

1. A box contains 5 fair coins and other 4 coins with heads probability $1/3$.

a) One coin is randomly selected and tossed twice. We see heads in the first toss and tails in the second toss. Find probability that the coin is fair.

Answer. Consider the events: H_1 = "heads in the 1st toss", T_2 = "tails in the 2nd toss", N = "selected coin is fair", N^c = "selected coin is not fair". By Bayes formula

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{P}(N|H_1T_2) &= \frac{\mathbf{P}(H_1T_2|N)\mathbf{P}(N)}{\mathbf{P}(H_1T_2|N)\mathbf{P}(N) + \mathbf{P}(H_1T_2|N^c)\mathbf{P}(N^c)} \\ &= \frac{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \frac{5}{9}}{\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \frac{5}{9} + \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{4}{9}} = \frac{45}{77}.\end{aligned}$$

b) We throw away this coin and choose randomly another coin from the 8 coins in the box and toss it. What is the probability to see heads? $\frac{45}{77} = 0.58442$

Answer. Consider H_3 = "heads in the toss of another coin". Then by total probability law 3 times,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{P}(H_3|H_1T_2) &= \mathbf{P}(H_3|N)\mathbf{P}(N|H_1T_2) + \mathbf{P}(H_3|N^c)\mathbf{P}(N^c|H_1T_2) \\ &= \left(\frac{4}{8} \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \frac{4}{8} \cdot \frac{1}{3}\right) \cdot \frac{45}{77} + \left(\frac{5}{8} \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{8} \cdot \frac{1}{3}\right) \left(1 - \frac{45}{77}\right) = \frac{131}{308} = 0.42532.\end{aligned}$$

2. A fair die is rolled n times. You are paid \$1 for any two consecutive identical scores. For instance, with $n = 7$ for 1222551 you get 3 dollars.

Let X be the total payment.

a) Find $\mathbf{E}(X)$ and $\text{Var}(X)$. Hint. Use indicators.

Answer. Let $A_i =$ " i th and $(i + 1)$ scores are identical, $i = 1, \dots, n - 1$.

Then

$$\begin{aligned} X &= \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} I_{A_i}, \mathbf{E}(X) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \mathbf{E}(I_{A_i}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \mathbf{P}(A_i), \\ \text{Var}(X) &= \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \text{Var}(I_{A_i}) + 2 \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n-1} \text{Cov}(I_{A_i}, I_{A_j}). \end{aligned}$$

Assuming independence of the rolls (or assuming all 6^n scores equally likely and counting),

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}(A_i) &= \sum_{k=1}^6 \mathbf{P}(\text{score } k \text{ in } i\text{th and } i+1) = 6 \cdot \frac{1}{6^2} = \frac{1}{6}, \\ \text{Var}(I_{A_i}) &= \mathbf{P}(A_i)[1 - \mathbf{P}(A_i)] = \frac{1}{6} \left(1 - \frac{1}{6}\right) = \frac{5}{36}. \end{aligned}$$

Because of independence, $\text{Cov}(I_{A_i}, I_{A_j}) = 0$ if $i + 1 < j$, and

$$\text{Cov}(I_{A_i}, I_{A_{i+1}}) = \mathbf{P}(A_i \cap A_{i+1}) - \mathbf{P}(A_i) \mathbf{P}(A_{i+1}),$$

$$\mathbf{P}(A_i \cap A_{i+1}) = \mathbf{P}(i\text{th}, i+1 \text{ and } i+2 \text{ scores identical}) = 6 \cdot \frac{1}{6^3} = \frac{1}{36}.$$

Hence $\text{Cov}(I_{A_i}, I_{A_{i+1}}) = 0$, A_i and A_{i+1} are independent as well, and

$$\text{Var}(X) = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \text{Var}(I_{A_i}) = (n-1) \cdot \frac{5}{36} = \frac{5(n-1)}{36}.$$

b) Find probability that there are no identical consecutive scores in the first 4 rolls.

Answer. By b), all A_i are pairwise independent, and

$$\mathbf{P}(A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3) = 6 \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)^4 = \frac{1}{6^3} = \mathbf{P}(A_1) \mathbf{P}(A_2) \mathbf{P}(A_3).$$

Thus A_1, A_2, A_3 are independent, and

$$\mathbf{P}(A_1^c \cap A_2^c \cap A_3^c) = \mathbf{P}(A_1^c) \mathbf{P}(A_2^c) \mathbf{P}(A_3^c) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{6}\right)^3 = \frac{5^3}{6^3}.$$

3. The number X of electrons that hit the plate is Poisson with parameter $\lambda_1 = 2$. Every impact produces independently a number of secondary electrons that is Poisson with parameter $\lambda_2 = 1$.

Let Y be the total number of secondary electrons.

a) Find $\mathbf{P}(Y = j|X = n), n \geq 0, j \geq 0$. Hint. A sum of independent Poisson is Poisson.

b) Find $\mathbf{E}(Y|X = n)$ and $\mathbf{E}(Y|X)$ and $\mathbf{E}(Y)$.

c) Find $\mathbf{E}(Y^2|X = n)$, $\mathbf{E}(Y^2|X)$ and $\text{Var}(Y)$.

Answer. a) Given $X = n$, we have $Y = \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i$, where Y_i are independent Poisson(1), Y_i is the number of secondary electrons produced by the i th primary electron among n . Thus, given $X = n$, Y is Poisson(n) : for $n \geq 0$,

$$\mathbf{P}(Y = j|X = n) = e^{-n} \frac{n^j}{j!}, j \geq 0.$$

b) Since, given $X = n$, Y is Poisson(n),

$$\mathbf{E}(Y|X = n) = n, \mathbf{E}(Y|X) = X,$$

and

$$\mathbf{E}(Y) = \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{E}(Y|X)] = \mathbf{E}(X) = 2.$$

c) Since, given $X = n$, Y is Poisson(n),

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}(Y^2|X = n) &= n + n^2, \mathbf{E}(Y^2|X) = X + X^2, \\ \mathbf{E}(Y^2) &= \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{E}(Y^2|X)] = \mathbf{E}(X) + \mathbf{E}(X^2) = 2 + 2 + 2^2 = 8, \\ \text{Var}(Y) &= \mathbf{E}(Y^2) - (\mathbf{E}(Y))^2 = 8 - 2^2 = 4. \end{aligned}$$