Properties of moments of random variables*

Jean-Marie Dufour †
McGill University

First version: May 1995
Revised: January 2015
This version: January 13, 2015
Compiled: January 13, 2015, 17:30

*This work was supported by the William Dow Chair in Political Economy (McGill University), the Bank of Canada (Research Fellowship), the Toulouse School of Economics (Pierre-de-Fermat Chair of excellence), the Universitat Carlos III de Madrid (Banco Santander de Madrid Chair of excellence), a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Konrad-Adenauer Fellowship (Alexander-von-Humboldt Foundation, Germany), the Canadian Network of Centres of Excellence [program on Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems (MITACS)], the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and the Fonds de recherche sur la société et la culture (Québec).

† William Dow Professor of Economics, McGill University, Centre interuniversitaire de recherche en analyse des organisations (CIRANO), and Centre interuniversitaire de recherche en économie quantitative (CIREQ). Mailing address: Department of Economics, McGill University, Leacock Building, Room 519, 855 Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal, Québec H3A 2T7, Canada. TEL: (1) 514 398 4400 ext. 09156; FAX: (1) 514 398 4800; e-mail: jeanmarie.dufour@mcgill.ca. Web page: http://www.jeanmariedufour.com
## Contents

List of Assumptions, Propositions and Theorems .......................... ii

1. Existence of moments .................................................. 1

2. Moment inequalities ................................................... 1

3. Markov-type inequalities ............................................... 2

4. Moments and behavior of tail areas .................................. 3

5. Moments of sums of random variables .................................. 7

6. Proofs ........................................................................... 10

List of Assumptions, Propositions and Theorems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposition/Lemma</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Proposition</td>
<td>Existence of absolute and ordinary moments</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Proposition</td>
<td>Monotonicity of $L_r$</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Proposition</td>
<td>$c_r$-inequality</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Proposition</td>
<td>Mean form of $c_r$-inequality</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Proposition</td>
<td>Closure of $L_{r}$</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Proposition</td>
<td>Hölder inequality</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 Proposition</td>
<td>Cauchy-Schwarz inequality</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6 Proposition</td>
<td>Minkowski inequality</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7 Proposition</td>
<td>Moment monotonicity</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8 Theorem</td>
<td>Liapunov theorem</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9 Proposition</td>
<td>Lower bounds on the moments of a sum</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10 Proposition</td>
<td>Jensen inequality</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Proposition</td>
<td>Markov inequalities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2 Proposition</td>
<td>Chebyshev inequalities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3 Proposition</td>
<td>Refined Markov inequalities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Lemma</td>
<td>Riemann-Stieltjes integration by parts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2 Lemma</td>
<td>Centered Riemann-Stieltjes integration by parts</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3 Lemma</td>
<td>Bounded monotonicity condition for tail convergence of an integrable function</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4 Proposition</td>
<td>Moment existence and tail area decay</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5 Proposition</td>
<td>Distribution decomposition of $r$-moments</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6 Proposition</td>
<td>Distribution decomposition of the first absolute moment</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7 Corollary</td>
<td>Moment-tail area inequalities</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.8 Proposition</td>
<td>Mean-tail area inequalities</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1 Proposition</td>
<td>Bounds on the absolute moments of a sum of random variables</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.2 Proposition: Minkowski inequality for $n$ variables ........................................ 8
5.3 Proposition: Bounds on the absolute moments of a sum of random variables under conditional symmetry .................................................. 8
5.4 Proposition: Bounds on the absolute moments of a sum of random variables under martingale condition .................................................. 8
5.5 Proposition: Bounds on the absolute moments of a sum of random variables under two-sided martingale condition ................................ 9
5.6 Proposition: Bounds on the absolute moments of a sum of independent random variables ................................................................. 9
Proof of Theorem 3.3 ..................................................................................... 10
Proof of Lemma 4.1 ...................................................................................... 11
Proof of Lemma 4.2 ...................................................................................... 11
Proof of Lemma 4.3 ...................................................................................... 11
Proof of Proposition 5.2 .............................................................................. 12
Let $X$ and $Y$ be real random variables, and let $r$ and $s$ be real positive constants ($r > 0$, $s > 0$). The distribution functions of $X$ and $Y$ are denoted $F_X(x) = P[X \leq x]$ and $F_Y(x) = P[Y \leq x]$.

