

**1. Warm-Up (Markov's Inequality)**

Let  $X, Y, Z$  be non-negative random variables such that  $Z = X + 10Y$ .

- (a) Using Markov's inequality, upper bound the chance that  $X$  takes on a value higher than  $k\mu$ , where  $\mu = \mathbb{E}(X)$ .  
 $\frac{1}{k}$ .
- (b) If  $\mathbb{E}(X) = 10$  and  $\mathbb{E}(Y) = 4$ , upper bound  $\Pr[Z \geq 100]$ .  
 $\frac{1}{2}$ .
- (c) If  $\mathbb{E}(Z) = 100$  and  $\mathbb{E}(Y) = 4$ , upper bound  $\Pr[X \geq 10]$ .  
 By Markov's inequality, 6; by rules of probability, 1.
- (d) What does this tell you about Markov's inequality?  
 Reasonable bound above mean, poor bound below mean.
- (e) Suppose  $Y = (X - \mu)^2$ , where  $\mu = \mathbb{E}(X)$ . Using Markov's inequality, upper bound the chance that  $Y$  takes on a value higher than  $\alpha^2$ .  
 $\frac{\text{Var}(X)}{\alpha^2}$ . This is the proof of Chebyshev's inequality.

**2. Getting Warmer (Chebyshev)**

Suppose we want to use a low-cost thermometer for measuring the weather. The thermometer has a standard deviation of 2 degrees from the actual temperature.

- (a) Upper bound the chance that the thermometer is more than 5 degrees from the actual temperature.  
 $\frac{4}{25}$
- (b) If we had two identical thermometers, bound the chance that at least one thermometer stays within 5 degrees of the actual temperature.  
 $\geq 1 - \frac{16}{625}$ .
- (c) If we had  $n$  identical thermometers, each with standard deviation  $\sigma$  degrees from the actual temperature, lower bound the chance that at least one thermometer stays within  $k$  degrees of the actual temperature.  
 $\geq 1 - \left(\frac{\sigma}{k}\right)^{2n}$ .

**3. Summertime**

You're a DJ for a jazz club and you have  $r$  songs, each of which lasts 5 minutes. You can't attend work tonight, so your assistant randomly selects songs (with replacement) before the live band arrives.

- (a) The live band arrives 2 hours after the club opens. What's the chance that at least one song is repeated?  
 There are  $\frac{120}{5} = 24$  songs played. There are  $r^{24}$  possible arrangements of songs, but  $\frac{r!}{(r-24)!}$  ways to order 24 songs without repeats (ordering with no replacement). Thus, there is a  $1 - \frac{r!}{r^{24}(r-24)!}$  chance of having at least one repeat song. (Of course, if  $r < 24$ , the chance is 100%.)

- (b) What's the expected number of repeats? A repeat is when you hear a song on two different occasions. (Hint: think about collisions)

Note: A repeat is defined pairwise. For example, if a song is played four times, there are 6 repeats.

Consider 24 balls (time slots),  $r$  bins (unique songs). Let  $X_{ij}$  be indicator for a song played at both time slot  $i, j$ . ( $X_{ij}$  counts if there is a repeat at time slots  $i$  and  $j$ .) Then,  $\Pr[X_{ij} = 1] = \mathbb{E}(X_{ij}) = \frac{1}{r}$ . There are  $\binom{24}{2}$  of these variables (this is the number of ways to choose two time slots  $i, j$ ). The number of repeats is  $X = \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq 24} X_{ij}$ . By linearity of expectation, there are  $\binom{24}{2} \times \frac{1}{r}$  expected repeats.

- (c) Let's define  $X$  to be the number of repeats. At what threshold of repeats  $c$  can you ensure that the probability of having more than  $c$  repeats is less than 10%? Assume you have the answer to part (b).

By Markov's inequality,  $\Pr[X \geq c] \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}(X)}{c}$ . Thus,  $\frac{\mathbb{E}(X)}{c} = .1$ , so  $c = \frac{\mathbb{E}(X)}{.1} = \frac{\binom{24}{2}}{.1r} = \frac{2760}{r}$ . If you had 2760 songs, your chance of 1 repeat would be less than 10%. If you had 276 songs, your chance of 10 repeats would be less than 10%.

#### 4. Hard Summer

We asked 500 people to independently rate this year's Hard Summer on a scale from 0 to 10. The poll average was an 8.5. Upper bound the variance of the poll. What's the probability that the poll is accurate to within an error of 0.4?

Chebyshev,  $\delta = \Pr[|\hat{p} - p| \geq \epsilon] \leq \frac{\text{Var}(\hat{p})}{\epsilon^2} = \frac{\sigma^2}{n\epsilon^2}$ . Since  $\sigma^2$  maximized when 50% chance of 0 and 50% chance of 10,  $\sigma^2 \leq 25$ , and the poll variance is less than  $25/500 = 0.05$ . So,  $\delta \leq \frac{0.05}{0.4^2} = \frac{1}{3.2} \approx 32\%$ . We are at least 68% sure that the poll is accurate to within 0.4 (that the average is between an 8.1 and 8.9).