

# Chapter 1: Introduction

We mainly cover:

1. Probability model
2. Commonly used random variables

## 1.1 Basic concepts of probability model

- Probability model

3 components of a probability model:

- Sample space
- Event
- Probability function

- Sample space:

All possible outcomes of a random experiment.

e.g. Toss a coin twice:  $S = \{(H, H), (H, T), (T, H), (T, T)\}$

- Event

Roughly speaking: Event = subset of the sample space.

e.g.  $E = \{(H, H)\}$ , subset of sample space  $S$ .

- Probability function

Notation  $P$ . Probability function is a function of event and satisfies 3 conditions:

- i.  $0 \leq P(E) \leq 1$  for any event  $E$
- ii.  $P(\text{Sample Space}) = 1$
- iii. Suppose  $E_1, E_2, \dots$  are a sequence of disjoint events, i.e.  $E_i \cap E_j = \emptyset$  (empty set) for  $i \neq j$ .

Then  $P(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} E_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P(E_i)$  [Additivity Property]

e.g. Toss coin twice

Define  $P(E) = \frac{\# \text{ of outcomes in } E}{4 \text{ (Total \# of outcomes in sample space)}}$

Exercise: Verify  $P$  is a probability function

- Property of probability function

- i. If  $E_1 \subset E_2$ , then  $P(E_1) \leq P(E_2)$ 
  - If  $E_1$  occurs, then  $E_2$  must occur  $\implies E_1 \subset E_2$ .
  - If  $E_1$  implies  $E_2$ , then  $E_1 \subset E_2$ .

- ii. If  $E_1 \cap E_2 = \emptyset$ , then  $P(E_1 \cup E_2) = P(E_1) + P(E_2)$

- iii.  $P(\emptyset) = 0$

- iv.  $P(E) + P(E^c) = 1$

- $E^c$  is the complementary of  $E$ .

$$v. P(E_1 \cup E_2) = P(E_1) + P(E_2) - P(E_1 \cap E_2)$$

- Independence

Two events  $E$  and  $F$  are independent if  $P(E \cap F) = P(E) \cdot P(F)$  where  $P(E \cap F)$  is the joint probability and  $P(E) \cdot P(F)$  is marginal probabilities or unconditional probabilities.

so, independence means:

joint = product of marginals

- A useful result

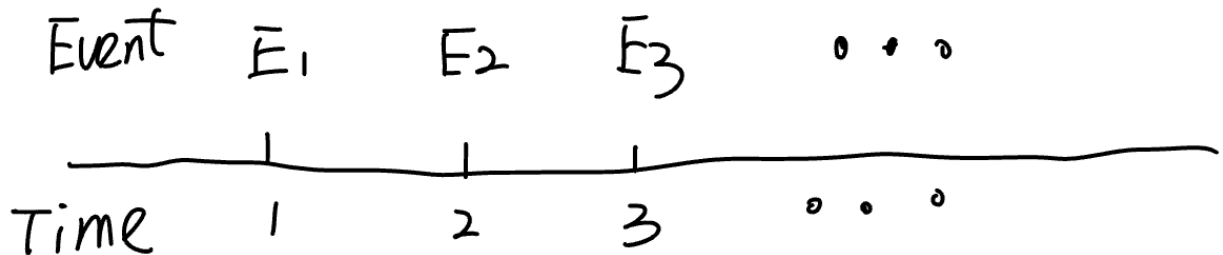
Suppose we have a sequence of independent trials and a sequence of events  $E_1, E_2, \dots$

Now:  $E_i$  only depends on  $i$ th trial  $\implies$  :

i. all events  $E_1, E_2, \dots$  are independent

$$ii. P\left(\bigcap_{i=1}^{\infty} E_i\right) = \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} P(E_i)$$

$$iii. P\left(\bigcap_{i=1}^m E_i\right) = \prod_{i=1}^m P(E_i)$$



### Example 1.1 (Independent Example):

Suppose the die is a fair die. If you repeatedly and independently toss a die, then you will get a sequence of numbers.

Find:

1.  $P(\text{getting a "3" in the sequence of numbers})$

Solutions:

Let  $E$  = "3" in the sequence

$E^C$  = No "3" in the sequence

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} P(E^C) &= P(1\text{st} \neq 3 \cap 2\text{nd} \neq 3 \cap 3\text{rd} \neq 3 \cap \dots) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} P(i\text{th} \neq 3) = \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^{\infty} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

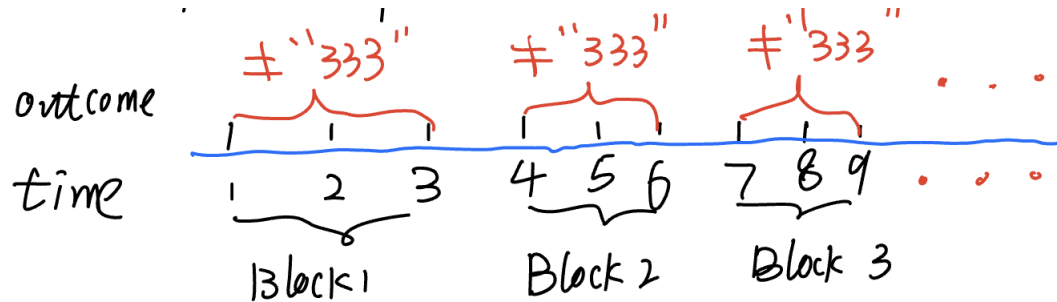
2.  $P(\text{getting a "333" in the sequence of numbers})$

Here we say "333" occurs on the  $n$ th toss if the  $(n - 2)$ th outcome is "3",  $(n - 1)$ th outcome is "3", and  $n$ th outcome is "3".

Solution: Let  $F = "333"$  in the sequence

$F^C =$  No  $"333"$  in the sequence

Idea: Create independent blocks of 3 tosses.



Note:  $F^C$  implies that block 1  $\neq "333"$ , block 2  $\neq "333"$ , block 3  $\neq "333"$ , ...

$\Rightarrow F^C \subset \{\text{block 1} \neq "333", \text{block 2} \neq "333", \text{block 3} \neq "333", \dots\}$

$\Rightarrow P(F^C) \leq P(\text{block 1} \neq "333" \& \text{block 2} \neq "333" \& \text{block 3} \neq "333", \dots)$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} P(\text{i-th block} \neq "333")$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} 1 - P(\text{i-th block} = "333")$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} 1 - \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^3 = \frac{215}{216}^{\infty} = 0$$

Example 1.2:

A coin is continually and independently tossed, where the probability of head (H) on a toss is  $1/2$ .

Find:

1.  $P(\text{1st two tosses give "HH"})$

Solution:  $P(\text{1st two tosses give "HH"}) = P(H) \cdot P(H) = \frac{1}{4}$

2.  $P(\text{1st two tosses give "TH"})$

Solution:  $P(\text{1st two tosses give "TH"}) = P(T) \cdot P(H) = \frac{1}{4}$

3.  $P(\text{"TH" occurs before "HH"})$

Solution:

Case 1: Consider 1st outcome is "T", then "TH" occurs before "HH".

Since to observe "TH", we need 1 "H", but to observe "HH", we need 2 "H"s.

$$P(\text{Case 1}) = \frac{1}{2}$$

Case 2: Consider 1st outcome is "H", 2nd outcome is "T", then "TH" occurs before "HH".

$$P(\text{Case 2}) = \frac{1}{4}$$

Case 3: Consider 1st outcome is "H", 2nd outcome is "H", then "HH" occurs before "TH".

$$P(\text{Case 3}) = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow P(\text{"TH" occurs before "HH"}) = P(\text{Case 1}) + P(\text{Case 2}) = \frac{3}{4}$$

- Conditional Probability

Suppose  $E$  and  $F$  are two events with  $P(F) > 0$ . Then

$$P(E|F) = \frac{P(E \cap F)}{P(F)}$$

where  $P(E|F)$  is the conditional probability,  $P(E \cap F)$  is the joint probability, and  $P(F)$  is the marginal probability.

- Result 1:  $P(E \cap F) = P(E|F)P(F)$  (Multiplication Rule)
- Result 2: If  $E$  and  $F$  are independent, then  $P(E|F) = P(E)$ , i.e. conditional probability is the same as marginal probability.

Proof idea: (not required) Use definition of independent and conditional.

