

5. (18 pts) Fred likes to juggle. So does Jason. The number of minutes Fred can juggle five balls without dropping one is a random variable, with probability density function $f(t) = 0.8e^{-0.8t}$. Similarly, the function $j(t) = 1.5e^{-1.5t}$ describes Jason's skill. Here t is time in minutes.

a. (2 pts) Find $\int_0^\infty f(t)dt$. No need to show work.

That integral must be 1, because f is a pdf.

b. (5 pts) What percentage of Jason's juggling attempts are "embarrassing," meaning they last for 10 seconds or less? Show your work.

10 seconds is $\frac{1}{6}$ minute. So the proportion we want is

$$\int_0^{1/6} j(t) dt = \int_0^{1/6} 1.5e^{-1.5t} dt = -e^{-1.5t} \Big|_0^{1/6} = -e^{-1.5(1/6)} - (-e^0) = 1 - e^{-1/4} \approx \text{span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">22\%}.$$

c. (6 pts) How long can Fred juggle, on average? Show your work.

$$\text{Fred's Average Time} = \int_0^\infty tf(t) dt = \int_0^\infty 0.8te^{-0.8t} dt.$$

Parts:

$$\begin{aligned} u &= t & v &= -e^{-0.8t} \\ u' &= 1 & v' &= 0.8e^{-0.8t} \end{aligned}$$

which yields:

$$\begin{aligned} \int 0.8te^{-0.8t} dt &= \int uv' dt = uv - \int u'v dt \\ &= -te^{-0.8t} - \int -e^{-0.8t} dt = -te^{-0.8t} - \frac{1}{0.8}e^{-0.8t} + C \\ &= -(t + 1.25)e^{-0.8t} + C. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Fred's Average Time} &= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} -(t + 1.25)e^{-0.8t} \Big|_0^b \\ &= \left(\lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} (-(b + 1.25)e^{-0.8b}) \right) - (-(0 + 1.25)e^{-0.8(0)}) \\ &= 1.25 - \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} (b + 1.25)e^{-0.8b}. \end{aligned}$$

Exponentials always beat polynomials, so $e^{-0.8b}$ goes to 0 faster than $b+1.25$ goes to infinity. So the last limit is 0, which makes Fred's average time 1.25 minutes.

d. (5 pts) Who is the better juggler? Give a good reason for your decision.

Fred's average time was $1.25 = 1/0.8$, so Jason's will be $.67 = 1/1.5$. So Fred has a better average.