

# 07: Variance, Bernoulli, Binomial

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Lisa Yan

April 20, 2020

# Quick slide reference

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3	Variance	07a_variance_i
10	Properties of variance	07b_variance_ii
17	Bernoulli RV	07c_bernoulli
22	Binomial RV	07d_binomial
34	Exercises	LIVE

# Variance

# Average annual weather

Stanford, CA

$$E[\text{high}] = 68^\circ\text{F}$$

$$E[\text{low}] = 52^\circ\text{F}$$



Washington, DC

$$E[\text{high}] = 67^\circ\text{F}$$

$$E[\text{low}] = 51^\circ\text{F}$$



Is  $E[X]$  enough?

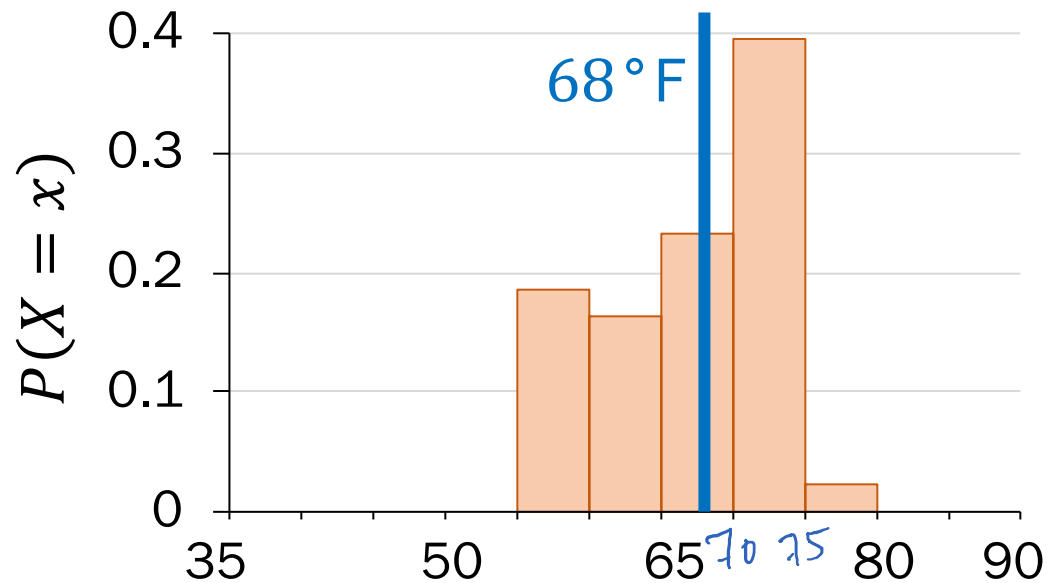
# Average annual weather

Stanford, CA

$$E[\text{high}] = 68^\circ\text{F}$$

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Stanford high temps

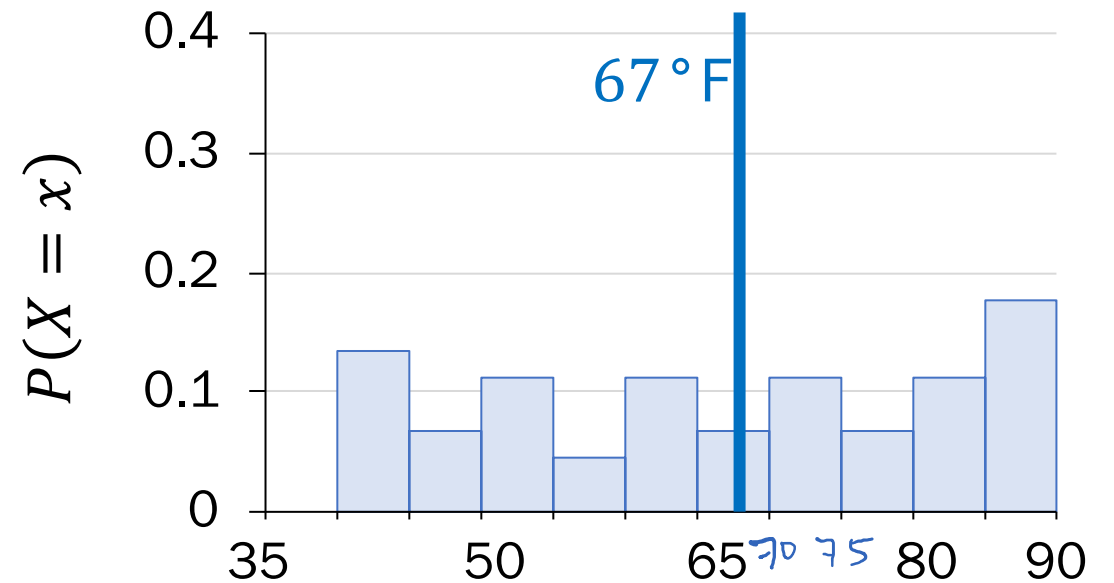


Washington, DC

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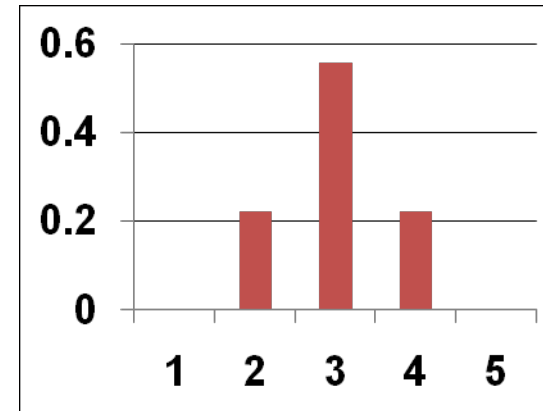
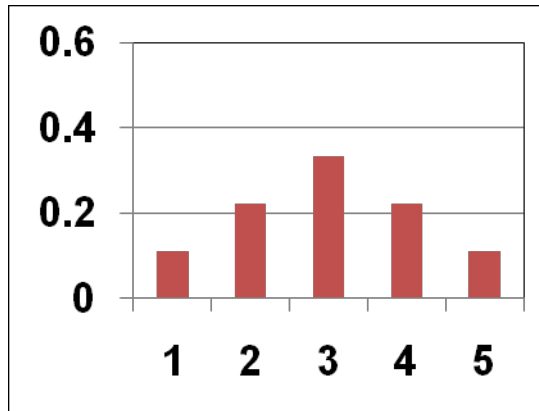
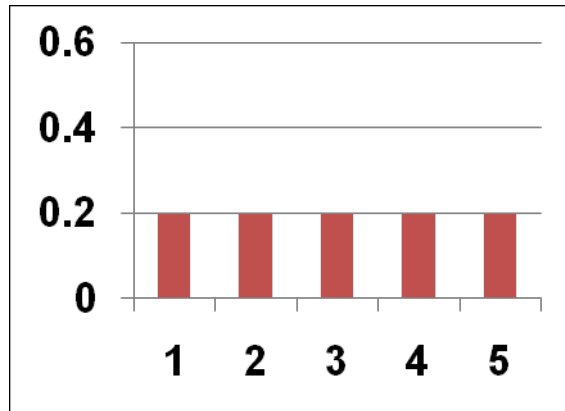
Washington high temps



Normalized histograms are approximations of PMFs.

# Variance = “spread”

Consider the following three distributions (PMFs):



- Expectation:  $E[X] = 3$  for all distributions
- But the “spread” in the distributions is different!
- **Variance**,  $\text{Var}(X)$  : a formal quantification of “spread”

# Variance

---

The **variance** of a random variable  $X$  with mean  $E[X] = \mu$  is

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[(X - \mu)^2]$$

- Also written as:  $E[(X - E[X])^2]$
- Note:  $\text{Var}(X) \geq 0$
- Other names: **2<sup>nd</sup> central moment**, or square of the standard deviation

	$\text{Var}(X)$	Units of $X^2$
<u>def</u> <b>standard deviation</b>	$\text{SD}(X) = \sqrt{\text{Var}(X)}$	Units of $X$

# Variance of Stanford weather

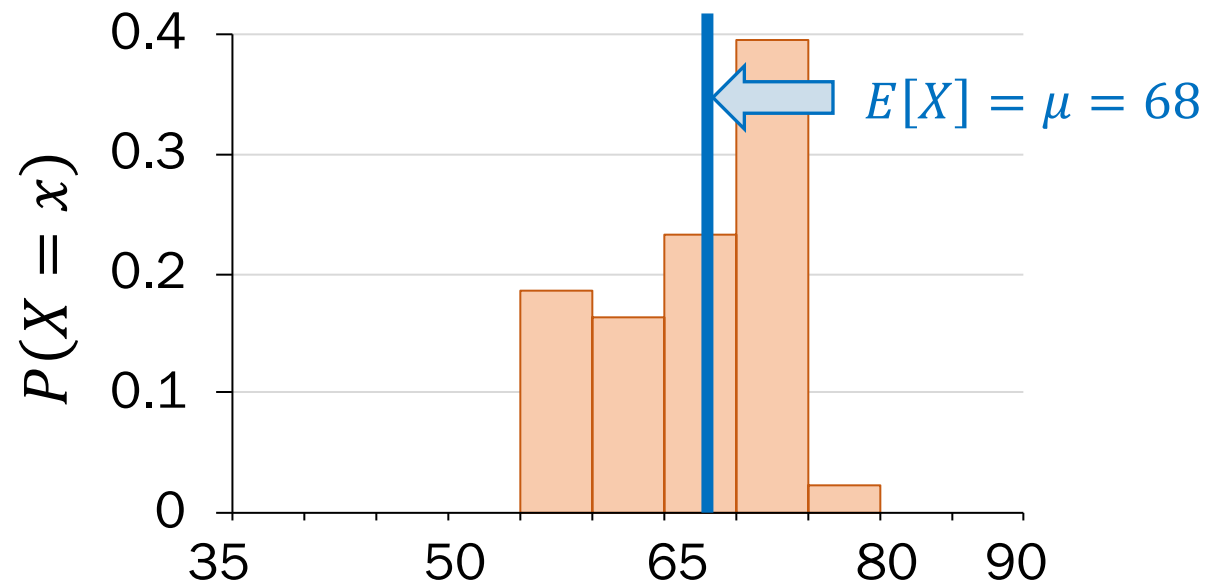
$$\text{Var}(X) = E[(X - E[X])^2] \quad \text{Variance of } X$$

