CSE 312: Foundations of Computing II

Section 2: Intro Probability

1. Review of Main Concepts

(a) **Binomial Theorem:** $\forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$: $(x+y)^n = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} x^k y^{n-k}$

(b) **Principle of Inclusion-Exclusion (PIE)**: For 2 events, it says $|A \cup B| = |A| + |B| - |A \cap B|$
For 3 events: $|A \cup B \cup C| = |A| + |B| + |C| - |A \cap B| - |A \cap C| - |B \cap C| + |A \cap B \cap C|$
In general: +singles - doubles + triples - quads + ...

(c) **Complementary Counting (Complementing):** If asked to find the number of ways to do X, you can: find the total number of ways and then subtract the number of ways to not do X.

(d) **Multinomial coefficients**: Suppose there are n objects, but only k are distinct, with $k \leq n$. (For example, "godoggy" has $n = 7$ objects (characters) but only $k = 4$ are distinct: (g, o, d, y)). Let n_i be the number of times object i appears, for $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$. (For example, $(3, 2, 1, 1)$, continuing the "godoggy" example.) The number of distinct ways to arrange the n objects is:

$$\frac{n!}{n_1! n_2! \cdots n_k!} = \binom{n}{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k}$$

(e) **Pigeonhole Principle**: Suppose there are $n-1$ pigeon holes and n pigeons, and each pigeon goes into a hole. Then, there must be some hole that has two pigeons in it. This simple observation is surprisingly useful in computer science.

We can put this more generally as: if there are n pigeons and k holes, and $n > k$, some hole has at least $\lceil \frac{n}{k} \rceil$ pigeons.

For the pigeon haters out there, we can also express this as "we have n holes and $n-1$ pigeons...". Pick your favorite.

(f) **Key Probability Definitions**

(a) **Sample Space:** The set of all possible outcomes of an experiment, denoted Ω or S

(b) **Event:** Some subset of the sample space, usually a capital letter such as $E \subseteq \Omega$

(c) **Union:** The union of two events E and F is denoted $E \cup F$

(d) **Intersection:** The intersection of two events E and F is denoted $E \cap F$ or EF

(e) **Mutually Exclusive:** Events E and F are mutually exclusive iff $E \cap F = \emptyset$

(f) **Complement:** The complement of an event E is denoted E^C or $\overline{E}$ or $\neg E$, and is equal to $\Omega \setminus E$

(g) **DeMorgan's Laws:** $(E \cup F)^C = E^C \cap F^C$ and $(E \cap F)^C = E^C \cup F^C$

(h) **Probability of an event E:** denoted $\mathbb{P}(E)$ or $\Pr(E)$ or $P(E)$

(i) **Partition:** Nonempty events $E_1, \dots, E_n$ partition the sample space Ω iff

- $E_1, \dots, E_n$ are exhaustive: $E_1 \cup E_2 \cup \cdots \cup E_n = \bigcup_{i=1}^{n} E_i = \Omega$, and
- $E_1, \dots, E_n$ are pairwise mutually exclusive: $\forall i \neq j, E_i \cap E_j = \emptyset$
  - Note that for any event A (with $A \neq \emptyset, A \neq \Omega$): A and A^C partition Ω

(g) **Axioms of Probability and their Consequences**

   (a) **Axiom 1: Non-negativity** For any event E, $\mathbb{P}(E) \geq 0$
   (b) **Axiom 2: Normalization** $\mathbb{P}(\Omega) = 1$
   (c) **Axiom 3: Countable Additivity** If E and F are mutually exclusive, then $\mathbb{P}(E \cup F) = \mathbb{P}(E) + \mathbb{P}(F)$. Also, if $E_1, E_2, ...$ is a countable sequence of disjoint events, $\mathbb{P}(\bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} E_i) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}(E_i)$.
   (d) **Corollary 1: Complementation** $\mathbb{P}(E) + \mathbb{P}(E^C) = 1$
   (e) **Corollary 2: Monotonicity** If $E \subseteq F$, $\mathbb{P}(E) \leq \mathbb{P}(F)$
   (f) **Corollary 2: Inclusion-Exclusion** $\mathbb{P}(E \cup F) = \mathbb{P}(E) + \mathbb{P}(F) - \mathbb{P}(E \cap F)$

(h) **Equally Likely Outcomes:** If every outcome in a finite sample space Ω is equally likely, and E is an event, then $\mathbb{P}(E) = \frac{|E|}{|\Omega|}$.

   - Make sure to be consistent when counting $|E|$ and $|\Omega|$. Either order matters in both, or order doesn't matter in both.

2. Spades and Hearts

Given 3 different spades and 3 different hearts, shuffle them. Compute Pr(E), where E is the event that the suits of the shuffled cards are in alternating order.

3. Trick or Treat

Suppose on Halloween, someone is too lazy to keep answering the door, and leaves a jar of exactly N total candies. You count that there are exactly K of them which are kit kats (and the rest are not). The sign says to please take exactly n candies. Each item is equally likely to be drawn. Let X be the number of kit kats we draw (out of n). What is Pr$(X = k)$, that is, the probability we draw exactly k kit kats?

4. Staff Photo

Suppose we have 11 chairs (in a row) with 7 TA's, and Professors Karlin, Ruzzo, Rao, and Tompa to be seated. Suppose all seatings are equally likely. What is the probability that every professor has a TA to their immediate left and right?

5. A Team and a Captain

Give a combinatorial proof of the following identity:

$$n\binom{n-1}{r-1} = \binom{n}{r}r.$$

Hint: Consider two ways to choose a team of size r out of a set of size n and a captain of the team (who is also one of the team members).

6. Weighted Die

Consider a weighted die such that

- Pr$(1) =$ Pr(2),
- Pr$(3) =$ Pr$(4) =$ Pr$(5) =$ Pr(6), and
- Pr$(1) = 3$Pr(3).

What is the probability that the outcome is 3 or 4?

7. Fleas on Squares (Pigeonhole principle)

25 fleas sit on a 5×5 checkerboard, one per square. At the stroke of noon, all jump across an edge (not a corner) of their square to an adjacent square. At least two must end up in the same square. Why?

8. Congressional Tea Party

Twenty politicians are having a tea party, 6 Democrats and 14 Republicans.

(a) If they only give tea to 10 of the 20 people, what is the probability that they only give tea to Republicans?

(b) If they only give tea to 10 of the 20 people, what is the probability that they give tea to 8 Republicans and 2 Democrats?

9. GREED INNIT

(a) Find the number of ways to rearrange the word "INGREDIENT", such that no two identical letters are adjacent to each other. For example, "INGREEDINT" is invalid because the two E's are adjacent.

(b) Repeat the question for the letters "AAAAABBB".

10. Count the Solutions

Consider the following equation: $a_1 + a_2 + a_3 + a_4 + a_5 + a_6 = 70$. A solution to this equation over the nonnegative integers is a choice of a nonnegative integer for each of the variables $a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_5, a_6$ that satisfies the equation. For example, $a_1 = 15, a_2 = 3, a_3 = 15, a_4 = 0, a_5 = 7, a_6 = 30$ is a solution. To be different, two solutions have to differ on the value assigned to some a_i. How many different solutions are there to the equation?