

# Section 8: Solutions

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## Review of Main Concepts

- **Multivariate: Discrete to Continuous:**

	Discrete	Continuous
<b>Joint PMF/PDF</b>	$p_{X,Y}(x,y) = \mathbb{P}(X=x, Y=y)$	$f_{X,Y}(x,y) \neq \mathbb{P}(X=x, Y=y)$
<b>Joint range/support</b> $\Omega_{X,Y}$	$\{(x,y) \in \Omega_X \times \Omega_Y : p_{X,Y}(x,y) > 0\}$	$\{(x,y) \in \Omega_X \times \Omega_Y : f_{X,Y}(x,y) > 0\}$
<b>Joint CDF</b>	$F_{X,Y}(x,y) = \sum_{t < x, s < y} p_{X,Y}(t,s)$	$F_{X,Y}(x,y) = \int_{-\infty}^x \int_{-\infty}^y f_{X,Y}(t,s) ds dt$
<b>Normalization</b>	$\sum_{x,y} p_{X,Y}(x,y) = 1$	$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x,y) dx dy = 1$
<b>Marginal PMF/PDF</b>	$p_X(x) = \sum_y p_{X,Y}(x,y)$	$f_X(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{X,Y}(x,y) dy$
<b>Expectation</b>	$\mathbb{E}[g(X,Y)] = \sum_{x,y} g(x,y) p_{X,Y}(x,y)$	$\mathbb{E}[g(X,Y)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x,y) f_{X,Y}(x,y) dx dy$
<b>Independence</b> must have	$\forall x,y, p_{X,Y}(x,y) = p_X(x)p_Y(y)$ $\Omega_{X,Y} = \Omega_X \times \Omega_Y$	$\forall x,y, f_{X,Y}(x,y) = f_X(x)f_Y(y)$ $\Omega_{X,Y} = \Omega_X \times \Omega_Y$

- **Law of Total Probability (r.v. version):** If  $X$  is a discrete random variable, then

$$\mathbb{P}(A) = \sum_{x \in \Omega_X} \mathbb{P}(A|X=x) p_X(x) \quad \text{discrete } X$$

- **Law of Total Expectation (Event Version):** Let  $X$  be a discrete random variable, and let events  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  partition the sample space. Then,

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}[X|A_i] \mathbb{P}(A_i)$$

- **Conditional Expectation:** See table. Note that linearity of expectation still applies to conditional expectation:  
 $\mathbb{E}[X+Y|A] = \mathbb{E}[X|A] + \mathbb{E}[Y|A]$

- **Law of Total Expectation (RV Version):** Suppose  $X$  and  $Y$  are random variables. Then,

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_y \mathbb{E}[X|Y=y] p_Y(y) \quad \text{discrete version.}$$

- **Conditional distributions**

	Discrete	Continuous
<b>Conditional PMF/PDF</b>	$p_{X Y}(x y) = \frac{p_{X,Y}(x,y)}{p_Y(y)}$	$f_{X Y}(x y) = \frac{f_{X,Y}(x,y)}{f_Y(y)}$
<b>Conditional Expectation</b>	$\mathbb{E}[X Y=y] = \sum_x x p_{X Y}(x y)$	$\mathbb{E}[X Y=y] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_{X Y}(x y) dx$

- **Continuous Law of Total Probability:**

$$\mathbb{P}(A) = \int_{x \in \Omega_X} \mathbb{P}(A|X=x) f_X(x) dx$$

- **Continuous Law of Total Expectation:**

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \int_{y \in \Omega_Y} \mathbb{E}[X|Y=y] f_Y(y) dy$$

- **Markov's Inequality:** Let  $X$  be a non-negative random variable, and  $\alpha > 0$ . Then,

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geq \alpha) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[X]}{\alpha}$$

- **Chebyshev's Inequality:** Suppose  $Y$  is a random variable with  $\mathbb{E}[Y] = \mu$  and  $\text{Var}(Y) = \sigma^2$ . Then, for any  $\alpha > 0$ ,

$$\mathbb{P}(|Y - \mu| \geq \alpha) \leq \frac{\sigma^2}{\alpha^2}$$

- **(Multiplicative) Chernoff Bound:** Let  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  be independent Bernoulli random variables.

