



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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additivity and some consequences: - Constructing unbiased estimators - Finding expected counts | Wed 2/11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ch 8 Ex 11, 12, 9, 8 | Chapter 8 All the exercises not covered in section |
| Ch 9 | Expectation by Conditioning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Probabilities and expectation by conditioning and recursion | Friday 2/13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ch 9 Ex 1, 2, 4 | Chapter 9 All the exercises not covered in section |