

# Monte Carlo Method

QF607 Numerical Methods

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# Outline

- MC Method Theory - Law of Large Numbers
- MC Algorithm
  - ▶ MC for Integration
  - ▶ MC for Estimating Probability
- Error Estimation for MC
- Variance Reduction Technique - Control Variate
- Random Number Generating Method - Uniform Distribution
  - ▶ Middle Square Method
  - ▶ Congruential Generators
  - ▶ Mersenne Twister
- Uniform to Normal Distribution
  - ▶ Central Limit Theorem
  - ▶ Box Muller Method
  - ▶ Acceptance-rejection method
  - ▶ Inverse Transformation Method

# Martingality of Discounted Derivative Price

- Risk neutral pricing theory tells us that the discounted price of a derivative instrument is a martingale:

$$\frac{V_t}{B_t} = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{Q}} \left[ \frac{V_T}{B_T} \right] \quad (1)$$

where  $\mathbb{Q}$  is the risk neutral measure and  $B_t$  is the price of a money market account starting at  $B_0 = 1$ .

- In our simplistic case of constant interest rate,  $B_t = e^{rt}$ .
- Note that (1) holds no matter  $B_t$  is stochastic or deterministic.
- **Pricing derivative  $\iff$  calculating expectation**

# Expectation Through Monte Carlo

- Expectation to be calculated:

$$\frac{V_t}{B_t} = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{Q}}[h(\mathbf{X})] \quad (2)$$

- ▶  $\mathbf{X}$  is the random **vector** involved in determining the payoff  $h$ .
- Monte Carlo offers a numerical method to approximate the expectation
- It offers a **generic framework** to price a wide range of derivative products
- Very useful when the dimension of the problem is high

## Law of Large Numbers (LLN)

Let  $\mathbf{X}_1, \mathbf{X}_2, \dots, \mathbf{X}_n$  be independent random variables with the same underlying distribution (i.e., i.i.d), with finite expected value  $\mu = \mathbb{E}[h(\mathbf{X}_i)]$  and finite variance  $\nu = \text{Var}(h(\mathbf{X}_i))$ . Let

$$\hat{\mu}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n h(\mathbf{X}_i) \quad (3)$$

Then for any  $\epsilon > 0$ ,

$$P(|\hat{\mu}_n - \mu| \leq \epsilon) \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty. \quad (4)$$

- The average of the results obtained from a large number of experiments should be close to the expected value, and will tend to become closer as more experiments are performed
- $\hat{\mu}_n$  is **unbiased**:  $\mathbb{E}[\hat{\mu}_n] = \frac{1}{n} E[\sum_{i=1}^n h(\mathbf{X}_i)] = \mu$
- On average the sample mean and variances are equal to their population counterparts. That is, over repeated samples, you will get the correct answer on average.

# Monte Carlo Algorithm

Therefore, to calculate the expectation of  $h(\mathbf{X})$  we just need to generate independent trail processes and take the average — **Monte Carlo simulation**. The overall algorithm for Monte Carlo is really simple:

---

**Algorithm 1**  $\hat{\mu}_n = \text{MC}(h)$ 

---

```
1:  $s = 0$ 
2: for  $i = 1$  to  $n$  do
3:   Generate  $\mathbf{X}_i$ 
4:    $h_i = h(\mathbf{X}_i)$ 
5:    $s \leftarrow s + h_i$ 
6: end for
7:  $\hat{\mu}_n = s / n$ 
8: return  $\hat{\mu}_n$ 
```

---

# Monte Carlo As Integrator

- An integral  $\int_0^1 f(x)dx$  is an expectation  $\mathbb{E}[f(x)]$  with uniformly distributed from 0 to 1 ( $\mathcal{U}(0, 1)$ ):

$$\int_0^1 f(x)dx = \int_0^1 f(x)p(x)dx = \mathbb{E}[f(x)] \quad (5)$$

because  $p(x) = 1$  for  $\mathcal{U}(0, 1)$

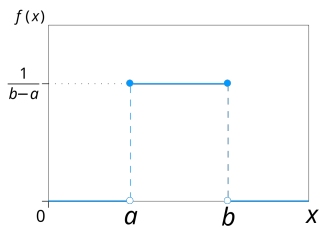
- To integrate the interval  $[a, b]$

$$\mathbb{E}[f(x)] = \int_a^b f(x)p(x)dx = \int_a^b f(x)\frac{1}{b-a}dx = \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(x)dx \quad (6)$$

