



Probability and Stochastic Processes

Lecture 21: Transformations (Part 3)

Karthik P. N.

Assistant Professor, Department of AI

Email: pnkarthik@ai.iith.ac.in

21 October 2025

General Transformations (Univariate Case)

General Transformations (Univariate Case)

$X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ **continuous RV**, $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ **measurable**, $Y = g(X)$
 g **monotone and differentiable throughout its domain**

$$f_Y(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{f_X(g^{-1}(y))}{|g'(g^{-1}(y))|}, & y \in \text{Range}(g), \\ 0, & y \notin \text{Range}(g). \end{cases}$$

Example

- Let $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. Derive the PDF of $Y = e^X$ from first principles and using the transformation formula.
- Here, $g(x) = e^x$, $\text{Domain}(g) = \mathbb{R}$, $\text{Range}(g) = (0, +\infty)$
- g monotone strictly and differentiable **throughout its domain**
- For any $y \in \text{Range}(g)$ (i.e., $y > 0$)

$$\begin{aligned} f_Y(y) &= \frac{f_X(g^{-1}(y))}{g'(g^{-1}(y))}, & g^{-1}(y) &= \ln y \\ &= \frac{f_X(\ln y)}{g'(\ln y)} \\ &= \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(\ln y)^2}{2}}}{e^{\ln y}} = \frac{1}{y\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(\ln y)^2}{2}} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{log-normal distribution})$$

General Transformations: g Piecewise Monotone, Differentiable

When $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is piecewise monotone and differentiable

Suppose that I_1, \dots, I_n is a partition of \mathbb{R} .

Suppose that $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is **piecewise monotone** and **differentiable** on I_ℓ for each $\ell \in \{1, \dots, n\}$.

Let $g(I_\ell)$ denote the image of I_ℓ under g

Let h_ℓ denote the inverse of g on I_ℓ .

If X is a continuous random variable with PDF f_X , then the PDF of $Y = g(X)$ is given by

$$f_Y(y) = \sum_{\ell=1}^n \frac{f_X(h_\ell(y))}{\left|g'(h_\ell(y))\right|} \mathbf{1}_{g(I_\ell)}(y).$$

Example

Suppose $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. Derive the PDF of $Y = X^2$.

- Here, $g(x) = x^2$, $\text{Domain}(g) = \mathbb{R}$, $\text{Range}(g) = [0, +\infty)$
- g is **differentiable** throughout its domain, and $g'(x) = 2x$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$
- g is neither monotone increasing nor monotone decreasing throughout its domain
- Partition \mathbb{R} into $I_1 = (-\infty, 0)$, $I_2 = \{0\}$, $I_3 = (0, +\infty)$
- $g(I_1) = (0, +\infty)$, $g(I_2) = \{0\}$, $g(I_3) = (0, +\infty)$
- g is **strictly decreasing on I_1** and **strictly increasing on I_2** , $h_1(y) = -\sqrt{y}$, $h_2(y) = \sqrt{y}$
- For any $y \in \text{Range}(g)$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_Y(y) &= \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y}{2}}}{|-2\sqrt{y}|} \mathbf{1}_{(0, +\infty)}(y) + 0 \cdot \mathbf{1}_{\{0\}}(y) + \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{y}{2}}}{|2\sqrt{y}|} \mathbf{1}_{(0, +\infty)}(y) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi y}} e^{-\frac{y}{2}} \mathbf{1}_{(0, +\infty)}(y) \quad \text{(Chi-Squared distribution with 1 degree of freedom).}
 \end{aligned}$$

General Transformations: Multivariate Case

Let X_1, \dots, X_n be **jointly continuous** random variables with joint PDF f_{X_1, \dots, X_n} .

Fix **measurable** functions $g_1 : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad g_2 : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad \dots \quad g_n : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}.$

Define $g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ and random variables Y_1, \dots, Y_n as

$$g(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \begin{pmatrix} g_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ \vdots \\ g_n(x_1, \dots, x_n) \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} Y_1 \\ \vdots \\ Y_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} g_1(X_1, \dots, X_n) \\ \vdots \\ g_n(X_1, \dots, X_n) \end{pmatrix},$$

where $Y_\ell = g_\ell(X_1, \dots, X_n), \quad \ell \in \{1, \dots, n\},$ g_1, \dots, g_n are smooth¹ functions.

General Transformations (Multivariate Case)

What is the joint PDF of Y_1, \dots, Y_n in terms of f_{X_1, \dots, X_n} ?

