Statistics

Michaelmas Term 2009

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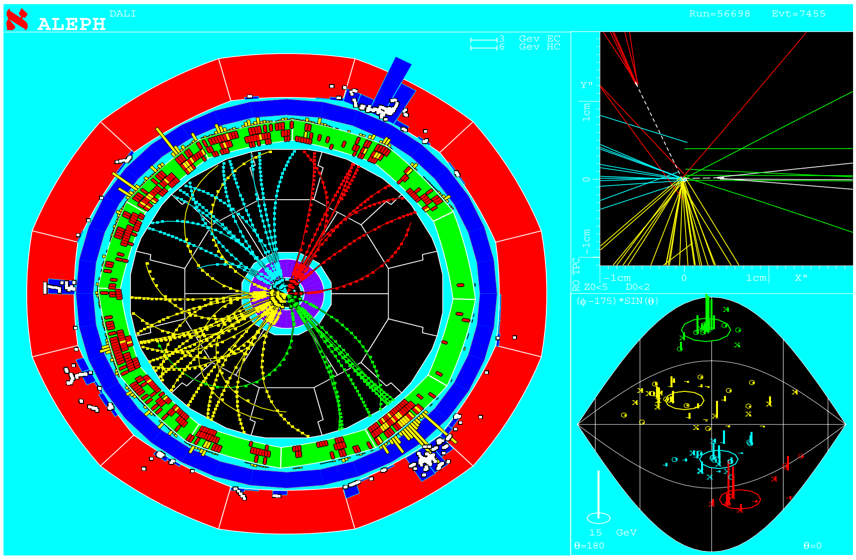


Lecture 1 : Back to Basics

Course Synopsis

Lecture 1: Back to basics
Introduction, Probability distribution functions, Binomial distributions, Poisson distribution

Lecture 2: The Gaussian Limit
The central limit theorem, Gaussian errors, Error propagation, Combination of measurements, Multi-dimensional Gaussian errors, Error Matrix

Lecture 3: Fitting and Hypothesis Testing
The χ^2 test, Likelihood functions, Fitting, Binned maximum likelihood, Unbinned maximum likelihood

Lecture 4: Dark Arts
Bayesian statistics, Confidence intervals, systematic errors.

Experimental Physics

★ Experimental science concerned with two types of experimental measurement:
- Measurement of a quantity : *parameter estimation*
- Tests of a theory/model : *hypothesis testing*

★ For **parameter estimation** we usually have some data (a set of measurements) and from which we want to obtain
- The best estimate of the true parameter; **"the measured value"**
- The best estimate of how well we have measured the parameter; **"the uncertainty"**

★ For **hypothesis testing** we usually have some data (a set of measurements) and one or more theoretical models, and want
- A measure of how consistent our data are with the model; **"a probability"**
- Which model best describes our data; **"a relative probability"**

To address the above questions we need to use **and understand** statistical techniques

★ In these 4±1 lectures we will cover most aspects of statistics as applied to experimental high energy physics:
- Nothing will be stated without proof (or at least justification).
- Understanding the derivations will help you to understand the basis behind the statistical techniques

Caveat Emptor

★ I will present my own view of Statistics as applied to HEP
- This is based on many years of experience…
- It is biased towards a probabilistic view with strong (**but not too rabid**) Bayesian leanings
- Derivations, explanations, etc. based on the probabilistic view

The path to enlightenment:
- If you measure something always quote an uncertainty
- Understand what you are doing and why
- Don't forget that you are usually *estimating* the uncertainty
  - **e.g.** don't worry too much about whether an effect is **2.9**σ and **3.1**σ
- Don't worry too much about the difference between Bayesian and Frequentist approaches
  - often give same results
  - if the results are different – usually means data are weak

Three Types of "Errors"

Statistical Uncertainties:

★ Random fluctuations
- e.g. shot noise, measuring small currents, how many electrons arrive in a fixed time
- Tossing a coin N times, how many heads

} The main topic of these lectures

Systematic Uncertianies:

★ Biases
- e.g. energy calibration wrong
- Thermal expansion of measuring device
- Imperfect theoretical predications

