

$N(t)$ counting process counting events in $(0, t]$

Poisson process rate λ

$$(i) N(0) = 0$$

(ii) $\{N(s), s \geq 0\}$ independent increments

$$(iii) P(N(t+h) - N(t) = 1) = \lambda h + o(h)$$

$$(iv) P(N(t+h) - N(t) \geq 2) = o(h)$$

Define the random variables T_1, T_2, \dots as follows. T_1 is the time of first event, and T_n is the time between the $(n-1)$ th and n th event.

$\{T_n, n \geq 1\}$ is called the sequence of interarrival times

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Distribution of T_n ?

$$\{T_i > t\} \Leftrightarrow \{\text{no event in } (0, t]\}$$

$$\therefore P(T_i > t) = \frac{(\lambda t)^0}{0!} e^{-\lambda t} = e^{-\lambda t}$$

$$\therefore T_i \sim \text{Exp}(-\lambda t)$$

$$\Pr[\text{no } T_2 > t] = E[P(T_2 > t) | T_1 = t]$$

$$P(T_2 > t | T_1 = s) = P(\text{no event in } (s, s+t) | T_1 = s)$$

$$= P(\text{no event in } (s, s+t))$$

$$\text{by independent increments}$$

$$= e^{-\lambda t}$$

by stationary increments

$$\text{Hence } T_2 \sim \text{Exp}(-\lambda t)$$

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Continuing the argument

Proposition 5.1 The interarrival times $T_n, n \geq 1$ are i.i.d. $\text{Exp}(-\lambda t)$

Remark 5.3.3 The assumption of stationarity and independent increments essentially means that the process probabilistically restarts itself at any point in time. Independent increments means that the process has no memory and stationary increments implies that the distributions remain the same

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Let $S_n = T_1 + \dots + T_n$, S_n is often often called the waiting time until the n th event

We know that $S_n \sim \text{gamma}(n, \lambda)$

Alternative derivation 1.

$$N(t) \geq n \Leftrightarrow S_n \leq t$$

n th event
before or at t
 n or more events

$$\text{Hence, } F_{S_n}(t) = P(N(t) \geq n) = \sum_{j=n}^{\infty} \frac{(\lambda t)^j}{j!} e^{-\lambda t}$$

Differentiating w.r.t. λ .

$$\begin{aligned} \{S_n(t) > t\} &= \sum_{j=n}^{\infty} \lambda \cdot \frac{(\lambda t)^{j-1}}{(j-1)!} e^{-\lambda t} + \sum_{j=n}^{\infty} \lambda e^{-\lambda t} \frac{(\lambda t)^{j-1}}{(j-1)!} \\ &= \lambda \cdot e^{-\lambda t} \frac{(\lambda t)^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} + \sum_{j=n+1}^{\infty} \lambda \cdot \underbrace{\lambda \cdot \frac{(\lambda t)^{j-1}}{(j-1)!} - \frac{(\lambda t)^{j-1}}{(j-1)!}}_{0}. \end{aligned}$$

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Alternative derivation 2.

$$\begin{aligned} P(t < S_n < t+h) &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} P(N(t) = n-j, \text{ one event in } (t, t+h) + o(h)) \\ &= P(N(t) = n-1) P(\text{one event in } (t, t+h) + o(h)) \\ &= \frac{(\lambda t)^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} \cdot \lambda e^{-\lambda t} \int_{t+h}^{t+2h} (\lambda s)^{n-1} ds + o(h) \\ &= \lambda \cdot e^{-\lambda t} \cdot \frac{(\lambda t)^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} \cdot h + o(h) \end{aligned}$$

$$F_{S_n}(t+h) - F_{S_n}(t) = \frac{1}{(n-1)!} \cdot \lambda^{n-1} e^{-\lambda t} \cdot h + o(h)$$

$$\text{Let } h \rightarrow 0, \text{ then } f_{S_n}(t) = \frac{1}{(n-1)!} \lambda^n e^{-\lambda t}.$$

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Remark 5.3.4 The Poisson process can alternatively be defined by a sequence $\{T_n, n \geq 1\}$ of i.i.d. variables $T_i \sim \text{Exp}(-\lambda t)$

Define the counting process by

$$N(t) = \max\{n : S_n \leq t\}, S_0 = 0$$

i.e. that the n th event occurs at time S_n .

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Example Airplanes arriving according to Poisson process rate λ
interarrival times $\frac{1}{\lambda} = 5$ min
mean

$$(i) E[10^{\text{th}} \text{ arrival}] = E[S_{10}] = \frac{10}{\lambda} = 50 \text{ min.}$$

$$(ii) P(\text{more than 10 minutes between } 10^{\text{th}} \text{ and } 11^{\text{th}} \text{ arrival})$$

$$= P(T_{11} > 10) = e^{-10\lambda} = e^{-2} \approx 0.133.$$

Poisson process in plane



The number of events in two areas, i.e. the number of points in areas are independent.

The number also depends on size of area. The number of events in an area is Poisson distributed where the parameter is product of rate and size of area.

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D distance from O to closest point
 $P(D > x) = P(\text{no points in circle with radius } x, \text{ center } O)$

$$\frac{(\pi x^2 \cdot \lambda)^0}{0!} \cdot e^{-\lambda \pi x^2}$$

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