Discrete Mathematics and Probability

Session 2022/23, Semester 1

Task 1. Retrieve your submissions from Homework 4 in Week 8 as well as the solution notes on the course website. Compare solutions around the group.

How did you count the number of permutations in Question 1(a)? What approach did you take to the calculation in Question 1(b)?

For Question 2 show your tables for part (a). How did you calculate the standard deviation for part (c)?

Task 2. I roll a fair six-sided die repeatedly until I get a result that is more than two. This takes me K rolls, giving a random variable with geometric distribution $K \sim \text{Geom}(p)$ where p is the chance of succeeding in one roll. Calculate the following.

- (a) The value of p.
- (b) The chance that it takes me exactly three rolls to get this result.
- (c) P(K > 3), the probability that it takes more than three rolls.
- (d) The expectation E(K). (You can use the formula for expectation of geometric distribution from last week's lecture slides or the textbook.)

Task 3. Discrete random variable X is known to have expected value E(X) = 5.8 and take three possible values: value $x_1 = 3$ with probability $p_1 = 0.2$, value $x_2 = 5$ with probability $p_2 = 0.4$, and value x_3 with probability p_3 . Find p_3 , x_3 , standard deviation σ_X , and the cumulative distribution function F(x) of X.

Task 4. A commuter travels by train twice a day: heading into town in the morning and coming back home in the evening. Trains run every 20 minutes, but the commuter arrives at the station randomly and always takes the next train. This means waiting at the station between 0 and 20 minutes two times each day. These waits are distributed uniformly Unif(0, 20) and it turns out that the total waiting time each day in minutes is a random variable T with the following PDF.

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{t}{400} & 0 \le t < 20\\ \frac{40-t}{400} & 20 \le t < 40\\ 0 & t < 0 \text{ or } t \ge 40 \end{cases}$$

- (a) Sketch a graph of the probability density function f(t).
- (b) Calculate the corresponding cumulative distribution function F(t) for the random variable T. Sketch the graph of F(t). (It is possible to do this by integration, but it's not essential and you may find it simpler to use geometry to calculate the area of certain triangles.)
- (c) What is the probability that tomorrow the commuter has to wait no more than 10 minutes in total?