

George throws two coins, A and B , at the same time. Coin A is biased so that the probability of obtaining a head is a . Coin B is biased so that the probability of obtaining a head is b , where $b < a$. The probability generating function of X , the number of heads obtained by George, is $G_X(t)$. The coefficients of t and t^2 in $G_X(t)$ are $\frac{5}{12}$ and $\frac{1}{12}$ respectively.

(a) Find the value of a . [2]

The random variable Y is the sum of two independent observations of X .

(b) Find the probability generating function of Y , giving your answer as a polynomial in t . [3]

(c) Find $\text{Var}(Y)$. [3]