

Structural Reliability
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Lecture –128
Component Reliability - Time Defined (Part - 07)

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Component reliability - time defined

Example:

A continuously "on" bulb fails due to voltage spikes. It can withstand 2 such spikes, and fails on the third. Spikes occur randomly in time and are independent of each other. The inter-arrival time between spikes is gamma distributed with mean two months and standard deviation $\sqrt{2}$ months.

a) Find the mean life of the bulb.
b) Find the probability that the bulb will work beyond 4 months.

Structural Reliability
Lecture 15
Component reliability
- time defined

$T_j = \Delta T_1 + \Delta T_2 + \Delta T_3$

$\Delta T_i \sim \text{gamma}(k, \lambda)$ for all i

ΔT_i is independent of ΔT_j for $i \neq j$

$\mu = \frac{k}{\lambda} = 2 \text{ mo}$

$\sigma^2 = \frac{k}{\lambda^2} = 2 \text{ mo}^2$

$\Rightarrow \lambda = 1/ \text{month}$

$k = 2$

$T_j \sim \text{gamma}(k_j, \lambda)$

$k_j = k + k + k = 3k$


$E[T_j] = 3k / \lambda = 6 \text{ mo}$

$P\{T_j > 4\text{mo}\}$

$= 1 - F_{T_j}(4) = \sum_{x=0}^{k_j-1} \frac{(\lambda x)^x}{x!} e^{-\lambda x}$

$= \sum_{x=0}^{6-1} \frac{(4)^x}{x!} e^{-4}$

$= 0.785$



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This example involves sums of independent gamma random variables let us take some time to read the problem and solve it after that. So, let us first start defining the time to failure for the bulb. So, the time to failure of the bulb is the sum of the inter-arrival times of the three spikes. So, $\Delta T_1 + \Delta T_2 + \Delta T_3$ because the bulb fails on the third spike. So, it is the sum of three ΔT 's.

Now each of these ΔT 's is gamma distributed and they are mutually independent we are going to use that very soon uh. So, ΔT_i is gamma with parameter k and λ and that is true for all i . So, i going from 1 to 3. They are independent they are mutually independent and for each ΔT the mean is 2 months and the variance is 2^2 just to be dimensionally consistent. So, this lets us find the value of k and λ and we can derive that λ is 1 per month and k is equal to 2.

So, that is how I am able to fully define each of these inter arrival times ΔT with $k=2$ and λ equals one per month and they are mutually independent gamma random variables. Now the sum of the gamma random variables as we saw in a couple of slides back that the sum of independent gammas is also gamma provided the rate remains the same which means λ is unchanged.

So, now I have T_f being the sum of three independent gamma random variables with the same λ I can conclude that T_f is again gamma distributed with a λ as before and k_f is the sum of the constituent gammas. So, it is because all the gammas if the sum of the constituted case. So, since all the k 's are the same. So, k_f is 3 times k . So, now I have a new gamma random variable T_f with parameters $3k$ and λ .

So, we let us find out the mean life of the bulb. So, the mean life of the bulb the mean of the gamma random variable is k over λ . So, in this case it is $3k$ over λ and that is 6 months. So, the average life of this bulb is 6 months and now we need to find out the probability that this bulb whose mean is six months is going to work for at least four months. So P of T_f is greater than 4 months.

Let us go back to the basics the way we defined the CDF of the gamma random variable which we did couple slides back. So, $1 - \text{CDF}$ of the gamma random variable is actually what we want evaluated at 4 months that is given by the sum of a few Poisson PMFs. So, X going from $k - 1$. So, here λ is one per month as before T is 4 months k_f is thrice k which is 6 and we need to add these 6% PMF terms and if we do that right then the answer comes to 78.5%. So, that is the probability that this particular bulb will work for at least 4 months.