

- 1.** Saruman chooses a number of single dollar bills — call it Z — so that Z

$$\mathbb{P}(Z = n) = \begin{cases} p(1-p)^{(n/3)-1} & \text{when } n \text{ is a positive multiple of 3} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where $0 < p < 1$. (Austin Ellis-Mohr suggested parametrizing this problem in terms of Z , which Austin called “the total money in the system.” The book does it differently.) Saruman divides the dollar bills into three equal piles and flips a fair coin to decide in which of two envelopes — call them X and Y — to put one third of the dollar bills and in which to put the other two thirds. He invites Gollum to open envelope X , and Gollum does so ravenously.

- (a) What is the probability that Gollum finds 7 dollar bills in envelope X ?
- (b) What is the probability that Gollum finds 6 dollar bills in envelope X ?
- (c) Suppose Gollum can choose either to keep what he finds in X or instead take the contents of Y . What choice maximizes Gollum’s expected payoff given that he finds an odd number dollars in X ?
- (d) Show that given Gollum finds an even number of dollars — call it m — in X , it is more probable that X contains more than Y than it is that Y contains more than X .
- (e) As in part (c), suppose Gollum can choose either to keep what he finds in X or instead take the contents of Y . What choice maximizes Gollum’s expected payoff given that he finds an even number of dollars — call it m — in X ? Your answer might depend on m and p .

- 2.** Two fair 3-sided dice with sides 1, 2, and 3 are labeled A and B. You roll them simultaneously. Let X be the outcome of die A and let Y be the outcome of die B.

- (a) Find the joint pmf $p_{X,Y}(x,y)$.
- (b) Let $Z = X + Y$. Find the pmf of Z .
- (c) Find $\mathbb{E}(Z)$ and $\text{Var}(Z)$.

- 3.** Two random variables X and Y that take positive integer values have joint pmf

$$p_{X,Y}(x,y) = \begin{cases} cxy^2 & \text{when } x \in \{1, 3, 4\} \text{ and } y \in \{1, 2\} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- (a) Find the constant c .
- (b) Find $\mathbb{P}(\{Y = 2\})$.
- (c) Find the marginal pmfs $p_X(x)$ and $p_Y(y)$.
- (d) Find $\mathbb{E}(X)$, $\mathbb{E}(Y)$, and $\mathbb{E}(XY)$.
- (e) Find $\text{Var}(X)$ and $\text{Var}(Y)$.

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① Saruman chooses a number of single dollar bills - call it Z -
so that

$$P(\{Z=n\}) = \begin{cases} p(1-p)^{\frac{(n-1)}{3}-1}, & n \text{ is a multiple of } 3 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where $0 < p < 1$.

Saruman divides the dollars into 3 equal piles and flips a fair coin to decide in which of two envelopes - call them X and Y - to put $\frac{1}{3}$ of the dollar bills and in which to put the other $\frac{2}{3}$.

Gollum is invited to open envelope X .

(a) $P(\{\text{Gollum finds } 7 \text{ dollar bills in envelope } X\})$

This is the same as $P(Z=21)$. Why? Because
 7 dollars can be in envelope X iff $Z=21$

So,

$$P(\{\text{Gollum finds } 7 \text{ dollar bills in envelope } X\}) = \boxed{p(1-p)^6}$$

(b) $P(\{\text{Gollum finds 6 dollar bills in envelope } X\})$

This is the same as $P(Z=18) \cdot \frac{1}{2} + P(Z=9) \cdot \frac{1}{2}$

Why? Because 6 dollars can be in envelope X iff

$Z=18$, and X is the envelope $\frac{4}{3}$ of the total went into

OR $Z=9$ and X is the envelope $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total went into.

So,

$$P(\{\text{Gollum finds 6 dollar bills in envelope } X\}) = P(Z=18) \cdot \frac{1}{2} + P(Z=9) \cdot \frac{1}{2}$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{p(1-p)^5}{2} + \frac{p(1-p)^2}{2}}$$

(c) If there is an odd amount of dollars in X , Gollum should always switch since X couldn't possibly have twice as much money than Y in this scenario.

(d) Given X contains m -even-dollars $\Rightarrow X > Y$

X containing an even amount $\Rightarrow Z = \frac{3}{2}m$ OR $Z = 3m$.

If $X > Y$, then $Z = \frac{3}{2}m$. $P(Z = \frac{3}{2}m) = p(1-p)^{\frac{m}{2}-1}$

If $X < Y$, then $Z = 3m$, $P(Z = 3m) = p(1-p)^{m-1}$

Claim1: $P(Z = \frac{3}{2}m) > P(Z = 3m)$

$$p(1-p)^{\frac{m}{2}-1} > p(1-p)^{m-1}$$

$$(1-p)^{1/2} > (1-p)$$

$$(1-p) > (1-p)^2 \leftarrow \text{True for } 0 < p < 1,$$

so claim is correct

(e) Gollum can choose to keep what he finds in X or switch to Y. What choice maximizes Gollums expected payoff given that he finds an even number of dollars - m - in X?

