Random Numbers

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Contents

Abstract—This manual provides a simple introduction to the generation of random numbers

1 Uniform Random Numbers

Let U be a uniform random variable between 0 and 1.

1.1 Generate 10^6 samples of U using a C program and save into a file called uni.dat .
Solution: Download the following files and execute the C program.

wget https://github.com/gadepall/probability/
    raw/master/manual/codes/exrand.c
wget https://github.com/gadepall/probability/
    raw/master/manual/codes/coeffs.h

1.2 Load the uni.dat file into python and plot the empirical CDF of U using the samples in uni.dat. The CDF is defined as

$$F_U(x) = \Pr(U \leq x) \qquad (1.1)$$

Solution: The following code plots Fig. 1.2

wget https://github.com/gadepall/probability/
    raw/master/manual/codes/cdf_plot.py

1.3 Find a theoretical expression for $F_U(x)$.
1.4 The mean of U is defined as

$$E[U] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} U_i \qquad (1.2)$$

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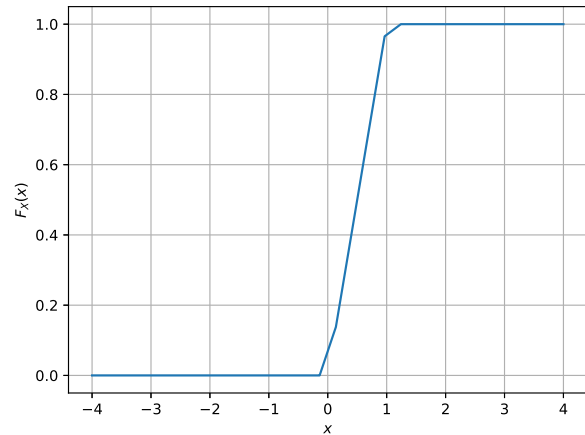
Fig. 1.2: The CDF of U

and its variance as

$$\text{var}[U] = E[U - E[U]]^2 \qquad (1.3)$$

Write a C program to find the mean and variance of U.
1.5 Verify your result theoretically given that

$$E\left[U^k\right] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^k dF_U(x) \qquad (1.4)$$

2 Central Limit Theorem

2.1 Generate 10^6 samples of the random variable

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^{12} U_i - 6 \qquad (2.1)$$

using a C program, where $U_i, i = 1, 2, \ldots, 12$ are a set of independent uniform random variables between 0 and 1 and save in a file called gau.dat
2.2 Load gau.dat in python and plot the empirical CDF of X using the samples in gau.dat. What properties does a CDF have?
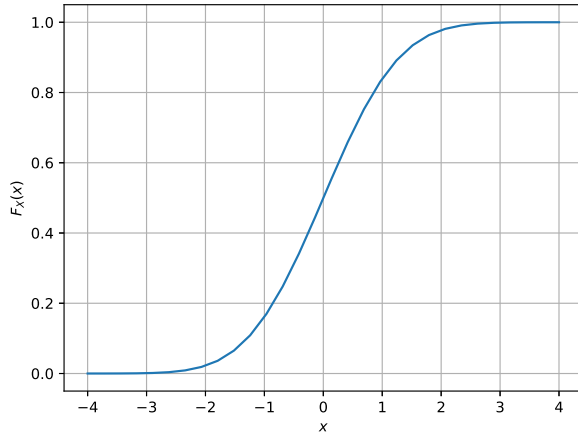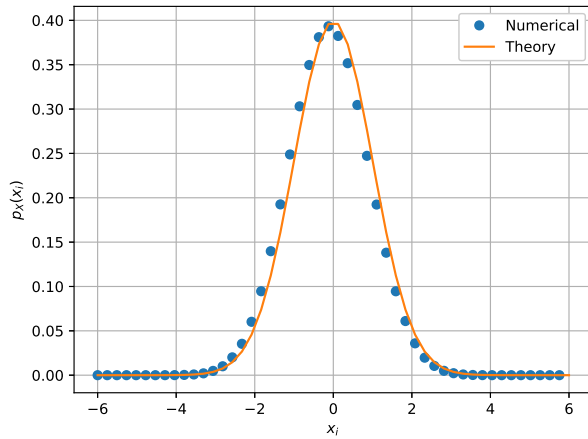
Fig. 2.2: The CDF of X

Fig. 2.3: The PDF of X

3 FROM UNIFORM TO OTHER

3.1 Generate samples of

$$V = -2\ln(1 - U) \qquad (3.1)$$

and plot its CDF.

3.2 Find a theoretical expression for $F_V(x)$.

Solution: The CDF of X is plotted in Fig. 2.2

2.3 Load gau.dat in python and plot the empirical PDF of X using the samples in gau.dat. The PDF of X is defined as

$$p_X(x) = \frac{d}{dx}F_X(x) \qquad (2.2)$$

What properties does the PDF have?
Solution: The PDF of X is plotted in Fig. 2.3

2.4 Find the mean and variance of X by writing a C program.

2.5 Given that

$$p_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2}\right), \quad -\infty < x < \infty, \quad (2.3)$$

repeat the above exercise theoretically.