

Please read the following directions.

**DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO**

## Directions

- This exam is **closed book** and **closed notes**. (You will have access to a copy of the “Table of Common Distributions” given in the back of the text.)
- The different parts of a problem are sometimes unrelated. If you cannot solve part of a problem, you should still go on to look at the later parts.
- If your answer is valid only for a certain range of values, this should be stated as part of your answer. For example, if a density is zero outside of some interval, this interval should be stated explicitly.
- Show and explain your work (including your calculations) for all the problems except those on the last page. **No credit is given without work.** But don’t get carried away! Show enough work so that what you have done is clearly understandable.
- On problems where work is shown, **circle your answer**. (On these problems, you should give only one answer!)
- Partial credit is available. (If you know part of a solution, write it down. If you know an approach to a problem, but cannot carry it out – write down this approach. If you know a useful result, write it down.)
- All the work on the exam should be your own. No “cooperation” is allowed.
- Arithmetic does **not** have to be done completely **unless numerical answers are requested**. Answers can be left as fractions or products. You do not have to evaluate binomial coefficients, factorials or large powers. Answers can be left as summations (unless there is a simple closed form such as when summing a geometric or exponential series).
- You need only pens, pencils, erasers and a calculator. (You will be supplied with scratch paper.)
- Do **not** quote homework results. If you wish to use a result from homework in a solution, you must prove this result.
- The exam has **9** pages.
- There are a total of **100** points.

**Problem 1.** (15%) Suppose that  $X$  is a continuous random variable with median  $m$ , that is,  $P(X \leq m) = P(X \geq m) = 1/2$ . Show that  $E|X - a|$  is minimized when  $a = m$ .

$$E|X-a| = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |x-a| f(x) dx$$

$$= \int_a^{+\infty} (x-a) f(x) dx + \int_{-\infty}^a (a-x) f(x) dx$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^m f(x) dx = 1/2 = \int_m^{+\infty} f(x) dx, \quad m \text{ is the median}$$

$E|X-a|$  is a continuous function of  $a$ . and it is minimized when  $\frac{dE|X-a|}{da} = 0$  and  $\frac{d^2E|X-a|}{da^2} > 0$

$$\frac{dE|X-a|}{da} = -1 * (a-a) f(a) + \int_a^{+\infty} (-1) f(x) dx + 1 * (a-a) f(a) + \int_{-\infty}^a 1 * f(x) dx$$

$$= \int_a^{+\infty} (-f(x)) dx + \int_{-\infty}^a f(x) dx = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_a^{+\infty} f(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^a f(x) dx \Rightarrow a \text{ is the median}$$

$$\left[ \int_a^{+\infty} f(x) dx + \int_{-\infty}^a f(x) dx = 1 \Rightarrow \int_{-\infty}^a f dx = \int_a^{+\infty} f dx = 1/2 \right]$$

$$\frac{d^2E|X-a|}{da^2} = -1(f(a)) + 1 * f(a) = 2f(a) \Big|_{a=m} \geq 0$$

$m$  is the only stationary point for  $E|X-a|$ , and  $2f(m) \geq 0$ .

so  $E|X-a|$  is minimized when  $a = m$ .



**Problem 2.** An urn initially contains two balls, one red and one green. This is a Polya urn: after a ball is drawn, it is replaced and then another ball of the same color is added to the urn. Ed decides to randomly draw balls until he finally gets a green ball. Then he will stop. Let  $X$  be the total number of balls that Ed draws from the urn.

(a) (8%) For  $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ , what is  $P(X = k)$ ?

$P(X=k)$  = probability { draw ~~red~~ <sup>first</sup> balls  $(k-1)$  times, at  $k$ th time draw ~~green~~ ball }.

$= P\{\text{draw red ball at time } 1, 2, \dots, k-1, \text{ and greenball at } k\}$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{3}{4} \cdot \dots \cdot \frac{k-2}{k-1} \cdot \frac{k-1}{k} \cdot \frac{1}{k+1}$$

$$= \frac{1}{k(k+1)} \quad k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

(b) (7%) What is  $EX$ ?

$$EX = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k P(X=k) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k \cdot \frac{1}{k(k+1)} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k+1}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \dots = +\infty$$

-6

**Problem 3.** Let  $X$  have the density (pdf)

$$f(x) = cx^3 e^{-x^2/\beta^2}, \quad 0 < x < \infty, \quad \beta > 0.$$

(a) (7%) Find the value of the normalizing constant  $c$ . ( $c$  will depend on  $\beta$ .)

