

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(X) &= nq(1-q) \\ \psi(s) &= (qe^s + (1-q))^n. \end{aligned}$$

Poisson

In RM, the Poisson distribution is used as a model of demand or as a (continuous parameter) approximation to the Binomial distribution. It is characterized by a single nonnegative parameter λ (its mean).

The basic definitions and properties are

$$\begin{aligned} P(x) &= e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!}, \quad x = 0, 1, \dots \\ E[X] &= \lambda \\ \text{Var}(X) &= \lambda \\ \psi(s) &= e^{\lambda(e^s - 1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Continuous Distributions

Uniform

A uniform distribution is defined by two constants $a < b$ and represents a case where the random variable is equally likely to assume any value in the interval $[a, b]$.

The basic definitions and properties are

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \frac{1}{b-a}, \quad a \leq x \leq b \\ E[X] &= \frac{a+b}{2} \\ \text{Var}(X) &= \frac{(b-a)^2}{12} \\ \psi(s) &= \frac{e^{sb} - e^{sa}}{s(b-a)}. \end{aligned}$$

Exponential

The exponential distribution is defined by a single parameter λ .

The basic definitions and properties are

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \lambda e^{-\lambda x}, \quad x \geq 0 \\ E[X] &= \frac{1}{\lambda} \\ \text{Var}(X) &= \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \\ \psi(s) &= \frac{\lambda}{\lambda - s}. \end{aligned}$$