Let  $X = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ , and  $\mu = \mathbb{E}[X]$ . Then, for any  $0 \leq \delta \leq 1$ ,

- $\mathbb{P}(X \geq (1 + \delta)\mu) \leq e^{-\frac{\delta^2 \mu}{3}}$
- $\mathbb{P}(X \leq (1 - \delta)\mu) \leq e^{-\frac{\delta^2 \mu}{2}}$

## 1. Content Review

- (a) True or false: the Union Bound always gives a result in  $[0, 1]$ .

**Solution:**

False. Consider  $X$  and  $Y$ , which are independent indicator random variables.

$$\text{Suppose } p_X(x) = \begin{cases} 0.75 & x = 0 \\ 0.25 & x = 1 \end{cases} \text{ and } p_Y(y) = \begin{cases} 0.75 & y = 0 \\ 0.25 & y = 1 \end{cases}.$$

Then we may apply the Union Bound to place a bound on  $P(X = 0 \cup Y = 0)$ :

$$P(X = 0 \cup Y = 0) \leq P(X = 0) + P(Y = 0) = 0.75 + 0.75 = 1.5.$$

In these cases, the Union Bound tells us very little, since the probability of any event occurring is at most 1.

- (b) True or false: Markov's Inequality always gives a non-negative result.

**Solution:**

True. Markov's Inequality is

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geq \alpha) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[X]}{\alpha}$$

as long as  $X$  is a non-negative random variable and  $\alpha > 0$ . Since  $X$  is a non-negative random variable,  $\mathbb{E}[X] \geq 0$ , so  $\frac{\mathbb{E}[X]}{\alpha} \geq 0$ .

- (c) Suppose  $C$  and  $D$  are discrete random variables. Then  $\mathbb{E}[C|D = d] =$

- $\sum_d dp_{D|C}(d|c)$
- $\sum_c cp_{C|D}(c|d)$
- $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} cf_{c|d} dx$
- $\frac{\mathbb{E}[C]}{\mathbb{E}[D]}$

**Solution:**

Choice b is the correct answer from the definition of conditional expectation for discrete random variables.

- (d) Suppose  $X$  and  $Y$  are random variables and  $A$  is an event. Given that  $\mathbb{E}[X|A] = 4$  and  $\mathbb{E}[Y|A] = 10$ , what is  $\mathbb{E}[2X + Y/2|A]$ ?

- 14
- 18

9

13

**Solution:**

Choice d is the correct answer since linearity of expectation still applies to conditional expectation:

$$\mathbb{E}[2X + Y/2|A] = \mathbb{E}[2X|A] + \mathbb{E}[Y/2|A] = 2\mathbb{E}[X|A] + \mathbb{E}[Y|A]/2 = 2 \cdot 4 + 10/2 = 8 + 5 = 13.$$

- (e) True or false: Chebyshev's Inequality can best be described as giving an upper bound on the distribution's right tail.

**Solution:**

False. Chebyshev's Inequality gives an upper bound on the sum of the probabilities of the left and right tails of the distribution.

## 2. Tail bounds

Suppose  $X \sim \text{Binomial}(6, 0.4)$ . We will bound  $\mathbb{P}(X \geq 4)$  using the tail bounds we've learned, and compare this to the true result.

- (a) Give an upper bound for this probability using Markov's inequality. Why can we use Markov's inequality?

**Solution:**

We know that the expected value of a binomial distribution is  $np$ , so:  $\mathbb{P}(X \geq 4) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[X]}{4} = \frac{2.4}{4} = 0.6$ . We can use it since  $X$  is nonnegative.

