

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}[L] &= \sum_{j=0}^n j \Pr\{L_j\} \\
&= \sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor (\lg n)/2 \rfloor - 1} j \Pr\{L_j\} + \sum_{j=\lfloor (\lg n)/2 \rfloor}^n j \Pr\{L_j\} \\
&\geq \sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor (\lg n)/2 \rfloor - 1} 0 \cdot \Pr\{L_j\} + \sum_{j=\lfloor (\lg n)/2 \rfloor}^n \lfloor (\lg n)/2 \rfloor \Pr\{L_j\} \\
&= 0 \cdot \sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor (\lg n)/2 \rfloor - 1} \Pr\{L_j\} + \lfloor (\lg n)/2 \rfloor \sum_{j=\lfloor (\lg n)/2 \rfloor}^n \Pr\{L_j\} \\
&\geq 0 + \lfloor (\lg n)/2 \rfloor (1 - O(1/n)) \quad (\text{by inequality (5.11)}) \\
&= \Omega(\lg n) .
\end{aligned}$$

As with the birthday paradox, we can obtain a simpler but approximate analysis using indicator random variables. We let $X_{ik} = I\{A_{ik}\}$ be the indicator random variable associated with a streak of heads of length at least k beginning with the i th coin flip. To count the total number of such streaks, we define

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^{n-k+1} X_{ik} .$$

Taking expectations and using linearity of expectation, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}[X] &= \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n-k+1} X_{ik}\right] \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^{n-k+1} \mathbb{E}[X_{ik}] \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^{n-k+1} \Pr\{A_{ik}\} \\
&= \sum_{i=1}^{n-k+1} 1/2^k \\
&= \frac{n-k+1}{2^k} .
\end{aligned}$$