



# THE Geometric Distribution

If trials are independent and probability of success is constant

$X = \# \text{ of trials until 1st success is observed}$

$x = 1, 2, 3, \dots$  (no upper bound)

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

Defining  $S = \text{success}$     $F = \text{failure}$

$$\begin{aligned} P(S) &= p \\ P(F) &= 1-p \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(X=s) &= P(F_1 \cap F_2 \cap \dots \cap F_{x-1} \cap S_x) \\ &= P(F_1) P(F_2) P(F_3) \dots P(F_{x-1}) P(S_x) \\ &= p(1-p)^{x-1} \end{aligned}$$

THIS DISTRIBUTION CANNOT BE USED ON YOUR CALCULATOR.

$P(X \leq x)$  (success in less than or equal to  $x$  trials)

$$= \sum_{k=1}^x p(1-p)^{k-1} = p \sum_{k=1}^x (1-p)^{k-1} = p \underbrace{(1 + (1-p)^1 + (1-p)^2 + \dots + (1-p)^{x-1})}_{\text{geometric series}}$$

$$a=1, r=1-p \quad S_x = \frac{1(1-(1-p)^x)}{1-(1-p)}$$

$$= \frac{1-(1-p)^x}{p}$$

$$P(X \leq x) = p \left( \frac{1-(1-p)^x}{p} \right) = 1 - (1-p)^x$$

$$P(X > x) = 1 - P(X \leq x) = 1 - (1 - (1-p)^x) = (1-p)^x$$

$$P(X \geq x) = P(X > x-1) = (1-p)^{x-1}$$

$$P(X < x) = P(X \leq x-1) = 1 - (1-p)^{x-1}$$

All the geometric distribution formulas you will ever need

## Mean of Geometric Distribution.

$$E[X] = \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x \cdot P(X=x) = \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x \cdot p(1-p)^{x-1} = p \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x \cdot (1-p)^{x-1}$$

reminder:  $\frac{d}{dx}(x^n) = nx^{n-1}$

$$\frac{d}{dp}((1-p)^x) = -x(1-p)^{x-1}$$

$$= -p \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} \frac{d}{dp} (1-p)^x = -p \frac{d}{dp} \left\{ \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} (1-p)^x \right\}$$

geometric series

$$= -p \frac{d}{dp} \left( \frac{1}{p} - 1 \right)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(y_1) + \frac{d}{dx}(y_2) = \frac{d}{dx}(y_1+y_2)$$

$$= -p \left( -\frac{1}{p^2} \right) = \frac{1}{p^2} = \frac{1}{p}$$

$$a = 1-p \quad r = 1-p$$

$$S_{\infty} = \frac{a}{1-r} = \frac{1-p}{1-(1-p)} = \frac{1-p}{p} = \frac{1}{p} - 1$$

## Variance of Geometric Distribution

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[X(X-1)] + E[X] - (E[X])^2$$

$$E[X(X-1)] = p \sum_{x=2}^{\infty} x(x-1)(1-p)^{x-1}$$

$$\frac{d}{dp} \left\{ (x-1)(1-p)^x \right\} = -x(x-1)(1-p)^{x-1}$$

$$= -p \sum_{x=2}^{\infty} \frac{d}{dp} ((x-1)(1-p)^x)$$

$$\frac{d}{dp} \left\{ (1-p)^{x-1} \right\} = -(x-1)(1-p)^{x-2}$$

$$= -p \frac{d}{dp} \left\{ \sum_{x=2}^{\infty} (x-1)(1-p)^x \right\}$$

take out  
 $(1-p)^2$

$$= -p \frac{d}{dp} \left\{ (1-p)^2 \sum_{x=2}^{\infty} (x-1)(1-p)^{x-2} \right\} = p \frac{d}{dp} \left\{ (1-p)^2 \sum_{x=2}^{\infty} \frac{d}{dp} ((1-p)^{x-1}) \right\}$$

$$= p \frac{d}{dp} \left\{ (1-p)^2 \frac{d}{dp} \left( \sum_{x=2}^{\infty} (1-p)^{x-1} \right) \right\}$$

