

Instructions that will appear on the real exam

- **DO NOT OPEN THE EXAM UNTIL YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO.**
- **The last page of this exam is a sheet with some useful formulas and theorem statements.** Feel free to rip it off of the exam.
- Answer all of the questions as well as you can. You have **150 minutes**.
- The exam is **non-collaborative**; you must complete it on your own. If you have any clarification questions, please ask the course staff. We cannot provide any hints or help.
- This exam is **closed-book**, except for **up to three double-sided sheets of paper** that you have prepared ahead of time. You can have anything you want written on these sheets of paper.
- **Please DO NOT separate pages of your exam** (other than the reference sheet on the last page). The course staff is not responsible for finding lost pages, and you may not get credit for a problem if it goes missing.
- There are a few pages of extra paper at the back of the exam in case you run out of room on any problem. If you use them, please clearly indicate on the relevant problem page that you have used them, and please clearly label any work on the extra pages.
- Please make sure to sign out of the roster when handing in your completed exam to the teaching team.
- **Please do not discuss the exam until after solutions are posted!**

General Advice

- If you get stuck on a question or a part, move on and come back to it later. The questions on this exam have a wide range of difficulty, and you can do well on the exam even if you don't get a few questions.
- Pay attention to the point values. Don't spend too much time on questions that are not worth a lot of points.
- There are **100** total points on this exam.

Name and SUNet ID (please print clearly):

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Honor Code

The Honor Code is an undertaking of the Stanford academic community, individually and collectively. Its purpose is to uphold a culture of academic honesty. Students will support this culture of academic honesty by neither giving nor accepting unpermitted academic aid on this examination.

This course is participating in the proctoring pilot overseen by the Academic Integrity Working Group (AIWG), therefore proctors will be present in the exam room. The purpose of this pilot is to determine the efficacy of proctoring and develop effective practices for proctoring in-person exams at Stanford.

Unpermitted Aid on this exam includes but is not limited to the following: collaboration with anyone else; reference materials other than your cheat-sheet (see below); and internet access.

Permitted aid on this exam includes a “cheat-sheet:” two double-sided sheets of paper with anything written on them, which you have prepared yourself ahead of time.

I acknowledge and attest that I will abide by the Honor Code:

[signed] _____

Exam Break Sign-out

I pledge that during my exam break:

- I will not bring any paper, electronic devices (phone, smart watch, smart glasses, etc), or aid (permitted or unpermitted) *out of or into* the exam room.
- I will not communicate with anyone other than the course instructional staff about the content of the exam.

Signature Confirming Honor Code Pledge	Exit Time	Return Time	Proctor Initial	Length (min)

If you are feeling unwell and are not able to complete the exam, please connect with the proctor to discuss options.

Good Luck!

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1. (12 pt.) For each of the parts below, select the *best bound* you can to correctly fill in the blank.

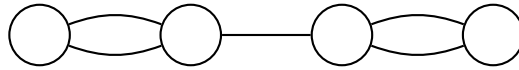
(a) (4 pt.) Let G be a finite group and let H be a subgroup of G , so that $H \neq G$. Choose $g \in G$ uniformly at random. Then $\Pr[g \in H] \leq$ _____.

- (A) 1 (B) $1 - 1/|G|$ (C) $1/2$ (D) $1/|S|$

(b) (4 pt.) Let $f(x, y, z)$ be a 3-variate polynomial of total degree at most d , and suppose that f is not identically zero. Choose a, b, c independently and uniformly at random from the set $\{1, 2, \dots, 10\}$. Then $\Pr[f(a, b, c) = 0] \leq$ _____.

- (A) 1 (B) $d/10$ (C) $d/10^3$ (D) $d^3/10^3$

(c) (4 pt.) Let G be the following graph:



Then $\Pr[\text{One run of Karger's algorithm succeeds starting from this graph}] \geq$ _____

- (A) 0 (B) $8/15$ (C) $2/3$ (D) $4/5$

2. (26 pt.) For all of the parts of this problem, suppose that Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n are random variables (not necessarily independent) **that take on values in $\{0, 1\}$** .

For each of the following scenarios, select the smallest correct way, *among the options provided*, to fill in the blank in the following expression

$$\Pr \left[\sum_{i=1}^n Y_i > n/2 \right] < \text{_____},$$

and also identify which inequality/theorem you would use to show this. It's okay to identify the inequality/theorem by name or uniquely identifying description; you don't need to write out a formula. In this problem, all the big-Oh notation below is as $n \rightarrow \infty$, so in particular you can assume n is sufficiently large.

For parts (a)-(c), no justification is required (or will be considered), beyond the name of the inequality.

(a) (6 pt.) For each i , $\mathbb{E}[Y_i] = 1/5$. (And you know nothing else about them other than that they are binary).

- (A) $1/2$ (B) $O(1/\sqrt{n})$ (C) $O(1/n)$ (D) $O(1/n^2)$ (E) $e^{-\Omega(n)}$

I would use the inequality: _____

- (b) (6 pt.) For each i , $\mathbb{E}[Y_i] = 1/5$, and the Y_i are *pairwise independent*. That is, for all $i \neq j$, Y_i and Y_j are independent.

