

0.1 Inverse transform sampling

How do you generate a random sample? Hey, importing a library counts as cheating. Enter inverse transform sampling.

Theorem 1 (Inverse transform sampling). To generate a random sample x_1, \dots, x_n , generate u_1, \dots, u_n from $U(0, 1)$ and let $x_i = F_X^{-1}(u_i)$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$.

There are two ways to understand this result.

The CDF proof

Proof. If we can show that the random variable $Y = F_X^{-1}(U)$ has the same CDF as X , we're done. And as it turns out,

$$F_Y(y) = P(F_X^{-1}(U) < y) = P(U < F_X(y)) = F_X(y)$$

Here, we've used the fact that the CDF is monotonic and increasing. □

The transformation proof

Proof. In this proof, we shall transform the random variable $Y = F_X^{-1}(U)$ and show that its PDF is $f_X(y)$.

$$f_Y(y) = f_U(F_X(y)) \cdot \frac{dF_X}{dy} = f_X(y)$$

□