

# STA5172 Random Variables in R

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## 1 Counting in R

1. In R, combinations can be calculated using the `choose()` function. The `choose` function calculates the combinatorial of the parameters it is given. `Choose(n, r)`, with parameter `n` and `r`, calculates  $\binom{n}{r}$ . For example:

```
> #calculate number of combinations of  
> #choosing 3 nucleotides from 4  
> choose(4,3)  
[1] 4
```

2. Gamma functions can be used together to perform any permutation or combinatorial counting procedure. For example, to calculate the numbers of unique 8-mer peptide arrangements taken from the 20 amino acids (order is important here so it is a permutation), simply use the formulae

```
> gamma(21)/gamma(13)  
[1] 5079110400
```

## 2 Random variables

For example, consider the RNA sequence: AUGCUUCGAAUGCUGUAUGAUGUC. In this sequence there are 5 As, 9 Us, 6 Gs, and 4 Cs with a total of 24 residues. To model this sequence, the random variable `X` can be used where `X` represents the nucleotide residues. Because there are advantages to working with quantitative information, when the data is described qualitatively a random variable is used to assign a number to the non-numerical outcomes. For this experiment let's assign the random variable values representing A as 0, C as 1, G as 2 and U as 3. A small letter represents the outcome of the random variable, so little `x` can be used here. So, in probability terms, the model represented using the random variable `X` for this experiment is given in Table 6-1.

In R a simple histogram can be used to model the probability distribution function for this example.

```
> X<-c(0,1,2,3)  
> Prob<-c(0.208,0.167,0.25,0.375)  
> N<-c(A, C, G, U)  
> barplot(Prob,names=N,ylab="Probability", main="RNA Residue Analysis")
```

To model cdf

```
> CumProb<-c(0.208, 0.375, 0.625, 1)
> plot(X,CumProb,xlim=range(0,1,2,3,4), main="RNA Residue Analysis CDF",
xlab="X=", type="S")
```

### 3 Random variables

- Functions are provided to evaluate the cumulative distribution function  $P(X \leq x)$ , the probability density function and the quantile function (given  $q$ , the smallest  $x$  such that  $P(X \leq x) > q$ ), and to simulate from the distribution.

| Distribution   | R name  | additional arguments |
|----------------|---------|----------------------|
| beta           | beta    | shape1,shape2, ncp   |
| binomial       | binom   | size, prob           |
| Cauchy         | cauchy  | location, scale      |
| chi-squared    | chisq   | df, ncp              |
| exponential    | exp     | rate                 |
| F              | f       | df1, df2, ncp        |
| gamma          | gamma   | shape, scale         |
| geometric      | geom    | prob                 |
| hypergeometric | hyper   | m,n,k                |
| log-normal     | lnorm   | meanlog, sdlog       |
| logistic       | logis   | location, scale      |
| neg. binomial  | nbinom  | size, prob           |
| normal         | norm    | mean, sd             |
| Poisson        | pois    | lambda               |
| Students t     | t       | df, ncp              |
| uniform        | unif    | min, max             |
| Weibull        | weibull | shape, scale         |
| Wilcoxon       | wilcox  | m, n                 |

- Plot the pmf and cdf of Binomial random variables

```
> x<-0:10
> y<-dbinom(0:10,10,0.16)
> data.frame("Prob"=y,row.names=x)
> plot(0:10,dbinom(0:10,10,0.16),,type='h',xlab="",ylab="Probability",
sub="Number of kids with blue eyes")
> par(mfrow=c(2,2))
> plot(0:10,dbinom(0:10,10,0.05),type='h',xlab="",ylab="Prob", sub="p=0.05")
> plot(0:10,dbinom(0:10,10,0.2),type='h',xlab="",ylab="Prob", sub="p=0.2")
> plot(0:10,dbinom(0:10,10,0.5),type='h',xlab="",ylab="Prob", sub="p=0.5")
> plot(0:10,dbinom(0:10,10,0.8),type='h',xlab="",ylab="Prob", sub="p=0.8")
> par(mfrow=c(2,2))
> plot(0:10,pbinom(0:10,10,0.05),type='s',xlab="",ylab="Prob", sub="p=0.05")
> plot(0:10,pbinom(0:10,10,0.2),type='s',xlab="",ylab="Prob",sub="p=0.2")
```

```
> plot(0:10,pbinom(0:10,10,0.5),type='s',xlab="",ylab="Prob",sub="p=0.5")  
> plot(0:10,pbinom(0:10,10,0.8),type='s',xlab="",ylab="Prob",sub="p=0.8")
```