(A) $1/2$ (B) $O(1/\sqrt{n})$ (C) $O(1/n)$ (D) $O(1/n^2)$ (E) $e^{-\Omega(n)}$

I would use the inequality: _____

- (c) (6 pt.) For each i , $\mathbb{E}[Y_i] = 1/5$, and the Y_i are fully independent.

(A) $1/2$ (B) $O(1/\sqrt{n})$ (C) $O(1/n)$ (D) $O(1/n^2)$ (E) $e^{-\Omega(n)}$

I would use the inequality: _____

- (d) (8 pt.) The Y_i are defined as follows. We drop $30 \cdot n$ balls into n bins, and Y_i is 1 if bin i has at least 100 balls in it and is 0 otherwise.

(A) $1/2$ (B) $O(1/\sqrt{n})$ (C) $O(1/n)$ (D) $O(1/n^2)$ (E) $e^{-\Omega(n)}$

In a few sentences, explain what you would do to establish your answer. That is, say what inequalities/theorems would you use, and clearly define the random variables you would use them on. You don't need to work out the details. You don't need to justify why your answer is tight (e.g., if your answer is (A), you should explain how to show that (A) is true, but you don't need to explain how to show that (B) is not true).

3. (20 pt.) For each of the tasks below, explain briefly how you would do them. You can (and, *HINT*, probably should) use any algorithm we have seen as a black box.

(a) (10 pt.) Let $\mathcal{X} = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$. Fix $T > 0$. You want to split \mathcal{X} into two disjoint parts, $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{Y}_1 \cup \mathcal{Y}_2$, so that there are few pairs x_i, x_j in different parts that are close to each other. Formally, the goal is to minimize $\sum_{x_i \in \mathcal{Y}_1, x_j \in \mathcal{Y}_2} \mathbf{1}[\|x_i - x_j\|_2 \leq T]$. Give a randomized algorithm that runs in time $\text{poly}(n)$ and finds a minimizing $\mathcal{Y}_1, \mathcal{Y}_2$ with probability at least 0.9.

(b) (10 pt.) Let $\mathcal{X} = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$. Fix $T > 0$. Suppose you have black-box access to a deterministic algorithm \mathcal{A} that runs on any such set \mathcal{X} and partitions it into k disjoint parts, $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{Y}_1 \cup \mathcal{Y}_2 \cup \dots \cup \mathcal{Y}_k$, so that the diameter of each \mathcal{Y}_i is at most T .¹ (The *diameter* of a set \mathcal{Y} is $\text{diam}(\mathcal{Y}) = \max_{y \neq y' \in \mathcal{Y}} \|y - y'\|_2$). The algorithm \mathcal{A} runs in time polynomial in n , k , and 2^d .

Give a randomized algorithm that runs in time polynomial in n , k , and d (not 2^d) that does the following. Given such a set \mathcal{X} and a parameter T , your algorithm should return a partition $\mathcal{Y}_1, \dots, \mathcal{Y}_k$ of \mathcal{X} so that each part \mathcal{Y}_i has diameter at most $1.1 \cdot T$. Your algorithm should be correct with probability 0.9, and should use \mathcal{A} as a black box.

¹For the purposes of this problem, suppose that such a partition always exists.

4. **(21 pt.)** There are n users, each of whom have an unlimited number of jobs to complete. Each job takes one timestep to complete. At each timestep, you independently choose a uniformly random user and complete a job for them. Note that you choose the users with replacement, so it's possible that over time you could complete multiple jobs for the same user.

(a) **(5 pt.)** Let T be the first time you have completed at least one job for each of the n users. What is $\mathbb{E}[T]$? Circle the best (smallest) answer that is true, and briefly justify it. You do not need to do a formal proof, and you can appeal to anything we have seen in class.

- (A) $O(n)$ (B) $O(n \log n)$ (C) $O(n^2)$ (D) $2^{O(n)}$

Justification:

(b) **(8 pt.)** Let S be the first time you have completed a job for 99% of the n users. What is $\mathbb{E}[S]$? Circle the best (smallest) answer that is true, and briefly justify it. You do not have to give a formal proof, and you can appeal to anything we have seen in class.

- (A) $O(n)$ (B) $O(n \log n)$ (C) $O(n^2)$ (D) $2^{O(n)}$

Justification:

[Another part on next page!]

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- (c) (**8 pt.**) Suppose you run for $t \sim \text{Poi}(n^2)$ timesteps. Prove that with probability at least 0.99, no user has had more than $1.1n$ jobs run. You may assume that n is sufficiently large.

5. **(21 pt.)** Suppose you are interested in computing a function $f : D_1 \rightarrow D_2$, for some domains D_1 and D_2 .