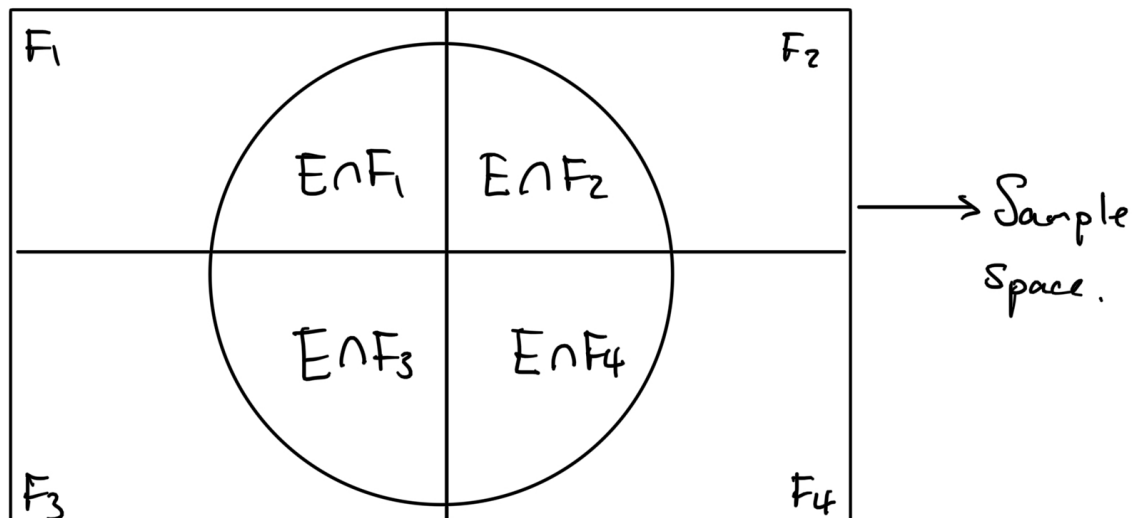
- Bayer's Formula:

Suppose we have a sequence of events  $F_1, F_2, \dots$  such that:

- $P(F_i) > 0$  for all  $i$
- $F_i \cap F_k = \emptyset$  for all  $i \neq j$
- $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} F_i = S$

Then, for any event  $E$ ,

$$a. P(E) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(E \cap F_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n P(E|F_i)P(F_i) \text{ (Law of Total Probability)}$$



$$b. P(F_k|E) = \frac{P(E \cap F_k)}{P(E)} = \frac{P(E|F_k)P(F_k)}{\sum_{i=1}^n P(E|F_i)P(F_i)} \text{ (Bayes' Formula)}$$

Example 1.3 (Monte Hall Problem):

- There are three doors (say  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$ ), behind which there are 2 goats and 1 car.

- Monty knows the location of the car, but you do not.
- You select a door at random (say  $A$ ) and at this point your chance of winning the prize is  $\frac{1}{3}$ .
- Then Monty opens one of the remaining two doors, either door  $B$  or door  $C$ , to reveal a goat.

Find  $P(\text{winning the car if you switch the door})$ .

Method 1:

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	
Case 1	G	C	G	Monty will open door C
Case 2	G	G	C	Monty will open door B
Case 3	C	G	G	Monty will open either door B or door C

$$P(\text{winning if switch}) = P(\text{Case 1}) + P(\text{Case 2}) = \frac{2}{3}$$

Method 2: Conditional Probability Idea

Suppose you choose door A and Monty opens door B (Event  $E$ ).

Let  $F_k$  = car is behind door  $k$ ,  $k = A, B, C$

$$\text{Then, } P(F_A) = P(F_B) = P(F_C) = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$P(\text{win if switch}) = P(F_C|E)$$

$$= \frac{P(E|F_C)P(F_C)}{P(E|F_A)P(F_A) + P(E|F_B)P(F_B) + P(E|F_C)P(F_C)}$$

$$= \frac{1(\frac{1}{3})}{\frac{1}{2}(\frac{1}{3}) + 1(\frac{1}{3})} = \frac{2}{3}$$

## 1.2 Random Variables (r.v.s)

- Definition of rv

rv is a function defined on sample space to real line.

$$X : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

- Two types of rv
  - i. Discrete rv: all possible values are at most countable. (e.g. Binomial, Poisson)
  - ii. Continuous rv: all possible values contain an interval (e.g. Uniform)
- Review of important rvs:
  - Bernoulli Trials:
    - a. Each trial has 2 outcomes: success (S) or failure (F)
    - b. All trials are independent
    - c. Probability of "S" on each trial is the same:

$$P(S) = p, P(F) = 1 - p$$

- Bernoulli distribution:  $\text{Bernoulli}(p)$

Let

$$I_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if "s" appears on the } i\text{th trial} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$P(I_i = 1) = p$ ,  $P(I_i = 0) = q = 1 - p$ , then  $I_1, I_2, \dots$  are a sequence of iid (independent identically distributed) Bernoulli rvs.

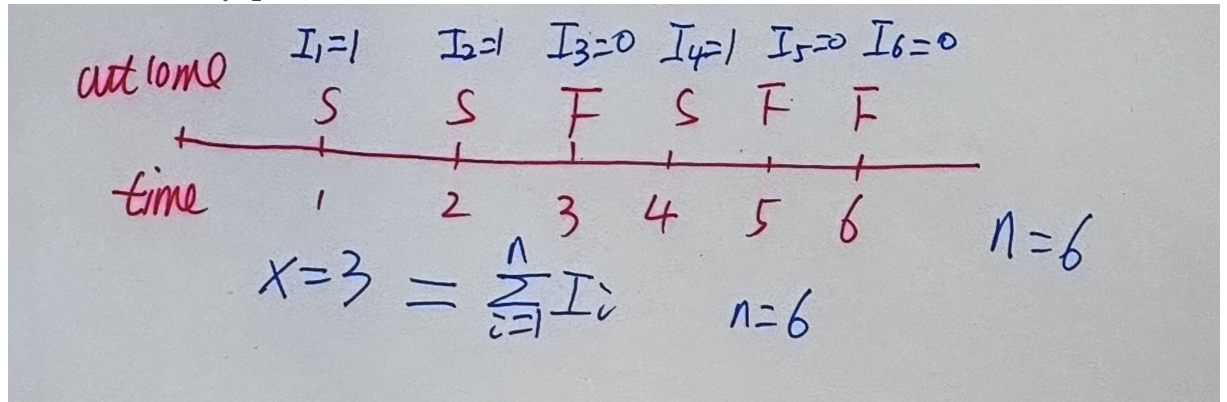
- Binomial rvs:  $\text{Bin}(n, p)$

$X = \# \text{ of "S"s in } n \text{ Bernoulli trials} \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$  where  $n$  is the number of trials and  $p$  is the probability of success.

a. Range:  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, n\}$

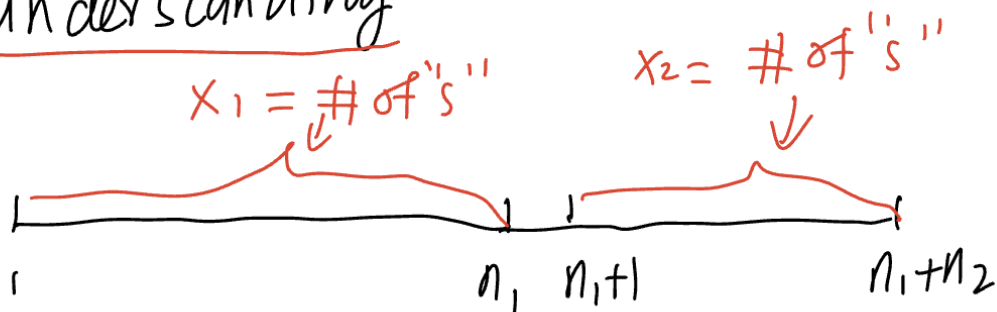
b. Probability mass function (pmf):  $P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}$  for  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$

c. Result 1:  $X = \sum_{i=1}^n I_i$ , where  $I_1, \dots, I_n$  are iid Bernoulli rvs.



d. Result 2: If  $X_1 \sim \text{Bin}(n_1, p)$  and  $X_2 \sim \text{Bin}(n_2, p)$ , and both of them are independent, then  $X_1 + X_2 \sim \text{Bin}(n_1 + n_2, p)$ .

Understanding



Then,  $x_1 + x_2 = \# \text{ of "s" in } n_1 + n_2 \text{ trials} \sim \text{Bin}(n_1 + n_2, p)$

Independent: No overlap between first  $n_1$  trials and next  $n_2$  trials.

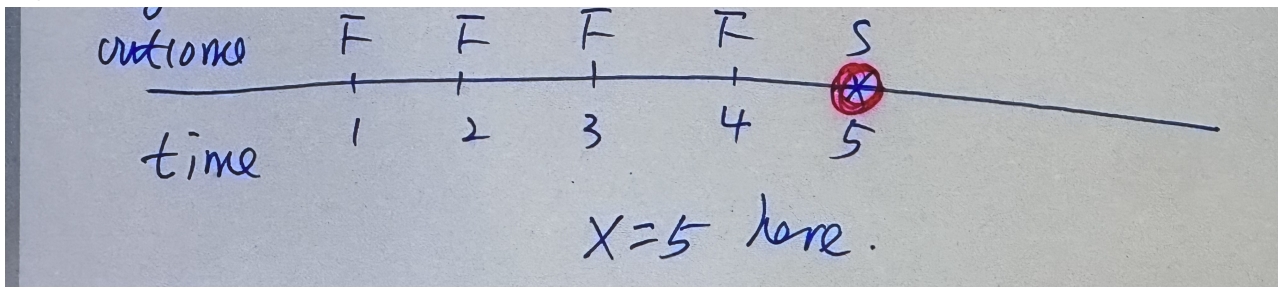
- Geometric rvs:  $\text{Geo}(p)$

(1st discrete waiting time rv)

$X = \# \text{ of trials to get 1st "s" in the sequence of Bernoulli trials (including the trial to$

observe 1st "s").

e.g.



