

(1) **A left-turn lane problem**

A civil engineer is studying a left-turn lane that is long enough to hold six cars. Let  $X$  be the number of cars in the lane at the end of a randomly chosen red light. The engineer believes that the probability that  $X = x$  is proportional to  $(x+1)(7-x)$ .

- Find the probability mass function (pmf) of  $X$ .
  - Compute the probability that  $X$  will be at least 4.
  - Calculate the expectation and standard deviation of  $X$ .
- Note: R might be useful.

$$\sum_{k=1}^n k = \frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^n k^2 = \frac{n(n+1)(2n+1)}{6}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^n k^3 = \left( \sum_{k=1}^n k \right)^2$$

a)  $f(x) = P(X=x) = a(x+1)(7-x)$

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \sum_{x=0}^6 f(x) = a \sum_{x=0}^6 (x+1)(7-x) = a \left( \sum_{x=0}^6 7 + \sum_{x=0}^6 6x - \sum_{x=0}^6 x^2 \right) \\ &= a \left( 49 + 6 \cdot \frac{7 \cdot 6}{2} - \frac{6 \cdot 7 \cdot 13}{6} \right) \\ &= a (49 + 6 \cdot 21 - 91) = a (49 + 126 - 91) \\ &= a \cdot 84 \Rightarrow a = \frac{1}{84} \end{aligned}$$



b)  $P(X \geq 4) = 1 - P(X < 4) = 1 - \sum_{k=0}^3 P(X=k) = 1 - \frac{1}{84} \left( \sum_{k=0}^3 7 + \sum_{k=0}^3 6k - \sum_{k=0}^3 k^2 \right)$

$$= 1 - \frac{1}{84} \left( 28 + 6 \cdot \frac{3 \cdot 4}{2} - \frac{3 \cdot 4 \cdot 7}{6} \right) = 1 - \frac{1}{84} (28 + 36 - 14) = 1 - \frac{1}{84} 50 = 1 - \frac{25}{42} = \frac{17}{42}$$

c)  $E(X) = \sum_{k=0}^6 k P(X=k) = \frac{1}{84} \sum_{k=0}^6 k(k+1)(7-k) = \frac{1}{84} \left( 7 \sum_{k=0}^6 k + 6 \sum_{k=0}^6 k^2 - \sum_{k=0}^6 k^3 \right)$

$$= \frac{1}{84} \left( 7 \cdot \frac{6 \cdot 7}{2} + 6 \cdot \frac{6 \cdot 7 \cdot 13}{6} - 21^2 \right) = \frac{1}{84} (7 \cdot 21 + 2 \cdot 13 \cdot 21 - 21^2)$$

$$= \frac{21}{84} (7 + 26 - 21) = \frac{21}{84} \cdot 12 = \frac{7}{28} \cdot 12 = \frac{7}{14} \cdot 6 = \frac{6}{2} = 3$$

$$V(X) = E((X - E(X))^2) = E((X - 3)^2) = \sum_{k=0}^6 (k-3)^2 P(X=k) = 3 \dots \text{calculation in R}$$

Thus,  $s = \sqrt{V(X)} = \sqrt{3}$