

Created by T. Madas

# GENERATING FUNCTIONS

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# PROBABILITY GENERATING FUNCTIONS

(p.g.f.)

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**Question 1** (\*\*)

The discrete random variable  $X$  has probability generating function

$$G_X(t) = k + \frac{1}{5}(t^2 + t^3 + t^5),$$

where  $k$  is a positive constant.

- State the value of  $k$ .
- Determine the value of  $P(X > 4)$ .
- Use  $G_X(t)$  to calculate the mean and variance of  $X$ .

*No credit will be given if the mean and variance of  $X$  are obtained from calculations based on the probability mass function of  $X$ .*

$$\boxed{\phantom{000}}, \quad k = \frac{2}{5}, \quad P(X > 4) = \frac{1}{5}, \quad E(X) = 2, \quad \text{Var}(X) = 2$$

a)  $G_X(t) = k + \frac{1}{5}(t^2 + t^3 + t^5)$   
 $G_X(1) = 1 \Rightarrow 1 = k + \frac{1}{5}(1+1+1)$   
 $1 = k + \frac{3}{5}$   
 $k = \frac{2}{5}$

b) WRITE THE PROBABILITY MASS FUNCTION IN TREE FORM  
 $\Rightarrow G_X(t) = \sum P(X=x)t^x = \frac{2}{5}t^0 + \frac{1}{5}t^2 + \frac{1}{5}t^3 + \frac{1}{5}t^5$   
 $\therefore P(X=x) = \frac{2}{5}, \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{5}$   
 $\therefore P(X > 4) = P(X=5) = \frac{1}{5}$

c) DIFFERENTIATE THE P.G.F. THREE TIMES  
 $G_X(t) = \frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{5}(t^2 + t^3 + t^5)$   
 $G'_X(t) = \frac{1}{5}(2t + 3t^2 + 5t^4)$   
 $G''_X(t) = \frac{1}{5}(2 + 6t + 20t^3)$   
 $G'''_X(t) = \frac{1}{5}(6 + 60t^2)$   
 $E(X) = G'_X(1) = \frac{1}{5}(2 + 3 + 5) = 2$   
 $\text{Var}(X) = G''_X(1) + G'_X(1)^2 - [G'_X(1)]^2$   
 $= \frac{1}{5}(6 + 60) + 2^2 - 2^2$   
 $= \frac{66}{5} + 2 - 4$   
 $= \frac{66}{5} - 2$   
 $= \frac{56}{5}$   
 $= 2$

**Question 2 (\*\*)**

The discrete random variable  $X$  has probability generating function

$$G_X(t) = k(1+t)^7,$$

where  $k$  is a positive constant.

- State, with justification, the least and greatest value that  $X$  can take.
- State the name of the distribution, fully specifying any parameters.
- Determine the value of  $P(X = 5)$ .
- Use  $G_X(t)$  to calculate the mean and variance of  $X$ .

*No credit will be given if the mean and variance of  $X$  are obtained by alternative methods.*

$\boxed{P(X=5) = \frac{21}{128}}$ ,  $\boxed{X_{\min} = 0}$ ,  $\boxed{X_{\max} = 7}$ ,  $\boxed{X \sim B(7, 0.5)}$ ,  $\boxed{E(X) = 3.5}$ ,  $\boxed{\text{Var}(X) = 1.75}$

a) THE HIGHEST VALUE CAN ONLY BE 7 (HIGHEST POWER OF t)  
THE LOWEST VALUE IS ZERO, AS t^0 = CONSTANT IS POSSIBLE

b) LETS USE A BINOMIAL - COMPARE WITH  
 $G_X(t) = (1-p+pt)^n$   
 $G_X(t) = (1-\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2}t)^7$   $\rightarrow p = \frac{1}{2}$   
 $= (\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}t)^7$   
 $= (\frac{1}{2})^7 (1+t)^7$   
 $= \frac{1}{128} (1+t)^7$   
 $\therefore X \sim B(7, 0.5)$