(a) **(8 pt.)** Let $\varepsilon \in (0, 1/2)$, and suppose $D_2 = \{0, 1\}$. Suppose you have a randomized algorithm A so that, for any $x \in D_1$, $A(x) = f(x)$ with probability at least $\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon$. You decide to make a more robust algorithm, \tilde{A} , that just runs A independently T times and returns the most frequent answer. Show that \tilde{A} is correct with probability 0.99 for some value T that is $O(1/\varepsilon^2)$.

(b) **(8 pt.)** Now suppose that $D_2 = \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$, instead of $\{0, 1\}$. Suppose that for any $x \in D_1$, $f(x) = A(x)$ with probability at least $p \geq \frac{C \log n}{n \log \log n}$, where C is some constant that you get to choose. Further suppose that for any *incorrect* answer $i \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$, the probability that A outputs i is at most $1/n$. Prove that there exists some C so that, for sufficiently large n , \tilde{A} (which still returns the most frequent answer out of the T trials) is correct with probability at least 0.99 when $T = n$. You may use anything we have seen in class as a black box.

- (c) **(5 pt.) Note: this one may be more difficult, and is only worth 5 points.** As above, suppose $D_2 = \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$. Now suppose that A is correct with probability $1/4$, and can output any particular incorrect answer i with probability at most $1/8$. How small can you take T to still allow the guarantee that \tilde{A} is correct with probability at least 0.99 ?

This is the end of the exam!

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Some useful inequalities, definitions and theorem statements

Note: We have not always stated full theorems here, just the quantitative punchlines. You are responsible for knowing when each theorem applies.

Inequalities and Series

- $1 - x \leq e^{-x}$ for any x .
- $(n/k)^k \leq \binom{n}{k} \leq (en/k)^k$ for all $k \leq n$.
- $\binom{n}{k} \leq \frac{n^k}{k!}$ for all $k \leq n$.
- $\sum_{i=1}^n 1/i = \Theta(\log n)$
- $\sum_{i=1}^n 1/i^c = O(1)$ for all $c > 1$.

Definitions

- $f(n) = O(g(n))$ means that there are some constants $c, n_0 > 0$ so that for all $n \geq n_0$, $f(n) \leq cg(n)$.
- $f(n) = \Omega(g(n))$ means that there are some constants $c, n_0 > 0$ so that for all $n \geq n_0$, $f(n) \geq cg(n)$.
- $f(n) = o(g(n))$ means that $\frac{f(n)}{g(n)} \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.
- $f(n) = \omega(g(n))$ means that $\frac{f(n)}{g(n)} \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.
- If $X \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda)$, then $\Pr[X = k] = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^k}{k!}$.
- If $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$, then $\Pr[X = x] = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right)^2\right)$
- If $X \sim \text{Ber}(p)$, then $X \in \{0, 1\}$ and $\Pr[X = 1] = p$.

More on other side

Concentration Inequalities

- Markov's inequality: For a non-negative random variable X , $\Pr[X > t] \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}X}{t}$.
- Chebyshev's inequality: For any random variable X , $\Pr[|X - \mathbb{E}X| > t] \leq \frac{\text{Var}(X)}{t^2}$.
- A few Chernoff bounds: For independent $X_i \in \{0, 1\}$, if $X = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$, then:
 - For $\delta > 0$, $\Pr[X \geq (1 + \delta)\mathbb{E}[X]] \leq \left(\frac{e^\delta}{(1+\delta)^{1+\delta}}\right)^{\mathbb{E}[X]}$. If $\delta \in (0, 1]$ this is $\leq \exp(-\delta^2\mathbb{E}[X]/3)$.
 - For $\delta \in (0, 1]$, $\Pr[X \leq (1 - \delta)\mathbb{E}[X]] \leq \left(\frac{e^{-\delta}}{(1-\delta)^{1-\delta}}\right)^{\mathbb{E}[X]}$. If $\delta \in (0, 1]$, this is $\leq \exp(-\delta^2\mathbb{E}[X]/2)$.
 - For $c \geq 6$, $\Pr[X \geq c\mathbb{E}X] \leq 2^{-c\mathbb{E}X}$.
- Tail bound for Poisson random variables: If $X \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda)$, then for any $c > 0$, $\Pr[|X - \lambda| \geq c] \leq 2 \exp\left(\frac{-c^2}{2(c+\lambda)}\right)$.

Balls and Bins

- The maximum load, when dropping n balls into n bins, is $\Theta\left(\frac{\log n}{\log \log n}\right)$ with probability $1 - o(1)$.
- Coupon collecting: $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Pr[X \geq n \log n + cn] = 1 - e^{-e^{-c}}$

Dimension Reduction

- Bourgain's Embedding: for any finite metric space (X, d) with $|X| = n$, there is an embedding of (X, d) into \mathbb{R}^k under the ℓ_1 metric with distortion $O(\log n)$, where $k = O((\log n)^2)$.
- Johnson-Lindenstrauss Lemma: for any $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$, for any $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ with $|X| = n$, there is a linear map $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ with $m = O(\varepsilon^{-2} \log n)$ that embeds (X, ℓ_2) into (\mathbb{R}^m, ℓ_2) with distortion at most $(1 + \varepsilon)$.

More on other side