

# MATH 241 Fall 2016 Homework #2

Professor Adam Kapelner

Due 5PM outside my office KY604, Tuesday, September 13, 2016

(this document last updated Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2016 at 6:58pm)

## Instructions and Philosophy

The path to success in this class is to do many problems. Unlike other courses, exclusively doing reading(s) will not help. Coming to lecture is akin to watching workout videos; thinking about and solving problems on your own is the actual “working out”. Feel free to “work out” with others; **I want you to work on this in groups.**

Reading is still *required*. For this homework set, read the section about sample spaces in Chapter 2 and relevant parts of Chapter 1 in Ross. Chapter references are from the 7th edition.

The problems below are color coded: **green** problems are considered *easy* and marked “[easy]”; **yellow** problems are considered *intermediate* and marked “[harder]”, **red** problems are considered *difficult* and marked “[difficult]” and **purple** problems are extra credit. The *easy* problems are intended to be “giveaways” if you went to class. Do as much as you can of the others; I expect you to at least attempt the *difficult* problems.

This homework is worth 100 points but the point distribution will not be determined until after the due date. See syllabus for the policy on late homework.

Up to 15 points are given as a bonus if the homework is typed using L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X. Links to installing L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X and program for compiling L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X is found on the syllabus. You are encouraged to use [overleaf.com](http://overleaf.com). If you are handing in homework this way, upload `hwxx.tex` and `preamble.tex`, read the comments in the code; there are two lines to comment out and you should replace my name with yours and write your section. If you are asked to make drawings, you can take a picture of your handwritten drawing and insert them as figures or leave space using the “\vspace” command and draw them in after printing or attach them stapled.

The document is available with spaces for you to write your answers. If not using L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, print this document and write in your answers. I do not accept homeworks not on this printout. Keep this first page printed for your records. Write your name and section below (A or B).

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SECTION (A or B): \_\_\_\_\_

**More counting** These counting questions will give you more practice in computing probabilities. Due to computations involving large factorials, we will also review Stirling's Approximation.

### Problem 1

We have 4 blue marbles, 4 green marbles, 2 orange marbles, and 2 red marbles. For the following questions, if you are using “choose notation”, please write your choose notation, then write the formula using factorials, then write the actual number after you compute it.



- (a) [easy] Viewing all the marbles as *unique*, how many ways are there to order the marbles? Note that “order” is another way of saying “permute.”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (b) [harder] Viewing all marbles of the same color as *interchangeable*, how many ways are there to order the marbles?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (c) [E.C.] If I pick 4 marbles at random from the collection, how many ways are there to get two-of-a-kind *i.e.* two marbles of one color and two marbles of a different color.

## Problem 2

Imagine you have a bag of 10 cards where 6 are blue and 4 are red. A “draw” means one card is taken out of the bag at random and the color is revealed. If the problem asks “what is the probability,” this means an explicit computation is required unless otherwise stated.



- (a) [easy] What is the probability of getting a blue card when drawing one card?
- (b) [easy] What is the probability of drawing 3 red cards in a row *without replacement*?
- (c) [harder] Five cards are drawn. What is the probability of having 3 reds and 2 blues without regards to any order of the cards?
- (d) [difficult] Five cards are drawn. What is the probability of having 3 reds and 2 blues in that order? Think carefully about the numerator and denominator in this probability computation.

- (e) [harder] Five cards are drawn from a new bag with 100 cards where 60 are blue and 40 are red. What is the probability of having 3 reds and 2 blues without regards to any order of the cards?

### Problem 3

Imagine you are putting together musical performances and you are employing musicians at random. There are many available for hire: 23 guitarists, 15 vocalists, 6 drummers, 14 bassists, 8 violinists, 9 violas, 6 cellists.



- (a) [easy] If we hire 4 musicians at random, what is the probability we get a rock band (a vocalist, a guitarist, a bassist and a drummer)?
- (b) [easy] If we hire 4 musicians at random, what is the probability we get a string quartet (two violinists, 1 cellist and one violist)?
- (c) [easy] If we hire 4 musicians at random, what is the probability we get a doowop group (four vocalists)?

