

Test 2

Theory of Probability  
MATH 464April 4, 2019  
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1. [15 points] A random variable  $X$  has the following moment generating function

$$\mathbb{M}_X(t) = c + \frac{3}{4}e^t + \frac{1}{8}e^{2t}$$

- (a) Write the probability mass function of  $X$ , i.e.,  $f_X$  in a tabular form.
- (b) Find a formula for the  $n$ -th moment of  $X$ , i.e.,  $\mathbb{E}(X^n)$  for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$
- (c) Find  $\text{Var}(X^2)$ .

2. [15 points] Let  $X$  be a continuous random variable with density function

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{c}{1+x^2}, & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- (a) Find  $c$ .
- (b) Find the distribution function of  $X$ , i.e.,  $F_X(x)$ .

3. [15 points] Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be two independent random variables with the following probability mass functions

$$f_X(2) = f_X(4) = f_Y(1) = f_Y(2) = \frac{1}{2},$$

Let  $U := XY$  and  $W := X/Y$ .

- (a) Find  $\mathbb{E}(U)$  and  $\mathbb{E}(W)$ .
- (b) Find  $\text{Var}(UW)$ .
- (c) Find  $\mathbb{P}(X = 2, U = 2)$  and  $\mathbb{P}(W = 2, U = 4)$ .

4. [15 points] Let  $X \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$ , for  $\lambda > 0$ . Find the distribution and the density of  $Y = \sqrt{X+1} - 1$ .

5. [15 points] Suppose  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  are independent random variables with  $\mathbb{E}(X_j) = \mu$  and  $\text{Var}(X_j) = \sigma^2$  for all  $j = 1, \dots, n$ . Let  $Y_k = X_1 + \dots + X_k$  for  $1 \leq k \leq n$ .

(a) Find  $\mathbb{E}(Y_n^2)$ .

(b) Find  $\mathbb{E}(\sum_{k=1}^n Y_k)$ .

6. [15 points] If  $X$  is a discrete uniform random variable on  $\{0, 1, \dots, a\}$ , i.e.,

$$\mathbb{P}(X = k) = \frac{1}{1+a}, \text{ for } k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, a,$$

show that  $X$  has moment generating function

$$M_X(t) = \frac{1 - e^{t(a+1)}}{(1+a)(1 - e^t)}, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

7. [15 points] Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be independent discrete random variables. Given that

$$\mathbb{E}(X^n) = 3^{n-1}, \text{ and } \mathbb{E}(Y^n) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ 1 & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \end{cases} \text{ for } n = 1, 2, \dots$$

- (a) Give an example of such random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ .
- (b) Let  $Z = 2X + Y$ . Find the mean and variance of  $Z$ .
- (c) Let  $W = Y^2 - 2YX$ . Find the mean and variance of  $W$ .

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**1- Discrete Random variables** (for  $0 \leq p \leq 1$ , we use  $q := 1 - p$ )

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**Bernoulli:**  $X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(p)$ 

$$\mathbb{P}(X = 1) = p \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{P}(X = 0) = q.$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = p, \quad \text{Var}(X) = pq, \quad M_X(t) = q + pe^t.$$


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**Binomial:**  $X \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p)$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

$$\mathbb{P}(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} q^{n-k} p^k, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n.$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = np, \quad \text{Var}(X) = npq, \quad M_X(t) = (q + pe^t)^n.$$


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**Geometric:**  $X \sim \text{Geometric}(p)$ 

$$\mathbb{P}(X = k) = q^{k-1} p, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \frac{1}{p}, \quad \text{Var}(X) = \frac{q}{p^2}, \quad M_X(t) = \frac{pe^t}{1 - qe^t}.$$


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**Poisson:**  $X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ .

$$\mathbb{P}(X = k) = \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!}, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \lambda, \quad \text{Var}(X) = \lambda, \quad M_X(t) = e^{\lambda(e^t - 1)}.$$


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**Negative Binomial:**  $X \sim \text{NB}(n, p)$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

$$\mathbb{P}(X = k) = \binom{k-1}{n-1} p^n q^{k-n}, \quad k = n, n+1, \dots$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \frac{n}{p}, \quad \text{Var}(X) = \frac{nq}{p^2}, \quad M_X(t) = \left( \frac{pe^t}{1 - qe^t} \right)^n.$$


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**2- Continuous Random variables**


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**Uniform:**  $X \sim U(a, b)$ , where  $a < b$ .

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{b-a}, & a < x < b \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \frac{a+b}{2}, \quad \text{Var}(X) = \frac{(b-a)^2}{12}, \quad M_X(t) = \frac{e^{bt} - e^{at}}{t(b-a)}, \quad t \neq 0.$$


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**Exponential:**  $X \sim \text{Exp}(\lambda)$ , where  $\lambda > 0$ .

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \lambda e^{-\lambda x}, & x > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \frac{1}{\lambda}, \quad \text{Var}(X) = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}, \quad M_X(t) = \frac{\lambda}{\lambda - t}, \quad t < \lambda.$$


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**Normal:**  $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ , where  $\mu, \sigma \in \mathbb{R}$ .

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right), \quad -\infty < x < \infty.$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \mu, \quad \text{Var}(X) = \sigma^2, \quad M_X(t) = e^{\mu t + \frac{(\sigma t)^2}{2}}.$$


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**Cauchy:**

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\pi(1+x^2)}, \quad -\infty < x < \infty.$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \text{undefined}, \quad \text{Var}(X) = \text{undefined}.$$


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**Gamma:**  $X \sim \Gamma(\omega, \lambda)$ , where  $\omega, \lambda > 0$ .

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\Gamma(\omega)} \lambda^\omega x^{\omega-1} e^{-\lambda x}, & x > 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, \quad \Gamma(\omega) = \int_0^\infty x^{\omega-1} e^{-x} dx.$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \frac{\omega}{\lambda}, \quad \text{Var}(X) = \frac{\omega}{\lambda^2}, \quad M_X(t) = \left( \frac{\lambda}{\lambda - t} \right)^\omega, \quad t < \lambda.$$


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