

HOMEWORK 6

EXPECTATION AND DISTRIBUTIONS

Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ be a probability space.

Problem 1. Prove the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality: if X, Y are non-negative random variables, then

$$\mathbb{E} XY \leq (\mathbb{E} X^2)^{1/2} (\mathbb{E} Y^2)^{1/2}.$$

Moreover, if X, Y are absolutely integrable random variables, then

$$|\mathbb{E} XY| \leq (\mathbb{E} X^2)^{1/2} (\mathbb{E} Y^2)^{1/2}.$$

Deduce that for any random variable X we have

$$\mathbb{E}|X| \leq (\mathbb{E}|X|^2)^{1/2}.$$

Hint: Begin with the case when both X and Y are simple functions. It is convenient to represent them as

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i \mathbf{1}_{E_i} \quad \text{and} \quad Y = \sum_{i=1}^k b_i \mathbf{1}_{E_i},$$

that is, using the *same* sets E_1, \dots, E_k . Why is this possible?

Problem 2. Prove that if X is a random variable such that $0 < \mathbb{E}|X|^2 < \infty$ then

$$\mathbb{P}(X \neq 0) \geq \frac{(\mathbb{E}|X|)^2}{\mathbb{E}|X|^2}.$$

Problem 3. Define the L^∞ norm of a random variable X as

$$\|X\|_\infty := \inf \{M : |X| \leq M \text{ a.s.}\}.$$

Show that if X, Y are non-negative random variables, then

$$\mathbb{E} XY \leq \mathbb{E}|X| \|Y\|_\infty.$$

Problem 4. Let X be a random variable and let $F_X(x) = \mathbb{P}(X \leq x)$ be its CDF.

Show that if F_X is continuous then the random variable $Y := F_X(X)$ has a uniform distribution on $(0, 1)$. In other words, if $y \in [0, 1]$, then $\mathbb{P}(Y \leq y) = y$.

Problem 5. Suppose the random variable X has probability density function f . Compute the distribution function of X^2 and then differentiate to find its density function.

Problem 6. Compute the expectation, the variance and the moments of a random variable drawn uniformly from $(0, 1)$.

Compute the expectation of a random variable with (negative) exponential distribution.

Problem 7. Let $(\Omega_1, \mathcal{F}_1, \mu_1)$ and $(\Omega_2, \mathcal{F}_2, \mu_2)$ be two probability measure spaces and let $\mathcal{F}_1 \times \mathcal{F}_2$ be the σ -algebra on $\Omega_1 \times \Omega_2$ generated by the family of all Cartesian products $E_1 \times E_2$ where $E_1 \in \mathcal{F}_1$ and $E_2 \in \mathcal{F}_2$.

(a) Show that for every set $E \in \mathcal{F}_1 \times \mathcal{F}_2$, and for every $\omega_1 \in \Omega_1$, the section

$$E_{\omega_1} := \{\omega_2 \in \Omega_2 : (\omega_1, \omega_2) \in E\}$$

is \mathcal{F}_2 -measurable.

(b) Show that the function $\phi: \Omega_1 \rightarrow [0, 1]$,

$$\phi(\omega_1) := \mu_2(E_{\omega_1})$$

is \mathcal{F}_1 -measurable.

(c) Finally show that if we define for all $E \in \mathcal{F}_1 \times \mathcal{F}_2$

$$\mu_1 \times \mu_2(E) := \int_{\Omega_1} \mu_2(E_{\omega_1}) d\mu_1(\omega_1),$$

then $\mu_1 \times \mu_2$ is a probability measure on $(\Omega_1 \times \Omega_2, \mathcal{F}_1 \times \mathcal{F}_2)$.

Hint: Use the monotone class lemma.