

[B] POISSON DISTRIBUTION

This distribution can be derived as a limiting case of the binomial distribution by making n very large ($n \rightarrow \infty$) and p very small ($p \rightarrow 0$)

If $n \rightarrow \infty$ and $p \rightarrow 0$ then np always remains finite ; say m

$$\therefore np = m$$

$$\therefore p = \frac{m}{n} \quad \therefore q = 1 - p = 1 - \frac{m}{n}$$

Now ; for a Binomial distribution

$$P(X = x) = {}^n C_x p^x q^{n-x}$$

$$= \frac{n(n-1)(n-2) \dots (n-x+1)}{x!} \left(\frac{m}{n}\right)^x \left[1 - \frac{m}{n}\right]^{n-x}$$

$$= \frac{m^x}{x!} \cdot \frac{n(n-1)(n-2) \dots (n-x+1)}{n^x} \times \frac{\left(1 - \frac{m}{n}\right)^n}{\left(1 - \frac{m}{n}\right)^x}$$

$$= \frac{m^x}{x!} \left(\frac{n}{n}\right) \left(\frac{n-1}{n}\right) \left(\frac{n-2}{n}\right) \dots \left(\frac{n-x+1}{n}\right) \frac{\left(1 - \frac{m}{n}\right)^n}{\left(1 - \frac{m}{n}\right)^x}$$

$$= \frac{m^x}{x!} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right) \left(1 - \frac{2}{n}\right) \dots \left(1 - \frac{x-1}{n}\right) \frac{\left\{\left(1 - \frac{m}{n}\right)^n\right\}^{1-\frac{x}{n}}}{\left(1 - \frac{m}{n}\right)^x}$$

----- (*)

$$\left[\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^x = e \quad ; \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n = e^x \right]$$

Now ; as $n \rightarrow \infty$; each of the $(r-1)$ factors

$$\left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right), \left(1 - \frac{2}{n}\right), \dots, \left(1 - \frac{r-1}{n}\right) \rightarrow 1$$

$$\text{Also } \left(1 - \frac{r}{n}\right)^n \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \left\{ \left(1 - \frac{r}{n}\right)^{-\frac{n}{r}} \right\}^{-r} \rightarrow e^{-r}$$

Hence ; when $n \rightarrow \infty$; from eqⁿ (*) ;
we have ;

$$P(r) = \frac{m^r e^{-m}}{r!}$$

Thus ; the probability P^r of the Poisson distribution is

$$P(r) = \frac{e^{-m} m^r}{r!} = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^r}{r!} \quad ; \quad r = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

where $m = \lambda = np$

Note : →

The sum of the Probability is 1
for $r = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, \infty$

$$P(0) + P(1) + P(2) + \dots + P(r) + \dots$$

$$= e^{-m} + \frac{m e^{-m}}{1!} + \frac{m^2 e^{-m}}{2!} + \frac{m^3 e^{-m}}{3!} + \dots$$

$$= e^{-m} \left\{ 1 + \frac{m}{1!} + \frac{m^2}{2!} + \frac{m^3}{3!} + \dots \right\}$$

$$e^x = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots$$

$$= e^{-m} e^m$$

$$= 1$$

* Recurrence Formula for the Poisson Distribution \Rightarrow

For Poisson Distribution

$$P(x) = \frac{n^x e^{-n}}{x!}$$

$$P(x+1) = \frac{n^{x+1} e^{-n}}{(x+1)!}$$

Hence,

$$\frac{P(x+1)}{P(x)} = \frac{n \cdot x!}{(x+1)!} = \frac{n}{x+1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{P(x+1) = \frac{n}{x+1} \cdot P(x)}$$

where $x = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$

(*) Mean and Variance of the Poisson Distribution

(*) constants of Poisson Distribution

x	$P(x)$	$xP(x)$	$x^2P(x)$
0	e^{-m}	0	0
1	$m e^{-m}$	$1 \cdot m \cdot e^{-m}$	$m e^{-m}$
2	$\frac{m^2 e^{-m}}{2!}$	$\frac{2 \cdot m^2 e^{-m}}{2!}$	$\frac{2^2 m^2 e^{-m}}{2!}$
3	$\frac{m^3 e^{-m}}{3!}$	$\frac{3 \cdot m^3 e^{-m}}{3!}$	$\frac{3^2 m^3 e^{-m}}{3!}$
4	$\frac{m^4 e^{-m}}{4!}$	$\frac{4 \cdot m^4 e^{-m}}{4!}$	$\frac{4^2 m^4 e^{-m}}{4!}$
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮

$$(*) \text{ Mean } \mu = \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x \cdot P(x)$$

$$= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x \cdot \frac{e^{-m} m^x}{x!}$$

$$= m e^{-m} + \frac{2 m^2 e^{-m}}{2!} + \frac{3 m^3 e^{-m}}{3!} + \frac{4 m^4 e^{-m}}{4!}$$