Stanford, CA

$$E[\text{high}] = 68^\circ\text{F}$$

$$E[\text{low}] = 52^\circ\text{F}$$

Stanford high temps



$X$	$(X - \mu)^2$
$57^\circ\text{F}$	$124 (\text{°F})^2$
$71^\circ\text{F}$	$9 (\text{°F})^2$
$75^\circ\text{F}$	$49 (\text{°F})^2$
$69^\circ\text{F}$	$1 (\text{°F})^2$
...	...

$$\text{Variance } E[(X - \mu)^2] = 39 (\text{°F})^2$$

$$\text{Standard deviation} = 6.2^\circ\text{F}$$

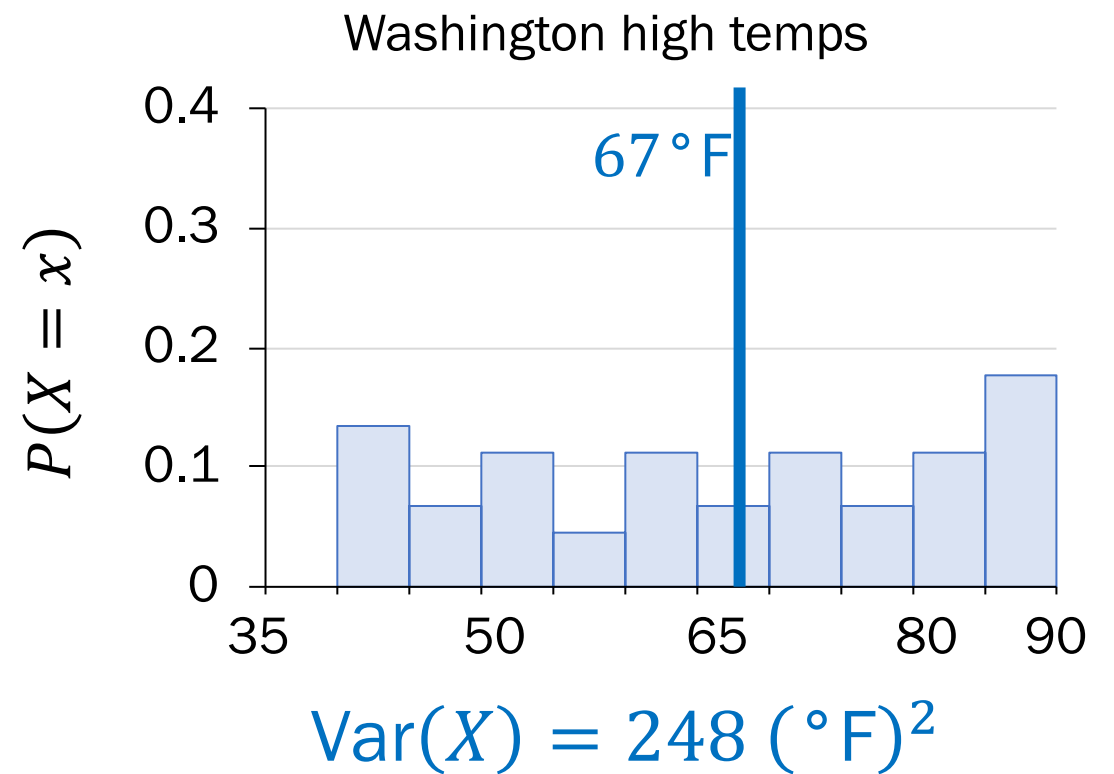
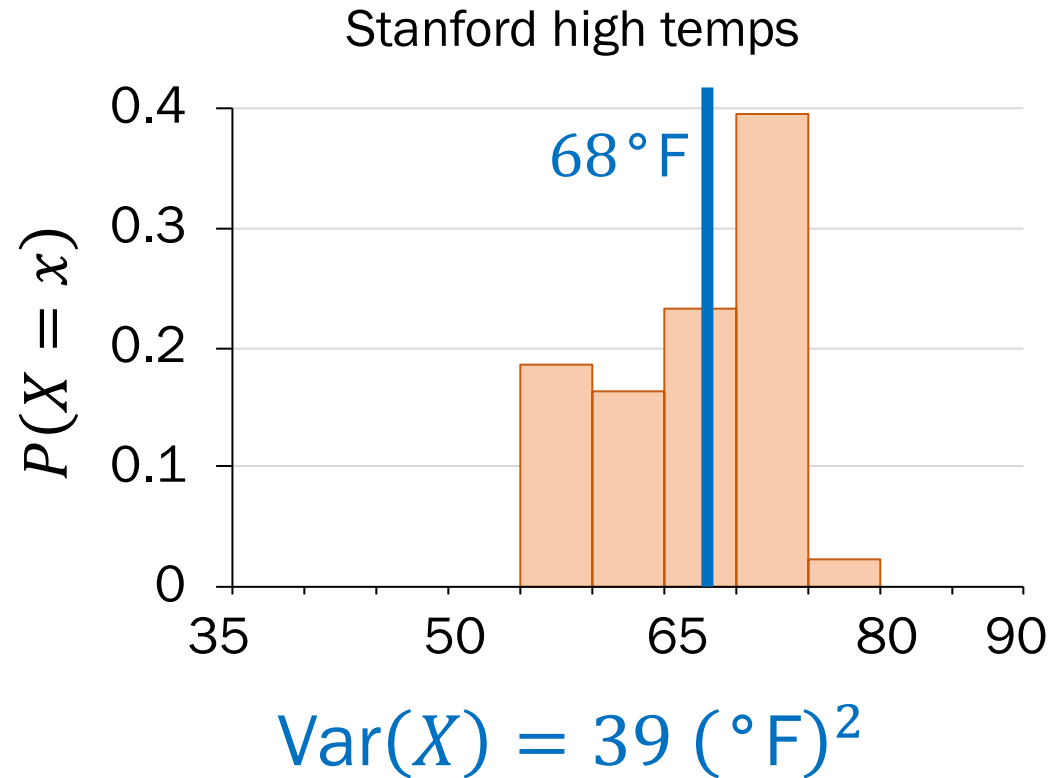


# Comparing variance

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[(X - E[X])^2] \quad \text{Variance of } X$$

Stanford, CA  
 $E[\text{high}] = 68^\circ\text{F}$

Washington, DC  
 $E[\text{high}] = 67^\circ\text{F}$



# Properties of Variance

# Properties of variance

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Definition

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[(X - E[X])^2]$$

Units of  $X^2$

def standard deviation

$$\text{SD}(X) = \sqrt{\text{Var}(X)}$$

Units of  $X$

Property 1

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[X^2] - (E[X])^2$$

Property 2

$$\text{Var}(aX + b) = a^2 \text{Var}(X)$$

- Property 1 is often easier to compute than the definition
- Unlike expectation, variance is not linear

# Properties of variance

---

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$$\text{Var}(X) = E[(X - E[X])^2]$$

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$$\text{Var}(X) = E[X^2] - (E[X])^2$$

Property 2

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- Property 1 is often easier to compute than the definition
- Unlike expectation, variance is not linear

# Computing variance, a proof

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(X) &= E[(X - E[X])^2] && \text{Variance} \\ &= E[X^2] - (E[X])^2 && \text{of } X \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[(X - E[X])^2] = E[(X - \mu)^2] \quad \text{Let } E[X] = \mu$$

$$= \sum_x (x - \mu)^2 p(x)$$

$$= \sum_x (x^2 - 2\mu x + \mu^2) p(x)$$

$$= \sum_x x^2 p(x) - 2\mu \sum_x x p(x) + \mu^2 \sum_x p(x)$$

Everyone,  
please  
welcome the  
second  
moment!

$$= E[X^2] - 2\mu E[X] + \mu^2 \cdot 1$$

$$= E[X^2] - 2\mu^2 + \mu^2$$

$$= E[X^2] - \mu^2$$

$$= E[X^2] - (E[X])^2$$

# Variance of a 6-sided die

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(X) &= E[(X - E[X])^2] && \text{Variance} \\ &= E[X^2] - (E[X])^2 && \text{of } X\end{aligned}$$

Let  $Y$  = outcome of a single die roll. Recall  $E[Y] = 7/2$ .



Calculate the variance of  $Y$ .

1. Approach #1: Definition

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(Y) &= \frac{1}{6} \left(1 - \frac{7}{2}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{6} \left(2 - \frac{7}{2}\right)^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{6} \left(3 - \frac{7}{2}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{6} \left(4 - \frac{7}{2}\right)^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{6} \left(5 - \frac{7}{2}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{6} \left(6 - \frac{7}{2}\right)^2 \\ &= 35/12\end{aligned}$$

2. Approach #2: A property

*2<sup>nd</sup> moment*

$$\begin{aligned}E[Y^2] &= \frac{1}{6} [1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + 4^2 + 5^2 + 6^2] \\ &= 91/6 \\ \text{Var}(Y) &= 91/6 - (7/2)^2 \\ &= 35/12\end{aligned}$$

# Properties of variance

---

Definition

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[(X - E[X])^2]$$

Units of  $X^2$

def standard deviation

$$\text{SD}(X) = \sqrt{\text{Var}(X)}$$

Units of  $X$

Property 1

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[X^2] - (E[X])^2$$



Property 2

$$\text{Var}(aX + b) = a^2 \text{Var}(X)$$

- Property 1 is often easier to compute than the definition
- Unlike expectation, variance is not linear

# Property 2: A proof

Property 2       $\text{Var}(aX + b) = a^2\text{Var}(X)$

Proof:  $\text{Var}(aX + b)$

$$= E[(aX + b)^2] - (E[aX + b])^2 \quad \text{Property 1}$$

$$= E[a^2X^2 + 2abX + b^2] - (aE[X] + b)^2$$

$$= a^2E[X^2] + 2abE[X] + b^2 - (a^2(E[X])^2 + 2abE[X] + b^2) \quad \left. \vphantom{E[X^2]} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Factoring/} \\ \text{Linearity of} \\ \text{Expectation} \end{array}$$

$$= a^2E[X^2] - a^2(E[X])^2$$

$$= a^2(E[X^2] - (E[X])^2)$$

$$= a^2\text{Var}(X) \quad \text{Property 1}$$



# Bernoulli RV

# Jacob Bernoulli

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Jacob Bernoulli (1654-1705), also known as “James”, was a Swiss mathematician



One of many mathematicians in Bernoulli family  
The Bernoulli Random Variable is named for him  
My academic great<sup>14</sup> grandfather

# Bernoulli Random Variable

Consider an experiment with two outcomes: “success” and “failure.”

def A **Bernoulli** random variable  $X$  maps “success” to 1 and “failure” to 0.