- (b) Give an upper bound for this probability using Chebyshev's inequality. You may have to rearrange algebraically and it may result in a weaker bound. **Solution:**

$\mathbb{P}(X \geq 4) = \mathbb{P}(X - 2.4 \geq 1.6) \leq \mathbb{P}(|X - 2.4| \geq 1.6)$  we can add those absolute value signs because that only adds more possible values, so it is an upper bound on the probability of  $X - 2.4 \geq 1.6$ . Then, using Chebyshev's inequality we get:  
 $\mathbb{P}(|X - 2.4| \geq 1.6) \leq \frac{\text{Var}(X)}{1.6^2} = \frac{1.44}{1.6^2} = 0.5625$

- (c) Give an upper bound for this probability using the Chernoff bound. **Solution:**

First, we solve for the values of  $\delta$  that will allow us to use the Chernoff bound. We want  $(1 + \delta)E[X] = (1 + \delta)2.4 = 4$ . Solving for  $\delta$  here gives us  $\delta = \frac{2}{3}$ . Now, we can directly plug into the Chernoff bound.  
 $\mathbb{P}(X \geq 4) = \mathbb{P}(X \geq (1 + \frac{2}{3})2.4) \leq e^{-(\frac{2}{3})^2 \mathbb{E}[X]/3} = e^{-4 \times 2.4/27} \approx 0.7$

- (d) Give the exact probability. **Solution:**

Since  $X$  is a binomial, we know it has a range from 0 to  $n$  (or in this case 0 to 6). Thus, the possible values to satisfy  $X \geq 4$  are 4, 5, or 6. We plug in the PMF for each to get:  $\mathbb{P}(X \geq 4) = \mathbb{P}(X = 4) + \mathbb{P}(X = 5) + \mathbb{P}(X = 6) = \binom{6}{4}(0.4)^4(0.6)^2 + \binom{6}{5}(0.4)^5(0.6) + \binom{6}{6}0.4^6 \approx 0.1792$

### 3. Exponential Tail Bounds

Let  $X \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$  and  $k > 1/\lambda$ .

- (a) Use Markov's inequality to bound  $\mathbb{P}(X \geq k)$ .

**Solution:**

We can use Markov's inequality here because  $X$  is non-negative since it is an exponential distribution. We also know that  $E[X] = 1/\lambda$  because  $X \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$ . By Markov's inequality, we get that:

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geq k) \leq \frac{1}{\lambda k}$$

- (b) Use Markov's inequality to bound  $\mathbb{P}(X < k)$ . **Solution:**

From Markov's inequality (and our answer in (a)), we know that  $\mathbb{P}(X \geq k) \leq \frac{1}{\lambda k}$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} P(X \geq k) &\leq \frac{1}{\lambda k} \\ -P(X \geq k) &\geq -\frac{1}{\lambda k} && \text{multiplying by a negative flips the inequality} \\ 1 - P(X \geq k) &\geq 1 - \frac{1}{\lambda k} \\ P(X < k) &\geq 1 - \frac{1}{\lambda k} && \text{by definition of complement} \end{aligned}$$

Note that because we took the complement and the sign flipped, we have now found a *lower* bound for  $\mathbb{P}(X < k)$ .

- (c) Use Chebyshev's inequality to bound  $\mathbb{P}(X \geq k)$ . **Solution:**

We rearrange algebraically to get into the form to apply Chebyshev's inequality. We then plug in the corresponding values and  $\text{Var}(X) = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$ .

