

# The Poisson process

Stat 561

11-4-25

Let  $f(n, h)$  be the probability  
of seeing exactly  $n$  occurrences  
of a particular type in a time interval  
of length  $h$ .

①

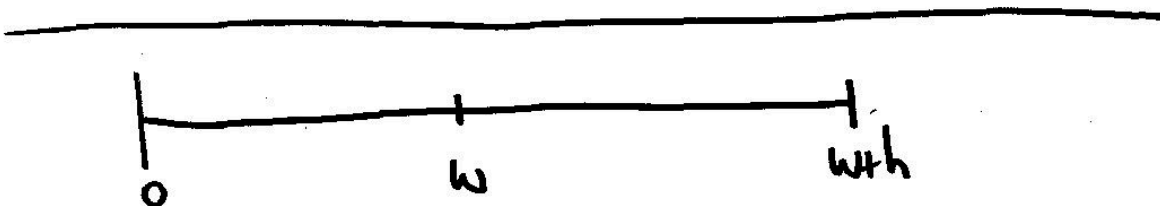
$$① \quad f(1, h) = \lambda h + o(h)$$

[Note: a function  $g(h)$  is  $o(h)$   
if  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(h)}{h} = 0$ ]

$$② \quad \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} f(n, h) = o(h)$$

②

③ occurrences in disjoint time intervals  
are independent



$$f(0, w+h) = f(0, w) \cdot f(0, h) \quad \text{by } ③$$

Also,

(3)

$$\begin{aligned}f(0, h) &= 1 - \left[ f(1, h) + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} f(n, h) \right] \\&= 1 - \left[ \underbrace{\lambda h + o(h)}_{\textcircled{1}} + \underbrace{o(h)}_{\textcircled{2}} \right] \\&= 1 - \lambda h + o(h)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{So } f(0, w+h) &= f(0, w) [1 - \lambda h + o(h)] \\&= f(0, w) + f(0, w) [-\lambda h + o(h)]\end{aligned}$$

(4)

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(0, w+h) - f(0, w)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(0, w) [-\lambda h + o(h)]}{h}$$

$$\frac{\partial f(0, w)}{\partial w} = -\lambda f(0, w)$$

$$\int \frac{\partial f(0, w)}{f(0, w)} = \int -\lambda \, dw$$

$$\ln f(0, w) = -\lambda w + c$$

$$f(0, w) = e^{-\lambda w + c}$$

$$f(0,0) = 1 \Rightarrow$$

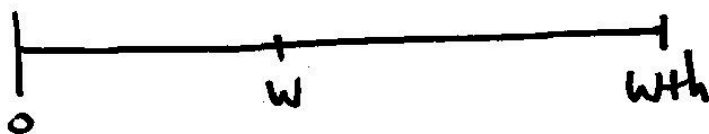
⑤

$$1 = e^{-\lambda \cdot 0 + c}$$

$$\Rightarrow c = 0$$

$$\text{So } f(0,w) = e^{-\lambda w}$$

Suppose  $\kappa = 1$



$$f(1, w+h) = f(1, w) \cdot f(0, h) + f(0, w) \cdot f(1, h)$$

Generalize this for  $\kappa \geq 1$ :

⑥

$$\begin{aligned} f(\kappa, w+h) &= P[\kappa \text{ in } w \cap 0 \text{ in } h] \\ &\quad + \\ &\quad P[\kappa-1 \text{ in } w \cap 1 \text{ in } h] \\ &\quad + \\ &\quad \vdots \\ &\quad P[0 \text{ in } w \cap \kappa \text{ in } h] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= f(\kappa, w) f(0, h) + f(\kappa-1, w) f(1, h) \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=2}^{\kappa} f(\kappa-i, w) f(i, h) \end{aligned}$$

⑦

$$\begin{aligned} &= f(n, w) [1 - \lambda h + o(h)] \\ &\quad + f(n-1, w) [\lambda h + o(h)] \\ &\quad + o(h) \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{f(n, w+h) - f(n, w)}{h} = \frac{f(n, w) [-\lambda h + o(h)] + f(n-1, w) [\lambda h + o(h)] + o(h)}{h}$$

Take  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0}$

⑧

$$\frac{\partial f(n, w)}{\partial w} = -\lambda f(n, w) + \lambda f(n-1, w)$$

for  $n \geq 1$

(9)

