Department of Mathematics, IST — Section of Probability and Statistics **Probability Theory**

2nd. Test	1st. Semester — $2010/11$
Duration: 1h30m	2011/01/10 - 3PM, Room P8

• Please justify your answers.

• This test has two pages and four groups. The total of points: 20.0.

Group V — Independence and Bernoulli/Poisson processes 4.0 points

 A Bernoulli process with parameter p has already been used in the investigation of earths (2.0) magnetic field reversals,¹ with Bernoulli trials separated by 282 ky (i.e. 282 thousand years).

Prove that, given that the number of geomagnetic reversals in the first 100 Bernoulli trials is equal to 4 (that is, $\{S_{100} = 4\}$), the joint distribution of (T_1, \ldots, T_4) , the vector of the number of 282 ky periods until the 1st., 2nd., 3rd. and 4th. geomagnetic reversals, is the same as the distribution of a random sample of 4 numbers chosen without replacement from $\{1, 2, \ldots, 100\}$.

• Bernoulli process

 $\{X_i, i \in \mathbb{N}\} \overset{i.i.d.}{\sim} \text{Bernoulli}(p)$

 $X_i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if there is a geomagnetic reversal during the } i^{th} 282 \text{ ky period} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

• R.v.

According to Prop. 3.83:

 S_n = number of geomagnetic reversals in the last n 282 ky periods

$$= \sum_{i=1} X_i$$

~ Binomial $(n, p), n \in \mathbb{N};$

- T_k = number of 282 ky periods until the k^{th} geomagnetic reversal
 - ~ NegativeBinomial $(k, p), k \in \mathbb{N}$.

• Requested probability

For
$$1 \le t_1 < t_2 < t_3 < t_4 \le 100$$
, $P(T_1 = t_1, \dots, T_4 = t_4 \mid S_{100} = 4)$ is equal to:

$$P(T_1 = t_1, \dots, T_4 = t_4 \mid S_{100} = 4) = \frac{P(T_1 = t_1, \dots, T_4 = t_4, S_{100} = 4)}{P(S_{100} = 4)},$$

where

$$P(T_1 = t_1, \dots, T_4 = t_4, \ S_{100} = 4) = P\left[\left(\cap_{i=1}^{t_1-1} \{X_i = 0\}\right) \cap X_{t_1} = 1, \\ \left(\cap_{i=t_1+1}^{t_2-1} \{X_i = 0\}\right) \cap X_{t_2} = 1, \\ \left(\cap_{i=t_2+1}^{t_2-1} \{X_i = 0\}\right) \cap X_{t_3} = 1, \\ \left(\cap_{i=t_3+1}^{t_4-1} \{X_i = 0\}\right) \cap X_{t_4} = 1, \\ \left(\cap_{i=t_4+1}^{t_4-1} \{X_i = 0\}\right)\right] = \left[\left(1 - p\right)^{t_1-1} p\right] \times \left[\left(1 - p\right)^{t_2-t_1-1} p\right] \\ \times \left[\left(1 - p\right)^{t_3-t_2-1} p\right] \times \left[\left(1 - p\right)^{t_4-t_3-1} p\right] \\ \times (1 - p)^{100-t_4} = (1 - p)^{100-t_4} p^4$$

and

$$P(S_{100} = 4) = {\binom{100}{4}} p^4 (1-p)^{100-4}.$$

Thus,

$$P(T_1 = t_1, \dots, T_4 = t_4 \mid S_{100} = 4) = \frac{1}{\binom{100}{4}}$$

which is indeed the distribution of a random sample of 4 numbers chosen without replacement from $\{1, 2, \ldots, 100\}$.

2. Suppose that customers arrive to do business at a bank according to a non-homogeneous (2.0) Poisson process with rate function $\lambda(t) = 20 + 10 \cos[2\pi(t-9.5)], t \ge 9$.

What is the probability that twenty customers arrive between 9:30 and 10:30, and another twenty arrive in the following half hour?

