

Poisson Distribution

When events occur randomly over a specified interval of time or space or length
e.g. the number of telephone calls received per hour in an office.

⇒ The number of insurance claim made to a company in a year.

⇒ The number of typing errors per page in a book. e.t.c

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

where

λ : Average number of occurrences per time, distance area

t : Specific time, distance, area or volume.

x : No. of occurrences in time t .

$$e = 2.71828$$

⇒ It has one parameter μ and $\mu = \lambda t$

⇒ Mean = variance = λt

$$P(x; \lambda t) \text{ or } P(x; \mu)$$

The poisson dist is also called law of small numbers or the rare events distribution.

Example 5.17 :

(Pg 162) Walpole

$$\lambda t = 4$$

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

$$P(X=6) = \frac{e^{-4} (4)^6}{6!}$$

$$\boxed{P(X=6) = 0.1042}$$

Example 5.18

$$\mu = \lambda t = 10$$

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

$$P(X > 15) = 1 - P(X \leq 15)$$

$$= 1 - \sum_{x=0}^{15} P(X; 10)$$

$$= 1 - [P(X=0) + P(X=1) + \dots + P(X=15)]$$

$$= 1 - 0.9513$$

$$\boxed{P(X > 15) = 0.0487}$$

Approximation of binomial dist by poisson:-

If n is large and p is small then we approximate Binomial by Poisson. i.e (when p is 0.05 or less and n is 20 or more)

(Walpole)

Example 5.19 :-

$$p = 0.005$$

$$n = 400$$

As n is large and p is small

$$\mu = np$$

$$= 400 \times 0.005$$

$$\boxed{\mu = 2}$$

$$\mu = 400 \times 0.005$$

$$a) P(X=x) = \frac{e^{-\mu} \mu^x}{x!}$$

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

$$\boxed{P(X=1) = 0.271}$$

$$b) P(X \leq 3) = P(X=0) + P(X=1) + P(X=2) + P(X=3)$$

$$= \frac{e^{-2} 2^0}{0!} + \frac{e^{-2} 2^1}{1!} + \frac{e^{-2} 2^2}{2!} + \frac{e^{-2} 2^3}{3!}$$

$$\boxed{P(X \leq 3) = 0.857}$$

1) Probability function :-

Probability function gives the probabilities of ~~aa~~ possible values of a random variable. It gives the probability that a discrete random variable is exactly equal to some value.

$$\text{i.e. } P(X = x_i) = f(x_i) \text{ or } p(x_i)$$

2) Distribution function (df) or cummulative distribution function (cdf) :-

This function $F(x)$ gives the probability that event x takes a value less than or equal to a specified value x . i.e. $P(X \leq x)$. It is denoted by $F(x)$.

\Rightarrow Also called cummulative distribution function (cdf) as it is cummulative probability function of x from smallest upto specific value of x

$$\begin{aligned} F(b) - F(a) &= P(X \leq b) - P(X \leq a) \\ &= P(a < X \leq b) \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow F(x)$ is non-negative and non-decreasing function of x .

Example 7.1

$$S = \{HHH, HHT, HTH, THH, HTT, THT, TTH, TTT\}$$

| x | $f(x_i)$ | $F(x)$ |
|-----|---------------|---|
| 0 | $\frac{1}{8}$ | $\frac{1}{8}$ |
| 1 | $\frac{3}{8}$ | $\frac{1}{8} + \frac{3}{8} = \frac{4}{8}$ |
| 2 | $\frac{3}{8}$ | $\frac{4}{8} + \frac{3}{8} = \frac{7}{8}$ |
| 3 | $\frac{1}{8}$ | $\frac{7}{8} + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{8}{8}$ |
| | 1 | |

$$F(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } x < 0 \\ \frac{1}{8} & \text{for } 0 \leq x < 1 \\ \frac{4}{8} & \text{for } 1 \leq x < 2 \\ \frac{7}{8} & \text{for } 2 \leq x < 3 \\ 1 & \text{for } x \geq 3 \end{cases}$$

$$f(2) = F(2) - F(1)$$

$$= \frac{7}{8} - \frac{4}{8}$$

$$\boxed{f(2) = \frac{3}{8}}$$