Lecture 2 - Probability Theory & Inferential Statistics

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Review of Probability Theory & Inferential Statistics

Warning - the following content *will* seem abstract at first, but I promise it is essential to understanding statistical inference.

Probability theory has to do with assigning expectations for events in the 'long run' that you can generally only observe in a more limited way (e.g., limited by time or the number of 'trials').

A prominent example is a coin toss - we expect a 50/50 chance to obtain heads/tails on any given toss. How about if we tossed a coin 1000 times - how many times do you think we will see heads appear?

First Things First - Some Definitions

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- ▶ Outcome: Each distinct result of a trial
- \triangleright Sample Space: The set of all possible outcomes, denoted S

Some Classic Examples

Coins, Cards, and Dice

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- ▶ **Trial**: flip of a coin, roll a die, draw a card
- ▶ Outcome: heads, '2', ace of spades
- ► Sample space: [H,T], [1,2,3,4,5,6], [all 52 cards]

Some Additional Definitions

Event: Any collection of outcomes, or any subset of S

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'Success' is defined as some event occurring:

$$p(A) = \frac{\text{\# of observations favoring Event 'A'}}{\text{total } \text{\# of observations in sample space}}$$

Some Additional Definitions (Continued)

Complement of an event: The set of all possibilities of an event not occurring

'Failure' is defined as the event not occurring

$$p(\text{not A}) = p(\sim A) = p(A') = 1 - p(A)$$

By definition, $p(A) + p(\sim A) = 1$

Flipping a coin: S=[H,T]

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$$p(H) = \frac{p(H)}{p(H) + p(T)}$$

$$p(H) = \frac{.50}{.50 + .50}$$

$$p(1) = \frac{p(1)}{p(1) + p(2) + p(3) + p(4) + p(5) + p(6)}$$

$$p(1) = \frac{(1/6)}{(1/6) + (1/6) + (1/6) + (1/6) + (1/6) + (1/6)}$$

$$p(even) = \frac{p(2) + p(4) + p(6)}{p(1) + p(2) + p(3) + p(4) + p(5) + p(6)}$$

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$$p(even) = \frac{(1/6) + (1/6) + (1/6)}{(1/6) + (1/6) + (1/6) + (1/6) + (1/6) + (1/6)}$$

$$p(\text{jack of diamonds}) = \frac{p(\text{jack of diamonds})}{p(\text{all 52 cards})}$$

$$p(\text{jack of diamonds}) = \frac{1/52}{52/52}$$

$$p(\text{ace}) = \frac{p(\text{ace})}{p(\text{all } 52 \text{ cards})}$$

$$p(ace) = \frac{(1/52) + (1/52) + (1/52) + (1/52)}{52/52}$$

More on Events

When we talk about the **probability** of an event occurring we are referring to them over the long run, or over an infinite number of trials.

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Probability also called a 'limiting relative frequency' - contrast to a *proportion* (or relative frequency).

Building on the Basics - Counting Rules

From this foundation, we can conceive of a range of possible outcomes that may occur over a series of trials with a set sample space S.

To count these outcomes, there are a few basic rules.

Counting Rule #1 - Basic Counting Rule

Basic counting rule: the number of total possible outcomes from 'n' independent trials

$$k_1 \times k_2 \times k_3 \times \cdots \times k_n$$

 $k_i = \#$ total outcomes from trial 'i'

Counting Rule #2 - Permutation Rule

Permutation rule: the # of possible ordered arrangements of 'r' objects from a group of 'n' objects.

Order matters!

with replacement:
$$P_r^n = n^r$$

without replacement:
$$P_r^n = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!}$$

Factorial notation: 3!=(3*2*1)=6 and 0!=1

Counting Rule #3 - Combination Rule

Combination rule: the number of possible unordered arrangements of r objects from a collection of 'n' objects.

Order does **not** matter!

$$C_r^n = \binom{n}{r} = \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}$$

Applying the Permutation and Combination Rules - An Example

Let's apply these rules using the same criteria - we have n=10 trials and r=5 successes.

Permutations = P_5^{10}

$$P_5^{10} = \frac{10!}{(10-5)!}$$

$$= \frac{10 \times 9 \times 8 \times 7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1}{5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1}$$

$$= 10 \times 9 \times 8 \times 7 \times 6$$

$$= 30240$$
(1)

Applying the Permutation and Combination Rules - An Example Combinations = C_5^{10}

$$C_5^{10} = \frac{10!}{5!(10-5)!}$$

$$= \frac{10 \times 9 \times 8 \times 7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1}{(5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1)(5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1)}$$

$$= \frac{10 \times 9 \times 8 \times 7 \times 6}{5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1}$$

$$= \frac{30240}{120}$$

$$= 252$$
(2)

License plates in NC: 3 letters, 4 numbers - How many different sequences?

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Which counting rule do we use?

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Which counting rule do we use?

of sequences =
$$26 * 26 * 26 * 10 * 10 * 10 * 10 = 175760000$$

Combination lock: 36 numbers, 3 in the combo - How many different sequences?

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Same counting rule?

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Same counting rule?

of sequences =
$$36 * 36 * 36 = 46656$$

Poker: 5 card hands - How many different sequences?

2

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Same counting rule?

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Same counting rule?

of sequences =
$$\frac{52!}{(52-5)!}$$
 = 311875200

Let's suppose we have a bag of four colored marbles (Red, Orange, Green, & Blue).

