

**Geometric distribution:** A random variable  $X$  is said to have a geometric distribution, denoted by  $X \sim \text{Geometric}(p)$ , if its PMF has the following form:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} pq^x & \text{for } x = 0, 1, 2, \dots \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where  $0 \leq p \leq 1$  is the probability of success, and  $q = 1 - p$  is the probability of failure. This probability distribution models the behavior of a random variable  $X$  that represents the number of failures before the first success in a sequence of Bernoulli trials.

Sometimes the random variable  $X$  is regarded as the number of Bernoulli trials needed to get one success. In this case, the PMF of the geometric distribution has the following form:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} pq^{x-1} & \text{for } x = 1, 2, 3, \dots; \text{ and } 0 \leq p \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**Mean, variance, MGF, and CDF:** If  $X$  represents the number of failures before the first success, then by definition of the mean, variance,

MGF, and CDF, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
E[X] &= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x p q^x \\
&= p q \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x q^{x-1}, \text{ when } x = 0 \text{ the first term is zero} \\
&= p q \frac{d}{dq} \left( \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} q^x \right), \text{ starts from 0 because } \frac{d}{dq}(1) = 0 \\
&= p q \frac{d}{dq} \left( \frac{1}{1-q} \right), \text{ by the geometric series} \\
&= \frac{p q}{(1-q)^2} \\
&= \frac{p q}{p^2} = \frac{q}{p}
\end{aligned}$$

to find  $E[X^2]$ , we obtain  $E[X(X-1)]$  first. Then calculate  $E[X^2] = E[X(X-1)] + E[X]$

$$\begin{aligned}
E[X(X-1)] &= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x(x-1) p q^x \\
&= p q^2 \sum_{x=2}^{\infty} x(x-1) q^{x-2}, \text{ when } x = 0 \text{ the first two terms are zeros} \\
&= p q^2 \frac{d^2}{dq^2} \left( \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} q^x \right), \text{ starts from 0 because } \frac{d^2}{dq^2}(1+q) = 0 \\
&= p q^2 \frac{d^2}{dq^2} \left( \frac{1}{1-q} \right), \text{ by the geometric series} \\
&= 2 \frac{p q^2}{(1-q)^3} \\
&= 2 \frac{p q^2}{p^3} = 2 \frac{q^2}{p^2}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
E[X^2] &= E[X(X-1)] + E[X] \\
&= 2\frac{q^2}{p^2} + \frac{q}{p}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Var}(X) &= E[X^2] - E[X]^2 \\
&= 2\frac{q^2}{p^2} + \frac{q}{p} - \frac{q^2}{p^2} \\
&= \frac{q^2}{p^2} + \frac{q}{p} \\
&= \frac{q^2 + pq}{p^2} \\
&= \frac{q(q+p)}{p^2} = \frac{q}{p^2}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
M_X(t) &= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} e^{tx} pq^x \\
&= p \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} (qe^t)^x = \frac{p}{1 - qe^t}, \text{ by the geometric series}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
F(x) &= \sum_{k=0}^x pq^k \\
&= p \sum_{k=0}^x q^k \\
&= p \frac{1 - q^{x+1}}{1 - q} \\
&= 1 - q^{[x]+1}
\end{aligned}$$

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - q^{\lfloor x \rfloor + 1} & \text{for } x \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where  $\lfloor x \rfloor$  is the floor of  $x$ . For example if  $x = 2.3$ , then  $\lfloor x \rfloor = 2$

If  $X$  represents the number of Bernoulli trials needed to get one success, then by definition of the mean, variance, MGF, and CDF, we have

$$\begin{aligned} E[X] &= \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x p q^{x-1} \\ &= p \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x q^{x-1} \\ &= p \frac{d}{dq} \left( \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} q^x \right), \text{ starts from 0 because } \frac{d}{dq}(1) = 0 \\ &= p \frac{d}{dq} \left( \frac{1}{1-q} \right), \text{ by the geometric series} \\ &= \frac{p}{(1-q)^2} \\ &= \frac{p}{p^2} = \frac{1}{p} \end{aligned}$$

to find  $E[X^2]$ , we obtain  $E[X(X-1)]$  first. Then calculate  $E[X^2] =$

$$E[X(X-1)] + E[X]$$

$$\begin{aligned}
E[X(X-1)] &= \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x(x-1)pq^{x-1} \\
&= pq \sum_{x=2}^{\infty} x(x-1)q^{x-2}, \text{ when } x=0 \text{ the first term is zero} \\
&= pq \frac{d^2}{dq^2} \left( \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} q^x \right), \text{ starts from 0 because } \frac{d^2}{dq^2}(1+q) = 0 \\
&= pq \frac{d^2}{dq^2} \left( \frac{1}{1-q} \right), \text{ by the geometric series} \\
&= 2 \frac{pq}{(1-q)^3} \\
&= 2 \frac{pq}{p^3} = 2 \frac{q}{p^2}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
E[X^2] &= E[X(X-1)] + E[X] \\
&= 2 \frac{q}{p^2} + \frac{1}{p}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Var}(X) &= E[X^2] - E[X]^2 \\
&= 2 \frac{q}{p^2} + \frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{p^2} \\
&= \frac{2q + p - 1}{p^2} \\
&= \frac{q + q + p - 1}{p^2} = \frac{q}{p^2}, \text{ because } p + q = 1
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
M_X(t) &= \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} e^{tx} p q^{x-1} \\
&= p e^t \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} (q e^t)^{x-1} \\
&= p e^t \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (q e^t)^k, \text{ for } k = x - 1 \\
&= \frac{p e^t}{1 - q e^t}, \text{ by the geometric series}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
F(x) &= \sum_{k=1}^x p q^{k-1} \\
&= p \sum_{k=1}^x q^{k-1}
\end{aligned}$$

let  $m = k - 1$ , then  $m$  takes the values  $0, 1, 2, \dots, x - 1$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
F(x) &= \sum_{m=0}^m q^m \\
&= p \left( \frac{1 - q^x}{1 - q} \right) \\
&= 1 - q^{[x]}
\end{aligned}$$

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - q^{[x]} & \text{for } x \geq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**Example 2.1:** Let  $X$  represents the number of Bernoulli trials needed to get one success with probability of success  $p = 0.6$ .

