FUNDAMENTALS OF QUEUEING THEORY
$+1$

# FUNDAMENTALS OF QUEUEING THEORY 

FIFTH EDITION

JOHN F. SHORTLE
Professor of Systems Engineering \& Operations Research
George Mason University
JAMES M. THOMPSON
Enterprise Architect
Freddie Mac
DONALD GROSS
Formerly of George Mason University

Professor Emeritus
The George Washington University
CARL M. HARRIS
Late of George Mason University

JOHN WILEY \& SONS, INC.

This edition first published 2018
© 2018 John Wiley \& Sons, Inc

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, except as permitted by law. Advice on how to obtain permission to reuse material from this title is available at http://www.wiley.com/go/permissions.

The rights of John F. Shortle, James M. Thompson, Donald Gross, and Carl M. Harris to be identified as the authors of this work have been asserted in accordance with law.

## Registered Office

John Wiley \& Sons, Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, USA

## Editorial Office

111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, USA

For details of our global editorial offices, customer services, and more information about Wiley products visit us at www.wiley.com. Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats and by print-on-demand. Some content that appears in standard print versions of this book may not be available in other formats.

## Limit of Liability/Disclaimer of Warranty

While the publisher and authors have used their best efforts in preparing this work, they make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this work and specifically disclaim all warranties, including without limitation any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. No warranty may be created or extended by sales representatives, written sales materials or promotional statements for this work. The fact that an organization, website, or product is referred to in this work as a citation and/or potential source of further information does not mean that the publisher and authors endorse the information or services the organization, website, or product may provide or recommendations it may make. This work is sold with the understanding that the publisher is not engaged in rendering professional services. The advice and strategies contained herein may not be suitable for your situation. You should consult with a specialist where appropriate. Further, readers should be aware that websites listed in this work may have changed or disappeared between when this work was written and when it is read. Neither the publisher nor authors shall be liable for any loss of profit or any other commercial damages, including but not limited to special, incidental, consequential, or other damages.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
ISBN: 9781118943526

10987654321

## Contents

Chapter 1 Introduction ..... 1
Chapter 2 Review of Stochastic Processes ..... 9
Chapter 3 Simple Markovian Queueing Models ..... 21
Chapter 4 Advanced Markovian Queueing Models ..... 78
Chapter 5 Networks, Series, and Cyclic Queues ..... 116
Chapter 6 General Arrival or Service Patterns ..... 139
Chapter 7 General Models and Theoretical Topics ..... 169
Chapter 8 Bounds and Approximations ..... 190
Chapter 9 Numerical Techniques and Simulation ..... 203

## CHAPTER 1

## Introduction

## 1.1

| Prob. | Calling <br> Units | Service <br> Function | Discipline | Capacity | No. Servers | No. Stages |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| (a) | Airplanes | Landing run- <br> ways | FCFS (PRI <br> in <br> emergency) | Stack <br> $(\approx \infty)$ | No. <br> runways | 1-landing <br> only; <br> 2-landing <br> and <br> taxiing |
| (b) | Filled Gro- <br> cery carts | Checker(and <br> bagger) | FCFS (with <br> jockeying) | $(\approx \infty)$ | With <br> jockeying <br> and channel <br> choice acts <br> like a <br> c-server <br> model | 1 |
| (c) | People | Clerks | same as (b) | same as (b) | same as (b) | 1 |
| (d) | Cars | Paying toll <br> (toll booth) | FCFS | $\infty$ | 1 or more <br> (in fog, acts <br> like indep. <br> single <br> channels no <br> choice or <br> jockeying) | 1 |
| (e) | Cars | Gas filling | FCFS | Finite | No. of <br> pump <br> islands <br> (similar to <br> (b) <br> although <br> jockeying <br> difficult) | 1 |


| (f) | Cars | Car-wash <br> building | FCFS | Finite | Generally 1 | Many, <br> with no <br> storage <br> between <br> stages |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| (g) | Calls | Lines in <br> switchboard | FCFS | Finite | No. of lines | 1 |
| (h) | Patients | Doctor <br> (could be <br> batch <br> service) | Fixed as to <br> appoint- <br> ments | Finite <br> seating <br> capacity <br> and waiting <br> room | 1, unless a <br> clinic | Usually 1 <br> but could <br> be several |
| (i) | Tourists | Tour group | FCFS | (ح $)$ | 1 or more | Multiple |
| (j) | Components | Operations <br> and <br> inspection <br> batch service | FCFS | Finite | 1 or more | 4 |
| (k) | Programs | Processing <br> Programs | FCFS (or <br> PRI) | same as (b) | 1 | 1 |