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How many *ordered* arrangement of all 4 exist?

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How many ordered arrangement of all 4 exist?

$$P_4^4 = \frac{4!}{(4-4)!} = 24$$

Here are the 'receipts' for the above calculation. Below is a table for *each* of the 24 possible outcomes:

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ROGB	ORGB	GROB	BGRO
ROBG	ORBG	GRBO	BGOR
RBOG	OBRG	GBOR	BRGO
RBGO	OBGR	GBRO	BROG
RGBO	OGBR	GORB	BORG
RGOB	OGRB	GOBR	BOGR

What about the # of ordered arrangments of just two marbles at a time?

What about the # of ordered arrangments of just two marbles at a time?

$$P_2^4 = \frac{4!}{(4-2)!} = 12$$

And again, the 'receipts':

```
RO OR BO GO
RB OB BR GR
RG OG BG GB
```

What about the # of unordered arrangements of all four?

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What rule do we use here?

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$$C_4^4 = \frac{4!}{4!(4-4)!} = \frac{4!}{4!} = 1$$

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What rule do we use here?

$$C_4^4 = \frac{4!}{4!(4-4)!} = \frac{4!}{4!} = 1$$

That's right - if order doesn't matter, there's only one combination of all 4 marbles being selected.

Last one, I promise. What about the # of unordered arrangements of two out of the four marbles?

2

Last one, I promise. What about the # of unordered arrangements of two out of the four marbles?

$$C_2^4 = \frac{4!}{2!(4-2)!} = 6$$

Although the above result might seem strange at first, consider the following table of results:

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RO/OR BG/GB RG/GR BO/OB RB/BR GO/OG

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RO/OR BG/GB RG/GR BO/OB RB/BR GO/OG

Make more sense now?

Rules of Probability

Before we begin to talk about *distributions* of probability, it is helpful to review some basic rules.

Probability Rule #1 - The Bounding Rule

All probabilities are bounded by 0 and 1

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All probabilities are bounded by 0 and 1

This means that a probability value may not be negative or exceed a value of 1

$$0 \le p(A) \le 1$$

Probability Rule #2 - The Addition Rule

Addition rule: the probability of observing either of two events, or the union of two or more events.

$$p(A \cup B) = p(A) + p(B) - p(A \cap B)$$

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Addition rule: the probability of observing either of two events, or the union of two or more events.

$$p(A \cup B) = p(A) + p(B) - p(A \cap B)$$

Addition rule for mutually exclusive events: if two events cannot simultaneously occur, there's no joint probability.

$$p(A \cup B) = p(A) + p(B)$$

Probability Rule #3 - The Multiplication Rule

Multiplication rule: the probability of observing two or more events simultaneously, or the *intersection* of two or more events (aka, joint probability).

$$p(A \cap B) = p(A) \times p(B \mid A)$$

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Multiplication rule: the probability of observing two or more events simultaneously, or the *intersection* of two or more events (aka, joint probability).

$$p(A \cap B) = p(A) \times p(B \mid A)$$

Multiplication rule for independent events: Where the probability of event B is unaffected by the occurrence of event A (e.g., sampling with replacement).

$$p(A \cap B) = p(A) \times p(B)$$

A Word on Conditional Probabilities

A conditional probability is defined as the probability of one event occurring *given* that another event has occurred.

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These are generally important to the social sciences, as they are central to causal reasoning in the absence of experimental data.

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Some examples of conditional probability questions include:

- ▶ What is the likelihood someone will be incarcerated if they commit a violent offense?
- ▶ What is the probability that a person will receive an offer for an interview if they have a felony conviction?
- ▶ What is the probability a person will be convicted as an adult if they were convicted as a juvenile?
- ▶ What is the probability that someone will relapse into drug use after they had participated in a drug abuse program?

$$p(H \cup T) = p(H \cup H') = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = ????$$

$$p(H \cup T) = p(H \cup H') = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1.0$$

$$p(H \cup T) = p(H \cup H') = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1.0$$

$$p(HH \cup TT) = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{4} = ????$$

$$p(H \cup T) = p(H \cup H') = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1.0$$

$$p(HH \cup TT) = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{4} = 0.50$$

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$$p(H \cap T) = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4} = ???$$

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$$p(HH \cup TT) = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{4} = 0.50$$

$$p(H \cap T) = \frac{1}{2} \ge \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4} = 0.25$$

$$p(H \cup T) = p(H \cup H') = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1.0$$

$$p(HH \cup TT) = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{4} = 0.50$$

$$p(H \cap T) = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4} = 0.25$$

$$p(HH \cap TT) = \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{16} = ????$$

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$$p(HH \cup TT) = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{4} = 0.50$$

$$p(H \cap T) = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4} = 0.25$$

$$p(HH \cap TT) = \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{16} = 0.06$$

$$p(H \cup T) = p(H \cup H') = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1.0$$

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$$p(H \cap T) = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4} = 0.25$$

$$p(HH \cap TT) = \frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{16} = 0.06$$

$$p(H \cap H \cap H \cap H \cap H) = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{32} = ???$$

$$p(H \cup T) = p(H \cup H') = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} = 1.0$$

$$p(HH \cup TT) = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{2}{4} = 0.50$$

