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NPTEL

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Courses » An Introduction to Probability in Computing

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Unit 5 - Week 3

Course outline

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Week 3

- Tail Bounds I - Markov's Inequality
- Tail Bounds I - The Second Moment, Variance & Chebyshev's Inequality
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Interaction Session

Assignment 3

The due date for submitting this assignment has passed. **Due on 2018-02-28, 23:59 IST.**

Submitted assignment

1) Consider two unbiased coins that are flipped independently. Let $X \in \{0, 1\}$ and $Y \in \{0, 1\}$ be two random variables denoting their outcomes with 1 indicating heads and 0 indicating tails. Suppose we limit the sample space of the experiment to $S = \{01, 10, 11\}$ instead of the actual $S = \{00, 01, 10, 11\}$. What is the co-variance of the two random variables?

 $\frac{1}{2}$

 $\frac{3}{4}$

 $-\frac{1}{3}$

 $-\frac{1}{9}$

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

 $-\frac{1}{9}$

2) Let X be the random variable that takes on the value generated by selecting an integer uniformly at random from the interval $[1, n]$. What is $E[X]$? **1 point**

 1

 $\frac{n}{2}$

 $\frac{n+1}{2}$

 $\frac{1}{n}$

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

 $\frac{n+1}{2}$

3) Let X be the random variable that takes on the value generated by selecting an integer uniformly at random from the interval $[1, n]$. What is the second moment of X ? **1 point**

 n^2

$$\frac{n^2}{2}$$

$$\frac{n(n+1)}{2}$$

$$\frac{(2n+1)(n+1)}{6}$$

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

$$\frac{(2n+1)(n+1)}{6}$$

4) Let X be the random variable that takes on the value generated by selecting an integer uniformly at random from the interval $[1, n]$. What is $\text{Var}[X]$? 1 point

$$\frac{n^2-1}{12}$$

$$\frac{n^2}{12}$$

$$\frac{(n)(n+1)}{6}$$

$$\frac{n}{12}$$

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

$$\frac{n^2-1}{12}$$

5) We learnt that Markov's inequality gives a pretty weak bound. When would you say it's a good choice to use Markov's inequality? 1 point

When expectation of a random variable is pretty high (such as $n/2$)

When expectation of a random variable can be brought down to very low values (such as $\frac{1}{n^3}$)

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

When expectation of a random variable can be brought down to very low values (such as $\frac{1}{n^3}$)

6) Let X be the random variable that counts the number of times an unbiased coin turns up head when it is tossed n times independently. Using Markov's inequality, the probability that the number of heads is at least $\frac{3n}{4}$ is at most 1 point

$$\frac{n}{2}$$

$$\frac{1}{2}$$

$$\frac{1}{4}$$

$$\frac{2}{3}$$

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

$$\frac{2}{3}$$

7)

1 point

For a $0 - 1$ random variable X , is $E[X^2] = E[X]$? What about $E[X^n]$ for some large integer n ? Choose which one of the following statements is correct.

- $E[X^2] = E[X]$ and $E[X^n] = E[X]$
- $E[X^2] \neq E[X]$ but $E[X^n] = E[X]$
- $E[X^2] = E[X]$ but $E[X^n] \neq E[X]$
- $E[X^2] \neq E[X]$ and $E[X^n] \neq E[X]$

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

$E[X^2] = E[X]$ and $E[X^n] = E[X]$

8) Let X be the random variable that counts the number of times heads turns up when an unbiased coin is tossed n times. Recall that the Chebyshev's inequality states: **1 point**

$Pr(|X - E[X]| \geq a) \leq \frac{Var(X)}{a^2}$ Using Chebyshev's inequality, the probability the number of heads is at least $\frac{3n}{4}$ is at most

- $\frac{n}{2}$
- $\frac{4}{n}$
- $\frac{1}{n}$
- $\frac{2}{3}$

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

$\frac{4}{n}$

9) Consider a random variable X . If for a constant c , $E[cX] = cE[X]$, what is $Var(cX)$? **1 point**

- $Var(cX) = cVar(X)$
- $Var(cX) = \frac{1}{c} Var(X)$
- $Var(cX) = c^2 Var(X)$
- $Var(cX) = 0$

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

$Var(cX) = c^2 Var(X)$

10) What is the variance of a geometric random variable that has a probability p of success? **1 point**

