

Chapter 1

Axioms of Probability

1.1 Sample Space and Events

Definition. The set of all possible outcomes of an experiment is called the *sample space* of the experiment and is denoted by Ω .

Example. If the experiment consists of tossing two dice, then the sample space is

$$\Omega = \{(i, j) : i, j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}\}.$$

Definition. Let Ω be a sample space of an experiment. A family Σ of subsets of Ω is called a σ -algebra on Ω if the following conditions hold.

- (a) $\Omega \in \Sigma$.
- (b) For all $E \in \Sigma$, $\Omega \setminus E \in \Sigma$.
- (c) If E_1, E_2, \dots is a sequence of elements in Σ , then

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} E_i \in \Sigma.$$

Definition. If Σ is a σ -algebra on Ω , then (Ω, Σ) is called a *measurable space*, and a subset of Ω that belongs to Σ is called an *event*.

Theorem 1.1. Let I be an index set such that for each $i \in I$, Σ_i is a σ -algebra on Ω . Then

$$\Sigma^* = \bigcap_{i \in I} \Sigma_i$$

is also a σ -algebra on Ω .

Proof.

- (a) Since $\Omega \in \Sigma_i$ for each $i \in I$, it follows that $\Omega \in \Sigma$.
- (b) We have

$$\begin{aligned} E \in \Sigma &\Rightarrow E \in \Sigma_i \text{ for each } i \in I \\ &\Rightarrow \Omega \setminus E \in \Sigma_i \text{ for each } i \in I \\ &\Rightarrow \Omega \setminus E \in \Sigma. \end{aligned}$$

(c) We have

$$\begin{aligned} E_1, E_2, \dots \in \Sigma &\Rightarrow E_1, \dots, E_2 \in \Sigma_i \text{ for each } i \in I \\ &\Rightarrow \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} E_j \in \Sigma_i \text{ for each } i \in I \\ &\Rightarrow \bigcup_{j=1}^{\infty} E_j \in \Sigma. \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

Definition. Let Φ be a family of subsets of Ω . Then the σ -algebra generated by Φ , denoted by $\sigma(\Phi)$, is the intersection of all σ -algebras that contains Φ .

Example. Let Φ be the collection of all open intervals on \mathbb{R} . Then the σ -algebra generated by Φ is called the *Borel algebra* of \mathbb{R} , denoted by \mathcal{B} .

1.2 Axioms of Probability

Definition. Two events E and F are *mutually exclusive* if $E \cap F = \emptyset$.

Definition. Let (Ω, Σ) be a measurable space. A function $P : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is called a *probability function* and (Ω, Σ, P) is a *probability space* if the following conditions hold.

- (a) For all $E \in \Sigma$, $P(E) \geq 0$.
- (b) $P(\Omega) = 1$.
- (c) If E_1, E_2, \dots is a sequence of events that are pairwise mutually exclusive, then

$$P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} E_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(E_i).$$

Theorem 1.2. Let (Ω, Σ, P) be a probability space. Let $E, F \in \Sigma$. Then $P(F \setminus E) = P(F) - P(E \cap F)$.

Proof. Since $E \cap F$ and $F \setminus E$ are mutually exclusive, we have

$$P(F) = P((E \cap F) \cup (F \setminus E)) = P(E \cap F) + P(F \setminus E).$$

Thus, $P(F \setminus E) = P(F) - P(E \cap F)$. □

Corollary. $P(\Omega \setminus E) = 1 - P(E)$ holds for any event E , implying $P(\emptyset) = 0$.

Corollary. If $E \subseteq F$, then $P(E) \leq P(F)$ because $P(F) - P(E) = P(F \setminus E) \geq 0$.

Theorem 1.3 (Inclusive-exclusive Principle). Let (Ω, Σ, P) be a probability space. If $E_1, \dots, E_n \in \Sigma$, then

$$P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n E_i\right) = \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r+1} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_r \leq n} P(E_{i_1} \cap \dots \cap E_{i_r}).$$

Proof. The proof is by induction on n . The theorem holds for $n = 0$ and $n = 1$ trivially. For $n = 2$, since $E_1 \cap E_2$ and $E_1 \setminus E_2$ are mutually exclusive, we have

$$P(E_1) = P((E_1 \cap E_2) \cup (E_1 \setminus E_2)) = P(E_1 \cap E_2) + P(E_1 \setminus E_2).$$

