

CBCS course
School of Studies in Statistics
Vikram University, Ujjain
M.A./M.Sc. (Statistics) IV sem

Paper III: Statistical Quality Control & Reliability Theory

Title: Property of exponential distribution:

Suppose n items are under test and the failure time distribution is exponential with mean life θ . The replacement of items that fail by new items makes the test a poisson process with intensity

$$\lambda = n/\theta.$$

Proof: Let $N(t)$ be the number of failures that occurred during the interval $[0, t]$. Suppose the probability of failure during $[t, t+h]$ is proportional to h and the interval is so small that the probability of two or more failure in that interval may be neglected, then the process $\{N(t) | t \geq 0\}$ is known as poisson process with intensity λ .

From (iv) property it follows that $n\lambda/\theta$ is distributed as a gamma variate with parameter 1
i.e. $\frac{n\lambda}{\theta} \sim \gamma(1)$

To prove the property we will use the following property of gamma distribution.

If x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k are i.i.d. as gamma with parameters n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k then $\sum_{i=1}^k x_i$ is

also distributed as gamma with parameter

$$\sum_{i=1}^k h_i$$

From the above property it follows that

$$h = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{w_i}{\theta} \sim \gamma(k)$$

Since $\frac{h w_i}{\theta} \sim \gamma(1)$

Now

$$P[N(t) = k | t]$$

$$= P[w_1 + w_2 + \dots + w_k \leq t] - P[w_1 + w_2 + \dots + w_{k+1} \leq t]$$

$$= P[w_1 + w_2 + \dots + w_k > t] - P[w_1 + w_2 + \dots + w_k > t]$$

$$= \frac{1}{\Gamma(k+1)} \int_t^{\infty} e^{-\frac{ht}{\theta}} \left(\frac{ht}{\theta}\right)^k d\left(\frac{ht}{\theta}\right) - \frac{1}{\Gamma k} \int_t^{\infty} e^{-\frac{ht}{\theta}} \left(\frac{ht}{\theta}\right)^{k-1} d\left(\frac{ht}{\theta}\right)$$

$$= e^{-\frac{ht}{\theta}} \left[\sum_{r=0}^k \frac{\left(\frac{ht}{\theta}\right)^r}{r!} - \sum_{r=0}^{k-1} \frac{\left(\frac{ht}{\theta}\right)^r}{r!} \right]$$

$$= \frac{(\lambda k)^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda t}; \quad \text{where } \lambda = \frac{\eta}{\theta}$$

Hence proved.

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