

## HKN ECE 313 MIDTERM 1 WORKSHEET

PRAMOD PREM

**Exercise 1.** Alex is organizing a focus group to figure out how best he can market his homemade rocket engine. He has a group of 6 women and 6 men. To ensure impartiality, he wants to seat them in such a way that the women and men alternate (the women are not sitting next to another woman and the men are not sitting next to another man). He has to seat them around a round table. How many ways can he seat these people

**Solution:** We can start off by seating the first woman. Since we are seating people around a round table, the seat where we place the first woman does not matter. We now have 5! ways of organizing the remaining 5 women. Now, we can seat the men. We have 6! ways of seating the 6 men, so we have  $5! \cdot 6!$  ways of seating all 12 of these people.

**Exercise 2.** Tabish has a gambling addiction and decides he can double EWB's savings by going to a casino. It does not work out in his favor and he ends up 50k in the hole. He has one last shot to recover EWB's money, so he decides to calculate the probability of winning the following games and play the ones where he is most likely to win.

A.) Calculate the probability that the sum of the 4 dice is 6.

**Solution:** There are only 2 combinations of 4 dice that give us a sum of 6: three 1's and one 3 or two 2's and two 1's. We have  $\binom{4}{1}$  ways of getting three 1's and one 3, and we have  $\binom{4}{2}$  ways of getting two 2's and two 1's, so that gives us  $\binom{4}{1} + \binom{4}{2}$  acceptable rolls of the dice. We have  $6^4$  possible rolls, so the probability that the sum of the dice is equal to 6 is  $\frac{\binom{4}{1} + \binom{4}{2}}{6^4}$ .

B.) Calculate the probability that no more than 2 of the dice show a 2.

**Solution:** We can split this problem up into case work. We can have none of the dice showing a 2, one of the dice showing a 2, or two of the dice showing a 2. The number of rolls we can get where none of the dice show a 2 is  $5^4$  as all 4 dice can show any of 5 faces. The number of rolls we can get where only one of the dice shows a 2 is  $\binom{4}{1} \cdot 5^3$  (we choose one dice to have the 2 and the rest can have any of the remaining 5 faces). The number of rolls we can get where two of the dice show a 2 is  $\binom{4}{2} \cdot 5^2$ . Now, we can just sum these values up and divide by the total number of rolls, and we get  $\frac{5^4 + \binom{4}{1} \cdot 5^3 + \binom{4}{2} \cdot 5^2}{6^4}$ .

C.) Calculate the probability that none of the dice show a 6.

**Solution:** All 4 dice can show any of 5 faces that are not 6, so the answer is  $\frac{5^4}{6^4}$ .

D.) Calculate the probability that all of the dice show a different value.

**Solution:** We can choose 6 values for the first dice, 5 values for the next one, 4

values for the third one, and 3 values for the last one. We can now just multiply these together and divide by  $6^4$ . This simplifies to  $\frac{5}{18}$ .

E.) Calculate the probability that two of the dice show different values.

**Solution:** We first choose which two dice show different values, giving us  $\binom{4}{2}$  ways of picking them, and then we have 6 choices for the first die and 5 for the second. Now, we multiply these together and divide by the total number of rolls, giving us  $\frac{\binom{4}{2} * 6 * 5}{6^4}$ .

**Exercise 3.** Pramod is trying the quantum immortality experiment. There is a random number generator that generates a 1 with probability  $p$  or a 0 with probability  $1 - p$  every second. If it generates a 1, Pramod dies. Pramod dies after 59 seconds of this experiment. What is the maximum likelihood estimate  $\hat{p}_{ML}$  of  $p$ . (Note: each trial is independent of each other)

**Solution:** This experiment models a geometric distribution, and in this case, we are trying to find the maximum likelihood estimator for  $P(X = 59)$ . Since this is a geometric distribution, we know that  $P(X = 59) = (1 - \hat{p})^{58} \hat{p}$ . Taking the derivative of this, we get  $(1 - \hat{p})^{58} - 58 \hat{p} (1 - \hat{p})^{57}$ . Setting this equation equal to 0 and solving for  $\hat{p}$ , we get  $\frac{1}{59}$ . Therefore,  $\hat{p}_{ML} = \frac{1}{59}$ .

