



**1. Probability + Stable Marriage (4 points)**

| Men | Preference Lists | Women | Preference Lists |
|-----|------------------|-------|------------------|
| 1   | C > A > B        | A     | 2 > 1 > 3        |
| 2   | B > C > A        | B     | 3 > 1 > 2        |
| 3   | B > C > A        | C     | 3 > 2 > 1        |

Given the preference lists above, if we randomly and uniformly decide a pairing, what is the probability that the pairing is stable and optimal for men or women?

**2. Probability + Polynomial (4 points)**

$P(x)$  is a polynomial of degree at most 1, and each coefficient is decided randomly and uniformly from  $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ . If we consider mod 4, observe  $P(0) = 2$ , and let random variable  $X$  be  $P(2)$ . What is the distribution of  $X$ ?

**3. Apples (8 points, 4 points for each part)**

(a) You want to distribute 10 indistinguishable apples to Margo, Edith, Agnes, and Lucy. How many different ways are there? (You do not need to calculate the exact value of  $\binom{a}{b}$  or  $a!$ .)

(b) Following Part (a), you also want to make sure Agnes gets at least 3 apples and Lucy gets at least 1 apple. How many different ways are there? (You do not need to calculate the exact value of  $\binom{a}{b}$  or  $a!$ .)

**4. Superheros and Gifts (10 points, 4/6 points for each part)**

- (a) Nick has 5 gifts (we do not know they are distinguishable or indistinguishable). For each gift, he randomly and uniformly gives it to one of the three superheroes: Hulk, Iron Man, and Captain America (each superhero has a  $1/3$  probability to get the gift). However, Hulk will become angry if he does not get any gift. What is the probability that Hulk stays calm (not angry)? (Show your work and write down your answer as an integer divided by another integer.)

(They may be useful:  $2^2 = 4, 2^3 = 8, 2^4 = 16, 2^5 = 32, 3^2 = 9, 3^3 = 27, 3^4 = 81, 3^5 = 243.$ )

- (b) Following Part (a), Hulk will also become angry if he finds one or both of Iron Man and Captain America get more gifts than him. What is the probability that Hulk stays calm? (Show your work and write down your answer as an integer divided by another integer.)

(They may be useful:  $\binom{2}{1} = 2, \binom{3}{1} = 3, \binom{4}{1} = 4, \binom{4}{2} = 6, \binom{5}{1} = 5, \binom{5}{2} = 10.$ )

**5. Traffic Dilemma (10 points, 6/4 points for each part)**

(a) Your favorite team plays 50% games at Memorial Stadium, 40% games at AT&T Park, and 10% games at Coliseum. Its winning percentages are 80%, 50%, and 100% at Memorial Stadium, AT&T Park, and Coliseum, respectively. When driving, you hear news that the team just won a game. However, you forget where the game was, so you are not sure if you should detour to avoid traffic near Memorial Stadium. What is the probability that the game was at Memorial Stadium?

(b) Following Part (a), your friend reminds you that, although the driving time (from your current location to your destination) without detouring will be increased from 35 minutes to 70 minutes if there is a game at Memorial Stadium, the driving time (also from your current location to your destination) with detouring still needs 50 minutes. Given this information, should you detour? Justify your answer.

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**6. TRUE or FALSE — First Round (18 points, 8/10 points for each part)**

For any of the following statements, claim TRUE or FALSE first. If you claim TRUE, prove it. If you claim FALSE, disprove it.

- (a) You roll a fair dice twice. Let  $A$  be the event that you get the same outcome on both rolls and  $B$  be the event that you get “5” on your first roll.

Statement:  $A$  and  $B$  are dependent events.

TRUE    FALSE

- (b) Assume each regrade request is submitted and processed independently and the probability that a request is determined as an invalid one is  $4/5$ . Every student can have 3 non-penalized invalid requests (an invalid request means the corresponding number of points not changed), but the 4th one will result in 4-point penalty. You want to submit 4 requests where 1 request is for 5 points (the decision will be either 5 more points or no change) and each of the other 3 requests is for 1 point (the decision will be either 1 more point or no change).

Statement: submitting those 4 requests is advantageous.

TRUE    FALSE

(They may be useful:  $\left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^2 = 0.64$ ;  $\left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^3 = 0.512$ ;  $\left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^4 = 0.4096$ ;  $\left(\frac{4}{5}\right)^5 = 0.32768$ .)

**7. Combinatorial Proof (10 points)**

Use a combinatorial proof to prove the following statement:

$$2n \binom{3n-1}{n-1} = \sum_{i=1}^n \left( i \binom{n}{i} \binom{2n}{i} \right).$$

**8. TRUE or FALSE — Second Round (24 points, 12 points for each part)**

For any of the following statements, claim TRUE or FALSE first. If you claim TRUE, prove it. If you claim FALSE, disprove it (*e.g.*, provide a counterexample).

- (a) There are 4 bins, and each bin has some black balls and some white balls. When you draw a ball from Bin  $i$ , the probability of getting a black ball is  $p_i$ , where  $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ , and you are given that  $p_1 \leq p_2$  and  $p_3 \leq p_4$ . Now, you put all balls in Bin 1 and Bin 3 to an empty bin, Bin 5, and you also put all balls in Bin 2 and Bin 4 to an empty bin, Bin 6. Define  $p_5, p_6$  as the probabilities of getting a black ball from Bin 5 and Bin 6, respectively.

Statement:  $p_5 \leq p_6$ .

TRUE    FALSE

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(b) Statement: for any three events  $A_1, A_2, A_3$  where  $0 < \Pr[A_i] < 1$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ , if  $\Pr[A_1 \cap A_2 \cap A_3] = \Pr[A_1] \times \Pr[A_2] \times \Pr[A_3]$ , then  $A_1, A_2, A_3$  are pairwise independent.

