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Infinite divisibility
and the waiting-time paradox

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INFINITE DIVISIBILITY AND THE WAITING-TIME PARADOX

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Abstract. It is shown that the interarrival time $Z$ covering the point zero in a stationary renewal process generated by $X$ has the form $Z \overset{d}{=} X + Y$ with $Y$ nonnegative and independent of $X$, if and only if $X$ is infinitely divisible. In the special case that $X$ has a compound-exponential distribution there is a similar decomposition of the stationary waiting time. These results shed some new light on the waiting-time paradox.

1. Introduction and summary

The waiting-time paradox consists of the fact that a passenger arriving at a bus stop will probably have to wait considerably longer than about half the interarrival time, $X$ say, of two buses. The paradox is resolved by the observation that a passenger is more likely to arrive in a long interval than in a short one. Alternatively, the length $Z$ of the interval covering the arrival time of the passenger tends to be longer than $X$, i.e., we have

\begin{equation}
Z \geq X
\end{equation}

in distribution. On an appropriate sample space (1.1) can be written as

\begin{equation}
Z \overset{d}{=} X + Y,
\end{equation}

where $Y$ is nonnegative and, in general, $X$ and $Y$ are dependent.

In this note we consider the case where $X$ and $Y$ in (1.2) are independent. It turns out that this happens if and only if $X$ is infinitely divisible, and this result sheds some new light on the waiting-time paradox and on the behaviour of nonnegative processes with stationary, independent increments [sii-processes]. In the special case that $X$ is compound-exponential [see Definition 2.5], also the (stationary) waiting-time $W$ of a bus passenger admits of a decomposition similar to (1.2):

\begin{equation}
W \overset{d}{=} X + A,
\end{equation}

where $A$ is nonnegative and independent of $X$.

In Section 2 we collect some results about renewal theory and infinite divisibility. Section 3 contains a characterization of infinite divisibility for nonnegative random variables by means of (1.2), and some of its consequences. In Section 4 equation (1.3) is considered for non-lattice distributions. In Section 5 we briefly present the solutions of (1.2) and (1.3) for distributions on the non-negative integers. We shall mostly use the renewal (life-time) terminology rather than the waiting-time terminology.
2. Preliminaries

We need some information on renewal theory and on infinite divisibility for non-negative random variables. Some of the results hold only for non-lattice distributions, and have analogues for lattice distributions. We shall only consider lattice random variables with values in \( Z_+ := \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\} \). Sometimes it will be essential that these random variables have positive probability at 0.

2.1. Renewal theory

We consider a renewal process generated by a sequence \((X_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}\) of independent, non-negative random variables distributed as \( X \) with distribution function \( F \) and expectation \( \mathbb{E} X = \mu \in (0, \infty) \); these conditions will be assumed to hold throughout unless otherwise stated. We write \( S_n = \sum_{k=1}^n X_k \), and define the number \( N_t \) of renewals in \((0, t]\), the age \( V_t \) of the unit in service at time \( t \), the remaining lifetime \( W_t \) of this unit (the waiting time for the next bus), and the total life-time \( Z_t \) as follows:

\[
N_t := \#\{n \in \mathbb{N} : S_n \leq t\},
V_t := t - S_{N_t}, \quad W_t := S_{N_t+1} - t,
Z_t = X_{N_t+1} = V_t + W_t.
\]

The following result is well known; see Feller (1971).