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$$= m e^{-m} \left\{ 1 + m + \frac{m^2}{2!} + \frac{m^3}{3!} + \dots \right\}$$

$$= m e^{-m} \{ e^m \}$$

$$= m$$

$$(*) \text{ Variance } \sigma^2 = \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x^2 p(x) - \mu^2$$

$$= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot \frac{m^x \cdot e^{-m}}{x!} - m^2$$

$$= m e^{-m} + \frac{2 m^2 e^{-m}}{2!} + \frac{3 m^3 e^{-m}}{3!} + \dots - m^2$$

$$= m e^{-m} \left\{ 1 + 2m + \frac{3 m^2}{2!} + \frac{4 m^3}{3!} + \dots \right\} - m^2$$

$$= m e^{-m} \left\{ 1 + \frac{(1+1)m}{1!} + \frac{(1+2)m^2}{2!} + \frac{(1+3)m^3}{3!} + \dots \right\} - m^2$$

$$= m e^{-m} \left\{ \left[1 + m + \frac{m^2}{2!} + \frac{m^3}{3!} + \dots \right] \right.$$

$$\left. + \left[m + \frac{2m^2}{2!} + \frac{3m^3}{3!} + \dots \right] \right\} - m^2$$

$$= m e^{-m} \left\{ \left[1 + m + \frac{m^2}{2!} + \frac{m^3}{3!} + \dots \right] \right.$$

$$\left. + m \left[1 + m + \frac{m^2}{2!} + \frac{m^3}{3!} + \dots \right] \right\} - m^2$$

$$= m e^{-m} \{ e^m + m e^m \} - m^2$$

$$= m e^{-m} e^m \{ 1 + m \} - m^2$$

$$= m (1 + m) - m^2$$

$$= m + m^2 - m^2$$

$$= m$$

Hence ; For the Poisson Distribution ;

Mean = Variance = m

Note :→

If p is small and n is large then we use Poisson distribution.

Ex-1 If the variance of the poisson distribution is 2; find the probabilities for $x=1,2,3,4$ from the recurrence relation of the Poisson distribution

Sol \Rightarrow λ : the Parameter of Poisson dist
= Variance
= 2

Recurrence relation for the poisson dist is

$$P(x+1) = \frac{\lambda}{x+1} P(x) = \frac{2}{x+1} P(x)$$

$$\text{Now } P(x) = \frac{\lambda^x e^{-\lambda}}{x!} \Rightarrow P(0) = \frac{e^{-2}}{0!} = e^{-2} = 0.1353$$

Putting $x=0,1,2,3, \dots$; we get

$$P(1) = 2 \cdot P(0) = 2 \times 0.1353 = 0.2706$$

$$P(2) = \frac{2}{2} \cdot P(1) = 0.2706$$

$$P(3) = \frac{2}{3} P(2) = \frac{2}{3} \times 0.2706 = 0.1804$$

$$P(4) = \frac{2}{4} P(3) = \frac{1}{2} \times 0.1804 = 0.0902$$

Ex-2 Using Poisson's distribution; find the probability that the aces of spades will be drawn from a pack of well-shuffled cards at least once in 104 consecutive trials (given $e^{-2} = 0.1353$)

Solⁿ → We have

$$P(x) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!}; \quad x = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$\text{Here } \lambda = n \cdot p = 104 \times \frac{1}{52} = 2$$

∴ Probability of drawing an ace of spades at least once

$$= P(1) + P(2) + \dots + P(52)$$

$$= 1 - P(0)$$

$$= 1 - \frac{e^{-2} (1)}{0!}$$

$$= 1 - e^{-2}$$

$$= 1 - 0.1353$$

$$= 0.8647$$

Ex-3 → If the probability that an individual suffers a bad reaction from a certain injection is 0.001 determine the probability that out of 2000 individuals