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$$p(H \cap H \cap H \cap H \cap H) = \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{32} = 0.031$$

$$p(1 \cup 6) = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{2}{6} = ???$$

$$p(1 \cup 6) = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{2}{6} = 0.33$$

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$$p(1 \cup 2 \cup 3) = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{3}{6} = ???$$

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$$p(1 \cup 2 \cup 3) = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{3}{6} = 0.50$$

$$p(1 \cap 6) = \frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{36} = ???$$

$$p(1 \cup 6) = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{2}{6} = 0.33$$

$$p(1 \cup 2 \cup 3) = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{3}{6} = 0.50$$

$$p(1 \cap 6) = \frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{36} = 0.028$$

$$p(1 \cup 6) = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{2}{6} = 0.33$$

$$p(1 \cup 2 \cup 3) = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{3}{6} = 0.50$$

$$p(1 \cap 6) = \frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{36} = 0.028$$

$$p(1 \cap 2 \cap 3) = \frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{216} = ???$$

$$p(1 \cup 6) = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{2}{6} = 0.33$$

$$p(1 \cup 2 \cup 3) = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{6} = \frac{3}{6} = 0.50$$

$$p(1 \cap 6) = \frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{36} = 0.028$$

$$p(1 \cap 2 \cap 3) = \frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{216} = 0.004$$

$$p(\text{ace } \cup \text{ king}) = \frac{4}{52} + \frac{4}{52} = \frac{8}{52} = ???$$

$$p(\text{ace } \cup \text{ king}) = \frac{4}{52} + \frac{4}{52} = \frac{8}{52} = 0.16$$

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$$p(\text{ace } \cup \text{ diamond}) = \frac{4}{52} + \frac{13}{52} - \frac{1}{52} = \frac{16}{52} = ???$$

$$p(\text{ace } \cup \text{ king}) = \frac{4}{52} + \frac{4}{52} = \frac{8}{52} = 0.16$$

$$p(\text{ace } \cup \text{ diamond}) = \frac{4}{52} + \frac{13}{52} - \frac{1}{52} = \frac{16}{52} = 0.31$$

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▶ with replacement:
$$p(\text{ace } \cap \text{ ace}) = \frac{4}{52} \times \frac{4}{52} = \frac{16}{2704} = ???$$

$$p(\text{ace } \cup \text{ king}) = \frac{4}{52} + \frac{4}{52} = \frac{8}{52} = 0.16$$

$$p(\text{ace } \cup \text{ diamond}) = \frac{4}{52} + \frac{13}{52} - \frac{1}{52} = \frac{16}{52} = 0.31$$

▶ with replacement:
$$p(\text{ace } \cap \text{ ace}) = \frac{4}{52} \times \frac{4}{52} = \frac{16}{2704} = 0.006$$

$$p(\text{ace } \cup \text{ king}) = \frac{4}{52} + \frac{4}{52} = \frac{8}{52} = 0.16$$

$$p(\text{ace } \cup \text{ diamond}) = \frac{4}{52} + \frac{13}{52} - \frac{1}{52} = \frac{16}{52} = 0.31$$

▶ with replacement:
$$p(\text{ace } \cap \text{ ace}) = \frac{4}{52} \times \frac{4}{52} = \frac{16}{2704} = 0.006$$

▶ without replacement:
$$p(\text{ace } \cap \text{ace}) = \frac{4}{52} \times \frac{3}{51} = \frac{12}{2652} = ???$$

$$p(\text{ace } \cup \text{ king}) = \frac{4}{52} + \frac{4}{52} = \frac{8}{52} = 0.16$$

$$p(\text{ace } \cup \text{ diamond}) = \frac{4}{52} + \frac{13}{52} - \frac{1}{52} = \frac{16}{52} = 0.31$$

▶ with replacement:
$$p(\text{ace } \cap \text{ ace}) = \frac{4}{52} \times \frac{4}{52} = \frac{16}{2704} = 0.006$$

• without replacement:
$$p(\text{ace } \cap \text{ace}) = \frac{4}{52} \times \frac{3}{51} = \frac{12}{2652} = 0.005$$

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A contingency table displays the joint distribution of two variables and is also referred to as a *cross-tab*.

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Here's an example using data from the NLSY97 - a data set we will become very familiar with this semester.

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Here's an example using data from the NLSY97 - a data set we will become very familiar with this semester.

	Employed?		
Delinquent?	No	Yes	Total
No	3642	3046	6688
Yes	955	1291	2246
Total	4597	4337	8934

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Delinquent?	No	Yes	Total
No	3642	3046	6688
Yes	955	1291	2246
Total	4597	4337	8934

$$p(E) = ??? = 0.4854488$$

Employed?			
Delinquent?	No	Yes	Total
No	3642	3046	6688
Yes	955	1291	2246
Total	4597	4337	8934

$$p(E) = \frac{4337}{8934} = 0.4854488$$

$$p(D) = ???? = 0.2513991$$

	Employed?		
Delinquent?	No	Yes	Total
No	3642	3046	6688
Yes	955	1291	2246
Total	4597	4337	8934

- $p(E) = \frac{4337}{8934} = 0.4854488$
- $p(D) = \frac{2246}{8934} = 0.2513991$
- $p(ND \cup NE) = ???? + ???? ???? = \frac{7643}{8934} = 0.8554959$

