

Solution for exercise 5.3.9 in Karlin and Pinsky

0.1 a)

We have to calculate the minimum of two exponential distributed waiting times until the first event. This is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(X_1 < X_2) &= E[P(X_1 < X_2 | X_1)] \\
 &= \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\lambda_2 x} \lambda_1 e^{-\lambda_1 x} dx \\
 &= \lambda_1 \int_0^{\infty} e^{-(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)x} dx \\
 &= \lambda_1 \cdot \frac{1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2} \\
 &= \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2}
 \end{aligned}$$

0.2 b)

This time we consider the waiting time until the second event.

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(X_1 < X_2) &= E[P(X_1 < X_2 | X_1)] \\
 &= \int_0^{\infty} (e^{-\lambda_2 x} + \lambda_2 x e^{-\lambda_2 x}) \lambda_1^2 x e^{-\lambda_1 x} dx \\
 &= \lambda_1^2 \int_0^{\infty} x e^{-(\lambda_2 + \lambda_1)x} dx + \lambda_1^2 \lambda_2 \int_0^{\infty} x^2 e^{-(\lambda_2 + \lambda_1)x} dx \\
 &= \frac{\lambda_1^2}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2} \int_0^{\infty} x (\lambda_2 + \lambda_1) e^{-(\lambda_2 + \lambda_1)x} dx + \frac{\lambda_1^2 \lambda_2}{(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^2} \int_0^{\infty} x^2 (\lambda_2 + \lambda_1) e^{-(\lambda_2 + \lambda_1)x} dx \\
 &= \frac{\lambda_1^2}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2} \frac{1}{\lambda_2 + \lambda_1} + \frac{\lambda_1^2 \lambda_2}{(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^2} \frac{2}{\lambda_2 + \lambda_1} \\
 &= \frac{\lambda_1^2}{(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^2} + 2 \frac{\lambda_1^2 \lambda_2}{(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^3}
 \end{aligned}$$