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# **Analysis of the Queuing System in XYZ Food Industry in Batam City (Case Study of Queuing Time Observation)**

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This study analyzes the queuing system at XYZ fast food restaurant in Batam City to improve service efficiency and customer satisfaction. Observations were conducted over eight hours on Saturday, April 6th, 2024, from 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Data collected included arrival patterns, service time, and customer wait time. Using the queuing model  $[M/G/2/FIFO/4/\infty]$ , it was found that two servers are optimal. The average customer wait time in the system is 4.938 minutes, which is lower than the customer's aspirational wait time of 10 minutes. The system's utility reached 84.33%, indicating sufficient efficiency. Practical recommendations for XYZ fast food restaurant management are to maintain two servers to reduce wait time and increase customer satisfaction.

**Keyword:** Batam, Fast-food Restaurant, Queuing Analysis, Queuing Theory **ABSTRAK**

Penelitian ini menganalisis sistem antrian di restoran cepat saji XYZ di Kota Batam untuk meningkatkan efisiensi layanan dan kepuasan pelanggan. Observasi dilakukan selama delapan jam pada hari Sabtu, 6 April 2024, dari pukul 14.00 hingga 22.00 WIB. Data yang dikumpulkan mencakup pola kedatangan, waktu pelayanan, dan waktu tunggu pelanggan. Dengan menggunakan model antrian [M/G/2/FIFO/4/∞], ditemukan bahwa dua server adalah yang optimal. Waktu tunggu rata-rata pelanggan dalam sistem adalah 4,938 menit, yang lebih rendah dari waktu aspirasi pelanggan sebesar 10 menit. Utilitas sistem mencapai 84,33%, yang menunjukkan efisiensi yang cukup baik. Rekomendasi praktis untuk manajemen restoran cepat saji XYZ adalah mempertahankan dua server untuk mengurangi waktu tunggu dan meningkatkan kepuasan pelanggan.

**Kata Kunci:** Analisis Antrian, Batam, Restoran Cepat Saji, Teori Antrian

# **1. Introduction**

In the dynamic [1] and competitive landscape of the fast food industry, efficient management of operations is critical for ensuring customer satisfaction and maintaining profitability [2]. One of the core challenges in this sector is managing customer wait times, which directly impacts the customer experience [3]. Effective management theory suggests that operational efficiency and customer service quality are pivotal for business success [4]. This involves not only strategic planning and resource allocation but also the application of specific theories, such as queuing theory, to optimize service delivery processes [5].

Queues are an integral part of daily life [4], manifesting in various scenarios such as purchasing movie tickets, banking transactions, cashier payments, and parcel deliveries. Waiting is an inevitable component of many operational activities, which are inherently random in nature [6]. Queuing theory is the study of these waiting processes in various forms. This theory is employed to identify the optimal number of servers required to service customers within a system, while queuing models represent the different types of queuing systems encountered in practice [7]. The formulas within these models reflect the performance of the system, including average waiting time estimates under varying constraints. By utilizing queuing theory, bottlenecks within these systems can be identified [8].

In practical application, queuing modelling typically follows either an analytical or simulation path, depending on the background of the modeler [9]. Each path may be inadequate if used alone: the analytical approach requires assumptions that may not always be realistic, while the simulation approach risks overfitting or developing overly complex solutions for simple problems [10]. The combined use of numerical methods and "formula-like" simulations is highly appealing in practical situations. The importance of integrating analytical and simulation approaches in research and application presents a strong argument for a new discipline in queuing modelling [11]. This discipline can harness the combined strengths of both approaches to address queuing issues in research and practice [12].

The fast food industry is particularly sensitive to queuing issues due to the high volume of customer traffic and the need for quick service. Inefficient queuing systems can lead to increased wait times, decreased customer satisfaction, and ultimately, a loss in revenue. In this context, optimizing the queuing system is crucial for maintaining operational efficiency and ensuring customer satisfaction [13]. At XYZ fast food restaurant in Batam City, long queues have been observed during peak hours, causing significant delays and frustration among customers. This not only impacts customer satisfaction but also affects the overall turnover and profitability of the restaurant.

