

Homework 12: Indicator Random Variables

1. You randomly throw 6 balls into 10 different baskets. Let X be the number of balls which land in the first basket, and let Y be the number of baskets which are empty.
 - (a) Find $f_X(x)$.
 - (b) Find $E(X)$.
 - (c) Find $E(Y)$. (Hint. Let I_j be the indicator of the event “basket j is empty”. Note that Y is the sum of the I_j ’s.)
2. From a group of 8 math majors and 7 physics majors (no double majors), 4 are randomly selected for the Putnam Competition team. Let M be the number of math majors on the team. Find $E(M)$ in two ways:
 - (a) Use the definition of $E(M)$. (You will need to first find $f_M(m)$.)
 - (b) Use indicator random variables. Specifically, let I_j be the indicator of the event “the j -th person selected is a math major”. Use the fact that $M = I_1 + I_2 + I_3 + I_4$.
3. A population of n people vote in an election. d vote democratic and $n-d$ vote republican. In the next election, the probability of a democratic voter switching to republican is p_1 , and the probability of a republican voter switching to democratic is p_2 . Let X be the number of democratic votes in the second election. Find $E(X)$.