

8.2. Let X , Y , and Z be three independent random variables, each taking the values ± 1 with probability $\frac{1}{2}$ each. Define $W = X$, $U = X + Y$, and $V = X + Z$. Then, $E[U | W] = X + E[Y] = X$ a.s. In particular,

$$\begin{aligned} E[E(U | W) | V] &= E[X | V] = 1 \quad \text{a.s. on } \{V = 2\} \\ &= -1 \quad \text{a.s. on } \{V = -2\}. \end{aligned} \tag{8.1}$$

On the other hand, $E[X; V = 0] = E[X; X = 1, Z = -1] + E[X; X = -1, Z = 1] = 0$. Therefore, to summarize: $E\{E(U | W) | V\} = V/2$ a.s. A similar analysis shows that $E[U | V] = V/2$ a.s. also. Thus,

$$E[E(U | V) | W] = \frac{1}{2}E[V | W] = \frac{1}{2}X \quad \text{a.s.}$$

Because $P\{V \neq X\} = 1$, we have produced an example wherein $E[E(U | V) | W] \neq E[E(U | W) | V]$ a.s.