

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
 Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science
6.041/6.431: Probabilistic Systems Analysis
 (Quiz 2 Solutions | Fall 2010)

3. **(10 points)** Find the conditional joint PDF of X and Y , given that the event $Y \geq X$ has occurred.
 (You may express your answer in terms of the constant c from the previous part.)

Let A be the event that $Y \geq X$. Since X and Y are independent,

$$\begin{aligned} f_{X,Y|A}(x,y) &= \frac{f_{X,Y}(x,y)}{\mathbf{P}(A)} = \frac{f_X(x)f_Y(y)}{\mathbf{P}(A)} \text{ for } (x,y) \in A \\ &= \begin{cases} \frac{4e^{-2y}}{1-e^{-8}}, & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 4, y \geq x \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

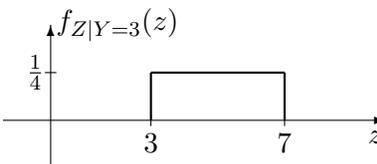
4. **(10 points)** Find the PDF of $Z = X + Y$.

Since X and Y are independent, the convolution integral can be used to find $f_Z(z)$.

$$\begin{aligned} f_Z(z) &= \int_{\max(0,z-4)}^z \frac{1}{4} 2e^{-2t} dt \\ &= \begin{cases} 1/4 \cdot (1 - e^{-2z}), & \text{if } 0 \leq z \leq 4, \\ 1/4 \cdot (e^8 - 1) e^{-2z}, & \text{if } z > 4, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

5. **(10 points)** Provide a fully labeled sketch of the conditional PDF of Z given that $Y = 3$.

Given that $Y = 3$, $Z = X + 3$ and the conditional PDF of Z is a shifted version of the PDF of X . The conditional PDF of Z and its sketch are:

$$f_{Z|\{Y=3\}}(z) = \begin{cases} 1/4, & \text{if } 3 \leq z \leq 7, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$


6. **(10 points)** Find $\mathbf{E}[Z | Y = y]$ and $\mathbf{E}[Z | Y]$.

The conditional PDF $f_{Z|Y=y}(z)$ is a uniform distribution between y and $y + 4$. Therefore,

$$\mathbf{E}[Z | Y = y] = y + 2.$$

The above expression holds true for all possible values of y , so

$$\mathbf{E}[Z | Y] = Y + 2.$$

7. **(10 points)** Find the joint PDF $f_{Z,Y}$ of Z and Y .

The joint PDF of Z and Y can be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{Z,Y}(z,y) &= f_Y(y)f_{Z|Y}(z | y) \\ &= \begin{cases} 1/2 \cdot e^{-2y}, & \text{if } y \geq 0, y \leq z \leq y + 4, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

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8. (10 points) A random variable W is defined as follows. We toss a fair coin (independent of Y). If the result is “heads”, we let $W = Y$; if it is tails, we let $W = 2 + Y$. Find the probability of “heads” given that $W = 3$.

Let X be a Bernoulli random variable for the result of the fair coin where $X = 1$ if the coin lands “heads”. Because the coin is fair, $\mathbf{P}(X = 1) = \mathbf{P}(X = 0) = 1/2$. Furthermore, the conditional PDFs of W given the value of X are:

$$\begin{aligned}f_{W|X=1}(w) &= f_Y(w) \\f_{W|X=0}(w) &= f_Y(w - 2).\end{aligned}$$

Using the appropriate variation of Bayes’ Rule:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{P}(X = 1 | W = 3) &= \frac{\mathbf{P}(X = 1)f_{W|X=1}(3)}{\mathbf{P}(X = 1)f_{W|X=1}(3) + \mathbf{P}(X = 0)f_{W|X=0}(3)} \\&= \frac{\mathbf{P}(X = 1)f_Y(3)}{\mathbf{P}(X = 1)f_Y(3) + \mathbf{P}(X = 0)f_Y(1)} \\&= \frac{\mathbf{P}(X = 1)f_Y(3)}{\mathbf{P}(X = 1)f_Y(3) + \mathbf{P}(X = 0)f_Y(1)} \\&= \frac{e^{-6}}{e^{-6} + e^{-2}}.\end{aligned}$$

Problem 2. (30 points) Let X, X_1, X_2, \dots be independent normal random variables with mean 0 and variance 9. Let N be a positive integer random variable with $\mathbf{E}[N] = 2$ and $\mathbf{E}[N^2] = 5$. We assume that the random variables N, X, X_1, X_2, \dots are independent. Let $S = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i$.

1. (10 points) If δ is a small positive number, we have $\mathbf{P}(1 \leq |X| \leq 1 + \delta) \approx \alpha\delta$, for some constant α . Find the value of α .

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{P}(1 \leq |X| \leq 1 + \delta) &= 2\mathbf{P}(1 \leq X \leq 1 + \delta) \\&\approx 2f_X(1)\delta.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha &= 2f_X(1) \\&= 2 \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{9 \cdot 2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{(1-0)^2}{9}} \\&= \frac{2}{3\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{18}}.\end{aligned}$$

2. (10 points) Find the variance of S .

Using the Law of Total Variance,

$$\begin{aligned}\text{var}(S) &= \mathbf{E}[\text{var}(S | N)] + \text{var}(\mathbf{E}[S | N]) \\&= \mathbf{E}[9 \cdot N] + \text{var}(0 \cdot N) \\&= 9\mathbf{E}[N] = 18.\end{aligned}$$

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3. **(5 points)** Are N and S uncorrelated? Justify your answer.

The covariance of S and N is

$$\begin{aligned}\text{cov}(S, N) &= \mathbf{E}[SN] - \mathbf{E}[S]\mathbf{E}[N] \\ &= \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{E}[SN | N]] - \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{E}[S | N]]\mathbf{E}[N] \\ &= \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{E}[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i N | N]] - \mathbf{E}[\mathbf{E}[\sum_{i=1}^N X_i | N]]\mathbf{E}[N] \\ &= \mathbf{E}[X_1]\mathbf{E}[N^2] - \mathbf{E}[X_1]\mathbf{E}[N] \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

since the $\mathbf{E}[X_1]$ is 0. Therefore, S and N are uncorrelated.

4. **(5 points)** Are N and S independent? Justify your answer.

S and N are not independent.

Proof: We have $\text{var}(S | N) = 9N$ and $\text{var}(S) = 18$, or, more generally, $f_{S|N}(s | n) = N(0, 9n)$ and $f_S(s) = N(0, 18)$ since a sum of an independent normal random variables is also a normal random variable. Furthermore, since $\mathbf{E}[N^2] = 5 \neq (\mathbf{E}[N])^2 = 4$, N must take more than one value and is not simply a degenerate random variable equal to the number 2. In this case, N can take at least one value (with non-zero probability) that satisfies $\text{var}(S | N) = 9N \neq \text{var}(S) = 18$ and hence $f_{S|N}(s | n) \neq f_S(s)$. Therefore, S and N are not independent.

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