

# Chapter 5

## Some Discrete Probability Distributions



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# Section 5.2

## Binomial and Multinomial Distributions



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# Bernoulli RV



- Def.: An RV  $X$  has the distribution Bernoulli( $p$ ) if

$$\mathbb{P}(X = 1) = p$$

$$\mathbb{P}(X = 0) = 1 - p$$

- $X$  takes values from  $\{0,1\}$

- Analogy: Toss of a ‘biased’ coin

- Probability of ‘H’ is  $p$

- ‘H’ is considered to be 1, ‘T’ is considered to be 0



# Bernoulli RV



- Mean and variance of Bernoulli RV

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = p, \ \sigma_X^2 = p(1 - p)$$

- Can be seen as the number of seeing an outcome (H) for 1 trial of experiment
- Multiple, independent trials: Binomial RV

# Binomial RV

Counting



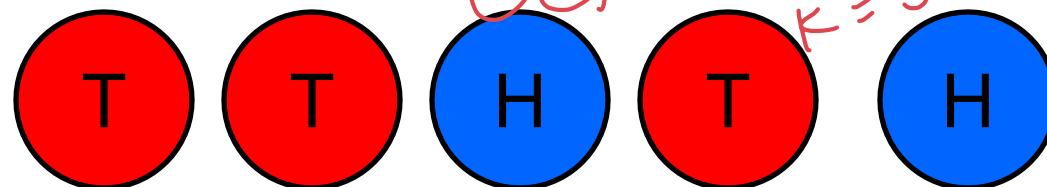
- Def.: An RV  $X$  has the distribution Binomial( $n,p$ ) with distribution  $b(k;n,p)$  if

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

- X takes values from  $\{0,1,\dots,n\}$

- Analogy: Total number of 'H' out of  $n$  tosses

- Related to 'counting' of occurrences of an event
- What is the probability that  $X=2$  when  $n=5$ ?



$$P(X=k) = \sum_{k=0}^n P(X=k)$$

# Binomial RV



- Def.: If  $Y \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p)$ , then

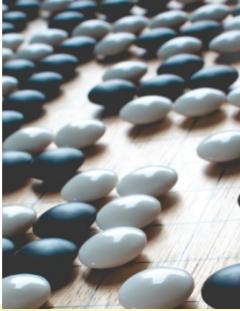
$$Y = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n$$

- ~~$E[Y] = E[X_1] + E[X_2] + \dots + E[X_n]$~~

- ~~$X_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ ,  $X_i$  are independent~~

- ~~Useful for calculating mean/variance~~

$$f = f_1 + f_2 + \dots + f_n$$



# Theorem 5.1

mutually independent

$$E(X^2)$$

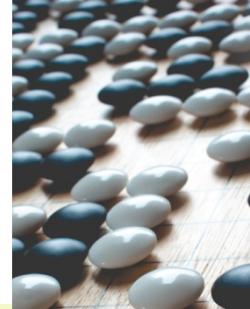
$$E(X(X-1))$$

The mean and variance of the binomial distribution  $b(x; n, p)$  are  
 $\mu = np$  and  $\sigma^2 = npq$ .

$$X_1 + \sum_{i=2}^n X_i$$

$$\overbrace{np(1-p)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(Y) &= \underbrace{\text{Var}(X_1) + \dots + \text{Var}(X_n)}_{= np(1-p)} \\ &\quad \underbrace{\beta_{\text{Ber}}(p)}_{\text{Ber}(p)} \end{aligned}$$



## Example 5.2

a)  $P(X \geq 10)$

$$= \sum_{k=10}^{15} \binom{15}{k} 0.4^k 0.6^{15-k}$$

**Example 5.2:** The probability that a patient recovers from a rare blood disease is 0.4. If 15 people are known to have contracted this disease, what is the probability that (a) at least 10 survive, (b) from 3 to 8 survive, and (c) exactly 5 survive?

