

Question 2

Given, a coin that shows heads with a probability p , and tails with a probability $(1 - p)$.

q_n represents the probability that after n -tosses, there are an even number of heads.

Two cases are possible; at a time n , there may already be an even number of heads; here, $p' = q_{n-1}(1 - p)$

Alternatively, there may be an odd number of heads at a given time n . This would occur with a probability of $1 - q_{n-1}$; therefore the probability of even heads would be $p'' = (1 - q_{n-1})p$

$$q_n = p' + p''$$

$$q_n = (1 - q_{n-1})p + q_{n-1}(1 - p)$$

$$q_n = (1 - 2p)q_{n-1} + p$$

$$q_n = (1 - 2p)^n + p(1 + (1 - 2p) + (1 - 2p)^2 + (1 - 2p)^3 + \dots + (1 - 2p)^{n-1})$$

$$q_n = (1 - 2p)^n + \frac{p(1 - (1 - 2p)^n)}{1 - (1 - 2p)}$$

$$q_n = (1 - 2p)^n + \frac{1 - (1 - 2p)^n}{2}$$

$$q_n = \frac{1 + (1 - 2p)^n}{2}$$