

Review:

⊙ exponential distribution:

T has exponential distribution with parameter $\lambda > 0$, $T \sim \text{exp}(\lambda)$

$$f_T(t) = \begin{cases} \lambda e^{-\lambda t} & t \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

• cdf: $P(T \leq t) = F_T(t) = \begin{cases} 1 - e^{-\lambda t} & t \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$

• complimentary cdf: $P(T > t) = F_T^c(t) = \begin{cases} e^{-\lambda t} & t \geq 0 \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$

• Mean & Variance: $E[T] = \frac{1}{\lambda}$, $\text{Var}(T) = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$

• Memoryless property:

$$P(T > t+s | T > s) = P(T > t)$$

⊙ relation between geometric distribution and exponential distribution:

Let X_h denote a geometric random variable with parameter $p = \lambda h$ for all $h > 0$.

Let $T_h = hX_h$. We have

$$P(T_h > t) \rightarrow P(T > t) \text{ as } h \rightarrow 0$$

where T is a random variable with parameter $\lambda > 0$.

Today:

- ⊙ Important remark about continuous random variable
- ⊙ Poisson process as a limit of time-scaled Bernoulli process
- ⊙ Poisson process
- ⊙ Erlang distribution

⊙ Important remark about continuous random variable:

Recall that a continuous random variable X , is defined by the relation between cdf and pdf:

$$P(X \leq a) = F_X(a) = \int_{-\infty}^a f_X(u) du$$

As we discussed before

$$P(a < X \leq b) = F_X(b) - F_X(a) = \int_a^b f_X(u) du$$

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Hence,

$$P(X > a) = F_X^c(a) = 1 - F_X(a) = \int_a^\infty f_X(u) du$$

and in general, for any $A \subseteq \mathbb{R}$:

$$P(X \in A) = \int_A f_X(u) du$$

① Poisson process as a limit of time-scaled Bernoulli process.

Recall that a Bernoulli process is given by (X_1, X_2, \dots) where for each n , X_n is a Bernoulli random variable with parameter p . Also, recall that it is a random process, i.e.,

(i) for each $n \in \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$, X_n is a random variable. More specifically, $X_n \sim \text{Ber}(p)$

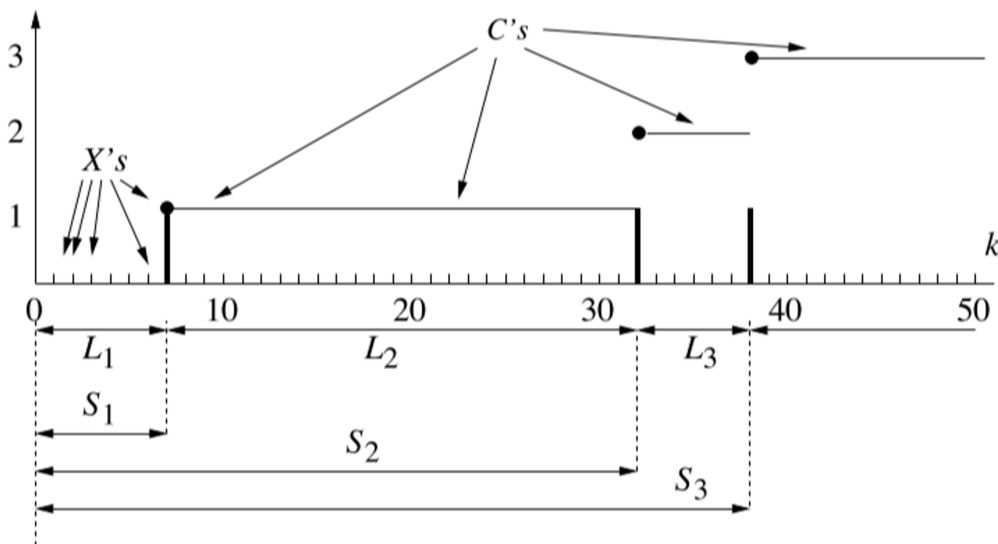
(ii) for each $\omega \in \Omega$, $(X_1(\omega), X_2(\omega), X_3(\omega), \dots)$ is a sequence of zeros and ones.

