MATH 421 PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTIONS AND EXAM PREVIEW SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

Work in groups of any size to solve the problems on this sheet (start with the problems on this side). Write your solutions on a separate piece of paper and turn in one set of solutions per group. I don't expect you to get to every problem–just turn in what you have done at the end of class.

The die-coin experiment gave us two random variables: the number rolled on the die, R, and the number of heads flipped on the coin, F. Each random variable has an associated *probability distribution function (pdf)* giving the probability of the random variable taking different values. You found the pdf of R on the first problem of the previous worksheet: $f(x) = P(R = x) = \frac{1}{6}$ if x = 1, 2, ..., 6 (we generally only care about the non-zero values of a pdf). The pdf of the random variable F is g(y) = P(F = y), which we have noticed is hard to calculate. However, we do know that $g(6) = \frac{1}{384}$ and $g(5) = \frac{1}{48}$.

1. The function f(x|5) = P(R = x|F = 5) is the conditional pdf of R given F = 5. Find the function f(x|5).

- **2.** The function g(x|y) = P(F = x|R = y) is the conditional pdf of F given R = y.
- a) Find the function g(x|1).

b) Find the function g(x|2).

c) Find a general formula for the function g(x|y).

3. The function f(x,y) = P(R = x and F = y) is the joint probability distribution function of R and F. Give a formula for f(x,y).

The following problems have all appeared on past versions of Exam 1.

4. Let A and B be events with P(A) = 0.7, P(B) = 0.8, and $P(A \cup B) = 0.9$. Are A and B independent? Prove that your answer is correct.

5. Events A, B, and C occur with probabilities 0.3, 0.5, and 0.6, respectively, and are independent. Calculate $P(A \cup B \cup C)$.

6. Suppose events A and B are independent, $A \subseteq B$, and P(A) > 0. Calculate P(B).

7. A pair of dice is rolled. Given that the sum of the numbers is 6, what is the probability that (at least) one of the dice showed a 1?

8. Let X be the number of heads in 4 flips of a coin that is weighted to flip heads with probability 0.6. Calculate the probability that X is odd.

9. Cards are dealt from a well-shuffled deck until the first heart is dealt. Let X be the total number of cards dealt (including the heart). Calculate P(X > 4).

10. Let X be the lesser of the two numbers rolled on a pair of dice (so X(2,4) = 2, X(2,5) = 2, X(3,3) = 3, and so on). Calculate $P(X \le 5)$.

11. The joint probability distribution of discrete random variables X and Y is $f(x,y) = \frac{xy}{30}$ for x = 1, 2, 3 and y = 2, 3. Are X and Y independent?