

Question

Describe what is meant by a Compound Poisson process.

Show that if $A(z)$ is the probability generating function for the number of events occurring at each point of the process, then the random variable $X(t)$ - the total number of events occurring in time t - has a probability generating function of the form

$$G(z) = \exp(\lambda t A(z) - \lambda t)$$

During the working day (8 a.m. to 6 p.m.) the Highfield Patent Medicine Co. receives telephone calls ordering various numbers of bottles of Dr. Hirst's Rejuvenating Elixir. The telephone calls arrive according to a Poisson process with rate λ calls per hour. The number N of bottles ordered by a telephone call has a geometric distribution, i.e.

$$P(N = n) = p(1 - p)^{n-1}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

Find the mean and variance of the number of bottles ordered per day.

Answer

Suppose that

- (i) points occur in a Poisson process $\{N(t) : t \geq 0\}$ with rate λ
- (ii) at the i th point Y_i event occur, where Y_1, Y_2, \dots are i.i.d. random variables's
- (iii) Y_i and $\{N(t) : t \geq 0\}$ are independent. The total number of events occurring in a time interval of length t is

$$X(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{N(t)} Y_i$$

$\{N(t) : t \geq 0\}$ is said to be a compound Poisson process.

Let the p.g.f. of each Y_i be $A(z)$. Then $X(t)$ has p.g.f.

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} z^j P(X(t) = j) &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^j P(X(t) = j | N(t) = n) P(N(t) = n) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^j P(Y_1 + Y_2 + \dots + Y_n = j) \frac{\lambda t^n e^{-\lambda t}}{n!} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left\{ \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} z^j P(Y_1 + Y_2 + \dots + Y_n = j) \right\} \frac{\lambda t^n e^{-\lambda t}}{n!} \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} [A(n)]^n \frac{(\lambda t)^n e^{-\lambda t}}{n!} \\
&\quad \text{since the } Y_i \text{ are independent} \\
&= \exp(\lambda t A(z) - \lambda t) \\
&= G(z)
\end{aligned}$$

For the geometric distribution

$$\begin{aligned}
A(z) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} p(1-p)^{n-1} z^n \\
&= pz \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (1-p)^{n-1} z^{n-1} \\
&= \frac{pz}{1 - (1-p)z}
\end{aligned}$$

From 8a.m. to 6p.m. there are 10 hours. So the p.g.f. for the number of bottles ordered are day is

$$G(z) = \exp\left(\frac{10\lambda pz}{1 - (1-p)z} - 10\lambda\right)$$

$$G'(z) = \exp\left(\frac{10\lambda pz}{1 - (1-p)z} - 10\lambda\right) \cdot \frac{(1 - (1-p)z) + z(1-p)}{(1 - (1-p)z)^2} \cdot 10\lambda p$$

$$= \exp\left(\frac{10\lambda pz}{1 - (1-p)z} - 10\lambda\right) \cdot \frac{10\lambda p}{(1 - (1-p)z)^2}$$

$$G''(z) = \exp\left(\frac{10\lambda pz}{1 - (1-p)z} - 10\lambda\right) \left[\frac{10\lambda p}{(1 - (1-p)z)^2} \right] + \exp\left(\frac{10\lambda pz}{1 - (1-p)z} - 10\lambda\right) \cdot \frac{2(1-p) \cdot 10\lambda p}{(1 - (1-p)z)^3}$$

$$G'(1) = \exp(0) \cdot \frac{10\lambda p}{p^2}$$

$$\text{So } E(X) = \frac{10\lambda}{p}$$

$$G''(1) = \left(\frac{10\lambda}{p}\right)^2 + \frac{20\lambda(1-p)}{p^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(X) &= G''(1) + G'(1) - G'(1)^2 \\ &= \frac{20\lambda(1-p)}{p^2} + \frac{10\lambda}{p} \\ &= \frac{20\lambda}{p^2} - \frac{\lambda}{p} \\ &= \frac{10\lambda}{p^2}(2-p) \end{aligned}$$