

## Other probability problems

1) If  $X$  is the number of defective items in the sample, then  $X$  is a binomial random variable with parameters  $(3, 0.1)$ . Thus, the desired probability is given by  $P\{X=0\} + P\{X=1\} = \binom{3}{0}(0.1)^0(0.9)^3 + \binom{3}{1}(0.1)^1(0.9)^2 = (0.9)^3 + 3 \cdot (0.1)(0.9)^2 = 0.729 + 0.243 = \boxed{0.972}$

2) Let  $W$  be the event that a white ball is drawn, and let  $H$  be the event that the coin comes up heads. The desired probability  $P(H|W)$  may be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(H|W) &= \frac{P(H \text{ and } W)}{P(W)} = \frac{P(W|H)P(H)}{P(W)} = \\
 &= \frac{P(W|H)P(H)}{P(W|H)P(H) + P(W|\sim H)P(\sim H)} = \frac{\frac{2}{9} \cdot \frac{1}{2}}{\frac{2}{9} \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \frac{5}{11} \cdot \frac{1}{2}} = \\
 &= \frac{\frac{2}{9}}{\frac{2+5}{11}} = \frac{\frac{2}{9}}{\frac{2+45}{99}} = \frac{2}{9} \cdot \frac{99}{67} = \boxed{\frac{22}{67}}
 \end{aligned}$$

where we had that  
 $P(H) = P(\sim H) = \frac{1}{2}$

$$P(W|H) = P(\text{draw a } \overset{\text{white}}{W} \text{ ball from 1st bag}) = \frac{2}{9}, \quad P(W|\sim H) = P(\text{white ball from 2nd bag}) = \frac{5}{11}$$

3) We will prove for the general  $K$ ; namely, what is the probability that I will get infected when I meet with  $K$  people, where  $K \geq 1$ ?

Leaving out myself, there are  $g - 1$  infected in the  $g - 1$  remaining people. Since  $P(\text{get infected when meet with } K \text{ people}) = 1 - P(\text{not get infected when meet with } K \text{ people})$  and if any of these  $K$  people have caught the virus, then I will get infected as well. Thus, in order to not getting infected, all of these  $K$  people should be healthy  $\Rightarrow$  there are  $g - 1$  infected, and  $g - g + 1 = g$  healthy people (excluding myself, since I meet with these people)  $\Rightarrow$  Choosing  $K$  healthy people out of  $g$  such people is equivalent to  $\binom{g}{K}$  number of combinations, meaning that  $|\text{desired cases}| = \binom{g}{K}$

and there are total of  $\binom{g}{K}$  possible choosings of  $K$  people out of  $g$  remaining ones  $\Rightarrow |\text{all cases}| = \binom{g}{K}$

Hence,  $P(\text{not get infected when meet with } K \text{ people}) = \frac{|\text{desired cases}|}{|\text{all cases}|} = \frac{\binom{g}{K}}{\binom{g}{K}}$ , and using the "complementary" property, we find that

$$\text{P(get infected when meet with } k \text{ people}) = 1 - \frac{C(88, k)}{C(89, k)}$$

[Ans]

Now, plugging the correspondent values for  $k$  in our problem

c)  $\underline{k=1} \Rightarrow \text{probability} = 1 - \frac{\binom{88}{1}}{\binom{89}{1}} = 1 - \frac{88^1}{88! \cdot 1!} = 1 - \frac{88}{89}$

$$= \frac{89 - 88}{89} = \frac{10}{89} \quad \boxed{\checkmark}$$

b)  $\underline{k=2} \Rightarrow \text{probability} = 1 - \frac{\binom{88}{2}}{\binom{89}{2}} = 1 - \frac{88^1}{88! \cdot 2!} = 1 - \frac{88 \cdot 87}{88 \cdot 89}$

$$= 1 - \frac{7880}{9702} = \frac{9702 - 7880}{9702} = \frac{1820}{9702} = \frac{2^1 \cdot 97!}{985 \cdot 985!} \quad \boxed{\checkmark}$$

$$\frac{985}{985!} = \frac{85}{441} \quad \boxed{\checkmark}$$

c)  $\underline{k=3} \Rightarrow \text{probability} = 1 - \frac{\binom{88}{3}}{\binom{89}{3}} = 1 - \frac{88^1}{88! \cdot 3!} =$

$$= 1 - \frac{88 \cdot 87 \cdot 86}{88 \cdot 87 \cdot 86 \cdot 85} = 1 - \frac{88 \cdot 4 \cdot 29}{3 \cdot 49 \cdot 97} = 1 - \frac{10324}{14259} =$$

$$= \frac{3985}{14259} = \frac{5 \cdot 787}{3 \cdot 7^2 \cdot 97} = \frac{3985}{14259} \quad \boxed{\checkmark}$$

