



University of St.Gallen



**Methods: Statistics (4,120)**

# **4. Random Variables and Discrete Distributions**

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# Learning Objectives

After that lecture, you know how:

- to calculate the **expected value** and **variance of** a discrete distribution by using the concept of random variables.
- discrete distributions can be visually represented by **probability functions** and **cumulative distribution functions**.
- and when certain discrete distributions should be applied in practice-oriented examples.

## Literature

Levine, D.M., K. A. Szabat, and D.F. Stephan. (2016). *Business Statistics: A First Course*, 7th ed. United States: Pearson, **Chapter 5**.\*

Stinerock, R. (2018). *Statistics with R*. United Kingdom: Sage. **Chapter 5**.\*

Shira, Joseph (2012). *Statistische Methoden der VWL und BWL*, 4th ed. Munich et al.: Pearson Studium, **Chapter 9**.

Weiers, R. M. (2011). *Introductory Business Statistics*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed., Canada: Thomson South-Western, **Chapter 6**.

# I. Random Variables

**Starting point** is the outcome (elementary events) of a random experiment:

- qualitative, e.g., "head" or "number" when tossing a coin
- quantitative, e.g., dice with the results 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

The **random variable**  $X$  is a function that assigns each outcome of a random experiment a numerical value. Formally,  $X$  is a mapping  $\Omega$  to real numbers. The value that  $X$  takes is called **realization** (expressed in lowercase  $x$ ).

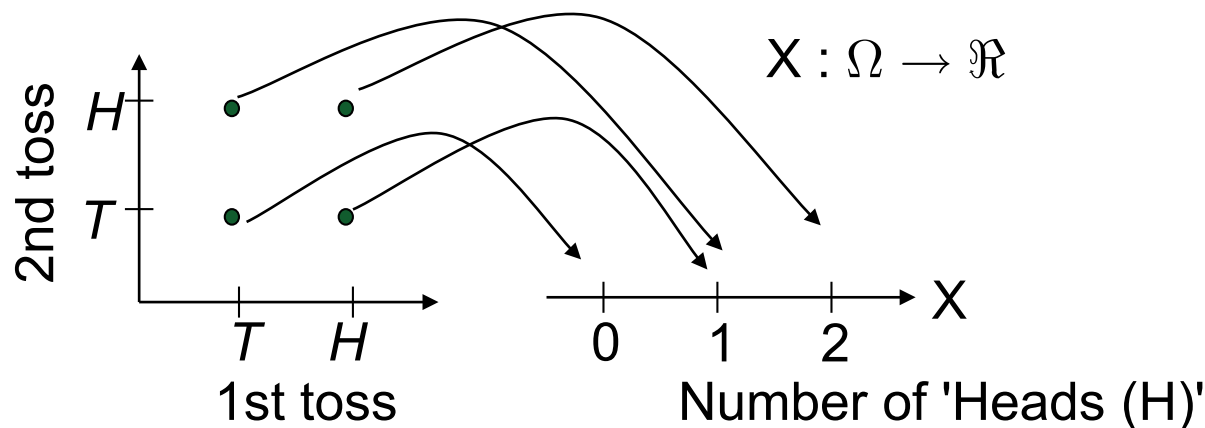
Consider a random experiment with set  $\Omega$  that collects all possible outcomes of the random experiment (e.g., throw a coin):

- observed outcome  $\omega \in \Omega$  (either "heads ( $H$ )" or "tails ( $T$ )")
- random variable  $X$  assigns the outcome a real number:  
e.g,  $x(H) = 1$  and  $x(T) = 0$

# I. Random Variables (R-Example)

Two coin tosses, i.e.,  $\Omega = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\}$ .

We are interested in the "number of heads (H)"!



$X$  is a mapping that assigns to each  $\omega \in \Omega$  a real number:

$$\Omega = \{HH, HT, TH, TT\} \rightarrow X(\omega) \in \{0, 1, 2\}$$

# I. Random Variables (R-Example)

Open the file "L4-Example\_1.R" in R-Studio and reproduce the R-Code.

```
# throwing a coin twice:
# event space S={HH,HT,TH,TT}
# the random variable X is defined as the number of observed events "head" after 2 tosses.
# elementary events Sx={0,1,2}

x<-c(0,1,2) # vector x with elementary events
f<-c(1/4,1/2,1/4) # assigned probabilities

# mean
mu<-sum(x*f)
mu

# variance
sigma2<-sum((x-mu)^2*f)
sigma2

# standard deviation
sigma<-sqrt(sigma2)

# cumulative distribution function
F<-cumsum(f)
```

# I. Random Variables

A **random variable** which maps outcomes to values of a:

1. countable\* set is called **discrete**;
2. uncountable set is called **continuous**.

## Intuition:

- A discrete random variable can take only "single" values (in particular, this involves the case that the sample space is finite).
- A continuous random variable can take **any** value in a continuum (real interval).

\* A set is called **countable** if it has the same cardinality as some subset of the set of natural numbers.



## II. Discrete Probability Functions

A **discrete random variable**  $X$  can take a value  $x_i$  with a probability:

$$0 \leq P(X = x_i) \leq 1,$$
$$\sum_i P(X = x_i) = 1$$

The function  $f$ , which assigns a probability to each  $x_i$ ,  $f(x_i) = P(X = x_i)$ , is called **probability function** of the discrete random variable  $X$  (see Kolmogorov's Axioms). Only one value  $x_i$  can occur for a given experiment.

