# Lab 05 – Discrete Probability Distributions

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Required libs: math, numpy, matplotlib.

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import math
```

### 1 Bernoulli distribution

Bernoulli's distribution (named after the Swiss mathematician Jacob Bernoulli) is a discrete probability distribution of random variables that only takes two values, 0 or 1, where value 1 is obtained with probability of success p and value 0 is received with failure probability q = 1 - p.

If the random variable X follows this distribution, denote  $X \sim \text{Bernoulli}$  (p). The probability density function of the Bernoulli distribution is determined by the formula:

$$p(x) = P(X = x) = \begin{cases} p & \text{n\'eu x=1} \\ 1 - p & \text{n\'eu x=0} \end{cases}$$
 (1)

Or in another form:

$$p(x) = P(X = x) = p^{x}(1 - p)^{1-x} \text{ v\'oi } x \in \{0, 1\}$$
 (2)

For example, call X is an event of throwing a coin of a homogeneous coin, if the coin appears a head X = 1, otherwise X = 0. The probability of success (being head) is p = 0.5. What is the probability of getting a head? Answer:  $0.5^0 (1 - 0.5)^{1-0} = 0.5$ .

Write the probability density function of Bernoulli distribution:

```
def pmf_bernoulli(p, x):
    # your code
```

Using that pmf\_bernoulli function to draw a graph which shows the relationship between the random variable X and its corresponding probability. The horizontal axis represents the x value of the random variable, the vertical axis represents the probability p(x), respectively:

```
def plot_pmf_bernoulli(p):
    '''

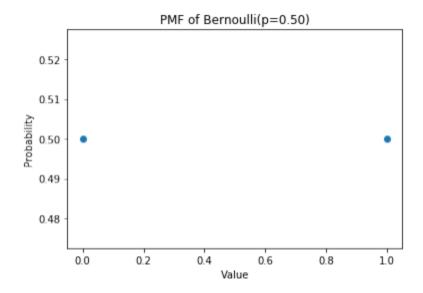
Plot the probability mass function of Bernoulli(p)
    '''

X = [0, 1]
    P_bernoulli = [pmf_bernoulli(p, x) for x in X]
    plt.plot(X, P_bernoulli, 'o')

plt.title('PMF of Bernoulli(p=%.2f)' % (p))
    plt.xlabel('Value')
    plt.ylabel('Probability')
    plt.show()

plot_pmf_bernoulli(0.5)
```

The result is:



## 2 Binomial distribution

The binomial distribution is a discrete probability distribution, which takes two parameters n and k with k as the number of successful tests in n independent tests.

The probability density function of the binomial distribution is determined by the formula:

$$p(k) = P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k} \text{ v\'oi} \begin{cases} k = 0, 1, 2, ..., n \\ \binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} \end{cases}$$
 (3)

For example, toss a coin 15 times, what is the probability to get exactly 4 times of head, know that the probability of going getting head in each try is 0.5. Answer:  $\binom{15}{4}0.5^4(1-0.5)^{15-4}$ .

Write the probability density function of the binomial distribution:

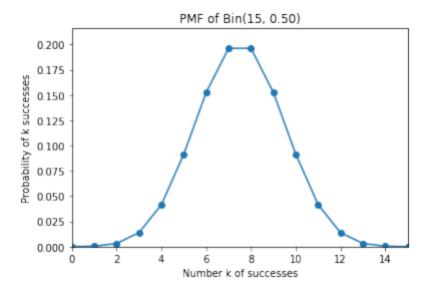
```
def pmf_binom(k, n, p):
    # your code
```

Using the pmf\_binom function above, graph the relationship between k tests in the binomial distribution and the corresponding probability of the above example. We have, n=15 tests, the probability of success at each try is p=0.5; the horizontal axis represents k tests, the vertical axis represents the probability p(k) respectively:

```
def plot_pmf_binom(n, p):
    "''
    Plot the probability mass function of Binom(n, p)
    "''
    K = list(range(0, n + 1))
    P_binom = [pmf_binom(k, n, p) for k in K]
    plt.plot(K, P_binom, '-o')
    axes = plt.gca()
    axes.set_xlim([0, n])
    axes.set_ylim([0, 1.1 * max(P_binom)])
    plt.title('PMF of Bin(%i, %.2f)' % (n, p))
    plt.xlabel('Number k of successes')
    plt.ylabel('Probability of k successes')
    plt.show()

plot_pmf_binom(15, 0.5)
```

The result is:



#### 3 Poisson distribution

In probability and statistical theory, Poisson distribution is a discrete probability distribution that indicates the average number of successful occurrences of an event in a given time period. This average value is denoted as lambda ( $\lambda$ ).

Let X be a random variable whose event occurs randomly and discretely, we count its occurrences in a given time interval t, expected value or average number of times that that random variable that happens in the period that t is  $\lambda$ . So the value of the random variable is the number of successful occurrences of the event (symbol k). And the probability density function indicates the probability that k will succeed in the test.

The probability density function is determined by the formula:

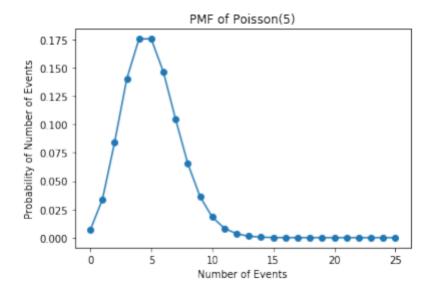
$$p(k; \lambda) = \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!}$$
(4)

For example, a consulting company surveys that there are averages 5 calls for advice per minute. So called X is the number of incoming calls for consulting during the period t = 1 minute, then X follows Poisson distribution with  $\lambda = 5$ . What is the probability of having 10 incoming calls in 1 minute? Answer:  $\frac{5^{10}e^{-5}}{10!} = 0.018$ .

```
def pmf_poisson(k, lam):
    # your code
```

Using the pmf\_poisson function above to graph the relationship between the number of occurrences in the Poisson distribution and the corresponding probability in the above example. Let k = 0,1, ..., 25, the horizontal axis represent k the test, the vertical axis represents the probability  $p(k; \lambda)$  respectively:

The result is:



#### 4 Geometric distribution

Geometric Distribution is the distribution of the probability of the first occurrence of event X in the Bernoulli test. The probability density function of the geometric distribution is determined by the formula:

$$p(x) = P(X = x) = p(1 - p)^{x - 1}$$
(5)

For example, in a game, candidates are given a ring and have to throw the ring on the hook from a fixed distance. As observed, only 30% of candidates can do this. So if the candidate has 5 throws, what is the probability that he will win the prize if he misses 4 times? Answer:  $0.3 (1 - 0.3)^{5-1} = 0.072$ .

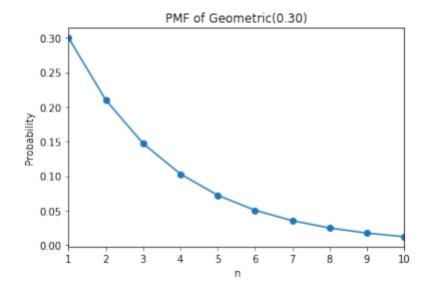
Write the probability density function of Poisson distribution:

```
def pmf_geo(p, x):
    # your code
```

Using the pmf\_geo function above to graph the relationship between the first hit after x tries and the corresponding probability. Given  $X = \{1, 2, ..., 10\}$ , the horizontal axis represents x tries, the vertical axis represents the probability p (p, x) respectively:

```
def plot_pmf_geo(p, n):
    Plot the probability mass function of Geometric
    # your code
plot_pmf_geo(0.3, 10)
```

The result is:



#### 5 Exercises

1. One factory has 5 machines. The probability of each machine is broken in 1 session is 0.1.

- (a) Use probability distribution functions to calculate the probability that 2 machines are broken in 1 session. (Answer: 0.073)
- (b) Call  $X = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  is the event that in 1 session there are 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 broken machines respectively. Draw a graph representing the relationship between X and the corresponding probability.
- 2. A post office receives an average of 3 phone calls per minute.
  - (a) Use probability distribution functions to calculate the probability that the center receives 2 calls in 1 minute. (Answer: 0.224)
  - (b) Call  $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$  as an event in 1 minute there are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 respectively calls to the post office. Draw a graph representing the relationship between X and the corresponding probability.
- 3. Each person is given 10 bullets and fired until 1 member hits the target. Knowing the probability of each bullet being hit is 40%.
  - (a) Use probability distribution functions to calculate the probability that a person hits the target in his third try. (Answer: 0.144)
  - (b) Call  $X = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10\}$  as the event where a person hits the target in his 1st, 2nd, 3rd, ...,  $10^{th}$  try. Draw a graph representing the relationship between X and the corresponding probability.