

1. Discrete random variables  $X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots$  are independent and identically distributed with these probabilities:  $P(X_i = 0) = 0.6$ ,  $P(X_i = 5) = 0.3$ , and  $P(X_i = 15) = 0.1$ .

- (a) (8 points) Find  $E(X_i)$  and  $\text{Var}(X_i)$ .

Solution: The expected value is

$$E(X_i) = 0(0.6) + 5(0.3) + 15(0.1) = 3.$$

The variance is  $\text{Var}(X_i) = E(X_i^2) - 3^2$ .

$$E(X_i^2) = 0(0.6) + 25(0.3) + 225(0.1) = 30$$

so

$$\text{Var}(X_i) = 30 - 9 = 21$$

- (b) (8 points) Let  $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ . Approximate  $P(1470 \leq S_{500} \leq 1550)$ .

Solution: By the central limit theorem,  $S_{500} \approx N(1500, (\sqrt{10,500})^2)$ . We can improve the approximation a little by noting that  $S_n$  is a multiple of 5, so that  $P(S_n = 1470)$  is approximated by the area between 1467.5 and 1472.5, for example. Also,  $\text{SD}(S_{500}) = 10\sqrt{105} \doteq 102.4695$ .

$$\begin{aligned} P(1470 \leq S_{500} \leq 1550) &= P(1467.5 < S_{500} < 1552.5) \\ &= P\left(\frac{1467.5 - 1500}{10\sqrt{105}} < \frac{S_{500} - 1500}{10\sqrt{105}} < \frac{1552.5 - 1500}{10\sqrt{105}}\right) \\ &\approx P(-0.32 < Z < 0.51) \\ &= 0.695 - 0.3745 = 0.3205 \end{aligned}$$

- (c) (4 points) Find a number  $c$  so that  $P(S_{500} < c) \approx 0.84$ .

Solution: If

$$P(S_{500} < c) \approx 0.84$$

then

$$P\left(Z < \frac{c - 1500}{10\sqrt{105}}\right) \approx 0.84$$

and it follows that

$$\frac{c - 1500}{10\sqrt{105}} \approx 0.99$$

and so

$$c = 1500 + 0.99(10\sqrt{105}) \doteq 1601$$

Since  $S_{500}$  is exactly a multiple of 5, we may conclude that the probability that  $S_{500}$  is 1600 or below is close to 0.84.

2. The moment generating function of the Binomial( $n, \theta$ ) distribution is  $m(t) = ((1 - \theta) + \theta e^t)^n$ . Let  $Y_n \sim \text{Binomial}(n, 1/n)$  and  $Y \sim \text{Poisson}(1)$ , so that  $P(Y = k) = e^{-1}/k!$  for  $k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$

- (a) (3 points) Find the moment generating function of  $Y$ .

Solution:

$$m_Y(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} e^{tk} \frac{e^{-1}}{k!} = e^{-1} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{e^t}{k!} \right) = e^{-1} e^{e^t} = e^{e^t-1}$$

- (b) (2 points) Show that  $Y_n \xrightarrow{D} Y$  by showing that the moment generating functions converge. *Hint: Recall that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n = e^x$  for any  $x$ .*

Solution: Let  $m_n(t) = E(e^{tY_n}) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{n} + \frac{1}{n}e^t\right)^n$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} m_n(t) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) + \frac{1}{n}e^t \right)^n \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( 1 + \frac{e^t - 1}{n} \right)^n \\ &= e^{e^t-1} \end{aligned}$$

Since this is the moment generating function of  $Y$ , it follows that  $Y_n \xrightarrow{D} Y$ .