

Theorem: The $\beta'(b, b)$ distribution converges to the normal distribution when $b \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof¹: The beta-prime distribution with the shape parameters α and β , $X \sim \beta'(\alpha, \beta)$, has the probability density function

$$f_X(x) = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha + \beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)} x^{\alpha-1} (1+x)^{-\alpha-\beta}, \quad x \in (0, \infty). \quad (1)$$

For the special case of $\alpha = \beta = b$, $X \sim \beta'(b, b)$, the probability density function becomes

$$f_X(x) = \frac{\Gamma(2b)}{\Gamma(b)\Gamma(b)} x^{b-1} (1+x)^{-2b}. \quad (2)$$

We introduce the transformed random variable Y and the according Jacobian

$$Y = \sqrt{\frac{b}{2}}X - 1, \quad X = 1 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}}Y, \quad \frac{dX}{dY} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}}. \quad (3)$$

For $y \in \left(\sqrt{\frac{2}{b}}, \infty\right)$, Y has the probability density function

$$\begin{aligned} f_Y(y) &= \frac{\Gamma(2b)}{\Gamma(b)\Gamma(b)} \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}} \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}}y\right)^{b-1} \left(2 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}}y\right)^{-2b} \\ &= \frac{\Gamma(2b)}{\Gamma(b)\Gamma(b)} \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}} \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}}y\right)^{-1} \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}}y + \left(\frac{1}{2b}y^2 - \frac{1}{2b}y^2\right)}{4 + 4\sqrt{\frac{2}{b}}y + \frac{2}{b}y^2}\right)^b \\ &= \frac{\Gamma(2b)}{\Gamma(b)\Gamma(b)} 4^{-b} \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}} \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}}y\right)^{-1} \left(1 + \frac{-\frac{1}{2}y^2}{b\left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}}y + \frac{1}{2b}y^2\right)}\right)^b. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

We can use Stirling's formula $\Gamma(z) = \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{z}} \left(\frac{z}{e}\right)^z (1 + O(\frac{1}{z}))$ to rewrite the probability density function as

$$\begin{aligned} f_Y(y) &= \frac{\sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{2b}} \left(\frac{2b}{e}\right)^{2b}}{\frac{2\pi}{b} \left(\frac{b}{e}\right)^{2b}} 4^{-b} \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}} \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}}y\right)^{-1} \left(1 + \frac{-\frac{1}{2}y^2}{b\left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}}y + \frac{1}{2b}y^2\right)}\right)^b \left(1 + O\left(\frac{1}{b}\right)\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}}y\right)^{-1} \left(1 + \frac{-\frac{1}{2}y^2}{b\left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}}y + \frac{1}{2b}y^2\right)}\right)^b \left(1 + O\left(\frac{1}{b}\right)\right). \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

With $z = -\frac{1}{2}y^2$ and $c = -\frac{1}{2}$, the limit of the central part of Equation (5) can be rewritten as

$$\lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{z}{b(1 + O(b^c))}\right)^b = \exp\left(\lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{b^{-1}} \ln\left(1 + \frac{z}{b(1 + O(b^c))}\right)\right) = e^z, \quad (6)$$

¹Following the ideas for the beta distribution from: R. Ryder, "Theorem: The beta(b, b) distribution converges to the normal distribution when $b \rightarrow \infty$," 2012. [Online]. Available: <http://www.math.wm.edu/~leemis/chart/UDR/PDFs/BetaNormal.pdf>.

Proof for Equation (6): With $c < 0$, the inner limit is of indetermined form. The limit can be found by applying L'Hôpital's rule:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{b^{-1}} \ln \left(1 + \frac{z}{b(1 + O(b^c))} \right) &= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\left(\frac{d}{db} b^{-1}\right)} \left(\frac{d}{db} \ln \left(1 + \frac{z}{b(1 + O(b^c))} \right) \right) \\ &= \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{b^{-2}} \frac{b(1 + O(b^c))}{b(1 + O(b^c)) + \frac{b}{b} z} \frac{-z(1 + O(b^c))}{b^2(1 + O(b^c))} = \lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \frac{z(1 + O(b^c))}{(1 + O(b^c))} = z. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

The limit of the product of functions is the product of the limits of the functions unless we have an indeterminate form. For the analysis with $b \rightarrow \infty$ and fixed y , the limit of $\lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{b}} y \right)^{-1} = 1$ and $\lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} (1 + O(\frac{1}{b})) = 1$ can simply be dropped in Equation (5). Based on this and Equation (6), the probability density function of Y converges point wise to the probability density function of a standard normal random variable

$$\lim_{b \rightarrow \infty} f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}y^2}, \quad y \in \left(\sqrt{\frac{2}{b}}, \infty \right). \quad (8)$$

By Scheffé's theorem, Y converges in distribution to the standard normal distribution. By undoing the substitution, we can see that X converges in distribution to the normal distribution with mean 1 and variance $\frac{2}{b}$.