Lemma 2.1. If \( F \) is non-lattice, then

\[
V_t \overset{d}{\to} V, \quad W_t \overset{d}{\to} W \overset{d}{=} V, \quad Z_t \overset{d}{\to} Z \quad [t \to \infty],
\]

where \( Z \) and \( W \) have distribution functions given by

\begin{align}
F_Z(z) &= \frac{1}{\mu} \int_{0,z} x \, dF(x) \quad [z \geq 0], \\
F_W(w) &= \frac{1}{\mu} \int_0^w \{1 - F(x)\} \, dx \quad [w \geq 0].
\end{align}

Alternatively, \( V, W \) and \( Z \) can be regarded as quantities in a stationary renewal process (started at \(-\infty\)); then \( Z \) is the life time straddling 0, say, and \( V \) and \( W \) are the lengths of the parts into which \( Z \) is divided by 0. The random variables \( V, W \) and \( Z \) will be used in this sense, sometimes without comment. They satisfy

\[
Z = V + W \quad \text{and} \quad V \overset{d}{=} W \overset{d}{=} U Z,
\]

where \( U \) is uniformly distributed on \((0,1)\) and independent of \( Z \); see Winter (1989).
There is an analogue to Lemma 2.1 for lattice distributions. Now $X$ is distributed on $\mathbb{Z}^+$, and the quantities $N_n, V_n, W_n$ and $Z_n$ are defined for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ in the same way as $N_t, V_t, W_t$ and $Z_t$. We then have the following well-known result; see Feller (1968). We use the notations $V, W$ and $Z$ also for the limits of $V_n, W_n$ and $Z_n$.

**Lemma 2.2.** If $X$ has an aperiodic distribution $(p_k)_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^+}$ on $\mathbb{Z}^+$, then

$$V_n \xrightarrow{d} V, \quad W_n \xrightarrow{d} W \overset{d}{=} V + 1, \quad Z_n \xrightarrow{d} Z \quad [n \to \infty],$$

where $Z$ and $W$ have distributions given by

$$(2.4) \quad \mathbb{P}(Z = k) = \frac{1}{\mu} k p_k \quad [k \in \mathbb{N}],$$

$$(2.5) \quad \mathbb{P}(W = k) = \frac{1}{\mu} \sum_{j=k}^{\infty} p_j \quad [k \in \mathbb{N}].$$

**Remark.** Comparison with (2.4) learns that (2.1) also holds for distributions on $\mathbb{Z}^+$. Since the span of the lattice is of no real importance, (2.1) holds for all distributions on $\mathbb{R}^+$ with a finite moment. Since $W$ in (2.2) is absolutely continuous, the non-lattice condition there is essential.

### 2.2. Infinite divisibility

We recall the definition of infinite divisibility: a random variable $X$ (or its distribution function $F$) is said to be **infinitely divisible** if for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$ iid random variables $X^{(n)}_1, \ldots, X^{(n)}_n$ exist such that

$$(2.6) \quad X \overset{d}{=} X^{(n)}_1 + \cdots + X^{(n)}_n.$$ 

In what follows the Laplace-Stieltjes transform [LSt] of a function $H$ will be denoted by $\tilde{H}$. We take the following result from Feller (1971).

**Lemma 2.3.** A distribution function $F$ on $\mathbb{R}^+$ is infinitely divisible iff its LSt satisfies

$$(2.7) \quad \log \tilde{F}(s) = \int_0^\infty \left( e^{-sx} - 1 \right) x^{-1} dK(x),$$

where $K$ is a nondecreasing function on $\mathbb{R}^+$ with (necessarily) $\int_1^\infty x^{-1} dK(x) < \infty$.

$K$ will be called the **canonical function** of $F$, or of the corresponding random variable. We note that the random variables $X^{(n)}$ in (2.6) are infinitely divisible with distribution function $F^{*(1/n)}$, the $n$-th convolution root of $F$, and with canonical function $K^{(n)} = (1/n) K$. Differentiation of (2.7) yields

$$(2.8) \quad -\frac{\tilde{F}'(s)}{\tilde{F}(s)} = \tilde{K}(s),$$

and inversion of this leads to the following equivalent relation [see Steutel (1970)]; let $s \downarrow 0$ for the final statement.
Corollary 2.4. A distribution function $F$ on $\mathbb{R}_+$ is infinitely divisible iff $F$ satisfies
\begin{equation}
\int_{(0, x]} y \, dF(y) = (F * K)(x) \quad [x > 0],
\end{equation}
where $K$ is nondecreasing on $\mathbb{R}_+$ and $*$ denotes convolution. The, possibly infinite, first moment $\mu$ of $F$ is given by
\begin{equation}
\mu = \int_{[0, \infty)} dK(x) = K(\infty).
\end{equation}

For Section 4 we need the following subclass of infinitely divisible distributions.

