

1. (18%) A fair coin is tossed until two tails occur successively. Find the expected number of the tosses required.
2. (15%) The advantage of a certain blood test is that 90% of the time it is positive for patients having a certain disease. Its disadvantage is that 20% of the time it is also positive in healthy people. In a certain location 30% of the people have the disease, and anybody with a positive blood test is given a drug that cures the disease.
- (a) If 25% of the time the drug produces a characteristic rash, what is the probability that a person from this location who has the rash had the disease in the first place?
- (b) What is the probability that a person who had the disease but was not given a drug?
3. (17%) Let  $X$  be a uniformly distributed random variable over the interval  $(0, 1+\theta)$ , where  $0 < \theta < 1$  is a given parameter.
- (a) (5%) Find the (cumulative) distribution function of  $X$ .
- (b) (6%) Find the probability density function of  $X^2$ .
- (c) (6%) Find a function of  $X$ , say  $g(X)$ , so that its expectation  $E[g(X)] = \theta^2$ .
4. (17%) Let  $P_3$  be the vector space of all polynomials over real numbers of degree  $< 3$ .  
Let  $L$  be the operator on  $P_3$  defined by
- $$L(p(x)) = x \frac{d}{dx} p(x) - p(x)$$
- (a) (4%) Find the matrix  $A$  representing  $L$  with respect to the standard basis  $\{1, x, x^2\}$  of  $P_3$ .
- (b) (4%) Find the matrix  $B$  representing  $L$  with respect to the basis  $\{1, 1+x, 1+2x+x^2\}$ .
- (c) (4%) Find the matrix  $S$  such that  $B = S^{-1}AS$ .
- (d) (5%) If  $p(x) = a_0 + a_1(1+x) + a_2(1+2x+x^2)$ , calculate  $L^n(p(x))$  with respect to the basis  $\{1, 1+x, 1+2x+x^2\}$ .
5. (15%) Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix.
- (a) (7%) Prove that  $A$  is diagonalizable if and only if it has  $n$  linearly independent (LI) eigenvectors.
- (b) (8%) Please show that if  $A$  has  $n$  LI eigenvectors and we make these  $n$  eigenvectors as the columns of matrix  $Q$ , then  $Q^{-1}AQ = D$  is diagonal and the  $j$ th diagonal element of  $D$  is the  $j$ th eigenvalue of  $A$ .
6. (a) (8%) Let  $A$  and  $B$  be  $4 \times 4$  matrices given by  $A_{i,j} = i^{j-1}$  and  $B_{i,j} = (i^2 + i \cdot j + j^3) \delta_{i,j}, 1 \leq i, j \leq 4$ . What is the trace of  $ABA^{-1}$ ? (For your own good, please circle your answer after you have finished this part of problem.)
- (b) (10%) Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix with entries from the field of complex numbers. If the inner product  $[Ax, x]$  of  $Ax$  and  $x$  is nonnegative for all  $x \in C^n$ , where  $[Ax, x] = \bar{x}Ax$ , where  $\bar{x}$  is the complex conjugate of  $x$ , show that  $A$  is Hermitian. (Please be aware that parts (a) and (b) are not related.)