

Lecture 3.2,
MATH-57091 Probability and Statistics for High-School
Teachers.

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If X is a discrete Random variable that take one of the possible values x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n then the **expected value** of X , denoted by $\mathbb{E}X$ is defined by

$$\mathbb{E}X = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i P(X = x_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i p(x_i).$$

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Expectation of Bernoulli Random Variable

It is not so hard to compute $\mathbb{E}X$ if X is a Bernoulli Random variable with parameter p :

$$\mathbb{E}X = 0 * (1 - p) + 1 * p = p.$$

The Binomial Random Variable

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$$p(i) = P(X = i) = \binom{n}{i} p^i (1 - p)^{n-i}, \text{ for } i = 0, 1, \dots, n.$$

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Please, note that the above formula is not so hard to verify! First notice that for particular sequence of n outcomes to have exactly i successes and thus $n - i$ failures is exactly $p^i (1 - p)^{n-i}$. But we have a lot of ways to select "when" our i successes occur and the number of those "ways" is exactly $\binom{n}{i}$.

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One can see the formula just from noticing that $(x + y)^n$ is $(x + y)$ multiplied n times. Thus when we open the parentheses you need to select x or y from each multiplier only once so to get $x^i y^{n-i}$ you need to pick $i - x$ and $(n - i) - y$ and you can do it in $\binom{n}{i}$ ways.

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$$\sum_{i=0}^n P(X = i) = \sum_{i=0}^n \binom{n}{i} p^i (1 - p)^{n-i} = (p + (1 - p))^n = 1.$$

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Solution: Let X be a number of defective items in the sample, then X is a binomial random variable with parameters $(4, .2)$. Thus, the desired probability is given by

$$P(X = 0) + P(X = 1) = \binom{4}{0} .2^0 .8^4 + \binom{4}{1} .2^1 .8^3 = .8192$$

The Binomial Random Variable: Expectation

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$$\mathbb{E}X = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n(1-p)^{n-1}p = p \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n(1-p)^{n-1} = p \frac{1}{(1-(1-p))^2} = \frac{1}{p}$$

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Consider function $g(x) = x^2 - x + 5$, then $g(0) = 5$, $g(1) = 5$ and $g(2) = 7$

Functions of a Random Variable

Random Variable is function from Sample Space to the real line: so you can easily combine it with other functions from real line to the real line.

Consider a Bernoulli Random Variable X :

$$P(X = 0) = 1 - p \text{ and } P(X = 1) = p,$$

and consider a function $f(x) = 3x + 5$, notice that $f(0) = 5$ and $f(1) = 8$, so $f(X)$ is a new random variables taking values 5 and 8 such that

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$$\mathbb{E}(aX + b) = \sum_{x:p(x)>0} (ax_i + b)p(x_i) = a \left(\sum_{x:p(x)>0} x_i p(x_i) \right) + b \sum_{x:p(x)>0} p(x_i) = a\mathbb{E}(X) + b,$$

where we used that $\sum_{x:p(x)>0} p(x_i) = 1$.

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Solution: Using the formula for expectation of Binomial random variable we get $\mathbb{E}X = 1.5$ and thus

$$\mathbb{E}Y = \mathbb{E}(3X - 7) = 3\mathbb{E}X - 7 = 3 * 1.5 - 7 = -2.5.$$