Definition 2.5. Let $S(\cdot)$ be a process with stationary, independent increments and let $T$ be exponentially distributed with $\mathbb{E}T = 1$, independent of $S(\cdot)$. Then the random variable $X := S(T)$ is said to have a compound-exponential distribution.

The following lemma is immediate if we denote the (infinitely divisible) distribution function of $S(1)$ by $F_0$.

Lemma 2.6. A distribution function $F$ on $\mathbb{R}_+$ is compound-exponential iff $F$ has the form
\begin{equation}
\hat{F}(s) = \frac{1}{1 - \log \hat{F}_0(s)},
\end{equation}
where $F_0$ is an infinitely divisible distribution function on $\mathbb{R}_+$. The distribution functions $F$ and $F_0$ have the same first moment.

We conclude this section with analogues (and also special cases) of Corollary 2.4 and Lemma 2.6 for infinitely divisible distributions on $\mathbb{Z}_+$. Here we use probability generating functions [pgf's] rather than LSt's. We stress that the factors $X_j^{(n)}$ in (2.3) are $\mathbb{Z}_+$-valued iff $P(X = 0) > 0$; for details we refer to Steutel (1970).

Lemma 2.7. A distribution $(p_k)_{k \in \mathbb{Z}_+}$ on $\mathbb{Z}_+$ with $p_0 > 0$ is infinitely divisible iff the quantities $r_k$ with $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ defined by
\begin{equation}
(k + 1) p_{k+1} = \sum_{j=0}^{k} p_j r_{k-j} \quad [k \in \mathbb{Z}_+],
\end{equation}
are nonnegative, i.e., iff the coefficients of $R(z) := P'(z)/P(z)$ are nonnegative.

Lemma 2.8. A distribution on $\mathbb{Z}_+$ with pgf $P$ is compound-exponential iff $P$ has the form
\begin{equation}
P(z) = \frac{1}{1 - \log Q(z)} = \frac{1}{1 - \alpha (G(z) - 1)},
\end{equation}
where $Q$ is the pgf of an infinitely divisible distribution on $\mathbb{Z}_+$ with $Q'/Q = \alpha G'$, $\alpha > 0$ and $G$ a pgf.
3. An extreme case of the waiting-time paradox

We return to the renewal process generated by a nonnegative random variable $X$ as described in Section 2.1. It is well known [see e.g. Ross (1970)] that for the total life-time $Z$ with distribution function given by (2.1) we have

$$Z \stackrel{d}{\geq} X,$$

i.e., $\mathbb{P}(Z > x) \geq \mathbb{P}(X > x)$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}_+$, or on a suitable sample space,

$$Z \stackrel{d}{=} X + Y,$$

(3.1)

where $Y$ is nonnegative and, in general, not independent of $X$. Here we are interested in the situation where $X$ and $Y$ are independent. The following theorem can also be read as a characterization theorem for infinitely divisible random variables on $\mathbb{R}_+$ with a finite first moment [compare Remark following Lemma 2.2].

**Theorem 3.1.** Let $Z$ be the life time covering the point 0 in a stationary renewal process generated by $X$. Then $Z$ can be written as in (3.1) with $X$ and $Y$ independent iff $X$ is infinitely divisible. The distribution function of $Y$ is given by $F_Y = (1/\mu)K$, where $K$ is the canonical function of $X$.

**Proof.** Let $Z$ satisfy (3.1) with $X$ and $Y$ independent. Then by (2.1) we have

$$F_Z(z) = \frac{1}{\mu} \int_{[0,z]} x dF(x) = (F * F_Y)(z) \quad [z \geq 0].
$$

(3.2)

Multiplying by $\mu$ we see that $F$ satisfies the functional equation (2.9) with $K = \mu F_Y$, hence by Corollary 2.4 $F$ is infinitely divisible. Conversely, if $F$ is infinitely divisible, then by (2.10) the functional equation (2.9) can be written in the form (3.2) for some distribution function $F_Y$, which means that in (3.1) $X$ and $Y$ can be taken independent.

