The Binomial Distribution An Introduction

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The Idea

Describes the number of successes out of n independent trials. Probability of a success in a single trial is given by p.

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- Flip a fair coin 10 times. How many come up heads?
- Roll two dice 5 times. How many times will they add up to 7?

Example: Multiple Choice Test

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$$P(correct) = 0.25$$

$$P(incorrect) = 0.75$$

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Three questions. What's the probability of getting (exactly) 2 right?

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$$P(2R) = 3 \cdot 0.25^2 \cdot 0.75$$



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$$P(RWR) = 0.25 \cdot 0.75 \cdot 0.25$$

$$P(WRR) = 0.75 \cdot 0.25 \cdot 0.25$$

$$P(2R) = 3 \cdot 0.25^2 \cdot 0.75 = 3/64 \approx 4.7\%$$



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$$P(k \text{ correct}) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

The Binomial Distribution

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$$X \sim Bin(n, p)$$
. For $k \in 0$: n ,

$$P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$$

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$$P(k \ge 7) =$$

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$$P(k \ge 7) = P(k = 7) + \cdots + P(k = 10)$$

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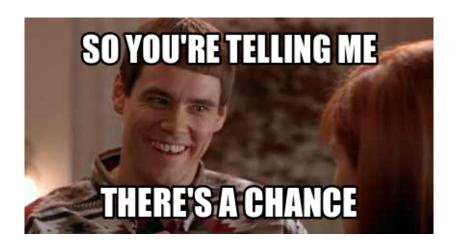
②
$$n = 10$$
 questions, $p = 1/3$. $P(\text{grade} \ge 70\%)$?

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$$P(k \ge 7) = P(k = 7) + \cdots + P(k = 10) \approx 0.35\%$$

② n = 10 questions, p = 1/3. $P(\text{grade} \ge 70\%)$?

$$P(k \ge 7) \approx 1.97\%$$



Questions?

