

What is the PMF of the sample minimum of two tosses of a fair 3-sided die with outcomes 1, 2, 3?

Solution: Let X_1 and X_2 be the two outcomes and M their minimum. By independence, for $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$

$$\begin{aligned} P(M \geq i) &= P(X_1 \geq i \text{ and } X_2 \geq i) \\ &= P(X_1 \geq i) P(X_2 \geq i) \\ &= (1 - P(X_1 < i))(1 - P(X_2 < i)) \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{i-1}{3}\right)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $P(M \geq 2) = 4/9$ and $P(M \geq 3) = 1/9$. The PMF is

$$P(M = m) \begin{array}{c|ccc} m & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ \hline & \frac{5}{9} & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{9} \end{array}$$