
ECE 307 – Techniques for Engineering Decisions

Probability Distributions

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OUTLINE OF DISTRIBUTION REVIEWED

Discrete

- Binomial

- Poisson

Continuous

- Exponential

- Normal

THE BINOMIAL DISTRIBUTION

- ❑ **Binomial distributions are used to describe events with only two possible outcomes**
- ❑ **Basic requirements are**
 - ***dichotomous outcomes*: uncertain events occur in a sequence with each event having one of two possible outcomes such as**

THE BINOMIAL DISTRIBUTION

success/failure, correct/incorrect, on/off or
true/false

- *constant probability*: each event has the same probability of success
- *independence*: the outcome of each event is independent of the outcomes of any other event

BINOMIAL DISTRIBUTION EXAMPLE

- We consider a group of n identical machines with each machine having one of two states:

$$P \{ \text{machine is on} \} = p$$

$$P \{ \text{machine is off} \} = q = 1 - p$$

- For concreteness, we set $n = 8$ and define for

$i = 1, 2, \dots, 8$, the *r.v.s*

BINOMIAL DISTRIBUTION EXAMPLE

$$\tilde{X}_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{machine } i \text{ is on with prob. } p \\ 0 & \text{machine } i \text{ is off with prob. } q = 1 - p \end{cases}$$

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- The probability that 3 or more machines are on is determined by evaluating

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$$P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n \tilde{X}_i \geq 3 \right\} = P \{ 3 \text{ or more machines are on} \}$$

BINOMIAL DISTRIBUTION EXAMPLE

$$\begin{aligned} &= P\{3 \text{ machines are on}\} + \\ &P\{4 \text{ machines are on}\} + \\ &\text{cuu duong than cong. com} \\ &\quad \dots + \\ &P\{8 \text{ machines are on}\} \end{aligned}$$

$$P\left\{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i \geq 3\right\} = \sum_{r=3}^8 \frac{8!}{(8-r)!r!} p^r (1-p)^{8-r}$$

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THE BINOMIAL DISTRIBUTION

- In general, for a *r.v.* \tilde{R} with dichotomous outcomes of success and failure, the probability of r successes in n trials is

$P \{ \tilde{R} = r \text{ in } n \text{ trials with probability of success } p \}$

$$= \frac{n!}{(n-r)!r!} p^r (1-p)^{n-r}$$

the binomial
distribution

THE BINOMIAL DISTRIBUTION

□ We can show that:

$$E \{ \tilde{R} \} = np$$

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$$\text{var} \{ \tilde{R} \} = np(1-p)$$

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$$P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n \tilde{X}_i \geq k \right\} = \sum_{r=k}^n \frac{n!}{(n-r)!r!} p^r (1-p)^{n-r}$$

EXAMPLE: SOFT PRETZELS

- ❑ The probability of these two outcomes is equal
- ❑ Market tests are conducted with 20 pretzels being taste tested against the competition; the result is that 5 out of 20 people prefer the new pretzel
- ❑ We evaluate the conditional probability

$$P \{ \text{new pretzel is a hit} \mid 5 \text{ out of } 20 \text{ people prefer new pretzel} \}$$

EXAMPLE: SOFT PRETZELS

- We define the success *r.v.*

$$\tilde{S} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{new pretzel is a hit} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise (a flop)} \end{cases}$$

with

$$P\{\tilde{S} = 1\} = P\{\tilde{S} = 0\} = 0.5$$

and

$$\tilde{X}_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{person } i \text{ prefers new pretzel} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- We evaluate

$$P\{\text{new pretzel is a hit} \mid 5 \text{ out of } 20 \text{ people prefer new pretzel}\}$$

EXAMPLE: SOFT PRETZELS

$$P \left\{ \underset{\sim}{S} = 1 \mid \sum_{i=1}^{20} \underset{\sim}{X}_i = 5 \right\} = \frac{P \left\{ \underset{\sim}{S} = 1, \sum_{i=1}^{20} \underset{\sim}{X}_i = 5 \right\}}{P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{20} \underset{\sim}{X}_i = 5 \right\}} =$$

$$P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{20} \underset{\sim}{X}_i = 5 \mid \underset{\sim}{S} = 1 \right\} P \left\{ \underset{\sim}{S} = 1 \right\}$$

$$P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{20} \underset{\sim}{X}_i = 5 \mid \underset{\sim}{S} = 1 \right\} P \left\{ \underset{\sim}{S} = 1 \right\} + P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{20} \underset{\sim}{X}_i = 5 \mid \underset{\sim}{S} = 0 \right\} P \left\{ \underset{\sim}{S} = 0 \right\}$$

EXAMPLE: SOFT PRETZELS

$$P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{20} \tilde{X}_i = 5 \mid \tilde{S} = 1 \right\}$$

**0.179 from the
binomial table**

is the binomial probability

that 5 out of 20 people prefer

the new pretzel with $p = 0.3$

$$P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{20} \tilde{X}_i = 5 \mid \tilde{S} = 0 \right\}$$

**0.0032 from the
binomial table**

is the binomial probability

that 5 out of 20 people prefer

the new pretzel with $p = 0.1$

EXAMPLE: SOFT PRETZELS

□ Therefore,

$$P\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{20} \tilde{X}_i = 5 \mid \tilde{S} = 1\right\} P\{\tilde{S} = 1\}$$

$$P\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{20} \tilde{X}_i = 5 \mid \tilde{S} = 1\right\} P\{\tilde{S} = 1\} + P\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{20} \tilde{X}_i = 5 \mid \tilde{S} = 0\right\} P\{\tilde{S} = 0\}$$

$$= \frac{(0.179)(0.5)}{(0.179)(0.5) + (0.032)(0.5)}$$

$$= 0.848$$

THE POISSON DISTRIBUTION

- ❑ **The binomial distribution is good for representing successes in repeated trials**
- ❑ **The Poisson distribution is appropriate for representing specific events over time or space:
e.g., number of customers who are served by a butcher in a meat market, or number of chips judged unacceptable in a production run**

