

Binomial Distribution

Data Science and A.I. Lecture Series

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PostNetwork Academy

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Binomial Probability Function

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- k = number of successes
- p = probability of success in each trial
- $\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$ is the binomial coefficient

Understanding the Components

Step-by-step breakdown:

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- The term $(1 - p)^{n-k}$ accounts for the probability of the remaining $(n - k)$ failures.
- Multiplying these terms together gives the probability of observing exactly k successes in n trials.

Example Calculation

Example: Suppose we have a fair coin ($p = 0.5$) and flip it 3 times. What is the probability of getting exactly 2 heads?

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- Final result:

$$P(X = 2) = 3 \times 0.25 \times 0.5 = 0.375 \quad (4)$$

Binomial Distribution

A discrete random variable X is said to follow a binomial distribution with parameters n and p if it assumes only a finite number of non-negative integer values and its probability mass function is given by:

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- If X is a binomially distributed random variable with parameters n and p , then we may write it as $X \sim B(n, p)$.
- If X and Y are two binomially distributed independent random variables with parameters (n_1, p) and (n_2, p) respectively, then their sum also follows a binomial distribution with parameters $n_1 + n_2$ and p . However, if the probability of success is not the same for the two random variables, this property does not hold.

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- At least 3 heads
- More than 6 heads

Solution

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- Let X be the number of successes in n trials.
- By binomial distribution:

$$P(X = x) = \binom{6}{x} p^x q^{6-x}$$

- (i) **Exactly 3 heads:**

$$P(X = 3) = \binom{6}{3} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^6 = \frac{20}{64} = \frac{5}{16}$$

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- (ii) **Less than 3 heads:**

$$\begin{aligned} P(X < 3) &= P(X = 0) + P(X = 1) + P(X = 2) \\ &= \binom{6}{0} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^6 + \binom{6}{1} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^6 + \binom{6}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^6 \\ &= \frac{1}{64} + \frac{6}{64} + \frac{15}{64} = \frac{22}{64} = \frac{11}{32} \end{aligned}$$

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- (iii) **More than 3 heads:**

$$\begin{aligned}P(X > 3) &= P(X = 4) + P(X = 5) + P(X = 6) \\&= \frac{15}{64} + \frac{6}{64} + \frac{1}{64} = \frac{22}{64} = \frac{11}{32}\end{aligned}$$

- (iv) **At most 3 heads:**

$$\begin{aligned}P(X \leq 3) &= P(X = 0) + P(X = 1) + P(X = 2) + P(X = 3) \\ &= \frac{22}{64} + \frac{20}{64} = \frac{42}{64} = \frac{21}{32}\end{aligned}$$

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- (vi) **More than 6 heads:**

$$P(X > 6) = 0$$

(impossible event)

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