A discrete probability function illustrates all possible outcomes of an experiment, along with their corresponding probabilities.

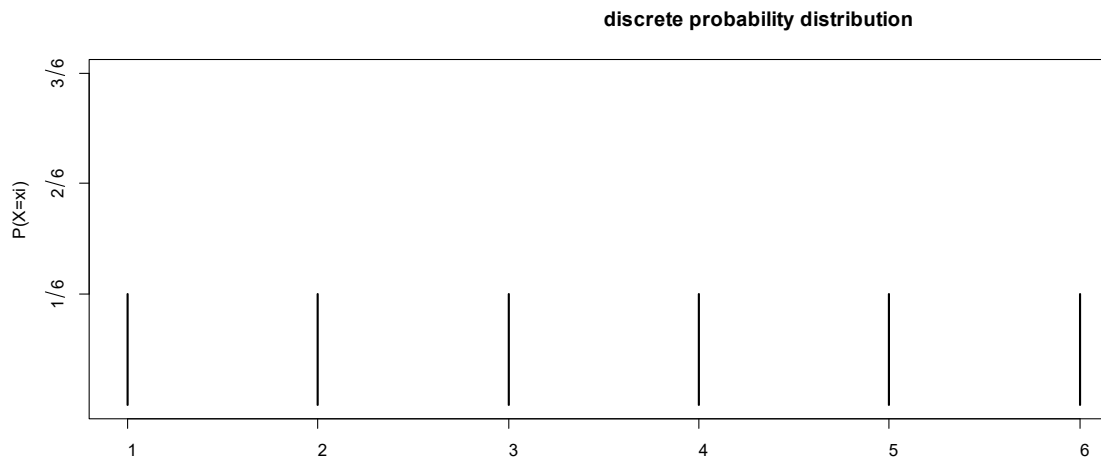
We define a probability function as the **relative** frequency distribution that should theoretically occur for observations from a given population.

### III. Discrete Probability Function (Example)

Let  $X$  be the number of pips after rolling a fair dice. The **probability function** of  $X$  reads (discrete uniform distribution):

$$P(X = x_i) = 1/6 \quad i = 1, \dots, 6$$

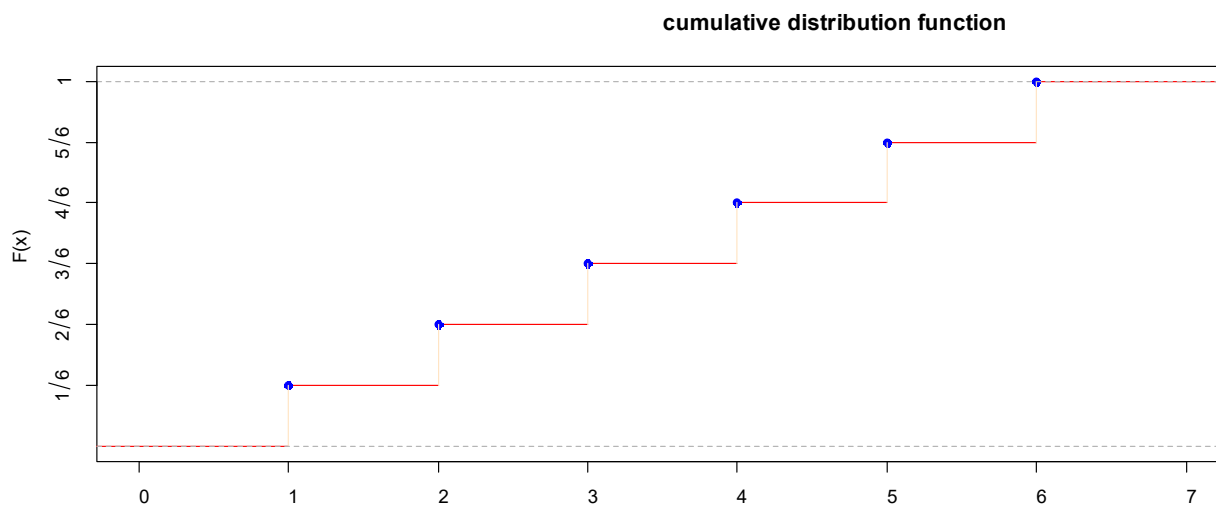
Probability functions are generally illustrated by **bar charts**.



### III. Discrete Distribution Function (Example)

We are often interested in the probability that a random variable  $X$  takes values that are not greater than a specified value  $x$ . This is done by the (cumulative) **distribution function**  $F(x)$  which is described by:

$$F(x) = P(X \leq x) = \sum_{x_i \leq x} P(X = x_i).$$



## IV. Expected Value and Variance of Probability Functions

**Measures of central tendency** and **dispersion** can be used to describe the discrete probability distributions of random variables

The **mean** or expected value  $E(X)$  of a discrete random variable is defined as:

$$\mu = E(X) = \sum_i x_i \cdot P(X = x_i) = \sum_i x_i \cdot f(x_i)$$

The **variance** of a discrete random variable is defined as:

$$Var(X) = \sigma^2 = E[(X - \mu)^2] = \sum_i (x_i - \mu)^2 \cdot f(x_i)$$

## IV. Expected Value and Variance of Probability Functions

The **variance formula** (with  $E(X) = \mu$ )

$$\text{Var}(X) = \sigma^2 = E[(X - \mu)^2] = \sum_i (x_i - \mu)^2 \cdot f(x_i)$$

can be rewritten as follows:

