

**457.212 Statistics for Civil & Environmental Engineers**  
**In-Class Material: Class 12**  
**Useful Distribution Models (A&T: 3.2)**

**<< Bernoulli Trials >>**

- Each trial has only ( ) possible **outcomes**  
 ~ 'success'/'failure', 'occur'/'do not occur'
- Probability of occurrence of the event in each trial is ( ).
- The probabilities in different trials are **statistically** ( ).  
 e.g. tossing coins repeatedly.  
 occurrence of flooding each year.

**1. Binomial distribution**

(a)  $X \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p)$

- **number of occurrences** of an event of specified probability  $p$  during  $n$  Bernoulli trials.

(b) PMF

$$p_X(x) = \binom{n}{x} \cdot p^x (1-p)^{n-x}$$

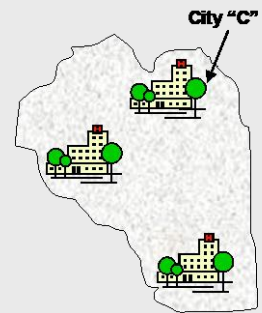
where  $\binom{n}{x}$  is the binomial coefficient, i.e.  $\frac{n!}{(n-x)!x!}$

(c) Mean:  $E[X] = np$

(d) Variance:  $\sigma_X^2 = np(1-p)$

```
dbinom(1, size=3, prob=0.1) # PMF of binomial dist.  
# probability of x=1 occurrence from n=3 trials with p = 0.1
```

**Example 1:** Three hospitals in City "C." The probability that each hospital will experience the shortage of electricity is 0.1 and they are statistically independent.  $X$  is the number of hospital(s) that has electricity shortage.



- $P(X = 0) =$
- $P(X = 1) =$
- $P(X = 2) =$
- $P(X = 3) =$

$X$  is a Binomial random variable with  $n =$  ,  $p =$  .

PMF:

Mean,  $\mu_X =$  , and standard deviation,  $\sigma_X =$

2. **Geometric** distribution

(a)  $X \sim \text{Geometric}(p)$

- number of trials **until the** ( ) or ( ) occurrence of an event of specified probability  $p$

(b) PMF:  $p_X(x) = (1-p)^{x-1} p$  because  $(x-1)$  no occurrences and then one occurrence

(c) Mean:  $\mu_X = E[X] = \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x \cdot (1-p)^{x-1} p = \frac{1}{p}$

→ **Return period:** average number of trials until the first (next) occurrence

(d) Variance:  $\sigma_X^2 = (1-p) / p^2$

3. **Negative Binomial** distribution

(a)  $X \sim \text{Negative Binomial}(k, p)$

- number of trials **until the** ( ) occurrence of an event of specified probability  $p$

(b) PMF

$$p_X(x) = \binom{x-1}{k-1} p^{k-1} (1-p)^{x-k} \times p = \binom{x-1}{k-1} p^k (1-p)^{x-k}$$

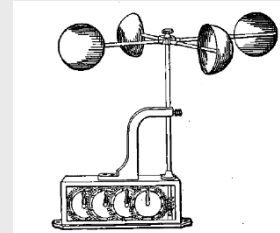
(c) Mean:  $\mu_X = E[X] = \sum_{x=1}^{\infty} x \cdot p_X(x) = \frac{k}{p}$

(d) Variance:  $\sigma_X^2 = k \cdot (1-p) / p^2$

```
dgeom(3, prob=0.1) # PMF of geometric dist.
# probability that the event occurs for the first time in the x=3rd trial

dnbinom(3, size=2, prob=0.1) # PMF of negative binomial dist.
# probability that the event occurs for the second time(k=2) in the x=3rd trial
```

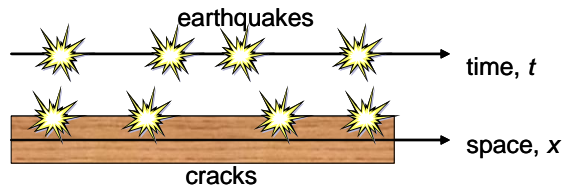
**Example 2:** Event A: the annual maximum wind velocity is greater than 100 mph.  $P(A) = 0.2$ . The outcomes of all different years are statistically independent of each other.



- (a) Bernoulli trials? Why?  $p = ?$
- (b) Probability that A occurs twice for a five-year duration?
- (c) Probability that A occurs for the first time at the 7<sup>th</sup> year?
- (d) Return period?
- (e) Probability that it will take 10 years until the 3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence?

