

Theorem The arcsin distribution has the variate generation property, i.e., its cumulative distribution function can be inverted in closed form.

Proof Let X be an arcsin random variable. The probability density function of X is

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\pi\sqrt{x(1-x)}} \quad 0 < x < 1.$$

We first find the cumulative distribution function of X :

$$\begin{aligned} F_X(x) &= \int_0^x f_X(t) dt \\ &= \int_0^x \frac{1}{\pi\sqrt{t(1-t)}} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^x \frac{1}{\sqrt{t(1-t)}} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-1}^{2x-1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^2}} du \quad (\text{after making a } u = 2t - 1 \text{ substitution}) \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \arcsin(u) \Big|_{-1}^{2x-1} \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} [\arcsin(2x-1) - \arcsin(-1)] \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\arcsin(2x-1) + \frac{\pi}{2} \right] \\ &= \frac{\arcsin(2x-1)}{\pi} + \frac{1}{2} \quad 0 < x < 1. \end{aligned}$$

We want to fix $u \in (0, 1)$ and solve for x :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\arcsin(2x-1)}{\pi} + \frac{1}{2} &= u \\ \arcsin(2x-1) &= \pi \left(u - \frac{1}{2} \right) \\ x &= [\sin(\pi(u - 1/2)) + 1] / 2. \end{aligned}$$

This verifies the variate generation property of the arcsin distribution.

APPL verification: The APPL statements below and a little algebra verify the result.

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X := ArcSinRV();
IDF(X);
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