

Probability and Statistics, Sample Prelim II Questions, Fall 2021

1. Suppose the random variable X has pdf

$$f(x; \theta) = \begin{cases} \theta x^{\theta-1} & \text{for } x \in (0, 1) \\ 0 & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases}$$

- (a) Find the Jeffreys' prior $\pi(\theta)$.
- (b) Find the MLE of θ and the Fisher's information.
- (c) Find the 95% CI for θ based on a sample of size $n = 100$, with $\sum_{i=1}^n X_i = 40320$.
- (d) Find the 95% CI for θ^{-1} based on Delta method.

2. Let X_k have Gamma distribution with $\alpha = k$, k is an integer, and $\beta = 1$.

- (a) Show that X_k/k converges to β as $k \rightarrow \infty$.
- (b) Show that

$$\frac{X_k - k}{\sqrt{k}} \rightarrow N(0, 1)$$

(c) Compute the bias and variance of each estimator. Which estimator would you prefer and why?

4. Suppose that X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n

6. Consider a Poisson process $X(t)$ with intensity λ , so that

$$p_k(t) = P(X(t) = k) = \exp(-\lambda t) \frac{(\lambda t)^k}{k!}.$$

Another Poisson process $Y(t)$, independent of the first one, has the intensity μ . Show that $X(t) + Y(t)$ is also a Poisson process, and find its intensity.

7. Let $X(t)$ be a pure death process with initial value $X(0) = N$ and the death rate $\mu_n = n$; $n = N, N-1, \dots, 1$. Let $P_n(t) = P(X(t) = n)$. Find a system of differential equations for $P_n(t)$ and show that their solution is

$$P_n(t) = \binom{N}{n} e^{-nt}.$$