} Discussed in the last lecture

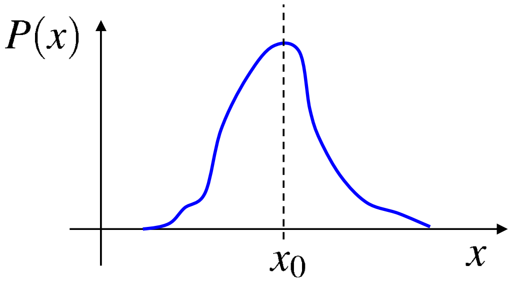
Blunders, i.e. errors:

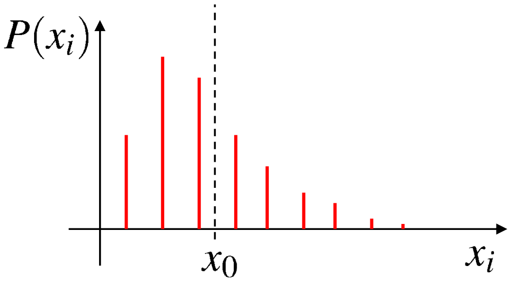
★ Mistakes
- Forgot to include a particular background in analysis
- Bugs in analysis code

} Not discussed, never happen…

Probability Distributions

★ Suppose we are trying to measure some quantity with true value x_0 the result of a single measurement follows a probability density function (**PDF**) which may or may not be of a known form.





★**Normalised:**

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} P(x) = 1 \qquad\qquad \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} P(x_i) = 1$$

★In general, can parameterise the PDF by its moments α_n

$$\alpha_n = \int x^n P(x)\mathrm{d}x \qquad\qquad \alpha_n = \sum x^n P_i$$

Note: $\alpha_n \equiv \langle x^n \rangle$

Mean and Variance

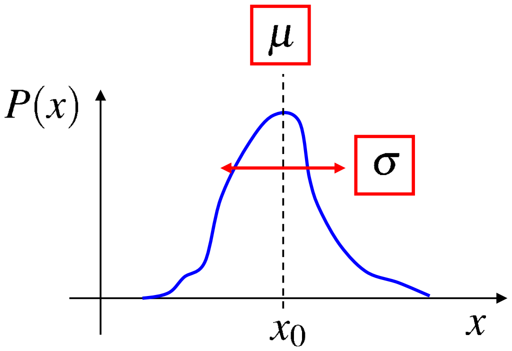
★ Can now define a few important properties of the PDF

Mean: $\mu \equiv \langle x \rangle = \int x P(x)\mathrm{d}x$ "average of many measurements"

Mean of squares: $\langle x^2 \rangle = \int x^2 P(x)\mathrm{d}x$

Variance: $Var(x) \equiv \sigma^2 \equiv \langle (x-\mu)^2 \rangle = \int (x-\mu)^2 P(x)\mathrm{d}x$

- The variance represents the width of the PDF about the mean
- Convenient to express this in terms of the standard deviation σ
- μ and σ describe the mean and "width" of a PDF
- Sometimes you will see the 3rd and 4th moments used (skewness, kurtosis) (these are not particularly useful)



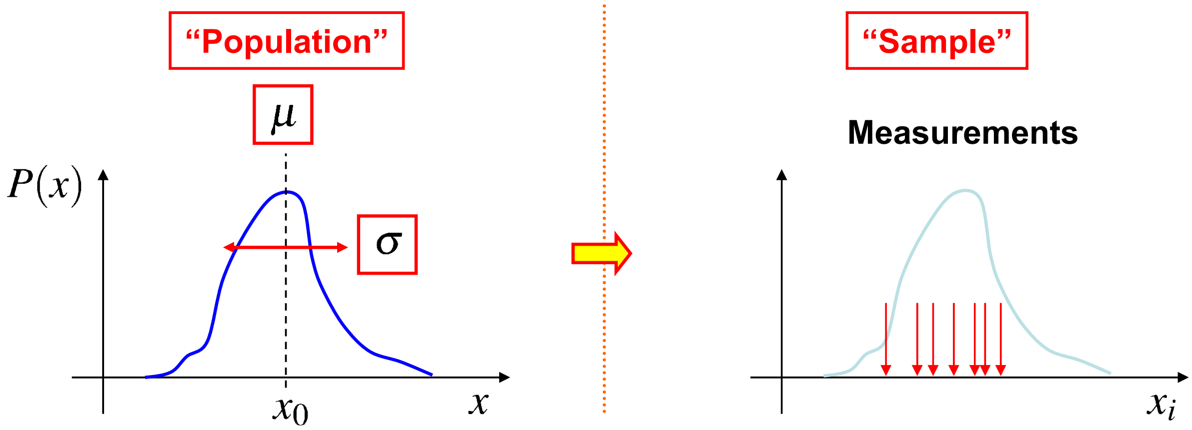
$$\begin{aligned}
\sigma^2 \equiv \langle (x-\mu)^2 \rangle &= \langle x^2 - 2\mu x + \mu^2 \rangle \\
&= \langle x^2 \rangle - 2\mu \langle x \rangle + \mu^2 \\
&= \langle x^2 \rangle - 2\mu^2 + \mu^2 \\
&= \langle x^2 \rangle - \mu^2
\end{aligned}$$