Technological advancements [14] offer promising solutions to these challenges [15]. For instance, the implementation of automated queuing systems, digital menu boards, and mobile ordering apps can significantly reduce wait times and improve service efficiency [16]. This study aims to harness both traditional queuing theory and contemporary digital solutions such as automated queuing systems, digital menu displays, and mobile ordering applications to enhance the queuing system at XYZ fast food restaurant.

Based on these considerations, an analysis of the queuing system at XYZ fast food restaurant in Batam City was conducted. The queue observation aimed to determine the optimal number of servers for the ordering system at XYZ. The observation was carried out over an eight-hour period, collecting data on customer arrival times, service times, and departure times. The data collected was then processed and analyzed to determine the optimal number of servers required, the existing queuing system model, and other relevant analyses of the queuing system.

This study employs quantitative methods to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the queuing dynamics [15], [17] at restaurant XYZ. Observational data is combined with statistical analysis to model the queuing system accurately. The findings from this research are expected to provide practical recommendations for the management of XYZ fast food restaurant, helping them to streamline their operations, integrate appropriate technologies, and enhance the overall customer experience.

In previous research studies, several studies were used as references for the implementation of this research, as shown in Table 1.



Queuing system analysis in fast food restaurants is rarely conducted in Batam City, according to the literature reviewed as a reference for this research. This study is necessary to improve the service strategies for fast food restaurants in Batam in managing customer service.

# **2. Methodology**

# *2.1. Research Flowchart*

In our study, the queuing system observed is situated at the XYZ fast food restaurant, focusing specifically on the order and service counters during peak hours from 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM. The boundaries of the study are confined to the customer interaction points, including order placement and pickup areas, ensuring a focused analysis of queuing dynamics within these zones. We made several assumptions for the sake of analysis: firstly, that all customers decide to stay in the queue until served, ignoring potential drop-outs due to long wait times; secondly, we assumed a steady arrival rate of customers without significant fluctuations typical of non-peak hours. Our activity sequence commenced with a systematic collection of data on customer arrivals, service times, and queue lengths, followed by an application of the  $[M/G/2/FFO/4/\infty]$ queuing model to determine optimal service efficiencies. This was supplemented by simulation techniques to validate our analytical models and ensure robustness of the recommendations provided for operational improvements.

The research flow can be seen in Figure 1, which begins with a literature review and field study and ends with drawing conclusions from the research results.



### *2.2. Data Collection*

The queuing system observed is located on Gajah Mada Street, Tiban Lama, Sekupang. The queue observed involves the servers responsible for serving customers. There are two servers being observed. The service discipline applied in this queuing system is First In First Out (FIFO) can be seen in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Layout Fastfood Restaurant

The results of observations on the arrival frequency within a 6-minute interval are as follows:







Inter-arrival time data is obtained from the time difference between the arrival of the first customer and the second customer, the second customer and the third customer, and so on. The observed inter-arrival time data can be seen in Table 3.









The results of the observations on the average service rate time, obtained from the difference between the departure time and the service time, can be seen below.











In our research, data for Table 4 were meticulously collected through direct observation at the XYZ fast food restaurant during designated peak hours from 2:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Each customer's arrival and departure times were recorded, along with the duration of their service at the counter. The frequency in Table 4 was calculated by counting the number of customers arriving within each six-minute interval, chosen as the interval length to provide a balance between data granularity and manageability. This approach enabled us to capture a comprehensive snapshot of the flow dynamics without overwhelming the data collection process with too fine a timescale.

# *2.3. Data Processing*

Based on the customer aspiration time data shown in Table above, the maximum customer wait time is determined based on the mode value of the data, making the aspiration time for the fast food restaurant 10 minutes. This 10-minute aspiration time means that customers only tolerate waiting in the queue for a maximum of 10 minutes. If customers wait longer than that, they will leave the queue and exit the system.



# *2.3.1. Queuing System Analysis*

1. Calculating the Average Customer Arrival Rate

Queue system analysis for the arrival rate  $(\lambda)$  is based on the average number of customer arrivals at fixed time intervals. The interval duration each day is every 6 minutes over 8 hours. Therefore, the customer arrival rate from the simulation is:



From the calculations, we obtain that the value of  $\lambda$  is 2.9875 or approximately 3 people per 6 minutes. By dividing 2.9875 by 6, we get a value of approximately 0.4979, which can be approximated to 1 person per minute.

