

SciPy.org (<https://scipy.org/>) Docs (<https://docs.scipy.org/>)

SciPy v1.6.0 Reference Guide (../index.html) Statistical functions (scipy.stats) (../stats.html)

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scipy.stats.gamma

`scipy.stats.gamma(*args, **kwargs) = <scipy.stats._continuous_distns.gamma_gen object>` ([https://github.com/scipy/scipy/blob/v1.6.0/scipy/stats](https://github.com/scipy/scipy/blob/v1.6.0/scipy/stats/_continuous_distns.py) [source])

A gamma continuous random variable.

As an instance of the `rv_continuous` ([scipy.stats.rv_continuous.html](https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/stats/rv_continuous.html)#[scipy.stats.rv_continuous](https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/stats/rv_continuous.html)) class, gamma object inherits from it a collection of generic methods (see below for the full list), and completes them with details specific for this particular distribution.

See also:

[erlang \(scipy.stats.erlang.html#scipy.stats.erlang\)](https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/stats/erlang.html#scipy.stats.erlang), [expon \(scipy.stats.expon.html#scipy.stats.expon\)](https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/stats/expon.html#scipy.stats.expon)

Notes

The probability density function for gamma is:

$$f(x, a) = \frac{x^{a-1} e^{-x}}{\Gamma(a)}$$

for $x \geq 0, a > 0$. Here $\Gamma(a)$ refers to the gamma function.

gamma takes a as a shape parameter for a .

When a is an integer, gamma reduces to the Erlang distribution, and when $a = 1$ to the exponential distribution.

Gamma distributions are sometimes parameterized with two variables, with a probability density function of:

$$f(x, \alpha, \beta) = \frac{\beta^\alpha x^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta x}}{\Gamma(\alpha)}$$

Note that this parameterization is equivalent to the above, with $\text{scale} = 1 / \text{beta}$.

The probability density above is defined in the “standardized” form. To shift and/or scale the distribution use the `loc` and `scale` parameters. Specifically, `gamma.pdf(x, a, loc, scale)` is identically equivalent to `gamma.pdf(y, a) / scale` with $y = (x - \text{loc}) / \text{scale}$. Note that shifting the location of a distribution does not make it a “noncentral” distribution; noncentral generalizations of some distributions are available in separate classes.

Examples

```
>>> from scipy.stats import gamma
>>> import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
>>> fig, ax = plt.subplots(1, 1)
```

Calculate a few first moments:

```
>>> a = 1.99
>>> mean, var, skew, kurt = gamma.stats(a, moments='mvsk')
```

Display the probability density function (pdf):

```
>>> x = np.linspace(gamma.ppf(0.01, a),
...                  gamma.ppf(0.99, a), 100)
>>> ax.plot(x, gamma.pdf(x, a),
...         'r-', lw=5, alpha=0.6, label='gamma pdf')
```

Alternatively, the distribution object can be called (as a function) to fix the shape, location and scale parameters. This returns a “frozen” RV object holding the given parameters fixed.

Freeze the distribution and display the frozen pdf:

```
>>> rv = gamma(a)
>>> ax.plot(x, rv.pdf(x), 'k-', lw=2, label='frozen pdf')
```

Check accuracy of cdf and ppf:

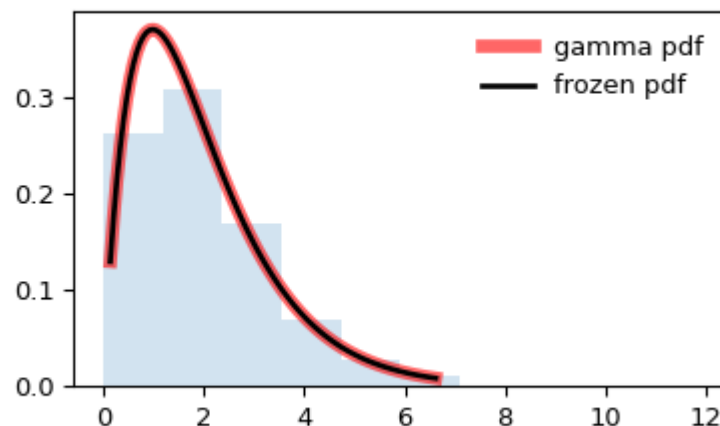
```
>>> vals = gamma.ppf([0.001, 0.5, 0.999], a)
>>> np.allclose([0.001, 0.5, 0.999], gamma.cdf(vals, a))
True
```

Generate random numbers:

```
>>> r = gamma.rvs(a, size=1000)
```

And compare the histogram:

```
>>> ax.hist(r, density=True, histtype='stepfilled', alpha=0.2)
>>> ax.legend(loc='best', frameon=False)
>>> plt.show()
```



<code>rvs(a, loc=0, scale=1, size=1, random_state=None)</code>	Random variates.
<code>pdf(x, a, loc=0, scale=1)</code>	Probability density function.
<code>logpdf(x, a, loc=0, scale=1)</code>	Log of the probability density function.
<code>cdf(x, a, loc=0, scale=1)</code>	Cumulative distribution function.
<code>logcdf(x, a, loc=0, scale=1)</code>	Log of the cumulative distribution function.
<code>sf(x, a, loc=0, scale=1)</code>	Survival function (also defined as $1 - \text{cdf}$, but <i>sf</i> is sometimes more accurate).
<code>logsf(x, a, loc=0, scale=1)</code>	Log of the survival function.
<code>ppf(q, a, loc=0, scale=1)</code>	Percent point function (inverse of <i>cdf</i> — percentiles).
<code>isf(q, a, loc=0, scale=1)</code>	Inverse survival function (inverse of <i>sf</i>).
<code>moment(n, a, loc=0, scale=1)</code>	Non-central moment of order <i>n</i>
<code>stats(a, loc=0, scale=1, moments='mv')</code>	Mean('m'), variance('v'), skew('s'), and/or kurtosis('k').
<code>entropy(a, loc=0, scale=1)</code>	(Differential) entropy of the RV.
<code>fit(data)</code>	Parameter estimates for generic data. See scipy.stats.rv_continuous.fit (https://docs.scipy.org/doc/scipy/reference/generated/scipy.stats.rv_continuous.fit.html#scipy.stats.rv_continuous.fit) for detailed documentation of the keyword arguments.
<code>expect(func, args=(a,), loc=0, scale=1, lb=None, ub=None, conditional=False, **kwds)</code>	Expected value of a function (of one argument) with respect to the distribution.
<code>median(a, loc=0, scale=1)</code>	Median of the distribution.
<code>mean(a, loc=0, scale=1)</code>	Mean of the distribution.
<code>var(a, loc=0, scale=1)</code>	Variance of the distribution.
<code>std(a, loc=0, scale=1)</code>	Standard deviation of the distribution.
<code>interval(alpha, a, loc=0, scale=1)</code>	Endpoints of the range that contains alpha percent of the distribution

Previous topic

[scipy.stats.gausshyper \(scipy.stats.gausshyper.html\)](#)

Next topic

[scipy.stats.gengamma \(scipy.stats.gengamma.html\)](#)

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