Recall that there are three other random variables that are related to Bernoulli process.

• L_n = number of trials between $(n-1)$ 'th success and n 'th success. Recall that $L_i \sim \text{Geo}(p)$

• S_r = number of trials till the r 'th success. Recall that $S_r \sim \text{NBi}(r, p)$

• C_n = number of successes in the first n trials. Recall that $C_n \sim \text{Bi}(n, p)$



Consider the following setting: customer are entering bank, we have a clock that ticks every h seconds, and define

$$X_n^{(h)} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if at least one customer entered the bank during time } ((n-1)h, nh] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Let us make the following assumptions:

0 otherwise

Let us make the following assumptions:

(*) For any $h > 0$, $(X_1^{(h)}, X_2^{(h)}, \dots)$ is a Bernoulli process with parameter p .

(**) For small $h > 0$, number of customers that can enter the bank during interval $((n-1)h, nh]$ is at most 1.

(***) $p_h = \lambda h$ for all small $h > 0$. This can be justified the same way as we did in the previous session, i.e., by showing that $p_{2h} \approx p_h$ for all small $h > 0$, and using the same argument to show $p_{oh} = \lambda p_h$.

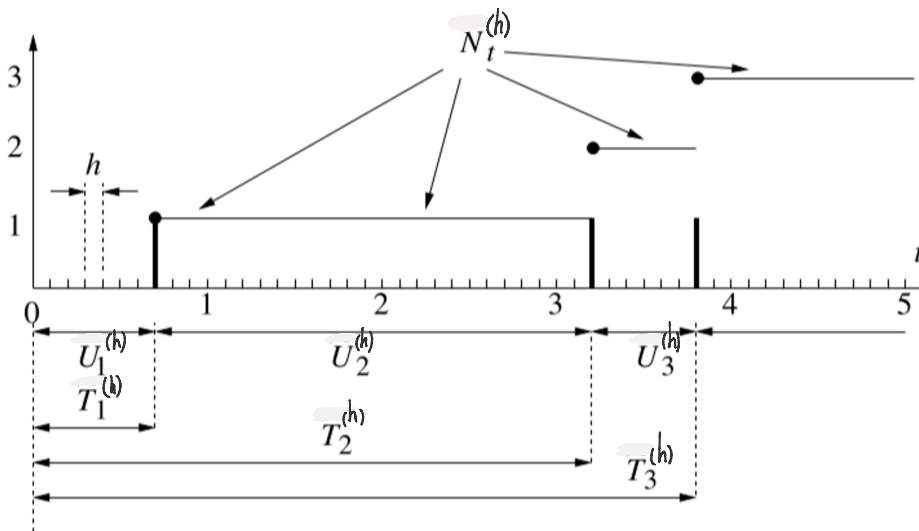
Assume that $h > 0$ is small. Let us consider the timed counterpart of $L_n^{(h)}, S_r^{(h)}$ and $C_n^{(h)}$:

$U_n^{(h)}$ = time it takes till the n th arrival. Notice that $U_n^{(h)} = h L_n^{(h)}$.

$T_r^{(h)}$ = time it takes till r th arrival. Notice that $T_r^{(h)} = h S_r^{(h)}$.

$N_t^{(h)}$ = number of times $X_i^{(h)} = 1$ for $i \leq \frac{t}{h}$. Notice that $N_t^{(h)} = C_{\lfloor \frac{t}{h} \rfloor}$.

Intuitively speaking, $N_t^{(h)}$ is very close the number arrivals till time t , i.e., we are just ignoring arrivals during time interval $(h \lfloor \frac{t}{h} \rfloor, t]$



As $h \rightarrow 0$, we have:

• distribution of $U_n^{(h)}$ converges to exponential distribution with parameter λ .

$$P(U_n^{(h)} > t) = P(L_n^{(h)} > \frac{t}{h}) = (1 - \lambda h)^{\lfloor \frac{t}{h} \rfloor} \rightarrow e^{-\lambda t} \text{ as } h \rightarrow 0.$$

• distribution of $N_t^{(h)}$ converges to Poisson distribution with parameter λt . Notice that

$N_t^{(h)} \sim \text{Bi}(\lfloor \frac{t}{h} \rfloor, p_h)$ and $p_h \cdot \lfloor \frac{t}{h} \rfloor = \lambda h \cdot \lfloor \frac{t}{h} \rfloor \approx \lambda t$. Hence, by Poisson approximation

$$P(N_t^{(h)} = k) \rightarrow e^{-\lambda t} \frac{(\lambda t)^k}{k!}$$

Hence, the limit of time-scaled Bernoulli process is a continuous process which is called Poisson process.

