

## STAT2001/6039 Final Exam June 2013 Solutions

### Solution to Problem 1

(a) Let  $Y$  be the number of dollars won on a single game of Luck-Out. Then:

$$EY = 0.01 \times 1000 + 0.04 \times 100 + 0.95 \times 0 = 14 \equiv \mu$$

$$EY^2 = 0.01 \times 1000^2 + 0.04 \times 100^2 + 0.95 \times 0^2 = 10400$$

$$VY = EY^2 - (EY)^2 = 10204 \equiv \sigma^2.$$

To play  $n = 250$  games will cost  $15n = \$3750$ . Let  $W$  be your total winnings in dollars after the  $n$  games. Then by the central limit theorem,  $W \sim N(n\mu, n\sigma^2)$ . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} P(Y > 3750) &\approx P(W > 3750) = P\left(Z > \frac{3750 - n\mu}{\sqrt{n\sigma^2}}\right) \text{ where } Z \sim N(0,1) \\ &= P\left(Z > \frac{3750 - 250 \times 14}{\sqrt{250 \times 10204}}\right) = P(Z > 0.1565) \approx P(Z > 0.16) = \boxed{0.4364} \end{aligned}$$

(using standard normal tables).

*Note:* A more accurate approximation of 0.4378 could be obtained by using statistical software such as *R*. One may also apply a continuity correction, as follows. After 250 games you will win a multiple of \$100. So you will have more money at the end than when you begin if you win at least \$3800. But the continuity correction in this situation is minus \$50. Therefore

$$P(Y > 3750) = P(Y \geq 3800) \approx P(W > 3800 - 50),$$

which leads to the same answer obtained above without a continuity correction.

(b) Let:  $X$  be the number of dollars won by Jim during eight games  
 $A_i$  be the event that Jim wins some money exactly  $i$  times  
 $B$  be the event that Jim wins some money at least twice.

Then  $EX = P(A_0)E(X | A_0) + P(A_1)E(X | A_1) + P(B)E(X | B)$ ,

where:  $EX = 8 \times 14$  (by (a))

$$P(A_0) = (0.95)^8$$

$$E(X | A_0) = 0$$

$$P(A_1) = \binom{8}{1} (0.05)^1 (0.95)^7$$

$$E(X | A_1) = 0.2 \times 1000 + 0.8 \times 100 = 280 \quad (\text{see the Note below})$$

$$P(B) = 1 - P(A_0) - P(A_1) = 0.057245.$$

It follows that

$$E(X | B) = \frac{EX - P(A_0)E(X | A_0) - P(A_1)E(X | A_1)}{P(B)} \\ = \frac{8 \times 14 - (0.95)^8 \times 0 - 8 \times 0.05 \times (0.95)^7 \times 280}{1 - (0.95)^8 - 8 \times 0.05 \times (0.95)^7} = \boxed{590.21}.$$

*Note:* If Jim wins something on exactly one of the eight games then (conditional on this) there is a  $1/5$  chance he wins \$1000 and a  $4/5$  chance he wins \$100 (on that game, and so overall). It follows that  $E(X | A_1) = 0.2 \times 1000 + 0.8 \times 100 = 280$ .

### **Alternative working**

Let  $I$  be the number of games out of 8 won by Jim, as a random variable.

Then, conditional on  $B$ ,  $I$  has density  $f(i | B) = \binom{8}{i} \frac{0.05^i 0.95^{8-i}}{P(B)}$ ,  $i = 2, \dots, 8$ .

Also, using previous logic, observe that  $E(X | BA_i) = E(X | A_i) = 280i$ .

It follows by the law of iterated expectation that

$$E(X | B) = E\{E(X | BA_i) | B\} = \sum_{i=2}^8 280i \binom{8}{i} \frac{0.05^i 0.95^{8-i}}{P(B)} = 590.21.$$

