CS 174: Combinatorics and Discrete Probability (Spring 2023), UC Berkeley

Section 1

- 1. (Counting) (Book Exercise 1.1) We flip a fair coin ten times. Find the probability of the following events.
 - (a) The number of heads and the number of tails are equal.
 - (b) There are more heads than tails.
 - (c) The *i*-th flip and the (11 i)-th flip are the same for i = 1, ..., 5.
 - (d) We flip at least four consecutive heads.
- 2. (Counting) (Book Exercise 1.4) We are playing a tournament in which we stop as soon as one of us wins n games. We are evenly matched, so each of us wins any game with probability 1/2, independently of other games. What is the probability that the loser has won k games when the match is over?
- 3. (Independence) Suppose we roll an unbiased six-sided die 3 times. Let E_{ij} denote the event that the *i*th and the *j*th rolls produce the same number for $i, j \in \{1, 2, 3\}, i < j$. Show that the events $\{E_{ij}\}$ are pairwise independent but not independent as a family.
- 4. (Conditional Probability) (Book Exercise 1.14) I am playing in a racquetball tournament, and I am up against a player I have watched but never played before. I consider three possibilities for my prior model: we are equally talented, and each of us is equally likely to win each game; I am slightly better, and therefore I win each game independently with probability 0.6; or he is slightly better, and thus he wins each game independently with probability 0.6. Before we play, I think that each of these three possibilities is equally likely. In our match we play until one player wins three games. I win the second game, but he wins the first, third, and fourth. After this match, in my posterior model, with what probability should I believe that my opponent is slightly better than I am?