Estimating the Mean and Variance

★ In general do not know the PDF – instead have a number of measurements distributed according to the PDF

★ Unless one has a infinite number of measurements cannot fully reconstruct the PDF (not a particularly useful thing to do anyway)

★ But can obtain unbiased estimates of the **mean** and **variance**



★ Best estimate of mean of distribution is the mean of the sample

$$\overline{x} = \frac{1}{n}\sum_i x_i$$

★ **Can also define sample variance**

$$s^2 = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}(x_i - \overline{x})^2$$

★ **How does sample variance s^2 relate to true variance σ^2 ?**

★ **Can calculate average value of variance**

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle s^2\rangle &= \langle (x_i - \overline{x})^2\rangle \\
&= \langle x_i^2\rangle - 2\langle x_i \frac{1}{n}\sum_j x_j\rangle + \frac{1}{n^2}\langle [\sum_j x_j]^2\rangle \\
&= \langle x_i^2\rangle - \frac{2}{n}\langle x_i^2 + \sum_{j\neq i} x_i x_j\rangle + \frac{1}{n^2}\left(n\langle x_i^2\rangle + n(n-1)\langle x_i x_j\rangle_{i\neq j}\right) \\
&= \langle x^2\rangle - \frac{1}{n}\langle x^2\rangle + \frac{(n-1)}{n}\langle x_i x_j\rangle_{i\neq j} \\
&= \frac{(n-1)}{n}\left(\langle x^2\rangle - \langle x_i x_j\rangle_{i\neq j}\right) \\
&= \frac{(n-1)}{n}(\langle x^2\rangle - \mu^2) = \frac{n-1}{n}\sigma^2
\end{aligned}$$

Question 1: prove

$$\langle x_i x_j\rangle_{i\neq j} = \mu^2$$

what assumption have you made?

★ **Hence, on average, the sample variance is a factor $\frac{n-1}{n}$ smaller than the true variance**

★ **For an unbiased estimate of the true variance for a single measurement use:**

$$s_{n-1}^2 = \frac{1}{n-1}\sum_{i=1}^{n}(x_i - \overline{x})^2$$

★ **For the best unbiased estimate of the true mean use the sample mean:**

$$\overline{x} = \frac{1}{n}\sum_i x_i$$

★ **What is the "error" (i.e. square root of the variance) on the sample mean ?**

$$\begin{aligned}
Var(\overline{x}) \equiv \sigma_{\overline{x}}^2 &= \langle (\overline{x} - \mu)^2\rangle \\
&= \langle (\frac{1}{n}\sum_i x_i - \mu)^2\rangle \\
&= \frac{1}{n^2} n\langle x^2\rangle + \frac{n(n-1)}{n^2}\langle x_i x_j\rangle_{i\neq j} - 2\mu\langle\overline{x}\rangle + \mu^2 \\
&= \frac{\langle x^2\rangle}{n} + \frac{n-1}{n}\mu^2 - \mu^2 \\
&= \frac{\langle x^2 - \mu^2\rangle}{n} = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}
\end{aligned}$$

★ Hence the uncertainty on the mean is $\sqrt{n}$ smaller than the uncertainty on a single measurement

$$\sigma_{\overline{x}} = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$$

★ **Note:** this is general result – doesn't rely on distriburion

★ Of course we only have an estimate of σ, so our best (unbiased) estimate of the uncertainty on the mean is:

$$\sigma_{\overline{x}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} s_{n-1}$$

★ There is one final question we can ask… what is the uncertainty on our estimate of the uncertainty. The answer to this question depends on the form of the PDF.