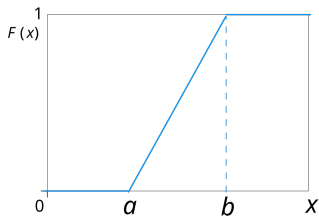
So  $\int_a^b f(x)dx = (b-a)\mathbb{E}[f(x)]$  for  $x \sim \mathcal{U}(a, b)$

# Uniform Distribution

PDF



CDF





# Estimating Probability Using Monte Carlo

- We can estimate probability using Monte Carlo by representing them as expectations.
- In particular,  $P(\mathbf{X} \in A) = \mathbb{E}[I_A(\mathbf{X})]$  where

$$I_A(\mathbf{X}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \mathbf{X} \in A \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

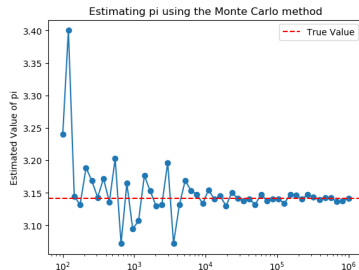
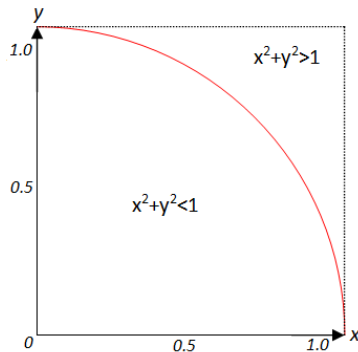
- Example: knowing that a uniformly drawn random point in a  $2 \times 2$  square has the probability  $\frac{\pi}{4}$  to fall inside a the unit circle inscribed within the square, we have

$$P = \frac{\pi}{4} = \mathbb{E}[I_A(x)] \quad (8)$$

where  $A$  represent  $x$  is inside the circle. We can use Monte Carlo to estimate the right hand side, thus obtain an estimate of  $\pi$ .

# Example: Estimate Pi

```
1 def estimate_pi(n):  
2     count = 0  
3     for i in range(n):  
4         x = random.uniform(-1, 1)  
5         y = random.uniform(-1, 1)  
6         if x**2 + y**2 <= 1:  
7             count += 1  
8     return 4 * count / n
```



# Example: Calculate Integral

Example: Solve

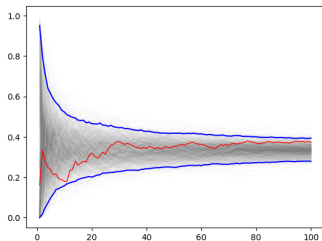
$$\int_0^1 x^2 dx$$

```
1 N = 1000000
2 accum = 0
3 for i in range(N):
4     x = np.random.uniform(0, 1)
5     accum += x**2
6 result = accum/float(N)
7 print("result: ", result)
8
9 result: 0.333651238336003
```

Q: how to update the codes to solve

$$\int_0^3 x^2 dx$$

Sample size from 1 to 100 and calculate the value for 1000 replicates Plot 2.5th and 97.5th percentile of the 1000 values to see how the variation changes with sample size.



# How Large Is The Error?

## Central Limit Theorem

Given a sequence of independent identically distributed variates  $\xi_i$  with expectation and variance

$$\mathbb{E}[\xi_i] = \mu, \quad V[\xi_i] = \sigma^2 \quad (9)$$

and the running sum  $\hat{\mu}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \xi_i$ . Then for increasing  $n$ , the composite variate

$$e_n := \frac{\hat{\mu}_n - \mu}{\sigma / \sqrt{n}} \quad (10)$$

converges in **distribution** to the standard normal distribution  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ .

# Error Estimation for Monte Carlo Methods

- From central limit theorem we know that our estimator  $\hat{\mu}_n$  approaches a normal distribution:  $\hat{\mu}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{N}(\mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n})$
- A statistical measure for the uncertainty in any one simulation of result of  $\hat{\mu}_n$  is then the standard deviation of  $\hat{\mu}_n$ :  $\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$
- In general we don't actually know  $\sigma$  — it's the standard deviation of  $\xi_i$  and our whole target is to estimate its expectation
- We can estimate  $\sigma$  using the samples:

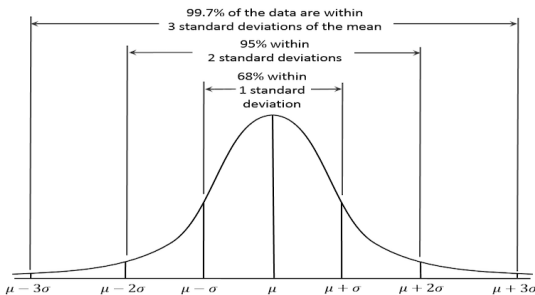
$$\hat{\sigma}_n = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \xi_i^2 - \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \xi_i \right)^2}. \quad (11)$$

