
A404 Measurement

Report #4 (14/07/2016)

χ^2 test - Cosmic ray cloud chamber

Jui-Yin Lin

♦ Use a cloud chamber (Wilson chamber) to record the events of cosmic rays, and use χ^2 test to verify that it is Poisson distributed.

The rate of cosmic ray on earth is low, and its occurrences are (assumed) independent. Therefore, the we expect that its rates of appearances are a Poisson distribution. In this experiment, we measure the number of appearances per 10 seconds and get its distribution. Then, we will use χ^2 test to verify if it's a Poisson distribution.

Data sets

```
In[287]:= data = {5, 4, 5, 3, 4, 4, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4, 4, 2, 6, 3, 1, 5, 1, 4, 3, 2, 3, 2, 6, 3,
  3, 5, 6, 5, 6, 1, 4, 4, 4, 4, 3, 5, 6, 1, 3, 3, 2, 0, 1, 3, 2, 5, 3, 7, 2,
  5, 3, 1, 1, 3, 6, 5, 5, 3, 2, 4, 2, 2, 4, 4, 7, 6, 6, 6, 3, 3, 3, 5, 5, 5, 7,
  3, 5, 4, 3, 5, 4, 5, 4, 5, 3, 7, 4, 4, 5, 3, 7, 3, 4, 2, 5, 3, 2, 4, 5, 3, 6,
  2, 2, 5, 3, 6, 4, 9, 7, 6, 3, 6, 5, 5, 2, 5, 5, 1, 7, 7, 4, 3, 5, 8, 3, 8, 5,
  2, 2, 2, 4, 7, 7, 2, 4, 1, 2, 8, 7, 6, 5, 10, 5, 5, 3, 3, 4, 3, 6, 5, 4, 1};
Ntotal = Total[data]
mcount = N[Mean[data]]
SDcount = N[Sqrt[Mean[data]]]
x1 = mcount - SDcount
x3 = mcount + SDcount
```

Out[288]= 626

Out[289]= 4.06494

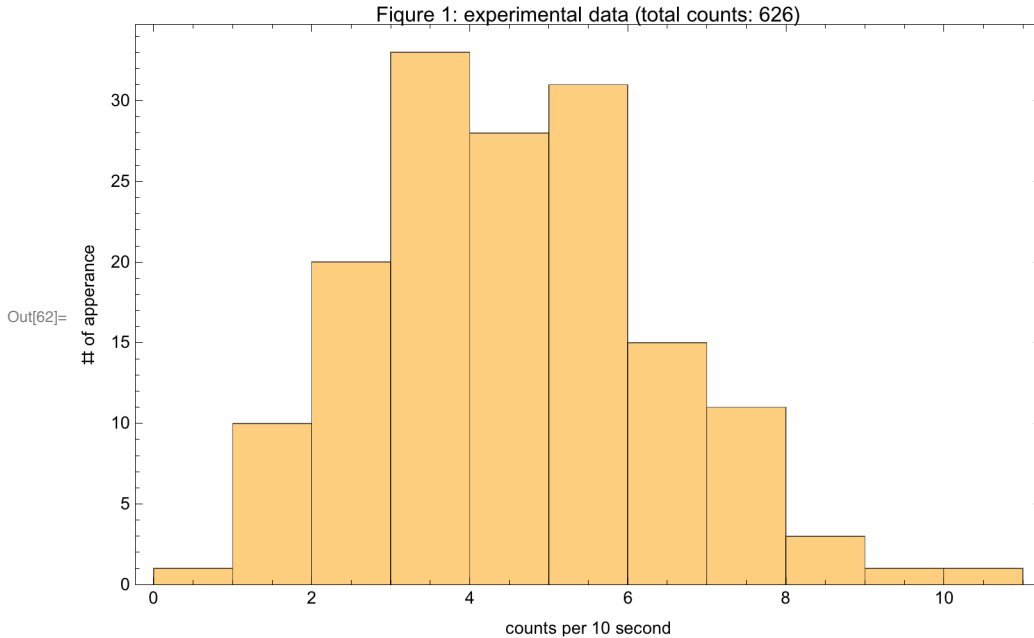
Out[290]= 2.01617

Out[291]= 2.04877

Out[292]= 6.0811

Plot

```
In[62]:= Histogram[data, Frame → True,
  FrameLabel → {"counts per 10 second", "# of apperance"},
  PlotLabel → "Figure 1: experimental data (total counts: 626)", ImageSize → 500]
```