**Remark.** By a suitable choice of $K$, for $F_Y = (1/\mu)K$ any distribution function is possible. If $F(0) > 0$, then $X$ is compound-Poisson [cf. van Harn (1978)], i.e.,

$$X \stackrel{d}{=} \tilde{X}_1 + \cdots + \tilde{X}_N,$$

where $\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{X}_2, \ldots$ are independent and distributed as $\tilde{X}$ with distribution function $G$, say, and $N$ is Poisson distributed, independent of the $\tilde{X}_j$'s. Now $F_Y$ takes the form

$$F_Y(y) = \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}X} \int_{(0,y]} u dG(u),$$

i.e., $Y$ has the same distribution as the total life-time $\tilde{Z}$ in the renewal process generated by $\tilde{X}$. This can, roughly, be explained as follows. Since $X$ is a Poisson sum
of $\tilde{X}_j$'s, the (positive) $X$-interval covering a fixed point can be regarded as the sum of the $\tilde{X}$-interval covering this point and a (Poisson) number of independent $\tilde{X}_j$'s, i.e., as $X + \tilde{Z} \overset{d}{=} X + Y$.

The question remaining is: what is the meaning of the random variable $Y$ in (3.2). An answer can be obtained by considering the renewal process generated by $X^{(n)}$ with distribution function $F^{* (1/n)}$. Denoting the corresponding $Z$-random variable by $Z^{(n)}$, and using the fact that $X^{(n)}$ is infinitely divisible with canonical function $K^{(n)} = (1/n) K$, by Theorem 3.1 we have

$$Z^{(n)} \overset{d}{=} X^{(n)} + Y^{(n)},$$

where the distribution function of $Y^{(n)}$ is given by

$$F_{Y^{(n)}} = \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}X^{(n)}} K^{(n)} = \frac{n}{\mu} K^{(n)} = \frac{1}{\mu} K = F_Y,$$

independent of $n$. More generally, considering the sii-process $X(\cdot)$ with $X(1) \overset{d}{=} X$ and $X(1/n) \overset{d}{=} X^{(n)}$, we obtain the following result.

**Theorem 3.2.** Let $X$ be a nonnegative infinitely divisible random variable with finite first moment $\mu$ and with canonical function $K$. Let $X(\cdot)$ denote the sii-process with $X(1) \overset{d}{=} X$, and for $t > 0$ let $Z(t)$ be the $Z$-random variable in a stationary renewal process generated by $X(t)$. Then

$$Z(t) \overset{d}{=} X(t) + Y \quad [t > 0],$$

where $X(t)$ and $Y$ are independent and $F_Y = (1/\mu) K$, independent of $t$.

Equation (3.3) tells us that, if we approach the point 0 with small steps, i.e., if $t$ is small, then this point is passed with a non-small step of length at least $Y$, in distribution. Also, though $X(t) \overset{d}{\rightarrow} 0$, we have $Z(t) \overset{d}{\rightarrow} Y \neq 0$ as $t \downarrow 0$: we get an extreme case of the waiting-time paradox. For large $t$, on the other hand, the term $X(t)$ will dominate in the right-hand side of (3.3): the paradox, almost, disappears. Combining (2.3) with (3.3) yields the following result for the remaining life-time $W$.

