

Average (Mean) values calculation for Random Walk Problem) -

From the earlier lecture notes, we have the probability of taking n_1 steps to the right & n_2 steps left where $n_2 = N - n_1$

$$W(n_1) = \frac{N!}{n_1! (N-n_1)!} p^{n_1} q^{N-n_1} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Let us calculate $\sum_{n_1=0}^N W(n_1)$

$$\sum_{n_1=0}^N \frac{N!}{n_1! (N-n_1)!} p^{n_1} q^{N-n_1} = (p+q)^N$$

Where we have used the binomial theorem

$$\text{or } \sum_{n_1=0}^N W(n_1) = (p+q)^N = 1^N = 1$$

$$\boxed{\sum_{n_1=0}^N W(n_1) = 1} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

\Rightarrow Probability of making any number of right steps between 0 and N is unity $\Rightarrow W(n_1)$ is normalized

Next, Mean of n_1 is given by

$$\bar{n}_1 = \sum_{n_1=0}^N W(n_1) n_1 = \sum_{n_1=0}^N \frac{N!}{n_1! (N-n_1)!} p^{n_1} q^{N-n_1} \times n_1 \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

Let us use some mathematical trick to simplify the above expression.

We can write $n_1 \bar{p}^{n_1} = p \frac{\partial}{\partial p} (p^{n_1})$
 using above expression in (3)

$$\bar{n}_1 = \sum_{n_1=0}^N \frac{N!}{n_1!(N-n_1)!} \left[p \frac{\partial}{\partial p} (p^{n_1}) \right] q^{N-n_1}$$

$$\text{or } \bar{n}_1 = p \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \left[\sum_{n_1=0}^N \frac{N!}{n_1!(N-n_1)!} p^{n_1} q^{N-n_1} \right]$$

This is binomial expansion of $(p+q)^N$

$$\bar{n}_1 = p \frac{\partial}{\partial p} (p+q)^N = p N (p+q)^{N-1}$$

~~= p~~

$$\boxed{\bar{n}_1 = p N (p+q)^{N-1}} \rightarrow \text{True for arbitrary values of } p \neq q$$

for specific case, ~~q=1~~ $p+q=1$, then

$$\boxed{\bar{n}_1 = Np} \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

H.W. Calculate \bar{n}_2 using the above procedure

Here we can guess \bar{n}_2 from eqⁿ (4). p is the probability of making a right step, the mean number of right step is given by total no. of steps multiplied by the probability p . Thus.

$$\boxed{\bar{n}_2 = Nq} \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

$$\text{and } \bar{n}_1 + \bar{n}_2 = Np + Nq = N(p+q) = N$$

~~displacement~~ displacement $m = n_1 - n_2$

$$\text{mean displacement } \Rightarrow \bar{m} = \bar{n}_1 - \bar{n}_2 = \bar{n}_1 - \bar{n}_2$$

$$\text{or } \boxed{\bar{m} = N(p-q)} \quad \text{--- (6)}$$

If, for special case, $p=q$

$$\bar{m} = 0$$

Dispersion: $\overline{(\Delta m_1)^2} = \overline{(m_1 - \bar{m}_1)^2}$

$$= \overline{m_1^2 - 2m_1\bar{m}_1 + \bar{m}_1^2}$$

$$= \overline{m_1^2} - 2\bar{m}_1^2 + \bar{m}_1^2$$

$$\overline{(\Delta m_1)^2} = \overline{m_1^2} - \bar{m}_1^2$$

From ① $\overline{m_1^2} = \sum_{n_1=0}^N W(n_1) m_1^2$

$$= \sum_{n_1=0}^N \frac{N!}{n_1!(N-n_1)!} p^{n_1} q^{N-n_1} m_1^2$$

Again $m_1^2 p^{n_1} = m_1 \left(p \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \right) (p^{n_1}) = \left(p \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \right)^2 (p^{n_1})$

or $\overline{m_1^2} = \sum_{n_1=0}^N \frac{N!}{n_1!(N-n_1)!} \left(p \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \right)^2 (p^{n_1}) q^{N-n_1}$

$$= \left(p \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \right)^2 \sum_{n_1=0}^N \frac{N!}{n_1!(N-n_1)!} p^{n_1} q^{N-n_1}$$

$$= \left(p \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \right)^2 (p+q)^N$$

$$= p \frac{\partial}{\partial p} [pN(p+q)^{N-1}]$$

$$\boxed{\bar{m}_1^2 = p [N(p+q)^{N-1} + pN(N-1)(p+q)^{N-2}]} \quad \text{--- ⑦}$$

For specific case $p+q=1$

$$\bar{m}_1^2 = p [N + pN(N-1)] = Np [1 + pN - p]$$

$$= Np [Np + q] = (Np)^2 + Npq$$

$$\boxed{\bar{m}_1^2 = \bar{m}_1^2 + Npq} \quad \text{--- ⑧} \quad \int \text{since } \bar{m}_1 = Np$$

Now $\overline{(\Delta m_1)^2} = \overline{m_1^2} - \bar{m}_1^2 = \bar{m}_1^2 + Npq - \bar{m}_1^2$

$$\boxed{\overline{(\Delta m_1)^2} = Npq}$$

Relative width distribution $R_w = \frac{\sqrt{(\Delta m)^2}}{\bar{m}_1} = \frac{\sqrt{4 N b q}}{N b}$

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For special case $b = q = \frac{1}{2}$

$$R_w = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$$

Some Key points

$\bar{m}_1 \rightarrow$ increases with N as

$$\bar{m}_1 \propto N$$

and R_w decreases with N as

$$R_w \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}}$$

H.W. Calculate dispersion for displacement m

Ans is $(\Delta m)^2 = 4 N b q$ Prove it