REQUIREMENTS FOR A POISSON DISTRIBUTION

- Events can happen at any of a large number of values within the range of measurement (time, space, etc.) and possibly along a continuum
- At a specific point z , $P \{an\ event\ at\ z\}$ is very small and so events do not happen *too frequently*

REQUIREMENTS FOR A POISSON DISTRIBUTION

- Each event is independent of any other event and

so

$$P \{ \text{event at any point} \}$$

is fixed and *independent* of all other events

- Average number of events over a unit of measure

is constant

THE POISSON DISTRIBUTED *r.v.*

- \tilde{X} is the *r.v.* representing the number of events in a unit of measure

$$\left. \begin{aligned} P\{\tilde{X} = k\} &= \frac{e^{-m} m^k}{k!} \\ E\{\tilde{X}\} &= m \quad \text{var}\{\tilde{X}\} = m \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{array}{l} m \text{ is the} \\ \text{Poisson distribution} \\ \text{parameter} \end{array}$$

- Interpretation: the Poisson distribution parameter is the mean or the variance of the distribution

EXAMPLE: POISSON DISTRIBUTION

- Consider an assembly line for manufacturing a particular product
 - 1024 units are produced
 - based on past experience, a flawed product is manufactured every 197 units and so, on average, there are that $\frac{1024}{197} \approx 5.2$ flawed units in the 1024 products are produced

EXAMPLE: POISSON DISTRIBUTION

- Note that the Poisson conditions are satisfied
 - the sample has 1024 units
 - there are only a few flawed units in the 1024 sample
 - the probability of a flawed unit is small
 - each flawed unit is *independent* of every other flawed unit

EXAMPLE: POISSON DISTRIBUTION

- Poisson distribution is appropriate representation with $m = 5.2$ and so,

$$P \{ \underset{\sim}{X} = k \} = \frac{e^{-5.2} (5.2)^k}{k!}$$

- If we want to determine the probability of 4 or more flawed units, we compute

EXAMPLE: POISSON DISTRIBUTION

$$P\{\tilde{X} > 4\} = 1 - P\{\tilde{X} \leq 4\} = 1 - 0.406 = 0.594$$

lookup Poisson table for $k = 4, m = 5.2$

□ The Poisson table states that

$$P\{\tilde{X} \leq 12\} = 0.997$$

and therefore

$$P\{\tilde{X} > 12\} = 1 - P\{\tilde{X} \leq 12\} = 0.003$$

EXAMPLE: SOFT PRETZELS

- ❑ **The pretzel enterprise is going well: several retail outlets and a street vendor sell the pretzels**
- ❑ **A vendor in a new location can sell, on average, 20 pretzels per hour; the vendor in an existing location sells 8 pretzels per hour**

EXAMPLE: SOFT PRETZELS

□ A decision is made to try to set up a second street vendor at a different, new location

□ New location is considered to be

“good” if 20 p/h are sold with probability 0.7

“bad” if 10 p/h are sold with probability 0.2

“dismal” if 6 p/h are sold with probability 0.1

EXAMPLE: SOFT PRETZELS

- After the first week, long enough to make a mark, a 30 – minute test is run and 7 pretzels are sold during the 30 – minute test period

- We define

$$\tilde{L} = \begin{cases} \text{"good"} & 10 \text{ } p \text{ sold during test period} \\ \text{"bad"} & 5 \text{ } p \text{ sold during test period} \\ \text{"dismal"} & 3 \text{ } p \text{ sold during test period} \end{cases}$$

and assume Poisson distribution applies

EXAMPLE: SOFT PRETZELS

- We determine the conditional probabilities of the new location conditioned on the test outcomes

$$P\{\underline{L} = \text{"good"} | \underline{X} = 7\}, P\{\underline{L} = \text{"bad"} | \underline{X} = 7\} \text{ and}$$

$$P\{\underline{L} = \text{"dismal"} | \underline{X} = 7\}$$

- We compute

$$P\{\underline{X} = 7 | \underline{L} = \text{"good"}\} = \frac{e^{-10} (10)^7}{7!} = 0.09$$

EXAMPLE: SOFT PRETZELS

$$P\{\underline{X} = 7 \mid \underline{L} = \text{"bad"}\} = \frac{e^{-5} (5)^7}{7!} = 0.104$$

$$P\{\underline{X} = 7 \mid \underline{L} = \text{"dismal"}\} = \frac{e^{-3} (3)^7}{7!} = 0.022$$

$$P\{\underline{L} = \text{"good"} \mid \underline{X} = 7\} =$$

$$P\{\underline{X} = 7 \mid \underline{L} = \text{"good"}\} \cdot P\{\underline{L} = \text{"good"}\}$$

$$\left[\begin{aligned} &P\{\underline{X} = 7 \mid \underline{L} = \text{"good"}\} \cdot P\{\underline{L} = \text{"good"}\} + P\{\underline{X} = 7 \mid \underline{L} = \text{"bad"}\} \\ &P\{\underline{L} = \text{"bad"}\} + P\{\underline{X} = 7 \mid \underline{L} = \text{"dismal"}\} \cdot P\{\underline{L} = \text{"dismal"}\} \end{aligned} \right]$$

EXAMPLE: SOFT PRETZELS

$$P\{\underline{L} = \text{"good"} \mid \underline{X} = 7\} = \frac{(0.09)(0.7)}{(0.09)(0.7) + (0.104)(0.2) + (0.022)(0.1)}$$