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geq k) = \mathbb{P}\left(X - \frac{1}{\lambda} \geq k - \frac{1}{\lambda}\right) \leq \mathbb{P}\left(\left|X - \frac{1}{\lambda}\right| \geq k - \frac{1}{\lambda}\right) \leq \frac{1}{\lambda^2(k - 1/\lambda)^2} = \frac{1}{(\lambda k - 1)^2}$$

- (d) What is the exact formula for  $\mathbb{P}(X \geq k)$ ? **Solution:**

Using the CDF for an exponential distribution and definition of complement:

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geq k) = 1 - P(X \leq k) = 1 - (1 - e^{-\lambda k}) = e^{-\lambda k}$$

(e) For  $\lambda k \geq 3$ , how do the bounds given in parts (a), (c), and (d) compare?

**Solution:**

$$e^{-\lambda k} < \frac{1}{(\lambda k - 1)^2} < \frac{1}{\lambda k}$$

so Markov's inequality gives the worst bound.

## 4. Robbie's Late!

Suppose the probability Robbie is late to teaching lecture on a given day is at most 0.01. Do not make any independence assumptions.

(a) Use a Union Bound to bound the probability that Robbie is late at least once over a 30-lecture quarter. **So-**

**lution:**

Let  $R_i$  be the event Robbie is late to lecture on day  $i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, 30$ . Then, by the union bound,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\text{late at least once}) &= \mathbb{P}\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{30} R_i\right) \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^{30} \mathbb{P}(R_i) && \text{[union bound]} \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^{30} 0.01 && [\mathbb{P}(R_i) \leq 0.01] \\ &= 0.30 \end{aligned}$$

(b) Use a Union Bound to bound the probability that Robbie is **never** late over a 30-lecture quarter. **Solution:**

As in the previous part, let  $R_i$  be the event Robbie is late to lecture on day  $i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, 30$ . Then, by the union bound, we found that

$$\mathbb{P}(\text{late at least once}) \leq 0.30$$

The probability Robbie is never late is the complement of the probability he is late at least once over the

30 lectures. Taking the complement and doing algebra:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\text{late at least once}) &\leq 0.30 \\ -\mathbb{P}(\text{late at least once}) &\geq -0.30 && \text{[multiplying by negative flips the inequality]} \\ 1 - \mathbb{P}(\text{late at least once}) &\geq 1 - 0.30 \\ \mathbb{P}(\text{never late}) &\geq 0.70 \end{aligned}$$

Note that we have now found a *lower* bound for this probability using the union bound because of taking the complement.

(c) Use a Union Bound to bound the probability that Robbie is late at least once over a 120-lecture quarter.

**Solution:**

Let  $R_i$  be the event Robbie is late to lecture on day  $i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, 120$ . Then, by the union bound,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\text{late at least once}) &= \mathbb{P}\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{120} R_i\right) \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^{120} \mathbb{P}(R_i) && \text{[union bound]} \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^{120} 0.01 && [\mathbb{P}(R_i) \leq 0.01] \\ &= 1.20 \end{aligned}$$

Notice that  $\mathbb{P}(\text{late at least once}) \leq 1.20$  is not a very helpful bound since probabilities have to be at most 1 already.

## 5. Trinomial Distribution

A generalization of the Binomial model is when there is a sequence of  $n$  independent trials, but with three outcomes, where  $\mathbb{P}(\text{outcome } i) = p_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$  and of course  $p_1 + p_2 + p_3 = 1$ . Let  $X_i$  be the number of times outcome  $i$  occurred for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , where  $X_1 + X_2 + X_3 = n$ . Find the joint PMF  $p_{X_1, X_2, X_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3)$  and specify its value for all  $x_1, x_2, x_3 \in \mathbb{R}$ . **Solution:**

We use a similar argument as for the binomial PMF.  $\binom{n}{x_1, x_2, x_3}$  is the number of ways to select which of the  $n$  outcomes result in each of the 3 outcomes. Then, we multiply the probabilities of each trial being the corresponding outcome (e.g.,  $p_1^{x_1}$  is the probability that all  $x_1$  trials end up being outcome 1). This gives us the following PMF:

$$p_{X_1, X_2, X_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \binom{n}{x_1, x_2, x_3} \prod_{i=1}^3 p_i^{x_i} = \frac{n!}{x_1! x_2! x_3!} p_1^{x_1} p_2^{x_2} p_3^{x_3}$$

where  $x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = n$  and are nonnegative integers.