<< **Poisson Process** >>

- An event can occur **at random** at any time or **any point** in space. (limiting case of Bernoulli trials as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ )
- The occurrence of an event in a given time (or space) interval is **statistically independent** of that in any other non-overlapping interval.
- The probability of occurrences of an event in a small interval  $\Delta t$  is proportional to  $\Delta t$ , i.e. **Prob.** =  $\nu \Delta t$  where  $\nu$  is the **constant** mean occurrence rate, i.e. (average # of occurrences)/(length)



4. **Poisson** distribution

(a)  $X \sim \text{Poisson}(\nu)$

- **number of the** ( ) of an event in time duration  $t$  for a Poisson process with  $\nu$ .

(b) PMF

$$p_X(x) = \frac{(\nu t)^x}{x!} \exp(-\nu t), \quad x = 0, 1, \dots$$

(c) Mean:  $\mu_X = E[X] = \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} x \cdot p_X(x) = \nu \cdot t$

(d) Variance:  $\sigma_X^2 = \nu \cdot t$

```
dpois(2, lambda=3) # PMF of Poisson dist.
# Probability that the event occurs twice during the interval t for a
Poisson process with the occurrence rate nu (lambda = nu*t)
```

**Example 3:** Assume the occurrences of “heavy” rainstorms follow a Poisson process. From historical data, four “heavy” rainstorms occur per year in average.

- (a) The mean occurrence rate?
- (b) Probability of three storms for two years?
- (c) Probability of at least one rainstorm for two years?



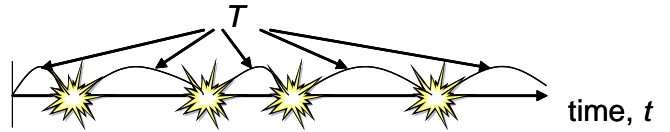
5. **Exponential** distribution

(a)  $T \sim$  Exponential ( $\nu$ )

- **waiting time until the ( ) or ( ) occurrence** in a Poisson process with  $\nu$ .

(b) CDF

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_T(t) &= P(T \leq t) \\
 &= P(\text{at least one occurrence in } t) \\
 &= 1 - \frac{(\nu t)^0}{0!} \exp(-\nu t) \\
 &= 1 - \exp(-\nu t)
 \end{aligned}$$

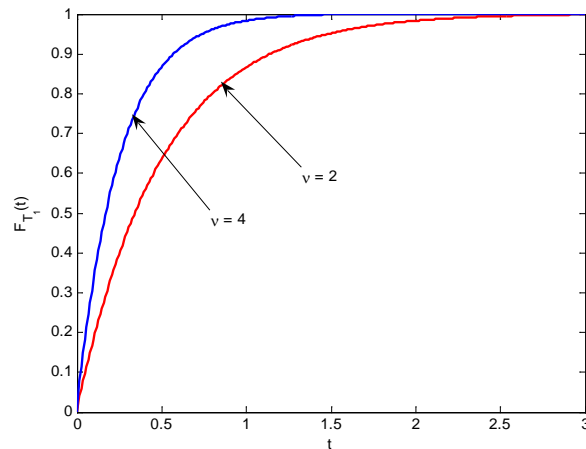
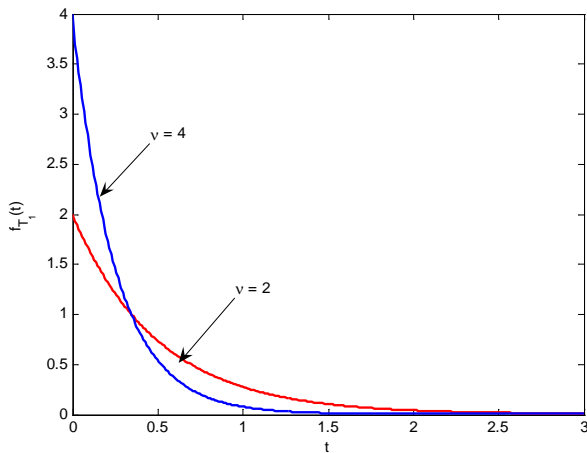


(c) PDF

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_T(t) &= \frac{dF_T(t)}{dt} \\
 &= \nu \exp(-\nu t)
 \end{aligned}$$

(c) Mean:  $\mu_T = E[T] = \int_0^{\infty} t \cdot \nu \exp(-\nu t) dt = \frac{1}{\nu} \rightarrow$  **Return Period** (c.f.  $1/p$  for Bernoulli)

(d) Variance:  $\sigma_T^2 = \frac{1}{\nu^2}$



```

dexp(1.5, rate=2) # PDF of Exponential dist.
# Probability density at the waiting time = 1.5 for a Poisson process with
the mean occurrence rate 2
    
```

6. **Gamma** distribution

(a)  $T \sim \text{Gamma}(\nu, k)$

- waiting time until the ( ) occurrence in a Poisson process with  $\nu$ .