[ALSO NOTE THAT IF  $G_X(0) = 1 \rightarrow kx^2 = 1 \rightarrow k = \frac{1}{128}$ ]

c) USING  $X \sim B(7, \frac{1}{2})$   
 $P(X=5) = \binom{7}{5} (\frac{1}{2})^5 (\frac{1}{2})^2 = \frac{21}{128}$  OR THE COEFFICIENT OF t^5 IN  $\frac{1}{128}(1+t)^7$

d) USING THE P.G.F.  $E(X) = G'_X(1)$  &  $\text{Var}(X) = G''_X(1) + G_X(1) - (G'_X(1))^2$   
 $G_X(t) = \frac{1}{128}(1+t)^7$   
 $G'_X(t) = \frac{7}{128}(1+t)^6$   $G'_X(1) = \frac{7}{2}$   
 $G''_X(t) = \frac{42}{128}(1+t)^5$   $G''_X(1) = \frac{21}{8}$   
 $E(X) = G'_X(1) = \frac{7}{2} = 3.5$   
 $\text{Var}(X) = \frac{21}{8} + \frac{7}{2} - (\frac{7}{2})^2 = 4 - \frac{49}{8} = \frac{7}{8} = 1.75$

**Question 3 (\*\*\*)**

The discrete random variable  $X$  has distribution

$$X \sim \text{Po}(\lambda).$$

- Derive from first principles  $G_X(t)$ , the probability generating function of  $X$ .
- Use  $G_X(t)$  to show that the mean and variance of  $X$  are both  $\lambda$ .

Another discrete random variable  $Y$  has distribution

$$Y \sim \text{Po}(\mu).$$

- Use a method involving generating functions to show that

$$E(X + Y) = \lambda + \mu.$$

$$\boxed{\phantom{0}}, \quad \boxed{G_X(t) = e^{\lambda(t-1)}}$$

a) THE PROBABILITY MASS FUNCTION FOR  $\text{Po}(\lambda)$  IS  $P(X=k) = \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!}$

$$\Rightarrow G_X(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} P(X=k) t^k$$

$$\Rightarrow G_X(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{\lambda^k e^{-\lambda}}{k!} \right) t^k$$

$$\Rightarrow G_X(t) = e^{-\lambda} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^k t^k}{k!}$$

$$\Rightarrow G_X(t) = e^{-\lambda} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\lambda t)^k}{k!}$$

Now the EXPONENTIAL FUNCTION POWER SERIES IS

$$e^x = \frac{x^0}{0!} + \frac{x^1}{1!} + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!}$$

THUS WE OBTAIN THAT

$$\Rightarrow G_X(t) = e^{-\lambda} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\lambda t)^k}{k!} = e^{-\lambda} e^{\lambda t} = e^{\lambda t - \lambda}$$

$$\Rightarrow G_X(t) = e^{\lambda(t-1)}$$

b) OBTAIN THE FIRST TWO DERIVATIVES OF  $G_X(t)$  WITH RESPECT TO  $t$

- $G_X(t) = e^{\lambda t - \lambda}$
- $G_X'(t) = \lambda e^{\lambda t - \lambda} \Rightarrow G_X'(1) = \lambda e^{\lambda - \lambda} = \lambda$
- $G_X''(t) = \lambda^2 e^{\lambda t - \lambda} \Rightarrow G_X''(1) = \lambda^2 e^{\lambda - \lambda} = \lambda^2$

$$E(X) = G_X'(1) = \lambda$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = G_X''(1) + G_X(1) - [G_X'(1)]^2$$

$$= \lambda^2 + \lambda - \lambda^2 = \lambda$$

c) GIVEN  $E(X) = \lambda$  &  $E(Y) = \mu$

Let  $W = X + Y$

$$G_W(t) = G_X(t) G_Y(t)$$

$$G_W(t) = e^{\lambda(t-1)} e^{\mu(t-1)}$$

$$G_W(t) = e^{\lambda t - \lambda + \mu t - \mu}$$

$$G_W(t) = e^{(\lambda + \mu)t - (\lambda + \mu)}$$

$$G_W(t) = e^{(\lambda + \mu)(t-1)}$$

DIFFERENTIATE WITH RESPECT TO  $t$

$$G_W'(t) = (\lambda + \mu) e^{(\lambda + \mu)(t-1)}$$

$$G_W'(1) = (\lambda + \mu) e^{(\lambda + \mu)(1-1)}$$

$$G_W'(1) = (\lambda + \mu) e^0$$

$$G_W'(1) = \lambda + \mu$$

$$E(W) = E(X) + E(Y)$$

As required

**Question 4** (\*\*\*)

The discrete random variable  $X$  has distribution

$$X \sim B(n, p).$$

- a) Derive from first principles  $G_X(t)$ , the probability generating function of  $X$ .
- b) Use  $G_X(t)$  to calculate the mean and variance of  $X$ .

