Discrete Mathematics and Probability

Session 2024/25, Semester 1

Task A

You decide to have a dinner party. Even though you are incredibly popular and have 14 different friends, you only have enough chairs to invite 6 of them.

- (a) How many choices do you have for which 6 friends to invite?
- (b) What if you need to decide not only which friends to invite but also where to seat them along your long table? How many choices do you have then?
- (c) Discuss how your answers to the first two parts relate to each other and whether this makes good sense.
- (d) How many ways could your group sit at your tutorial table?

You can leave factorials in your answers.

Task B

Seven women and nine men are in an Institute in the Informatics department at a university.

- (a) How many ways are there to select a committee of five members from the Institute if at least one woman must be on the committee?
- (b) How many ways are there to select a committee of five members from the Institute if at least one woman and at least one man must be on the committee?

Task C

A telegraph sends out three symbols on the communication line.

- (a) Using 1 for symbol received and 0 for a missed symbol. List all the possible outcomes for the three symbols as a string of 3 bits.
- (b) Represent the following events in a single Venn diagram:

 $A_{1} = \{ \text{only the first symbol is received} \}$ $A_{2} = \{ \text{at least one symbol is received} \}$ $A_{3} = \{ \text{exactly two symbols are received} \}$ $A_{4} = \{ \text{less than two symbols are received} \}$ $A_{5} = \{ \text{exactly one symbol is received} \}$

NB: You may find it helpful to change the binary string into an integer for your Venn diagram.

Task D

Five cards are numbered as 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Three cards are randomly selected from the set and are lined up next to each other to form a 3-digit number x. Find the probabilities of the following events:

- (a) $A = \{x = 123\}$
- (b) $B = \{x \text{ does not contain the digit } 4\}$
- (c) $C = \{x \text{ is even}\}$
- (d) $D = \{x \text{ contains at least one of the digits } 1, 2\}$

Task E

- (a) How many functions $f: \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\} \rightarrow \{a, b, c, d\}$ are there?
- (b) How many functions $f:\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\} \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8\}$ are bijective?
- (c) How many functions $f:\{1,2,3\} \rightarrow \{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8\}$ are injective?

Task F

In how many ways can you order the elements of the set $\{1, 2, ..., 2n\}$ so that every even number is at an even position?