

Math 452 - HW02

1) Let  $X_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if Alice wins, with probability } 0.7 \\ 0 & \text{if Alice loses, with probability } 0.3 \end{cases}$ .

( $X_i$  is the random variable indicating whether Alice wins or not in the  $i$ th game).

Let  $X = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n$ . Thus,  $X$  is the random variable indicating the number of games Alice wins in the tournament.

Then,  $\mathbb{E}[X_i] = 0.7$  and  $\mu = \mathbb{E}[X] = n(0.7)$ .

Recall that Alice ~~loses~~ the tournament if she wins less than half of the games, i.e.,  $X \leq \frac{n-1}{2}$ .

By Chernoff's bound for  $\{0,1\}$ -valued r.v.'s. (See other useful forms in the lecture note):

$$P(X \leq (1-\epsilon)\mu) \leq e^{-\mu\epsilon^2/2}$$

Set  $(1-\epsilon)\mu = \frac{n-1}{2}$ , and find  $\epsilon$ ,

$$0.7n(1-\epsilon) = 0.5n - 0.5$$

$$0.7n - \epsilon 0.7n = 0.5n - 0.5$$

$$0.2n + 0.5 = \epsilon 0.7n$$

$$\frac{2}{7} + \frac{5}{7n} = \epsilon$$

$$\Rightarrow \epsilon = \frac{2}{7} + \frac{5}{7n} > \frac{2}{7} \Rightarrow \epsilon^2 > \frac{4}{49}$$

$$\therefore P(X \leq \frac{n-1}{2}) = P(X \leq (1-\epsilon)\mu) \leq e^{-\mu\epsilon^2/2} < e^{-0.7n(\frac{4}{49})/2}$$

$$\therefore P(X \leq \frac{n-1}{2}) \leq e^{-n/5}$$

2) Let  $X$  be the number of times that a 6 occurs over  $n$  throws of the die.

Let  $p = \mathbb{P}(X \geq \frac{n}{4})$ .

a) Markov's inequality:

$$p = \mathbb{P}(X \geq \frac{n}{4}) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[X]}{\frac{n}{4}} = \frac{4\mathbb{E}[X]}{n}$$

We need to evaluate  $\mathbb{E}[X]$ :

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right] = n \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}[X_i] = \frac{n}{6}$$

where  $X_i$  is the result we get at the  $i$ th throws, i.e.  $X_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{w/ prob } 1/6 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise w/ prob } 5/6 \end{cases}$

$$\therefore p \leq \frac{4 \left(\frac{n}{6}\right)}{n} = \frac{4}{6} = \frac{2}{3}$$

b) Chebyshev's inequality:

$$\mathbb{P}(|X - \mathbb{E}[X]| > t) \leq \frac{\text{Var}[X]}{t^2}$$

$$\text{Var}[X] = \text{Var}\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right] = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}[X_i] = n \cdot \frac{5}{36} = \frac{5n}{36}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \mathbb{P}\left(X \geq \frac{n}{4}\right) &= \mathbb{P}\left(X - \frac{n}{6} \geq \frac{n}{4} - \frac{n}{6}\right) \\ &= \mathbb{P}\left(X - \mathbb{E}[X] \geq \frac{n}{12}\right) \\ &\leq \mathbb{P}\left(|X - \mathbb{E}[X]| \geq \frac{n}{12}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Chebyshev's ineq. with  $t = \frac{n}{12}$

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq \frac{\text{Var}[X]}{\left(\frac{n}{12}\right)^2} \\ &= \frac{12^2}{n^2} \cdot \frac{5n}{36} \\ &= \frac{420}{n} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore p \leq \frac{420}{n}$$

c) Chernoff's inequality:

$$p = P(X \geq \frac{n}{4})$$

$$P(X \geq (1+\epsilon)\mu) \leq e^{-\mu\epsilon^2/4}$$

$$\text{We want } (1+\epsilon)\mu = \frac{n}{4} \Rightarrow (1+\epsilon)\frac{n}{6} = \frac{n}{4}$$

$$1+\epsilon = \frac{3}{2} \Rightarrow \epsilon = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\therefore p = P(X \geq \frac{n}{4}) = P(X \geq (1+\epsilon)\mu) \leq e^{-\frac{n}{6} \cdot (\frac{1}{2})^2/4} = e^{-n/96}$$

$$\therefore \boxed{p \leq e^{-n/96}}$$

$$3) X_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{w/p } 1/2 \\ -1 & \text{w/p } 1/2 \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Let } S = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$$

a) Since  $Y = |S|$ ,  $Y$  is a non-negative random variable, Markov's inequality holds for  $Y$ . That is, for  $t > 0$ ,

$$P(Y \geq t) \leq \frac{E[Y]}{t}$$

b) Chebyshev's inequality: for  $S$

$$P(|S - E[S]| \geq t) \leq \frac{\text{Var}[S]}{t^2}$$

$$E[S] = E[\sum_i X_i] = \sum_i E[X_i] = 0$$

$$\text{Var}[S] = \text{Var}[\sum_i X_i] = \sum_i \text{Var}[X_i] = n$$

$$\therefore P(|S| \geq t) \leq \frac{n}{t^2}$$

c) (This is similar to the way we prove Chernoff's bound).

$$\begin{aligned} P(S \geq a) &= P(X_1 + \dots + X_n \geq a) \\ &= P(\lambda \sum_i X_i \geq \lambda a) \quad \text{for } \lambda \geq 0 \\ &= P(e^{\lambda \sum_i X_i} \geq e^{\lambda a}) \quad \text{since } e^x \text{ is monotone.} \end{aligned}$$

Markov's  $\leftarrow \leq e^{-\lambda a} \mathbb{E}[e^{\lambda \sum X_i}]$

Now, let's consider  $\mathbb{E}[e^{\lambda \sum_i X_i}]$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[e^{\lambda \sum_i X_i}] &= \mathbb{E}[e^{\lambda X_1} \cdot e^{\lambda X_2} \dots e^{\lambda X_n}] \\ &= \prod_i \mathbb{E}[e^{\lambda X_i}] \quad \text{since } X_i \text{'s are independent.} \\ &= \prod_i (e^\lambda \cdot P(X_i = 1) + e^{-\lambda} P(X_i = -1)) \\ &= \prod_i \frac{e^\lambda + e^{-\lambda}}{2} \\ &= \prod_i \cosh(\lambda) \\ &= (\cosh(\lambda))^n \end{aligned}$$

Consider  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$ , then  $\cosh(\lambda) \leq e^{\lambda^2/2}$ .

$$\therefore (\cosh(\lambda))^n \leq e^{\lambda^2 n/2}$$

$$\therefore P(S \geq a) \leq e^{-\lambda a} \mathbb{E}[e^{\lambda \sum_i X_i}] = e^{\frac{\lambda^2 n}{2} - \lambda a}$$

Recall that min of  $\frac{\lambda^2 n}{2} - \lambda a$  occurs at  $\lambda = \frac{a}{n}$ .  $\leftarrow$  take this one.

$$\therefore P(S \geq a) \leq e^{\frac{a^2}{n^2} \cdot \frac{n}{2} - \frac{a^2}{n}} = e^{-a^2/2n}$$