Employed?			
Delinquent?	No	Yes	Total
No	3642	3046	6688
Yes	955	1291	2246
Total	4597	4337	8934

$$p(E) = \frac{4337}{8934} = 0.4854488$$

$$p(D) = \frac{2246}{8934} = 0.2513991$$

$$p(ND \cup NE) = \frac{6688}{8934} + \frac{4597}{8934} - \frac{3642}{8934} = \frac{7643}{8934} = 0.8554959$$

▶
$$p(D \cup E) = ??? + ??? - ??? = \frac{5292}{8934} = 0.5923439$$

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No	3642	3046	6688
Yes	955	1291	2246
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$$p(E) = \frac{4337}{8934} = 0.4854488$$

$$p(D) = \frac{2246}{8934} = 0.2513991$$

$$p(ND \cup NE) = \frac{6688}{8934} + \frac{4597}{8934} - \frac{3642}{8934} = \frac{7643}{8934} = 0.8554959$$

$$p(D \cup E) = \frac{2246}{8934} + \frac{4337}{8934} - \frac{1291}{8934} = \frac{5292}{8934} = 0.5923439$$

Employed?			
Delinquent?	No	Yes	Total
No	3642	3046	6688
Yes	955	1291	2246
Total	4597	4337	8934

$$p(E \cup NE) = ???? + ???? = \frac{8934}{8934} = 1$$

	Employed?				
Delinquent?	No	Yes	Total		
No	3642	3046	6688		
Yes	955	1291	2246		
Total	4597	4337	8934		

$$p(E \cup NE) = \frac{4337}{8934} + \frac{4597}{8934} = \frac{8934}{8934} = 1$$

$$p(D \cap E) = ??? \times ??? = \frac{1291}{8934} = 0.1445041$$

	Employed?					
Delinquent?	No	Yes	Total			
No	3642	3046	6688			
Yes	955	1291	2246			
Total	4597	4337	8934			

$$p(E \cup NE) = \frac{4337}{8934} + \frac{4597}{8934} = \frac{8934}{8934} = 1$$

▶
$$p(D \cap E) = \frac{2246}{8934} \times \frac{1291}{2246} = \frac{1291}{8934} = 0.1445041$$

$$p(D \mid E) = ???? = 0.2976712$$

	Employed?				
Delinquent?	No	Yes	Total		
No	3642	3046	6688		
Yes	955	1291	2246		
Total	4597	4337	8934		

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And here's another Contingency Table!

Here I have tabulated school performance against delinquency:

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School Performance						
Delinquent	A's & B 's	B's & C 's	C's & D 's	D's & F's	Total	
No	1878	1537	708	78	4201	
Yes	1290	1679	1127	252	4348	
Total	3168	3216	1835	330	8549	

School Performance						
Delinquent	A's & B's	B's & C 's	C's & D 's	D's & F's	Total	
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$$p(A \cup B) = ???? + ???? = \frac{6384}{8549} = 0.747$$

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$$p(D \mid A) = ???? = 0.407$$

School Performance						
Delinquent	A's & B 's	B's & C 's	C's & D's	D's & F's	Total	
No	1878	1537	708	78	4201	
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$$p(B \cup B) = \frac{3168}{8549} + \frac{3216}{8549} = \frac{6384}{8549} = 0.747$$

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$$p(D \mid A) = \frac{1290}{3168} = 0.407$$

$$p(D \mid B) = ???? = 0.522$$

School Performance						
Delinquent	A's & B's	B's & C 's	C's & D's	D's & F's	Total	
No	1878	1537	708	78	4201	
Yes	1290	1679	1127	252	4348	
Total	3168	3216	1835	330	8549	

▶
$$p(B \cup B) = \frac{3168}{8549} + \frac{3216}{8549} = \frac{6384}{8549} = 0.747$$

$$p(C \cup F) = \frac{1835}{8549} + \frac{330}{8549} = \frac{2165}{8549} = 0.253$$

$$p(D \mid A) = \frac{1290}{3168} = 0.407$$

$$p(D \mid B) = \frac{1679}{3216} = 0.522$$

School Performance						
Delinquent	A's & B 's	B's & C 's	C's & D's	D's & F's	Total	
No	1878	1537	708	78	4201	
Yes	1290	1679	1127	252	4348	
Total	3168	3216	1835	330	8549	

$$p(D \mid C) = ???? = 0.614$$

School Performance						
Delinquent	A's & B's	B's & C 's	C's & D's	D's & F's	Total	
No	1878	1537	708	78	4201	
Yes	1290	1679	1127	252	4348	
Total	3168	3216	1835	330	8549	

$$p(D \mid C) = \frac{1127}{1835} = 0.614$$

$$p(D \mid F) = ???? = 0.764$$

		School Pe	rformance		
Delinquent	A's & B's	B's & C 's	C's & D's	D's & F's	Total
No	1878	1537	708	78	4201
Yes	1290	1679	1127	252	4348
Total	3168	3216	1835	330	8549

- $p(D \mid C) = \frac{1127}{1835} = 0.614$
- $p(D \mid F) = \frac{252}{330} = 0.764$
- $p(A \cap N) = ???? x ???? = \frac{1878}{8549} = 0.220$

		School Pe	rformance		
Delinquent	A's & B 's	B's & C 's	C's & D's	D's & F's	Total
No	1878	1537	708	78	4201
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Total	3168	3216	1835	330	8549

$$p(D \mid C) = \frac{1127}{1835} = 0.614$$

$$p(D \mid F) = \frac{252}{330} = 0.764$$

▶
$$p(A \cap N) = \frac{3168}{8549} \times \frac{1878}{3168} = \frac{1878}{8549} = 0.220$$

This Brings Us to... Probability Distributions!

