

CSE 107

Lab Assignment 1

In this assignment you will simulate the experiment described in hw1 problem # 5, which says:

Alice and Bob have $2n + 1$ coins, each with probability of a head equal to $1/2$. Bob tosses $n + 1$ coins, while Alice tosses the remaining n coins. Show that the probability that after all the coins have been tossed, Bob will have gotten more heads than Alice is $1/2$.

Write a program, in any language, that runs this experiment with n equal to 5, 10, 50 and 100, respectively. For each value of n , do 1000 trials, and compute the relative frequency of Bob tossing more heads than Alice.

$$\text{relative frequency} = \frac{\text{number of trials in which Bob tossed more heads}}{\text{total number of trials}}$$

Verify that your relative frequency is very close to 0.5, independent of the value of n .

Now suppose that we do the same sequence of experiments for $n \in \{5, 10, 50, 100\}$, with $2n + 1$ *loaded* coins. Suppose the probability of heads is equal to p , for $p \in \{0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8\}$. This should be possible by editing just a few lines of code (replacing $1/2$ by a variable p which you initialize at the beginning of the program.) Does the probability that Bob tosses more heads than Alice now seem to depend on n ? Does that probability seem to approach a limiting value as n becomes large? Form a conjecture regarding this probability.

Create a text file called `Report` with your results. Give your relative frequencies for $p = 1/2$ and $n \in \{5, 10, 50, 100\}$. Do the same for $p \in \{0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8\}$. State your conjecture as to the limiting value (if any) for $P(\text{Bob tosses more heads than Alice})$ as n becomes large.

Submit both your source code file, and the `Report` file to Gradescope before the due date.