

CSE 312

# Foundations of Computing II

Lecture 12: Finish up Bloom Filters,  
Zoo of Discrete RVs, part I

[Slido.com/4694375](https://www.slido.com/4694375)

## Agenda

- Bloom Filters Recap & Analysis
- Zoo of Discrete RVs
  - Uniform Random Variables
  - Bernoulli Random Variables
  - Binomial Random Variables
  - Geometric Random Variables



## Basic Problem

**Problem:** Store a subset  $S$  of a large set  $U$ .

**Example.**  $U$  = set of 128 bit strings

$$|U| \approx 2^{128}$$

$S$  = subset of strings of interest

$$|S| \approx 1000$$

**Two goals:**

1. **Very fast** (ideally constant time) answers to queries “ $x \in S$ ?” for any  $x \in U$ .
2. **Minimal storage** requirements.

## Bloom Filters

- Stores information about a set of elements  $S \subseteq U$ .
- Supports two operations:
  1. **add( $x$ )** - adds  $x \in U$  to the set  $S$
  2. **contains( $x$ )** – ideally: true if  $x \in S$ , false otherwise

Possible false positives

Combine with fallback mechanism – can distinguish false positives from true positives with extra cost

## Bloom Filters – Ingredients

Basic data structure is a  $k \times m$  binary array  
“the Bloom filter”

- $k$  rows  $t_1, \dots, t_k$ , each of size  $m$
- Think of each row as an  $m$ -bit vector

$k$  different hash functions  $\mathbf{h}_1, \dots, \mathbf{h}_k: U \rightarrow [m]$

$t_1$	1	0	1	0	0
$t_2$	0	1	0	0	1
$t_3$	1	0	0	1	0

t <sub>1</sub>	1	0	1	0	0
t <sub>2</sub>	0	1	0	0	1
t <sub>3</sub>	1	0	0	1	0

## Bloom Filters – Three operations

- Set up Bloom filter for  $S = \emptyset$

```

function INITIALIZE( $k, m$ )
  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ : do
     $t_i$  = new bit vector of  $m$  0s
  
```

- Update Bloom filter for  $S \leftarrow S \cup \{x\}$

```

function ADD( $x$ )
  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ : do
     $t_i[h_i(x)] = 1$ 
  
```

- Check if  $x \in S$

```

function CONTAINS( $x$ )
  return  $t_1[h_1(x)] == 1 \wedge t_2[h_2(x)] == 1 \wedge \dots \wedge t_k[h_k(x)] == 1$ 
  
```

## Bloom Filters - Initialization

```
function INITIALIZE( $k, m$ )
    for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ : do
         $t_i =$  new bit vector of  $m$  0s
```

Number of hash functions

Size of array associated to each hash function.

for each hash function, initialize an empty bit vector of size  $m$

## Bloom Filters: Example

Bloom filter  $t$  of length  $m = 5$  that uses  $k = 3$  hash functions

```
function INITIALIZE( $k, m$ )
  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ : do
     $t_i$  = new bit vector of  $m$  0s
```

Index →	0	1	2	3	4
$t_1$	0	0	0	0	0
$t_2$	0	0	0	0	0
$t_3$	0	0	0	0	0

## Bloom Filters: Add

```
function ADD( $x$ )
  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ : do
     $t_i[h_i(x)] = 1$ 
```

for each hash function  $\mathbf{h}_i$

Index into  $i$ -th bit-vector, at index produced by hash function and set to 1

$\mathbf{h}_i(x) \rightarrow$  result of hash function  $\mathbf{h}_i$  on  $x$

## Bloom Filters: Example

Bloom filter  $t$  of length  $m = 5$  that uses  $k = 3$  hash functions

```
function ADD( $x$ )
    for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ : do
         $t_i[h_i(x)] = 1$ 
```

add("thisisavirus.com")

$h_1(\text{"thisisavirus.com"}) \rightarrow 2$

Index →	0	1	2	3	4
$t_1$	0	0	0	0	0
$t_2$	0	0	0	0	0
$t_3$	0	0	0	0	0

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```

add("thisisavirus.com")

