

MCA Sem. I Core

# Mathematical Techniques for Computer Applications(MCAC 103) L 6

Discrete Distributions

10 Feb 2021

Bernoulli Distribution

Binomial Distribution

Geometric Distribution

Negative Binomial  
Distribution

Multinomial  
Distribution

Poisson Distribution

Vasudha Bhatnagar  
Department of Computer Science, University of Delhi  
Delhi, India.

# Outline

**1 Bernoulli Distribution**

**2 Binomial Distribution**

**3 Geometric Distribution**

**4 Negative Binomial Distribution**

**5 Multinomial Distribution**

**6 Poisson Distribution**

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## Bernoulli Distribution

**Boolean Random variable with  $P(X = 1) = p$  and**

$$P(X = 0) = 1 - p$$

$$X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$$

### Important Notes:

- 1 any experiment (random trial) that results in two outcomes is a Bernoulli experiment
- 2 the probabilities of the occurrence of these outcomes remain same throughout the trials
- 3 the trials are carried out independently

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### Use Cases

- i. Good or defective components
- ii. Transmitted or lost signals
- iii. Working or malfunctioning hardware
- iv. Benign or malicious attachments
- v. Documents that contain or do not contain a keyword

Mean  $\rightarrow E(X) = p,$

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$$\text{Mean} \rightarrow E(X) = p, \text{ Variance} \rightarrow \text{Var}(X) = p(1 - p)$$

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- ③ Order in which successes occur is not important
- ④ PMF:  $P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$

Mean:  $E(X) = np$

Variance:  $Var(X) = np(1 - p)$

## Practice Questions

1

2

- ③ **Random walk in 2-dimension - Probability of moving on X-axis is  $p$  and moving on Y-axis is  $q$ . What is the joint probability distribution of the position after 5 steps?**

**Problem:** Suppose that an airplane engine will fail, when in flight, with probability  $(1-p)$  independently from engine to engine; Suppose that the airplane will make a successful flight if atleast 50% of its engines remain operative. For what values of  $p$  is a four-engine plane is safer than a two-engine plane?

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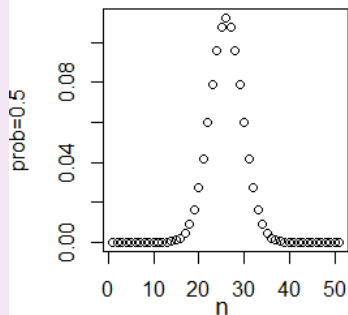
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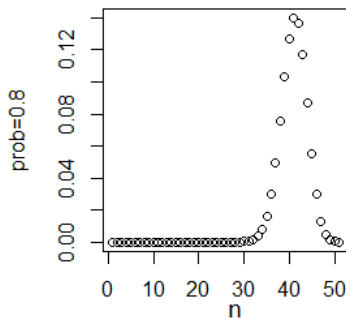
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**Binomial Dist.**

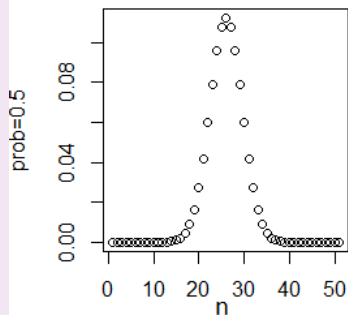


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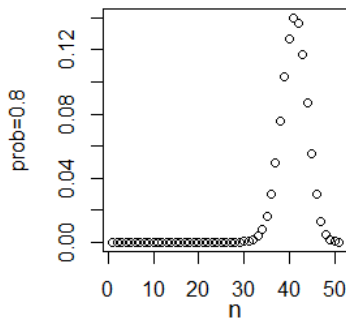


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**Binomial Dist.**



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- 1 Symmetric around mean
- 2 Shape change when p increases
- 3 For large n, Stirling's approximation is used  
$$(n! \approx \sqrt{2n\pi} \left(\frac{n}{e}\right)^n)$$

## Geometric Distribution

- ① Random variable  $X$  denotes number of trials to (and including) the first occurrence of success.
- ②  $1 \leq X \leq \infty$
- ③ PMF:  $P(X=k) = P(k) = q^{k-1}p, k = 1, 2, \dots$

Mean:  $1/p$

Variance:  $(1-p)/p^2$

DF:  $F(k) = P(X \leq k) = (1 - q^k)$



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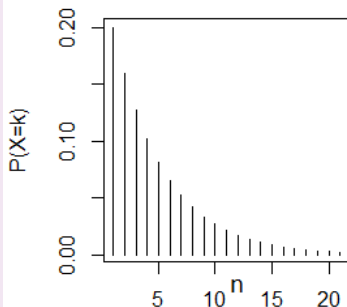
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### Use Case

