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Suppose  $X_1, \ldots, X_n$  are uniform on the simplex, so  $X_1 + \cdots + X_n = 1$ . We wish to compute  $\Pr[a_1X_1 + \cdots + a_nX_n > 0]$ .

Fact: one can write  $X_i = E_i/(\sum_i E_i)$  where  $E_1, \ldots, E_n$  are iid exponential. Hence

$$\Pr[a_1X_1 + \dots + a_nX_n > 0] = \Pr[a_1E_1 + \dots + a_nE_n > 0]$$

WLOG take  $a_1 \ge \cdots \ge a_n$ . The general case is easy to write for  $a_1 > \cdots > a_n$ , but it is also straightforward to work out what happens if  $a_i = a_j$  for some  $i \ne j$ .

For a > b > 0, the distribution of  $aE_1 + bE_2$  is

$$f_{a,b}(z) = \int_0^z \frac{1}{a} e^{-x/a} \frac{1}{b} e^{-(z-x)/b} dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{ab} \int_0^z e^{-z/b} e^{-x(\frac{1}{a} - \frac{1}{b})} dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{ab} e^{-z/b} \left[ \frac{1}{\frac{1}{a} - \frac{1}{b}} e^{-x(\frac{1}{a} - \frac{1}{b})} \right]_0^z$$

$$= \frac{1}{a-b} e^{-z/b} [e^{-z(a^{-1} - b^{-1})} - 1]$$

$$= \frac{1}{a-b} [e^{-z/a} - e^{-z/b}] = \frac{a^{-1} e^{-z/a}}{a^{-1} (a-b)} + \frac{b^{-1} e^{-z/b}}{b^{-1} (b-a)}$$

It is clear from the above form that the distribution of  $aE_1 + bE_2 + cE_3$  for a > b > c > 0 is

$$f_{a,b,c}(z) = \frac{\frac{1}{a-c}e^{-z/a} + \frac{1}{c-a}e^{-z/c}}{a^{-1}(a-b)} + \frac{\frac{1}{b-c}e^{-z/b} + \frac{1}{c-b}e^{-z/c}}{b^{-1}(b-a)}$$

$$= \frac{\frac{a}{a-c}e^{-z/a} + \frac{a}{c-a}e^{-z/c}}{(a-b)} + \frac{\frac{b}{b-c}e^{-z/b} + \frac{b}{c-b}e^{-z/c}}{(b-a)}$$

$$= \frac{a}{(a-c)(a-b)}e^{-z/a} + \frac{b}{(b-c)(b-a)}e^{-z/b} + \frac{c}{(c-a)(c-b)}e^{-z/b}$$

Now it is easy to see what will happen for general  $a_1 > ... > a_m > 0$  since if for  $f_{a_1,...,a_i}$  the coefficient of the  $e^{-z/a_j}$  term is  $C_{j,i}$ , the coefficient of the

 $e^{-z/a_j}$  term for  $f_{a_1,\dots,a_{i+1}}$  will be  $\frac{a_1}{a_1-a_{i+1}}C_i$ . Hence the general form is

$$f_{a_1,\dots,a_m}(z) = \sum_{j=1}^m \frac{a_j^{m-1}}{\prod_{k \neq j} (a_j - a_k)} e^{-z/a_j}$$

Now suppose that  $a_1 > \cdots > a_m > 0 > a_{m+1} > \cdots > a_n$ . We need to compute

$$\begin{split} \Pr[a_{1}E_{1} + \cdots + a_{n}E_{n} > 0] &= \Pr[a_{1}E_{1} + \cdots + a_{m}E_{m} > (-a_{m+1})E_{m+1} + \cdots + (-a_{n})E_{n}] \\ &= \int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{x} f_{a_{1}, \dots, a_{m}}(x)f_{-a_{m+1}, \dots, -a_{n}}(y)dydx \\ &= \int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{x} \left[ \sum_{j=1}^{m} \frac{a_{j}^{m-1}}{\prod_{m \geq k \neq j}(a_{j} - a_{k})} e^{-x/a_{j}} \right] \left[ \sum_{j=m+1}^{n} \frac{(-a_{j})^{n-m-1}}{\prod_{m < k \neq j}(-a_{j} + a_{k})} e^{-y/(-a_{j})} \right] \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{m} \sum_{\ell=m+1}^{n} \int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{x} \frac{a_{j}^{m-1}}{\prod_{m \geq k \neq j}(a_{j} - a_{k})} e^{-x/a_{j}} \frac{(-a_{\ell})^{n-m-1}}{\prod_{m < k \neq \ell}(-a_{\ell} + a_{k})} e^{-y/(-a_{\ell})} dydx \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{m} \sum_{\ell=m+1}^{n} C_{j}C_{\ell} \int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{x} e^{-x/a_{j}} e^{-y/(-a_{\ell})} dydx \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{m} \sum_{\ell=m+1}^{n} C_{j}C_{\ell}a_{j}(-a_{\ell}) \Pr[Exponential(a_{j}) > Exponential(-a_{\ell})] \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{m} \sum_{\ell=m+1}^{n} C_{j}C_{\ell}a_{j}(-a_{\ell}) \frac{a_{j}}{a_{j} - a_{\ell}} = \sum_{j=1}^{m} \sum_{\ell=m+1}^{n} C_{j}C_{\ell}\frac{a_{j}^{2}(-a_{\ell})}{a_{j} - a_{\ell}} \\ \text{where } C_{j} &= \frac{a_{j}^{m-1}}{\prod_{m > k \neq i}(a_{j} - a_{k})} \text{ and } C_{\ell} &= \frac{(-a_{\ell})^{n-m-1}}{\prod_{m < k \neq \ell}(-a_{\ell} + a_{k})}. \end{split}$$