• Stochastic process

 $\{N(t), 9 \le t \le 17\} \sim NHPP(\lambda(t))$

N(t) = number of arrivals at the bank until time t

 $\lambda(t) = \text{intensity function} = 20 + 10 \cos[2\pi(t-9.5)], 9 \le t \le 17$

• Distribution

In accordance to Def. 3.125, for $9 \le t, t + s \le 17$,

$$N(t+s) - N(t) \sim \text{Poisson}\left(\int_{t}^{t+s} \lambda(z) \, dz\right),$$
 (1)

and the process $\{N(t), 9 \le t \le 17\}$ has INDEPENDENT INCREMENTS.

• Requested probability

Taking advantage of the independent increments and of result (1),

$$P[N(10.5) - N(9.5) = 20, N(11) - N(10.5) = 20] = P[N(10.5) - N(9.5) = 20]$$
$$\times P[N(11) - N(10.5) = 20]$$

 $^{^{1}}A$ geomagnetic reversal is a change in the orientation of Earth's magnetic field such that the positions of magnetic north and magnetic south become interchanged (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geomagnetic reversal).

$$P[N(10.5) - N(9.5) = 20, N(11) - N(10.5) = 20] = \frac{e^{\int_{9.5}^{10.5} \lambda(z) \, dz} \times \left[\int_{9.5}^{10.5} \lambda(z) \, dz\right]^{20}}{20} \times \frac{e^{\int_{10.5}^{11} \lambda(z) \, dz} \times \left[\int_{10.5}^{11} \lambda(z) \, dz\right]^{20}}{20},$$

where:

$$\int_{9.5}^{10.5} \lambda(z) dz = \int_{9.5}^{10.5} \{20 + 10 \cos[2\pi(z - 9.5)]\} dz$$

= $20z|_{9.5}^{10.5} + 10 \times \frac{1}{2\pi} \sin[2\pi(z - 9.5)]|_{9.5}^{10.5}$
= $20 \times (10.5 - 9.5) + \frac{5}{\pi} [\sin(2\pi) - \sin(0)]$
= $20;$
$$\int_{10.5}^{11} \lambda(z) dz = \int_{10.5}^{11} \{20 + 10 \cos[2\pi(z - 9.5)]\} dz$$

$$J_{10.5} = 20z|_{10.5}^{11} + 10 \times \frac{1}{2\pi} \sin[2\pi(z-9.5)]|_{10.5}^{11}$$

$$= 20 \times (11-10.5) + \frac{5}{\pi} [\sin(3\pi) - \sin(2\pi)]$$

$$= 10$$

Hence,

$$P[N(10.5) - N(9.5) = 20, N(11) - N(10.5) = 20] = e^{-20} \frac{20^{20}}{20!} \times e^{-10} \frac{10^{20}}{20!}$$
$$= \frac{e^{-30} 2^{20} 10^{40}}{(20!)^2}$$
$$\simeq 1.657 \times 10^{-4}.$$

Group VI — Independence and expectation

7.0 points

1. The lifetimes of n computer systems are assumed to be independent and exponentially (3.0) distributed with expected value equal to θ . Let $L = X_{n:n}$ be the lifetime of the system that survives the longest.

Show that $E(L) = \theta \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{n-i+1}$.

Hint: Write L as a sum of independent r.v., capitalize on the lack of memory property of the exponential distribution and its closure under the minimum operation.

• R.v.

 $\begin{aligned} X_i &= \text{lifetime of computer system } i, i = 1, \dots, n \\ X_i &\stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} X, i = 1, 2 \\ X &\sim \text{Exponential}(\theta^{-1}) \\ P(X > x) &= e^{-\theta^{-1}x}, x \ge 0 \end{aligned}$

• New r.v.

