
Question Bank 5

Question 1

Consider a pair of random variables X and Y . Let Y be distributed as a Binomial distribution $Bin(n, X)$, where X has a beta distribution on $[0, 1]$ with parameters a and b .

(i) Describe the probability mass function of Y . [4]

(ii) Evaluate $E[Y]$. [2]

(iii) Evaluate $Var(Y)$. [2]

(iv) Specify the distribution of Y if X is uniform. [2]

Question 2

(i) Derive expressions, in terms of a, b and c , for the principal components of a 2-dimensional random vector X with mean μ and covariance matrix:

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} a & c \\ c & b \end{bmatrix}$$

What are the variances of the first and second principal components? [6]

(ii) A p -dimensional random variable X has a $N_p(\mu, \Sigma)$ distribution if its characteristic function is given by

$$\phi_X(t) = e^{it'\mu - \frac{1}{2}t'\Sigma t}.$$

Derive the distribution of the vector $Y = AX$ where A is a $q \times p$ matrix. [2]

(iii) Describe the distribution of the vector $Z = W^{-1}(X - \mu)$, where W is a symmetric matrix such that $W^2 = \Sigma$. [2]

Question 3

Let Y_1, \dots, Y_n be independently and identically distributed random variables, with $Y_i \sim \text{Poi}(\mu) \forall i$.

(i) Derive the probability generating function $G_{Y_1}(t)$ and the moment generating function $M_{Y_1}(t)$ for Y_1 . [4]

(ii) Let $S = \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i$. Show that S follows a Poisson distribution with parameter $n\mu$. [3]

(iii) Let X have the Poisson distribution with parameter Y_1 , show that the probability generating function for $X + Y_1$ is [3]

$$G_{X+Y_1}(t) = \exp\{\mu(te^{t-1} - 1)\}$$