★ We'll come back to this question later in the context of a Gaussian distribution…..

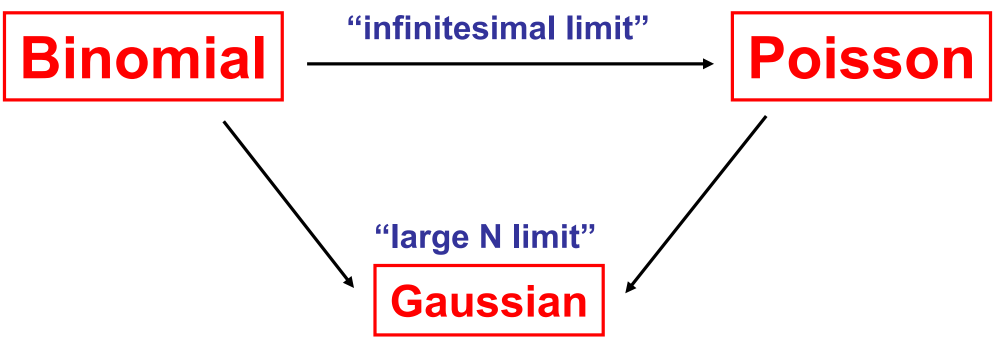
QUESTION 2 (~IA Physics):

Given 5 measurements of a quantity x: 10.2, 5.5, 6.7, 3.4, 3.5

What is the best estimate of x and what is the estimated uncertainty?
For later, how well do you know the uncertainty?

Special Probability Distributions

★ So far, dealt in generalities
★ Now consider some special distributions…
★ Simplest case "Binomial distribution"
  - Random process with two outcomes with probabilities p and (1-p)
  - Repeat process a fixed number of times ⇨ distribution of outcomes
★ Next simplest, "Poisson distribution"
  - Discrete random process with fixed mean
★ Then, "Gaussian distribution"
  - Continuous "high statistics" limit



Binomial Distribution

★ Applies for a **fixed number of trials** when there are **two possible outcomes**, e.g.
- Toss an unbiased coin ten times, how many heads ?

$$P(r;n) = {}^nC_r p^r(1-p)^{n-r}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{x} &= \frac{\sum_{r=0}^{n} rP(r)}{\sum_0^n P(r)} = \sum_0^n rP(r) \\
&= \sum_{r=0}^{n} rp^r(1-p)^{n-r}\frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!} \\
&= np\sum_{r=1}^{n} p^{(r-1)}(1-p)^{(n-r)}\frac{(n-1)!}{(r-1)!(n-r)!} \\
&= np\sum_{r'=0}^{n-1} p^{r'}(1-p)^{(n-1-r')}\frac{(n-1)!}{r'!(n-1-r')!} \\
&= np\sum_{r=0}^{n-1} P(r;n-1) \\
&= np
\end{aligned}$$

(n=0 term is zero)

(let *r'* = *r*-1)

normalised to unity

★ Hence $\bar{x} = np$ (hardly a surprising result)

