

Midterm Two, April 20 8:00PM-10:15PM on Zoom
WARNING: THIS MID IS THREE PAGES LONG!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

1. (15 points)

(a) (5 points) What is the coefficient of $x^2y^3z^4$ in

$$(x + y + z)^9$$

(b) (10 points) What is the coefficient of $x^ay^bz^c$ in

$$(x + y + z)^{a+b+c}$$

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2. (20 points–5 points each) The Narns play card games with a cards that have ranks in the set $\{1, 2, \dots, r\}$ and suites in the set $\{1, \dots, s\}$. In Narn Poker, each player gets h cards.

We assume that both r and s are squares, so \sqrt{r} and \sqrt{s} are natural numbers.

- (a) A *Square Hand* is a hand where all of the cards have square rank. What is the probability of getting a Square Hand?
(Its okay if they are of the same suite, or not.)
- (b) A *Square Flush* is a hand where all of the cards have a square rank and all of the suites are the same. What is the probability of getting a Square Flush?
- (c) An *Apple* is when you get two of the same rank. There are no other restrictions, so for example, if you had 3 of the same rank, that would still be an Apple. What is the probability of getting an Apple.

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3. (15 points) In this problem we guide you through the birthday paradox with m balls in n boxes where we want the probability that at least k balls go in the same box is $\geq \frac{1}{2}$. (HINT: Follow the proof for THREE balls in a box and feel free to use the approximations I use there.)

Assume that m is much less than n . Assume that k is much less than both n, m .

We put m balls into n boxes at random.

- (a) Let i_1, \dots, i_k be k balls. What is the probability they are all in the same box?
- (b) What is the (approx) probability that NO set of k is in the same box? (Use three approximations here: (a) that the events are independent, and (b) use $(1 - x)$ is approximately e^{-x} , and (c) $\binom{m}{k} \sim \frac{m^k}{k!}$.)
- (c) Think of n, k as being fixed but m as being varying. Approximately how large does m have to be so that the prob that k are in the same box is $\geq \frac{1}{2}$?