$h_1(\text{"thisisavirus.com"}) \rightarrow 2$

$h_2(\text{"thisisavirus.com"}) \rightarrow 1$

Index →	0	1	2	3	4
$t_1$	0	0	1	0	0
$t_2$	0	0	0	0	0
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$h_3(\text{"thisisavirus.com"}) \rightarrow 4$

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$t_3$	0	0	0	0	1

## Bloom Filters: Contains

```
function CONTAINS( $x$ )
    return  $t_1[h_1(x)] == 1 \wedge t_2[h_2(x)] == 1 \wedge \dots \wedge t_k[h_k(x)] == 1$ 
```

Returns True if the bit vector  $t_i$  for each hash function has bit 1 at index determined by  $h_i(x)$ ,

Returns False otherwise

## Bloom Filters: Example

Bloom filter  $t$  of length  $m = 5$  that uses  $k = 3$  hash functions

```
function CONTAINS(x)
    return  $t_1[h_1(x)] == 1 \wedge t_2[h_2(x)] == 1 \wedge \dots \wedge t_k[h_k(x)] == 1$ 
```

contains("thisisavirus.com")

Index →	0	1	2	3	4
$t_1$	0	0	1	0	0
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$t_3$	0	0	0	0	1

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True

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$h_1(\text{"thisisavirus.com"}) \rightarrow 2$

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$h_1(\text{"thisisavirus.com"}) \rightarrow 2$

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True

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$h_1(\text{"thisisavirus.com"}) \rightarrow 2$

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Index →	0	1	2	3	4
$t_1$	0	0	1	0	0
$t_2$	0	1	0	0	0
$t_3$	0	0	0	0	1

Since all conditions satisfied, returns True (correctly)

## Bloom Filters: False Positives

Bloom filter  $t$  of length  $m = 5$  that uses  $k = 3$  hash functions

add("totallynotsuspicious.com")

```
function ADD( $x$ )
    for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ : do
         $t_i[h_i(x)] = 1$ 
```

Index →	0	1	2	3	4
$t_1$	0	0	1	0	0
$t_2$	0	1	0	0	0
$t_3$	0	0	0	0	1

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    for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ : do
         $t_i[h_i(x)] = 1$ 
```

add("totallynotsuspicious.com")

$h_1(\text{"totallynotsuspicious.com"}) \rightarrow 1$

$h_2(\text{"totallynotsuspicious.com"}) \rightarrow 0$

Index →	0	1	2	3	4
$t_1$	0	1	1	0	0
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```
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    return  $t_1[h_1(x)] == 1 \wedge t_2[h_2(x)] == 1 \wedge \dots \wedge t_k[h_k(x)] == 1$ 
```

contains("verynormalsite.com")

Index →	0	1	2	3	4
$t_1$	0	1	1	0	0
$t_2$	1	1	0	0	0
$t_3$	0	0	0	0	1

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Bloom filter  $t$  of length  $m = 5$  that uses  $k = 3$  hash functions

```
function CONTAINS( $x$ )
  return  $t_1[h_1(x)] == 1 \wedge t_2[h_2(x)] == 1 \wedge \dots \wedge t_k[h_k(x)] == 1$ 
```

True

contains("verynormalsite.com")

$h_1(\text{"verynormalsite.com"}) \rightarrow 2$

Index →	0	1	2	3	4
$t_1$	0	1	1	0	0
$t_2$	1	1	0	0	0
$t_3$	0	0	0	0	1

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Bloom filter  $t$  of length  $m = 5$  that uses  $k = 3$  hash functions

```
function CONTAINS(x)
    return  $t_1[h_1(x)] == 1 \wedge t_2[h_2(x)] == 1 \wedge \dots \wedge t_k[h_k(x)] == 1$ 
```

True

True

contains("verynormalsite.com")

$h_1(\text{"verynormalsite.com"}) \rightarrow 2$

$h_2(\text{"verynormalsite.com"}) \rightarrow 0$

Index →	0	1	2	3	4
$t_1$	0	1	1	0	0
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True

True

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```

True

True

True

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$h_1(\text{"verynormalsite.com"}) \rightarrow 2$

