

Please simplify your answers to the extent reasonable without a calculator. Show your work. Explain your answers, concisely.

1. [25 points] Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  be events in a probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ . Suppose  $P(A) = P(B) = P(C) = 1/2$ . What is the smallest possible value for  $P(A \cap B) + P(B \cap C) + P(C \cap A)$ ?

Let  $x = P(A \cap B) + P(B \cap C) + P(C \cap A)$ . Using the Kolmogorov axioms and the inclusion-exclusion principle, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} 1 = P(\Omega) &\geq P(A \cup B \cup C) = P(A) + P(B) + P(C) - x + P(A \cap B \cap C) \\ &= \frac{3}{2} - x + P(A \cap B \cap C) \\ \Rightarrow x &\geq 1/2 + P(A \cap B \cap C). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $P(A \cap B \cap C) \geq 0$ , and can be 0, the smallest possible value for  $x = P(A \cap B) + P(B \cap C) + P(C \cap A)$  is  $1/2$ .

2. A special *unfair* die has probabilities of rolling  $m$  and  $n$  whose ratio is  $m/n$ , for all  $m, n \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ .

- a. [10 points] Find  $P(n)$  for each  $n \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ .

$P(n)/P(1) = n/1$ , so  $P(n) = nP(1)$ . Since  $\Omega = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ , by definition  $1 = P(\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}) = P(1) + \dots + P(6) = P(1)(1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6) = 21P(1)$ . Thus  $P(n) = n/21$ .

- b. [10 points] If you roll the die twice, what is the probability that the sum of your two rolls is 7?

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{sum } 7) &= 2(P(1)P(6) + P(2)P(5) + P(3)P(4)) \\ &= \frac{2}{21^2}(1 \cdot 6 + 2 \cdot 5 + 3 \cdot 4) \\ &= \frac{2^2}{3^2 \cdot 7^2} 14 = \frac{2^3}{3^2 \cdot 7} = \frac{8}{63}. \end{aligned}$$

- c. [5 points] Is your answer to (b) larger or smaller than what the probability would be if you were rolling a fair die?

For a fair die, each probability  $P(n) = 1/6$ , so

$$P(\text{sum } 7) = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot \frac{1}{6^2} = \frac{1}{6} > \frac{8}{63}.$$

3. [25 points] You play the following game with a fair die: Roll the die. If it is  $n$ , you roll the die  $n$  more times. If you roll a second  $n$ , you win. What is the probability that you win?

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(\text{win}) &= 1 - P(\text{lose}) \\
 &= 1 - \sum_{n=1}^6 P(\text{lose} \mid n)P(n) \\
 &= 1 - \frac{1}{6} \sum_{n=1}^6 \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^n \\
 &= 1 - \frac{1}{6} \frac{5/6 - (5/6)^7}{1 - 5/6} \\
 &= \frac{1}{6} + \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^7.
 \end{aligned}$$

4. [25 points] Let  $Z = (X, Y)$  be a point chosen uniformly at random in the unit square  $[0, 1]^2 = \{(x, y) : 0 \leq x, y \leq 1\}$ . Find the cumulative distribution function for the random variable  $D =$  distance from  $Z$  to the closest point on the boundary of the square, and then find its probability density function.

For  $0 \leq d \leq 1/2$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(D \leq d) &= P(Z \text{ is within } d \text{ of the boundary}) \\
 &= P(Z \text{ is not in the square of side } 1 - 2d \text{ around the center of the square}) \\
 &= 1 - (1 - 2d)^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

So

$$F(d) = \begin{cases} 0 & d \leq 0; \\ 1 - (1 - 2d)^2 & 0 \leq d \leq 1/2; \\ 1 & 1/2 \leq d. \end{cases}$$

Taking the derivative with respect to  $d$  gives the pdf:

$$f(d) = \begin{cases} 4(1 - 2d) & 0 < d < 1/2; \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$