We need to distinguish a frequency distribution (with proportions) from a probability distribution (with probabilities).

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We need to distinguish a frequency distribution (with proportions) from a probability distribution (with probabilities).

The former is observable - the latter is not. Understanding the latter, though, is **very** important for understanding statistical inference generally.

Again, helpful to contrast to a frequency distribution.

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Frequency distribution: Empirical, contains proportions which are *relative* frequencies we observe with real data.

Probability distribution: Theoretical, contains probabilities which are *limiting* relative frequencies we do not observe with real data, but expect over the long run.

What do you think it means to expect something over the *long run*?

A Practical Example - Flipping a Coin

Flipping a single coin: S=[H,T]; p(H)=.50; p(T)=.50

Outcome	f1	f2	f3	f4	f5
Heads	0	4	45	490	4990
Tails	1	6	55	510	5010
Number of Flips	1	10	100	1000	10000

I obviously didn't flip a coin 10,000 times, I just simulated the data as if I had.

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This brings me to a broader point - even though we cannot **observe** a probability distribution, this does not make it less useful.

In fact, we can know its properties (mean/variance) without empirically observing it.

This is what forms the link between empirical observations and statistical inference (and, by proxy, causal inference).

An Example - Building a Probability Distribution

Families with three children - how many boy-girl sequences are possible?

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Each birth is an independent 'trial' with two possible outcomes (S=[B,G]).

Sex is independent across children: p(boy) = 0.52; p(girl) = 0.48

Sequence	Probability
BBB	

Sequence	Probability
BBB	(.52)(.52)(.52) = .141
BBG	

Sequence	Probability
BBB	(.52)(.52)(.52) = .141
BBG	(.52)(.52)(.48) = .130
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Sequence	Probability
BBB	(.52)(.52)(.52) = .141
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BBB	(.52)(.52)(.52) = .141
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GBB	(.48)(.52)(.52) = .130
BGG	

Sequence	Probability
BBB	(.52)(.52)(.52) = .141
BBG	(.52)(.52)(.48) = .130
$_{\mathrm{BGB}}$	(.52)(.48)(.52) = .130
$_{ m GBB}$	(.48)(.52)(.52) = .130
BGG	(.52)(.48)(.48) = .120
GBG	

Sequence	Probability
BBB	(.52)(.52)(.52) = .141
BBG	(.52)(.52)(.48) = .130
$_{\mathrm{BGB}}$	(.52)(.48)(.52) = .130
$_{ m GBB}$	(.48)(.52)(.52) = .130
BGG	(.52)(.48)(.48) = .120
GBG	(.48)(.52)(.48) = .120
GGB	

Building the Probability Distribution

Sequence	Probability
BBB	(.52)(.52)(.52) = .141
BBG	(.52)(.52)(.48) = .130
$_{ m BGB}$	(.52)(.48)(.52) = .130
$_{ m GBB}$	(.48)(.52)(.52) = .130
BGG	(.52)(.48)(.48) = .120
GBG	(.48)(.52)(.48) = .120
GGB	(.48)(.48)(.52) = .120
GGG	

Building the Probability Distribution

Sequence	Probability
BBB	(.52)(.52)(.52) = .141
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$_{ m GBB}$	(.48)(.52)(.52) = .130
BGG	(.52)(.48)(.48) = .120
GBG	(.48)(.52)(.48) = .120
GGB	(.48)(.48)(.52) = .120
GGG	(.48)(.48)(.48) = .111

What is the probability of observing...

▶ Just 1 girl among three children (p(1 girl))?

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 - p(1 girl) = p(BBG) + p(BGB) + p(GBB) = 0.130 + 0.130 + 0.130 = 0.390

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- ▶ Just 1 boy among three children (p(1 boy))?
 - p(1 boy) = p(BGG) + p(GBG) + p(GGB) = 0.120 + 0.120 + 0.120 = 0.360

What is the probability of observing...

 \triangleright 2 or more girls among three children (p(2+ girls))?

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 - p(2+ girls) = p(BGG) + p(GBG) + p(GGB) + p(GGG) = 0.111 + 0.120 + 0.120 + 0.120 = 0.471

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- \triangleright 2 or more boys among three children (p(2+ boys))?
 - p(2 + boys) = p(BBB) + p(BBG) + p(BGB) + p(GBB) = 0.141 + 0.130 + 0.130 + 0.130 = 0.531

The Binomial Distribution

This brings us to the **Binomial Distribution** - a probability distribution for dichotomous outcomes.

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Events are labeled as successes or failures: p(success) = p; p(failure) = q = 1 - p; n = # of independent trials

We are interested in the probability of observing r successes in n trials - order does not matter.

The Binomial Distribution (cont)

Combines the multiplication rule with the combination rule.

Mutliplication rule tells us the probability a *one* specific sequence. The Combination Rule tells us how many times we would observe that sequence.

