Binomial distribution

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Problem

- Consider an experiment in which a coin is tossed 2 times. What is probability to have
 - No heads
 - 1 head
 - 2 heads

Solution

Probability of any particular outcome is

• $2^{-n} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \dots \frac{1}{2} (n \text{ times})$

Four outcomes – HH, HT, TH and TT, each having probability 1/4

Event	Outcomes	Probability	
No heads	{TT}	1⁄4	
1 head	{ HT , TH }	$\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$	
2 heads	{ <mark>HH</mark> }	1/4	
Total		$4 \frac{1}{4} = 1.0$	

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Probability distribution



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Problem

- Consider an experiment in which a coin is tossed 4 times. What is probability to have
 - No heads
 - 1 head
 - 2 heads
 - 3 heads
 - 4 heads

• $2^n = 2^4 = 16$ experimental outcomes possible

- Every outcome has probability (1/2)⁴
- The probability to have k "heads" is
 (1/2)⁴ x [# of outcomes leading to k "heads"]
- Write down all 16 outcomes and count heads

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Outcome	#Heads	Outcome	#Heads
TTTT	0	THTH	2
TTTH	1	нттн	2
TTHT	1	HTHT	2
THTT	1	HHHT	3
HTTT	1	ннтн	3
TTHH	2	нтнн	3
ТННТ	2	ТННН	3
HHTT	2	НННН	4

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- No heads :
- 1 head
- 2 heads :
- 3 heads :
- 4 heads :
- $1 \times (1/2^{4}) = 1/16$ $4 \times (1/2^{4}) = 4/16 = \frac{1}{4}$ $6 \times (1/2^{4}) = 6/16 = \frac{3}{8}$ $4 \times (1/2^{4}) = \frac{4}{16} = \frac{1}{4}$ $1 \times (1/2^{4}) = \frac{1}{16}$

Total : 16/16 = 1.0

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Coin tossed *n* times

What is probability to have

- No heads
- 1 head
- 2 heads
- 3 heads
- • •
- (*n*−1) heads
- *n* heads
- If the number of outcomes leading to k heads is known, the answer is straightforward

Number of outcomes with k heads

 Number of outcomes leading to k "heads" out of n trials is given by binomial coefficients



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Probability to have k heads

Every outcome has probability 1/2ⁿ

- The probability to have k "heads" is
 (1/2ⁿ) x [# of outcomes leading to k "heads"]
- P(k heads in n trials) =

$$\binom{n}{k} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = \frac{n!}{k! \cdot (n-k)!} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n$$

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Compute binomial probabilities for n = 12 and k = 5 k = 9 k = 10

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Solution

k = 5 12! / (5! 7!) = 8x9x10x11x12 / 2x3x4x5 = 792 k = 9 12! / (9! 3!) = 10x11x12 / 2x3 = 220 k = 10 12! / (10! 2!) = 11x12 / 2 = 66

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- We toss a coin 12 times. If there are 10 or more heads, YOU get €100 (!!!), otherwise you pay me only €5
- Question are going to bet with me (your aim is to make some money)?

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Solution

- What is probability to have 10 or more heads in 12 coin-tosses?
- $P(k \ge 10) = P(k = 10) + P(k = 11) + P(k = 12) = 66 / 4096 + 12 / 4096 + 1 / 4096 = 79 / 4096 \approx 1.9\%$
- Bet of 20 : 1 does not look fair as chances are 50:1!

In 100 games, I will loose ~2 times (debit € 200) and win ~98 times (credit € 480). Good profit!

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Problem

- Probabilities of observing a person with genotypes NN, DN and DD in a population are
 P(NN)=0.81, P(ND)=0.18 and P(DD)=0.01
- What number of carriers are expected in this sample?
- What is the probability that in a sample of 10 random people there will be
 - Exactly one carrier
 - One or more carrier(s)

- P(carrier) = P(ND) + P(DD) = p = 0.19
- Expected number is 0.19 x 10 = 1.9 people

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P(exactly one carrier)

- P(carrier) = P(ND) + P(DD) = p = 0.19
- It can be that we sample a carrier first and then sample 9 non-carriers. As the events are independent, probability to have such a sample is 0.19 x 0.81⁹
- There are 10 outcomes leading to 1 carrier
- Therefore probability to have exactly one carrier is 0.19 x 0.81⁹ x 10 = 0.29

$P(\ge 1 \text{ carrier}) = Pr(1 \text{ or } 2 \text{ or } 3 \text{ or } \dots 10) =$ 1 - Pr(0 carriers) = 1 - 0.81¹⁰ = 0.88

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Binomial distribution

- Heads and tails:
 - P(success) = p
 - Pr(failure) = 1 − **p**
- Probability of an outcome with k successes out of n trials
 - k successes => (n − k) failures
 - Events are independent, thus probability of an outcome with k successes is p^k (1-p)^(n-k)
 - The number of outcomes with k successes are given by binomial coefficients

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Binomial distribution

The probability to have k successes if probability of a success is p and number of trials is n is given by

$$\mathsf{P}_{n,p}(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

with mean equal to n p
and variance = n p (1 - p)

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Formal answers

- Parameters: *p* = 0.19, *n* = 10
- Exactly one carrier (k=1)

 10!/(9!1!) 0.19¹ 0.81¹⁰⁻¹ = 0.29

 At least one carrier (k>0)

 1 P(0 carriers) =

 1 10!/(10!0!) 0.19⁰ 0.81¹⁰ =

 1 0.81¹⁰ = 0.88

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