

McGILL UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

FINAL EXAMINATION

MATH 323

Probability

Examiner: Professor W.J. Anderson
Associate Examiner: Professor D. Stephens

Date: Tuesday, December 21, 2010
Time: 2 to 5pm

INSTRUCTIONS

This exam comprises the cover and four pages with 8 questions. Answer all questions. No aids other than pocket calculators are allowed. Tables of the normal distribution are given at the end of this exam paper.

[Marks]

[12] (1) Three urns contain coloured balls as follows:

Urn	Red	White	Blue
1	3	4	2
2	2	3	1
3	2	3	4

One urn is chosen at random and a ball is withdrawn.

- (a) What is the probability that the ball is blue?
 (b) Given that the ball is blue, what is the probability it came from urn 3?

[13] (2) (a) An unbalanced die, with probabilities $P(1) = P(2) = 1/12$, $P(3) = P(4) = P(5) = 1/6$, and $P(6) = 1/3$, is tossed twice. Let X be the maximum of the two numbers which occur. Find $E(X)$ and $\text{Var}(X)$.

- (b) A box contains 12 marbles of which 7 are red and 5 are green. Four marbles are picked at random one by one without replacement. What is the probability that the fourth one picked is the third red marble?

[12] (3) (a) The amount of coffee a machine dispenses is an exponentially distributed random variable with mean 100cc. Suppose a cup will overflow if more than 120cc are dispensed. What is the probability that at least two out of five fillings will result in overflow?

- (b) Write down the density or probability function corresponding to the following moment generating functions.

$$(i) M_1(t) = e^{-6t} \quad (ii) M_2(t) = \frac{e^{3(e^t)}}{e^3}$$

[13] (4) If the density function of a random variable Y is given by

$$g(y) = \begin{cases} ky(1-y) & \text{if } 0 < y < 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

find (a) the constant k , (b) $P\{Y > 1/3\}$, (c) $E(Y)$, and (d) $\text{Var}(Y)$.

[13] (5) Random variables X and Y have joint probability function given in the following table:

		X		
		-1	0	2
Y	1	.2	.2	.1
	2	.2	0	0

Find

- (a) the marginal probability function of Y ,
 (b) $E(X^2Y)$,
 (c) $P\{X + Y < 0\}$,
 (d) $E(X|Y = 1)$.

Are X and Y independent? Justify your assertion.

- [12] (6) Let X and Y be independent random variables having Poisson distributions with means 9 and 16 respectively. Define

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= X + 2Y \\ W &= 2X - Y. \end{aligned}$$

Find

- (a) the distribution of Z . Justify your result.
 (b) the correlation coefficient between Z and W .
- [13] (7) Random variables X and Y are jointly continuous with joint density function

$$f(x, y) = \begin{cases} x + y, & \text{if } 0 < x < 1, 0 < y < 1; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Find (a) $E(Y)$ (b) $E(X|Y = .5)$ (c) $P(X^2 > Y)$.

- [12] (8) The litter size of the Montreal common grey squirrel is a random variable X with probability function given by

x	1	2	3	4
$P\{X = x\}$	1/8	3/8	3/8	1/8

Suppose there are 25 pregnant squirrels this spring in Dominion square, each of whose litter size has the probability function given above. Let Y be the total number of offspring of these 25 squirrels. Using the Central Limit Theorem, find (approximately) $P\{Y \geq 68\}$.