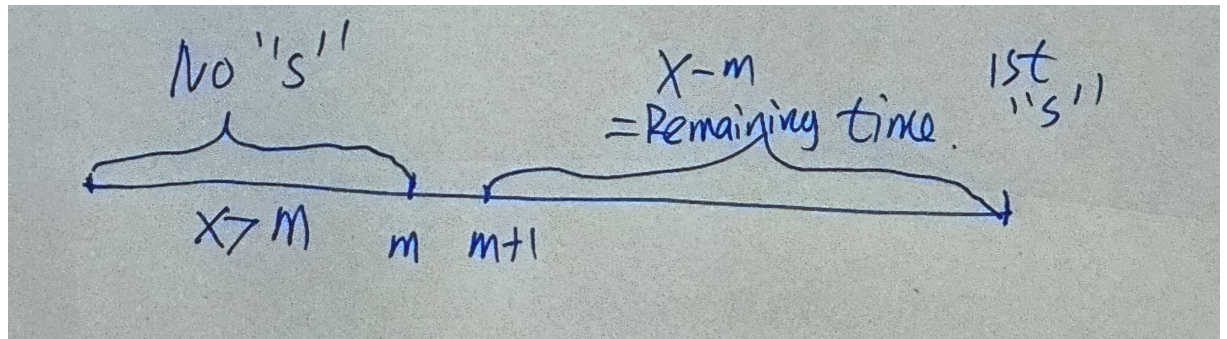
a. Range:  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$

b. pmf:  $P(X = k) = (1 - p)^{k-1}p$  for  $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

$$E(X) = \frac{1}{p}$$

c. No-memory property:

$$P(X > n + m | X > m) = P(X - m > n | X > m) = P(X > n) \text{ for } k, j = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$



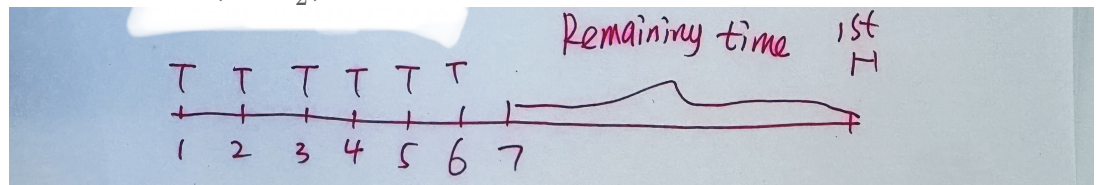
Formula tells us: Given that we do not observe Event "s", the remaining time  $\sim \text{Geo}(p)$ ., same as the original time.

Example 1.4 (Geometric rv example):

A fair coin is tossed repeatedly and independently. The objective is to observe the 1st head. Let  $X$  be the corresponding waiting time. Suppose we get 6 tails in the first 6 tosses.

Note  $E(\text{Geo}(p)) = \frac{1}{p}$ .

i.e.,  $X \sim \text{Geo}(p = \frac{1}{2})$ .



Find:

a.  $P(X = 10 | \text{the first 6 tosses give 6 tails})$ .

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} &P(X = 10 | \text{the first 6 tosses give 6 tails}) \\ &= P(\text{remaining time}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= (1 - p)^{4-1} p \\
&= \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right)^{4-1} \frac{1}{2} \\
&= \frac{1}{16}
\end{aligned}$$

b.  $E(X \mid \text{the first 6 tosses give 6 tails})$ .

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
&E(X \mid \text{the first 6 tosses give 6 tails}) \\
&= E(6 + \text{remaining time}) \\
&= 6 + \frac{1}{p} \\
&= 8
\end{aligned}$$

▪ Negative Binomial  $\text{NegBin}(r, p)$

a. Range:  $\{r, r + 1, r + 2, \dots\}$

b. pmf:  $P(X = k) = \binom{k-1}{r-1} p^r (1 - p)^{k-r}$  for  $k = r, r + 1, r + 2, \dots$  (not required)

c. Property: Let  $X_1 = \text{Waiting time to observe 1st "s"}$ ,

$X_2 = \text{Waiting time to observe 2nd "s" after 1st "s"}$ ,

$\dots$ ,

$X_r = \text{Waiting time to observe } r\text{th "s" after } (r - 1)\text{th "s"}$

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^r X_i \sim \text{NegBin}(r, p): X_1, \dots, X_r \text{ are iid } \text{Geo}(p) \text{ rvs.}$$

Example 1.5 (Negative Binomial rv example)

A fair coin is tossed repeatedly and independently. The objective is to observe the two heads in total. Let  $X$  be the corresponding waiting time.

Note  $E(\text{Geo}(p)) = \frac{1}{p}$ .

Find:

a.  $E(X \mid \text{the first 3 tosses give "HTT"})$ .

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
&E(X \mid \text{the first 3 tosses give "HTT"}) \\
&= E(3 + \text{remaining time}) \\
&= 3 + \frac{1}{p} \\
&= 3 + 2 \\
&= 5
\end{aligned}$$

b.  $E(X \mid \text{the first 3 tosses give "TTT"})$ .

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
&E(X \mid \text{the first 3 tosses give "TTT"}) \\
&= E(3 + \text{remaining time of } X_1 + X_2) \\
&= 3 + \frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{p} \\
&= 7
\end{aligned}$$



- Poisson r.v.  $\text{Pois}(\lambda)$

Suppose  $X \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda)$

a. Range:  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$

b. pmf:  $P(X = k) = \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!}$  for  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

$\lambda$  = rate parameter /  $E(X) = \lambda$

c. Property:

If  $X_1 \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda_1)$  and  $X_2 \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda_2)$ , and both of them are independent, then  $X_1 + X_2 \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)$ .

- Exponential r.v.:  $\text{Exp}(\lambda)$

[continuous waiting time rv]

a. probability density function (pdf):  $f(x) = \begin{cases} \lambda e^{-\lambda x} & x > 0 \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$

b.  $\lambda$  = rate parameter /  $E(X) = \frac{1}{\lambda}$

c. Tail prob:  $P(X > t) = e^{-\lambda t} = \int_t^\infty \lambda f(x) dx$  for  $t > 0$

d. No memory property:  $P(X > t + s | X > s) = P(\text{remaining time} > t | X > s) = P(X > t)$  for  $s, t > 0$

Meaning: Given that we do not observe Event "s", the remaining time  $\sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$ , same as the original time.

Example 1.6 (Exponential rv example)

Suppose waiting time ( $X$ ) for customers coming to Tim Hortons (T.H.) follows  $\text{Exp}(2)$ . Here 1 unit time = 1 minute. In the first 3 minutes, there is no customer.

|  $\lambda = 2, X > 3$ .

(a) Find the probability of no customer in the first 5 minutes.

| Solution:  $P(X > 5 | X > 3) = P(X > 2) = e^{-4}$

(b)  $E(X | \text{no customer in the first 3 minutes})$ .

| Solution:  $E(X | \text{no customer in the first 3 minutes})$   
 $= E(3 + \text{remaining time})$   
 $= 3 + \frac{1}{\lambda}$   
 $= 3 + \frac{1}{2}$   
 $= 3.5$

## 1.3 Expectation and Variance

- Expectation of Discrete r.v.

Range:  $\{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$

$$E(X) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} x_i P(X = x_i) = \text{value} * \text{probability}$$

e.g.  $X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ , Find  $E(X)$ .

Solution:  $P(X = 1) = p$ ,  $P(X = 0) = 1 - p$ ,  $E(X) = 1 \cdot p + 0 \cdot (1 - p) = p$

- Expectation of Continuous r.v.

$x$  has pdf  $f(x)$

$$E(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) dx$$

- General case:  $g(x)$  is a function of  $x$ .

$$E(g(X)) = \begin{cases} \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} g(x_i) P(X = x_i) & \text{if } X \text{ is discrete} \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) f(x) dx & \text{if } X \text{ is continuous} \end{cases}$$

where  $g(X)$  is a new r.v.

e.g.  $X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ , Find  $E(X^2)$ .

Solution: Consider  $g(x) = x^2$ , then

$$E(X^2) = 0^2 P(X = 0) + 1^2 P(X = 1) = 0^2 \cdot (1 - p) + 1^2 \cdot p = p = E(X)$$

Therefore,  $X^2 = X$  for  $X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ .

- Variance

$$\text{Var}(X) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2$$

e.g.  $X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ , Find  $\text{Var}(X)$ .

Solution:  $\text{Var}(X) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2 = p - p^2 = p(1 - p) = P(X = 1) * P(X = 0)$

- Properties:

i.  $E(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i X_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i E(X_i)$  [linearity]

$a_1, \dots, a_n$  are constants,  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  are r.v.s

ii. If  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  are independent, then  $\text{Var}(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i X_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(a_i X_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2 \text{Var}(X_i)$

[Aside:  $\text{Var}(aX + b) = \text{Var}(aX) = a^2 \text{Var}(X)$ ]

e.g. If  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are independent, then

$\text{Var}(X_1 + X_2) = \text{Var}(X_1) + \text{Var}(X_2)$ , and

$\text{Var}(X_1 - X_2) = \text{Var}(X_1) + \text{Var}(X_2)$

- iii. In general:

$$\text{Var}(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i X_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2 \text{Var}(X_i) + \sum_{i \neq j} a_i a_j \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j)$$

Aside:  $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = E(XY) - E(X)E(Y)$ , and if  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then  $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$ .

Question: If  $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$ , are  $X$  and  $Y$  independent?

$$\text{Var}(\sum_{i=1}^n a_i X_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i^2 \text{Var}(X_i) + 2 \sum_{i < j} a_i a_j \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j)$$

e.g.

$$\text{Var}(X_1 + X_2) = \text{Var}(X_1) + \text{Var}(X_2) + 2\text{Cov}(X_1, X_2), \text{ and}$$

$$\text{Var}(X_1 + X_2 + X_3) = \text{Var}(X_1) + \text{Var}(X_2) + \text{Var}(X_3) + 2\text{Cov}(X_1, X_2) + 2\text{Cov}(X_1, X_3) + 2\text{Cov}(X_2, X_3)$$

## 1.4 Indicator r.v.

- Indicator r.v.: Only two possible values 0 and 1

For a given event  $A$ , we define  $I_A = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } A \text{ occurs} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

Suppose  $P(A) = p$ , then  $P(I_A = 1) = p$ ,  $P(I_A = 0) = 1 - p = q$ .

By Bernoulli distribution,  $E(I_A) = P(I_A = 1) = p$  and  $\text{Var}(I_A) = P(I_A = 1)P(I_A = 0) = p(1 - p)$

e.g. Suppose  $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$ , find  $E(X)$  and  $\text{Var}(X)$

Solution: (1) Def, (2)Mgf

$X = \sum_{i=1}^n I_i : I_1, \dots, I_n$  are iid Bernoulli( $p$ ) r.v.

Therefore  $E(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n E(I_i) = np$  [linearity], and

$\text{Var}(X) = \text{Var}(\sum_{i=1}^n I_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(I_i) = np(1 - p)$  [ $I_1, \dots, I_n$  are independent]

### Example 1.7

- Suppose we have two boxes: red box and black box.
- In red box, there are 4 red balls and 6 black balls.
- In the black box, there are 6 red balls and 4 black balls.
- An experiment is conducted as follows.
  - At the first step, a fair coin is tossed.
  - If it shows head, then you randomly choose a ball in the red box, record the color and put it back; else, you randomly choose a ball in the black box, record the color and put it back.
  - At the second step, you randomly choose a ball from the box, which has the same color as the ball you chosen at the first step.

Let  $X$  be the number of red balls you draw in the first two steps. Find  $E(X)$  and  $\text{Var}(X)$ .

Solution:  $X \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ . Find  $P(X = 0)$ ,  $P(X = 1)$ ,  $P(X = 2)$ .

Let  $I_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if we get } R \text{ ball in } i\text{th step} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ , then  $X = I_1 + I_2$

$$P(X_1 = 1) = P(\text{1st ball} = R) = P(\text{1st ball} = R|H)P(H) + P(\text{1st ball} = R|T)P(T) = 0.4 \cdot \frac{1}{2} + 0.6 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = 0.5$$

$$P(X_2 = 1) = P(\text{2nd ball} = R) = P(\text{2nd ball} = R|H)P(H) + P(\text{2nd ball} = R|T)P(T) = 0.4 \cdot \frac{1}{2} + 0.6 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = 0.5$$

Therefore,  $E(X) = E(I_1) + E(I_2) = P(I_1 = 1) + P(I_2 = 2) = 0.5 + 0.5 = 1$

Here,  $I_1 I_2 = \begin{cases} 1 & I_1 = I_2 = 1 \text{ or } 1^{\text{st}} = R \text{ and } 2^{\text{nd}} = R \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ , therefore, it is also an indicator

r.v.

$$E(I_1 I_2) = P(I_1 I_2 = 1) = P(1^{\text{st}} = R \text{ and } 2^{\text{nd}} = R)$$

$$= P(2^{\text{nd}} = R | 1^{\text{st}} = R) P(1^{\text{st}} = R) = 0.4(0.5) = 0.2$$

$$\text{Cov}(I_1, I_2) = E(I_1 I_2) - E(I_1)E(I_2) = 0.2 - 0.5^2 = -0.05$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \text{Var}(I_1 + I_2) = \text{Var}(I_1) + \text{Var}(I_2) + \text{Cov}(I_1, I_2)$$

$$= P(I_1 = 1)P(I_1 = 0) + P(I_2 = 1)P(I_2 = 0) + 2(-0.05) = 0.4$$

## Chapter 2: Waiting time r.v.

- Background: Suppose we have a sequence of trials and we would like to observe an event  $E$  based on the sequence of trials.

Let  $T_E = \#$  of trials or waiting time to observe first  $E$  [including the trial to observe  $E$ ]

Range:  $\{1, 2, 3, \dots\} \cup \{\infty\}$  where  $\infty$  means  $E$  never occurs.

- Classification of  $T_E$ 
  - If  $P(T_E < \infty) < 1$  or  $P(T_E < \infty) > 0$ , then  $T_E$  is improper.  
Note: In this case,  $E(T_E) = \infty$  since  $P(T_E < \infty) > 0$ .
  - If  $P(T_E < \infty) = 1$  or  $P(T_E < \infty) = 0$ , then  $T_E$  is proper.
    - If  $P(T_E < \infty) = 1$  and  $E(T_E) = \infty$ , then  $T_E$  is null proper.
    - If  $P(T_E < \infty) = 1$  and  $E(T_E) < \infty$ , then  $T_E$  is short proper.
- Comments
  - If  $T_E$  is improper, then  $E(T_E) = \infty$ .
  - If  $E(T_E) < \infty$ , then  $T_E$  is short proper.
- Aside:  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$  do not include  $\infty$  in the summation.  
Recall  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n a_i$ .  
Hence  $P(T_E < \infty) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(T_H = n)$

### Example 2.1 (Short proper waiting time rv)

Suppose we toss a coin repeatedly and independently. At each toss, the probability of getting " $H$ " is  $p$  with  $0 < p < 1$ . Let  $T_H$  be the waiting time for the first " $H$ ".

Claim:  $T_H$  is a short proper waiting time random variable.

Solution:

$$T_H \sim \text{Geo}(p)$$

$$\text{Then } P(T_H = n) = (1 - p)^{n-1} p, n \geq 1$$

$$P(T_H < \infty) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - p)^{n-1} p = \frac{p}{1 - (1 - p)} = 1$$

When  $T_H \sim \text{Geo}(p)$ ,  $E(T_H) = \frac{1}{p} < \infty$  Therefore,  $T_H$  is a short proper waiting time random variable.

### Example 2.2 (Null proper waiting time rv)

Suppose we toss a coin repeatedly and independently. For  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$  the probability of getting " $H$ " is  $\frac{1}{n+1}$  at the  $n$ th toss.

Let  $T_H$  be the waiting time for the first " $H$ ".

Claim:  $T_H$  is a null proper waiting time random variable.

Solution:

$$P(T_H = n) = P(\text{1st time to observe } H \text{ is } n) = P(\text{1st} = T, \text{2nd} = T, \dots, (n-1)\text{th} = T, n\text{th} = H)$$

$$= P(\text{1st} = T)P(\text{2nd} = T) \dots P((n-1)\text{th} = T)P(n\text{th} = H)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{3}{4} \dots \frac{n-1}{n} \cdot \frac{1}{n+1} = \frac{1}{n(n+1)}$$

$$P(T_H < \infty) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(n+1)} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1} \right) = \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \right) + \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{3} \right) + \dots = 1$$

$$E(T_H) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} nP(T_H = n) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \frac{1}{n(n+1)} = \infty$$

### Example 2.3 (Improper waiting time rv)

Suppose we toss a coin repeatedly and independently. For  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ , the probability of getting " $H$ " is  $2^{-n}$  at the  $n$ th toss. Let  $T_H$  be the waiting time for the first " $H$ ".

Claim:  $T_H$  is an improper waiting time random variable.

