

Probability and Distribution Theory: Exercises 3

1. Assume that the number X of road accidents occurring on a certain stretch of road in a month has a Poisson distribution with parameter λ . Let us also assume that the probability is p that each accident will involve a fatality, independently from one another. Let Y denote the number of fatal accidents on the stretch of road in a month. Derive

- (a) the joint distribution of (X, Y) ,
- (b) the marginal distribution of Y , and
- (c) the conditional distribution of X , given that $Y = 5$.

2. Let X and Y have joint density function

$$f_{(X,Y)}(x, y) = \lambda^2 e^{-\lambda y} \quad \text{for } 0 \leq x \leq y$$

for $\lambda > 0$. Find the conditional density function and expectation of Y given X .

3. Let the pair (X, Y) of random variables have joint distribution function $F(x, y)$. Show that for any $a < b$ and $c < d$ constants,

$$\mathbb{P}(a < X \leq b, c < Y \leq d) = F(b, d) + F(a, c) - F(a, d) - F(b, c).$$

4. The indicator function of an event A is the random variable $\mathbf{1}_A$ defined as

$$\mathbf{1}_A(\omega) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \omega \in A \\ 0 & \text{if } \omega \notin A. \end{cases}$$

Show that two events A and B are independent if and only if their indicator functions $\mathbf{1}_A$ and $\mathbf{1}_B$ are independent random variables.