

Lecture 12

Negative Binomial distribution

$$X \sim \text{NegBin}(r, p)$$

- Fix a natural number r . Repeat independent $\text{Ber}(p)$ trials until we register r successes.

Let X be the number of trials required. Clearly $P(X \geq r) = 0$

$$P(X=k) = p \binom{k-1}{r-1} p^{r-1} (1-p)^{k-r}$$

↑
probability
of success

(k-1)-(r-1)
↓

Rmk: Note that

1) $\text{Geom}(p) = \text{NegBin}(1, p)$

- 2) if X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are independent geometric random variables, with the same prob. of success p , then:

$$X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n \sim \text{NegBin}(n, p)$$

Ex Banach's problem

A kid has n candies in each pocket. From time to time reaches a hand into a randomly selected pocket to take one candy. What is the probability that when he first discovers a pocket to be empty the other pocket contains exactly m candies.

Sol: L_m : "the first empty pocket is the left one and there are m candies in the right pocket"

R_m : "Same but roles of pockets reversed"

Finding $P(R_m \cup L_m) = P(L_m) + P(R_m)$ since $R_m \cap L_m = \emptyset$
 $= 2P(L_m)$

Success: "reaching the left pocket", $p = \frac{1}{2}$ (since kid chooses randomly left or right)

L_m : $(n+1) + (n-m)$ trials during which $(n+1)$ successes, with $(n+1)^{\text{th}}$ occurring at the last trial.

$$X \sim \text{NegBin}(n+1, \frac{1}{2})$$

$$P(L_m) = P[X = \underbrace{n+1 + (n-m)}_{2n+1-m}] = \binom{2n+1-m-1}{n+1-1} \frac{1}{2^{2n+1-m}} = \frac{\binom{2n-m}{n}}{2^{2n+1-m}}$$

$$\text{So } 2P(L_m) = \frac{\binom{2n-m}{n}}{2^{2n-m}} = P(R_m \cup L_m)$$

Ex

A biased coin has probability $p = 0.4$ of heads. The coin is tossed until 3 heads are observed. Let X be the number of tosses required.

a) Identify distribution and parameters of X !

$$X \sim \text{NegBin}(3, 0.4)$$

b) Write the pmf of X :

$$P(X=k) = \binom{k-1}{2} (0.4)^3 (0.6)^{k-3} \quad \text{for } k \geq 3$$

c) Compute $P(X=3)$ and $P(X=5)$

$$P(X=3) = \binom{3-1}{2} (0.4)^3 (0.6)^{3-3} = (0.4)^3$$

$$P(X=5) = \binom{5-1}{2} (0.4)^3 (0.6)^{5-3} = \binom{4}{2} (0.4)^3 (0.6)^2$$

d) What is the smallest possible value of X ?

↳ trivially 3

• Hypergeometric Distribution $X \sim \text{HGeom}(b, y, n)$

• Assume you have a bin with b blue balls and y yellow balls.

↳ so $b + y$ is total # of balls.

• Select n balls at random from the bin. Let X be the number of blue balls among the selected ones.

• The range of X is not necessarily 0 to n , it depends on the distribution of balls in your bin.

↳ So range of X is!

$$\max(0, n-y) \leq X \leq \min(b, n)$$

• pmf: $P(X=k) = \frac{\text{"good"}}{\text{"all"}} = \frac{\binom{b}{k} \binom{y}{n-k}}{\binom{b+y}{n}}$

Ex (Number of aces in a random poker hand) A 5 card hand is dealt at random without replacement. Let X be the number of aces in the hand.

a) Identify the distribution of X and its parameters

$$X \sim H(\text{Geom}(4, 48, 5))$$

b) Find the range of X :

$$X = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$$

c) Write the pmf of X :

$$P(X=k) = \frac{\binom{4}{k} \binom{48}{5-k}}{\binom{52}{5}}, \quad k \in X$$

• Poisson Random Variable $X \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda)$

• A Poisson random variable with parameter $\lambda > 0$, is a discrete random variable with range $\mathcal{X} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ and pmf

$$P(X=k) = e^{-\lambda} \left(\frac{\lambda^k}{k!} \right) \quad \forall k=0, 1, 2, \dots$$

• The Poisson distribution typically models the occurrence of rare events in a given unit of time. Then $p_k(\lambda)$ would be the probability that k of these events took place during that unit of time.

Ex Calls arrive at help desk according to Poisson distribution with a mean rate $\lambda=3$ per hour. Let X be the number of calls received in one hour.

a) Write the pmf of X

$$P(X=k) = e^{-3} \frac{3^k}{k!}$$

b) Compute $P(X \leq 2) = P(X=0) + P(X=1) + P(X=2)$

c) Find the mode of X

↳ value of X with highest probability

↳ look at proposition below

• Proposition: The mode of a Poisson distribution with parameter λ is $\lfloor \lambda \rfloor$ if λ is NOT an integer and both λ and $(\lambda-1)$ if λ is an integer.

Proof: $P(X=n) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^n}{n!} \quad n=0,1,2,\dots$

$$\frac{P(X=n)}{P(X=n-1)} = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^n}{n!}}{e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^{n-1}}{(n-1)!}} = \frac{\lambda}{n}$$

If $n < \lambda \rightarrow P(X=n) > P(X=n-1)$

If $n > \lambda \rightarrow P(X=n) < P(X=n-1)$