,  $G_X(t) = (1 - p + pt)^n$  ,  $E(X) = np$  ,  $Var(X) = np(1 - p)$

a) START WITH THE PROBABILITY MASS FUNCTION OF  $B(n, p)$

$$P(X=x) = \binom{n}{x} p^x (1-p)^{n-x}$$

WOULD NOTE THAT  $(a+b)^n = \sum_{r=0}^n \binom{n}{r} a^r b^{n-r}$

BY THE DEFINITION OF P.G.F

$$G_X(t) = \sum_{x=0}^n P(X=x) t^x = \sum_{x=0}^n \binom{n}{x} p^x (1-p)^{n-x} t^x$$

GROUPING BOTH

$$\sum_{x=0}^n \binom{n}{x} (pt)^x (1-p)^{n-x} = (1-p+p)^n$$

$$= (1-p+pt)^n$$

b) NOW  $E(X) = G'_X(1)$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} (1-p+pt)^n = n(1-p+pt)^{n-1} \times p = np(1-p+pt)^{n-1}$$

LET  $t=1$  GIVES  $E(X) = np(1-p+p)^{n-1} = np \times 1^{n-1} = np$

DIFFERENTIATE WITH RESPECT TO  $t$ , ONCE MORE

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} [np(1-p+pt)^{n-1}] = np(n-1)(1-p+pt)^{n-2} \times p$$

$$= n(n-1)p^2(1-p+pt)^{n-2}$$

LET  $t=1$  GIVES

$$n(n-1)p^2(1-p+p)^{n-2} = n(n-1)p^2$$

THIS SO FAR USE THAT  $G'_X(1) = np$  &  $G''_X(1) = n(n-1)p^2$

$$\Rightarrow Var(X) = G''_X(1) + G'_X(1) - [G'_X(1)]^2$$

$$\Rightarrow Var(X) = n(n-1)p^2 + np - (np)^2$$

$$\Rightarrow Var(X) = (n^2 - n)p^2 + np - n^2p^2$$

$$\Rightarrow Var(X) = np - np^2$$

$$\Rightarrow Var(X) = np(1-p)$$

**Question 5 (\*\*\*)**

The discrete random variable  $X$  has probability generating function

$$G_X(t) = k(1 + 3t + 3t^2 + t^3)^3,$$

where  $k$  is a positive constant.

a) State the name of the distribution, fully specifying any parameters.

b) Use  $G_X(t)$  to calculate the mean and variance of  $X$ .

*No credit will be given if the mean and variance of  $X$  are obtained by alternative methods.*

,  $X \sim B(9, 0.5)$  ,  $E(X) = 4.5$  ,  $\text{Var}(X) = 2.25$

a) LOOKING AT THE EXPRESSION  
 $(1+t)^3 = 1 + 3t + 3t^2 + t^3$   
 THEREFORE  
 $G_X(t) = k(1 + 3t + 3t^2 + t^3)^3$   
 $G_X(t) = k(1+t)^9$   
 $G_X(t) = k(1+t)^9$

COMPARE WITH THE BINOMIAL  $(q, \frac{1}{2})$  WITH  $G_X(t) = (1 - \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}t)^n$   
 $G_X(t) = (\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}t)^9 = \frac{1}{2^9}(1+t)^9 = \frac{1}{2^9}(1+t)^9$  if  $k = \frac{1}{2^9}$   
 $\therefore X \sim B(9, \frac{1}{2})$

b) USING THE RULES  $E(X) = G'_X(1)$  &  $\text{Var}(X) = G''_X(1) + G'_X(1) - [G'_X(1)]^2$

USING  $G_X(t) = \frac{1}{2^9}(1+t)^9$   
 $G'_X(t) = \frac{9}{2^9}(1+t)^8$        $G'_X(1) = \frac{9}{2^8}$   
 $G''_X(t) = \frac{72}{2^9}(1+t)^7$        $G''_X(1) = 18$

$\therefore E(X) = G'_X(1) = \frac{9}{2^8}$   
 $\text{Var}(X) = G''_X(1) + G'_X(1) - [G'_X(1)]^2$   
 $\text{Var}(X) = 18 + \frac{9}{2^8} - (\frac{9}{2^8})^2$   
 $\therefore \text{Var}(X) = 2.25$

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Question 6 (\*\*\*)

The discrete random variable  $X$  has probability generating function

$$G_X(t) = k(1 + 2t + 3t^2)^2,$$

where  $k$  is a positive constant.

- State, with justification, the least and greatest value that  $X$  can take.
- Determine the value of  $P(X = 2)$ .
- Use  $G_X(t)$  to calculate the mean and variance of  $X$ .

