

Solutions to HW 5

problem leads
w/ new numbers

#1 $\Omega = \{B, D\}, P(D) = p, P(B) = 1 - p.$

$X: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ income from the bet.

$$E(X) = p \cdot (+2) + (1-p) \cdot (-3) = \boxed{5p - 3}$$

This is always
the case for
the numbers
used

Note: $E(X) > 0 \iff 5p - 3 > 0 \iff p > 3/5.$

problem leads
with new numbers

#2 $\Omega = \{0, 1, 2, 3\}, X = \text{Total } \$ \text{ amount of fine}$

$X(n) = 125 \cdot n:$ $X(0) = 0, X(2) = 250,$
 $X(1) = 125, X(3) = 375.$

"being caught
downloading
illegally"

Bernoulli process with prob. of success p ; $n = 3.$

(# of
successes)

$k=0:$ $P(X=0) = (1-p)^3$

$k=1:$ $P(X=125) = 3(1-p)^2 p$

$k=2:$ $P(X=250) = 3(1-p) p^2$

$k=3:$ $P(X=375) = p^3$

$$\begin{aligned}
 E(X) &= 0 \cdot P(X=0) + 125 \cdot P(X=125) \\
 &\quad + 250 \cdot P(X=250) + 375 \cdot P(X=375) \\
 &= 125 \cdot 3(1-p)^2 \cdot p + 250 \cdot 3 \cdot (1-p)p^2 + 375 \cdot p^3 \\
 &= \boxed{375p}
 \end{aligned}$$

Alternative solution: ← using the fact that $E(\cdot)$ is linear

Let $Y = \text{\$ amount of fine for each movie} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if not caught} \\ 125 & \text{if caught.} \end{cases}$

$$P(Y=0) = 1-p$$

$$P(Y=125) = p$$

$$E(Y) = 0 \cdot P(Y=0) + 125 \cdot P(Y=125) = 125 \cdot p$$

$$X = 3 \cdot Y \Rightarrow E(X) = 3E(Y) = \boxed{375p}$$

← problem reloads with new numbers.

#3 This is Gambler's Ruin problem with

$$i = 5, N = 10, q = 1-p.$$

"Game" ends either when you lost $\$5$ or you earned $\$5$. So the total jackpot is $\$10$ and your initial wealth is $\$5$.

$$P_5 = \frac{1 - (q/p)^i}{1 - (q/p)^N} = \boxed{\frac{1 - (q/p)^5}{1 - (q/p)^{10}}}$$

Note: If $X = \text{profit from this investment}$, then one may compute $E(X) = (+5) \cdot P_5 + (-5) \cdot (1 - P_5)$ ← This is the expected return from this investment.