$$\frac{d}{dp} \left\{ \sum_{x=2}^{\infty} (1-p)^{x-1} \right\} = \frac{d}{dp} \left\{ (1-p) + (1-p)^2 + \dots \right\}$$

geometric series

$$= p \frac{d}{dp} \left\{ (1-p)^2 \left( -\frac{1}{p^2} \right) \right\}$$

$$= \frac{d}{dp} \left( \frac{1}{p} - 1 \right) = -\frac{1}{p^2}$$

$$a = 1-p \quad r = 1-p$$

$$S_{\infty} = \frac{a}{1-r} = \frac{1-p}{p} = \frac{1}{p} - 1$$

$$= -p \frac{d}{dp} \left( \frac{1-2p+p^2}{p^2} \right) = -p \frac{d}{dp} (p^{-2} - 2p^{-1} + 1) = -p (-2p^{-3} + 2p^{-2}) = \frac{2}{p^3} - \frac{2}{p^2}$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{2}{p^2} - \frac{2}{p} + \frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{p^2} = \frac{1}{p^2} - \frac{p}{p^2} = \frac{1-p}{p^2}$$

Ex (3A)

④ Pass an exam to get into law school, probability of passing = 0.3

a) i)  $X = \# \text{ of attempts}$   $X \sim \text{Geo}(0.3)$

$$P(X=3) = (0.3)(0.7)^2 = 0.147$$

$$\text{ii)} P(X \geq 4) = P(X \leq 3) = 1 - (0.7)^3 = 0.657$$

b) Independent trials, constant probability.

⑦  $X \sim \text{Geo}(0.032)$

a)  $P(X=x) = p(1-p)^{x-1} = 0.032(0.968)^{x-1} = 0.0203$

$$\ln 0.032 + (x-1) \ln 0.968 = \ln 0.0203$$

$$x = 1 + \frac{\ln 0.0203 - \ln 0.032}{\ln 0.968} = 14.99 \approx 15$$

b) largest  $x$  s.t.  $P(X \leq x) < 0.1$

$$P(X \leq x) = 1 - (1-p)^x = 1 - 0.968^x < 0.1$$

$$0.968^x > 0.9$$

$$\Rightarrow x < \frac{\ln 0.9}{\ln 0.968} < 3.23955\dots$$

$$x \ln 0.968 < \ln 0.9$$

$$x_{\max} = 3$$

c) smallest  $x$  st.  $P(X \geq x) < 0.05$

$$P(X \geq x) = 1 - P(X \leq x-1) = 1 - (1 - (1-p)^{x-1}) = (1-p)^{x-1} = 0.968^{x-1} < 0.05$$

$$(x-1) \ln 0.968 > \ln 0.05$$

$$x > 1 + \frac{\ln 0.05}{\ln 0.968} = 93.11 \quad \therefore x_{\min} = 94$$

(10) Roll 3 dice: O=odd, E=even

{OOO or EEE}: fail      {OOE, OEO, OEE, EOO, EOEO, EEOE}: success

$$P(\text{success}) = \frac{3}{4}$$

$$X \sim \text{Geo}\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)$$

$$\text{a)} P(X=3) = \frac{3}{4} \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^2 = \frac{3}{64} = 0.046875$$

$$\text{b)} P(X \geq 4) = \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^3 = \frac{1}{64} = 0.015625$$

(11) a)  $X = \# \text{ of customers per hour}$      $X \sim \text{Po}(4)$

$$P(X \geq 5) = 1 - P(X \leq 4) = 0.3712$$

b)  $Y = \# \text{ of hours until } \geq 5 \text{ customers enter}$      $Y \sim \text{Geo}(0.3712)$

$$P(Y=5) = (0.3712)(1-0.3712)^4 = 0.05803$$

$$P(Y \geq 8) = P(Y \geq 9) = (1-0.3712)^8 = 0.02444$$

Ex (3B)