$$f(x) = cx^3 e^{-x^2/\beta^2} \text{ is the pdf for } 0 < x < \infty, \beta > 0$$

$$\text{so } f(x) \geq 0 \Rightarrow c > 0 \quad (c \neq 0, \text{ otherwise } f \equiv 0).$$

$$\text{Then, } \int_0^\infty f(x) dx = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^\infty cx^3 e^{-x^2/\beta^2} dx = 1 \Rightarrow \frac{\beta^2 c}{-2} \int_0^\infty x^2 de^{-x^2/\beta^2} = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\beta^2 c}{-2} \left[ x^2 e^{-x^2/\beta^2} \Big|_0^\infty - \int_0^\infty e^{-x^2/\beta^2} \cdot 2x dx \right] = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\beta^2 c}{+2} \int_0^\infty 2x e^{-x^2/\beta^2} dx = 1 \Rightarrow \frac{\beta^2 c}{2} \int_0^\infty de^{-x^2/\beta^2} \cdot (-\beta^2) = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{c\beta^4}{2} e^{-x^2/\beta^2} \Big|_0^\infty = 1 \Rightarrow \frac{c\beta^4}{2} = 1 \Rightarrow c = \frac{2}{\beta^4}$$

(b) (8%) Find  $EX$ .

[If you could not find the value of  $c$ , just leave it as  $c$  in your answer.]

$EX$ . First check  $E|X|$ . as  $f(x)$  is defined on  $0 < x < \infty$

so  $E|X| = EX$ . Just need to calculate  $EX$

$$EX = \int_0^\infty x cx^3 e^{-x^2/\beta^2} dx.$$

$$= c \int_0^\infty x^4 e^{-x^2/\beta^2} dx \quad \text{let } x = \sqrt{t} \Rightarrow dx = \frac{1}{2} t^{-1/2} dt$$

$$= c \int_0^\infty t^2 e^{-t/\beta^2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} t^{-1/2} dt$$

$$= \frac{c}{2} \int_0^\infty t^{3/2} e^{-t/\beta^2} dt = \frac{c}{2} \Gamma(\tilde{\alpha}) (\tilde{\beta})^{\tilde{\alpha}} \left( \frac{\int_0^\infty t^{5/2-1} e^{-t/\beta^2} dt}{\Gamma(\frac{5}{2}) (\beta^2)^{5/2}} \right)$$

$$\tilde{\alpha} = 5/2, \quad \tilde{\beta} = \beta^2$$

$$\Rightarrow EX = \frac{c}{2} \Gamma(\frac{5}{2}) (\beta^2)^{5/2} = \frac{2}{\beta^4} * \frac{1}{2} * \frac{3}{2} * \frac{1}{2} \Gamma(\frac{1}{2}) * \beta^5$$

$$= \frac{3}{4} \beta * \Gamma(\frac{1}{2}) = \frac{3}{4} \beta \sqrt{\pi}$$

(0)

**Problem 4.** Suppose  $X$  and  $Y$  are iid random variables with moment generating function

$$M_X(t) = M_Y(t) = \frac{1}{(1+t)(1-t)} \quad \text{for } -1 < t < 1 \text{ (and undefined or } +\infty \text{ otherwise).}$$

Find the following moment generating functions. In each case, your answer should include the range in which the mgf is well-defined and finite.

(a) (8%) Find the mgf of  $3X + 5$ .

$$M_{3X+5}(t) = M_{3X}(t) e^{5t} = M_X(3t) e^{5t}, \quad -1 < 3t < 1$$

$$= \frac{1}{(1+3t)(1-3t)} * e^{5t} = \frac{e^{5t}}{(1+3t)(1-3t)}$$

$$\text{range of } t: -1 < 3t < 1 \Rightarrow -\frac{1}{3} < t < \frac{1}{3}$$

so  $M_{3X+5}(t)$  is well defined and finite when  $t \in (-\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3})$

(b) (7%) Find the mgf of  $X + Y$ .