*No credit will be given if the mean and variance of  $X$  are obtained by alternative methods.*

- Find a probability generating function for  $3X - 2$ .

Give the answer in the form  $k[f(t)]^2$

,  $X_{\min} = 0$  ,  $X_{\max} = 4$  ,  $P(X = 2) = \frac{5}{18}$  ,  $E(X) = \frac{8}{3}$  ,  $\text{Var}(X) = \frac{10}{9}$  ,   
  $\frac{1}{36}(t^{-1} + 2t^2 + 3t^5)^2$

a) min is 0 & maximum value is 5, as there are 5 terms of highest degree of the power of t, then rely expansion

b) using  $G_X(1) = 1$   
 $k(1 + 2 + 3)^2 = 1$   
 $36k = 1$   
 $k = \frac{1}{36}$

expanding only  
 $G_X(t) = \frac{1}{36}(1 + 4t + 12t^2 + 12t^2 + 4t + 9t^2)$   
 $= \frac{1}{36}(1 + 4t + 24t^2 + 9t^2)$   
 $\therefore P(X=2) = \frac{24}{36} = \frac{2}{3}$

c) differentiate  $G_X(t)$  with respect to  $t$   
 $G_X'(t) = \frac{1}{36}(4 + 4t + 24t + 18t^2)$   
 $G_X'(1) = \frac{1}{36}(4 + 4 + 24 + 18) = \frac{50}{36} = \frac{25}{18}$   
 $G_X''(t) = \frac{1}{36}(4 + 48t + 36t^2)$   
 $G_X''(1) = \frac{1}{36}(4 + 48 + 36) = \frac{88}{36} = \frac{22}{9}$   
 $\therefore E(X) = \frac{25}{18}$

DIFFERENTIATE ONLY MODE  
 $G_X'(t) = \frac{1}{36}(4 + 20t + 36t^2)$   
 $G_X''(t) = \frac{1}{36}(20 + 72t)$   
 $G_X''(1) = \frac{1}{36}(20 + 72) = \frac{92}{36} = \frac{23}{9}$

$\therefore \text{Var}(X) = G_X''(1) + G_X'(1) - [G_X'(1)]^2$   
 $\text{Var}(X) = \frac{23}{9} + \frac{25}{18} - \left(\frac{25}{18}\right)^2$   
 $\text{Var}(X) = \frac{10}{9}$

finally we have if  $Y = 3X - 2$

$G_Y(t) = \frac{1}{36}(1 + 2t + 3t^2)^2$   
 $G_Y(t) = t^{-2} \times \frac{1}{36}(1 + 2t + 3t^2)^2$   
 if  $Y = aX + b$   $G_Y(t) = t^b G_X\left(\frac{t}{a}\right)$   
 $G_Y(t) = \frac{t^{-2}}{36}(1 + 2t + 3t^2)^2$   
 $G_Y(t) = \frac{t^{-2}}{36}(1 + 2t + 3t^2)^2$   
 $G_Y(t) = \frac{1}{36}(t^{-1} + 2t^2 + 3t^5)^2$



**Question 7 (\*\*\*)**

The discrete random variable  $X$  has probability generating function

$$G_X(t) = k \left[ t^2(2t^2 + 3) + (t+1)^4 \right],$$

where  $k$  is a positive constant.

a) Determine the value of  $P(1 < X < 4)$ .

b) Use  $G_X(t)$  to calculate the mean and variance of  $X$ .

*No credit will be given if the mean and variance of  $X$  are obtained from calculations based on the probability mass function of  $X$ .*

$$\boxed{\phantom{000}}, \quad \boxed{P(1 < X < 4) = \frac{13}{21}}, \quad \boxed{E(X) = \frac{46}{21} \approx 2.19}, \quad \boxed{\text{Var}(X) = \frac{488}{441} \approx 1.11}$$

**a) START BY DETERMINING THE VALUE OF  $k$ , SINCE  $G_X(1) = 1$**

$$\Rightarrow 1 = k \left[ 1^2(2 \cdot 1^2 + 3) + (1+1)^4 \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 = k \left[ 5 + 16 \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow k = \frac{1}{21}$$