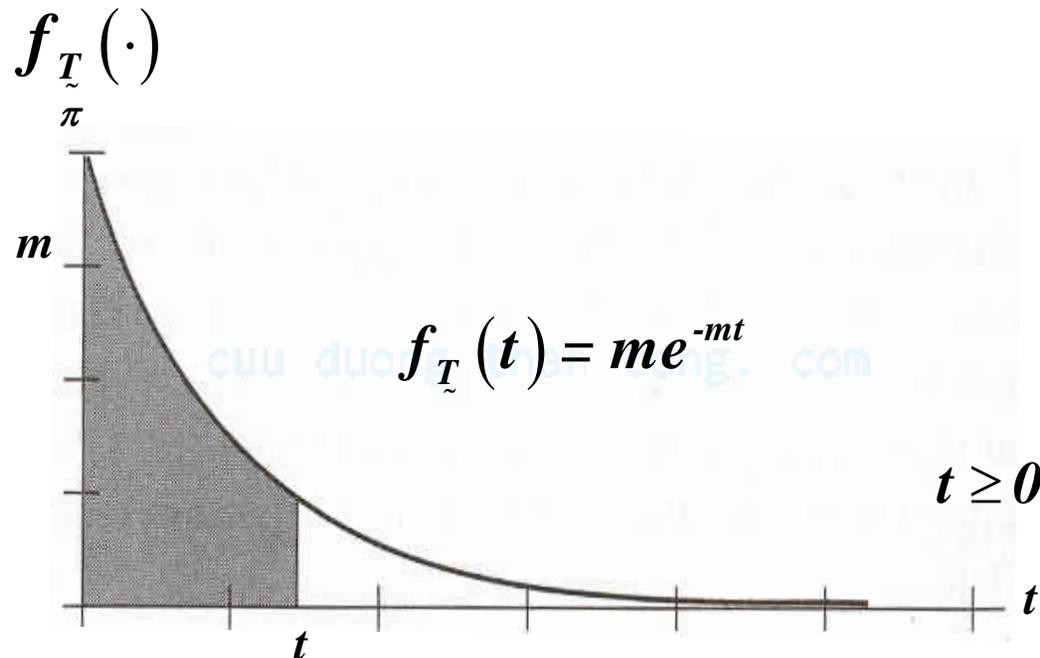
$$= 0.733$$

$$P\{\underline{L} = \text{"bad"} \mid \underline{X} = 7\} = 0.242$$

$$P\{\underline{L} = \text{"dismal"} \mid \underline{X} = 7\} = 0.025$$

EXPONENTIALLY DISTRIBUTED *r.v.*

- Unlike the discrete Poisson or the binomial distributed *r.v.s*, the exponentially distributed *r.v.* is continuous
- The density function has the form



EXPONENTIALLY DISTRIBUTED $r.v.$

- ❑ The exponentially distributed $r.v.$ is related to the Poisson distribution
- ❑ Consider the Poisson distributed $r.v.$ \tilde{X} with representing the number of events in a given quantity of measure, e.g., period of time
- ❑ We define \tilde{T} to be the $r.v.$ for the uncertain quantity of measure, e.g., time between two sequential events

EXPONENTIALLY DISTRIBUTED *r.v.*

□ Then, T_{\sim} has the exponential distribution with

$$F_{T_{\sim}}(t) = P\{T_{\sim} \leq t\} = 1 - e^{-mt},$$

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$$E\{T_{\sim}\} = \frac{1}{m} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{var}\{T_{\sim}\} = \frac{1}{m^2}$$

□ The exponentially distributed *r.v.* is completely

specified by the m parameter

EXAMPLE: SOFT PRETZELS

- We know that it takes 3.5 minutes to bake a pretzel and we wish to determine the probability that the next customer will arrive after the pretzel baking is completed, i.e., $P\{\tilde{T} > 3.5 \text{ minutes}\}$
- We also are given that the location types are classified as being

EXAMPLE: SOFT PRETZELS

“good” location $\leftrightarrow m = 20$ pretzels / hour

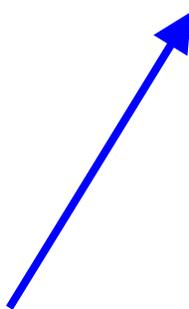
“bad” location $\leftrightarrow m = 10$ pretzels / hour

“dismal” location $\leftrightarrow m = 6$ pretzels / hour

- We compute the probability by conditioning on the location type and obtain

EXAMPLE: SOFT PRETZELS

$$\begin{aligned}
 P\{\tilde{T} > 3.5 \text{ minutes}\} &= P\{\tilde{T} > 3.5 \text{ minutes} \mid m = 20\} P\{m = 20\} + \\
 & P\{\tilde{T} > 3.5 \text{ minutes} \mid m = 10\} P\{m = 10\} + \\
 & P\{\tilde{T} > 3.5 \text{ minutes} \mid m = 6\} P\{m = 6\}
 \end{aligned}$$



 ≡ **0.0583 hour**

□ We evaluate

$$P\{\tilde{T} > 3.5m\} =$$

EXAMPLE: SOFT PRETZELS

$$e^{-0.0583(20)} P\{m = 20\} + e^{-0.0583(10)} P\{m = 10\} + e^{-0.0583(6)} P\{m = 6\}$$

*ex post
probabilities*

$$P\{m = 20\} = P\{\underline{L} = \text{"good"} \mid \underline{X} = 7\} = 0.733$$

$$P\{m = 10\} = P\{\underline{L} = \text{"bad"} \mid \underline{X} = 7\} = 0.242$$

$$P\{m = 6\} = P\{\underline{L} = \text{"dismal"} \mid \underline{X} = 7\} = 0.025$$

