



LINMA2470 Stochastic Modelling

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Reminders

1.1 General properties of probability

- $P[A \cup B] = P[A] + P[B] - P[A \cap B]$;
- $P[A|B] = \frac{P[A \cap B]}{P[B]} = \frac{P[AB]}{P[B]}$;
- A and B are independent iff $P[AB] = P[A]P[B] \implies P[A|B] = P[A]$;
- $P[X \leq x] = F_X(x)$ is the distribution function, i.e. a monotone increasing function of x going from 0 to 1 when x goes from $-\infty$ to $+\infty$.
- Its derivative is the density function $f_X(x)$ such that $f_X(x)\delta \approx P[x \leq X \leq x + \delta]$ for an infinitesimal δ .
- A random variable X is said to be memoryless if $\forall t, x > 0, P[X > t + x | X > t] = P[X > x]$.
- Markov inequality (for a nonnegative random variable): $P[Y \geq y] \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[Y]}{y}$;
- Chebyshev inequality: $P[|Z - \mathbb{E}[Z]| \geq \varepsilon] \leq \frac{\sigma_Z^2}{\varepsilon^2}$;

1.2 Expectation and variance

- For a discrete random variable, $\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} nP[X = n]$;
- For a continuous random variable, $\mathbb{E}[X] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xf_X(x)dx$;
- $\mathbb{E}[X] = \int_0^{\infty} (1 - F_X(x))dx$.
- $Var[X] = \sigma_X^2 = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X])^2] = \mathbb{E}[X^2] - \mathbb{E}[X]^2$;

1.3 Law of large numbers

Let X_1, \dots, X_n be a series of independent and uniformly distributed (IID) random variables with expectation \bar{X} and finite variance σ_X^2 . Let $S_n = X_1 + \dots + X_n$. Then,

- Weak version:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P \left[\left| \frac{S_n}{n} - \bar{X} \right| \geq \varepsilon \right] = 0 \quad (1.1)$$

- Strong version:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P \left[\sup_{m \geq n} \left(\frac{S_m}{m} - \bar{X} \right) > \varepsilon \right] = 0 \iff \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{S_n}{n} = X \quad \text{with probability 1} \quad (1.2)$$

1.4 Central limit theorem

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P \left[\frac{S_n - n\bar{X}}{\sqrt{n}\sigma} \leq y \right] = \int_{-\infty}^y \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} dx \quad (1.3)$$

1.5 Exponential distribution

- $f_X(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}$, for $x \geq 0$;
- $F_X(x) = 1 - e^{-\lambda x}$, for $x \geq 0$;
- $\mathbb{E}[X] = 1/\lambda$.

→ Note: the exponential distribution is memoryless.

Poisson Processes

A Poisson process $N(t)$ counts the number of arrivals with exponentially distributed inter-arrival times.

$$S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \quad X_i \sim \exp(\lambda) \quad (2.1)$$

$\forall n, t$, we have the relation $\{S_n \leq t\} = \{N(t) \geq n\}$, where S_n is a random variable telling at which time the n -th occurrence appears.

→ Note: a Poisson process is memoryless: $P[Z_1 > x] = e^{-\lambda x}$, with Z_1 be the duration of the time interval from t until the first arrival after t .

For a Poisson process of rate λ , and any given $t > 0$, the length of the interval from t until the first arrival after t is an exponentially distributed random variable. This random variable is independent of both $N(t)$ and of the $N(t)$ arrival epochs before time t . It is also independent of $N(\tau)$, $\forall \tau \leq t$.

Let us consider the process after Z_1 , Z_m , the time until the m -th arrival after time t . It is independent of $N(t)$ and of the entire previous history of the process. Let us denote $\tilde{N}(t, t') = N(t') - N(t)$.

- Stationary increments property: It has the same distribution as $N(t' - t)$, $\forall t' \geq t$ (stationary increments property);
- Independent increments property: For any sequence of times $0 < t_1 < \dots < t_k$, the set $\{N(t_1), \tilde{N}(t_1, t_2), \dots, \tilde{N}(t_{k-1}, t_k)\}$ is a set of independent random variables.

From the memoryless property, here is another definition of a Poisson process:

- A Poisson process is a counting process that has the stationary and independent increment properties and such that

$$\begin{aligned} P[\tilde{N}(t, t + \delta) = 0] &= 1 - \lambda\delta + o(\delta) \\ P[\tilde{N}(t, t + \delta) = 1] &= \lambda\delta + o(\delta) \\ P[\tilde{N}(t, t + \delta) \geq 2] &= o(\delta) \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

2.1 Distribution of $N(t)$

S_n is the sum n IID random variables and f_{S_n} is the convolution of n times f_X :

$$f_{S_n}(t) = \frac{\lambda^n t^{n-1} e^{-\lambda t}}{(n-1)!} \quad (2.3)$$

From this,

$$P[N(t) = n-1] = \frac{(\lambda t)^n e^{-\lambda t}}{(n)!} \quad (2.4)$$

and finally,

$$\mathbb{E}[N(t)] = \lambda t \quad \text{Var}[N(t)] = \lambda t \quad (2.5)$$