

1. Flip three coins. Then draw with replacement from a word (specified below) until you get **one more vowel than the number of heads you got**. The word to be used also depends on the number of heads thrown:

Number of heads thrown	Word to use
0H	LION
1H	HIPPO
2H	OSTRICH
3H	ELEPHANT

What is the expected number of letters drawn?

SOLUTION: We need to calculate the conditional expected values of X . For example, the expected value given that two heads were thrown is the expected number of draws needed to get three vowels when drawing with replacement from OSTRICH, i.e., $\frac{3}{p}$, where p is the probability of drawing a vowel with a single draw from OSTRICH. We obtain:

$$E(X | 2H) = \frac{3}{2/7} = \frac{21}{2}.$$

The complete calculation is

$$\begin{aligned} E(X) &= E(X | 0H)P(0H) + E(X | 1H)P(1H) \\ &\quad + E(X | 2H)P(2H) + E(X | 3H)P(3H) \\ &= \frac{1}{2/4} \cdot \frac{1}{8} + \frac{2}{2/5} \cdot \frac{3}{8} + \frac{3}{2/7} \cdot \frac{3}{8} + \frac{4}{3/8} \cdot \frac{1}{8} \\ &= \frac{2}{8} + \frac{15}{8} + \frac{63}{16} + \frac{32}{24} = \frac{355}{48}. \end{aligned}$$

2. Find
- the expected value
 - the variance
- for the number of suits in a 6-card hand.

SOLUTION: Here, $X = 4 - Y$, where Y is the number of suits not in the hand, and $Y = Y_1 + Y_2 + Y_3 + Y_4$, where

$$Y_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if the } i\text{-th suit is not in the hand} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Because there are 39 cards not of the i -th suit and we're picking 6,

$$E(Y_i) = P(i\text{-th suit not in hand}) = \frac{\binom{39}{6}}{\binom{52}{6}}.$$

Also, if $i \neq j$, there are 26 cards in neither the i -th nor the j -th suit, so

$$E(Y_i Y_j) = P(\text{neither } i\text{-th nor } j\text{-th suits in hand}) = \frac{\binom{26}{6}}{\binom{52}{6}}.$$

We have

$$E(Y) = E(Y_1) + E(Y_2) + E(Y_3) + E(Y_4) = 4 \frac{\binom{39}{6}}{\binom{52}{6}}, \quad \text{so}$$

$$E(X) = 4 - E(Y) = 4 \left[1 - \frac{\binom{39}{6}}{\binom{52}{6}} \right].$$

For the variance,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(X) &= \text{Var}(Y) = E(Y) - E(Y)^2 + 2 \sum_{i < j} E(Y_i Y_j) \\ &= \frac{\binom{39}{6}}{\binom{52}{6}} - \left(\frac{\binom{39}{6}}{\binom{52}{6}} \right)^2 + 2 \frac{\binom{26}{6}}{\binom{52}{6}} \binom{4}{2}, \end{aligned}$$

where the last term is the number of ways to choose two suits out of four.

3. Find
- the expected value
 - the variance
- for the number of aces in a 6-card hand.

SOLUTION: Here, $X = X_1 + \cdots + X_6$, where

$$X_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if the } i\text{-th card is an ace} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

So $E(X_i) = P(i\text{-th card is an ace}) = \frac{4}{52} = \frac{1}{13}$, and if $i \neq j$, then

$$\begin{aligned} E(X_i X_j) &= P(i\text{-th and } j\text{-th cards aces}) \\ &= P(j\text{-th is ace} \mid i\text{-th is ace}) \cdot P(i\text{-th is ace}) \\ &= \frac{3}{51} \cdot \frac{4}{52} = \frac{1}{17} \cdot \frac{1}{13}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} E(X) &= E(X_1) + \cdots + E(X_6) = 6 \cdot \frac{1}{13} = \frac{6}{13}. \\ \text{Var}(X) &= E(X) - E(X)^2 + 2 \sum_{i < j} E(X_i X_j) \\ &= \frac{6}{13} - \left(\frac{6}{13}\right)^2 + 2 \cdot \frac{1}{17} \cdot \frac{1}{13} \cdot \binom{6}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

In this case, the last term comes from choosing two of the six cards to be aces.

Exam 2

4. An urn contains 9 balls each of 7 different colors. Draw 5 times with replacement. Find the
- the expected value
 - the variance
- for the number of different colors drawn.

SOLUTION: As in problem 2, we write $X = 7 - Y$, where Y is the number of colors not drawn, and $Y = Y_1 + \cdots + Y_7$, where

$$Y_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if the } i\text{-th color is not drawn} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Here, the probability that a single draw is not of the i -th color is $\frac{6}{7}$, and the probability it is neither of the i -th nor j -th color is $\frac{5}{7}$. Since we are drawing with replacement,

$$E(Y_i) = \left(\frac{6}{7}\right)^5, \quad \text{and if } i \neq j,$$

$$E(Y_i Y_j) = \left(\frac{5}{7}\right)^5.$$

Here, the exponent 5 comes from the number of draws.

Assembling this, we get

$$E(Y) = E(Y_1) + \cdots + E(Y_7) = 7 \cdot \left(\frac{6}{7}\right)^5, \quad \text{so}$$

$$E(X) = 7 - E(Y) = 7 \left[1 - \left(\frac{6}{7}\right)^5\right], \quad \text{and}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(X) &= \text{Var}(Y) = E(Y) - E(Y)^2 + 2 \sum_{i < j} E(Y_i Y_j) \\ &= 7 \cdot \left(\frac{6}{7}\right)^5 - \left(7 \cdot \left(\frac{6}{7}\right)^5\right)^2 + 2 \cdot \left(\frac{5}{7}\right)^5 \binom{7}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

5. A 500-page book has 325 misprints. What is the probability there are at least two misprints on page 79?

SOLUTION: Here, the expected number of misprints on a given page is $\frac{325}{500} = .65$, so the probability of k misprints on a given page is $\frac{.65^k}{k!} e^{-.65}$ from the Poisson distribution. We have

$$\begin{aligned} P(\geq 2 \text{ misprints}) &= 1 - P(< 2 \text{ misprints}) \\ &= 1 - [P(0 \text{ misprints}) + P(1 \text{ misprint})] \\ &= 1 - [e^{-.65} + .65e^{-.65}] = 1 - 1.65e^{-.65}. \end{aligned}$$