

1. Suppose the random variable  $X$  has a standard Gaussian distribution, i.e., its density is

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

(For the final exam you will need to know Gaussian distributions by heart). Compute the density of the random variable  $Y = -\log|X|$ .

For all  $y \in \mathbb{R}$

$$P_Y(y) = \sum_{x: -\log|x|=y} \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2}}{|(-\log|x|)'|} = 2 \cdot \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{e^{-2y}}{2}}}{1/e^{-y}} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} e^{-y - \frac{e^{-2y}}{2}}$$

the two terms are equal to each other

2. For a sequence of events  $(A_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$  we recall the definitions

$$\limsup A_n = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{k=n}^{\infty} A_k,$$

$$\liminf A_n = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcap_{k=n}^{\infty} A_k.$$

Is it possible to have  $P(\limsup A_n \cap \limsup A_n^c) \neq 0$  for some sequence  $(A_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$  on some probability space? Is it possible to have  $P(\liminf A_n \cap \liminf A_n^c) \neq 0$  for some sequence  $(A_n)_{n=1}^{\infty}$  on some probability space?

For each question, if your answer is *yes*, give a supporting example. If your answer is *no*, prove your answer.

Question 1: Yes. Choose, for example, any  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$  and

$$A_n = \begin{cases} \Omega, & n \text{ even} \\ \emptyset, & n \text{ odd} \end{cases} \quad A_n^c = \begin{cases} \emptyset, & n \text{ even} \\ \Omega, & n \text{ odd} \end{cases}$$

Then  $\limsup A_n = \Omega$  and  $\limsup A_n^c = \Omega$ , so  $P(\limsup A_n \cap \limsup A_n^c) = P(\Omega) = 1$ .

Question 2: No. We must prove that no  $\omega$  can belong to both  $\liminf A_n$

and  $\liminf A_n^c$ . If  $\omega \in \liminf A_n$ , then there is  $n$  such that  $\omega \in A_k$  for all  $k \geq n$ , so  $\omega \in A_k^c$  can hold only for finitely many values of  $k$ . Therefore,  $\omega \notin \liminf A_n^c$ .

Name:

**Midterm Exam**  
November 2, 2016

Basic Probability  
Instructor: Prof. Yuri Bakhtin

3. Suppose your chance to win \$200 000 in a lottery is 0.000001. Let  $X$  denote the amount you win. Find  $EX$  and  $\text{Var}X$ .

$$P\{X=2 \cdot 10^5\} = 10^{-6}$$

$$P\{X=0\} = 1 - 10^{-6}$$

$$EX = 2 \cdot 10^5 \cdot 10^{-6} + 0 \cdot (1 - 10^{-6}) = 2 \cdot 10^{-1} = 0.2$$

$$EX^2 = 4 \cdot 10^{10} \cdot 10^{-6} + 0 \cdot (1 - 10^{-6}) = 4 \cdot 10^4 = 40000$$

$$\text{Var} X = EX^2 - (EX)^2 = 40000 - 0.04 = 39999.96$$

4. Suppose there are three boxes. Box no.1 contains 1 blue ball and 1 red ball. Box no.2 contains 1 blue ball and 3 red balls. Box no.3 contains only 1 blue ball. A box is chosen at random, and then a ball is chosen at random from that box. Given that the result of this procedure is a blue ball, what is the conditional probability that it was chosen from Box no.1?

$$A = \{\text{blue ball chosen}\}$$

$$B_k = \{\text{Box } k \text{ chosen}\}, k=1, 2, 3$$

$$P(B_k) = \frac{1}{3}, k=1, 2, 3.$$

$$P(A|B_1) = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$P(A|B_2) = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$P(A|B_3) = 1$$

The  
Bayes  
formula  
↙

$$P(B_1|A) = \frac{P(A|B_1)P(B_1)}{P(A|B_1)P(B_1) + P(A|B_2)P(B_2) + P(A|B_3)P(B_3)}$$

$$= \frac{\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{3}}{\frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{3} + 1 \cdot \frac{1}{3}} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + 1} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{\frac{7}{4}} = \frac{2}{7}$$

5. Let  $X$  be a random variable defined on a probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$  such that  $EX = 1$  and  $X(\omega) \geq 0$  for all  $\omega$ .

- (a) Prove that the function  $Q : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $Q(A) = E[X\mathbb{1}_A]$  for  $A \in \mathcal{F}$  is a probability measure on  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F})$ .
- (b) Prove that if  $P(A) = 0$ , then  $Q(A) = 0$ .
- (c) Give an example showing that in general  $Q(A) = 0$  does not imply  $P(A) = 0$ .

(a) Need to check (1)  $Q(\Omega) = 1$  (2)  $\sigma$ -additivity.

$$(1): Q(\Omega) = EX\mathbb{1}_\Omega = EX = 1$$

(2) let  $A_1, A_2, \dots$  be disjoint.

$$\begin{aligned} Q\left(\bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} A_k\right) &= E\left[X\mathbb{1}_{\bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} A_k}\right] = E\left[X\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{1}_{A_k}\right] = E\left[\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} X\mathbb{1}_{A_k}\right] = E\left[\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^n X\mathbb{1}_{A_k}\right] \\ &= \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{by Monotone} \\ \text{Convergence Thm} \end{array} \right] = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E\left[\sum_{k=1}^n X\mathbb{1}_{A_k}\right] = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^n EX\mathbb{1}_{A_k} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{k=1}^n Q(A_k) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} Q(A_k) \end{aligned}$$

(b) If  $P(A) = 0$ , then  $E \underbrace{X\mathbb{1}_A}_{"0 \text{ a.s.}} = 0$  for all r.v.'s. ] it is true for simple r.v.'s, hence for all

(c) let  $\Omega = \{0, 1\}$ ,  $\mathcal{F} = 2^{\{0, 1\}}$ ,  $P\{0\} = P\{1\} = \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $X(0) = 0$ ,  $X(1) = 2$ .

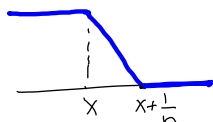
Then  $Q\{0\} = 0$ , but  $P\{0\} \neq 0$ .

6. Let  $P$  and  $Q$  be two probability measures on  $(\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}))$ . Prove that if  $\int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x)P(dx) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x)Q(dx)$  for all bounded continuous functions  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , then  $P = Q$ . Hint: it suffices to check that the distribution functions of these two measures coincide.

Let  $F(x) = P((-\infty, x])$  and  $G(x) = Q((-\infty, x])$  for  $x \in \mathbb{R}$

Since Borel measures are uniquely defined by their distribution functions, it suffices to show that  $F(x) = G(x)$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Let us introduce functions  $f_n, n \in \mathbb{N}$ , with the following graph:



Then  $f_n$  are continuous, bounded by 1. By assumption,  $\int_{\mathbb{R}} f_n(y)P(dy) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f_n(y)Q(dy)$ . Also, for all  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $f_n(y) \rightarrow \mathbb{1}_{(-\infty, x]}(y)$ .

Therefore, by one of the convergence theorems (monotone convergence Thm, dominated conv. Thm, monotone conv. Thm)

$$F(x) = P((-\infty, x]) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{1}_{(-\infty, x]}(y)P(dy) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(y)P(dy) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}} f_n(y)P(dy)$$

$$G(x) = Q((-\infty, x]) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{1}_{(-\infty, x]}(y)Q(dy) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(y)Q(dy) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}} f_n(y)Q(dy)$$

So  $F(x) = G(x)$ .