 $X_{n:n} = \max_{i=1,\dots,n} X_i$ = lifetime of the system that survives the longest

• Rewriting $X_{n:n}$

 $X_{n:n}$ can be rewritten in terms of the times between consecutive failures:

$$X_{n:n} = X_{1:n} + (X_{2:n} - X_{1:n}) + (X_{3:n} - X_{2:n}) + \dots + (X_{n-1:n} - X_{n-2:n}) + (X_{n:n} - X_{n-1:n}).$$

(Schematics!)

Now, capitalizing on the lack of memory of the exponentially distributed lifetimes, we can add that

$$X_{n:n} \stackrel{d}{=} X_{1:n} + X_{1:n-1} + X_{1:n-2} + \dots + X_{1:2} + X_{1:1},$$

where $X_{1:n-i+1} \sim \text{Exponential}\left(\frac{n-i+1}{\theta}\right)$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, according to Prop. 3.60.²

• Requested expected value

$$E(X_{n:n}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} E(X_{1:n-i+1})$$

=
$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\theta}{n-i+1}$$

=
$$\theta \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{n-i+1}.$$

QED

2. Let X be a r.v. described as follows:

- X = 0.3, with probability 0.2;
- X = 0.7, with probability 0.3;
- $X \sim Uniform([0.2, 0.5] \cup [0.6, 0.8])$, with probability 0.5.

Find E(X).

- R.v.
 - X = 0.3, with probability 0.2
 - X = 0.7, with probability 0.3
 - $X \sim \text{Uniform}([0.2, 0.5] \cup [0.6, 0.8])$, with probability 0.5
- Defining X as a mixed r.v.

Let us consider:

(2.0)

²Also note that these summands are independent r.v. This fact is not relevant for the calculation of $E(X_{n:n})$. It would be if we had to obtain $V(X_{n:n})$.

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \alpha &=& P(X=0.3)+P(X=0.7)\\ &=& 0.5;\\ X_d &:& P(X_d=x) = \begin{cases} \frac{0.2}{\alpha}, & x=0.3\\ \frac{0.3}{\alpha}, & x=0.7\\ 0, & \text{otherwise}; \end{cases}\\ 1-\alpha &=& (0.5-0.2)+(0.8-0.6)\\ &=& 0.5;\\ X_a &\stackrel{d}{=} & \text{Uniform}([0.2,0.5]\cup[0.6,0.8]). \end{cases}$$

Then we can indeed write the d.f. of X as a convex linear combination of the d.f. of X_d and X_a :

$$F_X = \alpha \times F_{X_d} + (1 - \alpha) \times F_{X_a}$$

(check it!).

• Requested expected value

According to Cor. 4.75,

$$\begin{split} E(X) &= \alpha \times E(X_d) + (1 - \alpha) \times E(X_a) \\ &= \alpha \times \sum_i x_i \times P(X_d = x_i) + (1 - \alpha) \times \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x \times f_{X_a}(x) \, dx \\ &= \alpha \times \left(0.3 \times \frac{0.2}{\alpha} + 0.7 \times \frac{0.3}{\alpha} \right) \\ &\quad (1 - \alpha) \times \left[\int_{0.2}^{0.5} x \times \frac{1}{1 - \alpha} \, dx + \int_{0.6}^{0.8} x \times \frac{1}{1 - \alpha} \, dx \right] \\ &= 0.27 + \left(\frac{x^2}{2} \Big|_{0.2}^{0.5} + \frac{x^2}{2} \Big|_{0.6}^{0.8} \right) \\ &= 0.27 + 0.245 \\ &= 0.515. \end{split}$$

Group VII — Expectation

5.0 points

(1.0)

1. Suppose that the number of insurance claims made in a year (X) is a Poisson r.v. with expected value $\lambda > 0$.

(a) Show that $P(\{X \ge 2\lambda\}) \le \frac{1}{1+\lambda}$.