(7) a)  $X = \# \text{ of attempts to parallel park the car}$

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

b)  $P$  is constant, parallel parking is independent

c)  $P(X=2) = 0.16 = p(1-p)$      $p=0.8, 0.2 = 0.2$  (rej. 0.8 since  $p < 0.5$ )

$$p^2 - p + 0.16 = 0$$

d)  $E[X] = \frac{1}{p} = 5$

e)  $\text{Var}(X) = \frac{1-p}{p^2} = \frac{1-0.2}{0.2^2} = 20$

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# NEGATIVE BINOMIAL DISTRIBUTION

let  $X = \# \text{ of trials until the } r^{\text{th}} \text{ success is observed}$  (Same assumptions as geometric)  
if  $r=1$ , this is geometric  
• p constant  
• independent trials

If  $X=K$ , then there are precisely  $r-1$  successes observed in the first  $K-1$  trials

$$Y \sim B(K-1, p)$$

$$P(Y=r-1) = \binom{K-1}{r-1} p^{r-1} (1-p)^{(K-1)-(r-1)}$$

model Y using normal binomial

$$\begin{aligned} P(X=K) &= P(Y=r-1) \times P(\text{K}^{\text{th}} \text{ trial is a success}) && \text{for } r \text{ successes to be observed in } K \text{ trials,} \\ &= \binom{K-1}{r-1} p^{r-1} (1-p)^{K-r} \times p && \text{there must be } r-1 \text{ successes in } K-1 \text{ trials} \\ &= \binom{K-1}{r-1} p^r (1-p)^{K-r} && \begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \text{this is just } p. \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{AND} \\ \text{the } K^{\text{th}} \text{ trial is a success.} \end{matrix} \end{aligned}$$

$X \sim NB(r, p)$  (NB(1, p) = Geo(p))

$$P(X=K) = \binom{K-1}{r-1} p^r (1-p)^{K-r}$$

"Negative" binomial because instead of fixed # of trials  $\rightarrow$  # of successes,  
we use this for fixed # of successes  $\rightarrow$  # of trials

## Expected Value of $X \sim NB(r, p)$

If  $G_i \sim Geo(p)$  where  $i=1, 2, \dots, r$  and all are independent of each other,

$$X = G_1 + G_2 + G_3 + \dots + G_r = \sum_{i=1}^r G_i \Rightarrow X \sim NB(r, p)$$

# of trials for 1<sup>st</sup> success + # of trials for 2<sup>nd</sup> success + ... + # of trials for r<sup>th</sup> success  
= # of trials for r successes =  $NB(r, p)$

$$E[X] = E\left[\sum_{i=1}^r G_i\right] = \sum_{i=1}^r E[G_i] = \sum_{i=1}^r \frac{1}{p} = \frac{r}{p}$$

Variance of  $X \sim NB(r, p)$  using the geometric distribution sum from above

$$\text{Var}(X) = \text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^r G_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^r \text{Var}(G_i) = \sum_{i=1}^r \left(\frac{1-p}{p^2}\right) = \frac{r(1-p)}{p^2}$$

Exercise (3D)

(5)  $X \sim NB(r, 0.4)$

a)  $E(X) = \frac{r}{p} = \frac{r}{0.4} = 15 \quad r = 15 \times 0.4 = 6$

b) i)  $P(X=10) = \binom{K-1}{r-1} p^r (1-p)^{K-r} = \binom{9}{5} 0.4^6 \times 0.6^4 = 0.0669$

ii)  $P(X \leq 8) = \sum_{K=6}^8 \left\{ \binom{K-1}{5} \times 0.4^6 \times 0.6^{K-6} \right\} = 0.0498$

(8) a)  $2 \times \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^4 = \frac{1}{2^3} = \frac{1}{8} = 0.125$

b) let  $X = \# \text{ of trials to observe 3 successes}$  (success = 3 coins on same side)

$$X \sim NB(3, 0.125) \quad P(X=6) = \binom{5}{2} \times 0.125^3 \times 0.875^3 = 0.0131$$

c) let  $Y = \# \text{ of trials to observe 12 successes}$   $Y \sim NB(12, 0.125)$

$$E[Y] = \frac{r}{p} = \frac{12}{0.125} = 96$$