

How to draw masses from the Chabrier IMF:

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The cumulative distribution of a Chabrier IMF is

$$N(< M) = A \int_{M_{\min}}^M \frac{1}{m} \exp \left[- \left(\frac{\log m - \log \mu}{\sqrt{2}\sigma} \right)^2 \right] dm$$

Where we typically set $\mu = 0.08$ and $\sigma = 0.69$ and $A = 0.15$. Let's make a substitution. $x = (\log m - \log \mu) / \sqrt{2}\sigma$ and $dm = \sqrt{2} \ln(10) \sigma m dx$. Then:

$$N_{\text{cum}} = \sqrt{2} \ln(10) \sigma \times A \int_{(\log M_{\min} - \log \mu) / \sqrt{2}\sigma}^{(\log M - \log \mu) / \sqrt{2}\sigma} \exp(-x^2) dx$$

We can express this analytically using the error function:

$$\text{erf}(z) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^z \exp(-t^2) dt$$

We can write

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{(\log M_{\min} - \log \mu) / \sqrt{2}\sigma}^{(\log M - \log \mu) / \sqrt{2}\sigma} \exp(-x^2) dx &= \int_0^{(\log M - \log \mu) / \sqrt{2}\sigma} \exp(-x^2) dx - \int_0^{(\log M_{\min} - \log \mu) / \sqrt{2}\sigma} \exp(-x^2) dx \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} \left(\text{erf} \left[(\log M - \log \mu) / \sqrt{2}\sigma \right] - \text{erf} \left[(\log M_{\min} - \log \mu) / \sqrt{2}\sigma \right] \right) \end{aligned}$$

So we have

$$N_{\text{cum}} = \frac{A}{2} \times \sqrt{2\pi} \ln(10) \sigma \left(\text{erf} \left[(\log M - \log \mu) / \sqrt{2}\sigma \right] - \text{erf} \left[(\log M_{\min} - \log \mu) / \sqrt{2}\sigma \right] \right)$$

Now we want to invert this. Let's solve for M in terms of N_{cum} .

$$M = 10^{(\sqrt{2}\sigma \text{erfinv}[N_m(\text{erf}[(\log M_{\max} - \log \mu) / \sqrt{2}\sigma] - \text{erf}[(\log M_{\min} - \log \mu) / \sqrt{2}\sigma]) + \text{erf}[(\log M_{\min} - \log \mu) / \sqrt{2}\sigma]] + \log \mu)}$$

So if we draw masses from $\mathcal{U}(0, 1)$ and pass them through the above function for M , they'll be drawn from a Chabrier IMF.