

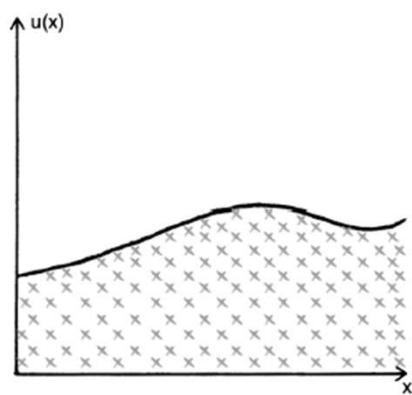
Module 2

Probability Distributions

Mini-Project of Module 2

Predicting Insurance Claim Aggregates
during a
Policy Period

Geometrical Interpretation of Integration with respect to a Distribution Function



$$\int_{\mathcal{D}} u(x) dx \cong \sum_{x_i \in \mathcal{D}} u(x_i^*) \Delta x_i$$

Figure 3.5: Profile of the function $u(x)$ along x . The shaded area under the curve $u(x)$ is given by $\int u(x)dx$.

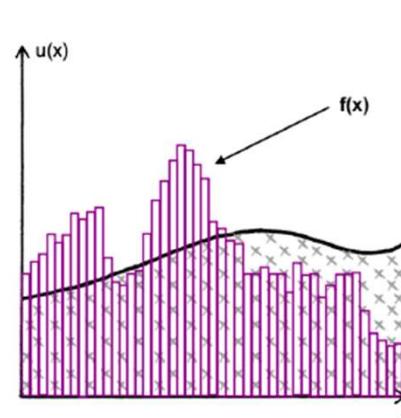


Figure 3.6: Profile of the weight function $f(x)$ demonstrates the relative importance of the observables x in \mathcal{D} .

$$\int_{\mathcal{D}} u(x)f(x)dx \cong \sum_{x_i \in \mathcal{D}} u(x_i^*)f(x_i^*)\Delta x_i$$

$$\int_{\mathcal{D}} u(x)dF(x)$$

where

$$f(x) = \frac{dF(x)}{dx}$$

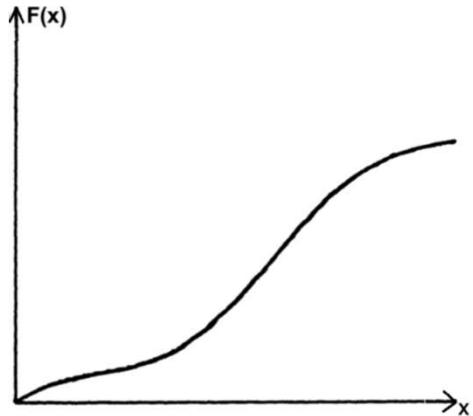


Figure 3.7: Distribution profile of the observables x is prescribed by some function $F(x)$

$F(x)$: Cumulative Distribution Function

with

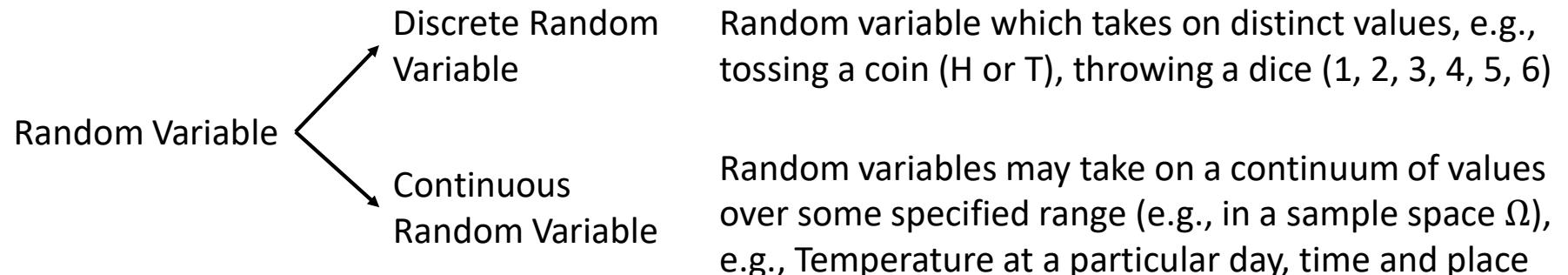
$f(x)$: Probability Density Function

$$\int_{\mathcal{D}} u(x)f(x)dx = \int_{\mathcal{D}} u(x)dF(x)$$

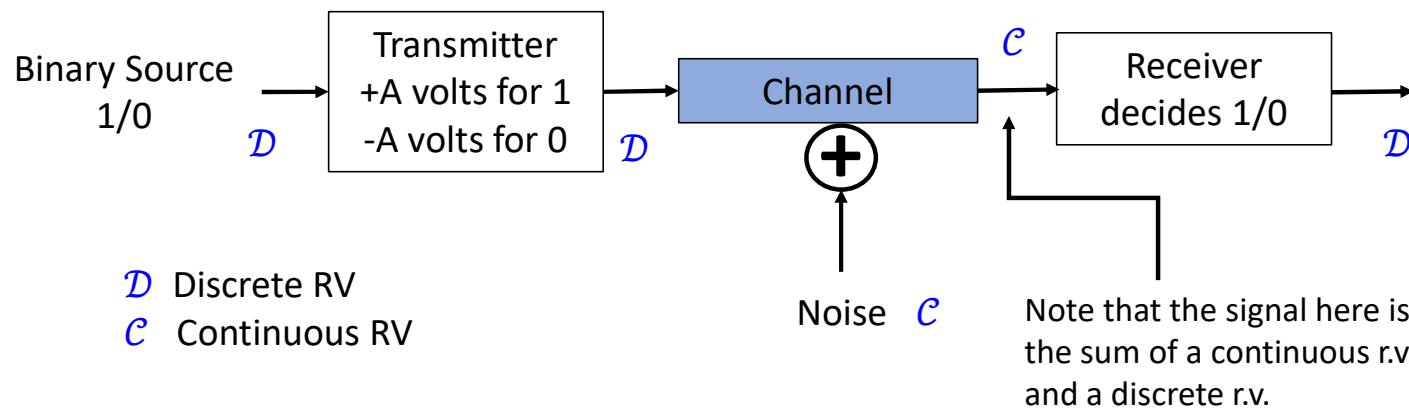
Over the range of x between $(-\infty, \infty)$, $F(x)$ varies between 0 and 1.

Discontinuities (positive jumps in $F(x)$) will show up as delta functions in $f(x)$, e.g., of the type $a\delta(x - x_0)$ for a jump of a in $F(x)$ at $x = x_0$

Discrete vs Continuous Probability Distributions

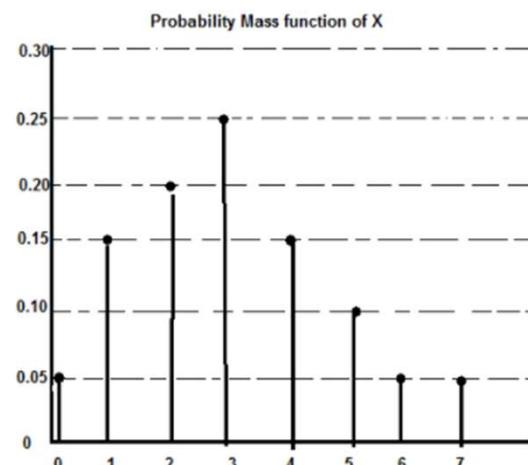


Example of a Communication System



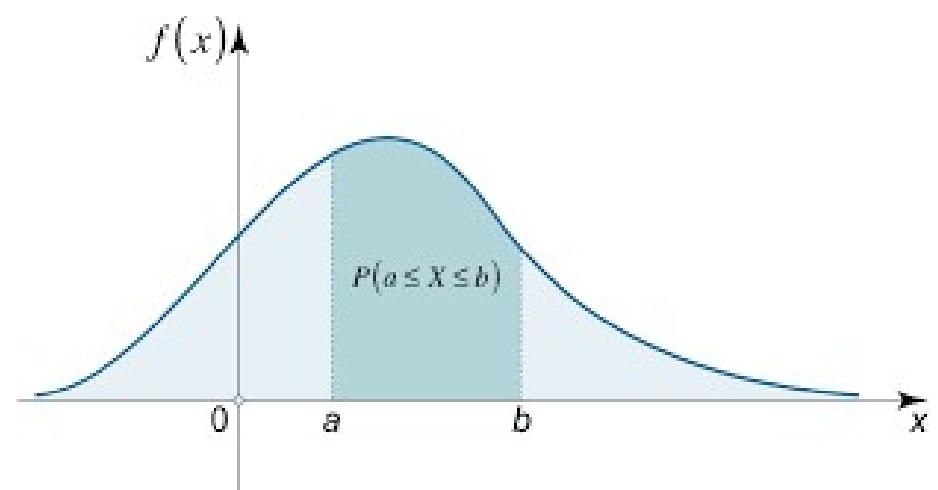
Probability Distribution Profile

Probability Mass Function



Continuous Random Variable

Probability Density Function



Probability Mass Function

For a *Discrete Random Variable*, each possible observable $x_i \in \Omega$ has a certain probability of occurrence $p_i := P(X = x_i)$ which we can think of as its *probability mass*

$$\text{Axiom of Unitarity} \Rightarrow \sum_{x_i \in \Omega} P(X = x_i) = 1$$

$$\text{Convenient Notation: } P(x_i) \equiv p_i$$

This is to be read as the “probability mass function of the random variable X for the value x_i ”

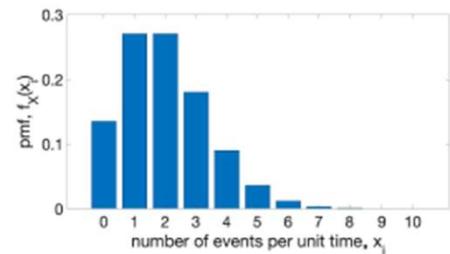


Figure 3.9: Probability mass function $f_X(x_i)$ of a certain discrete random variable. It may be verified that $\sum_{x_i \in \Omega} f_X(x_i) = 1$.

Probability Density Function (PDF)

In the case of a continuous random variable X , the probability mass is spread continuously over the range of the observables.

Therefore, it is appropriate to use the notion of a density function $f_X(x)$, instead of a probability mass.

This is interpreted as " $f_X(x)dx$ is the probability of the random variable X lying between x and $x + dx$ ".

The unitarity axiom of probability then enforces the normalization of the *probability density function* (pdf) as –

$$\int_{x \in \Omega} f_X(x)dx = 1$$

It also follows that $P(a \leq X \leq b) = \int_a^b f_X(x)dx$

Area under the curve f between a and b as in Fig. 3.10

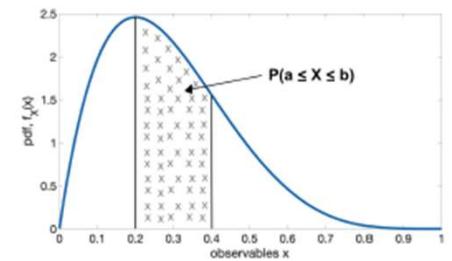


Figure 3.10: Probability density function $f_X(x)$ of a certain continuous random variable.