¹We will assume that g_1, \dots, g_n are differentiable with continuous first-order partial derivatives.

Jacobian Matrix

Definition (Jacobian Matrix)

Let $g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be defined by

$$g(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \begin{pmatrix} g_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ \vdots \\ g_n(x_1, \dots, x_n) \end{pmatrix}.$$

The **Jacobian matrix** of g at the point (x_1, \dots, x_n) is defined as

$$J_g(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_1}(x_1, \dots, x_n) & \cdots & \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_n}(x_1, \dots, x_n) \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial g_n}{\partial x_1}(x_1, \dots, x_n) & \cdots & \frac{\partial g_n}{\partial x_n}(x_1, \dots, x_n) \end{pmatrix}$$

Jacobi's Transformation Formula

Let X_1, \dots, X_n be jointly continuous with joint PDF f_{X_1, \dots, X_n} .

Jacobi's Transformation Formula

Let $g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be **one-one, differentiable** with **continuous first-order partial derivatives**, and **non-zero Jacobian throughout its domain**.

Let the individual components of g be denoted by g_1, \dots, g_n .

Let $Y_\ell = g_\ell(X_1, \dots, X_n)$, $\ell \in \{1, \dots, n\}$.

If $(X_1, \dots, X_n) \sim f_{X_1, \dots, X_n}$, then the joint PDF of Y_1, \dots, Y_n is given by

$$f_{Y_1, \dots, Y_n}(y_1, \dots, y_n) = \begin{cases} \frac{f_{X_1, \dots, X_n}(g^{-1}(y_1, \dots, y_n))}{\left| \det J_g(g^{-1}(y_1, \dots, y_n)) \right|}, & (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \text{Range}(g), \\ 0, & (y_1, \dots, y_n) \notin \text{Range}(g). \end{cases}$$

Example

Let $X_1, X_2 \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Exponential}(\lambda)$ for some fixed $\lambda > 0$.

Derive the joint PDF of $Y_1 = X_1$ and $Y_2 = X_1 + X_2$.

Also deduce the conditional PDF of Y_1 , conditioned on the event $\{Y_2 = y_2\}$.

- $g_1(x_1, x_2) = x_1$, $g_2(x_1, x_2) = x_1 + x_2$,
 $\text{Domain}(g_1) = [0, +\infty) \times [0, +\infty) = \text{Domain}(g_2)$, $\text{Range}(g_1) = [0, +\infty) = \text{Range}(g_2)$
- $g : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ and its Jacobian:

$$g(x_1, x_2) = \begin{pmatrix} g_1(x_1, x_2) \\ g_2(x_1, x_2) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_1 + x_2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad J_g(x_1, x_2) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_1}(x_1, x_2) & \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial x_2}(x_1, x_2) \\ \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial x_1}(x_1, x_2) & \frac{\partial g_2}{\partial x_2}(x_1, x_2) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- $\text{Domain}(g) = [0, +\infty) \times [0, +\infty)$, $\text{Range}(g) = \{(x, y) : 0 \leq x \leq y < +\infty\}$
- $|\det J_g(x_1, x_2)| = 1 \quad \forall (x_1, x_2) \in \text{Domain}(g)$
- $g^{-1}(y_1, y_2) = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 - y_1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \forall (y_1, y_2) \in \text{Range}(g)$

Example

- For any $(y_1, y_2) \in \text{Range}(g)$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_{Y_1, Y_2}(y_1, y_2) &= \frac{f_{X_1, X_2}(g^{-1}(y_1, y_2))}{\left| \det J_g(g^{-1}(y_1, y_2)) \right|} \\
 &= f_{X_1, X_2}(y_1, y_2 - y_1) \\
 &= f_{X_1}(y_1) \cdot f_{X_2}(y_2 - y_1) \\
 &= \lambda e^{-\lambda y_1} \cdot \lambda e^{-\lambda(y_2 - y_1)} \\
 &= \lambda^2 e^{-\lambda y_2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

- Conditional PDF:

$$f_{Y_1|Y_2=y_2}(y_1) = \frac{f_{Y_1, Y_2}(y_1, y_2)}{f_{Y_2}(y_2)} = \frac{\lambda^2 e^{-\lambda y_2}}{\int_{y_1: (y_1, y_2) \in \text{Range}(g)} f_{Y_1, Y_2}(y_1, y_2) dy_1} = \frac{\lambda^2 e^{-\lambda y_2}}{\int_0^{y_2} \lambda^2 e^{-\lambda y_2} dy_1} = \frac{1}{y_2}, \quad y_1 \in [0, y_2].$$

Jacobi's Transformation Formula: g Piecewise Differentiable with Non-Zero Jacobian

When $g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is piecewise differentiable with non-zero Jacobian

Suppose that I_1, \dots, I_n is a partition of \mathbb{R}^n , and $g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is **one-one**, **differentiable** with **continuous first-order partial derivatives**, and has non-zero Jacobian on I_ℓ for each $\ell \in \{1, \dots, n\}$.

