

### Characteristic Functions

1. Check the following summations as a way of verifying the formulas for characteristic functions of some discrete probability distributions.

- (a) For the Binomial distribution with  $p + q = 1$

$$\sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} p^k q^{n-k} \exp(kt\sqrt{-1}) = (q + pe^{t\sqrt{-1}})^n$$

- (b) For the Poisson distribution

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{c^k}{k!} \exp(-c + kt\sqrt{-1}) = \exp\left(c\left(e^{t\sqrt{-1}} - 1\right)\right)$$

- (c) For the Negative Binomial distribution

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{n+k-1}{k} p^n q^k \exp(kt\sqrt{-1}) = \left(\frac{p}{1 - qe^{t\sqrt{-1}}}\right)^n$$

2. Check the following integrals as a way of verifying the formulas for characteristic functions of some probability densities.

- (a) For the uniform density

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 \exp(at\sqrt{-1}) da = \frac{\sin(t)}{t}$$

Justify the limits of the integral.

- (b) For the Poisson density (exponential distribution)

$$\int_0^{\infty} c \exp(-ca + at\sqrt{-1}) da = \frac{c}{c - t\sqrt{-1}}$$

where  $c > 0$ .

- (c) For the normal density

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-a^2/2 + at\sqrt{-1}) da = \exp(-t^2/2)$$

3. Justify the following limits either directly or using Probability theory:

- (a)  $((1 - c/n) + (c/n)e^{t\sqrt{-1}})^n$  converges to  $\exp(c(e^{t\sqrt{-1}} - 1))$  as  $n$  goes to infinity.
- (b)  $\cos(t/\sqrt{n})^n$  goes to  $\exp(-t^2/2)$  as  $n$  goes to infinity.
- (c) If  $c_n$  goes to  $c$  as  $n$  goes to infinity, then  $(1 - c_n/n)^n$  goes to  $e^{-c}$  as  $n$  goes to infinity.

4. Let  $X$  be the random variable that gives the difference of the numbers appearing when two dice are rolled. Calculate the characteristic function of  $X$ .