

Problem Solving Seminar - Fall 2013
Sep. 25

1. At LSU, 91% of students are fans of Tiger Football, 68% are fans of Baseball, and 44% are fans of Basketball*. Prove that there is at least one “Super-Fan” who supports all three sports.

* Statistics may not be accurate.

2. Suppose that N dice are thrown.
 - (a) What is the probability that their product is even?
 - (b) What is the probability that their sum is even?
 - (c) What is the probability that their product and sum are both odd?
Hint: This is very easy to answer if N is even!
 - (d) What is the probability that their product and sum are both even?
3. A kitchen floor is covered with square tiles that measure 9 inches per side. If a large pizza (diameter 18 inches) is randomly dropped on the floor, what is the probability that it covers exactly two corners of some tile?
4. The cards of a standard 52-card deck are turned over one at a time.
 - (a) What is the probability that the first card is a Heart?
 - (b) What is the probability that the last card is a Spade?
 - (c) What is the probability that the first card is a Heart and the last card is a Spade?
 - (d) What is the probability that the first card is a Heart and the last card is the Ace of Spades?
5. In many professional sports leagues (Baseball, Basketball, Hockey) the championship is determined by a “Best of 7” series, in which the first team to win 4 games is the victor. If the two teams are evenly matched, calculate the probability that a series ends in exactly 4, 5, 6, or 7 games.
6. **[2006 A4]** Let $S = \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ for some integer $n > 1$. Say a permutation π of S has a local maximum at $k \in S$ if
 - (i) $\pi(k) > \pi(k + 1)$ for $k = 1$;
 - (ii) $\pi(k - 1) < \pi(k)$ and $\pi(k) > \pi(k + 1)$ for $1 < k < n$;
 - (iii) $\pi(k - 1) < \pi(k)$ for $k = n$.

(For example, if $n = 5$ and π takes values at 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 of 2, 1, 4, 5, 3, then π has a local maximum of 2 at $k = 1$, and a local maximum of 5 at $k = 4$.) What is the average number of local maxima of a permutation of S , averaging over all permutations of S ?

Challenge.

1. Suppose that N dice are thrown.
 - (a) What is the probability that their sum is a multiple of 6?
 - (b) What is the probability that their sum is a multiple of 5?
 - (c) What is the probability that their sum is a multiple of 7?