
If a coin is tossed 4 times, then the possible outcomes are:

HHHH, HHHT, HHTT, HTTT, THHH, ...

For the longest string of heads, X can take the values 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4.

(As when a coin is tossed 4 times, we can get minimum 0 and maximum 4 strings.)

Now,

$$P(X = 0) = P(0 \text{ head}) = \frac{1}{16}$$

$$P(X = 1) = P(1 \text{ head}) = \frac{4}{16}$$

$$P(X = 2) = P(2 \text{ heads}) = \frac{6}{16}$$

$$P(X = 3) = P(3 \text{ heads}) = \frac{4}{16}$$

$$P(X = 4) = P(4 \text{ heads}) = \frac{1}{16}$$

Thus, the probability distribution of X is given by

x	$P(X)$
0	$\frac{1}{16}$
1	$\frac{4}{16}$
2	$\frac{6}{16}$
3	$\frac{4}{16}$
4	$\frac{1}{16}$

Computation of mean and variance

x_i	p_i	$p_i x_i$	$p_i x_i^2$
0	$\frac{1}{16}$	0	0
1	$\frac{4}{16}$	$\frac{4}{16}$	$\frac{4}{16}$
2	$\frac{6}{16}$	$\frac{12}{16}$	$\frac{24}{16}$
3	$\frac{4}{16}$	$\frac{12}{16}$	$\frac{36}{16}$
4	$\frac{1}{16}$	$\frac{4}{16}$	1
		$\sum p_i x_i = 2$	$\sum p_i x_i^2 = 5$

$$\text{Mean} = \sum p_i x_i = 2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Variance} &= \sum p_i x_i^2 - (\text{Mean})^2 \\ &= 5 - 4 \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$