

# Poisson Distribution

# of babies born in 24 hours

# of chocolate chips in a cookie

# of pepperoni slices on a pizza

$X = \# \text{ of events in an interval}$

↓  
eg number of  
chocolate chips

↓  
eg in the volume of a cookie

Assumptions for a Poisson Distribution

Events occur: independently: event occurring doesn't affect probability

singly: events occur one at a time

at a constant average rate: # of events  $\propto$  interval size

$X = \# \text{ of events in an interval}$      $X \sim Po(\lambda)$

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

$X$  can assume  $x$  where  $x=0, 1, 2, \dots$  (no upper bound)

Special property:  $E[X] = Var(X) = \lambda$

Proof on next page



Proof that  $E[X] = \lambda$  for  $X \sim Po(\lambda)$

$$e^x = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^r}{r!} = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots$$

when  $x=0$ ,  $\frac{xe^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!} = 0$ ,  
so we can start at  $x=1$

$$E[X] = \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x P(X=x) = \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} \frac{xe^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!} = \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{(x-1)!} = e^{-\lambda} \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} \frac{(\lambda)(\lambda^{x-1})}{(x-1)!}$$

$$= \lambda e^{-\lambda} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^t}{t!} = \lambda e^{-\lambda} e^{\lambda} = \lambda$$

↑ redefine  $t=x-1$  so we start at 0 and can use MacLaurin

Proof that  $Var(X) = \lambda$  for  $X \sim Po(\lambda)$

$$Var(X) = E[X^2] - (E[X])^2 \quad \text{Consider } E[X(X-1)] = E[X^2 - X] = E[X^2] - E[X]$$

$$\Rightarrow Var(X) = E[X(X-1)] + E[X] - (E[X])^2$$

$$E[X(X-1)] = \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x(x-1) \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!} = e^{-\lambda} \sum_{x=2}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^x}{(x-2)!} = \lambda^2 e^{-\lambda} \sum_{x=2}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^{x-2}}{(x-2)!} = \lambda^2 e^{-\lambda} \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^t}{t!}$$
$$= \lambda^2 e^{-\lambda} e^{\lambda} = \lambda^2$$

Do the same stuff as proof of  $E[X] = \lambda$

$$E[X(X-1)] = \lambda^2, E[X] = \lambda \Rightarrow Var(X) = \lambda^2 + \lambda - \lambda^2 = \lambda$$

Ex (2c)

(10) Flaw in a material: 1.5 per 50m

a)  $X = \# \text{ of flaws per } 50\text{m}$   $X \sim Po(1.5)$

$$P(X=3) = \frac{e^{1.5} (1.5)^3}{3!} = 0.1255$$

b) Material sold in rolls of 200m

$X' = \# \text{ of flaws per } 200\text{m}$   $X' \sim Po(6)$

$$P(X' \leq 4) = P(X' \leq 3) = 0.1512$$

c) 5 rolls of material

$Y = \# \text{ of rolls with } < 4 \text{ flaws out of } 5 \text{ rolls}$

$$Y \sim B(5, 0.1512) \quad P(Y \geq 2) = 1 - P(Y \leq 1) = 0.8330$$

Define a new variable with a  
binomial distribution

$$\text{with } p=0.1512$$

to find probability of

at least 2 rolls out of 5 have less than 4 flaws.

(14) Machine: 1.5 breakdowns / week

a)  $X = \# \text{ of breakdowns per week}$

$$X \sim Po(1.5) \quad P(X \leq 2) = 0.8088$$

b)  $X' = \# \text{ of breakdowns per 2 weeks}$

$$X' \sim Po(3) \quad P(X' \geq 5) = 1 - P(X' \leq 4) = 1 - 0.8153 = 0.1847$$

c) A firm will repair breakdowns of 6-weeks.

If more than  $n$  breakdowns / 6 weeks, full refund.

firm wants probability of full refund  $< 5\%$  or 0.05

$X'' = \# \text{ of breakdowns / 6-weeks}$   $X'' \sim Po(9)$

$$P(\text{refund}) = P(X'' > n) = 1 - P(X'' \leq n) < 0.05$$

$$P(X'' \leq n) > 0.95$$

Smallest  $n$  to satisfy is 14 ( $P(X'' \leq 14) = 0.9585$ )

## Sum of Individual Poisson r.v.'s

let  $X \sim P_0(\lambda)$ ,  $Y \sim P_0(\mu)$

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

$y = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

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

$$P(Y=y) = \frac{e^{-\mu} \mu^y}{y!}$$

$$P(Z=z) = \sum_{x=0}^z P(X=x \cap Y=z-x) \quad \text{for } Z=z, \\ x+y=z \text{ for each value of } x, y=z-x$$

$$= \sum_{x=0}^z \left( P(X=x) \times P(Y=z-x) \right) = \sum_{x=0}^z \left( \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!} \cdot \frac{e^{-\mu} \mu^{z-x}}{(z-x)!} \right)$$