1. **Existence of moments**

1.1 **Existence of absolute and ordinary moments.** $E(|X|)$ always exists in the extended real numbers $\mathbb{R}^+ = \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\} \cup \{-\infty\}$ and $E(|X|) \in [0, \infty]$; i.e., either $E(|X|)$ is a non-negative real number or $E(|X|) = \infty$.

1.2 $E(X)$ exists and is finite $\iff E(|X|) < \infty$.

1.3 $E(|X|) < \infty \implies E(|X|) \leq E(|X|) < \infty$.

1.4 If $0 < r \leq s$, then $E(|X|^r) < \infty \implies E(|X|^r) < \infty$. (1.1)

1.5 **Monotonicity of $L_r$.** $L_s \subseteq L_r$ for $0 < r \leq s$.

1.6 $E(|X|^r) < \infty \implies E(X^k)$ exists and is finite for all integers $k$ such that $0 < k \leq r$.

2. **Moment inequalities**

2.1 $c_r$-**Inequality.**

\[
E(|X + Y|^r) \leq c_r[E(|X|^r) + E(|Y|^r)]
\]

where

\[
c_r = 1, \quad \text{if } 0 < r \leq 1, \\
= 2^{r-1}, \quad \text{if } r > 1.
\]

(2.2)

2.2 **Mean form of $c_r$-Inequality.**

\[
E\left(\frac{1}{2}|X + Y|^r\right) \leq \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^r \left[E(|X|^r) + E(|Y|^r)\right], \quad \text{if } 0 < r \leq 1,
\]

\[
\leq \frac{1}{2}E(|X|^r) + E(|Y|^r), \quad \text{if } r > 1.
\]

(2.3)

2.3 **Closure of $L_r$.** Let $a$ and $b$ be real numbers. Then $X \in L_r$ and $Y \in L_r \Rightarrow aX + bY \in L_r$.

(2.4)

2.4 **Hölder inequality.** If $r > 1$ and $\frac{1}{r} + \frac{1}{s} = 1$, then

\[
E(|XY|) \leq [E(|X|^r)]^{1/r}[E(|Y|^s)]^{1/s}.
\]

(2.5)
2.5 **Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality.**

\[
E(|XY|) \leq [E(X^2)]^{1/2}[E(Y^2)]^{1/2}.
\]  

(2.6)

2.6 **Minkowski Inequality.** If \( r \geq 1 \), then

\[
E(|X + Y|^r)^{1/r} \leq [E(|X|^r)]^{1/r} + [E(|Y|^r)]^{1/r}.
\]  

(2.7)

2.7 **Moment Monotonicity.** \([E(|X|^r)]^{1/r}\) is a non-decreasing function of \( r \), i.e.

\[
0 < r \leq s \Rightarrow [E(|X|^r)]^{1/r} \leq [E(|X|^s)]^{1/s}.
\]  

(2.8)

2.8 **Theorem Liapunov Theorem.** \( \log[E(|X|^r)] \) is a convex function of \( r \), i.e. for any \( \lambda \in [0, 1] \),

\[
\log[E(|X|^{\lambda r}+(1-\lambda)s)] \leq \lambda \log[E(|X|^r)] + (1-\lambda) \log[E(|X|^s)].
\]  

(2.9)

2.9 **Lower Bounds on the Moments of a Sum.** If \( E(|X|^r) < \infty \), \( E(|Y|^r) < \infty \) and \( E(Y \mid X) = 0 \), then

\[
E(|X + Y|^r) \geq E(|X|^r), \quad \text{for } r \geq 1.
\]  

(2.10)

2.10 **Jensen Inequality.** If \( g(x) \) is a convex function on \( \mathbb{R} \) and \( E(|X|) < \infty \), then, for any constant \( c \in \mathbb{R} \),

\[
g(c) \leq E[g(X - EX + c)]
\]  

and, in particular,

\[
g(EX) \leq E[g(X)].
\]  

(2.12)