**Exercise 4.** Shomik has bet his house, his retirement fund, his cane, and his trenchcoats (in increasing order of importance) to Udit on a series of coin flips. Shomik is sneaky, so he can choose to use an unbiased coin or a weighted coin that lands on heads 60% of the time. Shomik flips his coin 10 times. For both the biased and fair coin, calculate the probability that it lands on Heads more than it lands on Tails, i.e the probability that Shomik does not lose.

**Solution:** This experiment models a binomial distribution. Since we want to calculate the probability that Shomik does not lose, we will need to sum up all the probabilities where the coin lands on heads more than 5 times, so we will calculate  $p(6) + p(7) + p(8) + p(9) + p(10)$ . We can just plug these values into the equation for the pmf of the binomial distribution for both coins. For the fair coin, we end up with  $\binom{10}{6}(0.5)^6(0.5)^4 + \binom{10}{7}(0.5)^7(0.5)^3 + \binom{10}{8}(0.5)^8(0.5)^2 + \binom{10}{9}(0.5)^9(0.5)^1 + \binom{10}{10}(0.5)^{10}(0.5)^0$ . For the biased coin, we end up with  $\binom{10}{6}(0.6)^6(0.4)^4 + \binom{10}{7}(0.6)^7(0.4)^3 + \binom{10}{8}(0.6)^8(0.4)^2 + \binom{10}{9}(0.6)^9(0.4)^1 + \binom{10}{10}(0.6)^{10}(0.4)^0$ .

Shomik flipped his coin 10 times, and it showed heads only 4 times. He now has to give up his prized possessions to Udit. Now destitute and depressed, he decides that he wants to know which coin he chose. Calculate the probability that the fair coin was chosen and the probability that the biased coin was chosen.

**Solution:** This question deals with conditional probability. We are trying to find the probability that the fair coin was chosen given that tails only showed up 4 times and the probability that the biased coin was chosen given that tails only showed up 4 times. We can simply apply Bayes' Rule to solve this. Starting off with the fair coin, we want to calculate  $P(F | H_4)$ . This is equal to  $\frac{P(H_4|F)P(F)}{P(H_4)}$ . The probability of him selecting either coin is  $\frac{1}{2}$ . We now need to calculate  $P(H_4)$ .  $P(H_4) = P(H_4 | F)P(F) + P(H_4 | B)P(B)$

$= \binom{10}{4} * (\frac{1}{2})^4 * (\frac{1}{2})^6 * \frac{1}{2} + \binom{10}{4} * (\frac{3}{5})^4 * (\frac{2}{5})^6 * \frac{1}{2}$ . We can now calculate  $P(F | H_4)$ .  $P(F | H_4) = \frac{P(H_4|F)P(F)}{P(H_4)} = \frac{\binom{10}{4} * (\frac{1}{2})^4 * (\frac{1}{2})^6 * \frac{1}{2}}{\binom{10}{4} * (\frac{1}{2})^4 * (\frac{1}{2})^6 * \frac{1}{2} + \binom{10}{4} * (\frac{3}{5})^4 * (\frac{2}{5})^6 * \frac{1}{2}}$  (I am too lazy to simplify this but you probably should). We can also now calculate  $P(B | H_4)$ .  $P(B | H_4) = \frac{P(H_4|B)P(B)}{P(H_4)} = \frac{\binom{10}{4} * (\frac{3}{5})^4 * (\frac{2}{5})^6 * \frac{1}{2}}{\binom{10}{4} * (\frac{1}{2})^4 * (\frac{1}{2})^6 * \frac{1}{2} + \binom{10}{4} * (\frac{3}{5})^4 * (\frac{2}{5})^6 * \frac{1}{2}}$ .

**Exercise 5.** Ethan wears a Mickey Mouse T shirt, and every day there is a 2% probability that Disney's lawyers will cause grave consequences for him. What is the expected number of days that Ethan will not have his life upended by the mouse?

