

ISyE 6761 — Fall 2012

Homework #1 Solutions (revised 10/6/12)

1. The probability of winning on a single toss of the dice is p . Player A starts, and if he fails, he passes the dice to B , who then attempts to win on her toss. They continue tossing back and forth until one of them wins. What are their probabilities of winning?

Solution: Let S and F denote “success” and “failure”, respectively.

$$\begin{aligned} P(A \text{ wins}) &= P(S) + P(FFS) + P(FFFFS) + \dots \\ &= p + (1-p)(1-p)p + (1-p)^4p \\ &= p \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (1-p)^{2i} = \frac{p}{1-(1-p)^2} = \frac{1}{2-p}. \quad \diamond \end{aligned}$$

2. Suppose that all n men at a party throw their hats in the center of the room. Each man then randomly selects a hat. What’s the probability that at least one of the men gets his own hat? What happens as $n \rightarrow \infty$?

Solution: Let A_i be the event that man i gets his own hat, for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} &P(\text{At least one of the men gets his own hat}) \\ &= P(A_1 \cup A_2 \cup \dots \cup A_n) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n P(A_i) - \sum_{i<j} P(A_i A_j) + \sum_{i<j<k} P(A_i A_j A_k) + \dots + (-1)^{n+1} P(A_1 A_2 \dots A_n) \\ &= n \cdot \frac{1}{n} - \binom{n}{2} \frac{1}{n(n-1)} + \binom{n}{3} \frac{1}{n(n-1)(n-2)} + \dots + (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{n!} \\ &= 1 - \frac{1}{2!} + \frac{1}{3!} - \dots + (-1)^{n+1} \frac{1}{n!}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that this quantity goes to $1 - \frac{1}{e}$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. \diamond

3. A fair coin is continually tossed. What’s the probability that the pattern $TTHH$ occurs before the pattern $HHHH$?

Solution: When I first did this problem, I did it a very general, beautiful way that ended up taking me 30 minutes. Then I saw the trivial answer! Namely, the

only way for $HHHH$ to occur first is if you get that pattern on your first four flips; otherwise, you are guaranteed that $THHH$ will occur first. Therefore, the answer is $15/16$. \diamond

4. A gambler has in his pocket a fair coin and a two-headed coin.

- (a) He selects one of the coins at random, and when he flips it, it comes up heads. What's the probability that it's the fair coin?

Solution: Let F, U denote fair and unfair, respectively. We use Bayes' Rule to find

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(F|H) &= \frac{\Pr(H|F)\Pr(F)}{\Pr(H|F)\Pr(F) + \Pr(H|U)\Pr(U)} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2}}{\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} + 1 \cdot \frac{1}{2}} = 1/3. \quad \diamond\end{aligned}$$

- (b) Suppose that he flips the coin n times, and it comes up heads each time. What's the probability that it's fair?

Solution: As above,

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(F|HH \cdots H) &= \frac{\Pr(HH \cdots H|F)\Pr(F)}{\Pr(HH \cdots H|F)\Pr(F) + \Pr(HH \cdots H|U)\Pr(U)} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{2^n} \cdot \frac{1}{2}}{\frac{1}{2^n} \cdot \frac{1}{2} + 1 \cdot \frac{1}{2}} = 1/(2^n + 1). \quad \diamond\end{aligned}$$

5. A die is thrown 7 times. Find

- (a) \Pr ('6' comes up at least once).

Solution: $1 - \Pr(\text{no 6's appear}) = 1 - (5/6)^7 \quad \diamond$

- (b) \Pr (each face appears at least once).

Solution: Denote the six faces by A,B,C,D,E,F. Thus, we need to find the number of tosses of the form A,A,B,C,D,E,F. We then see that

- i. The # ways to choose A is 6.

- ii. The # ways to place the two A's is $\binom{7}{2}$.
- iii. The # ways to permute B,C,D,E,F is $5!$.
- iv. The # ways to toss the die 7 times is 6^7 .

Thus,

$$\Pr(\text{each face appears at least once}) = 6 \cdot \binom{7}{2} \cdot 5!/6^7. \quad \diamond$$

6. If X is a nonnegative continuous random variable, and g is a differentiable function with $g(0) = 0$, prove that $\mathbb{E}[g(X)] = \int_0^\infty g'(t) \Pr(X > t) dt$. [We'll also assume that $\mathbb{E}[g(X)]$ is finite.]