3. **Markov-type inequalities**

3.1 **Markov Inequalities.** Let \( g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \) be a function such that \( g(X) \) is a real random variable, \( E(|g(X)|) < \infty \) and

\[
P[0 \leq g(X) \leq M] = 1
\]  

(3.1)

where \( M \in [0, \infty] \). If \( g(x) \) is a non-decreasing function on \( \mathbb{R} \), then, for all \( a \in \mathbb{R} \),

\[
\frac{E[g(X)] - g(a)}{M} \leq P[X \geq a] \leq \frac{E[g(X)]}{g(a)}.
\]  

(3.2)

If \( g(x) \) is a non-decreasing function on \( [0, \infty) \) and \( g(x) = g(-x) \) for any \( x \), then, for all \( a \geq 0 \),

\[
\frac{E[g(X)] - g(a)}{M} \leq P[|X| \geq a] \leq \frac{E[g(X)]}{g(a)}
\]  

(3.3)

where \( 0/0 \equiv 1 \).
3.2 Chebyshev inequalities. If \( P[|X| \leq M] = 1 \), where \( M \in [0, \infty) \), then, for all \( a \geq 0 \),
\[
\frac{\mathbb{E}(|X|^r) - a^r}{M^r} \leq P[|X| \geq a] \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}(|X|^r)}{a^r}.
\] (3.4)

3.3 Theorem Refined Markov inequalities. Let \( g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \) be a function such that \( g(X) \) is a real random variable, \( \mathbb{E}(|g(X)|) < \infty \) and
\[
0 \leq g(x) \leq M_U \quad \text{for} \quad x \geq A_U, \quad 0 \leq M_U \leq \infty,
\]
\[
0 \leq g(x) \leq M_L \quad \text{for} \quad x \leq A_L, \quad 0 \leq M_L \leq \infty,
\]
where \( 0 \leq M_U \leq \infty, 0 \leq M_L \leq \infty, 0 \leq A_U \leq \infty \) and \( 0 \leq A_L \leq \infty \). Let also
\[
C_U(g, a) = \int_{[a, \infty)} g(x) \, dF_X(x), \quad C_L(g, a) = \int_{(-\infty, a]} g(x) \, dF_X(x).
\] (3.7)

(a) If \( g(x) \) is nondecreasing on \([A_U, \infty)\), then, for \( a \geq A_U \),
\[
\frac{C_U(g, a)}{M_U} \leq P[X \geq a] \leq \frac{C_U(g, a)}{g(a)}.
\] (3.8)

(b) If \( g(x) \) is nonincreasing on \((-\infty, A_L]\), then, for \( a \leq A_L \),
\[
\frac{C_L(g, a)}{M_L} \leq P[X \leq a] \leq \frac{C_L(g, a)}{g(a)}.
\] (3.9)

(c) If \( g(x) \) is nondecreasing on \([A_U, \infty)\) and nonincreasing on \((-\infty, A_L]\), then, for \( a \geq \max\{|A_U|, |A_L|\} \),
\[
P[|X| \geq a] \leq \frac{C_U(g, a)}{g(a)} + \frac{C_L(g, a)}{g(-a)}
\]
\[
\leq \frac{C_U(g, a) + C_L(g, a)}{\min\{g(a), g(-a)\}},
\] (3.10)
\[
P[|X| \geq a] \geq \frac{C_U(g, a)}{M_U} + \frac{C_L(g, a)}{M_L}
\]
\[
\geq \frac{C_U(g, a) + C_L(g, a)}{\max\{M_U, M_L\}}.
\] (3.11)

4. Moments and behavior of tail areas

4.1 Lemma Riemann-Stieltjes integration by parts. Let \( f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \) and \( g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \) two real-valued functions and \(-\infty < a \leq b < +\infty\). If the (Riemann-Stieltjes) integral \( \int_a^b g(x) \, df(x) \)
exists, then the integrals $\int_a^b f(x) \, dg(x)$ and $\int_a^b [A - f(x)] \, dg(x)$ also exist and
\[
\int_a^b g(x) \, df(x) = g(b) f(b) - g(a) f(a) - \int_a^b f(x) \, dg(x)
\]
\[
= [A - f(a)] g(a) - g(b) [A - f(b)] + \int_a^b [A - f(x)] \, dg(x)
\]
for any real constant $A$, with
\[
\int_a^b f(x) \, dg(x) = \int_a^b f(x) \, g'(x) \, dx
\]
and
\[
\int_a^b [A - f(x)] \, dg(x) = \int_a^b [A - f(x)] \, g'(x) \, dx
\]
if $g$ is continuous on $[a, b]$ as well as differentiable on $(a, b)$ and the Riemann integral $\int_a^b f(x) \, g'(x) \, dx$ exists (where $g'$ can take arbitrary real values at $a$ and $b$).