Variance of the binomial distribution

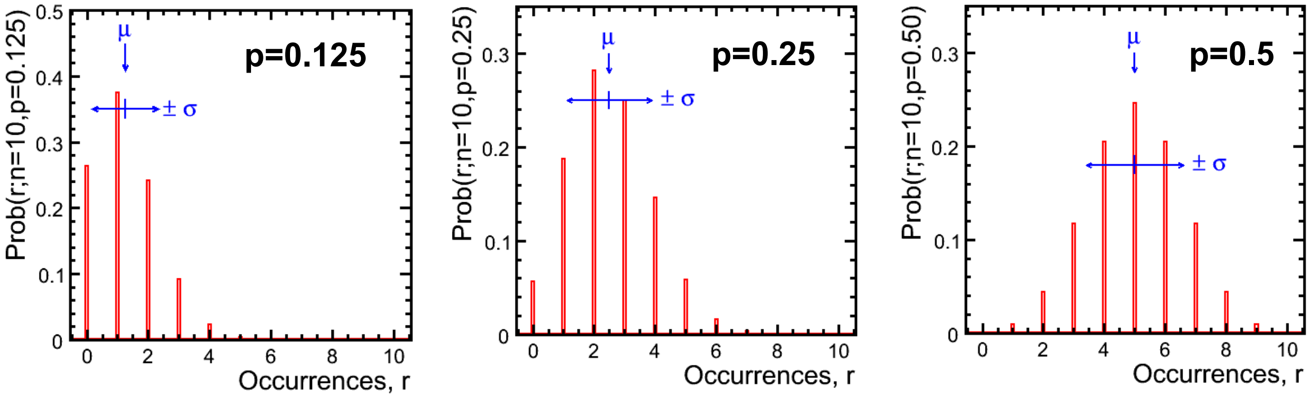
$$Var(r) = \langle (r-\mu)^2\rangle = \langle r^2\rangle - \mu^2$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle r^2\rangle = \frac{\sum r^2 P(r;n)}{P(r;n)} &= \sum_{r=0}^{n} r^2 p^r(1-p)^{n-r}\frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!} \\
&= np\sum_{r=1}^{n} rp^{r-1}(1-p)^{n-r}\frac{(n-1)!}{(r-1)!(n-r)!} \\
&= np\sum_{r'=0}^{n-1}(r'+1)p^{r'}(1-p)^{n-1-r'}\frac{(n-1)!}{r'!(n-1-r')!} \\
&= np\sum_{r=0}^{n-1}P(r;n-1) + np\sum_{r=0}^{n-1} rP(r;n-1) \\
&= np + np\times(n-1)p \\
\langle r^2\rangle &= np(np-p+1)
\end{aligned}$$

⇨
$$\begin{aligned}
Var(r) &= \langle r^2\rangle - \mu^2 = np(np-p+1) + np - (np)^2 \\
&= np(1-p)
\end{aligned}$$

$$Var(r) = np(1-p)$$

e.g. n=10



★ What is the meaning of σ ?

- By definition, σ, is root of the mean square (rms) deviation from the mean

$$\sigma \equiv \langle (r-\mu)^2 \rangle^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

- For a binomial distribution $\sigma = \sqrt{np(1-p)}$
- It provides **a well-defined** measure **of the spread about the mean**
- For above values: **62 %, 57 %,** and **66 %** of distribution within ± 1 σ of mean
  Answer depends on n and p, but roughly ~55-70%

Example: Efficiency Uncertainty

★ Suppose you use MC events to determine a selection efficiency
- **m** out **n** events pass some selection, what is the efficiency and uncertainty

★ This is a binomial process (fixed number of trials). Hence the number of events passing the selection will be distributed as:

$$P(m;n) = {}^{n}C_{m}\varepsilon^{m}(1-\varepsilon)^{n-m}$$

★ Want to quote ***best estimate*** of the efficiency and the ***best estimate*** of the uncertainty (i.e. square root of the variance).

★ Best estimate of efficiency is "clearly": $\varepsilon_e = \frac{m}{n}$

★ From properties of binomial distribution expect

$$\sigma^2 = \langle \varepsilon^2 \rangle = n\varepsilon(1-\varepsilon) \times \frac{1}{n^2}$$

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{\varepsilon(1-\varepsilon)}{n} \qquad \left(= \frac{m(n-m)}{n^3}\right)$$

e.g. 90 out of 100 events pass trigger requirements,

$$\varepsilon = 0.90 \pm 0.03$$

A more advanced analysis

- ★ Asserted that our best estimate of the true efficiency ε is $\varepsilon_e = \frac{m}{n}$

  Suppose we repeated the experiment many times

$$\langle \varepsilon_e \rangle = \frac{\langle m \rangle}{n} = \frac{n\varepsilon}{n} = \varepsilon$$

  so on average this procedure gives an unbiased estimate of ε **GOOD**

- ★ What about our estimate for the variance ?