$f_X(x)dx$ is a **probability**, but $f_X(x)$ is not! $f_X(x)$ is the **probability density**

Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF)

The cumulative distribution function (cdf) $F_X: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is defined as

$$F_X(x) \equiv F(x) := P(X \leq x), x \in \mathbb{R}$$

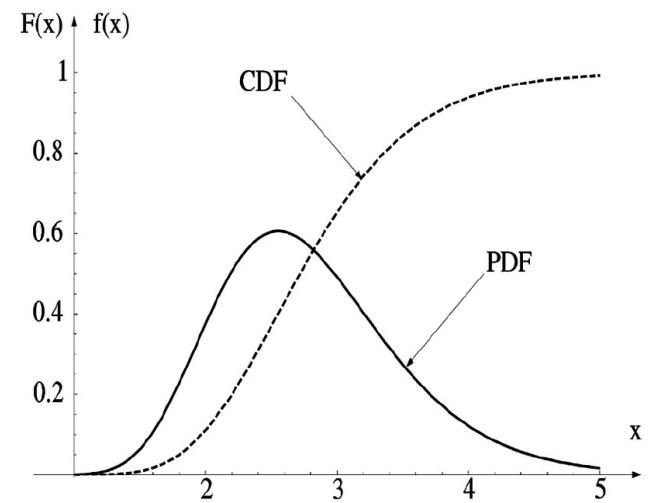
It follows that $P(a \leq X \leq b) = \int_a^b f(x)dx = F(b) - F(a)$

The cdf F must also satisfy the following properties –

- (i) $\lim_{y \downarrow -\infty} F(y) = 0$ y tends to $-\infty$ from the right
- (ii) $\lim_{y \uparrow \infty} F(y) = 1$ y tends to $+\infty$ from the left
- (iii) $\lim_{y \downarrow x} F(y) = F(x), \forall x \in R$ (i.e. F_X is right continuous)
 y tends to x from the right

The properties (i) and (ii) imply that F is a non-decreasing function going from 0 to 1.

For a Continuous Random Variable, $F(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(\alpha)d\alpha$
and $\frac{dF(x)}{dx} = f(x) \Rightarrow dF(x) = f(x)dx$



Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF) *continued*.....

There are two main interpretation of the distribution function $F_X(x)$ that is noteworthy to mention here.

(I) $F_X(x)$ is the distribution of unit mass on the real line. Therefor, $F(b) - F(a)$ is the mass concentrated in the interval $(b - a)$.

For the discrete case, locations of concentrated point mass on the real line (x_i) are points of discontinuity of F_X with jumps proportional to $p_i \equiv F_X(x_i + 0) - F_X(x_i - 0)$. There are a finite or countable number of such jumps and F_X is continuous everywhere else. The corresponding PDF has delta functions $\delta(x - x_i)$ with weight p_i at each such x_i , i.e., $x_i\delta(x - x_i)$.

(ii) $F_X(x)$ encompasses the accumulation of probability masses (or density) up to x . Therefore, it is *additive*, non-negative, and has a unit maximum value.

Statistical Moments and their Significance

X : Random Variable (Discrete or Continuous) and the observables $x \in \Omega$

Mean ($\mu, \mu_X, E(X), \bar{X}$) First Moment of the random variable X

$$E(X) = \sum_{x \in \Omega} xP(X=x) \quad \text{Discrete Case}$$

$$E(X) = \int_{x \in \Omega} xf(x)dx = \int_{x \in \Omega} x dF(x)dx \quad \text{Continuous Case}$$

$P(X)$: 0 $X=1$, 0.5 $X=2$, 0.25 $X=3$, 0.25 $X=4$

$$f_X(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x} \quad x \geq 0$$

$$\mu_X = 0 + 1 + 0.75 + 1 = 2.75$$

$$\mu_X = \int_0^\infty x(\lambda e^{-\lambda x}) dx = \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

Poisson Distribution

Statistical Moments and their Significance

X : Random Variable (Discrete or Continuous) and the observables $x \in \Omega$

Variance: $(\sigma^2, \sigma_X^2, Var(X))$ Second Statistical Moment of the random variable X

$$Var(X) = E\left(\left(X - \mu\right)^2\right) = \sum_{x \in \Omega} (x - \mu)^2 P(X = x) \quad Discrete\ Case$$

$$Var(X) = \int_{x \in \Omega} (x - \mu)^2 f(x) dx = \int_{x \in \Omega} (x - \mu)^2 dF(x) dx \quad Continuous\ Case$$

Note that –
 $\sigma_X^2 = \bar{X}^2 - \bar{X}^2$

$P(X)$: 0 $X=1$, 0.5 $X=2$, 0.25 $X=3$, 0.25 $X=4$

$$\bar{X}^2 = 0 + 2 + 2.25 + 4 = 8.25$$

$$\sigma_X^2 = 8.25 - 2.75^2 = 0.6875$$

$$f_X(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda} \quad x \geq 0$$

$$\sigma_X^2 = \int_0^\infty \left(x - \frac{1}{\lambda}\right)^2 (\lambda e^{-\lambda x}) dx = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$$

Statistical Moments and their Significance *continued*

X : Random Variable (Discrete or Continuous) and the observables $x \in \Omega$

Skewness: (μ_3) Third Standardized Moment of the random variable X

$$\mu_3 = E\left(\left(\frac{X - \mu}{\sigma}\right)^3\right) = \frac{E((X - \mu)^3)}{(Var(X))^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

μ_3 measures the *Degree of Asymmetry* of the pdf.

For example, a pdf that is symmetric about the mean has zero skewness and all its higher order moments about the mean will also be obviously zero.

Data with positive skewness has a pdf with a longer tail for $X - \mu_X > 0$ than for $X - \mu_X < 0$

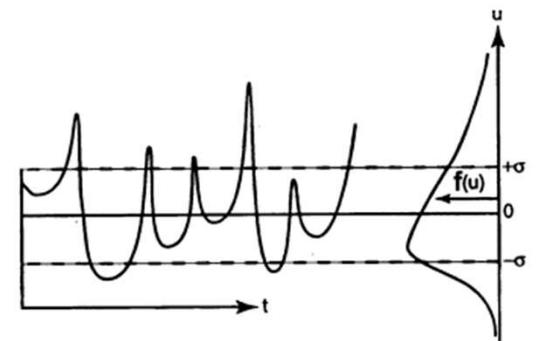


Figure 3.12: Time series data $u(t)$ with positive skewness ($\mu_3 > 0$).

Statistical Moments and their Significance *continued*

X : Random Variable (Discrete or Continuous) and the observables $x \in \Omega$

Skewness: (μ_3) Third Standardized Moment of the random variable X

$$\mu_3 = E\left(\left(\frac{X - \mu}{\sigma}\right)^3\right) = \frac{E((X - \mu)^3)}{(Var(X))^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

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For example, a pdf that is symmetric about the mean has zero skewness and all its higher order moments about the mean will also be obviously zero.

Data with positive skewness has a pdf with a longer tail for $X - \mu_X > 0$ than for $X - \mu_X < 0$

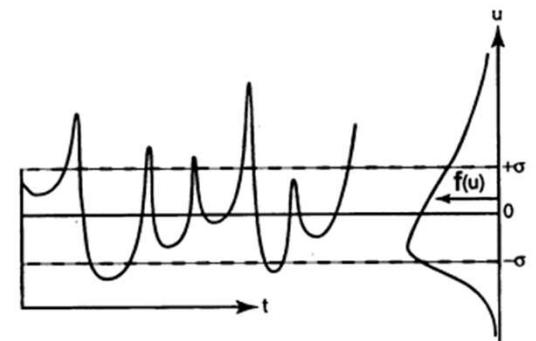
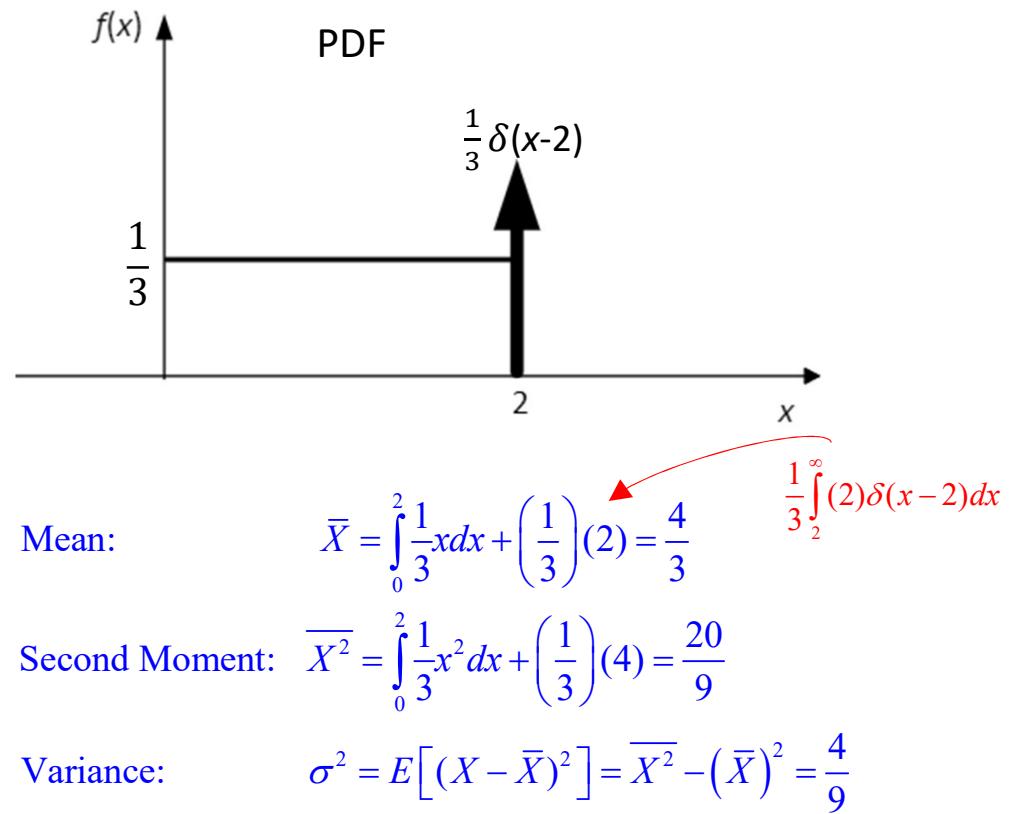
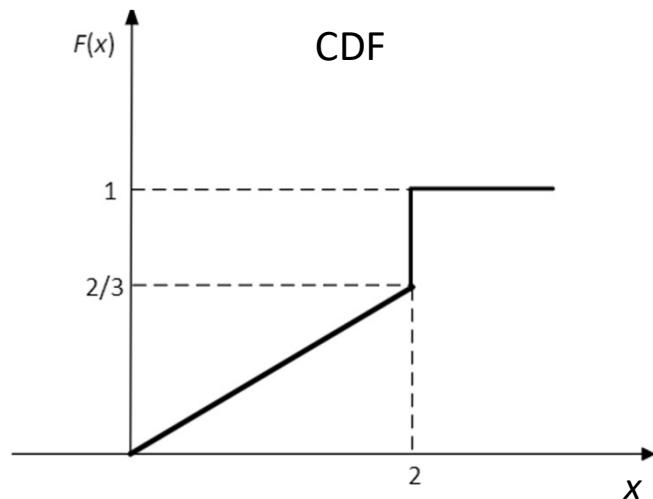


Figure 3.12: Time series data $u(t)$ with positive skewness ($\mu_3 > 0$).

