

The Exponential distribution and the CTL

Gianluca Merendino

Overview

In this document we compare the exponential distribution with the Central Limit Theorem by a simulation. We show the behavior of the averages of 40 exponentials. First, we compare the sample mean versus the theoretical mean. Then, we compare the sample variance versus the theoretical variance. At last, we show that the distribution of the mean is approximately a normal distribution.

Simulation

The exponential distribution is simulated in R with `rexp(n, lambda)` function, where `lambda` is the rate parameter and `n` is the number of the random numbers that the function returns. For all the simulations, `lambda` is 0.2 and `n` is 40. To investigate the distribution of the averages will be done 1000 simulation. The following code creates a matrix which have 1000 rows (simulations) of 40 random numbers:

```
lambda <- 0.2
mean <- 1/lambda
sd <- 1/lambda
n <- 40
iter <- 1000
set.seed(43)
matrix <- matrix(rexp(n * iter, lambda), iter, n)
```

The sample mean of each simulation is calculated with the command:

```
sample_means <- apply(matrix, 1, mean)
```

Sample mean versus Theoretical mean

The mean of the exponential distribution is $1/\lambda$, that is:

```
1/lambda
```

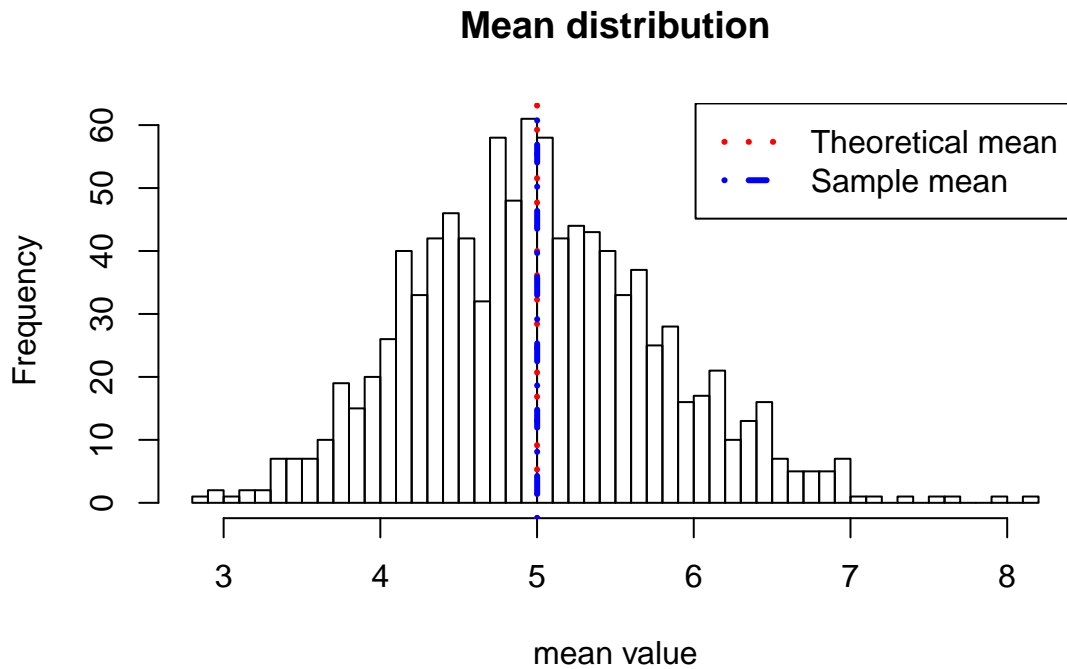
```
## [1] 5
```

The mean of the sample means is:

```
mean(sample_means)
```

```
## [1] 5.000798
```

To compare the two values better, we plot the distribution of the sample means, and we draw the lines of the theoretical mean and the sample mean:



Sample variance versus Theoretical variance

To show the different between the sample and the theoretical variance, we calculate the sample variances for each simulations:

```
mean_sample_var <- var(sample_means)
```

The theoretical variance is:

```
theo_sd <- (1/lambda)/sqrt(n)
theoretical_var <- theo_sd^2
```

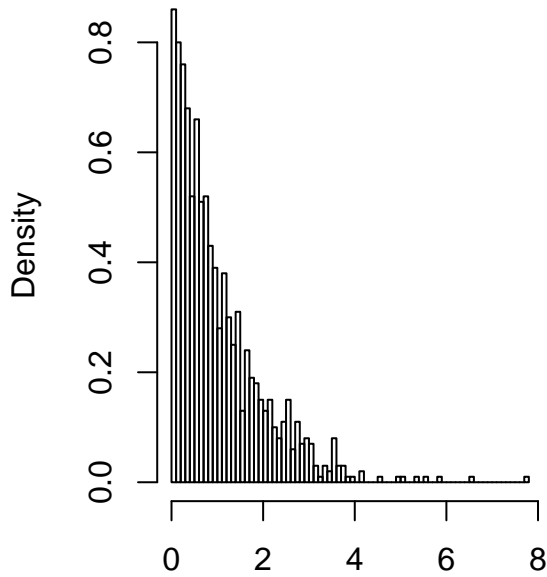
The following table shows how similar they are:

```
##              Variance
## Sample Variance    0.6368729
## Theoretical variance 0.6250000
```