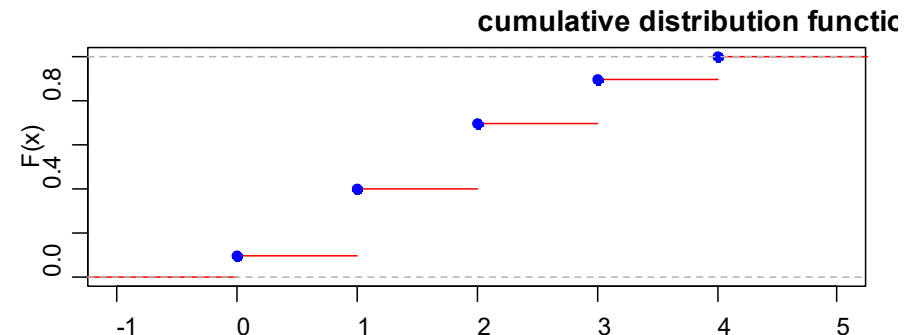
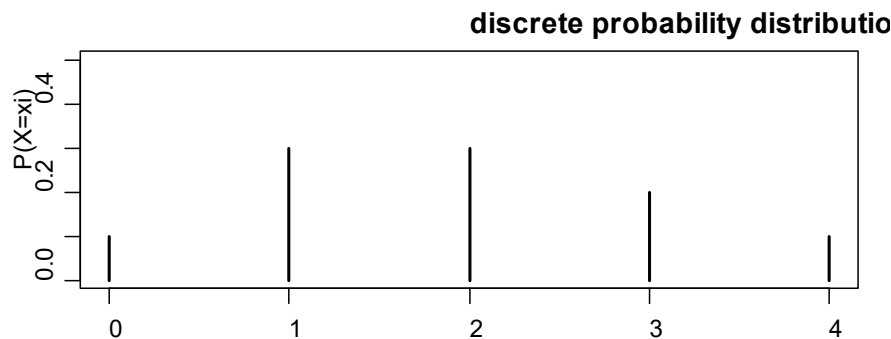
$$\text{Var}(X) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2 = \sum_i x_i^2 \cdot f(x_i) - \mu^2$$

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

## IV. Expected Value and Variance (R-Example)

Determine the expected value and variance of the following discrete probability distribution:

$x_i$	0	1	2	3	4
$P(x_i)$	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1



$$\mu = E(X) = \sum x_i P(x_i) = 0(0.1) + 1(0.3) + 2(0.3) + 3(0.2) + 4(0.1) = 1.9$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma^2 = E[(X - \mu)^2] &= \sum (x_i - \mu)^2 P(x_i) = (0 - 1.9)^2(0.1) + (1 - 1.9)^2(0.3) + \\ &+ (2 - 1.9)^2(0.3) + (3 - 1.9)^2(0.2) + (4 - 1.9)^2(0.1) = 1.29 \end{aligned}$$

## IV. Location and dispersion mass (R-Example)

Open the file "L4-Example\_2.R" in R-Studio and reproduce the R-Code, which leads to the previous graphs of the distributions.

```
# the following elementary events in a random experiment are given:
events <- c(0,1,2,3,4)
# events can occur with the following probabilities:
prob <- c(0.1,0.3,0.3,0.2,0.1)

# mean
mu<-sum(events*prob)
mu

# variance
sigma2<-sum((events-mu)^2*prob)
sigma2

# standard deviation
sigma<-sqrt(sigma2)
sigma

# discrete probability density function:
names(prob) <- events
prob <- as.table(prob)
op <- par(mfrow = c(2, 1), mgp = c(1.5, 0.8, 0), mar = .1+c(3,3,2,1))
plot(prob,main="Discrete Probability Density Function",xlab="",ylab="P(X=xi)",ylim=c(0,0.5))

# cumulative distribution function
F1 <- cumsum(prob)
plot(F1, main="Cumulative Distribution Function",xlab="",ylab="F(x)", type = "s")
par(op)
```

## V. Chebyshev Inequality

Chebyshev's inequality provides a **minimum value** for the probability that the random variable takes realizations within an interval symmetric around the mean (in terms of multiples of a standard deviation). Given a random variable  $X$  with expected value  $\mu$  and standard deviation of  $\sigma$  it holds that:

$$P(|X - \mu| < k\sigma) \geq 1 - \frac{1}{k^2}$$

$$P(|X - \mu| \geq k\sigma) \leq \frac{1}{k^2}$$

Applies **regardless** of the distribution of  $X$ !

Specifies a very **conservative lower limit**!