$$M_{X+Y}(t) = M_X(t) M_Y(t) \quad \text{if } X \text{ and } Y \text{ are independent}$$

$$\text{so } M_{X+Y}(t) = \frac{1}{(1+t)(1-t)} * \frac{1}{(1+t)(1-t)} = \frac{1}{(1+t)^2(1-t)^2}$$

$$\text{range of } t: \{-1 < t < 1\} \cap \{-1 < t < 1\} = \{-1 < t < 1\}$$

so  $M_{X+Y}(t)$  is well-defined and finite when  $t \in (-1, 1)$

-0

**Problem 5.** (16%) Suppose  $X$  is a random variable with moment generating function (mgf) given by

$$M(t) = e^{\beta(e^{\lambda t} - 1)} = \exp[\beta(e^{\lambda t} - 1)] \quad \text{where } \beta > 0.$$

Use the mgf to find the mean and variance of  $X$ .

$$\checkmark M(t) = e^{\beta(e^{\lambda t} - 1)} = \exp[\beta(e^{\lambda t} - 1)] \quad \beta > 0$$

$$EX = M'(t)|_{t=0} = \exp[\beta(e^{\lambda t} - 1)] \beta \lambda e^{\lambda t} |_{t=0}$$

$$\checkmark = \lambda \beta$$

$$\checkmark EX^2 = M''(t)|_{t=0} = \frac{d[e^{\beta(e^{\lambda t} - 1)} \lambda \beta e^{\lambda t}]}{dt} |_{t=0}$$

$$= \beta \lambda [e^{\beta(e^{\lambda t} - 1)} \beta \lambda e^{\lambda t} e^{\lambda t} + e^{\beta(e^{\lambda t} - 1)} \lambda e^{\lambda t}] |_{t=0}$$

$$= \beta \lambda [\beta \lambda + \lambda] = \beta \lambda^2 (\beta + 1)$$

$$\checkmark \text{Var}(X) = EX^2 - (EX)^2 = \beta \lambda^2 (\beta + 1) - (\lambda \beta)^2 = \beta \lambda^2$$

so  $EX = \lambda \beta$  is the mean,  $\text{var}(X) = \lambda^2 \beta$  is the variance of  $X$ .

$$\checkmark \text{mean} = \underline{\lambda \beta}$$

$$\checkmark \text{variance} = \underline{\lambda^2 \beta}$$



**Problem 6.** Let  $X \sim \text{Negative Binomial}(r, p)$  according to the textbook definition (in which the possible values are  $0, 1, 2, \dots$ ). See the appendix for the pmf, mean, variance, and mgf.

In the following parts, compute a **numerical** answer using an appropriate **approximation**. Briefly justify the approximation that you use.

In each part, let  $\mu = EX$  and  $\sigma^2 = \text{Var}(X)$ .

(a) (9%) Suppose  $r = 10^{10}$  and  $p = .25$ . Find  $P(\mu - \frac{\sigma}{2} < X < \mu + \frac{\sigma}{2})$ .

$$r = 10^{10}, \quad p = .25 \quad r \text{ is large and } p \text{ is small.}$$

$$X \sim \text{AN}(\mu, \sigma^2)$$

$$\mu = EX = \frac{r(1-p)}{p} = \frac{10^{10} \times .75}{.25} = 3 \times 10^{10}$$

$$\sigma^2 = \text{Var}(X) = \frac{r(1-p)}{p^2} = \frac{10^{10} \times .75}{.25 \times .25} = 1.2 \times 10^{11}$$

$$\text{SO } X \sim \text{AN}(3 \times 10^{10}, 1.2 \times 10^{11})$$

$$P(\mu - \frac{\sigma}{2} < X < \mu + \frac{\sigma}{2}) = P\left(\frac{\mu - \frac{\sigma}{2} - \mu}{\sigma} < \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma} < \frac{\mu + \frac{\sigma}{2} - \mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

$$\approx P(-\frac{1}{2} < Z < \frac{1}{2}) \quad Z \sim N(0, 1)$$

$$= \Phi(.5) - \Phi(-.5) = \Phi(.5) - [1 - \Phi(.5)]$$

$$= 2\Phi(.5) - 1$$

$$= 2 \times [1 - .3085] - 1$$

$$= 2 \times .6915 - 1$$

$$= .383$$

$$X \sim \text{Neg Bin}(r, p) \sim \sum_{i=1}^r (Z_i - 1), \quad Z_i \sim \text{Geometric}(p), \quad EZ_i = \frac{1}{p}, \quad \text{Var } Z_i = \frac{1-p}{p^2}$$

$$\text{SO, using CLT when } r \text{ is large. } \frac{X - (rEZ_i - r)}{r\text{Var}(Z_i)} \sim \text{AN}(0, 1)$$

$$\text{Here, } rEZ_i - r = \mu(X) = EX, \quad r\text{Var}(Z_i) = \text{Var}(X)$$