b)  $P(3 \leq X \leq 8) = \sum_{k=3}^{8} \binom{15}{k} 0.4^k 0.6^{15-k}$

(how many recover out of 15)

$$\cancel{X}$$

$$\sim B(15, 0.4, 0.6)$$

# Section 5.4

## Negative Binomial and Geometric Distributions



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# Geometric RV



$\textcircled{0} \textcircled{0} \textcircled{0} \textcircled{0} \textcircled{0} \textcircled{H}$   
 $k-1$   
 $R$

- Def.: An RV  $X$  has the distribution  $\text{Geometric}(p)$  if

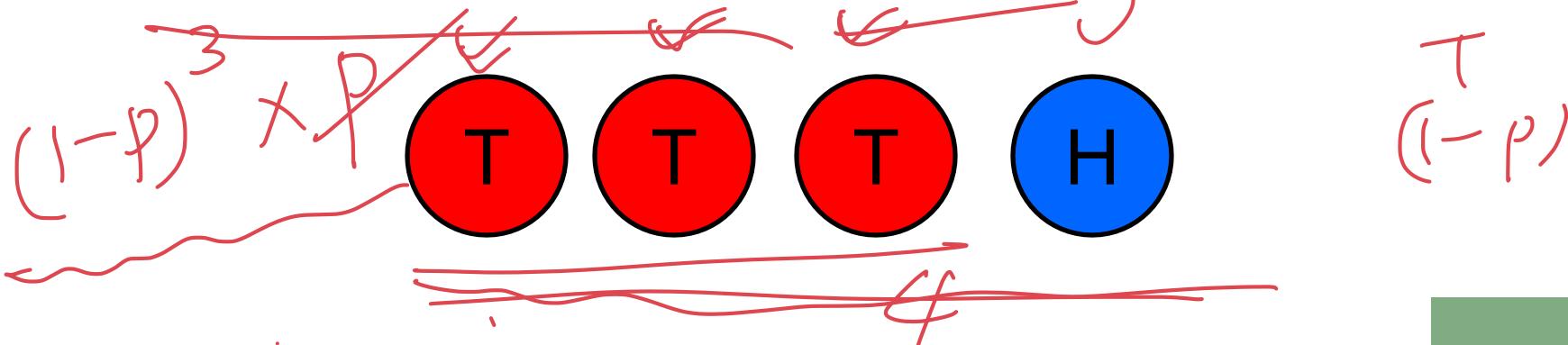
$$\mathbb{P}(X = k) = p(1 - p)^{k-1}$$

- $X$  takes values from  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$

- Analogy: Total number of coin tosses until we see the first 'H'

- Or 'time until the first success'

- What is the probability that  $X=4$ ?



# Theorem 5.3

$$\begin{aligned}
 E[X(X-1)] &= E[X^2] - E[X] = \frac{2(1-p)}{p^2} \\
 E[X^2] - \frac{1}{p} &= \frac{2E[X]}{p} = \frac{2}{p^2} - \frac{1}{p} \\
 pE[X(X-1)] &= 2p(1-p) + 4p(1-p)^2 + 6p(1-p)^3 + 8
 \end{aligned}$$

The mean and variance of a random variable following the geometric distribution are

$$\mu = \frac{1}{p} \text{ and } \sigma^2 = \frac{1-p}{p^2}.$$

$$V^2 = E[X^2] - \mu^2$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 E[X^2] &= \frac{1}{p} \\
 E[X^2] - E[X]^2 &= \frac{1}{p^2} - \frac{1}{p^2}(1-p)^2 = \frac{1}{p^2} - \frac{1}{p^2} + \frac{2}{p^2} - \frac{1}{p^2} \\
 &= 2(1-p)
 \end{aligned}$$

# Example 5.15



**Example 5.15:** For a certain manufacturing process, it is known that, on the average, 1 in every 100 items is defective. What is the probability that the fifth item inspected is the first defective item found?