TRUE    FALSE

**9. Secret Sharing (12 points)**

The United Nations consists of  $n$  countries ( $n > 3$ ), and they are working with Thor and Loki. A vault can be opened with a secret  $s$ , and it should only be opened in any one of three situations:

1. All  $n$  countries in the UN help.
2. At least  $m$  countries ( $0 < m < n - 2$ ) get together with Thor.
3. At least  $m + 2$  countries ( $0 < m < n - 2$ ) get together with Loki.

Odin works over  $GF(p)$  where  $p$  is sufficiently large and uses “only one” polynomial to implement a secret sharing scheme. In the scheme,  $P(x)$  is with degree at most  $n - 1$ ,  $P(0)$  is the secret, the  $i$ -th country gets a point  $P(i)$ , Thor gets  $(n - m)$  points  $P(n + 1), P(n + 2), \dots, P(n + (n - m))$ , and Loki gets  $(n - m - 2)$  points  $P(n + (n - m) + 1), P(n + (n - m) + 2), \dots, P(n + (n - m) + (n - m - 2))$ . Does this scheme work?

Hints: given  $n > 3$  and  $0 < m < n - 2$ , we suggest you follow one of the following three paths:

1. Always Works! Claim the scheme works for all  $n, m$  and justify your claim.
2. Sometimes Works! Claim the scheme works for some (but not all)  $n, m$ , provide the condition that it works, and justify your claim and condition.
3. Never Works! Claim the scheme does not work for all  $n, m$  and justify your claim.

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**10. Probability + Error Correction (15 bonus points)**

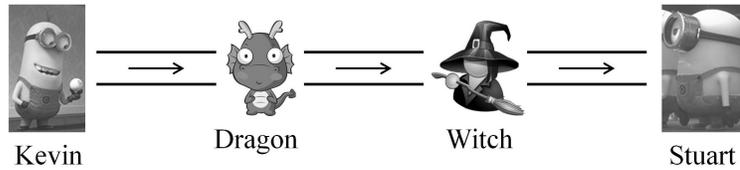


Figure 1: Minions using error correction codes [[http://despicableme.wikia.com/wiki/Despicable\\_Me\\_Wiki](http://despicableme.wikia.com/wiki/Despicable_Me_Wiki)].

Kevin wants to send a message of 10 ordered packets to Stuart. Each packet will first go through a hungry dragon. For each packet, there is a  $1/10$  probability to be eaten by the dragon. Each remaining packet will then go through a witch. For each remaining packet, there is a  $8/9$  probability to be changed by the witch. Given this scenario, how many packets should Kevin send so that the probability that Stuart can recover the message is maximized? Justify your answer (some approximation or estimation is encouraged for this question).

The following table of  $\binom{n}{k}$  may be useful.

|     |    | $n$ |     |     |      |      |      |       |       |       |       |
|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|     |    | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13   | 14   | 15   | 16    | 17    | 18    | 19    |
| $k$ | 0  | 1   | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1     | 1     | 1     | 1     |
|     | 1  | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13   | 14   | 15   | 16    | 17    | 18    | 19    |
|     | 2  | 45  | 55  | 66  | 78   | 91   | 105  | 120   | 136   | 153   | 171   |
|     | 3  | 120 | 165 | 220 | 286  | 364  | 455  | 560   | 680   | 816   | 969   |
|     | 4  | 210 | 330 | 495 | 715  | 1001 | 1365 | 1820  | 2380  | 3060  | 3876  |
|     | 5  | 252 | 462 | 792 | 1287 | 2002 | 3003 | 4368  | 6188  | 8568  | 11628 |
|     | 6  | 210 | 462 | 924 | 1716 | 3003 | 5005 | 8008  | 12376 | 18564 | 27132 |
|     | 7  | 120 | 330 | 792 | 1716 | 3432 | 6435 | 11440 | 19448 | 31824 | 50388 |
|     | 8  | 45  | 165 | 495 | 1287 | 3003 | 6435 | 12870 | 24310 | 43758 | 75582 |
|     | 9  | 10  | 55  | 220 | 715  | 2002 | 5005 | 11440 | 24310 | 48620 | 92378 |
|     | 10 | 1   | 11  | 66  | 286  | 1001 | 3003 | 8008  | 19448 | 43758 | 92378 |

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|          |    | <i>n</i> |     |     |      |      |      |       |       |       |       |
|----------|----|----------|-----|-----|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|          |    | 10       | 11  | 12  | 13   | 14   | 15   | 16    | 17    | 18    | 19    |
| <i>k</i> | 0  | 1        | 1   | 1   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 1     | 1     | 1     | 1     |
|          | 1  | 10       | 11  | 12  | 13   | 14   | 15   | 16    | 17    | 18    | 19    |
|          | 2  | 45       | 55  | 66  | 78   | 91   | 105  | 120   | 136   | 153   | 171   |
|          | 3  | 120      | 165 | 220 | 286  | 364  | 455  | 560   | 680   | 816   | 969   |
|          | 4  | 210      | 330 | 495 | 715  | 1001 | 1365 | 1820  | 2380  | 3060  | 3876  |
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|          | 8  | 45       | 165 | 495 | 1287 | 3003 | 6435 | 12870 | 24310 | 43758 | 75582 |
|          | 9  | 10       | 55  | 220 | 715  | 2002 | 5005 | 11440 | 24310 | 48620 | 92378 |
|          | 10 | 1        | 11  | 66  | 286  | 1001 | 3003 | 8008  | 19448 | 43758 | 92378 |

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