

A process of arrivals in continuous time is called a *Poisson process* with rate  $\lambda$  if the following two conditions hold:

- The number of arrivals that occur in an interval of length  $t$  is a  $\text{Pois}(\lambda t)$  random variable
- The number of arrivals that occur in disjoint intervals are independent of each other. For example, the number of arrivals in the interval  $(0, 10]$ ,  $(10, 12]$  and  $(15, 100]$  are independent.

We'll now define a few variables related to this process:

- For each real number  $t \geq 0$ , let  $N_t$  be the number of arrivals in the interval  $(0, t]$ ; then  $N_t \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda t)$ .
- For  $s < t$ , the variable  $N_t - N_s$  counts the number of arrivals in the interval  $(s, t]$ ; then  $N_t - N_s \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda(t - s))$ .
- For each integer  $k \geq 1$ , let  $T_j$  the time of the  $j$ th arrival; we will show  $T_j \sim \text{Gamma}(j, \lambda)$ .
- For each integer  $k \geq 1$ , let  $R_j$  be the time between the  $k$ th and  $(k - 1)$ th arrival; we will show  $R_j \sim \text{Expo}(\lambda)$ .

1. The following exercises outline a proof that  $T_j \sim \text{Gamma}(j, \lambda)$

- (a) Find the CDF for  $T_1$  using the fact that  $P(T_1 \leq t) = P(N_t \geq 1)$ . Then calculate the PDF of  $T_1$ .
- (b) Express the probability  $P(T_j > t)$  as a finite sum, using the fact that  $P(T_j > t) = P(N_t < j)$ .
- (c) Use your previous answer to write the CDF of  $T_j$  as a **finite** sum.
- (d) Differentiate and use the product rule to write the PDF of  $T_j$  as a finite sum. Be careful about the derivative of the constant term.
- (e) Explicitly write out the terms of the sum for the PDF of  $T_2$  and  $T_3$ . What pattern do you notice?
- (f) Make a conjecture for how to simplify the sum for the PDF of  $T_j$ .
- (g) Based on your formula in the previous part, what is the name of the distribution of  $T_j$ ?

2. The following exercises outline a proof that  $R_j \sim \text{Expo}(\lambda)$ .

- (a) Let  $j$  be a positive integer. Express the event  $R_j > t$  as an event involving  $T_j$  and  $T_{j-1}$ .
- (b) Let  $f_{j-1}(s)$  be the marginal PDF of  $T_{j-1}$ . Express  $P(R_j > t)$  as an integral, by conditioning on the event  $T_{j-1} = s$  and using continuous LotP.
- (c) Rewrite the conditional probability inside your integral as a conditional probability involving  $N_{t+s}$  and  $N_s$ .
- (d) Use the fact that for a Poisson process, the number of arrivals in disjoint intervals are independent to simplify your integral.
- (e) Use the fact that  $f_{j-1}$  is a valid PDF and therefore, must integrate to 1, in order to calculate the value of the integral.