(b) CDF:

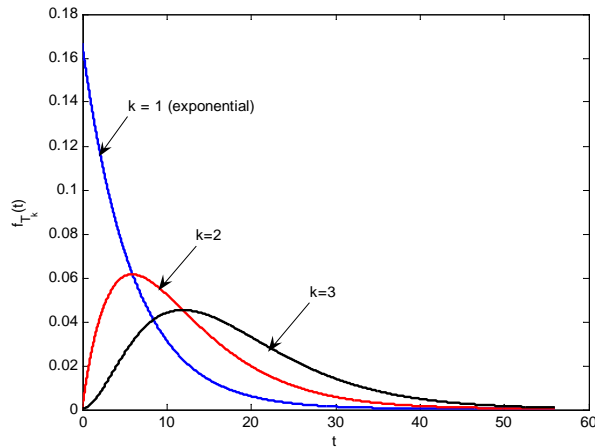
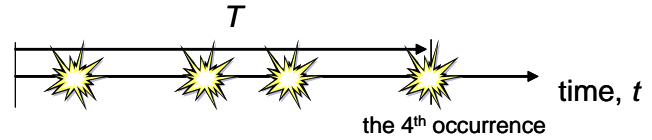
$$F_T(t) = 1 - \sum_{x=0}^{k-1} \frac{(\nu t)^x}{x!} \exp(-\nu t)$$

(c) PDF:

$$f_T(t) = \frac{\nu(\nu t)^{k-1}}{\Gamma(k)} \exp(-\nu t)$$

(d) Mean:  $\mu_T = E[T] = \frac{k}{\nu}$

(d) Variance:  $\sigma_T^2 = \frac{k}{\nu^2}$



```

dgamma(1.5, shape=3, rate=2) # PDF of Gamma dist.
# Probability density at the waiting time until the 3rd occurrence(k=3) =
1.5 for a Poisson process with the mean occurrence rate 2
    
```

<< **Summary** >>

	Bernoulli Trials	Poisson Process
No. of <b>total trials</b> (or time intervals $\Delta t$ )	$n$ trials, or until the $k$ -th occurrence	$n \rightarrow \infty, \Delta t \rightarrow 0$ any point on a continuous axis (time, space)
P( <b>no. of occurrence</b> = $x$ )	<b>Binomial</b> ( $n, p$ ) during $n$ trials	<b>Poisson</b> ( $\nu$ ) during time period $t$
P(no. of trials or waiting time <b>until the first</b> (next) occurrence = $t$ )	<b>Geometric</b> ( $p$ )	<b>Exponential</b> ( $\nu$ )
P(no. of trials or waiting time <b>until the k-th</b> occurrence = $t$ )	<b>Negative Binomial</b> ( $k, p$ )	<b>Gamma</b> ( $k, \nu$ )
<b>Return period:</b> average required no. of trials or waiting time until the next occurrence	$1/p$ where $p$ is the probability of the event	$1/\nu$ where $\nu$ is the mean occurrence rate

7. **Beta** distribution

(a)  $X \sim \text{Beta}(a, b, q, r)$

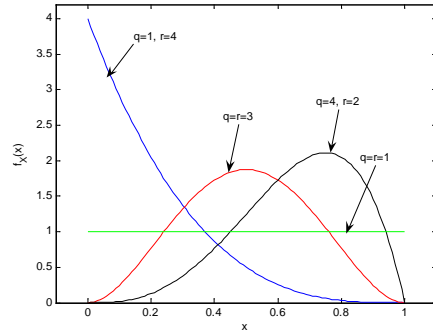
A random variable whose values are **bounded** between finite limits  $a$  and  $b$ . Its shape is determined by the combination of  $q$  and  $r$ .

(b) PDF

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{B(q,r)} \frac{(x-a)^{q-1} (b-x)^{r-1}}{(b-a)^{q+r-1}}, \quad a \leq x \leq b$$

$$= 0 \quad \text{elsewhere}$$

$$\text{where } B(q,r) = \int_0^1 x^{q-1} (1-x)^{r-1} dx = \frac{\Gamma(q)\Gamma(r)}{\Gamma(q+r)}$$



```
dbeta(0.2, shape1=1, shape2=4) # PDF of Beta dist.
# shape1 and shape2 are q and r parameters, respectively
# R base package only support Beta distributions with (a,b)=(0,1) only
```