**Solution:** This is a geometric distribution with  $p = .02$ . This models the days that Ethan will live before dying, and he will probably die on the 51st day.  $E[L] = \frac{1}{.02} = 50$

**Exercise 6.** A manufacturing company sources components from 3 suppliers: A, B and C. Among all the components, 50% comes from A, 20% comes from B, and 30% comes from C. The defect rates of a component from suppliers A, B and C are 0.02, 0.1 and 0.05 respectively. If a component is randomly selected from the production line, what's the probability that it's defective?

**Solution:**  $\mathbb{P}(\text{defective}) = \mathbb{P}(\text{defective}|A)\mathbb{P}(A) + \mathbb{P}(\text{defective}|B)\mathbb{P}(B) + \mathbb{P}(\text{defective}|C)\mathbb{P}(C) = (0.02)(0.5) + (0.1)(0.2) + (0.05)(0.3)$

**Exercise 7.** Jitao loves to play basketball. Suppose the probability that he hits a shot is 25%. How many shots does he need to take to make sure that there's a 90% chance he makes at least one?

**Solution:** The probability of missing  $i$  consecutive shots is  $(.75)^i$ . We want  $(.75)^i = 0.1$ , solving for  $i$  yields  $y = 8.003$ , so he needs to take at least 9 shots.

**Exercise 8.** Imagine you are playing a game where you need to flip an unfair coin until you get heads. The probability of getting heads on any flip is 0.6. You have already flipped the coin three times, and all flips have been tails. What is the probability that you will need to flip the coin at least two more times to get the first heads?

**Solution:** Notice that this is can be described with a geometric distribution, and geometric distributions have the memoryless property. We take the tail probability with  $k = 2$  and  $p = .6$ .  $P\{L > 2\} = (1 - .6)^2 = .16$

**Exercise 9.** Suppose the watch time of a YouTube video,  $X$ , is a random variable. The average watch time is 10 minutes. Find an upper bound for the proportion of views that lasted more than 25 minutes.

**Solution:** We have  $\mathbb{E}[X] = 10$ . By Markov,

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geq 2.5\mathbb{E}[X]) \leq \frac{1}{2.5} = 0.4$$

At most 40% of views lasted 25 more more minutes.

**Exercise 10.** Suppose we would like to estimate the fraction  $p$  of ECE students taking ECE 313 this semester.  $p$  is estimated by  $\hat{p} = \frac{X}{n}$ , where  $n$  is the sample size and  $X$  is number of students taking the class in the sample. If  $p$  is to be estimated to within 0.1 with 75% confidence, what's the minimum size of the sample?

**Exercise 11.**  $A, B, C$  are events in the probability space. True or False:

- (1) If  $P(A) = 0$ , then  $A$  and  $B$  are independent.
- (2) if  $P(AB) = P(A)P(B)$ ,  $P(AC) = P(A)P(C)$  and  $P(BC) = P(B)P(C)$ ,  $A, B$  and  $C$  are independent.

**Solution:**

- (1) True. If  $A$  can never happen, we learn nothing about  $B$ .
- (2) False. This requires  $P(ABC) = P(A)P(B)P(C)$

**Exercise 12.** Grant and Anantajit's company (A&G Electric) assesses candidates for a position through a series of questions and tests during their interview process. Historical data indicates that the probability of any given candidate being offered the job after this process is 0.3. If the company interviews 10 candidates in a month, What is the probability that exactly 3 candidates are offered the job?

**Solution:** This is a binomial distribution with  $n = 10$ ,  $p = 0.3$ , and  $k = 3$ .

$$p_X(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k} = \binom{10}{3} 0.3^3 (.7)^7 \approx 0.266$$

**Exercise 13.** Aditya's hardware verification team is responsible for verifying a new mind control brain implant chip. Historical data shows that the probability of any given test resulting in a bug discovery is 0.2. The team decides to continue testing until they discover 5 bugs. What is the probability that they will discover the 5th bug on the 10th test?

