

**Department of Mathematics, IIT Madras**  
**MA 2040 : Probability, Statistics and Stochastic Processes**  
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**Solutions to Problem Set - 8**

1. Note that

$$R \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p)$$

$$G \sim \text{Binomial}(n, 1-p)$$

Further,  $R + G = n$ .

(a)

$$p_R(k) = \begin{cases} \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}, & k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbb{E}(R) = np, \text{Var}(R) = np(1-p).$$

(b) This event is possible in two ways:

First item goes to red truck and rest  $(n-1)$  go to green truck.

First item goes to green truck and the rest  $(n-1)$  go to red truck.

This implies that the desired probability  $= p(1-p)^{n-1} + (1-p)p^{n-1}$ .

(c) For  $n = 1$ , the desired event occurs with probability 1.

For  $n = 2$ , the desired probability  $= P(\text{the first item goes to red truck and second item goes to green truck}) + P(\text{the first item goes to green truck and second item goes to red truck})$

$$= p(1-p) + (1-p)p = 2p(1-p)$$

For  $n \geq 3$ , the desired probability is

$$\binom{n}{1} p(1-p)^{n-1} + \binom{n}{1} (1-p)p^{n-1} = np(1-p)^{n-1} + n(1-p)p^{n-1}$$

(d) Recall that  $R + G = n$ .

$$\text{Hence } \mathbb{E}(R - G) = \mathbb{E}(2R - n) = 2\mathbb{E}(R) - n = 2np - n = n(2p - 1).$$

$$\text{Var}(R - G) = \text{Var}(2R - n) = 4\text{Var}(R) = 4np(1-p).$$

2. Let  $A$  be the event that the first two packages loaded go onto the red truck.

Note that  $R$  can be written as

$$R = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n$$

where  $X_i$ 's are Bernoulli RVs with parameter  $p$ .  $R | A = 2 + X_3 + X_4 + \dots + X_n$

$$\mathbb{E}(R | A) = 2 + (n-2)p$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(R | A) &= \text{Var}(2 + X_3 + X_4 + \dots + X_n) \\ &= \text{Var}(X_3) + \text{Var}(X_4) + \dots + \text{Var}(X_n) \\ &= (n-2)p(1-p). \end{aligned}$$

The possible values of  $R | A$  are  $2, 3, 4, \dots, n$ .

$$p_{R|A}(k) = \begin{cases} \binom{n-2}{k-2} p^{k-2} (1-p)^{n-k}, & k = 2, 3, 4, \dots, n \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

3. Probability of passing a quiz = 3/4

Probability of failing a quiz = 1/4.

Required probability =  $\binom{6}{2} (1/4)^2 (3/4)^4$

4. Arrival = fail.

We have a Bernoulli process with  $p = 1/4$ .

(a) Answer =  $\mathbb{E}(Y_3 - 3) = 3/(1/4) - 3 = 9$ .

(b) Desired probability =  $P(Y_2 = 8, Y_3 = 9) = P(Y_2 = 8, T_3 = 1) = P(Y_2 = 8)P(T_3 = 1)$   
 $= \binom{7}{1} (1/4)^2 (3/4)^6 \cdot (1/4)$ .

(c) Let F denotes the failure and P denote the passed quiz. The desired event happens if and only if one of the following happens:

*FF...*

*PFF...*

*FPFF...*

*PFPPFF...*

*FPFPFF...*

The desired probability is

$$\begin{aligned} & P(FF) + P(PFF) + P(FPFF) + P(PFPFF) + P(FPFPFF) + \dots \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^2 + \frac{3}{4}\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^2 + \frac{3}{4}\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^3 + \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^2\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^3 + \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^2\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^4 + \dots \\ &= \left[\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^2 + \frac{3}{4}\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^3 + \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^2\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^4 + \dots\right] + \left[\frac{3}{4}\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^2\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^3 + \dots\right] \\ &= x + y(\text{say}). \end{aligned}$$

Now

$$\begin{aligned}
 x &= \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^2 + \frac{3}{4}\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^3 + \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^2\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^4 + \dots \\
 &= \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^2 \left[1 + \frac{3}{4}\frac{1}{4} + \left(\frac{3}{4}\frac{1}{4}\right)^2 + \dots\right] \\
 &= \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^2 \frac{1}{1 - 3/16} = \frac{1}{16} \frac{16}{13} = \frac{1}{13}
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}
 y &= \frac{3}{4}\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^2 \left[1 + \frac{3}{4}\frac{1}{4} + \left(\frac{3}{4}\frac{1}{4}\right)^2 + \dots\right] \\
 &= \frac{3}{4}\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^2 \frac{16}{13} = \frac{3}{52}
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $x + y = \frac{1}{13} + \frac{3}{52}$ .

