

Practice Midterm 1 solutions.

1.. Take a year as 365 days. Each other student has chance  $364/365$  to have a different birthday than you. So the chance that all 26 other students have birthdays different from yours is  $(364/365)^{26} \approx 0.931$ . So the chance that someone has the same birthday as you is  $1 - 0.931 = 6.9\%$ .

*Comment.* (a) The answer  $26/365 = 7.1\%$  is wrong – you can't add, because the events are not mutually exclusive.

(b) This is different from “the birthday problem”, which asks for the chance that some two people have the same birthday.

(c) Taking 365.25 days in a year would be more precise, but the difference is negligible. The calculation is sensible provided your birthday isn't February 29. If your birthday is February 29, the calculation is  $1 - (1460/1461)^{26} \approx 1.8\%$ .

2. If there are  $N$  families then there are  $1 \times 0.15N + 2 \times 0.3N + 3 \times 0.25N + 4 \times 0.2N = 2.3N$  children. Of these,  $0.75N$  are in 3-child families. So chance =  $\frac{0.75N}{2.3N} = 32.6\%$ .

*Comment.* Can't do this via Bayes formula.

3.

		$x$			
		0	1	2	3
$y$	0	0	3/20	6/20	1/20
	1	1/20	6/20	3/20	0

(b)  $E(XY) = 1 \times 6/20 + 2 \times 3/20 = 0.6$ .

4. (a) No, because 7 is a “red” number.

(b) If you win at least once then you are up by \$18; if you don't win then you are down \$18. There is negligible chance then I am up or down as much as 18, so

$P(\text{you gain more than me}) \approx P(\text{you win at least once}) = 1 - (37/38)^{18} = 38.1\%$ .

*Comment.* Normal approximation isn't relevant here.

5.. Let  $D$  be the difference “number in sample know Jackson - number know Kane”. Then  $D = \sum_{i=1}^{100} X_i$  where

$$\begin{aligned} X_i &= 1 && \text{if } i\text{'th student knows Jackson but not Kane} \\ &= -1 && \text{if } i\text{'th student knows Kane but not Jackson} \\ &= 0 && \text{otherwise} \end{aligned}$$

So  $P(X_i = 1) = 21\%$ ,  $P(X_i = -1) = 12\%$ ,  $P(X_i = 0) = 67\%$ . We can now calculate

$$EX = 0.09 \quad \text{s.d.}(X) = \sqrt{0.33 - 0.09^2} = 0.567$$

$$ED = 9.0 \quad \text{s.d.}(D) = \sqrt{100} \times 0.567 = 5.67$$

Since  $D$  has approximately Normal distribution

$$P(D < 0) \approx \Phi\left(\frac{-0.5 - 9.0}{5.67}\right) = \Phi(-1.67) = 4.7\%$$

using the discreteness correction.