$h_2(\text{"verynormalsite.com"}) \rightarrow 0$

$h_3(\text{"verynormalsite.com"}) \rightarrow 4$

Index →	0	1	2	3	4
------------	---	---	---	---	---

Since all conditions satisfied, returns **True** (incorrectly)

$t_1$	0	1	1	0	0
$t_2$	1	1	0	0	0
$t_3$	0	0	0	0	1

## Analysis: False positive probability

t <sub>1</sub>	1	0	1	0	0
t <sub>2</sub>	0	1	0	0	1
t <sub>3</sub>	1	0	0	1	0

**Question:** For an element  $x \in U$ , what is the probability that **contains**( $x$ ) returns true if **add**( $x$ ) was never executed before?

Probability over what?!     Over the choice of the  $\mathbf{h}_1, \dots, \mathbf{h}_k$

Assumptions for the analysis (somewhat stronger than for ordinary hashing):

- Each  $\mathbf{h}_i(x)$  is uniformly distributed in  $[m]$  for all  $x$  and  $i$
- Hash function outputs for each  $\mathbf{h}_i$  are mutually independent (not just in pairs)
- Different hash functions are independent of each other

t <sub>1</sub>	1	0	1	0	0
t <sub>2</sub>	0	1	0	1	1
t <sub>3</sub>	1	0	0	1	0

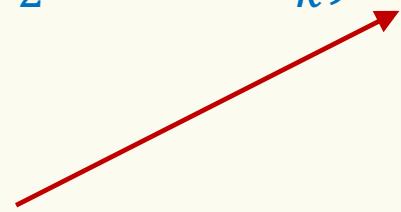
## False positive probability – Events

Assume we perform  $\text{add}(x_1), \dots, \text{add}(x_n)$   
+  $\text{contains}(x)$  for  $x \notin \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$

Event  $E_i$  holds iff  $\mathbf{h}_i(x) \in \{\mathbf{h}_i(x_1), \dots, \mathbf{h}_i(x_n)\}$

$$P(\text{false positive}) = P(E_1 \cap E_2 \cap \dots \cap E_k) = \prod_{i=1}^k P(E_i)$$

$\mathbf{h}_1, \dots, \mathbf{h}_k$  independent



t <sub>1</sub>	1	0	1	0	0
t <sub>2</sub>	0	1	0	1	1
t <sub>3</sub>	1	0	0	1	0

## False positive probability – Events

Event  $E_i$  holds iff  $\mathbf{h}_i(x) \in \{\mathbf{h}_i(x_1), \dots, \mathbf{h}_i(x_n)\}$

Event  $E_i^c$  holds iff  $\mathbf{h}_i(x) \neq \mathbf{h}_i(x_1)$  and ... and  $\mathbf{h}_i(x) \neq \mathbf{h}_i(x_n)$

$$P(E_i^c) = \sum_{z=1}^m P(\mathbf{h}_i(x) = z) \cdot P(E_i^c | \mathbf{h}_i(x) = z)$$

↑  
LTP

## False positive probability – Events

Event  $E_i^c$  holds iff  $\mathbf{h}_i(x) \neq \mathbf{h}_i(x_1)$  and ...  
and  $\mathbf{h}_i(x) \neq \mathbf{h}_i(x_n)$

$$P(E_i^c | \mathbf{h}_i(x) = z) = P(\mathbf{h}_i(x_1) \neq z, \dots, \mathbf{h}_i(x_n) \neq z | \mathbf{h}_i(x) = z)$$

Independence of values  
of  $\mathbf{h}_i$  on different inputs

$$= P(\mathbf{h}_i(x_1) \neq z, \dots, \mathbf{h}_i(x_n) \neq z)$$

$$= \prod_{j=1}^n P(\mathbf{h}_i(x_j) \neq z)$$

## False positive probability – Events

Event  $E_i^c$  holds iff  $\mathbf{h}_i(x) \neq \mathbf{h}_i(x_1)$  and ...  
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Independence of values  
of  $\mathbf{h}_i$  on different inputs

$$= P(\mathbf{h}_i(x_1) \neq z, \dots, \mathbf{h}_i(x_n) \neq z)$$

$$= \prod_{j=1}^n P(\mathbf{h}_i(x_j) \neq z)$$

Outputs of  $\mathbf{h}_i$  uniformly spread

$$= \prod_{j=1}^n \left(1 - \frac{1}{m}\right) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{m}\right)^n$$

$$\rightarrow P(E_i^c) = \sum_{z=1}^m P(\mathbf{h}_i(x) = z) \cdot P(E_i^c | \mathbf{h}_i(x) = z) =$$

