

(2) Sum of two independent distributions

- (a) Let $X \sim \mathcal{P}(\lambda_1)$ and $Y \sim \mathcal{P}(\lambda_2)$ be two independent Poisson random variables.
Show that

$$X + Y \sim \mathcal{P}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2).$$

- (b) Let U and V be two independent random variables with exponential distribution $\exp(\lambda)$.
Show that

$$U + V \sim \text{Gamma}(2, \lambda) \quad \text{and} \\ \min\{U, V\} \sim \exp(2\lambda).$$

Hint: It is useful to use moment generating functions. Recall, the pdf of a random variable $X \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$ is

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^{\alpha-1} e^{-\frac{x}{\beta}}}{\Gamma(\alpha) \beta^\alpha} & x > 0 \\ 0, & x \leq 0 \end{cases},$$

and its mgf is of the form $\left(\frac{1}{1-\beta t}\right)^\alpha$ for $t < \frac{1}{\beta}$. Particularly, the pdf of a random variable $X \sim \exp(\lambda) = \text{Gamma}(1, \frac{1}{\lambda})$ is of the form

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \lambda e^{-\lambda x}, & x \geq 0 \\ 0, & x \leq 0 \end{cases}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} a) \quad M_X(t) &= \mathbb{E}(e^{tx}) = e^{-\lambda_1} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} e^{tk} \frac{\lambda_1^k}{k!} = e^{-\lambda_1} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\lambda_1 e^t)^k}{k!} = e^{-\lambda_1} e^{\lambda_1 e^t} = e^{\lambda_1(e^t - 1)} \\ M_Y(t) &= e^{\lambda_2(e^t - 1)} \\ M_X(t) M_Y(t) &= e^{(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)(e^t - 1)} = M_{X+Y}(t) \end{aligned}$$

Hence, $X+Y \sim \mathcal{P}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)$

$$b) \quad M_U(t) = M_V(t) = \frac{1}{1-\lambda t} \quad , \quad M_{U+V}(t) = M_U(t) M_V(t) = \frac{1}{(1-\lambda t)^2}$$

Hence, $U+V \sim \text{Gamma}(2, \lambda)$, since $\exp(\lambda) = \text{Gamma}(1, \lambda)$!!!

with pdf $f(x) = \frac{\lambda^2}{\Gamma(2)} x^{2-1} e^{-\lambda x}, 0 < x < \infty$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\min(U, V) < z) &= 1 - \mathbb{P}(U \geq z \wedge V \geq z) = 1 - \mathbb{P}(U \geq z) \mathbb{P}(V \geq z) = 1 - (1 - \mathbb{P}(U < z))^2 \\ &= 1 - (1 - (1 - e^{-\lambda z}))^2 = 1 - e^{-2\lambda z}, \quad \text{where } F_U(x) = 1 - e^{-\lambda x}, 0 < x < \infty \end{aligned}$$

is the cdf of an exponential distribution.