③ Poisson process.

Def: Let $\lambda > 0$. A Poisson process with rate λ is a counting process $N = (N_t; t \geq 0)$ such that

N.1. N has independent increments: for any $t_0 \leq t_1 \leq \dots \leq t_n$, the increments

$$N_{t_2} - N_{t_1}, N_{t_3} - N_{t_2}, \dots, N_{t_n} - N_{t_{n-1}}$$

are independent.

N.2. The increment $N_t - N_s$ has Poisson distribution with parameter $\lambda(t-s)$,

$$P(N_t - N_s = k) = e^{-\lambda(t-s)} \frac{(\lambda(t-s))^k}{k!}$$

N.3. $N_0 = 0$.

Interpretation:

• N is a random process, this means that

(i) if we fix $t > 0$, N_t is a random variable, i.e., $N_t: \Omega \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$

In particular N_t is a discrete random variable, and more specifically $N_t \sim \text{Poi}(\lambda t)$

(ii) if we fix $\omega \in \Omega$, $N(\omega)$ is a sample path, i.e., it is a function of time:

$N(\omega): [0, +\infty) \rightarrow \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$, i.e., $N_t(\omega)$ is a non-negative integer.

• N is a counting process. Intuitively speaking, this means that N counts number of events that has happened over time, i.e.,

N_t : number of occurrence of an event over time interval $[0, t]$

$N_t - N_s$: number of occurrence of an event over time interval $(s, t]$

• One example to visualize the above properties is the customers that appear over time in a bank. Let N denote this process and assume N is a Poisson process:

(i) N_t : number of customers that showed up during time interval $[0, t]$

(ii) $N_t - N_s$: number of customers that showed up during time interval $(s, t]$

(iii) independent increment means number of customers that showed up during intervals $(t_1, t_2]$ and $(t_3, t_4]$ for any $0 \leq t_1 \leq t_2 \leq t_3 \leq t_4$ are independent.

(iv) $N_0 = 0$ means at the point of opening the bank, there is no customer inside the bank.

Related variables:

Associated with the poisson process $N = (N_t; t \geq 0)$, there are important random variables:

① For any $n \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$, we define

$U_n =$ the time between $(n-1)$ 'th occurrence & n 'th occurrence,

i.e., inter-arrival time between the $(n-1)$ 'th customer and n 'th customer.

② For any $n \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$, we define

$T_n =$ time of n 'th occurrence

i.e., time at which n 'th customer entered the bank.

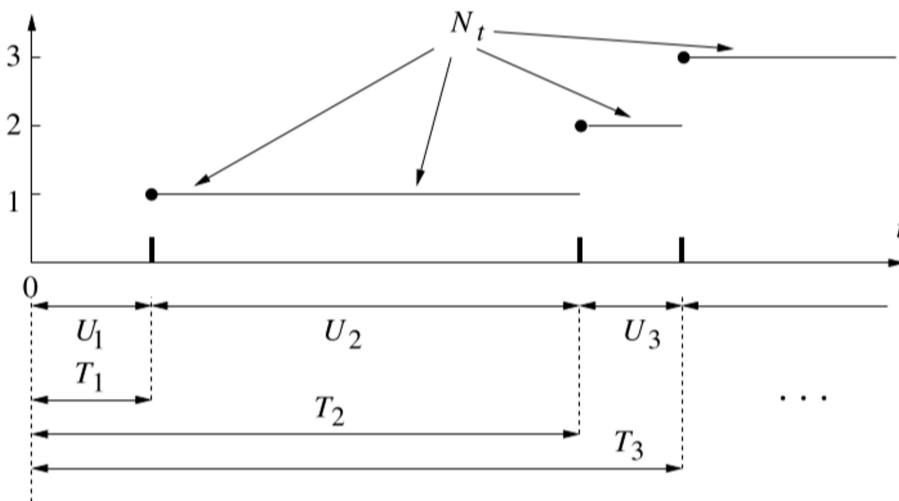


Figure 3.9: A sample path of a Poisson process.