For example, having 1 girl out of three kids:

1)
$$p(GBB) = (0.48)(0.52)(0.52) = 0.48^{1} \times 0.52^{2} = 0.130$$

2)
$$C_1^3 = \frac{3!}{1!(3-1)!} = \frac{3!}{2!} = 3$$

3)
$$p(1 \text{ girl}) = 3 \times 0.130 = 0.390$$

The Binomial Distribution (cont)

Formally, the combined mathematics:

$$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r} = \binom{n}{r} p^r q^{n-r}$$

We can then construct the full probability distribution using the above equation, where:

- 1) Success = the birth of a girl
- 2) N = the # of trials = 3
- 3) p = p(success) = 0.48
- 4) q = p(failure) = 1-0.48 = 0.52

#of Girls (r)	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1		

#of Girls (r)		p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.48^0 \times .52^3 = .141$	

#of Girls (r)	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.48^0 \times .52^3 = .141$	$1 \times .141 = .141$
1	3		

#of Girls (r)	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.48^0 \times .52^3 = .141$	$1 \times .141 = .141$
1	3	$.48^1 \text{ x } .52^2 = .130$	

#of Girls (r)	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.48^0 \times .52^3 = .141$	$1 \times .141 = .141$
1	3	$.48^1 \text{ x } .52^2 = .130$	$3 \times .130 = .390$
2	3		

#of Girls (r)	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.48^0 \times .52^3 = .141$	$1 \times .141 = .141$
1	3	$.48^1 \text{ x } .52^2 = .130$	$3 \times .130 = .390$
2	3	$.48^2 \times .52^1 = .120$	

#of Girls (r)	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.48^0 \times .52^3 = .141$	$1 \times .141 = .141$
1	3	$.48^1 \text{ x } .52^2 = .130$	$3 \times .130 = .390$
2	3	$.48^2 \text{ x } .52^1 = .120$	$3 \times .120 = .360$
3	1		
Total	8		

#of Girls (r)	C_r^n		p(r)
0	1	$.48^0 \times .52^3 = .141$	$1 \times .141 = .141$
1	3	$.48^1 \times .52^2 = .130$	$3 \times .130 = .390$
2	3	$.48^2 \text{ x } .52^1 = .120$	$3 \times .120 = .360$
3	1	$.48^3 \text{ x } .52^0 = .111$	
Total	8		

#of Girls (r)	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.48^0 \times .52^3 = .141$	$1 \times .141 = .141$
1	3	$.48^1 \times .52^2 = .130$	$3 \times .130 = .390$
2	3	$.48^2 \text{ x } .52^1 = .120$	$3 \times .120 = .360$
3	1	$.48^3 \text{ x } .52^0 = .111$	$1 \times .111 = .111$
Total	8		1.002

Sex Composition Histogram



Further Examples - Running Red Lights

Let's explore another example - running a red light.

Observations at a dangereous intersection in Charlotte indicate that cars passing through the intersection run the red light with a 0.60 probability.

That is, 6 out of 10 cars passing through the intersection will run a red light.

r	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1		

\overline{r}	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.6^0 \text{ x } .4^5 = .010$	

r	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.6^0 \text{ x } .4^5 = .010$	$1 \times .010 = .010$
1	5		

r	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.6^0 \text{ x } .4^5 = .010$	$1 \times .010 = .010$
1	5	$.6^1 \text{ x } .4^4 = .015$	

r	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.6^0 \text{ x } .4^5 = .010$	$1 \times .010 = .010$
1	5	$.6^1 \text{ x } .4^4 = .015$	$5 \times .015 = .075$
2	10		

r	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.6^0 \text{ x } .4^5 = .010$	$1 \times .010 = .010$
1	5	$.6^1 \text{ x } .4^4 = .015$	$5 \times .015 = .075$
2	10	$.6^2 \times .4^3 = .023$	

\overline{r}	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.6^0 \times .4^5 = .010$	$1 \times .010 = .010$
1	5	$.6^1 \text{ x } .4^4 = .015$	$5 \times .015 = .075$
2	10	$.6^2 \text{ x } .4^3 = .023$	$10 \times .023 = .230$
3	10		

r	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.6^0 \text{ x } .4^5 = .010$	$1 \times .010 = .010$
1	5	$.6^1 \text{ x } .4^4 = .015$	$5 \times .015 = .075$
2	10	$.6^2 \text{ x } .4^3 = .023$	$10 \times .023 = .230$
3	10	$.6^3 \text{ x } .4^2 = .035$	

r	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.6^0 \times .4^5 = .010$	$1 \times .010 = .010$
1	5	$.6^1 \text{ x } .4^4 = .015$	$5 \times .015 = .075$
2	10	$.6^2 \text{ x } .4^3 = .023$	$10 \times .023 = .230$
3	10	$.6^3 \times .4^2 = .035$	$10 \times .035 = .350$
4	5		

Total

r	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.6^0 \text{ x } .4^5 = .010$	$1 \times .010 = .010$
1	5	$.6^1 \text{ x } .4^4 = .015$	$5 \times .015 = .075$
2	10	$.6^2 \text{ x } .4^3 = .023$	$10 \times .023 = .230$
3	10	$.6^3 \times .4^2 = .035$	$10 \times .035 = .350$
4	5	$.6^4 \times .4^1 = .052$	