5. Let  $X$  be the number of failures before the  $r^{th}$  success.

(a) Recall that  $Y_r$  is the number of trials to get  $r$  successes. Thus,  $X + r = Y_r$

$$p_{Y_r}(t) = \binom{t-1}{r-1} p^r (1-p)^{t-r} \quad t = r, r+1, \dots$$

$$p_X(k) = P_{Y_r}(k+r) = \binom{k+r-1}{r-1} p^r (1-p)^k \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(b) } \mathbb{E}(X) &= \mathbb{E}(Y_r - r) = \frac{r}{p} - r = \frac{(1-p)r}{p}. \\
 \text{Var}(X) &= \text{Var}(Y_r) = \frac{r(1-p)}{p^2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

6. Let  $X$  and  $Y_r$  be as in the above problem.

$P(i^{th} \text{ failure occurs before the } r^{th} \text{ success})$

$= P(\text{there are } i \text{ or more than } i \text{ failures before the } r^{th} \text{ success}) = P(X \geq i)$

$$= \sum_{k=i}^{\infty} \binom{k+r-1}{r-1} p^r (1-p)^k.$$

7. Trains arrival  $\sim \text{Poisson}(3)$

Since trains arrival is Poisson, by definition of Poisson process “arrivals in disjoint intervals are independent”, hence,  $P(\text{No trains on days 1, 2 and 3} | 1 \text{ train on day 0}) = P(N_3 = 0)$ .

We know that  $N_3$  is  $\text{Poisson}(3\lambda) = \text{Poisson}(9)$ . Therefore the required probability  $= e^{-9}$ .

8. (a) We know that interarrival times  $T_1, T_2, \dots$  are mutually independent, and each  $T_k$  is exponentially distributed with parameter  $\lambda = 3$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Required probability} &= P(T_2 > 3) \\ &= \int_3^\infty 3e^{-3x} dx = -\frac{3}{3}e^{-3x} \Big|_3^\infty = e^{-9}\end{aligned}$$

Alternately,  $P(\text{next train to arrive takes more than 3 days after the first train on day 0})$   
 $= P(\text{no trains on days 1,2 and 3} | 1 \text{ train on day 0})$   
 $= e^{-9}.$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{(b) } P(\text{No trains on first two days and 4 trains on 4}^{th} \text{ day}) \\ &= P(\text{No trains on day 1})P(\text{No trains on day 2})P(4 \text{ trains on day 4}) \\ &= e^{-3}e^{-3}\frac{e^{-3}3^4}{4!} = \frac{e^{-9}3^4}{4!}.\end{aligned}$$

(c) Note that in Poisson(r) processes, “the time of the  $k^{th}$  arrival” has the following density,

$$f_{Y_k}(t) = \frac{\lambda e^{-\lambda t} (\lambda t)^{k-1}}{(k-1)!}, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, t > 0$$

Thus time of the  $5^{th}$  arrival has density

$$f_{Y_5}(t) = \frac{3^5}{4!} t^4 e^{-3t}, \quad t > 0$$

We are interested in,

$$\begin{aligned}P(Y_5 > 2) &= \int_2^\infty \frac{3^5}{4!} t^4 e^{-3t} dt \\ &= \frac{3^5}{24} \times \left[ -\frac{1}{81} e^{-3t} (27t^4 + 36t^3 + 36t^2 + 24t + 8) \right]_2^\infty \\ &= \frac{3}{24} e^{-6} (27 \times 16 + 36 \times 8 + 36 \times 4 + 24 \times 2 + 8) = 115e^{-6}.\end{aligned}$$

9. (a) A potential customer becomes actual customer with probability  $p$ . Hence desired probability  
 $= \binom{5}{3} p^3 (1-p)^2.$

(b)  $P(\text{fifth potential customer to arrive becomes the third actual customer})$   
 $= P(\text{any 2 of the first 4 customer becomes real customer})$   
 $P(5^{th} \text{ customer become } 3^{rd} \text{ real customer})$   
 $= \binom{4}{2} p^2 (1-p)^2 \cdot p = \binom{4}{2} p^3 (1-p)^2.$

10. (a) Note that the process arrival of actual customers is Poisson( $p\lambda$ ).  
 $L = \text{arrival of } 10^{th} \text{ actual customer. } f_L(t) = f_{Y_{10}}(t) = \frac{(p\lambda)^{10} t^9 e^{-p\lambda t}}{9!}, t \geq 0.$   
 $\mathbb{E}(L) = \mathbb{E}(Y_{10}) = \frac{10}{p\lambda}.$

(b) The required conditional expectation = expected time of arrival of fifth potential customer +  
expected time of arrival of the seventh actual customer =  $\frac{5}{\lambda} + \frac{7}{\lambda p}$