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# On the Superposition of the Two Independent Renewal Processes

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## Abstract

Cox [1] discussed the superposition of  $p$  independent identical renewal processes and derived the asymptotic mean of the time up to the  $(r)$ th event in the superposed process. We extend the above result to the independent but not identical renewal processes. Some numerical examples are presented.

## 1. Introduction

A renewal process can be viewed as a sequence of points  $\{^1T_n; n \geq 0\}$  where  $0 = ^1T_0 \leq ^1T_1 \leq \dots$ . The random variables  $X_n$  defined by  $X_n = ^1T_n - ^1T_{n-1}$  for  $n \geq 1$  are assumed to be independent and identically distributed. But in this paper the renewal processes in question will be denoted by  $\{^1T_n; n \geq 0\}$  and  $\{^2T_m; m \geq 0\}$  with increments  $\{X_n; n \geq 1\}$  and  $\{Y_m; m \geq 1\}$  respectively. By the superposition of the two renewal processes we shall mean the following:

Let  $\{^1T_n\}_{n=0}^{\infty}$  and  $\{^2T_m\}_{m=0}^{\infty}$  be realization of the two processes. Viewing these realizations as sets of points, we superpose the two processes simply by taking the union of the two sets and reordering the indexes to produce a single monotone increasing sequence  $\{U_k; k \geq 0\}$ . The asymptotic mean of  $U_r$  will be derived and some numerical examples will be presented. For purpose of illustration, in this paper we refer to the failure process of a device consisting of two independent components in series.

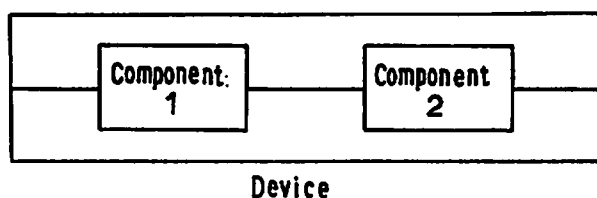


Fig. 1 Two components in series,

The times between failures of components one and two will be independent renewal with increments  $\{X_n; n \geq 1\}$  and  $\{Y_m; m \geq 1\}$  respectively. As before we denote  $^1T_j = \sum_{n=1}^j X_n$  and  $^2T_k = \sum_{m=1}^k Y_m$ . With these notations  $\{^1T_j; j \geq 0\}$  and  $\{^2T_k; k \geq 0\}$  are respectively the sequences of times of the  $(j)$ th and  $(k)$ th failures of components one and two. In the superposed process the  $(r)$ th event or failure will be denoted by  $U_r$ . Thus the process of superposing, simply the cumulative times of failure, is  $\{U_r; r \geq 0\}$ .

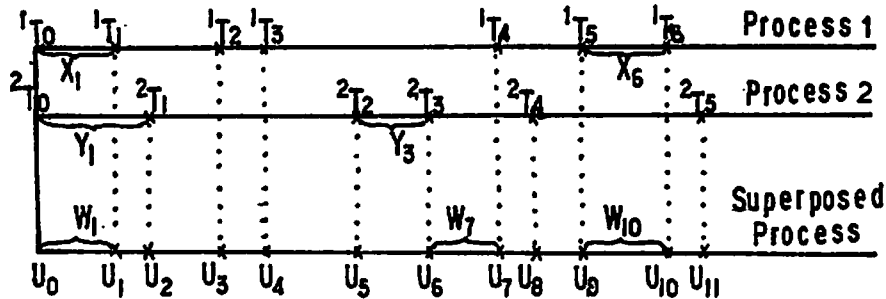


Fig. 2 The superposition of two renewal processes.

The time between failures regardless of type is  $W_k$ . Clearly  $W_k = U_k - U_{k-1}$ . The process is illustrated in Fig. 2.

We shall assume first that  $\{X_n; n \geq 1\}$  and  $\{Y_m; m \geq 1\}$  are renewal processes consisting of mutually independent and identically distributed lifetimes with continuous probability density functions  $f(x)$  and  $g(y)$  respectively. The cumulative distribution functions will be denoted by  $F(x)$  and  $G(y)$ , the complementary cumulative distribution functions by  $\bar{F}(x)$  and  $\bar{G}(y)$ . We shall further assume that the density functions are positive throughout the positive real line, and that the expectation of the random variables  $X_n$  and  $Y_m$  are finite.