Solution: By the Law of the Unconscious Statistician,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[g(X)] &= \int_0^\infty g(x) f(x) dx \\ &= \int_0^\infty f(x) [g(x) - g(0)] dx \\ &= \int_0^\infty f(x) \int_0^x g'(t) dt dx \\ &= \int_0^\infty \int_0^x g'(t) f(x) dt dx \\ &= \int_0^\infty g'(t) \int_t^\infty f(x) dx dt \quad (\text{by Fubini}) \\ &= \int_0^\infty g'(t) \Pr(X > t) dt. \quad \diamond \end{aligned}$$

Alternatively, you can use integration by parts to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty g'(t) \Pr(X > t) dt &= g(t) \Pr(X > t) \Big|_0^\infty - \int_0^\infty g(t) [-f(t)] dt \\ &= \int_0^\infty g(t) f(t) dt = \mathbb{E}[g(X)], \end{aligned}$$

where we have assumed that $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} g(t) \Pr(X > t) = 0$. \diamond

7. Suppose that X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are i.i.d. $\text{Exp}(\lambda)$. What is the p.d.f. of $\min_i X_i$? $\max_i X_i$?

Solution: Let $Y \equiv \min_i X_i$. Then

$$P(Y > y) = P(\min(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) > y)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= P(X_1 > y, X_2 > y, \dots, X_n > y) \\
&= \prod_{i=1}^n P(X_i > y) \\
&= e^{-n\lambda y}.
\end{aligned}$$

This implies that the p.d.f. of Y is $g(y) = n\lambda e^{-n\lambda y}$ for $y > 0$; and so $Y \sim \text{Exp}(n\lambda)$.
 \diamond

Now let $Z \equiv \max_i X_i$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
P(Z < z) &= P(\max(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) < z) \\
&= P(X_1 < z, X_2 < z, \dots, X_n < z) \\
&= \prod_{i=1}^n P(X_i < z) \\
&= [1 - e^{-\lambda z}]^n.
\end{aligned}$$

This implies that the p.d.f. of Z is $h(z) = n\lambda[1 - e^{-\lambda z}]^{n-1}$ for $z > 0$. \diamond

8. Calculate the m.g.f. of the $\text{Unif}(a, b)$ distribution and use it to calculate the mean and variance.

Solution: If $X \sim \text{Unif}(a, b)$, then the m.g.f. is

$$M_X(t) = \mathbb{E}[e^{tX}] = \int_a^b \frac{e^{tx}}{b-a} dx = \frac{e^{bt} - e^{at}}{t(b-a)}. \quad \diamond$$

Now use L'Hôpital's Rule to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}[X] &= \left. \frac{d}{dt} M_X(t) \right|_{t=0} \\
&= \left. \frac{d}{dt} \frac{e^{bt} - e^{at}}{t(b-a)} \right|_{t=0} \\
&= \left. \frac{t(b-a)(be^{bt} - ae^{at}) - (e^{bt} - e^{at})(b-a)}{t^2(b-a)^2} \right|_{t=0} \\
&= \left. \frac{t(be^{bt} - ae^{at}) - (e^{bt} - e^{at})}{t^2(b-a)} \right|_{t=0} \\
&= \left. \frac{(be^{bt} - ae^{at}) + t(b^2e^{bt} - a^2e^{at}) - (be^{bt} - ae^{at})}{2t(b-a)} \right|_{t=0} \\
&= \left. \frac{b^2e^{bt} - a^2e^{at}}{2(b-a)} \right|_{t=0} = \frac{a+b}{2}. \quad \diamond
\end{aligned}$$

Similarly (but more tediously), you can calculate $E[X^2]$ and then $\text{Var}(X) = (b - a)^2/12$. \diamond

9. Show that the sum of i.i.d. exponential random variables is a gamma random variable.

Solution: Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be i.i.d. $\text{Exp}(\lambda)$. Then from class, we know that the m.g.f. of X_i is $M_{X_i}(t) = \lambda/(\lambda - t)$, $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$; and so the m.g.f. of $Y \equiv \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ is

$$M_Y(t) = [M_{X_i}(t)]^n = \left(\frac{\lambda}{\lambda - t} \right)^n, \quad \text{for } t < \lambda.$$

Meanwhile, the p.d.f. of a $\text{Gamma}(n, \lambda)$ (or Erlang) random variable Z is given by

$$g(z) = \frac{\lambda^n z^{n-1} e^{-\lambda z}}{\Gamma(n)}, \quad \text{for } z > 0.$$

