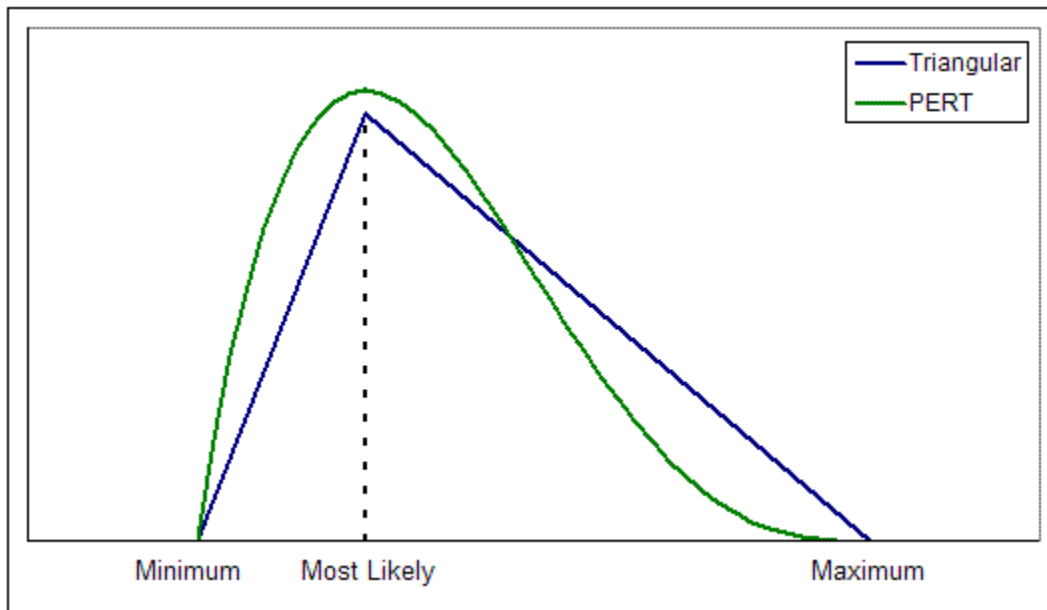


Triangular vs. PERT Distributions



Comparison of the Triangular and PERT distributions:

The Triangular distribution has a mean equal to the simple average of its three parameters: **$(\text{Min} + \text{Mode} + \text{Max}) / 3$** .

The PERT distribution gives the Mode four times the weight given to either the min or max: **$(\text{Min} + (4 \cdot \text{Mode}) + \text{Max}) / 6$** .

Estimators typically are capable of providing a more confident guess for the Mode than they are for the Minimum or Maximum.

For example, if you are asked “What is the maximum cost of this activity?” your mind can race with possibilities of what could go wrong, making it difficult to give a definitive maximum.

Though both distributions require “three point” estimates, the PERT formula relies less on the minimums and/or maximums in order to arrive at a prudent (risk adjusted) “expected” value.