An event in the superposed process will be described by an ordered pair of random variables  $(Z, V)$  where  $Z$  will equal one or two depending upon the process which produced the event or equivalently, the process to which the event belonged before superposition gives the value of  $Z$ . The random variable  $V$  will be a non-negative real number: the time elapsed since the last event of the component process which did not produce the event in question in the superposed process. The notation is illustrated in Fig. 3.

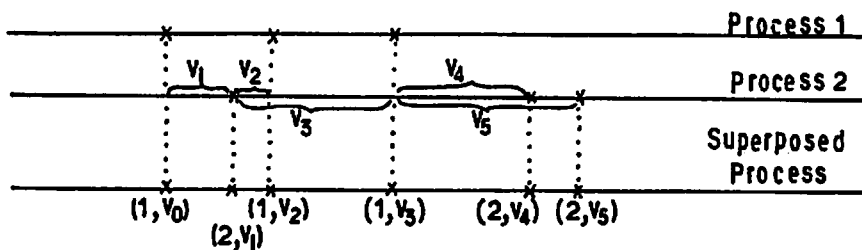


Fig. 3 The superposed process.

Finally we denote by  $W_n$  the random variable representing the time between the  $(n-1)$  st and  $(n)$ th events in superposed process with  $W_0=0$ . With above notation Cherry, W.P. [2] proved the next theorems.

**Theorem 2.1:**

*The stochastic process  $\{Z_n, V_n, W_n; n \geq 0\}$  is a Markov renewal process defined on  $(\{1, 2\} \times R^+, (2^{(1,2)} \times R^+))$*

Next theorem deals with the limiting probability distribution of the semi-Markov process  $\{Z(t), V(t); t \geq 0\}$  associated with the Markov renewal process  $\{Z_n, V_n, U_n; n \geq 0\}$ .

**Theorem 2.2:**

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P_r\{Z(t)=1, V(t) \geq v | Z_0=i, V_0=v_0\} = \int_{z=0}^{\infty} \int_{u=v}^{\infty} \frac{\bar{F}(z) \cdot \bar{G}(z+u)}{\mu_X \cdot \mu_Y} dudz \tag{2.1}$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P_r\{Z(t)=2, V(t) \geq v | Z_0=i, V_0=v_0\} = \int_{z=0}^{\infty} \int_{u=v}^{\infty} \frac{\bar{F}(z+u)\bar{G}(z)}{\mu_X \cdot \mu_Y} dudz \tag{2.2}$$

where  $E(X_n) = \mu_X, E(Y_m) = \mu_Y$ .

If we set  $v=0$  then the limiting probability (2.1) and (2.2) are the ones with which the process 1 and 2 enter the superposed process respectively.

To illustrate the above limiting results, suppose

$$f(x) = \rho e^{-\rho x}, \quad x \geq 0, \\ = 0, \quad \text{elsewhere;}$$

and

$$g(y) = \nu e^{-\nu y}, \quad y \geq 0, \\ = 0, \quad \text{elsewhere.}$$

We obtain:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P_r\{Z(t)=1, V(t) \geq 0 | Z_0=i, V_0=v_0\} = \frac{\rho}{\nu + \rho},$$

and

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P_r\{Z(t)=2, V(t) \geq 0 | Z_0=i, V_0=v_0\} = \frac{\nu}{\nu + \rho}.$$

We set  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  when we set  $v=0$  in (2.1) and (2.2) respectively.

### 3. The mean time up to the ( $r$ )th renewal

If  $U_r$  denotes the time up to the ( $r$ )th event in superposed process, the properties of  $U_r$  are not directly obtainable. We next derive the asymptotic mean of  $U_r$  according to the method of Cox [1]. Consider the system at the instant  $U_r$ . The total time for which all components have then been in use is  $2U_r$ . But one of the components have still not failed. If we allowed the one to continue until failure, we would then have obtained the full 'live' of the one, this total time having approximately an expectation,

$$p_1\{p_1 r \mu_X + (p_2 r + 1)\mu_Y\} + p_2\{(p_1 r + 1)\mu_X + p_2 r \mu_Y\}. \tag{2.3}$$

Thus

$$2E(U_r) = p_1\{p_1 r \mu_X + (p_2 r + 1)\mu_Y\} + p_2\{(p_1 r + 1)\mu_X + p_2 r \mu_Y\} \\ - \{\text{expected forward recurrence-time}\}, \tag{2.4}$$

where the forward recurrence-time is that of one of the components not forming the ( $r$ )th failure.