And the Monte Carlo **standard error** is defined as:

$$\epsilon_n = \frac{\hat{\sigma}_n}{\sqrt{n}}$$

# Monte Carlo — Convergence

- From the standard error  $\epsilon_n = \hat{\sigma}_n / \sqrt{n}$  we see that Monte Carlo method converges at the rate of  $O(\sqrt{n})$  — to reduce the error by 10 times, you need to increase the number of samples by 100 times
- The standard error tells you the standard deviation of the estimator  $\hat{\mu}_n$  — the probability that your estimation lies in  $\mu \pm \epsilon_n$  is 68.27%
- The 68 – 95 – 99.7 rule :



# Convergence example

```
1 def fx(x):  
2     return x*x;  
3  
4 def integralX2():  
5     N = 1000000  
6     accum , hsquare = 0, 0  
7     for i in range(N):  
8         x = np.random.uniform(0, 1)  
9         xsqur = fx(x)  
10        accum += xsqur  
11        hsquare += xsqur * xsqur  
12 result = accum/float(N)  
13 stderr = math.sqrt((hsquare/float(N) -result*result)/float(N))  
14  
15 n=10,000, result/stderr:  0.3318172956616281 0.002972303607124641  
16 n=1,000,000, result/stderr:  0.33335766275838513 0.0002981101485913653
```

# Variance reduction technique - Control Variates

- We are trying to estimate the expectation of a function  $h(\mathbf{X})$
- If we know the expectation of a function  $g(\mathbf{X})$  analytically, we can use the estimator:

$$\mathbb{E}[h(\mathbf{X})] \approx \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (h(\mathbf{X}_i) + \beta(g^* - g(\mathbf{X}_i))) \quad (12)$$

where  $g^*$  is the known expectation of  $g(\mathbf{X})$  and  $\beta$  is a parameter.

- The variance of the samples is

$$\text{Var}[h] + \beta^2 \text{Var}[g] - 2\beta \text{Cov}[h, g] \quad (13)$$

- Taking the first derivative w.r.t  $\beta$ , the variance is minimized for  $\beta = \frac{\text{Cov}[h, g]}{\text{Var}[g]}$  (can be estimated using simulation samples)



# Control Variates

- The minimized variance is

$$\text{Var}[h] - \frac{\text{Cov}[h, g]^2}{\text{Var}[g]} = \text{Var}[h](1 - \rho^2) \quad (14)$$

- The higher correlation  $g$  and  $h$  is, the more effective the technique is.
- With variance reduction technique, we need fewer simulation and thus a shorter run time.
- $\beta$  can be estimated using an initial simulation with fewer iterates than the main one.
- Cannot be applied in a general way, need to fine tune based on the problem
  - Examples of control variates
    - ▶ Use forward as control variate for call option
    - ▶ Use geometric Asian option as control variate for arithmetic Asian option (possible only with Black-Scholes model).

# Control Variates example

Example: Solve

$$\int_0^1 x^2 dx$$

with

$$g(x) = x$$

as control variate

Solution:

- $f(x) = x^2$
- $g(x) = x$
- $g^* = 0.5$
- $\beta = 1$  if solve analytically or numerically using simulation samples (few paths of course)

# Control Variates example

```
1 def integralX2WithCV():
2     N = 1000000
3     accum , hsquare = 0, 0
4     beta = estimateBeta()
5     print("beta:", beta)
6     mean_gxValue = mean_gx()
7     for i in range(N):
8         x = np.random.uniform(0, 1)
9         fxValue = fx(x) + beta * ( mean_gxValue - gx(x))
10        accum += fxValue
11        hsquare += fxValue * fxValue
12    result = accum/float(N)
13    stderr = math.sqrt((hsquare/float(N) - result*result)/float(N))
14    print("result/stderr with CV: ", result, stderr)
15
16 beta: 0.9961436953790417
17 result/stderr with CV:  0.33333896559524545 7.451386799977835e-05
18 result/stderr:  0.33330024789036267 0.0002982051624623227
19
```

# Monte Carlo — Confidence Interval

## Confidence Interval

As  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , a asymptotically valid  $1 - \delta$  confidence interval for  $\mu$  is an the interval

$$[\hat{\mu}_n - N^{-1}(1 - \delta/2)\epsilon_n, \hat{\mu}_n + N^{-1}(1 - \delta/2)\epsilon_n]$$

where  $N(\cdot)$  is the standard cumulative normal function.