 $\lambda=1$  case:

$$\frac{\partial f(l, w)}{\partial w} = -\lambda f(l, w) + \lambda \underbrace{f(0, w)}_{e^{-\lambda w}}$$

$$e^{\lambda w} \frac{\partial f(l, w)}{\partial w} = -\lambda e^{\lambda w} f(l, w) + \lambda$$

$$e^{\lambda w} \frac{\partial f(l, w)}{\partial w} + \lambda e^{\lambda w} f(l, w) = \lambda$$

$$\frac{d}{dw} [e^{\lambda w} f(l, w)] = \lambda$$

(10)

$$e^{\lambda w} f(l, w) = \lambda w + c$$

$$f(l, w) = \lambda w e^{-\lambda w} + c e^{-\lambda w}$$

$$\text{Use } f(l, 0) = 0$$

$$\therefore \underset{0}{f(l, 0)} = 0 + c$$

$$\underline{c=0}$$

$$\text{So } \underline{f(l, w) = \lambda w e^{-\lambda w}}$$

(11)

 $k=2$  case:

$$\frac{\partial f(2, w)}{\partial w} = -\lambda f(2, w) + \underbrace{\lambda f(1, w)}_{\lambda w e^{-\lambda w}}$$

$$e^{\lambda w} \frac{\partial f(2, w)}{\partial w} + \lambda e^{\lambda w} f(2, w) = \lambda^2 w$$

$$\frac{d}{dw} [e^{\lambda w} f(2, w)] = \lambda^2 w$$

$$e^{\lambda w} f(2, w) = \lambda^2 \frac{w^2}{2} + C$$

$$f(2, w) = \frac{\lambda^2 w^2}{2} e^{-\lambda w} + C e^{-\lambda w}$$

(12)

Use  $f(2, 0) = 0$

$$0 = f(2, 0) = 0 + C \quad \therefore C = 0$$

$$f(2, w) = \frac{\lambda^2 w^2}{2} e^{-\lambda w}$$

Summary:  $f(0, w) = e^{-\lambda w}$

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

$$f(2, w) = \frac{(\lambda w)^2}{2} e^{-\lambda w}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$f(k, w) = \frac{(\lambda w)^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda w}$$

You usually see this as

$$f_X(x) = \frac{(\lambda t)^x e^{-\lambda t}}{x!}$$

(13)

$$\text{or } f_X(x) = \frac{\mu^x e^{-\mu}}{x!} \quad N=0,1,2,\dots$$

This is the Poisson Distribution

---

$$\begin{aligned} \text{check } 1 &\stackrel{?}{=} \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} \frac{\mu^x e^{-\mu}}{x!} = e^{-\mu} \underbrace{\left(1 + \mu + \frac{\mu^2}{2!} + \dots\right)}_{e^{\mu}} \\ &= 1 \quad \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

$$M_X(t) = E[e^{tX}]$$

(14)

$$= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} e^{tx} \frac{\mu^x e^{-\mu}}{x!}$$

$$= e^{-\mu} \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\mu e^t)^x}{x!}$$

$$= e^{-\mu} e^{\mu e^t} = e^{\mu(e^t - 1)}$$

$$M'_X(t) = e^{\mu(e^t - 1)} \mu e^t$$

(15)

$$M_x''(t) = \mu \left[ e^{\mu(e^t-1)} e^t + e^t e^{\mu(e^t-1)} \mu e^t \right]$$

$$E[X] = M_x'(0) = \mu$$

$$E[X^2] = M_x''(0) = \mu[1 + \mu] = \mu + \mu^2$$

$$\sigma^2 = \mu + \mu^2 - \mu^2 = \mu$$



- 3.2** A manufacturer receives a lot of 100 parts from a vendor. The lot will be unacceptable if more than five of the parts are defective. The manufacturer is going to select randomly  $K$  parts from the lot for inspection and the lot will be accepted if no defective parts are found in the sample.
- (a) How large does  $K$  have to be to ensure that the probability that the manufacturer accepts an unacceptable lot is less than .10?
  - (b) Suppose the manufacturer decides to accept the lot if there is at most one defective in the sample. How large does  $K$  have to be to ensure that the probability that the manufacturer accepts an unacceptable lot is less than .10?
- 3.7** Let the number of chocolate chips in a certain type of cookie have a Poisson distribution. We want the probability that a randomly chosen cookie has at least two chocolate chips to be greater than .99. Find the smallest value of the mean of the distribution that ensures this probability.
- 3.13** A *truncated* discrete distribution is one in which a particular class cannot be observed and is eliminated from the sample space. In particular, if  $X$  has range  $0, 1, 2, \dots$  and the 0 class cannot be observed (as is usually the case), the 0-truncated random variable  $X_T$  has pmf

$$P(X_T = x) = \frac{P(X = x)}{P(X > 0)}, \quad x = 1, 2, \dots$$

Find the pmf, mean, and variance of the 0-truncated random variable starting from

- (a)  $X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$ .
  - (b)  $X \sim \text{negative binomial}(r, p)$ , as in (3.2.10).
- 3.17** Establish a formula similar to (3.3.18) for the gamma distribution. If  $X \sim \text{gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$ , then for any positive constant  $\nu$ ,

$$EX^\nu = \frac{\beta^\nu \Gamma(\nu + \alpha)}{\Gamma(\alpha)}.$$