Question : Let $N(t)_{t\geq 0}$ be a Poisson process with rate 1. Consider the following statements.

(a) $pr\left(N(3)=3|N(5)=5\right)={}^5C_3\left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^3\left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^2$
(b) If S_5 denotes the time of occurrence of the 5^{th} event for the above Poisson process,then $E(S_5|N(5)=3)=7$

Which of the above statements is/are true?

(i) only (a)
(ii) only (b)
(iii) Both (a) and (b)
(iv) Neither (a) and (b)

Solution:

(a) Using the Poisson probability formula,

$$prN(t)=k=\frac{k!(\lambda t)^k e^{-\lambda t}}{k!} \tag{1}$$

$$\tag{2}$$

here λ is 1

$$pr\left(N(t)=k\right)=\frac{k!(t)^k e^{-t}}{k!} \tag{3}$$

$$pr\left(N(3)=3\right)=\frac{3!(3)^3 e^{-3}}{3!} \tag{4}$$

$$pr\left(N(5)=5\right)=\frac{5!(5)^5 e^{-5}}{5!} \tag{5}$$

From conditional probability,

$$pr\left(N(k)=k|N(n)=n\right)=\frac{\frac{k!(k)^k e^{-k}}{k!}\frac{(n-k)!(n-k)^{n-k}e^{-(n-k)}}{(n-k)!}}{\frac{n!(n)^n e^{-n}}{n!}} \tag{6}$$

$$pr\left(N(3)=3|N(5)=5\right)=\frac{\frac{3!(3)^3e^{-3}}{3!}\frac{2!(2)^2e^{-2}}{2!}}{\frac{5!(5)^5e^{-5}}{5!}} \tag{7}$$

$$=\frac{(3)^3(2)^2}{(5)^5}\frac{5!}{3!2!} \tag{8}$$

$$={}^5C_3\left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^3\left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^2 \tag{9}$$

Hence statement (a) is true.

(b) The expected value $E(S_n)$ of the time at which the n_{th} event occurs in a Poisson process with rate λ is

$$E(S_2)=\frac{n}{\lambda} \tag{10}$$

The conditional expectation $E(S_n|N(t)=x)$ represents the expected time at which the n^{th} event occurs given that exactly x events have occurred in the first t units of time in a Poisson process with rate λ is given by.

$$E(S_n|N(t)=x)=t+E(S_{n-x}) \tag{11}$$

By the law of total expectation,

$$E(S_n|N(t)=x)=E(E(S_n|N(t)=x,N(t))) \tag{12}$$

$$=E(E(S_x+S_{n-x}|N(t)=x,N(t)=x)) \tag{13}$$

$$=E(E(S_x+S_{n-x}|N(t)=x)) \tag{14}$$

$$=E(t+E(S_{n-x})) \tag{15}$$

$$=E(t)+E(E(S_{n-x})) \tag{16}$$

$$=t+E(S_{n-x}) \tag{17}$$

From above result,

$$E(S_5|N(5)=3)=5+E(S_2) \tag{18}$$

$$=5+2 \tag{19}$$

$$=7 \tag{20}$$

Hence statement (b) is true.

Both (a) and (b) are true.