- A confidence interval displays the probability that a parameter will fall between a pair of values around the mean. The interval covers the true value  $\mu$  with probability  $1 - \delta$
- Rule of thumb: when  $\delta = 0.05$ ,  $N^{-1}(1 - \delta/2) \approx 1.96$ , i.e.,  $\hat{\mu}_n \pm 1.96\epsilon_n$  gives a 95% confidence interval,

## Generation of Random Process $\mathbf{X}_i$

- In the expectation of interest  $\mathbb{E}[h(\mathbf{X}_i)]$ ,
  - ▶  $h$  is the payoff function
  - ▶ the random vector  $\mathbf{X}_i$  is the underlying asset
- The only non-trivial component in the Monte Carlo algorithm is the generation of  $\mathbf{X}_i$
- The distribution of  $\mathbf{X}_i$  might not be known analytically — they depend on the diffusion model
  - ▶ For Black-Scholes model the distribution is log-normal:
$$\frac{dS}{S} = (r - q)dt + \sigma dW_t$$
  - ▶ For local volatility model the distribution has no closed form:
$$\frac{dS}{S} = (r - q)dt + \sigma(S, t)dW_t$$
- However they are both adapted to the random processes with known distribution — Brownian motions
- Therefore we only need to generate the Brownian motions

# Generation of Brownian Motions

- To simulate Brownian motions we need to be able to generate random numbers with normal distribution — any interval of a Brownian motion,  $W_t - W_s$ , is normally distributed with 0 mean and variance  $t - s$ , and is independent from other non-overlapping intervals
- Random numbers with normal distribution, or any other non-uniform distribution, can be generated from uniform random variates, using e.g.,
  - ▶ Approximation using central limit theorem
  - ▶ Box-Muller method
  - ▶ Inverse transformation method
- We discuss the generation of uniform random number  $\mathcal{U}(0, 1)$  first then the transformation

# Random Number Generator

- Computer programs are designed to follow instructions in a deterministic way — in other words, they are **predictable**
- Computer will not be able to generate true random numbers unless the randomness comes as input. For example, [random.org](https://www.random.org) provides random number API whose randomness comes from atmospheric noise.
- Computer generated random numbers are referred to as **pseudo-random numbers** (PRN) because they are not truly random
- But is **pseudo** random number bad for us? Not really.

# Desired Properties of Random Numbers in QF

- The random numbers we use should behave similarly to realization of independent, identically distributed random variables with a certain distribution. True randomness is better but pseudo randomness can achieve this with certain limitations.
- We use random numbers as a statistical tool for integration — true randomness does not add much value on this compared to pseudo randomness
- We need to be able to reproduce the random numbers — pricing an option twice using Monte-Carlo you do not want to see two different prices. In other words, we want it to be **deterministic** despite Monte Carlo errors. And pseudo random number wins.
- Be aware that there is no flawless pseudo random number generator — it's good practice to keep several alternatives of the pseudo random number generator in your library and cross test each other



# PRNG — General Principle

- ➊ Given the current value of one or more state variables (usually stored internally in the generator)
- ➋ Apply a mathematical iteration algorithm to obtain a new set of values for the state variables
- ➌ Use a specific formula to obtain a new uniform  $(0, 1)$  variate from the current state variables

# PRNG — Middle-Square Method

- The very first algorithm for the computer generation of pseudo random numbers due to John von Neumann et al.
- One state variable:  $x_i$
- Iteration  $x_{i+1}$ : extract the middle four digits of  $x_i^2$
- Random number:  $x_{i+1}$
- Example: start from the seed  $x_0 = 0.9876$

