



Spring 2025 WEEK 4 STUDY GUIDE

The Big Picture

Expectation is the most important concept in this course. Do not skip this week's sessions.

- The most powerful property of expectation is additivity. We will cover many and varied uses of this.
- Expectation is used in the definition of the bias of an estimator, and hence also in the construction of unbiased estimators.
- In multi-stage experiments, expectation can be calculated iteratively by conditioning.

Week At a Glance

Mon 2/9	Tue 2/10	Wed 2/11	Thu 2/12	Fri 2/13
Regular OH 10AM - 3PM in Warren 101B	Lecture	Sections	Lecture	Mega Sections
Lab 3A Due Lab 3B (Due Tues 2/17 at noon)			Lab 3B party 3-5 PM in Warren 101B	
HW 3 Due HW 4 (Due Tues 2/17 at noon)				Homework 4 party 2-5 PM in Evans 330
Skim Sections 8.4, 8.5	Important: Work through Sections 8.4, 8.5	Review Chapter 8; Skim Sec 9.1 and 9.2	Skim Chapter 9	Work through Chapter 9

Reading, Practice, and Class Meetings

Book	Topic	Lectures: Prof. A	Section: TAs	Optional Additional Practice
8.4, 8.5	Additivity of Expectation - 8.4 is about additivity: the expectation of a sum is the sum of the expectations, regardless of dependence or independence. Hugely powerful. - Additivity helps us construct unbiased estimators based on averages - 8.5 uses additivity to develop the method of indicators for finding expected counts	Tue 2/10 - Additivity and some consequences: - Constructing unbiased estimators - Finding expected counts	Wed 2/11 - Ch 8 Ex 11, 12, 9, 8	Chapter 8 All the exercises not covered in section
Ch 9	Expectation by Conditioning - 9.1 is the old multiplication rule combined with recursion, to find probabilities quickly - 9.2 shows how to find expectation by conditioning, building on the familiar calculation of finding an overall average as a weighted average of group averages - 9.3 has examples in the context of i.i.d. Bernoulli trials	Thu 2/12 - Probabilities and expectation by conditioning and recursion	Friday 2/13 - Ch 9 Ex 1, 2, 4	Chapter 9 All the exercises not covered in section