## False positive probability – Events

Event  $E_i^c$  holds iff  $\mathbf{h}_i(x) \neq \mathbf{h}_i(x_1)$  and ...  
and  $\mathbf{h}_i(x) \neq \mathbf{h}_i(x_n)$

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$$\rightarrow P(E_i^c) = \sum_{z=1}^m P(\mathbf{h}_i(x) = z) \cdot P(E_i^c | \mathbf{h}_i(x) = z) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{m}\right)^n$$

t <sub>1</sub>	1	0	1	0	0
t <sub>2</sub>	0	1	0	1	1
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## False positive probability – Events

Event  $E_i$  holds iff  $\mathbf{h}_i(x) \in \{\mathbf{h}_i(x_1), \dots, \mathbf{h}_i(x_n)\}$

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$$P(E_i^c) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{m}\right)^n$$



$$\text{FPR} = \prod_{i=1}^k (1 - P(E_i^c)) =$$

## False Positivity Rate – Example

$$\text{FPR} = \left(1 - \left(1 - \frac{1}{m}\right)^n\right)^k$$

e.g.,  $n = 5,000,000$

$k = 30$

$m = 2,500,000$



FPR = 1.28%

## Comparison with Hash Tables - Space

- Google storing 5 million URLs, each URL 40 bytes.
- Bloom filter with  $k = 30$  and  $m = 2,500,000$

### Hash Table

(optimistic)

$$5,000,000 \times 40B = 200MB$$

### Bloom Filter

$$2,500,000 \times 30 = 75,000,000 \text{ bits}$$

$< 10 \text{ MB}$

## Time

- Say avg user visits 102,000 URLs in a year, of which 2,000 are malicious.
- 0.5 seconds to do lookup in the database, 1ms for lookup in Bloom filter.
- Suppose the false positive rate is 3%

$$1\text{ms} + \frac{100000 \times 0.03 \times 500\text{ms}}{102000} + 2000 \times 500 \text{ ms} \approx 25.51\text{ms}$$

Diagram annotations:

- A red arrow points from the text "Bloom filter lookup" to the term "1ms".
- A red arrow points from the text "false positives" to the term " $100000 \times 0.03 \times 500\text{ms}$ ".
- A red arrow points from the text "malicious URLs" to the term " $2000 \times 500 \text{ ms}$ ".
- A red arrow points from the text "0.5 seconds DB lookup" to the term "500ms".

## Bloom Filters typical of....

... randomized algorithms and randomized data structures.

- Simple
- Fast
- Efficient
- Elegant
- Useful!



CSE 312

# Foundations of Computing II

Zoo of Discrete RVs, part I

[Slido.com/4694375](https://www.slido.com/4694375)

## Motivation for “Named” Random Variables

Random Variables that show up all over the place.

- Easily solve a problem by recognizing it's a special case of one of these random variables.

Each RV introduced today will show:

- A general situation it models
- Its name and parameters
- Its PMF, Expectation, and Variance
- Example scenarios you can use it

# Welcome to the Zoo! (Preview)



$X \sim \text{Unif}(a, b)$

$$P(X = k) = \frac{1}{b - a + 1}$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{a + b}{2}$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{(b - a)(b - a + 2)}{12}$$

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

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

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = p$$

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

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

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

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = np$$

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

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

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

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{1}{p}$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{1 - p}{p^2}$$

$X \sim \text{NegBin}(r, p)$

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

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{r}{p}$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{r(1 - p)}{p^2}$$

$X \sim \text{HypGeo}(N, K, n)$

$$P(X = k) = \frac{\binom{K}{k} \binom{N-K}{n-k}}{\binom{N}{n}}$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = n \frac{K}{N}$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = n \frac{K(N - K)(N - n)}{N^2(N - 1)}$$

## Agenda

- Bloom Filters Example & Analysis
- Zoo of Discrete RVs, Part I
  - Uniform Random Variables 
  - Bernoulli Random Variables
  - Binomial Random Variables
  - Geometric Random Variables

# Discrete Uniform Random Variables

A discrete random variable  $X$  **equally likely** to take any (integer) value between integers  $a$  and  $b$  (inclusive), is **uniform**.

