

10. Binomial Distribution

- **Binomial distribution:** For binomial distribution $B(n, p)$, the probability of x successes is denoted by $P(X = x)$ or $P(X)$ and is given by $P(X = x) = {}^nC_x q^{n-x} p^x$, $x = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$, $q = 1 - p$. Here, $P(X)$ is called the probability function of the binomial distribution.

Example:

An unbiased coin is tossed 5 times. Find the probability of getting at least 4 heads.

Solution:

Let the random variable X denotes the number of heads.

Here, $n = 5$ and $P(\text{getting a head}) = \frac{1}{2}$

$$\therefore p = \frac{1}{2} \text{ and } q = 1 - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$P(X = r) = {}^nC_r p^r q^{n-r} = {}^5C_r \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^r \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{5-r} = {}^5C_r \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^5$$

$P(\text{getting at-least 4 heads})$

$$= P(X \geq 4)$$

$$= P(X = 4) + P(X = 5)$$

$$= {}^5C_4 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^5 + {}^5C_5 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^5$$

$$= (5 + 1) \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^5$$

$$= 6 \times \frac{1}{32}$$

$$= \frac{3}{16}$$

Normal Distribution

A continuous random variable X with parameter μ and σ^2 is said to follow normal distribution if its probability density function is given as

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}}^2}; -\infty < x < \infty, -\infty < \mu < \infty, \sigma > 0; \quad ; \text{ Otherwise}$$

A random variable X that follows normal distribution with parameters μ and σ^2 is represented as $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$. The normal probability distribution or the normal curve is bell-shaped. The curve is symmetric about the mean, μ and the flatness of the curve is determined by its standard deviation, σ .

If $f(x)$ is a probability density function, then $P(x_1 < X < x_2) = \int_{x_1}^{x_2} f(x) dx$. This is same as the area bounded by the probability density curve $f(x)$, x -axis, $x = x_1$ and $x = x_2$.

The total area under the normal distribution curve is 1. Since the normal distribution curve is symmetric about the mean μ , therefore, $P(X < \mu) = P(X > \mu) = \frac{1}{2}$.

Standard Normal Variable

Let Z be a random variable defined as $Z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma}$. The distribution of Z is normal distribution with parameters $\mu = 0$ and $\sigma^2 = 1$ and is represented as $Z \sim N(0, 1)$. The distribution with mean, $\mu = 0$ and standard deviation $\sigma = 1$ is called the standard normal distribution and the random variable Z is called the standard normal variable.

A continuous random variable Z is said to be standard normal variable if its probability density function is

$$f_Z = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} \quad ; \quad -\infty < z < \infty$$

; Otherwise