

## Tree diagrams for probability

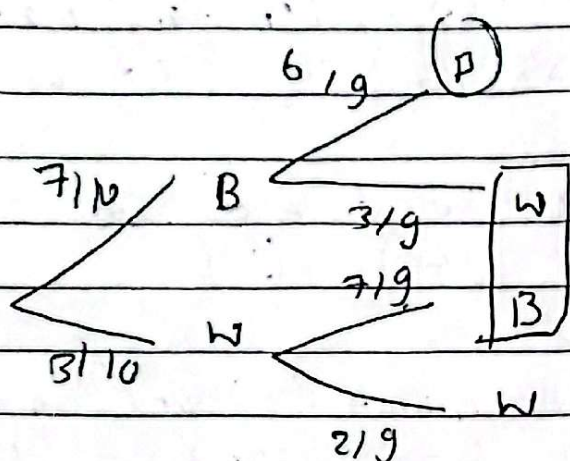
### Tree diagram principles:

- The probability of an event at any node is the product of probabilities along the path from the starting node.
- For events that correspond to several final nodes, the total probability is the sum of the probability at those nodes.

### Example

Drawing marbles from jar (7 black, white)





- a) Probability both are black  $P(B_1 \cap B_2) = 0.47$
- b) Probability exactly one is black  $P(BW) + P(WB) = 0.46$
- c) Probability at least one is black  $P(\text{at least one black})$   
 $1 - 0.07 = 0.93$  (using complement rule)

## Permutation and Combination

### Key Concepts

#### 1) Possible Orders:

When arranging  $n$  items, the number of different orders is calculated using the factorial of  $n$  (denoted as  $n!$ )

Formula: Number of orders:  $n!$

Example: For three pieces of candy (green, yellow, red), the number of possible orders is

$$3! = 3 \times 2 = 6$$

## 2) Multiplication Rule:

When choosing from multiple categories, the total number of combinations is the product of the number of choices in each category.

Example: In a restaurant with 3 soups, 6 entrees and 4 desserts, the total number of possible meals is

$$3 \times 6 \times 4 = 72$$

## 3) Permutations:

Permutations are used when the order of selection matters. For example, selecting two pieces of candy from four different colors.

Formula: 
$${}_n P_r = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!}$$

Example: For picking 2 pieces out of 4:

$${}_4 P_2 = \frac{4!}{(4-2)!} = 12$$

In this case, order matters (e.g. red and yellow is different from yellow and red).

## 4) Combinations

Combinations are used when the order of selection does not matter. For example, selecting 2 pieces of candy from four different colors.

Formula

$${}_n C_r = \frac{n!}{(n-r)! \cdot r!}$$

Example for choosing 2 pieces out of 4

$${}_4 C_2 = \frac{4!}{(4-2)! \cdot 2!} = 6$$



Here, the order does not matter. (Choosing red and yellow is the same as choosing yellow and red)

### Summary

Permutations (order matters) and Combinations (order does not matter) are essential for calculating different outcomes in probability and statistics.

## Random Variables and Distribution

### Common Discrete Random Variables

#### Definition of a Random Variable

A random variable is a numerical quantity that results from a random experiment. It is usually denoted by a capital letter (eg  $X$  or  $Z$ ), while specific values it can take are represented by lowercase letters (eg  $x$  or  $z$ ).

#### Examples of Random Variables

Experiment	Random Variable $X$	Possible values of $x$
Rolling two fair dice	sum of the dots on top faces	2, 3, 4, ..., 12

### Types of Random Variables

#### 1. Discrete Random Variable

- Has a finite or countable set of possible values.
- Typically arises from counting processes.

Example :- Number of heads in 10 coin flips.  
- Number of customers arriving at a store in one hour.

## 2 Continuous Random Variable

- Can take any value within an interval
- Typically arises from measurement processes

Examples :- A person's height

The time a light bulb last before burning out

## Probability Distribution of Discrete Random Variables

A probability Distribution assigns probabilities to each possible value of a discrete random variable  $X$ .

### Conditions

- 1 Each probability  $P(x)$  must be between 0 and 1:

$$0 \leq P(x) \leq 1$$

- 2 The sum of all probabilities must be 1:

$$\sum P(x) = 1$$

Example 1: Tossing a fair coin twice

Let  $X$  be the number of heads observed.

