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Criteria	Examiner 1	maximum	Examiner 2	maximum	Examiner 3
A research question		2		2	
B introduction		2		2	
C investigation	3	4		4 1.5	
D knowledge and understanding	2	4		4	
E reasoned argument	3	4		4	
F analysis and evaluation	2	4		4	
G use of subject language	3	4		.4	
H conclusion	2	2		2	
I formal presentation	3	4		4	
J abstract	2	2		2	
K holistic judgment	3	4		4	
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EXTENDED ESSAY

Generating Arbitrary Uniform Probability Distributions

Word count: 3258

Abstract

This paper presents a general method to generate points distributed uniformly across any arbitrary spatial region or boundary. Although computers can generate onedimensional uniform distributions quite effectively, uniform distributions across more complex regions in higher dimensions cannot directly be generated. So, this paper aims to explore the process of producing points in an arbitrary uniform distribution beginning with the generation of only one-dimensional random variables.

An initial observation is made through exploring the use of parametric equations over uniformly distributed parameters to directly produce distributions, which fails to a lack of uniformity over the resultant region. A combination of multivariate probability theory, vector calculus, and mathematical reasoning leads to a solution applicable to continuous and differentiable regions, which is then extended to boundary cases. Upon examination of a specific complex case with nondifferentiable points, a geometric approach is then used to improve on and generalize the result.

The main result of this study is summarized as a four-step procedure that can be applied to generate uniform distributions over generalized regions and boundaries. As an exploration, this paper also evaluates possible problems with the method while providing some useful general solutions that can be used in a variety of distribution problems. The result of this investigation offers the possibility of generalizing other one-dimensional distributions to higher dimensions in the future.

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Introduction 1

Uniform probability distributions prove to be a highly useful aspect of mathematics, with applications in topics ranging from risk assessment to modeling. Notably, the uniform distribution is a commonly used prior distribution (representing information known of an uncertain parameter before any information is gained) in Bayesian inference (Gelman 6-7). Additionally, the uniform distribution often forms a precursor to generating a more complex distribution, as the most commonly random number generation algorithms used today are optimized to generate values with equal probabilities. These algorithms, known as pseudorandom number generators (PRNGs), include the Mersenne Twister, Lehmer PRNG, and example? linear congruential generators, amongst many others.

One can easily extend these one-dimensional uniform distributions into higher dimensions by taking multiple random values as additional Cartesian coordinates, generating distributions over squares, cubes, tesseracts, and hypercubes. However, uniform distributions over arbitrarily (non-hypercube) shaped regions, such as the position of any water molecule in a jug, also cannot be generated directly with PRNGs. For example, Monte Carlo modeling of photon propagation notably requires the generation of uniform points across the surface of a sphere, useful for statistical physics and engineering models (Penzov et al.). Interestingly, these arbitrary uniform distributions are already quite difficult to generate even for shapes as intuitively simple as a sphere; this problem provided the motivation behind an exploration of the topic. This essay will outline a general method to generate these arbitrary uniform distributions, constructing a solution through multivariate probability theory, vector calculus, and geometry while exploring some potential mathematical pitfalls of the process.

