

Chapter 5

Some Discrete Probability Distributions

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Section 5.1

Introduction and Motivation

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Section 5.2

Binomial and Multinomial Distributions

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Theorem 5.1



The mean and variance of the binomial distribution $b(x; n, p)$ are
$$\mu = np \text{ and } \sigma^2 = npq.$$

Section 5.3

Hypergeometric Distribution

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Theorem 5.2



The mean and variance of the hypergeometric distribution $h(x; N, n, k)$ are

$$\mu = \frac{nk}{N} \text{ and } \sigma^2 = \frac{N-n}{N-1} \cdot n \cdot \frac{k}{N} \left(1 - \frac{k}{N}\right).$$

Section 5.4

Negative Binomial and Geometric Distributions

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Theorem 5.3



The mean and variance of a random variable following the geometric distribution are

$$\mu = \frac{1}{p} \text{ and } \sigma^2 = \frac{1-p}{p^2}.$$

Section 5.5

Poisson Distribution and the Poisson Process

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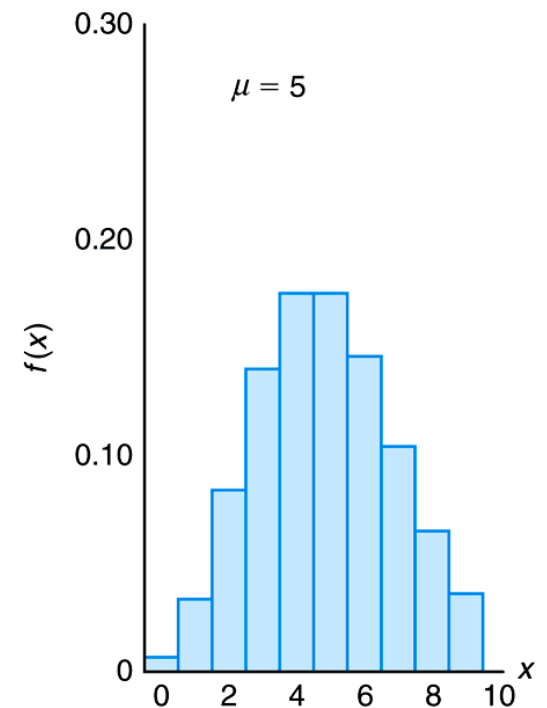
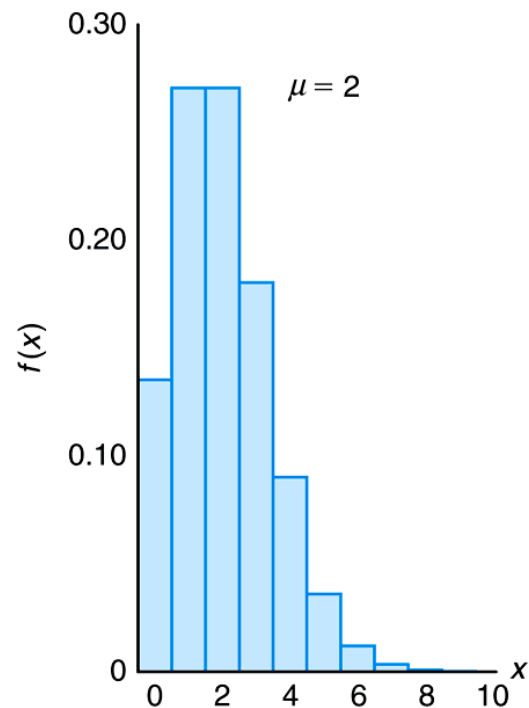
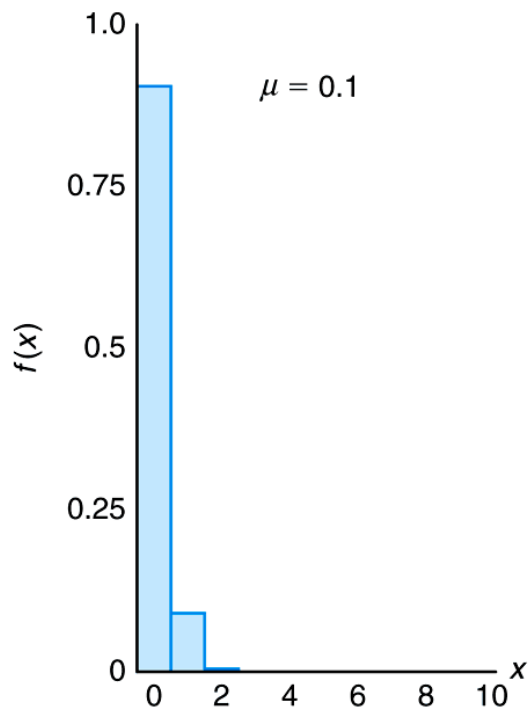
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Theorem 5.4



Both the mean and the variance of the Poisson distribution $p(x; \lambda t)$ are λt .

Figure 5.1 Poisson density functions for different means



Theorem 5.5



Let X be a binomial random variable with probability distribution $b(x; n, p)$. When $n \rightarrow \infty$, $p \rightarrow 0$, and $np \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu$ remains constant,

$$b(x; n, p) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} p(x; \mu).$$

Section 5.5

Potential
Misconceptions
and Hazards;
Relationship to
Material in Other
Chapters

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