$$= \frac{e^{-(\lambda+\mu)}}{z!} \sum_{x=0}^z \left( \frac{z! \lambda^x \mu^{z-x}}{x! (z-x)!} \right) \quad \left( \frac{z!}{z!} \text{ multiplied} \right)$$

$$= \frac{e^{-(\lambda+\mu)}}{z!} \sum_{x=0}^z \left( {}^z C_x \cdot \lambda^x \mu^{z-x} \right) = \frac{e^{-(\lambda+\mu)} (\lambda+\mu)^z}{z!} \Rightarrow Z \sim P_0(\lambda+\mu)$$

$${}^z C_x = \frac{z!}{x! (z-x)!}$$

$$\sum_{x=0}^z {}^z C_x \cdot \lambda^x \mu^{z-x}$$

$$= (\lambda+\mu)^z \quad (\text{binomial expansion})$$

Therefore,

$$X+Y \sim P_0(\lambda+\mu) \quad (\text{if } X \perp Y)$$



This derivation is not needed in the exam, but is fun.

Ex (2D)

①  $X \sim P_0(3.3)$   $Y \sim P_0(2.7)$   $X+Y \sim P_0(6)$

a)  $P(X+Y=5) = 0.1606$  c)  $P(X+Y>4) = 1 - P(X+Y \leq 4)$

b)  $P(X+Y \leq 7) = 0.7440$   $= 1 - 0.2851 = 0.7149$

③  $X \sim P_0(2.5)$   $Y \sim P_0(3.5)$

a)  $P(X=2 \cap Y=2) = 0.2565 \times 0.1850 = 0.0475$

b)  $P(X>2 \cap Y>2) = (1-P(X \leq 2))(1-P(Y \leq 2)) \neq P(X+Y>4)$   
 $= (1-0.5438)(1-0.3208) = (0.4562)(0.6792) = 0.3099$

⑥  $A \sim P_0(1.25)$   $B \sim P_0(0.75)$   $A+B \sim P_0(2)$

a)  $P(A=2) = 0.2238$  b)  $P(A+B=2) = 0.2707$

c) Total taxis in 5 days

$$= A' + B' \sim P_0(5 \times 1.25 + 5 \times 0.75 = 10)$$

$$P(A'+B' < 10) = P(A'+B' \leq 9) = 0.4579$$

⑩  $P = \# \text{ of personal emails/hour} \sim P_0(1.8)$

$$B = \# \text{ of business emails/hour} \sim P_0(3.7)$$

$$A = \# \text{ of advertising emails/hour} \sim P_0(1.5)$$

a)  $P' \sim P_0(0.9)$   $B' \sim P_0(1.85)$   $A' \sim P_0(0.75)$

$$P(P' \geq 1 \cap B' \geq 1 \cap A' \geq 1) = (1 - P(P'=0))(1 - P(B'=0))(1 - P(A'=0))$$

$$= (1 - 0.4066)(1 - 0.1572)(1 - 0.4724) = 0.5934 \times 0.8428 \times 0.5276 = 0.2639$$

b)  $P'' \sim P_0(14.4)$   $B'' \sim P_0(29.6)$   $A'' \sim P_0(12)$   $P'' + B'' + A'' \sim P_0(56)$  (8 hours)

$$P(P'' + B'' + A'' > 50) = 1 - P(P'' + B'' + A'' \leq 50) = 1 - 0.2343 = 0.7657$$

c)  $X = \# \text{ of days she receives } > 50 \text{ emails out of 5 days}$

$$X \sim B(5, 0.7657) \quad P(X=2) = 0.07541 \quad \text{BINOMIAL MODEL}$$

How do you know if  $X \sim Po(\lambda)$ ?

How do you know if  $X \sim Po(\lambda)$  is a suitable model?



$E[X] = \text{Var}(X) = \lambda$  ← if satisfied,  $X \sim Po(\lambda)$  or  
can be modelled accurately using  $Po(\lambda)$

(just a sanity check)

Variance reminder:

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{\sum x^2}{n} - \bar{x}^2 \quad (\text{if list of data})$$

$$= \frac{\sum fx^2}{\sum f} - \bar{x}^2 \quad (\text{if given as frequency table})$$

= mean of squares - square of mean

Ex (2E)

③ a)  $\bar{x} = \frac{\sum fx}{\sum f} = \frac{0+19+54+75+76+55+42+21}{8+19+28+25+19+11+7+3} = 2.866$  flaws per piece

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{\sum fx^2}{\sum f} - 2.85^2 = \frac{19+4 \times 28+9 \times 25+16 \times 19+25 \times 11+36 \times 7+49 \times 3}{120} - 2.85^2 \\ = 11.1166 - 2.866^2 = 2.899$$

c) in sample of 120 cloths, frequency of  $\geq 8$  is 0, but it doesn't mean impossible.

b)  $\bar{x} \approx \sigma^2 \quad 2.866 \approx 2.899$

d) let  $X \sim Po(2.899)$  where  $X = \#$  of flaws per cloth

# of cloth with  $\geq 8$  flaws in 10000 pieces of cloth

$$= 10000 \times P(X \geq 8) = 10000 - 10000 \times P(X \leq 7) = 10000 - 10000(0.99013431\dots)$$

$$= 10000 - 9901.3431 = 98.656896\dots \approx 99 \text{ pieces with } \geq 8 \text{ flaws}$$