Solution:

$$P(T_H = 1) = P(\text{1st} = H) = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$P(T_H = 2) = P(\text{1st} = T, \text{2nd} = H) = P(\text{1st} = T)P(\text{2nd} = H) = \frac{1}{2^3} = \frac{1}{8}$$

In general,

$$P(T_H = n) = P(\text{1st} = T, \text{2nd} = T, \dots, (n-1)\text{th} = T, n\text{th} = H)$$

$$= P(\text{1st} = T)P(\text{2nd} = T) \dots P((n-1)\text{th} = T)P(n\text{th} = H) \leq \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} \text{ for } n > 2$$

$$P(T_H < \infty) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(T_H = n) = P(T_H = 1) + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} P(T_H = n) \leq 2^{-(n+1)} \leq \frac{1}{2} + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^{n+1}} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1/8}{1 - \frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{4} < 1$$

## Chapter 3: Conditional Expectation

### 3.1 Joint rvs:

We consider 2 r.v.s

- Joint discrete r.v.s

If  $X$  and  $Y$  are discrete r.v.s, then  $(X, Y)$  are joint discrete.

- Joint pmf:

$$f_{X,Y}(x, y) = P(X = x, Y = y)$$

- Properties:

i. Joint pmf is a pmf:  $f_{X,Y}(x, y) \geq 0$  and  $\sum_x \sum_y f_{X,Y}(x, y) = 1$

ii. Marginal pmf of  $X$ :  $f_X(x) = P(X = x) = \sum_y f_{X,Y}(x, y)$

Marginal pmf of  $Y$ :  $f_Y(y) = P(Y = y) = \sum_x f_{X,Y}(x, y)$

iii. Expectation:  $h(x, y)$  is a bivariate function

$$E(h(X, Y)) = \sum_x \sum_y h(x, y) f_{X,Y}(x, y)$$

$$\text{E.g. } E(XY) = \sum_x \sum_y xy f_{X,Y}(x, y)$$

$$\text{E.g. } E(X) = \sum_x \sum_y x f_{X,Y}(x, y) = \sum_x x f_X(x)$$

- Joint continuous r.v.s

If  $X$  and  $Y$  are continuous r.v.s and  $P(X \leq x, Y \leq y) = \int_{-\infty}^x \int_{-\infty}^y f_{X,Y}(s, t) dt ds$ , then  $(X, Y)$  are joint continuous and  $f_{X,Y}(x, y)$  is called joint pdf.

- Properties:

i.  $f_{X,Y}(x, y) \geq 0$  and  $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, y) dx dy = 1$

ii. Marginal pdf of  $X$ :  $f_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, y) dy$

Marginal pdf of  $Y$ :  $f_Y(y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x, y) dx$

iii. Expectation:  $h(x, y)$  is a bivariate function

$$E(h(X, Y)) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left[ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(x, y) f_{X,Y}(x, y) dy \right] dx$$

$$\text{E.g. } E(XY) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left[ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xy f_{X,Y}(x, y) dy \right] dx$$

$$\text{E.g. } E(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left[ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_{X,Y}(x, y) dy \right] dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_X(x) dx$$

- Independence: Both continuous and discrete

If  $f_{X,Y}(x, y) = f_X(x) f_Y(y)$ , then  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent.

i.e. Joint probability = product of marginal probabilities

- Properties of Independence:

If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then  $h(X)$  and  $g(Y)$  are independent.

$$E(h(X)g(Y)) = E(h(X))E(g(Y))$$

$$E(XY) = E(X)E(Y) \text{ and } Cov(X, Y) = 0$$

Note: If  $Cov(X, Y) = 0$ ,  $X$  and  $Y$  are not necessarily independent.

$$\text{E.g. } X \sim \text{Unif}[-1, 1], f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} & -1 < x < 1 \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases} \text{ and } Y = X^2$$

$$\text{then } E(X) = \int_{-1}^1 x f_X(x) dx = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{2} x dx = 0$$

$$E(XY) = \int_{-1}^1 xy f_X(x) dx = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{1}{2} x^3 dx = 0$$

then  $E(XY) = E(X)E(Y)$ ,  $Cov(X, Y) = 0$ , but  $X$  and  $Y = X^2$  are not independent.

## 3.2 Conditional distribution and conditional expectation

- Discrete case:  $X$  and  $Y$

Joint pmf:  $f_{X,Y}(x, y)$

Marginal pmf:  $f_X(x), f_Y(y)$

- Conditional pmf:

For a given  $y$  such that  $f_Y(y) > 0$ , the conditional pmf of  $X$  given  $Y = y$  is defined as

$$f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{f_{X,Y}(x,y)}{f_Y(y)} = \frac{\text{Joint}}{\text{Marginal}}$$

- Property of conditional pmf:

Conditional pmf is a pmf, i.e.,

a.  $f_{X|Y}(x|y) \geq 0$

Proof: Directly follows definition.

b.  $\sum_x f_{X|Y}(x|y) = 1$

Proof:  $\sum_x f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \sum_x \frac{f_{X,Y}(x,y)}{f_Y(y)} = \frac{1}{f_Y(y)} \sum_x f_{X,Y}(x,y) = \frac{1}{f_Y(y)} f_Y(y) = 1$

- Conditional expectation:

Conditional expectation of  $X$  given  $Y = y$  is defined as

$$E(X|Y = y) = \sum_x x f_{X|Y}(x|y)$$

Conditional expectation of  $g(X)$  given  $Y = y$  is defined as

$$E(g(X)|Y = y) = \sum_x g(x) f_{X|Y}(x|y)$$

- Independence property:

If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then  $E(X|Y = y) = E(X)$  and  $E(g(X)|Y = y) = E(g(X))$

Key: If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then  $f_{X|Y}(x|y) = f_X(x)$ .

Proof:  $f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{f_{X,Y}(x,y)}{f_Y(y)} = \frac{f_X(x)f_Y(y)}{f_Y(y)} = f_X(x)$

$\Rightarrow E(X|Y = y) = \sum_x x f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \sum_x x f_X(x) = E(X)$

Intuitively: Independence makes "Conditional" become "Unconditional".

### Example 3.1

Suppose  $X_1 \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda_1)$  and  $X_2 \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda_2)$ , and  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are independent.

Let  $X = X_1, Y = X_1 + X_2$ .

Find:

i.  $f_{X|Y}(x|y)$

Solution:  $Y \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)$ , therefore  $f_Y(y) = \frac{(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^y e^{-(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)}}{y!}$

We need  $P(X = x, Y = y)$ .

$P(X = x, Y = y) = P(X = x, X_1 + X_2 = y) = P(X_1 = x, X_2 = y - x) =$

$P(X_1 = x)P(X_2 = y - x) = \frac{\lambda_1^x e^{-\lambda_1}}{x!} \cdot \frac{\lambda_2^{y-x} e^{-\lambda_2}}{(y-x)!}$

Therefore,  $f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{P(X=x, Y=y)}{P(Y=y)} = \frac{\frac{\lambda_1^x e^{-\lambda_1}}{x!} \cdot \frac{\lambda_2^{y-x} e^{-\lambda_2}}{(y-x)!}}{\frac{(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^y e^{-(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)}}{y!}} = \binom{y}{x} \left( \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2} \right)^x \left( \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2} \right)^{y-x}$  where

$$x = 0, 1, 2, \dots, y.$$

$$X|Y = y \sim \text{Bin}(y, \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2})$$

ii.  $E(X|Y = y)$  for some positive integer  $y$ .

$$\text{Solution: } E(X|Y = y) = y \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2}$$

- Continuous case:  $X$  and  $Y$

Joint pdf:  $f_{X,Y}(x, y)$

Marginal pdf:  $f_X(x), f_Y(y)$

- Conditional pdf:

For a given  $y$  such that  $f_Y(y) > 0$ , the conditional pdf of  $X$  given  $Y = y$  is defined as

$$f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{f_{X,Y}(x, y)}{f_Y(y)} = \frac{\text{Joint}}{\text{Marginal}}$$

- Property of conditional pdf:

Conditional pdf is a pdf, i.e.,

- $f_{X|Y}(x|y) \geq 0$
- $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X|Y}(x|y) dx = 1$

- Conditional expectation:

Conditional expectation of  $X$  given  $Y = y$  is defined as

$$E(X|Y = y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_{X|Y}(x|y) dx$$

Conditional expectation of  $g(X)$  given  $Y = y$  is defined as

$$E(g(X)|Y = y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) f_{X|Y}(x|y) dx$$

- Independence property:

If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then  $E(X|Y = y) = E(X)$  and  $E(g(X)|Y = y) = E(g(X))$

Key: If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then  $f_{X|Y}(x|y) = f_X(x)$ .

