

Assignment 5

NCERT Class 12 Chapter 13 Exercise 13.4 Question 10

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Question

Find the mean number of heads in three tosses of a fair coin.

Solution

Let X denote the number of heads in three tosses of a fair coin. X is a random variable which can assume the values 0,1,2 or 3.

Probability of getting head in one toss of a fair coin is

$$p = \frac{1}{2} \quad (1)$$

Probability of not getting head in one toss of a fair coin is

$$1 - p = \frac{1}{2} \quad (2)$$

$$\Pr(X = k) = {}^nC_k p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}, \quad k = 0, \dots, n \text{ Here } n = 3.$$

For $X=0$

Probability of getting no heads in three tosses of a fair coin is,

$$\Pr(X = 0) = {}^3C_0 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 = \frac{1}{8} \quad (3)$$

For $X=1$

Probability of getting no heads in three tosses of a fair coin is,

$$\Pr(X = 1) = {}^3C_1 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 = \frac{3}{8} \quad (4)$$

For $X=2$

Probability of getting no heads in three tosses of a fair coin is,

$$\Pr(X = 2) = {}^3C_2 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 = \frac{3}{8} \quad (5)$$

For $X=3$

Probability of getting no heads in three tosses of a fair coin is,

$$\Pr(X = 3) = {}^3C_3 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 = \frac{1}{8} \quad (6)$$

Table

X	0	1	2	3
P(X)	1/8	3/8	3/8	1/8

Table: Probability Distribution of X

Mean

The mean of X is given by,

$$E(X) = \sum_{i=0}^3 x_i p(x_i) \quad (7)$$

$$= 0 \times \frac{1}{8} + 1 \times \frac{3}{8} + 2 \times \frac{3}{8} + 3 \times \frac{1}{8} \quad (8)$$

$$= \frac{3}{2} \quad (9)$$

Therefore, the mean number of heads in three tosses of a fair coin $= \frac{3}{2}$