

# 170A Final Solutions<sup>1</sup>

## 1. QUESTION 1

(a) There exists a continuous random variable  $X$  such that  $\mathbf{P}(X = 2) = 1/2$ . FALSE. If  $X$  is continuous, then  $\mathbf{P}(X = a) = 0$  for any  $a \in \mathbf{R}$ .

(b) There is some random variable  $X$  such that  $\text{var}(X) = -1$ .

FALSE. The variance must be nonnegative by definition.

(c) Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be random variables. Then

$$\mathbf{E}(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathbf{E}(X|Y = y)f_Y(y)dy.$$

FALSE. The Total Expectation Theorem says  $\mathbf{E}(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathbf{E}(X|Y = y)f_Y(y)dy$ .

(d) Let  $X$  be a continuous random variable with probability density function  $f_X$ . Then  $f_X(x) \leq 1$  for all  $x \in \mathbf{R}$ .

FALSE. A density function can have value larger than 1. For example, if  $f_X(x) = 2$  for any  $x \in [0, 1/2]$  and  $f_X(x) = 0$  otherwise, then  $f_X$  is a PDF.

(e) Define  $f(x, y) = \begin{cases} 6e^{-3x-2y} & \text{if } x \geq 0, y \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ . Suppose  $X$  and  $Y$  are random variables

with joint PDF  $f(x, y)$ . Then  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent.

TRUE. This follows from Definition 5.53. If  $x \geq 0$ , then  $f_X(x) = \int_0^{\infty} 6e^{-3x-2y}dy = 3e^{-3x}$  (with  $f_X(x) = 0$  otherwise) and if  $y \geq 0$ , then  $f_Y(y) = \int_0^{\infty} 6e^{-3x-2y}dx = 2e^{-2y}$  (with  $f_Y(y) = 0$  otherwise). So,  $f_{X,Y}(x, y) = f_X(x)f_Y(y)$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbf{R}$ . So  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent.

(f) Let  $X$  be a random variable uniformly distributed on the interval  $[0, 1]$ . Let  $Y = -\log X$ . (Here  $\log$  denotes the natural logarithm.) Then  $Y$  has CDF given by

$$F_Y(y) = \mathbf{P}(Y \leq y) = \begin{cases} 0 & , y < 0 \\ 1 - e^{-y} & , 0 \leq y. \end{cases}$$

TRUE. Since the logarithm is an increasing function,  $\mathbf{P}(Y \leq t) = \mathbf{P}(-\log X \leq t) = \mathbf{P}(\log X \geq -t) = \mathbf{P}(X \geq e^{-t}) = 1 - e^{-t}$ . So, the CDF of  $X$  is  $1 - e^{-y}$  for any  $y \geq 0$ .

(g) Let  $X, Y$  and  $Z$  be random variables. Suppose these random variables have joint density function

$$f_{X,Y,Z}(x, y, z) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{6}(xy + z) & , \text{if } 0 \leq x, y, z \leq 2, \\ 0 & , \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Then  $\mathbf{P}(X \leq 1, Y \leq 1, Z \leq 1) = \frac{1}{8}$ .

TRUE. We have  $\mathbf{P}(X \leq 1, Y \leq 1, Z \leq 1) = \frac{1}{6} \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \int_0^1 (xy + z) dx dy dz = \frac{1}{6}(1 \cdot (1/2) \cdot (1/2) + 1 \cdot 1 \cdot (1/2)) = (1/6)(3/4) = 1/8$ .

(h) Let  $X$  be a random variable that only takes nonnegative integer values. Assume that for any integer  $n > 10$ , we have  $\mathbf{P}(X \geq n) = 1/\sqrt{n}$ . Then  $\mathbf{E}(X) < \infty$ .

FALSE. From an exercise from the homework,  $\mathbf{E}X = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathbf{P}(X \geq n)$ . But the sum  $\sum_{n=10}^{\infty} 1/\sqrt{n}$  diverges. So  $\mathbf{E}X = \infty$ .

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(i) For any  $x \in \mathbf{R}$ , define  $F(x) = \frac{\pi}{2} + \tan^{-1}(x)$ . Then there exists a random variable  $X$  such that  $\mathbf{P}(X \leq x) = F(x)$  for all  $x \in \mathbf{R}$ .

FALSE. If  $F$  is a CDF, then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} F(x) = 1$ . But  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} F(x) = \pi > 1$ .