$$X \sim \text{Geo}(0.01)$$

$$\Rightarrow P(X=5) = 0.99^4 \cdot 0.01$$

# Negative Binomial RV



- Def: X is said to have negative Binomial RV  
 $\sim NB(k,p)$  with distribution  $b^*(x;k,p)$

$$b^*(x;k,p) = \binom{x-1}{k-1} p^k (1-p)^{x-k}$$

$X \sim NB(k,p)$

$X = k, k+1, k+2, \dots$

- Meaning : # of experiments until see k successes
- Geometric RV is special case,  $k=1$

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# Negative Binomial RV



- Negative binomial extension

P(N) ~

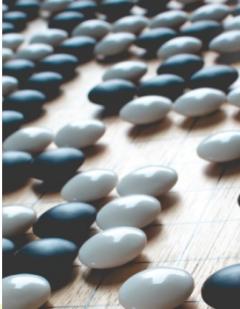
$$\begin{aligned}(1+t)^{-k} &= 1 + \frac{-k}{1!}t + \frac{(-k)(-k-1)}{2!}t^2 + \dots \\ &= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} (-1)^x \frac{(k+x-1)(k+x-2)\dots(k)}{x!} t^x \\ &= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} \binom{x+k-1}{k-1} (-t)^x \\ &= \sum_{x=k}^{\infty} \binom{x-1}{k-1} (-t)^{x-k}\end{aligned}$$

(Taylor series)



- Setting  $t=-p$  shows that  $b^*(x;k,p)$  is a pmf

# Negative Binomial RV



- Def.: If  $Y \sim NB(k, p)$ , then

$k$  independent

$$Y = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_k$$

- $X_i \sim \text{Geometric}(p)$ ,  $X_i$  are independent

$k=3$

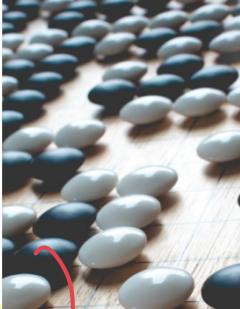
- Useful for calculating mean/variance

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1

2

3



# Negative Binomial RV

$$\text{Var}(X) = \text{Var}(X_1) + \dots + \text{Var}(X_k)$$

- Mean and variance of NB RV  $X$  is given by

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{k}{p} \quad \text{if } \left( \frac{1-p}{p^2} \right)$$

$$\sigma_X^2 = k \frac{1-p}{p^2}$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X_1] + \mathbb{E}[X_2] + \dots + \mathbb{E}[X_k]$$

- Try to show these!