### **R Code for Problem 1 (not required, only for interest)**

```
PB=1-pbinom(1,8,0.05); PB # 0.05724465
xv=2:8; (280/PB)*sum(xv*dbinom(xv,8,0.05)) # 590.2075
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### **Solution to Problem 2**

(a) We equate  $\mu'_1 = \mu = EY_i = \frac{c+10}{2}$  with  $m'_1 = \bar{y} = \frac{1}{3}(2.2 + 4.8 + 5.0) = 4.0$

to get the method of moments estimate,  $\hat{c} = 2\bar{y} - 10 = 2 \times 4 - 10 = \boxed{-2}$ .

Now  $E\hat{c} = 2E\bar{Y} - 10 = 2\left(\frac{c+10}{2}\right) - 10 = c$ . So  $MSE(\hat{c}) = V\hat{c} + (B(\hat{c}))^2$

$$= V\hat{c} + 0^2 = 2^2 V\bar{Y} = 4 \frac{VY_i}{n} = 4 \left( \frac{(10-c)^2 / 12}{n} \right) = 4 \left( \frac{(10-2)^2 / 12}{3} \right) = \frac{64}{9} = \boxed{7.111}.$$

(b) The joint density of the observations is  $f(y) = \left(\frac{1}{10-c}\right)^n, y_1, \dots, y_n \in [c, 10]$ .

So the likelihood function is  $L(c) = \left(\frac{1}{10-c}\right)^n, c \leq m$  where  $m = \min(y_1, \dots, y_n)$ .

We see that  $L(c)$  is a strictly increasing function. So the maximum likelihood estimate of  $c$  is  $\hat{c} = m = \min(2.2, 4.8, 5.0) = \boxed{2.2}$ . Thus  $r = \frac{(1/(10-2.2))^3}{(1/(10-0))^3} = \boxed{2.107}$ .

(c) Observe that  $M = \min(Y_1, \dots, Y_n)$  is an order statistic with cdf

$$\begin{aligned} F(m) &= P(M \leq m) = 1 - P(M > m) = 1 - P(Y_1 > m, \dots, Y_n > m) \\ &= 1 - P(Y_1 > m)^n = 1 - (1 - F_{Y_1}(m))^n, c \leq m \leq 10. \end{aligned}$$

So  $M$  has pdf  $f(m) = F'(m) = 0 - n(1 - F_{Y_1}(m))^{n-1} f_{Y_1}(m)$

$$= n \left(1 - \left(\frac{m-c}{10-c}\right)\right)^{n-1} \frac{1}{10-c}, c \leq m \leq 10.$$

$$\text{Thus } EM = \int_c^{10} m \left\{ n \left(1 - \left(\frac{m-c}{10-c}\right)\right)^{n-1} \frac{1}{10-c} \right\} dm.$$

Let  $t = \frac{m-c}{10-c}$ . Then  $m = (10-c)t + c$  and  $\frac{dm}{dt} = 10-c$ .

$$\text{Hence } EM = \int_0^1 \{(10-c)t + c\} n(1-t)^{n-1} dt.$$

But  $n(1-t)^{n-1}$  is the pdf of the  $Beta(1, n)$  distribution with mean  $1/(1+n)$ .

$$\text{So } EM = (10-c) \times \frac{1}{1+n} + c \times 1 = \frac{10}{n+1} + \frac{nc}{n+1}.$$

$$\text{So } E\left(M - \frac{10}{n+1}\right) = \frac{nc}{n+1}. \quad \text{So } E\left(\frac{n+1}{n} \left(M - \frac{10}{n+1}\right)\right) = c.$$

$$\text{So an unbiased estimate of } c \text{ is } \hat{c} = \left(\frac{n+1}{n}\right)m - \frac{10}{n} = \left(\frac{3+1}{3}\right)2.2 - \frac{10}{3} = \boxed{-0.4}.$$

(d) Observe that  $Y - c \sim U(0, 10 - c)$ . So a suitable pivot is  $X = \frac{Y - c}{10 - c} \sim U(0, 1)$ .

So  $1 - \alpha = P(\alpha/2 < X < 1 - \alpha/2)$

$$\begin{aligned} &= P\left(\frac{\alpha}{2} < \frac{Y - c}{10 - c} < 1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right) = P\left(\frac{\alpha}{2} < \frac{Y - c}{10 - c}, \frac{Y - c}{10 - c} < 1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right) \\ &= P\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}(10 - c) < Y - c, Y - c < \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right)(10 - c)\right) \\ &= P\left(c\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right) < Y - 10\frac{\alpha}{2}, Y - 10\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right) < c\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) \\ &= P\left(c < \frac{Y - 10\frac{\alpha}{2}}{1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}}, \frac{Y - 10\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right)}{\frac{\alpha}{2}} < c\right) = P\left(\frac{Y - 10\left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}\right)}{\frac{\alpha}{2}} < c < \frac{Y - 10\frac{\alpha}{2}}{1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}}\right), \end{aligned}$$

