

2 Independence and Uniform Probabilities

2.1 Independent Dice Throws

A pair of fair dice is rolled. Let D_1 denote the number on the first die and D_2 the one on the second. Consider the following events:

$$\mathcal{E} = "D_1 + D_2 = 4"$$

$$\mathcal{F} = "D_1 + D_2 = 5"$$

$$\mathcal{G} = "D_1 \text{ is even}"$$

$$\mathcal{H} = "D_1 + D_2 \text{ is even}"$$

For each combination of two events, find out whether they are independent or not.

2.2 Birthdays

We want to investigate the following question:

Consider a set of 23 unrelated people. What is the probability that at least two of them have the same birthday?

Here are some hints how to do that:

- Consider the dual problem: what is the probability that no two people share the same birthday?
- Solve it first for 2 and 3 people. Then generalize to an arbitrary number n .
- Develop a formula that expresses the probability that among n people no two people have the same birthday. For which values of n is your formula correct?
- How would you compute that probability?

2.3 Exam Rankings

Four men and three women are ranked according to a score in an examination. Suppose that all scores are different, and all rankings are equally likely. The highest ranking is 1, the lowest 7. If \mathcal{X} denotes the *lowest* ranking achieved by a woman, find $P[\mathcal{X} = i], 1 \leq i \leq 7$.