



*(Knowledge for Development)*

**KIBABII UNIVERSITY**

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**FOURTH YEAR SECOND SEMESTER**

**MAIN EXAMINATION**

**FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION AND  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

**COURSE CODE: STA 448**

**COURSE TITLE: STOCHASTIC PROCESSES II**

**DATE: 1/10/2021**

**TIME: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

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### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer Question One and Any other TWO Questions

**TIME: 2 Hours**

*This Paper Consists of 4 Printed Pages. Please Turn Over.*

**QUESTION 1: (30 Marks)**

- a) Define the following terms
- i. Transient state [1mk]
  - ii. Ergodic state [1mk]
  - iii. Recurrent state [1mk]
- b) Let  $X$  have the distribution of the geometric distribution of the form  
**Prob**  $(X = k) = p_k = q^{k-2} p$ ,  $k = 2, 3, 4, \dots$   
 Obtain the probability generating function and hence find its mean and variance [9mks]
- c) Given that random variable  $X$  have probability density function  
**pr**  $(X = k) = p_k$   $k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$  with probability generating function  
 $P(S) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} p_k s^k$  and  $q_k = p_k(X = k) = p_{k+1} + p_{k+2} + p_{k+3} + \dots$   
 with generating function  $\phi(s) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} q_k s^k$   
 Show that  $(1 - s)\phi(s) = 1 - p(s)$  and that  $E(X) = \phi(1)$  [6mks]
- d) Find the generating function for the sequence  $\{0, 0, 0, 7, 7, 7, 7, \dots\}$  [2mks]
- e) Classify the state of the following transitional matrix of the markov chains

$$\begin{array}{c}
 E_1 \\
 E_2 \\
 E_3 \\
 \vdots \\
 \vdots
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{c}
 E_1 \\
 E_2 \\
 E_3 \\
 \vdots \\
 \vdots
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{c}
 E_3 \\
 E_4 \\
 E_5 \\
 \vdots \\
 \vdots
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{c}
 E_4 \\
 E_5 \\
 \vdots \\
 \vdots
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{c}
 E_5 \\
 \vdots \\
 \vdots
 \end{array}
 \begin{array}{c}
 \dots \\
 \dots \\
 \dots \\
 \dots \\
 \dots
 \end{array}$$

[10mks]

**QUESTION 2: (20 Marks)**

- a) Let  $X$  have a Bernoulli distribution with parameters  $p$  and  $q$  given by  $P_r(X = k) = P_k = p^k q^{1-k}$ ,  $q = 1 - p$ ,  $k = 0, 1$   
 Obtain the probability generating function of  $X$  and hence find its mean and variance. [6mks]

- b) The difference – differential equation for pure birth process are  
 $P'_n(t) = \lambda_n p_n(t) + \lambda_{n-1} p_{n-1}(t), \quad n \geq 1$  and  
 $P'_0(t) = -\lambda_0 p_0(t), \quad n = 0.$

Obtain  $P_n(t)$  for a non – stationary pure birth process (Poisson process) with  $\lambda_n = \lambda$  given that

$$P_0(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } n = 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Hence obtain its mean and variance

[14mks]

### QUESTION 3: (20 Marks)

- a) Let  $X$  have a Poisson distribution with parameter  $\lambda$  i.e.

$$\text{Prob}(X = k) = p_k = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^k}{k!}, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

Obtain the probability generating function of  $X$  and hence obtain its mean and variance [5mks]

- b) Using Feller's method, find the mean and variance of the difference – differential equation

$$P'_n(t) = -n(\lambda + \mu)p_n(t) + (n-1)\lambda p_{n-1}(t) + \mu(n+1)p_{n+1}(t),$$

$n \geq 1$  given

$$m_1(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n p_n(t), \quad m_2(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^2 p_n(t) \text{ and}$$

$$m_3(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^3 p_n(t) \text{ conditioned on } p_1(0) = 0, \quad p_n(0) = 0, \quad n \neq 0$$

[14mks]

### QUESTION 4: (20 Marks)

- a) Define the following terms

i. Absorbing state [1mk]

ii. Irreducible markov chains [1mk]

iii. Period of a state of markov chains [1mk]

- b) Consider a series of Bernoulli trials with probability of success  $P$ . Suppose that  $X$  denote the number of failures preceding the first success and  $Y$  the number of failures following the first success and preceding the second success. The joint pdf of  $X$  and  $Y$  is given by

$$P_{ij} = \text{pr}\{X = j, Y = k\} = q^{j+k} p^2 \quad j, k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

- i. Obtain the Bivariate probability generating function of  $X$  and  $Y$  [2mks]
  - ii. Obtain the marginal probability generating function of  $X$  [2mks]
  - iii. Obtain the mean and variance of  $X$  [2mks]
  - iv. Obtain the mean and variance of  $Y$  [2mks]
- c) Classify the state of the following stochastic markov chain

$$\begin{array}{c} E_1 \quad E_2 \quad E_3 \\ E_1 \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1/2 & 1/2 \\ E_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 0 & 1/2 \\ E_3 \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 & 1/2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$

[9mks]

### QUESTION 5: (20 Marks)

The difference – differential equation for the simple birth – death processes are

$$P'_n(t) = -n(\lambda + \mu)p_n(t) + (n-1)\lambda p_{n-1}(t) + (n+1)\mu p_{n+1}(t), \quad n \geq 1 \text{ and}$$

$$P'_0(t) = \mu p_1(t), \quad n = 0$$

Obtain  $P_n(t)$  for a simple Birth – Death process with  $\lambda_n = n\lambda$  and  $\mu_n = n\mu$

$$\text{given that } P_n(0) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } n = 1 \\ 0 & \text{for } n = 0 \end{cases}$$