Step 1: Construct the probability Distribution

The sample space for tossing two fair coins:

$$S = \{hh, ht, th, tt\}$$

Possible values of  $X$ : 0, 1, 2

$X = 0$  (no heads)  $\Rightarrow \{tt\} \Rightarrow P(0) = 1/4 = 0.25$

$X = 1$  (one head)  $\Rightarrow \{ht, th\} \Rightarrow P(1) = 2/4 = 0.5$

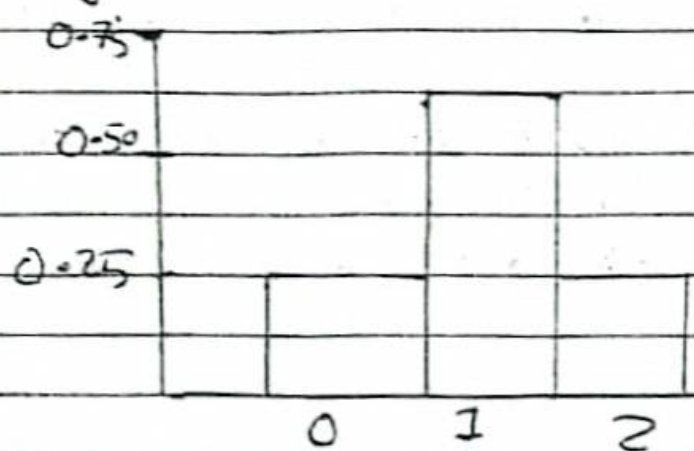
$X = 2$  (two heads)  $\Rightarrow \{hh\} \Rightarrow P(2) = 1/4 = 0.25$



$x$	0	1	2
$P(x)$	0.25	0.50	0.25

step 2 find  $P(X \geq 1) = P(1) + P(2)$   
 $= 0.25$

Probability Distribution for Tossing a fair coin twice



Mean, Variance and Standard deviation of a Discrete Random variable

1) Mean (expected Value)

The mean of a discrete random variable  $X$  is given by

$$\mu = E(X) = \sum x P(x)$$

Example: Computing the mean given the probability distribution

$x$	-2	1	2	3.5
$P(x)$	0.21	0.34	0.24	0.21

Applying the formula

$$\begin{aligned}\mu &= (-2)(0.21) + 1(0.34) + 2(0.24) + \\ &\quad 7.5(0.21) \\ &= 1.135\end{aligned}$$

So the expected value is 1.135

## 2) Variance and Standard Deviation

The variance of a discrete random variable is

$$\sigma^2 = E(X - \mu)^2 P(X)$$

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

The standard deviation is the square root of the variance

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\sigma^2}$$

## Example Bottle Ticket Problem

Each ticket costs \$1. The prize and net gains are

Outcome	Prize	Net Gain (X)	Probability P(X)
1st Prize	\$300	\$299	0.001
2nd Prize	\$200	\$199	0.001
3rd Prize	\$100	\$99	0.001
No prize	\$0	\$-1	0.997

Step 1: Compute P(winning)

$$P(W) = P(299) + P(199) + P(99) = 0.003$$

Step 2: Compute Expected value E(X)

$$\begin{aligned}E(X) &= 299(0.001) + 199(0.001) + 99(0.001) - 1 \\ &\quad (0.997) \\ &= -0.4\end{aligned}$$

Interpretation: The negative expected value means that, on average a player loses 40 cent per ticket on any trials



Compute Mean, Variance and Standard Deviation.

Given Probability Distribution

x	-1	0	1	4
P(x)	0.2	0.5	a(0.2)	0.1

Step 1 compute a (Missing Probability)

Since probabilities must sum to 1

$$a = 1 - (0.2 + 0.5 + 0.1) = 0.2$$

Step 2 compute Mean  $\mu$

$$\begin{aligned}\mu &= -1(0.2) + 0(0.5) + 1(0.2) + 4(0.1) \\ &= 0.4\end{aligned}$$

Step 3 compute variance  $\sigma^2$

using

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma^2 &= \sum (x - \mu)^2 P(x) \\ &= (-1 - 0.4)^2 (0.2) + (0 - 0.4)^2 (0.5) + \\ &\quad (1 - 0.4)^2 (0.2) + (4 - 0.4)^2 (0.1) \\ \therefore \sigma^2 &= 1.84\end{aligned}$$

Step 4 Compute Standard deviation  $\sigma$

$$\sigma = \sqrt{1.84} = 1.36$$