

Probability distributions : discrete

A random variable is a variable whose values are determined by the outcome of a random experiment. It is also called stochastic variable.

Probability distribution: If all possible values of a random variable can be written along their associated probabilities, then the distribution is called probability distribution.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} x: & x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & \dots & x_n \\ f(x): & f(x_1) & f(x_2) & f(x_3) & \dots & f(x_n) \end{array}$$

\* mandatory conditions for probability distribution:

$$1) f(x_i) \geq 0 \quad 2) \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i) = 1$$

Types of Probability distribution:

- discrete probability distribution
  - Binomial probability distribution
  - poisson probability distribution
- continuous probability distribution
  - normal probability distribution
  - exponential probability distribution

\* Binomial distribution

The word binomial means 2 numbers. A binomial distribution for a random variable  $X$  (known as binomial variate) is one in which there are only 2 outcomes, success or failure, for a finite number of trials.

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However the success and failure, the two events must be mutually exclusive and complementary i.e. they mustn't occur at same time and the sum of their probabilities is 100% (complementary).

- $P(\text{success}) = p$
- $P(\text{failure}) = q = 1 - p$
- $n = \text{fixed number of trials}$
- $p = \text{probability of success for any one trial}$
- $q = \text{probability of failure for any one trial}$

Formula:

$$P(r) = {}^nC_r p^r q^{n-r} \text{ where } n = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$r = \text{number of successes}$

$$\text{frequency}(fr) = (N) P(r)$$

↳ repetition of experiment (n)

example 1: A fair coin is tossed 2 times. Find probabilities of obtaining various number of heads.  
So, n,

$$n = 2$$

$p = \text{probability of getting head in one trial} = 1/2$

$q = \text{probability of getting tail in one trial} = 1/2$

Probability of getting 0 head ( $P(0)$ )

$$= {}^2C_0 \cdot p^0 q^2 = 1 \times \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^0 \times \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2$$

$$= 1/128$$

$$P(1 \text{ head}) = {}^2C_1 \cdot p^1 q^1 = \left(\frac{2}{1}\right) \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^1 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^1 = \frac{2}{128}$$

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$$P(2 \text{ head}) = {}^7C_2 \cdot p^2 q^{7-2} = {}^7C_2 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^5$$

$$= \frac{21}{128}$$

$$P(3 \text{ head}) = {}^7C_3 \cdot p^3 q^4 = {}^7C_3 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^4 = \frac{35}{128}$$

$$P(4 \text{ head}) = {}^7C_4 \cdot p^4 q^3 = \frac{35}{128}$$

$$P(5 \text{ head}) = {}^7C_5 \cdot p^5 q^2 = \frac{21}{128}$$

$$P(6 \text{ head}) = {}^7C_6 \cdot p^6 q^1 = \frac{7}{128}$$

$$P(7 \text{ head}) = P(7) = {}^7C_7 \cdot p^7 q^0 = \frac{1}{128}$$

Binomial distribution is a Discrete probability distribution used when there are only 2 possible outcomes for a ~~post~~ random variable: success and failure, which must be exclusive.

example 2: in a college 20% students are girls. In a random sample of 5 students, find probability that there are at most 2 girls?

sol<sup>n</sup>,

$x$  = no. of girls (successes)

$p$  = no. of girls (success) probability in one trial  
 $= 20\% = \frac{20}{100} = 0.2$

$q$  = no. of failures =  $1 - p = 0.8$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 P\left(r \leq \frac{5}{2}\right) &= P(0) + P(1) + P(2) \\
 &= {}^5C_0 p^0 q^5 + {}^5C_1 p^1 q^4 + {}^5C_2 p^2 q^3 \\
 &= 0.32768 + 0.4096 + 0.2048 \\
 &= 0.94208
 \end{aligned}$$

example: an event has  $p = \frac{3}{8}$ . Find complete binomial distribution for  $n = 5$  trials.

$$p = \frac{3}{8}, q = 1 - p = \frac{5}{8}, n = 5$$

The complete binomial distribution in  $(p+q)^n$  terms, i.e.  $\left(\frac{3}{8} + \frac{5}{8}\right)^5$  is.