**Notation:**

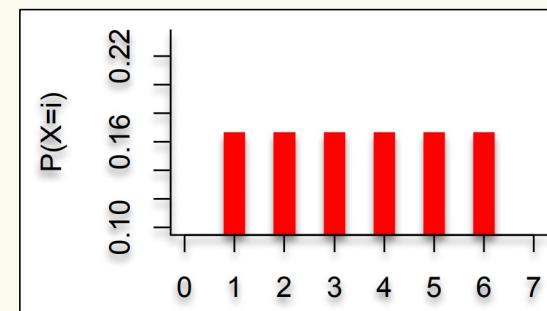
**PMF:**

**Expectation:**

**Variance:**

**Example:** value shown on one roll of a fair die is  $\text{Unif}(1,6)$ :

- $P(X = i) = 1/6$
- $\mathbb{E}[X] = 7/2$
- $\text{Var}(X) = 35/12$



## Discrete Uniform Random Variables

A discrete random variable  $X$  **equally likely** to take any (integer) value between integers  $a$  and  $b$  (inclusive), is **uniform**.

**Notation:**  $X \sim \text{Unif}(a, b)$

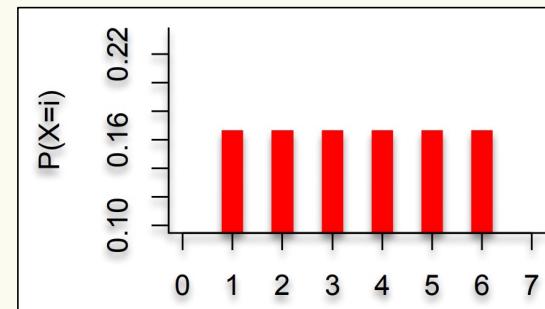
**PMF:**  $P(X = i) = \frac{1}{b - a + 1}$

**Expectation:**  $\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{a+b}{2}$

**Variance:**  $\text{Var}(X) = \frac{(b-a)(b-a+2)}{12}$

**Example:** value shown on one roll of a fair die is  $\text{Unif}(1,6)$ :

- $P(X = i) = 1/6$
- $\mathbb{E}[X] = 7/2$
- $\text{Var}(X) = 35/12$



## Agenda

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  - Bernoulli Random Variables ◀
  - Binomial Random Variables
  - Geometric Random Variables

## Bernoulli Random Variables

A random variable  $X$  that takes value  $1$  (“Success”) with probability  $p$ , and  $0$  (“Failure”) otherwise.  $X$  is called a **Bernoulli random variable**.

**Notation:**  $X \sim \text{Ber}(p)$

**PMF:**  $P(X = 1) = p, P(X = 0) = 1 - p$

**Expectation:**

**Variance:**

**Poll:**

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- |    | Mean | Variance   |
|----|------|------------|
| A. | $p$  | $p$        |
| B. | $p$  | $1 - p$    |
| C. | $p$  | $p(1 - p)$ |
| D. | $p$  | $p^2$      |

## Bernoulli Random Variables

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**Notation:**  $X \sim \text{Ber}(p)$

**PMF:**  $P(X = 1) = p, P(X = 0) = 1 - p$

**Expectation:**  $\mathbb{E}[X] = p$       Note:  $\mathbb{E}[X^2] = p$

**Variance:**  $\text{Var}(X) = \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2 = p - p^2 = p(1 - p)$

### Examples:

- Coin flip
- Randomly guessing on a MC test question
- A server in a cluster fails
- Whether or not a particular share of a particular stock pays off or not
- Any indicator r.v.