(j) Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be random variables on a sample space  $\Omega$ . Let  $\mathbf{P}$  be a probability law on  $\Omega$ . Assume that  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent (with respect to the probability law  $\mathbf{P}$ ). Let  $\mathbf{P}'$  be another (possibly different) probability law on  $\Omega$ . Then  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, with respect to  $\mathbf{P}'$ .

FALSE. Let  $\Omega = \{0, 1\}^2$ , let  $\mathbf{P}$  be uniform on  $\Omega$ . Let  $X(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \omega_1$  and let  $Y(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \omega_2$ . Then  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent (as shown in class). But if  $\mathbf{P}'$  is defined by  $\mathbf{P}'(\{0, 0\}) = \mathbf{P}'(\{0, 1\}) = \mathbf{P}'(\{1, 0\}) = 1/3$  with  $\mathbf{P}'(\{1, 1\}) = 0$ , then  $\mathbf{P}'(X = 0, Y = 0) = 1/3 \neq (2/3)(2/3) = \mathbf{P}'(X = 0)\mathbf{P}'(Y = 0)$ .

(k) Let  $X, Y$  be random variables. For any  $y \in \mathbf{R}$ , assume that  $\mathbf{E}(X|Y = y) = |y|$ . Also, assume that  $Y$  is a standard Gaussian random variable. Then  $\mathbf{E}(X) = 2$ .

FALSE.  $\int_{\mathbf{R}} \mathbf{E}(X|Y = y) f_Y = \int_{\mathbf{R}} |y| e^{-y^2/2} dy / \sqrt{2\pi} = 2 \int_0^{\infty} y e^{-y^2/2} dy / \sqrt{2\pi} = 2/\sqrt{2\pi} = \sqrt{2/\pi}$ .

## 2. QUESTION 2

Let  $X$  be an exponential random variable with parameter  $\lambda = 1$ . (So,  $X$  has density  $f_X(x) = e^{-x}$  if  $x \geq 0$ , and  $f_X(x) = 0$  if  $x < 0$ .) Compute  $\mathbf{E}X$  and  $\mathbf{E}(X^2)$ .

*Solution.* Integrating by parts, we have  $\mathbf{E}X = \int_0^{\infty} x e^{-x} dx = \int_0^{\infty} x \frac{d}{dx}(-e^{-x}) dx = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-x} dx = 1$ . Also,  $\mathbf{E}X^2 = \int_0^{\infty} x^2 e^{-x} dx = \int_0^{\infty} x^2 \frac{d}{dx}(-e^{-x}) dx = \int_0^{\infty} 2x e^{-x} dx = \int_0^{\infty} 2e^{-x} dx = 2$ .

## 3. QUESTION 3

Let  $n$  be a fixed positive integer. Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be independent random variables that are uniformly distributed in the set  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ . What is the PMF of  $X + Y$ ?

*Solution.* Let  $2 \leq j \leq 2n$  and let  $1 \leq k \leq n$ . Then  $\mathbf{P}(X + Y = j|Y = k) = \mathbf{P}(X = j - k|Y = k) = \mathbf{P}(X = j - k)$ , using that  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent. By the definition of  $X$ ,  $\mathbf{P}(X = j - k) = 1/n$  if  $1 \leq j - k \leq n$  and  $\mathbf{P}(X = j - k) = 0$  otherwise. So,  $\mathbf{P}(X + Y = j|Y = k) = 1/n$  if  $1 \leq j - k \leq n$ , and  $\mathbf{P}(X + Y = j|Y = k) = 0$  otherwise. That is,  $\mathbf{P}(X + Y = j|Y = k) = 1/n$  if  $k \leq j - 1$ ,  $k \geq j - n$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq n$ , and  $\mathbf{P}(X + Y = j|Y = k) = 0$  otherwise. So, by the Total Probability Theorem, if  $2 \leq j \leq 2n$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}(X + Y = j) &= \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbf{P}(X + Y = j|Y = k) \mathbf{P}(Y = k) = \sum_{k=\max(1, j-n)}^{\min(n, j-1)} \mathbf{P}(X + Y = j|Y = k) \mathbf{P}(Y = k) \\ &= \sum_{k=\max(1, j-n)}^{\min(n, j-1)} (1/n)^2 = \begin{cases} (j-1)/n^2 & , \text{ if } 2 \leq j \leq n+1 \\ (2n-j+1)/n^2 & , \text{ if } n+1 \leq j \leq 2n \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

For any other  $j$ , we have  $\mathbf{P}(X + Y = j) = 0$ . Consequently,  $p_{X+Y}(1) = 0$ ,  $p_{X+Y}(1 + (n/3)) = 1/(3n)$ ,  $p_{X+Y}(n+1) = 1/n$ ,  $p_{X+Y}(1 + (3n/2)) = 1/(2n)$ ,  $p_{X+Y}(3n) = 0$ . (These last answers assume that the arguments of  $p_{X+Y}$  are integers.)

