

Probability integral transformation

Let X have continuous cumulative distribution function $F_X(x)$ and define a random variable Y as $Y = F_X(X)$. Then Y is uniformly distributed on $(0, 1)$, that is, $P(Y \leq y) = y$, $0 < y < 1$.

Proof : We know,

$$\begin{aligned} F_Y(y) &= P(Y \leq y) \\ &= P(F_X(X) \leq y) \\ &= P(X \leq F_X^{-1}(y)) \\ &= P(X \leq F_X^{-1}(F_X(x))) \\ &= P(X \leq x) \\ &= y \end{aligned}$$

* If F_X is monotonic, then F_X^{-1} is well defined by

$$F_X^{-1}(y) = x \Leftrightarrow F_X(x) = y.$$

Example: Consider X is a continuous random variable with PDF and CDF is defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} f_X(x, \alpha, \lambda) &= \alpha \lambda x^{\alpha-1} e^{-\lambda x^\alpha}, \quad x > 0, \quad \alpha, \lambda > 0, \\ F_X(x, \alpha, \lambda) &= 1 - e^{-\lambda x^\alpha}. \end{aligned}$$

This is Weibull distribution with shape parameter α and scale parameter λ , respectively.

Let $u \sim U(0, 1)$, then to generate the sample for x , we first define as

$$F_X(x) = u \implies 1 - e^{-\lambda x^\alpha} = u \implies x = \left[-\frac{1}{\lambda} \ln(1 - u) \right]^{1/\alpha}$$