

(A1, B1) (24pts)

**Exam A.**

(a) True (b) False (c) False (d) True  
 (e) True (f) False (g) False (h) True

**Exam B.**

(a) False (b) True (c) True (d) False  
 (e) True (f) False (g) True (h) False

(A2, B3) (13pts)

(a) (3pts)  $X \sim \text{binomial}(n, p)$ , and given  $X = x$ ,  $Y|X = x \sim \text{binomial}(x, p)$ .

(b) (6pts) Because the events  $\{X = x\}$ 's,  $x = 0, 1, \dots, n$ , form a partition of the sample space and  $X \geq Y$  (the number of heads in the second round cannot be larger than the number of heads in the first round), by the law of total probability,

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(Y = y) &= \sum_{x=y}^n P(X = x)P(Y = y|X = x) \quad (\text{because for } x < y, P(Y = y|X = x) = 0) \\
 &= \sum_{x=y}^n \binom{n}{x} p^x (1-p)^{n-x} \binom{x}{y} p^y (1-p)^{x-y} \\
 &= \sum_{x=y}^n \frac{n!}{x!(n-x)!} \times \frac{x!}{y!(x-y)!} \times p^{x+y} (1-p)^{n-y} \\
 &= \frac{n!}{y!(n-y)!} (1-p)^{n-y} \sum_{x=y}^n \frac{(n-y)!}{(n-x)!(x-y)!} p^{x+y} \\
 &= \frac{n!}{y!(n-y)!} (1-p)^{n-y} \sum_{z=0}^{n-y} \frac{(n-y)!}{(n-y-z)!z!} p^{2y+z} \quad (\text{let } z = x - y \Rightarrow x = y + z) \\
 &= \binom{n}{y} p^{2y} (1-p)^{n-y} \sum_{z=0}^{n-y} \binom{n-y}{z} p^z \cdot 1^{(n-y)-z} \\
 &= \binom{n}{y} p^{2y} (1-p)^{n-y} (1+p)^{n-y} \quad (\text{by binomial theorem}) \\
 &= \binom{n}{y} (p^2)^y (1-p^2)^{n-y}
 \end{aligned}$$

(c) (4pts) By Bayes' rule, for  $z = 0, 1, \dots, n - y$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(X - y = z|Y = y) &= P(X = y + z|Y = y) = \frac{P(X = y + z)P(Y = y|X = y + z)}{P(Y = y)} \\
 &= \frac{\binom{n}{y+z} p^{y+z} (1-p)^{n-y-z} \times \binom{y+z}{y} p^y (1-p)^z}{\binom{n}{y} (p^2)^y (1-p^2)^{n-y}} \\
 &= \frac{n!}{(y+z)!(n-y-z)!} \times \frac{(y+z)!}{y!z!} \times \frac{y!(n-y)!}{n!} \times p^z \times \frac{(1-p)^{n-y}}{(1+p)^{n-y} (1-p)^{n-y}} \\
 &= \frac{(n-y)!}{z!(n-y-z)!} \times \frac{p^z}{(1+p)^z} \times \frac{1}{(1+p)^{n-y-z}} \\
 &= \binom{n-y}{z} \left(\frac{p}{1+p}\right)^z \left(1 - \frac{p}{1+p}\right)^{(n-y)-z}
 \end{aligned}$$

**(A3, B2) (12pts)**

**Exam A.**

(a) (4.5pts) The possible values of  $X$  are  $\{1, 2, 4\}$  with the pmf  $f_X$  being:

$$\begin{aligned}f_X(1) &= P(X = 1) = P(\{\omega_1\}) = 1/4, \\f_X(2) &= P(X = 2) = P(\{\omega_2, \omega_3\}) = 1/2, \\f_X(4) &= P(X = 4) = P(\{\omega_4\}) = 1/4,\end{aligned}$$

and zero otherwise. The possible values of  $Y$  are also  $\{1, 2, 4\}$  with the pmf  $f_Y$  being:

$$\begin{aligned}f_Y(1) &= P(Y = 1) = P(\{\omega_2\}) = 1/4, \\f_Y(2) &= P(Y = 2) = P(\{\omega_1, \omega_4\}) = 1/2, \\f_Y(4) &= P(Y = 4) = P(\{\omega_3\}) = 1/4,\end{aligned}$$

and zero otherwise. Hence  $X$  and  $Y$  have the same pmf, i.e., they have the same distribution.