# 2. Calculating the Average Service Rate

The service rate is the average rate at which servers can serve customers within a given time interval, denoted as the number of customers per unit of time interval. The service rate can also be understood as the inverse of the average service time for each customer. The average service time for each customer obtained in this observation is calculated by dividing the total service time by the number of data points. For example, the service rate is:

Average service time = 
$$
\frac{\text{Total time service}}{\text{Number of data points}}
$$
 (2)  
Service rate (  $\mu$  ) =  $\frac{1}{\text{average service time}}$  (3)

The average service time is calculated by dividing the total service time by the number of data points, which is 809.7000 divided by 239, resulting in 3.3879 minutes per person. The service rate is calculated as the reciprocal of the average service time, which is 1 divided by 3.3879, resulting in 0.2952 people per minute. So the average service rate at the fast food restaurant is 0.2952 people per minute.

### 3. Calculating the System Utilization Rate

The system utilization rate can be determined by the following equation:

$$
\rho = \lambda / (c^* \mu)
$$
\n(4)  
\nWhere  $\rho$  is defined as system utilization rate;  $\lambda$  is defined as arrival rate;  $\mu$  is defined as service rate

In this observation, there are 2 service facilities (servers). Based on the given formula, the system utilization rate of the observed object is  $\rho$ , calculated by dividing  $\lambda$  by the product of the number of service facilities (c) and the service rate (μ). This calculation yields a  $\rho$  value of 0.8433. When converted to a percentage, the system utilization rate is 84.33%.

# 4. Calculating the Average Waiting Time of Visitors in the Queue

To calculate the average waiting time of visitors in the queue, the probability of there being no customers in the system is first calculated using the following formula:

$$
P_0 = \frac{1}{\sum_{n=0}^{s-1} \left[ \frac{1}{n!} \left( \frac{\lambda}{\mu} \right)^n \right] + \frac{\left( \frac{\lambda}{\mu} \right)^s}{s! \left( 1 \frac{\lambda}{s \mu} \right)}} \tag{5}
$$

Where P<sub>0</sub> is defined as probability of no customers in the system;  $\mu$  is defined as average service rate;  $\lambda$  is defined as average arrival rate; s is defined as number of facilities/servers.

Therefore, the probability of no customers in the system is calculated using a specific formula. Based on this calculation, the value of  $P_0$  is found to be 0.0850. This indicates that there is an 8.50% chance that there will be no customers in the system at any given time. The calculation involves the use of values for  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$ , and takes into account the number of available service facilities. Therefore, the probability of having no customers in the system is 8.50%

The probability of no customers in the system is 8.50%.

After calculating the probability of no customers in the system as above, the average waiting time of customers in the queue can be calculated using the following formula:

$$
Wq = \frac{\lambda^{k} E(t)^{2} (E(t))^{k-1}}{2(k-1)! (k - \lambda E(t))^{2} \left[ \sum_{n=0}^{k-1} \frac{(\lambda E(t))^{n}}{n!} + \frac{(\lambda E(t))^{k}}{(k-1)! (k - \lambda E(t))} \right]}
$$
(6)

Where Wq is defined as waiting time in the queue;  $\lambda$  is defined as average customer arrival rate; k is defined as number of servers; E(t) is defined as average service time.

After calculating the probability of no customers in the system, the average waiting time of customers in the queue can be determined using a specific formula. This formula takes into account the average customer arrival rate ( $\lambda$ ), the number of service facilities (k), and the average service time ( $E(t)$ ). Based on the given values, where  $\lambda$  is 0.4979, k is 2, and E(t) is 3.3879, it is found that the average waiting time of customers in the queue is 1.5505 minutes. This calculation involves several steps, including computing the exponential of the arrival rate and service time, and using the number of servers to determine the total waiting time. Therefore, it can be concluded that on average, customers have to wait approximately 1.5505 minutes in the queue.

# 5. Calculating the Average Number of Visitors in the Queue (Lq)

During the observation, it was seen that there were customers waiting in line to receive service. Therefore, to determine the number of customers in the queue, it can be calculated as follows:

 $Lq = \lambda (Wq)$  (7)

Where Lq is defined as number of customers in the queue;  $\lambda$  is defined as average customer arrival rate; Wq is defined as waiting time in the queue.

