

These distributions are used for **continuous RVs** to describe random processes in time.

Random Process: something that happens 'randomly' at a **rate λ** .

→ Therefore in a small period of time, Δt

- the probability of **one event** is $\sim \lambda \Delta t$, probability of no event $1 - \lambda \Delta t$
- probability of more than one event very small (scales like Δt^2)

Deriving **Exponential Distribution**:

Suppose event happens at time $t=0$, what's the pdf $f(t)$ for the time of the next event?

- Cumulative distribution $F(t)$ is the prob. that the next event happens before or at time t .

↳ let $G(t) = 1 - F(t)$ be the probability the event **hasn't happened** before time t

- If we have a small time interval Δt , then

$$G(t + \Delta t) = G(t)(1 - \lambda \Delta t)$$

the probability it didn't happen in time t the probability it didn't happen in Δt

$$\text{so } G(t + \Delta t) - G(t) = -G(t)\lambda \Delta t$$

$$\frac{G(t + \Delta t) - G(t)}{\Delta t} = -G(t)\lambda \longrightarrow G'(t) = -\lambda G(t)$$

$$\text{so } G(t) = \exp(-\lambda t)$$

as when you take derivative it gives some function times a constant

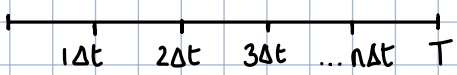
$$\text{so } F(t) = 1 - \exp(-\lambda t)$$

$$\text{and } f(t) = F'(t) = \lambda \exp(-\lambda t)$$

λ is the mean rate per unit time at which some event occurs.

Mean time = $\frac{1}{\lambda}$, Variance = $\frac{1}{\lambda^2}$

If you take the continuous time scale and split it into a finite number of intervals, $n\Delta t$, you can use Poisson:



Associating continuous process with discrete process.

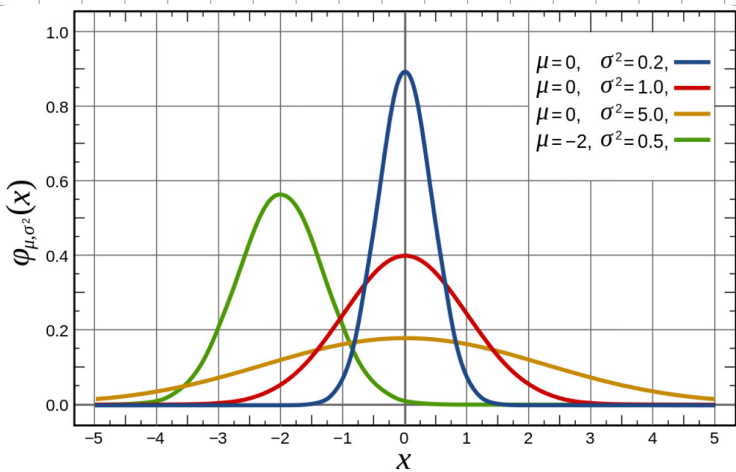
Let Y be discrete RV describing the number of events in time interval T .

λT is the Poisson parameter λT

$$P_Y(T) = P(Y=k) = \frac{\lambda T^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda T}$$

'probability of k events within finite interval of time T .'

Normal Distribution:



mean, μ , shifts curve

standard deviation, σ , determines spread (eg. peak lower, wider spread)

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_x(x) dx = 1$$

\therefore if peak lower, curve wider or area $\equiv 1$

$$F_x(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^x \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x-\mu)^2\right] dx \quad \text{cdf}$$

↑ pdf

For any Normally Distributed Variable :

68.3% of values lie between $\mu - \sigma$ and $\mu + \sigma$

95.45% between $\mu \pm 2\sigma$

99.73% between $\mu \pm 3\sigma$

Converting to Standard Normal Distribution :

$$X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$$

'If X is a normally distributed variable with mean μ & variance σ^2 ,

then
$$Z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma} \sim N(0, 1)$$

Normal Distribution Table :

- Shows $P(Z \leq c)$ so if you have $P(Z \geq \bar{c}) = \alpha$
you must do $1 - P(Z \leq \bar{c}) = 1 - \alpha$

Central Limit Theorem :

Let X be a RV with mean μ and variance σ^2

If you consider large number of trials

$$Y = X_1 + X_2 + X_3 \dots + X_n$$

then
$$Y \sim N(n\mu, n\sigma^2)$$

'Sum is normally distributed with mean of $n\mu$ and variance $n\sigma^2$.'