**EXPANDING TO SEE THE COEFFICIENTS OF THE POWERS OF  $t$**

$$G_X(t) = \frac{1}{21} \left[ 2t^4 + 3t^2 + t^4 + 4t^3 + 6t^2 + 4t + 1 \right]$$

$$G_X(t) = \frac{1}{21} \left[ 1 + 4t + 6t^2 + 4t^3 + 3t^4 \right]$$

$$\rightarrow P(1 < X < 4) = P(2 \leq X \leq 3) = P(X=2) + P(X=3)$$

$$= \frac{1}{21} (6 + 4) = \frac{13}{21}$$

**b) FIND THE "DERIVED DERIVATIVE" FOR  $G_X(t)$  FROM PART (a)**

- $G_X'(t) = \frac{1}{21} (4 + 12t + 12t^2 + 12t^3)$
- $G_X''(t) = \frac{1}{21} (12 + 24t + 36t^2)$
- $G_X'''(t) = \frac{1}{21} (24 + 72t)$
- $G_X^{(4)}(t) = \frac{72}{21}$
- $G_X^{(5)}(t) = \frac{72}{21}$

**HERE ARE YOURS:**

- $E(X) = G_X'(1) = \frac{46}{21} \approx 2.19$
- $\text{Var}(X) = G_X''(1) - [G_X'(1)]^2$
- $= \frac{488}{441} - \left(\frac{46}{21}\right)^2$
- $= \frac{488}{441} - \frac{2116}{441}$
- $\approx 1.11$

**Question 8 (\*\*\*)**

The discrete random variables,  $X$  and  $Y$ , are independent of one another and have respective probability generating functions

$$G_X(t) = \alpha(2+t)^4 \quad \text{and} \quad G_Y(t) = \beta(2+t)^5,$$

where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are positive constants.

- a) Use  $G_X(t)$  to calculate the mean and variance of  $X$ .
- b) Find a probability generating function for  $X+Y$  and use it to find the mean and variance of  $X+Y$ .

,  $E(X) = \frac{4}{3}$ ,  $\text{Var}(X) = \frac{8}{9}$ ,  $\frac{1}{19683}(2+t)^9$ ,  $E(X) = 3$ ,  $\text{Var}(X) = 2$

**a) START BY FINDING THE VALUE OF  $\alpha$**   
 $G_X(1) = 1 \Rightarrow \alpha(2+1)^4 = 1$   
 $\alpha = \frac{1}{81}$   
**NOW DIFFERENTIATE  $G_X(t)$  WITH RESPECT TO  $t$ , TWICE**  
 $G'_X(t) = \frac{4}{81}(2+t)^3$   
 $G''_X(t) = \frac{8}{81}(2+t)^2$   
 $G'''_X(t) = \frac{16}{81}(2+t)$   
**NOW USE THESE**  
 $E(X) = G'_X(1) = \frac{4}{81} \times 3^3 = \frac{4}{3}$   
 $\text{Var}(X) = G''_X(1) + G'_X(1) - (G'_X(1))^2$   
 $= \frac{16}{81} \times 3^2 + \frac{4}{3} - \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^2$   
 $= \frac{16}{9} + \frac{4}{3} - \frac{16}{9} = \frac{4}{3}$

**b) FIRSTLY FIND THE CONSTANT  $\beta$**   
 $G_Y(1) = \beta(2+1)^5 = 1$   
 $\beta = \frac{1}{243}$   
**NOW  $G_{X+Y}(t) = (G_X(t)) \times (G_Y(t))$**   
 $\Rightarrow G_{X+Y}(t) = \frac{1}{81}(2+t)^4 \times \frac{1}{243}(2+t)^5$   
 $= \frac{1}{19683}(2+t)^9$

**DIFFERENTIATE WITH RESPECT TO  $t$ , TWICE**  
 $\Rightarrow G'_{X+Y}(t) = \frac{1}{19683} \times 9(2+t)^8$   
 $\Rightarrow G''_{X+Y}(t) = \frac{8}{2187} (2+t)^7$   
**THESE ARE NOW USE**  
 $E(X+Y) = G'_{X+Y}(1) = \frac{1}{2187} \times 9 \times 3^8 = 3$   
 $\text{Var}(X+Y) = G''_{X+Y}(1) + G'_{X+Y}(1) - (G'_{X+Y}(1))^2$   
 $\text{Var}(X+Y) = \frac{8}{2187} \times 3^7 + 3 - 3^2$   
 $\text{Var}(X+Y) = 8 + 3 - 9 = 2$

**Question 9 (\*\*\*)**

A fair six-sided die is rolled repeatedly until a 6 is obtained.

The discrete random variable  $X$  represents the number of rolls required until the first 6 is obtained.

- a) Derive **from first principles**  $G_X(t)$ , the probability generating function of  $X$ .