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EXPLAIN

$\mathbf{2}$ Naive generation

2.1Sphere distributions

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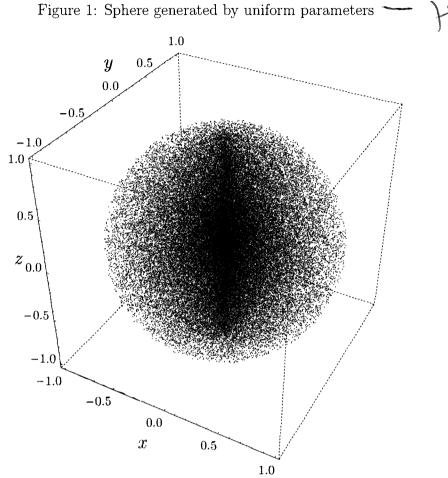
Parameterization offers a powerful way to express abstract mathematical objects in terms of known variables. For example, a unit-sphere can be generated with its well-known-parametric equations in spherical coordinates $x = \rho \cos \theta \sin \phi$, $y = \rho \sin \theta \sin \phi$, and $z = \rho \cos \phi$, where $0 \le \rho < 1, 0 \le \phi < \pi$, and $0 \le \theta < 2\pi$ The immediate, intuitive approach to generate a uniform distribution across this sphere is to randomize the parameters ρ , θ , and ϕ uniformly for each point. The result of 10^5 of these points is illustrated in Figure 1, and the same points viewed through the three axis planes are shown in Appendix A, Table 2. 10^5 was chosen as a sufficiently large number of random points to fully visitualizthe distribution that is generated using uniform parameter distributions.

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Clearly, this method of generation yields a distribution that does not visually appear uniform. The points qualitatively appear more densely distributed about the vertical axis of the sphere along the z-axis, with the greatest density of points around the sphere's center. Intuitively, this result should be quite predictable, especially when considering the consequences of generating ρ uniformly. While we generated a theoretically equal number of points between $0 \le \rho < 0.5$ and $0.5 \le \rho < 1$, the first range encompasses a volume of $4\pi (0.5)^3/3 \approx 0.524$, while the second range encompasses a volume of $4\pi(1^3 - 0.5^3)/3 \approx 3.665$. Evidently, an equal number of points in both of these regions will result in a denser distribution across the first. still not defined.

$\mathbf{2.2}$ Jacobian determinants

To describe this distortion of the uniform distribution mathematically, the Jacobian determinant is used; it is the determinant of the Jacobian matrix of an n-dimensional transformation $\mathbf{x}: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$ of functions $x_1, x_2, ..., x_n$ over parameters $\mathbf{t} = (t_1, t_2, ..., t_n)$, and quantifies the expansion or contraction in volume around every point. The Jacobian matrix is defined as:

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{t}} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial t_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial t_n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial x_n}{\partial t_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial x_n}{\partial t_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

In the case of the sphere above, its Jacobian determinant is:

$$\frac{\partial x_n}{\partial t_1} \cdots \frac{\partial x_n}{\partial t_n}$$
where above, its Jacobian determinant is:

$$\det \frac{\partial (x, y, z)}{\partial (\rho, \phi, \theta)} = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial \phi} & \frac{\partial x}{\partial \theta} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial \rho} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial \phi} & \frac{\partial y}{\partial \theta} \\ \frac{\partial z}{\partial \rho} & \frac{\partial z}{\partial \phi} & \frac{\partial z}{\partial \theta} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} \cos \theta \sin \phi & \rho \cos \theta \cos \phi & -\rho \sin \theta \sin \phi \\ \sin \theta \sin \phi & \rho \sin \theta \cos \phi & \rho \cos \theta \sin \phi \\ \cos \phi & -\rho \sin \phi & 0 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \rho^2 \cos^2 \theta \sin \phi \cos^2 \phi + \rho^2 \sin^2 \theta \sin \phi \cos^2 \phi$$

$$= \rho^2 \sin \phi (\sin^2 \theta + \cos^2 \theta) (\sin^2 \phi + \cos^2 \phi)$$

$$= \rho^2 \sin \phi$$

When the Jacobian determinant is a positive value greater than 1, it indicates that the volume around a point is expanded upon the transformation; as a result, uniformly generated points are spaced further apart after transformation. The opposite is true for positive values less than 1. For negative values, the Jacobian determinant describes similar behavior, but the orientation of these volumes is reversed (Amidror 310). Don't quote. Explain

The Jacobian determinant of our sphere increases as ρ increases, moving towards the sphere boundary, or when ϕ is around $\pi/2$, around the sphere's equator. Hence, the expansion in volume is greatest at these areas, and the generated points are spaced furthest apart. This demonstrates that the 'naive' uniform parameter approach does not generate a uniform distribution over the sphere. Yes, but why the Jacobian Deferminant demonstrates this

3 Uniform generation

3.1Extension of distributions to higher dimensions

Although the uniform parameter approach does not directly yield the desired uniform sphere distribution, directly adjusting how the parameters are generated should result in a uniform

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distribution. This requires an extension of probability density functions for a single random variable (RV) to multiple. The definitions below are adaptations of those of Billingsley (261-262).