## V. Chebyshev Inequality (Example)

A random variable  $X$  has the expected value  $\mu = 6$  and the variance  $\sigma^2 = 9$ . There is no further information available on the distribution of  $X$ . A meaningful **upper** limit for the probability that a realization of  $X$  lies **outside** the interval from -3 to 15 is found by a reformulation of the earlier given form of Chebyshev's inequality:

$$P(|X - \mu| > k\sigma) \leq \frac{1}{k^2}$$

In this example, the interval is  $[-3; 15]$  symmetrical around the expected value. It must have the value  $k = 3$ , so that the interval limits are defined as  $\mu - k\sigma = -3$  and  $\mu + k\sigma = 15$ . It follows:

$$P(X \notin [-3; 15]) \leq \frac{1}{3^2} = \frac{1}{9}$$

## VI. Binomial Distribution

The Binomial distribution is based on the **Bernoulli experiment**, which is characterized by the following properties:

- The experiment consists of a **sequence** of consecutive trials.
- In each trial, there are **two possible** outcomes  $A$  and  $B$ , with the probabilities  $\pi$  and  $(1 - \pi)$ , respectively.
- The individual trials are statistically **independent** of each other (e.g., sequence of  $n$  coin tosses).

Then, the probability of  $x$  times occurring the event  $A$ , and thus,  $(n - x)$  times the event  $B$  in  $n$  independent repetitions of the Bernoulli-experiment, is determined with the help of the **Binomial distribution**.

## VI. Binomial Distribution

### **Multiplication Rule** (independence of events):

- Probability of  $x$  times occurring  $A$ :

$$P(\text{,}x\text{-times } A) = P(A) \cdot P(A) \cdot \dots \cdot P(A) = (P(A))^x = \pi^x$$

- Correspondingly, the probability of the occurrence  $B$ :

$$(n - x)\text{-times } B = (1 - \pi)^{n - x}$$

Due to the multiplication rule for independent events, the following applies to the occurrence of a **particular sequence**:

$$P(\text{,}x\text{-times } A; \text{,}(n - x)\text{-times } B) = \pi^x (1 - \pi)^{n - x}$$

with  $\binom{n}{x}$  possible sequences, in which event  $A$  happens  $x$  times.

## VI. Binomial Distribution

An experiment, in which either A occurs with probability  $P(A) = \pi$  or B with probability  $P(B) = 1 - \pi$ , is independently repeated  $n$  times.

The random variable  $X$  states the number of random experiments resulting in A, and follows a Binomial distribution. This distribution has the following probability function:

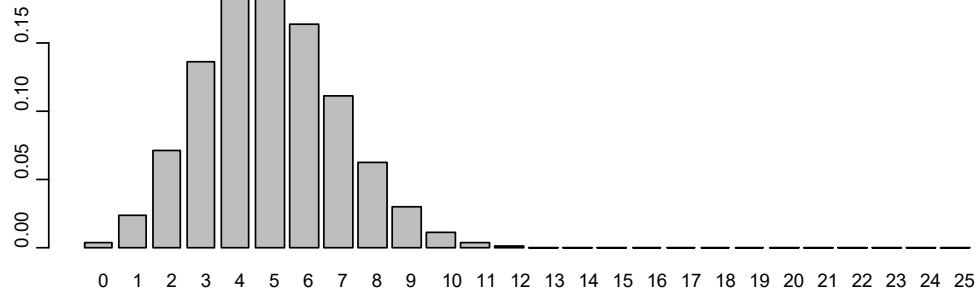
$$P(X = x) = \frac{n!}{x!(n-x)!} \pi^x (1-\pi)^{n-x} = \binom{n}{x} \pi^x (1-\pi)^{n-x}$$

**Expected value:**  $\mu = E(x) = n\pi$

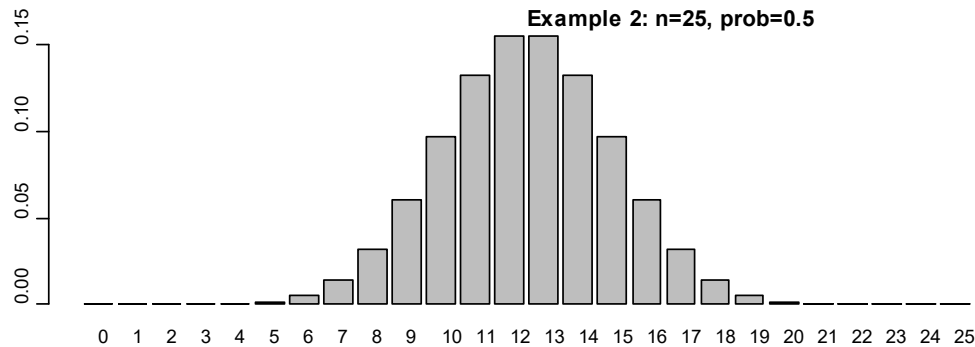
**Variance:**  $\sigma^2 = E[(x - \mu)^2] = n\pi(1 - \pi)$