## Agenda

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## Binomial Random Variables

A discrete random variable  $X = \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i$  where each  $Y_i \sim \text{Ber}(p)$ .

Counts number of successes in  $n$  independent trials, each with probability  $p$  of success.

$X$  is a **Binomial random variable**

### Examples:

- # of heads in  $n$  indep coin flips
- # of 1s in a randomly generated  $n$  bit string
- # of servers that fail in a cluster of  $n$  computers
- # of bit errors in file written to disk
- # of elements in a bucket of a large hash table
- # of  $n$  different stocks that “pay off”

### Poll:

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- $P(X = k) =$
- A.  $p^k(1 - p)^{n-k}$
  - B.  $np$
  - C.  $\binom{n}{k}p^k(1 - p)^{n-k}$
  - D.  $\binom{n}{n-k}p^k(1 - p)^{n-k}$

## Binomial Random Variables

A discrete random variable  $X = \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i$  where each  $Y_i \sim \text{Ber}(p)$ .

Counts number of successes in  $n$  independent trials, each with probability  $p$  of success.

$X$  is a **Binomial random variable**

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

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

**Expectation:**

**Variance:**

Poll:

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	Mean	Variance
A.	$p$	$p$
B.	$np$	$np(1 - p)$
C.	$np$	$np^2$
D.	$np$	$n^2p$

## Binomial Random Variables

A discrete random variable  $X = \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i$  where each  $Y_i \sim \text{Ber}(p)$ .

Counts number of successes in  $n$  independent trials, each with probability  $p$  of success.

$X$  is a **Binomial random variable**

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

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

**Expectation:**  $\mathbb{E}[X] = np$

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

## Mean, Variance of the Binomial

“i.i.d.” is a commonly used phrase.

It means “independent & identically distributed”

If  $Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n \sim \text{Ber}(p)$  and independent (i.i.d.), then

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i, \quad X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$$

**Claim**  $\mathbb{E}[X] = np$

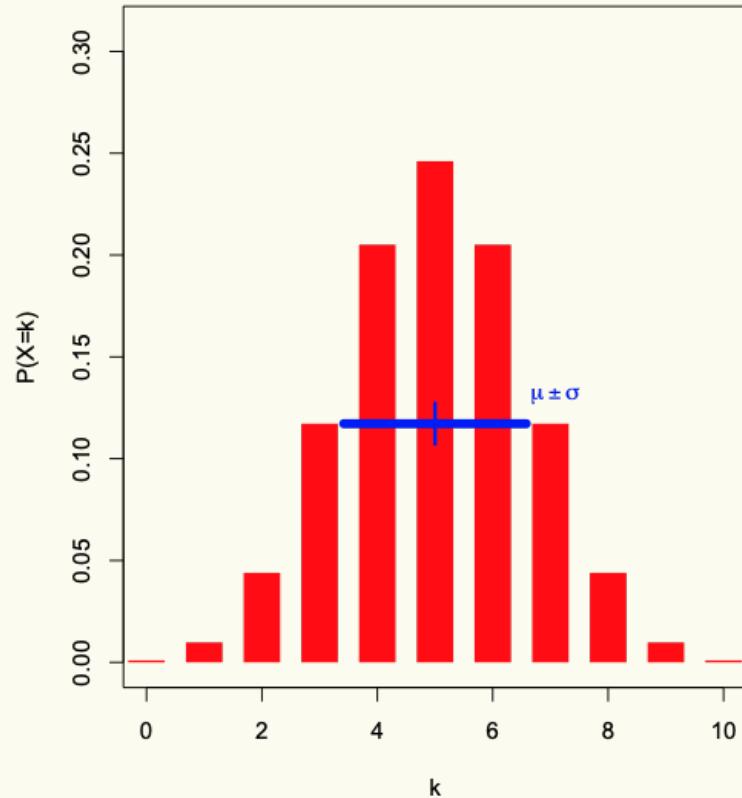
$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n Y_i\right] = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}[Y_i] = n\mathbb{E}[Y_1] = np$$

