

**Theorem** For  $X \sim \text{Pascal}(n, p)$ , as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$ .

**Proof** [UNDER CONSTRUCTION!] Let  $X \sim \text{Pascal}(n, p)$  with probability mass function

$$f(x) = \frac{(n+x-1)!}{x!(n-1)!} \cdot p^n \cdot (1-p)^x \quad x = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Rewrite with  $p = \frac{n}{\lambda+n}$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \frac{(n+x-1)!}{x!(n-1)!} \cdot \left(\frac{n}{\lambda+n}\right)^n \cdot \left(1 - \frac{n}{\lambda+n}\right)^x \\ &= \frac{(n+x-1)!}{(n-1)!(\lambda+n)^x} \cdot \left(\frac{\lambda^x}{x!}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{(1+\lambda/n)^n} \quad x = 0, 1, 2, \dots \end{aligned}$$

As  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{n+x-j}{\lambda+n} &\rightarrow 1, \quad j = 1, \dots, x \\ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^n &\rightarrow e^\lambda. \end{aligned}$$

So the probability mass function in the limit as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  is

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(n+x-1)!}{(n-1)!(\lambda+n)^x} \cdot \left(\frac{\lambda^x}{x!}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{(1+\lambda/n)^n} = \frac{\lambda^x}{x!} e^{-\lambda},$$

which is the probability mass function of the Poisson distribution.