

Problem 3.8.3

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Let F be a random variable indicating the sex of the first born child. Furthermore, let X denote the total number of children the family gets. Let p be the probability that a child is a girl.

$$X = I\{F=G\} \cdot 2 + I\{F=B\} \cdot (X_B + 1),$$

where X_B denotes the number of boys following the first born. Thus, $X_B \sim \text{Geo}(p)$ (on $\{1, \dots\}$)

$$P(X=0) = 0, \quad P(X=1) = 0,$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(X=2) &= P(X=2|F=G)P(F=G) + P(X=2|F=B)P(F=B) \\ &= 1 \cdot p + q p = p(1+q). \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(X=3) &= P(X=3|F=G)P(F=G) + P(X=3|F=B)P(F=B) \\ &= 0 \cdot p + P(X_B=2)q = qpq = q^2p. \end{aligned}$$

In general, for $k \geq 3$

$$P(X=k) = q^{k-1} p.$$

Problem 38.3

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Let N be the total number of boys. Then

$$N = N_G \mathbb{I}\{F=G\} + (N_B + 1) \mathbb{I}\{F=B\},$$

where $N_G \sim \text{Ber}(q)$ and $N_B \sim \text{Geo}(p)$.
(on $\{0, 1, \dots\}$)

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} P(N=0) &= P(N=0|F=G)P(F=G) + P(N=0|F=B)P(F=B) \\ &= P(N_G=0)p = p^2, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(N=1) &= P(N=1|F=G)P(F=G) + P(N=1|F=B)P(F=B) \\ &= P(N_G=1)p + P(N_B=0)q \\ &= qp + pq = 2pq, \end{aligned}$$

$$P(N=2) = P(N_B=1)q = qpq = q^2p,$$

$$P(N=3) = q^3p,$$

$$P(N=k) = q^k p.$$