**4.2 Lemma** Centered Riemann-Stieltjes integration by parts. Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ two real-valued functions and $-\infty < a \leq c \leq b < +\infty$. If the integrals $\int_a^b g(x) \, df(x)$, $\int_a^c g(x) \, df(x)$ and $\int_c^b g(x) \, df(x)$ exist, then the integrals $\int_a^c f(x) \, dg(x)$ and $\int_c^b f(x) \, dg(x)$ also exist, and
\[
\int_a^b g(x) \, df(x) = Ag(c) - \{ g(b) [A - f(b)] + g(a) f(a) \}
\]
\[
+ \int_c^b [A - f(x)] \, dg(x) - \int_a^c f(x) \, dg(x)
\]
for any real constant $A$, with
\[
\int_a^c f(x) \, dg(x) = \int_a^c f(x) \, g'(x) \, dx
\]
if $g$ is continuous on $[a, c]$ as well as differentiable on $(a, c)$ and the Riemann integral $\int_a^c f(x) \, g'(x) \, dx$ exists (where $g'$ can take arbitrary real values at $a$ and $c$), and
\[
\int_c^b [A - f(x)] \, dg(x) = \int_c^b [A - f(x)] \, g'(x) \, dx
\]
if $g$ is continuous on $[c, b]$ as well as differentiable on $(c, b)$ and the Riemann integral $\int_c^b [A - f(x)] \, g'(x) \, dx$ exists (where $g'$ can take arbitrary real values at $c$ and $b$).

**4.3 Lemma** Bounded monotonicity condition for tail convergence of an integrable function. Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ two real-valued functions, and let $m, M$ be two real constants.
(a) If \( f(x) \) is monotonic nondecreasing on the interval \((-\infty, m)\) with finite limit as \( x \to -\infty \), and if \( g \) satisfies the inequality
\[
|g(a)| \leq B_L(x), \text{ for } x \leq a < m
\]
where \( B_L(x) \) is a real-valued function such that \( \int_{-\infty}^{m} B_L(x) \, df(x) \) exists, then
\[
0 \leq |g(a)| [f(a) - f(-\infty)] \leq \int_{-\infty}^{a} B_L(x) \, df(x), \text{ for } a < m,
\]
where \( f(-\infty) = \lim_{x \to -\infty} f(x) > -\infty \), and
\[
\lim_{a \to -\infty} g(a) [f(a) - f(-\infty)] = 0.
\]

(b) If \( f(x) \) is monotonic nondecreasing on the interval \([M, \infty)\) with finite limit as \( x \to \infty \), and if \( g \) satisfies the inequality
\[
|g(b)| \leq |g(x)| + B_U(x), \text{ for } x \geq b > M
\]
where \( B_U(x) \) is a real-valued function such that \( \int_{M}^{\infty} B_U(x) \, df(x) \) exists, then
\[
0 \leq |g(b)| [f(\infty) - f(b)] \leq \int_{b}^{\infty} B_U(x) \, df(x), \text{ for } b > M,
\]
where \( f(\infty) = \lim_{x \to \infty} f(x) < \infty \), and
\[
\lim_{b \to \infty} g(b) [f(\infty) - f(b)] = 0.
\]

It is easy to see that (4.7) holds whenever \( \int_{-\infty}^{m} |g(x)| \, df(x) \) exists and one of the following conditions holds: for some real constant \( B \),
\[
|g(a)| \leq |g(x)| + B, \text{ for } x \leq a < m;
\]
\[
|g(x)| \text{ is nondecreasing on the interval } (M, \infty);
\]
\[
g(x) \text{ is bounded on the interval } (M, \infty).
\]
Further, in case (4.13), we have:
\[
0 \leq |g(a)| [f(a) - f(-\infty)] \leq \int_{-\infty}^{a} |g(x)| \, df(x) + B [f(a) - f(-\infty)].
\]