Example 1 Consider a random variable X with the cdf as shown

$$\begin{aligned} F_X(x) &= 0 & x < 0 \\ &= \frac{x}{3} & 0 \leq x < 2 \\ &= 1 & x \geq 2 \end{aligned}$$



Example 2 Operation of an Insurance Policy (*insuring against a business loss*)

An insurance policy reimburses a loss up to a benefit limit of C but has a deductible of d .

Suppose that the policyholder's loss, X has the pdf $f_X(x) = \frac{1}{5}e^{-\frac{x}{5}}, x \geq 0$.

Let Y denote the benefit paid under the insurance policy.

Find the distribution of Y .

For $0 \leq X \leq d$, no benefit will be paid, i.e.,

$$Y = 0 \text{ with probability } \int_0^d f_X(x)dx = 1 - e^{-\frac{d}{5}}$$

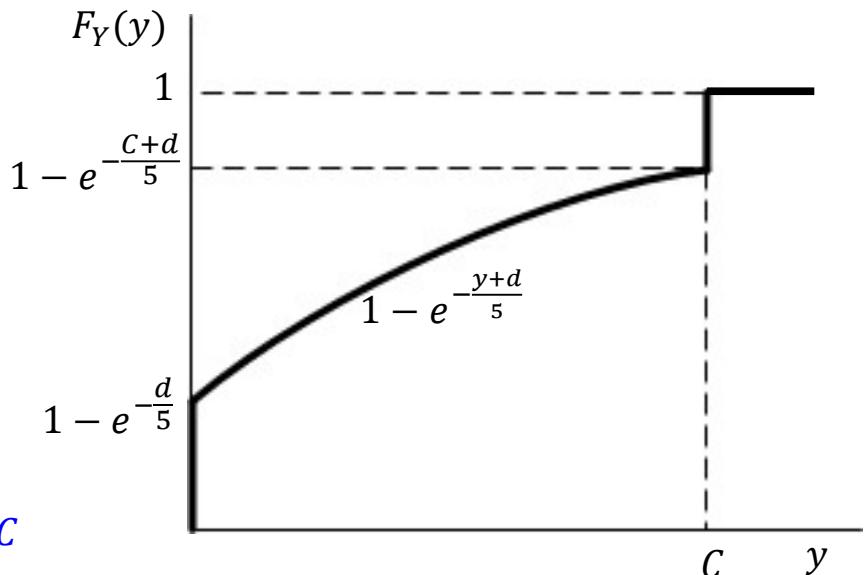
For $X \geq C + d$, the benefit is fixed at

$$Y = C \text{ with probability } \int_{C+d}^{\infty} f_X(x)dx = e^{-\frac{C+d}{5}}$$

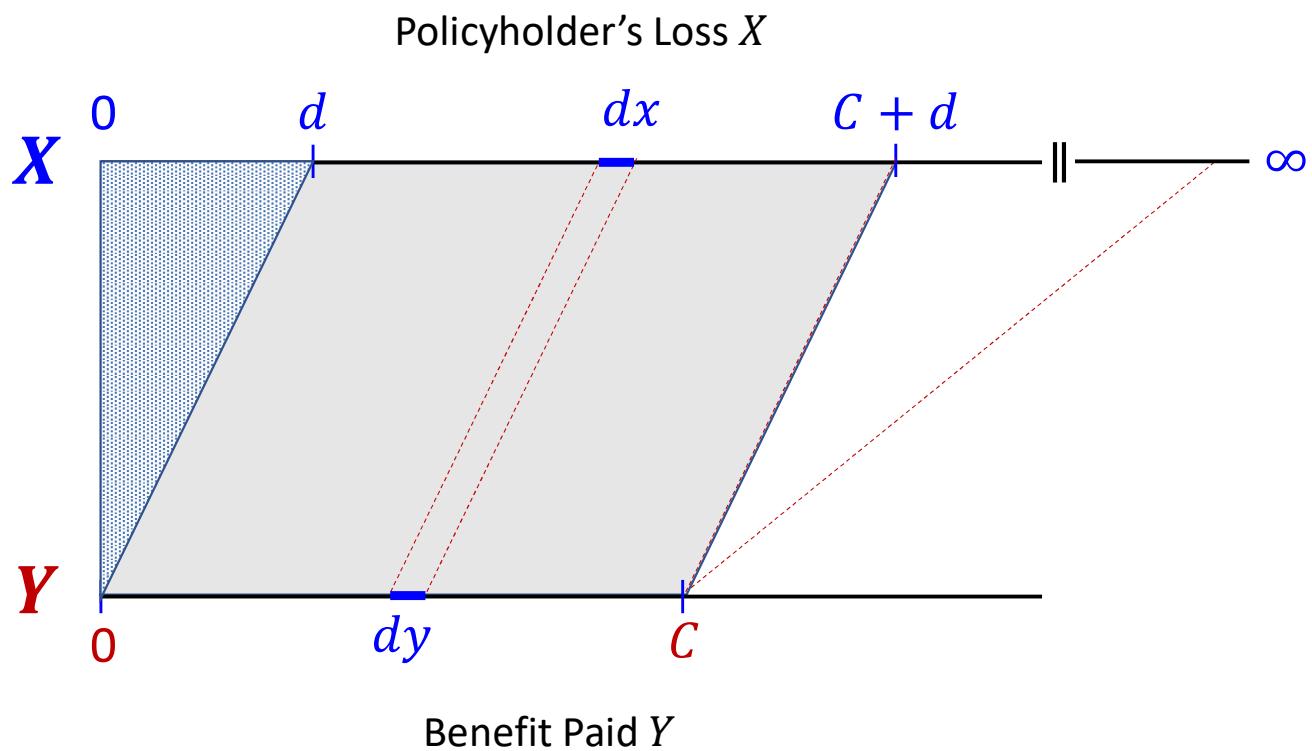
For $d \leq X < C + d$, the benefit varies as

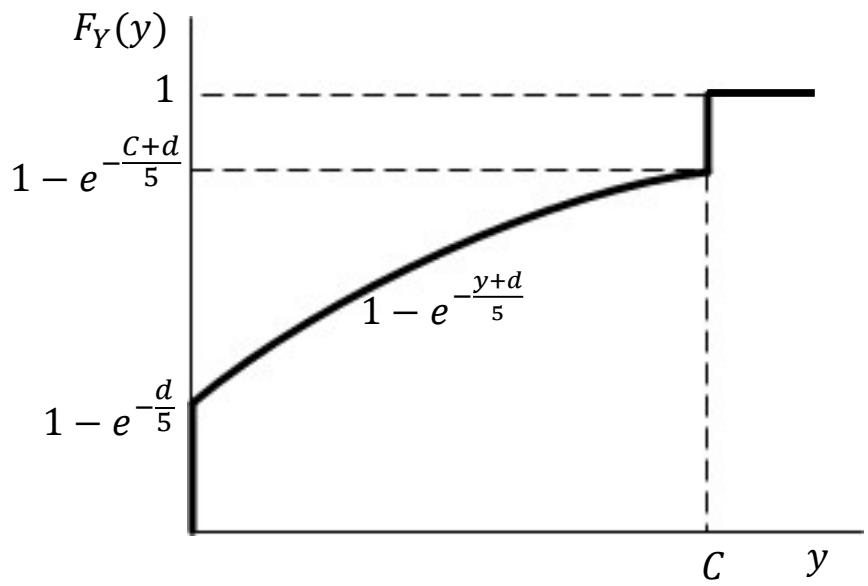
$$Y = X - d \text{ with probability } f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{5}e^{-\frac{y+d}{5}} \quad 0 < y < C$$

$$\text{and cdf } F_Y(y) = 1 - e^{-\frac{d}{5}} + \int_0^y \frac{1}{5}e^{-\frac{y+d}{5}} dy = 1 - e^{-\frac{y+d}{5}} \quad 0 < y < C$$



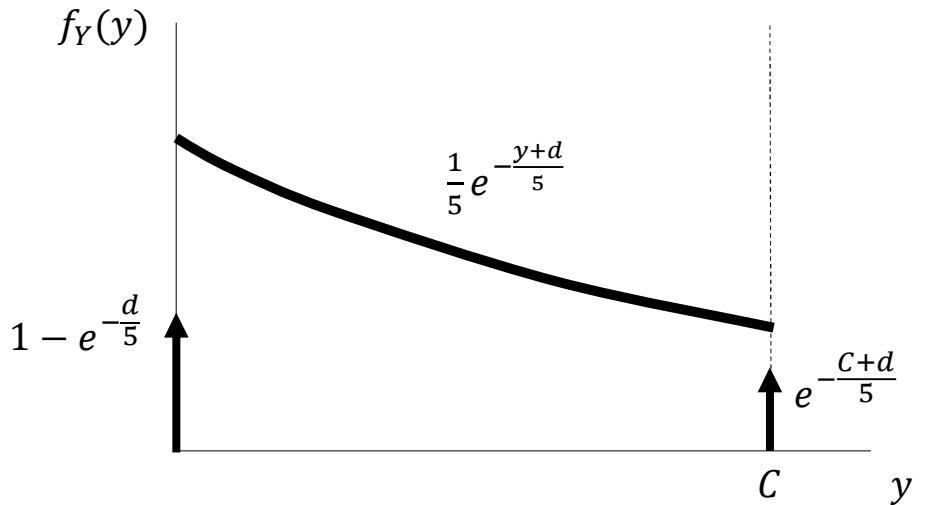
See Next Slide for a more graphical interpretation





$$\Rightarrow$$

$$\begin{aligned} f_Y(y) &= \left(1 - e^{-\frac{d}{5}}\right) \delta(y) & y = 0 \\ &= \frac{1}{5} e^{-\frac{y+d}{5}} & 0 < y < C \\ &= e^{-\left(\frac{C+d}{5}\right)} \delta(y-C) & y = C \end{aligned}$$



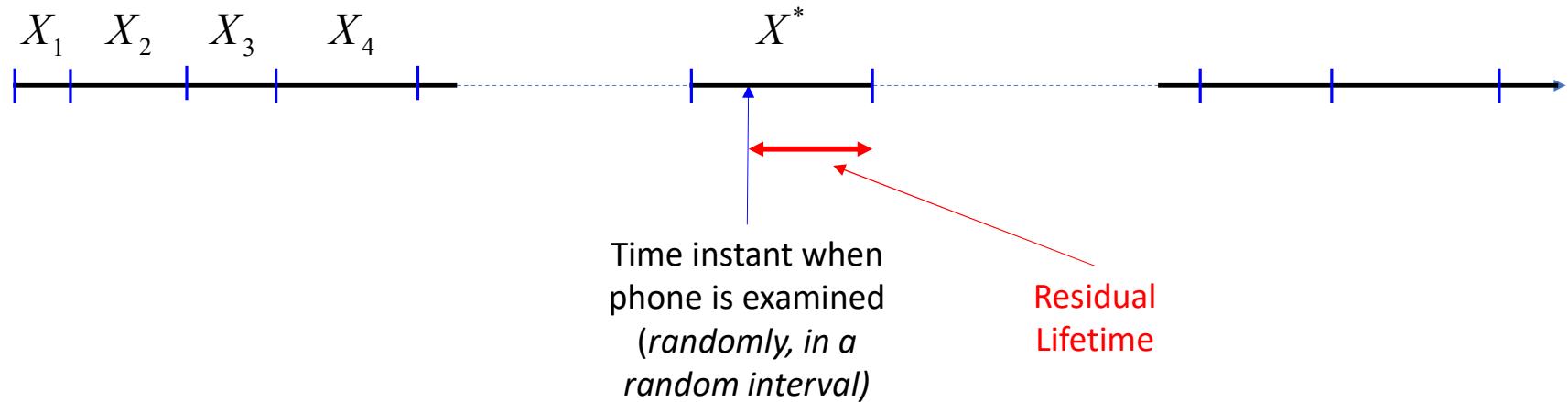
Paradox of Residual Life

Your experiences with a cheap mobile phone and a super efficient repair person!

