

Assignment 3  
Applied Stochastic Processes  
Habib University – Fall 2023

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1. Dave fails quizzes with probability  $\frac{1}{4}$ , independent of other quizzes.
- (a) What is the probability that Dave fails exactly two of the next six quizzes?

**Solution:**

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{Dave fails exactly two of the next six quizzes}) &= \binom{6}{2} \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^2 \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^4 \\ &= 15 \times \frac{1}{16} \times \frac{81}{256} \\ &= \frac{1215}{4096} \\ &= 0.296875 \end{aligned}$$

- (b) What is the expected number of quizzes that Dave will pass before he has failed three times?

**Solution:**

No. of times he failed = 3

Total no. of quizzes taken to fail 3 times =  $n$

$$\begin{aligned} n * \frac{1}{4} &= 3 \\ n &= 12 \end{aligned}$$

Dave takes 12 quizzes to fail 3 times. Therefore, he passes 9 quizzes.

- (c) What is the probability that the second and third time Dave fails a quiz will occur when he takes his eighth and ninth quizzes, respectively?

**Solution:**

1st Fail  $\rightarrow$  1 – 7 quizzes

2nd Fail  $\rightarrow$  8th quiz

3rd Fail  $\rightarrow$  9th quiz

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(X) &= P(1 \text{ fail in 7 tests}) \cdot P(2\text{nd fail in 8th test}) \cdot P(3\text{rd fail in 9th test}) \\
 &= \binom{7}{1} \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^1 \left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^6 \cdot \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{4} \\
 &= \frac{7 \cdot 3^6}{4^9} = \frac{5103}{262144} \\
 &= 0.0194568634
 \end{aligned}$$

- (d) What is the probability that Dave fails two quizzes in a row before he passes two quizzes in a row?

**Solution:**

$F$  = Fail,  $P$  = Pass

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(X) &= P(\text{Dave fails two quizzes in a row before he passes two quizzes in a row}) \\
 &= P(FF \cup PFF \cup FPF \cup PFPFF \cup FPFPPF \cup \dots) \\
 &= \frac{[P(F)]^2}{1 - P(F) \cdot P(P)} + \frac{P(P) \cdot [P(F)]^2}{1 - P(F) \cdot P(P)} \\
 &= \frac{\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^2}{1 - \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{3}{4}} + \frac{\frac{3}{4} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^2}{1 - \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{3}{4}} \\
 &= \frac{7}{52}
 \end{aligned}$$