## VI. Binomial Distribution (Example)

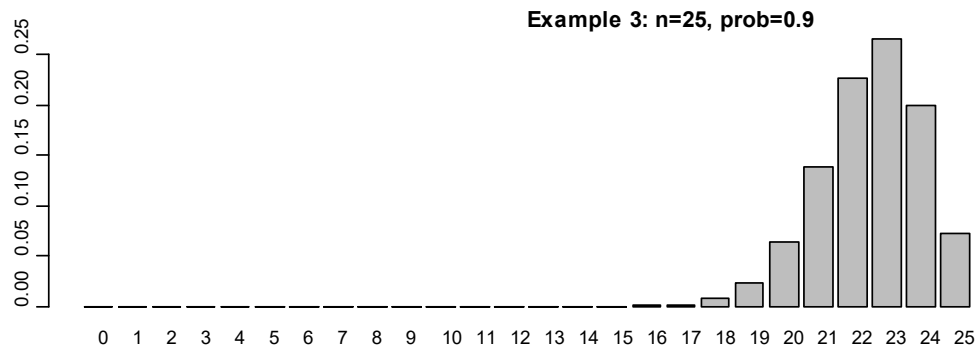
Example 1:  $n=25$ ,  $\text{prob}=0.2$



Example 2:  $n=25$ ,  $\text{prob}=0.5$



Example 3:  $n=25$ ,  $\text{prob}=0.9$



## VI. Binomial Distribution (Example)

The proportion of women in a lecture is estimated to be 30%. Suppose 3 people are randomly selected from this lecture and  $X$  is the number of women in this sample. What is  $P(X = 0)$ ,  $P(X = 1)$ ,  $P(X = 2)$ ,  $P(X = 3)$ ?



$$P(X = 3) = \frac{3!}{3!(3-3)!} (0.3)^3 (0.7)^{3-3} = 0.027$$

$$P(X = 2) = \frac{3!}{2!(3-2)!} (0.3)^2 (0.7)^{3-2} = 0.189$$

$$P(X = 1) = \frac{3!}{1!(3-1)!} (0.3)^1 (0.7)^{3-1} = 0.441$$

$$P(X = 0) = \frac{3!}{0!(3-0)!} (0.3)^0 (0.7)^{3-0} = 0.343$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(X = x) &= \frac{n!}{x!(n-x)!} \pi^x (1-\pi)^{n-x} \\ &= \binom{n}{x} \pi^x (1-\pi)^{n-x} \end{aligned}$$

## VI. Binomial Distribution (R-Example)

Open the file "L4-Example\_3.R" in R-Studio and reproduce the R-Code.

```
# example: lottery
#-----
# How likely is it to win a lottery where 6 correct numbers need to be drawn from 49?
p <- 1/(factorial(49)/(factorial(6)*factorial(49-6)))
# check:
p <- 1/choose(49,6) # same result

# example: women's share in the lecture
#-----
# the percentage of women in the lecture is about 30%.
# suppose 3 people are chosen randomly.
# let the random variable Y be the number of women in the sample.
# determine the probability P(y=0),P(y=1),P(y=2),P(y=3)!

p<-0.3
n<-3
x<-0:n

px<-choose(n,x)*p^x*(1-p)^(n-x)
barplot(px,names=as.character(x),main="Example 1: n=3, p=0.3")

p0<-choose(3,0)*p^0*(1-p)^3
p1<-choose(3,1)*p^1*(1-p)^2
p2<-choose(3,2)*p^2*(1-p)^1
p3<-choose(3,3)*p^3*(1-p)^0

# same result with the specific R-funtion
dbinom(3,size=3,prob=0.3)
dbinom(2,size=3,prob=0.3)
dbinom(1,size=3,prob=0.3)
dbinom(0,size=3,prob=0.3)
```

## VII. Hypergeometric Distribution

The **Hypergeometric distribution** models the number of successes in a given number of consecutive trials. However:

- The consecutive trials are **NOT independent** of each other.
- The probability of success **changes** from one trial to the next (selected objects are not returned to population).

**Binomial distribution:** sampling *with* replacement

**Hypergeometric distribution:** sampling *without* replacement



## VII. Hypergeometric distribution

A discrete random variable  $X$  with the probability function:

$$P(X=x) = \frac{\binom{s}{x} \binom{N-s}{n-x}}{\binom{N}{n}}$$

is distributed **hypergeometrically**, with

- the population size  $N$ ,
- the sample size  $n$ ,
- the number of successes  $s$  in the population,
- the number of successes  $x$  in the sample.

## VII. Hypergeometric distribution

The probability function is only defined for  $x \leq S$  and  $n - x \leq N - s$

$$P(X=x) = \frac{\binom{s}{x} \binom{N-s}{n-x}}{\binom{N}{n}}$$

**Expected value:**  $\mu = E(X) = \frac{ns}{N}$

$\frac{s}{N}$  Probability of success for the first trial

**Variance:**  $\sigma^2 = E[(X - \mu)^2] = \frac{ns(N-s)}{N^2} \cdot \frac{(N-n)}{(N-1)}$  with correction factor  $\frac{(N-n)}{(N-1)}$

## VII. Hypergeometric Distribution (Example)

**Processors:** Consider the quality control of a firm for a shipment of 250 processors. In the shipment, there are 17 defective processors. The quality control collects 5 processors for inspection. Let the random variable  $X$  be the number of defective processors in the sample. What is the probability of exactly 3 defective processors in the sample?

