

1. The (asymptotically) minimum  $k$  at least one head with probability at least  $1 - 1/n$

$$Pr = 1 - \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^k \geq 1 - \frac{1}{n}$$

$$2^k \geq n$$

$$k \geq \log n$$

2. The (asymptotically) minimum  $k$  at least  $\log n$  heads with probability at least  $1 - 1/n$

The Chernoff bound gives that

$$Pr[X \leq (1 - \delta)\mu] \leq e^{-\frac{\delta^2 \mu}{2}}, 0 < \delta < 1.$$

Because  $X$  follows a binomial distribution, the expected value  $\mu = \frac{k}{2}$ . If we plug in  $\delta = 1 - \frac{\log n}{\mu}$ , the probability less than  $1 - 1/n$  is

$$Pr[X \leq \log n] \leq e^{-\frac{(1 - \frac{\log n}{\mu})^2 \frac{k}{2}}{2}} = e^{-\frac{\frac{\log^2 n}{k} - 2\log n + k}{4}}.$$

The term  $-\frac{\frac{\log^2 n}{k} - 2\log n + k}{4}$  is dominated by  $k$  because  $k \geq \log n$  as what we have shown. Therefore, asymptotically it is simplified to  $-k$  and now we have

$$e^{-k} \leq 1 - \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) = \frac{1}{n}.$$

Solving the inequality, we obtain

$$k \geq \log n.$$