• R.v.

$$\begin{split} X &= \text{number of insurance claims made in a year} \\ X &\sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda), \, 0 < \lambda < +\infty \end{split}$$

Upper bound to P(X ≥ 2λ)
 Since V(X) = λ < ∞, X ∈ L² and, thus, we can apply the one-sided Chebyshev inequality to obtain:

$$P(X \ge 2\lambda) = P[X - \lambda \ge \sqrt{\lambda}\sqrt{\lambda}]$$

= $P[X - E(X) \ge a\sqrt{V(X)}]$
 $\le \frac{1}{1 + a^2}$
= $\frac{1}{1 + (\sqrt{\lambda})^2}$
= $\frac{1}{1 + \lambda}$.

(b) The minimum upper bound for $P(\{X \ge k\})$ — using Chernoff's inequality — is reached (2.0) when $t = \ln\left(\frac{k}{\lambda}\right)$, $k > \lambda$. Compare it with the upper bound in part (a), for a few (say 3) values of λ .

Hint: Use the fact that $E(e^{tX}) = e^{\lambda(e^t-1)}$.

• Minimum Chernoff's upper bound to $P(X \ge 2\lambda)$

Using Chernoff's bound in Prop. 4.99, we can state that

$$P(X \ge k) \le \frac{E(e^{tX})}{e^{tk}}$$
$$= \frac{e^{\lambda(e^{t}-1)}}{e^{tk}}.$$

Furthermore, the minimum the upper bound is reached when $t = \ln(k/\lambda), k > \lambda$:

$$P(X \ge k) \le \frac{e^{\lambda [e^{\lambda(k/\lambda)/2} - 1]}}{e^{\ln(k/\lambda) \times k}}$$
$$= \frac{e^{\lambda (\frac{k}{\lambda} - 1)}}{\left(\frac{k}{\lambda}\right)^k}$$
$$= \frac{e^{k-\lambda}}{\left(\frac{k}{\lambda}\right)^k}$$
$$k = \frac{2\lambda > \lambda}{\Xi} \qquad \frac{e^{2\lambda - \lambda}}{\left(\frac{2\lambda}{\lambda}\right)^{2\lambda}}$$
$$= \left(\frac{e}{4}\right)^{\lambda}.$$

• Comparison of the two upper bounds to $P(X \ge 2\lambda)$

λ	$\frac{1}{1+\lambda}$	$\frac{e^{\lambda}}{4^{\lambda}}$	Which is better?
0.1	0.909091	0.962107	$\frac{1}{1+\lambda}$
1	0.5	0.679570	$\frac{1}{1+\lambda}$
4	0.2	0.213274	$\frac{1}{1+\lambda}$
5	0.166667	0.144935	$\frac{e^{\lambda}}{4^{\lambda}}$

2. Let X_i be the light field being emitted from a laser at time t_i , i = 1, 2.

Laser light is said to be temporally coherent if X_1 and X_2 $(0 < t_1 < t_2)$ are dependent r.v. when $t_2 - t_1$ is not too large.

Admit that the joint p.d.f. of X_1 and X_2 is given by

$$\frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{1-\rho^2}}\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\frac{x_1^2-2\rho x_1x_2+x_2^2}{1-\rho^2}\right), \, x_1,x_2 \in I\!\!R.$$

Obtain the expected value of the light field at time t_2 , given that the light field at time t_1 exceeds 0.5 and $\rho = 0.75$.

• Random vector

$$\label{eq:constraint} \begin{split} \underline{X} &= (X_1, X_2) \\ X_i &= \text{light field at time } t_i, \, i=1,2 \end{split}$$

• Distribution

Since

$$f_{X_1,X_2}(x_1,x_2) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{1-\rho^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\frac{x_1^2 - 2\rho x_1 x_2 + x_2^2}{1-\rho^2}\right), \ x_1,x_2 \in \mathbb{R},$$

Exercise 4.184 suggests that (X_1, X_2) has a bivariate normal distribution with $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = 0$, $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2 = 1$ and correlation coefficient $\rho \in (-1, 1)$.