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\left[ {}^nC_0 p^0 q^n + {}^nC_1 p^1 q^{n-1} + \dots + {}^nC_n p^n q^0 \right] \\
 &= \left[ {}^5C_0 \left(\frac{3}{8}\right)^0 \left(\frac{5}{8}\right)^5 + {}^5C_1 \left(\frac{3}{8}\right)^1 \left(\frac{5}{8}\right)^4 + {}^5C_2 \left(\frac{3}{8}\right)^2 \left(\frac{5}{8}\right)^3 \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + {}^5C_3 \left(\frac{3}{8}\right)^3 \left(\frac{5}{8}\right)^2 + {}^5C_4 \left(\frac{3}{8}\right)^4 \left(\frac{5}{8}\right)^1 + {}^5C_5 \left(\frac{3}{8}\right)^5 \left(\frac{5}{8}\right)^0 \right] \\
 &= 0.0954 + 0.2861 + 0.3433 + 0.2060 + 0.0618 \\
 &\quad + 0.0074
 \end{aligned}$$

### Probability table

$x$	0	1	2	3	4	5
$P(x)$	0.0954	0.2861	0.3433	0.2060	0.0618	0.0074



## \* Poisson distribution formula / probability

It is used to find the probability of an independent event that is occurring in a fixed interval of time and has constant mean rate. A Poisson random variable will relatively describe a phenomenon, if there are few successes over many trials. It is used as the limiting case of Binomial distribution, where trials are large indefinitely. It has only one parameter ( $\lambda$ ) which is mean number of events.

Poisson random variable ' $x$ ' defines the no. of successes in the experiment. Poisson distribution is used under certain conditions. They are:

- The number of trials " $n$ " tends to infinity
- probability of success tends to zero
- $np = \lambda$  is finite

Formula :  $P(x) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!}$        $e = \text{exponential}$   
 $x = \text{poisson random variable}$

$$P(r \text{ success}) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^r}{r!}$$

$\lambda = \text{average rate of value}$

example 1: The probability that an individual suffers from a disease is 0.001. What is the probability that out of 2000 individuals, more than 2 will suffer from disease?  
 so,  $n$

$$p = 0.001, n = 2000, \lambda = np = 2$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 P(\geq 2) &= 1 - P(0) - P(1) - P(2) \\
 &= 1 - \left[ \frac{e^{-2} 2^0}{0!} \right] - \left[ \frac{e^{-2} 2^1}{1!} \right] - \left[ \frac{e^{-2} 2^2}{2!} \right] \\
 &= 1 - [0.1353] - [0.2706] - [0.27] \\
 &= 0.5941 - 0.27 \\
 &= 0.323 \\
 &= 32.3\%
 \end{aligned}$$

example 2: The no. of accidents occurring in a plant in a month follows poisson distribution with a mean of 5.2. The probability of occurrence of less than 2 accidents in the plant during randomly selected month is ?  
soln

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lambda &= 5.2, \quad P(< 2) = P(0) + P(1) + \dots \\
 &= e^{-5.2} \left[ \frac{5.2^0}{0!} + \frac{5.2^1}{1!} \right] \\
 &= 6.2 e^{-5.2} \\
 &= 0.034
 \end{aligned}$$

example 3: you go to a party with 500 guests. What is probability that exactly one other guest has same birthday as you?  
soln

$$p = \text{same birthday of 1 person as me} = \frac{1}{365}$$

= success (same birthday)

$$n = 500 \text{ guests}$$

$$\lambda = 500 \times \frac{1}{365} = 1.36 \leq 5 \text{ so poisson}$$

$$P(1) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} (\lambda)^1}{1!} = \frac{e^{-1.37} (1.37)}{1} = 0.348 \#$$

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