

The pdf of a quotient of two independent normal distributed variables:

Let X and Y be independent continuous random variables, with pdfs $f_X(x)$ and $f_Y(y)$, respectively. Assume that X is zero for at most a set of isolated points. Let $W=Y/X$. Then:

$$f_W(w) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x| f_X(x) f_Y(wx) dx \quad (1)$$

Larsen (2012)

Knowing that the pdfs of X and Y are:

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_X} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu_X}{\sigma_X}\right)^2}, \quad f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_Y} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{y-\mu_Y}{\sigma_Y}\right)^2} \quad (2)$$

Replacing in (1):

$$\begin{aligned} f_W(w) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x| \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_X} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu_X}{\sigma_X}\right)^2} \right] \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_Y} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{wx-\mu_Y}{\sigma_Y}\right)^2} \right] dx \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_X\sigma_Y} \right) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x| e^{-\underbrace{\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x-\mu_X}{\sigma_X}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{wx-\mu_Y}{\sigma_Y}\right)^2 \right]}_{u(x)}} dx \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Defining:

$$u(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{x-\mu_X}{\sigma_X} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{wx-\mu_Y}{\sigma_Y} \right)^2 \quad (4)$$

Expanding the quadratic expressions:

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= \frac{x^2 - 2x\mu_X + \mu_X^2}{2\sigma_X^2} + \frac{(wx)^2 - 2wx\mu_Y + \mu_Y^2}{2\sigma_Y^2} \\ &= \frac{(\sigma_Y^2 + \sigma_X^2 w^2)x^2 - 2(\sigma_Y^2 \mu_X + \sigma_X^2 w\mu_Y)x + (\sigma_Y^2 \mu_X^2 + \sigma_X^2 \mu_Y^2)}{2\sigma_X^2 \sigma_Y^2} \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Considering the integral is respecting to x , we have the following constants:

$$a = \frac{\sigma_Y^2 + \sigma_X^2 w^2}{2\sigma_X^2 \sigma_Y^2}, \quad b = \frac{\sigma_Y^2 \mu_X + \sigma_X^2 w\mu_Y}{\sigma_X^2 \sigma_Y^2}, \quad c = \frac{\sigma_Y^2 \mu_X^2 + \sigma_X^2 \mu_Y^2}{2\sigma_X^2 \sigma_Y^2} \quad (6)$$

Replacing (6) in (5):

$$u(x) = ax^2 - bx + c \quad (7)$$

Replacing $u(x)$ from (7) in (3):

$$f(w) = \left(\frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_x\sigma_y} \right) e^{-c} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x| e^{-(ax^2-bx)} dx = \left(\frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_x\sigma_y} \right) e^{-c} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x| e^{-ax^2+bx} dx \quad (8)$$

Defining:

$$K = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_x\sigma_y} e^{-c} \quad (9)$$

Replacing K from (9) in (8):

$$f_w(w) = K \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x| e^{-ax^2+bx} dx \quad (10)$$

Splitting the integral in two sides ($-\infty < x < 0$) and ($0 < x < \infty$) in order to decompose the absolute function $|x|$:

$$\begin{aligned} f_w(w) &= K \left(-\int_{-\infty}^0 x e^{-ax^2+bx} dx + \int_0^{\infty} x e^{-ax^2+bx} dx \right) \\ &= K \left(\underbrace{\int_0^{\infty} x e^{-ax^2-bx} dx}_{g(w)} + \underbrace{\int_0^{\infty} x e^{-ax^2+bx} dx}_{h(w)} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Both $g(w)$ and $h(w)$ definite integrals are function of w because a and b are constant regarding to x , but function regarding to w (6). Now, we will proceed solving each integral.

We will solve these integrals by using an online tool for calculating indefinite integrals as a reference (integral-calculator.com).

Solving $g(w)$ (11):

$$g(w) = \int_0^{\infty} x e^{-ax^2-bx} dx \quad (12)$$

Substituting x in the non-exponential factor:

$$x = \frac{1}{2a}(2ax+b) - \frac{b}{2a}$$

Then:

$$g(w) = \int_0^\infty \left(\frac{1}{2a}(2ax+b) - \frac{b}{2a} \right) e^{-ax^2-bx} dx = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2a} \int_0^\infty (2ax+b) e^{-ax^2-bx} dx}_{\alpha(w)} - \underbrace{\frac{b}{2a} \int_0^\infty e^{-ax^2-bx} dx}_{\beta(w)} \quad (13)$$