Total

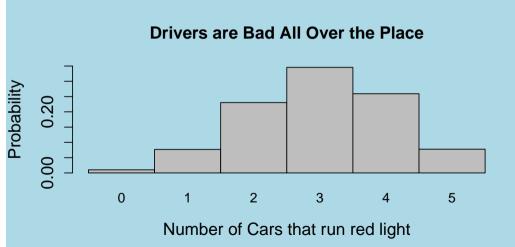
r	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.6^0 \text{ x } .4^5 = .010$	$1 \times .010 = .010$
1	5	$.6^1 \times .4^4 = .015$	$5 \times .015 = .075$
2	10	$.6^2 \times .4^3 = .023$	$10 \times .023 = .230$
3	10	$.6^3 \times .4^2 = .035$	$10 \times .035 = .350$
4	5	$.6^4 \text{ x } .4^1 = .052$	$5 \times .052 = .260$
5	1		
Total	32		

r	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.6^0 \text{ x } .4^5 = .010$	$1 \times .010 = .010$
1	5	$.6^1 \times .4^4 = .015$	$5 \times .015 = .075$
2	10	$.6^2 \times .4^3 = .023$	$10 \times .023 = .230$
3	10	$.6^3 \times .4^2 = .035$	$10 \times .035 = .350$
4	5	$.6^4 \text{ x } .4^1 = .052$	$5 \times .052 = .260$
5	1	$.6^5 \times .4^0 = .078$	
Total	32		

58

\overline{r}	C_r^n	p^rq^{n-r}	p(r)
0	1	$.6^0 \text{ x } .4^5 = .010$	$1 \times .010 = .010$
1	5	$.6^1 \times .4^4 = .015$	$5 \times .015 = .075$
2	10	$.6^2 \times .4^3 = .023$	$10 \times .023 = .230$
3	10	$.6^3 \times .4^2 = .035$	$10 \times .035 = .350$
4	5	$.6^4 \text{ x } .4^1 = .052$	$5 \times .052 = .260$
5	1	$.6^5 \times .4^0 = .078$	$1 \times .078 = .078$
Total	32		1.003

Red Light Histogram



\overline{r}	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0		

\overline{r}	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$	

\overline{r}	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1		

\overline{r}	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$	

r	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$.002
2		

r	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$.002
2	$(45)(.6^2)(.4^8) = .011$	

r	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$.002
2	$(45)(.6^2)(.4^8) = .011$.013
3		

\overline{r}	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$.002
2	$(45)(.6^2)(.4^8) = .011$.013
3	$(120)(.6^3)(.4^7) = .042$	

r	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$.002
2	$(45)(.6^2)(.4^8) = .011$.013
3	$(120)(.6^3)(.4^7) = .042$.055
4	, , , , , ,	

r	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$.002
2	$(45)(.6^2)(.4^8) = .011$.013
3	$(120)(.6^3)(.4^7) = .042$.055
4	$(210)(.6^4)(.4^6) = .111$	

r	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$.002
2	$(45)(.6^2)(.4^8) = .011$.013
3	$(120)(.6^3)(.4^7) = .042$.055
4	$(210)(.6^4)(.4^6) = .111$.166
5		

\overline{r}	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$.002
2	$(45)(.6^2)(.4^8) = .011$.013
3	$(120)(.6^3)(.4^7) = .042$.055
4	$(210)(.6^4)(.4^6) = .111$.166
5	$(252)(.6^5)(.4^5) = .202$	

r	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$.002
2	$(45)(.6^2)(.4^8) = .011$.013
3	$(120)(.6^3)(.4^7) = .042$.055
4	$(210)(.6^4)(.4^6) = .111$.166
5	$(252)(.6^5)(.4^5) = .202$.368
6		

r	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$.002
2	$(45)(.6^2)(.4^8) = .011$.013
3	$(120)(.6^3)(.4^7) = .042$.055
4	$(210)(.6^4)(.4^6) = .111$.166
5	$(252)(.6^5)(.4^5) = .202$.368
6	$(210)(.6^6)(.4^4) = .250$	

\overline{r}	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$.002
2	$(45)(.6^2)(.4^8) = .011$.013
3	$(120)(.6^3)(.4^7) = .042$.055
4	$(210)(.6^4)(.4^6) = .111$.166
5	$(252)(.6^5)(.4^5) = .202$.368
6	$(210)(.6^6)(.4^4) = .250$.618
7		

r	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$.002
2	$(45)(.6^2)(.4^8) = .011$.013
3	$(120)(.6^3)(.4^7) = .042$.055
4	$(210)(.6^4)(.4^6) = .111$.166
5	$(252)(.6^5)(.4^5) = .202$.368
6	$(210)(.6^6)(.4^4) = .250$.618
7	$(120)(.6^7)(.4^3) = .215$	

