

where  $\phi(z)$  is the ordinary m.g.f. of a non-negative random variable. Likewise a necessary and sufficient condition for  $\omega(z)$  to be the f.m.g.f. of a generalized Poisson distribution is that it be of the form

$$(2) \quad \omega_2(z) = e^{\alpha(\Omega(z)-1)}, \quad \alpha > 0,$$

where  $\Omega(z)$  is the f.m.g.f. of an arbitrary distribution function  $F(x)$ . If we choose  $\phi(z) = e^{\alpha(e^cz-1)}$  and  $\Omega(z) = e^{cz}$ , then  $\omega_1(z) = \omega_2(z)$ , and the distribution whose f.m.g.f. is  $\omega_1(z)$  (the Neyman contagious distribution of Type A) is simultaneously a compound and a generalized Poisson distribution (cf. Feller [2]). We now show that there is an infinite class of distributions with this property.

First note that if  $\phi(z)$  is the m.g.f. of an arbitrary distribution, then  $\exp\{\alpha(\phi(z) - 1)\}$  is also the m.g.f. of a d.f., and in fact is the m.g.f. of the generalized Poisson distribution associated with the distribution whose m.g.f. is  $\phi(z)$ . Now let  $\phi(z)$  be the m.g.f. of an arbitrary non-negative random variable, and define

$$(3) \quad \omega(z) = \exp\{\alpha(\phi(z) - 1)\} \quad \alpha > 0.$$

Then  $\omega(z)$  is simultaneously of the forms (1) and (2), since  $\phi(z)$  is, by (1), also the f.m.g.f. of a distribution function, i.e. the compound Poisson distribution associated with the distribution whose m.g.f. is  $\phi(z)$ . However, not every distribution which is both a compound and a generalized Poisson distribution can be generated in this manner. For example, the Polya-Eggenberger distribution is easily shown to be both a generalized and a compound Poisson distribution, yet its f.m.g.f.

$$\omega(z) = (1 - dz)^{-h/d}, \quad d > 0, h > 0,$$

manifestly is not of the form (3), since this would imply  $\phi(iz) = 1 - \frac{h}{\alpha d} \log(1 - diz)$  is a characteristic function. But  $|\phi(iz)|$  is unbounded as  $z \rightarrow \pm \infty$  and thus is not the characteristic function of a distribution.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] H. CRAMÉR, "Problems in probability theory," *Annals of Math. Stat.*, Vol. 18 (1947), pp. 165-193.
- [2] W. FELLER, "On a general class of contagious distributions," *Annals of Math. Stat.*, Vol. 14 (1943), pp. 389-400.
- [3] P. HARTMAN AND A. WINTNER, "On the infinitesimal generators of integral convolutions," *Am. Jour. of Math.*, Vol. 64 (1942), pp. 272-279.

### ON CONFIDENCE LIMITS FOR QUANTILES

BY GOTTFRIED E. NOETHER

*Columbia University*

In finding confidence limits for quantiles it is usual to determine two order statistics  $Z_i$  and  $Z_j$  which with a given probability contain the unknown quantile