(a) exactly 3 and

(b) more than 2 individuals will suffer a bad reaction (given $e^{-2} = 0.136$)

Sol: Here $P = 0.001$; $n = 2000$

$$\lambda = np = 2000 \times 0.001 = 2$$

According to Poisson's distribution

$$P(x) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!}$$

$$\langle 4 \rangle P(3) = \frac{e^{-2} (2)^3}{3!} = \frac{8}{6} \times e^{-2} = \frac{4}{3} \times 0.136 = 0.1804$$

$$\text{or } 1 - P(x \leq 2)$$

$$\langle b \rangle P(x > 2) = P(3) + P(4) + P(5)$$

$$= 1 - [P(0) + P(1) + P(2)]$$

$$= 1 - \left\{ \frac{e^{-2}}{0!} + \frac{e^{-2} \cdot 2}{1!} + \frac{e^{-2} \cdot 2^2}{2!} \right\}$$

$$= 1 - e^{-2} \{1 + 2 + 2\}$$

$$= 1 - (0.136)(5)$$

$$= 1 - 0.680$$

$$= 0.32$$

Ex-4 Between the hours 2 P.M. and 4 P.M. The average number of phone calls per minute coming into the switch board of a company is 2.35. Find the Probability that during one particular minute; there will be at most 2 phone calls. [given $e^{-2.35} = 0.095374$]
(by using Poisson dist)

Solⁿ \Rightarrow If the variable x denotes the number of telephone calls per minute; then x will follow Poisson distribution with parameter $m = 2.35$ and probability $P(x)$;

$$P(x=r) = \frac{e^{-m} m^r}{r!} = \frac{e^{-2.35} \times (2.35)^r}{r!}$$

The Prob. that during one particular minute there will be at most 2 phone calls is given by

$$P(x \leq 2) = P(0) + P(1) + P(2)$$

$$= e^{-2.35} \left\{ 1 + 2.35 + \frac{(2.35)^2}{2!} \right\}$$

$$= 0.095374 \{ 1 + 2.35 + 2.76125 \}$$

$$= 0.095374 \times 6.11125$$

$$= 0.5828543$$

Ex-5 It is known from past experience that in a certain plant there are on the average 4 industrial accidents per month. Find the probability that in a given year there will be less than 4 accidents by assuming Poisson distribution ($e^{-4} = 0.0183$)

Sol ³ → In the usual notations; given $m = 4$
If the variable x denotes the number of accidents in the plant per month; then by Poisson distribution;

$$P(X=x) = \frac{e^{-m} m^x}{x!} = \frac{e^{-4} (4)^x}{x!}$$

The required Prob. that there will be less than 4 accidents is given by:

$$P(X < 4) = P(0) + P(1) + P(2) + P(3)$$

$$= e^{-4} \left\{ 1 + 4 + \frac{4^2}{2!} + \frac{4^3}{3!} \right\}$$

$$= e^{-4} \{ 1 + 4 + 8 + 10.67 \}$$

$$= 0.0183 \times 23.67$$

$$= 0.4332$$

Ex-6 If 5% of the electric bulbs manufactured by a company are defective; use poisson distribution to find the probability that in a sample of 100 bulbs.

(i) none is defective

(ii) 5 bulbs will be defective.

(given : $e^{-5} = 0.007$)

Sol : \rightarrow Here given ; $n = 100$

$P = \text{Prob. of a defective bulb} = 5\% = 0.05$

{ since P is small and n is large ; we may approximate the given dist. by poisson dist. }

The parameter m of poisson dist. is :

$$m = nP = 100 \times 0.05 = 5$$

Let x denote the number of defective bulbs in a sample of 100 then

$$P(X=x) = \frac{e^{-m} m^x}{x!} = \frac{e^{-5} 5^x}{x!}$$

(i) The prob. that none of the bulbs is defective is given by :

$$P(X=0) = e^{-5} = 0.0067$$

(iii) The prob. of 5 defective bulbs is given by

$$P(X=5) = \frac{e^{-5} 5^5}{5!} = \frac{0.0067 \times 625}{24}$$

$$= \frac{4.375}{24}$$

$$= 0.1754.$$