Thus, since $E_1 \setminus E_2$ and E_2 are mutually exclusive, we have

$$\begin{aligned} P(E_1 \cup E_2) &= P((E_1 \setminus E_2) \cup E_2) \\ &= P(E_1 \setminus E_2) + P(E_2) \\ &= P(E_1) - P(E_1 \cap E_2) + P(E_2). \end{aligned}$$

Now suppose that the theorem holds for some $n \geq 2$, and we prove that the theorem is true for $n + 1$. Since $E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_n$ and E_{n+1} are mutually exclusive, we have

$$P(E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_n \cup E_{n+1}) = P(E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_n) + P(E_{n+1}) - P((E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_n) \cap E_{n+1}),$$

where the first term can be written as

$$P(E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_n) = \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r+1} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_r \leq n} P(E_{i_1} \cap \dots \cap E_{i_r}),$$

and the last term can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} & P((E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_n) \cap E_{n+1}) \\ &= P((E_1 \cap E_{n+1}) \cup \dots \cup (E_n \cap E_{n+1})) \\ &= \sum_{s=1}^n (-1)^{s+1} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_s \leq n} P((E_{i_1} \cap E_{n+1}) \cap \dots \cap (E_{i_s} \cap E_{n+1})) \\ &= \sum_{s=1}^n (-1)^{s+1} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_s \leq n} P(E_{i_1} \cap \dots \cap E_{i_s} \cap E_{n+1}) \\ &= - \sum_{r=2}^{n+1} (-1)^{r+1} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_{r-1} \leq n \\ i_r = n+1}} P(E_{i_1} \cap \dots \cap E_{i_{r-1}} \cap E_{i_r}). \end{aligned}$$

Now we consider r , which is the number of sets in each intersection. The second term is actually the case with $r = 1$, and the last term consists of the cases with $r \geq 2$. Thus,

$$P(E_{n+1}) - P((E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_n) \cap E_{n+1}) = \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r+1} \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_r \leq n \\ i_r = n+1}} P(E_{i_1} \cap \dots \cap E_{i_r}).$$

Furthermore, note that the first term consists of the case where E_{n+1} does not appear in the intersection, while the difference above consists of the case where E_{n+1} appears in the intersection. Thus, by summing up all terms, we have

$$P(E_1 \cup \dots \cup E_n \cup E_{n+1}) = \sum_{r=1}^{n+1} (-1)^{r+1} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_r \leq n+1} P(E_{i_1} \cap \dots \cap E_{i_r}),$$

which completes the proof. \square

Example. For any three events E_1, E_2, E_3 , we have $P(E_1 \cup E_2 \cup E_3) = P(E_1) + P(E_2) + P(E_3) - P(E_1 \cap E_2) - P(E_2 \cap E_3) - P(E_3 \cap E_1) + P(E_1 \cap E_2 \cap E_3)$.

1.3 Sample Spaces with Equally Likely Outcomes

Theorem 1.4. Let $\Omega = \{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n\}$ be a finite sample space and let P be a probability function such that $P(\{\omega_i\}) = P(\{\omega_j\})$ for $i, j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. Then for each event $E \subseteq \Omega$ with $|E| = k$, we have

$$P(E) = \frac{k}{n}.$$

Proof. Let p denote the probability of each elementary event $\{\omega_i\}$ for all $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. Then we have

$$1 = P(\Omega) = P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n \{\omega_i\}\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(\{\omega_i\}) = np.$$

Thus,

$$p = \frac{1}{n}.$$

Let $E = \{\omega_{i_1}, \dots, \omega_{i_k}\}$. Then

$$P(E) = P\left(\bigcup_{r=1}^k \{\omega_{i_r}\}\right) = \sum_{r=1}^k P(\{\omega_{i_r}\}) = \frac{k}{n}. \quad \square$$

Chapter 2

Conditional Probability and Independence

2.1 Conditional Probability

Definition. Let (Ω, Σ, P) be a probability space. If E is an event with $P(E) > 0$, then define

$$P(F | E) = \frac{P(E \cap F)}{P(E)}$$

for any event F .

Theorem 2.1. Let (Ω, Σ, P) be a probability space. If E is an event with $P(E) > 0$, then the function $P_E : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a probability function if

$$P_E(F) = P(F | E)$$

for any event F .