**Corollary 3.3.** Let $X(\cdot)$ be as in Theorem 3.2, and for $t > 0$ let $W(t)$ be the $W$-random variable in a stationary renewal process generated by $X(t)$. Then

$$W(t) \overset{d}{=} UX(t) + UY \quad [t > 0],$$

where $U$, $X(t)$ and $Y$ are independent, $U$ is uniform on $(0,1)$, and $Y$ is as in Theorem 3.2. In particular,

$$W(t) \overset{d}{\rightarrow} UY \quad [t \downarrow 0].$$
4. Compound-exponential life times

Since the compound-exponential distributions [cf. Definition 2.5] are a special subclass of the infinitely divisible distributions, one may expect the random variable $Y$ in (3.1) to have special properties, if $X$ is taken compound-exponential. Indeed we have the following result.

**Theorem 4.1.** If $X$ is a nonnegative, compound-exponential random variable with a finite first moment, then the life time $Z$ covering 0 in a stationary renewal process generated by $X$ satisfies

$$Z \overset{d}{=} X + X' + Y_0,$$

where $X' \overset{d}{=} X$, $Y_0$ is nonnegative, and $X$, $X'$ and $Y_0$ are independent. Equivalently, the random variable $Y$ in (3.1) satisfies $Y \overset{d}{=} X' + Y_0$ with $X'$ and $Y_0$ independent and independent of $X$.

**Proof.** By Lemma 2.6 the LSt $\widehat{F}$ of $X$ has the form $\widehat{F}(s) = 1/(1 - \log \widehat{F}_0(s))$, where $F_0$ is an infinitely divisible distribution function on $\mathbb{R}_+$. From this equation and (2.8) it follows that the canonical function $K$ of $F$ is related to the canonical function $K_0$ of $F_0$ by $K = F \ast K_0$:

$$\widehat{K}(s) = -\frac{d}{ds} \log \widehat{F}(s) = \widehat{F}(s) \left\{ -\frac{d}{ds} \log \widehat{F}_0(s) \right\} = \widehat{F}(s) \widehat{K}_0(s).$$

Dividing by $\mu$, the first moment of both $F$ and $F_0$, and letting $Y_0$ be a random variable with distribution function $(1/\mu)K_0$, we see that $Y$ in (3.1) satisfies

$$F_Y = F \ast F_{Y_0},$$

so $Y$ can be obtained as $Y \overset{d}{=} X' + Y_0$ with $X'$ and $Y_0$ independent.

**Remark.** As in Theorem 3.2 one can consider the renewal process generated by $X(t)$. When $X = X(1)$ is compound-exponential, then so is $X(t)$ for $0 < t < 1$. Repeating the calculations for Theorem 4.1 with $X$ replaced by $X(t)$, we obtain

$$Z(t) \overset{d}{=} X(t) + X'(t) + Y_0(t) \quad [0 < t \leq 1],$$

where $Y_0(t) \overset{d}{=} X(1 - t) + Y_0$ with $Y_0$ as in (4.1) independent of $X(1 - t)$. So, we recover (3.3) with $Y \overset{d}{=} X + Y_0$ and $Y_0$ as in (4.1).

Choosing a uniformly distributed random variable $U$ independent of $X$, $X'$ and $Y_0$, we can rewrite (4.1) as

$$Z \overset{d}{=} (X + UY_0) + (X' + UY_0),$$
where $\bar{U} = 1 - U \overset{d}{=} U$. Since we also have $Z = V + W$ with $V \overset{d}{=} W$ [cf. Lemma 2.1 and (2.3)], this suggests that in this case

$$(4.3) \quad W \overset{d}{=} X + A,$$

where $X$ and $A$ are independent with $A$ of the form $A = UY_0$. This is the content of the next theorem. Since apart from some mass at zero the random variable $A$, and hence $W$, has an absolutely continuous distribution, we consider the non-lattice case here; cf. Remark following Lemma 2.2.

**Theorem 4.2.** If $X$ is compound-exponential and non-lattice with finite first moment $\mu$, then the stationary remaining life-time $W$ satisfies (4.3) with $X$ and $A$ independent, and $A$ of the form $A \overset{d}{=} UY_0$, where $Y_0$ is nonnegative, $U$ is uniform on $(0,1)$ and independent of $Y_0$.

