



# MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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## UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2023/2024

FOURTH YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE OF BACHELOR  
OF SCIENCE ACTUARIAL SCIENCE, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN STATISTICS,  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

### SMS 3453: STOCHASTIC PROCESS

DATE: APRIL 2023

TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer Question ONE and any other TWO questions.

#### QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Differentiate the following
- Stochastic model and stochastic process (2marks)
  - Periodic and non-periodic marker chain (2marks)

- b) i) Find the pgf of the Poisson distribution

$$F(x) = p(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!}, & x = 0, 1, \dots \\ 0, & \text{elsewhere} \end{cases} \quad (2\text{marks})$$

- ii) using the pgf in (i) Find the mean and the variance of the distribution (5marks)
- c) the transition probabilities of a marker chain are given in the following matrix

$$p = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Find the conditional probability of moving from stat  $E_2$  to  $E_1$  (2marks)
- If the initial probability distribution is  $a_1 = \Pr(E_1) = 1/3$ ,  $a_2 = 2/3$  and  $a_3 = 0$ . Find the probability that the process, is in  $E_3$  at the third step starting from any state (2marks)

- d) Identify all the irreducible closed sets of the Markov chain with the transitional probabilities given below

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1/4 & 1/4 & 0 & 1/2 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (5\text{marks})$$

- e) 280 workers use a canteen everyday tea, coffee and Goroa are series as alternative with lunch or any working day, each worker chooses any one of the three beverages. The probability that a worker chooses the same beverage or changes to another day is given by the following transitions

$$(E_1 = \text{Tea}, \quad E_2 = \text{Coffee}, E_3 = \text{Goroa})$$

$$P = \begin{matrix} E_1 \\ E_2 \\ E_3 \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} E_1 & E_2 & E_3 \\ 0.5 & 0.3 & 0.2 \\ 0.6 & 0.3 & 0.1 \\ 0.8 & 0.2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- In the long run how many workers will take each of the three beverages (5marks)
- f) Show that a matrix  $[I_t - \theta]$  has an inverse and inverse matrix of  $[I_t - \theta]^{-1} = I_t + \theta + \theta^2 + \theta^3 + \dots$  (7marks)
- g) Describe a simple random walk problem (2marks)

### QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Given a pgf of a positive value of  $x$  as  $G(s) = \frac{2}{3-3s}$
- b) Find the mean and variance of  $x$  (4marks)
- c) If  $p_n = P(X = n)$  find  $p_0, p_1$  and  $p_n$  in general (3marks)
- d) If the sequence  $\{a_n\}$  is given by the following formula  $a_n = a_{n-1}n = 2$  and  $a_0 = 1, a_1 = 1$ . The number of traffic accidents that occur in a city within a month is a random variable with mean 8.4 and variance 2.3. The number of individuals injured in the different accidents,  $S$  is independently distributed with mean 3.0 and variance 1.8. Find the expected number and variance of the total number of people injured in one given month in the city. (5marks)

### QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Consider a branching process where the probability distribution of the first generation  $(Z_n)$  is given by  $p_0 = 1/8, p_1 = 3/5, p_2 = 3/8, p_3 = 1/8$  and  $p_n = 0$  for  $n > 3$  let  $z_n$

be the size of  $n^{th}$  generation. Assuming that the process starts with a single individual. Find.

- i. The mean and variance of the first generation (5marks)
  - ii.  $E(z_3)$  and  $Var(z_3)$  (4marks)
- b) Probability that the process dies on or before the
- i. 2<sup>nd</sup> generation (4marks)
  - ii. 3<sup>rd</sup> generation (4marks)
  - iii. 4<sup>th</sup> generation (3marks)

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

- a) Define the following terms
- i. Absorbing Markov Chain (2marks)
  - ii. Transient state (2marks)
  - iii. Persistent state (2marks)

b) The transition probabilities of a Markov chain are given the following matrix

c)  $(1/2 \ 0 \ 0 \ 3/8) p = \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 0 & 0 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 1/4 & 3/4 & 0 \\ 2/3 & 0 & 1/3 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \end{bmatrix}$

- d) Show that the Markov chain is ergodic. (4marks)
- e) Find the invariant distribution and give the interpretation, hence or otherwise obtain the recurrence time of all the states (10marks)

**QUESTION FIVE (20MARKS)**

- a) Find the formula for the convolution of the following pair of sequence  
 $a_n = 1, 0 \leq n \leq 4, a_n = 0$  for  $n > 5$   $b_0 = n$  for all  $n$  (6marks)
- b) Solve the following recurrence relation  $a_{n-1} - 2a_n = 2^n, n \geq 0, a_0 = 1$  (10marks)
- c) Describe the following
- i. Generating function (2marks)
  - ii. Branching process (2marks)