The random variables associated with the poisson process have the following relations:

$$N_t = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} I_{\{T_n \leq t\}}$$

$$T_n = \min\{t : N_t = n\} = \min\{t : N_t \geq n\}$$

$$T_n = U_1 + U_2 + \dots + U_n$$

where

$$I_{\{T_n \leq t\}} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } T_n \leq t \\ 0 & \text{if } T_n > t \end{cases}$$

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Distribution of U_n :

Notice that by the argument of previous section, we expect U_n to be a exponentially distributed random variable with parameter λ . We can prove the same property by definition of Poisson process:

$$\begin{aligned} P(U_n > t) &= P(\{\text{after } (n-1)\text{th arrival, there is no arrival over an interval of length } t\}) \\ &= e^{-\lambda t} \frac{(\lambda t)^0}{0!} = e^{-\lambda t}, \end{aligned}$$

where we used the fact that number of arrivals over any interval of length t is a poisson random variable with parameter λt .

⊕ Erlang distribution

Recall that $T_n = U_1 + U_2 + \dots + U_n$ is the sum of n exponential random variables. Notice that

$$\{T_n > t\} = \{\text{number of arrivals in } [0, t] \text{ is less than } n\} = \{N_t < n\} = \{N_t \leq n-1\}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} F_{T_n}^c(t) &= P(T_n > t) = P(N_t \leq n-1) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} e^{-\lambda t} \frac{(\lambda t)^k}{k!} \end{aligned}$$

$$f_{T_n}(t) = -\frac{dF_{T_n}^c(t)}{dt} = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \left(\lambda e^{-\lambda t} \frac{(\lambda t)^k}{k!} - e^{-\lambda t} \frac{(\lambda t)^{k-1}}{k!} \cdot k\lambda \right)$$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \lambda e^{-\lambda t} \frac{(\lambda t)^k}{k!} - \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \lambda e^{-\lambda t} \frac{(\lambda t)^{k-1}}{(k-1)!}$$

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

Def: We say a continuous random variable T has erlang distribution with parameters $r \in \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ and $\rho \in [0, \infty]$ if

$$f_T(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{\lambda e^{-\lambda t} (\lambda t)^{r-1}}{(r-1)!}, & t \geq 0 \\ 0, & t < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$f_T(t) = \begin{cases} (r-1)! & , t \geq 0 \\ 0 & , t < 0 \end{cases}$$

CDF of T:

$$F_T(t) = \begin{cases} 1 - \sum_{k=0}^{r-1} e^{-\lambda t} \frac{(\lambda t)^k}{k!} & , t \geq 0 \\ 0 & , t < 0 \end{cases}$$

Mean & variance:

$$E[T] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} u f_T(u) du = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} u \cdot \frac{\lambda e^{-\lambda u} (\lambda u)^{r-1}}{(r-1)!} du = \frac{r}{\lambda} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\lambda e^{-\lambda u} (\lambda u)^r}{r!} du = 1$$

since $\frac{\lambda e^{-\lambda u} (\lambda u)^r}{r!}$ is the pdf of an Erlang distributed random variable with parameters $(r+1, \lambda)$

$$E[T^2] = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} u^2 \cdot \frac{\lambda e^{-\lambda u} (\lambda u)^{r-1}}{(r-1)!} du = \frac{(r+1)r}{\lambda^2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\lambda e^{-\lambda u} (\lambda u)^{r+1}}{(r+1)!} du = \frac{r(r+1)}{\lambda^2}$$

by a similar reasoning as before.

$$\text{Var}(T) = E[T^2] - (E[T])^2 = \frac{r(r+1)}{\lambda^2} - \frac{r^2}{\lambda^2} = \frac{r}{\lambda^2}$$