Proof. For events E and F ,

$$P_E(F) = \frac{P(E \cap F)}{P(E)} \geq 0.$$

Moreover,

$$P_E(\Omega) = \frac{P(E \cap \Omega)}{P(E)} = \frac{P(E)}{P(E)} = 1.$$

If F_1, F_2, \dots is a sequence of events that are piecewise mutually exclusive, then

$$P_E\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i\right) = \frac{P\left(E \cap \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i\right)}{P(E)} = \frac{P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} (E \cap F_i)\right)}{P(E)} = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{P(E \cap F_i)}{P(E)} = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P_E(F_i).$$

Thus, P_E is a probability function. □

2.2 Bayes' Formula

Definition. A *partition* of Ω is a family of nonempty events such that each element in Ω is in exactly one of these events.

Theorem 2.2. Let E_1, \dots, E_n form a partition of Ω such that $P(E_i) > 0$ for each $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. Then for any event F ,

$$P(F) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(F \mid E_i)P(E_i).$$

Proof. Since

$$F = F \cap \Omega = F \cap \bigcup_{i=1}^n E_i = \bigcup_{i=1}^n (F \cap E_i),$$

it follows that

$$P(F) = P\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^n (F \cap E_i)\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(F \cap E_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(F \mid E_i)P(E_i). \quad \square$$

Theorem 2.3 (Bayes' Formula). Let E_1, \dots, E_n form a partition of Ω such that $P(E_j) > 0$ for each $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. Then for any event F with $P(F) > 0$, for any $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, we have

$$P(E_i \mid F) = \frac{P(F \mid E_i)P(E_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^n P(F \mid E_j)P(E_j)}.$$

Proof. By Theorem 2.2, we have

$$P(E_i \mid F) = \frac{P(E_i \cap F)}{P(F)} = \frac{P(F \mid E_i)P(E_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^n P(F \mid E_j)P(E_j)}. \quad \square$$

2.3 Independence

Definition. Let E_1, \dots, E_n be events in a probability space (Ω, Σ, P) .

- E_1, \dots, E_n are *independent* if

$$P\left(\bigcap_{i \in I} E_i\right) = \prod_{i \in I} P(E_i)$$

holds for any nonempty subset I of $\{1, \dots, n\}$.

- E_1, \dots, E_n are *dependent* if they are not independent.

Definition. Let E_1, \dots, E_n and F be events in a probability space (Ω, Σ, P) , where $P(F) > 0$. Then E_1, \dots, E_n are *independent given event F* if

$$P\left(\bigcap_{i \in I} E_i \mid F\right) = \prod_{i \in I} P(E_i \mid F)$$

holds for any nonempty subset I of $\{1, \dots, n\}$.

Chapter 3

Discrete Random Variables

3.1 Discrete Random Variables

Definition. Let $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function in a probability space (Ω, Σ, P) . Then X is called a *random variable* if for each $S \in \mathcal{B}$, its preimage

$$X^{-1}(S) = \{\omega \in \Omega : X(\omega) \in S\}$$

is an element of Σ .

- A random variable is *discrete* if its range is countable.
- A random variable is *continuous* if its range is uncountable.

Remark. Since each $S \in \mathcal{B}$ is mapped to a event $X^{-1}(S) \in \Sigma$, we will use conditions related to random variables to denote events. For example,

$$P(-1 \leq X \leq 1) = P(\{\omega \in \Omega : -1 \leq X(\omega) \leq 1\}).$$

Definition. Let X be a random variable in a probability space (Ω, Σ, P) . The *probability mass function* $p_X : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ of X is defined as

$$p_X(x) = P(X = x)$$

for each $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

3.2 Expectation and Variance

Definition. Let X be a discrete random variable in a probability space (Ω, Σ, P) . Then the *expectation* of X , denoted by $E[X]$, is defined as follows.

- If X is nonnegative, i.e, $X(\omega) \geq 0$ for each $\omega \in \Omega$, then

$$E[X] = \sum_{x \in X(\Omega)} x \cdot p_X(x).$$

- Otherwise, we define $E[X] = E[X^+] - E[X^-]$, where $X^+ = \max\{X, 0\}$ and $X^- = \max\{-X, 0\}$.

Theorem 3.1. Let X and Y be discrete random variables in a probability space (Ω, Σ, P) . If both $E[X]$ and $E[Y]$ exist, then the following statements are true.

- (a) $E[aX] = aE[X]$ for $a \in \mathbb{R}$.
- (b) $E[X + Y] = E[X] + E[Y]$.

Proof.

