## CS 161 Winter 2021

## **Pre-Lecture Exercise for Lecture 8**

Mon, Feb 8

Pre-lecture exercises will not be collected for credit. However, you will get more out of each lecture if you do them, and they will be referenced during lecture. We recommend **writing out** your answers to pre-lecture exercises before class. Pre-lecture exercises usually should not take you more than 30 minutes.

In this pre-lecture exercise, we'll see an example of something subtle that will come up in Lecture 8.

Suppose you are putting n items into six buckets. You decide to use the following randomized scheme:

- 1. Roll a 6-sided die.
- 2. If the die came up i, put all n items into bucket i.

Consider the following two quantities:

- Quantity 1:  $\mathbb{E}[\text{number of items in bucket 1}],$
- Quantity 2:  $\mathbb{E}[\text{number of items that land in the same bucket as item 1}].$

While quantities 1 and 2 may seem similar, in fact they have very different values! Using the definition of expectation, compute quantities 1 and 2 and see why they are different.