1.2 One could give a variety of illustrations, e.g., people calling into a bank to find their account status. The customers are the calls, it is generally a multi-stage process, where first an automated message of which button to press depending on what's desired is received, and then, after pressing the appropriate button, getting the desired information automatically or asking for a customer representative. We would have finite capacity - if all lines are tied up, a busy signal results and the call must be replaced. It is multi-stage and would usually be a multi-server queue, with a FCFS discipline. Another example might be a bakery, where upon entering, the customer takes a number, so that we have a true, FCFS, multi-server queue with a single waiting line (the queue being the numbers). It would be a single-stage process, since a given server serves only one customer at a time. The capacity would be finite, although there is usually enough space so that it is essentially infinite. As a final example, consider a blood donor center. We have a multi-stage process (check-in, filling out information, blood pressure and clotting-time checks, and finally giving the blood). Some stages have a single server and others have multiple servers. It is generally an appointment system, but if it is a drop-in center, customers can arrive completely randomly and we would have a FCFS discipline. There is a finite capacity in that if the waiting room is completely filled, donors might be asked to come back at another time.
1.3 The parameters are $\lambda=40 / \mathrm{h}$ and $1 / \mu=5.5 \mathrm{~min}$. Using units of hours, $\mu=60 / 5.5 \doteq$ $10.91 / \mathrm{h}$. The utilization should be less than 1 , so $\lambda / c \mu \doteq 40 /(10.91 c)$, which implies that $c>40 / 10.91 \doteq 3.67$. At least 4 are required to achieve steady state.
1.4 $\mathrm{Lq}=\lambda \mathrm{Wq}=(3 / \mathrm{min})([75 / 60] \min )=3.75$ or, say, 4 . The 3.75 number is, of course, the average number in the queue. We may wish to provide 5 or 6 slots to guarantee that most callers get into the queue.
1.5 (a) The fraction of time that a server is busy is $p_{b}=1-.01=.99$. Now, $p_{b}=\lambda / c \mu=r / c$. Thus, $r=c \cdot p_{b}=2 \cdot 0.99=1.98$. With 3 servers, $p_{b}=r / c=1.98 / 3=.66$, so each server is idle $34 \%$ of the time, which is more than enough time for breaks.
(b) The service rate is reduced to $0.8 \mu$, so $p_{b}=\lambda /(3 \cdot 0.8 \mu)=r / 2.4=1.98 / 2.4=0.825$. This still gives an idle percentage for each server of $17.5 \%$, again more than enough time for breaks.
(c) The average service time is reduced from $1 / \mu$ to $0.8 / \mu$. Thus, the new service rate is $\mu / 0.8=1.25 \mu$, so $p_{b}=\lambda /(2 \cdot 1.25 \mu)=r / 2.5=1.98 / 2.5=0.792$. This gives an idle percentage for each server of $20.8 \%$. This is a cheaper solution giving each server enough time for breaks.
1.6 Let $T$ be the total waiting time. If, when you arrive, the person in service is just about finished, then you wait on average eight service times (yours and the seven ahead of you) or $\mathrm{E}[T]=8(2.5 \mathrm{~min})=20 \mathrm{~min}$. If, when you arrive, the person in service is just beginning, then you wait on average nine service times or $\mathrm{E}[T]=9(2.5 \mathrm{~min})=22.5 \mathrm{~min}$. The average wait is somewhere in between.
Assuming the latter case, $T$ is the sum of 9 IID normal random variables each with mean 2.5 and standard deviation 0.5 . So $T$ is a normal random variable with mean 22.5 and standard deviation $\sqrt{\left(9 \cdot 0.5^{2}\right)}=1.5$. Then $\operatorname{Pr}\{T>30 \mathrm{~min}\}=\operatorname{Pr}\{Z>(30-22.5) / 1.5\}=\operatorname{Pr}\{Z>$ $5\}$, where $Z$ is a standard normal random variable. From standard normal tables, $\operatorname{Pr}\{Z>$ $5\} \doteq 0$.
1.7 (a) Apply Little's law to the system of active players in the league. The average number of active players in the league is represented by $L$, where $L=32 \cdot 67=2,144$. The average rate that players enter the league is represented by $\lambda$, where $\lambda=32 \cdot 7=224$ per year. The average time spent in the league is represented by $W$. By Little's law, $W=L / \lambda=2144 / 224=9.57$ years.
(b) Here, it is given that $W=3.5$ years. As before $L=2,144$ (the number of active players in the league). The average rate that players enter the league is $\lambda=L / W=$ $2,144 / 3.5 \approx 613$ per year. Since 224 players are drafted each year, an average of $613-224=389$ players enter the league without being drafted. (This analysis assumes that a player who leaves the league never returns.)
1.8 Consider the university as a system where students enter by enrolling at the university. The average undergraduate enrollment is an estimate for $L$ (so $L=16,800$ ). The average number of new students per year (the sum of the middle two columns) is an estimate for $\lambda$ (so $\lambda=4,052$ per year). $W$ is an estimate for the average time an undergraduate spends at the university. By Little's formula, $W=L / \lambda \approx 4.1$ years. (The main assumption here is that the system is operating in steady-state. This may not be a valid assumption, for example, if enrollment were growing. However, this particular example does not indicate a noticeable growth trend.)
1.9 Apply Little's law to the set of homes on the market. The average number of homes on the market is estimated as $L=50$. The rate that homes enter the market is estimated as $\lambda=5$ per week. By Little's law, a home is on the market for an average of $W=L / \lambda=10$ weeks before it is sold. This assumes that the observed numbers are representative of long-term averages. Furthermore, it is assumed that you have no additional information that might change your estimate. For example, if you price your home at a very low price, you will probably sell it more quickly than the average.
1.10