Discussion

Assume that the distribution is Poisson for cosmic rays. The average counts per 10 seconds here is $\nu = 4.06$. And for a Poisson distribution, its standard deviation is $\sigma = \sqrt{4.06} = 2.02$. Therefore, the expected Poisson distribution is $P(n, \nu = 4.06) = \frac{e^{-\nu} \nu^n}{n!}$. The expected number of counts n for $n_L < n < n_H$ is $N \times \sum_{n=n_L}^{n_H} P(n)$.

For χ^2 -test, if we divided the distribution into 4 bins as $0 \sim (\nu - \sigma)$, $(\nu - \sigma) \sim \nu$, $\nu \sim (\nu + \sigma)$, $(\nu + \sigma) \sim \infty$. Then, the expected number of counts $E_k \equiv \{E_1, E_2, E_3, E_4\}$ is $\{35.23, 59.66, 41.01, 18.10\}$.

```
In[331]:= Ek = Length[data] * { Sum[Exp[-mcount] mcount^n / n!, {n, 0, 2}], Sum[Exp[-mcount] mcount^n / n!, {n, 3, 4}], Sum[Exp[-mcount] mcount^n / n!, {n, 5, 6}], Sum[Exp[-mcount] mcount^n / n!, {n, 7, 20}] }
```

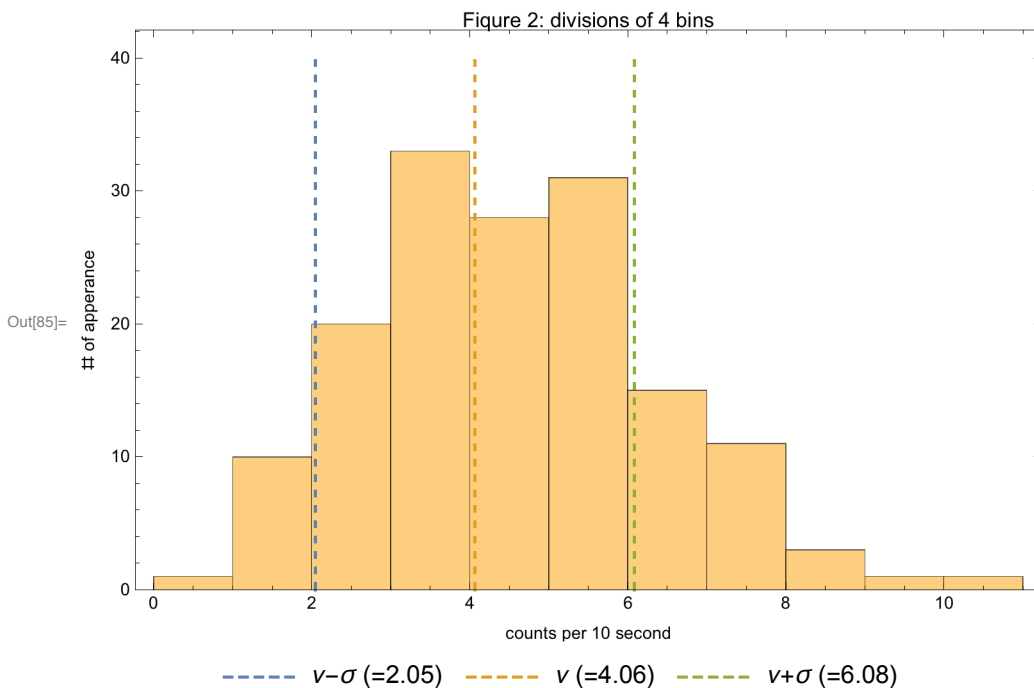
```
Out[331]:= {35.2263, 59.6612, 41.0099, 18.1026}
```

```

In[83]:= p0 = Histogram[data, Frame → True,
  FrameLabel → {"counts per 10 second", "# of apperance"},
  PlotLabel → "Figure 2: divisions of 4 bins", ImageSize → 500];

p1 = ListLinePlot[
  {{mcount - SDcount, 0}, {mcount - SDcount, 5}, {mcount - SDcount, 10},
    {mcount - SDcount, 15}, {mcount - SDcount, 20}, {mcount - SDcount, 25},
    {mcount - SDcount, 30}, {mcount - SDcount, 35}, {mcount - SDcount, 40}},
  {{mcount, 0}, {mcount, 5}, {mcount, 10}, {mcount, 15}, {mcount, 20},
    {mcount, 25}, {mcount, 30}, {mcount, 35}, {mcount, 40}},
  {{mcount + SDcount, 0}, {mcount + SDcount, 5}, {mcount + SDcount, 10},
    {mcount + SDcount, 15}, {mcount + SDcount, 20},
    {mcount + SDcount, 25}, {mcount + SDcount, 30},
    {mcount + SDcount, 35}, {mcount + SDcount, 40}}, PlotStyle → Dashed,
  PlotLegends → Placed[{"v-σ (=2.05)", "v (=4.06)", "v+σ (=6.08)"}, Bottom]];
Show[
  p0,
  p1]