EXAMPLE: SOFT PRETZELS

and so

$$P\{\tilde{T} > 3.5 \text{ minutes}\} = 0.3809$$

□ Therefore,

$$P\{\tilde{T} \leq 3.5 \text{ minutes}\} = 1 - 0.3809 = 0.6191$$

and the interpretation is that the majority of the customers arrives before the pretzels are baked

THE NORMAL DISTRIBUTION

- The *normal* or *Gaussian* distribution is, by far, the most important probability distribution since the *Law of Large Numbers* implies that the distribution of many uncertain variables are governed by the *normal* distribution, or commonly known as the *bell curve*

- We consider a normally distributed *r.v.* \underline{Y}

$$\underline{Y} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$$

THE NORMAL DISTRIBUTION

□ The density function is

$$f_{\underline{Y}}(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\left(\frac{1}{2} \frac{(y-\mu)^2}{\sigma^2}\right)}$$

mean

variance

standard deviation

The diagram shows the normal distribution density function $f_{\underline{Y}}(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\left(\frac{1}{2} \frac{(y-\mu)^2}{\sigma^2}\right)}$. Three blue arrows point from text labels to parts of the formula: 'mean' points to μ , 'variance' points to σ^2 , and 'standard deviation' points to σ . A faint watermark 'cuu duong than cong.com' is visible in the background.

with

$$E\{\underline{Y}\} = \mu \quad \text{and} \quad \text{var}\{\underline{Y}\} = \sigma^2$$

THE STANDARD NORMAL DISTRIBUTION

- Consider the *r.v.* Z which has the standard normal distribution

$$Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)$$

- The relationship between the *r.v.s* Y and Z is given by

$$Z = \frac{Y - \mu}{\sigma}$$

with

$$P\{Y \leq a\} = P\left\{Z \leq \frac{a - \mu}{\sigma}\right\}$$

THE STANDARD NORMAL DISTRIBUTION

□ Note that

$$E\{\underline{Z}\} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \text{var}\{\underline{Z}\} = 1$$

□ In general, all the values of the normal distribution can be obtained from the *standard normal distribution* through the affine transformation

$$\underline{Z} = \frac{\underline{Y} - \mu}{\sigma}$$

EXAMPLE: QUALITY CONTROL

- We consider a disk drive manufacturing process in which a particular machine produces a part used in the final assembly; the part must rigorously meet the width requirements within the interval $[3.995, 4.005]$ *mm* ; else, the company incurs \$10.40 in repair costs
- The machine is set to produce parts with the width of 4mm , but in reality, the width is a normally distributed *r.v.* \tilde{W} with

EXAMPLE: QUALITY CONTROL

$$\tilde{W} \sim \mathcal{N}(4, \sigma)$$

and

$$\sigma = f(\text{speed of machine}) = \begin{cases} 0.0019 & \text{slow speed} \\ 0.0026 & \text{high speed} \end{cases}$$

