week12-01–multinomial

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1 George McNinch Math 87 - Spring 2025

2 Week 12

3 Multinomial distributions

The *binomial distribution* appears when modeling a sequence of independent events each having exactly two outcomes. One can instead consider analogous questions for events having some fixed number of outcomes `m > 2`. These are known as *multinomial distributions*.

4 Example

Consider a nature preserve which has 3 species – `A`, `B`, `C` – of birds.

Among the total population of birds in the preserve, `40%` are of species `A`, `35%` are of species `B` and `25%` are of species `C`.

Each day you travel through the preserve and record the species of the first 10 birds you see. We assume that our observations are *independent* and that the probability of seeing a bird of a particular species is given by the corresponding proportion of the population.

[15]:
```
import numpy as np
import math

# lets make a list of all sequences of `a`, `b`, `c` of length n

def seqs(symbols,n):
    if n == 0:
        return [[]]
    else:
        ls = seqs(symbols,n-1)   # recursively get all the sequences of length␣
 ↪n-1
        result = [ [s] + l for s in symbols for l in ls]
        return result

## for example, here are all the sequences  of length 3
seqs(['a','b','c','d'],2)
```

[15]:
```
[['a', 'a'],
 ['a', 'b'],
 ['a', 'c'],
 ['a', 'd'],
 ['b', 'a'],
 ['b', 'b'],
 ['b', 'c'],
 ['b', 'd'],
 ['c', 'a'],
 ['c', 'b'],
 ['c', 'c'],
 ['c', 'd'],
 ['d', 'a'],
 ['d', 'b'],
 ['d', 'c'],
 ['d', 'd']]
```

[4]:
```
def count(ls,symbol):
    # count the number of occurences of `symbol` in the sequence ls
    f = [ x for x in ls if x == symbol ]
    return len(f)

count(['a','a','b'], 'a')
```

[4]:
```
2
```

[5]:
```
## for an arrangement
## { 'a': na, 'b': nb, 'c': nc }
## we count the number of sequences of the symbols ['a','b','c']
## of length `n = na + nb + nc`
## having 'na' occurences of 'a',
## 'nb' occurences of 'b'
## 'nc' occurences of 'c'

def multinomial(arrange):
   symbols = arrange.keys()
   n = sum([arrange[s] for s in symbols ])
   seq = seqs(symbols,n)
   results = [ ls for ls in seq if all([count(ls,s) == arrange[s] for s in␣
 ↪symbols ])]
   return len(results)


[ multinomial({'x': 1, 'y': 1, 'z': 3}), multinomial({'x': 3,'y':0,'z':2}) ]
```

[5]:
```
[20, 10]
```

[6]:
```
import sympy
(x,y,z) = sympy.symbols('x y z')
f = sympy.Poly((x + y + z)**5)
f
```

[6]: $\text{Poly}\left(x^5 + 5x^4y + 5x^4z + 10x^3y^2 + 20x^3yz + 10x^3z^2 + 10x^2y^3 + 30x^2y^2z + 30x^2yz^2 + 10x^2z^3 + 5xy^4 + 20xy^3z + 3\right.$

[7]:
```
# the sum of all trinomial coefficients should give 3**n
# for example when n = 5

sum([multinomial({'a': a, 'b': b, 'c': 5-a-b}) for a in range(5+1) for b in␣
 ↪range(0,5-a+1) ]) == 3**5
```

[7]: True

In fact, there is a *formula* for the `multinomial` coefficients, similar to that for the `binomial` coefficients.

For an arrangement `{ 'a': na, 'b', nb, 'c', nc }`, the number of sequences of length `n = na + nb + nc` having exactly `na` 'a's, exactly `nb` b's and exactly `nc` c's is given by

$$\binom{n}{na, nb, nc} = \frac{n!}{na! \cdot nb! \cdot nc!}$$

This is a **closed form** expression for these coefficients.

Let's define a python function implementing this *closed form*, and let's check that it agrees with the `python` function we just defined.

[19]:
```
def multinomial_alt(arrange):
    n = sum([arrange[s] for s in arrange.keys() ])
    den = np.prod([ math.factorial(arrange[s]) for s in arrange.keys()])
    return math.factorial(n)/den
```

[19]: [(20, 20.0), (10, 10.0)]

[20]:
```
[ (multinomial(a), multinomial_alt(a)) for a in [{'x': 1, 'y': 1, 'z': 3},
                                                 {'x': 3, 'y': 0, 'z': 2}] ]
```

[20]: [(20, 20.0), (10, 10.0)]

[25]:
```
## again, for m symbols the multinomial coefficients should sum to `m**n`

## so for 4 symbols and 5 choices, we should get `4**5`:
sum([multinomial_alt({'a': a, 'b': b, 'c': c, 'd': 5-a-b-c}) for a in␣
 ↪range(5+1) for b in range(0,5-a+1) for c in range(0,5-a-b+1) ]) == 4**5
```

[25]: True

We can now use the `multinomial coefficients` to describe the probabilities for our bird population.

Remember that `pa = .40` denotes the probability of seeing a bird of type `a`, `pb = .35` the probabilty of seeing a `b` bird, and `pc = .25` the probability of seeing a `c` bird.