Other names: **indicator** random variable, boolean random variable

$$X \sim \text{Ber}(p)$$

Support:  $\{0,1\}$

PMF

$$P(X = 1) = p(1) = p$$

$$P(X = 0) = p(0) = 1 - p$$

Expectation

$$E[X] = p$$

Variance

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

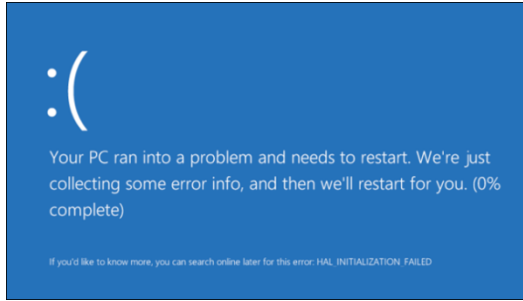
Examples:

- Coin flip
- Random binary digit
- Whether a disk drive crashed

Remember this nice property of expectation. It will come back!

# Defining Bernoulli RVs

$$\begin{aligned} X \sim \text{Ber}(p) & \quad p_X(1) = p \\ E[X] = p & \quad p_X(0) = 1 - p \end{aligned}$$



Run a program

- Crashes w.p.  $p$
- Works w.p.  $1 - p$

Let  $X$ : 1 if crash

$$X \sim \text{Ber}(p)$$

$$P(X = 1) = p$$

$$P(X = 0) = 1 - p$$



Serve an ad.

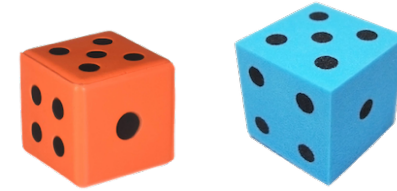
- User clicks w.p. 0.2
- Ignores otherwise

Let  $X$ : 1 if clicked

$$X \sim \text{Ber}(\_\_\_)$$

$$P(X = 1) = \_\_\_$$

$$P(X = 0) = \_\_\_$$



Roll two dice.

- Success: roll two 6's
- Failure: anything else

Let  $X$  : 1 if success

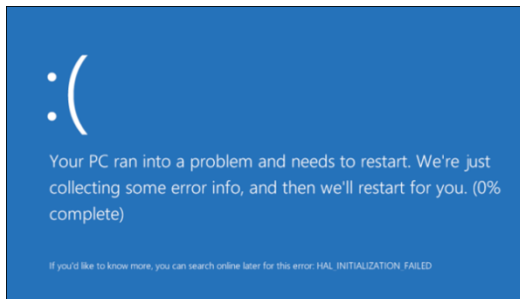
$$X \sim \text{Ber}(\_\_\_)$$

$$E[X] = \_\_\_$$



# Defining Bernoulli RVs

$$\begin{aligned} X \sim \text{Ber}(p) & \quad p_X(1) = p \\ E[X] = p & \quad p_X(0) = 1 - p \end{aligned}$$



Run a program

- Crashes w.p.  $p$
- Works w.p.  $1 - p$

Let  $X$ : 1 if crash

$$X \sim \text{Ber}(p)$$

$$P(X = 1) = p$$

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Serve an ad.

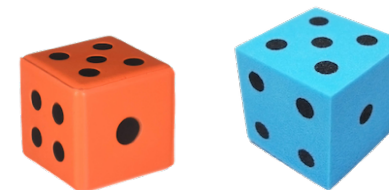
- User clicks w.p. 0.2
- Ignores otherwise

Let  $X$ : 1 if clicked

$$X \sim \text{Ber}(\underline{\quad})$$

$$P(X = 1) = \underline{\quad}$$

$$P(X = 0) = \underline{\quad}$$



Roll two dice.

- Success: roll two 6's
- Failure: anything else

Let  $X$ : 1 if success

$$X \sim \text{Ber}(\underline{\quad})$$

$$E[X] = \underline{\quad}$$

# Binomial RV

# Binomial Random Variable

Consider an experiment:  $n$  independent trials of  $\text{Ber}(p)$  random variables.

def A **Binomial** random variable  $X$  is the number of successes in  $n$  trials.

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$$

PMF

$k = 0, 1, \dots, n:$

$$P(X = k) = p(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$$

Expectation

$$E[X] = np$$

Support:  $\{0, 1, \dots, n\}$

Variance

$$\text{Var}(X) = np(1 - p)$$

Examples:

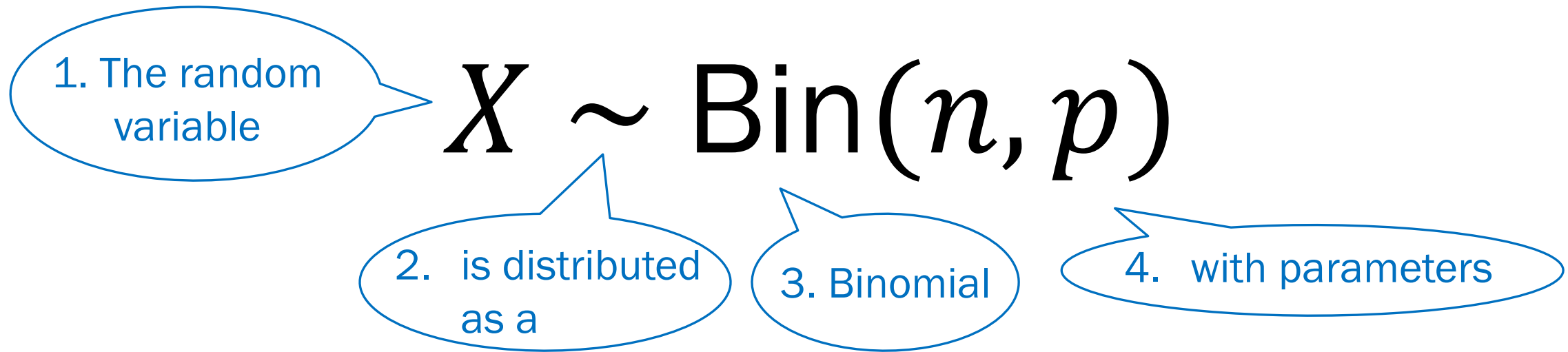
- # heads in  $n$  coin flips
- # of 1's in randomly generated length  $n$  bit string
- # of disk drives crashed in 1000 computer cluster (assuming disks crash independently)





# Reiterating notation

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The parameters of a Binomial random variable:

- $n$ : number of independent trials
- $p$ : probability of success on each trial

# Reiterating notation

---

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$$

If  $X$  is a binomial with parameters  $n$  and  $p$ , the PMF of  $X$  is

$$P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$$

Probability that  $X$   
takes on the value  $k$

Probability Mass Function for a Binomial

# Three coin flips

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p) \quad p(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

Three fair (“heads” with  $p = 0.5$ ) coins are flipped.

- $X$  is number of heads
- $X \sim \text{Bin}(3, 0.5)$

Compute the following event probabilities:

$$P(X = 0)$$

$$P(X = 1)$$

$$P(X = 2)$$

$$P(X = 3)$$

$$P(X = 7)$$

$P(\text{event})$



# Three coin flips

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p) \quad p(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

Three fair (“heads” with  $p = 0.5$ ) coins are flipped.

- $X$  is number of heads
- $X \sim \text{Bin}(3, 0.5)$

Compute the following event probabilities:

$$P(X = 0) = p(0) = \binom{3}{0} p^0 (1-p)^3 = \frac{1}{8}$$

$$P(X = 1) = p(1) = \binom{3}{1} p^1 (1-p)^2 = \frac{3}{8}$$

$$P(X = 2) = p(2) = \binom{3}{2} p^2 (1-p)^1 = \frac{3}{8}$$

$$P(X = 3) = p(3) = \binom{3}{3} p^3 (1-p)^0 = \frac{1}{8}$$

$$P(X = 7) = p(7) = 0$$

P(event)

PMF

Extra math note:  
By Binomial Theorem,  
we can prove  
 $\sum_{k=0}^n P(X = k) = 1$

# Binomial Random Variable

Consider an experiment:  $n$  independent trials of  $\text{Ber}(p)$  random variables.

def A Binomial random variable  $X$  is the number of successes in  $n$  trials.