(b) (2pts) No. They are different maps. For each outcome  $\omega_i \in \Omega$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}X(\omega_1) &= 1 \neq 2 = Y(\omega_1), \\X(\omega_2) &= 2 \neq 1 = Y(\omega_2), \\X(\omega_3) &= 2 \neq 4 = Y(\omega_3), \\X(\omega_4) &= 4 \neq 2 = Y(\omega_4).\end{aligned}$$

Thus  $P(X = Y) < 1$ ; they are *not* equal, despite having the same distribution.

(c) (3.5pts) For  $\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3, \omega_4 \in \Omega$ ,  $X(\omega_i) + Y(\omega_i) = 3, 3, 6, 6$ , respectively. Therefore,  $X + Y$  takes values 3 (at  $\omega_1, \omega_2$ ) and 6 (at  $\omega_3, \omega_4$ ) with the pmf  $f_{X+Y}$  being:

$$\begin{aligned}f_{X+Y}(3) &= P(X + Y = 3) \\&= P(\{\omega_1, \omega_2\}) = 1/2,\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}f_{X+Y}(6) &= P(X + Y = 6) \\&= P(\{\omega_3, \omega_4\}) = 1/2,\end{aligned}$$

and zero otherwise. The possible values of  $3Z$  are also  $\{3, 6\}$  with the pmf  $f_{3Z}$  being:

$$\begin{aligned}f_{3Z}(3) &= P(Z = 1) \\&= P(\{\omega_1, \omega_2\}) = 1/2,\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}f_{3Z}(6) &= P(Z = 2) \\&= P(\{\omega_3, \omega_4\}) = 1/2,\end{aligned}$$

and zero otherwise. Hence  $X + Y$  and  $3Z$  have the same pmf, i.e., they have the same distribution.

**Exam B.**

(a) (4.5pts) The possible values of  $X$  are  $\{1, 2, 7\}$  with the pmf  $f_X$  being:

$$\begin{aligned}f_X(1) &= P(X = 1) = P(\{\omega_3\}) = 1/4, \\f_X(2) &= P(X = 2) = P(\{\omega_2, \omega_4\}) = 1/2, \\f_X(7) &= P(X = 7) = P(\{\omega_1\}) = 1/4,\end{aligned}$$

and zero otherwise. The possible values of  $Y$  are also  $\{1, 2, 7\}$  with the pmf  $f_Y$  being:

$$\begin{aligned}f_Y(1) &= P(Y = 1) = P(\{\omega_4\}) = 1/4, \\f_Y(2) &= P(Y = 2) = P(\{\omega_1, \omega_3\}) = 1/2, \\f_Y(7) &= P(Y = 7) = P(\{\omega_2\}) = 1/4,\end{aligned}$$

and zero otherwise. Hence  $X$  and  $Y$  have the same pmf, i.e., they have the same distribution.

(b) (2pts) No. They are different maps. For each outcome  $\omega_i \in \Omega$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}X(\omega_1) &= 7 \neq 2 = Y(\omega_1), \\X(\omega_2) &= 2 \neq 7 = Y(\omega_2), \\X(\omega_3) &= 1 \neq 2 = Y(\omega_3), \\X(\omega_4) &= 2 \neq 1 = Y(\omega_4).\end{aligned}$$

Thus  $P(X = Y) < 1$ ; they are *not* equal, despite having the same distribution.

(c) (3.5pts) For  $\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3, \omega_4 \in \Omega$ ,  $X(\omega_i) + Y(\omega_i) = 9, 9, 3, 3$ , respectively. Therefore,  $X + Y$  takes values 9 (at  $\omega_1, \omega_2$ ) and 3 (at  $\omega_3, \omega_4$ ) with the pmf  $f_{X+Y}$  being:

$$\begin{aligned}f_{X+Y}(3) &= P(X + Y = 3) \\&= P(\{\omega_3, \omega_4\}) = 1/2,\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}f_{X+Y}(9) &= P(X + Y = 9) \\&= P(\{\omega_1, \omega_2\}) = 1/2,\end{aligned}$$

and zero otherwise. The possible values of  $3Z$  are also  $\{3, 9\}$  with the pmf  $f_{3Z}$  being:

$$\begin{aligned}f_{3Z}(3) &= P(Z = 1) \\&= P(\{\omega_3, \omega_4\}) = 1/2,\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}f_{3Z}(9) &= P(Z = 3) \\&= P(\{\omega_1, \omega_2\}) = 1/2,\end{aligned}$$

and zero otherwise. Hence  $X + Y$  and  $3Z$  have the same pmf, i.e., they have the same distribution.

