



SEARCH



RESOURCES

CONCEPTS

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Mentor Help

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The Binomial Distribution

The **Binomial Distribution** helps us determine the probability of a string of independent events'.

The [probability mass function](#) associated with the binomial distribution is of the

$$P(X = x) = \frac{n!}{x!(n-x)!} p^x (1-p)^{n-x}$$

where **n** is the number of events, **x** is the number of "successes", and **p** is the probability of success.

We can now use this distribution to determine the probability of things like:

- The probability of 3 heads occurring in 10 flips.
- The probability of observing 8 or more heads occurring in 10 flips.
- The probability of not observing any heads in 20 flips.

Looking Ahead

The truth is that in practice, you will commonly be working with data, which might not follow a binomial distribution. So it is less important to calculate these probabilities (though this is useful in some cases), and it is more important that you understand what the Binomial Distribution shows up in a lot of modeling techniques in machine learning, and it can sneak up on you by tracking any outcome with two possible events. You will get some practice with **Probability Practice** lesson.

One of the most popular places you see the Binomial distribution is in [logistic regression](#), which you will learn about in the last lesson of this statistics course.

In the next section, you will begin to work with events that aren't independent. Events that have been seen so far haven't influenced one another, but it turns out the real world is usually more complicated than this. The next section will introduce the idea of dependence, and you will learn about Bayes rule in the following section.