

Geometric Distribution

Definition:

A random variable X is said to have a geometric distribution if it assumes only non-negative values and its probability mass function is given by:

$$P(X=x) = \begin{cases} q^x p, & x = 0, 1, 2, \dots \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Remark:

(i) The various probabilities for $x = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ are the terms of geometric progression series, hence the name geometric distribution.

Lack of memory :-

The geometric distribution is said to lack memory in a certain sense. Suppose an event E can occur at one of the times $t = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ and the occurrence (waiting) time X has a geometric distribution with parameter p .

Thus

$$P(X=t) = q^t p, \quad t = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Suppose we know that the event E has not occurred before k , i.e. $X > k$. Let $Y = X - k$. Thus Y is the amount of additional time needed for E to occur. We can show that

$$P(Y=t | X > k) = P(X=t+k) = p q^t$$

which implies that the additional time to wait has the same distribution as initial time to wait.

Q: Establish the memoryless property of geometric distribution.

show,

$$P(Y=t | X \geq k) = P(X=t) = pq^t$$

Proof:

all have

$$P(X \geq k) = \sum_{s=k}^{\infty} pq^s$$

$$= p(q^k + q^{k+1} + q^{k+2} + \dots)$$

$$= pq^k (1 + q + q^2 + q^3 + \dots)$$

$$= pq^k (1-q)^{-1}$$

$$= \frac{pq^k}{1-q}$$

$$= pq^k$$

$$P(Y \geq t | X \geq k)$$

$$P(Y \geq t | X \geq k) = \frac{P(X \geq k+t)}{P(X \geq k)}$$

$$= \frac{P(X \geq k+t)}{P(X \geq k)}$$

$$= \frac{q^{k+t}}{q^k} = q^t$$

$$= \frac{P(X \geq k+t)}{P(X \geq k)} = \frac{q^{k+t}}{q^k} = q^t$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \therefore P(Y=t/X>u) &= P(Y>t/X>u) - P(Y>t+1/X>u) \\
 &= q^t - q^{t+1} \\
 &= q^t(1-q) \\
 &= pq^t \\
 &= P(X=t).
 \end{aligned}$$

Moment of Generating Function :-

$$M_x(t) = E[e^{tx}]$$

$$= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} e^{tx} p(x)$$

$$= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} e^{tx} \cdot q^x p$$

$$= p \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} (e^t q)^x$$

$$= p [1 + qe^t + (qe^t)^2 + \dots]$$

$$= p(1 - qe^t)^{-1}$$

$$= \frac{p}{(1 - qe^t)}$$

Raw moments of Geometric distribution.

$$\mu_1' = \frac{d}{dt} [M_x(t)]_{t=0}$$

$$= \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{p}{1 - qe^t} \right)$$

$$= \frac{d}{dt} p (1 - qe^t)^{-1}$$

$$= p(-1) \cdot (1 - qe^t)^{-2} \cdot (-1)qe^t$$

$$= pqe^t (1 - qe^t)^{-2} \Big|_{t=0}$$

$$= pq(1 - q)^{-2}$$

$$= \frac{pq}{(1 - q)^2}$$

$$= \frac{pq}{p^2}$$

$$= \frac{q}{p}$$

$$\mu_2' = \frac{d}{dt} [M_x(t)]_{t=0}$$

$$= \frac{d}{dt} \left\{ pqe^t (1 - qe^t)^{-2} \right\}$$

$$= (1 - qe^t)^{-2} \cdot pqe^t + pqe^t \cdot (-2) (1 - qe^t)^{-3} \cdot (-2e^t)$$

$$= (1 - qe^t)^{-2} \cdot pqe^t + 2pqe^t (1 - qe^t)^{-3}$$

$$= (1 - q)^{-2} \cdot pq + 2pq (1 - q)^{-3}$$

$$= \frac{1}{p^2} \cdot pq + 2pq \frac{1}{p^3}$$

$$= \frac{2}{p} + \frac{2q^2}{p^2}$$

$$\mu_2 = \mu_2' - (\mu_1')^2$$

$$= \frac{2}{p} + \frac{2q^2}{p^2} - \frac{2q}{p^2}$$

$$= \frac{2}{p} + \frac{2q^2}{p^2}$$

$$= \frac{p^2 + 2q^2}{p^2}$$

$$= \frac{2(p+q)}{p^2}$$

$$= \frac{2}{p^2}$$

Hence, mean and variance of geometric distribution is $\frac{2}{p}$ and $\frac{2}{p^2}$.

Remark:

(1) Variance is greater than mean:

(2) Pgf is $\frac{p}{1-qs}$

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Q: Let x_1, x_2 be independent r.v.s each having geometric distribution $q^k p, k=0,1,2,\dots$. Show that the conditional distribution of x_1/x_1+x_2 is uniform.

solⁿ

$$P(x_1 = k / x_1 + x_2 = n) = \frac{P(x_1 = k \cap x_1 + x_2 = n)}{P(x_1 + x_2 = n)}$$

$$= \frac{P(x_1 = k \cap x_2 = n - k)}{P(x_1 + x_2 = n)}$$

$$= \frac{P(x_1 = k \cap x_2 = n - k)}{P(x_1 + x_2 = n)}$$

$$= \frac{P(x_1 = k) \cdot P(x_2 = n - k)}{\sum_{s=0}^n P(x_1 = s \cap x_2 = n - s)}$$

$$= \frac{P(x_1 = k) \cdot P(x_2 = n - k)}{\sum_{s=0}^n P(x_1 = s) \cdot P(x_2 = n - s)}$$

[∵ x_1 and x_2 are independent]

$$= \frac{p q^k \cdot p q^{n-k}}{\sum_{s=0}^n p q^s \cdot p q^{n-s}}$$

$$= \frac{p^2 q^n}{\sum_{s=0}^n p^2 q^n} = \frac{p^2 q^n}{p^2 q^n (n+1)} = \frac{1}{n+1}, k=0,1,2,\dots$$

Hence the result.

Recurrence Relation for moments

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_r &= E\left[X - \mu_1\right]^r \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(k - \frac{q}{p}\right)^r q^k p \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{d\mu_r}{dp} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(k - \frac{q}{p}\right)^{r-1} kq^{k-1} p(p-2) + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(k - \frac{q}{p}\right)^r q^k$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[kq^{k-1} (-1)p + q^k \right] \\ &= \frac{q}{p^2} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(k - \frac{q}{p}\right)^{r-1} q^k p - \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(k - \frac{q}{p}\right)^r q^k (kq) \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{q}{p^2} \mu_{r-1} - \frac{1}{q} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(k - \frac{q}{p}\right)^{r+1} q^k p$$

$$= \frac{q}{p^2} \mu_{r-1} - \frac{1}{q} \mu_{r+1}$$

$$\text{Then, } \mu_{r+1} = \frac{q^2}{p^2} \mu_{r-1} - 2 \frac{d\mu_r}{dp}, \quad r=0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Now, $r=0, 1, 2, \dots$

$$\mu_1 = 0$$

$$\mu_2 = \frac{q}{p^2}$$