

Let Y be a random variable with cumulative probability distribution function $F_Y(y)$. Then the *survivor function* $S(y)$ is defined to be:

$$S(y) = 1 - F_Y(y) = P(Y \geq y).$$

The random variable Y is often called the *survival time*.

The survivor function is the probability of survival beyond time $Y = y$.

Examples. The three most commonly used distribution functions for survival time are:

1. <http://planetmath.org/ExponentialRandomVariable> exponential distribution, with $S(y) = \exp(-\gamma y)$.
2. Weibull distribution, with $S(y) = \exp(-y^\gamma)$ using the standard Weibull distribution.
3. extreme-value distribution, with $S(y) = \exp(-\exp(\frac{y - \alpha}{\beta}))$.