**Solution:** This is a negative binomial distribution with  $r = 5$ ,  $p = .2$ ,  $n = 10$

$$p_S(n) = \binom{n-1}{r-1} p^r (1-p)^{n-r} = p_S(n) = \binom{9}{4} .2^5 (.8)^5 \approx 0.0132$$

**Exercise 14.** After receiving his PhD in Computer Engineering, Pradyun starts working at Intel as a call center manager. Pradyun's department receives 600 calls per hour. Historical data since Pradyun's hiring suggests the chance of each call receiving a complaint has increased to 5%.

- (1) Calculate the probability of exactly 2 complaints tickets being generated in one hour.
- (2) Calculate the expected number of hours until Pradyun receives 2 complaints.
- (3) Calculate the expected number of hours it will take to get 2 complaints in an hour.

**Solution:** At exactly 600 calls per hour, the complaint rate is  $.2 \cdot 600 = 120$  complaints per hour. Let  $\lambda = 120$ . Now,  $C$  is number of complaints and  $C \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$ .

- (1)  $\frac{\lambda^2 e^{-\lambda}}{2!} = 7200 e^{-120}$
- (2) We expect  $\frac{1}{\lambda}$  hours between complaints. Doubling, we expect  $\frac{1}{60}$  hours until we receive two complaints (or, 1 minute until 2 complaints. uh oh!).

- (3) Treating each hour independently, we can let the number of hours  $H$  be geometric with  $p = 7200e^{-120}$ . The expected number of hours until he receives exactly two complaints is thus  $1/p = \frac{e^{120}}{7200}$

**Exercise 15.** Name all of the axioms of probability.

**Solution:**

- (1) For any event  $A$ ,  $P(A) \geq 0$ .
- (2) If  $A, B \in \mathcal{F}$  and if  $A$  and  $B$  are mutually exclusive, then  $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$ .
- (3)  $P(\Omega) = 1$ .

**Exercise 16.** Say that two players take turns flipping a coin. The first person to get heads wins. Calculate the probability that the first player wins.

**Solution:** We can solve this problem by calculating the summation of the probabilities of multiple events. The first player could win by landing on heads the first flip, or landing on heads the third flip with the previous two being tails, or landing on heads the fifth flip with the previous four being tails, and so on. These probabilities can be expressed by the following summation:  $\frac{1}{2} * (1 + \frac{1}{4} + (\frac{1}{4})^2 + \dots)$ . This is the sum of an infinite geometric series, so we use the formula to calculate the sum of such a series and end up with  $\frac{\frac{1}{2}}{1 - \frac{1}{4}}$ , or  $\frac{2}{3}$ . The first player wins with a probability of  $\frac{2}{3}$ , or twice as much as the second player.

**Exercise 17.** Express the summation  $\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} a^k b^{n-k}$  in closed form.

**Solution:**

$$(a + b)^n$$

**Exercise 18.** Pramod has a crippling addiction to caffeine, so he decides to buy a mystery box of Red Bulls from County Market since it was on sale. The box contains 4 orange cans, 3 green cans, 6 red cans, and 5 blue cans. Red Bull is his favorite drink in the whole wide world, so he decides to number each can, making them distinct.

- (1) How many ways can he pick 2 red cans?
- (2) How many ways can he pick out 2 orange cans and 3 blue cans?
- (3) Say  $S$  is the set of all subsets of size 2 of the set consisting of all of the cans of Red Bull. What is the magnitude of  $S$ ?

**Solution:**

- (1)  $\binom{6}{2}$
- (2)  $\binom{4}{2} \binom{5}{3}$
- (3)  $|S| = \binom{4+3+6+5}{2}$

**Exercise 19.** Steve the ECE major has procrastinated on his assignment and the code he wrote is not compiling. If he goes to sleep right now the number of bugs in his code,  $X$ , can be modeled by a Poisson distribution with a mean  $\lambda_1 = 2$ . If he pulls an all nighter,  $X$  has the Poisson distribution with a parameter of  $\lambda_0 = 6$ .