Similarly, (4.10) holds whenever one of the following conditions holds: for some real constant \( B \),
\[
|g(a)| \leq |g(x)| + B, \text{ for } x > b > M;
\]
\[
|g(x)| \text{ is nonincreasing on the interval } (-\infty, m);
\]
Further, in case (4.17), we have:

\[ 0 \leq |g(b)| [f(\infty) - f(b)] \leq \int_{b}^{\infty} |g(x)| \, df(x) + B [f(\infty) - f(b)] \]  

(4.20)

4.4 Proposition  

**MOMENT EXISTENCE AND TAIL AREA DECAY.** Let \( r > 0 \).

If \( \mathbb{E}(|X|^r) < \infty \), then

\[
\lim_{x \to \infty} \{ x^r \mathbb{P}[X \geq x] \} = \lim_{x \to -\infty} \{ |x|^r \mathbb{P}[X \leq x] \} = \lim_{x \to -\infty} \{ x^r \mathbb{P}(|X| \geq x) \} = 0.
\]  

(4.21)

In particular, if \( \mathbb{E}(|X|) < \infty \), then

\[
\lim_{x \to \infty} \{ x \mathbb{P}[X \geq x] \} = \lim_{x \to -\infty} \{ |x| \mathbb{P}[X \leq x] \} = \lim_{x \to -\infty} \{ x \mathbb{P}(|X| \geq x) \} = 0.
\]  

(4.22)

4.5 Theorem  

**DISTRIBUTION DECOMPOSITION OF \( r \)-MOMENTS.** For any \( r > 0 \),

\[
\int_{0}^{\infty} x^r dF_X(x) = r \int_{0}^{\infty} x^{r-1} [1 - F_X(x)] \, dx,
\]  

(4.23)

\[
\mathbb{E}(|X|^r) = r \int_{0}^{\infty} x^{r-1} \mathbb{P}(|X| \geq x) \, dx
\]

\[
= r \int_{0}^{\infty} x^{r-1} [1 - F_X(x) + F_X(-x)] \, dx,
\]  

(4.24)

and

\[
\mathbb{E}(|X|^r) < \infty \Leftrightarrow x^{r-1} \mathbb{P}(|X| \geq x) \text{ is integrable on } (0, +\infty)
\]

\[
\Leftrightarrow |x|^{r-1} [1 - F_X(x) + F_X(-x)] \text{ is integrable on } (0, +\infty)
\]

\[
\Leftrightarrow \int_{0}^{\infty} x^{r-1} [1 - F_X(x)] \, dx < \infty \text{ and } \int_{-\infty}^{0} |x|^{r-1} F_X(x) \, dx < \infty.
\]  

(4.25)

4.6 Proposition  

**DISTRIBUTION DECOMPOSITION OF THE FIRST ABSOLUTE MOMENT.**

\[
\int_{0}^{\infty} x \, dF_X(x) = \int_{0}^{\infty} [1 - F_X(x)] \, dx,
\]  

(4.26)

\[
\mathbb{E}|X| = \int_{0}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}(|X| \geq x) \, dx,
\]  

(4.27)

and

\[
\mathbb{E}(|X|) < \infty \Leftrightarrow \mathbb{P}(|X| \geq x) \text{ is integrable on } (0, +\infty)
\]
\[\Rightarrow [1 - F_X(x) + F_X(-x)] \text{ is integrable on } (0, +\infty)\]
\[\Rightarrow \int_0^\infty [1 - F_X(x)] \, dx < \infty \text{ and } \int_{-\infty}^0 F_X(x) \, dx < \infty. \quad (4.28)\]

4.7 Proposition  Moment-tail area inequalities. Let \(g(x)\) be a nonnegative strictly increasing function on \([0, \infty)\) and let \(g^{-1}(x)\) be the inverse function of \(g\). Then,
\[
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(\{X \geq g^{-1}(n)\}) \leq E[g(X)] \leq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P(\{|X| > g^{-1}(n)\}). \quad (4.29)
\]