$$\sigma_e^2 = \frac{\varepsilon_e(1-\varepsilon_e)}{n} = \frac{m(n-m)}{n^3}$$

  Again suppose we repeated the experiment many times

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \sigma_e^2 \rangle &= \frac{n\langle m \rangle}{n^3} - \frac{\langle m^2 \rangle}{n^3} \\
&= \frac{n^2\varepsilon}{n^3} - \frac{n^2\varepsilon^2 - n\varepsilon^2 + n\varepsilon}{n^3} \\
&= \frac{\varepsilon(1-\varepsilon)}{n} + \frac{\varepsilon(1-\varepsilon)}{n^2} = \frac{n+1}{n^2}\varepsilon(1-\varepsilon) \\
&= \frac{n+1}{n}\sigma^2
\end{aligned}$$

GOOD ENOUGH

a problem…

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{\varepsilon(1-\varepsilon)}{n}$$

- ★ Suppose you want to estimate a trigger efficiency based on 100 MC events
- ★ If all the MC events pass the trigger selection…
  - best estimate of efficiency is 100 %
  - but what about the uncertainty on the efficiency ?
  - the above equation would suggest **zero**
  - this is clearly nonsense
  - so what's wrong ?

We'll come back to this in lecture 4…

The Poisson Distribution

★ Probably the most important distribution for experimental particle physicists

★ Appropriate for discrete counts at a **fixed rate**

- e.g. in time **t**, on average expect μ events

$$p(n;\mu) = \frac{\mu^n e^{-\mu}}{n!}$$

★ The form of this equation is not immediately obvious (unlike that of the binomial distribution) – so (for completeness) derive the Poisson Distribution…

★ In time **t**, on average expect μ events. Now divide **t** into **N** intervals of δ**t**

- Probability of one event on δ**t** is δ**p**

$$\delta p = \mu \frac{\delta t}{t} = \frac{\mu}{N}$$

- Probability of getting two events is negligibly small
- Hence the problem has been transformed into N trials each with two discrete outcomes, i.e. a **binomial distribution**

$$p(n;\mu) = \lim_{N\to\infty} \delta p^n (1-\delta p)^{N-n} \frac{N!}{n!(N-n)!}$$

Derivation of the Poisson distribution

$$P = (\delta p)^n (1-\delta p)^{N-n} \frac{N!}{n!(N-n)!}$$

$$\ln P = n \ln \delta p + (N-n)\ln(1-\delta p) + \ln N! - \ln n! - \ln(N-n)!$$

First consider:

$$\begin{aligned}(N-n)\ln(1-\delta p) &= (N-n)[-\delta p + (\delta p)^2/2 + \ldots] \\ &\approx -N\delta p + n\delta p \\ &= -\mu + \frac{n}{N}\mu\end{aligned}$$

hence

$$\lim_{N\to\infty}\{(N-n)\ln(1-\delta p)\} = -\mu$$

Stirling's approx

Now consider:

$$\begin{aligned}\ln\frac{N!}{(N-n)!} &= N\ln N - N - (N-n)\ln(N-n) + (N-n) \\ &= N\ln N + n - (N-n)\ln\left(1-\frac{n}{N}\right) - (N-n)\ln N \\ &\approx n\ln N + n + (N-n)\frac{n}{N} \\ &= \ln N^n + \frac{n^2}{N}\end{aligned}$$

hence

$$\lim_{N\to\infty}\left\{\frac{N!}{(N-n)!}\right\} = N^n$$

So finally,

$$P(n;N) = (\delta p)^n (1-\delta p)^{N-n} \frac{N!}{n!(N-n)!}$$

becomes:

$$P(n;\mu) = (\delta p)^n e^{-\mu} \frac{N^n}{n!} = \left(\frac{\mu}{N}\right)^n e^{-\mu} \frac{N^n}{n!}$$

$$\boxed{P(n;\mu) = \frac{\mu^n e^{-\mu}}{n!}}$$

★ Check that the Poisson distribution is normalised…

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P(n;\mu) = e^{-\mu}\left(1 + \frac{\mu}{1!} + \frac{\mu^2}{2!} + \ldots\right)$$

