University of Kentucky, Physics 335
Laboratory #3, Rev. B, due Tuesday, 2022-09-06

This lab explores the distribution of the random variable X representing the number of fish caught in 100 minutes, assuming a 5% chance of catching a fish per minute, Prof. Straley's simulation https://www.pa.uky.edu/~straley/crawfordprojects/poisson.htm.

1. Theoretical estimation of the **Parent Distribution**

a) What is the expected number λ of fishes to be caught in 100 min? Tabulate the Poisson distribution given λ for $x = 0, 1, 2, \ldots 10$.

b) Draw step plot of the Poisson distribution $P(x)$ out to $x = 10$, labeling your axes in the figure, which should span the entire width of your sheet. Plot the binomial distribution for $n = 10$, $np = \lambda$ (X02) on the same graph with the symbol $\times$. [*bonus: also for* $n = 100$, *the actual simulation*]

c) Calculate the $\mu = \lambda$ and $\sigma = \sqrt{\lambda}$ from the distribution. Why are they slightly different? Plot the mean as a vertical line on the distribution and indicate the $\mu \pm \sigma$ interval in each direction.

2. Experimental measurement of a **Sample Distribution**

a) Perform an experiment to estimate $P(x)$ by running the simulation $N = 25$ times, recording the numerical value of each result in a list. Calculate the mean $\bar{x}$ and standard deviation s of this sample. Make a new plot of each point $x_i \pm \delta x_i$ with error bars versus i on the abscissa. Draw a horizontal line at height $\bar{x}$ running through all points. How many error bars touch the line?

b) Add the frequency of occurrences of each value of x to a new line of the table in 1a). Normalize the distribution to 1 and plot $(m_x \pm \sqrt{m_x})/N$ with a solid circle and error bars in each bin on the graph of 1b). Draw a horizontal error bar representing the mean $\bar{x} \pm \delta\bar{x}$.

c) Calculate *chi-squared* $\chi^2 = \sum_x \left(\frac{m_x - NP(x)}{\delta m_x}\right)^2 = \sum_x \frac{(m_x - NP(x))^2}{m_x}$. Since terms with $m_x = 0$ are undefined, and bins with $m_x < 5$ have poor statistics, group x bins together to obtain super-bins of at least $\sum m_x \geq 5$ for each term in χ^2. Is the average deviation in each bin about 1?

3. Calculation of the **Combined Distribution**

a) Tabulate your frequency distribution, mean, and standard deviation on the white board along with each other group. Calculate the combined sample distribution, its mean, and standard deviation $\bar{s}$ on a new line in the table of 1a).

b) Add the combined distribution $(m_x \pm \sqrt{m_x})/N$ from 3a) to the plot of 1b) using unfilled square makers with error bars. Plot the mean $\bar{x}_i$ from each group with ticks on the horizontal error bar of 2b). Add a horizontal error bar for the combined mean $\bar{\bar{x}} \pm \delta\bar{\bar{x}}$ above the previous one. Recalculate χ^2. How did it change with higher statistics?

c) Qualitatively compare the plots and statistics of each of these distributions.