

A better understanding to Poisson process

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Problem

If on average in an hour 5 chinese and 3 english men walk into the store with a poisson process.

1. What's the pdf of the people arriving?

Since we know than on average 8 people show up in an hour. This is another poisson process with

$$f(n, t) = e^{-8t} \frac{(8t)^n}{n!}$$

2. If a person show up, what's the probability that he is chinese.

We know that in one hour 5 chinese and 3 english will averagely show up. The probability that a chinese showing up is $\frac{5}{8}$. In general we have the expression.

$$P(X_{\lambda_i} | 1 \text{ showup}) = \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2}$$

so now if we have n sources of poisson process, we would have:

$$P(X_{\lambda_i} | 1 \text{ showup}) = \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_n}$$

3. If 10 people show up, what's the probability that 3 is chinese

we know that this is a binomial RV with $N = 10$ and $p = 5/8$

$$P(3 \text{ chinese}) = \binom{10}{3} (5/8)^3 (3/8)^7$$

4. Now the probability that a customer is a women is p, what is the pdf of women customers showing up?

We know that originally averagely 8 customers show up in an hour. Now we have $8p$ women customers showing up in an hour. So now we have a poisson process with $8p = \lambda$, so we have the function.

$$f(n, t) = e^{-8pt} \frac{(8pt)^n}{n!}$$

5. Now if we be more specific, and say that the probability that a chinese is a women is p_1 and english is a women is p_2 . What's the new pdf of the arrival of women?

We know that the new mean is

$$\lambda = \lambda_1 p_1 + \lambda_2 p_2$$

so the new pdf would be

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

6. What is the waiting time until the 4th person shows up?

If we use the original equation where

$$f(n, t) = e^{-8t} \frac{(8t)^n}{n!}$$

we know that the inter-arrival time is $\frac{1}{\lambda}$. In this case, it would be $\frac{1}{8}$. If we multiply this by 4, this would be $1/2$, or half an hour. This is the amount of time it takes on average for the fourth person to show up.

However, to prove the original equation, is a real pain. We know that:

$$f(m, t) = \sum_{n=0}^m \left[e^{-5t} \frac{(5t)^n}{n!} \right] \left[e^{-3t} \frac{(3t)^{m-n}}{n!} \right]$$

this is because at a given time, for a given amount of people to show up, you must sum through the entire permutation of n and $(m-n)$. This sum could be re-written as:

$$f(m, t) = \sum_{n=0}^m e^{-8t} \frac{(5t)^n (3t)^{m-n}}{(m-n)!n!}$$

we can take the exponential out and multiply $m!$ in

$$f(m, t) = \frac{e^{-8t}}{m!} \sum_{n=0}^m \frac{m!}{(m-n)!n!} (5t)^n (3t)^{m-n}$$

notice how this is a binomial distribution

$$f(m, t) = \frac{e^{-8t}}{m!} \sum_{n=0}^m \binom{m}{n} (5t)^n (3t)^{m-n}$$

the binomial sum is

$$f(m, t) = \frac{e^{-8t}}{m!} (5t + 3t)^m$$

or

$$f(m, t) = e^{-8t} \frac{(8t)^m}{m!}$$

now if we use this equation, we would get the same expected time

$$\frac{1}{2} \text{ hour}$$