- p
- $\frac{1}{p}$
- $\frac{1-p}{p^2}$

$$\frac{1-p}{p}$$

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

$$\frac{1-p}{p^2}$$

11) Let's consider an experiment in which a fair coin is tossed n times to obtain n random bits. **1 point**
Consider $m = \binom{n}{2}$ pairs of these bits in some order. Let Y_i be the exclusive-or of the i^{th} pair of bits. Let $Y = \sum_{i=1}^m Y_i$ be the number of Y_i that equal to 1. What is the probability that any given Y_i is 0?

$$\frac{1}{4}$$

$$\frac{1}{m}$$

$$\frac{1}{n}$$

$$\frac{1}{2}$$

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

$$\frac{1}{2}$$

12) In the experiment described in 11, are any two given random variables Y_i and Y_j guaranteed **1 point** to be always independent?

No

Yes

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

Yes

13) In the experiment described in 11, is $E[Y_i Y_j] = E[Y_i] E[Y_j]$? **1 point**

No

Yes

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

Yes

14) For a coin that comes up heads with probability p on each flip, let X denote the number of **1 point** flips until the k^{th} head appears. What is the $\text{Var}[X]$?

$$\frac{1}{k}$$

$$\frac{k(1-p)}{p^2}$$

$$\frac{1}{1-k}$$

$$\frac{1-p}{p^2}$$

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

$$\frac{k(1-p)}{p^2}$$

Consider the median finding algorithm for finding the median m of a set S of n items from an ordered universe on page~54 of the textbook "Probability and Computing: Randomized Algorithms and Probabilistic Analysis" by Michael Mitzenmacher and Eli Upfal (First Edition) 1. The following **four** questions are based on your comprehension of the algorithm and its analysis. (Please note that this material is being used for educational purposes in this assignment.)

15)

1 point

Additional material for question 15 to 18

[CLICK HERE](#)Can the median finding algorithm output an element in S that is not the median?

- yes
 No

No, the answer is incorrect.**Score: 0****Accepted Answers:***No*

16) Which step in the algorithm guarantees the outcome presented in the previous question?

1 point

- Step 6
 Step 7
 Step 8
 Step 5

No, the answer is incorrect.**Score: 0****Accepted Answers:***Step 6*17) Would any of the following conditions lead the algorithm to fail in finding the median? Choose **1 point** all that apply.

- When median is in C

 When median is not in C
 When the set is sorted

 When median is $n/2$
 None of the above

No, the answer is incorrect.**Score: 0****Accepted Answers:***When median is not in C* 18) Consider the following description of events for the median finding algorithm from the **1 point** textbook "Probability and Computing: Randomized Algorithms and Probabilistic Analysis" by Michael Mitzenmacher and Eli Upfal (First Edition) 1, where m is the median: $\mathcal{E}_1 : |C| > 4n^{3/4}$

$$\mathcal{E}_2 : Y_1 = |\{r \in R \mid r \leq m\}| < 1/2n^{3/4} - \sqrt{n}$$

$$\mathcal{E}_3 : Y_3 = |\{r \in R \mid r \geq m\}| < 1/2n^{3/4} - \sqrt{n}$$

When will the algorithm fail? Choose all options that may apply.

- None of the events happen.

 If \mathcal{E}_1 happens.

- If at least one of the three events occur.
- If all three events occur.

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

If \mathcal{E}_1 happens.

If at least one of the three events occur.

If all three events occur.

19) What is the moment generating function $M_X(t)$ of a Bernoulli random variable X which has a **1 point** probability p of success?

- pe^t
- $1 + pe^{t+1}$
- $1 + p(e^t - 1)$
- $1 + pe^{t-1}$

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

$1 + p(e^t - 1)$

20) Alice and Bob play chess often. Alice wins any given game they play with probability 0.6. **1 point** They both decide to play n games in total. Use the following Chernoff bound to bound the probability that

Alice loses more than half the games they play. For $0 \leq \delta \leq 1$, $Pr(X \geq (1 + \delta)\mu) \leq e^{\frac{-\mu\delta^2}{3}}$ Choose the answer that is most appropriate.

- $e^{\frac{n}{2}}$
- $e^{\frac{-n}{120}}$
- $e^{\frac{-1}{n}}$
- e

No, the answer is incorrect.

Score: 0

Accepted Answers:

$e^{\frac{-n}{120}}$

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