```



The observed number of counts $O_k \equiv \{O_1, O_2, O_3, O_4\} = \{31, 61, 46, 16\}$

```

In[348]:= sortdata = Sort[data];
B1 = sortdata[[1 ;; 31]];
B2 = sortdata[[32 ;; 92]];
B3 = sortdata[[93 ;; 138]];
B4 = sortdata[[139 ;; Length[data]]];
Ok = {Length[B1], Length[B2], Length[B3], Length[B4]}

```

$$\text{Total}\left[\text{Table}\left[\frac{(O_k[[i]] - E_k[[i]])^2}{E_k[[i]]}, \{i, 1, \text{Length}[Ok]\}\right]\right]$$

Out[353]= {31, 61, 46, 16}

Out[354]= 1.38851

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} O_k = \{31, 61, 46, 16\} \\ E_k = \{143.193, 242.519, 166.702, 73.5858\} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \chi^2 = \sum_{k=1}^4 \frac{(O_k - E_k)^2}{E_k} = 1.39$$

And the degree of freedom here is $D = K - \text{Constraints} = 4 - 3 = 1$

$$\Rightarrow \text{the reduced } \chi^2, \tilde{\chi}^2 = \frac{\chi^2}{D} = 1.39$$

Percentage Points of the Chi-Square Distribution

Degrees of Freedom	Probability of a larger value of χ^2								
	0.99	0.95	0.90	0.75	0.50	0.25	0.10	0.05	0.01
1	0.000	0.004	0.016	0.102	0.455	1.32	2.71	3.84	6.63
2	0.020	0.103	0.211	0.575	1.386	2.77	4.61	5.99	9.21
3	0.115	0.352	0.584	1.212	2.366	4.11	6.25	7.81	11.34

Handwritten annotations: A red circle highlights the 0.05 probability value for 1 degree of freedom. A red arrow labeled "accept hypothesis" points left from the 0.05 column, and another red arrow labeled "reject hypothesis" points right. A blue dashed line is drawn under the 0.25 column. An orange arrow labeled "1.39" points up to the 1.32 value in the 0.25 column for 1 degree of freedom.

According to the table of χ^2 - test, for $D=1$, the probability of $\tilde{\chi}^2 = 1.39$ is between 0.1~0.25. Assume that the criterion to reject a hypothesis is when the probability ≤ 0.05 , i.e. $\tilde{\chi}^2 \geq 3.84$. Then, for this report, the hypothesis that the comic rays follow the Poisson distribution is acceptable.