

Poisson Distribution Proving - 3

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Abstract

This is a LATEX project as well as a poisson distribution project, helping me practice the provings of poisson distributions I have learnt in my days as a statistics student of University of Ilorin.

1 Problem

Let $X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$
where $\lambda > 0$.
Find the variance of X

2 Solution

Before we could solve for the variance of the poisson distribution, we first have to solve for the mean since the $\text{var}(X)$ could be denoted by:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{var}(X) &= E(X^2) - \mu^2 \\ &= E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2\end{aligned}$$

We are also going to note the series expansion of $\exp(a)$ as:

$$\exp(a) = \sum_{y=0}^{\infty} \frac{a^y}{y!}$$

2.1 Solving for Mean

Using the Poisson probability mass function (PMF) formula:

$$f(x) = P(X = x) = \frac{\lambda^x \exp(-\lambda)}{x!}$$

and mean is $E(X)$ given by:

$$\begin{aligned}E(X) &= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x f(x) \\ &= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x \frac{\lambda^x \exp(-\lambda)}{x!}\end{aligned}$$

We spread out the summation:

$$\begin{aligned}&= \frac{(1\lambda^1 \exp(-\lambda))}{1!} + \frac{(2\lambda^2 \exp(-\lambda))}{2!} + \frac{(3\lambda^3 \exp(-\lambda))}{3!} + \frac{(4\lambda^4 \exp(-\lambda))}{4!} + \dots + \\ &\quad \frac{(\infty\lambda^\infty \exp(-\lambda))}{\infty!}\end{aligned}$$

Simplifying the expression:

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \lambda \exp(-\lambda) + \lambda^2 \exp(-\lambda) + \lambda^3 \exp(-\lambda) + \cdots + \lambda^\infty \exp(-\lambda) \\
&= \lambda \exp(-\lambda) \left(1 + \lambda + \frac{\lambda^2}{2!} + \frac{\lambda^3}{3!} + \frac{\lambda^4}{4!} + \cdots\right) \\
&= \lambda \exp(-\lambda) \exp(\lambda) \\
&= \lambda \exp(-\lambda + \lambda) \\
&= \lambda
\end{aligned}$$

2.2 Solving for Variance

Using the Poisson probability mass function (PMF) formula stated in section 2 above:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Var}(X) &= E((X - \mu)^2) \\
&= E(X^2) - \mu^2
\end{aligned}$$

And as we've solved in the equation of mean above, $\mu = \lambda$, thus:

$$= E(X^2) - \lambda^2$$

We need to calculate $E(X^2)$ first.

$$\begin{aligned} E(X^2) &= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x^2 f(x) \\ &= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x^2 \frac{\lambda^x \exp(-\lambda)}{x!} \end{aligned}$$

you'll agree with me

$$x^2 = x(x-1) + x$$

$$\begin{aligned} E(x^2) &= E(x(x-1) + x) \\ &= E(x(x-1)) + E(x) \end{aligned}$$

and as we've already established $E(x) = \lambda$
so we'll focus on the first part: $E(x(x-1))$

$$\begin{aligned} E(x(x-1)) &= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x(x-1) \frac{\lambda^x \exp(-\lambda)}{x!} \\ &= \exp(-\lambda) \lambda^2 \sum_{x=2}^{\infty} x(x-1) \frac{\lambda^{x-2}}{(x-2)!} \end{aligned}$$

let $y = x - 2$ so,

$$= \exp(-\lambda) \lambda^2 \sum_{y=0}^{\infty} x(x-1) \frac{\lambda^y}{y!}$$

and once again we have our exponential expansion series

$$\begin{aligned} &= \exp(-\lambda) \lambda^2 \exp(\lambda) \\ &= \lambda^2 \exp(-\lambda + \lambda) \\ &= \lambda^2 \exp(0) \end{aligned}$$

$$E(x(x-1)) = \lambda^2$$

then bringing it back up to x^2

$$E(x^2) = E(x(x-1) + x) = E(x(x-1)) + E(x) = \lambda^2 + \lambda$$

and back to variance

substituting this back into the variance formula:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(X) &= E(X^2) - \lambda^2 \\ &= \lambda^2 + \lambda - (\lambda)^2 \\ &= \lambda \end{aligned}$$

Finally, substituting this back into the variance formula:

So, the variance of a Poisson distribution with parameter λ is too.

3 References:

- [1]https://proofwiki.org/wiki/Power_series_expansion_for_exponential_function
- [2]<http://www.math.com/tables/expansion/exp.htm>
- [3]https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discrete_cosine_transform.
- [4]...
- [5]....
- [6]<https://www.overleaf.com>.