□ The corresponding costs (\$) of the disk drive are

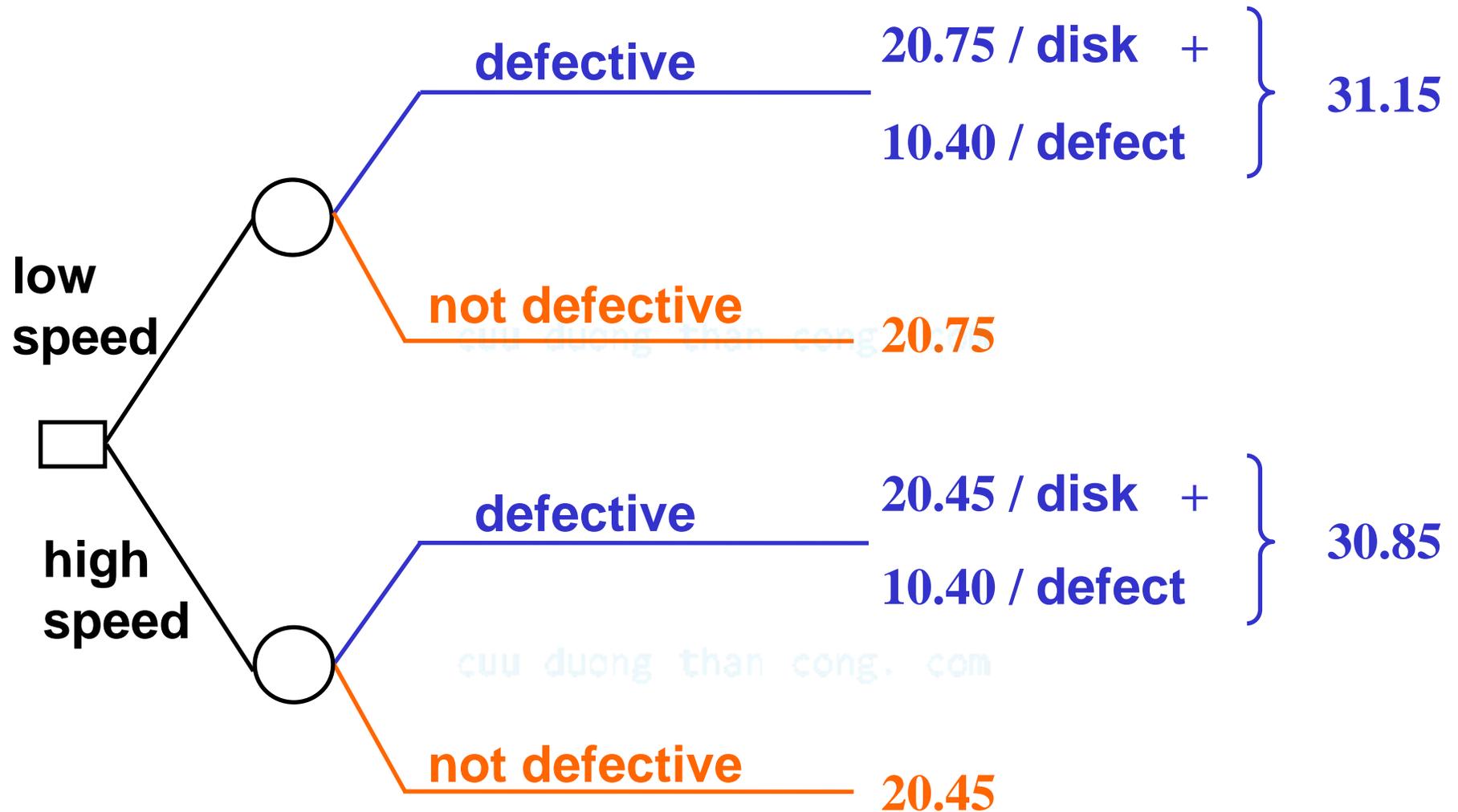
20.75 *slow speed*

20.45 *high speed*

EXAMPLE: QUALITY CONTROL

- We may interpret the cost data to imply that more disks can be produced at lesser costs at the high speed
- We need to select the machine speed to obtain the more cost effective result
- A decision tree is useful in the analysis of the situation

EXAMPLE: QUALITY CONTROL



We need to evaluate the probability of each outcome

LOW – SPEED PROBABILITY EVALUATION

$$P \{ \textit{defective disk is produced} \} =$$

$$P \{ \tilde{W} < 3.995 \text{ or } \tilde{W} > 4.005 \} =$$

$$1 - P \{ 3.995 \leq \tilde{W} \leq 4.005 \} =$$

$$\tilde{Z} = \frac{\tilde{W} - 4}{0.0019}$$


$$1 - P \left\{ \frac{3.995 - 4}{0.0019} \leq \tilde{Z} \leq \frac{4.005 - 4}{0.0019} \right\} =$$

LOW – SPEED PROBABILITY EVALUATION

$$1 - P \left\{ -2.63 \leq \tilde{Z} \leq 2.63 \right\} =$$

$$1 - \left[P \left\{ \tilde{Z} \leq 2.63 \right\} - P \left\{ \tilde{Z} \leq -2.63 \right\} \right] = 0.0086$$

0.9957

0.0043

0.9914

HIGH – SPEED PROBABILITY EVALUATION

$$P \{ \textit{defective disk is produced} \} =$$

$$P \{ \tilde{W} < 3.995 \textit{ or } \tilde{W} > 4.005 \} =$$

$$1 - P \{ 3.995 \leq \tilde{W} \leq 4.005 \} =$$

$$\tilde{Z} = \frac{\tilde{W} - 4}{0.0026}$$


$$1 - P \left\{ \frac{3.995 - 4}{0.0026} \leq \tilde{Z} \leq \frac{4.005 - 4}{0.0026} \right\} =$$

HIGH – SPEED PROBABILITY EVALUATION

$$1 - P\{-1.92 \leq \tilde{Z} \leq 1.92\} =$$

$$1 - \left[P\{\tilde{Z} \leq 1.92\} - P\{\tilde{Z} \leq -1.92\} \right] = 0.0548$$

0.9726

0.0274

0.9452

MEAN VALUE EVALUATION

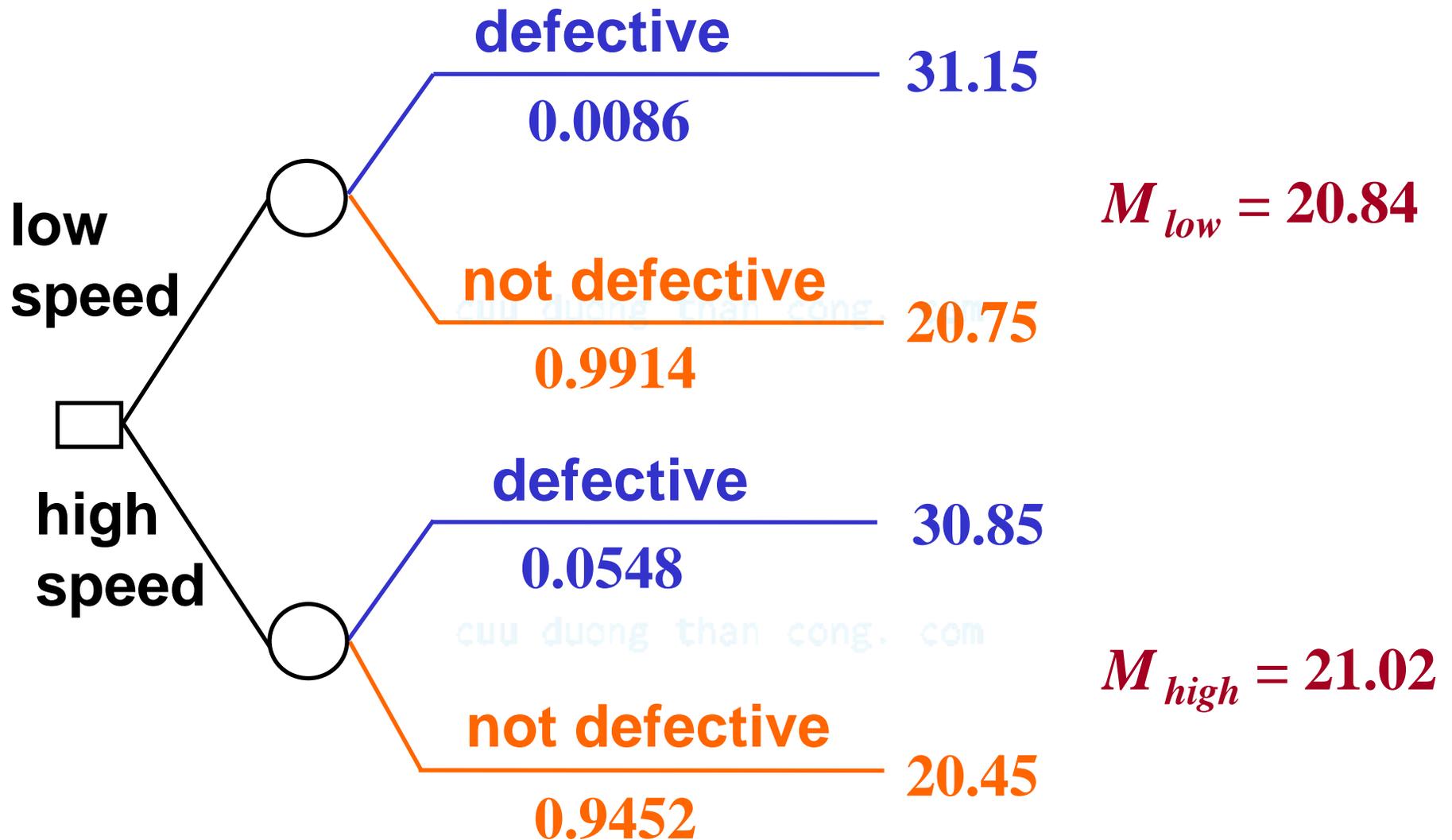
- We next evaluate the mean cost per disk