[21]:
```
bird_probs = {'a': .4, 'b': .35, 'c': .25 }

def probArrangement(arrange,bird_probs=bird_probs):
    # for a sequence of `n` bird sightings,
    # compute the probability of seeing exactly `na` `a`-birds,
    # exactly `nb` `b`-birds, and exactly `n - na - nb` `c`-birds
    return multinomial_alt(arrange)*np.prod([bird_probs[c]**arrange[c] for c in␣
 ↪arrange.keys()])
```

[22]:
```
a = { 'a': 2, 'b': 2, 'c': 1 }
probArrangement(a)
```

[22]:
```
0.14700000000000002
```

[29]:
```
birdprob10 = {(a,b,10-a-b): probArrangement({'a':a,'b':b,'c':10-a-b}) for a in␣
 ↪range(10+1) for b in range(10-a+1) }
birdprob10
```

[29]:
```
{(0, 0, 10): 9.5367431640625e-07,
 (0, 1, 9): 1.33514404296875e-05,
 (0, 2, 8): 8.411407470703124e-05,
 (0, 3, 7): 0.0003140258789062499,
 (0, 4, 6): 0.0007693634033203124,
 (0, 5, 5): 0.0012925305175781245,
 (0, 6, 4): 0.001507952270507812,
 (0, 7, 3): 0.0012063618164062494,
 (0, 8, 2): 0.0006333399536132809,
 (0, 9, 1): 0.0001970390966796874,
 (0, 10, 0): 2.7585473535156234e-05,
 (1, 0, 9): 1.52587890625e-05,
 (1, 1, 8): 0.00019226074218749997,
 (1, 2, 7): 0.0010766601562499998,
 (1, 3, 6): 0.003517089843749999,
 (1, 4, 5): 0.007385888671874999,
 (1, 5, 4): 0.010340244140624998,
 (1, 6, 3): 0.009650894531249997,
 (1, 7, 2): 0.005790536718749998,
 (1, 8, 1): 0.002026687851562499,
 (1, 9, 0): 0.0003152625546874998,
 (2, 0, 8): 0.00010986328125000002,
 (2, 1, 7): 0.0012304687500000002,
 (2, 2, 6): 0.006029296875000001,
```

```
 (2, 3, 5): 0.01688203125,
 (2, 4, 4): 0.029543554687499998,
 (2, 5, 3): 0.03308878125,
 (2, 6, 2): 0.023162146874999998,
 (2, 7, 1): 0.009264858749999999,
 (2, 8, 0): 0.0016213502812499993,
 (3, 0, 7): 0.0004687500000000001,
 (3, 1, 6): 0.004593750000000001,
 (3, 2, 5): 0.019293750000000005,
 (3, 3, 4): 0.045018749999999996,
 (3, 4, 3): 0.06302625,
 (3, 5, 2): 0.05294205,
 (3, 6, 1): 0.024706289999999995,
 (3, 7, 0): 0.004941257999999999,
 (4, 0, 6): 0.0013125000000000003,
 (4, 1, 5): 0.011025000000000002,
 (4, 2, 4): 0.038587500000000004,
 (4, 3, 3): 0.07203,
 (4, 4, 2): 0.07563149999999999,
 (4, 5, 1): 0.04235363999999999,
 (4, 6, 0): 0.009882516,
 (5, 0, 5): 0.0025200000000000005,
 (5, 1, 4): 0.017640000000000003,
 (5, 2, 3): 0.049392000000000005,
 (5, 3, 2): 0.06914880000000001,
 (5, 4, 1): 0.04840416,
 (5, 5, 0): 0.013553164799999998,
 (6, 0, 4): 0.0033600000000000014,
 (6, 1, 3): 0.018816000000000006,
 (6, 2, 2): 0.0395136,
 (6, 3, 1): 0.03687936000000001,
 (6, 4, 0): 0.012907776000000003,
 (7, 0, 3): 0.003072000000000001,
 (7, 1, 2): 0.012902400000000003,
 (7, 2, 1): 0.018063360000000004,
 (7, 3, 0): 0.008429568,
 (8, 0, 2): 0.001843200000000001,
 (8, 1, 1): 0.005160960000000003,
 (8, 2, 0): 0.0036126720000000012,
 (9, 0, 1): 0.0006553600000000003,
 (9, 1, 0): 0.0009175040000000004,
 (10, 0, 0): 0.00010485760000000006}
```

[30]:
```
# these probabilities should  sum to 1 (!)

sum(birdprob10.values())
```

[30]:
```
1.0000000000000002
```

[34]:
```
# what is the most likely arrangement??

s=[ (k,birdprob10[k]) for k in birdprob10.keys()]
s.sort(key=lambda x: -x[1])

## top 5
s[:5]
```

[34]:
```
[((4, 4, 2), 0.07563149999999999),
 ((4, 3, 3), 0.07203),
 ((5, 3, 2), 0.06914880000000001),
 ((3, 4, 3), 0.06302625),
 ((3, 5, 2), 0.05294205)]
```

[36]:
```
## bottom 5
s[-5:]
```

[36]:
```
[((0, 2, 8), 8.411407470703124e-05),
 ((0, 10, 0), 2.7585473535156234e-05),
 ((1, 0, 9), 1.52587890625e-05),
 ((0, 1, 9), 1.33514404296875e-05),
 ((0, 0, 10), 9.5367431640625e-07)]
```

[39]:
```
# probability of seeing ten `a` birds
birdprob10[(10,0,0)]
```

[39]:
```
0.00010485760000000006
```

[ ]:
```

```