

Assignment 4

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Question

For a Poisson random variable X with parameter λ show that

$$(a) \Pr(0 < X < 2\lambda) > \frac{(\lambda - 1)}{\lambda} \quad (1)$$

$$(b) E[X(X - 1)] = \lambda^2 \quad (2)$$

$$(c) E[X(X - 1)(X - 2)] = \lambda^3 \quad (3)$$

Solution

Given X is a Poisson random variable so,

$$\Pr(X = x) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \cdot \lambda^x}{x!} \quad (4)$$

$$E(X) = \lambda \quad (5)$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \sigma_X^2 = \lambda \quad (6)$$

(a)

(a) From Chebyshev's inequality we know that,
for any $\epsilon > 0$

$$\Pr(|X - \eta| \geq \epsilon) \leq \frac{\sigma_X^2}{\epsilon^2} \quad (7)$$

Also by definition of probability,

$$\Pr(|X - \eta| \geq \epsilon) + \Pr(|X - \eta| < \epsilon) = 1 \quad (8)$$

Substituting 8 in 7 the inequality becomes,

$$\Pr(|X - \eta| < \epsilon) > 1 - \frac{\sigma_X^2}{\epsilon^2} \quad (9)$$

Since this is Poisson distribution,

$$\eta = \lambda \quad (10)$$

$$\sigma_X^2 = \lambda \quad (11)$$

$$\epsilon = \lambda \quad (12)$$

Substituting values in the equation.

$$\Pr(|X - \lambda| < \lambda) > 1 - \frac{\lambda}{\lambda^2} \quad (13)$$

$$\Rightarrow \Pr(|X - \lambda| < \lambda) > 1 - \frac{1}{\lambda} \quad (14)$$

$$\Rightarrow \Pr(0 < X < 2\lambda) > 1 - \frac{1}{\lambda} \quad (15)$$

Hence proved.

(b)

(b) To show,

$$E[X(X-1)] = \lambda^2 \quad (16)$$

Let's use the definitions,

$$E[X] = \sum_{x=0}^{x=\infty} x \frac{e^{-\lambda} \cdot \lambda^x}{x!} \quad (17)$$

Also one of the properties of mean is that,

$$E[g(x)] = \sum_{x=0}^{x=\infty} g(x) \frac{e^{-\lambda} \cdot \lambda^x}{x!} \quad (18)$$

Here $g(x) = x(x - 1)$ substituting it,

$$E[X(X - 1)] = \sum_{x=2}^{x=\infty} x(x - 1) \frac{e^{-\lambda} \cdot \lambda^x}{x!} \quad (19)$$

$$\Rightarrow E[X(X - 1)] = e^{-\lambda} \lambda^2 \sum_{x=2}^{x=\infty} \frac{\lambda^{x-2}}{(x - 2)!} \quad (20)$$

We know that by Taylors expansion,

$$e^x = \sum_{k=0}^{k=\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!} \quad (21)$$

Which is same as

$$e^\lambda = \sum_{x=2}^{x=\infty} \frac{\lambda^{x-2}}{(x-2)!} \quad (22)$$

Substituting it,

$$E[X(X-1)] = e^{-\lambda} \lambda^2 e^{-\lambda} \quad (23)$$

$$\Rightarrow E[X(X-1)] = \lambda^2 \quad (24)$$

Hence proved

(c)

(c) using the above results we get

$$E[X(X-1)(X-2)] = \sum_{x=3}^{x=\infty} x(x-1)(x-2) \frac{e^{-\lambda} \cdot \lambda^x}{x!} \quad (25)$$

$$E[X(X-1)(X-2)] = e^{-\lambda} \lambda^3 \sum_{x=2}^{x=\infty} \frac{\lambda^{x-3}}{(x-3)!} \quad (26)$$

$$E[X(X-1)(X-2)] = e^{-\lambda} \lambda^3 e^{-\lambda} \quad (27)$$

$$\Rightarrow E[X(X-1)(X-2)] = \lambda^3 \quad (28)$$

Hence proved