Homework-11: Integer random variables, Bernoulli trials; Expected value, Linearity of Expectation

1) 9 of the 100 numbers from 1 to 100 consist of 1 digit (that's, from 1 to 9), while 90 of the 100 numbers from 1 to 100 consist of 2 digits (that is, from 10 to 99), and 1 of the 100 numbers from 1 to 100 consist of 3 digits

# of digits	1	2	3
Probability ( $P(A=x)$ )	$\frac{9}{100}$	$\frac{90}{100}$	$\frac{1}{100}$

The expected value (or mean) is the sum of the product of each possibility  $x$  with its probability  $P(X=x)$ :

$$\mu = \sum x P(X=x) = 1 \times \frac{9}{100} + 2 \times \frac{90}{100} + 3 \times \frac{1}{100} = \frac{9 + 180 + 3}{100} = \frac{192}{100} = 1.92$$

2) 50 true/false questions  $n=50$  and  $p=0.9$

The expected # of successes (heads) among a fixed number  $n$  of mutually independent Bernoulli trials is  $np$ , with  $p$  being the constant probability of success.  $\Rightarrow E(X) = np = 50 \times 0.9 = 45$  (expected # of correct answers in true/false)

25 multiple-choice questions  $n=25$  and  $p=0.8$

The expected # of successes (heads) among a fixed number  $n$  of mutually independent Bernoulli trials is  $np$ , where  $p$ -constant probability of success

$$E(Y) = np = 25 \times 0.8 = 20 \quad (\text{expected # of correct answers in multiple-choice questions})$$

Total Properties of expected value:

$$E(X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n) = E(X_1) + E(X_2) + \dots + E(X_n) \text{ and}$$

$$E(aX + b) = aE(X) + b \quad \boxed{\text{Linearity of Expectation}}$$

We have to determine the expected total score consisting of the 50 true/false questions (worth 2 points) and 25 multiple-choice questions (worth 4 points):

$$E(2X + 4Y) = E(2X) + E(4Y) = 2E(X) + 4E(Y) =$$

$$= 2 \times 45 + 4 \times 20 = 80 + 80 = 160 \Rightarrow \text{Thus, the expected score on the final is } 160$$

Proof of "np": Let  $X_i$  be the random variable with

$X_i((t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n)) = 1$  if  $t_i$  is a success, and  $X_i((t_1, \dots, t_n)) = 0$  if  $t_i$  is a failure. The expected value of  $X_i$  is

$E(X_i) = 1 \times p + 0 \times (1-p) = p$  for  $i=1, 2, \dots, n$ . Let  $X = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n$ , so that  $X$  counts # of successes when these  $n$  Bernoulli trials are performed; then  $E(X) = E(X_1) + \dots + E(X_n) = np$   $\square$

Note: Here, we denoted  $2X$  to be the random variable giving the score on the true/false questions, and  $4Y$  to be the random variable giving the score on the multiple-choice questions. In both true/false, as well as multiple-choice questions, the expected number of questions answered correctly is the expectation of # of successes in  $n$  Bernoulli trials. If probability of success is  $p$ , and number of trials is  $n$ , the expected number of successes is  $np$ .  $\checkmark$  (computing overall expectation by summing over the expectations of individual questions)

4) Let  $X$  be the number on first die, and let  $Y$  be the number on a nd die  $\Rightarrow$  Thus,  $Y = X + W$

$$\begin{aligned} E(X) &= 1 \times \frac{1}{6} + 2 \times \frac{1}{6} + 3 \times \frac{1}{6} + 4 \times \frac{1}{6} + 5 \times \frac{1}{6} + 6 \times \frac{1}{6} = \\ &= \frac{1}{6} + \frac{2}{6} + \frac{3}{6} + \frac{4}{6} + \frac{5}{6} + \frac{6}{6} = \frac{21}{6} = \frac{7}{2} \Rightarrow \boxed{E(X) = \frac{7}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we get that  $\boxed{E(W) = \frac{7}{2}}$  Since  $Y = X + W$  is true, we get from