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

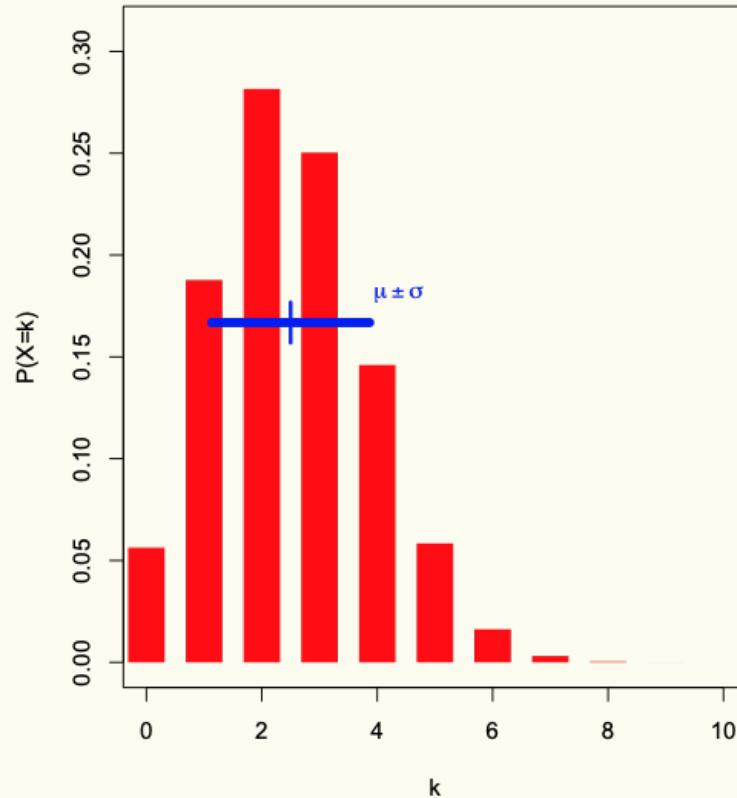
$$\text{Var}(X) = \text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n Y_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(Y_i) = n\text{Var}(Y_1) = np(1 - p)$$