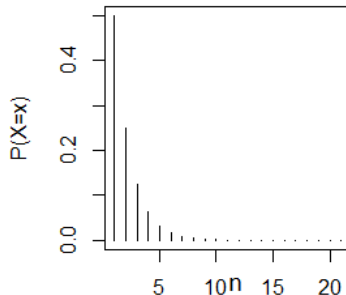
- ① Suppose a retail store want to know how many customers enter a store until that customer makes a purchase
- ② A search engine goes through a list of sites looking for a given key phrase. Suppose the search terminates as soon as the key phrase is found. The number of sites visited is Geometric
- ③ The literacy rate for women in country AAA is 12%. The number of women you ask until one says that she is literate is Geometric rv.

The shape of Geometric distribution is determined by the value assigned to  $p$

**Geometric Distr. ( $p = .2$ )**



**Geometric Distr. ( $p = .5$ )**



- 1 Positive Skew
- 2 How does shape change when  $p$  increases?

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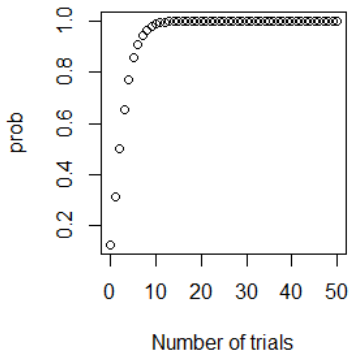
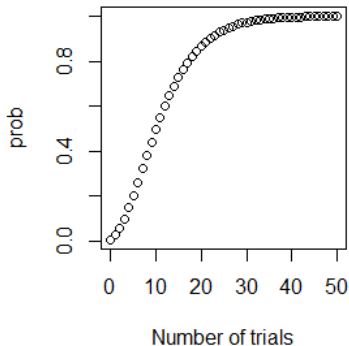
## Negative Binomial Distribution

- 1 **Generalization of Geometric rv - X counts number of trials for r successes in a sequence of independent Bernoulli trials**
- 2 **Generalization of Binomial rv - X counts number of trials instead of successes in a sequence of independent Bernoulli trial**
- 3  $X \sim NB(r, p), X = r, r + 1, \dots, \infty$
- 4 **PMF:**  $\binom{x-1}{r-1} p^r q^{(x-r)}$

### Real world Use Cases:

- 1 Number of attempts to clear 4 papers with p as probability of clearing a paper
- 2 Number of years before flood reoccurs, with p as probability of flood
- 3 Number of inspections before 5 defective components are found, with p probability of defective component (success)

$$E(X) = r/p, \text{Var}(X) = rq/p^2$$

Shape variation with  $p$ NB( $r=3$ ,  $p = 0.5$ )NB( $r=3$ ,  $p = 0.2$ )

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## Multinomial Distribution

- 1 Generalization of Bernoulli in another dimension - relax the requirement that there be only two possible outcomes
- 2 Let there be  $r$  possible outcomes for each trial, denoted by  $E_1, E_2, \dots, E_r$ , with respective probabilities as  $p_1, p_2, \dots, p_r$ . Let rv  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_r$  denote number of  $E_i$ s in  $n$  trials. Then the joint pmf of  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_r$  is given as

$$p_{X_1 X_2 \dots X_r}(k_1, k_2, \dots, k_r) = \frac{n!}{k_1! k_2! \dots k_r!} p_1^{k_1} p_2^{k_2} \dots p_r^{k_r},$$

Since each rv  $X_i$  is itself a Binomial rv with parameters  $n$  and  $p_i$ ,

$$\mu_{X_i} = np_i \text{ and } \text{Var}(X_i) = np_i(1 - p_i)$$

Show that  $\text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) = -np_i p_j$

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## Real World Use cases

- 1 Text Analysis - Language Modeling
- 2 Number of faces in Dice experiment
- 3 Useful in multiclass classification

- 1 Related to a concept of rare events (two such events are extremely unlikely to occur simultaneously or within a very short period of time)
- 2 A Poisson random variable can take any nonnegative integer value
- 3 Approximation of Binomial distribution ( $p$  is very small,  $n$  is lavery large,  $np = \lambda$  is finite)
- 4 PMF:  $P(X = x) = e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x / x!, x = 0, 1, \dots, \infty$
- 5  $E(X) = \text{Var}(X) = \lambda$

Real World Use Cases: The Poisson distribution is useful in determining the probability that a certain number of events occur over a given time period.

- 1 Arrivals of customers at service counter, telephone calls, e-mail messages in a given period
- 2 Number of work-related accidents over a given time
- 3 Number of network blackouts, virus attacks, errors in software in a given period

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