The phone has a lifetime given by the random variable X with pdf $f_X(x)$, $0 \leq x < \infty$ and mean \bar{X} . Your repair person is super-good and can immediately fix the phone and put it back in service once again!

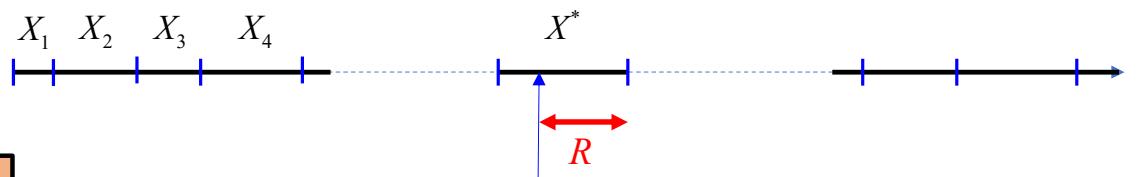
Your father/mother wants to decide whether you have wasted your money or not and wants to check (**at a random time instant**) to see what is the time from that instant to when the phone fails next (**Residual Life**)

Time Line of Your Phone



What is the Mean Residual Life Time, i.e. Mean Time to Next Breakdown ?

Mean Life Time $\bar{X} = E(X) = \int_0^\infty xf_X(x)dx$



"Paradox of Residual Life" – The Mean Residual Time \bar{R} you would see is not $\frac{1}{2}\bar{X}$!

Actually, $\bar{R} \geq \frac{1}{2}\bar{X}$

We can see that $\bar{R} = \frac{1}{2}E(\bar{X}^*)$ but to find that we need to find $f_{\bar{X}^*}(x)$, the pdf of the selected lifetime

We can argue from simple logic that $f_{\bar{X}^*}(x) = Kx f_X(x)$ and the normalization condition requires $\Rightarrow \int_0^\infty f_{\bar{X}^*}(x)dx = 1 \Rightarrow K = \frac{1}{\bar{X}}$, $f_{\bar{X}^*}(x) = \frac{x}{\bar{X}} f_X(x)$

Therefore,

$$\bar{R} = \int_0^\infty \left(\frac{1}{2}x \right) \left(\frac{x}{\bar{X}} f_X(x) \right) dx = \frac{\bar{X}^2}{2\bar{X}} = \frac{1}{2}\bar{X} + \frac{\sigma_X^2}{2\bar{X}} > \frac{1}{2}\bar{X}$$

This should make your parents very happy as they will see that you are doing better than the average lifetime written on the phone!

Bernoulli Distribution $X \sim Bernoulli(p)$

The Bernoulli distribution is a discrete probability distribution for a **Bernoulli trial** — a random experiment that has only two outcomes (usually called a “Success” or a “Failure”)

If we associate the random variable X with it as $X = 1$ for, say, Success or Heads and $X = 0$ for Failure or Tails, then the corresponding Probability Mass Function will be given as –

$$\begin{aligned} P(X = 1) &= p && \text{Probability of Success} \\ \text{and } P(X = 0) &= 1 - p && \text{Probability of Failure} \end{aligned}$$

$$\bar{X} = E(X) = p$$

$$Var(X) = \sum_{x=(0,1)} (x - E(X))^2 P_X(x) = p(1-p)$$

For multiple independent Bernoulli trials (say n trials), the probability mass function will be given by the Binomial Distribution in the next slide

Binomial Distribution $X \sim Bin(n, p)$

The Binomial Distribution with parameters n and p is the discrete probability distribution of the number of successes in a sequence of n independent experiments, each with its own Boolean-valued outcome: success (with probability p) or failure (with probability $q=1-p$).

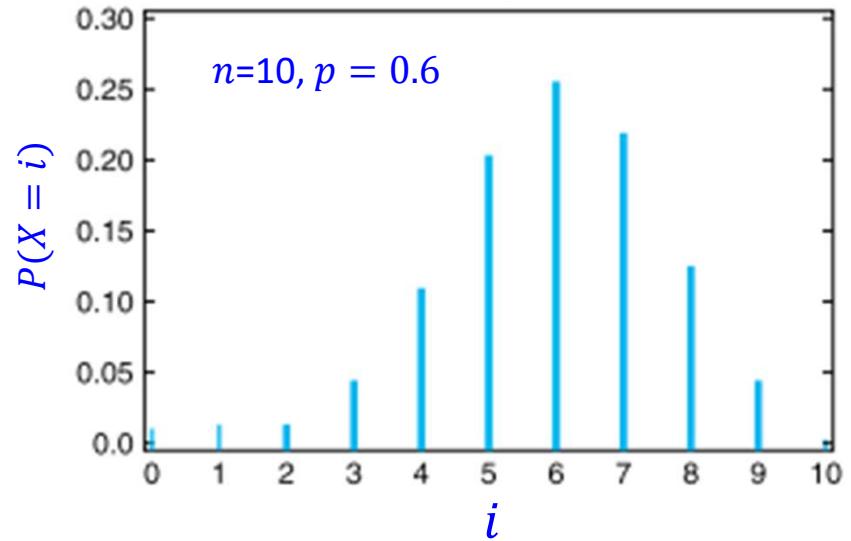
$P(i$ successes in n trials) =

$$P(X = i) = \binom{n}{i} p^i (1-p)^{n-i}, \quad i=0, 1, \dots, n$$

and $\binom{n}{i} = \frac{n!}{i!(n-i)!}$

Equivalently, we can see that $X = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$

$$\text{where } X_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{probability } p \\ 0 & \text{probability } (1-p) \end{cases}$$



$$E(X_i) = p, \quad Var(X_i) = E(X_i^2) - p^2 = p(1-p)$$

$$E(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n E(X_i) = np$$

$$Var(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n Var(X_i) \quad \text{since the } X_i \text{ are independent} \\ = np(1-p)$$

Geometric Distribution of Type-0 $X \sim geom_0(p)$

The Geometric Distribution of Type 0 is a type of discrete probability distribution that represents the probability of the number of successive failures before a success is obtained in a Bernoulli trial. Note that the probability of failure in a given trial is $(1 - p)$.

$$P(X = x) = \begin{cases} (1 - p)^x p & x = 0, 1, \dots \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$(x + 1)$ trials overall with x failures and one success at the end

$$E(X) = \frac{1-p}{p} \quad Var(X) = \frac{1-p}{p^2}$$

Geometric Distribution of Type-1 $Y \sim geom_1(p)$

The Geometric Distribution of Type-1 is a type of discrete probability distribution that represents the **probability of the number of Bernoulli trials until first success**

Therefore, in a geometric distribution, a Bernoulli trial is repeated until a success (with probability p) is obtained and then stopped. (Note that the probability of failure in a given trial is $(1 - p)$).

$$P(X = x) = \begin{cases} (1 - p)^{x-1} p & x = 1, 2, \dots \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

x trials overall with $x - 1$ failures
and one success at the end

$$E(X) = \frac{1}{p} \quad Var(X) = \frac{1-p}{p^2}$$



Revise your High School “tricks”
on how to sum expressions like $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} np^{n-1}$
(There are two simple ways of doing this)

$$\begin{aligned} P(X > k) &= P(X = k + 1) + P(X = k + 2) + \dots \\ &= (1 - p)^k p + (1 - p)^{k+1} p + \dots \\ &= (1 - p)^k \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_X(k) &= P(X \leq k) = 1 - P(X > k) \\ &= 1 - (1 - p)^k \end{aligned}$$

Memoryless Property of a Random Variable

A random variable X is said to be Memoryless if $P(X > n + m | X > m) = P(X > n)$

i.e. "The conditional probability of X being greater than $(n + m)$, given that it is greater than m is the same as the probability of X being greater than n "

Note that, $P(X > n + m | X > m) = \frac{P(\{X > n + m\} \cap \{X > m\})}{P(X > m)} = \frac{P(X > n + m)}{P(X > m)}$

For the geometric random variable $X \sim geom_1(p)$, this implies that -

$$P(X > n + m | X > m) = \frac{(1-p)^{n+m}}{(1-p)^m} = (1-p)^n = P(X > n)$$

Show that $X \sim geom_0(p)$ is
NOT a memory less
distribution.

If a random variable of this type has crossed m levels, then the probability of it crossing an additional n levels is the same as its probability of crossing n levels starting from the initial state. $X \sim geom_1(p)$ is the only example of a Discrete Memoryless Distribution

Memoryless Distribution for Continuous Random Variables

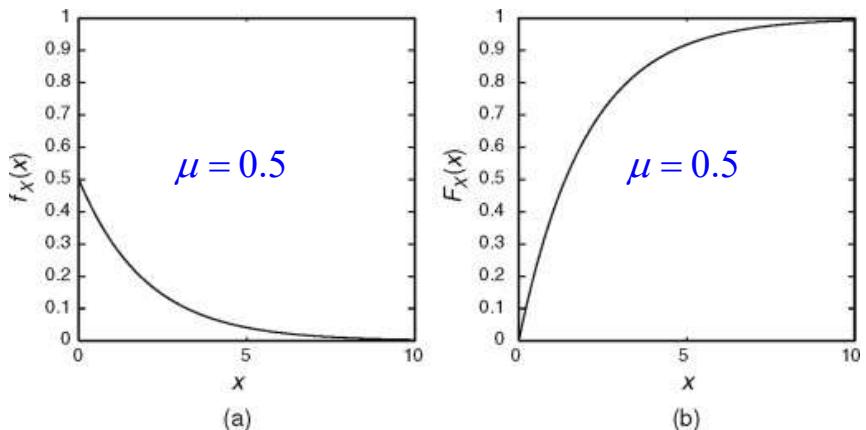
The *continuous* analogue of the discrete geometric $geom_1(p)$ distribution is the exponential distribution.

PDF $f_X(x)$ and CDF $F_X(x)$ of an exponentially distributed random variable are -

$$f_X(x) = \mu e^{-\mu x} \quad 0 \leq x < \infty$$

$$F_X(x) = 1 - e^{-\mu x} \quad 0 \leq x < \infty$$

with Mean = $1/\mu$ and Variance = $1/\mu^2$



Prove that $P(X > T + S | X > S) = P(X > T)$ in this case which shows that the exponential distribution is a *Memoryless Distribution*.

Shown in the next slide

Exponential Distribution $X \sim \exp(\mu)$ has pdf and cdf as given earlier

$$\begin{aligned} f_X(x) &= \mu e^{-\mu x} & 0 \leq x < \infty \\ F_X(x) &= 1 - e^{-\mu x} & 0 \leq x < \infty \end{aligned}$$

with Mean = $1/\mu$ and Variance = $1/\mu^2$
and $P(X > t) = 1 - F_X(t) = e^{-\mu t}$, $t > 0$

It follows that -

$$\begin{aligned} P(X > t+s | X > s) &= \frac{P(X > t+s)}{P(X > s)} \\ &= \frac{e^{-\mu(t+s)}}{e^{-\mu s}} = e^{-\mu t} = P(X > s) \end{aligned}$$

The length of phone calls is commonly modelled as having an exponential distribution!