• Requested expected value

According to Def. 4.202 (inverse Mill's ratio),

$$E(X_2 \mid X_1 > x_1) = \rho \frac{\phi(x_1)}{\Phi(-x_1)}$$

$$\stackrel{x_1=0.5, \rho=0.75}{=} 0.75 \times \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{0.5^2}{2}}}{1-\Phi(0.5)}$$

$$\stackrel{table}{\simeq} 0.75 \times \frac{0.352065}{1-0.6915}$$

$$\simeq 0.855912.$$

Group VIII — Convergence of sequences of r.v.

1. Let X_2, X_3, \ldots be a sequence of independent r.v. such that

$$P(\{X_i = x\}) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2i\ln(i)}, & x = \pm i\\ 1 - \frac{1}{i\ln(i)}, & x = 0\\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Prove that $\overline{X}_n = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=2}^n X_i \stackrel{q.m.}{\longrightarrow} 0.$ **Hint**: Use the fact that $\sum_{i=2}^n \frac{i}{\ln(i)} \leq \frac{n^2}{\ln(n)}.$ • Sequence of independent r.v.

 $\{X_2, X_3, \dots\}$

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(2.0)

P.f.
$$P(X_i = x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2i \ln(i)}, & x = \pm i \\ 1 - \frac{1}{i \ln(i)}, & x = 0 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- New r.v. $\bar{X}_n = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=2}^n X_i, n = 2, 3, \dots$
- Limiting distribution $X \stackrel{d}{=} 0$
- To prove $\bar{X}_n \stackrel{q.m.}{\to} 0$
- Proof

Firstly, we have to check if $X_2, X_3, \dots \in L^2$. Did is indeed true because, for $i = 2, 3, \dots$,

$$\begin{split} E(X_i^2) &= (-i)^2 \times \frac{1}{2i \ln(i)} + 0^2 \times \left[1 - \frac{1}{i \ln(i)}\right] + i^2 \times \frac{1}{2i \ln(i)} \\ &= i^2 \times \frac{1}{i \ln(i)} \\ &= \frac{i}{\ln(i)} \\ &< +\infty. \end{split}$$

Secondly, we have to check if $\bar{X}_2, \bar{X}_3, \dots \in L^2$. This is also true because, for $n = 2, 3, \dots$,

$$E(\bar{X}_{n}^{2}) = E\left[\frac{1}{(n-1)^{2}}\left(\sum_{i=2}^{n}X_{i}\right)^{2}\right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{(n-1)^{2}}E\left(\sum_{i=2}^{n}X_{i}^{2} + \sum_{i=2}^{n}\sum_{j=2, j\neq i}^{2}X_{i}X_{j}\right)$$

$$X_{i} \perp X_{j}, i\neq j \qquad \frac{1}{(n-1)^{2}}\left[\sum_{i=2}^{n}E(X_{i}^{2}) + \sum_{i=2}^{n}\sum_{j=2, j\neq i}^{2}E(X_{i})E(X_{j})\right]$$

$$E(X_{i}) = E(X_{j}) = 0 \qquad \frac{1}{(n-1)^{2}}\sum_{i=2}^{n}\frac{i}{\ln(i)}$$

$$H_{int} \qquad \frac{1}{(n-1)^{2}}\frac{n^{2}}{\ln(n)}$$

$$< +\infty.$$

(1.5)

4.0 points

7

Finally, recall Def. 5.15 and we get

$$\begin{split} \lim_{n \to +\infty} E[(\bar{X}_n - X)^2] & \stackrel{X \stackrel{\text{\tiny def}}{=} 0}{=} \lim_{n \to +\infty} E[(\bar{X}_n)^2] \\ &= \lim_{n \to +\infty} \frac{1}{(n-1)^2} \sum_{i=2}^n \frac{i}{\ln(i)} \\ &\stackrel{Hint}{\leq} \lim_{n \to +\infty} \frac{1}{(n-1)^2} \frac{n^2}{\ln(n)} \\ &= 0, \end{split}$$

i.e., $\bar{X}_n \stackrel{q.m.}{\to} 0.$

QED

2. Let the interval [0,1] be partitioned into n disjoint sub-intervals with lengths p_1, \ldots, p_m (2.5) $(p_i > 0, \sum_{i=1}^m p_i = 1)$. Then the (Shannon) entropy³ of this partition is defined to be $h = -\sum_{i=1}^m p_i \times \ln(p_i)$.