- (a) First, suppose that $a \geq 0$. If X is nonnegative, then so is aX . Thus, we have

$$E[aX] = \sum_{x \in X(\Omega)} ax \cdot p_X(x) = aE[X].$$

If X is not nonnegative, by the fact that $(aX)^+ = aX^+$ and $(aX)^- = aX^-$, we have

$$E[aX] = E[aX^+] - E[aX^-] = aE[X^+] - aE[X^-] = aE[X].$$

since X^+ and X^- are nonnegative. Thus the statement holds for $a \geq 0$.

For the case that $a < 0$, note that since $(-X)^+ = X^-$ and $(-X)^- = X^+$, it follows that

$$E[-X] = E[X^-] - E[X^+] = -E[X].$$

Thus, we have

$$E[aX] = E[(-a)(-X)] = -aE[-X] = aE[X].$$

- (b) To be completed. □

Definition. Let X be a discrete random variable in a probability space (Ω, Σ, P) . Then the *variance* of X is defined as

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

Theorem 3.2. Let X be a discrete random variable. Then $\text{Var}(X) = E[X^2] - (E[X])^2$.

Proof. It is proved by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(X) &= E[(X - E[X])^2] \\ &= E[X^2 - 2X \cdot E[X] + (E[X])^2] \\ &= E[X^2] - 2E[X] \cdot E[X] + (E[X])^2 \\ &= E[X^2] - (E[X])^2. \end{aligned}$$

□

3.3 Bernoulli and Binomial Random Variables

Definition. Let $0 \leq p \leq 1$. A random variable X is called a *Bernoulli random variable* with parameter p if $p_X(1) = p$ and $p_X(0) = 1 - p$.

Theorem 3.3. Let X be a Bernoulli random variable with parameter p .

(a) $E[X] = p$.

(b) $\text{Var}(X) = p(1 - p)$.

Proof. Since $p(0) + p(1) = 1$, we have $p(x) = 0$ for $x \notin \{0, 1\}$.

(a) We have

$$E[X] = \sum_{x: p_X(x) > 0} x \cdot p_X(x) = 1 \cdot p + 0 \cdot (1 - p) = p.$$

(b) By (a), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(X) &= E[X^2] - (E[X])^2 \\ &= (1^2 \cdot p + 0^2 \cdot (1 - p)) - p^2 \\ &= p - p^2 \\ &= p(1 - p). \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

Definition. Let n be a nonnegative integer and $0 \leq p \leq 1$. A random variable X is called a *binomial random variable* with parameter (n, p) , if

$$p_X(x) = \binom{n}{x} p^x (1 - p)^{n-x}$$

for each $x \in \{0, \dots, n\}$.

Theorem 3.4. Let X be a binomial random variable with parameter (n, p) .

(a) $E[X] = np$.

(b) $\text{Var}(X) = np(1 - p)$.

Proof. We have $p(x) = 0$ for $x \notin \{0, \dots, n\}$ because

$$\sum_{x=0}^n \binom{n}{x} p^x (1 - p)^{n-x} = (p + (1 - p))^n = 1.$$

Also, we have the fact that

$$\begin{aligned} E[X^k] &= \sum_{x=0}^n x^k \binom{n}{x} p^x (1 - p)^{n-x} \\ &= \sum_{x=1}^n x^k \binom{n}{x} p^x (1 - p)^{n-x} \\ &= np \sum_{x=1}^n x^{k-1} \binom{n-1}{x-1} p^{x-1} (1 - p)^{n-x} \\ &= np \sum_{y=0}^{n-1} (y+1)^{k-1} \binom{n-1}{y} p^y (1 - p)^{(n-1)-y} \end{aligned} \quad (*)$$

holds for positive integer k .

(a) By (*), the expectation of X is given by

$$E[X] = np \sum_{y=0}^{n-1} \binom{n-1}{y} p^y (1-p)^{(n-1)-y} = np.$$

(b) By (*), we have

$$E[X^2] = np \sum_{y=0}^{n-1} (y+1) \binom{n-1}{y} p^y (1-p)^{(n-1)-y} = np((n-1)p + 1).$$

Thus, the variance of X is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(X) &= E[X^2] - (E[X])^2 \\ &= np((n-1)p + 1) - (np)^2 \\ &= np(1-p). \end{aligned}$$

□

3.4 Poisson Random Variables

Theorem 3.5. Let $\lambda > 0$. For integer $n \geq \lambda$, let X_n be a binomial random variable with parameter $(n, \lambda/n)$. Then for nonnegative integer x , we have

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} p_{X_n}(x) = e^{-\lambda} \cdot \frac{\lambda^x}{x!}.$$

