

# POW 2009-10 Expectation

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$$e_n = \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \int_0^1 \dots \int_0^1 \frac{x_1 x_2 \dots x_n}{(1-x_1) \dots (1-x_{n+1})} dx_1 dx_2 \dots dx_n \dots (*)$$

$$= \int_0^1 \int_0^{y_1} \int_0^{y_2} \dots \int_0^{y_{n-1}} \frac{(1-y_1)(1-y_2) \dots (1-y_n)}{y_1 y_2 \dots y_{n-1}} dy_n dy_{n-1} \dots dy_1 \quad (\text{substitute } y_i = 1-x_i)$$

Let  $f_1(y_1) = 1$ ,

$$f_n(y_1) = \frac{1}{y_1} \int_0^{y_1} \frac{1-y_2}{y_2} \int_0^{y_2} \dots \int_0^{y_{n-1}} (1-y_n) dy_n \dots dy_2 \quad (n \geq 2)$$

then,  $e_n = \int_0^1 (1-y_1) f_n(y_1) dy_1$

$$= \left[ (1-y_1) \int_0^{y_1} f_n(\xi) d\xi \right]_0^1 + \int_0^1 y_1 f_n(\xi) d\xi dy_1$$

$$= \int_0^1 \int_0^{y_1} f_n(\xi) d\xi dy_1 \quad (\text{first term is zero})$$

$f_n$  has following recurrence relation :

$$f_{n+1}(y_1) = \frac{1}{y_1} \int_0^{y_1} (1-\xi) f_n(\xi) d\xi \quad \dots \textcircled{1}$$

(f.e. it is a Cauchy seq. implies  $\{f_n\}$  is Cauchy, since  $f_n \geq 0$ ,  $e_n = \int_0^1 \int_0^{y_1} f_n(\xi) d\xi dy_1$ ,

hence,  $f_n \rightarrow f$  uniformly)

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y_1 f_{n+1}(y_1) = y_1 f(y_1) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^{y_1} (1-\xi) f_n(\xi) d\xi = \int_0^{y_1} (1-\xi) f(\xi) d\xi$$

$$\Rightarrow (y_1 f(y_1))' = y_1 f'(y_1) + f(y_1) = (1-y_1) f(y_1)$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(y_1) + f(y_1) = 0, \quad f(y_1) = c e^{-y_1}$$

By  $\textcircled{1}$ ,  $f_1(0) = 1$ ,  $\lim_{y_1 \rightarrow 0} f_{n+1}(y_1) = \lim_{y_1 \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{y_1} \int_0^{y_1} (1-\xi) f_n(\xi) d\xi = \lim_{y_1 \rightarrow 0} f_n(y_1)$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{y_1 \rightarrow 0} f_n(y_1) = 0 \text{ for } \forall n, \quad \lim_{y_1 \rightarrow 0} f(y_1) = 0 \Rightarrow c = 1$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} e_n = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^1 \int_0^{y_1} f_n(\xi) d\xi dy_1 = \int_0^1 \int_0^{y_1} e^{-\xi} d\xi dy_1$$

$$= \int_0^1 (1 - e^{-y_1}) dy_1 = \frac{1}{e}$$

(The assumption that  $e_n$  converges can be proved in this way:

By direct computation of  $(*)$ ,  $e_n = \sum_{x_1=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x_1} \sum_{x_2=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x_2} \dots \sum_{x_n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x_n}$

Let  $e_{n,k} = \sum_{x_1=k}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x_1} \sum_{x_2=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x_2} \dots \sum_{x_n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x_n}$  ( $e_n = e_{n,2}$ )

then,  $e_{n+1,2} = \frac{1}{2}(e_{n,2} + e_{n,3})$ ,  $e_{n+2,3} = \frac{1}{3}(e_{n,2} + e_{n,3} + e_{n,4})$  and so on.  $\dots \textcircled{2}$

since  $e_{1,k} = \frac{1}{k}$  ( $k=2,3,\dots$ ),  $e_{1,2} > e_{1,3} > e_{1,4} > \dots$

By  $\textcircled{2}$ , if  $e_{n,2} > e_{n,3} > \dots \Rightarrow e_{n+1,2} > e_{n+1,3} > \dots$

$\Rightarrow e_{n+1,2} = \frac{1}{2}(e_{n,2} + e_{n,3}) < e_{n,2}$  i.e.,  $e_{n+1} < e_n$  for  $\forall n$ ,  $0 \leq e_n$ .

By Monotone convergence thm,  $e_n$  converges