

Chapter 14 / Example 13

Goodness of fit to Poisson distribution

Flaws in a length of material are thought to be modelled by a Poisson distribution with a mean of two flaws per metre.

Fifty 1 m lengths of material are inspected and the number of flaws in each are recorded in the table below.

Number of flaws	0	1	2	3	≥ 4
Frequency	5	10	18	11	6

- If $X \sim \text{Po}(2)$ find $P(X = 0)$, $P(X = 1)$, $P(X = 2)$, $P(X = 3)$ and $P(X \geq 4)$.
- Hence find the expected values if the number of flaws follows a Poisson distribution with a mean of two flaws per metre.
- Write down the null and alternative hypotheses and the degrees of freedom for the test.
- Find the p -value.
- State the conclusion for this test.

Open a new document and add a Lists & Spreadsheet page.

Type 'x' in the first cell.

Type the numbers 0, 1, 2, 3 in the first column.

Press **enter** or **▼** after each number to move to the next cell.

A	B	C	D
x			
0			
1			
2			
3			

Type 'p' in the cell to the right of 'x'

In the cell below type = and press **menu** 4:Statistics | 2:Distributions | J:Poisson Pdf...

Enter 2 as the value of λ and x as the Upper Bound.

Press **enter** or click OK with the touchpad.

Poisson Pdf

λ : 2

X Value: x

OK Cancel

Press **enter**

The GDC displays the first four probabilities.

A	B	C	D
x	p		
0	=poisspdf		
1	0.135335		
2	0.270671		
3	0.270671		
4	0.180447		

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Type 'ex' in the cell to the right of 'p'

Type $=50 \times B1$, $=50 \times B2$, $=50 \times B3$, $=50 \times B4$ in the column.

A	x	B	p	C	ex	D
=			=poisspdf			
1	0	0.135335		6.76676		
2	1	0.270671		13.5335		
3	2	0.270671		13.5335		
4	3	0.180447		9.02235		
5						

In the cell below type $=50 \times$ and press **menu** 4:Statistics | 2:Distributions | K:Poisson Cdf...

Enter 2 as the value of λ , 4 as the Lower Bound and 100 as the Upper Bound.

Press **enter** or click OK with the touchpad.

Poisson Cdf

λ : 2

Lower Bound: 4

Upper Bound: 100

OK Cancel

Press **enter**

The GDC displays the five expected values.

A	x	B	p	C	ex	D
=			=poisspdf			
2	1	0.270671		13.5335		
3	2	0.270671		13.5335		
4	3	0.180447		9.02235		
5				7.14383		
6						

Type 'obs' in the cell to the right of 'ex'

Enter the expected values in the column.

A	x	B	p	C	ex	D	obs
=			=poisspdf				
1	0	0.135335		6.76676		5	
2	1	0.270671		13.5335		10	
3	2	0.270671		13.5335		18	
4	3	0.180447		9.02235		11	
5				7.14383		6	
6							

To calculate the p -value

Press **menu** 4:Statistics | 4:Stat Tests | 7: χ^2 GOF...

Open the drop down lists with **►** and select using **▼** and **enter**

Observed List: obs

Expected List: ex

For this test you must enter the degrees of freedom yourself.

Enter df: 4

Click the touchpad on OK or press **enter**

χ^2 GOF

Observed List: obs

Expected List: ex

Deg of Freedom, df: 4

1st Result Column: e[]

Draw: ☐ Shade P Value

OK Cancel

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p -value = 0.482

$0.482 > 0.05$

This result is not significant so no reason to reject H_0 that the number of flaws follows a Poisson distribution.

Note that the p -value found is more accurate than the value in the example as the expected values have not been rounded.

	C ex	D obs	E	F
				= χ^2 GOF(')
1	6.76676	5	Title	χ^2 GOF
2	13.5335	10	χ^2	3.47458
3	13.5335	18	PVal	0.481754
4	9.02235	11	df	4.
5	7.14383	6	CompLis...	{0.46129...
	F1 = " χ^2 GOF"			