$$E \{ \text{cost / disk} \mid \text{low speed} \} = (0.9914)(20.75) + (0.0086)(31.15) \\ = 20.84$$

$$E \{ \text{cost / disk} \mid \text{high speed} \} = (0.9452)(20.45) + (0.0548)(30.85) \\ = 21.02$$

- We summarize the information in the decision tree

EXAMPLE: QUALITY CONTROL



CASE STUDY: OVERBOOKING

- ❑ *M Airlines* has a commuter plane capable of flying 16 passengers
- ❑ The plane is used on a route for which *M Airlines* charges \$225
- ❑ The airliner's cost structure is based on

the fixed costs for each flight	\$ 900
the variable costs/passenger	\$ 100
the “no-show” rate	4 %

CASE STUDY – OVERBOOKING

- The refund policy is that unused tickets are refunded only if a reservation is cancelled 24 *h* before the scheduled departure
- The overbooking policy is to pay \$ 100 as incentive to each bumped passenger and refund the ticket
- The decision required is to determine how many reservations should the airliner sell on this plane

SAMPLE CALCULATION FOR SELLING 18 RESERVATIONS

total revenues : $R = 225 * 18 = 4050$

passenger fixed and variable costs :

$$C_1 = 900 + 100 * \min \{ \text{number of "shows", } 16 \} \$$$

bumping costs :

$$C_2 = (225 + 100) * \max \{ 0, \text{number of "shows" } - 16 \} \$$$

refunds to customers



total costs : $C = C_1 + C_2$

CASE STUDY: OVERBOOKING

□ We evaluate

$$P \{ \text{no. of "shows"} > 16 \mid \text{reservations sold} = 18 \}$$

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□ We assume that each reservation is a *r.v.* $P_{\sim i}$:

$$P_{\sim i} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{passenger } i \text{ is a "show" with prob. } 0.96 \\ 0 & \text{passenger } i \text{ is a "no show" with prob. } 0.04 \end{cases}$$

CASE STUDY: OVERBOOKING

- If reservations sold = 18 , then we need to evaluate

$$P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{18} P_{\sim i} > 16 \mid 18 \text{ reservations} \right\}$$

- We first evaluate

$$P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{17} P_{\sim i} > 16 \mid 17 \text{ res} \right\} = P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{17} P_{\sim i} \geq 17 \mid 17 \text{ res} \right\} = P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{17} P_{\sim i} = 17 \text{ res} \right\}$$

binomial r.v. with $p = 0.96$

CASE STUDY: OVERBOOKING

$$= (.96)^{17} (.04)^0 \leftarrow 0.4996$$

□ Then,

$$\begin{aligned} P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{18} P_{\sim i} > 16 \mid 18 \text{res} \right\} &= P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{18} P_{\sim i} \geq 17 \mid 18 \text{res} \right\} \\ &= P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{18} P_{\sim i} = 17 \right\} + P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{18} P_{\sim i} = 18 \right\} \\ &= 18(.4996)(.04) + (.4996)(.96) \\ &= 0.8359 \end{aligned}$$

CASE STUDY: OVERBOOKING

- If reservations sold = 19, then we can compute and show that

$$P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{19} P_{\sim i} > 16 \right\} = .9616$$

- We next consider the *r.v.* π where

$$\pi = \underline{R} - \underline{C} = \underline{R} - (\underline{C}_1 + \underline{C}_2)$$

and evaluate $E \{ \pi \}$ for different values of reservations sold

CASE STUDY: OVERBOOKING

□ For reservations = 16

$$E\{\underline{R}\} = (16)(225) = 3,600$$

$$E\{\underline{C}_1\} = 900 + 100 \sum_{n=0}^{16} nP \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{16} P_{\sim i} = n \right\}$$

$$= 900 + 100 \underbrace{E\left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{16} P_{\sim i} \right\}}_{(16)(.96) = 15.36}$$

binomial
distribution

$$= 900 + 1536$$

CASE STUDY: OVERBOOKING

$$= 2,436;$$

also,

$$E\{C_2\} = (225 + 100) \max\left\{0, \sum_{i=1}^{16} P_{\tilde{i}} - 16\right\} = 0$$

and so

$$\begin{aligned} E\{\pi | 16 \text{ res}\} &= E\{R\} - E\{C\} \\ &= E\{R\} - E\{C_1 + C_2\} \\ &= 3,600 - 2,436 \\ &= 1,164 \end{aligned}$$