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Linearity of Expectation, } E(Y) &= E(X + W) = E(X) + \\ &+ E(W) = \frac{7}{2} + \frac{7}{2} = 7 \Rightarrow \boxed{E(Y) = 7} \end{aligned}$$

From the definition of expectation,

$$E(X^2) = 1^2 \times \frac{1}{6} + 2^2 \times \frac{1}{6} + 3^2 \times \frac{1}{6} + 4^2 \times \frac{1}{6} + 5^2 \times \frac{1}{6} + 6^2 \times \frac{1}{6} =$$

$$= \frac{1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + 4^2 + 5^2 + 6^2}{6} = \frac{8 \cdot 7 \cdot 13}{6} = \frac{91}{6} \Rightarrow E(X^2) = \frac{91}{6}$$

We know that  $W$  and  $X$  are independent (they are different dice)

which means  $E(WX) = E(W) \cdot E(X) = \frac{7}{2} \cdot \frac{7}{2} = \frac{49}{4}$  (famous property)

$E(WX) = \frac{49}{4}$  From the Linearity of expectation,

$$E(XY) = E(X(X+W)) = E(X^2 + XW) = E(X^2) + E(XW) =$$

$$= \frac{91}{6} + \frac{49}{4} = \frac{182}{12} + \frac{147}{12} = \frac{329}{12}, \text{ thus } E(XY) = \frac{329}{12}$$

As we had  $E(X) = \frac{7}{2}$  and  $E(Y) = \frac{7}{2} \Rightarrow E(X)E(Y) = \frac{49}{4}$

Clearly,  $\frac{329}{12} = E(XY) > \frac{49}{4} = E(X)E(Y)$ , meaning

$E(XY) > E(X)E(Y)$ , or just  $E(XY) \neq E(X)E(Y)$

Note: Since  $X$  has non-zero variance,  $\text{Var}(X) = E(X^2) - E(X)^2 > 0$ , or just  $E(X^2) > E(X)^2 \Rightarrow E(XY) = E(X(X+W)) = E(X^2 + XW) = E(X^2) + E(XW) > E(X^2) + E(X)E(W) = E(X)(E(X) + E(W)) = E(X)E(X+W) > E(X)E(Y)$ , where we used "Linearity of expectation" and  $W$  is inde.

2) The number  $X$  of Heads in 4 independent tosses of fair coins has  $X \sim \text{Binom}(n=4, p=\frac{1}{2})$ . We seek  $P(X=2) = \binom{4}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^4 = 6 \cdot \frac{1}{16} = 0.375$  Y.

By "Brute-force" listing,

- TTTT
- TTHH    THHT    THTT    HTTT
- TTTH    THTH    THHT    HTTH    HTHT
- THTH    HHTH    HTHH    THHT    HHTT
- HHHH

We want 3<sup>rd</sup> row, thus  $P = \frac{\text{good cases}}{\text{total cases}} = \frac{\binom{4}{2}}{\sum_{i=0}^4 \binom{4}{i}} = \frac{\frac{4 \cdot 3}{2}}{2^4} = \frac{6}{16}$  Y.

We can also see that # of total cases = 16 = 1+4+6+4+1 (from listing)

Two results for each of 4 coin flips. When ways to perform tasks in series, we multiply. So that, in our case, there are  $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 16$  results in total.

For the favorable cases, we need to count the ways to get 2 heads and 2 tails. The count of permutations of 2 pairs of symbols is  $\binom{4}{2} = \frac{4 \cdot 3}{2} = 6$ . This was also easily confirmed by just counting third row  $\frac{6}{16} = 0.375$ .