\overline{r}	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^{1})(.4^{9}) = .002$.002
2	$(45)(.6^2)(.4^8) = .011$.013
3	$(120)(.6^3)(.4^7) = .042$.055
4	$(210)(.6^4)(.4^6) = .111$.166
5	$(252)(.6^5)(.4^5) = .202$.368
6	$(210)(.6^6)(.4^4) = .250$.618
7	$(120)(.6^7)(.4^3) = .215$.833
8		

r	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$.002
2	$(45)(.6^2)(.4^8) = .011$.013
3	$(120)(.6^3)(.4^7) = .042$.055
4	$(210)(.6^4)(.4^6) = .111$.166
5	$(252)(.6^5)(.4^5) = .202$.368
6	$(210)(.6^6)(.4^4) = .250$.618
7	$(120)(.6^7)(.4^3) = .215$.833
8	$(45)(.6^8)(.4^2) = .121$	

r	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$.002
2	$(45)(.6^2)(.4^8) = .011$.013
3	$(120)(.6^3)(.4^7) = .042$.055
4	$(210)(.6^4)(.4^6) = .111$.166
5	$(252)(.6^5)(.4^5) = .202$.368
6	$(210)(.6^6)(.4^4) = .250$.618
7	$(120)(.6^7)(.4^3) = .215$.833
8	$(45)(.6^8)(.4^2) = .121$.954
9		

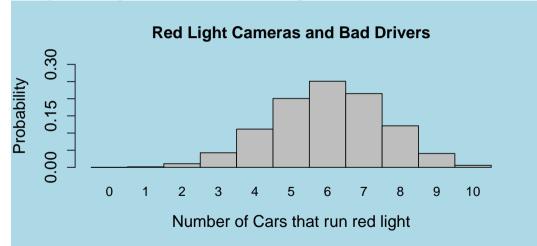
r	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$.002
2	$(45)(.6^2)(.4^8) = .011$.013
3	$(120)(.6^3)(.4^7) = .042$.055
4	$(210)(.6^4)(.4^6) = .111$.166
5	$(252)(.6^5)(.4^5) = .202$.368
6	$(210)(.6^6)(.4^4) = .250$.618
7	$(120)(.6^7)(.4^3) = .215$.833
8	$(45)(.6^8)(.4^2) = .121$.954
9	$(10)(.6^9)(.4^1) = .040$	

r	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$.002
2	$(45)(.6^2)(.4^8) = .011$.013
3	$(120)(.6^3)(.4^7) = .042$.055
4	$(210)(.6^4)(.4^6) = .111$.166
5	$(252)(.6^5)(.4^5) = .202$.368
6	$(210)(.6^6)(.4^4) = .250$.618
7	$(120)(.6^7)(.4^3) = .215$.833
8	$(45)(.6^8)(.4^2) = .121$.954
9	$(10)(.6^9)(.4^1) = .040$.994
10		

\overline{r}	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$.002
2	$(45)(.6^2)(.4^8) = .011$.013
3	$(120)(.6^3)(.4^7) = .042$.055
4	$(210)(.6^4)(.4^6) = .111$.166
5	$(252)(.6^5)(.4^5) = .202$.368
6	$(210)(.6^6)(.4^4) = .250$.618
7	$(120)(.6^7)(.4^3) = .215$.833
8	$(45)(.6^8)(.4^2) = .121$.954
9	$(10)(.6^9)(.4^1) = .040$.994
10	$(1)(.6^{10})(.4^0) = .006$	

\overline{r}	$p(r) = C_r^n p^r q^{n-r}$	cp
0	$(1)(.6^0)(.4^{10}) = .000$.000
1	$(10)(.6^1)(.4^9) = .002$.002
2	$(45)(.6^2)(.4^8) = .011$.013
3	$(120)(.6^3)(.4^7) = .042$.055
4	$(210)(.6^4)(.4^6) = .111$.166
5	$(252)(.6^5)(.4^5) = .202$.368
6	$(210)(.6^6)(.4^4) = .250$.618
7	$(120)(.6^7)(.4^3) = .215$.833
8	$(45)(.6^8)(.4^2) = .121$.954
9	$(10)(.6^9)(.4^1) = .040$.994
_10	$(1)(.6^{10})(.4^0) = .006$	1.000

Running Red Lights - Extended Histogram



Cal Ripken

Here's one for the baseball fans.

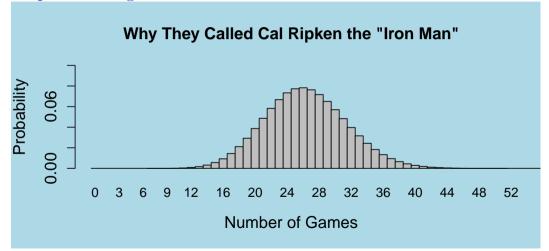
Let's suppose a baseball player has only 1/100 a chance to miss any given game due to injury.

Cal Ripken played an astonishing 2632 straight games without missing due to injury.

Just how **unlikely** are we to observe such a feat?

Stated differently, what is the probability a player will miss at least one game $(p(r \ge 1))$ due to illness/injury?

Cal Ripken Histogram



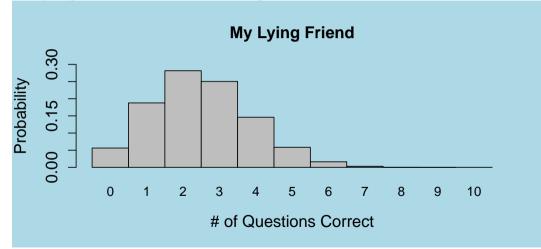
A Final Example - Your Roommate is A Liar

Set the stage - a 10-question multiple choice test with 4 answers per question.

Your roommate scored an 8 and said that she randomly guessed for each question.

What is the probability that she would actually guess correctly on 8 or more $(p(r \ge 8))$ questions?

Your Lying Roommate - A Histogram



Two Questions

Time for your two questions before the end of class!