

Theorem: Let U be a uniform random variable on $[0, 1]$. Let X be a continuous random variable with cumulative distribution function (cdf) $F(\cdot)$. Let Y be defined such that $Y = F^{-1}(U)$. Proof that Y has cdf $F(\cdot)$.

Proof:

Note that, a random variable U is uniformly distributed on $[0, 1]$ if the following holds

$$U \sim Uniform[0, 1] \Leftrightarrow Pr[U \leq u] = u. \quad (1)$$

Also note that for any function $g(\cdot)$ with a unique inverse function $g^{-1}(\cdot)$, the following holds

$$g\{g^{-1}(x)\} = x \quad \vee \quad g^{-1}\{g(x)\} = x. \quad (2)$$

The function $F(\cdot)$ is the cdf of a continuous random variable X , hence its inverse $F^{-1}(\cdot)$ is uniquely defined on $[0, 1]$. Let $Y = F^{-1}(U)$ and consider

$$Pr[Y \leq y] = Pr[F^{-1}(U) \leq y]. \quad (3)$$

Since the function $F(\cdot)$ is a strictly increasing function we have with (3) that

$$\Pr[Y \leq y] = \Pr[F\{F^{-1}(U)\} \leq F(y)]. \quad (4)$$

Equations (2) and (4) yield

$$\Pr[Y \leq y] = \Pr[U \leq F(y)] \quad (5)$$

and from (1) and (5) we have $\Pr[Y \leq y] = F(y)$. □