



FOUNDATIONS OF PROBABILITY IN R

Flipping coins in R

Dave Robinson

Data Scientist, Stack Overflow



Flipping a coin

50% chance of heads



50% chance of tails





Flipping a coin in R

```
rbinom(1, 1, .5)  
# [1] 1
```



```
rbinom(1, 1, .5)  
# [1] 0
```





Flipping multiple coins

```
rbinom(10, 1, .5)
# [1] 0 1 1 0 1 1 1 0 1 0
```

```
rbinom(10, 1, .5)
# [1] 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 0
```

```
rbinom(1, 10, .5)
# [1] 4
```

```
rbinom(10, 10, .5)
# [1] 3 6 5 7 4 8 5 6 4 5
```



Unfair coins

```
rbinom(10, 10, .8)
# [1] 6 7 9 10 7 7 8 9 9 8
```

```
rbinom(10, 10, .2)
# [1] 2 2 1 2 2 4 3 1 0 2
```



Binomial distribution

$$X_{1\dots n} \sim \text{Binomial}(\text{size}, p)$$



FOUNDATIONS OF PROBABILITY IN R

Let's practice!



FOUNDATIONS OF PROBABILITY IN R

Density and cumulative density

Dave Robinson

Data Scientist, Stack Overflow

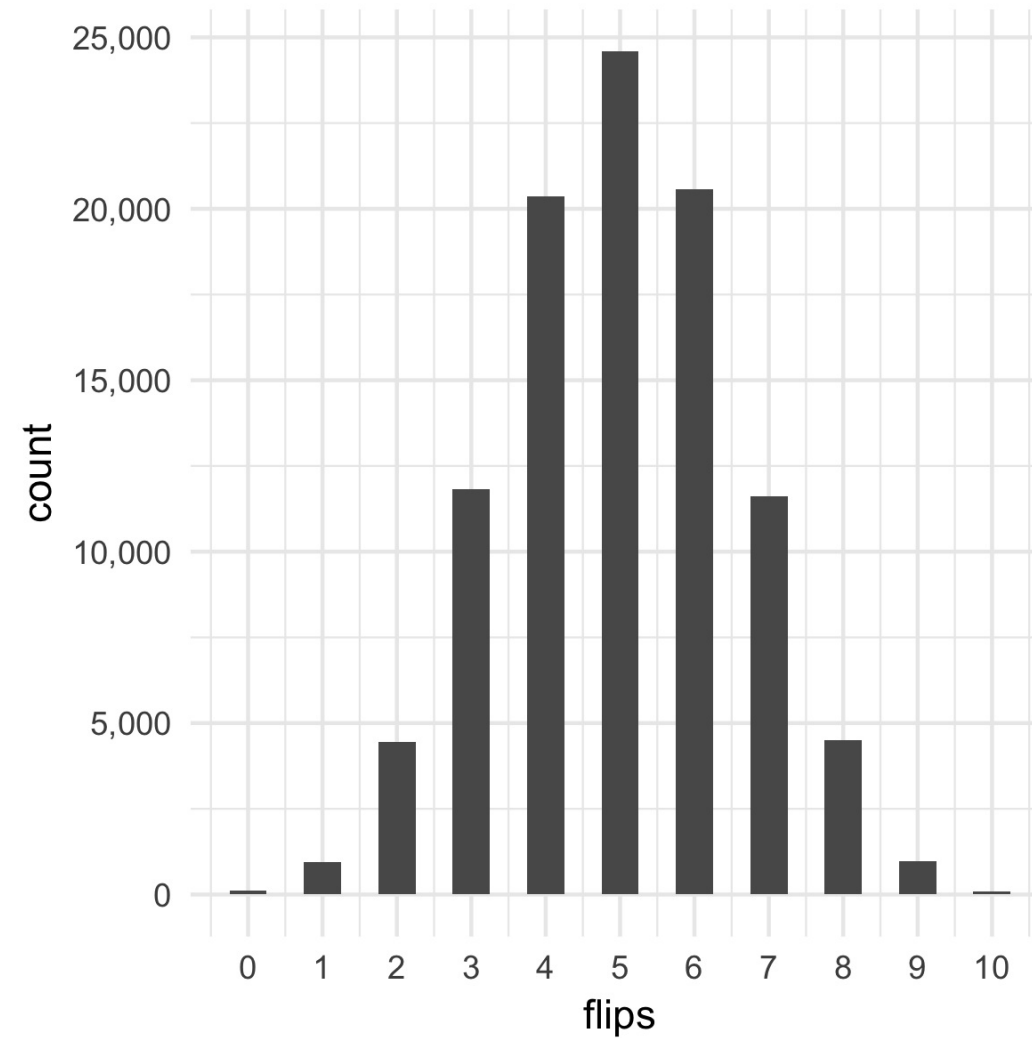


Simulating many outcomes

$$X \sim \text{Binomial}(10, .5)$$

$$\Pr(X = 5)$$

```
flips <- rbinom(100000, 10, .5)
```

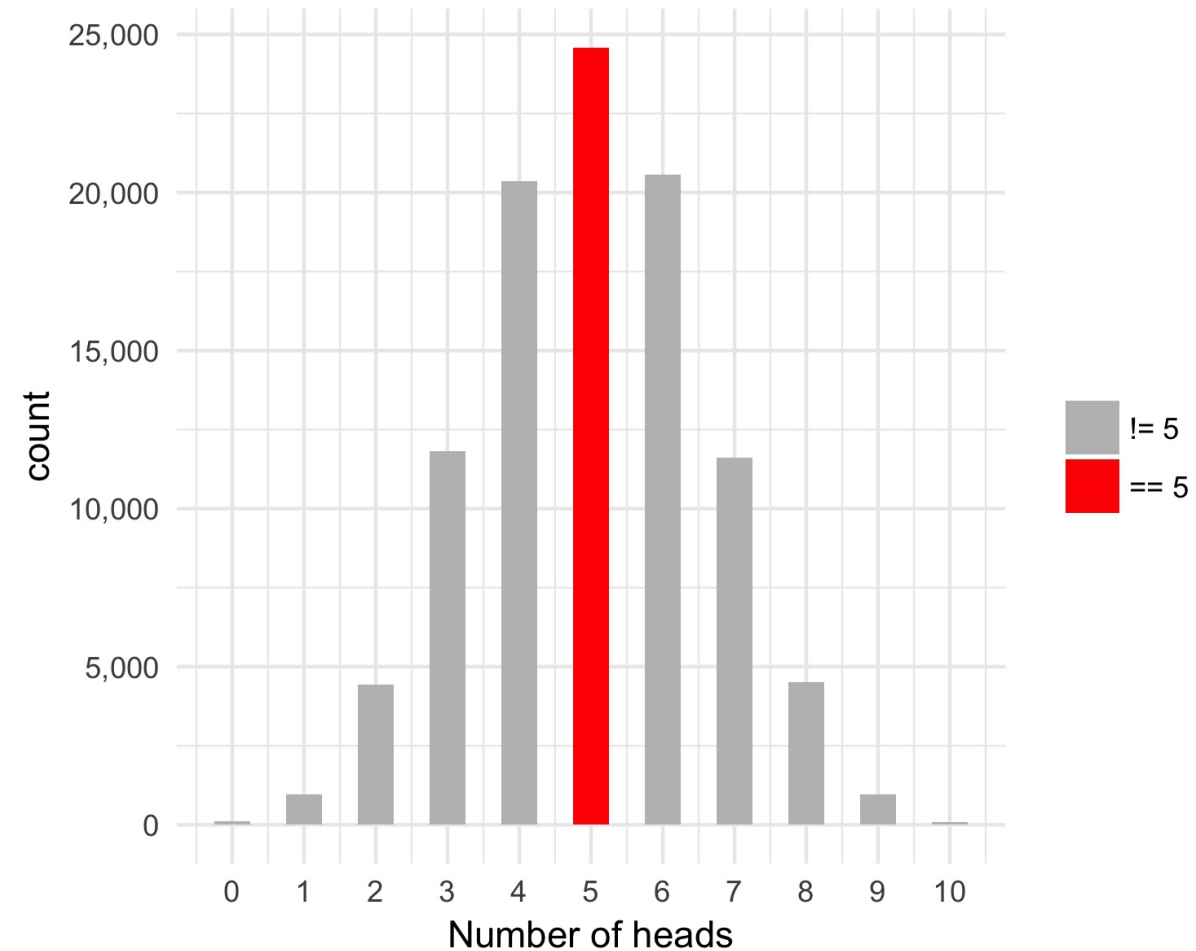


Finding density with simulation

```
flips <- rbinom(100000, 10, .5)
```

```
flips == 5  
# [1] FALSE TRUE FALSE FALSE...
```

```
mean(flips == 5)  
# [1] 0.2463
```





