

# Simple Linear Congruential Generator

A Linear Congruential Generator (LCG)

is a method to generate pseudo-random numbers using the recursion :

$$X_{i+1} = (aX_i + c) \times \text{mod } m$$

where  $X_i$  is the  $i$ th number of the sequence,  $a$  is a multiplier,  $c$  is the increment and  $m$  is the modulus of the generator. Also, we have that  $0 \leq X_i \leq m$ .

The pseudo-random numbers  $U_i$  are computed as :

$$U_i = X_i / m$$

The generated sequence if  $a$  and  $m$  are properly chosen will appear uniformly distributed in the interval  $[0, 1]$

Advantages :

- o easy to implement
- o fast,  $O(1)$  time complexity

See : Lehmer, 1951

Lawrance, 1992

Knuth, 1998