

## Poisson Distribution

- discrete RV
- support is  $\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$

## Canonical Experiment

Count the number of "events" that occur in some time period

Ex. - capture fish in a river

- count # mRNA molecules in a cell
- radioactive decay

$X \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda)$

↑  
# of events in time interval

↑  
rate of occurrence per time interval

PMF:

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

## Expected Value

$$E[X] = \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{x}{x!} = \frac{\cancel{x}}{x(\cancel{x-1})!} = \frac{1}{(x-1)!}$$

$$E[X] = \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!}$$

$$= \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{(x-1)!}$$

Taylor Series!

$$e^y = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{y^i}{i!}$$

$$= e^{-\lambda} \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^{x+1}}{x!} = \lambda e^{-\lambda} \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!} e^{\lambda}$$

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

$$= \boxed{\lambda = E[X]}$$

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

$$\frac{x(x-1)}{x!} = \frac{\cancel{x}(\cancel{x-1})}{\cancel{x}(\cancel{x-1})(x-2)!} = \frac{1}{(x-2)!}$$

$$= \sum_{x=2}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{(x-2)!}$$

$$= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^{x+2}}{x!} = e^{-\lambda} \lambda^2 \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!} e^{\lambda}$$

$$= e^{-\lambda} e^{\lambda} \lambda^2 = \lambda^2$$

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

$\lambda^2$

$\lambda$

$$\text{So } E[X^2] = \lambda^2 + \lambda$$

$$\text{So } \boxed{E[X^2] = \lambda^2 + \lambda}$$

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

MGF:  $M(t) = E[e^{tx}]$   $(\lambda e^t)^x$

$$= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} \underbrace{e^{tx}}_{\text{green circle}} \underbrace{\frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!}}_{\text{green circle}}$$

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

$$e^{(\lambda e^t)}$$

$$= e^{-\lambda} e^{\lambda e^t}$$

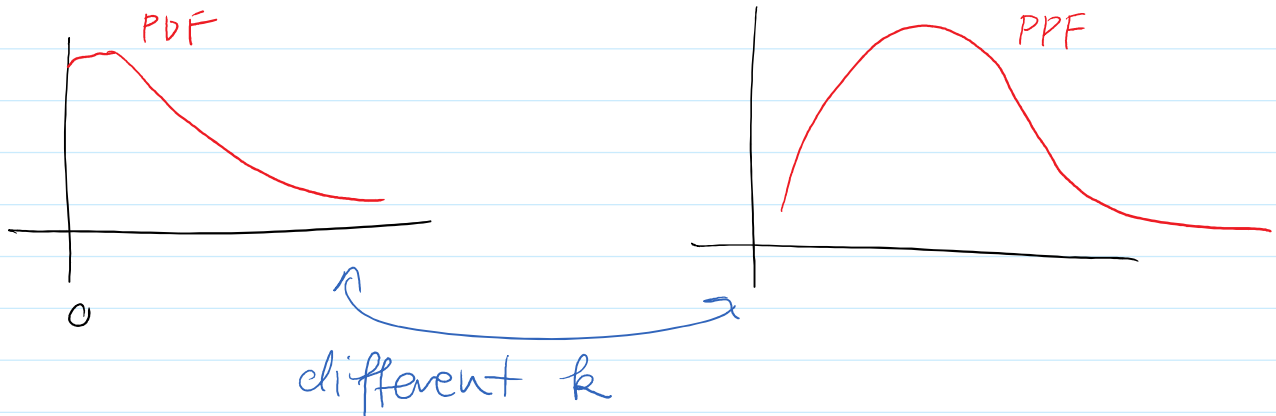
$$= \boxed{\exp(\lambda(e^t - 1)) = M(t)}$$