Calculating exact probability density

```
dbinom(5, 10, .5)  
# [1] 0.2460938
```

```
dbinom(6, 10, .5)  
# [1] 0.2050781
```

```
dbinom(10, 10, .5)  
# [1] 0.0009765625
```



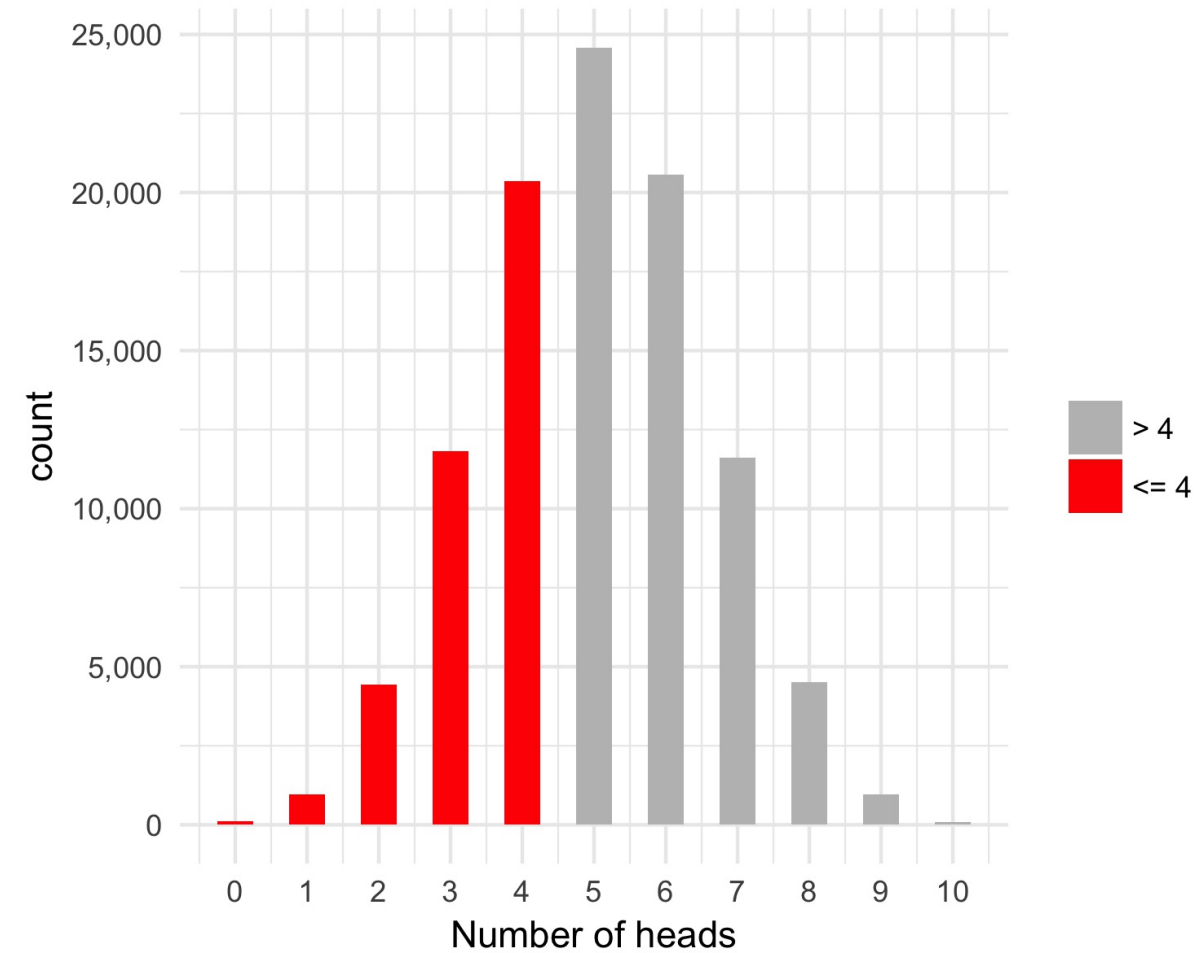
Cumulative density

$$X \sim \text{Binomial}(10, .5)$$

$$\Pr(X \leq 4)$$

```
flips <- rbinom(100000, 10, .5)
mean(flips <= 4)
# [1] 0.37682
```

```
dbinom(4, 10, .5)
# [1] 0.37695
```





FOUNDATIONS OF PROBABILITY IN R

Let's practice!