CASE STUDY: OVERBOOKING

□ For reservations = 17

$$E\{R\} = (17)(225) = 3,825$$

$$E\{C_1\} = 900 + 100 \sum_{n=0}^{16} n P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{17} P_{\sim i} = n \right\} + 100 \cdot 16 \cdot P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{17} P_{\sim i} = 17 \right\}$$

$$= 900 + 782.70 + 799.34$$

$$= 2,482.04$$

CASE STUDY: OVERBOOKING

also,

$$E \{ C_2 \} = 325P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{17} P_{\sim i} = 17 \right\}$$

$$= 325(0.4996)$$

$$= 162.37$$

and so

$$E \{ \pi | 17 \text{ res} \} = 3,825 - 2,482.04 - 162.37$$

$$= 1,180.59 > 1,164$$

CASE STUDY: OVERBOOKING

□ For reservations = 18

$$E\{R\} = (18)(225) = 4,050$$

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$$E\{C_1\} = 900 + 100 \sum_{n=0}^{16} n P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{18} P_{\sim i} = n \right\} + 1,600 \cdot P \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{18} P_{\sim i} > 16 \right\}$$

$$= 900 + 253.22 + 1,342.89$$

$$= 2,496.11$$

CASE STUDY: OVERBOOKING

$$E\{C_2\} = 325 P\left\{\underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{18} P_{\tilde{i}} = 17}_{.3597}\right\} + 650 P\left\{\underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{18} P_{\tilde{i}} = 18}_{.4796}\right\} = 428.65$$

and

$$E\{\pi_{\tilde{z}} | 18 \text{ res}\} = 4,050 - 2,496.11 - 428.65$$

$$= 1,125.24$$

$$< 1,180.59$$

CASE STUDY: OVERBOOKING

□ We can show that for reservations = 19

$$E\{\tilde{\pi} \mid 19 \text{ res}\} < 1180.59$$

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□ We conclude that the profits are maximized if

reservations = 17 and so any greater

overbooking is at the sacrifice of lower profits

CASE: MUNI SOLID WASTE

- ❑ This case concerns the “risks” posed by constructing an incinerator for disposal of a city’s solid waste
- ❑ There is no question of “whether” to construct an incinerator since landfill was to be full within 3 years and no other choices are apparent

CASE: MUNI SOLID WASTE

□ Of particular interest are the *residual* emissions

that need to be *estimated* for

○ *dioxins*

○ *furans* (organic compounds)

○ *particulate matter*

○ SO_2 (represents acid gases)

CASE: MUNI SOLID WASTE

□ The specifications for a *250 ton/day* incinerator – borderline between the EPA – classified small and medium plants – have to meet the EPA’s proposed emission levels for the three key pollutants

○ *dioxins/furans* – denoted by D

○ *particulate matter* – denoted by PM

○ *sulphur dioxide* – denoted by SO_2

CASE: MUNI SOLID WASTE

pollutant	plant capacity in <i>tons of waste per day</i>	
	small (<i>below 250</i>)	medium (<i>above 25</i>)
<i>dioxins/furans</i> <i>mg/nm³</i>	500	125
<i>PM</i> (<i>mg/dscm</i>) ~	69	69
<i>SO₂</i> (<i>ppmdv</i>) ~	–	30