So, now you know why your brother/sister/son/daughter never seem to end their phone calls, when you also want to use the landline at home

The gap between successive cars on a highway is also modelled as having an exponential distribution.

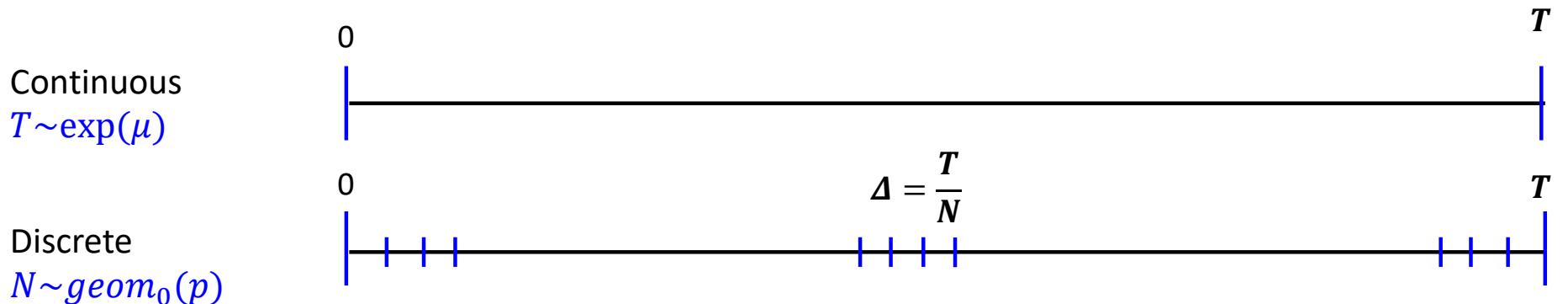
What implication does it have for what happens when “a chicken wants to cross the road”.

“Why should the chicken never be in a hurry to cross the road?”

Because he/she will always find a gap in the traffic which is as large as anything he/she wants and then should use that to cross the road safely!



Correspondence between the Geometric Distribution for Discrete Random Variables and the Continuous Distribution for Continuous Random Variables



Consider a system which you start observing at time $t = 0$ where the event that you are observing for happens at time $t = T$.

For the Continuous Time model, let us say we observe “No event in time $(0, T)$ and then the event happening in $(T, T + dT)$ with probability $e^{-\mu T} \mu(dT)$

In the Discrete Time Model, this would be equivalent to saying that the event does not happen for N slots and then happens in the $(N + 1)^{th}$ slot. Note that the probability p of the event happening in a slot will be $p = \mu\Delta = \frac{\mu T}{N}$ while the probability of the event not happening will be $(1-p)$. With $N \rightarrow \infty$, $\Delta \rightarrow 0$, these will be the only two things that can happen in a slot, i.e., multiple events cannot occur (their probability will tend to zero))

Probability of No Event in $(0, T)$ and the event happening in $(T, T + dT)$ or equivalently in the interval $(T, T + \Delta T)$

Continuous Case

$$e^{-\mu T} \mu(dT)$$

Discrete Case $p = \mu \Delta = \frac{\mu T}{N}$

$$\left(1 - \frac{\mu T}{N}\right)^N \left(\frac{\mu T}{N}\right)$$

$$N \rightarrow \infty \quad \frac{T}{N} \rightarrow \Delta T \text{ or } dT$$

$$\left(1 - \frac{\mu T}{N}\right)^N \rightarrow e^{-\mu T}$$

Poisson Random Variable $X \sim Poisson(\lambda)$

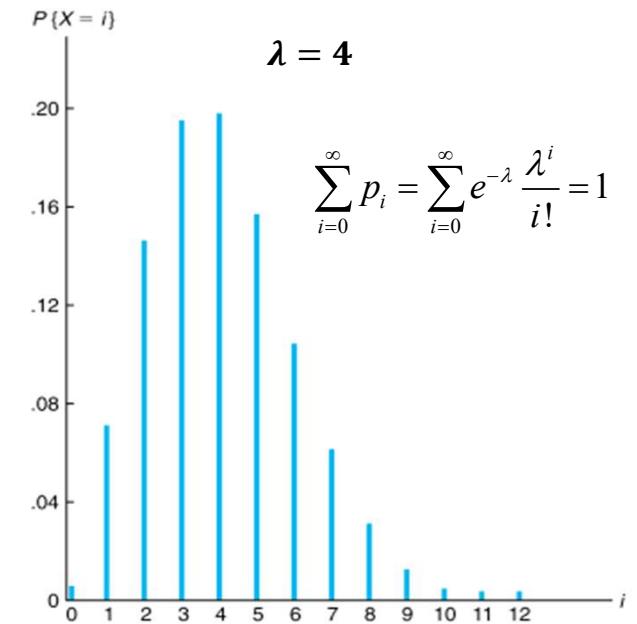
A random variable X , taking on one of the values $0, 1, 2, \dots$, is said to be a Poisson random variable with parameter λ , $\lambda > 0$, if its probability mass function is given by –

$$X \sim Poisson(\lambda) \quad P(X = i) = p_i = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^i}{i!}, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, \infty$$

Mean: $\bar{X} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} ip_i = \lambda$

Second Moment: $\overline{X^2} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} i^2 p_i = \lambda^2 + \lambda$

Variance: $\sigma_X^2 = \overline{X^2} - (\bar{X})^2 = \lambda$



$$\lambda = 4$$

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} p_i = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^i}{i!} = 1$$

The Poisson distribution is very popular in analytical modelling and simulations as it is described by just one variable λ .

Properties of the Poisson Distribution

Homogeneity

Independence

The arrival rate λ is constant with respect to time. The expected number of arrivals in any given interval of time Δt is $\lambda\Delta t$.

(*Weak Stationarity* also holds \Rightarrow Mean and Variance does not change with time)

The number of arrivals in disjoint intervals are independent of each other.

The number of arrivals in one interval will not have any effect on the number of arrivals in any other disjoint interval

We show in the next slide that these properties are enough to prove that the arrival process for this will have the Poisson distribution

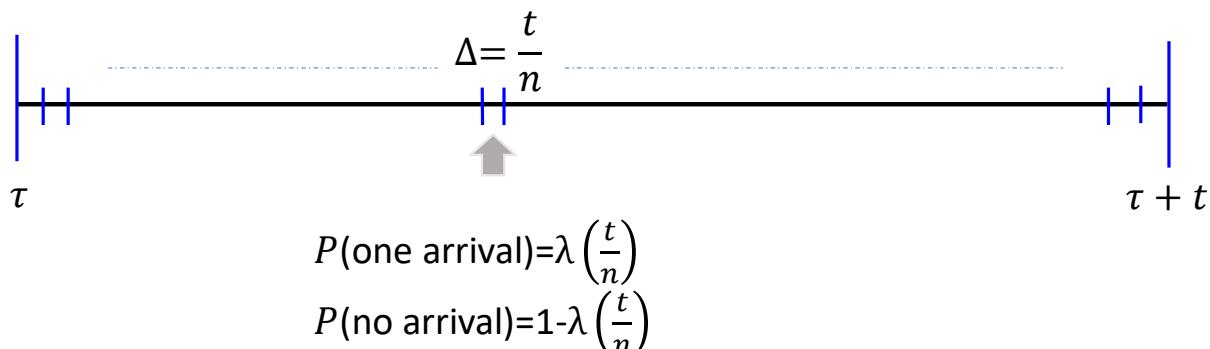
Let N_t be the number of arrivals in $[\tau, \tau + t]$, $\tau > 0$. Homogeneity $\Rightarrow E(N_t) = \lambda t$

Divide t into n non-overlapping intervals with $n \rightarrow \infty$ and let M_j be the number of arrivals (0 or 1; 1 with probability p_j) arriving in the j^{th} interval.

We can also conclude that for any j ,

$$P(M_j = 1) = \lambda\left(\frac{t}{n}\right), \quad P(M_j = 0) = 1 - \lambda\left(\frac{t}{n}\right)$$

and $P(M_j > 1) \rightarrow 0$ as $\frac{1}{n^2}$ and higher powers of n and can be ignored as $n \rightarrow \infty$



Poisson Distribution

$P(k \text{ arrivals in } [\tau, \tau + t]) = P_k$
 = Probability that any k of the n slots
 have an arrival and there are no
 arrivals in the other $(n - k)$ slots

$$= \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} \left[\lambda \left(\frac{t}{n} \right) \right]^k \left[1 - \lambda \left(\frac{t}{n} \right) \right]^{n-k}$$

See next slide for the steps, if needed

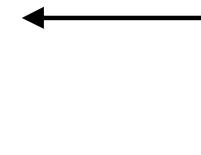
Binomial → Poisson

The Poisson Distribution may be used as an approximation to the Binomial Distribution with parameters (n, p) when n is large and p is small and $\lambda = np$ remains the mean of both the distributions

$$\begin{aligned} P(X = i) &= \frac{n!}{(n-i)!i!} p^i (1-p)^{n-i} \\ &= \frac{n!}{(n-i)!i!} \left(\frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^i \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^{n-i} \\ &= \frac{n(n-1)\dots(n-i+1)}{n^i} \times \frac{\lambda^i}{i!} \times \frac{\left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^n}{\left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^i} \\ &\rightarrow e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^i}{i!} \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned}$$

For large n and small p , we have -

$$\begin{aligned} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^n &\approx e^{-\lambda} \\ \frac{n(n-1)\dots(n-i+1)}{n^i} &\approx 1 \\ \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^i &\approx 1 \end{aligned}$$



These were also the approximations needed in the previous slide

Another useful property of
the Poisson Distribution

The sum of **Independent** Poisson random
variables is also a Poisson random variable

Let $X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_1)$ and $Y \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_2)$
be two Independent Poisson Random
Variables, i.e., $X \perp Y$

Then $X + Y \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)$

The Sum of Independent Poisson Random Variables is also a Poisson
Random Variable

Proof: Taken from

<https://lrc.stat.purdue.edu/2014/41600/notes/prob1805.pdf>

Phew!!!

Remind me to show you later how a little bit of clever thinking will let you show this in about two and a half lines!!

Sums of independent Poisson random variables are Poisson random variables. Let X and Y be independent Poisson random variables with parameters λ_1 and λ_2 , respectively.

Define $\lambda = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2$ and $Z = X + Y$. Claim that Z is a Poisson random variable with parameter λ . Why?

$$\begin{aligned} p_Z(z) &= P(Z = z) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^z P(X = j \ \& \ Y = z - j) \quad \text{so } X + Y = z \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^z P(X = j)P(Y = z - j) \quad \text{since } X \text{ and } Y \text{ are independent} \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^z \frac{e^{-\lambda_1} \lambda_1^j}{j!} \frac{e^{-\lambda_2} \lambda_2^{z-j}}{(z-j)!} \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^z \frac{1}{j!(z-j)!} e^{-\lambda_1} \lambda_1^j e^{-\lambda_2} \lambda_2^{z-j} \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^z \frac{z!}{j!(z-j)!} \frac{e^{-\lambda_1} \lambda_1^j e^{-\lambda_2} \lambda_2^{z-j}}{z!} \quad \text{multiply and divide by } z! \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^z \binom{z}{j} \frac{e^{-\lambda_1} \lambda_1^j e^{-\lambda_2} \lambda_2^{z-j}}{z!} \quad \text{using the form of binomial coefficients} \\ &= \frac{e^{-\lambda}}{z!} \sum_{j=0}^z \binom{z}{j} \lambda_1^j \lambda_2^{z-j} \quad \text{factoring out } z! \text{ and } e^{-\lambda_1} e^{-\lambda_2} = e^{-\lambda_1 - \lambda_2} = e^{-\lambda} \\ &= \frac{e^{-\lambda}}{z!} (\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^z \quad \text{using binomial expansion (in reverse)} \\ &= \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^z}{z!} \end{aligned}$$

So altogether we showed that $p_Z(z) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^z}{z!}$. So $Z = X + Y$ is Poisson, and we just sum the parameters.

