

# Probability, Computation and Simulation | Homework 1

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## Problem 2

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Write a computer program that, when given a probability mass function  $\{p_j, j = 1, \dots, n\}$  as an input, gives as an output the value of a random variable having this mass function.

### Pseudocode

1. Enter a vector of probabilities  $p$ .
2. Generate a random number  $u$  from a  $Uniform(0, 1)$ .
3. Compute the cdf of  $p$ .
4. Find the index  $j$  such that the cumulative sum of  $p$  is greater than or equal to  $u$ .
5. Output the value  $j$ .

### Putting it in practice

```
set.seed(202425)
p <- c(0.1, 0.3, 0.6)
u <- runif(1)
j <- which.max(cumsum(p) >= u)
j
```

[1] 3



## Problem 4

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A deck of 100 cards—numbered  $1, 2, \dots, 100$ —is shuffled and then turned over one card at a time. Say that a “hit” occurs whenever card  $i$  is the  $i$ -th card to be turned over,  $i = 1, \dots, 100$ . Write a simulation program to estimate the expectation and variance of the total number of hits.

### Pseudocode

1. Let  $N$  be the number of simulations
2. Initialize a counter for hits.
3. For each simulation:
  - Shuffle the deck.
  - Count the number of hits where card  $i$  is in position  $i$ .
4. Compute the expectation and variance of the total number of hits.

### Putting it in practice

```
set.seed(202425)
N <- 10000
hits <- replicate(N, {
  deck <- sample(1:100)
  sum(deck == 1:100)
})
mean(hits)
```

```
[1] 1.0043
```

```
var(hits)
```

```
[1] 0.9929808
```



## Problem 7

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A pair of fair dice are to be continually rolled until all the possible outcomes  $2, 3, \dots, 12$  have occurred at least once. Develop a simulation study to estimate the expected number of dice rolls.

### Pseudocode

1. Let  $N$  be the number of simulations
2. For each simulation:
  - Initialize an empty set of sums.
  - Repeatedly roll the dice until all sums from 2 to 12 are collected.
  - Count the number of rolls.
3. Compute the expected number of rolls.

### Putting it in practice

```
set.seed(202425)
N <- 10000
rolls <- replicate(N, {
  outcomes <- integer(0)
  count <- 0
  while(length(unique(outcomes)) < 11) {
    outcome <- sum(sample(1:6, 2, replace = TRUE))
    outcomes <- c(outcomes, outcome)
    count <- count + 1
  }
  count
})
mean(rolls)
```

```
[1] 60.5079
```



## Problem 13

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Give two methods for generating a random variable  $X$  such that

$$P(X = i) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^i / i!}{\sum_{j=0}^k e^{-\lambda} \lambda^j / j!}, \quad i = 0, \dots, k$$

### Method 1: Inverse Transform

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#### Pseudocode

1. Compute the cdf for the given probabilities.
2. Generate a random number  $u$  from a  $Uniform(0, 1)$ .
3. Find the smallest  $i$  such that the CDF at  $i$  is greater than or equal to  $u$ .

#### Putting it in practice

```
set.seed(202425)
lambda <- 3
k <- 5
p <- dpois(0:k, lambda)
u <- runif(1)
i <- which.max(cumsum(p) >= u)
i
```

```
[1] 6
```



## Problem 13

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Give two methods for generating a random variable  $X$  such that

$$P(X = i) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^i / i!}{\sum_{j=0}^k e^{-\lambda} \lambda^j / j!}, \quad i = 0, \dots, k$$

### Method 2: Acceptance-Rejection

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#### Pseudocode

1. Generate  $i$  from the example distribution.
2. Compute the acceptance probability for  $i$ .
3. Accept the probability proportional to the target distribution. Otherwise, repeat.

#### Putting it in practice

```
set.seed(202425)
accept <- FALSE
while(!accept) {
  i <- sample(0:k, 1)
  u <- runif(1)
  if(u <= dpois(i, lambda) / max(dpois(0:k, lambda))) {
    accept <- TRUE
  }
}
i
```

[1] 2



## Problem 14

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Let  $X$  be a binomial random variable with parameters  $n$  and  $p$ . Suppose that we want to generate a random variable  $Y$  whose probability mass function is the same as the conditional mass function of  $X$  given that  $X \geq k$ , for some  $k \leq n$ . Let  $\alpha = P(X \geq k)$  and suppose that the value of  $\alpha$  has been computed.

### Part A: Inverse Transform Method

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#### Pseudocode

1. Compute the conditional CDF for  $X \geq k$ .
2. Generate a random number  $u$  from a uniform distribution.
3. Find the smallest  $i$  such that the CDF at  $i$  is greater than or equal to  $u$ .

#### Putting it in practice

```
set.seed(202425)
n <- 10
p <- 0.5
k <- 5
alpha <- pbinom(n, size = n, prob = p) - pbinom(k - 1, size = n, prob = p)
p_cond <- dbinom(k:n, size = n, prob = p) / alpha
u <- runif(1)
i <- which.max(cumsum(p_cond) >= u) + k - 1
i
```

[1] 7



## Problem 14

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Let  $X$  be a binomial random variable with parameters  $n$  and  $p$ . Suppose that we want to generate a random variable  $Y$  whose probability mass function is the same as the conditional mass function of  $X$  given that  $X \geq k$ , for some  $k \leq n$ . Let  $\alpha = P(X \geq k)$  and suppose that the value of  $\alpha$  has been computed.

### Part B: Rejection Sampling Method

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#### Pseudocode

1. Generate a value  $X$  from a binomial distribution.
2. If  $X \geq k$ , accept  $X$ . Otherwise, repeat.

#### Putting it in practice

```
set.seed(202425)
accept <- FALSE
while(!accept) {
  X <- rbinom(1, size = n, prob = p)
  if(X >= k) {
    accept <- TRUE
  }
}
X
```

[1] 7