- (1) Design an ML decision rule to decide, based on the observation of  $X$ , that determines whether Steve pulled the all nighter or not.
- (2) Suppose Steve did not learn from his mistakes and throughout the semester he pulls all nighters twice as often as going to sleep ( $\pi_1 / \pi_0 = 2$ ). Express the MAP decision rule, based on the observation of  $X$ , under this new assumption.

**Exercise 20.** A level 99 archer tower is shooting arrows at an invading army. Each arrow always hits its target and the probability of hitting a barbarian or a goblin is 50/50. How many arrows does the tower need to shoot such that the probability will be at least 0.8 that the ratio of the barbarians to goblins will be between 0.3 and 0.7.

**Solution:** Let  $X/n$  represent the proportion of barbarians killed in battle. Thus  $E[x] = n \cdot p = \frac{n}{2}$ ,  $\text{Var}(X) = n \cdot p \cdot q = \frac{n}{4}$   
 $P(0.3 \leq \frac{X}{n} \leq 0.7) \geq 0.8$   
 $P(0.3-0.5 \leq \frac{X}{n} - 0.5 \leq 0.7-0.5) \geq 0.8$   
 $P(-0.2 \leq \frac{X}{n} - 0.5 \leq 0.2) \geq 0.8$   
 $P(|\frac{X}{n} - 0.5| \leq 0.2) \geq 0.8$   
 Given that  $\text{Var}(\frac{X}{n}) = \frac{1}{n^2} \text{Var}(X) = \frac{1}{4n}$   
 $0.8 = 1 - \frac{1}{k^2}$ , where  $k \cdot \omega = 0.2$

**Exercise 21.** The probability of surviving a night at Circle-K is 20%. Suppose you spend 5 nights at Circle-K. Find a bound for the probability that you survive at least 3 nights.

**Solution:** This is the same as asking for the probability that we survive the first three nights—we don't care what happens after. Nights are independent, so this is  $0.2^3$ .

**Exercise 22.** Ian ends up playing an old Soviet era board game with some friends. This board game involves rolling a 5 sided die and a 7 sided die to determine how far he moves his babushka across the board. Say the number of spaces he can move is a variable called  $X$ . Determine the sample space of  $X$ , the magnitude of the sample space, the pmf of  $X$ , the support of the pmf of  $X$ , the mean of  $X$ , and the variance of  $X$ .

Now, let's say we multiply the value of each role of the dice by 3 and add 4. Calculate the new mean and variance of  $X$ .

**Solution:** The sample space is  $\{2, \dots, 12\}$  because the minimum move from each die is 1. This has magnitude (size) 11. The possibilities of getting each number can be seen below:

2	3	4	5	6
(1, 1)	(1, 2) (2, 1)	(1, 3) (2, 2) (3, 1)	(1, 4) (2, 3) (3, 2) (4, 1)	(1, 5) (2, 4) (3, 3) (4, 2) (5, 1)
7		8		9
(1, 6) (2, 5) (3, 4) (4, 3) (5, 2)		(1, 7) (2, 6) (3, 5) (4, 4) (5, 3)		(2, 7) (3, 6) (4, 5) (5, 4)
10	11	12		
(3, 7) (4, 6) (5, 5)	(4, 7) (5, 6)	(5, 7)		

In total, there are  $5 \cdot 7 = 35$  possible options, so  $\mathbb{P}\{X = i\}$  is given by how many entries are in cell  $i$ , divided by 35. Now,

$$E[X] = \sum_{i=2}^{12} \mathbb{P}(X = i) i = 7$$

and

$$\mathbb{E}[X^2] = \sum_{i=2}^{12} \mathbb{P}(X = i) i^2 = 55$$

So,

$$\text{Var}(X) = \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2 = 55 - 49 = 6$$

If we multiply each of the rolls by 3, by linearity, that's the same as multiplying our final result by 3. Likewise, adding 4 to each roll adds 8 to the overall result. We can write  $X' = 3X + 8$ , and by linearity,

$$\mathbb{E}[X'] = 3\mathbb{E}[X] + 8 = 29$$

and

$$\text{Var}(X') = 3^2 \text{Var}(X) = 9 \cdot 6 = 54$$