Thus, the m.g.f. is

$$\begin{aligned} M_Z(t) &= \int_0^\infty \frac{e^{tz} \lambda^n z^{n-1} e^{-\lambda z}}{\Gamma(n)} dz \\ &= \frac{\lambda^n}{\Gamma(n)} \int_0^\infty z^{n-1} e^{-(\lambda-t)z} dz \\ &= \frac{\lambda^n}{(\lambda-t)^n \Gamma(n)} \int_0^\infty u^{n-1} e^{-u} du \quad (\text{where } u = (\lambda-t)z, \text{ with } t < \lambda) \\ &= \left(\frac{\lambda}{\lambda-t} \right)^n \quad (\text{by definition of } \Gamma(n)). \end{aligned}$$

Since $M_Y(t) = M_Z(t)$, the uniqueness of m.g.f.'s gives our result. \diamond

10. Suppose that $U \sim \text{Unif}(0, 1)$. Find the p.d.f. of $\frac{-1}{\lambda} \ln(U)$.

Solution: (This problem was actually done in class.) The c.d.f. of $Y = \frac{-1}{\lambda} \ln(U)$ is

$$\begin{aligned} G(y) &= \Pr(Y \leq y) \\ &= \Pr\left(\frac{-1}{\lambda} \ln(U) \leq y\right) \\ &= \Pr(\ln(U) \geq -\lambda y) \\ &= \Pr(U \geq e^{-\lambda y}) \\ &= 1 - e^{-\lambda y}. \end{aligned}$$

This immediately implies that $Y \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$; and so the p.d.f. is $g(y) = \lambda e^{-\lambda y}$, for $y > 0$. \diamond

11. Suppose X, Y have joint p.d.f. $f(x, y) = cxy$ for $0 < x < y < 1$ for some c . Find $\text{Corr}(X, Y)$.

Solution: First of all, note that

$$1 = \int \int_{\mathfrak{R}^2} f(x, y) dx dy = \int_0^1 \int_0^y cxy dx dy = \frac{c}{8}.$$

Thus, $c = 8$, and we can really get going. In particular,

$$f_X(x) = \int_{\mathfrak{R}} f(x, y) dy = \int_x^1 8xy dy = 4(x - x^3), \quad 0 < x < 1.$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \int_{\mathfrak{R}} x f_X(x) dx = \int_0^1 4(x^2 - x^4) dx = \frac{8}{15}.$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X^2] = \int_{\mathfrak{R}} x^2 f_X(x) dx = \int_0^1 4(x^3 - x^5) dx = \frac{1}{3}.$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \mathbb{E}[X^2] - (\mathbb{E}[X])^2 = \frac{11}{225}.$$

$$f_Y(y) = \int_{\mathfrak{R}} f(x, y) dx = \int_0^y 8xy dy = 4y^3, \quad 0 < y < 1.$$

$$\mathbb{E}[Y] = \int_{\mathfrak{R}} y f_Y(y) dy = \int_0^1 4y^4 dy = \frac{4}{5}.$$

$$\mathbb{E}[Y^2] = \int_{\mathfrak{R}} y^2 f_Y(y) dy = \int_0^1 4y^5 dy = \frac{2}{3}.$$

$$\text{Var}(Y) = \mathbb{E}[Y^2] - (\mathbb{E}[Y])^2 = \frac{2}{75}.$$

$$\mathbb{E}[XY] = \int \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} xyf(x, y) dx dy = \int_0^1 \int_0^y 8x^2y^2 dx dy = \frac{4}{9}.$$

All of this stuff implies that

$$\text{Corr}(X, Y) = \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(X)\text{Var}(Y)}} = \frac{\mathbb{E}[XY] - \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y]}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(X)\text{Var}(Y)}} = 0.4924. \quad \diamond$$

12. Use Chebychev's inequality to prove the WLLN, i.e., if X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are i.i.d. with mean μ and finite variance, then for any $\epsilon > 0$, we have

$$\Pr(|\bar{X} - \mu| > \epsilon) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Solution: (This was done in class.) By Chebychev, we have

$$\Pr(|\bar{X} - \mu| > \epsilon) \leq \frac{\text{Var}(\bar{X})}{\epsilon^2} = \frac{\text{Var}(X_i)}{n\epsilon^2} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty. \quad \diamond$$

13. Suppose that X_1, X_2, \dots, X_{10} are i.i.d. $\text{Pois}(1)$.

- (a) Use the Markov inequality to bound $\Pr(X_1 + \dots + X_{10} \geq 15)$.

