

# A1110 Assignment 3

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**Exercise 15.1 Q4:** Three coins are tossed simultaneously 200 times with the following frequencies of different items:

Outcome	3 Heads	2 Heads	1 Head	No Head
Frequency	23	72	77	28

TABLE 1

If the three coins are simultaneously tossed again, compute the probability of 2 heads coming up.

**Solution:** Let the random variable  $X \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  denote the number of heads in the coin-tossing experiment. Now,

$$\Pr(X = i) = \frac{n(X = i)}{\sum_{i=0}^3 n(X = i)} \quad (1)$$

where  $i \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  and  $n(X = i)$  is the frequency of getting  $i$  heads. Also,

$$\text{Number of times 3 coins were tossed} = 200 \quad (2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{i=0}^3 n(X = i) = 200 \quad (3)$$

And from Table 1,

$$n(X = 2) = 72 \quad (4)$$

$$\therefore \Pr(X = 2) = \frac{72}{200} \quad (5)$$

$$= \frac{36}{100} = 0.36 \quad (6)$$

Hence, the probability of 2 heads coming up is 0.36.

We have,

$$\Pr(X = 0) = \frac{28}{200} = 0.14 \quad (7)$$

$$\Pr(X = 1) = \frac{77}{200} = 0.385 \quad (8)$$

$$\Pr(X = 2) = \frac{72}{200} = 0.36 \quad (9)$$

$$\Pr(X = 3) = \frac{23}{200} = 0.115 \quad (10)$$

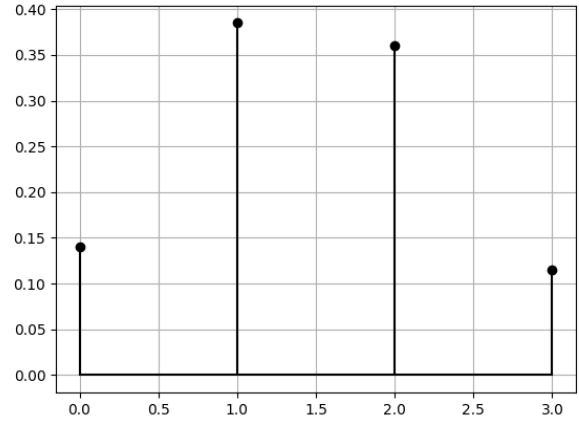


Fig. 1: Plot of PMF using above data

**Now considering fair coins:** Let probability of getting a head be a success and equal to  $p$  and probability of getting a tail be a failure and equal to  $q$  where  $p + q = 1$ . We can express this as a binomial distribution

$$\sum_{i=0}^n \Pr(X = i) = \sum_{i=0}^n {}^nC_i(p)^i(1-p)^{n-i} \quad (11)$$

where  $n = 3$  for 3 coins. Therefore,

$$\Pr(X = i) = {}^3C_i(p)^i(q)^{3-i} \quad (12)$$

For fair coins,

$$p = \frac{1}{2} \quad (13)$$

$$\therefore q = \frac{1}{2} \quad (14)$$

Therefore,

$$\Pr(X = 0) = {}^3C_0 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^0 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 = \frac{1}{8} \quad (15)$$

$$\Pr(X = 1) = {}^3C_1 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^1 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{3}{8} \quad (16)$$

$$\Pr(X = 2) = {}^3C_2 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^1 = \frac{3}{8} \quad (17)$$

$$\Pr(X = 3) = {}^3C_3 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^3 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^0 = \frac{1}{8} \quad (18)$$

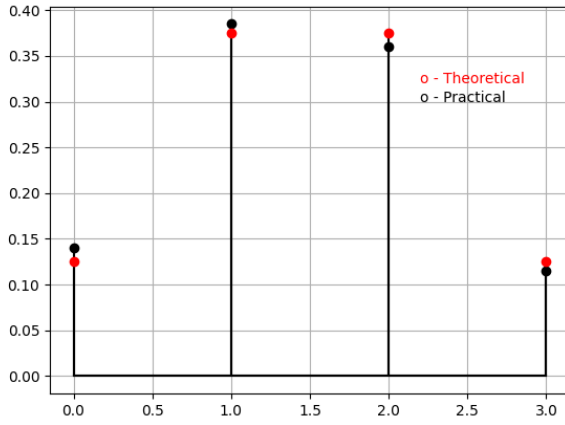


Fig. 2: Comparison of theoretical and practical PMF plots