

Probability of 1 ticket to win = p

Probability of 1 out of N tickets to win $\Rightarrow P(N) = 1 - (1-p)^N$

Probability to win at the k -th round is:

$$P(\text{round } k) = (1 - P(N))^{k-1} \times P(N)$$

Expectation is:

$$\begin{aligned} E(\text{win}) &= \sum_k k P(\text{round } k) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k (1 - P(N))^{k-1} P(N) = \\ &= P(N) \left[\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k (1 - P(N))^{k-1} \right] \xrightarrow{x=1-P(N)} P(N) \left[\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k x^{k-1} \right] = \\ &= P(N) \left(\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x^k \right)' = P(N) \left(\frac{1}{1-x} - 1 \right)' = P(N) \times \frac{1}{(1-x)^2} = \end{aligned}$$

$$= P(N) \times \frac{1}{(1 - (1 - P(N)))^2} = \frac{1}{P(N)} \quad \text{or} \quad E(\text{win}) = \frac{1}{P(N)}$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{1-x} - 1 \right)' = \left(\frac{x}{1-x} \right)' = \frac{x'(1-x) - x(1-x)'}{(1-x)^2} = \frac{1-x+x}{(1-x)^2} = \frac{1}{(1-x)^2}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} x^k = \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} x^k \right) - 1 = \frac{1}{1-x} - 1, \quad |x| < 1$$

$$\text{For } P(N) \geq \frac{1}{2} \Leftrightarrow 1 - (1-p)^N \geq \frac{1}{2} \Leftrightarrow -(1-p)^N \geq -\frac{1}{2} \Leftrightarrow$$

$$(1-p)^N \leq \frac{1}{2} \Leftrightarrow N \times \log(1-p) \leq \log\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) < 0 \Rightarrow$$

$$N \geq \frac{\log\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)}{\log(1-p)}$$