$$x_0 = 0.9876$$

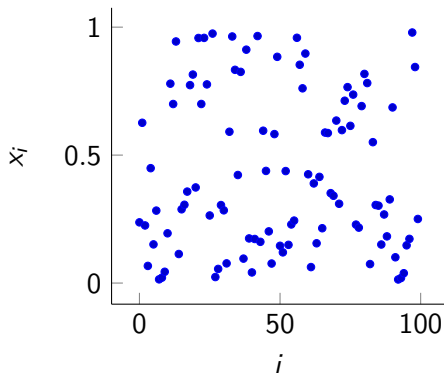
$$x_0^2 = 0.97535376$$

$$x_1 = 0.5353$$

$$x_1^2 = 0.28654609$$

$$x_2 = 0.6546$$

# Middle-Square Method — Example

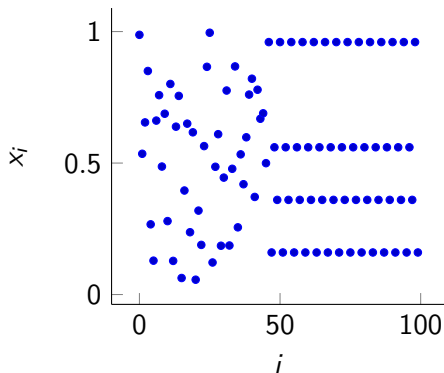


PRNs — mid-square method seed at 0.2372

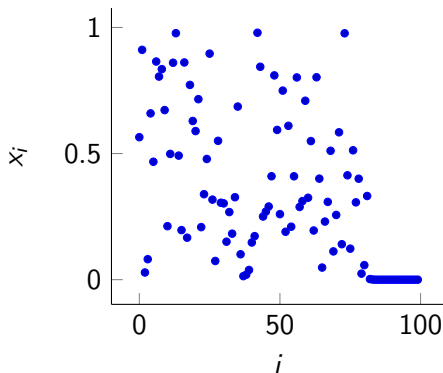
```
1 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
2
3 xs = [0] * 100
4 xs[0] = 0.2372 # seed
5 for i in range(1, 100):
6     xs[i] = (int(xs[i-1]**2*1.0e6)
7              %1e4)/1.0e4
8 plt.scatter(range(100), xs)
9 plt.show()
```

## Middle-Square Method — Problem

- Problem of mid-point method: very likely to end up in a short periodic orbit or be absorbed at 0.



PRNs — mid-square method seed at 0.9876



PRNs — mid-square method seed at 0.5649

- Seed 0.9876: sequence starts to repeat from  $x_{46}$ , and is able to generate four numbers afterwards: 0.96, 0.16, 0.56, 0.36
- Seed 0.5649: sequence absorbed at 0 at  $x_{84}$

# Congruential Generators

- Congruential generators update the state variable by the integer operation:

$$m_{n+1} = (a m_n + c) \bmod M \quad (15)$$

where  $0 < a < m$ ,  $0 \leq c < m$  are constant integers, and **mod M** means **modulo M** which means it is divided by  $M$  and keep the remainder.  $0 \leq m_0 < M$  is the seed.

- $m_i$ 's can be scaled to  $[0, 1]$  by  $x_i = \frac{m_i}{M - 1}$
- If we choose  $a$  and  $M$  to be co-prime and  $c \neq 0$ , the sequence won't be absorbed at a fixed point (a pair of numbers are said to be co-prime when they have their highest common factor as 1.)
- When  $c = 0$  this is called *linear* congruential generator. The system won't be absorbed at a fixed point if  $a$  and  $M$  are co-prime and the starting point is not 0.

# Congruential Generators — Example

- For small  $M$  it's still easy to show that the sequence generated by congruential generators is periodic:

$M = 11, a = 3, c = 0, m_0 = 3:$

$3, 9, 5, 4, 1, 3, 9, \dots$

- The maximum length of the period is  $M - 1$ , but of course  $M - 1$  is not guaranteed — example above
- With very large  $M$  we can have very long period such that the repetition becomes invisible to our application
- The values  $M$  and  $a$  have to be very carefully chosen [1]
  - ▶ In IBM's early days it used  $a = 65539$ ,  $M = 2^{31}$ , and  $m_0 = 1$  — this was reported to be highly inadequate
  - ▶ A choice of  $a = 5^{17}$ ,  $M = 2^{40}$ , and  $m_0 = 1$  was reported to work well with period  $2^{38}$

# Congruential Generators — Extensions

- The minimal standard generator *Rand0* : a linear congruential generator with  $a = 16807$  and  $M = 2^{31} - 1$
- *Rand1* : enhancement of *Rand0* using a careful shuffling algorithm
- *Rand2* : coupling two linear congruential generators to construct one of a much longer period

# Mersenne Twister

- Presented by Matsumoto and Nishimura in 1998. It was given this name because it has a period of  $2^{19937} - 1$  called the Mersenne prime.
- Utilizes many existing methods to rectify most of the flaws found in older PRNGs
- Full algorithm can be found at [Wikipedia](#)
- The period of the sequence is a Mersenne prime number:  $2^n - 1$
- The popular one is **mt19937**:  $n = 19937$  and period  $2^{19937} - 1$  — equivalent to infinity periodicity for us
- mt19937 has equidistribution property in at least 623 dimensions (linear congruential generator has 5 dimensions in contrast)
- The PRNG of choice: provides fast generation of high-quality pseudo random numbers. Python [random](#) package generates numbers using **mt19937**.