Solution: Let $Y = \sum_{i=1}^{10} X_i$. Markov states that $\Pr(Y \geq \epsilon) \leq \mathbb{E}[Y]/\epsilon$. Then since $\mathbb{E}[X_i] = 1$, we have

$$\Pr(Y \geq 15) \leq \frac{10\mathbb{E}[X_i]}{15} = \frac{2}{3}. \quad \diamond$$

- (b) Use the CLT to approximate $\Pr(X_1 + \dots + X_{10} \geq 15)$.

Solution: By the CLT, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(Y \geq 15) &= \Pr\left(\frac{Y - \mathbb{E}[Y]}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(Y)}} \geq \frac{15 - \mathbb{E}[Y]}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(Y)}}\right) \\ &\approx \Pr\left(\text{Nor}(0, 1) \geq \frac{15 - 10}{\sqrt{10}}\right) \\ &= 1 - \Phi(1.581) = 0.0569. \quad \diamond \end{aligned}$$

Note that you might want to improve upon the above solution by employing a *continuity correction* to take into account the fact that the Poisson is a discrete distribution. This would result in the slightly different approximation

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(Y \geq 15) &= \Pr(Y \geq 14.5) \\ &\approx \Pr\left(\text{Nor}(0, 1) \geq \frac{14.5 - 10}{\sqrt{10}}\right) \\ &= 1 - \Phi(1.423) = 0.0774. \quad \diamond\end{aligned}$$

Of course, if you *really* want to check your answer, you can do so exactly, by noting that $Y \sim \text{Pois}(10)$. Then

$$\Pr(Y \geq 15) = 1 - \sum_{y=0}^{14} \frac{e^{-10}(10)^y}{y!} = 0.08346. \quad \diamond$$

14. Show that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} e^{-n} \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{n^k}{k!} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

Solution: Suppose that $Y \sim \text{Pois}(n)$. As implied by the previous problem, you can write $Y = \sum_{i=0}^n X_i$ where the X_i 's are i.i.d. $\text{Pois}(1)$. Thus, by the CLT, Y becomes approximately normal as n becomes large. Now let's use this fact...

$$\begin{aligned}\sum_{k=0}^n \frac{e^{-n} n^k}{k!} &= \Pr(Y \leq n) \\ &\approx \Pr\left(\text{Nor}(0, 1) \leq \frac{n - \mathbf{E}[Y]}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(Y)}}\right) \\ &= \Pr(\text{Nor}(0, 1) \leq 0) = 0.5. \quad \diamond\end{aligned}$$

15. Two vendors offer functionally identical products with mean lifetime 10 months. The distribution of the lifetime of the product from the first vendor is $\text{Exp}(\lambda)$, while the distribution of the lifetime of the product from the second vendor is $\text{Erlang}_2(\mu)$. If the objective is to maximize the probability that the lifetime of a product is greater than 8 months, which of the two vendors should be chosen?

Solution: Let X_1 and X_2 be lifetimes of products from the first and second vendors, respectively. Since $X_1 \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$ and $X_2 \sim \text{Erlang}_2(\mu)$, we have $\mathbf{E}[X_1] = 1/\lambda = 10$ and $\mathbf{E}[X_2] = 2/\mu = 10$. Thus, $\lambda = 0.1$ and $\mu = 0.2$. This immediately implies that

$$\begin{aligned} P(X_1 \geq 8) &= e^{-0.1 \times 8} = 0.449 \\ P(X_2 \geq 8) &= \sum_{i=0}^1 e^{-0.2 \times 8} \frac{(0.2 \times 8)^i}{i!} = 2.6e^{-1.6} = 0.525. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the second vendor should be chosen. \diamond

16. A system consists of n components. Each component functions with probability p independently of the others. The system as a whole functions if at least k components function. (This is a k -out-of- n system.)

- What is the probability that the system functions?
- Suppose that the lifetime of each component is exponential with mean one week. Compute the probability that the system functions after t weeks when $n = 3$ and $k = 2$.
- Suppose we visit the system in item (b) at the end of 3 weeks and replace all failed components at a cost of \$75 each. If the system has already failed, it costs us an additional \$1,000. Compute the mean total cost incurred at the end of 3 weeks.

Solution:

$$(a) \sum_{i=k}^n \binom{n}{i} p^i (1-p)^{n-i}. \quad \diamond$$

$$(b) \text{ Set } p = e^{-t}. \text{ Then } \sum_{i=2}^3 \binom{n}{i} p^i (1-p)^{n-i} = 3e^{-2t} - 2e^{-3t}. \quad \diamond$$

(c) Set $p = e^{-3}$. Then the total cost is

$$0p^3 + 75 \binom{3}{1} p^2 (1-p) + (75 \times 2 + 1000) \binom{3}{2} p^1 (1-p)^2 + (75 \times 3 + 1000) (1-p)^3 = 1206.6. \quad \diamond$$

17. Suppose a machine has 3 components with i.i.d. $\text{Exp}(0.1)$ lifetimes. Compute the mean lifetime of the machine if it needs all 3 components to function.

