

**Theorem** The product of  $n$  mutually independent log normal random variables is log normal.

**Proof** (an elegant proof that uses the L property of the normal distribution) Let  $X_1 \sim \text{lognormal}(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2)$  and  $X_2 \sim \text{lognormal}(\mu_2, \sigma_2^2)$  (using the parametrization in the chart,  $\mu = \ln \alpha$  and  $\beta = \sigma$ ) be independent. Then  $X_1 = e^{X'_1}$  and  $X_2 = e^{X'_2}$  for independent normally distributed random variables  $X'_1 \sim N(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2)$  and  $X'_2 \sim N(\mu_2, \sigma_2^2)$ . We have  $Y = X_1 X_2 = e^{X'_1 + X'_2}$  and the result for  $n = 2$  follows from the linear combination property (L) of normal distribution. The general result follows by induction.

**Proof** [A brutish, unfinished proof that remains ... UNDER CONSTRUCTION] Let  $X_1 \sim \text{log normal}(\alpha_1, \beta_1)$  and  $X_2 \sim \text{log normal}(\alpha_2, \beta_2)$  be independent log normal random variables. We can write their probability density functions as

$$f_{X_1}(x_1) = \frac{1}{x_1 \beta_1 \sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\ln(x_1/\alpha_1)/\beta_1)^2} \quad x_1 > 0$$

and

$$f_{X_2}(x_2) = \frac{1}{x_2 \beta_2 \sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\ln(x_2/\alpha_2)/\beta_2)^2} \quad x_2 > 0.$$

Since  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  are independent, the joint probability density function of  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  is

$$f_{X_1, X_2}(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{2\pi x_1 x_2 \beta_1 \beta_2} e^{-\frac{1}{2}[(\ln(x_1/\alpha_1)/\beta_1)^2 + (\ln(x_2/\alpha_2)/\beta_2)^2]} \quad x_1 > 0, x_2 > 0.$$

Consider the  $2 \times 2$  transformation

$$Y_1 = g_1(X_1, X_2) = X_1 X_2 \quad \text{and} \quad Y_2 = g_2(X_1, X_2) = X_2$$

which is a 1-1 transformation from  $\mathcal{X} = \{(x_1, x_2) \mid x_1 > 0, x_2 > 0\}$  to  $\mathcal{Y} = \{(y_1, y_2) \mid y_1 > 0, y_2 > 0\}$  with inverses

$$X_1 = g_1^{-1}(Y_1, Y_2) = \frac{Y_1}{Y_2} \quad \text{and} \quad X_2 = g_2^{-1}(Y_1, Y_2) = Y_2$$

and Jacobian

$$J = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{1}{Y_2} & -\frac{Y_1}{Y_2^2} \\ 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} = \frac{1}{Y_2}.$$

Therefore by the transformation technique, the joint probability density function of  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  is

$$\begin{aligned} f_{Y_1, Y_2}(y_1, y_2) &= f_{X_1, X_2}(g_1^{-1}(y_1, y_2), g_2^{-1}(y_1, y_2)) |J| \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi y_1 \beta_1 \beta_2} e^{-\frac{1}{2}[(\ln(y_1/\alpha_1 y_2)/\beta_1)^2 + (\ln(y_2/\alpha_2)/\beta_2)^2]} \left| \frac{1}{y_2} \right| \end{aligned}$$

for  $y_1 > 0, y_2 > 0$ . The probability density function of  $Y_1$  is

$$\begin{aligned} f_{Y_1}(y_1) &= \int_0^\infty f_{Y_1, Y_2}(y_1, y_2) dy_2 \\ &= \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{2\pi y_1 y_2 \beta_1 \beta_2} e^{-\frac{1}{2}[(\ln(y_1/\alpha_1 y_2)/\beta_1)^2 + (\ln(y_2/\alpha_2)/\beta_2)^2]} dy_2 \\ &= \end{aligned}$$

which is the probability density function of a log normal random variable. This integral can be computed in Maple with the statements below.

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assume(alpha1 > 0);
assume(alpha2 > 0);
assume(beta1 > 0);
assume(beta2 > 0);
int(exp(-((log(y1/(alpha1 * y2)) / beta1) ^ 2 +
(log(y2/alpha2) / beta2) ^ 2) / 2) /
(2 * Pi * y1 * y2 * beta1 * beta2), y2 = 0 .. infinity);
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Induction can be used with the above result to verify that the product of  $n$  mutually independent log normal random variables is log normal. Let  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  be  $n$  mutually independent log normal random variables. Consider their product  $X_1 X_2 \dots X_n$ . By the result above,  $X_1 X_2$  is log normal. Suppose we've demonstrated that  $\prod_{i=1}^k X_i$  is a log normal random variable. Consider  $\prod_{i=1}^{k+1} X_i$ . Since  $X_{k+1}$  is also log normal,  $\prod_{i=1}^{k+1} X_i$  is log normal by the result above. It follows by induction that  $X_1 X_2 \dots X_n$  must be log normal.