- (d) [easy] We now move to a different city and the musicians for hire are different. Here, we have 10 guitarists, 10 vocalists, 10 drummers, 10 bassists. What is the probability we form a rock band when hiring four musicians at random?
- (e) [difficult] Given the same situation in part (d), what is the probability we get two pairs of musicians (e.g. two guitarists and two bassists or two drummers and two bassists)?
- (f) [difficult] Given the same situation in part (d), what is the probability we get all four musicians be the same type?

#### **Problem 4**

Computations of combinations and permutations is impossible for a computer due to the factorial computations. In this problem, we investigate Stirling's formula.

- (a) [easy] Use the natural log to derive an expression for  $\binom{1500}{300}$  using sums by recalling that  $\ln(n!) = \sum_{i=1}^n \ln(i)$ . Do not compute. Leave in terms of sums and natural logs.

- (b) [easy] Show that Stirling's approximation is equivalent to the expression I wrote in class:

$$\ln(n!) \approx \frac{1}{2} \ln(2\pi) + \left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right) \ln(n) - n$$

- (c) [difficult] Use the expression in (c) to approximate the probability of getting 300 Heads in 1500 coin flips.

### **Problem 5**

Combinations are not only useful in probability problems. They come up all over mathematics.

- (a) [easy] Below is "Pascal's Triangle" up to  $n = 4$ .

$$\begin{array}{cccccc}
n = 0: & & & & & 1 \\
n = 1: & & & 1 & & 1 \\
n = 2: & & 1 & & 2 & & 1 \\
n = 3: & 1 & & 3 & & 3 & & 1 \\
n = 4: & 1 & & 4 & & 6 & & 4 & & 1
\end{array}$$

Explain why the 6 in the middle of the  $n = 4$  row is equivalent to  $\binom{4}{2}$  by using the fact proved in class.

(b) [easy] In the expansion  $(a + b)^{100}$ , how many terms are of the form  $a^2b^{98}$ ?

(c) [E.C.] Prove the binomial theorem for arbitrary  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Philosophy of Probability** We covered many definitions of probability and discussed some philosophy of probability.

### Problem 6

Answer the following questions by writing a paragraph or two *in English*.

- (a) [easy] Previously we defined probability as  $\mathbb{P}(A) := \frac{|A|}{|\Omega|}$ . Describe a situation where this fails to produce the correct probability that is not the spinner used in lecture.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (b) [easy] Which definition of probability does the book use and why do you think the authors chose this definition?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (c) [easy] Give an example of an event whose probability cannot be approximated by the limiting frequency.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- (d) [E.C.] Who picks  $\omega \in \Omega$  *i.e.* the outcome from the set of possible outcomes in the universe? This is an issue we ignored. Discuss your thoughts.



(e) [easy] What are some problems with the long run frequency definition of probability?

(f) [harder] How did Chevalier de Mere in 1654 know that the  $\mathbb{P}(\text{one or more double sixes in 24 rolls of two dice}) < \frac{1}{2}$ ?

(g) [easy] What are some problems with the propensity definition of probability?

(h) [E.C.] What idea(s) inspired Karl Popper to invent the propensity definition?

(i) [easy] What is the main problem with the subjective definition of probability?

(j) [easy] If all information was known, would there still be subjective probabilities? Yes/no is fine.

(k) [easy] According to Laplace (and his interpretation of Newton), if all information was known about physical systems including all laws and all initial conditions, would there

be randomness? Yes/no and discuss.

- (l) [difficult] According to Laplace, what is randomness? I've uploaded LaPlace's quote in lecture 5 on the course homepage. You can answer this in a few words.
- (m) [difficult] Knowing what we know in the 21st century, if all information was known about physical systems including all laws and all initial conditions, would there be randomness? If so, what theory has demonstrated evidence for this?
- (n) [difficult] What upset Einstein in 1926 to say "God does not play dice with the universe?"
- (o) [difficult] What is the prevailing historical theory about why probability wasn't formalized using mathematics prior to the 1600's?