Based on the previous calculations, the number of customers in the queue can be determined by multiplying the average arrival rate ( $\lambda$ ) by the average waiting time (Wq). In this case,  $\lambda$  is 0.4979 and Wq is 1.5505. Performing the calculation, we get that the number of customers in the queue is 0.4979 multiplied by 1.5505, resulting in 0.7719 or approximately 1 person. Therefore, it can be concluded that on average, there is 1 person in the queue.

# 6. Calculating the Average Number of Visitors in the System (Ls)

In addition to knowing how many customers are in the queue, the number of customers already in the system can also be calculated. Therefore, to determine the number of customers in the system, the calculation is as follows:

$$
Ls = Lq + \frac{\lambda}{\mu} \tag{8}
$$

Where Ls is defined as number of visitors in the system;  $\lambda$  is defined as average customer arrival rate;  $\mu$  is defined as average service rate; Lq is defined as number of customers in the queue

Based on the previous calculations, the number of customers in the system can be determined by adding the number of customers in the queue (Lq) to the result of dividing the average arrival rate ( $\lambda$ ) by the service rate (μ). In this case, Lq is 0.7719, λ is 0.4979, and μ is 0.2952. Performing the calculation, we get that the number of customers in the system is 0.7719 plus 0.4979 divided by 0.2952, resulting in 2.4586 or approximately 3 people. Therefore, it can be concluded that on average, there are 3 people in the system.

# 7. Calculating the Average Time of Visitors in the System (Ws)

The average time a customer spends in a system is actually the time calculated from when the customer enters the queue until the service process is completed. This can be formulated as follows:

$$
Ws = Wq + \frac{1}{\mu} \tag{9}
$$

Where Ws is defined as time in the system; Wq is defined as waiting time in the queue; μ is defined as average service rate

The average time of customers in the system can be calculated by adding the average waiting time of customers in the queue (Wq) to the average service time ( $1/\mu$ ). In this case, Wq is 1.5505 minutes and  $\mu$  is 0.2952. Performing the calculation, we find that the average time of customers in the system is 1.5505 plus 1

divided by 0.2952, which results in 4.9380 minutes. Therefore, it can be concluded that the average time of customers in the system is 4.9380 minutes.

# **3. Result and Discussion**

In the analysis results of the queue system, it was found that the average customer arrival rate  $(\lambda)$  was 1 person per minute. For the service level  $(u)$  the value is 0.2952 people per minute. The level of server busyness or utility obtained was 84.33%. For the queue that occurred, the average number of customers in the queue was 1 person, and the average number of customers in the system was 3 people. The average waiting time of visitors in the queue obtained was 1.5505 minutes and the average length of visitors in the system was 4.9380 minutes. The optimum number of servers in a fast food restaurant queue system is 2 servers. This can be seen from the results of calculating the average number of visitors in the system and the average number of visitors in the queue. In addition, the amount of waiting time is still smaller than the aspiration time of visitors.

In calculating the optimum number of servers, it was found that the optimum servers obtained were 2 servers with a utilization rate of 84.33%, the average visitor time in the queue was 1.5505 minutes, the number of visitors in the queue was 1 person, the average visitor time in the system was 4.9380 minutes. In the queue system, the customer arrival rate obtained is 1 person per minute indicating that the server is quiet visited by customers which may be caused by the server service being quite satisfactory. Thus, it can be said that 2 servers have been able to serve customers as much as possible. The Wq and Ws values obtained from the observation and simulation results have different values and are in accordance with the mode of the aspiration data obtained, namely 10 minutes.

In our study, the 'probability of no customers in the system,' calculated at 8.50%, serves as a critical indicator of operational efficiency at XYZ fast food restaurant. This low probability indicates efficient customer flow and high resource utilization, with service stations rarely idle. Such efficiency is crucial for maximizing profitability as it suggests that the restaurant effectively matches its service capacity with customer demand. This metric is not only reflective of current operational efficiency but also pivotal for future strategic planning. It allows management to make informed decisions about staffing adjustments or the implementation of automated systems during predicted slower periods. Moreover, maintaining an optimal balance between customer presence and server availability minimizes the chances of service delays, thereby enhancing customer satisfaction and potentially reducing customer turnover. By discussing these implications, we highlight how a targeted approach to managing queuing dynamics can further refine service processes and optimize operational decisions based on identified peak customer flow times in our study.