## Binomial PMFs

PMF for  $X \sim \text{Bin}(10, 0.5)$

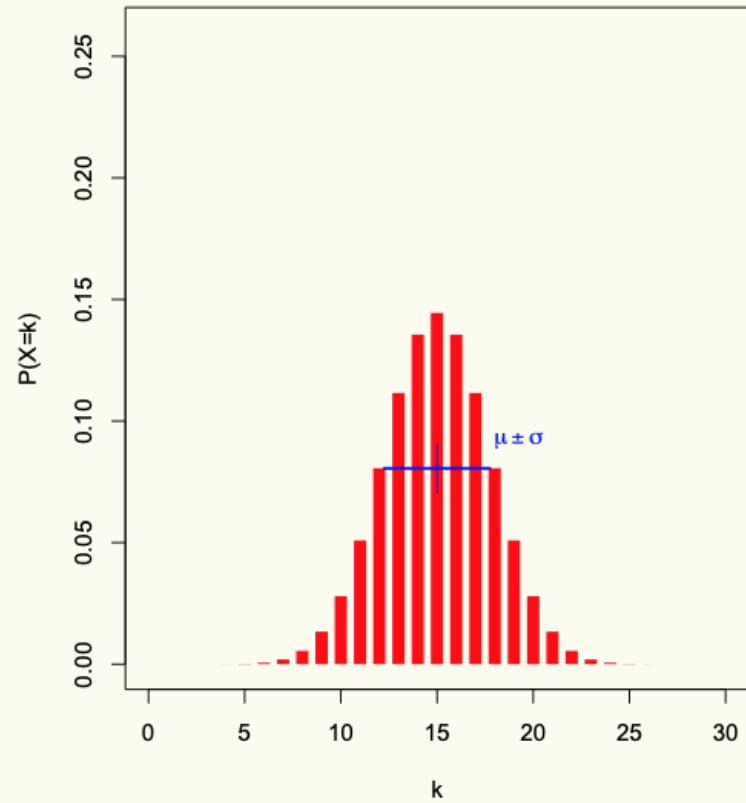


PMF for  $X \sim \text{Bin}(10, 0.25)$

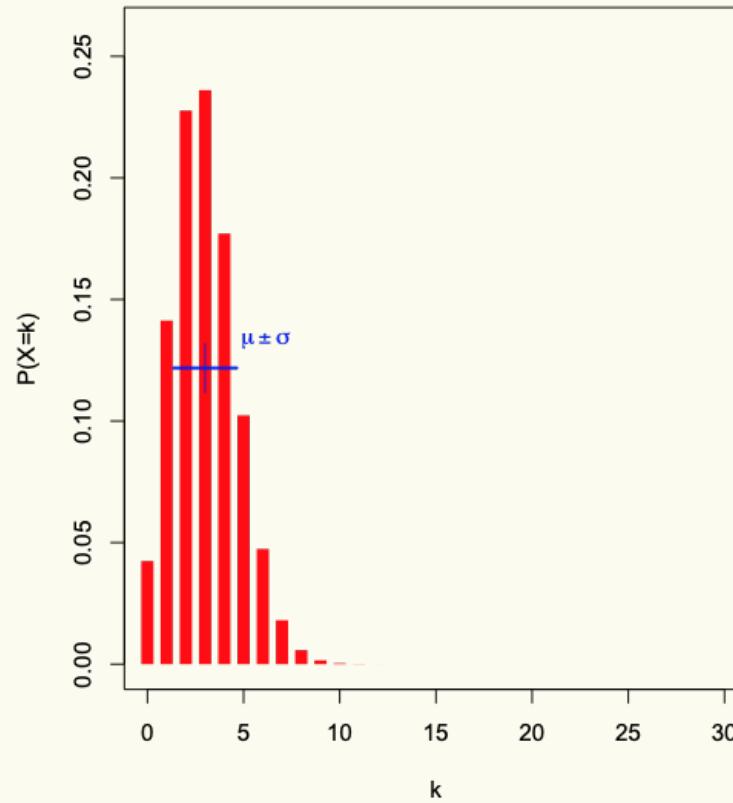


## Binomial PMFs

PMF for  $X \sim \text{Bin}(30, 0.5)$



PMF for  $X \sim \text{Bin}(30, 0.1)$



## Agenda

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## Geometric Random Variables

A discrete random variable  $X$  that models the number of independent trials  $Y_i \sim \text{Ber}(p)$  before seeing the first success.

$X$  is called a **Geometric random variable** with parameter  $p$ .

**Notation:**  $X \sim \text{Geo}(p)$

**PMF:**

**Expectation:**

**Variance:**

### Examples:

- # of coin flips until first head
- # of random guesses on MC questions until you get one right
- # of random guesses at a password until you hit it

## Geometric Random Variables

A discrete random variable  $X$  that models the number of independent trials  $Y_i \sim \text{Ber}(p)$  before seeing the first success.

$X$  is called a **Geometric random variable** with parameter  $p$ .

**Notation:**  $X \sim \text{Geo}(p)$

**PMF:**  $P(X = k) = (1 - p)^{k-1} p$

**Expectation:**  $\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{1}{p}$

**Variance:**  $\text{Var}(X) = \frac{1-p}{p^2}$

### Examples:

- # of coin flips until first head
- # of random guesses on MC questions until you get one right
- # of random guesses at a password until you hit it

## Agenda

- Bloom Filters Example & Analysis
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  - Bernoulli Random Variables
  - Binomial Random Variables
  - Geometric Random Variables
  - More examples 

## Example

Sending a binary message of length **1024** bits over a network with probability **0.999** of correctly sending each bit in the message without corruption (independent of other bits).

Let  $X$  be the number of corrupted bits.

What kind of random variable is this and what is  $\mathbb{E}[X]$ ?

Poll:

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- a. 1022.99
- b. 1.024
- c. 1.02298
- d. 1

## Example: Music Lessons

Your music teacher requires you to play a **1000** note song without mistake. You have been practicing, so you have a probability of **0.999** of getting each note correct (independent of the others). If you mess up a single note in the song, you must start over and play from the beginning. Let  $X$  be the number of times you have to play the song from the start. What kind of random variable is this and what is  $\mathbb{E}[X]$ ?