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$$

Range:  $\{0, 1, \dots, n\}$

PMF

$k = 0, 1, \dots, n:$

$$P(X = k) = p(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$$

Expectation

$$E[X] = np$$

Variance

$$\text{Var}(X) = np(1 - p)$$

Examples:

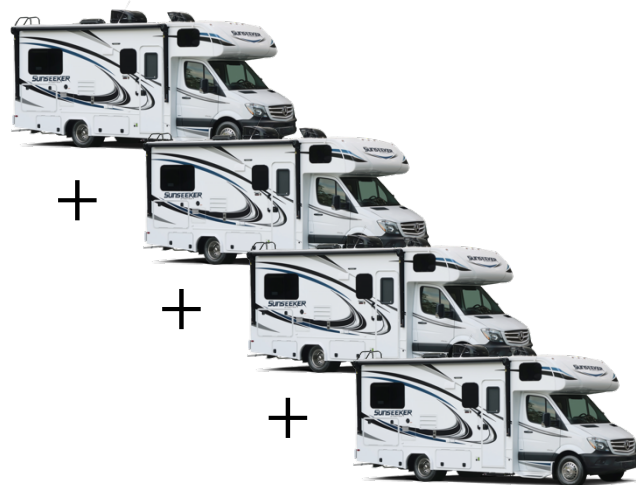
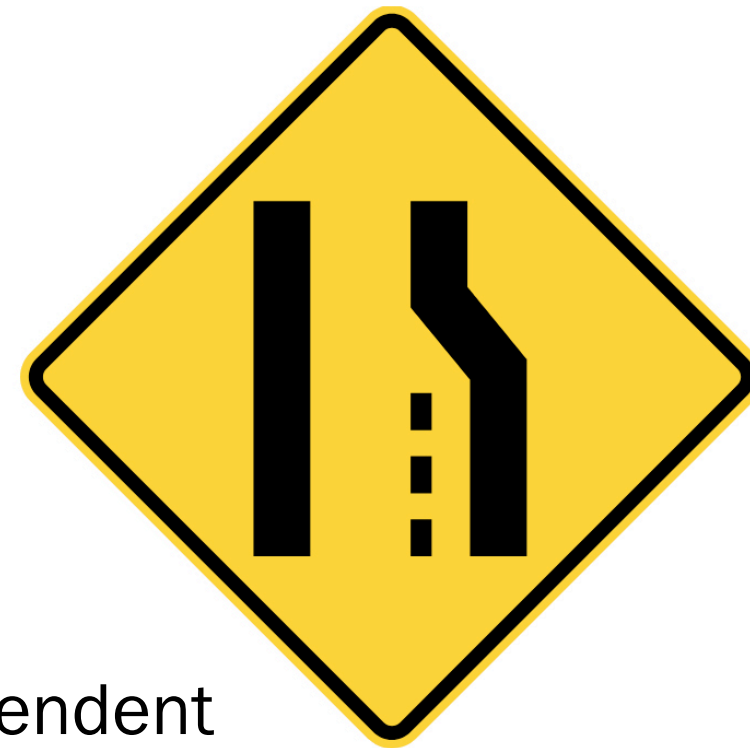
- # heads in  $n$  coin flips
- # of 1's in randomly generated length  $n$  bit string
- # of disk drives crashed in 1000 computer cluster (assuming disks crash independently)

# Binomial RV is sum of Bernoulli RVs



Bernoulli

- $X \sim \text{Ber}(p)$



Binomial

- $Y \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$
- The sum of  $n$  independent Bernoulli RVs

$$Y = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i, \quad X_i \sim \text{Ber}(p)$$

$$\text{Ber}(p) = \text{Bin}(1, p)$$

# Binomial Random Variable

Consider an experiment:  $n$  independent trials of  $\text{Ber}(p)$  random variables.

def A Binomial random variable  $X$  is the number of successes in  $n$  trials.

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$$

Range:  $\{0, 1, \dots, n\}$

PMF

$k = 0, 1, \dots, n:$

$$P(X = k) = p(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$$

Expectation

$$E[X] = np$$

Variance

$$\text{Var}(X) = np(1 - p)$$

Examples:

- # heads in  $n$  coin flips
- # of 1's in randomly generated length  $n$  bit string
- # of disk drives crashed in 1000 computer cluster (assuming disks crash independently)

Proof:

# Binomial Random Variable

Consider an experiment:  $n$  independent trials of  $\text{Ber}(p)$  random variables.

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$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$$

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PMF

$k = 0, 1, \dots, n:$

$$P(X = k) = p(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$$

Expectation

$$E[X] = np$$

Variance

$$\text{Var}(X) = np(1 - p)$$



We'll prove this later in the course

Examples:

- # heads in  $n$  coin flips
- # of 1's in randomly generated length  $n$  bit string
- # of disk drives crashed in 1000 computer cluster (assuming disks crash independently)



# No, give me the variance proof right now

To simplify the algebra a bit, let  $q = 1 - p$ , so  $p + q = 1$ .

So:

$$\begin{aligned} E(X^2) &= \sum_{k \geq 0}^n k^2 \binom{n}{k} p^k q^{n-k} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n kn \binom{n-1}{k-1} p^k q^{n-k} \\ &= np \sum_{k=1}^n k \binom{n-1}{k-1} p^{k-1} q^{(n-1)-(k-1)} \\ &= np \sum_{j=0}^m (j+1) \binom{m}{j} p^j q^{m-j} \\ &= np \left( \sum_{j=0}^m j \binom{m}{j} p^j q^{m-j} + \sum_{j=0}^m \binom{m}{j} p^j q^{m-j} \right) \\ &= np \left( \sum_{j=0}^m m \binom{m-1}{j-1} p^j q^{m-j} + \sum_{j=0}^m \binom{m}{j} p^j q^{m-j} \right) \\ &= np \left( (n-1)p \sum_{j=1}^m \binom{m-1}{j-1} p^{j-1} q^{(m-1)-(j-1)} + \sum_{j=0}^m \binom{m}{j} p^j q^{m-j} \right) \\ &= np((n-1)p(p+q)^{m-1} + (p+q)^m) \\ &= np((n-1)p + 1) \\ &= n^2 p^2 + np(1-p) \end{aligned}$$

Definition of Binomial Distribution:  $p + q = 1$

Factors of Binomial Coefficient:  $k \binom{n}{k} = n \binom{n-1}{k-1}$

Change of limit: term is zero when  $k - 1 = 0$

putting  $j = k - 1, m = n - 1$

splitting sum up into two

Factors of Binomial Coefficient:  $j \binom{m}{j} = m \binom{m-1}{j-1}$

Change of limit: term is zero when  $j - 1 = 0$

Binomial Theorem

as  $p + q = 1$

by algebra

Then:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{var}(X) &= E(X^2) - (E(X))^2 \\ &= np(1-p) + n^2 p^2 - (np)^2 \quad \text{Expectation of Binomial Distribution: } E(X) = np \\ &= np(1-p) \end{aligned}$$

as required.

# 07: Variance, Bernoulli, and Binomial (live)

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Lisa Yan

April 20, 2020

# Reminders: Lecture with

---

- Turn on your camera if you are able, mute your mic in the big room
- Virtual backgrounds are encouraged (classroom-appropriate)

## Breakout Rooms for meeting your classmates

- Just like sitting next to someone new
- **This experience is optional:** You should be comfortable leaving the room at any time.

We will use Ed instead of Zoom chat

Today's discussion thread: <https://us.edstem.org/courses/109/discussion/39075>

1. The random variable

$$X \sim \text{Ber}(p)$$

Example: Heads in one coin flip,  
 $P(\text{heads}) = 0.8 = p$

2. is distributed as a

3. Bernoulli

4. with parameter

$$Y \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$$

Example: # heads in 40 coin flips,  
 $P(\text{heads}) = 0.8 = p$

otherwise

Identify PMF, or  
identify as a function of an  
existing random variable

# Breakout Rooms

Check out the questions on the next slide (Slide 38). Post any clarifications here!

<https://us.edstem.org/courses/109/discussion/39075>

Breakout rooms: 5 min. Introduce yourself!



# Statistics: Expectation and variance

---

1.
  - a. Let  $X$  = the outcome of a 4-sided die roll. What is  $E[X]$ ?
  - b. Let  $Y$  = the sum of three rolls of a 4-sided die. What is  $E[Y]$ ?
2.
  - a. Let  $Z$  = # of *tails* on 10 flips of a biased coin (w.p. 0.4 of heads). What is  $E[Z]$ ?
  - b. What is  $\text{Var}(Z)$ ?
3. Compare the variances of  $B_1 \sim \text{Ber}(0.1)$  and  $B_2 \sim \text{Ber}(0.5)$ .



# Statistics: Expectation and variance

---

1.
  - a. Let  $X$  = the outcome of a 4-sided die roll. What is  $E[X]$ ?
  - b. Let  $Y$  = the sum of three rolls of a 4-sided die. What is  $E[Y]$ ?
2.
  - a. Let  $Z$  = # of *tails* on 10 flips of a biased coin (w.p. 0.3 of heads). What is  $E[Z]$ ?
  - b. What is  $\text{Var}(Z)$ ?
3. Compare the variances of  $B_1 \sim \text{Ber}(0.1)$  and  $B_2 \sim \text{Ber}(0.5)$ .

If you can identify common RVs, just look up statistics instead of re-deriving from definitions.

# Think

Slide 41 has a matching question to go over by yourself. We'll go over it together afterwards.

Post any clarifications here!