- 1- Write down the PMF of  $X$ .
- 2- Obtain the mean, the variance, the MGF, and the CDF of  $X$ .
- 3- Calculate  $P(X = 0)$ ,  $P(X \geq 3)$ , and  $P(X \leq 3.4)$ .
- 4- Let  $Y = X - 1$ . Find the mean and variance of  $Y$ , then find  $P(Y = 0)$ .

**Solution:**

- 1- The PMF of  $X$ :

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 0.6 \times 0.4^{x-1} & \text{for } x = 1, 2, 3, \dots \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- 2- The mean, the variance, the MGF, the CDF of  $X$

$$\begin{aligned} E[X] &= \frac{1}{p} = \frac{1}{0.6} = 1.667 \\ \text{Var}(X) &= \frac{q}{p^2} = \frac{0.4}{(0.6)^2} = 1.111 \\ M_X(t) &= \frac{pe^t}{1 - qe^t} = \frac{0.6e^t}{1 - 0.4e^t} \end{aligned}$$

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - 0.4^{\lfloor x \rfloor} & \text{for } x \geq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- 3- Calculate  $P(X = 0)$ ,  $P(X \geq 3)$ , and  $P(X \leq 3.4)$

$P(X = 0) = 0$ , because the PMF is defined as zero when  $x = 0$

$$\begin{aligned}
P(X \geq 3) &= 1 - P(X \leq 2) \\
&= 1 - F(2) \\
&= 1 - \left(1 - 0.4^{\lfloor 2 \rfloor}\right) \\
&= 0.4^2 = 0.16
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
P(X \leq 3.4) &= F(3.4) \\
&= 1 - 0.4^{\lfloor 3.4 \rfloor} \\
&= 1 - 0.4^3 = 0.936
\end{aligned}$$

4- Let  $Y = X - 1$ . Find the mean and variance of  $Y$ , then find  $P(Y = 0)$ .

$$E[Y] = E[X - 1] = E[X] - 1 = 1.667 - 1 = 0.667$$

$$\text{Var}(Y) = \text{Var}(X - 1) = \text{Var}(X) = 1.111$$

$$P(Y = 0) = P(X - 1 = 0) = P(X = 1) = 0.6(0.4)^{1-1} = 0.6$$

**Negative binomial distribution:** A random variable  $X$  is said to have a negative binomial distribution, denoted by  $X \sim NB(r, p)$ , if its PMF



has the following form:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \binom{x+r-1}{r-1} p^r q^x & \text{for } x = 0, 1, 2, \dots \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where  $0 \leq p \leq 1$  is the probability of success,  $q = 1 - p$  is the probability of failure, and  $r > 0$  is the targeted number of successes. This probability distribution models the behavior of a random variable  $X$  that represents the number of failures before the  $r$ th success in a sequence of Bernoulli trials. Notice that the geometric distribution is identical to the negative binomial distribution with  $r = 1$ .

$$\begin{aligned} E[X] &= \frac{rq}{p} \\ \text{Var}(X) &= \frac{rq}{p^2} \\ M_X(t) &= \left( \frac{p}{1 - qe^t} \right)^r \end{aligned}$$

**Example 2.2:** Let  $X \sim NB(4, 0.3)$ . Find the following:

- 1- Write down the PMF of  $X$ .
- 3- Calculate  $P(X \geq 1)$ .
- 2- Find the mean, the variance, and the MGF of  $Y = 4 + 5X$ .

**Solution:**

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \binom{x+3}{3} 0.3^4 0.7^x & \text{for } x = 0, 1, 2, \dots \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(X \geq 1) &= 1 - P(X = 0) \\ &= 1 - \binom{0+3}{3} 0.3^4 0.7^0 \\ &= 1 - 0.0081 = 0.9919 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E[X] &= \frac{rq}{p} = \frac{4(0.7)}{0.3} = 9.333 \\ \text{Var}(X) &= \frac{rq}{p^2} = \frac{4(0.7)}{(0.3)^2} = 31.111 \\ M_X(t) &= \left( \frac{p}{1 - qe^t} \right)^r = \left( \frac{0.3}{1 - 0.7e^t} \right)^4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E[Y] &= E[4 + 5X] \\ &= 4 + 5E[X] \\ &= 4 + 5(9.333) = 50.665 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(Y) &= \text{Var}(4 + 5X) \\ &= 25\text{Var}(X) \\ &= 25(31.111) = 777.775 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
M_Y(t) &= E[e^{tY}] \\
&= E\left[e^{t(4+5X)}\right] \\
&= e^{4t} E\left[e^{5tX}\right] \\
&= e^{4t} M_X(5t) \\
&= \left(\frac{0.3e^t}{1 - 0.7e^{5t}}\right)^4
\end{aligned}$$