### Example 3.2

Suppose  $X$  and  $Y$  has the joint pdf

$$f_{X,Y}(x, y) = \begin{cases} xe^{-xy} & x > 0, y > 1 \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

Find:

- $f_{X|Y}(x|y)$



Solution:

$$\Gamma(\alpha) = \int_0^\infty x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x} dx \text{ and}$$

$$\Gamma(n) = (n-1)!$$

Let  $t = xy$ , then  $x = \frac{t}{y}$  and  $dx = \frac{dt}{y}$

$$\text{Then, } f_Y(y) = \int_0^\infty x e^{-xy} dx = \int_0^\infty \frac{t}{y} e^{-t} \frac{dt}{y} = \frac{1}{y^2} \Gamma(2) = \frac{1}{y^2}, y > 1$$

$$f_{X,Y}(x, y) = \frac{x e^{-xy}}{f_Y(y)} = \frac{x e^{-xy}}{\frac{1}{y^2}} = y^2 x e^{-xy}$$

ii.  $E(X|Y = y)$  for  $y > 1$ .

$$\text{Solution: } E(X|Y = y) = \int_0^\infty x f_{X|Y}(x|y) dx = \int_0^\infty x y^2 x e^{-xy} dx = \int_0^\infty (xy)^2 e^{-xy} dx = \int_0^\infty t e^{-t} \frac{dt}{y} = \frac{1}{y} \Gamma(3) = \frac{2}{y}$$

- Summary of properties of conditional expectation

(Apply to both discrete and continuous cases)

i. Conditional expectation has properties of expectation.

$$\text{e.g. } E\left[\sum_{i=1}^n a_i X_i | Y = y\right] = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i E(X_i | Y = y)$$

ii. Substitution Rule:

$$E[Xg(Y)|Y = y] = E[Xg(y)|Y = y] = g(y)E[X|Y = y].$$

Here,  $g(Y)$  is a r.v., but  $g(y)$  is a constant.

$$\text{e.g. } E[XY|Y = y] = yE[X|Y = y]$$

$$\text{In general, } E[h(X, Y)|Y = y] = E[h(X, y)|Y = y]$$

iii. Independence Property

If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then  $E(X|Y = y) = E(X)$  and  $E(g(X)|Y = y) = E(g(X))$

### 3.3 Calculating expectation by conditioning

This section: We cover  $E(X) = E[E(X|Y)]$ , double expectation theorem and law of total expectation.

- What is  $E(X|Y)$ ?

It is a r.v., depends on  $Y$  or a function of  $Y$ , i.e.  $E(X|Y) = g(Y)$ .

- What is the function  $g(y)$ ?

Function  $g(y)$  is  $g(y) = E(X|Y = y)$  covered in 3.2.

$$\text{E.g. in Example 3.1, } E(X|Y = y) = y \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2} : g(y) = y \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2}$$

$$\text{E.g. in Example 3.2, } E(X|Y = y) = \frac{2}{y} : g(y) = \frac{2}{y}$$

- How to obtain  $E(E|Y)$

- Step 1: Figure out  $g(y) = E(X|Y = y)$

Either by definition or by properties.

- Step 2:  $E(X|Y) = g(Y)$

$$\text{E.g. In example 3.1, } E(X|Y) = Y \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2} \implies E(X|Y) = g(Y) = Y \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2}$$

$$\text{E.g. In example 3.2, } E(X|Y) = \frac{2}{Y} \implies E(X|Y) = g(Y) = \frac{2}{Y}$$

Note:  $E(X) = E(g(Y)) \neq E[E(X|Y = y)] = E(g(y))$

- How to apply  $E(X) = E[E(X|Y)]$ ?

$$E(X) = E(g(Y)) = \begin{cases} \sum_y g(y)f_Y(y) & \text{discrete } Y \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(y)f_Y(y)dy & \text{continuous } Y \end{cases}$$

$$\implies E(X) = E(g(Y)) = E[E(X|Y)] = \begin{cases} \sum_y E(X|Y = y)f_Y(y) & \text{discrete } Y \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} E(X|Y = y)f_Y(y)dy & \text{continuous } Y \end{cases}$$

Key:  $E(X|Y = y) = g(y)$

- Why  $E(X) = E(g(Y)) = \begin{cases} \sum_y g(y)f_Y(y) & \text{discrete } Y \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(y)f_Y(y)dy & \text{continuous } Y \end{cases}$

We concentrate on discrete case.

$$\text{LHS: } E(X) = \sum_x \sum_y xf_{X,Y}(x, y)$$

$$\text{RHS: } \sum_y E(X|Y = y)f_Y(y) = \sum_y \sum_x xf_{X|Y}(x|y)f_Y(y) = \sum_y \sum_x xf_{X,Y}(x|y) = \sum_x \sum_y xf_{X,Y}(x, y)$$

### Example 3.3

Let  $Y_1, Y_2, \dots$  be independently distributed random variables such that for  $n \geq 1$ ,

$$Y_n \sim \text{Pois}(n)$$

That is,  $Y_1 \sim \text{Pois}(1)$ ,  $Y_2 \sim \text{Pois}(2)$ ,  $Y_3 \sim \text{Pois}(3)$ , and so on.

Assume that  $N \sim \text{Geo}(0.5)$  and it is independent of  $Y_1, Y_2, \dots$

Let  $X \sim Y_N$ . Find  $E(X)$ .

$$\text{Solution: } E(X) = E(E(X|N)) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E(X|N = n)P(N = n)$$

$$P(N = n) = (1 - p)^{n-1}p = \frac{1}{2^n}, n = 1, 2, \dots$$

$$E(X|N = n) = E(Y_N|N = n) = E(Y_n|N = n) = E(Y_n) = n, \text{ since } Y_n \sim \text{Pois}(n).$$

$$\text{Method 1: } E(X) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n = E(N) = \frac{1}{0.5} = 2$$

$$\text{Method 2: } g(n) = n \implies g(N) = N \implies E(X) = E(N) = 2$$

### Example 3.4

Suppose we toss a coin repeatedly and independently. At each toss, the probability of getting "H" is with  $0 < p < 1$ . Let  $X$  be the waiting time for the first "H".

Show that  $E(X) = 1/p$ .

$$\text{Solution: } X \sim \text{Geo}(p).$$

$$\text{Let } Y = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if 1st outcome} = H \\ 0 & \text{if 1st outcome} = T \end{cases}$$

Let  $R$  be Remaining time to observe 1st  $H$ . Then,  $E(X) = E(R)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
E(X) &= \sum_y E(X|Y = y)P(Y = y) = E(X|Y = 1)p + E(X|Y = 0)(1 - p) \\
&\implies E(X) = 1p + (E(R) + 1)(1 - p) = p + (1 - p) + (1 - p)E(R) = 1 + (1 - p)E(X) \\
&\implies E(X) = \frac{1}{p}.
\end{aligned}$$

### Example 3.5

- A miner is trapped. There are 3 doors.
  - Door 1 leads to safety after 2 hrs.
  - Door 2 returns the miner to the starting point in 3 hrs.
  - Door 3 leads the miner to starting points after 4 hrs.
- Assuming the miner randomly chooses a door at each time.
- Let  $X$  be the length of time until the miner gets out.  
Find  $E(X)$ .

Solution: Let  $Y$  be the door # miner chosen at the first time.

Then,  $P(Y = 1) = P(Y = 2) = P(Y = 3) = \frac{1}{3}$ .

Here,  $X|Y = 1 = 2$ ,  $X|Y = 2 = 3 + R$ ,  $X|Y = 3 = 4 + R$ , where  $R$  is the remaining time that miner needs to spend before safety after he returns to starting point

Note:  $X$  and  $R$  have the same distribution, i.e.  $E(X) = E(R)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Then, } E(X) &= \sum_y E(X|Y = y)P(Y = y) = E(X|Y = 1)P(Y = 1) + E(X|Y = 2)P(Y = 2) + E(X|Y = 3)P(Y = 3) \\
&= 2\frac{1}{3} + (3 + E(R))\frac{1}{3} + (4 + E(R))\frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{3}(2 + 3 + 4) + \frac{2}{3}E(R) = \frac{1}{3}(2 + 3 + 4) + \frac{2}{3}E(X) \\
&\implies E(X) = 2 + 3 + 4.
\end{aligned}$$

## 3.4 Computing probabilities by conditioning

- Suppose  $A$  is an event and we need  $P(A)$

$$\text{• Let } I_A = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } A \text{ occurs} \\ 0 & \text{if } A \text{ does not occur} \end{cases}$$

$$\implies P(A) = E(I_A) = \begin{cases} \sum_y E(I_A|Y = y)f_Y(y) & \text{discrete } Y \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} E(I_A|Y = y)f_Y(y)dy & \text{continuous } Y \end{cases}$$

Note:  $E(I_A|Y = y) = P(I_A = 1|Y = y) = P(A|Y = y)$

$$\implies P(A) = \begin{cases} \sum_y P(A|Y = y)f_Y(y) & \text{discrete } Y \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P(A|Y = y)f_Y(y)dy & \text{continuous } Y \end{cases}$$

Example 3.6 If  $X_1, X_2, X_3$  are iid random variables from uniform distribution on  $[0, 1]$ .

