

QSCI 381 HW 3

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1 Define the following:

1. (2 points) Independent events (requires both a written definition and mathematical formulas – several are possible).

Two events are independent if one event (A) does not affect another event (B)

$$P\{A|B\} = P\{A\}$$

$$P\{B|A\} = P\{B\}$$

$$P\{A, B\} = P\{A\} \cdot P\{B\}$$

2. (2 points) Mutually exclusive events (requires both a written definition and mathematical formulas – several are possible).

Two events are mutually exclusive if they cannot occur at the same time. The probability of two events occurring must be zero

Example

Let $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ and $B = \{3, 4, 5, 6\}$, then draw numbers one at a time at random. We see:

$$P\{A\} = 1/4 \quad ; \quad P\{B\} = 1/4 \quad ; \quad P\{A, B\} = \frac{1}{3} \neq 0$$

The probability of A and B occurring at the same time is non-zero, so events A and B are not mutually exclusive

3. (3 points) For the binomial distribution:

- (a) (1 point) What are the assumptions we make to use it as a model for the outcome of an experiment?

- i. Each trial has two possible outcomes**
- ii. Each trial is independent**
- iii. Each outcome has the same probability occurring in each trial**

- (b) (1 point) What are the parameters (define them in writing), expected value, and standard deviation of the binomial distribution?

- **Parameters: n = number of trials; p = probability of outcome**
- **Expected value is mean of the distribution for variable X. It is the product of the number of trials and probability of X occurring.**
- **Standard Deviation is a measure of the spread of data, it is an indicator of how close a value is to the expected value. It is the square root of the product of number of trials (n), probability of X ($P\{X\}$), and $(1 - P\{x\})$**

- (c) (1 point) What is the formula for the probability of getting x successes in n independent trials with probability p of success on each trial?

$$P\{x\} = \sum_n^x \binom{n}{x} \cdot p^x \cdot [1 - p^{(n-x)}]$$

4. (4 points) For the Poisson distribution:

- (a) (2 points) What are the assumptions we make to use it as a model for the outcome of an experiment?

- i. **Number of events can be counted.**
- ii. **Events occur independently.**
- iii. **Event occurrence rate is calculable.**
- iv. **Timing of events does not coincide.**

- (b) (1 point) What is the parameter (define it in writing), expected value, and standard deviation of the Poisson distribution?

Answer

- (c) (1 point) What is the formula for the probability of the number of times, x , an event occurs in a given interval of time, length, or volume?

Answer

5. (6 points) For the normal distribution:

- (a) (4 points) What are the four properties of the normal distribution?

- **Mean = Median = Mode**
- **symmetric about mean**
- **$|Skewness|$ and $|Kurtosis| < 1.96$**
- **68.25% of data falls in 1σ , 95% within 2σ , and 99% of data within 3σ .**

- (b) (1 point) What are the parameters of the normal distribution?

- **Mean**
- **Standard Deviation**

- (c) (1 point) What is the formula for the probability distribution (probability density function) of a normally distributed random variable?

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

6. (5 points) Which of the following random variables are discrete and which are continuous?

- (a) The number of students in a section of a statistics course.

discrete

- (b) The air pressure in an automobile tire.

continuous

- (c) The number of osprey chicks living in a nest.

discrete

(d) The weight in kg of bear cubs.

continuous

(e) The miles per gallon of randomly selected vehicles on a highway.

discrete

7. (2 points) Is the following a binomial experiment? Why or why not?

A committee of 8 men and 3 women wish to select a chairperson and a recorder. They do this by placing their names in a hat and draw two names; the first person whose name is drawn will be the chairperson and the second will become the recorder. We then ask: What is the probability that both positions will be held by women?

No, this is not a binomial experiment, at least not yet. We would need to set up multiple trials and define the possible outcomes. Possible outcomes being (A) both positions are fulfilled by women or (B) at least one man is chosen.