

# Poisson Process

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- ▶ The index set is the interval  $[0, \infty)$  and all random variables are discrete and take non-negative integer values.

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- ▶ In particular, for all  $s > t$ ,  $N(s) - N(t)$  is independent of  $N(t) - N(0)$
- ▶ The process is said to have stationary increments if  $N(t_2) - N(t_1)$  has the same distribution as  $N(t_2 + \tau) - N(t_1 + \tau)$ ,  $\forall \tau, \forall t_2 > t_1$

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- ▶  $N(t)$  is Poisson with parameter  $\lambda t$
- ▶  $E[N(t)] = \lambda t$  and hence  $\lambda$  is called rate
- ▶ Since the process has stationary increments and  $N(0) = 0$ ,  $(N(t + s) - N(s))$  would be Poisson with parameter  $\lambda t$  for all  $s, t > 0$ .

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- ▶ We will show that both definitions are equivalent

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 \Rightarrow \frac{P_0(t+h) - P_0(t)}{h} &= -\lambda P_0(t) + \frac{o(h)}{h} \\
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- ▶ Next we consider  $P_n(t)$  for  $n > 0$

$$P_n(t+h) = \Pr[N(t+h) = n]$$

$$\begin{aligned}
P_n(t+h) &= \Pr[N(t+h) = n] \\
&= \Pr[N(t) = n, N(t+h) - N(t) = 0] + \\
&\quad \Pr[N(t) = n-1, N(t+h) - N(t) = 1] + \\
&\quad \sum_{k=2}^n \Pr[N(t) = n-k, N(t+h) - N(t) = k]
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- ▶ This completes the proof that Definition 2 implies Definition 1

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# These two definitions are equivalent

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where we assumed  $t_1 < t_2 < t_3$

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$$\Rightarrow R_N(t_1, t_2) = \lambda^2 t_1 t_2 + \lambda \min(t_1, t_2)$$

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- ▶ We could also generate Poisson process by generating independent exponential random variables

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Exercise for you: calculate  $\Pr[S_4 > t | N(1) = 2]$  and use it to find the above expectation

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- ▶ Intuitively reasonable because expected inter-arrival time is  $\frac{1}{\lambda}$

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**Theorem:**  $\{N_1(t), t \geq 0\}$  and  $\{N_2(t), t \geq 0\}$  are Poisson processes with rate  $\lambda p$  and  $\lambda(1 - p)$  respectively, and they are independent

$$Pr[N_1(t) = n, N_2(t) = m]$$

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- ▶ The answer is 3 because the two processes are independent

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- ▶ Then, these are independent Poisson processes with rates  $\lambda p_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, K$

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where we have used independence of  $N_1$  and  $N_2$

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**Theorem;** Then, at any  $t$ ,  $N_i(t), i = 1, \dots, K$  are independent Poisson random variables with

$$E[N_i(t)] = \lambda \int_0^t p_i(s) ds$$

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$$E[N_2(t)] \approx \hat{\lambda} \int_0^t (1 - G(y)) dy$$



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- ▶ Suppose  $Y_i$  are iid and ind of  $N(t)$ . Then

$$X(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{N(t)} Y_i$$

is called a compound Poisson process