**Exam A.**

(d) (2pts) Yes. For  $\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3, \omega_4 \in \Omega$ ,  
 $X(\omega_1) + Y(\omega_1) = 3 = 3 \times 1 = 3Z(\omega_1)$ ,  
 $X(\omega_2) + Y(\omega_2) = 3 = 3 \times 1 = 3Z(\omega_2)$ ,  
 $X(\omega_3) + Y(\omega_3) = 6 = 3 \times 2 = 3Z(\omega_3)$ ,  
 $X(\omega_4) + Y(\omega_4) = 6 = 3 \times 2 = 3Z(\omega_4)$ ,  
so  $X + Y = 3Z$  on every outcome. Hence  
 $P(X + Y = 3Z) = 1$ .

**Exam B.**

(d) (2pts) Yes. For  $\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3, \omega_4 \in \Omega$ ,  
 $X(\omega_1) + Y(\omega_1) = 9 = 3 \times 3 = 3Z(\omega_1)$ ,  
 $X(\omega_2) + Y(\omega_2) = 9 = 3 \times 3 = 3Z(\omega_2)$ ,  
 $X(\omega_3) + Y(\omega_3) = 3 = 3 \times 1 = 3Z(\omega_3)$ ,  
 $X(\omega_4) + Y(\omega_4) = 3 = 3 \times 1 = 3Z(\omega_4)$ ,  
so  $X + Y = 3Z$  on every outcome. Hence  
 $P(X + Y = 3Z) = 1$ .

**(A4, B5) (13pts)**

Define, for each  $k \geq 1$ ,

$$X_k = \mathbf{1}_{\{\text{the } k\text{-th toss is a head}\}} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if the } k\text{-th toss is head,} \\ 0, & \text{if the } k\text{-th toss is tail.} \end{cases}$$

Then  $X_k \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ , for  $k \geq 1$ , and

$$N_k = \sum_{i=1}^k X_i, \quad k \geq 1,$$

is distributed as  $\text{binomial}(k, p)$ .

(a) (4pts) For  $k = 1$ ,  $N_1$  is even iff the first toss is a tail, hence

$$q_1 = P(N_1 = 0) = P(X_1 = 0) = P(\text{1st toss is tail}) = 1 - p.$$

For  $k \geq 2$ , write  $N_k = N_{k-1} + X_k$  with  $X_k \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$  independent of  $N_{k-1}$ . Then  $N_k$  is even iff either  $\{N_{k-1} \text{ is odd and } X_k = 1\}$  or  $\{N_{k-1} \text{ is even and } X_k = 0\}$ . Therefore, by the law of total probability and independence,

$$\begin{aligned} q_k &= P(N_k \text{ is even}) \\ &= P(N_{k-1} \text{ is odd}) \times P(X_k = 1 | N_{k-1} \text{ is odd}) \\ &\quad + P(N_{k-1} \text{ is even}) \times P(X_k = 0 | N_{k-1} \text{ is even}) \\ &= P(N_{k-1} \text{ is odd}) \times P(X_k = 1) \\ &\quad + P(N_{k-1} \text{ is even}) \times P(X_k = 0) \\ &= P(N_{k-1} \text{ is odd}) \times p + P(N_{k-1} \text{ is even}) \times (1 - p) \\ &= p(1 - q_{k-1}) + (1 - p)q_{k-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Equivalently,

$$q_k = (1 - 2p) q_{k-1} + p, \quad k \geq 2.$$

(b) (4pts) Let  $r = 1 - 2p$ . From part (a),

$$\begin{aligned} q_k &= r q_{k-1} + p \\ &= r(r q_{k-2} + p) + p = r^2 q_{k-2} + pr + p \\ &= r^2(r q_{k-3} + p) + pr + p = r^3 q_{k-3} + pr^2 + pr + p \\ &= \dots \\ &= r^{k-1} q_{k-(k-1)} + p(r^0 + r^1 + r^2 + \dots + r^{k-2}) = r^{k-1} q_1 + p \sum_{j=0}^{k-2} r^j \\ &= r^{k-1}(1 - p) + p \cdot \frac{1 - r^{k-1}}{1 - r}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $r = 1 - 2p$ , for  $k = 1, 2, \dots$ ,

$$q_k = (1-2p)^{k-1}(1-p) + p \cdot \frac{1 - (1-2p)^{k-1}}{2p} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}(1-2p) \times (1-2p)^{k-1} = \frac{1 + (1-2p)^k}{2}.$$