Consider $\{X_1, X_2, ...\}$ a sequence of independent r.v. having the uniform distribution on [0,1], and let $Z_n(i)$ be the number of the $X_1, X_2, ..., X_n$ which lie in the *i*th interval in the partition above.

Show that $W_n = -\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^m Z_n(i) \times \ln(p_i) \xrightarrow{P} h.^4$

Hint: Identify the joint distribution of $(Z_n(1), \ldots, Z_n(m))$, and obtain $E(W_n)$ and $V(W_n)$.

• Sequence of i.i.d. r.v.

 $\{X_1, X_2, \dots \}$ $X_i \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \text{Uniform}([0, 1])$

• Related r.v.

 $Z_n(i) =$ number of the X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n which lie in the *i*th interval in the partition of [0,1] with *n* disjoint sub-intervals with lengths p_1, \ldots, p_m ($p_i > 0, \sum_{i=1}^m p_i = 1$), for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $i = 1, \ldots, m$

• Marginal and joint distributions

 $Z_n(i) \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p_i), i = 1, \dots, m$ $(Z_n(1), \dots, Z_n(m)) \sim \text{Multinomial}_{m-1}(n, (p_1, \dots, p_m))$

• Related sequence of r.v.

 $\{W_1, W_2, \dots\}$

 $W_n^* = -\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^m Z_n(i) \times \ln(p_i)$, a weighted mean of the components of the random vector $(Z_n(1), \ldots, Z_n(m))$

• Expected value and variance of W_n

$$\begin{split} E(W_n) &= -\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^m E[Z_n(i)] \times \ln(p_i) \\ &= -\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^m np_i \times \ln(p_i) \\ &\equiv h \\ &= \text{Shannon entropy} \end{split}$$
$$V(W_n) \stackrel{(4.113)}{=} \frac{1}{n^2} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^m [\ln(p_i)]^2 \times V[Z_n(i)] + 2 \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j>i}^m \ln(p_i) \ln(p_j) \cos(Z_n(i), Z_n(j)) \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{n^2} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^m [\ln(p_i)]^2 \times np_i(1-p_i) + 2 \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j>i}^m \ln(p_i) \ln(p_j) (-n p_i p_j) \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^m [\ln(p_i)]^2 \times p_i(1-p_i) - \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j>i}^m \ln(p_i) \ln(p_j) p_i p_j \\ &= \frac{a}{n} - \frac{2b}{n} \\ \to 0 \end{split}$$

(The convergence follows from the fact that a and b are both finite.)

• To prove

 $W_n \xrightarrow{P} h$

• Proof

The use of the Chebyshev-Bienaymé inequality leads to

$$\lim_{n \to +\infty} P(|W_n - h| > \epsilon) = \lim_{n \to +\infty} P\left[|W_n - E(W_n)| > \frac{\epsilon}{\sqrt{V(W_n)}} \sqrt{V(W_n)} \right]$$

$$\leq \lim_{n \to +\infty} \frac{1}{\left[\frac{\epsilon}{\sqrt{V(W_n)}}\right]^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \lim_{n \to +\infty} V(W_n)$$

$$= 0,$$

i.e., $W_n \xrightarrow{P} h$.

QED

 $^{^{3}}$ The (Shannon) entropy is a measure of the average information content one is missing when one does not know the value of the r.v. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Entropy_(information_theory)).

⁴Almost sure convergence also holds. Moreover, $W_n^* = -\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^m Z_n(i) \times \ln(Z_n(i)/n)$ is a consistent estimator of the entropy.