Solving $\alpha(w)$:

$$\alpha(w) = \int_0^\infty (2ax+b) e^{-ax^2-bx} dx \quad (14)$$

Defining:

$$u = -ax^2 - bx \Rightarrow \frac{du}{dx} = -2ax - b \Rightarrow dx = -\frac{1}{2ax+b} du$$

Applying in $\alpha(w)$ (14):

$$\alpha(w) = \int_0^\infty (2ax+b) e^u \left(-\frac{1}{2ax+b} \right) du = - \int_0^\infty e^u du = -e^u \Big|_0^\infty$$

Replacing u:

$$a > 0 \text{ always} \Rightarrow \alpha(w) = -e^{-ax^2-bx} \Big|_0^\infty = -(-1) = 1 \quad (15)$$

Solving $\beta(w)$:

$$\beta(w) = \int_0^\infty e^{-ax^2-bx} dx \quad (16)$$

Completing the square in the exponent:

$$\beta(w) = \int_0^\infty e^{-\left[\left(\sqrt{ax} + \frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}} \right)^2 - \frac{b^2}{4a} \right]} dx = e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}} \int_0^\infty e^{-\left(\sqrt{ax} + \frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}} \right)^2} dx \quad (17)$$

Defining:

$$u = \sqrt{ax} + \frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}} \Rightarrow \frac{du}{dx} = \sqrt{a} \Rightarrow dx = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} du \quad (18)$$

Applying in $\beta(w)$:

$$\beta(w) = e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}} \int_{x=0}^{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^{-u^2}}{\sqrt{a}} du \quad (19)$$

In this last integral we remember that the limits are defined in terms of x , and not for u . To put the limits in terms of u , just apply the limits of x in u . Thus:

$$u(x=0) = \frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}}, \quad u(x \rightarrow \infty) \rightarrow \infty$$

Replacing limits in $\beta(w)$:

$$\beta(w) = e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}} \int_{\frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}}}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-u^2}}{\sqrt{a}} du \quad (20)$$

Making some changes that do not alter the equation:

$$\beta(w) = \left(\frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2\sqrt{a}} e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}} \right) \underbrace{\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{\frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}}}^{\infty} e^{-u^2} du}_{\operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}}\right)} \quad (21)$$

The function $\operatorname{erfc}(z)$ is a special function of statistical mathematics called *the complementary error function*, and it is related to the error function $\operatorname{erf}(z)$:

$$\operatorname{erfc}(z) = 1 - \operatorname{erf}(z)$$

$$\operatorname{erf}(z) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^z e^{-t^2} dt, \quad \operatorname{erfc}(z) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_z^{\infty} e^{-t^2} dt$$

Thus:

$$\beta(w) = \left(\frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2\sqrt{a}} e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}} \right) \left[1 - \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}}\right) \right] \quad (22)$$

Applying the solutions of $\alpha(w)$ (15), $\beta(w)$ (22) in $g(w)$ (13):

$$\begin{aligned} g(w) &= \frac{1}{2a}(1) - \frac{b}{2a} \left\{ \left(\frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2\sqrt{a}} e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}} \right) \left[1 - \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}}\right) \right] \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{2a} - \frac{b\sqrt{\pi}e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}}}{4a^{\frac{3}{2}}} \left[1 - \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}}\right) \right] \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Solving $\hat{h}(w)$ (11):

$$h(w) = \int_0^{\infty} x e^{-ax^2+bx} dx \quad (24)$$

Substituting x in the non-exponential factor:

$$x = \frac{1}{2a}(2ax - b) + \frac{b}{2a},$$

Then:

$$h(w) = \int_0^\infty \left[\frac{1}{2a}(2ax - b) + \frac{b}{2a} \right] e^{-ax^2 + bx} dx = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2a} \int_0^\infty (2ax - b) e^{-ax^2 + bx} dx}_{\eta(w)} + \underbrace{\frac{b}{2a} \int_0^\infty e^{-ax^2 + bx} dx}_{\chi(w)} \quad (25)$$

Solving $\eta(x)$ (ec.B.25):

$$\eta(w) = \int_0^\infty (2ax - b) e^{-ax^2 + bx} dx \quad (26)$$

Defining:

$$u = bx - ax^2 \Rightarrow \frac{du}{dx} = b - 2ax \Rightarrow dx = \frac{1}{b - 2ax} du$$

Applying in $\eta(w)$:

$$\eta(w) = \int_0^\infty (2ax - b) e^u \frac{1}{b - 2ax} du = - \int_0^\infty e^u du = -e^u \Big|_0^\infty$$