Let h_ℓ denote the inverse of g on I_ℓ .

Let the individual components of g be g_1, \dots, g_n . Let $Y_\ell = g_\ell(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ for each $\ell \in \mathbb{N}$.

Let X_1, \dots, X_n be jointly continuous with joint PDF f_{X_1, \dots, X_n} . Then, the joint PDF of Y_1, \dots, Y_n is given by

$$f_{Y_1, \dots, Y_n}(y_1, \dots, y_n) = \sum_{\ell=1}^n \frac{f_{X_1, \dots, X_n}(h_\ell(y_1, \dots, y_n))}{\left| \det J_g(h_\ell(y_1, \dots, y_n)) \right|} \mathbf{1}_{g(I_\ell)}(y_1, \dots, y_n).$$

Sampling from a Given Distribution:

Inverse CDF Technique

Sampling from a Given Distribution

Objective

Given a CDF $F : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, 1]$, generate a sample $X \sim F$.

Remarks:

- The random variable X may be discrete, continuous, singular, or any mixtures thereof
- If X is discrete, we will be given its PMF p instead of CDF F
- If X is continuous, we will be given its PDF f instead of CDF F

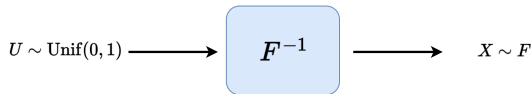
The basic ingredient: IID Uniform $(0, 1)$ sample(s)

Why Unif(0, 1)? Easy to generate on a computer!

The Inverse CDF Technique

Objective

Given a CDF $F : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [0, 1]$, generate a sample $X \sim F$.



- Define $F^{-1} : (0, 1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ as

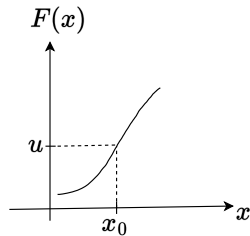
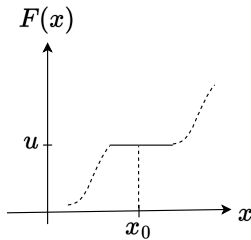
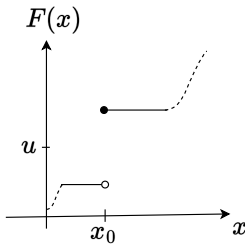
$$F^{-1}(u) := \inf \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R} : F(x) \geq u \right\}, \quad u \in (0, 1)$$

- If F is invertible (e.g., Gaussian CDF), then F^{-1} as defined above coincides with the inverse of F

Claim

If $U \sim \text{Unif}(0, 1)$, $X = F^{-1}(U)$, then $F_X = F$

$$F\left(F^{-1}(u)\right) \geq u$$

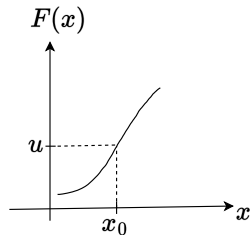
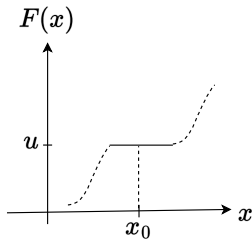
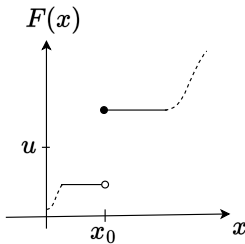


- Case 1: $\exists x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} F(x_0 - \varepsilon) < u \leq F(x_0)$
In this case,

$$F^{-1}(u) = \inf \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R} : F(x) \geq u \right\} = x_0,$$

$$F\left(F^{-1}(u)\right) = F(x_0) \geq u$$

$$F\left(F^{-1}(u)\right) \geq u \text{ for all } u \in (0, 1)$$

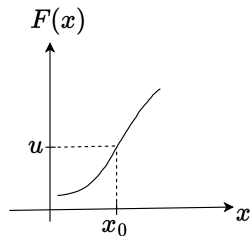
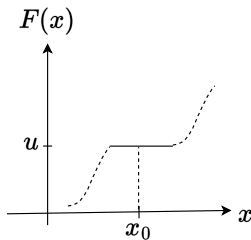
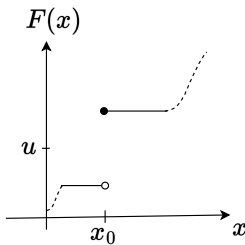