Give the answer in its simplest form.

- b) Use  $G_X(t)$  to calculate the mean and variance of  $X$ .

*No credit will be given if the mean and variance of  $X$  are obtained by alternative methods.*

,  $G_X(t) = \frac{t}{6-5t}$  ,  $E(X) = 6$  ,  $\text{Var}(X) = 30$

THIS IS CLEARLY A GEOMETRIC DISTRIBUTION,  $X \sim \text{Geo}(1/6)$

$\Rightarrow P(X=n) = \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^{n-1} \left(\frac{1}{6}\right)$

$\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(X=n) t^n = G_X(t)$

$\Rightarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^{n-1} t^n \right] = G_X(t)$

$\Rightarrow G_X(t) = \frac{1}{6} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ \left(\frac{5}{6} t\right)^{n-1} \right]$

NOW ASSUMING THAT THE PARAMETER  $t$  IS SMALL ENOUGH FOR THE SERIES TO CONVERGE

$\Rightarrow G_X(t) = \frac{1}{6} t \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{5}{6} t\right)^n$  ← This is a G.P. with  $a=1, r=5/6 t$

$\Rightarrow G_X(t) = \frac{1}{6} t \left[ \frac{1}{1 - \frac{5}{6} t} \right]$  ←  $r = \frac{5}{6} t$

$\Rightarrow G_X(t) = \frac{1}{6} t \left( \frac{6}{6-5t} \right)$

$\Rightarrow G_X(t) = \frac{t}{6-5t}$

b) DIFFERENTIATE & USE REMOVED BRACKETS

$G'_X(t) = \frac{(6-5t) - t(-5)}{(6-5t)^2}$  (Quotient rule)

$G'_X(t) = \frac{6}{(6-5t)^2} = 6(6-5t)^{-2}$

$G'_X(t) = 6(6-5t)^{-2} = \frac{60}{(6-5t)^2}$

$G'_X(1) = 6$

$G''_X(t) = 60$

FINALLY WE HAVE

$E(X) = G'_X(1) = 6$

$\text{Var}(X) = G''_X(1) + G'_X(1) - (G'_X(1))^2$

$\text{Var}(X) = 60 + 6 - 6^2$

$\text{Var}(X) = 30$

Question 10 (\*\*\*)

$G_X(t)$  is the probability generating function of a discrete random variable  $X$ .

$$G_X(t) = t^4 + \frac{2 + 6t + 9t^2 + 9t^3 + kt^4}{2e^3},$$

where  $k$  is a non zero constant.

- Determine the value of  $k$ .
- Calculate  $P[X > E(X)]$ , correct to four decimal places.
- Find the value of  $\text{Var}(X)$ , correct to two decimal places.

,  $k = -26$  ,  $\approx 0.5768$  ,  $\approx 1.52$

**a) USING THE FACT  $G_X(1) = 1$**   
 $\Rightarrow 1 + \frac{2+6+9+9+k}{2e^3} = 1$   
 $\Rightarrow \frac{26+k}{2e^3} = 0$   
 $\Rightarrow k = -26$

**b) FIND  $E(X)$  FIRST, REMEMBER  $X \in \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$  ONLY**  
 $E(X) = G'_X(1)$   
 $\Rightarrow G'_X(t) = 4t^3 + \frac{6+18t+18t^2-10t^3}{2e^3}$   
 $\Rightarrow E(X) = 4 + \frac{-10}{2e^3} = 2.6800...$   
 $\Rightarrow P(X > E(X)) = P(X > 2.68...) = P(X=3, 4)$   
 $= \frac{9}{2e^3} + \left(1 - \frac{26}{2e^3}\right)$   
 $\approx 0.5768$

**c) DIFFERENTIATE AGAIN  $G'_X(t)$**   
 $G''_X(t) = 12t^2 + \frac{18+36t-30t^2}{2e^3}$   
 $G''_X(1) = 12 - \frac{120}{e^3}$   
 THIS THE VARIANCE IS  
 $G''_X(1) + G'_X(1) - [G'_X(1)]^2$   
 $= \left(12 - \frac{120}{e^3}\right) + \left(4 - \frac{10}{2e^3}\right) - \left(2.6800\right)^2$   
 $\approx 1.52$

**Question 11** (\*\*\*)

The discrete random variable  $X$  has probability mass function

$$P(X = x) = \frac{x^2}{k}, \quad x = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$$

where  $k$  is a positive constant.