(c) (5pts) Because  $N_k \sim \text{binomial}(k, p)$ , by the definition of pmf,

$$q_k = P(N_k \text{ is even}) = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor k/2 \rfloor} P(N_k = 2i) = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor k/2 \rfloor} \binom{k}{2i} p^{2i} (1-p)^{k-2i}.$$

Recall the identity. Applying it with  $l = k$ ,  $a = p$ ,  $b = 1 - p$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} q_k &= \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor k/2 \rfloor} \binom{k}{2i} p^{2i} (1-p)^{k-2i} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \{[(1-p) + p]^k + [(1-p) - p]^k\} \\ &= \frac{1 + (1-2p)^k}{2}, \end{aligned}$$

which matches the answer in part (b).

(A5, B4) (13pts)

(a) (4pts) Exactly,  $X \sim \text{binomial}(n, p)$  with  $n = 10^7$  and  $p = 10^{-7}$ . Since  $n$  is large and  $p$  is small, we can use the Poisson approximation to the binomial:

$$X \stackrel{d}{\approx} \text{Poisson}(\lambda), \quad \lambda = np = 1.$$

Thus for  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ ,

$$P(X = k) \approx \frac{e^{-1}}{k!}.$$

This is faster and easier for computing probabilities.

(b) (4pts) “Finding one such person” means  $X$  is at least one, i.e., the event  $\{X \geq 1\}$ . “The police inspector finds one such person and there is at least one other” means  $X$  is at least two, i.e., the event  $\{X \geq 2\}$ . Hence we are to compute  $P(X \geq 2 | X \geq 1)$ . Under the Poisson(1) model,

$$\begin{aligned} P(X \geq 2 | X \geq 1) &= \frac{P(X \geq 2)}{P(X \geq 1)} = \frac{1 - P(X = 0) - P(X = 1)}{1 - P(X = 0)} \\ &\approx \frac{1 - e^{-1} - e^{-1}}{1 - e^{-1}} = \frac{1 - 2e^{-1}}{1 - e^{-1}}. \end{aligned}$$

(c) (5pts) “Reasonably confident that  $n$  is all” is taken to mean

$$P(X \geq n+1 | X \geq n) \leq \rho,$$

for a small prescribed  $\rho \in (0, 1)$ . Under the Poisson(1) approximation,

$$P(X \geq n) \approx \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} e^{-1} \frac{1}{k!}, \quad P(X \geq n+1) \approx \sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} e^{-1} \frac{1}{k!}.$$

Therefore, from

$$\begin{aligned} P(X \geq n+1 | X \geq n) &= \frac{P(X \geq n+1)}{P(X \geq n)} = \frac{\sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} P(X = k)}{\sum_{k=n}^{\infty} P(X = k)} \\ &\approx \frac{e^{-1} \sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!}}{e^{-1} \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!}} = \frac{\sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!}}{\sum_{k=n}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!}} \leq \rho, \end{aligned}$$

the desired  $n$  is (approximately, by the Poisson approximation) the smallest integer satisfying

$$\sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} \leq \rho \sum_{k=n}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!}.$$

**(A6, B7) (13pts)**

(a) (4pts) For  $n = 0, 1, \dots, r$ , the event  $\{N_{b,r} > n\}$  means: the first  $n$  draws are all red. In drawing without replacement, the outcomes are not independent: each draw changes the composition of the urn, so later draws depend on the earlier ones. Hence probabilities should be computed via the multiplication law:

$$\begin{aligned} P(N_{b,r} > n) &= P(\{\text{first } n \text{ draws are all red}\}) \\ &= P(\{\text{1st draw is red}\}) \times P(\{\text{2nd draw is red} \mid \{\text{1st draw is red}\}\}) \times \dots \\ &\quad \times P(\text{nth draw is red} \mid \{\text{first } n-1 \text{ draws are red}\}) \\ &= \frac{r}{b+r} \times \frac{r-1}{b+r-1} \times \dots \times \frac{r-n+1}{b+r-n+1} \\ &\quad \left( \text{or } = \frac{\binom{r}{n} \binom{b}{0}}{\binom{b+r}{n}} \text{ by hypergeometric distribution} \right) \\ &= \frac{r! (b+r-n)!}{(b+r)! (r-n)!}. \end{aligned}$$

