

## 4. (Random Children)

(a) Solution: Let  $C$ ,  $B$ ,  $G$  denote the RVs the total number of children, the total number of boys, and the total number of girls the couple will have respectively. Then  $C \sim \text{Geom}(1/2)$ , and  $\mathbb{E}(C) = 1/(1/2) = 2$ . Since the couple will end until they have a girl, thus,  $\mathbb{E}(G) = 1$ .  $\mathbb{E}(B) = \mathbb{E}(C) - \mathbb{E}(G) = 2 - 1 = 1$ . Thus, both the expected number of girls and boys are 1.

(b) Solution: If the probability of having a girl is only 0.4. Then  $C \sim \text{Geom}(0.4)$ , and  $\mathbb{E}(C) = 1/(0.4) = 2.5$ , and  $\mathbb{E}(G) = 1$ . Then  $\mathbb{E}(B) = \mathbb{E}(C) - \mathbb{E}(G) = 2.5 - 1 = 1.5$ .

(c) Solution: Let  $C_1$ ,  $B_1$ ,  $G_1$  denote the RVs the total number of children, the total number of boys, and the total number of girls the couple will have respectively following the new rule and  $p$  the probability of having a girl.

We can construct other variables  $C_2$ ,  $B_2$  and  $G_2$  which denote the additional children the couple would have if they follow the old rule.

$$C = C_1 + C_2 \quad (1)$$

$$B = B_1 + B_2 \quad (2)$$

$$G = G_1 + G_2 \quad (3)$$

$$C_1 = B_1 + G_1 \quad (4)$$

$$C_2 = B_2 + G_2 \quad (5)$$

$$C = B + G \quad (6)$$

Note that  $C_2 \sim \text{Geom}(p)$  happens with probability  $(1-p)^k$  which is denote by  $\Pr[C > k]$  otherwise  $C_2 = 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(B_1) &= \mathbb{E}(B) - \Pr[C > k]\mathbb{E}(B_2) \\ &= (1/p - 1) - (1-p)^k(1/p - 1) \\ &= [1 - (1-p)^k](1/p - 1) \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Similarly, for the expected number of girls,  $G_1$ , under the new rule,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(G_1) &= \mathbb{E}(G) - \Pr[C > k]\mathbb{E}(G_2) \\ &= 1 - (1-p)^k 1 \\ &= 1 - (1-p)^k \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

If we plug in the value  $p = 0.5$  to (7) and (8) respectively, we obtain the expected number of boys to be  $1 - (1/2)^k$ , and the expected number of girls to be  $1 - (1/2)^k$ .

(d) We plug in the value  $p = 0.4$  to (7) and (8) respectively, we obtain the expected number of boys to be  $1.5(1 - 0.6^k)$ , and the expected number of girls to be  $1 - 0.6^k$ .