Quiz 6

True/False - No explanation needed. (2pts)

1. If two events A and B intersects $(A \cap B \neq \emptyset)$, then they can't be independent. True/False

sol. Disjointness and independence of events are not related. For example, let's assume that we roll two dies, and let A be the event that the first roll is 1, and let B be the event that the second roll is 1. Then they aren't disjoint but independent.

2. Two show that two random variables are independent, it is enough to find a pair of two events subsets $E, F \subset \mathbb{R}$ such that $P(X^{-1}(E) \cap X^{-1}(F)) = P(X^{-1}(E))P(X^{-1}(F))$. True/False

sol. To show the independence, we have to show the equation for all $E, F \subset \mathbb{R}$.

Problems - Need justification. No justification means zero!

1. Let E and F be the events that a family of 3 children has children of both sexes and has at most one boy, respectively. Are E and F independent? (5pts)

sol. There are $2^3 = 8$ possible outcomes for the sexes of children (if we assume that there are only two sexes). Note that the situation is ELOP. The size of the event E is $2^3 - 2 = 6$, since there are two cases where the all of the children have same sex. So P(E) = 6/8 = 3/4. For F, there are two possible cases: no boys or exactly one boy. Each has 1 and $\binom{3}{1} = 3$ possibilities, so |F| = 4 and P(F) = 4/8 = 1/2. For the intersection, we only allow the cases where there is exactly one boy, which has 3 cases and so $P(E \cap F) = 3/8$. From this calculation, we have $P(E \cap F) = 3/8 = P(E)P(F)$, so E and F are *independent*.

2. Suppose that a 6-sided fair die is rolled twice. Compute the probability mass function of the random variable

X = the difference of the two rolls.

(5pts)

sol. First, the range of X is $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$. The number of possible outcome is $|\Omega| = 6^2 = 36$, and the situation is ELOP.

- (a) If the difference is 0, it means that the two rolls are same, i.e. we have 6 possible cases $\{(1, 1), (2, 2), \dots, (6, 6)\}$ and P(X = 0) = 6/36 = 1/6.
- (b) If the difference is 0, we have $\{(1, 2), (2, 3), (3, 4), (4, 5), (5, 6)\}$ and reverses of them, so $P(X = 1) = 5 \cdot 2/36 = 5/18$.
- (c) If the difference is 1, we have $\{(1,3), (2,4), (3,5), (4,6)\}$ and reverses of them, so $P(X = 2) = 4 \cdot 2/36 = 4/9$.

Similarly, we can check that $P(X = k) = (6 - k) \cdot 2/36 = (6 - k)/18$ for $1 \le k \le 5$.