

Let X_1, \dots, X_n be mutually independent random variables with mgfs $M_{X_i}(t)$, $i = 1, \dots, n$, and let a_1, \dots, a_n and b_1, \dots, b_n be constants. Then the mgf of $Z = \sum_{i=1}^n (a_i X_i + b_i)$ is

$$M_Z(t) = \exp\left(t \sum b_i\right) \prod_{i=1}^n M_{X_i}(a_i t)$$

This result may be used to prove that if X_1, \dots, X_n are independent and $X_i \sim n(\mu_i, \sigma_i^2)$, then

$$Z = \sum_{i=1}^n (a_i X_i + b_i) \sim n\left(\sum a_i \mu_i + b_i, \sum a_i^2 \sigma_i^2\right)$$