Uniform Renewal Theory with Applications to Expansions of Random Geometric Sums

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Consider a sequence $X = (X_n: n \ge 1)$ of independent and identically distributed random variables, and an independent geometrically distributed random variable M with parameter p. The random variable $S_M = X_1 + ... + X_M$ is called a geometric sum. In this paper we obtain asymptotic expansions for the distribution of S_M as p->0. If $EX_1 > 0$, the asymptotic expansion is developed in powers of p and it provides higher-order correction terms to Renyi's theorem, which states that $P(pS_M > x) \approx exp(-x/E X_1)$. Conversely, if $EX_1 = 0$, then the expansion is given in powers of \sqrt{p} . We apply the results to obtain corrected diffusion approximations for the M/G/1 queue. These expansions follow in a unified way as a consequence of new uniform renewal theory results that are also developed in this paper.