

QSA 107 10-18-22

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• hw3 due Thur.

• lab2 Posted.

Mean and Variance of Geometric r.v.

Recall if X is geometric, Parameter p , then

$$P_X(k) = (1-p)^{k-1} p \quad (k=1, 2, 3 \dots)$$

so

$$\bullet E[X] = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k (1-p)^{k-1} p$$

$$\bullet E[X^2] = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k^2 (1-p)^{k-1} p$$

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

find $E[X]$ using total expectation

let

$$A_1 = \{X=1\} = \{1^{\text{st}} \text{ flip is head}\}$$

and

$$A_2 = \{X \geq 1\} = \{1^{\text{st}} \text{ flip is tail}\}$$

$$\therefore P(A_1) = p, P(A_2) = 1-p$$

Also $E[X|A_1] = 1$, and

$$\begin{aligned} E[X|A_2] &= E[1+X] \\ &= 1 + E[X] \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} E[X] &= P(A_1) \cdot E[X|A_1] + P(A_2) \cdot E[X|A_2] \\ &= p \cdot 1 + (1-p)(1+E[X]) \end{aligned}$$

$$\cancel{E[X]} = \cancel{p} + 1 - \cancel{p} - p \cancel{E[X]} + \cancel{E[X]}$$

$$\therefore p E[X] = 1$$

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

Similarly

$$E[X^2 | A_1] = 1$$

and

$$E[X^2 | A_2] = E[(1+X)^2]$$

$$= E[1 + 2X + X^2]$$

$$= 1 + 2E[X] + E[X^2]$$

Thus

$$E[X^2] = p \cdot 1 + (1-p)(1 + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{p} + E[X^2])$$

$$E[X^2] = \cancel{p} + 1 + \frac{2}{p} + E[\cancel{X^2}] - \cancel{p} - 2 - pE[X^2]$$

$$pE[X^2] = -1 + \frac{2}{p}$$

$$\therefore E[X^2] = \frac{2}{p^2} - \frac{1}{p}$$

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

$$= \left(\frac{2}{p^2} - \frac{1}{p} \right) - \frac{1}{p^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{p^2} - \frac{1}{p}$$

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