

# Queueing Theory

Queueing Theory is used to analyze network performance in packet networks where there are

- RANDOM packet arrivals
- RANDOM packet lengths

We care about questions such as:

- How long does a packet spend in a buffer?
- How big is a buffer?

Packet arrival process is modeled as Poisson Process

that is defined by the following two properties:



$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} P(n \text{ arrivals in interval size } T) = \frac{(\lambda T)^n e^{-\lambda T}}{n!} \\ \# \text{ arrivals } n_1, n_2 \text{ in disjoint intervals are independent of each other} \end{array} \right.$$

## WHY POISSON?

It can be shown that this mathematical expression arises when the probability of having one arrival in a very small interval is proportional to the size of the interval. ~~formally~~ If you want to generate these arrivals you could draw a random number  $n$  according to the expression and uniformly distribute arrivals in the interval. In this way you will have

- random (Poisson) # arrivals
- uniformly distributed interval
- distance between any two consecutive arrivals is exponential

$$P(t_1 - t_2 < t) = 1 - e^{-\lambda t}$$
$$P_{|t_1 - t_2|}(t) = \lambda e^{-\lambda t}$$

|     |
|-----|
| CDF |
| PDF |

$$E(t_1 - t_2) = 1/\lambda$$
$$Var(t_1 - t_2) = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$$

$$E[n] = \lambda T$$

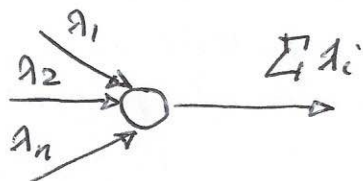
$$Var[n] = E[n^2] - E^2[n] = \lambda T$$

$$E[n^2] = \lambda T + (\lambda T)^2$$

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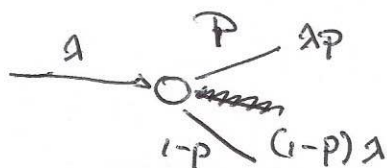
## Two important basic properties of Poisson arrivals

### ① Merging Property



If  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  are Poisson and independent Then:  $Y = \sum X_i$  is poisson of rate  $\sum \lambda_i$  of rates  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_n$

### ② Splitting Property



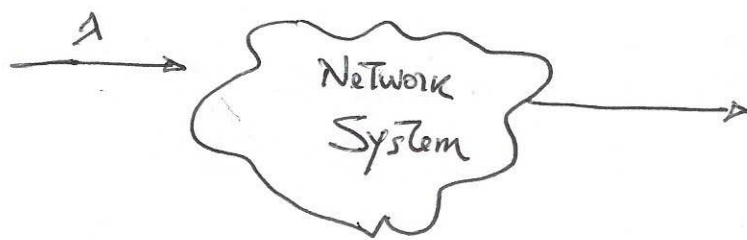
If  $X$  is Poisson and packet is switched on one path with prob.  $p$  and on other path with probability  $(1-p)$  Then: we generate two new streams

$$Y_1 \sim \text{Poisson } \lambda p$$

$$Y_2 \sim \text{Poisson } \lambda(1-p)$$

## LITTLE'S Theorem

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~~Define~~  $L = E(\# \text{ packets in system})$

$W = E(\text{time one packet spends in system})$

representing length of queue  
representing waiting time

$$\boxed{L = \lambda W}$$

Consider now a queue where packets arrive according to Poisson  $\lambda$  and exit queue according to Poisson  $\mu$ .  
This means that the service time  $|t_1 - t_2|$  to extract a packet from



The queue is exponential of parameter  $\mu$

Clearly, the system is stable and the queue does not grow to  $\infty$  only if  $\boxed{\lambda < \mu}$  otherwise there is accumulation of packets

The utilization factor is then defined as:

$$\left[ \rho = \frac{\lambda}{\mu} \right]$$

indicating that when  $\lambda = \mu$  the queue is always utilized

We can show (see problems in the PDF addendum) that

$$W = \frac{1}{\mu - \lambda} \quad \text{avg waiting time [assuming system is stable]}$$

$$L = \frac{\lambda}{\mu - \lambda} \quad \text{avg queue length [assuming system is stable]}$$

Question: before we compute these formulas, do they make sense intuitively?