

PhD Preliminary Exam in Probability & Statistics, Fall 2021

Answer all 7 questions. Each part of each question is worth 5 points. Give numerical answers whenever possible.

The exam duration is 4 hours. The exam is closed notes. The students are allowed to use a graphing calculator.

Normal, t and χ^2 tables are attached to the exam.

1. Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be independent random variables with PDF

$$f(x_j) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\alpha} x^{1-\alpha} & \text{for } 0 < x < 1 \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases}$$

with the parameter $\alpha > 0$.



4. A baseball player will go to the plate six times during a game. 20% of the time that the player goes to the plate, he gets a walk, and thus cannot get a hit. The other 80% of the time, the player gets an official "at bat". For each "at bat", there is a 30% chance of getting a hit.
- (a) Use conditioning to determine the player's expected number of hits per game.