

MATH 180B: Homework #7

Due on Mar 15, 2024 at 23:59pm

Professor Carfagnini

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Problem 1

Suppose that customers arrive at a facility according to a Poisson process having rate $\lambda = 2$. Let $X(t)$ be the number of customers that have arrived up to time t . Determine the following probabilities and conditional probabilities:

(a) $\Pr\{X(1) = 2\}$.

Proof.

$$\Pr\{X_1 = 2\} = \frac{\lambda^2 e^{-\lambda}}{2!} = 2e^{-2}.$$

□

(b) $\Pr\{X(1) = 2 \text{ and } X(3) = 6\}$.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr\{X_1 = 2 \text{ and } X_3 = 6\} &= \Pr\{X_1 = 2 \text{ and } X_3 - X_1 = 4\} \\ &= \Pr\{X_1 = 2\} \Pr\{X_3 - X_1 = 4\} \\ &= 2e^{-2} \cdot \frac{(2\lambda)^4 e^{-2\lambda}}{4!} \\ &= 2e^{-2} \cdot \frac{32e^{-4}}{3} \\ &= \frac{64e^{-6}}{3}. \end{aligned}$$

□

(c) $\Pr\{X(1) = 2 | X(3) = 6\}$.

Proof. By Theorem 5.6,

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr\{X_1 = 2 | X_3 = 6\} &= \binom{6}{2} \left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{3}\right)^4 \\ &= 15 \cdot \frac{1}{9} \cdot \frac{16}{81} \\ &= \frac{80}{243}. \end{aligned}$$

□

(d) $\Pr\{X(3) = 6 | X(1) = 2\}$.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr\{X_3 = 6 | X_1 = 2\} &= \frac{\Pr\{X_3 - X_1 = 4\} \Pr\{X_1 = 2\}}{\Pr\{X_1 = 2\}} \\ &= \Pr\{X_3 - X_1 = 4\} \\ &= \frac{32e^{-4}}{3}. \end{aligned}$$

□

Problem 2

Shocks occur to a system according to a Poisson process of rate λ . Suppose that the system survives each shock with probability α , independently of other shocks, so that its probability of surviving k shocks is α^k . What is the probability that the system is surviving at time t ?

Proof. Let X_t denote the number of shocks at time t and S_t be the event that the system survives at time t . Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(S_t) &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \Pr\{S_t \mid X_t = k\} \Pr\{X_t = k\} \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \alpha^k \cdot \frac{(t\lambda)^k e^{-t\lambda}}{k!} \\ &= e^{-t\lambda} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\alpha t\lambda)^k}{k!} \\ &= e^{-t\lambda} e^{-\alpha t\lambda} = e^{(\alpha-1)t\lambda}.\end{aligned}$$

□

Problem 3

Determine numerical values to three decimal places for $\Pr\{X = k\}$, $k = 0, 1, 2$, when

- (a) X has a binomial distribution with parameters $n = 20$ and $p = 0.06$.

Proof.

$$\Pr\{X = k\} = \binom{20}{k} (0.06)^k (0.94)^{20-k}.$$

Hence,

$$\Pr\{X = 0\} = 0.290, \quad \Pr\{X = 1\} = 0.370, \quad \Pr\{X = 2\} = 0.225.$$

□

- (b) X has a binomial distribution with parameters $n = 40$ and $p = 0.03$.

Proof.

$$\Pr\{X = k\} = \binom{40}{k} (0.03)^k (0.97)^{40-k}.$$

Hence,

$$\Pr\{X = 0\} = 0.296, \quad \Pr\{X = 1\} = 0.366, \quad \Pr\{X = 2\} = 0.221.$$

□

- (c) X has a Poisson distribution with parameter $\lambda = 1.2$.

Proof.

$$\Pr\{X = k\} = \frac{(1.2)^k e^{-1.2}}{k!}.$$

Hence,

$$\Pr\{X = 0\} = 0.301, \quad \Pr\{X = 1\} = 0.361, \quad \Pr\{X = 2\} = 0.217.$$

□

Problem 4

For $i = 1, \dots, n$, let $\{X_i(t); t \geq 0\}$ be independent Poisson processes, each with the same parameter λ . Find the distribution of the first time that at least one event has occurred in every process.

Proof. Let T denote the first time that at least one event has occurred in every process. Then, the CDF of the desired distribution is

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr\{T < t\} &= \prod_{i=1}^n \Pr\{X_i \geq 1\} \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^n 1 - (t\lambda)^0 e^{-t\lambda} \\ &= (1 - e^{-t\lambda})^n\end{aligned}$$

□

Problem 5

Customers arrive at a certain facility according to a Poisson process of rate λ . Suppose that it is known that five customers arrived in the first hour. Determine the mean total waiting time $E[W_1 + W_2 + \dots + W_5]$.

Proof. We give each customer a label. Let U_k denote the time customer k arrive at the facility. By Theorem 5.7, U_k is of a uniform distribution. Hence,

$$E[W_1 + W_2 + \dots + W_5] = E[U_1 + U_2 + \dots + U_5] = 5E[U_1] = \frac{5}{2}.$$

□

Problem 6

Let W_1, W_2, \dots be the event times in a Poisson process $\{X(t); t \geq 0\}$ of rate λ . Suppose it is known that $X(1) = n$. For $k < n$, what is the conditional density function of $W_1, \dots, W_{k-1}, W_{k+1}, \dots, W_n$, given that $W_k = w$?

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_{W_1, \dots, W_{k-1}, W_{k+1}, \dots, W_n | W_k, X_1=n}(w_1, \dots, w_n | w) \\
 &= f_{W_1, \dots, W_{k-1} | X_w=k-1}(w_1, \dots, w_{k-1}) f_{W_1, \dots, W_{n-k} | X_{1-w}=n-k}(w_1, \dots, w_{n-k}) \\
 &= \frac{(k-1)!}{w^{1-k}} \cdot \frac{(n-k)!}{(1-w)^{k-n}}
 \end{aligned}$$

□

Problem 7

Let W_1, W_2, \dots be the event times in a Poisson process $\{X(t); t \geq 0\}$ of rate λ , and let $f(w)$ be an arbitrary function. Verify that

$$E \left[\sum_{i=1}^{X(t)} f(W_i) \right] = \lambda \int_0^t f(w) dw.$$

Proof. Let U_1, \dots, U_n denote independent random variables that are uniformly distributed in $(0, t]$. By Theorem 5.7,

$$\begin{aligned} E \left[\sum_{i=1}^{X(t)} f(W_i) \right] &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E \left[\sum_{i=1}^n f(W_i) | X(t) = n \right] \Pr\{X(t) = n\} \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} E \left[\sum_{i=1}^n f(U_i) \right] \Pr\{X(t) = n\} \\ &= E[f(U_1)] \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \Pr\{X(t) = n\} \\ &= t\lambda E[f(U_1)] \\ &= t\lambda \int_0^t f(w) \Pr\{U_1 = w\} dw \\ &= \lambda \int_0^t f(w) dw. \end{aligned}$$

□