and so a central  $1 - \alpha$  CI for  $c$  is  $\left(\frac{y - 10(1 - \alpha/2)}{\alpha/2}, \frac{y - 10\alpha/2}{1 - \alpha/2}\right)$ .

If  $y = 4.0$  and  $\alpha = 0.05$ , the CI is  $\left(\frac{4 - 10(0.975)}{0.025}, \frac{4 - 10(0.025)}{0.975}\right) = \boxed{(-230, 3.846)}$ .

(e) Since  $n = 50$  is large, the central limit theorem implies that

$$\bar{Y} \sim N\left(\frac{c + 10}{2}, \frac{(10 - c)^2 / 12}{n}\right),$$

and so a suitable pivot is  $Z = \frac{\bar{Y} - (c + 10)/2}{(10 - c)/\sqrt{12n}} \sim N(0, 1)$ .

Thus, with  $z = z_{\alpha/2}$ , we write

$$\begin{aligned} 1 - \alpha &\approx P(-z < Z < z) = P\left(-z < \frac{\bar{Y} - (c + 10)/2}{(10 - c)/\sqrt{12n}} < z\right) \\ &= P\left(-z\left(\frac{10 - c}{\sqrt{12n}}\right) < \bar{Y} - \frac{c}{2} - 5 < z\left(\frac{10 - c}{\sqrt{12n}}\right)\right) \\ &= P\left(c\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{z}{\sqrt{12n}}\right) < \bar{Y} - 5 + \frac{10z}{\sqrt{12n}}, \bar{Y} - 5 - \frac{10z}{\sqrt{12n}} < c\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{z}{\sqrt{12n}}\right)\right) \\ &= P\left(\frac{\bar{Y} - 5 - \frac{10z}{\sqrt{12n}}}{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{z}{\sqrt{12n}}} < c < \frac{\bar{Y} - 5 + \frac{10z}{\sqrt{12n}}}{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{z}{\sqrt{12n}}}\right). \end{aligned}$$

So an approximate central  $1-\alpha$  CI for  $c$  is  $\left( \frac{\bar{y}-5-\frac{10z_{\alpha/2}}{\sqrt{12n}}}{\frac{1}{2}-\frac{z_{\alpha/2}}{\sqrt{12n}}}, \frac{\bar{y}-5+\frac{10z_{\alpha/2}}{\sqrt{12n}}}{\frac{1}{2}+\frac{z_{\alpha/2}}{\sqrt{12n}}} \right)$ .

If  $n = 50$ ,  $\alpha = 0.05$  and  $\bar{y} = 4.0$ , the CI equals  $\left( \frac{4-5-\frac{10 \times 1.96}{\sqrt{12 \times 50}}}{\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1.96}{\sqrt{12 \times 50}}}, \frac{4-5+\frac{10 \times 1.96}{\sqrt{12 \times 50}}}{\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1.96}{\sqrt{12 \times 50}}} \right)$   
 $= \left( \frac{-1-\frac{1.96}{\sqrt{6}}}{\frac{1}{2}-\frac{0.196}{\sqrt{6}}}, \frac{-1+\frac{1.96}{\sqrt{6}}}{\frac{1}{2}+\frac{0.196}{\sqrt{6}}} \right) = \boxed{(-4.2863, -0.3445)}.$

(f) If  $n = 50$  and  $\{H_0 : c = 0\}$  is true then  $\bar{Y} \sim N\left(\frac{0+10}{2}, \frac{(10-0)^2}{12 \times 50}\right) \sim N\left(5, \frac{1}{6}\right)$ .

This distribution is symmetric about 5, and so an appropriate rejection region is  $AR = (5-k, 5+k)$ , where  $k$  is a value which satisfies

$$0.025 = P(\bar{Y} > 5+k) \approx P\left(Z > \frac{5+k-5}{\sqrt{100/(12 \times 50)}}\right) = P\left(Z > \frac{k}{\sqrt{6}}\right) \text{ where } Z \sim N(0,1).$$

But  $0.025 = P(Z > 1.96)$ . Thus we equate  $k/\sqrt{6} = 1.96$  and obtain  $k = 0.8002$ .