Back to binomial distribution for a sec...

$$X \sim B(n, p)$$

Expected value of binomial distribution.

$$\begin{aligned} E[X] &= \sum_{x=0}^n x \cdot P(X=x) = \sum_{x=0}^n x \cdot \frac{n!}{x!(n-x)!} p^x (1-p)^{n-x} \\ &= np \sum_{x=1}^n \frac{(n-1)!}{(x-1)!((n-1)-(x-1))!} p^{x-1} (1-p)^{(n-1)-(x-1)} \\ &= np \sum_{x=1}^n {}^{n-1}C_{x-1} p^{x-1} (1-p)^{(n-1)-(x-1)} \quad \text{if } X \sim B(n, p), \\ &= np \sum_{y=0}^{n-1} {}^{n-1}C_y p^y (1-p)^{(n-1)-y} \\ &= np \underbrace{(p + (1-p))^{n-1}}_{=1} = np \end{aligned}$$

$$E[X] = np$$

## Variance of binomial distribution

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[X^2] - (E[X])^2$$

$$E[X(X-1)] = E[X^2 - X] = E[X^2] - E[X]$$

$$\text{Then, } \text{Var}(X) = \underbrace{E[X(X-1)]}_{\text{ }} + E[X] - (E[X])^2$$

$$E[X(X-1)] = \sum_{x=0}^n x(x-1) \frac{n!}{x!(n-x)!} p^x (1-p)^{n-x}$$

$$= n(n-1)p^2 \sum_{x=0}^n \frac{(n-2)!}{(x-2)!.((n-2)-(x-2))!} p^{x-2} (1-p)^{(n-2)-(x-2)}$$

$$= n(n-1)p^2 \sum_{t=0}^{n-2} {}^{n-2}C_t p^t (1-p)^{(n-2)-t}$$

$$= n(n-1)p^2 (p + (1-p))^{n-2} = n(n-1)p^2$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = n^2 p^2 - np^2 + np - n^2 p^2 = np - np^2 = np(1-p)$$

if  $X \sim B(n, p)$ ,  $\text{Var}(X) = np(1-p)$

Why did we go back to binomial distribution?

approximating the binomial distribution using Poisson distribution.

If  $X \sim B(n, p)$ ,  $n$  is large and  $p$  is small,

$X$  can be approximated with  $Po(np)$

For approximation,  $E[X] \approx \text{Var}(X)$   $\xrightarrow{p \text{ is small, } 1-p \approx 1, np \approx np(1-p)}$

$n$  is large,  $np \approx np(1-p)$

$$np \approx np(1-p)$$

How large/small is large/small enough?

" $\sqrt{(\cdot)}$ " the question will hint towards an approximation

" $p \rightarrow 0$  and  $n \rightarrow \infty$  such that  $np$  remains roughly constant"

$$\lim_{\substack{n \rightarrow \infty \\ p \rightarrow 0}} P(X=x) = \lim_{\substack{n \rightarrow \infty \\ p \rightarrow 0}} \frac{n!}{x!(n-x)!} p^x (1-p)^{n-x}$$
$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n!}{x!(n-x)!} \left(\frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^x \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^{n-x}, \text{ where } \lambda = np$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{x}{n}\right)^n &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + x + \frac{n(n+1)x^2}{2! n^2} + \frac{n(n+1)(n+2)x^3}{3! n^3} + \dots\right) \\ &= 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots = e^x \\ (\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (n(n+1)(n+2))) &= n^3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!} \frac{n!}{x!(n-x)! n^x} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^n \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^{-x} \\ &= \frac{\lambda^x}{x!} \underbrace{\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n!}{(n-x)! n^x}\right)}_{\text{tends to what?}} \underbrace{\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^n\right)}_{\text{tends to } e^{-\lambda}} \underbrace{\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^{-x}\right)}_{\text{tends to } 1^{-x} = 1} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{\lambda^x}{x!} e^{-\lambda} \underbrace{\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n!}{(n-x)! n^x}\right)}_{\text{need to show it}} \text{ tends to 1} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{\lambda^x e^{-\lambda}}{x!} \} \text{ Poisson distribution.}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Consider } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n!}{(n-x)! n^x} &- \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n(n-1)\dots(n-(x-1))(n-x)!}{(n-x)! n^x} \\ &= \frac{n^x}{n^x} = 1 \end{aligned}$$

E<sub>x</sub>(2G)

3.  $Y \sim B(200, 0.98)$      $X = 200 - Y$      $X \sim B(200, 0.02)$

b)  $X \sim Po(200 \times 0.02 = 4)$

i means approximately distributed as

$$P(Y=197) \approx P(X=3) = \frac{e^{-4} 4^3}{3!} = 0.195$$

$$P(Y \geq 198) \approx P(X \leq 2) = 0.2381$$