

V. Poisson Distribution

← another kind of binomial distribution
← small prob.
num. of occurrence is small

Simeon Poisson's work.

A Poisson distribution is a discrete probability distribution that applies to occurrences of some events over a specified interval.

Requirement:

1. The variable x is a number of occurrence in some interval.
2. The occurrence has to be random and independent.
3. The occurrences is uniformly distributed over the interval being used.

Examples: ← "is strictly less than a number" be aware
 < 7

eg Spam calls.

eg Ivy school's admitted in your high school.

eg Rare disease.

⋮

Formula: The prob. of the event occurring x times over an interval is given by

$$P(x) = \frac{\mu^x \cdot e^{-\mu}}{x!}$$

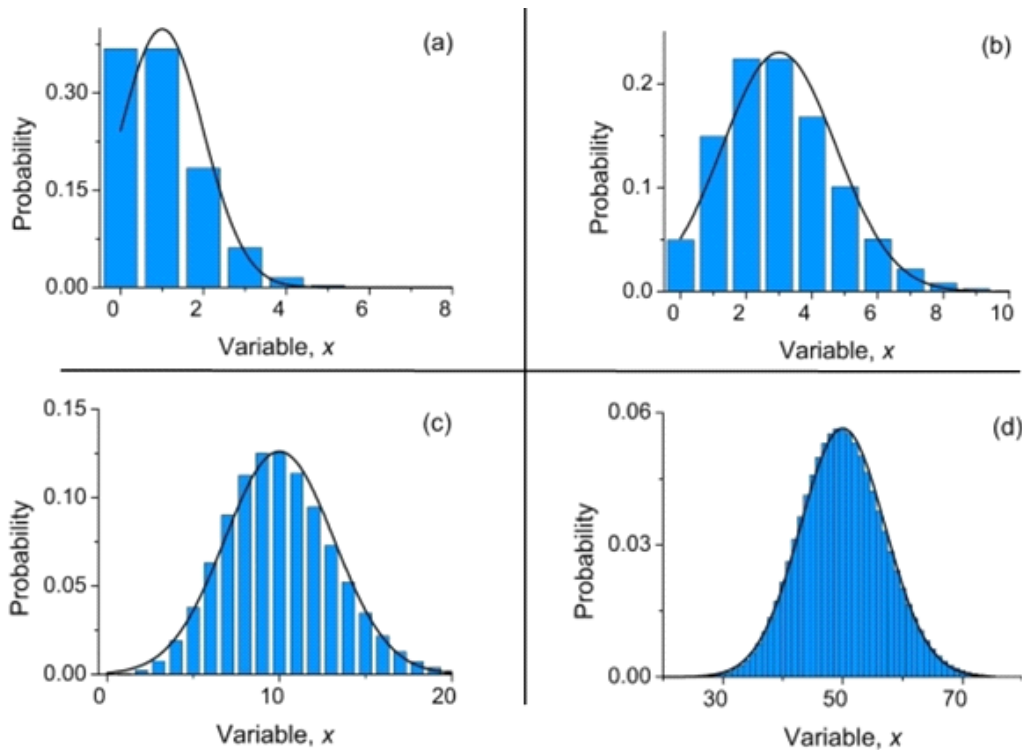
← μ is λ in TI-84

$$P(x) = \frac{\mu^x \cdot e^{-\mu}}{x!}$$

where $e \approx 2.72$ and μ = mean of the occurrence of event in the intervals.

Note: The number of occurrence is small. $x < 7$
(The $P(x)$ is small, as well.)

Graph



Eg There have been 652 Atlantic hurricanes during the 118-year period starting in 1900. Assume that the Poisson distribution is a suitable model.

- Find μ , the mean number of hurricanes per year.
- Find the probability that in a randomly selected year, there are exactly 6 hurricanes. Find $P(6)$, where $P(x)$ is the probability of x Atlantic hurricanes in a year.
- In this 118-year period, there were actually 16 years with 6 Atlantic hurricanes.