Proof. For $n \geq \lambda$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} p_{X_n}(x) &= \frac{n!}{(n-x)! \cdot x!} \cdot \left(\frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^x \left(\frac{n-\lambda}{n}\right)^{n-x} \\ &= \frac{\lambda^x}{x!} \cdot \frac{n!}{(n-x)! \cdot (n-\lambda)^x} \cdot \left(\frac{n-\lambda}{n}\right)^n \\ &= \frac{\lambda^x}{x!} \cdot \prod_{i=1}^x \frac{n+1-i}{n-\lambda} \cdot \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^n. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} p_{X_n}(x) = \frac{\lambda^x}{x!} \cdot \prod_{i=1}^x \left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n+1-i}{n-\lambda} \right) \cdot \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^n = \frac{\lambda^x}{x!} \cdot e^{-\lambda}. \quad \square$$

Definition. Let $\lambda > 0$. A random variable X is called a *Poisson random variable* with parameter λ , if

$$p_X(x) = e^{-\lambda} \cdot \frac{\lambda^x}{x!}$$

holds for any nonnegative integer x .

Theorem 3.6. Let X be a Poisson random variable with parameter λ .

(a) $E[X] = \lambda$.

(b) $\text{Var}(X) = \lambda$.

Proof. We have $p_X(x) = 0$ for $x \notin \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ because

$$\sum_{x=0}^{\infty} p_X(x) = e^{-\lambda} \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!} = e^{-\lambda} \cdot e^{\lambda} = 1.$$

where the second equality follows from the fact that $e^t = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} t^k/k!$ for $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

(a) We have

$$E[X] = \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x \cdot \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!} = \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x \cdot \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!} = \lambda e^{-\lambda} \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^{x-1}}{(x-1)!} = \lambda e^{-\lambda} \sum_{y=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^y}{y!} = \lambda.$$

(b) Since

$$\begin{aligned} E[X^2] &= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!} \\ &= \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!} \\ &= \lambda \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x \cdot \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^{x-1}}{(x-1)!} \\ &= \lambda \sum_{y=0}^{\infty} (y+1) \cdot \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^y}{y!} \\ &= \lambda(\lambda+1), \end{aligned}$$

we have

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

□

3.5 Geometric and Negative Binomial Random Variables

Definition. Let $0 \leq p \leq 1$. A random variable X is called a *geometric random variable* with parameter p , if

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

holds for any positive integer x .

Definition. Let r be a nonnegative integer and $0 \leq p \leq 1$. A random variable X is called a *negative binomial random variable* with parameter (r, p) , if

$$p_X(x) = \binom{x-1}{r-1} p^r (1-p)^{x-r}$$

holds for any integer $x \geq r$.

Theorem 3.7. Let X be a negative binomial random variable with parameter (r, p) .

- (a) $E[X] = r/p$.
- (b) $\text{Var}(X) = r(1-p)/p^2$.

Proof. We have $p_X(x) = 0$ for $x \notin \{r, r+1, r+2, \dots\}$ because

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{x=r}^{\infty} p_X(x) &= \sum_{x=r}^{\infty} \binom{x-1}{r-1} p^r (1-p)^{x-r} \\ &= \sum_{x=r}^{\infty} \binom{-r}{x-r} p^r (-(1-p))^{x-r} \\ &= p^r \sum_{y=0}^{\infty} \binom{-r}{y} (-(1-p))^y \\ &= p^r (1 - (1-p))^{-r} \\ &= 1, \end{aligned}$$

where the second equality follows from

$$\binom{x-1}{r-1} = \binom{x-1}{x-r} = \binom{-r}{x-r} \cdot (-1)^{x-r}.$$

- (a) To be completed.
- (b) To be completed. □

3.6 Hypergeometric Random Variables

Definition. Let n, K, N be nonnegative integers with $n \leq N$ and $K \leq N$. A random variable X is called a *hypergeometric random variable* with parameter (n, K, N) if

$$p_X(x) = \frac{\binom{K}{x} \binom{N-K}{n-x}}{\binom{N}{n}}$$

holds for any integer $x \in \{0, 1, \dots, K\}$.

Remark. A hypergeometric random variable with parameter $(1, K, N)$ is a Bernoulli random variable with parameter K/N .

Remark. A hypergeometric random variable X with parameter (n, K, N) can be seen as the number of successes in n draws without replacement from a population of size N that contains K objects that represent success.

Remark. If N and K are large compared to n , then a hypergeometric random variable X with parameter (n, K, N) behaves like a binomial random variable with parameter $(n, K/N)$.