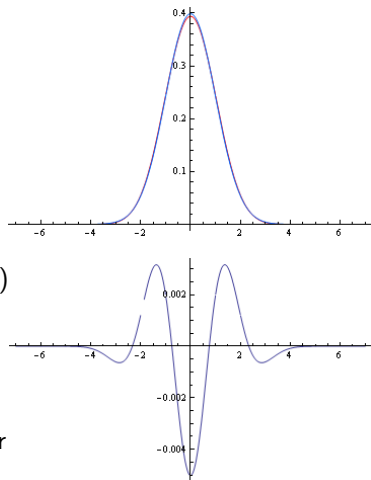
# Uniform To Normal Distribution — Central Limit Theorem

- Now we have random numbers from the **uniform distribution**  $\mathcal{U}(0, 1)$
- To generate random numbers with **normal distribution**, one simple way is to utilize the central limit theorem:

- ▶ Recall that  $\frac{\hat{\mu}_n - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$
- ▶ The variance of  $\mathcal{U}(0, 1)$  is  $\int_0^1 (x - 0.5)^2 dx = \frac{1}{12} = \sigma^2$
- ▶ So we draw **12** uniform random numbers  $u_i$ , and let

$$m_k = \sum_{i=1}^{12} u_i - 6 \quad (16)$$

- ▶  $m$  approximates standard normal distribution due to central limit theorem
- ▶ probability density function (blue) and error is shown at the right



# Uniform To Normal Distribution — Box Muller Method

- Box-Muller method is another **easy to implement** algorithm to transform uniform distribution to normal distribution
- It is based on the property of the bivariate normal distribution: if  $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I_2)$ , then
  - ▶  $R = Z_1^2 + Z_2^2$  is exponentially distributed with mean 2:

$$P(R \leq x) = 1 - e^{-\frac{x}{2}}$$

- ▶ Given  $R$ , the point  $(Z_1, Z_2)$  is uniformly distributed on the circle of radius  $\sqrt{R}$  centered at origin
- The algorithm is
  1. Generate independent  $U_1, U_2$  from  $\mathcal{U}(0, 1)$
  2.  $R \leftarrow -2 \log(U_1)$  — uniform to exponential distribution (inverse CDF)
  3.  $V \leftarrow 2\pi U_2$  — the angle to determine the point on the circle
  4.  $Z_1 \leftarrow \sqrt{R} \cos(V)$ ,  $Z_2 \leftarrow \sqrt{R} \sin(V)$
- Transform a pair  $(U_1, U_2)$  to  $(Z_1, Z_2)$

# Acceptance Rejection Method

- The previous two methods are specific to normal distribution
- Acceptance rejection method is generic to transform sample from one distribution (typically more convenient to generate) to another (not that convenient to generate)
- Let  $g(x)$  be the pdf of a distribution we know how to sample, and  $f(x)$  be the pdf of the target distribution, and  $f(x) \leq cg(x)$  for all  $x$ .
- Idea is to generate  $x$ , then accept it as a sample for  $f$  with probability  $\frac{f(x)}{cg(x)}$ , to decide whether to accept the sample  $x$  we can just draw a random number  $u$  from  $\mathcal{U}(0, 1)$  and accept  $x$  if  $u < \frac{f(x)}{cg(x)}$

# Why Acceptance Rejection Method Works?

- The generated sample, denoted as  $y$ , has the distribution:

$$\begin{aligned} P(y \in A) &= P\left(x \in A \mid u \leq \frac{f(x)}{cg(x)}\right) \\ &= \frac{P\left(x \in A, u \leq \frac{f(x)}{cg(x)}\right)}{P\left(u \leq \frac{f(x)}{cg(x)}\right)} \end{aligned}$$

- For a given  $x$ , the probability  $u \leq \frac{f(x)}{cg(x)}$  is simply  $\frac{f(x)}{cg(x)}$ , so the denominator reads

$$P\left(u \leq \frac{f(x)}{cg(x)}\right) = \int_{\mathcal{X}} \frac{f(x)}{cg(x)} g(x) dx = \frac{1}{c} \quad (17)$$

- Thus  $y$  has the desired distribution:

$$P(y \in A) = c P\left(x \in A, u \leq \frac{f(x)}{cg(x)}\right) = c \int_A \frac{f(x)}{cg(x)} g(x) dx = \int_A f(x) dx \quad (18)$$

- (17) also tells the acceptance rate: larger  $c$  — more expensive

# Acceptance Rejection — Algorithm

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**Algorithm 2** AcceptanceRejection

