

QUESTION Find approximately the probability that a Poisson variable with mean 20 takes the value 20.

ANSWER

$\phi(20)$ has $\mu = 20$, $\sigma^2 = 20$.

$$P(X = 20) = P(19.5 < Z < 20.5)$$

$$P(Z < 20.5) = \Phi\left(\frac{20.5-20}{\sqrt{20}}\right) = \Phi(0.112) = 0.5444$$

$$\text{Hence } P(19.5 < Z < 20.5) = 0.5444 - 0.4556 = 0.0888 \approx 0.09$$