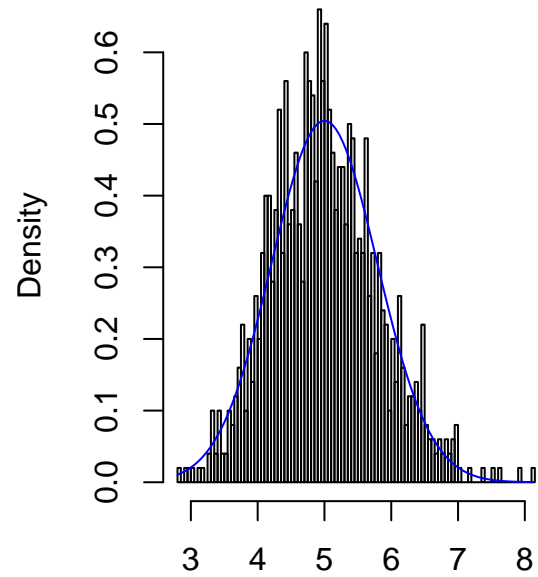
Distribution

Now we show that the exponential distribution follows the central limit theorem, which states that the distribution of averages of iid variables becomes that of a standard normal as the sample size increases, regardless of the distribution of the iid. To show this, we compare the exponential distribution with the distribution of the aver-

Exponential distribution



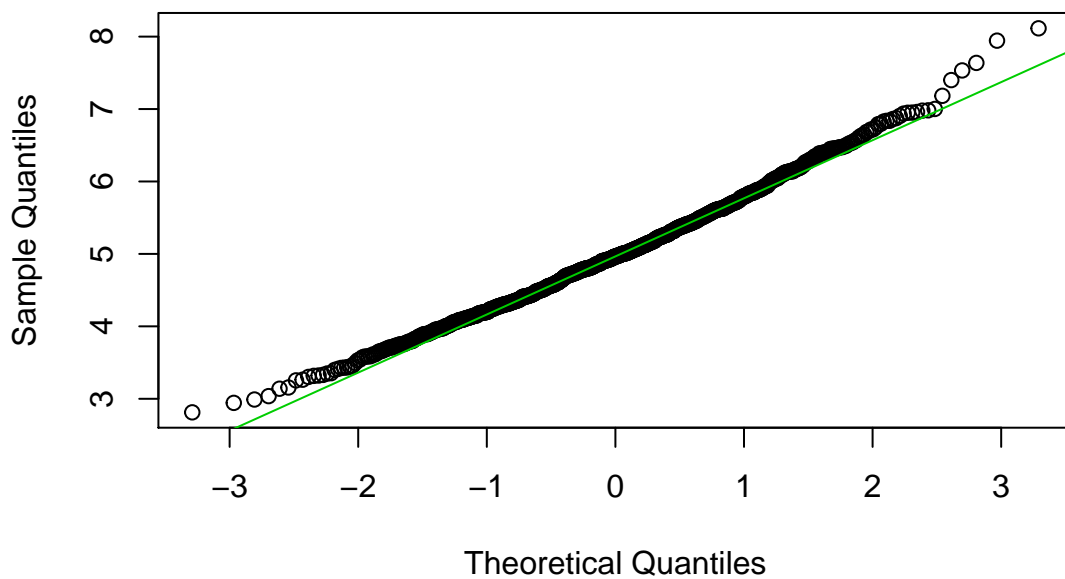
Mean distribution



ages

To prove that the distribution behaves how the Central Limit Theorem predicts, we show the qq-test. The quantiles of the distribution are near the values of a normal distribution, so the CLT is proved.

Normal Q-Q Plot



Appendix

In this appendix we show all the code used to create the graphs e the tables:

Sample mean versus Theoretical mean

```
exp_mean <- 1/lambda
sample_mean <- mean(sample_means)
hist(sample_means, breaks=50, main = "Mean distribution", xlab = "mean value")
abline(v=exp_mean, col="red", lwd = 3, lty = 3)
abline(v=sample_mean, col="blue", lwd = 3, lty = 4)
legend("topright", c("Theoretical mean", "Sample mean"),
      col=c("red", "blue"), lwd=3, lty = c(3,4))
```

Sample variance versus Theoretical variance

The fololwing table shows how similar they are:

```
data.frame("Variance"=c(mean_sample_var,
                        theoretical_var), row.names =
          c("Sample Variance","Theoretical variance"))
```

Distribution

```
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
hist(rexp(1000),breaks = 100, prob = T, main = "Exponential distribution", xlab = "")
hist(sample_means, prob = TRUE, breaks = 100, main = "Mean distribution", xlab = "")
x <- seq(min(sample_means), max(sample_means), length = 100)
y <- dnorm(x, mean = 1/lambda, sd = (1/lambda/sqrt(n)))
lines(x, y, pch = 30, col = "blue")

qqnorm(sample_means, main = "Normal Q-Q Plot")
qqline(sample_means, col = "3")
```