What are some real-life examples of the exponential distribution?

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May 4, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *What are some real-life examples of the exponential distribution?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=142844

The exponential distribution is a probability distribution that is commonly used to model events that occur randomly and independently over time. It is characterized by a constant rate of occurrence and a continuous probability of events happening.

Some real-life examples of the exponential distribution include:

1. Time between customer arrivals at a store or restaurant: The exponential distribution can be used to model the time between customer arrivals, as customers tend to arrive at random and independent intervals.

2. Lifetime of electronic devices: The exponential distribution can be used to estimate the lifetime of electronic devices, such as light bulbs or batteries, as they tend to fail randomly and independently over time.

3. Time between earthquakes: The exponential distribution can be used to model the time between earthquakes, as they occur randomly and independently.

4. Arrival time of buses or trains: The exponential distribution can be used to model the arrival time of buses or trains, as they tend to arrive at random and independent intervals.

5. Interarrival time of emails or phone calls: The exponential distribution can be used to model the interarrival time of emails or phone calls, as they occur randomly and independently.

In summary, the exponential distribution is a useful tool for understanding and predicting events that occur randomly and independently over time in various real-life scenarios.

4 Real-Life Examples of the Exponential Distribution

The is a probability distribution that is used to model the time we must wait until a certain event occurs.

If a *X* follows an exponential distribution, then the cumulative density function of *X* can be written as:

F(x; λ) = 1 - e-λx

where:

λ: the rate parameter (calculated as $\lambda = 1/\mu$)e: A constant roughly equal to 2.718

In this article we share 5 examples of the exponential distribution in real life.

Example 1: Time Between Geyser Eruptions

The number of minutes between eruptions for a certain geyser can be modeled by the exponential distribution.

For example, suppose the mean number of minutes between eruptions for a certain geyser is 40 minutes. If a geyser just erupts, what is the probability that we'll have to wait less than 50 minutes for the next eruption?

To solve this, we need to first calculate the rate parameter:

$\lambda = 1/\mu\lambda = 1/40\lambda = .025$

We can plug in $\lambda = .025$ and $x = 50$ to the formula for the CDF:

$P(X \leq x) = 1 - e\text{-}\lambda x P(X \leq 50) = 1 - e\text{-}.025(50) P(X \leq 50) =$

0.7135

The probability that we'll have to wait less than 50 minutes for the next eruption is 0.7135.

Example 2: Time Between Customers

The number of minutes between customers who enter a certain shop can be modeled by the exponential distribution.

For example, suppose a new customer enters a shop every two minutes, on average. After a customer arrives, find the probability that a new customer arrives in less than one minute.

$\lambda = 1/\mu\lambda = 1/2\lambda = 0.5$

We can plug in $\lambda = 0.5$ and $x = 1$ to the formula for the CDF:

$P(X \leq x) = 1 - e\text{-}\lambda x P(X \leq 1) = 1 - e\text{-}0.5(1)P(X \leq 1) = 0.3935$

The probability that we'll have to wait less than one minute for the next customer to arrive is 0.3935.

Example 3: Time Between Earthquakes

The time between earthquake occurrences can be modeled using an exponential distribution.

For example, suppose an earthquake occurs every 400 days in a certain region, on average. After an earthquake occurs, find the probability that it will take more than 500 days for the next earthquake to occur.

To solve this, we start by knowing that the average time between earthquakes is 400 days. Thus, the rate can be calculated as:

$\lambda = 1/\mu \lambda = 1/400 \lambda = 0.0025$

We can plug in $\lambda = 0.0025$ and $x = 500$ to the formula for the CDF:

$P(X \leq x) = 1 - e{-}\lambda x P(X \leq 1) = 1 - e{-}0.0025(500) P(X \leq 1) = 0.7135$

The probability that we'll have to wait less than 500 days for the next earthquake is 0.7135.

Thus, the probability that we'll have to wait *more* than 500 days for the next earthquake is 1 - 0.7135 = 0.2865.

Example 4: Time Between Calls

The time between customer calls at different businesses can be modeled using an exponential distribution.

For example, suppose a bank receives a new call every 10 minutes, on average. After a customer calls, find the probability that a new customer calls within 10 to 15 minutes.

To solve this , we start by knowing that the average time between calls is 10 minutes. Thus, the rate can be calculated as:

$\lambda = 1/\mu\lambda = 1/10\lambda = 0.1$

We can use the following formula to calculate the probability that a new customer calls within 10 to 15 minutes:

$P(10 < X \leq 15) = (1 - e-0.1(15)) - (1 - e-0.1(10))P(10 < X \leq 15) = .7769 - .6321P(10 < X \leq 15) = 0.1448$

The probability that a new customer calls within 10 to 15 minutes. is 0.1448.

The following articles share examples of how other probability distributions are used in the real world: