

ECE 313: Final Exam

Friday, May 8, 2009, 8:00 a.m. — 11:00 a.m.

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1. [20 points] An urn contains five balls numbered consecutively from 1 to 5. Balls are drawn one at a time (*sampling without replacement*) until the 5 ball is drawn. Let \mathbb{N} denote the number of draws required to draw the 5 ball and let \mathbb{Z} denote the sum of the numbers on the balls drawn prior to the 5 ball.

- (a) [10 points] Find the pmf of \mathbb{N} .

Solution: Since sampling without replacement is being used, the 5 ball is equally likely to be drawn on any of the 5 draws, and so $p_{\mathbb{N}}(i) = \frac{1}{5}$ for $i = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$. Alternatively, $p_{\mathbb{N}}(1) = \frac{1}{5}$, $p_{\mathbb{N}}(2) = \frac{4}{5} \times \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{5}$, $p_{\mathbb{N}}(3) = \frac{4}{5} \times \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{5}$, $p_{\mathbb{N}}(4) = \frac{4}{5} \times \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{2}{3} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{5}$, $p_{\mathbb{N}}(5) = \frac{4}{5} \times \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{2}{3} \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{1} = \frac{1}{5}$.

- (b) [10 points] Find the conditional expectation $E[\mathbb{Z} | \mathbb{N} = 3]$.

Solution: Conditioned on $\mathbb{N} = 3$, the first two balls drawn are $\{1, 2\}$, $\{1, 3\}$, $\{1, 4\}$, $\{2, 3\}$, $\{2, 4\}$, $\{3, 4\}$ with equal probability $\frac{1}{6}$. Thus, conditioned on $\mathbb{N} = 3$, the sum \mathbb{Z} takes on values 3, 4, 6, and 7 with probability $\frac{1}{6}$ and value 5 with probability $\frac{2}{6}$, and hence $E[\mathbb{Z} | \mathbb{N} = 3] = (3 + 4 + 2 \times 5 + 6 + 7)/6 = 5$.

Alternatively, let \mathbb{X}_1 and \mathbb{X}_2 denote the numbers on the first two balls drawn. Then, conditioned on $\mathbb{N} = 3$, \mathbb{X}_1 takes on values $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ with equal probability $\frac{1}{4}$, and \mathbb{X}_2 also takes on values $\{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ with equal probability $\frac{1}{4}$. Hence, $E[\mathbb{Z} | \mathbb{N} = 3] = E[\mathbb{X}_1 + \mathbb{X}_2 | \mathbb{N} = 3] = 2 \times (1 + 2 + 3 + 4)/4 = 5$.

2. [30 points] Three coins are in a bag. One has heads on both sides, one has tails on both sides, and the third is a fair coin.

- (a) [10 points] First, the instructor takes a coin out of the bag, and flips it twice. What is the probability that the first two coin flips both result in “heads?”

Solution: Let E_i denote the event that the coin selected by the instructor has exactly i heads on it, for $i = 0, 1, 2$ (so E_2 is the event that the instructor draws the two-headed coin from the bag) and let H_j denote the event that heads shows on the j^{th} toss of the instructor. We want to determine $P(H_1 H_2)$. Using the law of total probability, we find

$$\begin{aligned} P(H_1 H_2) &= P(H_1 H_2 | E_0) P(E_0) + P(H_1 H_2 | E_1) P(E_1) + P(H_1 H_2 | E_2) P(E_2) \\ &= 0 \cdot \frac{1}{3} + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \cdot \frac{1}{3} + 1^2 \cdot \frac{1}{3} = \frac{5}{12}. \end{aligned}$$

- (b) [10 points] Given that the first coin flip results in heads, what is the conditional probability that the second flip of the same coin is also heads?

Solution: $P(H_2 | H_1) = \frac{P(H_1 H_2)}{P(H_1)} = \frac{5/12}{1/2} = \frac{5}{6}$. (Here we used the fact $P(H_1) = 0.5$. This can be seen by symmetry, or by the method used in part (a).)

- (c) [10 points] Suppose “heads” shows on each of the first two coin flips, and then a student selects one of the other two coins in the bag and flips it. What is the conditional probability that the coin flip of the student also shows heads?

Solution: Let F be the event that the coin flipped by the student shows heads. We will need to compute $P(H_1 H_2 F)$. There are six possibilities for which coins are selected by instructor and student, each having probability $\frac{1}{6}$. Given the instructor selects the two headed coin and the student selects the fair coin, the conditional probability of $H_1 H_2 F$ is 0.5. Given the instructor selects the fair coin and the student selects the two headed coin, the conditional probability of $H_1 H_2 F$ is $(0.5)^2 = 0.25$. Given any of the other four possibilities for which coins were selected by instructor and student, the conditional probability of $H_1 H_2 F$ is zero. So, $P(H_1 H_2 F) = (0.5 + 0.25)/6 = \frac{1}{8}$. Therefore, $P(F | H_1 H_2) = \frac{P(H_1 H_2 F)}{P(H_1 H_2)} = \frac{1/8}{5/12} = 0.3$.

3. [16 points] Suppose $Y = X^2$ where X has pdf $f_X(u) = \begin{cases} 2u, & \text{if } 0 \leq u \leq 1, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

Find the CDF of Y .

Solution: The range of Y is the interval $[0, 1]$. For c in that interval,

$F_Y(c) = P\{X^2 \leq c\} = P\{X \leq \sqrt{c}\} = \int_0^{\sqrt{c}} 2u du = c$. Of course, $F_Y(c) = 0$ for $c \leq 0$ and $F_Y(c) = 1$ for $c \geq 1$. So Y is uniformly distributed on the interval $[0, 1]$.

4. [20 points] Let $(N(t) : t > 0)$ denote a Poisson process with arrival rate $\lambda > 0$. Remember that this notation means that for each $t > 0$, the number of arrivals in the interval $(0, t]$ is denoted by $N(t)$.

- (a) [10 points] Find $P\{N(1) = 2, N(3) = 5\}$. Note that $N(1)$ and $N(3)$ are *not* independent. Your answer should depend on λ .

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} P\{N(1) = 2, N(3) = 5\} &= P\{N(1) = 2, N(3) - N(1) = 3\}, \\ &= P\{N(1) = 2\}P\{N(3) - N(1) = 3\}, && N(1) \text{ and } N(3) - N(1) \text{ are independent} \\ &= \left(\frac{\lambda^2 e^{-\lambda}}{2!}\right) \left(\frac{(2\lambda)^3 e^{-2\lambda}}{3!}\right) && \text{Poisson RVs with parameters } \lambda, 2\lambda \text{ resp.} \end{aligned}$$

- (b) [10 points] Find $P(N(1) = 2 \mid N(3) = 5)$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} P\{N(1) = 2 \mid N(3) = 5\} &= \frac{\text{Answer to part (a)}}{P\{N(3) = 5\}} \\ &= \frac{\left(\frac{2\lambda^5 e^{-3\lambda}}{3}\right)}{\left(\frac{(3\lambda)^5 e^{-3\lambda}}{5!}\right)} = \frac{80}{243} \end{aligned}$$

5. [20 points] Suppose X is a continuous random variable with mean 20 and variance 3. Find the numerical value of $P\{X < 20 - 1.732\sqrt{3}\}$ (or, nearly equivalently, $P\{X < 17\}$) in the following two cases:

- (a) [10 points] X is a Gaussian random variable.

Solution: $P\{X < 20 - 1.732\sqrt{3}\} = \Phi\left(\frac{20 - 1.732\sqrt{3} - 20}{\sqrt{3}}\right) = \Phi(-1.732) = 1 - \Phi(1.732) \approx 1 - \Phi(1.73) = 1 - 0.9582 = 0.0418$ from the table supplied.

- (b) [10 points] X is a uniformly distributed random variable.

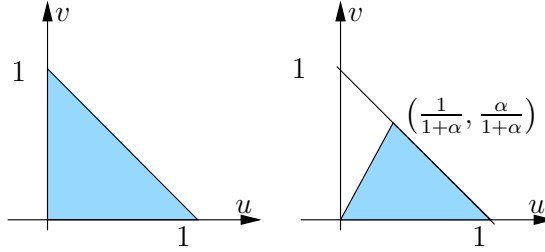
Solution: If X is uniformly distributed on $[\alpha, \beta]$, then $E[X] = \frac{\beta + \alpha}{2}$ and $\text{var}(X) = \frac{(\beta - \alpha)^2}{12}$. We readily get $(\beta - \alpha)^2 = 36 \Rightarrow \beta - \alpha = 6$ and $\beta + \alpha = 40$ so that $\alpha = 17$ and $\beta = 23$. Hence, $P\{X < 20 - 1.732\sqrt{3}\} \approx P\{X < 17\} = 0$. Since $1.732\sqrt{3}$ is *slightly* smaller than 3, the exact value of $P\{X < 20 - 1.732\sqrt{3}\}$ is *slightly* larger than 0.

6. [25 points] X and Y are jointly continuous random variables with joint pdf given by

$$f_{X,Y}(u, v) = \begin{cases} 2, & \text{if } u \geq 0, v \geq 0, u + v \leq 1, \\ 0, & \text{elsewhere.} \end{cases}$$

Find the pdf $f_Z(\alpha)$ of the random variable $Z = Y/X$. To obtain full credit, you must specify the value of $f_Z(\alpha)$ for all α , $-\infty < \alpha < \infty$.

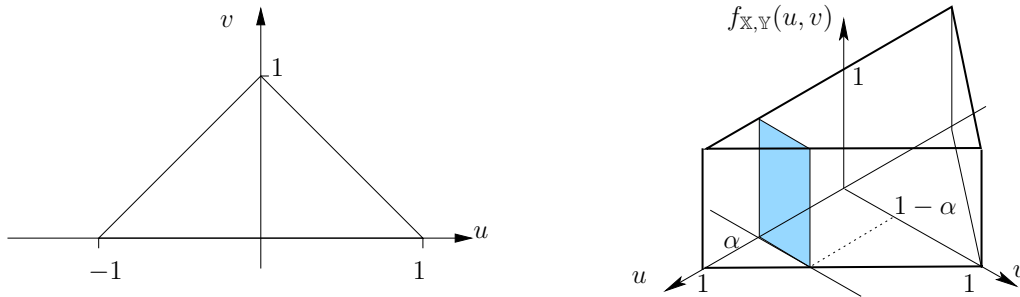
Solution: The joint pdf has value 2 on the triangular region with vertices at $(0, 0)$, $(0, 1)$, and $(1, 0)$ as shown in the left-hand figure below.



Clearly, $Z = Y/X$ takes on values in $[0, \infty)$ and so $f_Z(\alpha) = 0$ for $\alpha < 0$. For any real number α such that $0 \leq \alpha < \infty$, we have $F_Z(\alpha) = P\{Z \leq \alpha\} = P\{Y/X \leq \alpha\}$
 $= P\{\text{random point } (\mathbb{X}, \mathbb{Y}) \text{ lies in shaded region shown in right-hand figure above}\}$
 $= \int \int f_{\mathbb{X}, \mathbb{Y}}(u, v) du dv$ over the shaded region in right-hand figure above $= 2 \times \{\text{area of region}\}$
 $= 2 \times (\frac{1}{2} \times 1 \times \frac{\alpha}{\alpha+1}) = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha+1}$ since the shaded region is a triangle of base 1 and apex at $(1/(\alpha+1), \alpha/(\alpha+1))$.
It follows that $f_Z(\alpha) = \frac{d}{d\alpha} F_Z(\alpha) = \frac{1}{(1+\alpha)^2}$ for $\alpha > 0$.

7. [36 points] The joint pdf of the random variables \mathbb{X} and \mathbb{Y} has constant value 1 on the triangular region with vertices at $(-1, 0)$, $(0, 1)$, and $(1, 0)$.

The pdf is nonzero on the triangular region shown in the left-hand figure below and defines a triangular prism as shown in the right-hand figure below.



- (a) [8 points] Find the value of $E[\mathbb{Y}]$.

Solution: $E[\mathbb{Y}] = \int_{v=0}^1 \int_{u=-(1-v)}^{1-v} v \cdot 1 du dv = \int_{v=0}^1 2v(1-v) dv = v^2 - \frac{2v^3}{3} \Big|_0^1 = \frac{1}{3}$.

- (b) [6 points] Find $f_{\mathbb{Y}|\mathbb{X}}(v | \frac{\pi}{4})$, the conditional pdf of \mathbb{Y} given that $\mathbb{X} = \pi/4$.

Solution: The conditional pdf of \mathbb{Y} given $\mathbb{X} = \alpha$ is the cross-section of the joint pdf solid at α normalized to have unit area. The cross-section is a rectangle with base $1 - \alpha$ as indicated in the right-hand figure above. (More generally, the rectangle base is $1 - |\alpha|$ since α might have negative value). We see that given $\mathbb{X} = \pi/4$, the conditional pdf of \mathbb{Y} is a uniform density on $[0, 1 - \pi/4]$.

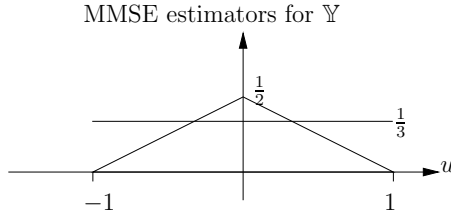
More formally, $f_{\mathbb{Y}|\mathbb{X}}(v | \frac{\pi}{4}) = \begin{cases} \frac{4}{4-\pi}, & \text{if } 0 \leq v \leq 1 - \frac{\pi}{4}, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

- (c) [6 points] Find $E[\mathbb{Y} | \mathbb{X} = \frac{\pi}{4}]$, the conditional mean of \mathbb{Y} given that $\mathbb{X} = \pi/4$.

Solution: The mean of a uniform random variable is the midpoint of its range. Hence we get that $E[\mathbb{Y} | \mathbb{X} = \frac{\pi}{4}] = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\pi}{8}$.

- (d) [8 points] Sketch, as a function of u , a graph of the *minimum mean-square error estimator* of \mathbb{Y} given that value of \mathbb{X} is u , for u in the range $u \in (-1, 1)$.

Solution: The MMSE estimator of \mathbb{Y} given $\mathbb{X} = u$ is the conditional mean of \mathbb{Y} for the given value of \mathbb{X} . Since the conditional pdf is uniform on $1 - |u|$, the conditional mean is $(1 - |u|)/2$ and is sketched in the figure below.



- (e) [8 points] Sketch a graph of the **linear** *minimum mean-square error estimator* of Y given that value of X is u , where $u \in (-1, 1)$.

Hint: Without doing any actual integrations, first deduce that $E[XY] = E[X] = 0$.

Solution: The *linear* MMSE estimator for Y given that $X = u$ is $\mu_Y + \rho \frac{\sigma_Y}{\sigma_X}(u - \mu_X)$. In part (a), we found that $\mu_Y = \frac{1}{3}$. It is obvious from the symmetry of the pdf that $E[X] = 0$ but

anti-segregationists can use $E[X] = \int_{v=0}^1 \int_{u=-(1-v)}^{1-v} u \cdot 1 \, du \, dv = \int_{v=0}^1 \frac{u^2}{2} \Big|_{-(1-v)}^{1-v} \, dv = \int_0^1 0 \, dv = 0$.

Similarly, $E[XY] = \int_{v=0}^1 \int_{u=-(1-v)}^{1-v} uv \cdot 1 \, du \, dv = \int_{v=0}^1 v \frac{u^2}{2} \Big|_{-(1-v)}^{1-v} \, dv = \int_0^1 0 \, dv = 0$ giving us that

$\text{cov}(X, Y) = E[XY] - E[X]E[Y] = 0 \Rightarrow \text{rho} = 0$. Hence, the linear MMSE estimator for Y is $\mu_Y = \frac{1}{3}$. This is illustrated in the figure above.

8. [28 points] Suppose X and Y are *zero-mean unit-variance* jointly Gaussian random variables with correlation coefficient $\rho = 0.5$.

- (a) [8 points] Find $\text{var}(3X - 2Y)$.

Solution: $\text{var}(3X - 2Y) = 3^2 \cdot \text{var}(X) + 2^2 \cdot \text{var}(Y) - 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot \text{cov}(X, Y) = 9 + 4 - 12 \times \frac{1}{2} = 7$.

- (b) [10 points] Find the numerical value of $P\{(3X - 2Y)^2 \leq 28\}$.

Solution: $E[3X - 2Y] = 3 \cdot E[X] - 2 \cdot E[Y] = 0$. Furthermore, since X and Y are *jointly Gaussian* random variables, $3X - 2Y$ is also a Gaussian random variable, and we have that

$$\begin{aligned} P\{(3X - 2Y)^2 \leq 28\} &= P\{-\sqrt{28} \leq 3X - 2Y \leq \sqrt{28}\} = \Phi\left(\frac{\sqrt{28} - 0}{\sqrt{7}}\right) - \Phi\left(-\frac{\sqrt{28} - 0}{\sqrt{7}}\right) \\ &= \Phi(2) - \Phi(-2) = \Phi(2) - [1 - \Phi(2)] = 2\Phi(2) - 1 = 2 \times 0.9772 - 1 = 0.9544. \end{aligned}$$

- (c) [10 points] Find $E[Y | X = 3]$.

Solution: Since X and Y are *jointly Gaussian* random variables, the conditional mean of Y given $X = \alpha$ is the same as the *linear* MMSE estimator of Y given $X = \alpha$, *viz.* $\mu_Y + \rho(\sigma_Y/\sigma_X)(\alpha - \mu_X) = 0 + 0.5 \times 1 \times (3 - 0) = 3/2$.

9. [30 points] (3 points per answer)

In order to discourage guessing, 3 points will be deducted for each incorrect answer (no penalty or gain for blank answers). A net negative score will reduce your total exam score.

- (a) A and B are two events such that $0 < P(A) < 1$ and $0 < P(B) < 1$.

TRUE FALSE

 $P(A \cup B) \geq \max\{P(A), P(B)\}$

 $P(A|B) + P(A|B^c) = 1$.

 $P(A|B)P(B) + P(A^c|B)P(B) = P(A)$.

 If $P(A) = P(B)$, then $P(A|B) = P(B|A)$.

Solution: A and B are two events such that $0 < P(A) < 1$ and $0 < P(B) < 1$.

$P(A \cup B) \geq \max\{P(A), P(B)\}$ is a TRUE statement. $A, B \subset A \cup B \Rightarrow P(A), P(B) \leq P(A \cup B)$. $P(A|B) + P(A|B^c) = 1$ is a FALSE statement. On the other hand, the very similar-looking statement $P(A|B) + P(A^c|B) = 1$ is TRUE.

$P(A|B)P(B) + P(A^c|B)P(B) = P(A)$ is a FALSE statement. On the other hand, the very similar-looking statement $P(A|B)P(B) + P(A^c|B)P(B) = P(B)$ is TRUE.

If $P(A) = P(B)$, then $P(A|B) = P(B|A)$ is a TRUE statement. On the other hand, the converse statement (found on the Conflict Final Exam) “If $P(A|B) = P(B|A)$, then $P(A) = P(B)$ ” is FALSE. Can you figure out why?

- (b) \mathbb{X} is a continuous random variable whose probability density function (pdf) $f_{\mathbb{X}}(u)$ is an *even function*, that is, $f_{\mathbb{X}}(u) = f_{\mathbb{X}}(-u)$ for *all* real numbers u . Let $F_{\mathbb{X}}(u)$ denote the cumulative probability distribution function (CDF) of \mathbb{X} , let α denote a *positive* real number, and assume that that \mathbb{X} has finite variance σ^2 .

