

# Homework 2 of Dynamic Programming and Optimal Control

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## 1 Exercise 9.6

Define  $\gamma(r)$  as  $\ln[g(r)]$  where  $g(r) = E[\exp(rX)]$ . Assume that  $X$  is discrete with possible outcomes  $\{a_i; i \geq 1\}$ , let  $p_i$  denote  $\Pr\{X = a_i\}$ , and assume that  $g(r)$  exists in some open interval  $(r_-, r_+)$  containing  $r = 0$ . For any given  $r, r_- < r < r_+$ , define a rv  $X_r$  with the same set of possible outcomes  $\{a_i; i \geq 1\}$  as  $X$ , but with a PMF  $q_i = \Pr\{X_r = a_i\} = p_i \exp[a_i r - \gamma(r)]$ . Note that  $X_r$  is not a function of  $X$  and is not even to be viewed as in the same probability space as  $X$ ; it is of interest simply because of the behavior of its defined probability mass function. It is called a tilted rv relative to  $X$ , and this exercise, along with Exercise 9.11, will justify our interest in it.

- (a) Verify that  $\sum_i q_i = 1$ .
- (b) Verify that  $E[X_r] = \sum_i a_i q_i$  is equal to  $\gamma'(r)$ .
- (c) Verify that  $\text{VAR}[X_r] = \sum_i a_i^2 q_i - (E[X_r])^2$  is equal to  $\gamma''(r)$ .
- (d) Argue that  $\gamma''(r) \geq 0$  for all  $r$  such that  $g(r)$  exists, and that  $\gamma''(r) > 0$  if  $\gamma''(0) > 0$ .

**Solutions:**

(a)

$$\sum_i q_i = \sum_i p_i \exp[a_i r - \gamma(r)] = \sum_i \frac{p_i \exp[a_i r]}{g(r)} = \frac{\sum_i p_i \exp[a_i r]}{g(r)} = \frac{g(r)}{g(r)} = 1$$

(b)

$$\begin{aligned} E[X_r] &= \sum_i a_i q_i \\ &= \sum_i a_i p_i \exp[a_i r - \gamma(r)] \\ &= \frac{\sum_i p_i a_i \exp[a_i r]}{g(r)} \\ &= \frac{1}{g(r)} \frac{d \sum_i p_i \exp[a_i r]}{dr} \\ &= \frac{g'(r)}{g(r)} = \gamma'(r) \end{aligned}$$

(c) Since

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_i a_i^2 q_i &= \sum_i a_i^2 p_i \exp[a_i r - \gamma(r)] \\
&= \frac{1}{g(r)} \sum_i p_i a_i^2 \exp[a_i r] \\
&= \frac{1}{g(r)} \frac{d \sum_i p_i a_i \exp[a_i r]}{dr} \\
&= \frac{1}{g(r)} \frac{dg'(r)}{dr} \\
&= \frac{g''(r)}{g(r)}
\end{aligned}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{VAR}[X_r] &= \sum_i a_i^2 q_i - (\text{E}[X_r])^2 \\
&= \frac{g''(r)}{g(r)} - \frac{[g'(r)]^2}{[g(r)]^2} \\
&= \frac{g''(r) - [g'(r)]^2}{[g(r)]^2} \\
&= \gamma''(r)
\end{aligned}$$

(d) Since  $\gamma''(r) = \text{VAR}[X_r]$ , it is nonnegative and  $\gamma''(r) \geq 0$ . If  $\gamma''(0) > 0$ , then  $\text{VAR}[X] > 0$ , which means that  $X$  is non-atomic. Thus  $X_r$  is non-atomic and  $\gamma''(r) > 0$ .