

**Theorem** The negative hypergeometric distribution is a special case of the beta-binomial distribution when  $a = n_1$ ,  $b = n_3 - n_1$ , and  $n = n_2$ . [This result is incorrectly stated on the chart. The error was detected and corrected by Jean Peyhardi at the University of Montpellier in October of 2017. Thank you Professor Peyhardi!]

**Proof** Let the random variable  $X \sim \text{beta-binomial}(a, b, n)$ . The probability mass function of  $X$  is

$$f(x) = \frac{\Gamma(x+a)\Gamma(n-x+b)\Gamma(a+b)\Gamma(n+2)}{(n+1)\Gamma(a+b+n)\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)\Gamma(x+1)\Gamma(n-x+1)} \quad x = 0, 1, \dots, n.$$

Substituting  $a = n_1$ ,  $b = n_3 - n_1$ , and  $n = n_2$  yields

$$f(x) = \frac{\Gamma(x+n_1)\Gamma(n_2-x+n_3-n_1)\Gamma(n_3)\Gamma(n_2+2)}{(n_2+1)\Gamma(n_2+n_3)\Gamma(n_1)\Gamma(n_3-n_1)\Gamma(x+1)\Gamma(n_2-x+1)} \quad x = 0, 1, \dots, n_2.$$

This reduces to

$$f(x) = \frac{(x+n_1-1)!(n_2-x+n_3-n_1-1)!(n_3-1)!(n_2)!}{(n_2+n_3-1)!(n_1-1)!(n_3-n_1-1)!(x)!(n_2-x)!} \quad x = 0, 1, \dots, n_2$$

because  $\Gamma(n) = (n-1)!$  when  $n$  is an integer. This reduces to

$$f(x) = \frac{\binom{n_1+x-1}{x} \binom{n_3-n_1+n_2-x-1}{n_2-x}}{\binom{n_3+n_2-1}{n_2}} \quad x = 0, 1, \dots, n_2,$$

which is the probability mass function of a negative hypergeometric( $n_1, n_2, n_3$ ) random variable.