- Case 2: $\exists x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $F(x_0) = u$
In this case,

$$F^{-1}(u) = \inf \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R} : F(x) \geq u \right\} \leq x_0,$$

$$F\left(F^{-1}(u)\right) = F(x_0) = u$$

$$F\left(F^{-1}(u)\right) \geq u \quad \text{for all} \quad u \in (0, 1)$$



- Case 2: \exists **unique** $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $F(x_0) = u$
In this case,

$$F^{-1}(u) = \inf \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R} : F(x) \geq u \right\} = x_0,$$

$$F\left(F^{-1}(u)\right) = F(x_0) = u$$

$$\{F^{-1}(U) \leq x\} = \{U \leq F(x)\} \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}$$

- $\{F^{-1}(U) \leq x\} \subseteq \{U \leq F(x)\}$:

$$\begin{aligned}\omega \in \{F^{-1}(U) \leq x\} &\implies F^{-1}(U(\omega)) \leq x \\ &\implies F(F^{-1}(U(\omega))) \leq F(x) \\ &\implies U(\omega) \leq F(F^{-1}(U(\omega))) \leq F(x) \\ &\implies \omega \in \{U \leq F(x)\}\end{aligned}$$

- $\{U \leq F(x)\} \subseteq \{F^{-1}(U) \leq x\}$:

$$\begin{aligned}\omega \in \{U \leq F(x)\} &\implies U(\omega) \leq F(x) \\ &\implies x \in \{x' \in \mathbb{R} : F(x') \geq U(\omega)\} \\ &\implies F^{-1}(U(\omega)) = \inf \{x' \in \mathbb{R} : F(x') \geq U(\omega)\} \leq x \\ &\implies \omega \in \{F^{-1}(U) \leq x\}\end{aligned}$$

$$U \sim \text{Unif}(0, 1), \quad X = F^{-1}(U) \quad \implies \quad F_X = F$$

For any $x \in \mathbb{R}$,

$$\begin{aligned} F_X(x) &= \mathbb{P}\left(\{X \leq x\}\right) \\ &= \mathbb{P}\left(\{F^{-1}(U) \leq x\}\right) \\ &= \mathbb{P}\left(\{U \leq F(x)\}\right) \\ &= F(x) \end{aligned}$$

Examples

Generate a sample X from the **standard Rayleigh distribution** whose PDF is given by

$$f(x) = x e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}}, \quad x > 0.$$

- The CDF is given by

$$\forall x > 0, \quad F(x) = \int_0^x u e^{-\frac{u^2}{2}} du = \int_0^{x^2/2} e^{-t} dt = 1 - e^{-x^2/2}.$$

- For any $u \in (0, 1)$,

$$\begin{aligned} F^{-1}(u) &= \inf \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R} : F(x) \geq u \right\} = \inf \left\{ x > 0 : F(x) \geq u \right\} = \inf \left\{ x > 0 : 1 - e^{-x^2/2} \geq u \right\} \\ &= \inf \left\{ x > 0 : x^2 \geq -2 \ln(1 - u) \right\} = \inf \left\{ x > 0 : x \geq \sqrt{-2 \ln(1 - u)} \right\} = \sqrt{-2 \ln(1 - u)} \end{aligned}$$

- Generate $U \sim \text{Unif}(0, 1)$ on a computer, set $X = F^{-1}(U)$

The Box-Muller Transform

Given $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\sigma > 0$, generate a sample $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ using only $\text{Uniform}(0, 1)$ samples.

- Generate $U_1, U_2 \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Uniform}(0, 1)$
- Set $R = \sqrt{-2 \ln(1 - U_1)}$, $\Theta = 2\pi U_2$ $U_1 \perp U_2 \implies R \perp \Theta$
- Set $X = R \cos \Theta$, $Y = R \sin \Theta$
- **Exercise:** Using Jacobi's transformation formula (bivariate case),

$$\forall (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2, \quad f_{X,Y}(x, y) = \frac{1}{2\pi} e^{-(x^2+y^2)/2} = \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2} \right)}_{f_X(x)} \cdot \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-y^2/2} \right)}_{f_Y(y)}$$

- Keep X , discard Y $\text{Set } Z = \sigma X + \mu$
- **Exercise:** It can be shown that $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$