

## 25 Continuous Probability

- **continuous r.v.**: a r.v. whose # can be any number on an entire interval on a # line

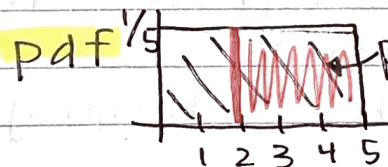
PMF are hard, so we use **Prob. Density Fxn.**

Ex. Train problem, leaves every 5 min., what is the prob. we will wait more than 2 min?

$X \equiv$  amt. of time we wait for train (mins) **continuous**  
 $Y \equiv$  the # of mins (rounded up) we wait for next train **discrete**  
 support for  $Y = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$   
 support for  $X = [0, 5]$

**pmf** for  $Y$

$y$	1	2	3	4	5
$P(y)$	$1/5$	$1/5$	$1/5$	$1/5$	$1/5$



prob = 1

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 1/5 & 0 \leq x \leq 5 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Density b/c  $\infty$  # of #s in our support - gets impossible to 'spread' a finite probability

Density fxn - think of it the same way that you do a density of metals - we need interval to calculate a prob. mass.

**Uniform Dist.** - has same prob. blt any 2 intervals of the same length

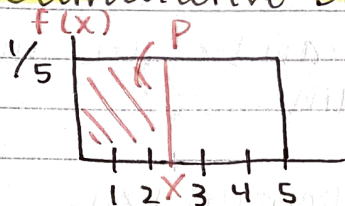
$$X \sim U(0, 5)$$

$$P(X \geq 2) = 1 - P(X \leq 2)$$

uses the CDF

$$P(X \geq 2) = \int_2^5 \underbrace{1/5}_{\text{density}} dx = \underbrace{\frac{1}{5}x \Big|_2^5}_{\text{mass}} = 1 - \frac{2}{5} = \frac{3}{5}$$

## Cumulative Dist. Fxn (cdf)



$$P(X \leq x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(y) dy = \int_{-\infty}^0 0 dy + \int_0^x \frac{1}{5} dy = \frac{1}{5}x = F(x)$$

$$1 - F(2) = 1 - \frac{1}{5}(2) = 1 - \frac{2}{5} = \frac{3}{5} \checkmark$$

## Expected Value

$$E(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x \cdot f(x) dx = \int_0^5 x \cdot \frac{1}{5} dx = \frac{1}{5} \frac{x^2}{2} \Big|_0^5 = \frac{5}{2}$$

$$E(X^2) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot f(x) dx = \int_0^5 x^2 \cdot \frac{1}{5} dx = \frac{1}{5} \frac{x^3}{3} \Big|_0^5 = \frac{25}{3}$$

## Variance

$$V(X) = E(X^2) - [E(X)]^2 = \frac{25}{3} - \left(\frac{5}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{25}{12}$$

## Poisson Process

a stochastic process  $\{N(t), t \geq 0\}$  is said to be a counting process if  $N(t)$  represents the total # of events that occur up to time  $t$ .  
 → most important stochastic process having

can be verified rate  $\alpha, \alpha > 0$  if:

by our knowledge)  $N(0) = 0$  - the counting process begins  $t=0$   
 of the problem 2) the process has independent increments

3) total # of events in any interval of length  $t$  is Poisson Dist. with  $\mu = \alpha t$

$$P(N(t+s) - N(t) = n) = \frac{e^{-\alpha t} (\alpha t)^n}{n!}$$

$x$ -event occurs  
 $s$   $s+t$

$X \equiv$  the # of events that occur in the time length  $t$   
 interval  $t$

$N(t)$  number of events

$X \sim \text{Poisson}(\alpha t)$

→ only parameter, rate · time = mean

$$P(X = x) = \frac{e^{-\alpha t} (\alpha t)^x}{x!}$$



X	0	1	2	...
$p(x) = \frac{e^{-\lambda t} (\lambda t)^x}{x!}$	$\frac{e^{-\lambda t} (\lambda t)^0}{0!}$	$\frac{e^{-\lambda t} (\lambda t)^1}{1!}$	$\frac{e^{-\lambda t} (\lambda t)^2}{2!}$	
$P(X=x)$	$0!$	$1!$	$2!$	