The probability generating function of  $X$  is  $G_X(t)$ .

a) Find an expression for  $G_X(t)$ , in terms of  $k$ .

Give the answer in simplified sigma  $[\Sigma]$ , notation.

b) Find  $\frac{d^2}{dt^2}[G_X(t)]$ , in terms of  $k$ .

Give the answer in simplified sigma  $[\Sigma]$ , notation.

c) State the value of  $k$ .

d) Use  $G_X(t)$  and its derivatives to calculate the value of  $\text{Var}(X)$ .

*No credit will be given if the value of  $\text{Var}(X)$  is obtained from calculations based on the probability mass function of  $X$ .*

$G_X(t) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{r=1}^5 (r^2 t^r)$

$G_X''(t) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{r=2}^5 [r^3(r-1)t^{r-2}]$

$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{644}{605} \approx 1.06$

a) NO REAL NEED TO WRITE THE PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTION IN A TABLE

$$G_X(t) = \sum_{r=1}^5 P(X=r)t^r$$

$$= \frac{1}{k}(t^1 + 4t^2 + 9t^3 + 16t^4 + 25t^5)$$

$$= \frac{1}{k}(t + 4t^2 + 9t^3 + 16t^4 + 25t^5)$$

$$\therefore G_X(t) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{r=1}^5 (r^2 t^r)$$

b) GOING TO DIFFERENTIATE IN SIGMA NOTATION - NOTE THAT ALL THE DIFFERENTIATIONS ARE WITH RESPECT TO  $t$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt}(G_X(t)) = G_X'(t) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{r=1}^5 [r^2 (t^{r-1})] = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{r=1}^5 (r^2 t^{r-1})$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d^2}{dt^2}(G_X(t)) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{r=1}^5 [r^2 (r-1)t^{r-2}] = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{r=2}^5 [r^3(r-1)t^{r-2}]$$

IN THE FIRST TERM  $r=1$  WE CAN STOP BECAUSE  $r-1=0$

$$\therefore G_X''(t) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{r=2}^5 [r^3(r-1)t^{r-2}]$$

c) USING THE FACT  $G_X(1) = 1$

$$\Rightarrow G_X(1) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{r=1}^5 (r^2) = \frac{1}{k}(1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + 4^2 + 5^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 = \frac{1}{k}(1^2 + 2^2 + 3^2 + 4^2 + 5^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 = \frac{1}{k}(1 + 4 + 9 + 16 + 25)$$

$$\Rightarrow k = 55$$

GOING TO MAKE SURE I USED THE EXPANDED FORM FOR PART b)  
 $G_X(t) = \frac{1}{k}(t + 4t^2 + 9t^3 + 16t^4 + 25t^5)$

d) USING ALL THE PREVIOUS RESULTS WITH  $k=55$

- $G_X(t) = \frac{1}{55}(t^1 + 4t^2 + 9t^3 + 16t^4 + 25t^5)$
- $G_X'(t) = \frac{1}{55}(t^0 + 8t^1 + 27t^2 + 64t^3 + 125t^4)$
- $G_X''(t) = \frac{1}{55}(0 + 8 + 54 + 192 + 500)$
- $G_X''(1) = \frac{1}{55}(8 + 54 + 192 + 500)$
- $G_X''(1) = \frac{754}{55}$

FINALLY WE HAVE

$$\text{Var}(X) = G_X''(1) + G_X'(1) - [G_X'(1)]^2$$

$$= \frac{754}{55} + \frac{11}{55} - \left(\frac{11}{55}\right)^2$$

$$= \frac{644}{605} \approx 1.06$$

**Question 12** (\*\*\*\*)

The discrete random variable  $X$  has probability generating function  $G_X(t)$ .

- a) Show, with detailed workings, that ...
- ...  $E(X) = G'_X(1)$ .
  - ...  $\text{Var}(X) = G''_X(1) + G'_X(1) - [G'_X(1)]^2$ .

It is further given that

$$G_X(t) = \frac{kt}{1 - 0.2t^2},$$

where  $k$  is a positive constant.

- b) Determine the value of  $P(6 \leq X \leq 8)$ .
- c) Use  $G_X(t)$  to calculate the mean and variance of  $X$ .