In particular, for any \(r > 0\),
\[
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(|X| \geq n^{1/r}) \leq E(|X|^{r}) \leq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P(|X| > n^{1/r}) \leq 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(X > n^{1/r}). \quad (4.30)
\]

4.8 Corollary  Mean-tail area inequalities. If \(X\) is a positive random variable,
\[
\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(X \geq n) \leq E(X) \leq 1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(X > n). \quad (4.31)
\]

5. Moments of sums of random variables

In this section, we consider a sequence \(X_1, \ldots, X_n\) of random variables, and study the moments of the corresponding sum and average:

\[S_n = \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i, \quad \bar{X}_n = S_n/n. \quad (5.1)\]

5.1 Proposition  Bounds on the absolute moments of a sum of random variables.

\[E(|S_n|^{r}) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{n} E(|X_i|^{r}), \quad \text{if } 0 < r \leq 1, \]
\[\leq n^{r-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} E(|X_i|^{r}), \quad \text{if } r > 1, \quad (5.2)\]

and

\[E(|\bar{X}_n|^{r}) \leq \left(\frac{1}{n}\right)^{r} \sum_{i=1}^{n} E(|X_i|^{r}), \quad \text{if } 0 < r \leq 1, \]
\[\leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} E(|X_i|^{r}), \quad \text{if } r > 1. \quad (5.3)\]
5.2 Proposition  Minkowski Inequality for \( n \) Variables. If \( r \geq 1 \), then

\[
|E(|S_n|^r)|^{1/r} \leq \sum_{i=1}^{n} |E(|X_i|^r)|^{1/r}
\]

and

\[
|E(|\bar{X}_n|^r)|^{1/r} \leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} |E(|X_i|^r)|^{1/r}
\]

\[
\leq \left\{ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} E(|X_i|^r) \right\}^{1/r}.
\]

(5.4)

5.3 Proposition  Bounds on the Absolute Moments of a Sum of Random Variables Under Conditional Symmetry. If the distribution of \( X_{k+1} \) given \( S_i \) is symmetric about zero for \( k = 1, \ldots, n-1 \), and \( E(|X_i|^r) < \infty \), \( i = 1, \ldots, n \), then

\[
E(|S_n|^r) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{n} E(|X_i|^r) \quad \text{for} \quad 1 \leq r \leq 2,
\]

(5.6)

and

\[
E(|\bar{X}_n|^r) \leq \left( \frac{1}{n} \right)^r \sum_{i=1}^{n} E(|X_i|^r) \quad \text{for} \quad 1 \leq r \leq 2,
\]

(5.7)

with equality holding when \( r = 2 \).

5.4 Proposition  Bounds on the Absolute Moments of a Sum of Random Variables Under Martingale Condition. If

\[
E(X_{k+1} | S_k) = 0 \quad \text{a.s.,} \quad k = 1, \ldots, n-1,
\]

(5.8)

and \( E(|X_i|^r) < \infty \), \( i = 1, \ldots, n \), then

\[
E(|S_n|^r) \leq 2 \sum_{i=1}^{n} E(|X_i|^r), \quad \text{for} \quad 1 \leq r \leq 2,
\]

(5.9)

and

\[
E(|\bar{X}_n|^r) \leq 2 \left( \frac{1}{n} \right)^r \sum_{i=1}^{n} E(|X_i|^r), \quad \text{for} \quad 1 \leq r \leq 2.
\]

(5.10)

Furthermore, for \( r = 2 \),

\[
E(S_n^2) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} E(X_i^2).
\]

(5.11)

5.5 Proposition  Bounds on the Absolute Moments of a Sum of Random Variables
UNDER TWO-SIDED MARTINGALE CONDITION. Let

\[ S_{m(k)} = \sum_{i=1, i \neq k}^{m+1} X_i, \quad 1 \leq k \leq m + 1 \leq n. \]  

(5.12)

If

\[ E(X_k | S_{m(k)}) = 0 \quad \text{a.s., for } 1 \leq k \leq m + 1 \leq n, \]  