If  $r$  is not small, it is reasonable to approximate by the expected limiting recurrence-time

$$\frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\mu_X^2 + \sigma_X^2}{\mu_X} \right) p_2 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\mu_Y^2 + \sigma_Y^2}{\mu_Y} \right) p_1. \tag{2.5}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned}
 E(U_r) &= \frac{p_1}{2} \{p_1 r \mu_X + (p_2 r + 1) \mu_Y\} + \frac{r^2}{2} \{(p_1 r + 1) \mu_X + p_2 r \mu_Y\} \\
 &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\mu_X^2 + \sigma_X^2}{\mu_X} \right) p_2 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\mu_Y^2 + \sigma_Y^2}{\mu_Y} \right) p_1 \right\} \\
 &= \frac{r}{2} \{p_2 (\mu_Y - \mu_X) + \mu_X\} - \frac{1}{2} \{p_2 (\mu_Y - \mu_X) - \mu_Y\} \\
 &\quad - \frac{1}{4} \left\{ \mu_Y + \frac{\sigma_Y^2}{\mu_Y} - p_2 (\mu_Y - \mu_X) - p_2 \left( \frac{\sigma_Y^2}{\mu_Y} - \frac{\sigma_X^2}{\mu_X} \right) \right\}. \tag{2.6}
 \end{aligned}$$

If we set  $\mu = \mu_X = \mu_Y$ ,  $\sigma^2 = \sigma_X^2 = \sigma_Y^2$  (Cox's case), we get,

$$E(U_r) = \frac{r\mu}{2} + \frac{(\mu^2 - \sigma^2)}{4\mu}, \tag{2.7}$$

And (2.7) agrees with the Cox's results.

#### 4. Numerical Examples

(i) Exponential distribution.

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x) &= \rho e^{-\rho x}, \quad x \geq 0, \\
 &= 0, \quad \text{elsewhere;}
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 g(y) &= \nu e^{-\nu y}, \quad y \geq 0, \\
 &= 0, \quad \text{elsewhere.}
 \end{aligned}$$

The means and standard deviations are  $\mu_X = \sigma_X = 1/\rho$  and  $\mu_Y = \sigma_Y = 1/\nu$  respectively.

And we thus get

$$p_1 = \frac{\rho}{\nu + \rho}, \quad p_2 = \frac{\nu}{\nu + \rho},$$

and in this case we get

$$E(U_r) = \frac{r}{\nu + \rho}.$$

(ii) Special Erlangian distribution with two stages.

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x) &= \rho^2 x e^{-\rho x}, \quad x \geq 0. \\
 &= 0, \quad \text{elsewhere;}
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 g(y) &= \nu^2 y e^{-\nu y}, \quad y \geq 0, \\
 &= 0, \quad \text{elsewhere.}
 \end{aligned}$$

The means and standard deviations are

$$\mu_X = \frac{2}{\rho}, \quad \sigma_X^2 = \frac{2}{\rho^2}, \quad \mu_Y = \frac{2}{\nu}, \quad \sigma_Y^2 = \frac{2}{\nu^2},$$

respectively. And we thus get

$$p_1 = \frac{\rho}{4} \left\{ \frac{2}{(\rho + \nu)} + \frac{2\rho + \nu}{(\rho + \nu)^2} + \frac{2\rho\nu}{(\rho + \nu)^3} \right\},$$

and

$$p_2 = \frac{\nu}{4} \left\{ \frac{2}{(\rho + \nu)} + \frac{\rho + 2\nu}{(\rho + \nu)^2} + \frac{2\nu\rho}{(\rho + \nu)^3} \right\}.$$

Then we get in this case

$$E(U_r) \approx \frac{2}{\rho + \nu} r - \frac{(\rho - \nu)^2}{4(\rho + \nu)^3} r + \frac{1}{4} \left\{ \frac{\rho + \nu}{\rho\nu} - \frac{7}{4} \frac{1}{(\rho + \nu)} - \frac{\rho\nu}{(\rho + \nu)^3} \right\}.$$

### References

- 1) Cox, D.R., (1962): *Renal Theory*, London, Muthuen.
- 2) Cherry, W.P., (1972): "The Superposition of Two Independent Markov Renewal Processes," *Industria Engineering Technical Reports, The University of Michigan*.