

**Theorem** If  $X_i \sim \text{binomial}(n_i, p)$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ , then  $\sum_{i=1}^m X_i \sim \text{binomial}(\sum_{i=1}^m n_i, p)$ .

**Proof** The probability mass function of  $X_i$  is

$$f_{X_i}(x_i) = \binom{n_i}{x_i} p^{x_i} (1-p)^{1-x_i} \quad x = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n_i,$$

for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$  and  $-\infty < t < \infty$ . The moment generating function for a binomial random variable is

$$M_{X_i}(t) = (pe^t + (1-p))^{n_i}$$

for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ . Let the random variable  $Y = \sum_{i=1}^m X_i$ . The moment generating function of  $Y$  is

$$\begin{aligned} E[e^{tY}] &= E\left[e^{t(\sum_{i=1}^m X_i)}\right] \\ &= E\left[e^{tX_1} e^{tX_2} \dots e^{tX_m}\right] \\ &= E\left[e^{tX_1}\right] E\left[e^{tX_2}\right] \dots E\left[e^{tX_m}\right] \\ &= (pe^t + (1-p))^{n_1} (pe^t + (1-p))^{n_2} \dots (pe^t + (1-p))^{n_m} \\ &= (pe^t + (1-p))^{\sum_{i=1}^m n_i} \end{aligned}$$

for  $-\infty < t < \infty$ , which is the moment generating function of a binomial random variable with parameters  $\sum_{i=1}^m n_i$  and  $p$ .

**APPL illustration:** The APPL statements

```
X1 := BinomialRV(n1, p);
X2 := BinomialRV(n2, p);
Y := Convolution(X1, X2);
MGF(Y);
```

fail to provide the appropriate moment generating function.