## Gamma Distribution

- cts distribution w/ support on  $(0, \infty)$
- generalization of  $\text{Exp}(\lambda)$

$$X \sim \text{Gamma}(k, \lambda)$$

↗ shape      ↖ rate



## Gamma Function

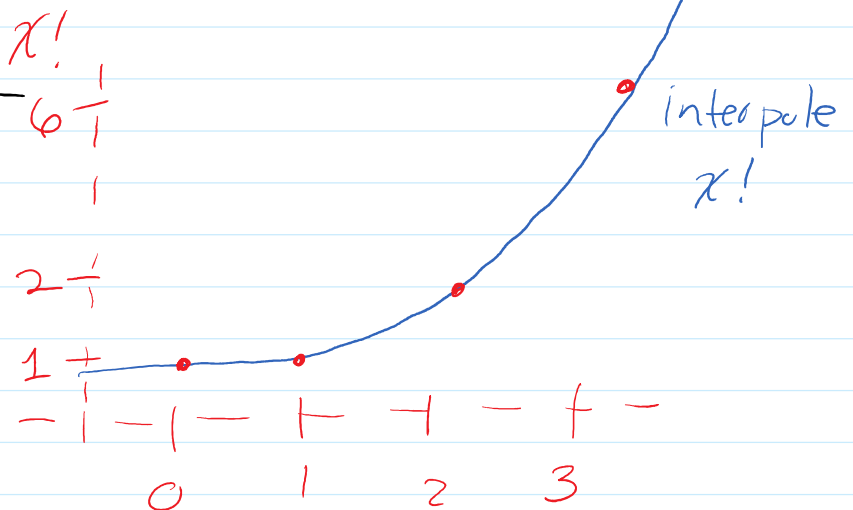
$$\Gamma: \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$$

extends factorial  
(basically)

For  $k \geq 0$

then

$$\Gamma(k) = \int_0^{\infty} x^{k-1} e^{-x} dx$$



0

## Properties:

① If  $k$  is an integer then

$$\Gamma(k) = (k-1)! \quad \text{or} \quad \Gamma(k+1) = k!$$

Notice: if  $k$  is an integer

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma(k) &= (k-1)! = (k-1)(k-2)! \\ &= (k-1)\Gamma(k-1)\end{aligned}$$

or

$$\Gamma(k+1) = k\Gamma(k)$$

② This is generally true:

$k \geq 0$  then

$$\Gamma(k) = (k-1)\Gamma(k-1) \quad \text{or} \quad \Gamma(k+1) = k\Gamma(k).$$

Let  $X \sim \text{Gamma}(k, \lambda)$  then

PDF:  $f(x) = \frac{\lambda e^{-\lambda x} (\lambda x)^{k-1}}{\Gamma(k)} \quad \text{for } x > 0$

Notice: if  $k=1$  then this is  $\text{Exp}(\lambda)$ .

Notice! if  $k=1$  then this is  $\text{Exp}(\lambda)$ .

Expectation:

$$\begin{aligned} E[X] &= \int_0^{\infty} x \frac{\lambda e^{-\lambda x} (\lambda x)^{k-1}}{\Gamma(k)} dx && \leftarrow \underbrace{d \int \text{Gamma PDF}}_1 \\ &= \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\lambda e^{-\lambda x}}{\Gamma(k)} \lambda x^k dx && \leftarrow \text{looks like } \frac{\text{Gamma}(k+1, \lambda)}{\Gamma(k+1)} \\ &= \frac{\Gamma(k+1)}{\Gamma(k) \lambda} \int_0^{\infty} \underbrace{\frac{\lambda e^{-\lambda x} \lambda^{k-1} x^k}{\Gamma(k+1)}}_{\text{PDF}} dx && \leftarrow \text{integrate to 1} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{\Gamma(k+1)}{\Gamma(k)} \frac{1}{\lambda} \quad \text{recall: } \Gamma(k+1) = k \Gamma(k)$$

$$= \frac{k \cancel{\Gamma(k)}}{\cancel{\Gamma(k)}} \frac{1}{\lambda} = \boxed{\frac{k}{\lambda} = E[X]}$$