$$P(X=3) = \frac{\binom{17}{3} \binom{250-17}{5-3}}{\binom{250}{5}} = 0.00235$$

## VII. Hypergeometric Distribution (R-Example)

Open the file "L4-Example\_4.R" in R-Studio and reproduce the R-Code.

```
# example: black/white balls
#-----
# a jar is filled with 7 white balls and 5 black balls.
# take a sample (without putting back) and draw a ball k times from the jar with M white balls and N black balls
# random variable X: number of white balls in the sample

# x~hyper(m=M,n=N,k=K)
# valid for  $K \leq M$  and  $K \leq N$ 

# randomly draw 4 balls from the jar without putting them back
# -> sample of  $K=4$ 
# ->  $M=7$  white balls
# ->  $N=5$  black balls

# probability of drawing 3 white balls
dhyper(3,m=7,n=5,k=4)

# example: processors
#-----
# assume there are 17 damaged processors in a shipment of 250 processors.
# the quality control department will take 5 processors for inspection.
# the random variable X corresponds to the number of damaged processors in the sample.

# probability to find exactly 3 damaged processors in the sample ( $P(X=3)$ )?
dhyper(3,m=17,n=233,k=5)

# probability to find exactly 5 damaged processors in the sample ( $P(X=5)$ )?
dhyper(5,m=17,n=233,k=5) #very small chance

# Probability to find a maximum of 2 damaged processors in the sample  $P(X \leq 2)$ ?
#  $P(X \leq 2) = P(X=0,1,2)$ 
dhyper(0,m=17,n=233,k=5)+dhyper(1,m=17,n=233,k=5)+dhyper(2,m=17,n=233,k=5)
phyper(2,m=17,n=233,k=5) #  $P(X \leq 2)$ 

#  $P(X > 1) = 1 - \text{Prob}(X \leq 1) = 1 - F(1)$ 
phyper(1,m=17,n=233,k=5,lower.tail=FALSE) # upper.tail-Option fuer ( $P(X > x)$ )
```

## VIII. Poisson Distribution

The Poisson distribution is applied to events for which the probability of occurrence over a given span is **extremely small**.

In numerous applications, which formally base on a Bernoulli experiment, the probability that an event  $A$  may occur in a single experiment is very low. In such cases it is beneficial to approximate the Binomial distribution by a distribution that results when  $\pi \rightarrow 0$  and  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , in such a way that the expected value  $\lambda = n\pi$  stays constant. It holds:

$$\lim_{\pi \rightarrow 0} \binom{n}{x} \pi^x (1 - \pi)^{n-x} = \frac{(n\pi)^x}{x!} e^{-n\pi} \quad n\pi = \lambda \text{ is constant}$$

## VIII. Poisson Distribution

A discrete random variable  $X$  with the probability function

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

Is called **Poisson-distributed** with the parameter  $\lambda$ .  $P(X=x)$  is the probability that the event will occur exactly  $x$  *times* within a given time period. The expected value and the variance of a Poisson distribution are equal:

$$\text{Expected value} = \text{Variance} = \lambda$$

The Poisson distribution is usually used when  $n$  and  $\pi$  are not known individually, but only the mean value  $\lambda = n\pi$  and  $\pi$  is very small ( $< 0.05$  according to Weiers).

## VIII. Poisson distribution (Example)

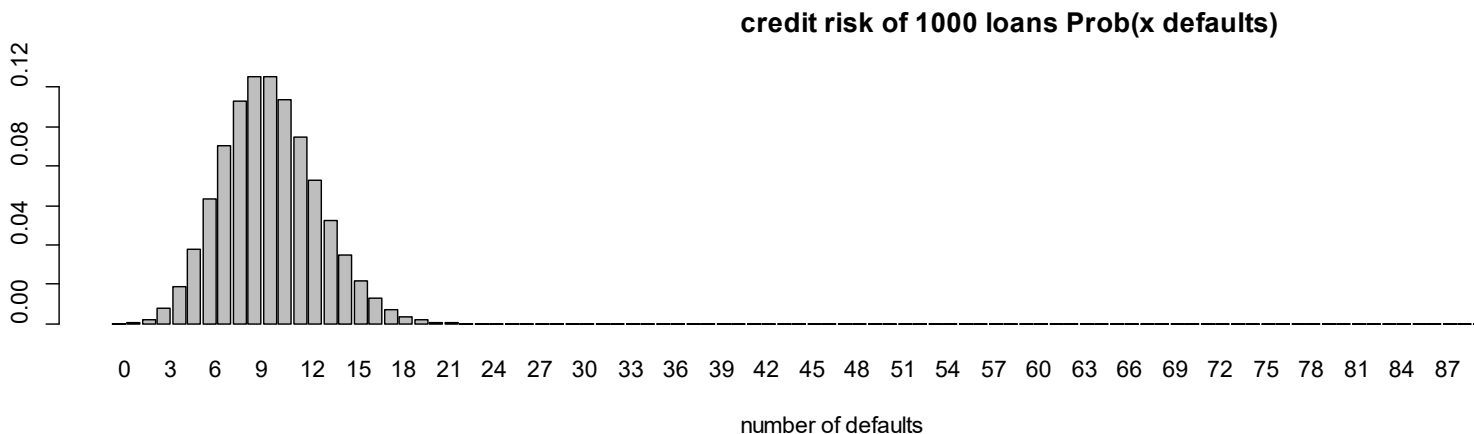
**Railroad Accidents:** Average number (resp. long-time mean) of railroad accidents per year is  $\lambda = 1.25$ . What is the probability of 2 accidents in 2020?

$$P(X = 2) = \frac{\lambda^2 e^{-\lambda}}{2!} = \frac{1.25^2 e^{-1.25}}{2!} = 0.224$$