EX. customers arrive at ice cream parlor, rate  $\lambda = 2/\text{hr}$

a) prob. no one shows b/t 3 and 4 PM? give pmf

$X \equiv \#$  of customers that visit parlor b/t 2 PM + 3 PM

$X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda \cdot 1)$

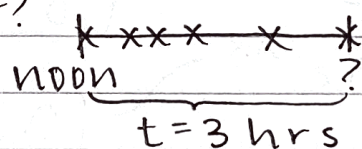
$$P(X=0) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} (\lambda)^0}{0!} = e^{-\lambda} = 0.135335$$

$\text{dpois}(0, 2 \cdot 1)$   $0!$

$\lambda = 2$   $t = 1 \text{ hr}$   
 $N(t)$  expect 2/hr

• pmf for many possibilities **SEER**

b) starting at noon what is the expected time of the 6th customer?



$$\lambda \cdot t = 6 \quad t = 3$$

c) prob 2 or more visit b/t 6 PM and 8 PM? pmf and cdf



$X \equiv \#$  of customers b/t 6 and 8 ( $t = 2 \text{ hrs}$ )

$X \sim \text{Pois}(2 \cdot 2)$

Note: parameter  $\mu = 2 \cdot 2$  changed from last problem

$$P(X \geq 2) = 1 - P(X \leq 1) = 1 - [P(X=0) + P(X=1)]$$

$$1 - \left[ \frac{4^0 e^{-4}}{0!} + \frac{4^1 e^{-4}}{1!} \right] = 1 - 5e^{-4} = 0.908422$$

**SEER**

df of  $p_X$  and  $F_X$

What is the time between occurrences?

- Assume Poisson process, rate  $= \lambda$ , for counting process  
 - when no one comes in

-  $W \equiv$  time until next event,  $F(W) = P(W \leq w) = 1 - P(W > w)$

$1 - P(W \geq w)$  if we are assuming the next event, then no event has occurred up to that time  $w$

Define another r.v.

$X \equiv$  the # of events in time  $w$

$P(X=0) \quad X \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda w)$

$$\hookrightarrow \frac{(\lambda w)^0 e^{-\lambda w}}{0!} = e^{-\lambda w} = P(W \geq w)$$

$t = \text{length } w = w$

$$F(w) = 1 - e^{-\lambda w}$$

This is the cdf for an exponential with a rate of  $\lambda$  Exponential( $\lambda$ )

Exponential Distn. ( $\lambda$ )

$X \sim \exp(\lambda)$

cdf  $F(x) = 1 - e^{-\lambda x}$

pdf  $f(x) = F'(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}$

$$\begin{cases} 1 - e^{-\lambda x}, & x \geq 0 \\ 0, & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \lambda e^{-\lambda x}, & x \geq 0 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$E(X) = \int_0^{\infty} x \cdot \lambda e^{-\lambda x} = \text{I.B.P} = 1/\lambda$$

$$V(X) = 1/\lambda^2 \quad \sigma = 1/\lambda$$

$E(X)$  is the same as S.D. for Exponential

EX: Burger King, Poisson, rate 400/day

prob. no arrivals next 5 min?

Exponential Dist.

$X \equiv$  the time of the next arrival

$$X \sim \exp\left(\frac{400 \text{ cust.}}{\text{day}} \cdot \frac{1}{24 \text{ hr}} \cdot \frac{1 \text{ hr}}{60 \text{ min}}\right) \sim \exp(0.2778)$$

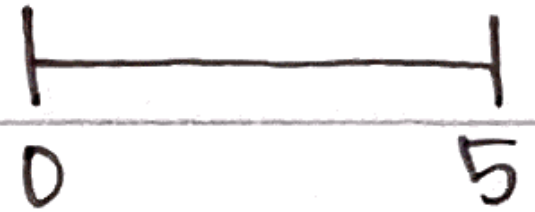
$$P(X \geq 5) = 1 - P(X \leq 5) = 1 - [1 - e^{-0.2778 \cdot 5}] = 0.249$$



$$5 \text{ min} = 0.003472 \text{ days}$$

## Poisson Process

$X \equiv \# \text{ of arrivals in next 5 mins}$



$$X \sim \text{Poisson}(400 \cdot t)$$

$$X \sim \text{Poisson}(400 \cdot 0.003472)$$

$$X \sim \text{Poisson}(1.389)$$

$$P(X=0) = \frac{(1.389)^0 e^{-1.389}}{0!} = e^{-1.389} = 0.249$$

- Normal Dist.

$$X \sim N(\mu, \sigma)$$

$$\mu = E(X)$$

$$\sigma = \sqrt{V(X)}$$