## 6. Do You “Urn” to Learn More About Probability?

Suppose that 3 balls are chosen without replacement from an urn consisting of 5 white and 8 red balls. Let  $X_i = 1$  if the  $i$ -th ball selected is white and let it be equal to 0 otherwise. Give the joint probability mass function of

(a)  $X_1, X_2$  **Solution:**

Here is one way of defining the joint pmf of  $X_1, X_2$

$$\mathbb{P}(X_1 = 1, X_2 = 1) = \mathbb{P}(X_1 = 1)\mathbb{P}(X_2 = 1 | X_1 = 1) = \frac{5}{13} \cdot \frac{4}{12} = \frac{20}{156}$$

$$\mathbb{P}(X_1 = 1, X_2 = 0) = \mathbb{P}(X_1 = 1)\mathbb{P}(X_2 = 0 | X_1 = 1) = \frac{5}{13} \cdot \frac{8}{12} = \frac{40}{156}$$

$$\mathbb{P}(X_1 = 0, X_2 = 1) = \mathbb{P}(X_1 = 0)\mathbb{P}(X_2 = 1 | X_1 = 0) = \frac{8}{13} \cdot \frac{5}{12} = \frac{40}{156}$$

$$\mathbb{P}(X_1 = 0, X_2 = 0) = \mathbb{P}(X_1 = 0)\mathbb{P}(X_2 = 0 | X_1 = 0) = \frac{8}{13} \cdot \frac{7}{12} = \frac{56}{156}$$

(b)  $X_1, X_2, X_3$  **Solution:**

Instead of listing out all the individual probabilities, we could write a more compact formula for the pmf. In this problem, the denominator is always  $P(13, k)$ , where  $k$  is the number of random variables in the joint pmf. And the numerator is  $P(5, i)$  times  $P(8, j)$  where  $i$  and  $j$  are the number of 1s and 0s, respectively.

If we wish to compute  $p_{X_1, X_2, X_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3)$ , then the number of 1s (i.e., white balls) is  $x_1 + x_2 + x_3$ , and the number of 0s (i.e., red balls) is  $(1 - x_1) + (1 - x_2) + (1 - x_3)$ . Then, we can write the pmf as follows:

$$p_{X_1, X_2, X_3}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \frac{10!}{13!} \cdot \frac{5!}{(5 - x_1 - x_2 - x_3)!} \cdot \frac{8!}{(5 + x_1 + x_2 + x_3)!}$$

## 7. Successes

Consider a sequence of independent Bernoulli trials, each of which is a success with probability  $p$ . Let  $X_1$  be the number of failures preceding the first success, and let  $X_2$  be the number of failures between the first 2 successes. Find the joint pmf of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ . Write an expression for  $E[\sqrt{X_1 X_2}]$ . You can leave your answer in the form of a sum. **Solution:**

$X_1$  and  $X_2$  take on two particular values  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ , when there are  $x_1$  failures followed by one success, and then  $x_2$  failures followed by one success. Since the Bernoulli trials are independent the joint pmf is

$$p_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) = (1 - p)^{x_1} p \cdot (1 - p)^{x_2} p = (1 - p)^{x_1 + x_2} p^2$$

for  $(x_1, x_2) \in \Omega_{X_1, X_2} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\} \times \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ . By the definition of expectation

$$E[\sqrt{X_1 X_2}] = \sum_{(x_1, x_2) \in \Omega_{X_1, X_2}} \sqrt{x_1 x_2} \cdot (1 - p)^{x_1 + x_2} p^2.$$

## 8. Continuous joint density

The joint density of  $X$  and  $Y$  is given by

$$f_{X, Y}(x, y) = \begin{cases} x e^{-(x+y)} & x > 0, y > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

and the joint density of  $W$  and  $V$  is given by

$$f_{W, V}(w, v) = \begin{cases} 2 & 0 < w < v, 0 < v < 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Are  $X$  and  $Y$  independent? Are  $W$  and  $V$  independent?

