

# Why does Rejection Sampling Make Sense?

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Rejection sampling is a basic sampling method when the CDF is unknown. Given random variable  $X$  with PDF  $p(x)$ , pick the sampling density  $q$ . Let  $M = \sup \frac{p}{q}$ . The accept rate is

$$P(u < \frac{p}{Mq}) = \mathbb{E}[\frac{p}{Mq}] = \int q \frac{p}{Mq} = \frac{1}{M}, \quad (1)$$

where  $u \sim U(0, 1)$ . Consider the CDF of  $X$ ,

$$P(X \leq x) = P(Y \leq x | u < \frac{p(Y)}{Mq(Y)}) \quad (2)$$

$$= MP(Y \leq x, u < \frac{p(Y)}{Mq(Y)}) \quad (3)$$

$$= M \int q(y) P(Y \leq x, u < \frac{p(Y)}{Mq(Y)} | Y = y) dy \quad (4)$$

$$= M \int q(y) P(y \leq x, u < \frac{p(y)}{Mq(y)}) dy \quad (5)$$

$$= M \int q(y) I(y \leq x) P(u < \frac{p(y)}{Mq(y)}) dy \quad (6)$$

$$= M \int_{-\infty}^x q(y) \frac{p(y)}{Mq(y)} dy \quad (7)$$

$$= \int_{-\infty}^x p(y) dy. \quad (8)$$