<https://us.edstem.org/courses/109/discussion/39075>

Think by yourself: 2 min

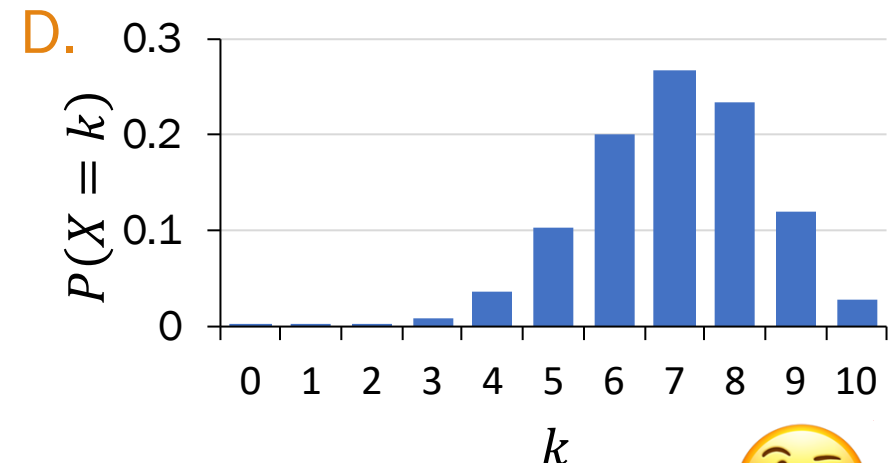
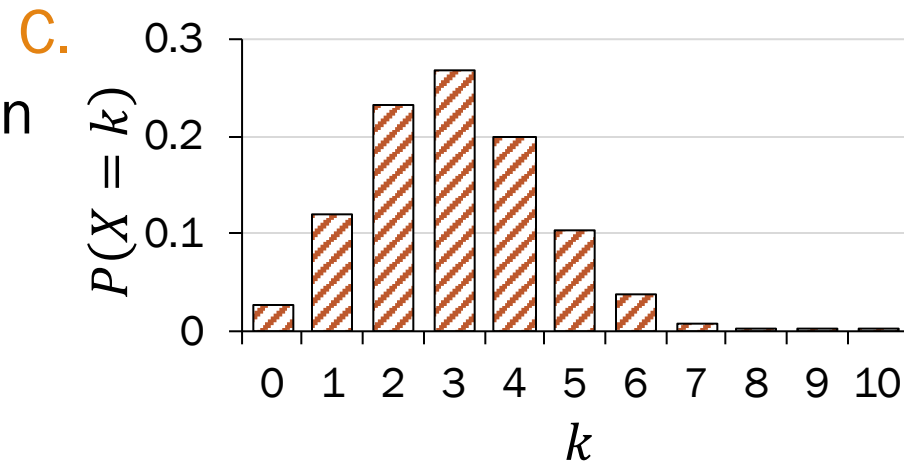
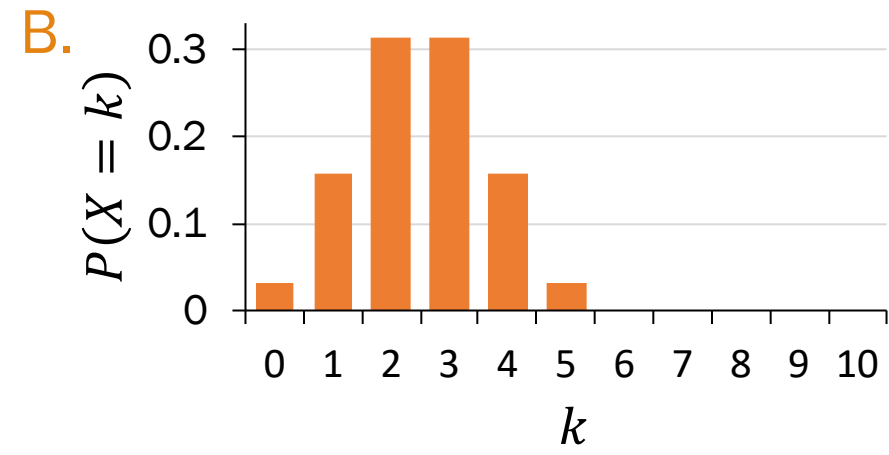
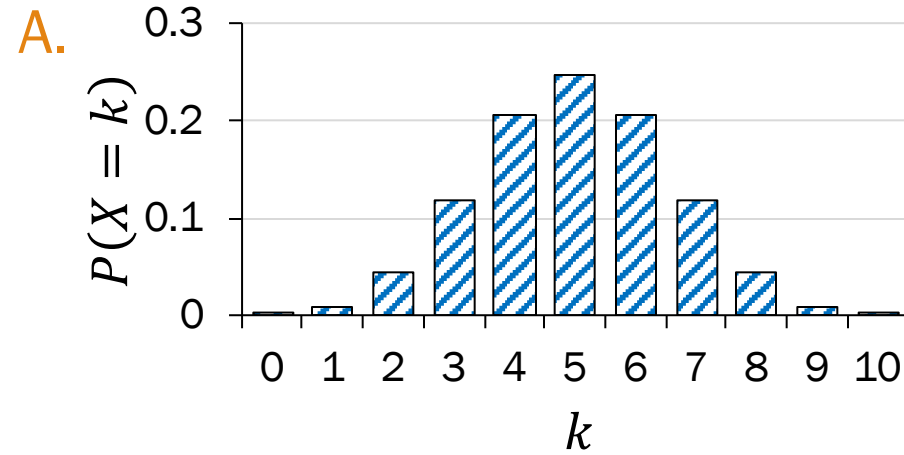


(by yourself)



# Visualizing Binomial PMFs

$$E[X] = np$$
$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p) \quad p(i) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$



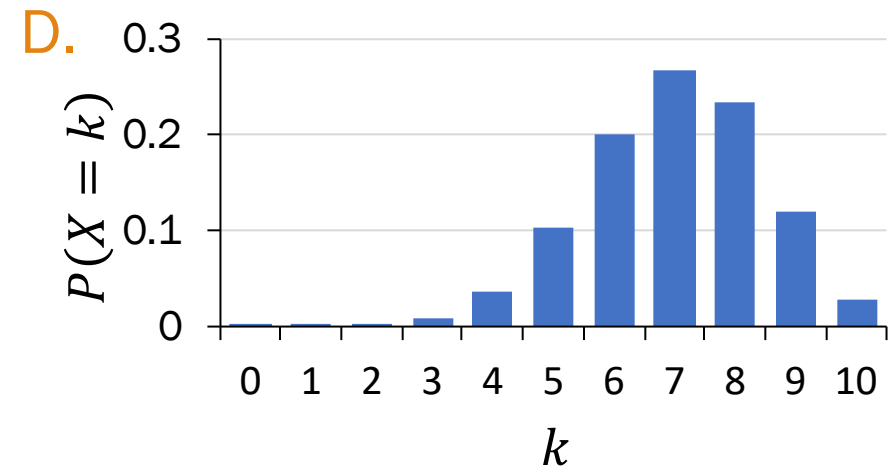
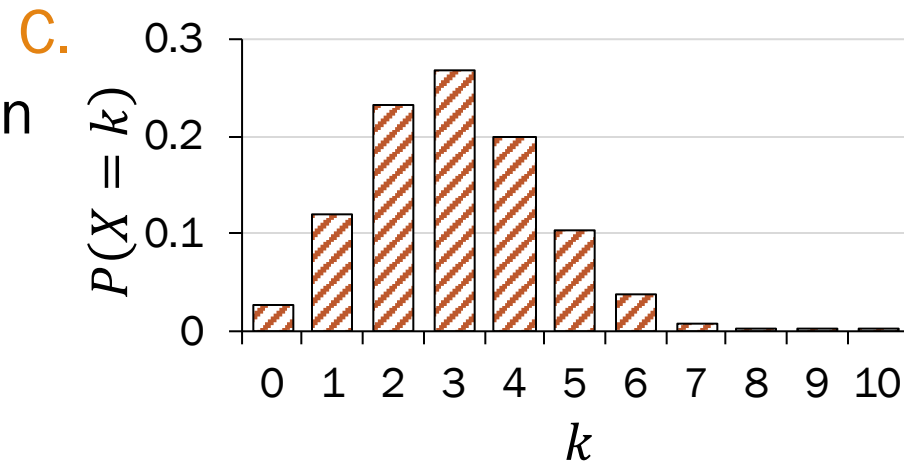
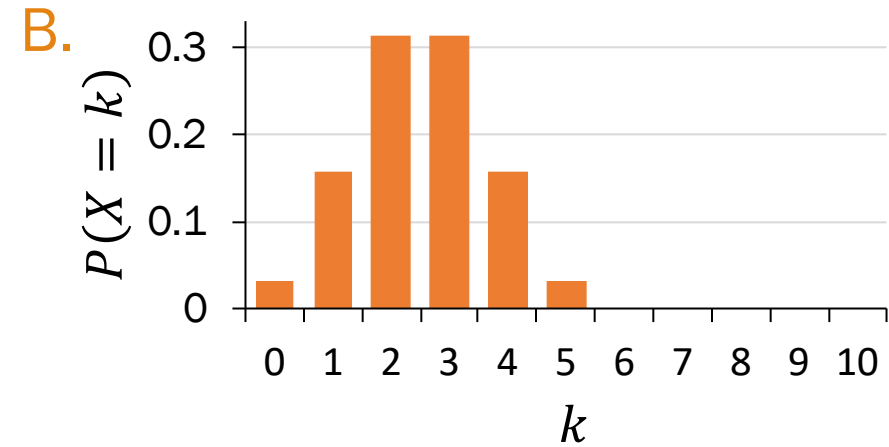
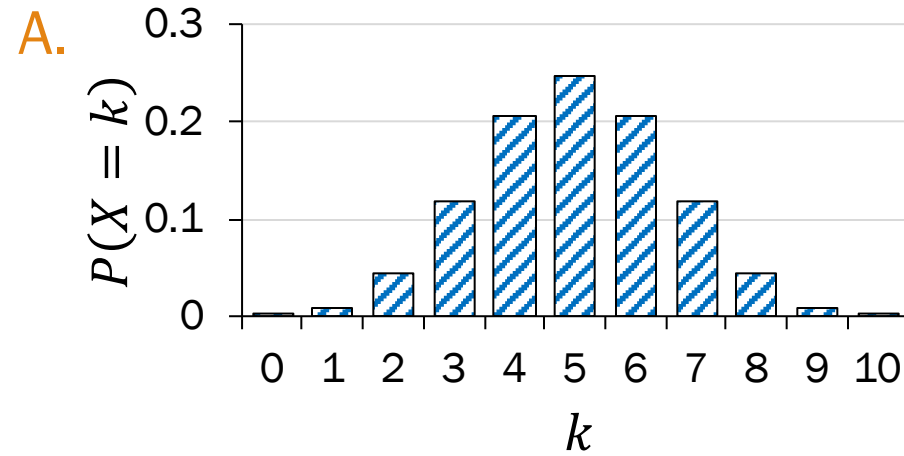
Match the distribution to the graph:

1. Bin(10,0.5)
2. Bin(10,0.3)
3. Bin(10,0.7)
4. Bin(5,0.5)



# Visualizing Binomial PMFs

$$E[X] = np$$
$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p) \quad p(i) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$



Match the distribution to the graph:

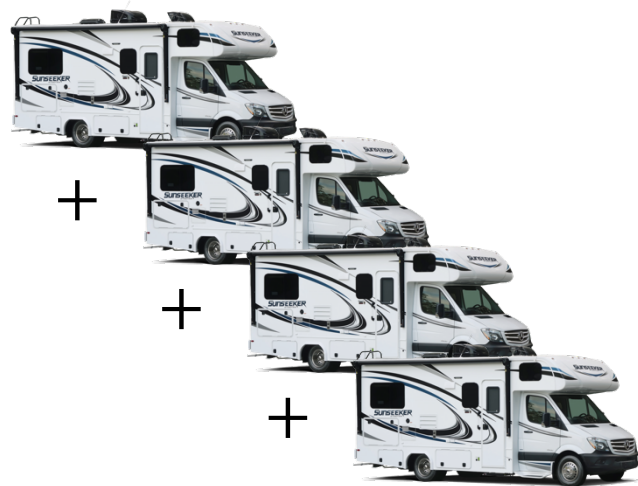
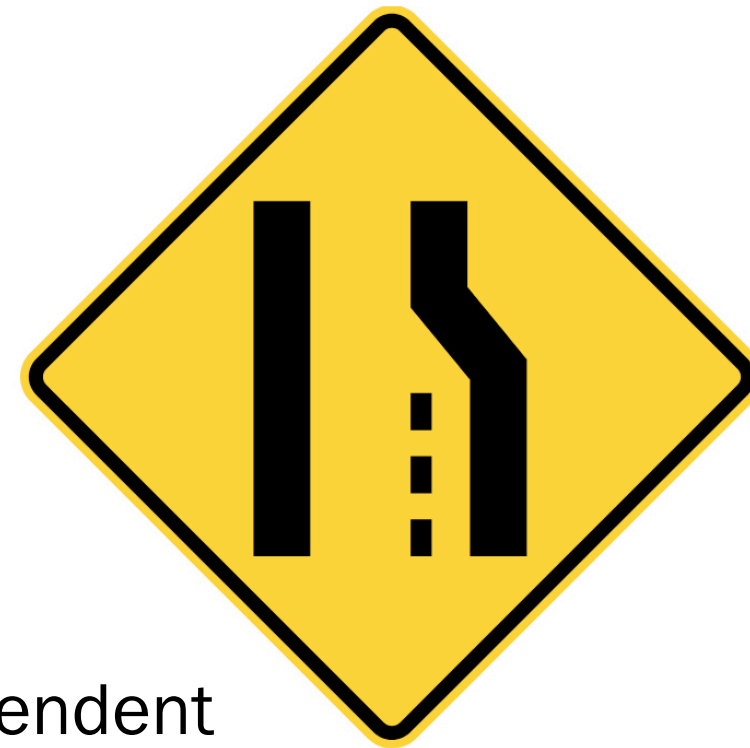
1. Bin(10,0.5)
2. Bin(10,0.3)
3. Bin(10,0.7)
4. Bin(5,0.5)

# Binomial RV is sum of Bernoulli RVs



Bernoulli

- $X \sim \text{Ber}(p)$

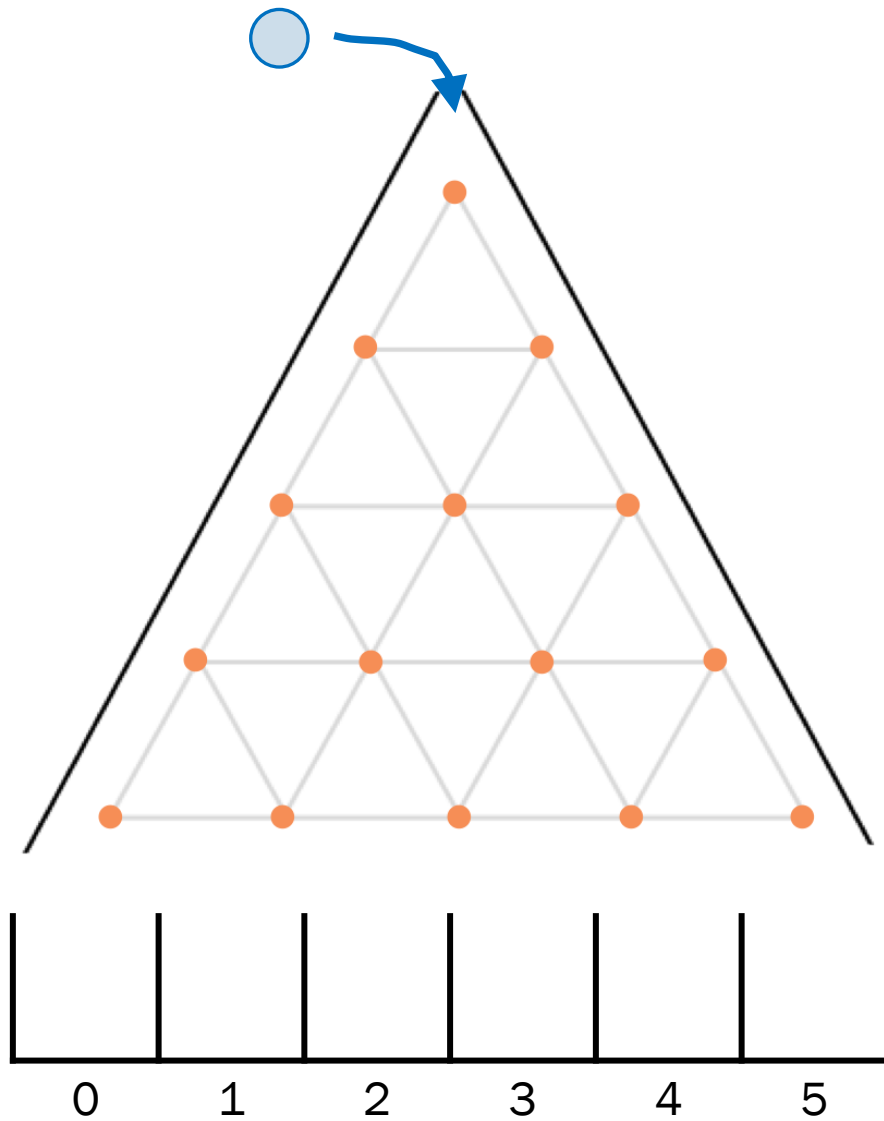


Binomial

- $Y \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$
- The sum of  $n$  independent Bernoulli RVs

$$Y = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i, \quad X_i \sim \text{Ber}(p)$$

# Galton Board



<http://web.stanford.edu/class/cs109/demos/galton.html>

# Think

Slide 46 has a question to go over by yourself.

Post any clarifications here!

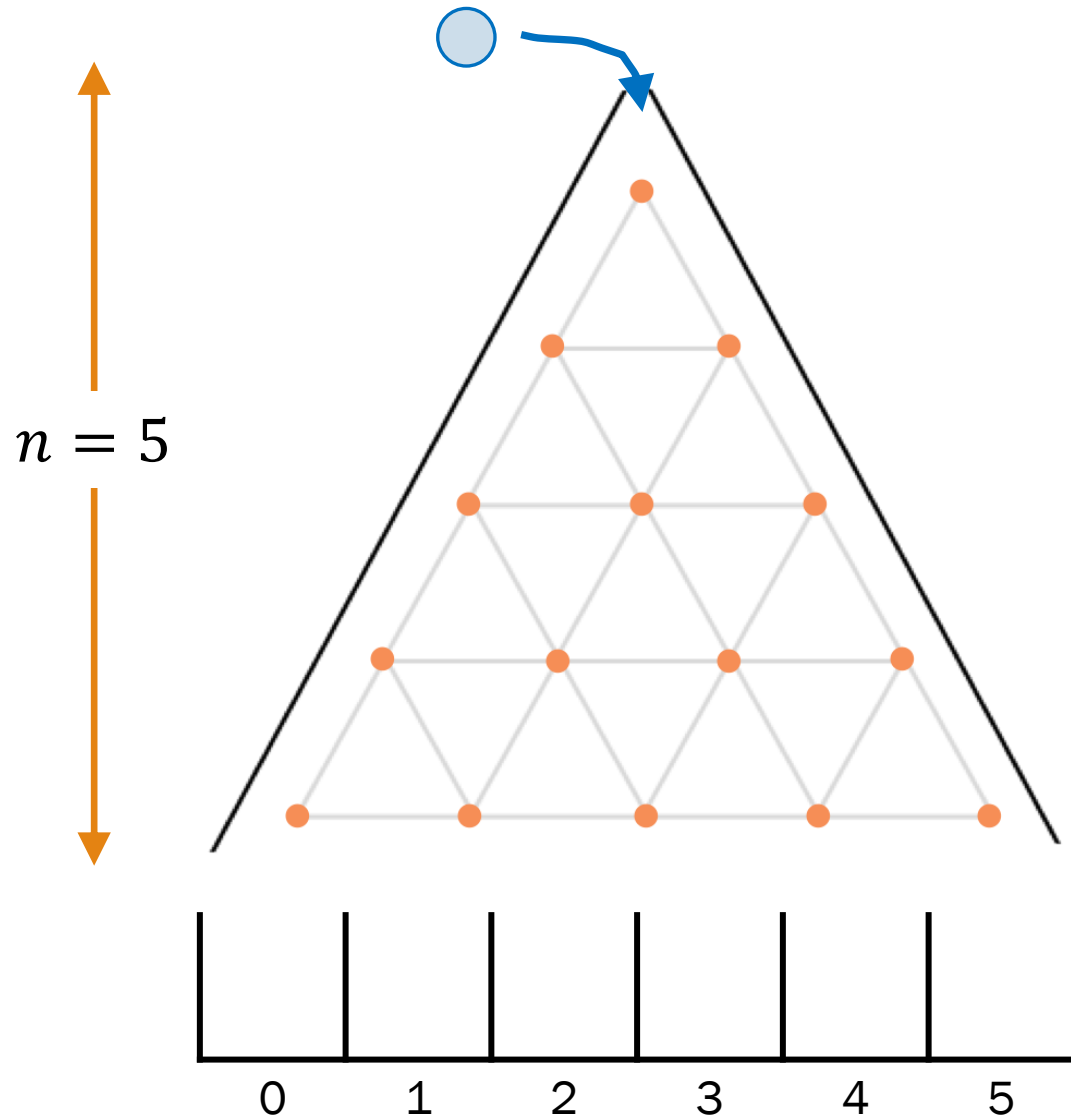
<https://us.edstem.org/courses/109/discussion/39075>