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```
1: repeat  
2:   Generate  $x$  from distribution  $g$   
3:   Generate  $u$  from  $\mathcal{U}(0, 1)$   
4: until  $U \leq f(x)/cg(x)$   
5: return  $x$ 
```

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- The idea of acceptance rejection is used by many methods
- One example is the modified Box-Muller method for normal random number generation, namely polar rejection method (or Marsaglia-Bray algorithm),
  - ▶ Main modification to Box-Muller is to use acceptance rejection to generate uniformly distributed points in a unit disc
  - ▶ Avoid computing sin and cos as in Box-Muller method

# Polar Rejection Method

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## Algorithm 3 PolarRejection

---

```
1: repeat  
2:   Generate  $u_1, u_2 \sim \mathcal{U}(0, 1)$   
3:    $u_1 \leftarrow 2u_1 - 1$   
4:    $u_2 \leftarrow 2u_2 - 1$   $\{(u_1, u_2) \text{ uniformly distributed over } [-1, -1] \times [1, 1]\}$   
5:    $x \leftarrow u_1^2 + u_2^2$   
6: until  $x \leq 1$   $\{x \sim \mathcal{U}(0, 1) \text{ after acceptance rejection}\}$   
7:  $y \leftarrow \sqrt{-2 \log x}$   $\{y \text{ is equivalent to } \sqrt{R} \text{ in Box-Muller}\}$   
8:  $Z_1 \leftarrow y \times u_1 / \sqrt{x}$   $\{u_1 / \sqrt{x} = \cos(V) \text{ in Box-Muller}\}$   
9:  $Z_2 \leftarrow y \times u_2 / \sqrt{x}$   $\{u_2 / \sqrt{x} = \sin(V) \text{ in Box-Muller}\}$   
10: return  $x$ 
```

---

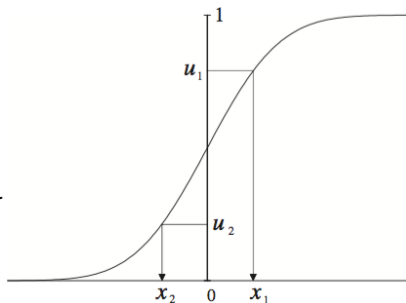
- An algorithm similar to Box-Muller method for generating normal random numbers
- Faster than Box-Muller despite the acceptance rate at first step is  $\frac{\pi}{4}$

# Inverse Transformation Method

- Another generic way to transform random samples from uniform distribution to any other distribution is through the inverse cumulative density function of the target distribution
- We want to generate random variable  $X$  with property that  $P(X \leq x) = CDF(x)$  for all  $x$ . Inverse transformation method sets

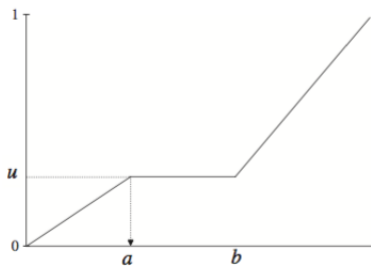
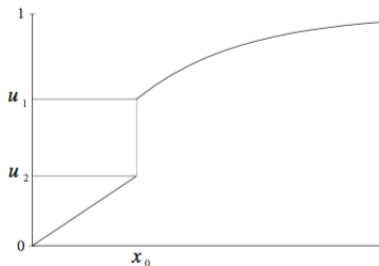
$$X = CDF^{-1}(u), \quad u \sim \mathcal{U}(0, 1) \quad (19)$$

- Draw  $u$  from  $\mathcal{U}(0, 1)$  and from  $CDF^{-1}(\cdot)$  we get the sample  $x$
- We used the inverse transformation method to convert uniform random number to exponential distribution in Box-Muller



# Inverse Transformation Method — Considerations

- The inverse CDF is not always one-to-one



- There can be many to one (jump in CDF), one to many (flat CDF)
- If we use inverse transformation method we need to handle the one to many case with pre-defined conventions

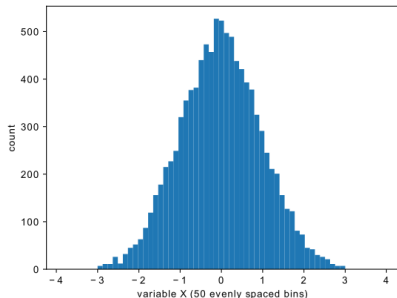


# Inverse Transformation Method For Normal Distribution

- CDF of normal distribution is not analytic — inverse of it is non-trivial
- Typical procedure:
  - ▶ Use an analytic formula that approximates  $N^{-1}$ , and use it as initial guess
  - ▶ Apply root search algorithm to find the solution
- Not necessarily fast
- Has the nice property of being monotonic ( $N(\cdot)$  is strictly increasing) with respect to the uniform — helps in variance reduction techniques, e.g., antithetic variates
- Use exactly 1 uniform random number to generate 1 normal random number — preserve dimensionality and periodicity of the uniform PRNG

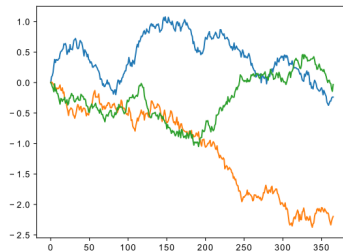
# PRNG — Implementation

