

Solution to Problem 3) Let $z = x + y$ be the sum of two independent random variables, which are denoted by x and y . The average, the second moment, and the variance of z are readily found as follows:

$$\langle z \rangle = \langle x + y \rangle = \langle x \rangle + \langle y \rangle.$$

$$\langle z^2 \rangle = \langle (x + y)^2 \rangle = \langle x^2 + y^2 + 2xy \rangle = \langle x^2 \rangle + \langle y^2 \rangle + 2\langle x \rangle \langle y \rangle.$$

$$\sigma_z^2 = \langle z^2 \rangle - \langle z \rangle^2 = [\langle x^2 \rangle + \langle y^2 \rangle + 2\langle x \rangle \langle y \rangle] - [\langle x \rangle^2 + \langle y \rangle^2 + 2\langle x \rangle \langle y \rangle] = \sigma_x^2 + \sigma_y^2.$$

The same results can be obtained by recognizing that the characteristic function $\psi_z(s)$ of z is the product of the characteristic functions $\psi_x(s)$ and $\psi_y(s)$ of the random variables x and y . We then write

$$\psi'_z(s)|_{s=0} = [\psi'_x(s)\psi_y(s) + \psi_x(s)\psi'_y(s)]|_{s=0} = \psi'_x(0) + \psi'_y(0).$$

$$\begin{aligned} \psi''_z(s)|_{s=0} &= [\psi''_x(s)\psi_y(s) + \psi_x(s)\psi''_y(s) + 2\psi'_x(s)\psi'_y(s)]|_{s=0} \\ &= \psi''_x(0) + \psi''_y(0) + 2\psi'_x(0)\psi'_y(0). \end{aligned}$$

From Eq.(29), Sec.7, we learn that $\psi'_x(0) = -i2\pi\langle x \rangle$ and $\psi'_y(0) = -i2\pi\langle y \rangle$. Consequently, $\psi'_z(0) = -i2\pi(\langle x \rangle + \langle y \rangle)$, which yields $\langle z \rangle = \langle x \rangle + \langle y \rangle$. Similarly, $\psi''_x(0) = -4\pi^2\langle x^2 \rangle$ and $\psi''_y(0) = -4\pi^2\langle y^2 \rangle$, which result in

$$\psi''_z(0) = -4\pi^2(\langle x^2 \rangle + \langle y^2 \rangle + 2\langle x \rangle \langle y \rangle) \quad \rightarrow \quad \langle z^2 \rangle = \langle x^2 \rangle + \langle y^2 \rangle + 2\langle x \rangle \langle y \rangle.$$
