

## Binomial Distribution / Bernoulli Distribution

It is a discrete probability distribution with

$$\text{Probability mass function } f(x) = \binom{n}{x} p^x q^{n-x}, x=0,1,\dots,n$$
$$= 0, \text{ other values of } x$$

This is the probability that in 'n' independent trials an event A occurs precisely x times where p is the probability of A in a single trial and  $q = 1-p$ .

The occurrence of A is called success and the nonoccurrence is called failure. p is called the probability of success in a single trial.

The binomial distribution has mean

$$\boxed{\mu = E(x) = np}$$

Variance  $\boxed{\sigma^2 = npq}$

where n: no. of trials.

p: probability of success.

q: probability of failure.

Q ① Four fair coins are tossed simultaneously. Find the probability function of the random variable  $X =$  number of heads and compute the probabilities of obtaining no heads, precisely 1 head, at least one head, not more than 3 heads.

Solution: Given  $n = 4$

prob. mass function  $f(x) = \binom{n}{x} p^x q^{n-x}$

Here  $p = q = \frac{1}{2}; n = 4$

$$\therefore f(x) = \binom{4}{x} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^x \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{4-x}$$

$$P(\text{no heads}) = P(X=0) = \binom{4}{0} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^0 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^4$$

$$= \frac{4!}{0! 4!} \cdot \frac{1}{2^4} = \frac{1}{16} = 0.0625$$

$$P(\text{precisely 1 head}) = P(X=1) = \binom{4}{1} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^1 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3$$

$$= \frac{4!}{1! 3!} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2^3} = \frac{1}{4} = 0.25$$

$$P(\text{at least one head}) = 1 - P(\text{no heads}) = 1 - P(X=0)$$

$$= 1 - 0.0625 = 0.9375$$

$$P(\text{not more than 3 heads}) = 1 - P(X=4)$$

$$= 1 - \binom{4}{4} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^4 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^0 = 1 - 0.0625 = 0.9375$$

Q. ② If the probability of hitting a target is 10% and 10 shots are fired independently, what is the probability that the target will be hit at least once?

Ans: Given  $n=10$ ,  $p=10\% = \frac{10}{100}$

$$q = 1 - p = 1 - \frac{10}{100} = \frac{90}{100}$$

$$\therefore f(x) = \binom{n}{x} p^x q^{n-x} = \binom{10}{x} \left(\frac{10}{100}\right)^x \left(\frac{90}{100}\right)^{10-x}$$

$$P(\text{the target will be hit at least once}) =$$

$$1 - P(\text{not hitting the target}) = 1 - P(X=0)$$

$$= 1 - \binom{10}{0} \left(\frac{10}{100}\right)^0 \left(\frac{90}{100}\right)^{10} = 1 - \left(\frac{90}{100}\right)^{10}$$

③ Let  $p = 1\%$  be the probability that a certain type of light bulb will fail in the 24-hour test. Find the probability that a sign consisting of 10 such bulbs will burn 24 hrs with no bulb failures.

Ans: Given  $n = 10$ ,  $p = 1\%$ ,  $q = 1 - p = 99\%$ .

$$f(x) = \binom{n}{x} p^x q^{n-x} = \binom{10}{x} \left(\frac{1}{100}\right)^x \left(\frac{99}{100}\right)^{10-x}$$

$$P(X=0) = \binom{10}{0} \left(\frac{1}{100}\right)^0 \left(\frac{99}{100}\right)^{10} = (0.99)^{10}$$



## Poisson Distribution

It is a discrete probability distribution with probability mass function  $f(x) = \frac{e^{-\mu} \mu^x}{x!}$ ,  $x = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

It is a limiting case of binomial distribution.

For poisson distribution mean = Variance =  $\mu$ .

$$\therefore \boxed{\mu = \sigma^2 = \mu p}$$

Q. ① Let  $X$  be the number of Cars per minute passing a certain point of some road between 8 A.M and 10 A.M. On a Sunday. Assume that  $X$  has a poisson distribution with mean 5. Find the probability of observing 3 or fewer cars during any given minute.

Ans: Given mean =  $\mu = 5$

$$\text{Prob. mass function } f(x) = \frac{e^{-\mu} \mu^x}{x!} = \frac{e^{-5} 5^x}{x!}$$

$P(3 \text{ or fewer Cars during any given minute})$

$$= P(X=0) + P(X=1) + P(X=2) + P(X=3)$$

$$= \frac{e^{-5} 5^0}{0!} + \frac{e^{-5} 5^1}{1!} + \frac{e^{-5} 5^2}{2!} + \frac{e^{-5} 5^3}{3!}$$

$$= e^{-5} \left( 1 + 5 + \frac{5^2}{2!} + \frac{5^3}{3!} \right)$$

$$= 0.2650$$

Q. Suppose that in the production of 50-ohm radio resistors, non defective items are those that have a resistance between 45 and 55 ohms and the probability of a resistor's being defective is 0.2%. The resistors are sold in lots of 100, with the guarantee that all resistors are non defective. What is the probability that a given lot will violate this guarantee?

Sol<sup>n</sup>. Given  $n=100$ ,  $p=0.2\%$ .

$$\text{mean} = \mu = np = 100 \times \frac{0.2}{100} = 0.2$$

$$\text{Prob. mass function } f(x) = \frac{e^{-\mu} \mu^x}{x!} = \frac{e^{-0.2} (0.2)^x}{x!}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{lot will violate this guarantee}) &= 1 - P(X=0) \\ &= 1 - \frac{e^{-0.2} (0.2)^0}{0!} = 1 - e^{-0.2} = 0.18126 \end{aligned}$$

Q. Suppose that 3% of bolts made by a machine are defective, the defective occurring at random during production. If the bolts are packaged 50 per box, what is the poisson approximation of the probability that a given box will contain  $x$  defectives?

Sol<sup>n</sup>. Given  $n=50$ ,  $p=3\%$ .

$$\therefore \text{Mean} = \mu = np = 50 \times \frac{3}{100} = 1.5$$

$$P(\text{box contains } x \text{ defectives}) = \frac{e^{-1.5} (1.5)^x}{x!}$$