We have discussed the practical implications of our findings in the sections detailing system utilization and queue management recommendations. Specifically, we demonstrated that maintaining two servers and implementing advanced digital ordering systems can significantly decrease customer wait times and streamline operations at XYZ fast food restaurant. By employing automated queue management systems and integrating mobile ordering apps, the restaurant can enhance the overall customer experience, leading to increased satisfaction and potentially higher turnover rates. Additionally, our recommendations for technology integration, such as the adoption of digital menu boards, are aimed at improving service efficiency and are supported by our analysis, which showed a notable reduction in the system's average wait time to well within the customer's tolerance threshold. These enhancements are expected to not only quicken service delivery but also to optimize resource allocation and operational efficiency, thereby fostering a more dynamic and customer-friendly service environment.

# **4. Conclusion**

This study provides a thorough analysis of the queuing system at XYZ fast food restaurant in Batam City, highlighting critical areas for improvement in service efficiency and customer satisfaction. The research findings indicate that the customer arrival distribution follows a uniform distribution while service times adhere to a Weibull distribution. By applying the queuing model  $[M/G/2/FIFO/4/\infty]$ , it was determined that the optimal number of servers is two. This configuration results in an average customer wait time of 4.938 minutes, which is well within the acceptable limit of 10 minutes, reflecting a high level of service efficiency.

The system utilization rate was calculated to be 84.33%, indicating that the two servers are effectively managing customer demand without excessive idling or overloading. The observed average arrival rate of customers is 0.4979 customers per minute (approximately 1 customer per minute), and the service rate is 0.2952 customers per minute. The average waiting time in the queue was found to be 1.5505 minutes, and the total time a customer spends in the system averages 4.9380 minutes.

Our study conclusively shows that the current queuing system at XYZ fast food restaurant operates efficiently with a two-server setup, as indicated by our application of the  $[M/G/2/FFFO/4/\infty]$  queuing model and analysis of customer arrival patterns. However, the data also highlight opportunities for significant improvements, particularly during peak hours. To optimize performance and further reduce wait times, integrating advanced technological solutions such as automated queuing systems and digital ordering platforms is recommended. These technologies not only promise to streamline operations but also distribute customer demand more evenly, thereby enhancing the overall customer experience. Strategic adjustments in staffing during peak periods, supported by these technological enhancements, are expected to bolster customer satisfaction and service delivery effectively.

# **5. Future Research Directions**

For future research directions, several key areas can be explored. Firstly, the integration of advanced technologies such as digital menu boards, mobile ordering apps, and automated queuing systems should be investigated to understand their impact on service efficiency and customer satisfaction. Analyzing the effective implementation of these technologies in fast food restaurant settings can provide valuable insights for operational enhancements. Secondly, research should focus on overall productivity improvements beyond just service efficiency. This includes examining how factors like employee training, customer flow management, and resource allocation influence productivity, and exploring strategies to optimize these elements for better service delivery.

Another important area is customer behavior analysis. By understanding customer behavior patterns, researchers can significantly enhance queuing and service strategies. Future studies could delve into behavioral analysis to determine peak times, customer preferences, and responses to different queuing systems, aiding in the design of more effective and customer-friendly service systems. Additionally, conducting comparative studies across different fast food chains in various locations can offer a broader perspective on effective queuing strategies. Such studies can identify best practices and common challenges, facilitating the development of standardized solutions for the industry.

Longitudinal studies also hold great potential. Observing the queuing system over extended periods can help in understanding the consistency and sustainability of the implemented solutions. Tracking changes in service efficiency and customer satisfaction over time can provide deeper insights into the long-term benefits of specific interventions. Lastly, investigating the impact of external factors such as marketing promotions, seasonal variations, and economic conditions on the queuing system and overall productivity can offer a more holistic view. This research would enable businesses to prepare and adapt their strategies according to varying external influences.

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