

SOA and CAS: Exam P, Probability¹

Chapter 20: Poisson Distribution (Discrete)

Yi Li ²
January 13, 2024

(1) *Definition:*

$\Pr(N = k)$ stands for “within one unit time”, probability of “the number of occurrence = k”

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr(N = k) &= e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^n}{n!} \quad (n = 0, 1, 2, \dots) \\ E(N) &= \lambda \\ \text{Var}(N) &= \lambda \\ E(N^2) &= \lambda + \lambda^2 = \text{Var}(N) + [E(N)]^2\end{aligned}$$

For example:

- (i) the probability of (“in **one** week”, happens “exactly 10 rainstorms”)
 $n=10$
- (ii) the probability of (“in **a** minute”, arriving “exactly 3 cars”)
 $n=3$
- (iii) the probability of (“in **one** year”, happens “exactly 5 snowstorms”)
 $n=5$
- (iv) the probability of (“in **one** year”, arriving \leq “2 cars”) = $\Pr(N = 0) + \Pr(N = 1) + \Pr(N = 2)$

(2) *Independent:*

Give : $N_1, N_2,$ and N_3 are mutually independent
 $N_1 \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_1), N_2 \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_2), N_3 \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_3)$
 Then, $N_1 + N_2 + N_3 \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3)$

(3) *Changing λ :*

(3.a) 1 unit time \implies m unit time:

For example: the probability of (“in one week”, happens “exactly 10 rainstorm”) is
 $n=10$

$$\Pr(N = 10) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^n}{n!} \quad (n = 10, \lambda)$$

the probability of (“in **3** week”, happens “exactly 10 rainstorm”) is
 $n=10$

$$\Pr(N = 10) = e^{-(3\lambda)} \frac{(3\lambda)^n}{n!} \quad (n = 10, 3\lambda)$$

(3.b) car \implies white car:

For example: (i) the probability of (“in one week”, arrives “exactly 10 car”) is
 $n=10$

$$\Pr(N = 10) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^n}{n!} \quad (n = 10)$$

¹The purpose of the use is non-commercial research and/or private study. Please do not copy or distribute without permission of the author.

²Email: liyifinhub@outlook.com. This note was drafted when I was preparing for the exam. Please email me if you find any errors. My personal website <http://www.yilifinhub.com>

(ii) the probability of (“in one week”, arrives “exactly 10 white car”, $p(\text{white}) = 0.2$)

$$\Pr(N = 10) = e^{-(0.2\lambda)} \frac{(0.2\lambda)^n}{n!} \quad (n = 10, 0.2\lambda)$$

(iii) the probability of (“in 3 week”, arrives “exactly 10 white car”, $p(\text{white}) = 0.2$)

$$\Pr(N = 10) = e^{-(0.2*3\lambda)} \frac{(0.2 * 3\lambda)^n}{n!} \quad (n = 10, 0.2 * 3\lambda)$$

(iv) the probability of (“in 3 week”, arrives “ ≤ 2 white car”, $p(\text{white}) = 0.2$)

$$\Pr(N = 0) + \Pr(N = 1) + \Pr(N = 2) \quad \text{with } 0.2 * 3 * \lambda$$

(4) *Conditional Probability:*

Definition: Probability of “within one unit time”, the “number of occurrence is $\underbrace{n}_{N=n}$ ”, given $N > 1$

$$\begin{aligned} P(N = n | N > 1) &= \frac{P(N = n \cap N > 1)}{P(N > 1)} \\ &= \frac{P(N = n)}{P(N > 1)} \\ &= \frac{P(N = n)}{1 - P(N \leq 1)} \\ &= \frac{P(N = n)}{1 - [P(N = 0) + P(N = 1)]} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{where } P(N = 0) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^{n=0}}{(n = 0)!}$$

$$P(N = 1) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^{n=1}}{(n = 1)!}$$

$$P(N = n) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^n}{(n)!}$$