

Coursera, Statistical Inference, part 1

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Overview: A simulation exercise

This exercise investigates the exponential distribution as it compares to the Central Limit Theorem. The mean of exponential distribution is $1/\lambda$ and the standard deviation is also $1/\lambda$. For $\lambda = 0.2$ and using 1000 simulations we investigate the distribution of averages of 40 exponentials.

1. Sample mean is compared to the theoretical mean of the distribution.
2. Variability of sample (via variance) is compared it to the theoretical variance of the distribution.
3. It is illustrated that the distribution is approximately normal.

Data

```
library(ggplot2)

# simulation data
lambda <- 0.2
n <- 40
simulation <- 1000
data <- replicate(simulation, mean(rexp(n, lambda)))

# simulations
smean <- mean(data)
svar <- var(data)
ssd <- sd(data)

# Theoretical values
tmean <- 1/lambda
tvar <- 1/(lambda^2*n)
tsd <- (1/lambda)/sqrt(n)
```

Sample Mean versus Theoretical Mean

```
# Theoretical value
tmean

## [1] 5

# Simulated value
smean

## [1] 4.982217
```

Sample Variance versus Theoretical Variance

```
# Theoretical value  
tvar
```

```
## [1] 0.625
```

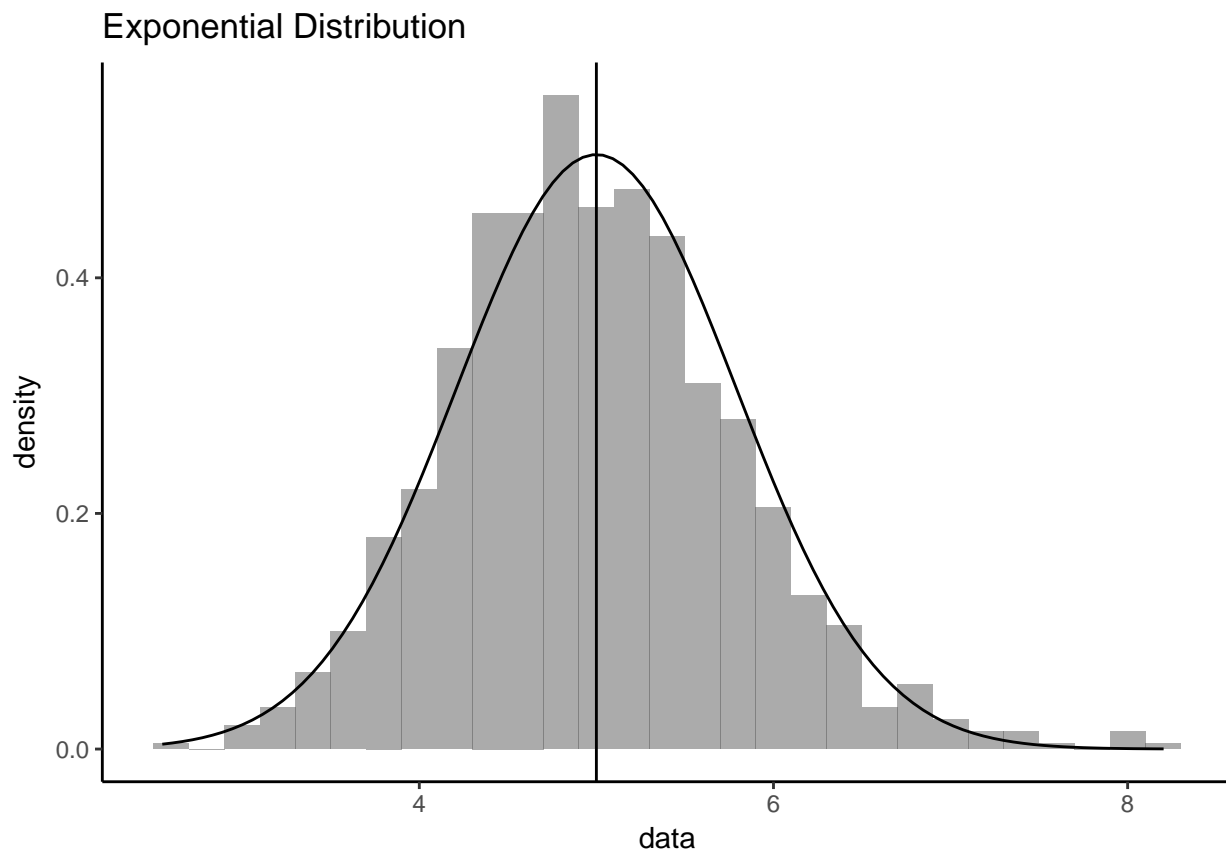
```
# Simulated value  
svar
```

```
## [1] 0.6449959
```

Is Distribution Normal?

Plotting histogram of averages of 40 samples of exponentials against normal distribution.

```
g <- ggplot() + aes(data) + theme_classic()  
g + geom_histogram(aes(y = ..density..),  
                   binwidth = .2, alpha = 0.5) +  
  stat_function(fun = "dnorm", args = list(mean = tmean, sd = tsd)) +  
  geom_vline(xintercept=tmean, size=0.5) +  
  ggtitle("Exponential Distribution")
```



Plotting qqplot to illustrate closeness of the simulated distribution to normal distribution.

```
qqnorm(data); qqline(data)
```

Normal Q-Q Plot