We saw that the sum of two **Independent** Poisson random variables is also a Poisson random variable

Note that this result is not limited to the sum of just two independent random variables!

We can obviously extend this to N independent random variables for $N \geq 2$

Uniform Distribution (Discrete) $X \sim Unif(f[1, m])$

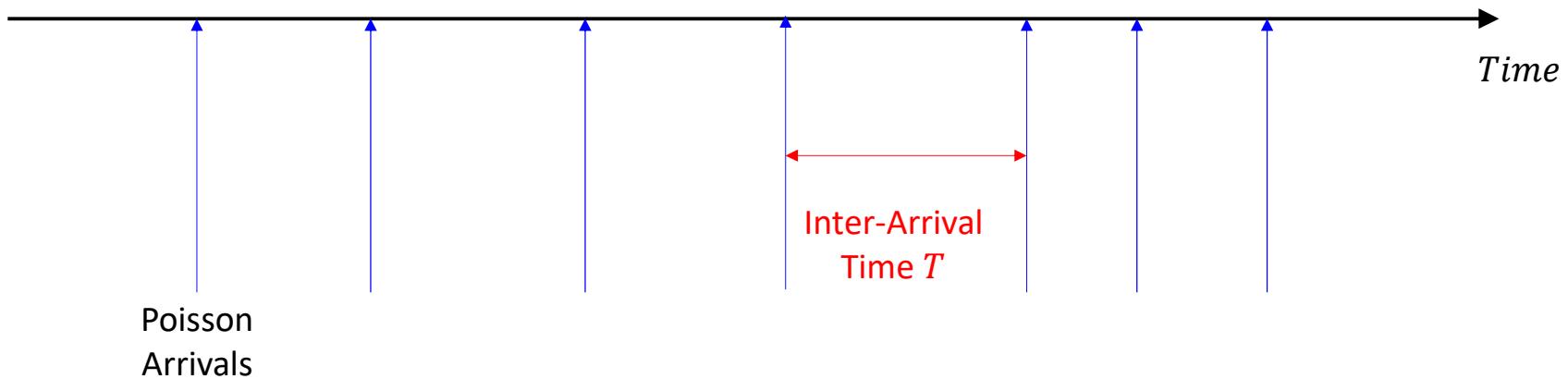
$$p_i \text{ or } p_X(i) = P(X = i) = \frac{1}{m}, \forall i \in [1, m]$$

$$E(X) = \bar{X} = \sum_{x=1}^m x \left(\frac{1}{m} \right) = \frac{(m+1)}{2}$$

$$Var(X) = \overline{X^2} - (\bar{X})^2 = \frac{m^2 - 1}{12}$$

Roll a six-sided dice to get one of $\{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\}$ each with probability $\frac{1}{m} = \frac{1}{6}$

Poisson Arrivals have Exponentially Distributed Inter-Arrival Times



Poisson Arrivals come from a Poisson Process with rate λ

$$\Rightarrow P(k \text{ arrivals in a time interval of length } T) = e^{-\lambda T} \frac{(\lambda T)^k}{k!} \quad \text{for } k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \infty$$

$$k \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda T)$$

The Inter-Arrival Times are independent, exponentially distributed random variables which have identical distributions with mean $1/\lambda$

$$\Rightarrow f_T(t) = \lambda e^{-\lambda t} \quad 0 \leq t < \infty$$

$$T \sim \text{exp}(\lambda)$$

If phone calls are exponentially distributed in length, then they are also assumed to be coming from a Poisson process

Compound Probability Distribution

Consider the random variable Y defined as

$$Y = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_N$$

where –

- (i) N is a random number
- (ii) $X_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ are independent, identically distributed (i.i.d.) random variables with c.d.f. F_x , mean μ_x and variance σ_x^2
- (iii) Each X_i is independent of N N is a discrete r.v. with mean μ_N and variance σ_N^2

Using the Law of Total Probability, the *Compounded Distribution of Y* is given as -

$$F_Y(y) = P(Y = y) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P(X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_N = y \mid N = n) P(N = n) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} F_Y^{(n)} P(N = n)$$

where $F_Y^{(n)}$ is the n -fold convolution of F_{X_i}

$$F_Y^{(n)} = F_{X_1} * F_{X_2} * \dots * F_{X_N}$$

$$Z = X + Y \quad X \perp Y$$

$$P(Z = z) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} P(X = k) P(Y = z - k)$$

Consider the first two moments of a random variable with this compound distribution

$$Y = X_1 + X_2 + \cdots + X_N \quad X_i \text{s are i.i.d.}$$

From Eq. 2.19 "Law of Total Variance"

$$\text{Var}(Y) = E_X [\text{Var}_Y(Y|X)] + \text{Var}_X (E_Y(Y|X))$$

$$\begin{aligned} E(Y) &= E_N (E_Y(Y|N)) \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} E(Y|N=n) P(N=n) \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} nE(X)P(N=n) = \mu_X \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} nP(N=n) \\ &= \mu_X \mu_N \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(Y) &= E_N (\text{Var}_Y(Y|N)) + \text{Var}_N (E_Y(Y|N)) \\ &= E_N (N\text{Var}_X(X)) + \text{Var}_N (N\mu_X) \\ &= \mu_N \text{Var}_X(x) + \text{Var}_N (N\mu_X) \\ &= \mu_N \sigma_X^2 + (\mu_X)^2 \text{Var}_N(N) \\ &= \mu_N \sigma_X^2 + \mu_X^2 \sigma_N^2 \end{aligned}$$

Negative Binomial (Discrete) Distribution $X \sim NB(k; r, p)$

also known as the Pascal Distribution $X \sim Pa(k; r, p)$

The negative binomial experiment is almost the same as a binomial experiment with one difference: a binomial experiment has a fixed number of trials but the number of trials is not fixed in the negative binomial case.

Recall that if the following five conditions are true, then the experiment is **binomial**:

1. Fixed number of n trials
2. Each trial is independent
3. Only outcomes are Success/Failure
4. Probability of Success (p) for each trial is constant
5. Random variable $X = \text{the number of successes}$.

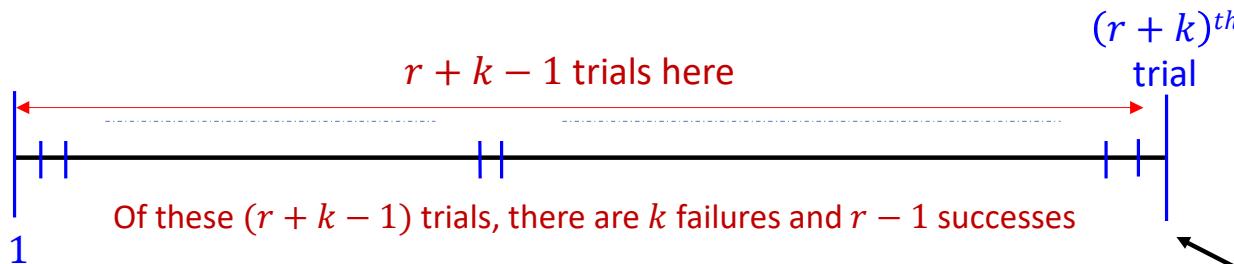
The **negative binomial** is similar to the binomial with two differences (specifically to numbers 1 and 5 in the list above):

- The number of trials, n is not fixed.
- Random variable X differently defined (see subsequent slides)

See graphical description
in the next slide

Negative Binomial (Discrete) Distribution $X \sim NB(k; r, p)$

Following the notation in the online notes provided to you



First trial The experiment being done here is to keep trying **until** we get r successes
If we define our **random variable X** to be the number of **failures** that we will encounter in that case, then -

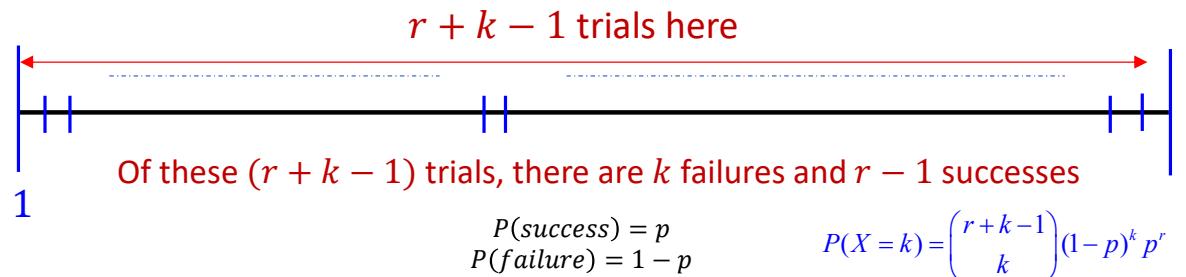
$$P(\text{success}) = p$$
$$P(\text{failure}) = 1 - p$$

The last one at $r + k$ is a success; it is the r^{th} success

$$P(X = k) = \binom{r+k-1}{k} (1-p)^k p^r$$

Read the example on page 58 of the lecture material given for this module with this figure in front of you

Let's try to think a little differently!



Y: The number of trials for r successes with the
last trial being a success

Using the results of the previous slide, we can
easily conclude that -

$$P(Y = n) = \binom{n-1}{n-r} (1-p)^{n-r} p^r \quad n = r, r+1, r+2, \dots, \infty$$

This is the probability distribution (actually, the Probability Mass Function) for the number of trials n needed for r successes when the last trial is a success and the probability of success in any one trial is p .

Example of Page 50

$$P(\text{Pen wins a rally}) = p = 0.6$$

$$P(\text{Hart wins a rally}) = h = 0.4$$

Winning Patterns for Li Pen

$$20+0+1 \quad \binom{20}{20} (0.6)^{20} (0.4)^0 (0.6)$$

Li Pen winning in 21 rallies, 20 of the first 20 and then one more, 21/0

$$20+1+1 \quad \binom{21}{20} (0.6)^{20} (0.4)^1 (0.6)$$

$$20+2+1 \quad \binom{22}{20} (0.6)^{20} (0.4)^2 (0.6)$$

.....

.....

$$20+5+1 \quad \binom{25}{20} (0.6)^{20} (0.4)^5 (0.6)$$

Li Pen winning in 26 rallies, 20 of the first 25 and then one more, 21/5

.....

.....

$$20+19+1 \quad \binom{39}{20} (0.6)^{20} (0.4)^{19} (0.6)$$

$$20+20+1 \quad \binom{40}{20} (0.6)^{20} (0.4)^{20} (0.6)$$

Li Pen winning in 41 rallies, 20 of the first 40 and then one more, 41/20

Deuce not considered
in this model

Example of Page 50

No Deuce in this model!