**[Problem 6 continued]**

(b) (6%) Suppose  $r = 10^{10}$  and  $p = 1 - 10^{-10}$ . Find  $P(\mu - \frac{\sigma}{2} < X < \mu + \frac{\sigma}{2})$ .

$$g \equiv 1-p = 10^{-10}, \quad f \cdot g = 1, \quad X \sim \binom{r+X-1}{x} \cdot p^r g^x \quad \text{can}$$

be approximated by  $\text{Poisson}(\lambda = r_f = 1)$ , proved as below:

$$P(X=x) = \frac{(x+r-1)(x-1+r-1)(x-2+r-1) \dots (r-2)(r-1)!}{\underbrace{r \cdot r \cdot r \cdot \dots \cdot r}_{x \text{ terms: from } x \text{ to } 1} (r-1)! x!} (1-p)^{\frac{1}{r} + p} \cdot (p)^x$$

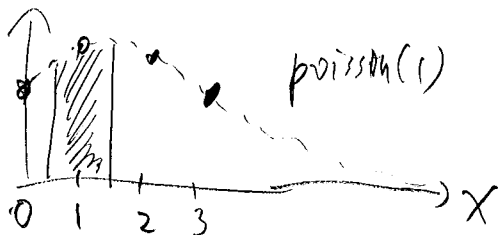
as  $r$  very large,  
and  $g$  very small  $\approx 1^x \cdot e^{-rg} \cdot \frac{(rg)^x}{x!}$   $g \rightarrow 0$

Thus  $\mu = \lambda = r\theta = 1$ ,  $\sigma = \sqrt{\lambda} = \sqrt{r\theta} = 1$  (same results from table)

$$P(\mu - \frac{\sigma}{2} < X < \mu + \frac{\sigma}{2}) \approx P(-\frac{1}{2} < X < \frac{3}{2})$$

$$\approx 1 \cdot \text{Poisson}(\lambda=1, x=1) = e^{-1} \cdot \frac{1^1}{1!} = e^{-1} \approx 0.36788$$

↑ width & height of the bar
↑ calculator #



~~(CLT gives a similar value, but is less accurate)~~  
 ~~$\therefore r$  &  $p$  too extreme~~



The remaining problems are multiple choice. Circle the single correct response. No work is required.

**Problem 7.** (3%) In the neighborhood of  $t = 0$ , which one of the following is the moment generating function (mgf) of some distribution?

- a)  $\frac{t}{1-2t}$    b)  $\frac{2t}{1+2t}$    c)  $\frac{2}{1-2t}$    d)  $\frac{1}{t(1-2t)}$    e)  $\frac{2}{t(1-t)}$    **f)  $\frac{1}{1-2t}$**    g)  $\frac{2t}{1-t}$

**Problem 8.** (3%) Suppose the possible values of a random variable  $X$  are  $0, 1, 2, \dots, 9, 10$ . *finite* For this random variable, what is the set of values of  $t$  for which the moment generating function (mgf)  $M(t)$  is well-defined and finite?

- a)  $[0, \infty)$    b)  $(-\infty, 0]$    c)  $(0, \infty)$    d)  $(-\infty, 0)$    **e)  $(-\infty, \infty)$**    f)  $[0, 10]$    g)  $(0, 10)$   
h)  $[10, \infty)$    i)  $(10, \infty)$    j) not enough information is given to determine the answer

**Problem 9.** (3%) Suppose  $X$  is a random variable, and  $y$  and  $z$  are positive values. Then

$$P(X > y \mid X > y + z) \qquad y + z > y$$

is equal to which of the following?

- a) 0   **b) 1**   c)  $1/2$    d)  $\frac{P(y < X < y + z)}{P(X > y + z)}$    e)  $\frac{P(y < X < y + z)}{P(X > y)}$   
f)  $\frac{P(X > y)}{P(y < X < y + z)}$    g)  $\frac{P(X > y + z)}{P(y < X < y + z)}$    h)  $\frac{P(X > y + z)}{P(X > y)}$    i)  $\frac{P(X > y)}{P(X > y + z)}$