**Solution:**

For two random variables  $X, Y$  to be independent, we must have  $f_{X,Y}(x, y) = f_X(x)f_Y(y)$  for all  $x \in \Omega_X, y \in \Omega_Y$ . Let's start with  $X$  and  $Y$  by finding their marginal PDFs. By definition, and using the fact that the joint PDF is 0 outside of  $y > 0$ , we get:

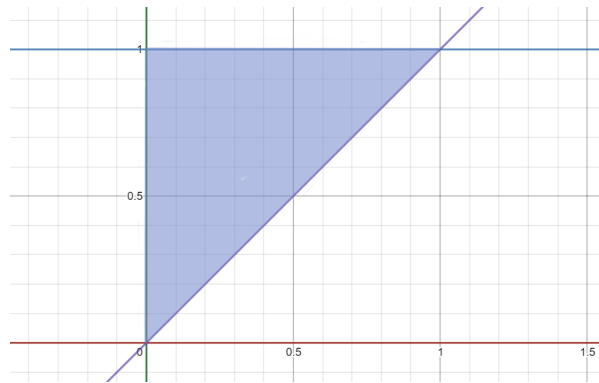
$$f_X(x) = \int_0^{\infty} xe^{-(x+y)} dy = e^{-x}x$$

We do the same to get the PDF of  $Y$ , again over the range  $x > 0$ :

$$f_Y(y) = \int_0^{\infty} xe^{-(x+y)} dx = e^{-y}$$

Since  $e^{-x}x \cdot e^{-y} = xe^{-x-y} = xe^{-(x+y)}$  for all  $x, y > 0$ ,  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent.

We can see that  $W$  and  $V$  are not independent simply by observing that  $\Omega_W = (0, 1)$  and  $\Omega_V = (0, 1)$ , but  $\Omega_{W,V}$  is not equal to their Cartesian product. Specifically, looking at their range of  $f_{W,V}(w, v)$ . Graphing it with  $w$  as the "x-axis" and  $v$  as the "y-axis", we see that :



The shaded area is where the joint pdf is strictly positive. Looking at it, we can see that it is not rectangular, and therefore it is not the case that  $\Omega_{W,V} = \Omega_W \times \Omega_V$ . Remember, the joint range being the Cartesian product of the marginal ranges is not sufficient for independence, but it is *necessary*. Therefore, this is enough to show that they are not independent.



## 9. Trapped Miner

A miner is trapped in a mine containing 3 doors.

- $D_1$ : The 1<sup>st</sup> door leads to a tunnel that will take him to safety after 3 hours.
- $D_2$ : The 2<sup>nd</sup> door leads to a tunnel that returns him to the mine after 5 hours.
- $D_3$ : The 3<sup>rd</sup> door leads to a tunnel that returns him to the mine after a number of hours that is Binomial with parameters  $(12, \frac{1}{3})$ .

At all times, he is equally likely to choose any one of the doors. What is the expected number of hours for this miner to reach safety?

### Solution:

Let  $T$  = number of hours for the miner to reach safety. ( $T$  is a random variable)