$$= e^{-\mu} e^{+\mu} = 1$$

Properties of the Poisson Distribution

Mean

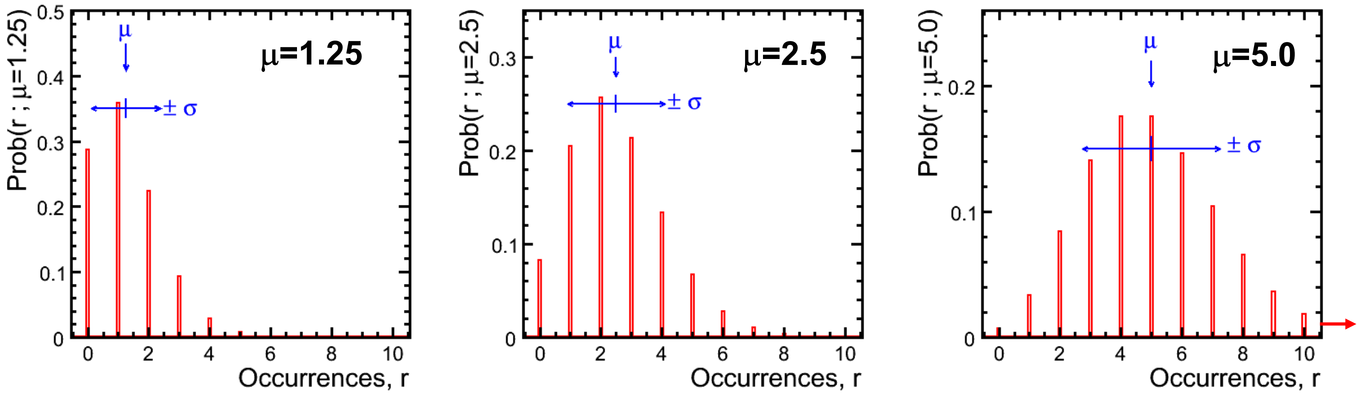
$$\begin{aligned}
\langle n \rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} nP(n;\mu) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n \frac{\mu^n e^{-\mu}}{n!} \\
&= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \frac{\mu^n e^{-\mu}}{n!} \\
&= \mu \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mu^{n-1} e^{-\mu}}{(n-1)!} \\
&= \mu \sum_{n'=0}^{\infty} \frac{\mu^{n'} e^{-\mu}}{n'!} \\
&= \mu \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P(n;\mu) \\
&= \mu
\end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\langle n \rangle = \mu}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle n^2 \rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} nP(n;\mu) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^2 \frac{\mu^n e^{-\mu}}{n!} \\
&= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^2 \frac{\mu^n e^{-\mu}}{n!} \\
&= \mu \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \frac{\mu^{n-1} e^{-\mu}}{(n-1)!} \\
&= \mu \sum_{n'=0}^{\infty} (n'+1) \frac{\mu^{n'} e^{-\mu}}{n'!} \\
&= \mu \left\{ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} nP(n;\mu) + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P(n;\mu) \right\} \\
&= \mu^2 + \mu \\
\sigma^2 = Var(n) &= \langle n^2 \rangle - \langle n \rangle^2 \\
&= \mu
\end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\sigma^2 = \mu}$$

e.g. μ=1.25, 2.5, 5.0



$$\langle N \rangle = \mu \qquad \sigma = \sqrt{\mu}$$

Example I

★ **Suppose I am trying to measure a cross section for a process**

- **observe N events for an integrated luminosity of $\mathscr{L}$**
- **for this luminosity the expected number of events is**

$$\mu = \sigma \mathscr{L}$$

- **observed number of events will be Poisson distributed according to μ**
- **our best unbiased estimate of μ is simply the number of observed events**

$$\mu_e = N$$

- **for a Poisson distribution the variance is equal to the mean**
- **hence we can estimate the uncertainty on the estimated mean as $\sqrt{N}$**

$$\mu_e = N \pm \sqrt{N}$$

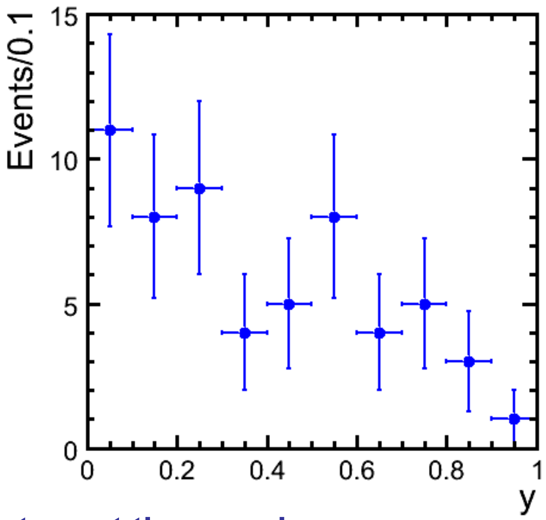
$$\sigma = \frac{1}{\mathscr{L}}(N \pm \sqrt{N})$$