Think by yourself: 2 min



# Galton Board

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p) \quad p(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$



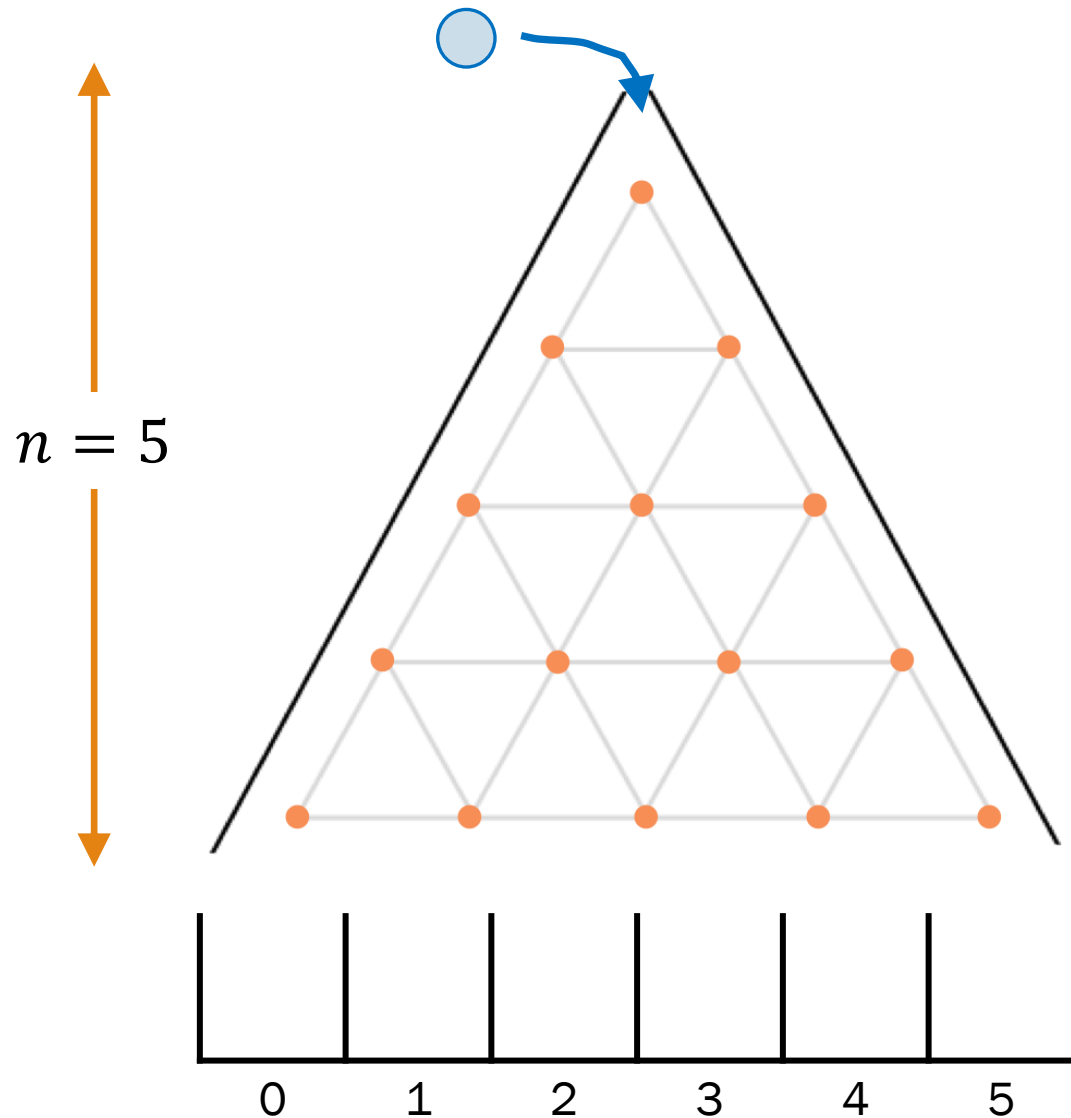
When a marble hits a pin, it has an equal chance of going left or right.  
Let  $B$  = the bucket index a ball drops into.  
What is the **distribution** of  $B$ ?

(Interpret: If  $B$  is a common random variable, report it, otherwise report PMF)



# Galton Board

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p) \quad p(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$



When a marble hits a pin, it has an equal chance of going left or right.

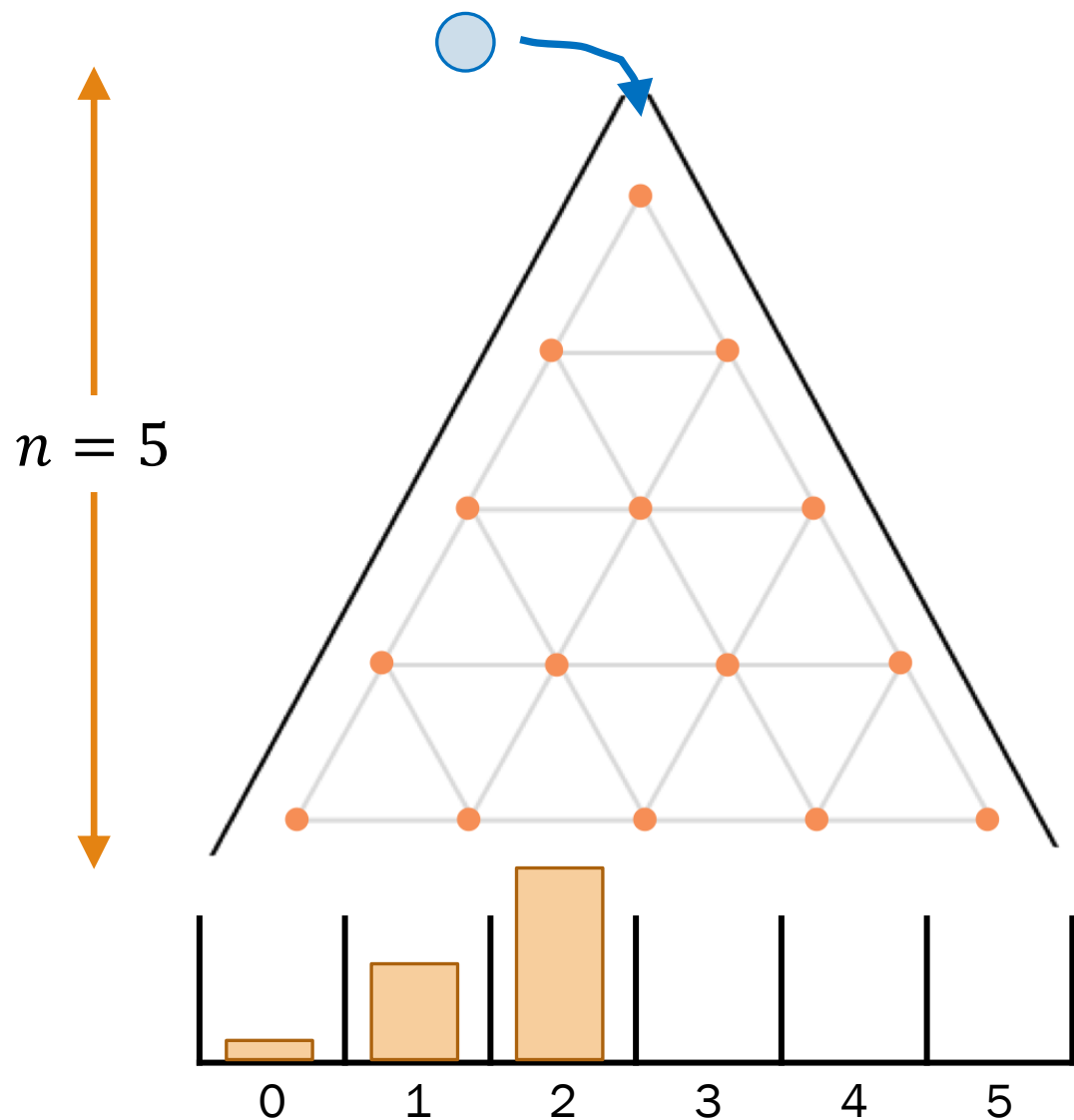
Let  $B$  = the bucket index a ball drops into.  
What is the **distribution** of  $B$ ?

- Each pin is an independent trial
- One decision made for **level**  $i = 1, 2, \dots, 5$
- Consider a Bernoulli RV with success  $R_i$  if ball went right on **level**  $i$
- Bucket index  $B = \#$  times ball went right

$$B \sim \text{Bin}(n = 5, p = 0.5)$$

# Galton Board

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p) \quad p(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$



When a marble hits a pin, it has an equal chance of going left or right.