```
1 import numpy as np
2 import math
3 from matplotlib import pyplot as plt
4
5 np.random.seed(0) # we want to fix the seed so the numbers are reproducible
6 data = np.random.normal(0, 1, 10000)
7 bins = np.linspace(math.ceil(min(data)),math.floor(max(data)),50) # fixed number of bins
8 plt.xlim([min(data)-0.5, max(data)+0.5])
9 plt.hist(data, bins=bins)
10 plt.xlabel('variable X (50 evenly spaced bins)')
11 plt.ylabel('count'), plt.show()
```



# Brownian Motion Generation

```
1 np.random.seed(0)
2 # generate 3 brownian motions for 1Y
3 nBrownians, nTimeSteps = 3, 366
4 brownians = np.zeros((nBrownians, nTimeSteps))
5 # each time step is 1 day,
6 # so standard deviation is sqrt(1/365.0)
7 stdev = math.sqrt(1/365.0)
8 for i in range(nBrownians):
9     for j in range(1, nTimeSteps):
10         dw = np.random.normal(0, stdev)
11         brownians[i,j] = brownians[i,j-1] + dw
12
13 plt.plot(range(nTimeSteps), brownians[0])
14 plt.plot(range(nTimeSteps), brownians[1])
15 plt.plot(range(nTimeSteps), brownians[2])
16 plt.show()
```



# Pricing European Option With Monte Carlo

- Pricing European option with Monte Carlo is easy, if the model is **Black-Scholes**
- We do not need to use the whole Brownian motion, because we have  $S_T$  in closed form:

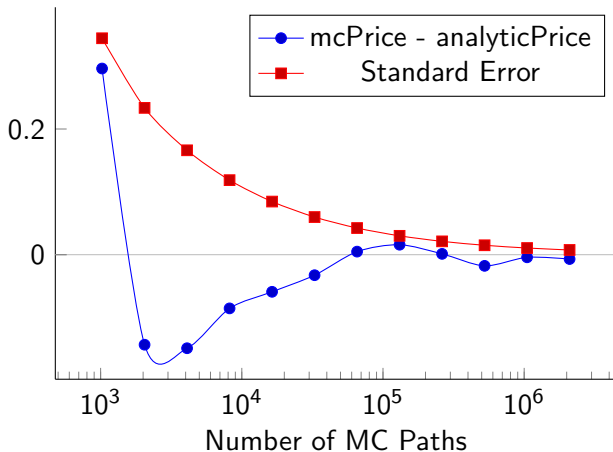
$$S_T = S_0 e^{(r-q-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)T + \sigma W_T} \quad (20)$$

- Only the end value of the Brownian motion is needed
- So instead of simulating 365 time steps we only need to simulation 1 step

# MC European Implementation

```
1 import math
2 from numpy.random import random
3 import numpy as np
4
5 def mcEuropean(S0, T, r, q, vol, nPaths, trade):
6     random.seed(0)
7     sum,hsquare = 0,0
8     stdev = np.math.sqrt(T)
9     for i in range(nPaths):
10         wT = np.random.normal(0, stdev)
11         h = trade.payoff(S0 * math.exp((r - q - 0.5*vol*vol) * T + vol * wT))
12         sum += h
13         hsquare += h * h
14
15     pv = math.exp(-r*T) * sum / nPaths
16     stderr = math.sqrt((hsquare/nPaths - (sum/nPaths) * (sum/nPaths)) / nPaths)
17     return pv, stderr
```

# MC European Convergence



European call option,  $K = 100$ ,  $S = 100$ ,  $r = 5\%$ ,  $q = 2\%$ ,  $T = 1$ ,  $\sigma = 15\%$

# Summary

This session, we covered:

- MC Theory and Implementation
- Random Number Generation Methods : Uniform and from Uniform to Normal
- Price Option using 1-Step MC under BS model

Next session, we will cover:

- MC for Model Without Closed Form
- Discretization Schemes
- Multi Factor MC
- Generic MC Framework
- Variance Reduction Techniques
- Quasi MC

# References and Future Readings



P. Jackel. *Monte Carlo Methods in Finance*. 2002.



P. Glasserman. *Monte Carlo Methods in Financial Engineering*. Springer, 2003.