## STATS 325 SC

Answer ALL THREE QUESTIONS. Marks are shown for each question. A FORMULA SHEET is overleaf.

- 1. Every day as I cycle to work, I have to cross a main road from a side street. The traffic on the main road is controlled by traffic lights. There are three phases of the traffic lights, where each phase allows a different stream of traffic to pass. Every phase lasts exactly 20 seconds. When the phase changes, I might be able to cross quickly; otherwise, I have to wait 20 seconds before the next phase. The details are as follows:
  - 1. Phase 1: cross immediately with probability 0.8; otherwise wait 20 seconds and go to Phase 2.
  - Phase 2: cross immediately with probability 0.4; otherwise wait 20 seconds and go to Phase 3.
  - Phase 3: cross immediately with probability 0.1; otherwise wait 20 seconds and go to Phase 1.



(6)

(6)

(Note: the traffic diagram above is provided for interest, but all the information you need for the question is provided in points 1, 2, and 3 above.)

## Define

- $T_1$  = time in seconds from the **start** of Phase 1 until I can cross;
- $T_2$  = time in seconds from the **start** of Phase 2 until I can cross;

 $T_3$  = time in seconds from the **start** of Phase 3 until I can cross.

- (a) Show that  $\mathbb{E}(T_1) = 4 + 0.2 \mathbb{E}(T_2)$ , and derive similar expressions for  $\mathbb{E}(T_2)$  and  $\mathbb{E}(T_3)$ .
- (b) By solving the expressions from part (a), show that  $\mathbb{E}(T_1) = 9.6$  seconds, and find  $\mathbb{E}(T_2)$  and  $\mathbb{E}(T_3)$ .
- (c) When I first arrive at the intersection, the traffic lights are equally likely to be at any point in their cycle. I therefore have to wait time  $W \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 20)$  seconds before the next phase starts, and then it is equally likely to be Phase 1, Phase 2, or Phase 3.

Let T be the total time I have to wait, from the moment I arrive at the intersection, to the moment I can cross the road. Find  $\mathbb{E}(T)$ . (3)

2. Bart is trying to catch a runaway balloon.

He runs after it for  $R \sim \text{Exponential}(0.1)$  seconds, then he can try to grab it. With probability 0.2, he is successful. With probability 0.8, he falls over and has to start again from the beginning.

Let T be the total time that Bart takes to catch the balloon. Find  $\mathbb{E}(T)$ .

(4)



3. The Loch Ness Monster is a famous type of dinosaur that lives in Scotland.



The breeding cycle of the Loch Ness Monster is as follows. Every monster has either 3 offspring (probability 0.7), or no offspring at all (probability 0.3). All monsters act independently of each other. (There are no males and females.)

Nessie is a Loch Ness Monster. Let  $\{Z_0 = 1, Z_1, Z_2, ...\}$  be a branching process describing direct descendants of Nessie: so  $Z_1$  is the number of Nessie's children,  $Z_2$  is the number of her grandchildren, and so on.

(a) Let Y denote the family size distribution of the branching process. Write down the probability function of Y in the following format:

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} y & 0 & 1 & \dots \\ \hline \mathbb{P}(Y=y) & \end{array}$$
(1)

- (b) Find the probability generating function of  $Y, G(s) = \mathbb{E}(s^Y)$ . (2)
- (c) Let  $G_2(s)$  be the probability generating function of  $Z_2$ , the number of Nessie's grandchildren. Find  $G_2(s)$ . (You do **not** need to simplify the expression.) (3)
- (d) Using the PGF  $G_2(s)$ , find  $\mathbb{P}(Z_2 = 0)$ . (2)
- (e) Using the PGF  $G_2(s)$ , find  $\mathbb{E}(Z_2)$ . (3)

## FORMULAE

Uniform Distribution:
$$X \sim \text{Uniform}(a, b).$$
Mean:  $\mathbb{E}(X) = \frac{a+b}{2}.$ Exponential Distribution: $X \sim \text{Exponential}(\lambda).$ Mean:  $\mathbb{E}(X) = \frac{1}{\lambda}.$ Probability Generating Function: $G_X(s) = \mathbb{E}(s^X).$  $\mathbb{P}(X=0) = G_X(0).$ Mean:  $\mathbb{E}(X) = G'_X(1).$