

## Coin/Dice problems

### I Playing a game

⊕ stop when results achieved  $>$  expected value of that turn

⊕ Use a coin to generate even odds: HT, TH.

⊕ Use a coin to generate 3 events:

HH, HT, TH, TT  $\rightarrow$  Do again

successing create events with  $p = 0.75$

$\rightarrow$  Expected no of tosses =  $p$  (first of success)

### II No of tosses until:

⊕ get a head / tail:

- considered as first success  $\rightarrow$  follow a geometrics distribution

$$E[X^2] = E[X(X-1)] + E[X]$$

$$- p(X=k) = (1-p)^{k-1} p \quad - \text{Var}(X) = \frac{1-p}{p^2}$$

$$- E(X) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (1-p)^{k-1} p \cdot k = \frac{1}{p}$$

$$= p \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (1-p)^{k-1} k$$

$$= p \left( \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (1-p)^{k-1} + \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} (1-p)^{k-2} + \dots \right)$$

$$= p \left( \frac{1}{1-(1-p)} + \frac{(1-p)}{p} + \frac{(1-p)}{p^2} + \dots \right)$$



⊕ get  $n$  heads / tails

- considered like a sum of independent geometric distributions

$$\rightarrow E(X) = \frac{n}{p}, \quad \text{var}(X) = \frac{n(1-p)}{p^2}$$

- Followed a negative binomial distribution

$$P(X=k) = \binom{k-1}{n-1} p^n (1-p)^{k-n}$$

⊕ specific sequence: (e.g. 2H12T)

$$P(N=k) = P(k-1 \text{ throws after 1st throw is determined})$$

$$= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{k-1}$$

$$\rightarrow E(N) = \sum_{k=\text{min for the sequence to occur}}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{k-1} k$$

$k = \text{min for the sequence to occur.}$

⊕  $n$  heads in a row:

Approach 1: Markov chain

state	①	②	...	②
	0 head	1 head		$n$ heads

state  $x$ : obtained  $x$  heads in a row

$g(x)$ : no off tosses to get  $n$  heads in a row

$\rightarrow$  we need to find  $g(0)$



$$g(0) = \frac{1}{2}(g(0)+1) + \frac{1}{2}(g(1)+1)$$

$$g(1) = \frac{1}{2}(g(0)+g(2)) + 1$$

$$g(x) = \frac{1}{2}(g(x)+g(x+1)) + 1$$

$$g(n) = 0$$

$$g(0) = \frac{1}{2}g(0) + \frac{1}{2}g(1) + 1$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}g(0) + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{2}g(0) + \frac{1}{2}g(2) + 1\right) + 1$$

$$= g(0)\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2^2}\right) + \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{2^2}g(2)$$

$$= g(0)\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2^2}\right) + \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{2^2}\left(\frac{1}{2}g(0) + \frac{1}{2}g(3) + 1\right)$$

$$= \dots = g(0)\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{2^n}\right) + \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} + \dots + \frac{1}{2^{n-1}}\right)$$

$$= g(0)\left(\frac{1 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n+1}}{\frac{1}{2}} - 1\right) + \left(\frac{1 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n}{\frac{1}{2}}\right)$$

$$= g(0)\left(1 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n\right) + 2 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^n g(0) = 2 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow g(0) = 2^{n+1} - 2$$



## Approach 2: Betting strategies:

construct a strategy so that:

⊕ Total payoff after each step is a martingale  $\rightarrow$  use stopping time to calculate the stopping time when the sequence is reached.

⊕ Payoff is bounded to use the above  $\rightarrow$  at toss  $n^{\text{th}}$ , lose at most  $-n$  (prove by induction)

$i^{\text{th}}$  toss:

(1)  $i=1$  or  $X_{i-1} = \text{Tail} \rightarrow$  bet 1 on head

(2)  $X_{i-1} = \text{head} \rightarrow$  bet 3 on head

(3)  $X_{i-2} = X_{i-1} = \text{head} \rightarrow$  bet 7 on head

(4) stop when you get HHHH

$\rightarrow$  For every toss your expected payoff is 0

$\rightarrow$  At stopping time  $n$ :

$$E(\text{Payoff}) = E(-(n-4) + 1 + 3 + 7) = 0$$

$$\rightarrow n = 14$$



④ get IV distinct types:

-  $X_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$  be the no of rolls/tosses needed to get the  $i^{\text{th}}$  distinct type after  $(i-1)$  distinct types have been obtained

$$\rightarrow \text{Total needed} = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i$$

~~$P(X_i)$~~  -  $X_i$  follows a geometric distribution with probability  $\frac{N-(i-1)}{N}$

$$\rightarrow E(X_i) = \frac{N}{N-(i-1)}$$

### III Toss/Roll n times

④ same outcome:

- unlikely to be fair
- assume probability of being unfair is  $P$

$\rightarrow$  calculate probability of (unfair) all heads

④ At least  $k$  heads

$$\sum_{i=k}^n \binom{N}{i} P^i (1-P)^{N-i}$$

$$\rightarrow B_i(n, P)$$

for large  $n \sim \frac{N(nP, nP(1-P))}{95\% \text{ of normal dist lies between } 2 \text{ s.d. + mean?}}$



### ⊕ Expected no of strings of specific sequence

- $x$ : length of sequence
- allowing overlap:  $n - (x - 1)$  slots this sequence can occur

$$\rightarrow p = (n - (x - 1)) \times \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^x$$

$\downarrow$   
 $p(\text{occurs})$

### ⊕ Probability for no specific sequence

- No of possible strings after  $n$  coin toss:  
 $2^n$

- $G_n$ : No of string that do not have that sequence

$\rightarrow$  find  $G_1, G_2$

- consider first toss and deduce  $G_n$  from  $G_{n-1}, G_{n-2}$

### ⊕ Dice with $\uparrow$ order

$$\rightarrow 1 \times \frac{5}{4} \times \frac{3}{4}$$

$\uparrow \rightarrow$  all different outcomes  $\rightarrow P$

⊗ for  $\uparrow \rightarrow$  follow a specific sequence

$\rightarrow P \neq$  one specific sequence on

all permutation) conditioned on different outcomes  $\rightarrow \frac{1}{3!}$



⊕ no of distinct types after  $n$  tosses

$Y$ : no of distinct types

$i = 1, \dots, N$  : all types

$I_i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{appears} \\ 0, & \text{not appear} \end{cases}$

$$\rightarrow Y = I_1 + \dots + I_N$$

$\rightarrow$  need to find  $E I_i = P(I_i = 1)$

$$P(I_i = 1) = 1 - P(I_i = 0)$$

$$= 1 - \left( \frac{N-1}{N} \right)^n$$

$\downarrow$   
 $P(\text{no } I_i \text{ in all } n \text{ tosses})$