

**Homework 5**

Due on Gradescope 10/11/2016 at 4:00PM (Before Lecture)

1. Theory Meets Data, Section 5.4, Problem 5: A fair 6-sided die will be rolled 10 times. Consider the smallest of the 10 numbers rolled.
  - (a) For each  $k$  in the range 1,2,3,4,5,6, find the chance that the smallest number rolled is larger than  $k$ . (It may help to derive a formula that works for any  $k$  first).
  - (b) For each  $k$  in the range 1,2,3,4,5,6, let  $p_k$  be the probability that the smallest number rolled is equal to  $k$ . Use your answers from the last part to find  $p_k$ .
  - (c) Find the sum of your answers from the last part. Do the sum and get a numerical answer; don't just explain what the sum ought to be.
2. Deriving Distributions, to appear in TMD: The goal of this problem is for you to use the definitions and notation from class in familiar contexts. For each random variable, describe the sample space  $\Omega$  (no need to calculate size), write the set of values that  $X$  can take, and derive the probability mass function.
  - (a)  $X$  is the number of spots that show on one roll of a fair six-sided die.
  - (b)  $X$  is an indicator random variable; it has the value 1 with probability  $p$ , and the value 0 with probability  $1 - p$ . This random variable is a Boolean, that is, it can only be 0 or 1. Just as 0s and 1s are powerful in computing, so also indicators are powerful in probability theory. You'll see how next week.
  - (c)  $X$  is the number of heads in one toss of a fair coin.
  - (d)  $X$  is the number of heads in two tosses of a fair coin.
  - (e)  $X$  is the number of red cards among two cards picked at random without replacement from a standard deck (52 cards of which 26 are red).
3. Stock Price: Suppose that TechCo is one of San Francisco's hottest publicly traded tech startups, and its stock price moves in the following way: every day, it either increases by \$1 with probability  $p$  or decreases by \$1 with probability  $1 - p$ , and the change on each day is independent. Let  $Z$  be the change in the price of TechCo's stock over two weeks; that is,  $Z$  is the price of TechCo's stock on Oct 19 minus the price of TechCo's stock today, Oct 5.
  - (a) Let  $X$  be the number of times in 14 days that TechCo's stock increased. What is the probability that the stock price increased  $0 \leq k \leq 14$  times in this period?
  - (b) Write  $Z$ , the change in price, as a function of  $X$ , the number of times the price increased.
  - (c) What is the probability that the stock price rose overall during the 14 day period?
  - (d) You make a bet with your friend that works like this: You will pay your friend \$5 on Oct 5, and on Oct 19 your friend will pay you  $Z$  if  $Z$  is positive, and nothing if  $Z$  is zero or negative<sup>1</sup>. What is the probability that you will make an overall profit on this agreement?

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<sup>1</sup>For the curious, this sort of agreement is called a *European call option*. Here, the *strike price* is set to today's price.