

NTU Probability Theory, 2008 PhD Qualify, 2008.9

Problems 1-4, 15 points each; Problems 5,6, 20 points each

1. Let  $X$  be a symmetric r.v. such that, for  $x > 1$ , the tail distribution has the decay  $P\{|X| > x\} \approx x^{-\alpha}$ . Discuss and prove the integrability of  $|X|$ , in cases  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$  and  $1 < \alpha < 2$ . Discuss the possibility of  $\alpha = 2$ .

2. Let  $Z_\lambda$  be a Poisson distribution with mean  $\lambda$ . Prove that  $(Z_\lambda - \lambda)/\sqrt{\lambda}$  converges in distribution to  $N(0, 1)$ , as  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ . May consider the case  $\lambda$  be positive integer firstly and then go to the general case.

3. Let  $(X_n, \mathcal{F}_n)$  be a martingale, and each  $X_n$  is in  $L^2(dP)$ . The difference is  $\xi_{m,n} := X_n - X_m, m < n$ . Simplify  $E[\xi_{m,n}^2 | \mathcal{F}_m]$  to a manageable form, and prove that, if  $\sum_n E\xi_{n-1,n}^2 < \infty$ , then the martingale convergence holds both a.s. and in mean square.

4. Consider a simple branching model in which we start with one single particle, at time 0. After one unit time, it branches out a random number of sub-particles; each sub-particle then branches independently and with the same offspring distribution (branching mechanism) as the original one,  $\{p_k, k \geq 0\}$ . Let  $Z_n$  denote the population number of particles at time  $n$ . Write  $Z_n$  in its recursive form and prove that it is a Markov chain.

5. Let  $X_n$  (discrete time) be a finite-states irreducible aperiodic MC. 1. what means "irreducible aperiodic" ? 2. assume that  $X_n$  is also doubly stochastic, write and prove its unique stationary distribution. 3. how about the 2. if it is the infinite-states.

6. Let  $B_t, t \geq 0$ , denote the standard Brownian Motion on the line. For any  $\theta > 0$ , find and prove suitable non-random  $\phi_1(t)$  and  $\phi_2(t)$  so that both processes  $\theta B^2(t) - \phi_1(t)$  and  $e^{\theta B_t} - \phi_2(t), t \geq 0$ , form martingales w.r.t. the natural filtration.