Consider  $E[X^r]$

$$E[X^r] = \int_0^{\infty} x^r \frac{\lambda e^{-\lambda x} (\lambda x)^{k-1}}{\Gamma(k)} dx \quad \leftarrow \text{looks like a } \boxed{\frac{\text{Gamma}(k+r, \lambda)}{\text{PDF}}} \downarrow \frac{\lambda e^{-\lambda x} (\lambda x)^{k+r-1}}{\Gamma(k+r)}$$

$$P'(k) = \frac{P(k+r)}{P(k)} \frac{1}{\lambda^r} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\lambda e^{-\lambda x} \lambda^{k-1} r^{k+r-1}}{P(k+r)} dx$$

$\frac{\lambda e^{-\lambda x} (\lambda x)^{k+r-1}}{P(k+r)}$

integrates to 1

$$E[X^r] = \frac{P(k+r)}{P(k)} \frac{1}{\lambda^r}$$

$$E[X^2] = \frac{P(k+2)}{P(k)} \frac{1}{\lambda^2} = \frac{(k+1)P(k+1)}{P(k)} \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$$

$$= \frac{(k+1)kP(k)}{P(k)} \frac{1}{\lambda^2} = \frac{k(k+1)}{\lambda^2}$$

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

$$= \frac{k(k+1)}{\lambda^2} - \left(\frac{k}{\lambda}\right)^2 = \dots = \boxed{\frac{k}{\lambda^2}}$$

## Geometric Distribution

### Canonical Experiment

If I flip coins (independently), each w/ a prob

If I flip coins (independently), each w/ a prob  $p$  of H, until I get my first H,

$X$  = # flips to get my first H

outcome	$X$
H	1
TH	2
TTH	3
$\vdots$	$\vdots$

$X \sim \text{Geometric}(p)$

PMF:  $f(x) = (1-p)^{x-1} p$  for  $x=1, 2, 3, \dots$

CDF:  $F(x) = 1 - (1-p)^{\lfloor x \rfloor}$  for  $x \geq 1$

Recall:  $\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} r^i = \frac{1}{1-r}$  for  $|r| < 1$

↪ Geometric Series

Expectation:

$$E[X] = \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x (1-p)^{x-1} p$$

$$= p \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x (1-p)^{x-1}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} r^x = x r^{x-1}$$

↪ looks like

$$-\frac{d}{dp} (1-p)^x$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 &= p \underbrace{\sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x(1-p)}_{\frac{d}{dp} \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} (1-p)^x} - \frac{d}{dp} (1-p) \\
 &= -p \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} \frac{d}{dp} (1-p)^x \\
 &= -p \frac{d}{dp} \underbrace{\sum_{x=1}^{\infty} (1-p)^x}_{\sum_{x=0}^{\infty} (1-p)^{x+1}} \\
 &= -p \frac{d}{dp} \left[ \frac{1-p}{p} \right] \\
 &= -p \left( -\frac{1}{p^2} \right) = \boxed{\frac{1}{p} = E[X]}
 \end{aligned}$$

$\frac{1}{1 - (1-p)} = \frac{1}{p}$

MGF:

$$\begin{aligned}
 M(t) &= E[e^{tx}] = \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} e^{tx} (1-p)^{x-1} p \\
 &= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} e^{t(x+1)} (1-p)^x p \\
 &= p e^t \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} \underbrace{((1-p)^x e^{tx})}_{((1-p)e^t)^x} \\
 &= p e^t \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} ((1-p)e^t)^x \leftarrow \text{Geometric} \\
 &= \underline{p e^t} = M(t) \quad \text{for } (1-p)e^t < 1
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\left| = \frac{p e^t}{1 - (1-p)e^t} = M(t) \right|$$

for  $0 < t < \frac{1}{1-p}$

$$t < -\log(1-p)$$

$$E[X^2] = \frac{d^2 M}{dt^2} \Big|_{t=0} = \frac{2-p}{p^2}$$

$$\text{So } \text{Var}(X) = E[X^2] - E[X]^2 = \frac{2-p}{p^2} - \left(\frac{1}{p}\right)^2$$

$$= \dots = \frac{1-p}{p^2}$$