

1. There are two stocks on the market, stock A and stock B. Every day the price of stock A will either increase by 1 dollar with probability 0.6 or decrease by one dollar with probability 0.4. Similarly stock B will either increase by 2 dollars with probability 0.55 or decrease by two dollars with probability 0.45.

- a) If, at the beginning, the price of stock A was 100 dollars and that of stock B was 120 dollars, what is the (approximate) price distribution of stock A and B after 100 days?

*Due to the CLT the distribution of prices will be normal. The average variation of stock in a single day is  $E(X_A) = 0.2$  while the variance is  $V(X_A) = 0.96$ . It follows that the price of A after 100 days  $Y_A$  is normal with average  $\mu_A = 120$  and variance  $\sigma_A^2 = 96$ . In the same way the price of stock B after 100 days  $Y_B$  will be normal with average  $\mu_B = 140$  and variance  $\sigma_B^2 = 396$ .*

- b) Compute the probability that, after 100 days, the price of stock A will be less than its initial price. Do the same for stock B.

*We need*

$$P(Y_A < 100) = P\left(\frac{Y_A - 120}{\sqrt{96}} < \frac{100 - 120}{\sqrt{96}}\right) = \Phi(-2.04) = 0.0207$$

*and*

$$P(Y_B < 120) = P\left(\frac{Y_B - 140}{\sqrt{396}} < \frac{120 - 140}{\sqrt{396}}\right) = \Phi(-1.00) = 0.1587$$

- c) At the beginning you have 20000 dollars and you buy 140 stock A and 50 stock B. What is the probability that after 100 days you have lost money? Doubled your initial capital?

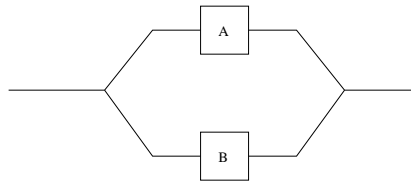
*The value of your stock after 100 days will be  $Y = 140Y_A + 50Y_B$ . This is a normal r.v. with average  $\mu = 140 \cdot 120 + 50 \cdot 140 = 23800$  and variance  $\sigma^2 = 140^2 \cdot 96 + 50 \cdot 396 = 2871600$ . So that we have*

$$P(Y < 20000) = P\left(\frac{Y - 23800}{\sqrt{2871600}} < \frac{20000 - 23800}{\sqrt{2871600}}\right) = \Phi(-2.24) = 0.0125$$

*and*

$$P(Y > 40000) = P\left(\frac{Y - 23800}{\sqrt{2871600}} < \frac{40000 - 23800}{\sqrt{2871600}}\right) = \Phi(11.80) \sim 0$$

2. A circuit is composed by two devices, A and B, connected in parallel (see figure).



You know that the circuit fails if both devices fail and that each device has an exponential life time with parameter  $\lambda$ , this means that if  $T_A$  and  $T_B$  are the r.v. describing the lifetime of device A and B respectively then both  $T_A$  and  $T_B$  are exponential r.v. with parameter  $\lambda$ .

- a) Find the p.d.f. of the lifetime  $T$  of the circuit.

The c.d.f. of  $T$  is given by

$$P(T < t) = P(T_A < t \& T_B < t) = P(T_A < t)P(T_B < t) = (1 - e^{-\lambda t})^2$$

so that the p.d.f. is

$$f(t) = 2\lambda e^{-\lambda t}(1 - e^{-\lambda t}).$$

You observe the lifetime of 10 such circuits and obtain the following breaking-down times:

3.47 1.69 1.78 0.45 1.60 3.91 2.81 7.66 0.72 2.32

A) Use the method of moments to give an estimate of  $\lambda$ .

We have

$$E(T) = \int_0^{\infty} t 2\lambda e^{-\lambda t}(1 - e^{-\lambda t}) dt = \frac{2}{\lambda} - \frac{1}{2\lambda} = \frac{3}{2\lambda}$$

Hence we have

$$\hat{\lambda} = \frac{3}{2\bar{t}} = \frac{3}{2 \cdot 2.64} = 0.61$$

B) Use the method of maximum likelihood to estimate  $\lambda$ .

C) The half live of the circuit is defined as that time when, starting with a big set of circuit, only half of them are still working. Give an estimate of the half life of the circuit using the invariance principle.