**Proof.** Use Lemmas 2.1, 2.3 and 2.6. Since $X$ has LSt $\hat{F} = 1/(1 - \log \hat{F}_0)$ with $F_0$ infinitely divisible, the LSt of $W$ can be written as

$$\hat{F}_W(s) = \frac{1 - \hat{F}(s)}{\mu s} = \hat{F}(s) - \frac{\log \hat{F}_0(s)}{\mu s} = \hat{F}(s) \int_0^\infty \frac{1 - e^{-sx}}{sx} dF_{Y_0}(x),$$

where, as in the proof of Theorem 4.1, $F_{Y_0} = (1/\mu) K_0$ with $K_0$ the canonical function of $F_0$. The equality in the extreme members of this equation easily translates in (4.3) with $A$ of the form $A \overset{d}{=} UY_0$ as desired.

It is unclear whether (4.3) with $X$ and $A$ independent implies that $X$ has a compound-exponential distribution. The fact that $A$ is of the form $A \overset{d}{=} UY_0$ implies that $A$ has a density on $(0, \infty)$ which is nonincreasing.

**Remark.** Proceeding as in the Remark following Theorem 4.1, for $W(t)$ we obtain

$$(4.4) \quad W(t) \overset{d}{=} X(t) + UY_0(t) \quad [0 < t \leq 1],$$

which can be written as

$$(4.5) \quad W(t) \overset{d}{=} (1 - U)X(t) + U\{X(t) + Y_0(t)\},$$

where $X(t) + Y_0(t) \overset{d}{=} Y$, independent of $t$; compare Corollary 3.3.

5. Analogues for lattice distributions

In this section we briefly present the analogues of Theorems 3.1, 4.1 and 4.2 for $\mathbb{Z}_+$-valued random variables $X$. We consider the discrete-time renewal process generated by $X$ with $\mathbb{P}(X = k) = p_k$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ and $\mathbb{E}X = \mu \in (0,\infty)$, and use the
notation as established in Lemma 2.2. We restrict attention to \( X \) with \( p_0 > 0 \). This leads to the clearest analogues, and it is no real restriction: The results for \( Z \) hold for arbitrary \( X \); for the result on \( W \) the restriction \( \mathbb{P}(X \leq 1) > 0 \) is necessary, and the case \( p_0 = 0, p_1 > 0 \) can be reduced to the case \( p_0 > 0 \) by a shift. The proofs differ only slightly from those in Sections 3 and 4.

**Theorem 5.1.** Let \( X \) have an aperiodic distribution \((p_k)_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^+}\) on \( \mathbb{Z}^+ \) with \( p_0 > 0 \). Then the random variable \( Z \) with distribution given by (2.4) satisfies

\[
Z \overset{d}{=} X + Y,
\]

where \( Y \) is a (necessarily \( \mathbb{N} \)-valued) random variable independent of \( X \), iff \( X \) is infinitely divisible.

**Proof.** By (2.4), saying that \( Z \) satisfies (5.1) with \( X \) and \( Y \) independent, is equivalent to the following assertion:

\[
\mathbb{P}(Z - 1 = k) = \frac{1}{\mu} (k + 1)p_{k+1} = \sum_{j=0}^{k} p_j \mathbb{P}(Y - 1 = k - j) \quad [k \in \mathbb{Z}^+].
\]

An appeal to Lemma 2.7 finishes the proof; note that necessarily \( \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} r_k = \mu \).

From the proof it will be clear that \( Y \) in (5.1) has distribution \((r_{k-1}/\mu)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}\). Of course, also Theorem 3.2 has a lattice analogue; we don’t spell it out.

The analogues of Theorems 4.1 and 4.2 are combined in the following theorem. Note that a compound-exponential distribution on \( \mathbb{Z}^+ \) necessarily has positive mass at 0.