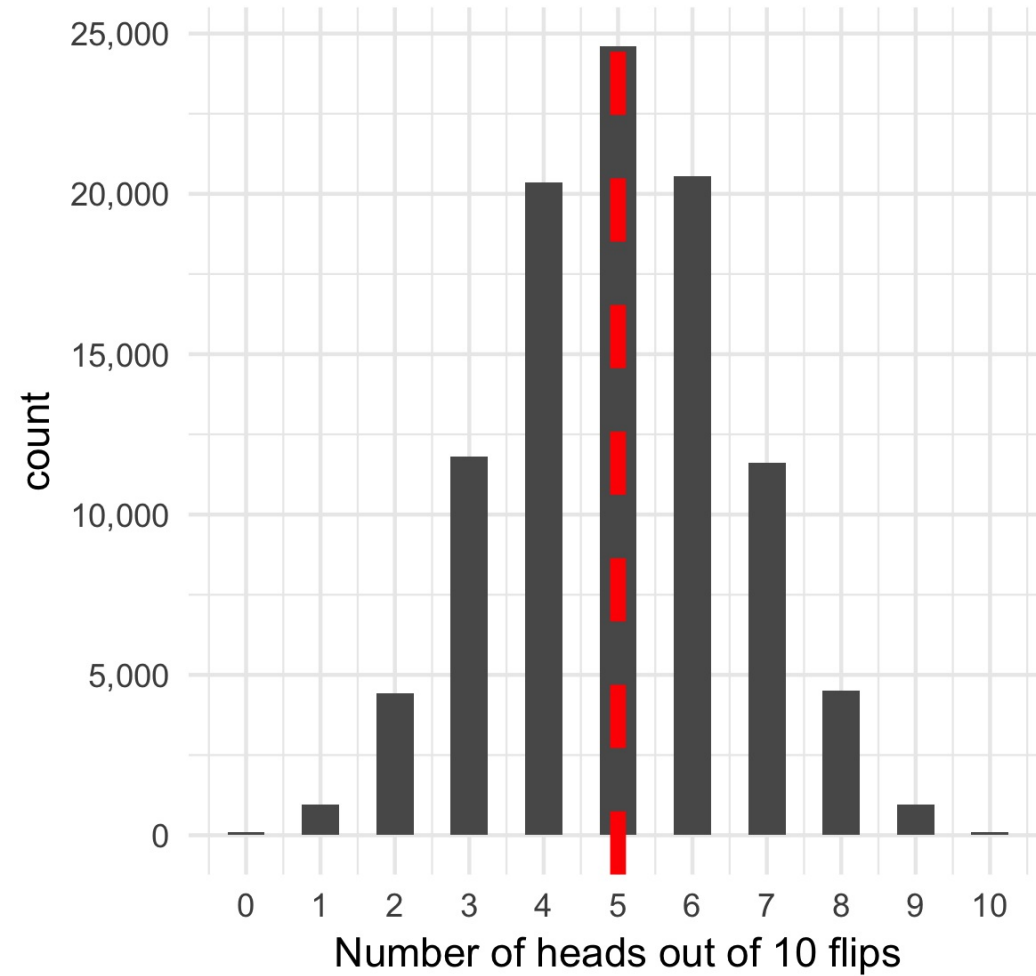
FOUNDATIONS OF PROBABILITY IN R

Expected value and variance

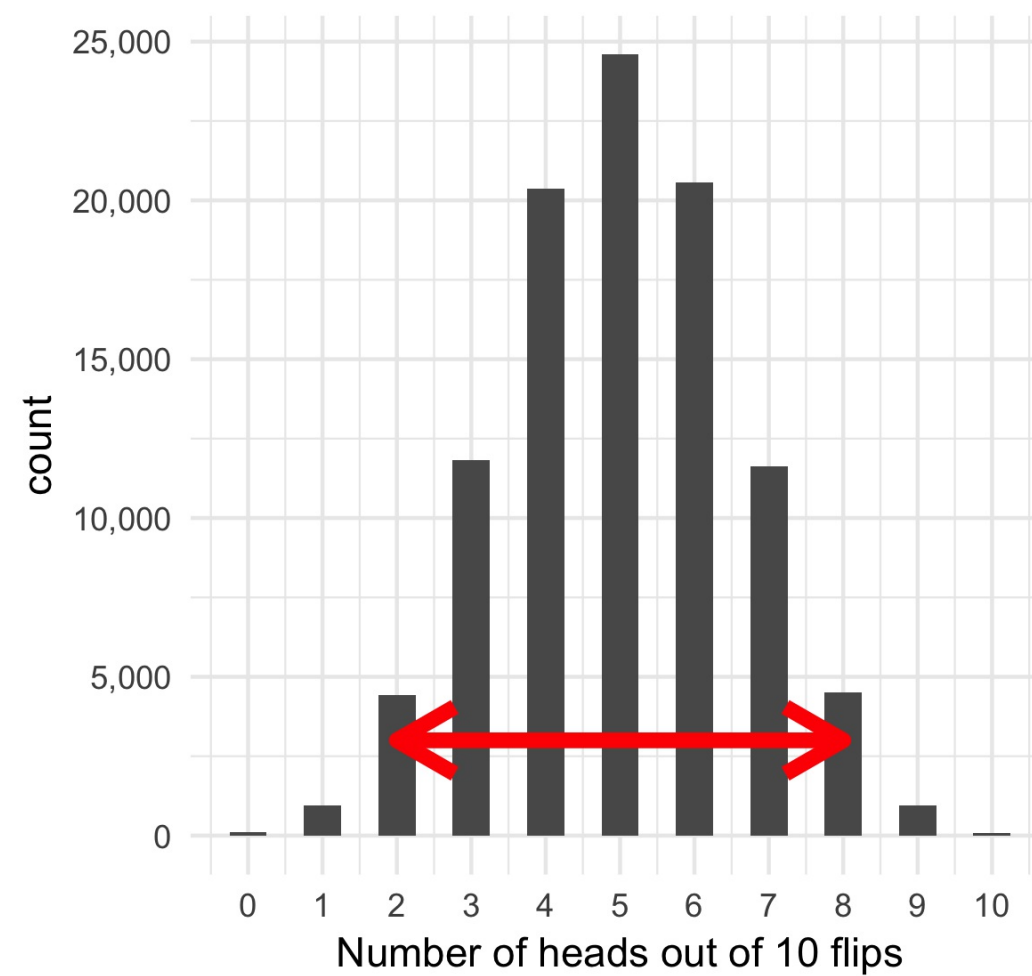


Properties of a distribution

Where is the distribution centered?



How spread out is it?





Expected value

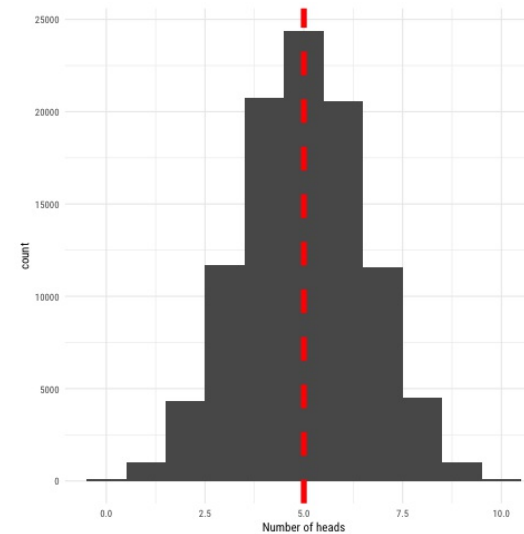
$$X \sim \text{Binomial}(\text{size}, p)$$

$$E[X] = \text{size} \cdot p$$

```
flips <- rbinom(100000, 10, .5)
```

```
mean(flips)  
# [1] 5.00196
```

```
mean(rbinom(100000, 100, .2))  
# [1] 19.99053
```



Variance

$$X \sim \text{Binomial}(10, .5)$$

```
X <- rbinom(100000, 10, .5)
var(X)
# [1] 2.503735
```

$$\text{Var}(X) = \text{size} \cdot p \cdot (1 - p)$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = 10 \cdot .5 \cdot (1 - .5) = 2.5$$

$$Y \sim \text{Binomial}(100, .2)$$

```
Y <- rbinom(100000, 100, .2)
var(Y)
# [1] 16.05621
```

$$\text{Var}(Y) = \text{size} \cdot p \cdot (1 - p)$$

$$\text{Var}(Y) = 100 \cdot .2 \cdot (1 - .2) = 16$$



Rules for expected value and variance

$$X \sim \text{Binomial}(\text{size}, p)$$

$$E[X] = \text{size} \cdot p$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \text{size} \cdot p \cdot (1 - p)$$



FOUNDATIONS OF PROBABILITY IN R

Let's practice!