

Randomised Algorithms

Example Class 1

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UNIVERSITY OF
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Schedule:

- Example Class 1 (today)
- Example Class 2 (10 February)
- Demo on Linear/Integer Programming applied to TSP (17 February)
- More Example Classes (3 more slots in February, 3 in March)
- Homework with Feedback?

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Structure of Example Classes:

- Model Solution of some questions announced earlier
- Q & A
- (suggestions?)

1st Question

- We consider the coupon collecting problem with n coupons.
 - (a) Prove that it takes $n \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k}$ days on expectation to collect all coupons.
 - (b) Deduce that the probability it takes more than $n \log n + cn$ days is at most e^{-c} .

1st Question, Part a) (Solution)

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- Let $Z_1, Z_2, \dots \in [n]$ be the sequence of drawn coupons
- $T_i := \min \{t \geq 0: |\cup_{s=1}^t Z_s| = i\}$, ($T_0 = 0$, $T_1 = 1$ and $T_n = T$).

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Then, using a telescoping sum and linearity of expectations,

$$\mathbf{E}[T] = \mathbf{E}[T_n - T_0] = \mathbf{E}\left[\sum_{k=1}^n (T_k - T_{k-1})\right] = \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbf{E}[T_k - T_{k-1}].$$

The random variable $T_k - T_{k-1}$ counts the waiting time between the day having $k-1$ coupons (for the first time) and the day having k coupons (for the first time). This random variable has a [geometric distribution](#) with parameter (i.e., success probability) $\frac{n-(k-1)}{n}$, and thus $\mathbf{E}[T_k - T_{k-1}] = \frac{n}{n-(k-1)}$. Thus,

$$\mathbf{E}[T] = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{n}{n-(k-1)} = n \cdot \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{n-(k-1)} = n \cdot \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{k} \approx n \ln n.$$

1st Question, Part b) (Solution)

For the second part of the question, consider any coupon $i \in [n]$ and let $\tau := n \ln n + cn$. Then the waiting time $Z_i := \min \{t \geq 1 : Z_t = i\}$ until this coupon is obtained has a **geometric distribution** with parameter $1/n$.

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Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P}[Y_i > \tau] &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)^\tau \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)^{n \ln n + cn} \\ &\leq \exp(-\ln n - c) = \frac{1}{n} \cdot e^{-c}, \end{aligned}$$

where the second inequality used $1 - x \leq e^{-x}$ which holds for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$.

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Now by the **Union Bound** and definition of T and Z_i ,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{P}[T > \tau] &= \mathbf{P}\left[\bigcup_{i=1}^n \{Y_i > \tau\}\right] \leq \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{P}[Z_i > \tau] \\ &= n \cdot \frac{1}{n} \cdot e^{-c} = e^{-c}.\end{aligned}$$

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- We can also apply **Chebyshev** to the sum of geometric random variables used in Part a)
- Here we rely on the variance being additive for **independent** variables:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{V}[T] &= \mathbf{V}\left[\sum_{k=1}^n T_k - T_{k-1}\right] \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbf{V}[T_k - T_{k-1}] \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1 - \frac{n-(k-1)}{n}}{\left(\frac{n-(k-1)}{n}\right)^2} \\ &\leq n^2 \cdot \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{1}{n - (k-1)^2} \\ &\leq n^2 \cdot \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^2} \\ &\leq n^2 \cdot \frac{\pi^2}{6}.\end{aligned}$$

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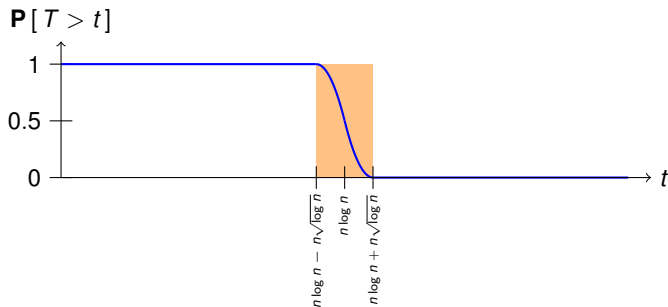
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- This implies [concentration](#) of T ; the distribution of the upper tail drops [sharply](#) from 1 to 0:



2nd Question

Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be n independent geometric random variables, each with parameter p (so $\mathbf{E}[X_i] = 1/p$ for each $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$). Derive a Chernoff bound for $X := \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$.

2nd Question (Solution)

- **First Approach:** Use recipe for Chernoff Bounds by bounding $\mathbf{E} [e^{tX_i}]$ (a bit technical, since the random variable X_i has unbounded range)
- **Second Approach:** Relate sum of geometric random variables to a sum of Bernoulli random variables and apply one of the (nicer) Chernoff Bounds

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Hint: Imagine writing out all the outcomes of the n geometric variables as a single binary string (1 = success, 0 = fail)
- Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_k , with $k := (1 + \delta)n/p$ are Bernoulli random variables (coin flips), and $Y := \sum_{i=1}^k Y_i$ has less than n successes:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{P} [X > (1 + \delta)\mathbf{E} [X]] &= \mathbf{P} [Y < n] \\ &= \mathbf{P} [Y < kp - (kp - n)] \\ &= \mathbf{P} \left[Y < \left(1 - \frac{kp - n}{kp}\right) \cdot \mathbf{E} [Y] \right] \\ &\leq \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{kp - n}{kp} \right)^2 kp \right) \leq \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2} \frac{\delta^2 n}{(1 + \delta)} \right) . \end{aligned}$$

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This is slightly better than the previous bound, at least for large values of δ !

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- Then following the recipe of the Chernoff bound,

$$\mathbf{P} [X \leq (1 - \delta)\mu] \leq \mathbf{P} \left[e^{-tX} \geq e^{-t(1+\delta)\mu} \right] = \frac{\mathbf{E} [e^{-tX}]}{e^{-t(1+\delta)\mu}}$$

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- Then following the recipe of the Chernoff bound,

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Recall: We proved for the number of comparisons $H := \sum_{i=1}^n H_i$,

$$\mathbf{P}[H \leq 24n \log n] \geq 1 - n^{-1}.$$

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4th Question

Design a **randomised algorithm** for the following problem. The input consists of an $n \times n$ matrix A with entries in $\{0, 1\}$ and a vector x of length n with entries in the real interval $[0, 1]$. The goal is to return a vector y of length n with entries in $\{0, 1\}$ such that

$$\max_{i=1, \dots, n} |(Ax)_i - (Ay)_i| \leq 2\sqrt{n \log n}$$

with probability at least $1 - 2 \cdot n^{-2}$.

Hint: Your algorithm should have the property that for any $1 \leq i, j \leq n$,

$$\mathbf{E}[A_{i,j} \cdot y_j] = A_{i,j} x_j.$$

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The largest gap between any coordinate in $A \cdot x$ and $A \cdot y$ is $|1.3 - 2| = 0.7$.

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That is $\mathbf{P}[Z > \sqrt{n \log n}] \leq n^{-8}$.

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- Finally, applying **Union Bound** over all $i = 1, \dots, n$ yields

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