(a) Find  $P(X_1 < X_2) = P(X_1 = \min(X_1, X_2))$ ;

Solution:  $Y = X_2$ ,

$$P(X_1 < X_2) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P(X_1 < X_2|Y = X_2 = y)f_{X_2}(y)dy = \int_0^1 P(X_1 < X_2|Y = X_2 = y)f_{X_2}(y)dy$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 y)1dy &= \int_0^1 P(X_1 < y|Y = X_2 = y)dy = \int_0^1 P(X_1 < y)dy \\
 P(X_1 < y) &= \int_0^y f_{X_1}(x)dx = \int_0^y 1dx = y \\
 P(X_1 < X_2) &= \int_0^1 ydy = \frac{1}{2}
 \end{aligned}$$

(b) Find  $P(X_1 < X_2 < X_3)$ .

Solution: We consider conditioning on  $X_2$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(X_1 < X_2 < X_3) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P(X_1 < X_2 < X_3|X_2 = y)f_{X_2}(y)dy \\
 &= \int_0^1 P(X_1 < X_2 < X_3|X_2 = y)dy \text{ (as } f_{X_2}(y) = 1) \\
 &= \int_0^1 P(X_1 < y < X_3|X_2 = y)dy \text{ (by substitution rule)} \\
 &= \int_0^1 P(X_1 < y < X_3)dy \text{ (since } X_1, X_3 \text{ and } X_2 \text{ are independent)} \\
 &= \int_0^1 P(X_1 < y, y < X_3)dy \\
 &= \int_0^1 P(X_1 < y)P(y < X_3)dy \text{ (since } X_1 \text{ and } X_3 \text{ are independent)}
 \end{aligned}$$

Here,  $P(X_1 < y) = \int_0^y f_{X_1}(x)dx = \int_0^y 1dx = y$  and  $P(y < X_3) = \int_y^1 f_{X_3}(x)dx = \int_y^1 1dx = 1 - y$

Hence,  $P(X_1 < X_2 < X_3) = \int_0^1 y(1 - y)dy = \frac{1}{6}$

### Example 3.7

Suppose

- $Y$  has pdf  $f(y) = \begin{cases} ye^{-y} & y > 0 \\ 0 & y \leq 0 \end{cases}$ .
- $X|Y = y \sim \text{Pois}(y)$   
Find  $P(X = n)$ .

Solution:  $P(X = n) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P(X = n|Y = y)f_Y(y)dy = \int_0^{\infty} P(X = n|Y = y)f_Y(y)dy$

Here,  $X|Y = y \sim \text{Pois}(y)$  implies  $P(X = n|Y = y) = \frac{y^n e^{-y}}{n!}$

Thus,  $P(X = n) = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{y^n e^{-y}}{n!} ye^{-y} dy = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{y^{n+1} e^{-2y}}{n!} dy$

Let  $t = 2y$ , then  $y = \frac{t}{2}$  and  $dy = \frac{dt}{2}$

Then,  $P(X = n) = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{(\frac{t}{2})^{n+1} e^{-t}}{n!} \frac{dt}{2} = \frac{1}{2^{n+2} n!} \int_0^{\infty} t^{n+1} e^{-t} dt$

Recall that  $\Gamma(\alpha) = \int_0^{\infty} x^{\alpha-1} e^{-x} dx$  and  $\Gamma(n) = (n-1)!$ . Then  $P(X = n) = \frac{1}{2^{n+2} n!} \Gamma(n+2) = \frac{1}{2^{n+2} n!} (n+1)! = \frac{n+1}{2^{n+2}}$  for  $n \geq 0$ .

### 3.5 Calculating variance by Conditioning

- Method 1: by definition

Recall:  $Var(X) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2$

Note: Double expectation theorem or law of total expectation is applicable for any expectation.

Hence:  $E[f(x)] = E[E(f(x)|Y)]$

Then:  $\begin{cases} E(X^2) = E[E(X^2|Y)] \\ E(X) = E[E(X|Y)] \end{cases}$  and  $Var(X) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2$

Example 3.8:

- A miner is trapped. There are 3 doors.
  - Door 1 leads to safety after 2 hrs.
  - Door 2 returns the miner to the starting point in 3 hrs.
  - Door 3 leads the miner to starting points after 4 hrs.
- Assuming the miner randomly chooses a door at each time.
- Let  $X$  be the length of time until the miner gets out.

Find  $Var(X)$ .

Solution: Recall example 3.5.

Let  $Y$  be the door # miner chosen at the first time.

Then,  $P(Y = 1) = P(Y = 2) = P(Y = 3) = \frac{1}{3}$ .

Here,  $X|Y = 1 = 2$ ,  $X|Y = 2 = 3 + R$ ,  $X|Y = 3 = 4 + R$ , where  $R$  and  $X$  have the same distribution.

We found  $E(X) = 2 + 3 + 4 = 9 = E(R)$  and  $E(X^2) = E(R^2)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} E(X^2) &= \sum_y E(X^2|Y = y)P(Y = y) \\ &= E(X^2|Y = 1)P(Y = 1) + E(X^2|Y = 2)P(Y = 2) + E(X^2|Y = 3)P(Y = 3) \\ &= 2^2 \frac{1}{3} + E[(3 + R)^2] \frac{1}{3} + E[(4 + R)^2] \frac{1}{3} \\ &= \frac{4}{3} + \frac{1}{3}E(9 + 6R + R^2) + \frac{1}{3}E(16 + 8R + R^2) \\ &= \frac{1}{3}(4 + 9 + 16) + \frac{1}{3} \cdot 14 \cdot E(R) + \frac{2}{3}E(R^2) \\ &= \frac{1}{3}(4 + 9 + 16) + \frac{1}{3} \cdot 14 \cdot 9 + \frac{2}{3}E(X^2) \end{aligned}$$

Solve get  $E(X^2) = 155$ , and  $Var(X) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2 = 155 - 9^2 = 74$ .

- Method 2: Conditional variance formula

i. Given  $Y = y$  the conditional variance of  $X$  is defined as

$$Var(X|Y = y) = E[X^2|Y = y] - [E(X|Y = y)]^2$$

ii.  $Var(X|Y = y)$  is a function of  $y$ , say  $h(y) = Var(X|Y = y)$ .

e.g.  $X|Y = y \sim \text{Pois}(y)$ , then  $Var(X|Y = y) = y$ . Hence  $h(y) = y$ .

iii. Apply  $h(y)$  to  $Y$ , we get  $h(Y)$  and we denote  $Var(X|Y) = h(Y)$ .

Note: We also have  $Var(X|Y) = E[X^2|Y] - [E(X|Y)]^2$ .

To find  $Var(X|Y)$ :

Step 1: Find  $h(y) = Var(X|Y = y)$ .

Step 2: Apply  $h(y)$  to  $Y$ , we get  $Var(X|Y) = h(Y)$ .

iv. Comments on  $Var(X|Y = y)$

a. Substitution rule is still applicable

b. If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then  $Var(X|Y = y) = Var(X)$

v. Formula to calculate  $Var(X)$

Theorem:  $Var(X) = E[Var(X|Y)] + Var[E(X|Y)]$

Proof:  $LHS = Var(X) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2$

$RHS = E[Var(X|Y)] + Var[E(X|Y)] = E[E(X^2|Y)] - E[E(X|Y)^2] + E[g(X)^2] - E[g(X)]^2 = E(X^2) - E(X)^2 = LHS$

Example 3.9:

- A coin is weighted such that  $P(H) = 1/4$ .
- Let  $N$  = number of tosses required to get 3 Hs by using the weighted coin.
- Suppose that we toss a fair coin  $N$  times. Let  $X$  = number of Hs in the  $N$  tosses.  
Find  $E(X)$  and  $Var(X)$ .

Solution:  $N \sim \text{NegBin}(3, 1/4)$  and  $X|N = n \sim \text{Bin}(n, 1/2)$ .

$E(X) = E[E(X|N)] = E(N/2) = E(N)/2 = 3/(1/4) = 12$ .

$E(X|N = n) = n/2 = g(n) \implies E(X|N) = g(N) = N/2$ .

$Var(X) = E[Var(X|N)] + Var[E(X|N)]$

$Var(X|N = n) = n/4 = h(n) \implies Var(X|N) = h(N) = N/4$

Hence,  $Var(X) = E[N/4] + Var(N/2) = \frac{E(N)}{4} + \frac{1}{4}Var(N) = \frac{3/4}{4} + \frac{1}{4} \frac{3(1-1/4)}{(1/4)^2} = 12$ .

• Method 3: Compound r.v. formula

i. Setup:

Suppose  $X_1, X_2, \dots$  are a sequence of iid rvs.

$N$ : a non-negative r.v.

Further:  $X_1, X_2, \dots$  and  $N$  are independent.

Then  $W = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i$  is called a compound r.v.