Let  $B$  = the **bucket index** a ball drops into.  $B$  is distributed as a Binomial RV,

$$B \sim \text{Bin}(n = 5, p = 0.5)$$

Calculate the probability of a ball landing in bucket  $k$ .

$$P(B = 0) = \binom{5}{0} 0.5^5 \approx 0.03$$

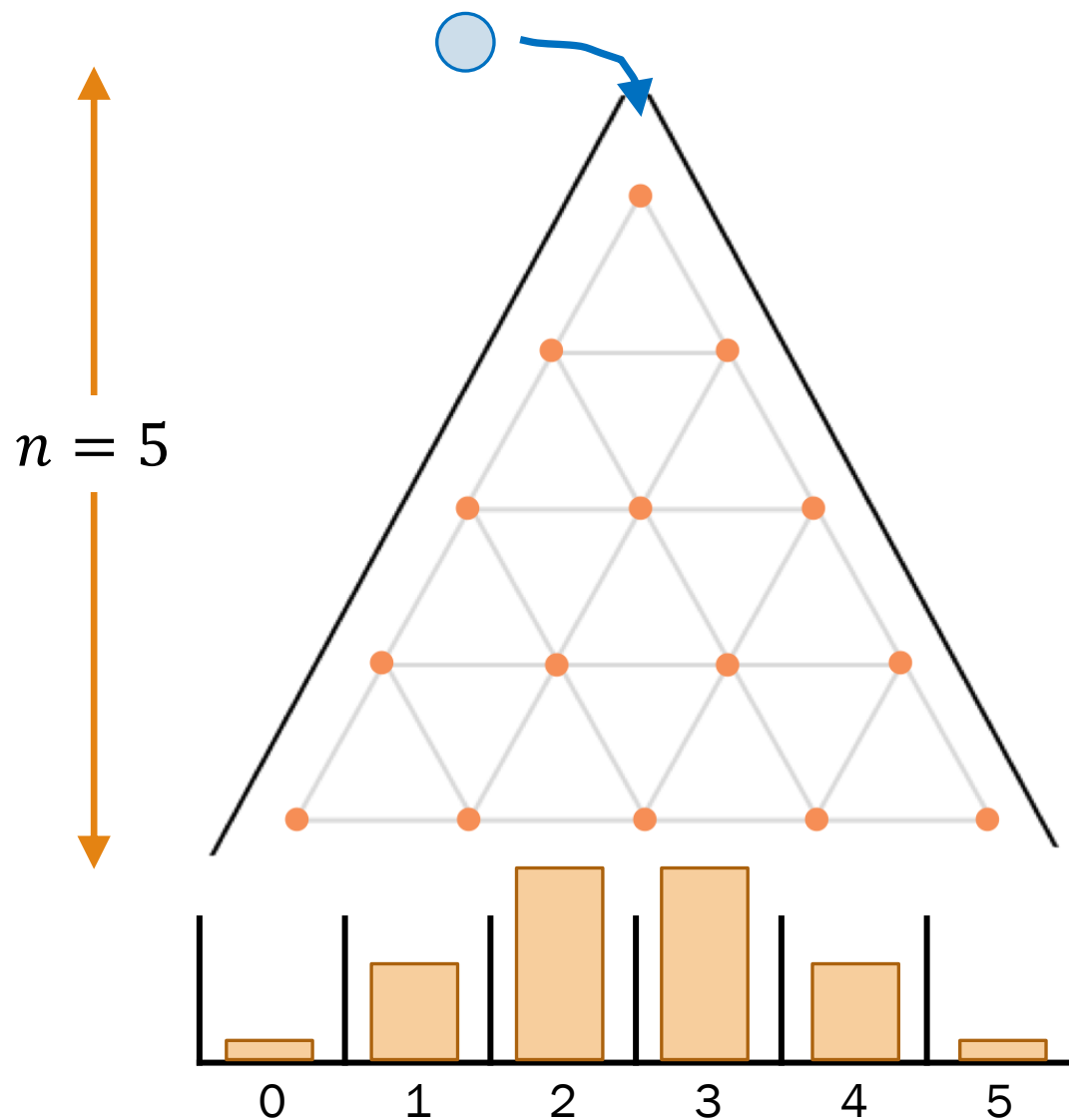
$$P(B = 1) = \binom{5}{1} 0.5^5 \approx 0.16$$

$$P(B = 2) = \binom{5}{2} 0.5^5 \approx 0.31$$



# Galton Board

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p) \quad p(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$



Let  $B$  = the **bucket index** a ball drops into.  
 $B$  is distributed as a Binomial RV,

$$B \sim \text{Bin}(n = 5, p = 0.5)$$

Calculate the probability of a ball landing in bucket  $k$ .

PMF of Binomial RV!

# Interlude for jokes/announcements

# Announcements

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JOKE HERE

# Interesting probability news

## TikTok Recommendation Algorithm Optimizations

### Empirical Evidence

Looking at my own videos, a simple power law distribution fits reasonably well. (These numbers are using the model  $P(\text{Views} \geq 10^k) = 0.3^{k-2}$ .)

<https://www.lesswrong.com/posts/sXqAFdf3a5sA3HMCH/tiktok-recommendation-algorithm-optimizations>

	Number of videos	Percentage of videos	Expected percentage of videos
>10	12	100.00%	100.00%
>100	11	91.67%	100.00%
>1,000	4	33.33%	30.00%
>10,000	1	8.33%	9.00%
>100,000	1	8.33%	2.70%
>1,000,000	0	0.00%	0.81%

# NBA Finals (RIP) and genetics



# Think, then Breakout Rooms

Check out the questions on the next slide (Slide 55). Post any clarifications here!

<https://us.edstem.org/courses/109/discussion/39075>

By yourself: 2 min

Breakout rooms: 5 min.



# NBA Finals and genetics

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1. The Golden State Warriors are going to play the Toronto Raptors in a 7-game series during the 2019 NBA finals.
  - The Warriors have a probability of 58% of winning each game, independently.
  - A team wins the series if they win at least 4 games (we play all 7 games).

What is  $P(\text{Warriors winning})$ ?

2. Each person has 2 genes per trait (e.g., eye color).
  - Child receives 1 gene (equally likely) from each parent
  - **Brown** is “dominant”, **blue** is “recessive”:
    - Child has brown eyes if either (or both) genes are brown
    - Blue eyes only if both genes are blue.
  - Parents each have 1 brown and 1 blue gene.

A family has 4 children. What is  $P(3 \text{ children with brown eyes})$ ?



# NBA Finals

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p) \quad p(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

The Golden State Warriors are going to play the Toronto Raptors in a 7-game series during the 2019 NBA finals.

- The Warriors have a probability of 58% of winning each game, independently.
- A team wins the series if they win at least 4 games (we play all 7 games).



What is  $P(\text{Warriors winning})$ ?

## 1. Define events/ RVs & state goal

$X$ : # games Warriors win  
 $X \sim \text{Bin}(7, 0.58)$

Want: \_\_\_\_\_

Desired probability? (select all that apply)

- A.  $P(X > 4)$
- B.  $P(X \geq 4)$
- C.  $P(X > 3)$
- D.  $1 - P(X \leq 3)$
- E.  $1 - P(X < 3)$



# NBA Finals

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p) \quad p(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

The Golden State Warriors are going to play the Toronto Raptors in a 7-game series during the 2019 NBA finals.

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What is  $P(\text{Warriors winning})$ ?

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$X$ : # games Warriors win  
 $X \sim \text{Bin}(7, 0.58)$

Want: \_\_\_\_\_

Desired probability? (select all that apply)

- A.  $P(X > 4)$
- B.  $P(X \geq 4)$
- C.  $P(X > 3)$
- D.  $1 - P(X \leq 3)$
- E.  $1 - P(X < 3)$

# NBA Finals

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p) \quad p(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

The Golden State Warriors are going to play the Toronto Raptors game series during the 2019 NBA finals.

- The Warriors have a probability of 58% of winning each game, independently.
- A team wins the series if they win at least 4 games (we play all 7 games).



What is P(Warriors winning)?

1. Define events/  
RVs & state goal
2. Solve

$X$ : # games Warriors win  
 $X \sim \text{Bin}(7, 0.58)$

$$P(X \geq 4) = \sum_{k=4}^7 P(X = k) = \sum_{k=4}^7 \binom{7}{k} 0.58^k (0.42)^{7-k}$$

Want:  $P(X \geq 4)$

Cool Algebra/Probability Fact: this is identical to the probability of winning if we define winning = first to win 4 games

# Genetic inheritance

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p) \quad p(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

Each person has 2 genes per trait (e.g., eye color).

- Child receives 1 gene (equally likely) from each parent
- **Brown** is “dominant”, **blue** is “recessive”:
  - Child has brown eyes if either (or both) genes are brown
  - Blue eyes only if both genes are blue.
- Parents each have 1 brown and 1 blue gene.

A family has 4 children. What is  $P(3 \text{ children with brown eyes})$ ?

- Subset of ideas:
- A. Product of 4 independent events
  - B. Probability tree
  - C. Bernoulli, success  $p = 3$  children with brown eyes
  - D. Binomial,  $n = 3$  trials, success  $p =$  brown-eyed child
  - E. Binomial,  $n = 4$  trials, success  $p =$  brown-eyed child

# Genetic inheritance

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p) \quad p(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

Each person has 2 genes per trait (e.g., eye color).

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- **Brown** is “dominant”, **blue** is “recessive”:
  - Child has brown eyes if either (or both) genes are brown
  - Blue eyes only if both genes are blue.
- Parents each have 1 brown and 1 blue gene.

A family has 4 children. What is  $P(3 \text{ children with brown eyes})$ ?

1. Define events/  
RVs & state goal
2. Identify known  
probabilities
3. Solve

$X$ : # **brown**-eyed children,

$$X \sim \text{Bin}(4, p)$$

$p$ :  $P(\text{brown-eyed child})$

Want:  $P(X = 3)$

# See you next time

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