

The time between infection and display of symptoms for streptococcal sore throat is a random variable whose probability density function can be approximated by  $f(t) = \frac{1}{15,676}t^2e^{-0.05t}$  if  $0 \leq t \leq 150$  and  $f(t) = 0$  otherwise ( $t$  measured in hours).<sup>1</sup>

- (a) What is the probability that an infected patient will display symptoms within the first 48 hours?

Since we know the probability density function, we have

$$\begin{aligned} P(0 \leq T \leq 48) &= \int_{t=0}^{t=48} \frac{1}{15,676}t^2e^{-0.05t} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{15,676} \cdot \int_{t=0}^{t=48} t^2e^{-0.05t} dt \end{aligned}$$

Using integration by parts<sup>2</sup>, we find  $\int t^2e^{-0.05t} dt$  and then use the FTC to evaluate the definite integral.

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{15,676} \cdot [-20e^{-0.05t} (t^2 + 40t + 800)]_{t=0}^{t=48} \\ &= \frac{1}{15,676} \cdot [(-20e^{-0.05 \cdot 48} (48^2 + 40 \cdot 48 + 800)) - (-20e^{-0.05 \cdot 0} (0^2 + 40 \cdot 0 + 800))] \\ &\approx 0.4392 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, there is a 43.92% probability that an infected patient will display symptoms within the first 48 hours.

- (b) What is the probability that an infected patient will not display symptoms until after 36 hours?

We want

$$\begin{aligned} P(T > 36) &= P(36 \leq T \leq 150) \\ &= \int_{t=36}^{t=150} \frac{1}{15,676}t^2e^{-0.05t} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{15,676} \cdot \int_{t=36}^{t=150} t^2e^{-0.05t} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{15,676} \cdot [-20e^{-0.05t} (t^2 + 40t + 800)]_{t=36}^{t=150} \\ &= \frac{1}{15,676} \cdot [(-20e^{-0.05 \cdot 150} (150^2 + 40 \cdot 150 + 800)) - (-20e^{-0.05 \cdot 36} (36^2 + 40 \cdot 36 + 800))] \\ &\approx 0.7250 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, there is a 72.50% probability that an infected patient will display symptoms after 36 hours.

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<sup>1</sup>Stewart, *Calculus, Early Transcendentals*, p. 580, #12.

<sup>2</sup>Details at the end of the problem.

## Calculus II Probability

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Let's compute

$$\int t^2 e^{-0.05t} dt$$

using tabular integration by parts.

Here's the table

$u$	$dv$
$t^2$	$e^{-0.05t}$
$2t$	$-\frac{1}{0.05}e^{-0.05t}$
$2$	$\frac{1}{(0.05)^2}e^{-0.05t}$
$0$	$-\frac{1}{(0.05)^3}e^{-0.05t}$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}\int t^2 e^{-0.05t} dt &= +t^2 \cdot -\frac{1}{0.05}e^{-0.05t} - 2t \cdot \frac{1}{(0.05)^2}e^{-0.05t} + 2 \cdot -\frac{1}{(0.05)^3}e^{-0.05t} - \int 0 \cdot -\frac{1}{(0.05)^3}e^{-0.05t} dt \\ &= t^2 \cdot -20e^{-0.05t} - 2t \cdot 400e^{-0.05t} + 2 \cdot -8000e^{-0.05t} - \int 0 dt \\ &= -20t^2 e^{-0.05t} - 800te^{-0.05t} - 16000e^{-0.05t} + C \\ &= -20e^{-0.05t} (t^2 + 400t + 800) + C\end{aligned}$$

Since we'll be using this antiderivative in a definite integral, we can ignore the "+ C". (When used in the FTC calculation of a definite integral, the C always subtracts out.)