

win on week 1? Prob $1/3$

win on week 2? Prob $2/3 * 1/3$

win on week 3? Prob $2/3 * 2/3 * 1/3$

expected number of weeks to win?

$1 * \text{Pr}(\text{1st win week 1}) + 2 * \text{Pr}(\text{1st win week 2}) + 3 * \text{Pr}(\text{1st win week 3}) \dots$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} j * (2/3)^{j-1} * (1/3) \quad \text{So, how to evaluate this sum ?}$$

This problem is so well known it has its own name: negative binomial distribution. Here is a short proof that the answer (here) is 3. Define E as the above sum. Notice that E satisfies this equation $E = 1 + 1/3 * 0 + 2/3 * E$. Why? because after week 1, you either don't play again (with probability $1/3$), or you have to keep playing (with probability $2/3$), in which case the expected number of times you have to play to win is still E . Now use this equation and solve for E .

By the law of the distribution of primes, the probability that a number at most x is prime is about $1/\ln(x)$. A number with 33 bits has value up to $n = 2^{33}-1$. So the probability that a number with at most 33 bits is prime is about, at least, $1/\ln(n) \approx 1/\ln(2^{33}) = 1/(33 \ln(2)) \approx 23$.

This is similar to the lottery problem. Here, the probability of winning the lottery is about $1/23$, so the average number of trials before success is about 23.

About $1/2$ of the numbers less than n are even, and only 1 is prime. So, the probability that an odd number less than n is prime is about two times the probability that any number less than n is prime. So, the expected number of trials will be about half that of the previous question, so about 11.5.