[If  $N = 0$ , then  $W = 0$ .]

ii. Result:

$E(W) = E(N)E(X_1)$

$Var(W) = E(N)Var(X_1) + Var(N)[E(X_1)]^2$

Proof:  $E(W) = E[E(W|N)]$

$E(W|N = n) = E[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i|N = n] = \sum_{i=1}^n E(X_i|N = n) = \sum_{i=1}^n E(X_1|N =$

$$n) = nE(X_1)$$

$$\text{Hence } E(W|N) = NE(X_1)$$

$$\implies E(W) = E[NE(X_1)] = E(N)E(X_1)$$

$$\text{Var}(W) = E[\text{Var}(W|N)] + \text{Var}[E(W|N)]$$

$$\text{Var}(W|N = n) = \text{Var}(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i | N = n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i | N = n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_1 | N = n) = n\text{Var}(X_1)$$

$$\text{Hence } \text{Var}(W) = E[\text{Var}(W|N)] + \text{Var}[E(W|N)] = E[N]\text{Var}(X_1) + \text{Var}(N)E(X_1)^2$$

#### Example 3.10

- A coin is weighted such that  $P(H) = 1/4$ .
- Let  $N$  = number of tosses required to get 3 Hs by using the weighted coin.
- Suppose that we toss a fair coin  $N$  times. Let  $X$  = number of Hs in the  $N$  tosses. Find  $E(X)$  and  $\text{Var}(X)$ .

$$\text{Solution: Let } X_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i\text{th toss is H} \\ 0 & \text{if } i\text{th toss is T} \end{cases}$$

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i : X_1, X_2, \dots \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Berlouloulli}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \text{ and } N \sim \text{NegBin}(3, 1/4).$$

$$\text{Then, } E(X) = E(N)E(X_1) = \frac{3}{1/4} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = 6$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = E(N)\text{Var}(X_1) + \text{Var}(N)[E(X_1)]^2 = \frac{3}{1/4} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{3 \cdot (1 - \frac{1}{4})}{1/4^2} \cdot \frac{1}{4} = 12.$$

#### Example 3.11 (Example 3.7 continued; Final exam, Spring 2016)

$$\circ Y \text{ has pdf } f(y) = \begin{cases} ye^{-y} & y > 0 \\ 0 & y \leq 0 \end{cases}.$$

$$\circ X|Y = y \sim \text{Pois}(y)$$

$$\text{Find } E(X) \text{ and } \text{Var}(X).$$

Solution:

$$E(X) = E[E(X|Y)] = E(Y) = \int_0^\infty f(y)dy = \int_0^\infty y^2 e^{-y} dy$$

$$E(X|Y = y) = y \text{ since } X|Y = y \sim \text{Pois}(y).$$

$$\text{Therefore } E(X|Y) = Y, \text{ hence } E(X) = 2.$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[\text{Var}(X|Y)] + \text{Var}[E(X|Y)]$$

$$\text{Var}(X|Y = y) = y \text{ since } X|Y = y \sim \text{Pois}(y).$$

$$\text{Therefore } \text{Var}(X|Y) = Y.$$

$$\text{Hence, } \text{Var}(X) = E(Y) + \text{Var}(Y) = E(Y) + E(Y^2) - [E(Y)]^2.$$

$$E(Y^2) = \int_0^\infty y^3 e^{-y} dy = \Gamma(4) = 3! = 6.$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = 2 + 6 - 2^2 = 4.$$

#### Example 3.12 (Question 3, Midterm 2017)

Suppose  $Y \sim N(0, 1)$  and  $N \sim \text{Bin}(3, 0.5)$ . That is,

$$P(N = 0) = P(N = 3) = \frac{1}{8}, P(N = 1) = P(N = 2) = \frac{3}{8}.$$

We further assume that  $Y$  and  $N$  are independent. Define  $X = Y^N$ .

Find  $E(X)$ ,  $Var(X)$ , and  $P(X < 0)$ .

Note:  $E(Y) = E(Y^3) = E(Y^5) = 0$ ,  $E(Y^2) = 1$ ,  $E(Y^4) = 3$ ,  $E(Y^6) = 15$ , and  $P(Y < 0) = 0.5$ .

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} E(X) &= E[E(X|N)] = E(Y^N) = E(Y^N|N=0)P(N=0) + E(Y^N|N=1)P(N=1) + E(Y^N|N=2)P(N=2) + E(Y^N|N=3)P(N=3) = \\ &= E(Y^0)P(N=0) + E(Y^1)P(N=1) + E(Y^2)P(N=2) + E(Y^3)P(N=3) = 1 \cdot \frac{1}{8} + 0 \cdot \frac{3}{8} + 1 \cdot \frac{3}{8} + 0 \cdot \frac{1}{8} = \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Similarly, } E(X^2) &= E[E(X^2|N)] = E(Y^{2N}) = E(Y^{2N}|N=0)P(N=0) + E(Y^{2N}|N=1)P(N=1) + E(Y^{2N}|N=2)P(N=2) + E(Y^{2N}|N=3)P(N=3) = \\ &= E(Y^0)P(N=0) + E(Y^2)P(N=1) + E(Y^4)P(N=2) + E(Y^6)P(N=3) = 1 \cdot \frac{1}{8} + 1 \cdot \frac{3}{8} + 3 \cdot \frac{3}{8} + 15 \cdot \frac{1}{8} = \frac{28}{8} = \frac{7}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

$$Var(X) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2 = \frac{7}{2} - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{13}{4}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(X < 0) &= \sum_{n=0}^3 P(X < 0 | N=n)P(N=n) = \sum_{n=0}^3 P(Y^n < 0 | N=n)P(N=n) = \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^3 P(Y^n < 0 | N=n)P(N=n) = P(Y^1 < 0)P(N=1) + P(Y^3 < 0)P(N=3) = 0.5 \cdot \frac{3}{8} + 0.5 \cdot \frac{1}{8} = \frac{1}{4}. \end{aligned}$$

Example 3.13 (Question 3, Midterm 2019)

Suppose  $X_1, X_2, \dots$  are a sequence of independent and identically distributed uniform random

variables with probability density function  $f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & 0 < x < 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ . Let  $Y$  be a continuous

random variable with probability density function  $g(y) = \begin{cases} 3y^2 & 0 < y < 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ . We further assume

that  $X_1, X_2, \dots$  and  $Y$  are independent. Let  $T = \min\{n \geq 1 : X_n < Y\}$ . That is,  $T$  is the first time to get a smaller value than  $Y$  in the sequence  $\{X_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ .

i. Find  $P(T = 2) = P(X_1 \geq Y, X_2 < Y)$ .

Solution: We condition on  $Y$ .

$$P(T = 2) = P(X_1 \geq Y, X_2 < Y) = \int_0^1 P(X_1 \geq y, X_2 < y | Y = y) f_Y(y) dy = \int_0^1 P(X_1 \geq y | Y = y) P(X_2 < y | Y = y) 3y^2 dy = \int_0^1 P(X_1 \geq y) P(X_2 < y) 3y^2 dy$$

$$\text{Here, } P(X_1 \geq y) = \int_y^1 f(x) dx = \int_y^1 1 dx = 1 - y \text{ and } P(X_2 < y) = \int_0^y f(x) dx = \int_0^y 1 dx = y.$$

$$\text{Hence, } P(T = 2) = \int_0^1 (1 - y)y3y^2 dy = \int_0^1 3y^3 - 3y^4 dy = \frac{3}{4} - \frac{3}{5} = \frac{3}{20}.$$

ii. Find  $E(T)$ .

Solution: We condition on  $Y$ .

Given  $Y = y$ ,  $T|Y = y$  = 1st time to get a smaller value than  $y$  in the sequence  $\{X_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ .

$$\text{Note } P(X_1 < y) = \int_0^y f(x) dx = \int_0^y 1 dx = y.$$

Hence,  $T|Y = y \sim \text{Geo}(y)$ .



$$E(T|Y = y) = \frac{1}{y}.$$

$$E(T) = E[E(T|Y)] = \int_0^1 \frac{1}{y} 3y^2 dy = 3 \int_0^1 y dy = \frac{3}{2}.$$

iii. Find  $Var(T)$ .

Solution:

$$E(T^2) = E[E(T^2|Y)] = \int_0^1 E(T^2|Y = y) f_Y(y) dy$$

$$T|Y = y \sim \text{Geo}(y), \text{ hence } E(T^2|Y = y) = Var(T|Y = y) + [E(T|Y = y)]^2 = \frac{1-y}{y^2} + \frac{1}{y^2}.$$

Hence,

$$E(T^2) = \int_0^1 \frac{1-y}{y^2} + \frac{1}{y^2} 3y^2 dy = \int_0^1 3(2-y) dy = 6 - \frac{3}{2} = \frac{9}{2}.$$

$$Var(T) = E(T^2) - [E(T)]^2 = \frac{9}{2} - \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{9}{4}.$$