

Arguably the most common stable distribution parameterization has characteristic function given by

$$\varphi(t; \alpha, \beta, c, \mu) = \exp(it\mu - |ct|^\alpha(1 - i\beta \operatorname{sgn}(t)\Phi)), \quad \Phi = \begin{cases} \tan(\frac{\pi\alpha}{2}), & \text{if } \alpha \neq 1 \\ -\frac{2}{\pi} \log|t|, & \text{if } \alpha = 1 \end{cases}$$

For simplicity, we force the scale $c = 1$ and the location $\mu = 0$, yielding

$$\varphi(t; \alpha, \beta) = \exp(-|t|^\alpha(1 - i\beta \operatorname{sgn}(t)\Phi))$$

with Φ defined as before.

PDF Integrand Derivation

Probability density functions are the Fourier transforms of their respective characteristic functions, so

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \varphi(t) e^{-ixt} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-|t|^\alpha(1 - i\beta \operatorname{sgn}(t)\Phi)) \exp(-ixt) dt \end{aligned}$$

By Euler's formula and ignoring strictly complex terms (since the PDF is real-valued),

$$= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \exp(-|t|^\alpha) [\cos(|t|^\alpha \beta \operatorname{sgn}(t)\Phi) \cos(xt) + \sin(|t|^\alpha \beta \operatorname{sgn}(t)\Phi) \sin(xt)] dt$$

Lastly, by symmetry,

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \exp(-t^\alpha) [\cos(t^\alpha \beta \Phi) \cos(xt) + \sin(t^\alpha \beta \Phi) \sin(xt)] dt$$

Note that the oscillatory terms $\cos(xt)$ and $\sin(xt)$ should be incorporated into a weighting function in QUADPACK routines.

Transforming into the S_0 parameterization of Nolan amounts to computing $f(x + \beta \tan(\pi\alpha/2))$ instead of $f(x)$ when $\alpha \neq 1$.

CDF Integrand Derivation

Due to an inversion formula by Gil-Pelaez, we have

$$F(x) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\operatorname{Im}[\varphi(t) e^{-ixt}]}{t} dt$$

Rewriting to make use of $t \geq 0$ yields

$$= \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\operatorname{Im}[\exp(-t^\alpha(1 - i\beta\Phi)) \exp(-ixt)]}{t} dt$$

and applying Euler's formula gives us

$$F(x) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{\exp(-t^\alpha) [-\cos(t^\alpha \beta \Phi) \sin(xt) + \sin(t^\alpha \beta \Phi) \cos(xt)]}{t} dt$$

Note that the oscillatory terms $\cos(xt)$ and $\sin(xt)$ should be incorporated into a weighting function in QUADPACK routines.

Transforming into the S_0 parameterization of Nolan amounts to computing $F(x + \beta \tan(\pi\alpha/2))$ instead of $F(x)$ when $\alpha \neq 1$.