**Theorem 5.2.** Let \( X \) have an aperiodic, compound-exponential distribution \((p_k)\) on \( \mathbb{Z}^+ \). Then the random variable \( Z \) with distribution given by (2.4) satisfies

\[
Z \overset{d}{=} X + X' + Y_0,
\]

where \( X' \overset{d}{=} X, Y_0 \) is \( \mathbb{N} \)-valued, and \( X, X' \) and \( Y_0 \) are independent. For the random variable \( W \) with distribution given by (2.5) one has

\[
W \overset{d}{=} X + A,
\]

where \( X \) and \( A \) are independent and \( A \) has a nonincreasing distribution on \( \mathbb{N} \).

**Proof.** By Lemma 2.8 the pgf \( P \) of \( X \) has the form \( P = 1/(1 - \log Q) \) with \( Q \) an infinitely divisible pgf; hence differentiation of \( 1/P \) leads to the equation \( P'/P^2 = Q'/Q \). Since the pgf \( P_{Z-1} \) of \( Z - 1 \) is given by \((1/\mu) P'\), it follows that

\[
P_{Z-1}(z) = \{P(z)\}^2 (1/\mu) Q'(z)/Q(z).
\]
§6: An example

Now, \(1/\mu\) \(Q'/Q\) can be read as the pgf of \(Y_0 - 1\) for some \(N\)-valued random variable \(Y_0\); cf. the remark following Theorem 5.1. We conclude that \(Z\) satisfies (5.2). With regard to (5.3) it is sufficient to note that

\[
P_{W^{-1}}(z) = \frac{1 - P(z)}{\mu(1 - z)} = P(z) \frac{-\log Q(z)}{\mu(1 - z)} = P(z) \frac{1 - G(z)}{(\mu/\alpha)(1 - z)};
\]

cf. the second representation of (2.13) in Lemma 2.8.

6. An example

For \(X(\cdot)\) in Theorem 3.2 we take a Gamma process: \(X(t)\) has a gamma distribution with parameters \(t\) and \(\lambda\), so with density \(x \mapsto \lambda^t x^{t-1} e^{-\lambda x} / \Gamma(t)\). The canonical function of \(X(t)\) has density \(x \mapsto t e^{-\lambda x}\), and it follows that for the total life-time \(Z(t)\) in the stationary renewal process generated by \(X(t)\) \([t > 0, \text{fixed}]\) we have

\[
Z(t) \overset{d}{=} X(t) + Y,
\]

where \(X(t)\) and \(Y\) are independent and \(Y\) has an exponential distribution with parameter \(\lambda\), independent of \(t\).

For \(0 < t \leq 1\) the random variable \(X(t)\) is compound-exponential: its LST can be represented as \(1/(1-\log F_0)\), where \(F_0\) is infinitely divisible with canonical function \(K_0\) satisfying

\[
K_0(s) = -\frac{F'_0(s)}{F_0(s)} = -\frac{d}{ds} \log F_0(s) = \frac{t}{\lambda} \left( \frac{\lambda}{\lambda + s} \right)^{1-t}.
\]

From Theorem 4.1 it follows that for \(0 < t \leq 1\)

\[
Z(t) \overset{d}{=} X(t) + X'(t) + Y_0(t),
\]

where \(Y_0(t)\) has a gamma distribution with parameters \(1 - t\) and \(\lambda\). The special case \(t = 1\), i.e., \(X(1)\) exponential, gives \(Y_0(1) = 0\) with probability 1, as is well known. In general, \(Z(t)\) has a gamma distribution with shape parameter \(t + t + (1 - t) = t + 1\); for \(t = \frac{1}{2}\) the random variable \(Z(t)\) is the sum of three iid random variables.

By Theorem 4.2, for the remaining life-time \(W(t)\) in the renewal process generated by \(X(t)\) we find

\[
W(t) \overset{d}{=} X(t) + A(t),
\]

with

\[
\hat{F}_A(t)(s) = \frac{(1 + s/\lambda)^t - 1}{ts/\lambda}.
\]

For \(t = 1\) we obtain the well-known result that \(W(1) \overset{d}{=} X(1)\), i.e., \(P(A(1)) = 0) = 1\).
References


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