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

# Example 5.14

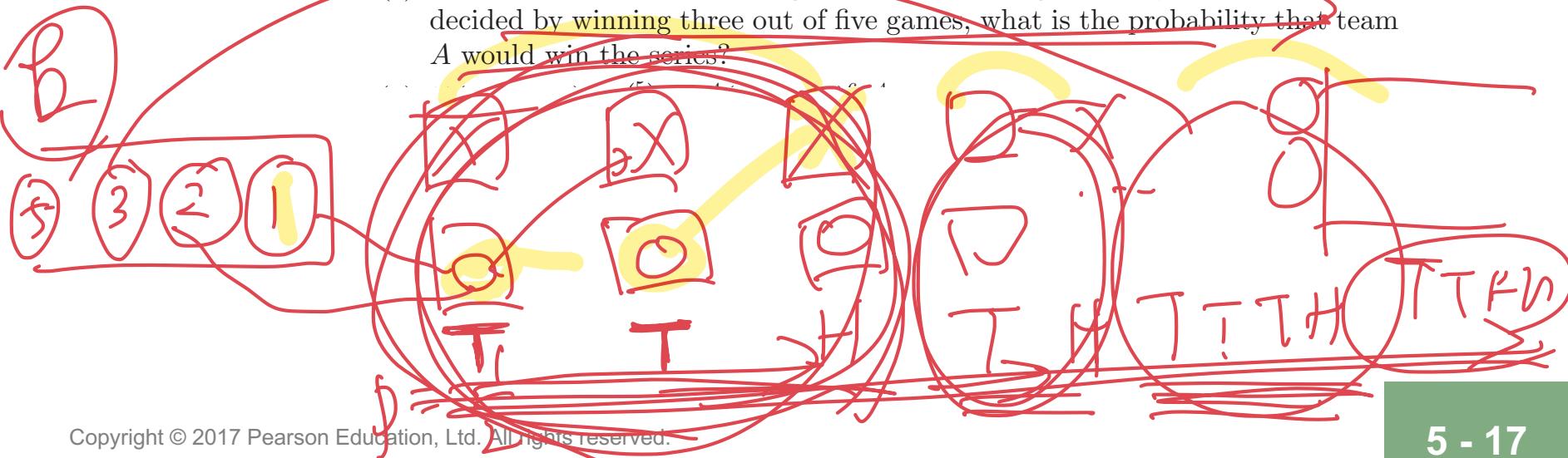


$$\begin{aligned} &P(X=4) \\ &+ P(X=5) \\ &+ P(X=6) \end{aligned}$$

$$X \sim NB(k=5, p=0.55)$$
$$P(X \geq 20)$$
$$x=6 \quad k=4$$
$$0.45^2$$

**Example 5.14:** In an NBA (National Basketball Association) championship series, the team that wins four games out of seven is the winner. Suppose that teams  $A$  and  $B$  face each other in the championship games and that team  $A$  has probability 0.55 of winning a game over team  $B$ .

- What is the probability that team  $A$  will win the series in 6 games?
- What is the probability that team  $A$  will win the series?
- If teams  $A$  and  $B$  were facing each other in a regional playoff series, which is decided by winning three out of five games, what is the probability that team  $A$  would win the series?



# Section 5.5

## Poisson Distribution and the Poisson Process



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# Poisson RV



- Def.: An RV  $X$  has the distribution  $\text{Poisson}(\lambda)$  if its

$$\mathbb{P}(X = k) = \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda}$$

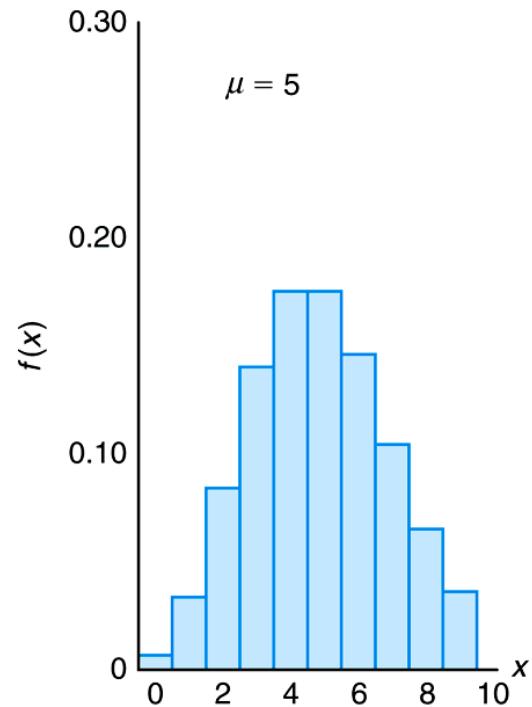
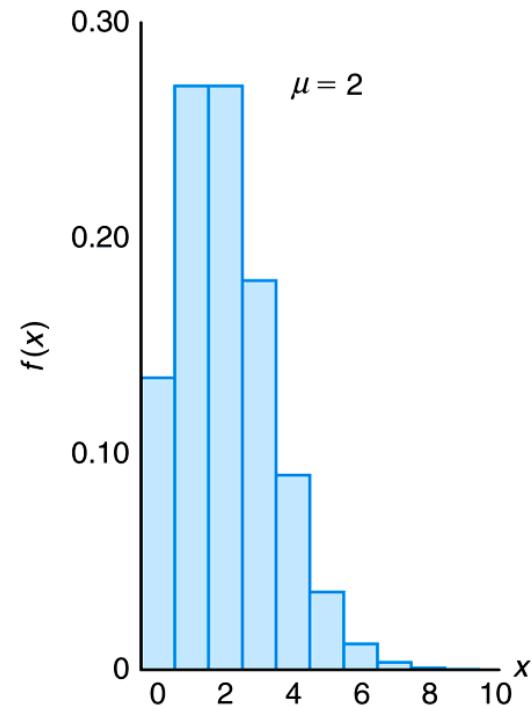
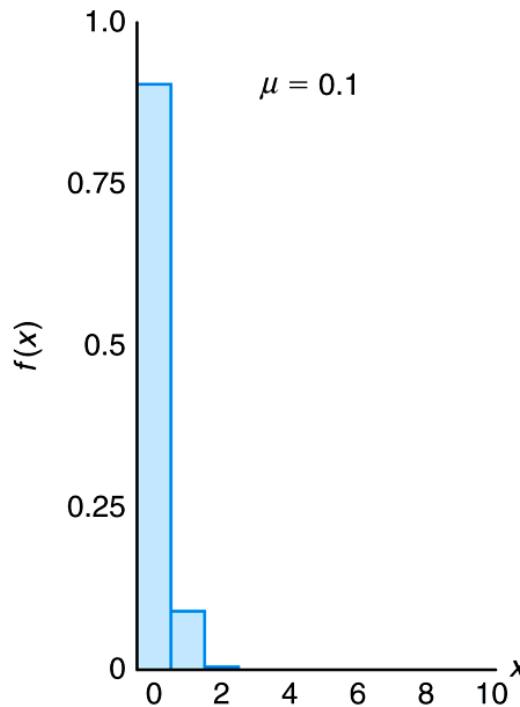
- $X$  takes values from  $\{0,1,2,\dots\}$
- **The mean of  $X$  is  $\lambda$**
- **Analogy:** *Total number of ‘H’ out of many tosses with small probability of success*
  - *Models the total number of successes during a time period*
  - *“Limiting” version of binomial RVs*