So the acceptance region is  $(4.2, 5.8)$  and the rejection region is  $\boxed{(-\infty, 4.2) \cup (5.8, 10)}$ .

We observe  $\bar{y} = 4.0$ , which is in the rejection region.

Therefore, we **reject  $H_0$**  and conclude that  $c \neq 0$ .

The  $p$ -value for this test is

$$\begin{aligned} P(|\bar{Y} - E\bar{Y}| \geq |\bar{y} - E\bar{Y}| | H_0) &= P(|\bar{Y} - 5| \geq |4 - 5|) \text{ where } \bar{Y} \sim N(5, 1/6) \\ &= P\left(\left|\frac{\bar{Y} - 5}{1/\sqrt{6}}\right| \geq \left|\frac{4 - 5}{1/\sqrt{6}}\right|\right) \\ &\approx 2P(Z > 2.45) = 2 \times 0.0071 = \boxed{0.0142} \text{ (using standard normal tables).} \end{aligned}$$

### Alternative form of the hypothesis test

Under  $H_0 : c = 0$ ,  $Z = \frac{\bar{Y} - 5}{\sqrt{1/6}} \sim N(0,1)$ . So we reject  $H_0$  if  $|Z| > z_{\alpha/2} = 1.96$ .

The observed value of  $Z$  is  $z = \frac{4-5}{\sqrt{1/6}} = -2.45$ . So we reject  $H_0$ .

**Solution to Problem 3**

(a) The cdf of  $R$  is  $F(r) = P(R \leq r) = P(Y/X < r) = P(Y < rX) = \frac{1}{2} \times c \times rc \times \frac{1}{c^2} = \frac{r}{2}$ .

This is true if  $0 \leq r \leq 1$ . If  $r > 1$  then we find that  $F(r) = 1 - \frac{1}{2} \times c \times \frac{c}{r} \times \frac{1}{c^2} = 1 - \frac{1}{2r}$ .

*Note:* These results follow easily after noting that  $f(x, y) = 1/c^2, 0 < x < c, 0 < y < c$ , and sketching the region under the line  $y = rx$  in the square defined by  $(0,0)$ ,  $(0,c)$ ,  $(c,c)$  and  $(c,0)$  in the  $x$ - $y$  plane. Two cases need to be considered:  $0 \leq r \leq 1$  and  $r > 1$ .

$$\text{Thus, } F(r) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}r, & 0 \leq r \leq 1 \\ 1 - \frac{1}{2}r^{-1}, & r > 1 \end{cases}, \text{ and so } R \text{ has pdf } f(r) = F'(r) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}, & 0 \leq r \leq 1 \\ \frac{1}{2r^2}, & r > 1 \end{cases}.$$

$$\text{Check: } \int f(r)dr = \frac{1}{2} + \int_1^{\infty} \frac{1}{2r^2} dr = 1.$$

We see that  $R$  has a distribution which does not depend on  $c$ .

So, for all possible values of  $c$  (including 8, for example):

$$\text{The mean of } R \text{ is } ER = \int_0^1 r \frac{1}{2} dr + \int_1^{\infty} r \frac{1}{2r^2} dr = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{2}(\log \infty - \log 1) = \infty.$$

The mode of  $R$  is 0 or 1 or any value between 0 and 1, or the interval  $[0,1]$ .

The median of  $R$  is 1 (the unique solution in  $r$  of the equation  $F(r) = 1/2$ ).

(b) Observe that  $R$  in (a) is a suitable pivot for predicting  $Y$ .

Setting  $F(r) = 0.1$  gives  $\frac{1}{2}r = 0.1$  and hence  $r = 1/5$ .

Likewise, setting  $F(r) = 0.9$  gives  $1 - \frac{1}{2}r^{-1} = 0.9$  and hence  $r = 5$ .

$$\text{So we write } 0.8 = P(1/5 < R < 5) = P\left(\frac{1}{5} < \frac{Y}{X} < 5\right) = P\left(\frac{X}{5} < Y < 5X\right).$$

We see that an 80% prediction interval for  $Y$  is

$$(x/5, 5x) = (4/5, 5 \times 4) = (0.8, 20).$$

*Check:*  $P(Y < X/5) = P(R < 1/5) = 0.1$ ,  $P(Y > 5X) = P(R > 5) = 0.1$ .

This means that the prediction interval is *central* in the sense required.

#### Solution to Problem 4

(a) Let  $A_i$  be the event that 1 and 2 come up on rolls  $i$  and  $i + 1$ , respectively ( $i = 1, \dots, 6$ ). Also let  $A$  be the event that the sequence 12 comes up at least once.