Definition 3.1. For continuous RVs $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, ..., X_n)$, the joint probability density function $f_{\mathbf{X}} \ge 0$ represents the relative probability that \mathbf{X} lies in a set A over values $x_1, x_2, ..., x_n$, and satisfies:

$$P(\mathbf{X} \in A) = \int_{A} \int_{\mathbf{X}} (x_1, x_2, ..., x_n) dx_1 dx_2 ... dx_n \qquad \text{Not clear}$$

if A includes all possible **X**.
$$\text{Not clear}$$

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Definition 3.2. The marginal probability density function f_{X_i} is equivalent to the joint probability density considering only X_i alone, and is obtained through integrating the joint probability density function with respect to all variables except x_i , satisfying:

$$f_{X_i}(x_i) = \underbrace{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \cdots \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_{\mathbf{X}}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \, dx_1 \dots dx_{i-1} \, dx_{i+1} \dots dx_n}_{\mathbf{X}_i \mathbf{X}_i}$$

Definition 3.3. The marginal cumulative distribution function F_{X_i} satisfies:

3.2 Applying distribution adjustments

While uniformly distributed parameters do not generate uniform distributions in the general case due to the distortion of volumes described by the Jacobian determinant, one might expect that well-chosen non-uniformly distributed parameters can be transformed into the uniform distribution we desire. So, the adjustments required should be functions applied to the generated uniform RVs $\psi_i \in [0, 1)$ which produce that specific non-uniform parameter distribution, counteracting the distortion caused by the parametric equations.



If we treat the Jacobian determinant as a joint probability density function (which must be first normalized) for random variables R, Φ, Θ , then the functions r, ϕ, θ to apply which correspond to those random variables should be equal to the inverses of the marginal cumulative distribution functions for each parameter. The proof of the validity of this method will follow in Section 4. Note, however, that the Jacobian determinant is in itself not a probability density function, as it often fails to satisfy the requirement of Definition 3.1 that the integral of the density over all possible values is equal to 1. So, the Jacobian determinant needs to be multiplied by some normalizing constant that produces a distribution function

with this property. First:

$$\int_{0}^{2\pi} \int_{0}^{\pi} \int_{0}^{1} \left| \frac{\partial(x, y, z)}{\partial(\rho, \phi, \theta)} \right| d\rho d\phi d\theta = \int_{0}^{2\pi} \int_{0}^{\pi} \int_{0}^{1} \rho^{2} \sin \phi d\rho d\phi d\theta$$

$$= \int_{0}^{2\pi} \int_{0}^{\pi} \left[\frac{1}{3} \rho^{3} \sin \phi \right]_{0}^{1} d\phi d\theta$$

$$= \int_{0}^{2\pi} \int_{0}^{\pi} \frac{1}{3} \sin \phi d\phi d\theta$$

$$= \int_{0}^{2\pi} \left[-\frac{1}{3} \cos \phi \right]_{0}^{\pi} d\theta$$

$$= \int_{0}^{2\pi} \frac{2}{3} d\theta$$

$$= \frac{4\pi}{3}$$

So, $3/4\pi$ needs to be multiplied to the Jacobian determinant to normalize it into a valid density function. Hence, $\frac{3}{4\pi}\rho^2 \sin \phi$ is the joint probability density function. Then, each of the marginal cumulative distributions can be directly calculated:

$$F_{R}(\rho) = \int_{0}^{\rho} \int_{0}^{2\pi} \int_{0}^{\pi} \frac{3}{4\pi} \rho^{2} \sin \phi \, d\phi \, d\theta \, d\rho$$

