

1.2.

p - probability of "head"

N - total number of throws

$E(N)$, $E(N^2)$, $E(N^3)$

$Var(N) = E(N^2) - (E(N))^2$

To find all these $E(N)$, $E(N^2)$, $E(N^3)$... it is sufficient to find one fancy function $E(\exp(tN))$

Two states:

(C) = the game continues

(F) = the final state

$P(C \rightarrow F) = p$

$P(C \rightarrow C) = 1 - p$

$P(F \rightarrow F) = 1$

$P(F \rightarrow C) = 0$

We will use the function $E(\exp(tN)) = M(t)$ to calculate $E(N)$, $E(N^2)$, $E(N^3)$

By definition $M(t) = E(\exp(tN))$

We will find two functions: $M_F(t)$ and $M_C(t)$, where the letter F or C denotes the initial state.

If we start at F then we need $N = 0$ moves to reach F .

$M_F(t) = E \exp(tN) = E \exp(0) = E(1) = 1$

We really don't use this function, just to get the idea.

Now let's move to the hard case:

(1) $M_C(t) = p \cdot \text{make one move and arrive at F} + (1 - p) \cdot \text{make one move and arrive at C}$

(2) $M_C(t) = p \cdot \exp(t \cdot 1) + (1 - p) \cdot \text{make one move and arrive at C}$

(3) $M_C(t) = p \cdot \exp(t \cdot 1) + (1 - p) \cdot E(\exp(t(1 + N)))$

(4) $M_C(t) = p \cdot \exp(t \cdot 1) + (1 - p) \cdot E(\exp(t) \exp(tN))$

(5) $M_C(t) = p \cdot \exp(t \cdot 1) + (1 - p) \cdot \exp(t) E(\exp(tN))$

(6) $M_C(t) = p \cdot \exp(t \cdot 1) + (1 - p) \cdot \exp(t) M_C(t)$

We solve the equation (6) for $M_C(t)$:

$$M_C(t) = \frac{pe^t}{1 - (1 - p)e^t}$$

Hence,

$$M_C(t) = E(\exp(tN)) = \frac{pe^t}{1 - (1-p)e^t}$$

This function is not our final goal, we will use it to calculate all the expected values...

Let's look at the derivatives of this $M_C(t)$ function:

$$M'_C(t) = E(N \exp(tN))$$

$$M''_C(t) = E(N^2 \exp(tN))$$

$$M'''_C(t) = E(N^3 \exp(tN))$$

If we plug in $t = 0$ we see that there is a fancy way to calculate expected values:

$$M'_C(0) = E(N)$$

$$M''_C(0) = E(N^2)$$

$$M'''_C(0) = E(N^3)$$

In our case

$$E(N) = M'_C(0) = \frac{pe^t(1 - (1-p)e^t) - pe^t(-(1-p)e^t)}{(1 - (1-p)e^t)^2} = \frac{p^2 + p(1-p)}{p^2} = 1/p$$

I hope you can take the two remaining derivatives :)

1.4.

Initially the pot is empty.

1, 2, 3 -> the corresponding sum is added into the pot.

4, 5 -> you take the pot with money and the game ends

6 -> you get nothing and the game ends

a) What is probability that the game eventually ends by 6?

by symmetry: $1/3$

b) Expected duration of the game?

N - random number of throws

First step equation.

$$E(N) = 3/6 \cdot 1 + 3/6 \cdot E(N + 1)$$

$$E(N) = a$$

$$6a = 3 + 3(a + 1)$$

$$a = 6/3 = 2$$

c) the main question!

X - the random payoff we get

$E(X)$?

First step equation:

$$E(X) = 3/6 \cdot 0 + 1/6 \cdot (E(X) + 1 \cdot 2/3) + 1/6 \cdot (E(X) + 2 \cdot 2/3) + 1/6 \cdot (E(X) + 3 \cdot 2/3)$$

You can solve it!

Another good idea!

$$E(X) = (E(N) - 1) \cdot (1 + 2 + 3)/3 \cdot 2/3$$