# Theorem 5.4



Both the mean and variance of  $X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$  is  $\lambda$

# Figure 5.1 Poisson density functions for different means



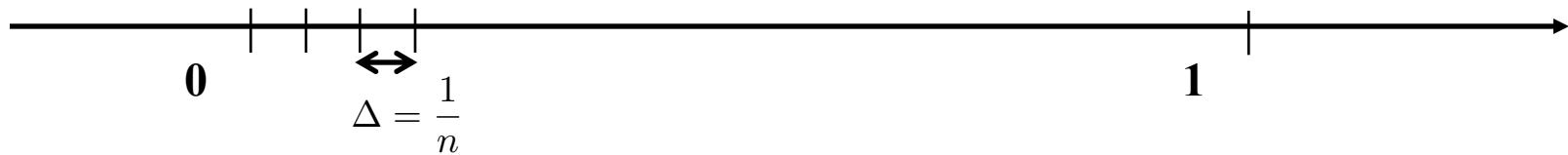
# Theorem 5.5



Let  $X$  be a binomial random variable with probability distribution  $b(x; n, p)$ . When  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $p \rightarrow 0$ , and  $np \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu$  remains constant,

$$b(x; n, p) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} p(x; \mu).$$

# Limiting case of Binomial RV



- Let us divide unit time into  $n$  timeslots
- Suppose we repeat independent coin tossing at every timeslot
- The probability of flipping ‘H’ is

$$p = \frac{\lambda}{n}$$

- Note as  $n$  goes to infinity,
  - The number of trials goes to infinity
  - Probability of flipping H goes to 0

# Theorem 5.4



Suppose # of occurrence of an event during unit time follows  $\text{Poisson}(\lambda)$

The # of occurrence of the event during time interval  $\sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda t)$

# Ex 5.18



- (assume Poisson distribution)

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**Example 5.18:** Ten is the average number of oil tankers arriving each day at a certain port. The facilities at the port can handle at most 15 tankers per day. What is the probability that on a given day tankers have to be turned away?