$$= \int_{0}^{\rho} 3\rho^{2} \, d\rho$$
more clearly
$$P(\psi_{1}) = \sqrt[3]{\psi_{1}} \qquad \text{What } \partial \phi \text{ esthics mean}$$

$$F_{\Phi}(\phi) = \int_{0}^{\phi} \int_{0}^{2\pi} \int_{0}^{1} \frac{3}{4\pi} \rho^{2} \sin \phi \, d\rho \, d\theta \, d\phi$$

$$= \int_{0}^{\phi} \frac{1}{2} \sin \phi \, d\phi$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos \phi)$$

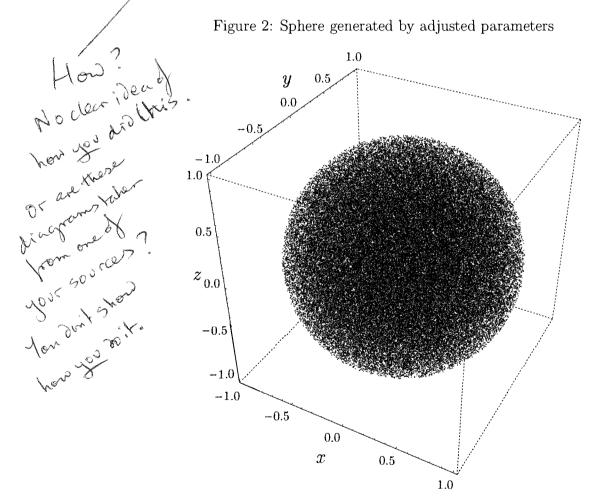
$$= \sin^{2} \frac{\phi}{2}$$

$$\phi(\psi_{2}) = 2 \arcsin \sqrt{\psi_{2}} \qquad \text{and thes}$$

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$$= \int_{0}^{\theta} \frac{1}{2\pi} d\theta$$
$$= \frac{\theta}{2\pi}$$
$$\theta(\psi_{3}) = 2\pi\psi_{3}$$

Note that these transformations are nearly identical those used in the Monte Carlo cosine weighted random sampling method for uniform point sets on a sphere surface used in image rendering (Penzov et al.). The result of 10^5 points generated by these transformations is illustrated in Figure 2, and the same points projected onto the three axis planes is also shown in contrast with the naive distributions in Appendix A, Table 2. It is evident that the distribution visually appears quite uniform from all directions, largely contrasting with the results in Figure 1.



4 Generalization of solutions

A more rigorous explanation of the validity of the solution to Section 3 is evidently necessary. While the general idea of applying the inverse cumulative distribution function is a common method of generating a desired distribution from a uniform in one dimension, it is not extremely clear how it can be extended into more dimensions. The proof presented can be outlined as a solution for the unknown transformations $t_1, t_2, ..., t_n$ involved in the progression of random variables illustrated in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Progression of variable transformations in generalized solution

Computer-generated random variables		Adjusted-distribution random variables		Region-distributed random variables	7
RVs Ψ_i with values ψ_i	$t_i \rightarrow$	RVs T_i with values t_i	$x_i \rightarrow$	RVs X_i with values x_i	1
Uniform $across [0, 1)$		Non-uniform $across [0, 1)$		Uniform across shape	Not Clear What
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4.1 Solution for spatial regions

Suppose our *n*-dimensional region *S* is defined through a system of *n* parametric equations with *n* parameters $\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{t}) = (x_1(\mathbf{t}), x_2(\mathbf{t}), ..., x_n(\mathbf{t}))$, with $\mathbf{t} = (t_1, t_2, ..., t_n) \in [0, 1)^n$. When producing a random point on *S*, we must generate *n* uniformly distributed random variates $\Psi = (\Psi_1, \Psi_2, ..., \Psi_n)$ across $[0, 1)^n$. We must find the transformations t_i for each of these random variates such that the joint density function $f_{\mathbf{X}}$ of independent random variates $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{t}(\Psi))$ across *S* is constant. Thus, $f_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}) = \alpha^{-1}$ for some nonzero constant α when $\mathbf{x} \in S$.

