

**CHENNAI MATHEMATICAL INSTITUTE**  
**Probability Theory, B.Sc. I, 2025, Jan-April**  
*Mid-term Examination.*

You can score a maximum of 100 marks, combined from both sections A and B. 100

**Part A**

The problems in this section are either already discussed in the class or a slight variation of that. Give the required proof completely. You can score up to a maximum of 45 marks from this section.

1. Show that a non-negative integer valued random variable  $X$  satisfies

$$\frac{P(X = n+k)}{P(X = n)} = \frac{P(\{X = n+k | X \geq n\})}{P(X = n)} = P(\{X = k\}), \quad \forall k, n \geq 0$$

if and only if it is geometric.

2. Show that a random variable  $X$  with hypergeometric distribution with parameter  $(N, n, k)$ , can be written as sum of  $k$  dependent Bernoulli random variables. Using that calculate the mean and variance of  $X$ .

3. Let  $X$  be a random variable having a negative binomial distribution with parameters  $\alpha$  and  $p$ . Derive the generating function of  $X$ . Find the mean and variance of  $X$ .

4. State and prove the strong law of large numbers.

5. A hen lays  $N$  eggs, where  $N$  has the Poisson distribution with parameter  $\lambda$ . Each egg hatches with probability  $p$  independently of the other eggs. Let  $K$  be the number of chicks. Find the mass function of  $K$ . Also find  $E(K/N)$ ,  $E(K)$  and  $E(N/K)$ .

$$\binom{n-1}{\alpha-1} p^{\alpha-1} q^{n-\alpha} e^{-\lambda}$$

$$(1-p)^n \cdot \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^n}{n!}$$

$$P(N|K) = \frac{P(N, K)}{P(K)} = \frac{P(N) P(K|N)}{P(K)}$$

$$P(K|N) = \frac{P(K, N)}{P(N)} = \frac{P(N, K)}{P(N)}$$

$$P(N|K) = \frac{P(K|N) P(N)}{P(K)} = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^n (1-p)^{n-K}}{P(K)}$$

$$1 - p + p^2 - 2p + 2p^2 - \dots$$





$$\sum_{x=0}^{\infty} \sum_{y=0}^{\infty} y^2 P(Y|X) P(X=x) = E(Y \cdot E(Y|X)) - E(Y)E(Y)$$

$$P(A) - P(A \cap B) \quad \text{Part B}$$

$$P(A) = P(A) \sum P(A \cap B) + \sum P(A \cap B \cap C)$$

You may use any result proved in the class. You can score up to a maximum of 70 marks from this section.

1. Let  $\Omega = \{a, b, c\}$  represents the sample space of a random experiment. Suppose we repeat this experiment indefinitely and independently. Calculate, in terms of  $p = P(\{a\})$  and  $q = P(\{b\})$ , the probability that  $a$  occurs before  $b$ . 15
2. Let  $(\Omega, \mathcal{P}(\Omega), P)$  be a discrete probability space with  $P(\{a\}) > 0$  for all  $a \in \Omega$ . Define  $d(A, B) = P(A \Delta B)$  for  $A, B \in \mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ . Show that  $d$  is a metric on  $\mathcal{P}(\Omega)$ . 15
3. Suppose it is given in a probability space that at least one, but no more than three, of the events  $A_r$ ,  $1 \leq r \leq n$ , occur, where  $n \geq 3$ ; the probability of at least two occurring is  $1/2$ . Further if  $P(A_r) = p$ ,  $P(A_r \cap A_s) = q$ ,  $r \neq s$  and  $P(A_r \cap A_s \cap A_t) = x$ ,  $r < s < t$ , then show that  $p \geq \frac{3}{2n}$  and  $q \leq \frac{4}{n}$ . 20
4. Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be discrete random variables with mean 0, variance 1 and covariance  $c$ . Prove that  $E(\text{Max}\{X^2, Y^2\}) \leq 1 + \sqrt{1 - c^2}$ . 20
5. Define the conditional variance of  $Y$  given  $X$  by  $\text{Var}(Y/X) = E((Y - E(Y/X))^2 | X)$ . Show that  $\text{Var}(Y) = E(\text{Var}(Y/X)) + \text{Var}(E(Y/X))$ . 20
6. Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be independent random variables each having a geometric density with parameter  $p$ . Find  $E(Y/X + Y)$ . 20

$$E(Y^2 | X) = \sum_{y=0}^{\infty} y^2 P(Y=y | X=x)$$

$$= \sum_{y=0}^{\infty} y^2 (1-p)^{x+y-1} p$$

$$= (1-p)^{x-1} \sum_{y=0}^{\infty} y^2 (1-p)^y p$$

$$= (1-p)^{x-1} \cdot \frac{p}{(1-p)^2} = \frac{p}{(1-p)}$$

$$E(Y^2) = \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} E(Y^2 | X=x) P(X=x)$$

$$= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} \frac{p}{(1-p)} (1-p)^x p = \frac{p^2}{(1-p)}$$

$$E(Y) = \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} E(Y | X=x) P(X=x)$$

$$= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} (1-p)^{x-1} p = \frac{1}{1-p}$$

$$\text{Var}(Y) = E(Y^2) - (E(Y))^2 = \frac{p^2}{(1-p)} - \frac{1}{(1-p)^2}$$

$$= \frac{p^2(1-p) - 1}{(1-p)^2}$$

$$= \frac{p^2 - p^3 - 1}{(1-p)^2}$$

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