Solution: Let X be a lifetime of the machine, and X_i be that of the i th component, where $X_i \sim \text{Exp}(0.1)$, $i = 1, 2, 3$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} P(X > x) &= P(\min(X_1, X_2, X_3) > x) \\ &= P(X_1 > x, X_2 > x, X_3 > x) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^3 P(X_i > x) \\ &= e^{-0.3x}. \end{aligned}$$

This implies that $X \sim \text{Exp}(0.3)$, and so the mean lifetime of the machine is $1/0.3$.
 \diamond

18. A statistical experiment consists of starting 10 machines at time 0, and recording the number of operating machines after 10 hours. If the lifetimes (in hours) of these machines are i.i.d. $\text{Exp}(0.125)$, compute the mean and variance of the number of operating machines after 10 hours.

Solution: Let X be the number of operating machines after 10 hours. The probability that a typical machine is alive after 10 hours is $e^{-10 \times 0.125} = 0.2865$. Then clearly, $X \sim \text{Bin}(10, 0.2865)$. Hence, $E[X] = np = 2.865$, and $\text{Var}(X) = npq = 2.044$.
 \diamond

19. Let X_1, X_2, \dots be i.i.d. $\text{Exp}(\lambda)$ random variables, and let N be a $\text{Geom}(p)$ random variable that is independent of the X_i 's. Find the distribution of the random sum $Z = X_1 + \dots + X_N$.

Solution: Given that $N = k$, we know that $Z \sim \text{Erlang}_k(\lambda)$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} P(Z > x) &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} P(Z > x | N = k) P(N = k) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} e^{-\lambda x} \frac{(\lambda x)^i}{i!} (1-p)^{k-1} p \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=i+1}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda x} \frac{(\lambda x)^i}{i!} (1-p)^{k-1} p = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda x} \frac{(\lambda x)^i}{i!} p \sum_{k=i+1}^{\infty} (1-p)^{k-1} \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda x} \frac{(\lambda x)^i}{i!} (1-p)^i = e^{-\lambda x} e^{(1-p)\lambda x} \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} e^{-(1-p)\lambda x} \frac{((1-p)\lambda x)^i}{i!} \\ &= e^{-p\lambda x}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, Z has an exponential distribution with parameter $p\lambda$.
 \diamond

20. The lifetimes of two car batteries (brands A and B) are independent exponential random variables with means 12 hours and 10 hours, respectively. What is the probability that a brand B battery lasts longer than a brand A one?

Solution: Let A (resp., B) be lifetime of battery A (resp., B). Then

$$\begin{aligned} P(B > A) &= \int_0^{\infty} P(B > A | A = x) f_A(x) dx \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\lambda_2 x} \lambda_1 e^{-\lambda_1 x} dx \\ &= \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2} = 0.455. \quad \diamond \end{aligned}$$

21. (Bonus Question) A couple has two kids and at least one is a boy born on a Tuesday. What's the probability that *both* are boys?

Solution: Let the events $B_x [G_x] =$ 'Boy [Girl] born on day x ,' $x = 1, 2, \dots, 7$ ($x = 3$ is Tuesday). The sample space for this experiment is

$$S = \{(G_x, G_y), (G_x, B_y), (B_x, G_y), (B_x, B_y), x, y = 1, 2, \dots, 7\}$$

(so $|S| = 4 \times 49 = 196$).

Let C be the event that both are boys (with at least one born on a Tuesday) $= \{(B_x, B_3), x = 1, 2, \dots, 7\} \cup \{(B_3, B_y), y = 1, 2, \dots, 7\}$. Note that $|C| = 13$ (to avoid double counting (B_3, B_3)).

Let D be the event that there is at least one boy born on a Tuesday $= \{(G_x, B_3), (B_3, G_y), x, y = 1, 2, \dots, 7\} \cup C$. So $|D| = 27$ (list them out if you don't believe me). Then

$$\Pr(C|D) = \frac{\Pr(C \cap D)}{\Pr(D)} = \frac{\Pr(C)}{\Pr(D)} = \frac{13/196}{27/196} = 13/27. \quad \diamond$$