

1. Solve the boundary value problem

$$a(0) = 0$$

$$a(n+2) = 5a(n+1) - 6a(n) \quad a(L) = 2$$

$$z^2 = 5z - 6$$

$$z^2 - 5z + 6 = 0$$

$$(z-2)(z-3) = 0$$

$$z = \{2, 3\}$$

$$\text{gen sol'n: } a(n) = C_1 2^n + C_2 3^n$$

$$a(0) = 0 = C_1 2^0 + C_2 3^0 \quad C_1 = -C_2$$

$$a(L) = 2 = C_1 2^L + C_2 3^L$$

$$2 = -C_2 2^L + C_2 3^L$$

$$2 = C_2 (-2^L + 3^L)$$

$$\frac{2}{-2^L + 3^L} = C_2$$

$$C_1 = -\left[\frac{2}{-2^L + 3^L}\right] \Rightarrow \frac{-2}{2^L - 3^L}$$

$$a(n) = \left[\frac{-2}{2^L - 3^L}\right] 2^n + \frac{(-1)}{(-1)} \left[\frac{2}{-2^L + 3^L}\right] 3^n$$

$$\text{sol'n: } \boxed{a(n) = \left[\frac{2}{2^L - 3^L}\right] (2^n - 3^n)}$$

2. (Use a calculator or Maple) In a gambler's ruin problem you currently have 700 dollars and the maximum amount is 1000.

(i) What is the probability of exiting a winner if your prob. of winning a dollar is 0.5 (and losing a dollar is 0.5)

(i') What is the expected number of rounds until you exit either a winner or loser?

(ii) What is the prob. of exiting a winner if your prob. of winning a dollar is 0.49 ?

(iii) What is the prob. of exiting a winner if your prob. of winning a dollar is 0.499 ?

i) $p_{\text{win}} = \frac{n}{L} = \frac{700}{1000} = 0.7$
(favorable)

ii) duration: $b(n) = n(L-n)$
 $= 700(1000 - 700)$
 $= 700(300)$
 $= 210000$

maple code: read 'DMB10.txt.'

input: ExactPD(700, 1000, $\frac{1}{2}$)

Output: $[\frac{7}{10}, 210,000]$

prob of win/1008 0.7
duration: 210000 rounds

iii) $p=0.49 \Rightarrow$ not favorable

must use $a(n) = \frac{1 - (\frac{q}{p})^n}{1 - (\frac{q}{p})^L}$ where, $q=1-p$

$$P_{win} \approx \frac{1 - \left(\frac{1-0.49}{0.49}\right)^{700}}{1 - \left(\frac{1-0.49}{0.49}\right)^{1000}}$$

maple: ExactPD(700, 1000, $\frac{49}{100}$)
 $[6.13438 \times 10^{-6}, 34999.69]$

$P_{win} = 6.13438E-6$
Duration: 34999.69 rounds

$$d_1 = \frac{n}{1-2p} \Rightarrow \frac{700}{1-2(0.49)} = 35,000$$

$$b(n) = d_1 - d_2$$
$$d_2 = \frac{L}{1-2p} (P_{win}) = \frac{1000}{1-2(0.49)} (6.134E-6)$$

$$b(n) = 35,000 - 0.3067 = 34999.69$$

iiii) $p=0.499 \Rightarrow$ not favorable, but closer to 0.5

$P_{win} = a(n) = \frac{1 - (\frac{q}{p})^n}{1 - (\frac{q}{p})^L}$ where, $q=1-p$

$$P_{win} = \frac{1 - \left(\frac{1-0.499}{0.499}\right)^{700}}{1 - \left(\frac{1-0.499}{0.499}\right)^{1000}}$$

$$P_{win} = 0.2882$$

duration:

$$b(n) = d_1 - d_2$$

$$d_1 = \frac{n}{1-2p} \Rightarrow \frac{700}{1-2(0.499)} = 350000$$

$$d_2 = \frac{L}{1-2p} (P_{win}) \Rightarrow \frac{1000}{1-2(0.499)} (0.2882) = 144100$$

$$b(n) = 350000 - 144077$$

$$= 205922$$

maple: ExactPD(700, 1000, $\frac{499}{1000}$)