## 4. QUESTION 4

Let  $X, Y, Z$  be independent discrete random variables. Prove that  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent.

*Solution.* For any  $z \in \mathbf{R}$ , let  $B_z = \{Z = z\}$ . Then  $B_z \cap B_{z'} = \emptyset$  if  $z \neq z'$ ,  $z, z' \in \mathbf{R}$ , and  $\cup_{z \in \mathbf{R}} B_z = \Omega$ . Let  $x, y \in \mathbf{R}$ . Using Axiom (ii)

$$\mathbf{P}(X = x, Y = y) = \mathbf{P}(\{X = x\} \cap \{Y = y\} \cap (\cup_{z \in \mathbf{R}} B_z)) = \sum_{z \in \mathbf{R}} \mathbf{P}(X = x, Y = y, Z = z). \quad (*)$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}(X = x)\mathbf{P}(Y = y) &= \mathbf{P}(\cup_{z \in \mathbf{R}} B_z)\mathbf{P}(X = x)\mathbf{P}(Y = y) \\ &= \sum_{z \in \mathbf{R}} \mathbf{P}(X = x)\mathbf{P}(Y = y)\mathbf{P}(Z = z) \quad (**) \end{aligned}$$

By assumption  $\mathbf{P}(X = x, Y = y, Z = z) = \mathbf{P}(X = x)\mathbf{P}(Y = y)\mathbf{P}(Z = z)$  for every  $x, y, z \in \mathbf{R}$ . So, the quantities (\*) and (\*\*) are equal for any  $x, y \in \mathbf{R}$ , as desired.

## 5. QUESTION 5

A single fair 100-sided die has each of its faces labeled with exactly one integer between and including 1 and 100. Each face is equally likely to be rolled.

Suppose you have three fair 100-sided dice. After rolling these three dice, what is the probability that the sum of the rolls of the three dice is 52?

*Solution.* For any  $1 \leq i \leq 100$ , let  $A_i$  be the event that that first die roll is  $i$ . Let  $B$  be the event that the sum of the rolls is 52. Then  $\mathbf{P}(B) = \sum_{i=1}^{100} \mathbf{P}(B|A_i)\mathbf{P}(A_i)$ , by the Total Probability Theorem. (Here we used  $\cup_{i=1}^{100} A_i = \Omega$ , and  $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$  for every  $i \neq j$  with  $1 \leq i, j \leq 100$ .) Now,  $\mathbf{P}(B|A_i) = 0$  if  $i > 50$ , since if the first roll exceeds 50, the sum of the rolls must exceed 52, so that  $B|A_i$  is empty. So,  $\mathbf{P}(B) = \sum_{i=1}^{50} \mathbf{P}(B|A_i)\mathbf{P}(A_i)$ . Also,  $\mathbf{P}(A_i) = 1/100$  for every  $1 \leq i \leq 100$  since the first die is fair, so  $\mathbf{P}(B) = \frac{1}{100} \sum_{i=1}^{50} \mathbf{P}(B|A_i)$ . Given that  $A_i$  occurs, the sum of the remaining two dice is  $52 - i = s$ . Arguing as in class (or just counting the possibilities), the probability that two of the dice sum to  $s = 52 - i$  is  $10^{-4}(s - 1) = 10^{-4}(51 - i)$ . Therefore,

$$\mathbf{P}(B) = 10^{-6} \sum_{i=1}^{50} (51 - i) = 10^{-6} (50 \cdot 51 - 50 \cdot 51/2) = 10^{-6} (25 \cdot 51) = \frac{51}{40000}.$$

