

## MGF refresh

Recall that the MGF (it if exists) of a random variable  $X$  is defined as

$$M_X(t) = \mathbb{E}[e^{tX}]$$

for  $t$  in some open interval about 0. The MGF uniquely defines a distribution, and is especially useful for finding the distribution of a sum of independent random variables (why?).

Another nice property about MGFs that you proved in 310 is as follows: Let  $X$  have MGF  $M_X(t)$ . If  $Y = a + bX$  for  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $M_Y(t) = e^{at}M_X(bt)$ .

## Problems

If  $X \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$ , then its MGF is  $M_X(t) = \left(1 - \frac{t}{\beta}\right)^{-\alpha}$  for  $t < \beta$ .

1. **Scaling property of Gammas:** Let  $X \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$  and define  $Y = cX$  for any constant  $c > 0$ . Show  $Y \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \frac{\beta}{c})$ .
2. **Sums of independent Gammas:** Let  $X_i \stackrel{\text{indep}}{\sim} \text{Gamma}(\alpha_i, \beta)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , and define  $Y = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ . Find the distribution of  $Y$ .