CASE: MUNI SOLID WASTE

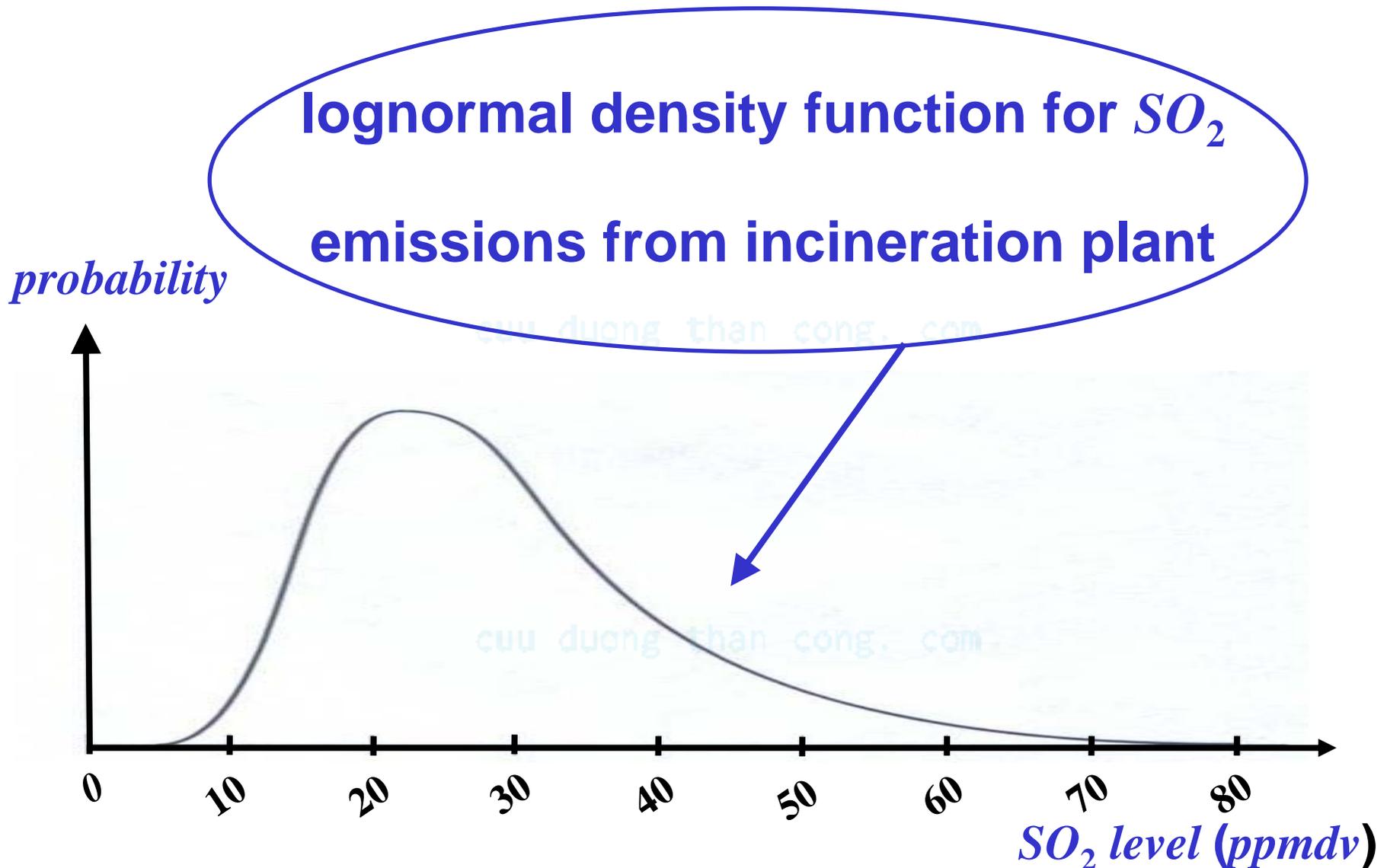
- ❑ The typical approach in environmental risk analysis is a “worst case” scenario assessment which fails to capture the *uncertainty* present in both the amount of waste and the contents of the waste

CASE: MUNI SOLID WASTE

- ❑ The lognormal distribution is used to represent the distribution for emission levels
- ❑ Lognormal distribution parameters μ and σ for pollutants

<i>pollutant r.v.</i>	μ	σ
\tilde{D}	3.13	1.20
\tilde{PM}	3.43	0.44
\tilde{SO}_2	3.20	0.39

CASE: MUNI SOLID WASTE



CASE: MUNI SOLID WASTE

- We define the *r.v.* \underline{X} , which is lognormally distributed with parameters μ and σ , by

$$\underline{Y} = \ln(\underline{X}) \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$$

$$E\{\underline{X}\} = e^{\left(\mu + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2\right)} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{var}\{\underline{X}\} = e^{2\mu} \left(e^{\sigma^2} - 1\right) e^{\sigma^2}$$

- We evaluate the probability of exceeding the small plant levels of emissions

CASE: MUNI SOLID WASTE

$$P\{\tilde{D} > 500\} = P\{\tilde{Y} = \ln \tilde{D} > \ln(500)\}$$

$$\tilde{Z} = \frac{\tilde{Y} - 3.13}{1.2}$$

affine transformation

$$= P\left\{\tilde{Z} > \frac{\ln(500) - 3.13}{1.2}\right\}$$

$$= P\{\tilde{Z} > 2.57\}$$

0.0051

CASE: MUNI SOLID WASTE

$$P\{\underline{PM} > 69\} = P\{\underline{Y} = \ln(\underline{PM}) > \ln(69)\}$$

$$\underline{Z} = \frac{\underline{Y} - 3.43}{0.44} \quad \text{affine transformation}$$

$$= P\left\{\underline{Z} > \frac{\ln(69) - 3.43}{0.44}\right\}$$

$$= P\{\underline{Z} > 1.83\}$$

0.0336

CASE: MUNI SOLID WASTE

$$P\left\{\tilde{SO}_2 > 30\right\} = P\left\{\tilde{Y} = \ln\left\{\tilde{SO}_2\right\} > \ln(30)\right\}$$

$$\tilde{Z} = \frac{\tilde{Y} - 3.20}{0.39} \quad \text{affine transformation}$$

$$= P\left\{\tilde{Z} > \frac{\ln(30) - 3.20}{0.39}\right\}$$

0.3015

$$= P\left\{\tilde{Z} > 0.52\right\}$$

**the probability
of a single
observation**

CASE: MUNI SOLID WASTE

- In practice, \tilde{SO}_2 has to be monitored continuously and the average daily emission level *must remain* below the level specified in the table
- If we take 24 hourly observations \tilde{X}_i of \tilde{SO}_2 levels and define the geometric mean

$$\tilde{G} = \left[\prod_{i=1}^n \tilde{X}_i \right]^{\frac{1}{n}}, \quad n = 24$$

CASE: MUNI SOLID WASTE

then, we can show that \tilde{G} is also lognormal with

parameters $\left(\mu, \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{24}} \right)$

$$P \left\{ \tilde{G} > 30 \right\} = P \left\{ \tilde{Y} = \ln(\tilde{G}) > \ln(30) \right\}$$

$$\tilde{Z} = \frac{\tilde{Y} - 3.20}{0.39 / \sqrt{24}} \quad \text{affine transformation}$$

$$= P \left\{ \frac{\tilde{Z} - 3.2}{0.39 / \sqrt{24}} > 2.53 \right\}$$

0.0057

CASE: MUNI SOLID WASTE

- Note that this is a much smaller probability than for a single observation and leads to a more realistic assessment of the probability**
- The requirement of a small plant are therefore met**