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \lambda_{\mathrm{eff}}=\lambda\left(1-p_{K}\right)=.9 ; W=L / \lambda_{\mathrm{eff}}=5 / .9=50 / 9 \\
& W_{q}=W-1 / \mu=50 / 9-1=41 / 9 \\
& \rho_{\mathrm{eff}}=\lambda_{\mathrm{eff}} / \mu=.9 \text { and } p_{0}=1-\rho_{\mathrm{eff}}=.1
\end{aligned}
$$

1.11 (a) Use Little's law where the "system" is the set of available doses. $L$ is the average number of available doses at a given time, and $W$ is the length of time a dose is available from the time of its creation until the time its shelf life ends. From Little's law, $\lambda=L / W=300,000,000 /(90 / 365)=1,216,667$ per year, which is the yearly rate that doses need to be made. So the yearly cost is $\$ 3 \cdot \lambda$ or $\$ 3.65$ billion per year.
(b) The answer is the same as before, since Little's law is stated in terms of averages, which is unchanged.
(c) The value for $L$ remains the same ( 300 million). The shelf life $x$ of the vaccine is $W$. Thus, $\lambda=L / x$ is the rate that vaccines must be made (per day). The daily cost to make the vaccines is therefore $\left(a+b x^{2}\right)(L / x)$. To minimize, take the derivative and set equal to 0 :

$$
L\left(\frac{-a}{x^{2}}+b\right)=0
$$

This implies that $a / x^{2}=b$ or $x=\sqrt{a / b} \doteq 223.6$ days
1.12 (a) On average, there are 50 customers in the system. The arrival rate to the system is 100 per hour. By Little's law, the average time in the system is $W=L / \lambda=50 / 100=0.5$ hour (or 30 minutes).
(b) The arrival rate to the specialist queue is 20 per hour. On average, there are 10 customers being served or waiting to be served by a specialist. By Little's law, the average time at the specialist is $W=L / \lambda=10 / 20=0.5$ hour.

The arrival rate to the regular queue is 100 per hour. On average, there are 40 customers being served or waiting to be served by a regular representative. By Little's law, the average time at the regular representative is $W=L / \lambda=40 / 100=0.4$ hour.

Thus, the average time in the system for a customer who needs to see a specialist is 0.9 hour.
1.13 (a) The number of years an individual survives past 65 is a geometric random variable with mean $1 / .05=20$ years. On average, a person receives benefits for 20 years. (The geometric model is somewhat unrealistic since the death rate is assumed to be the same every year, regardless of age.)
(b) Apply Little's Law to the population of people over 65 . The rate of people entering this population group is $\lambda=3$ million per year. The average time in this population group is $W=20$ years. Thus, $L=\lambda W=60$ million people. Thus, the average yearly payout is $\$ 2.4$ trillion.
1.14 (a) A path from A to C is 80 miles. A path from A to B and A to D is $40 \sqrt{2}$ miles. Since the results are symmetric for every entry point, the average path length is:

$$
\frac{1}{3} 80+\frac{2}{3} 40 \sqrt{2}=\frac{80+80 \sqrt{2}}{3} \doteq 64.4 \text { miles }
$$

