

**Basic stochastic processes**

April 6, 2010, 8:30 - 11:30 am.

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**Allowed material:** The handbook *Beta*.

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**Problem 1.** You wish to cross a one-way traffic road on which cars drive at a constant speed and pass according to a Poisson process with rate  $\lambda$ . You can only cross the road when no car has come round the corner for  $c$  time units. Suppose you arrive at a random moment. Find the probability distribution and the expectation of the number of passing cars before you cross the road. 5p

**Problem 2.**

- (a) Give a definition of a renewal process  $\{N(t), t \geq 0\}$  and its renewal function  $M(t)$ .
- (b) For  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  let  $F_n(t)$  be the distribution function of the renewal time  $S_n$ . Give a formula relating these functions and the function  $M(t)$  and prove it.
- (c) Let  $\mu$  be the average interoccurrence time of the process. Fix  $t > 0$  and consider the excess variable  $\gamma_t = S_{N(t)+1} - t$ . Prove that

$$E[\gamma_t] = \mu[1 + M(t)] - t$$

5p

**Problem 3.**

- (a) Describe the M/M/1 queuing system. For any  $t \geq 0$ , let  $X(t)$  = the number of customers present at time  $t$ . Derive the infinitesimal transition rates of the process and sketch the state diagram.
- (b) Explain, under what assumption has the process equilibrium probabilities and compute these probabilities.
- (c) Explain the formula that can be used to compute the long-run average number of customers in queue and compute this number. What is the long-run fraction of customers who find  $j$  other customers present upon arrival?

5p