

Show all work. A correct answer with no solution will give only a partial credit.

Write each problem on a separate page. Each answer should be clearly written in the end of the page. Preferably, make a single pdf file and submit in HuskyCT.

.....

Let X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots be independent Poisson random variables with parameter $\lambda = 2$.

Let $S_n = X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n$

(1a) Write a formula for the probability $\mathbb{P}(S_{50} = 101)$.

(1b) Then use a calculator to compute this probability with accuracy up to five decimal places.

Answer : $S_{50} \sim \text{Pois}(100)$ therefore $\mathbb{P}(S_{50} = 101) = 100^{101}/(e^{100}(101!)) = 0.03947$

(2a) Write a formula for the normal approximation to $\mathbb{P}(S_{50} = 101)$ using the continuity correction.

(2b) Compute this approximation using the normal table, with accuracy up to five decimal places.

Hint: your answer in (2b) should be close to, but not exactly the same, as the answer in (1b).

Answer : $\mathbb{P}(100.5 < 100 + 10Z < 101.5) = \Phi(0.15) - \Phi(0.05) \approx 0.55966 - 0.51994 = 0.03972$

Extra credit question: Prove that if X_n are Geometric $\text{Geom}(p_n = \frac{1}{n})$ then

$$\frac{1}{n\lambda} X_n \rightarrow \text{Exp}(\lambda) \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty \text{ in (probability) distribution.}$$

Use geometric series to show $\mathbb{P}(\frac{1}{n\lambda} X_n > x) \rightarrow e^{-\lambda x} = P(X > x)$ if $X = \text{Exp}(\lambda)$, and also show that the moment generating functions converge.

Solution 1 : First, assume $\lambda = 1$. Then

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\frac{1}{n\lambda} X_n > x\right) = \mathbb{P}(X_n > nx) = p_n \sum_{k=[nx]}^{\infty} (1 - p_n)^k = p_n \frac{(1 - p_n)^{[nx]}}{1 - (1 - p_n)} = \left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)^{[nx]} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} e^{-x}$$

Solution 2 : To compute the moment generating functions for $\frac{1}{n} X_n$, we can use the Taylor series as follows

$$\begin{aligned} m_n(t) &= \frac{p_n e^{t/n}}{1 - (1 - p_n)e^{t/n}} = \frac{1}{n e^{-t/n} - n + 1} = \frac{1}{n(1 - t/n + t^2/n^2 + \dots) - n + 1} = \\ &= \frac{1}{n - t + t^2/n - n + 1 + \dots} \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1 - t} \end{aligned}$$

With another λ the computations are very similar.

End of the quiz