) = \frac{1}{9}, \text{ for } y \in \{1, 2, \dots, 9\}.$$

Calculate  $\mathbb{P}(X + Y = 10)$  for the case when the random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are assumed to be independent.

4. Suppose that  $X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(1/10)$ ,  $Y \sim \text{Bernoulli}(1/2)$ , and the random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent. The random variable  $Z$  is given by  $Z = X \oplus Y$ , where the operator  $\oplus$  is defined in Table 1. The operation that corresponds to the symbol  $\oplus$  is called *exclusive or* (often abbreviated to XOR), or *addition mod 2*.

Note that for any  $x, y \in \{0, 1\}$ ,  $x \oplus y = 0$  if  $x = y$  and  $x \oplus y = 1$  if  $x \neq y$ .

$x$	$y$	$z = x \oplus y$
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

Table 1: Definition of the operator  $\oplus$ .

Answer the following questions:

- (a) Show that  $Z \sim \text{Bernoulli}(1/2)$ .
- (b) Calculate  $\mathbb{P}(Y = 0, Z = 0)$ .
- (c) Decide if the random variables  $Y$  and  $Z$  are independent (or not). Explain your answer.