From (d) we know if there are m dollars in X then X is likely to contain more money than y.

If X has more money our payoff is m dollars.
However if Y has more money our payoff is 2m dollars.

So we would choose X if

$$m \Pr(Z = \frac{3}{2}m) > 2m \Pr(Z = 3m)$$

and Y if

$$m \Pr(Z = \frac{3}{2}m) < 2m \Pr(Z = 3m)$$

② Two 3-sided fair die; A, B. Roll simultaneously.

Let

X = outcome of A

Y = outcome of B

(a) Find $P_{X,Y}(x,y)$

$$X = \{1, 2, 3\}, Y = \{1, 2, 3\}$$

$$P_{X,Y}(x,y) = \begin{cases} 1/9 & ; x \in X, y \in Y \\ 0 & ; \text{else} \end{cases}$$

(b) Let

$$Z = X + Y$$

$$P_Z(z)?$$

$$Z = \{2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$$

$$P_Z(z) = \begin{cases} 1/9 & ; z=2 \\ 2/9 & ; z=3 \\ 3/9 & ; z=4 \\ 2/9 & ; z=5 \\ 1/9 & ; z=6 \end{cases}$$

↙ Reality check: sums to 1!

$$(c) \mathbb{E}(z) = \sum_{z \in Z} z p_z(z) = \frac{1}{9} \cdot 1 + \frac{2}{9} \cdot 3 + \frac{3}{9} \cdot 4 + \frac{2}{9} \cdot 5 + \frac{1}{9} \cdot 6 = 4$$

$$\text{Var}(z) = \mathbb{E}(z^2) - (\mathbb{E}(z))^2$$

$$\mathbb{E}(z^2) = \sum_{z \in Z} z^2 p_z(z) = \frac{1}{9} (1^2 + 3^2 \cdot 2 + 4^2 \cdot 3 + 5^2 \cdot 2 + 6^2 \cdot 1)$$

$$= \frac{1}{9} (1 + 18 + 48 + 50 + 36)$$

$$\text{Var}(z) = \frac{1}{9} (1 + 18 + 48 + 50 + 36) - 16$$

③ X, Y have joint pmf

$$P_{X,Y} = \begin{cases} CXy^2 & , \quad x \in \{1, 3, 4\}, \quad y \in \{1, 2\} \\ 0 & , \quad \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(a)

$$\sum_{x,y} P_{X,Y}(x,y) = 1$$

$$C [1(1)^2 + 1(2)^2 + 3(1)^2 + 3(2)^2 + 4(1)^2 + 4(2)^2] = 1$$

$$\boxed{C = \frac{1}{40}}$$

$$(b) P(\{Y=2\}) = P(Y=2 \cap X=1) + P(Y=2 \cap X=3) + P(Y=2 \cap X=4)$$

$$= \frac{1}{40} [1(2)^2 + 3(2)^2 + 4(2)^2]$$

$$= \frac{1}{40} (4 + 12 + 16)$$

$$= \frac{32}{40}$$

$$(c) P_X(x) = \sum_{y \in Y} P_{X,Y}(x,y) = C \times [(1)^2 + (2)^2] = \frac{5}{40}x$$

$$P_{Y|X}(y) = \sum_{x \in X} P_{X,Y}(x,y) = \frac{1}{40} y^2 [8] = \frac{8}{40} y^2$$

$$(d) E(X) = \sum_{x \in X} x P_X(x) = 1\left(\frac{5}{40}\right) + 3\left(\frac{15}{40}\right) + 4\left(\frac{20}{40}\right) = \frac{125}{40} = 3.125$$

$$E(Y) = \sum_{y \in Y} y P_Y(y) = 1\left(\frac{8}{40}\right) + 2\left(\frac{32}{40}\right) = \frac{70}{40}$$

$$E(XY) = \sum_{x,y} xy P_{X,Y}(x,y) = 1$$

$$(e) \text{Var}(X) = E(X^2) - (E(X))^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} E(X^2) &= \sum_{x \in X} x^2 P_X(x) = 1^2 \left(\frac{5}{40}\right) + 3^2 \left(\frac{15}{40}\right) + 4^2 \left(\frac{20}{40}\right) \\ &= \frac{5}{40} + \frac{9(15)}{40} + \frac{16(20)}{40} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{5}{40} + \frac{9(15)}{40} + \frac{16(20)}{40} - \left(\frac{125}{40}\right)^2$$

$$E(Y^2) = \sum_{y \in Y} y^2 P_Y(y) = 1^2 \left(\frac{8}{40}\right) + 2^2 \left(\frac{32}{40}\right) \rightarrow \text{Var}(Y) = \frac{8}{40} + \frac{4 \cdot 32}{40} - \left(\frac{70}{40}\right)^2$$