NOTE: if you observe N events, the estimated uncertainty on the mean of the underlying Poisson distribution is $\sqrt{N}$
: it is not the "error" on N – there is no uncertainty on what you counted

★ **Poisson fluctuations are the ultimate limit to any counting experiment**

Example II

- ★ Suppose a colleague makes a histogram of event counts as a function of y
  - the histogram includes errors bars (made by root)



- ★ How should you interpret the error bars
  - If symmetric then probably $\sqrt{N}$
  - i.e. they indicate the expected "spread" assuming the mean expected counts in that bin are equal to the observed value
  - For large N this is not unreasonable
  - But for small N this doesn't make much sense…

High Statistics Limit of Poisson Distribution

$$P(n;\mu) = \frac{\mu^n e^{-\mu}}{n!}$$

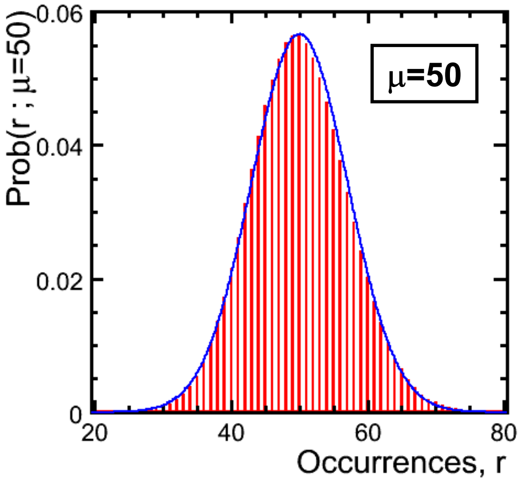
$$\begin{aligned}
\text{let} \quad f(x) &= \ln P(x;\mu) \\
&= -\mu - \ln x! + x \ln \mu \\
&\approx -\mu + x\ln x - x + x \ln \mu \\
\text{hence} \quad f'(x) &= \ln \mu - \ln x \\
f''(x) &= -1/x
\end{aligned}$$

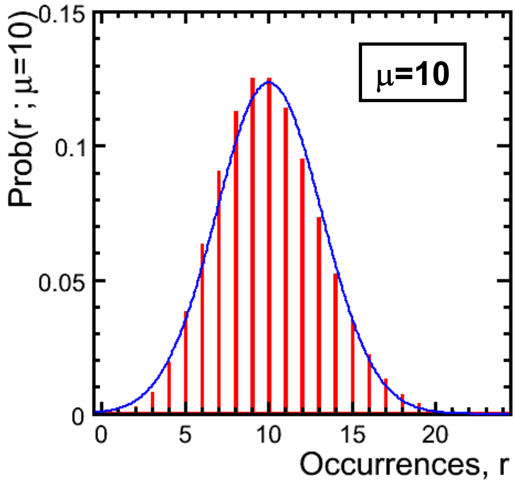
Taylor expansion about mean:

$$\begin{aligned}
f(x) &= f(\mu) + (x-\mu)f'(\mu) + \frac{1}{2!}(x-\mu)^2 f''(\mu) + \frac{1}{3!}(x-\mu)^3 f'''(\mu).. \\
&= f(\mu) - \frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\mu} + \frac{(x-\mu)^3}{6\mu^2} + \ldots
\end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{P(x;\mu) \approx k e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\mu}}}$$

$$P(x;\mu) \approx k e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\mu}}$$





★ **Even for relatively small μ, (apart from in the extreme tails), a Gaussian Distribution is a pretty good approximation**

▪**Problem 3: for "fun" show that the high statistics limit of a binomial distribution is a Gaussian of width σ^2=np(1-p)**

Next Time

★ **Investigate the treatment of statistics in the Gaussian Limit**

The central limit theorem
Gaussian errors
Error propagation
Combination of measurements
Multi-dimensional Gaussian errors
Error Matrix