(b) The average arrival rate to the sector is $\lambda=20$ per hour. The average time in sector is $W=64.4$ miles $/ 400 \mathrm{mph} \doteq .161$ hours. By Little's law, the average number in the sector is:

$$
L=\lambda W=(20)(.161) \doteq 3.2
$$

(c) Avoidance maneuvers increase the path length which increases $W$ which increases $L$, so the answer in part (b) would go up.
1.15 (a) Using Little's Law, $W=5$ years and $L=150$ million. Thus,

$$
\lambda=\frac{L}{W}=\frac{150,000,000}{5}=30,000,000 \text { per year. }
$$

The fact that the distribution is Erlang-3 is irrelevant.
(b) Let $L_{\text {new }}$ and $L_{\text {used }}$ be the average number of cars in the system that were purchased new and used, respectively. By assumption, every new car becomes a used car and then it is destroyed. Thus, the overall rate that new cars are purchased $(\lambda)$ is the same rate that used cars are purchased. So,

$$
\begin{gathered}
150,000,000=L_{\text {new }}+L_{\text {used }}=\lambda W_{\text {new }}+\lambda W_{\text {used }}=\lambda(5+7) \\
\lambda=\frac{150,000,000}{12}=12,500,000 \text { per year. }
\end{gathered}
$$

1.16 Intuitive answer: The average spacing between aircraft is 6 nm . The sector is 50 nm long. Thus, the average number of aircraft in the sector is $50 / 6 \doteq 8.33$.

Answer using Little's Law: The average spacing between aircraft in distance is 6 nm . Since distance $=$ velocity $\times$ time, the expected separation between aircraft in time is 6 nm $/ 400$ knots $=3 / 200$ hours. Thus, the arrival rate is $\lambda=200 / 3$ per hour. The time in the sector $(W)$ is $50 \mathrm{~nm} / 400$ knots $=1 / 8$ hours. By Little's Law, the average number of aircraft in the sector is: $L=\lambda W=(200 / 3)(50 / 400) \doteq 8.33$.
1.17 We use the Delay Analysis for Sample Single-Server Queue model in the Basic Model category in QtsPlus:

1.18 Using QtsPlus Delay Analysis for Sample Single-Server Queue model in the Basic Model category:

1.19 The following table lists various statistics associated with each customer. "\# in System" and "\# in Queue" refer to the number of customers in the system and queue as seen by the arriving customer.

| Customer \# / <br> Arrival Time | Service Start <br> Time | Exit <br> Time | Time in <br> Queue | $\#$ in <br> System | $\#$ in <br> Queue |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 1.00 | 3.22 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 3.22 | 4.98 | 1.22 | 1 | 0 |
| 3 | 4.98 | 7.11 | 1.98 | 2 | 1 |
| 4 | 7.11 | 7.25 | 3.11 | 2 | 1 |
| 5 | 7.25 | 8.01 | 2.25 | 2 | 1 |
| 6 | 8.01 | 8.71 | 2.01 | 3 | 2 |
| 7 | 8.71 | 9.18 | 1.71 | 4 | 3 |
| 8 | 9.18 | 9.40 | 1.18 | 3 | 2 |
| 9 | 9.40 | 9.58 | 0.40 | 2 | 1 |
| 10 | 10.00 | 12.41 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | 12.41 | 12.82 | 1.41 | 1 | 0 |
| 12 | 12.82 | 13.28 | 0.82 | 2 | 1 |
| 13 | 13.28 | 14.65 | 0.28 | 1 | 0 |
| 14 | 14.65 | 14.92 | 0.65 | 1 | 0 |
| 15 | 15.00 | 15.27 | 0.00 | 0 | 0 |

The values in the table are computed as follows:

- The exit time is the service-start time plus the service duration.
- The service-start time is the maximum of the exit time of the previous customer and the arrival time of the customer in question. (The first customer starts service immediately upon arrival.)
- The time in queue is the service-start time minus the arrival time.
- The number in system is the number of previously arriving customers whose exit time is after the arrival time of the customer in question.
- The number in queue is the number in system minus one, with a minimum value of zero.
$L_{q}^{(A)}$ is the average of the last column. $L_{q}^{(A)}=12 / 15=0.8 . L_{q}$ is the total person minutes spent in the queue (the sum of the "Time in Queue" column) divided by the total time interval. $L_{q}=17.02 / 15.27=1.1146$. Note that $L_{q} \neq L_{q}^{(A)}$.