How to calculate the probabilities of Li Pen winning with scores like 22-20, 23-21, 24-22....?

If you deuce at 29-29 then the game would end at 30-29.

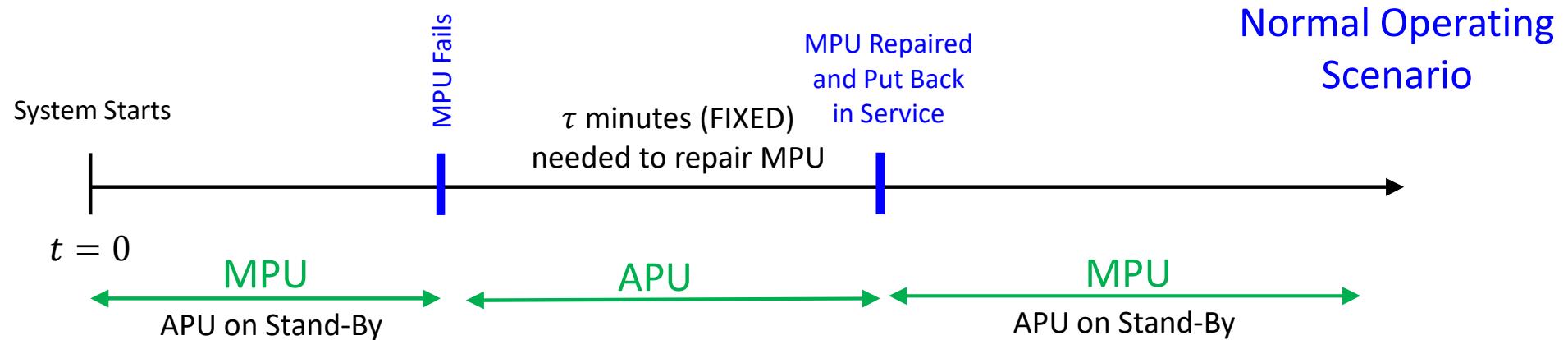
Example (page60): System Failure because of the failure of both Main Power Unit (MPU) and Auxiliary Power Unit (APU)

Assume that the time to failure of both are independent exponentially distributed (i.i.d.) random variables (r.v.s) with mean $1/\mu$ minutes.

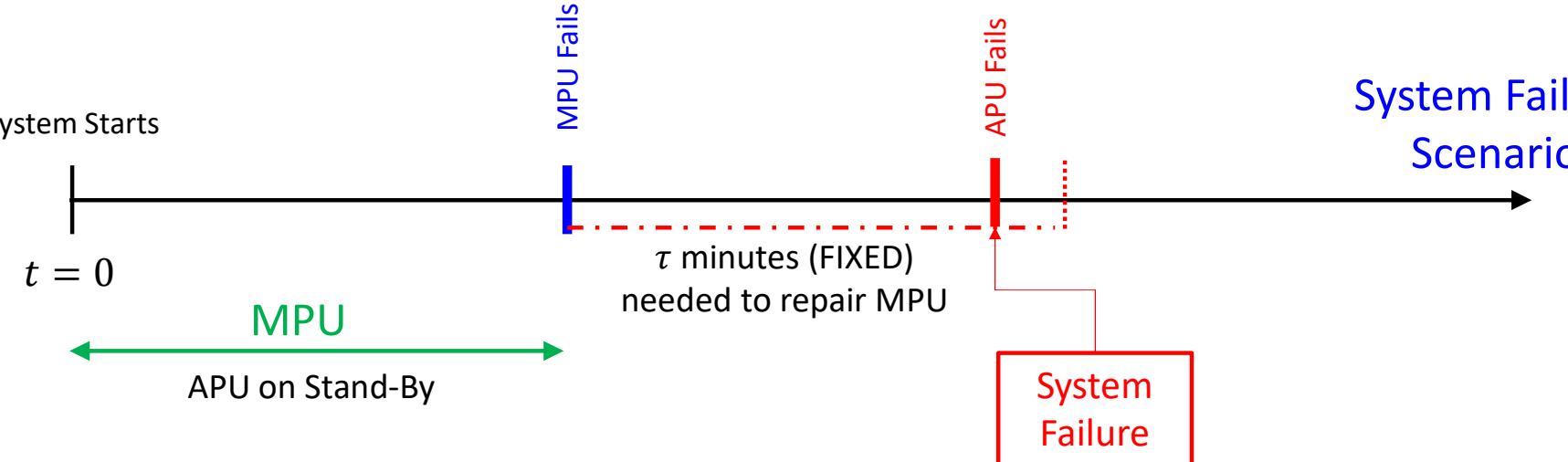
The mode of operation followed is described below.

"The system is started with the MPU. When the MPU fails, we immediately move to the APU while the MPU is being repaired. We need τ minutes (FIXED) to repair the MPU and put it back in service. If the APU fails before the MPU is fixed, then the system fails. If we can repair the MPU before the APU fails, then the system resumes normal operation as before. In that case, there is no system failure until the next time the failure sequence repeats itself."

Operation Scenarios



System Failure Scenario



X : Time (random) to First System Failure, τ : Time (Fixed) to repair failed MPU and put it back in service

L_M : Operating Time of MPU, L_A : Operating time of APU Both are *i.i.d.* exponentially distributed with mean $1/\mu$

$$E(X) = E(X | L_A \leq \tau)P(L_A \leq \tau) + E(X | L_A > \tau)P(L_A > \tau)$$

System does not fail when $L_A > \tau$

$$E(X | L_A > \tau) = E(L_M + \tau + X) = \frac{1}{\mu} + \tau + E(X)$$

Why?

System Fails when $L_A \leq \tau$

$$\begin{aligned} E(X | L_A \leq \tau) &= \frac{1}{\mu} + E(L_A | L_A \leq \tau) \\ &= \frac{1}{\mu} + \frac{\int_0^\tau (x)(\mu e^{-\mu x})dx}{P(L_A \leq \tau)} \\ &= \frac{1}{\mu} + \frac{1 - e^{-\mu \tau} - \mu \tau e^{-\mu \tau}}{\mu(1 - e^{-\mu \tau})} \end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} P(L_A \leq \tau) &= \int_0^\tau \mu e^{-\mu x} dx \\ &= (1 - e^{-\mu \tau}) \end{aligned}$$

Putting everything together -

$$\begin{aligned} E(X) &= e^{-\mu \tau} E(X | L_A > \tau) + (1 - e^{-\mu \tau}) E(X | L_A \leq \tau) \\ &= \frac{1}{\mu} + e^{-\mu \tau} [\tau + E(X)] + \frac{1 - e^{-\mu \tau} - \mu \tau e^{-\mu \tau}}{\mu} \end{aligned}$$

\Rightarrow

$$E(X) = \frac{2 - e^{-\mu \tau}}{\mu(1 - e^{-\mu \tau})}$$

Check this to see what happens when you do $\tau \rightarrow 0$ and $\tau \rightarrow \infty$

The actual problem in the book is a lot simpler!

- It is stated that “The exponential model is often used as the probability model for the *time until a rare event*”
- Also, if the random variable X is the time until the first system failure, then under fairly general conditions, $P(X > t) \approx e^{-\frac{t}{E(X)}}$ holds
- In this problem, you are given that $E(X) = 500$ hours.
- Therefore, the probability of failure after 100 hours is $P(X > 100) \approx e^{-\frac{100}{500}} = 0.8187$

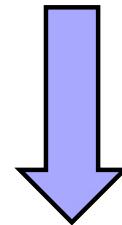
Hyper-Geometric Distribution (Probability Mass Function)

A random variable X follows the Hypergeometric Distribution if its probability mass function is given by the following, with $K \leq N, k \leq n$

$$P(X = k) = \frac{\binom{K}{k} \binom{N-K}{n-k}}{\binom{N}{n}}$$

The probability of k successes (random draws for a particular type of object) in n draws, without replacement, from a finite population of size N that contains exactly K objects of that type

$$\frac{\{Choosing k from K\} AND \{Choosing (n - k) from (N - K)\}}{Choosing n from N}$$



Example: A box has N items where K of them are defective. I pick n items from the box (without replacement). What is the probability that $k, k \leq n$, of the items picked are defective?

Uniform Random Variable (Continuous) $X \sim U(\alpha, \beta)$

A random variable X is said to be uniformly distributed over the interval $[\alpha, \beta]$ if its pdf is given by -

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\beta - \alpha} & \alpha \leq x \leq \beta \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$E(X) = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \frac{x}{\beta - \alpha} dx = \frac{\alpha + \beta}{2}$$

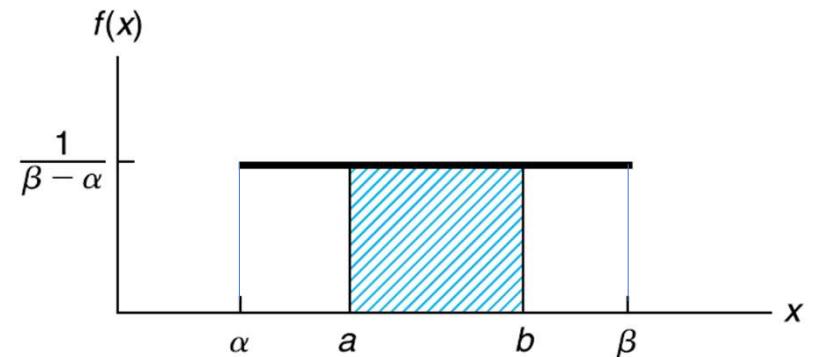
Mean

$$E(X^2) = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \frac{x^2}{\beta - \alpha} dx = \frac{\beta^2 + \alpha\beta + \alpha^2}{3}$$

Second Moment

$$Var(X) = \sigma_X^2 = \overline{X^2} - (\overline{X})^2 = \frac{(\beta - \alpha)^2}{12}$$

Variance



The $f_X(x)$ shown above can also be written as -

$$\frac{1}{(\beta - \alpha)} [U(x - \alpha) - U(x - \beta)]$$

Here $U(x)$ is the unit step function defined as

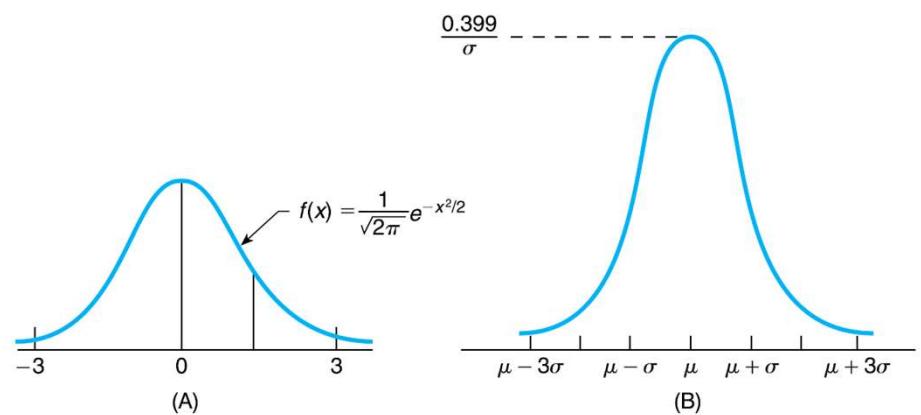
$$U(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x \leq 0 \\ 1, & x > 1 \end{cases}$$

Normal Random Variable $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma^2} e^{-(x-\mu)^2/2\sigma^2} \quad -\infty < x < \infty$$

$$E(\bar{X}) = \mu \quad \text{Mean}$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \sigma^2 \quad \text{Variance}$$



The Bell Curve

In probability theory, the **Central Limit Theorem (CLT)** establishes that, in many situations, when independent random variables are summed up, their properly normalized sum tends toward a normal distribution *even if the original variables themselves are not normally distributed.*

Joint and Marginal Probability Distributions

Discrete Random Variables: Consider two discrete random variables X and Y with respective distributions F_X and F_Y , which are defined on the same sample space.