## VIII. Poisson Distribution (R-Example)

**Credit risk:** Consider a financial institution that holds a portfolio of 1000 loans. For small default probabilities of the loans, the frequency of default risk can be approximated by a Poisson distribution. For a portfolio of 1000 loans and an independent default probability of 1% ( $\lambda = n \cdot \pi = 10$ ). The probability of  $x$  failures can be modelled as follows:

$$P(x) = \frac{10^x e^{-10}}{x!}$$





## VII. Poisson Distribution (R-Example)

Open the file "L4-Example\_5.R" in R-Studio and reproduce the R-Code for the previous example.

```
# example: credit risk
#-----
# A financial institution holds a portfolio of 1000 loans. in the case of low default probabilities,
# the distribution can be approximated by a Poisson distribution given the portfolio of
# 1000 loans and an independent probability of default of 1% ( $\lambda = n \cdot p = 10$ ).
p<-0.01
n<-1000
np<-n*p
x<-0:n
px2<-(np^x*exp(-np))/factorial(x)
# displaying default risk in a graph.
barplot(px2,beside=T,names=as.character(x),main="Default Risk of 1000 Loans: Prob(x Defaults)",
        xlab="Number of Defaults",xlim=c(0,100))

# example: car wash
#-----
# a car wash has the following opening hours: 08:00 to 18:00
# the random variable Y is given by the number of customers appearing during this period.

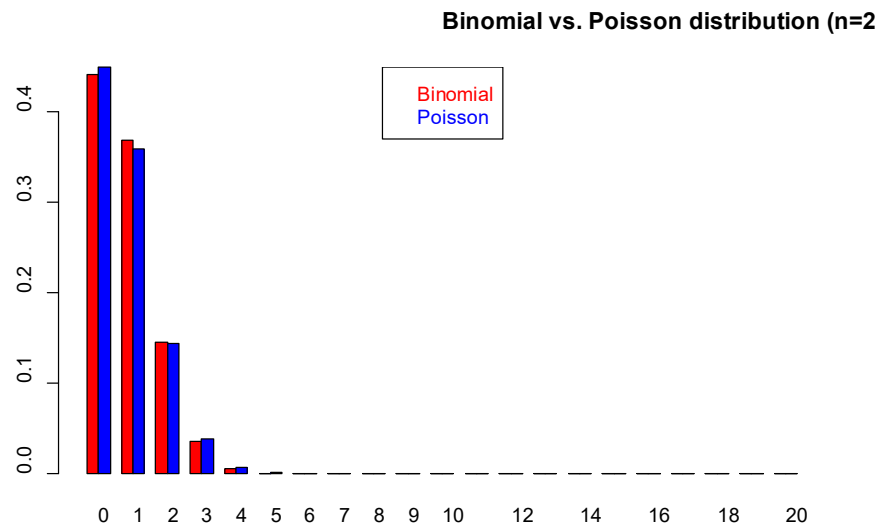
# since the period covers 10 hours, we model the following distribution:
#  $Y \sim \text{pois}(\lambda = 5 \cdot 10 = 50)$ 

# determine the probability of 48 to 50 customers (including) using the car wash.
# we want to know  $P(48 \leq Y \leq 50) = P(X \leq 50) - P(X \leq 47)$ .
diff(ppois(c(47, 50), lambda=50))
```

## VIII. Approximation of the Binomial Distribution

The Poisson distribution is usually used when  $n$  and  $\pi$  are not known individually, but the mean value  $\lambda = n\pi$  is known.

In practice, the Binomial distribution can be approximated by the Poisson distribution for sufficiently **large**  $n$  and sufficiently **small**  $\pi$  (rule of thumb by Weiers:  $n \geq 20$ ,  $\pi \leq 0.05$  or by Schira:  $n \geq 100$ ,  $\pi \leq 0.10$ ).



## Appendix: Binomial Coefficient and Pascal's Triangle

The values of the binomial coefficient can be subsequently derived from **Pascal's triangle**. The values on the side are 1, all other values are obtained as the sum of the two values to the left and right above:

$$\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n-1}{k-1} + \binom{n-1}{k}$$

The sum of each row is a power of two ( $2^n$ ):

<i>n</i>																Sum
0																1
1																2
2																4
3																8
4																16
5																32
6																64
7																128
8																256
9																512

## Appendix: Binomial Distribution (Example)

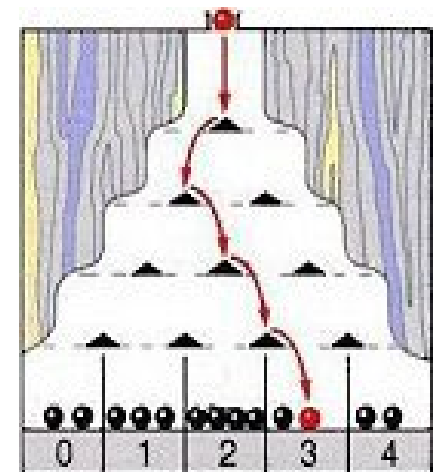
**Galton Board:** How many balls fall into the containers 0 to 4?

Possible paths (16 in total):

- Bin 0: {L, L, L, L}
- Bin 4: {R, R, R, R}
- Bin 1: {L, L, L, R}, {L, L, R, L}, {L, R, L, L}, {R, L, L, L}
- Bin 3: {R, R, R, L}, {R, R, L, R}, {R, L, R, R}, {L, R, R, R}
- Bin 2: {L, L, R, R}, {L, R, L, R}, {L, R, R, L}, {R, L, R, L},  
          {R, L, L, R}, {R, R, L, L}

Probability  $p(B_k)$  that a ball will fall into bin  $k$ .