(5.13)

and \( E(|X_i|^r) < \infty, i = 1, \ldots, n, \) then

\[ E(|S_n|^r) \leq \left( 2 - \frac{1}{n} \right) \sum_{i=1}^{n} E(|X_i|^r), \quad \text{for } 1 \leq r \leq 2, \]  

(5.14)

and

\[ E(|\bar{X}_n|^r) \leq \left( \frac{1}{n} \right)^r \left( 2 - \frac{1}{n} \right) \sum_{i=1}^{n} E(|X_i|^r), \quad \text{for } 1 \leq r \leq 2. \]  

(5.15)

5.6 Proposition  Bounds on the absolute moments of a sum of independent random variables. Let the random variables \( X_1, \ldots, X_n \) be independent with \( E(X_i) = 0 \) and \( E(|X_i|^r) < \infty, i = 1, \ldots, n, \) and let

\[ D(r) = \left[ 13.52/(2.6\pi)^r \right] \Gamma(r) \sin(r\pi/2). \]  

(5.16)

If \( D(r) < 1 \) and \( 1 \leq r \leq 2 \), then

\[ E(|S_n|^r) \leq [1 - D(r)]^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} E(|X_i|^r), \]  

(5.17)

and

\[ E(|\bar{X}_n|^r) \leq \left( \frac{1}{n} \right)^r [1 - D(r)]^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} E(|X_i|^r), \quad \text{for } 1 \leq r \leq 2. \]  

(5.18)
6. Proofs


2.9. See von Bahr and Esseen (1965, Lemma 3).

Proof of Theorem 3.3  
(a) For $x \geq a \geq A_U$, we have $g(x) \geq g(a)$ and $g(x) \leq M_U$, hence

$$C_U(g, a) = \int_{[a, \infty)} g(x) \, dF_X(x) \geq g(a) \int_{[a, \infty)} dF_X(x) = g(a)P[X \geq a]$$

and

$$\int_{[a, \infty)} g(x) \, dF_X(x) \leq M_U P[X \geq a],$$

from which we get the inequality

$$\frac{C_U(g, a)}{M_U} \leq P[X \geq a] \leq \frac{C_U(g, a)}{g(a)}.$$ (b) For $x \leq a \leq A_L$, we have $g(x) \geq g(a)$ and $g(x) \leq M_L$, hence

$$C_L(g, a) = \int_{[-\infty, a]} g(x) \, dF_X(x) \geq g(a) \int_{[-\infty, a]} dF_X(x) = g(a)P[X \leq a]$$

and

$$\int_{[-\infty, a]} g(x) \, dF_X(x) \leq M_L P[X \leq a],$$

from which we get the inequality

$$\frac{C_L(g, a)}{M_L} \leq P[X \leq a] \leq \frac{C_L(g, a)}{g(a)}.$$ (c) For $a \geq \max(\{|A_U|, |A_L|\})$, we have $a \geq A_U$ and $-a \leq A_L$, hence

$$P[|X| \geq a] = P[X \geq a] + P[X \leq -a] \leq \frac{C_U(g, a)}{g(a)} + \frac{C_L(g, a)}{g(a)} \leq \frac{C_U(g, a) + C_L(g, a)}{\min\{g(a), g(-a)\}}.$$
and

\[ P[|X| \geq a] \geq \frac{C_U (g, a)}{M_U} + \frac{C_L (g, a)}{M_L} \]

\[ \geq \frac{C_U (g, a) + C_L (g, a)}{\max (M_U, M_L)}. \]

\[ \square \]

**PROOF OF LEMMA 4.1** The first identity in (4.1) part is given by Devinatz (1968, Theorem 5.4.8, page 213) and Protter and Morrey (1991, Theorem 12.12, page 320), while the second follows from the latter on observing that

\[ -\int_a^b f(x) d\gamma(x) = \int_a^b [A - f(x) - A] d\gamma(x) = \int_a^b [A - f(x)] d\gamma(x) - A \int_a^b d\gamma(x) \]

\[ = \int_a^b [A - f(x)] d\gamma(x) - A [g(b) - g(a)] \] (6.1)

and rearranging the terms of the sum. Equation (6.1) also entails the existence of the integral \( \int_a^b [1 - f(x)] d\gamma(x) \). The identities (4.2)-(4.3) follow on observing that we can write \( d\gamma(x) = g'(x) dx \) when \( g \) is differentiable (see Devinatz (1968, Theorem 5.4.7, page 213)). \[ \square \]

