

Theorem The product of n mutually independent Bernoulli random variables is Bernoulli.

Proof Let X_1 and X_2 be independent Bernoulli random variables with parameters $0 < p_1 < 1$ and $0 < p_2 < 1$, respectively. We can write their probability mass functions as:

$$f_{X_1}(x_1) = p_1^{x_1}(1 - p_1)^{1-x_1} \quad x_1 = 0, 1$$

and

$$f_{X_2}(x_2) = p_2^{x_2}(1 - p_2)^{1-x_2} \quad x_2 = 0, 1.$$

Now consider $Y = X_1X_2$. Since both X_1 and X_2 have support $\{0, 1\}$, Y must also have this same support. So Y will be 0 when $X_1 = 0$, $X_2 = 0$, or both. So Y will be 1 when both X_1 and X_2 equal 1. This gives us the following probability mass function for Y :

$$f_Y(y) = \begin{cases} (1 - p_1)p_2 + p_1(1 - p_2) + (1 - p_1)(1 - p_2) = 1 - p_1p_2 & y = 0, \\ p_1p_2 & y = 1, \end{cases}$$

which can be rewritten as

$$f_Y(y) = p^y(1 - p)^{1-y} \quad y = 0, 1,$$

where $p = p_1p_2$. This is the probability mass function of a Bernoulli random variable with parameter p , so therefore the product of two independent Bernoulli random variables is Bernoulli.

Induction can be used with the above result to verify that the product of n mutually independent Bernoulli random variables is Bernoulli. Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be n mutually independent Bernoulli random variables. Consider their product $X_1X_2 \dots X_n$. By the result above, X_1X_2 is Bernoulli. Suppose we've demonstrated that $\prod_{i=1}^k X_i$ is a Bernoulli random variable. Consider $\prod_{i=1}^{k+1} X_i$. Since X_{k+1} is also Bernoulli, $\prod_{i=1}^{k+1} X_i$ is Bernoulli by the result above. It follows by induction that $X_1X_2 \dots X_n$ must be Bernoulli.

APPL verification: The APPL statements

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X1 := BernoulliRV(p1);
X2 := BernoulliRV(p2);
simplify(Product(X1, X2));
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verify that the product of two independent Bernoulli random variables is Bernoulli.