,  $P(6 \leq X \leq 8) = 0.0064$  ,  $E(X) = 1.5$  ,  $\text{Var}(X) = 1.25$

**Handwritten Solution (Left Page):**

1) LET US NOTE THAT  $E(X) = \sum P(X=x) \cdot x$   
 $\Rightarrow G_X(t) = \sum [P(X=x) t^x] = E(t^X)$  (as above)

2) DIFFERENTIATE WITH RESPECT TO  $t$   
 $\Rightarrow G'_X(t) = \sum [x P(X=x) t^{x-1}] = E(X t^{X-1})$   
 $\Rightarrow G'_X(1) = \sum [x P(X=x)] = E(X)$   
 $\therefore E(X) = G'_X(1)$

3) DIFFERENTIATE WITH RESPECT TO  $t$  ONCE MORE  
 $\Rightarrow G''_X(t) = \sum [x^2 P(X=x) t^{x-2}] = E(X^2 t^{X-2})$   
 $\Rightarrow G''_X(1) = \sum [x^2 P(X=x)] = E(X^2)$   
 $\Rightarrow G''_X(t) = \sum [x^2 P(X=x) t^{x-2}] - \sum [x P(X=x) t^{x-1}]$   
 $\Rightarrow G''_X(1) = E(X^2) - E(X)$

EVALUATE AT  $t=1$  GIVES  
 $G'_X(1) = E(X) - E(X)$

BOX  $\text{Var}(X) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2$   
 $\Rightarrow \text{Var}(X) = [G''_X(1) + E(X)] - [E(X)]^2$   
 $\Rightarrow \text{Var}(X) = G''_X(1) + E(X) - [E(X)]^2$   
 $\Rightarrow \text{Var}(X) = G''_X(1) + G'_X(1) - [G'_X(1)]^2$

**Handwritten Solution (Right Page):**

b) FIRSTLY FIND  $k$   
 $G_X(1) = 1 \Rightarrow \frac{k}{1-0.2} = 1$   
 $\Rightarrow k = 0.8$

$G_X(t) = \frac{0.8t}{1-0.2t^2} = 0.8t(1-0.2t^2)^{-1}$   
 $= 0.8t(1 + 0.2t^2 + 0.04t^4 + 0.008t^6 + 0.00064t^8 + \dots)$   
 $= 0.8t + 0.16t^3 + 0.032t^5 + 0.0064t^7 + 0.000512t^9 + \dots$   
 $\begin{matrix} \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow \\ P(X=1) & P(X=3) & P(X=5) & P(X=7) & P(X=9) \end{matrix}$

$\therefore P(6 \leq X \leq 8) = P(X=7) = 0.0064$

c) DIFFERENTIATE  $G_X(t)$  WITH RESPECT TO  $t$ , TWICE  
 $G'_X(t) = \frac{0.8t}{1-0.2t^2} = \frac{4t}{5-t^2}$   
 $G''_X(t) = \frac{4(5-t^2) - 4t(-2t)}{(5-t^2)^2} = \frac{20-4t^2+8t^2}{(5-t^2)^2} = \frac{20+4t^2}{(5-t^2)^2}$   
 $G'_X(1) = \frac{4}{5-1} = 1$   
 $G''_X(1) = \frac{20+4}{(5-1)^2} = \frac{24}{16} = 1.5$

EVALUATE AT  $t=1$   
 $G'_X(1) = 1$      $G''_X(1) = 1.5$

ANSWER PART (a)  
 $E(X) = 1$   
 $\text{Var}(X) = 1.5 + 1 - (1)^2 = 1.5$

**Question 13** (\*\*\*\*)

The discrete random variable  $X$  has probability mass function

$$P(X = x) = \frac{x^2}{k}, \quad x = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots, N$$

where  $k$  is a positive constant.

The probability generating function of  $X$  is  $G_X(t)$ .

a) Find an expression for  $G_X(t)$ , in terms of  $k$  and  $N$ .

Give the answer in simplified sigma  $[\Sigma]$ , notation.

b) Find the value of  $k$  in terms of  $N$ .

c) Use  $G_X(t)$  to show that

$$E(X) = \frac{3N(N+1)}{2(2N+1)}.$$

d) Show further that the value of  $\text{Var}(X)$  is

$$\frac{3N^4 + 6N^3 - N^2 - 4N - 4}{20(2N+1)^2}.$$

You may assume without proof  $\sum_{r=1}^n r^4 = \frac{1}{30}n(n+1)(6n^3 + 9n^2 + n - 1)$

$$\boxed{\text{ES}}, \quad G_X(t) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{x=1}^N (x^2 t^x), \quad \boxed{k = \frac{1}{6}N(N+1)(2N+1)}$$

[solution overleaf]





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# MOMENT GENERATING FUNCTIONS (m.g.f.)

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