Then  $A = A_1 \cup \dots \cup A_6$  and  $P(A) = S_1 - S_2 + S_3$  where  $S_1 = \sum_{i=1}^6 P(A_i)$ ,  $S_2 = \sum_{i < j} P(A_i A_j)$  and  $S_3 = \sum_{i < j < k} P(A_i A_j A_k)$ . Let  $p_i = P(A_i)$ ,  $p_{ij} = P(A_i A_j)$  and  $p_{ijk} = P(A_i A_j A_k)$ .

Now,  $p_i = 1/36$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, 6$ , and so  $S_1 = 6 \times 1/36$ .

Also,  $p_{ij} = 0$  if  $j = i + 1$ , and  $p_{ij} = 1/36^2$  if  $j > i + 1$ .

So  $S_2 = (p_{13} + p_{14} + p_{15} + p_{16}) + (p_{24} + p_{25} + p_{26}) + (p_{35} + p_{36}) + p_{46} = 10 \times 1/36^2$ .

Finally,  $p_{ijk} = 0$  if  $j = i + 1$  or  $k = j + 1$ , and  $p_{ijk} = 1/36^3$  if  $j > i + 1$  and  $k > j + 1$ .

Thus  $S_3 = p_{135} + p_{136} + p_{146} + p_{246} = 4 \times 1/36^3$ .

It follows that  $P(A) = \frac{6}{36} - \frac{10}{36^2} + \frac{4}{36^3} = \frac{1855}{11664} = \boxed{0.1590}$ .

(b) Let  $X_i = I(A_i)$ , the indicator event for  $A_i$ . Thus,  $X_i = 1$  if 1 and 2 come up on rolls  $i$  and  $i + 1$ , respectively, and  $X_i = 0$  otherwise. Then  $X_1, \dots, X_6 \sim \text{Bern}(1/36)$ .

Next define  $X$  to be the number of occurrences of the sequence 12 (1 followed by 2). Now,  $X = X_1 + \dots + X_6$ , and so  $EX = EX_1 + \dots + EX_6 = 6EX_1$ , since  $EX_1 = \dots = EX_6$ .

But  $EX_1 = 0P(X_1 = 0) + 1P(X_1 = 1) = 0 + P(A_1) = 1/36$ .

Therefore  $EX = 6 \times 1/36 = 1/6 = \boxed{0.1667}$ .

Next, observe that  $VX = \sum_{i=1}^6 \sigma_i^2 + 2 \sum_{i < j} \sigma_{ij}$  where  $\sigma_i^2 = VX_i$  and  $\sigma_{ij} = C(X_i, X_j)$ .

Now,  $\sigma_i^2 = (1/36)(1 - 1/36) = 35/36^2$ . Also,  $\sigma_{ij} = 0$  whenever  $j > i + 1$ .

If  $j = i + 1$ , then  $E(X_i X_j) = 0$  (since the event  $A_i A_{i+1}$  is impossible),

and so in that case,  $\sigma_{ij} = E(X_i X_j) - (EX_i)(EX_j) = 0 - (1/36)^2 = -1/36^2$ .

It follows that  $VX = (\sigma_1^2 + \dots + \sigma_6^2) + 2(\sigma_{12} + \sigma_{23} + \sigma_{34} + \sigma_{45} + \sigma_{56})$

$$= 6 \times \frac{35}{36^2} + 2 \times 5 \times \left( -\frac{1}{36^2} \right) = \frac{25}{162} = \boxed{0.1543}.$$

**Solution to Problem 5**

(a) Let  $A$  be the event that 1 comes up at least once, and let  $B$  be the event that 3 comes up at least once. Then the required probability is

$$\begin{aligned} p &= P(AB) = 1 - P(\overline{AB}) = 1 - P(\overline{A} \cup \overline{B}) \quad \text{by De Morgan's laws} \\ &= 1 - \{P(\overline{A}) + P(\overline{B}) - P(\overline{A} \cap \overline{B})\}. \end{aligned}$$

Now,  $P(\overline{A}) = (5/6)^5$ ,  $P(\overline{B}) = (3/6)^5$  and  $P(\overline{A} \cap \overline{B}) = (2/6)^5$ .

So  $p = 1 - \{(5/6)^5 + (3/6)^5 - (2/6)^5\} = \boxed{0.5710}$ .

(b) Let  $p$  be the probability that the last number is 3, let  $p_i$  be the probability that the last number is 3 given that the first number is  $i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3$ ), and let  $p_{ij}$  be the probability that the last number is 3 given that the first two numbers are  $i$  and  $j$ , in that order ( $j = 1, 2, 3$ ). Then, applying a first step analysis we have that:

$$\begin{aligned} p &= \frac{1}{6}p_1 + \frac{2}{6}p_2 + \frac{3}{6}p_3 \\ p_1 &= \frac{1}{6}p_{11} + \frac{2}{6}p_{12} + \frac{3}{6}p_{13} = \frac{1}{6} \times 0 + \frac{2}{6}p_2 + \frac{3}{6}p_3 \\ p_2 &= \frac{1}{6}p_{21} + \frac{2}{6}p_{22} + \frac{3}{6}p_{23} = \frac{1}{6}p_1 + \frac{2}{6} \times 0 + \frac{3}{6}p_3 \\ p_3 &= \frac{1}{6}p_{31} + \frac{2}{6}p_{32} + \frac{3}{6}p_{33} = \frac{1}{6}p_1 + \frac{2}{6}p_2 + \frac{3}{6} \times 1. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Thus: } 6p = p_1 + 2p_2 + 3p_3 \quad (1)$$

$$6p_1 = 0 + 2p_2 + 3p_3 \quad (2)$$

$$6p_2 = p_1 + 0 + 3p_3 \quad (3)$$

$$6p_3 = p_1 + 2p_2 + 3. \quad (4)$$

We now solve these four equations in four unknowns as follows:

$$(1) - (2) \Rightarrow p_1 = \frac{6}{7}p \quad (5)$$

$$(1) - (3) \Rightarrow p_2 = \frac{3}{4}p \quad (6)$$

$$(1) - (4) \Rightarrow p_3 = \frac{2p+1}{3}. \quad (7)$$

Next substitute (5), (6) and (7) into (3) to get  $p = 14/23 = \boxed{0.6087}$ .

*Note:* We then also get  $p_1 = 12/23$ ,  $p_2 = 21/46$  and  $p_3 = 17/23$ .



**Solution to Problem 6**

Let  $X$  be the number of rolls until a 2 comes up, let  $Y$  be the number of times that 3 comes up, and let  $A$  be the event that 3 does *not* come up (i.e., the event  $Y = 0$ ).

Then  $X \sim \text{Geometric}(1/3)$  with pdf  $f(x) = \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{x-1} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)$ ,  $x = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

Also,  $(Y | X = x) \sim \text{Bin}(x-1, 3/4)$ , and hence

$$P(A | X = x) = P(Y = 0 | X = x) = \binom{x-1}{0} \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^0 \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^{x-1-0} = \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^{x-1}, x = 1, 2, \dots$$

*Note:* If the first 2 comes up on the  $x$ th roll, then each of the previous  $x-1$  numbers which come up has a  $1/4$  chance of being 1 and a  $3/4$  chance of being 3, independently of the others. If 2 comes up on the first roll, then  $x = 1$  and the formula  $(1/4)^{x-1}$  correctly gives the probability of 3 not coming up (namely, 1).

It follows that the probability of 3 not coming up is

$$\begin{aligned} P(A) &= \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} P(A | X = x) P(X = x) = \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^{x-1} \left\{ \left(\frac{2}{3}\right)^{x-1} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right) \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{6}{5} \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^{x-1} \times \frac{5}{6} \right\} = \frac{2}{5} \times 1 = \frac{2}{5}. \end{aligned}$$

So the probability that 3 comes up at least once equals  $1 - 2/5 = 3/5 = \boxed{0.6}$ .

**Alternative working**

More simply, let  $B$  be the event that 3 comes up at least once (thus  $B = \bar{A}$ ).

Also let  $P(1)$  be the event that 1 comes up on the first roll, etc.

Then, applying a first step analysis, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} P(B) &= P(1)P(B | 1) + P(2)P(B | 2) + P(3)P(B | 3) \\ &= \frac{1}{6} \times P(B) + \frac{2}{6} \times 0 + \frac{3}{6} \times 1. \end{aligned}$$

Solving this one equation in one unknown, we get  $P(B) = 3/5$ .