How does this actual result compare to the probability found in part (b)? Does the Poisson distribution appear to be a good model in this case?

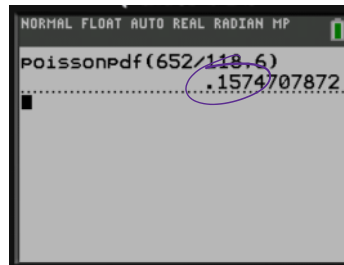
S: a. $\mu = \frac{652}{118} \approx \boxed{5.5}$

hurricane
years

b. $P(x) = \frac{\mu^x e^{-\mu}}{x!}$

$P(6) = \frac{5.5^6 e^{-5.5}}{6!} \approx \boxed{0.157}$

TI-84: 2nd → distr → $\rightarrow$ D for newer TI-84
C: poissonpdf(



Eg There have been 652 Atlantic hurricanes during the 118-year period starting in 1900. Assume that the Poisson distribution is a suitable model.

- Find μ , the mean number of hurricanes per year.
- Find the probability that in a randomly selected year, there are exactly 6 hurricanes. Find $P(6)$, where $P(x)$ is the probability of x Atlantic hurricanes in a year.
- In this 118-year period, there were actually 16 years with 6 Atlantic hurricanes. How does this actual result compare to the probability found in part (b)? Does the Poisson distribution appear to be a good model in this case?

S: With 6 hurricanes for 16 years, compare to 118 years. We have μ is 5.5. Then, $\frac{16}{118} \approx 0.1356 < \mu = 5.5$. The occurrence is small for that 16 years. Therefore, the Poisson distribution works well.

Poisson $\rightarrow$ Binomial :

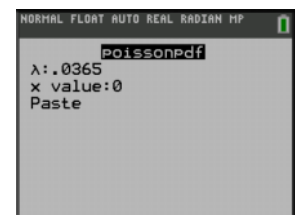
When the number of occurrence is over 100 and the probability is small, the Poisson distribution would become binomial distribution. Therefore, for $n \geq 100$, the mean for Poisson distribution is $\boxed{\mu = np}$.

Eg In the Maine Pick 4 game, you pay 50¢ to select a sequence of four digits (0–9), such as 1377. If you play this game once every day, find the probability of winning at least once in a year with 365 days.

S: We have $n = 365$, and $\overset{10}{\underset{\downarrow}{0}}\overset{10}{\underset{\downarrow}{-}}\overset{10}{\underset{\downarrow}{9}}\overset{10}{\underset{\downarrow}{-}}\overset{10}{\underset{\downarrow}{9}}$'s probability $\frac{1}{10000}$
 $= \frac{1}{10000} = 0.0001$. Then, we have

$$\mu = 365 \cdot 0.0001 = 0.0365$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Then, } P(\text{at least 1}) &= P(1 \text{ or more}) \\ &= 1 - P(0) \rightarrow \\ &= 1 - 0.964 \leftarrow \\ &= \boxed{0.036}\end{aligned}$$



Eg Leah receives about six telephone calls between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

What is the probability that Leah receives more than one call in the next 15 minutes?

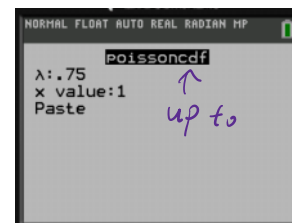
S: We have $x = 0, 1, 2, 3$, interval is 15 minutes

$$15 \text{ minutes} = 15 \text{ minutes} \cdot \frac{1 \text{ hour}}{60 \text{ minutes}} \\ = 0.25$$

From 8 am - 10 am: $\frac{2}{0.25} = 8$ intervals

then, $\mu = 8 \cdot \frac{1}{8} = 0.75$,

$$P(x > 1) = 1 - \underbrace{(P(0) + P(1))}_{\text{up to 1}} \rightarrow$$



$$= 1 - 0.827 \leftarrow$$

$$= \boxed{0.173}$$