- $p(B_0) = p(B_4) = 1/16$ ,
- $p(B_1) = p(B_3) = 4/16$ ,
- $p(B_2) = 6/16$



## Appendix: Binomial Distribution (Example)

1. Consider now the general case of a board with  $n$  stages, then there are  $n + 1$  bins (0 to  $n$ ).
2. Probability  $p(B_k)$  that a ball falls into bin  $k$  ( $k = 0, \dots, n$ ):

$$p(B_k) = \frac{\text{Number of paths to bin } k}{\text{Total number of paths}}$$

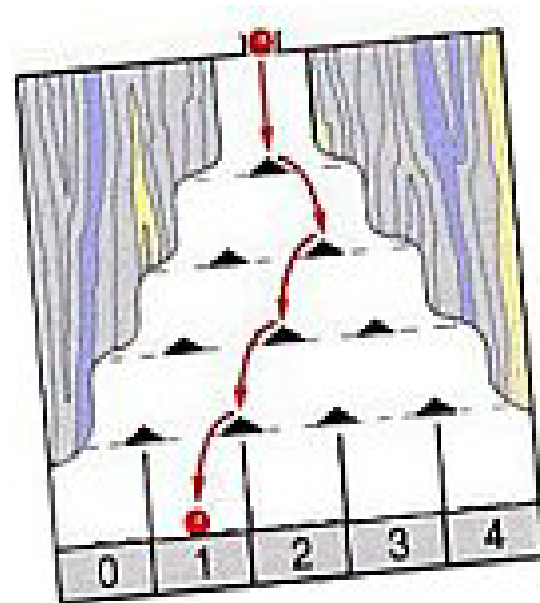
3. Number of paths to container  $k$  : The number of possible combinations to place  $k$  objects on  $n$  fields ( $n \geq k$ ) without consideration of the order is

$$\begin{aligned} \binom{n}{k} &= \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} \\ \Rightarrow p(B_k) &= \binom{n}{k} / 2^n \quad \text{as } \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} = 2^n \end{aligned}$$

## Appendix: Different Probabilities

1. The probability that a ball will fall into each bin to the left and to the right is no longer 0.5
2. Let  $p(\text{right}) = \pi$  and  $p(\text{left}) = 1 - \pi$

$$\Rightarrow p(B_k) = \binom{n}{k} \cdot \pi^k \cdot (1 - \pi)^{n-k}$$



## Appendix: Moments of Binomial Distribution

**Expected value:**  $\mu = E(X) = n\pi$

**Variance:**  $\sigma^2 = E[(X - \mu)^2] = n\pi(1 - \pi),$

wherein  $X \sim B(n, \pi)$

Derivation of the expected value:

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

$$X_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if the result in the } i\text{-th trial is a success} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$E[X_i] = 1 \cdot \pi + 0 \cdot (1 - \pi) = \pi$$

$$E[X] = E[X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n] = E[X_1] + E[X_2] + \dots + E[X_n] = n\pi$$

## Appendix: Moments of Binomial Distribution

Derivation of variance:

$$E[X_i^2] = 1^2 \cdot \pi + 0^2 \cdot (1 - \pi) = \pi$$

$X_i, X_j (i \neq j)$  are independent random variables, i.e.,

$$P(X_i = r, X_j = s) = P(X_i = r) \cdot P(X_j = s) \xrightarrow{\text{it follows}} E[X_i \cdot X_j] = E[X_i] \cdot E[X_j]$$

$$\text{Var}[X] = E[(X - E[X])^2] = E[X^2] - (E[X])^2 = E[(X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n)^2] - (n\pi)^2$$

$$= E\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 + \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq j}}^n X_i X_j\right] - (n\pi)^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n E[X_i^2] + \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq j}}^n E[X_i X_j] - (n\pi)^2$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n E[X_i^2] + \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{\substack{i=1 \\ i \neq j}}^n E[X_i] \cdot E[X_j] - (n\pi)^2$$

$$= n\pi + n(n-1)\pi \cdot \pi - (n\pi)^2 = n\pi + (n\pi)^2 - n\pi^2 - (n\pi)^2$$

$$= n\pi(1 - \pi)$$



## Appendix: Derivation of the Poisson Distribution

### Relation between Binomial and Poisson distribution

The value of a Poisson-distributed random variable for a given  $k$  is the limit  $n \rightarrow \infty$  of a binomial distribution with  $p = \lambda / n$  for the parameter  $k$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(X = k) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} \left(\frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^k \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^{n-k} \\
 &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{\lambda^k}{k!}\right) \left(\frac{n(n-1)(n-2)\cdots(n-k+1)}{n^k}\right) \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^n \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^{-k} \\
 &= \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \underbrace{\left(\frac{n}{n} \cdot \frac{n-1}{n} \cdot \frac{n-2}{n} \cdots \frac{n-k+1}{n}\right)}_{\rightarrow 1} \underbrace{\left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^n}_{\rightarrow e^{-\lambda}} \underbrace{\left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^{-k}}_{\rightarrow 1} \\
 &= \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!}
 \end{aligned}$$