Let  $D_i$  be the event the  $i^{\text{th}}$  door is chosen.  $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ . Finally, let  $T_3$  be the time it takes to return to the mine in the third case only (a random variable). Note that the expectation of  $T_3$  is  $12 * \frac{1}{3}$  because it is binomially distributed with parameters  $n = 12, p = \frac{1}{3}$ . By Law of Total Expectation, linearity of expectation, and by applying the conditional expectations given by the problem statement:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[T] &= \mathbb{E}[T|D_1] \mathbb{P}(D_1) + \mathbb{E}[T|D_2] \mathbb{P}(D_2) + \mathbb{E}[T|D_3] \mathbb{P}(D_3) \\ &= 3 \cdot \frac{1}{3} + (5 + \mathbb{E}[T]) \cdot \frac{1}{3} + (\mathbb{E}[T_3 + T]) \cdot \frac{1}{3} \\ &= 3 \cdot \frac{1}{3} + (5 + \mathbb{E}[T]) \cdot \frac{1}{3} + (\mathbb{E}[T_3] + \mathbb{E}[T]) \cdot \frac{1}{3} \\ &= 3 \cdot \frac{1}{3} + (5 + \mathbb{E}[T]) \cdot \frac{1}{3} + (4 + \mathbb{E}[T]) \cdot \frac{1}{3}\end{aligned}$$

Solving this equation for  $\mathbb{E}[T]$ , we get

$$\mathbb{E}[T] = 12$$

Therefore, the expected number of hours for this miner to reach safety is 12.

## 10. Lemonade Stand

Suppose I run a lemonade stand, which costs me \$100 a day to operate. I sell a drink of lemonade for \$20. Every person who walks by my stand either buys a drink or doesn't (no one buys more than one). If it is raining,  $n_1$  people walk by my stand, and each buys a drink independently with probability  $p_1$ . If it isn't raining,  $n_2$  people walk by my stand, and each buys a drink independently with probability  $p_2$ . It rains each day with probability  $p_3$ , independently of every other day. Let  $X$  be my profit over the next week. In terms of  $n_1, n_2, p_1, p_2$  and  $p_3$ , what is  $\mathbb{E}[X]$ ?

**Solution:**

Let  $R$  be the event it rains. Let  $X_i$  be how many drinks I sell on day  $i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, 7$ . We are interested in  $X = \sum_{i=1}^7 (20X_i - 100)$ . We have  $X_i|R \sim \text{Binomial}(n_1, p_1)$ , so  $\mathbb{E}[X_i|R] = n_1 p_1$ . Similarly,  $X_i|R^C \sim \text{Binomial}(n_2, p_2)$ , so  $\mathbb{E}[X_i|R^C] = n_2 p_2$ . By the law of total expectation,

$$\mu = \mathbb{E}[X_i] = \mathbb{E}[X_i|R] \mathbb{P}(R) + \mathbb{E}[X_i|R^C] \mathbb{P}(R^C) = n_1 p_1 p_3 + n_2 p_2 (1 - p_3)$$

Hence, by linearity of expectation,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[X] &= \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^7 (20X_i - 100)\right] = 20 \sum_{i=1}^7 \mathbb{E}[X_i] - 700 = 140\mu - 700 \\ &= 140 \cdot (n_1 p_1 p_3 + n_2 p_2 (1 - p_3)) - 700. \end{aligned}$$

## 11. 3 points on a line

Three points  $X_1, X_2, X_3$  are selected at random on a line  $L$  (continuous independent uniform distributions). What is the probability that  $X_2$  lies between  $X_1$  and  $X_3$ ? **Solution:**

Let  $X_1, X_2, X_3 \sim \text{Unif}(0, 1)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(X_1 < X_2 < X_3) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}(X_1 < X_2 < X_3 \mid X_2 = x) f_{X_2}(x) dx && \text{Continuous LoTP} \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}(X_1 < x, X_3 > x) f_{X_2}(x) dx && \text{Independence of } X_1, X_2, X_3 \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}(X_1 < x) \mathbb{P}(x < X_3) f_{X_2}(x) dx && \text{Independence of } X_1, X_3 \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F_{X_1}(x) (1 - F_{X_3}(x)) f_{X_2}(x) dx \\ &= \int_0^1 x(1-x) dx \\ &= \left. \frac{x^2}{2} - \frac{x^3}{3} \right|_0^1 = \frac{1}{6} \end{aligned}$$