Table 1 Discrete Distributions

Distribution	Probability Function	Mean	Variance	Moment-Generating Function
Binomial	$p(y) = \binom{n}{y} p^y (1-p)^{n-y}$; $y = 0, 1, \ldots, n$	np	$np(1-p)$	$[pe^t + (1-p)]^n$
Geometric	$p(y) = p(1-p)^{y-1}$; $y = 1, 2, \ldots$	$\frac{1}{p}$	$\frac{1-p}{p^2}$	$\frac{pe^t}{1-(1-p)e^t}$
Hypergeometric	$p(y) = \frac{\binom{r}{y}\binom{N-r}{n-y}}{\binom{N}{n}}$; $y = 0, 1, \ldots, n$ if $n \le r$, $y = 0, 1, \ldots, r$ if $n > r$	$\frac{nr}{N}$	$n\left(\frac{r}{N}\right)\left(\frac{N-r}{N}\right)\left(\frac{N-n}{N-1}\right)$	does not exist in closed form
Poisson	$p(y) = \frac{\lambda^y e^{-\lambda}}{y!}$; $y = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$	λ	λ	$\exp[\lambda(e^t - 1)]$
Negative binomial	$p(y) = \binom{y-1}{r-1} p^r (1-p)^{y-r}$; $y = r, r+1, \ldots$	$\frac{r}{p}$	$\frac{r(1-p)}{p^2}$	$\left[\frac{pe^t}{1-(1-p)e^t}\right]^r$

The Binomial Expansion of $(x+y)^n$ Let x and y be any real numbers, then

$$(x+y)^n = \binom{n}{0}x^n y^0 + \binom{n}{1}x^{n-1}y^1 + \binom{n}{2}x^{n-2}y^2 + \cdots + \binom{n}{n}x^0 y^n$$

$$= \sum_{i=0}^{n}\binom{n}{i}x^{n-i}y^i.$$

The Sum of a Geometric Series Let r be a real number such that $|r| < 1$, and m be any integer $m \ge 1$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} r^i = \frac{1}{1-r}, \quad \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} r^i = \frac{r}{1-r}, \quad \sum_{i=0}^{m} r^i = \frac{1-r^{m+1}}{1-r}.$$

The (Taylor) Series Expansion of e^x Let x be any real number, then

$$e^x = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty}\frac{x^i}{i!}.$$