**PROOF OF LEMMA 4.2** Using Lemma 4.2, we get:

\[ \int_a^b g(x) df(x) = \int_a^c g(x) df(x) + \int_c^b g(x) df(x) \]

\[ = g(c)f(c) - g(a)f(a) - \int_a^c f(x) d\gamma(x) \]

\[ + [A - f(c)]g(c) - g(b)[A - f(b)] + \int_c^b [A - f(x)] d\gamma(x) \]

\[ = Ag(c) - \{g(b)[A - f(b)] + g(a)f(a)\} \]

\[ + \int_c^b [A - f(x)] d\gamma(x) - \int_a^c f(x) d\gamma(x). \] (6.2)

\[ \square \]

**PROOF OF LEMMA 4.3** (a) The existence of the limit \( \lim_{x \to -\infty} f(x) \) entails that the integral \( \int_{-\infty}^a df(x) = f(a) - f(-\infty) \) also exists. Since \( f(x) \) is monotonic nondecreasing on the interval \(( -\infty, m) \) and \( \int_{-\infty}^m B_L(x) df(x) \) exists, we get from (4.7): for \( a < m, \)

\[ 0 \leq \int_{-\infty}^a |g(a)| df(x) \leq \int_{-\infty}^a B_L(x) df(x) \] (6.3)
hence

\[ 0 \leq |g(a)| [f(a) - f(-\infty)] \leq \int_{-\infty}^{a} B_L(x) \, df(x). \tag{6.4} \]

Letting \( a \to -\infty \), this yields

\[ 0 \leq \lim_{a \to -\infty} |g(a)| [f(a) - f(-\infty)] \leq \lim_{a \to -\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{a} B_L(x) \, df(x) = 0 \tag{6.5} \]

and

\[ \lim_{a \to -\infty} g(a) [f(a) - f(-\infty)] = 0. \tag{6.6} \]

(b) The existence of the limit \( \lim f(x) \) entails that the integral \( \int_{b}^{\infty} f(x) \, df(x) = f(\infty) - f(b) \) also exists. Since \( f(x) \) is monotonic nondecreasing on the interval \((M, \infty)\) and \( \int_{M}^{\infty} B_U(x) \, df(x) \) exists, we get from (4.10): for \( b > M \),

\[ 0 \leq \int_{b}^{\infty} |g(b)| \, df(x) \leq \int_{b}^{\infty} B_U(x) \, df(x) \tag{6.7} \]

hence

\[ 0 \leq |g(b)| [f(\infty) - f(b)] \leq \int_{b}^{\infty} B_U(x) \, df(x). \tag{6.8} \]

Letting \( b \to \infty \), this yields

\[ 0 \leq \lim_{b \to \infty} |g(b)| [f(\infty) - f(b)] \leq \lim_{b \to \infty} \int_{b}^{\infty} B_U(x) \, df(x) = 0 \tag{6.9} \]

and

\[ \lim_{b \to \infty} g(b) [f(\infty) - f(b)] = 0. \tag{6.10} \]

\[ \square \]


4.7. See Chow and Teicher (1988, Section 4.1, Corollary 3, p. 90).

4.8. The inequality (4.31) is given by Chung (1974, Theorem 3.2.1) and Serfling (1980, Section 1.3, p. 12).


**Proof of Proposition 5.2** The first inequality follows by recursion on applying the Minkowski inequality for two variables. The first part of the second inequality is obtained by multiplying both sides of the first one by \((1/n)\). The second part follows on observing that the function \( x^{1/r} \) is concave in \( x \) for \( x > 0 \) when \( r > 1 \). \( \square \)

5.3. See von Bahr and Esseen (1965, Theorem 1).

5.4. See von Bahr and Esseen (1965, Theorem 2).
5.5. See von Bahr and Esseen (1965, Theorem 3).
References