In general, for  $n$  fair coins and obtaining  $k$  heads and  $(n-k)$  tails, the probability is  $\binom{n}{k} \cdot p^k \cdot (1-p)^{n-k}$  (our case,  $n=4, k=2$ )

5) Suppose that the probability that a coin comes up tails is  $p$  (we'll consider our case at the end). We first note that the sample space consists of all sequences that begin with any number of heads, with denoted by  $H$ , followed by a tail, denoted by  $T$ . Thus, sample space is the set  $\{T, HT, HHT, HHHT, \dots\}$ . Note, this is an infinite sample space. We can determine the probability of an element of the sample space by noting that coin flips are independent and that the probability of a head is  $(1-p) = P(T) = p$ ,  $P(HT) = (1-p)p$ ,  $P(HHT) = (1-p)^2p$ , and in general, the probability that the coin is flipped  $n$  times before a tail comes up, that is, that  $(n-1)$  heads come up followed by a tail, is  $(1-p)^{n-1}p$ . In fact, we can see

$$1 + (1-p) + (1-p)^2 + \dots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (1-p)^k = \frac{1}{1-(1-p)} = \frac{1}{p}, \text{ since } |1-p| < 1$$

$$\text{Then, } p + p(1-p) + p(1-p)^2 + \dots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} p(1-p)^k = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} p(1-p)^{n-1} = 1$$

meaning, sum of probabilities of the points in the sample space is 1

Now, let  $X$  be the random variable equal to the # of flips in an element in the sample space. That is,  $X(T)=1$ ,  $X(HT)=2$ ,  $X(HHT)=3$ , and so on. Note that

$$p(X=j) = (1-p)^{j-1} p \quad \text{The expected # of flips until the coin comes up tails} = E(X).$$

From the definition,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{We know } E(X) &= \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} j \cdot p(X=j) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} j (1-p)^{j-1} p = \\ &= p \cdot \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} j (1-p)^{j-1} = \frac{p}{1-p} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} j (1-p)^j \end{aligned}$$

We have from power rule for derivatives that

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sum_{n \geq 1} x^n = \sum_{n \geq 1} nx^{n-1}, \text{ and from the sum of infinite}$$

$$\text{geometric sequence, } \sum_{n \geq 1} x^n = x + x^2 + \dots = \frac{1}{1-x} - 1 = \frac{1-x}{1-x} =$$

$$= \frac{x}{1-x}, \text{ where } |x| < 1 \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} \sum_{n \geq 1} x^n = \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{x}{1-x} \right) = x'(1-x) - (-x(1-x))$$

$$= \frac{1-x-x(-1)}{(1-x)^2} = \frac{1-x+x}{(1-x)^2} = \frac{1}{(1-x)^2}, \text{ thus}$$

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} nx^{n-1} = \frac{1}{(1-x)^2}, \text{ with } |x| < 1 \quad \text{Here, we used power rule for derivatives: } \frac{d}{dx}(x^n) = nx^{n-1}$$

$$\text{Sum of infinite geometric sequence: } \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f^n = \frac{1}{1-f}, \text{ where } |f| < 1$$

Chain Rule for derivatives:  $\left(\frac{u}{v}\right)' = \frac{u'v - uv'}{v^2}$ , where  $u, v$  - functions of  $x$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{u}{v} \right) = \frac{\frac{d}{dx}(u)v - u \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(v)}{v^2}.$$

Hence, we got  $\sum_{n \geq 1} nx^{n-1} = \frac{1}{(1-x)^2}$ , with  $|x| < 1 \Rightarrow$

plugging  $x = 1-p$  where  $p \neq 1 \Rightarrow |x| < p > 0 > -1, |1-p| < 1$

and then,  $\sum_{n \geq 1} n(1-p)^{n-1} = \frac{1}{(1-(1-p))^2} = \frac{1}{(1-p)^2} = \frac{1}{p^2}$

$$\boxed{\sum_{n \geq 1} n(1-p)^{n-1} = \frac{1}{p^2}}$$
 Since we had  $E(X) = \sum_{j \geq 1} j(1-p)^{j-1} p$   
 $= p \sum_{j \geq 1} j(1-p)^{j-1} \Rightarrow$

$$E(X) = p \sum_{j \geq 1} j(1-p)^{j-1} = p \cdot \frac{1}{p^2} = \frac{1}{p}, \text{ thus } \boxed{E(X) = \frac{1}{p}}$$

It follows that the expected # of times the coin is flipped until fair comes up is  $\frac{1}{p}$ . Now let's

solve the given problem via these rules. Note that when the coin is fair, we have  $\boxed{p = \frac{1}{2}}$

a) From the above,  $P(X=5) = (1-p)^4 p = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^4 \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{32}$   
 Thus,  $\boxed{P(X=5) = \frac{1}{32}}$  - probability that exactly 5 flips are made

b) From above,  $E(X) = \frac{1}{p} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}} = 2$ ,  $\boxed{E(X) = 2}$  - expected # of flips