Replacing u:

$$\eta(w) = -e^{bx - ax^2} \Big|_0^\infty = -(-1) = 1 \quad (27)$$

Solving $\chi(x)$ (25):

$$\chi(w) = \int_0^\infty e^{-ax^2 + bx} dx \quad (28)$$

Completing the square on the exponent:

$$\chi(w) = \int_0^\infty e^{-\left[\left(\sqrt{ax} - \frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}}\right)^2 - \frac{b^2}{4a}\right]} dx = e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}} \int_0^\infty e^{-\left(\sqrt{ax} - \frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}}\right)^2} dx \quad (29)$$

Defining:

$$u = \sqrt{a}x - \frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}} \Rightarrow \frac{du}{dx} = \sqrt{a} \Rightarrow dx = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a}} du$$

Applying in $\chi(w)$:

$$\chi(w) = e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}} \int_{x=0}^{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^{-u^2}}{\sqrt{a}} du \quad (30)$$

In this last integral the limits are defined in terms of x . To put the limits in terms of u , we must apply the limits of x in u . Thus:

$$u(x=0) = -\frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}}, \quad u(x \rightarrow \infty) \rightarrow \infty$$

Replacing in $\chi(w)$ (ec.B.30):

$$\chi(w) = e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}} \int_{-\frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}}}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-u^2}}{\sqrt{a}} du \quad (31)$$

Making some changes that do not alter the equation:

$$\chi(w) = \left(\frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2\sqrt{a}} e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}} \right) \underbrace{\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}}}^{\infty} e^{-u^2} du}_{\operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{-b}{2\sqrt{a}}\right)} \quad (32)$$

This solution also involves the *complementary error function* $\operatorname{erfc}(z)$, so the final expression for $\chi(w)$, in terms $\operatorname{erf}(z)$ could be:

$$\chi(w) = \left(\frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2\sqrt{a}} e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}} \right) \left[1 - \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{-b}{2\sqrt{a}}\right) \right] \quad (33)$$

However, as we shall see, to achieve a simpler final solution for $f(w)$, we must make a slight modification to this result. For this, we note that $\operatorname{erf}(z)$ is an even function:

$$\operatorname{erf}(-z) = -\operatorname{erf}(z)$$

Then:

$$\chi(w) = \left(\frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2\sqrt{a}} e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}} \right) \left[1 + \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}}\right) \right] \quad (34)$$

Applying the solutions of $\eta(w)$ (27), $\chi(w)$ (34) in $\hat{h}(w)$ (25):

$$h(w) = \int_0^\infty \left[\frac{1}{2a}(2ax - b) + \frac{b}{2a} \right] e^{-ax^2 + bx} dx = \frac{1}{2a} \int_0^\infty (2ax - b) e^{-ax^2 + bx} dx + \frac{b}{2a} \int_0^\infty e^{-ax^2 + bx} dx$$

$$\begin{aligned} h(w) &= \frac{1}{2a}(1) + \frac{b}{2a} \left\{ \left(\frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2\sqrt{a}} e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}} \right) \left[1 + \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}} \right) \right] \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{2a} + \frac{b\sqrt{\pi}e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}}}{4a^{\frac{3}{2}}} \left[1 + \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}} \right) \right] \quad \blacksquare \end{aligned} \quad (35)$$

Final solution of $f(w)$:

Applying the solutions of $g(w)$ (23) y $\hat{h}(w)$ (35) in $f(w)$ (11):

$$\begin{aligned} f(w) &= K \left(\int_0^\infty x e^{-ax^2 - bx} dx + \int_0^\infty x e^{-ax^2 + bx} dx \right) = K (g(w) + h(w)) \\ &= K \left(\frac{1}{2a} - \frac{b\sqrt{\pi}e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}}}{4a^{\frac{3}{2}}} \left[1 - \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}} \right) \right] + \frac{1}{2a} + \frac{b\sqrt{\pi}e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}}}{4a^{\frac{3}{2}}} \left[1 + \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}} \right) \right] \right) \\ &= K \left(\frac{1}{a} + \frac{b\sqrt{\pi}e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}}}{2a^{\frac{3}{2}}} \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{b}{2\sqrt{a}} \right) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

Remembering:

$$a = \frac{\sigma_Y^2 + \sigma_X^2 w^2}{2\sigma_X^2 \sigma_Y^2}, \quad b = \frac{\sigma_Y^2 \mu_X + \sigma_X^2 w \mu_Y}{\sigma_X^2 \sigma_Y^2}, \quad c = \frac{\sigma_Y^2 \mu_X^2 + \sigma_X^2 \mu_Y^2}{2\sigma_X^2 \sigma_Y^2} \quad \text{from (6)}$$

$$K = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_X\sigma_Y} e^{-c} \quad \text{from (9)}$$