## **Problem 7**

We will be looking into the long term frequency definition here. For this problem, you must have **R** installed. Please download it from <http://cran.r-project.org/> (there are links for Windows, MAC and Linux) and then double-click to open an **R** console.

- (a) [easy] To calculate combinations, use the `choose(n,k)` function. Calculate the number of five-card hands from a standard deck by copying the following code into **R** and then pressing enter:

```
choose(52, 5)
```

Please write down the answer. Is the answer the same as we computed in class?

- (b) [easy] Verify the probability in class of a “full house” by copying the following code into **R** and then pressing enter:

```
choose(13, 1) * choose(4, 3) * choose(12, 1) * choose(4, 2) /  
  choose(52, 5)
```

Write down the answer as a *percentage*.

- (c) [harder] We are going to do a little experiment to explore the definition of probability as a limiting frequency. We will be looking at the context of flipping a coin and getting heads. Remember the definition was

$$\mathbb{P}(\{H\}) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{1}_{\omega_i \in \{H\}}}{n}$$

(where  $\mathbf{1}_T$  is the “indicator function” which equals 1 when the expression  $T$  is true and 0 if the expression  $T$  is false). We will run a simulation with large values of  $n$ . Copy and paste the following code into your **R** terminal:

```

N = 30000
sims = sample(0:1, N, replace = T)
freqs_by_n = array(NA, N)
for (n in 1 : N){
  freqs_by_n[n] = sum(sims[1:n]) / n
}
plot(10:N,
     freqs_by_n[10:N],
     xlim = c(10, N),
     ylim = c(0.40, 0.60),
     pch = ".",
     xlab = "number of samples",
     ylab = "frequency of heads",
     main = "P(H) as a limiting frequency: 30,000 samples")
abline(h = 0.5, col = "blue")
freqs_by_n[N]
#last line placeholder

```

If the code throws an error, download the PDF to your computer and try copying and pasting again. It does NOT work from a browser window. The PDF must be downloaded.

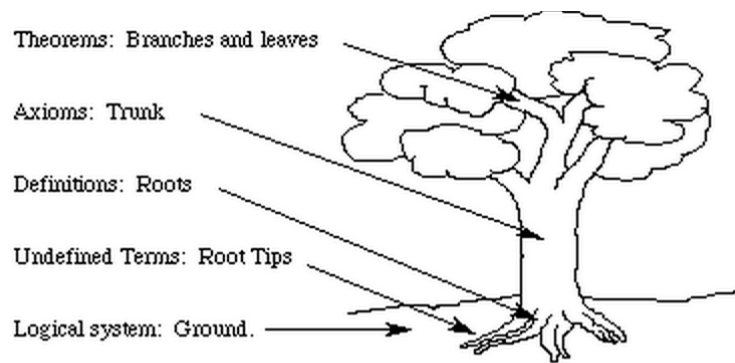
The console should have popped up a plot illustrating a *real* statistical simulation. Each time you run this code it will be different. You can compare plots with your friends but take note that they will not look exactly the same. Print this out and attach it to your homework. If you are using L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, you can include the figure into the PDF.

From the title of the plot and the x and y axes, tell a story about what is going on here *in English*.

- (d) [easy] What is the limiting frequency of heads after 30,000 coin flips to 3 decimals based on the simulation in the previous problem? (that is the number that appears in the console directly after “> freqs\_by\_n[N]”). Write it below and comment on its value.

## Problem 8

We will get our feet wet with basic “axioms” and theorems. Assume all capital letters are sets. If the problem asks you to prove a fact, you may only use your knowledge of set theory and the definition of  $\mathbb{P}(\cdot)$  given in the book / lecture. Most of the answers are in the book or in my lecture notes. Try to do them yourself and only use the book if you are having trouble.



**Figure 1:** An axiomatic system is like a tree.

- (a) [easy] List (1) all assumptions prior to and (2) the three conditions that make  $\mathbb{P}(\cdot)$ , the set function that returns a probability. These latter three conditions are also known as the “axioms of probability.”

- (b) [E.C.] Explain why the three conditions are not technically axioms.