The collection of points $(x_i, y_j), i, j = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ that prescribes the joint event $\{X = x_i, Y = y_j\}$ forms an *event space* with probabilities, known as the *joint probability mass function*, written as $P(X = x_i, Y = y_j) = p(x_i, y_j) = f_{XY}(x_i, y_j)$

The *marginal probability mass functions* $p(x_i) = f_X(x_i)$ and $p(y_j) = f_Y(y_j)$ can be computed by summing over the complementary dimension –

$$\begin{aligned} p(x_i) &= f_X(x_i) = \sum_{y_j} P(X = x_i, Y = y_j) = \sum_{y_j} f_{XY}(x_i, y_j) \\ \text{and } p(y_j) &= f_Y(y_j) = \sum_{x_i} P(X = x_i, Y = y_j) = \sum_{x_i} f_{XY}(x_i, y_j) \\ \text{with } &\quad \sum_{x_i} \sum_{y_j} f_{XY}(x_i, y_j) = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Note also that $f_{XY}(x, y) = f_X(x)f_Y(y) \Rightarrow X \perp Y$ (X is independent of Y)

Example (Derived from the example in page 63 of the textbook)

Three pages (1, 2, 3), represented by the containers $(\underline{1}/\underline{2}/\underline{3})$ and errors by \dagger

Then three errors over three pages can be represented as

(ttt/-/-)	(-/ttt/-)	(-/-/ttt)	(tt/t/-)	(tt/-/t)
(t/tt/-)	(-/tt/t)	(t/-/tt)	(-/t/tt)	(t/t/t)

Let N denote the number of pages that have at least one error. Let X_i denote the number of errors in the i^{th} page. **Assume that the errors are equally likely to be on any page.**

Now consider the joint distribution of X_1 and N by listing the various possibilities

- i. (ttt/-/-): $X_1 = 3, N = 1,$
- ii. (-/ttt/-): $X_1 = 0, N = 1,$
- iii. (-/-/ttt): $X_1 = 0, N = 1,$
- iv. (tt/t/-): $X_1 = 2, N = 2,$
- v. (tt/-/t): $X_1 = 2, N = 2,$
- vi. (t/tt/-): $X_1 = 1, N = 2,$
- vii. (-/tt/t): $X_1 = 0, N = 2,$
- viii. (t/-/tt): $X_1 = 1, N = 2,$
- ix. (-/t/tt): $X_1 = 0, N = 2,$ and
- x. (t/t/t): $X_1 = 1, N = 3.$

The joint probability mass function $f_{X_1, N}(x, n)$ is given by the relative frequency of each table entry and the marginal probabilities of X_1 and N by summing the rows and columns



			X_1		$f_N(n)$
	0	1	2	3	
1	$\frac{2}{10}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{10}$	$\frac{3}{10}$
N	2	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	0
	3	0	$\frac{1}{10}$	0	0
$f_{X_1}(x)$		$\frac{4}{10}$	$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{1}{10}$

See next slides for the joint and marginal probabilities for (X_2, N) and (X_3, N)

			X_1		$f_N(n)$
	0	1	2	3	
N	1	$\frac{2}{10}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{10}$
	2	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	0
	3	0	$\frac{1}{10}$	0	0
$f_{X_1}(x)$	$\frac{4}{10}$	$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{1}{10}$	

			X_2		$f_N(n)$
	0	1	2	3	
N	1	$\frac{2}{10}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{10}$
	2	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	0
	3	0	$\frac{1}{10}$	0	0
$f_{X_2}(x)$	$\frac{4}{10}$	$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{1}{10}$	

			X_3		$f_N(n)$
	0	1	2	3	
N	1	$\frac{2}{10}$	0	0	$\frac{1}{10}$
	2	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	0
	3	0	$\frac{1}{10}$	0	0
$f_{X_3}(x)$	$\frac{4}{10}$	$\frac{3}{10}$	$\frac{2}{10}$	$\frac{1}{10}$	

Clearly, all the joint distribution functions for (X_1, N) , (X_2, N) , and (X_3, N) are identical because it is natural to expect that the occurrences of the typographical errors would not depend on the page being examined.

Further, in each case, the marginals f_{X_1} , f_{X_2} and f_{X_3} would also be identical.

Additionally, we can check by inspection that

$$f_{X_1, N}(0, 1) \neq f_{X_1}(0)f_N(1)$$

In fact, $f_{X_i, N}(x_i, n_j) \neq f_{X_i}(x_i)f_N(n_j)$ for all $i = 1, 2, 3$ and $N = 1, 2, 3$.

Therefore, the variables X_i and N are not independent.

Joint and Marginal Probability Distributions

Continuous Random Variables: Joint and Marginal Distributions can be similarly defined for continuous random variables as well.

The *joint probability density function* of X and Y is given by the non-negative function $f_{XY}(x, y)$ if –

$$P((X, Y) \in A) = \int \int_A f_{XY}(x, y) dx dy \quad \text{and is normalized to unity!}$$

The marginal p.d.f.s are also defined as they are done for the discrete case as –

$$f_X(x) = \int_y f_{XY}(x, y) dy, \quad f_Y(y) = \int_x f_{XY}(x, y) dx$$

If the random variables X and Y are independent, then for all (x, y) , we have -

$$f_{XY}(x, y) = f_X(x)f_Y(y) \text{ and } F_{XY}(x, y) = F_X(x)F_Y(y)$$

The concept of joint and marginal distributions (for both discrete and continuous cases) can be extended in a similar fashion to more than two random variables

Example (Derived from the example in page 65 of the textbook)

Joint Failure of MPU and APU. Note that this problem does not consider MPU repair like the last one

MPU Lifetime given by the r.v. X and APU Lifetime by the r.v. Z with the same mean $\frac{1}{\mu} = \frac{1}{500}$

and joint pdf

$$f_{X,Z}(x, z) = \mu^2 e^{-\mu(x+z)} \text{ for } x, z > 0$$

Here, assume that when the MPU fails, the APU is put into operation and that the overall system then fails when the APU also fails.

The marginal pdf's $f_X(x)$ and $f_Z(z)$ can then be found as

$$f_X(x) = \int_0^\infty f_{XZ}(x, z) dz = \mu e^{-\mu x} \quad x > 0 \quad \text{pdf of time until MPU failure}$$
$$f_Z(z) = \int_0^\infty f_{XZ}(x, z) dx = \mu e^{-\mu z} \quad z > 0 \quad \text{pdf of time until APU failure}$$

Incidentally, note that $f_{X,Z}(x, z) = f_X(x)f_Z(z)$ which would be expected since $X \perp Z$

continued on the next slide

The Time to Total System Failure is given by the random variable $Y = X + Z$

The *risk of a total system failure after 100 hours* can be found as $P(Y > 100)$ as follows -

$$\begin{aligned} P(Y > 100) &= 1 - P(Y \leq 100) \\ &= 1 - P(X + Z \leq 100) \\ &= 1 - \int_0^{100} P(X \leq 100 - z | Z = z) f_Z(z) dz \\ &= 1 - \int_0^{100} P(X \leq 100 - z) f_Z(z) dz \\ &= 1 - \int_0^{100} \left(\int_0^{100-z} f_X(x) dx \right) f_Z(z) dz \\ &= 0.9825 \end{aligned}$$

Another way of doing this would have been to use $Y = X + Z$ and $f_{X,Z}(x,z)$ to find $f_Y(y)$ and then use that to find $P(Y > 100)$ directly.

Don't try this right now! There are easy tricks for doing this that you will learn later!

There is a 98.25% risk of a total system failure after 100 hours

Moment Generating Function $\phi_X(t)$ of the random variable X

For all values of t , this is defined as $\phi_X(t) = E(e^{tX}) = \sum_x e^{tx} p_x(x)$ if X is discrete
 $= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{tx} f_X(x) dx$ if X is continuous

Moment Generating Property of $\phi_X(t)$: $\phi_X^{(n)}(0) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{d^n}{dt^n} \phi_X(t) \right) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{d^n}{dt^n} E(e^{tX}) \right)$

All moments of X can be obtained by successive differentiation of $\phi_X(t)$

$$\begin{aligned} \phi'_X(0) &= E(X) \\ \Rightarrow \phi''_X(0) &= E(X^2) \\ &\dots\dots \\ \phi_X^{(n)}(0) &= E(X^n), \quad n \geq 1 \end{aligned}$$

A useful property of the Moment Generating Function is that, if X is independent of Y , i.e., $X \perp Y$, then –

$$\phi_{X+Y}(t) = \phi_X(t) \phi_Y(t)$$

since $E(e^{t(X+Y)}) = E(e^{tX}) E(e^{tY})$

Examples of the Moment Generating Function $\phi_X(t)$ for the r.v. X

Binomial Distribution:

$$P(X = i) = \binom{n}{i} p^i (1 - p)^{n-i}, \quad i=0, 1, \dots, n$$
$$\phi_X(t) = (1 - p + pe^t)^n$$

Poisson Distribution:

$$P(X = i) = p_i = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^i}{i!}, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, \infty$$
$$\phi_X(t) = e^{\lambda(e^t - 1)}$$

Uniform PDF

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{(\beta - \alpha)} [U(x - \alpha) - U(x - \beta)] \quad -\infty < x < \infty$$
$$\phi_X(t) = \frac{e^{t\beta} - e^{t\alpha}}{t(\beta - \alpha)} \quad -\infty < t < \infty$$

Normal Random Variable:

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-(x-\mu)^2/2\sigma^2} \quad -\infty < x < \infty$$
$$\phi_X(t) = e^{\mu t + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 t^2} \quad -\infty < t < \infty$$

See next slide, where we use
this to do something interesting

Use these to verify that
you do get the right first
and second moments!

Let $X \sim Poisson(\lambda_1)$ and $Y \sim Poisson(\lambda_2)$ be two Independent Poisson Random Variables, i.e., $X \perp Y$. Let $Z = X + Y$

$$P(X = i) = p_X(i) = e^{-\lambda_X} \frac{\lambda_X^i}{i!}, \quad i = 0, 1, \dots, \infty$$

$$\phi_X(t) = E(e^{tX}) = e^{\lambda_X(e^t - 1)}$$

$$P(Y = j) = p_Y(j) = e^{-\lambda_Y} \frac{\lambda_Y^j}{j!}, \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, \infty$$

$$\phi_Y(t) = E(e^{tY}) = e^{\lambda_Y(e^t - 1)}$$

Then,

$$\phi_Z(t) = E(e^{t(X+Y)}) = E(e^{tX})E(e^{tY}) = e^{(\lambda_X + \lambda_Y)(e^t - 1)}$$

Therefore,

$$Z \sim Poisson(\lambda_X + \lambda_Y)$$

Can be generalized to the sum of N independent Poisson random variables



We did it in TWO lines, did not need TWO and a HALF!