

Assignment 7

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Question

Suppose there are r successes in n independent Bernoulli trials. Find the conditional probability of a success on the i th trial.

Solution

Let us assume events A and B such that :

A = r successes in n Bernoulli trials

B = success at the i th Bernoulli trial

C = $r - 1$ successes in the remaining $n - 1$ Bernoulli trials excluding the i th trial

$$P(A) = \binom{n}{r} p^r q^{n-r} \quad (1)$$

$$P(B) = p \quad (2)$$

$$P(C) = \binom{n-1}{r-1} p^{r-1} q^{n-r} \quad (3)$$

So the conditional probability of a success on the i th trial ,

$$P(B|A) = \frac{P(AB)}{P(A)} \quad (4)$$

$$= \frac{P(BC)}{P(A)} \quad (5)$$

$$= \frac{P(B)P(C)}{P(A)} \quad (6)$$

$$\implies P(B|A) = \frac{r}{n} \quad (7)$$