

01/27/2026: Discrete Random Variables (Part 1)

CSCI 546: Diffusion Models

Textbook reference: Sec 3.1-3.5

Announcement (Sign-in Sheet)

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Announcement (Office Hours)

My office hours this Thursday need to be changed due to a grant meeting. If you would like to meet on Thursday, please send me an email to set up a time.

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Announcement (Group exercises)

Group exercises will be posted to the course repo after class. Please continue working on what you don't finish in class.

Bayes Law Practice

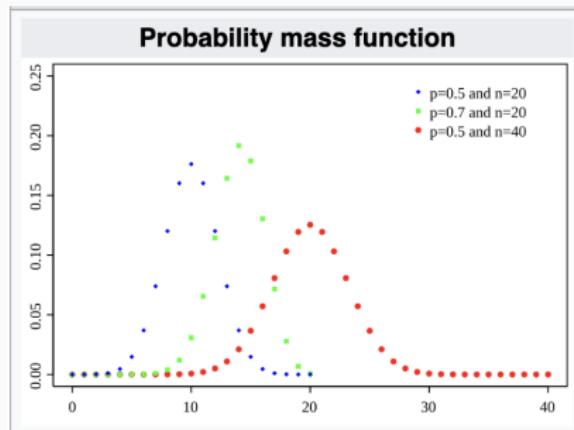
Review Problem Set #3

Binomial Distribution

The **Binomial distribution** with parameters n, p is the discrete probability distribution of the number of successes in a sequence of n independent experiments, each asking a yes-no question, whose outcome is yes (or “success”) with probability p and no (or “failure”) with probability $1 - p$.

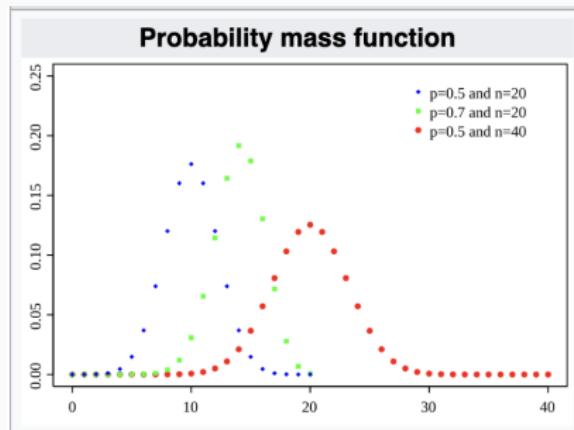
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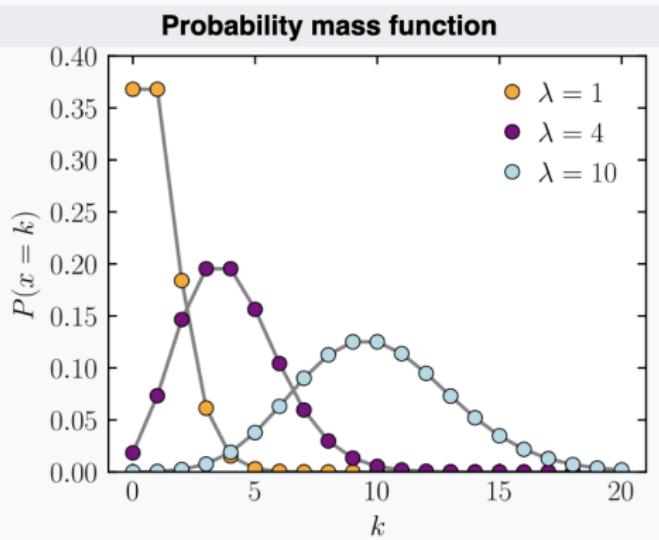
$$P(X = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

Poisson Distribution

The **Poisson distribution** with rate λ is a discrete probability distribution that calculates the likelihood of a certain number of events occurring within a fixed interval of time, assuming the events occur independently.

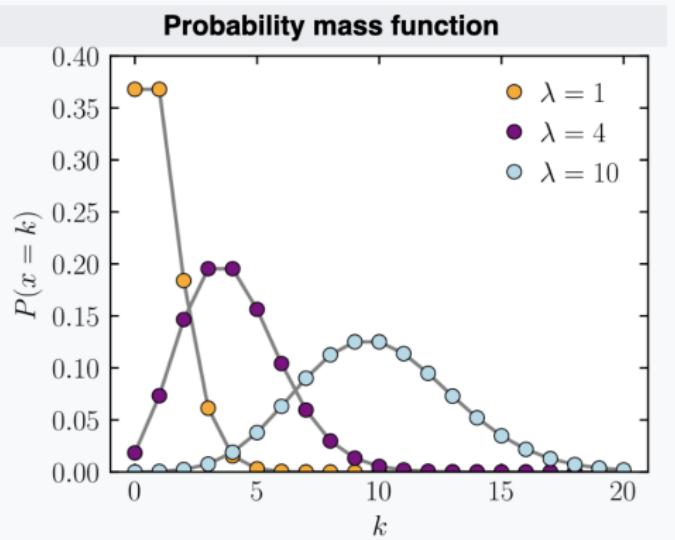
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$$P(X = k) = \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda}$$

Random Groups

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Aubrey Williams: 5 | Jacob Tanner: 4 | Matt Hall: 7 |
| Austin Barton : 2 | Josh Stoneback: 2 | Micah Miller: 4 |
| Blake Sigmundstad: 1 | Joshua Bowen: 3 | Mike Kadoshnikov: 2 |
| Diego Moylan: 6 | Joshua Calwell: 5 | Owen Cool: 6 |
| Dillon Shaffer: 3 | Laura Banaszewski: 1 | Racquel Bowen: 4 |
| Felicia Jayasaputra: 1 | Lina Hammel: 8 | Samuel Mocabee: 5 |
| Ismoiljon Muzaffarov: 7 | Logan Racz: 8 | Tatiana Kirillova: 3 |

Group exercises - Problem Set 4

1. (3.2.1) Let X and Y be independent random variables, each taking the values -1 and 1 with probability $\frac{1}{2}$, and let $Z = XY$. Show that X , Y and Z are pairwise independent. Are they independent?
2. (3.5.2) In your pocket is a random number N of coins, where N has the Poisson distribution with parameter λ . You toss each coin once, with heads showing with probability p each time. Show that the total number of heads has the Poisson distribution with parameter λp .