Let's call  $\lambda_{ML}$  the maximum likelihood estimator. We have that the half life  $t_{0.5}$  is given by

$$P(T < t_{0.5}) = (1 - e^{-\lambda t_{0.5}})^2 = 0.5$$

so that

$$\hat{t}_{0.5} = -\ln(1 - \sqrt{0.5}) \lambda_{ML}^{-1}$$

3. (Bonus) The following data come from a population uniformly distributed between  $-A$  and  $A$ :

-0.255 0.915 -0.185 -0.363 0.508 -0.559 1.436 1.013 1.251 -0.539

a) Use the method of moment to estimate  $A$ .

We have that  $E(X) = 0$  so that we have to look for the second moment. We have  $E(X^2) = A^2/3$ . So that we can find

$$\hat{A} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{10} \sum_{i=1}^{10} x_i^2} = 1.404$$

b) Use maximum likelihood to estimate  $A$ .

The p.d.f. of  $X$  is  $f(x) = 1/A$  if  $|x| < A$  and 0 otherwise. So that the likelihood function is  $h(x) = 1/A^{10}$  if  $\max(|x_i|) < A$  and 0 otherwise. It follows that

$$A_{ML} = \max(|x_i|) = 1.436$$

4. Among the student that attempted the exams of Calculus III (CIII) and Differential Equation (DE) is observed that the joint probability of passing or failing the exams is given by the following table:

		CIII	
		f	p
DE	f	0.3	0.1
	p	0.1	0.5

This means, for example, that the probability for a student to pass both exams is 0.5 while the probability of passing DE and failing CIII is 0.1. Given a student, let  $X$  be the r.v. that describes his result in DE and  $Y$  the r.v. that describes his result in CIII. Both variables take value 0 or 1 where 0 mean fail and 1 pass.

- a) Compute the marginals  $f_X(x)$ ,  $f_Y(y)$ .

*We have:*

$$f_X(0) = 0.3 + 0.1 = 0.4 \quad f_X(1) = 0.6$$

*and*

$$f_Y(0) = 0.4 \quad f_Y(1) = 0.6$$

- b) Compute the conditional p.d.f.  $f_{X|Y}(x|y)$  and  $f_{Y|X}(y|x)$ .

*From*

$$f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{f(x, y)}{f_Y(y)}$$

*we get*

$$\begin{aligned} f_{X|Y}(0|0) &= 0.3/0.4 = 0.75 & f_{X|Y}(1|0) &= 0.1/0.4 = 0.25 \\ f_{X|Y}(0|1) &= 0.1/0.6 = 0.167 & f_{X|Y}(1|1) &= 0.5/0.6 = 0.75 \end{aligned}$$

*and*

$$\begin{aligned} f_{Y|X}(0|0) &= 0.3/0.4 = 0.75 & f_{Y|X}(1|0) &= 0.1/0.4 = 0.25 \\ f_{Y|X}(0|1) &= 0.1/0.6 = 0.167 & f_{Y|X}(1|1) &= 0.6/0.6 = 0.75. \end{aligned}$$

- c) Compute  $\text{Corr}(X, Y)$ .

*We have  $E(X) = E(Y) = 0.6$ ,  $E(X^2) = E(Y^2) = 0.6$  so that  $V(X) = V(Y) = 0.6 - 0.36 = 0.34$ . Finally  $E(XY) = 0.5$  so that*

$$\text{Corr}(X, Y) = \frac{0.5 - 0.6 \cdot 0.6}{\sqrt{0.34^2}} = 0.411$$

- d) Suppose now that you choose 3 students at random and let  $N_X$  the number of students among the 3 that passed DE and  $N_Y$  the number of students among the 3 that passed CII. Compute the probability that  $N_X = 1$  and  $N_Y = 2$ .

*$N_X = 1$  means that one student passed DE and the other two failed while  $N_Y = 2$  means that two students passed CIII and one failed. There are two possibilities:*

- i. the student that passed DE failed CIII, in which case the other two student passed CIII and failed DE.*

ii. the student that passed DE passed CIII, in which case one of the remaining students failed both and the other passed CIII but failed DE.

In the first case there are 3 possible choices of the student that passed DE. Each choice has probability  $p_1 = 0.1^3 = 0.001$ . In the second case we have 6 choices, because all students are different. Each choice has probability  $p_2 = 0.5 \cdot 0.3 \cdot 0.1 = 0.015$ . Finally the probability is

$$P(N_X = 1 \& N_Y = 2) = 4 \cdot 0.001 + 6 \cdot 0.015 = 0.094.$$