$[0.2882, 205922]$

$$P(Win) = 0.2882$$

Duration: 205922 rounds

3. Let $a(n)$ be prob. of reaching capital L (exit a winner) starting w/ n dollars. On each round you gain $+1$ w/ a prob. of p and -1 w/ a prob. of $1-p$. The boundary cond. are $a(0)=0$ and $a(L)=1$

$$0 \leq n \leq L-2$$

Recurrence eqn: $a(n) = pa(n+1) + (1-p)a(n-1)$

put in standard form: $a(n+1) = (1-p)a(n) + pa(n+2)$

$$pa(n+2) = a(n+1) - (1-p)a(n)$$

$$a(n+2) = \frac{1}{p}a(n+1) - \left(\frac{1-p}{p}\right)a(n)$$

$$z^2 - \frac{1}{p}z + \frac{1-p}{p} = 0$$

plug in initial cond.

$$(z-1)(z - \frac{1-p}{p}) = 0$$

$$z = \{1, \frac{1-p}{p}\}$$

$$a(n) = A_1(1)^n + A_2\left(\frac{1-p}{p}\right)^n$$

$$\hookrightarrow a(n) = A_1 + A_2\left(\frac{1-p}{p}\right)^n$$

$$a(0) = A_1 + A_2 = 0 \Rightarrow A_1 = -A_2$$

$$a(L) = A_1 + A_2\left(\frac{1-p}{p}\right)^L = 1$$

$$-A_2 + A_2\left(\frac{1-p}{p}\right)^L = 1$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{2}{1} A_2 \left(\left(\frac{1-p}{p} \right)^L - 1 \right) = 1$$

$$A_2 = \frac{1}{\left(\frac{1-p}{p} \right)^L - 1}$$

$$A_1 = \frac{-1}{\left(\frac{1-p}{p} \right)^L - 1}$$

$$\frac{1-p}{p} = \frac{1-\frac{1}{2}}{\frac{1}{2}} = 1$$

sol'n:

$$a(n) = \frac{-1}{\left(\frac{1-p}{p} \right)^L - 1} + \frac{1}{\left(\frac{1-p}{p} \right)^L - 1} \left(\frac{1-p}{p} \right)^n$$

simplify

$$\hookrightarrow a(n) = \frac{\left(\frac{1-p}{p} \right)^n - 1}{\left(\frac{1-p}{p} \right)^L - 1} \cdot \frac{(-1)}{(-1)}$$

$$\hookrightarrow a(n) = \frac{1 - \left(\frac{1-p}{p} \right)^n}{1 - \left(\frac{1-p}{p} \right)^L}$$

Special case: when $p = 1/2$

put in standard form:

$$a(n+1) = \frac{1}{2}a(n) + \frac{1}{2}a(n+2)$$

$$-\frac{1}{2}a(n+2) = -a(n+1) + \frac{1}{2}a(n)$$

$$a(n+2) = 2a(n+1) - a(n)$$

$$z^2 = 2z - 1$$

$$z^2 - 2z + 1 = 0$$

$$z = \{1, 1\} \text{ double root!}$$

$$a(n) = A_1 z_1^n + A_2 n z_1^n$$

$$\hookrightarrow z_1 = 1$$

$$a(n) = A_1(1)^n + A_2 n(1)^n$$

$$\text{gen solution} \rightarrow a(n) = A_1 + A_2 n$$

$$a(0) = 0 = A_1 \rightarrow A_1 = 0$$

$$a(L) = 1 = A_1 + A_2 L \rightarrow$$

$$A_2 L = 1$$

$$A_2 = \frac{1}{L}$$

$$a(n) = 0 \cdot (1)^n + \left(\frac{1}{L}\right)n$$

$$\text{Sol'n: } a(n) = \frac{n}{L}$$

4. let $b(n)$ be the expected # of rounds until 0 or L is reached, starting w/ n dollars, when $p = 1/2$
BC: $b(0) = 0, b(L) = 1$

for $1 \leq n \leq L-1$

$$-2 \left(b(n) = 1 + \frac{1}{2}b(n+1) + \frac{1}{2}b(n-1) \right)$$

$$-2b(n) = -2 - b(n+1) - b(n-1)$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} -2b(n) + b(n+1) + b(n-1) &= -2 \\ -2b(n) &= \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{aligned} &\text{comparing the two} \\ &= 2a \quad 2a = -2 \Rightarrow a = -1 \end{aligned}$$

$$b(n) = an^2 + bn + c$$

$$b(n) = -n^2 + bn + c$$

$$\text{sol'n: } b(n) = -n^2 + Ln = n(L-n) \checkmark$$

$$b(0) = 0 = c \Rightarrow c = 0$$

$$b(L) = -L^2 + bL = 0$$

$$L = b$$