## 6. QUESTION 6

Let  $n$  be a fixed positive integer. Let  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  be independent random variables. As usual, define  $\text{var}(X) = \mathbf{E}(X - \mathbf{E}X)^2$ . Prove the following:

$$\text{var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{var}(X_i).$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right) &= \mathbf{E}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i - \mathbf{E}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right)\right)^2 = \mathbf{E}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mathbf{E}(X_i))\right)^2 \\
&= \mathbf{E}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mathbf{E}(X_i))^2\right) + 2\mathbf{E}\left(\sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (X_i - \mathbf{E}(X_i))(X_j - \mathbf{E}(X_j))\right) \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^n \text{var}(X_i) + 2\mathbf{E}\left(\sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} \mathbf{E}(X_i - \mathbf{E}(X_i)) \cdot \mathbf{E}(X_j - \mathbf{E}(X_j))\right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{var}(X_i).
\end{aligned}$$

In the penultimate equality, we used that  $X_i$  and  $X_j$  are independent.

## 7. QUESTION 7

Let  $X$  be binomial random variable with parameters  $n = 2$  and  $p = 1/2$ . So,  $\mathbf{P}(X = 0) = 1/4$ ,  $\mathbf{P}(X = 1) = 1/2$  and  $\mathbf{P}(X = 2) = 1/4$ . And  $X$  satisfies  $\mathbf{E}X = 1$  and  $\mathbf{E}X^2 = 3/2$ .

Let  $Y$  be a geometric random variable with parameter  $1/2$ . So, for any positive integer  $k$ ,  $\mathbf{P}(Y = k) = 2^{-k}$ . And  $Y$  satisfies  $\mathbf{E}Y = 4$  and  $\mathbf{E}Y^2 = 32$ .

Let  $Z$  be a Poisson random variable with parameter 1. So, for any nonnegative integer  $k$ ,  $\mathbf{P}(Z = k) = \frac{1}{e} \frac{1}{k!}$ . And  $Z$  satisfies  $\mathbf{E}Z = 1$  and  $\mathbf{E}Z^2 = 2$ .

Let  $W$  be a discrete random variable such that  $\mathbf{P}(W = -1) = 2/3$  and  $\mathbf{P}(W = 2) = 1/3$ , so that  $\mathbf{E}W = 0$  and  $\mathbf{E}W^2 = 2$ .

Assume that  $X, Y, Z$  and  $W$  are all independent. Compute

$$\mathbf{E}(1 + W^2 + WX^2Y^3Z^4).$$

*Solution.* From Exercise 4.45 or Remark 4.47 in the notes, since  $W, X, Y, Z$  are independent, we have  $\mathbf{E}(WX^2Y^3Z^4) = \mathbf{E}(W)\mathbf{E}(X^2)\mathbf{E}(Y^3)\mathbf{E}(Z^4) = 0$ , since  $\mathbf{E}W = 0$ . Therefore,  $\mathbf{E}(1 + W^2 + WX^2Y^3Z^4) = 1 + \mathbf{E}W^2 = 1 + 2 = 3$ .

## 8. QUESTION 8

Let  $X, Y, Z$  be uniformly distributed random variables on  $[0, 1]$ . Assume that  $X, Y$  and  $Z$  are all independent. Compute the probability

$$\mathbf{P}(X + Y + Z < 2).$$

*Solution.* The joint density is  $f_{X,Y,Z}(x, y, z) = 1$  when  $0 \leq x, y, z \leq 1$  and  $f_{X,Y,Z}(x, y, z) = 0$  otherwise. Since  $\mathbf{P}(X + Y + Z < 2) = 1 - \mathbf{P}(X + Y + Z \geq 2)$ , we compute the latter probability instead. We then have

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{P}(X + Y + Z \geq 2) &= \iiint_{x+y+z \geq 2} f_{X,Y,Z}(x, y, z) dx dy dz = \int_{z=0}^{z=1} \int_{y=1-z}^1 \int_{x=2-z-y}^{x=1} dx dy dz \\
&= \int_{z=0}^{z=1} \int_{y=1-z}^1 (z + y - 1) dy dz = \int_{z=0}^{z=1} [zy + (1/2)y^2 - y]_{y=1-z}^{y=1} dz \\
&= \int_{z=0}^{z=1} [z + 1/2 - 1 - z(1 - z) - (1/2)(1 - z)^2 + (1 - z)] dz \\
&= \int_{z=0}^{z=1} (1/2)z^2 dz = 1/6.
\end{aligned}$$

To determine the integration regions, note that when  $x + y + z \geq 2$ , when  $0 \leq x, y, z \leq 1$  and when  $z$  is fixed, we are integrating over the region where  $x + y \geq 2 - z$ , which is a triangular region, with respect to  $x$  and  $y$ . This region lies between the lines  $x + y = 2 - z$ ,  $y = 1$  and  $x = 1$  in the  $xy$ -plane. And the vertices of the triangle are  $(1, 1 - z)$ ,  $(1 - z, 1)$  and  $(1, 1)$ .

