

**STOR 642**  
**Comprehensive Written Examination**  
**9:00am-1:00pm, August 14, 2014**

This test consists of three questions.

This is a closed book exam. No communication devices of any kind are allowed.

Explain your answers in detail.

The problem and subproblem weights are given in parentheses.

**Problem 1.** (30 points) A clocked queue with clock cycle  $d > 0$  operates as follows: Customers arrive at this queue according a  $PP(\lambda)$  and form a single line. At time  $nd$  ( $n = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$ ), the customer at the head of the line (if the line is not empty) is removed from the queue. Let  $X(t)$  be the number of customers in the system at time  $t$  and  $X_n = X(nd^-)$ , the number of customers just before time  $nd$ ,  $n \geq 0$ .

1. (6) Show that  $\{X_n, n \geq 0\}$  is a DTMC and display its transition probability matrix. What is the condition of stability?
2. (4) Is  $\{X(t), t \geq 0\}$  a queue length process in an M/G/1 queue? Why or why not?
3. (8) Compute  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(X_n = 0)$  assuming stability.
4. (12) Compute  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P(X(t) = 0)$  assuming stability.

**Problem 2.** (40 points) A machine is subject to shocks that arrive one at a time according to a renewal process with inter-renewal time cdf  $F$ . If the machine is working when a shock occurs it fails with probability  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ , independent of history. When the machine fails, it undergoes repairs; the repair times being iid  $\text{Exp}(\lambda)$  random variables. The shocks have no effect on the machine under repair. The repaired machine is as good as new. Let  $X(t)$  be the number of working machines at time  $t$ . Assume that a shock has occurred at time zero and  $X(0+) = 0$ .

1. (2) Is  $\{X(t), t \geq 0\}$  a CTMC for all distributions  $F$ ? Why or why not?
2. (2) Is  $\{X(t), t \geq 0\}$  an SMP? Why or why not?
3. (2) Is  $\{X(t), t \geq 0\}$  an ARP? Why or why not?
4. (2) Is  $\{X(t), t \geq 0\}$  a regenerative process? Why or why not?
5. (2) Let  $S_n$  be the time of the  $n$ th shock. Is  $S_n$  a regenerative epoch for the process  $\{X(t), t \geq 0\}$  for every  $n \geq 0$ ?
6. (5) Let  $X_n = X(S_n^+)$ , the state of the machine just after the  $n$ th shock. Show that  $\{(X_n, S_n), n \geq 0\}$  is a Markov renewal sequence. Compute its kernel.

7. (5) Show that  $\{X(t), t \geq 0\}$  is an MRGP with the Markov renewal sequence described in part 6.

8. (10) Let

$$H_{ij}(t) = P(X(t) = j | X(0) = i), \quad i, j = 0, 1, 2, t \geq 0.$$

Show that  $H$  satisfies the Markov-renewal equation

$$H(t) = D(t) + G * H(t).$$

Write down the matrix  $D(t)$  explicitly.

9. (10) Compute the limiting distribution of  $\{X(t), t \geq 0\}$ .

**Problem 3.** (30 points) Let  $\{X(t), t \geq 0\}$  be a BM( $\mu, \sigma$ ), with  $\mu > 0$ . Let  $a > 0$  and define

$$T_a = \min\{t \geq 0 : X(t) = a\}.$$

1. (10) Show that

$$m(x) = E(T_a | X(0) = x), \quad x < a.$$

satisfies the differential equation

$$\frac{\sigma^2}{2} m''(x) + \mu m'(x) = -1.$$

What are the boundary conditions?

2. (10) Solve the equation and show that

$$E(T_a | X(0) = 0) = \frac{a}{\mu}.$$

3. (10) For  $i = 1, 2$ , let  $\{Y_i(t), t \geq 0\}$  be a BM( $\mu_i, \sigma_i$ ), with  $\mu_1 > \mu_2$ . Suppose the  $Y_1$  process is independent of the  $Y_2$  process and  $Y_1(0) = y_1 < Y_2(0) = y_2$ , where  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are given real numbers. Define

$$T = \min\{t \geq 0 : Y_1(t) = Y_2(t)\}.$$

Compute  $E(T)$ .