

Table of Common Distributions

taken from *Statistical Inference* by Casella and Berger

Discrete Distributions

distribution	pmf	mean	variance	mgf/moment
Bernoulli(p)	$p^x(1-p)^{1-x}; x = 0, 1; p \in (0, 1)$	p	$p(1-p)$	$(1-p) + pe^t$
Beta-binomial(n, α, β)	$\binom{n}{x} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)} \frac{\Gamma(x+\alpha)\Gamma(n-x+\beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta+n)}$	$\frac{n\alpha}{\alpha+\beta}$	$\frac{n\alpha\beta}{(\alpha+\beta)^2}$	
Notes: If $X P$ is binomial (n, P) and P is beta(α, β), then X is beta-binomial(n, α, β).				
Binomial(n, p)	$\binom{n}{x} p^x(1-p)^{n-x}; x = 1, \dots, n$	np	$np(1-p)$	$[(1-p) + pe^t]^n$
Discrete Uniform(N)	$\frac{1}{N}; x = 1, \dots, N$	$\frac{N+1}{2}$	$\frac{(N+1)(N-1)}{12}$	$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N e^{it}$
Geometric(p)	$p(1-p)^{x-1}; p \in (0, 1)$	$\frac{1}{p}$	$\frac{1-p}{p^2}$	$\frac{pe^t}{1-(1-p)e^t}$
Note: $Y = X - 1$ is negative binomial($1, p$). The distribution is <i>memoryless</i> : $P(X > s X > t) = P(X > s - t)$.				
Hypergeometric(N, M, K)	$\frac{\binom{M}{x}\binom{N-M}{K-x}}{\binom{N}{K}}; x = 1, \dots, K$ $M - (N - K) \leq x \leq M; N, M, K > 0$	$\frac{KM}{N}$	$\frac{KM}{N} \frac{(N-M)(N-K)}{N(N-1)}$?
Negative Binomial(r, p)	$\binom{r+x-1}{x} p^r(1-p)^x; p \in (0, 1)$ $\binom{y-1}{r-1} p^r(1-p)^{y-r}; Y = X + r$	$\frac{r(1-p)}{p}$	$\frac{r(1-p)}{p^2}$	$\left(\frac{p}{1-(1-p)e^t}\right)^r$
Poisson(λ)	$\frac{e^{-\lambda}\lambda^x}{x!}; \lambda \geq 0$	λ	λ	$e^{\lambda(e^t-1)}$
Notes: If Y is gamma(α, β), X is Poisson($\frac{x}{\beta}$), and α is an integer, then $P(X \geq \alpha) = P(Y \leq y)$.				