Or, if we knew ahead of time that this integration region was a right triangular pyramid, with edges of length 1, we could compute its volume as  $(1/3)(\text{Area of base})(\text{height}) = (1/3)(1/2)(1) = 1/6$ .

In any case,  $\mathbf{P}(X + Y + Z < 2) = 1 - \mathbf{P}(X + Y + Z \geq 2) = 1 - 1/6 = 5/6$ .

## 9. QUESTION 9

Suppose I have a fair coin. So, each coin flip has probability  $1/2$  of landing heads, and probability  $1/2$  of landing tails. Suppose I flip the coin ten times, and each time it lands heads. When I flip the coin again an eleventh time, what is the probability that the coin lands heads?

*Solution.* The probability is  $1/2$ . Each coin flip is independent of the other ones, so any individual coin flip has probability  $1/2$  of landing heads.

## 10. QUESTION 10

Let  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  be independent standard Gaussian random variables. Let  $Y = \max(X_1, \dots, X_n)$  be the maximum of  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ . Write an integral expression that computes  $\mathbf{E}Y$ . You should **not** try to evaluate this integral. This integral should be an expression involving the density  $e^{-x^2/2}/\sqrt{2\pi}$ . (Hint: can you find a relatively simple expression for the CDF of  $Y$ ?)

*Solution.* As shown in class, the event  $Y \leq t$  is equal to the event  $X_1 \leq t, \dots, X_n \leq t$ . So,  $\mathbf{P}(Y \leq t) = [\mathbf{P}(X_1 \leq t)]^n = [\int_{-\infty}^t e^{-x^2/2} dx / \sqrt{2\pi}]^n$  for any  $t \in \mathbf{R}$ . We can then get the density of  $Y$ , since

$$f_Y(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{P}(Y \leq t) = \frac{d}{dt} \left( \int_{-\infty}^t e^{-x^2/2} dx / \sqrt{2\pi} \right)^n = n \left( \int_{-\infty}^t e^{-x^2/2} dx / \sqrt{2\pi} \right)^{n-1} e^{-t^2/2} / \sqrt{2\pi},$$

by the Chain rule and Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Therefore,

$$\mathbf{E}Y = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} t f_Y(t) dt = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} n t \left( \int_{-\infty}^t e^{-x^2/2} dx / \sqrt{2\pi} \right)^{n-1} e^{-t^2/2} dt / \sqrt{2\pi}.$$

## 11. QUESTION 11

Suppose you have a sequence of integers  $a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots$  such that  $a_0 = 0$ ,  $a_1 = 1$ , and such that, for any  $n \geq 2$ , we have  $a_n = 2a_{n-1} + 3a_{n-2}$ . Using the linear algebraic technique for solving recursions discussed for the Gambler's Ruin problem, find an explicit expression for  $a_n$  for any  $n \geq 2$ .

*Solution.* Let  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . Then for any  $n \geq 1$ ,

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{n+1} \\ a_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_n \\ a_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

More generally,

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{n+1} \\ a_n \end{pmatrix} = A^n \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (*)$$

And  $A$  has eigenvalues  $\lambda$  such that  $(2 - \lambda)(-\lambda) - 3 = 0$ , so that  $\lambda^2 - 2\lambda - 3 = 0$ . From the quadratic formula, or by factoring we have  $(\lambda - 3)(\lambda + 1) = 0$ , so the eigenvalues are  $\lambda = -1$  and  $\lambda = 3$ . And the eigenvectors of  $A$  are in the null space of the respective matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 3 \\ 1 & -3 \end{pmatrix}$$

So, two eigenvectors with eigenvalues  $-1$  and  $3$ , respectively, are

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

These eigenvectors are a basis for  $\mathbf{R}^2$ . Note that  $a_1 = 1$  and  $a_0 = 0$ . We write

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Finally, applying  $(*)$  to this equality and using the definition of an eigenvector, we get

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{n+1} \\ a_n \end{pmatrix} = \frac{(-1)^n}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{3^n}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

That is, for any  $n \geq 1$ ,

$$a_n = \frac{1}{4}(-(-1)^n + 3^n).$$

We can test this equality for a few small  $n$ 's. For example,  $a_0 = 0$  and  $a_1 = 1$  both still hold.