Finally, applying in (36):

$$f(w) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_x\sigma_y} e^{-\frac{\sigma_y^2\mu_x^2 + \sigma_x^2\mu_y^2}{2\sigma_x^2\sigma_y^2}} \left(\frac{1}{\frac{\sigma_y^2 + \sigma_x^2 w^2}{2\sigma_x^2\sigma_y^2}} + \frac{\left(\frac{\sigma_y^2\mu_x + \sigma_x^2 w\mu_y}{\sigma_x^2\sigma_y^2} \right) \sqrt{\pi} e^{\frac{\left(\frac{\sigma_y^2\mu_x + \sigma_x^2 w\mu_y}{\sigma_x^2\sigma_y^2} \right)^2}{4 \left(\frac{\sigma_y^2 + \sigma_x^2 w^2}{2\sigma_x^2\sigma_y^2} \right)}}}{2 \left(\frac{\sigma_y^2 + \sigma_x^2 w^2}{2\sigma_x^2\sigma_y^2} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}}} - \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{\frac{\sigma_y^2\mu_x + \sigma_x^2 w\mu_y}{\sigma_x^2\sigma_y^2}}{2 \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_y^2 + \sigma_x^2 w^2}{2\sigma_x^2\sigma_y^2}}} \right) \right)$$

With $w=y/x$

(37)

In Figure 1 we show some of the graphs of the probability density functions that can be obtained with different parameters of means and standard deviations for the variables x and y .

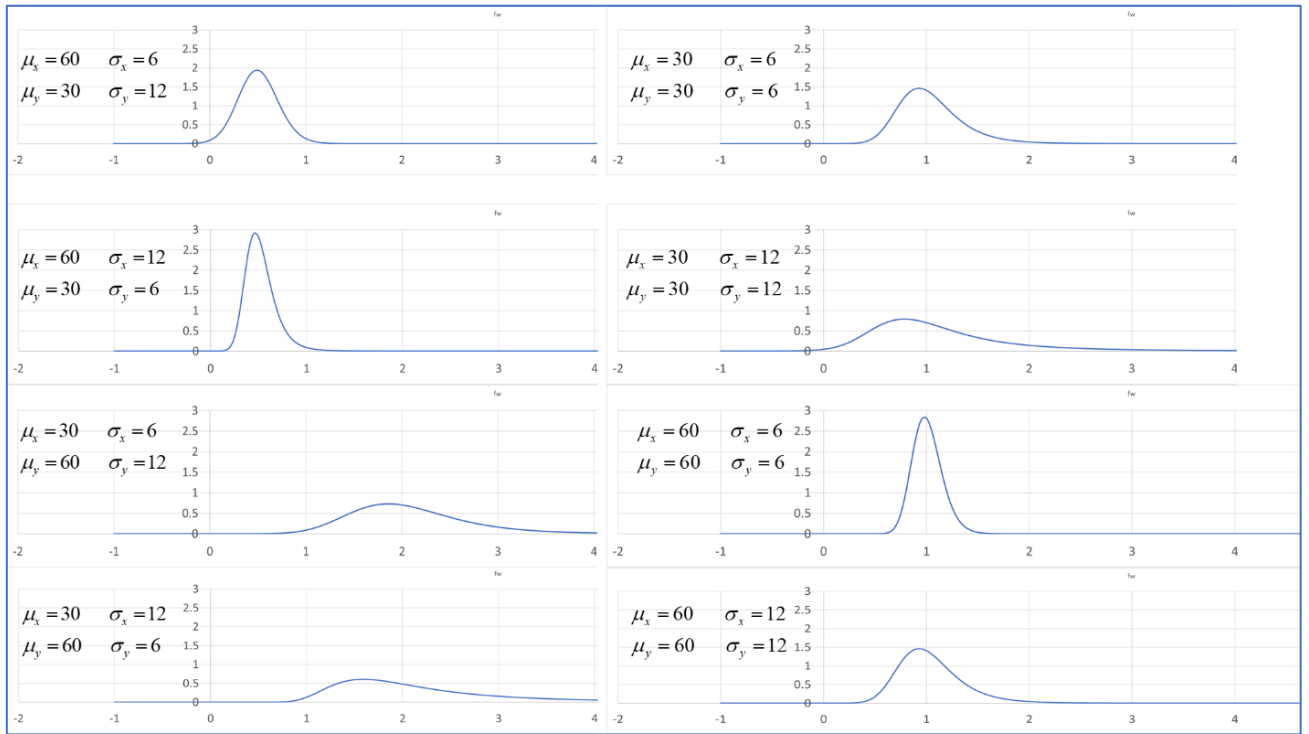


Figure 1