If  $n \geq r+1$ , it is impossible to obtain more than  $r$  reds before a blue appears, since the urn contains only  $r$  red balls; hence  $P(N_{b,r} > n) = 0$  for  $n = r+1, r+2, \dots$

(b) (4pts) Applying the homework-problem-identity to  $N_{b,r}$  and using part (a), we have

$$\begin{aligned} E(N_{b,r}) &= \sum_{n=0}^r \frac{r! (b+r-n)!}{(b+r)! (r-n)!} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^r \frac{r! b!}{(b+r)!} \cdot \frac{(b+r-n)!}{b! (r-n)!} = \frac{1}{\binom{b+r}{b}} \sum_{n=0}^r \binom{b+r-n}{b}. \end{aligned}$$

By the given hint,

$$\sum_{n=0}^r \binom{b+r-n}{b} = \binom{b+r}{b} + \binom{b+r-1}{b} + \dots + \binom{b}{b} = \binom{b+r+1}{b+1}.$$

Therefore,

$$m_{b,r} \equiv E(N_{b,r}) = \frac{\binom{b+r+1}{b+1}}{\binom{b+r}{b}} = \frac{(b+r+1)!}{(b+1)! r!} \cdot \frac{b! r!}{(b+r)!} = \frac{b+r+1}{b+1}.$$

(c) (5pts) Notice that  $N_{b,r}$  takes values in  $\{1, 2, \dots, r+1\}$ . By the definition of expectation,

$$\begin{aligned}
m_{b,r} &= E(N_{b,r}) = \sum_{n=1}^{r+1} n P(N_{b,r} = n) \\
&= 1 \cdot P(N_{b,r} = 1) + \sum_{n=2}^{r+1} n \cdot P(N_{b,r} = n) \\
&= P(\{\text{first ball is blue}\}) \\
&\quad + \sum_{n=2}^{r+1} n \cdot P(\{\text{first ball is red}\}) P(N_{b,r-1} = n-1) \quad (\text{by Hints (i) and (ii)}) \\
&= \frac{b}{b+r} + \frac{r}{b+r} \cdot \sum_{n'=1}^r (n'+1) P(N_{b,r-1} = n') \quad (\text{letting } n' = n-1) \\
&= \frac{b}{b+r} + \frac{r}{b+r} \cdot \left[ \sum_{n'=1}^r n' P(N_{b,r-1} = n') + \sum_{n'=1}^r P(N_{b,r-1} = n') \right] \\
&= \frac{b}{b+r} + \frac{r}{b+r} \cdot (m_{b,r-1} + 1). \quad (\text{since } N_{b,r-1} \text{ can take the values } 1, 2, \dots, r)
\end{aligned}$$

This recursion matches the closed form in (b) and can be verified by induction.

**(A7, B6) (12pts)**

(a) (3pts) Here  $X + 1$  is the total number of independent Bernoulli( $p = 1/2$ ) trials (i.e., births) until the first success (i.e., the first son is born). Thus

$$X + 1 \sim \text{geometric}(p = 1/2) \quad (\text{or equivalently } NB(r=1, p=1/2)).$$

(b) (2pts) By linearity of expectation,  $E(X) + 1 = E(X + 1)$ . From (a) and “some useful formula,”  $E(X + 1) = 1/p = 1/(1/2) = 2$ . Therefore,  $E(X) = 2 - 1 = 1$ .

(c) (1.5pts) Because the family stops having children at the first boy, the number of boys in such a family is always one. So, the pmf of  $Y$  is  $f_Y(1) = P(Y = 1) = 1$ , and zero otherwise. Therefore  $E(Y) = 1 \times P(Y = 1) = 1 \times 1 = 1$ .

(d) (2.5pts) Under this policy, we have  $E(X) = E(Y) = 1$ , so on average the numbers of girls and boys in the next generation are equal; there is no expected “surplus of women.” Hence the argument in the verse is *not* reasonable.

(e) (3pts) Since adding a constant does not change variance,  $Var(X) = Var(X + 1)$ . From (a) and “some useful formula,”  $Var(X + 1) = (1 - p)/p^2 = (1/2)/(1/4) = 2$ . Therefore,  $Var(X) = 2$ . Since  $Y \equiv 1$  is a degenerate random variable,  $Var(Y) = 0$ .