## 12. QUESTION 12

Suppose you have a standard 52-card deck of playing cards. (So the cards are sitting in a deck one on top of the other; there are thirteen cards of each of the four suits: hearts, spades, diamonds and clubs. And all permutations of the cards as a single deck of cards are equally likely.) Suppose you are drawing cards from the top of the deck without replacing them, and you put the cards in a pile. What is the expected number of cards you have to draw from the top of the deck before you find **two hearts**? (That is, what is the expected number of cards you have to draw out of the deck right before the pile goes from having one heart to having two hearts?)

*Solution.* Suppose we label the non-heart cards as  $\{1, \dots, 39\}$ . Let  $i \in \{1, \dots, 39\}$ . Let  $X_i = 1$  if the  $i^{\text{th}}$  card is drawn before any heart is drawn, and  $X_i = 0$  otherwise. Let  $Y_i = 1$  if the  $i^{\text{th}}$  card is drawn between the first heart and the second heart, and  $Y_i = 0$  otherwise. The number of cards drawn before the first heart is  $\sum_{i=1}^{39} X_i$ , and the number of cards drawn after the first heart and before the second heart is  $\sum_{i=1}^{39} Y_i$ . So, the number of cards drawn before drawing the second heart is

$$1 + \sum_{i=1}^{39} (X_i + Y_i).$$

It remains to compute the expected value of this quantity. We claim that  $\mathbf{E}X_i = \mathbf{E}Y_i = 1/14$  for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, 39\}$ . Assuming this claim, the expected number of cards to be drawn before the second heart is

$$\mathbf{E}(1 + \sum_{i=1}^{39} (X_i + Y_i)) = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{39} (\mathbf{E}X_i + \mathbf{E}Y_i) = 1 + 2 \cdot 39/14 = 1 + 39/7 = 46/7.$$

We now prove the claim. Suppose we label the heart at the highest point in the deck as  $j = 1$ , we label the next highest position heart as  $j = 2$  and so on, up to  $j = 13$ . Then there are fourteen possible locations for a non-heart card: above the  $j = 1$  heart, in between the  $j = 1$  and  $j = 2$  hearts, in between the  $j = 2$  and  $j = 3$  hearts, etc. For any fixed  $i \in \{1, \dots, 39\}$ , the  $i^{\text{th}}$  card is equally likely to be in any of these 14 locations. To see this, for any of the fourteen  $k \in \{1, \dots, 14\}$  non-heart card locations, let  $A_k$  be the event that the  $i^{\text{th}}$  card is in location  $k$ . Then  $\cup_{k=1}^{14} A_k = \Omega$  and if  $k, k' \in \{1, \dots, 14\}$  with  $k \neq k'$ , then  $A_k \cap A_{k'} = \emptyset$ . Given any arrangement of cards such that the  $i^{\text{th}}$  card is in location  $k$ , we can uniquely associate this arrangement to another arrangement where the  $i^{\text{th}}$  card occurs in location  $k'$ . We can do this, for example, by swapping all cards in location  $k$  with all cards in location  $k'$ . Since the probability law  $\mathbf{P}(A_k)$  counts the number of arrangements in  $A_k$  divided by  $52!$ , we conclude that  $\mathbf{P}(A_k) = \mathbf{P}(A_{k'})$  for all  $k \neq k'$ ,  $k, k' \in \{1, \dots, 14\}$ . So,  $1 = \mathbf{P}(\Omega) = \sum_{k=1}^{14} \mathbf{P}(A_k) = 14\mathbf{P}(A_1)$ . So,  $\mathbf{P}(A_1) = \mathbf{P}(A_2) = 1/14$ . That is,  $\mathbf{P}(X_i = 1) = \mathbf{P}(Y_i = 1) = 1/14$ . And since  $X_i, Y_i$  only take values 1 or 0, the definition of expected value says  $\mathbf{E}X_i = \mathbf{E}Y_i = 1/14$  for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, 39\}$ , as desired.