TRUE FALSE

- $E[\mathbb{X}] = 0$.
- $F_{\mathbb{X}}(-\alpha) \leq \frac{\sigma^2}{2\alpha^2}$.
- $P\{\mathbb{X}^2 > \alpha^2\} = 2F_{\mathbb{X}}(-\alpha)$.
- The pdf of $\mathbb{Y} = |\mathbb{X}|$ is $f_{\mathbb{Y}}(v) = 2f_{\mathbb{X}}(v) - 1, 0 \leq v < \infty$.

Solution: $f_{\mathbb{X}}(u)$ is an even function and the variance σ^2 is finite.

$E[\mathbb{X}] = 0$ is a TRUE statement because the pdf is an even function and σ^2 is finite. Note that there are random variables with even pdfs for which the statement $E[\mathbb{X}] = 0$ is false, for example, the Cauchy random variable.

$F_{\mathbb{X}}(-\alpha) \leq \frac{\sigma^2}{2\alpha^2}$ is a TRUE statement. By the Chebyshev inequality, we have that

$P\{|\mathbb{X}| > \alpha\} = F_{\mathbb{X}}(-\alpha) + (1 - F_{\mathbb{X}}(\alpha)) \leq \frac{\sigma^2}{2\alpha^2}$. But because of the pdf is an even function, $F_{\mathbb{X}}(-\alpha) = (1 - F_{\mathbb{X}}(\alpha))$.

$P\{\mathbb{X}^2 > \alpha^2\} = 2F_{\mathbb{X}}(-\alpha)$ is a TRUE statement. Note that $P\{\mathbb{X}^2 > \alpha^2\} = P\{|\mathbb{X}| > \alpha\}$ and look at the previous part of this problem.

“The pdf of $\mathbb{Y} = |\mathbb{X}|$ is $f_{\mathbb{Y}}(v) = 2f_{\mathbb{X}}(v) - 1, 0 \leq v < \infty$ ” is a FALSE statement. Note that the purported pdf has value close to -1 for large values of v .

- (c) \mathbb{X} and \mathbb{Y} are random variables with finite and equal variances, that is, $\text{var}(\mathbb{X}) = \text{var}(\mathbb{Y}) = \sigma^2 < \infty$. Suppose that $\text{var}(2\mathbb{X} + 3\mathbb{Y} + 4) = \text{var}(3\mathbb{X} - 2\mathbb{Y} + 1)$.

TRUE FALSE

- \mathbb{X} and \mathbb{Y} are *uncorrelated* random variables.
- $\text{var}(2\mathbb{X} + 3\mathbb{Y} + 4) = \text{var}(2\mathbb{X} - 3\mathbb{Y} + 1)$.

Solution: $\text{var}(2\mathbb{X} + 3\mathbb{Y} + 4) = 4 \cdot \text{var}(\mathbb{X}) + 9 \cdot \text{var}(\mathbb{Y}) + 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot \text{cov}(\mathbb{X}, \mathbb{Y}) = 13\sigma^2 + 12 \cdot \text{cov}(\mathbb{X}, \mathbb{Y})$.
 $\text{var}(3\mathbb{X} - 2\mathbb{Y} + 1) = 9 \cdot \text{var}(\mathbb{X}) + 4 \cdot \text{var}(\mathbb{Y}) - 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot \text{cov}(\mathbb{X}, \mathbb{Y}) = 13\sigma^2 + 12 \cdot \text{cov}(\mathbb{X}, \mathbb{Y})$.

Since these two variances are equal, then it must be that $\text{cov}(\mathbb{X}, \mathbb{Y}) = 0$. Hence,

“ \mathbb{X} and \mathbb{Y} are *uncorrelated* random variables.” is a TRUE statement.

Since additive constants do not affect variance, “ $\text{var}(2\mathbb{X} + 3\mathbb{Y} + 4) = \text{var}(2\mathbb{X} - 3\mathbb{Y} + 1)$ ” is a TRUE statement.