Theorem 4.1. The inverse function of t_i is equal to the marginal cumulative distribution function for T_i .

Proof. The marginal probability density function f_{Ψ_i} for random variate Ψ_i satisfies:

$$P(a \le \Psi_i < b) = \int_a^b f_{\Psi_i}(\psi_i) \, d\psi_i$$

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Thus, upon applying the transformation to another random variate $T_i = t_i(\Psi_i)$:

$$P(t_i(a) \le T_i < t_i(b)) = \int_{t_i(a)}^{t_i(b)} f_{\Psi_i}(\psi_i(t_i)) \frac{d\psi_i}{dt_i} dt_i \qquad ?$$

Therefore:

$$f_{T_i}(t_i) = f_{\Psi_i}(\psi_i(t_i)) \frac{d\psi_i}{dt_i}$$

It is known that Ψ_i is uniform across [0,1) and therefore $f_{\Psi_i}(\psi_i) = 1$. Then, as $t_i \in [0,1)$:

$$f_{T_i}(t_i) = \frac{d\psi_i}{dt_i}$$

$$F_{T_i}(t_i) = \int_0^{\psi_i(t_i)} \frac{d\psi_i}{dt_i} dt_i$$

$$= \psi_i(t_i)$$

$$t_i(\psi_i) = F_{T_i}^{-1}(\psi_i)$$

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Using this theorem, we can extrapolate what is needed to obtain t_i . Suppose that R is a region in $[0, 1)^n$ which maps by the parametric equations $\mathbf{x} : R \to D$, where D is a subregion of S. By Definition 3.1, $f_{\mathbf{x}}$ satisfies by a variable transformation:

$$P(\mathbf{X} \in D) \stackrel{?}{=} \int_{D} f_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}) \, d\mathbf{x} = \int_{R} \alpha^{-1} \left| \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{t}} \right| d\mathbf{t}$$

The marginal density functions $f_{T_i}(t_i)$ thus satisfy by Definition 3.2:

$$f_{T_i}(t_i) = \alpha^{-1} \int_0^1 \cdots \int_0^1 \left| \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{t}} \right| dt_1 \dots dt_{i-1} dt_{i+1} \dots dt_n$$

The marginal cumulative distribution follows from Definition 3.3:

$$F_{T_i}(t_i) = \alpha^{-1} \int_0^{t_i} \int_0^1 \cdots \int_0^1 \left| \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{t}} \right| dt_1 \dots dt_{i-1} dt_{i+1} \dots dt_n dt_i$$
(1)

Hence we have obtained an expression for t_i^{-1} . For region problems in general, the approach to creating a uniform distribution will involve computing each F_{T_i} and inverting them to obtain t_i . With the property that $F_{T_i}(1) = 1$, the value of α can be determined:

$$\alpha = \int_0^1 \cdots \int_0^1 \left| \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{t}} \right| dt_1 \dots dt_n = \int_S d\mathbf{x}$$
(2)

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These rather daunting equations are only deceptively complex. In three dimensions, $f_{T_i}(t_i)$ is only a double integral) and the Jacobian determinant may sometimes be independent with respect to one of the parameters. This has already been demonstrated in Section 3, where the Jacobian of a sphere is independent of the third parameter θ . In addition, the normalizing constant α is equivalent to the total volume of the region, which is relatively simple to calculate for common regions like the Platonic solids or ellipsoids.

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4.2 Solution for spatial boundaries

quite.

While Section 4.1 illustrates a generalized solution for regions, such as the region enclosed by a sphere, it does not apply to generating a boundary like the surface of the sphere. To solve the problem of uniform boundaries, note that boundaries in n dimensions can be expressed in terms of a corresponding region; suppose a parameterization $\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{t})$ of the space S exists such that setting the last parameter $t_n = 1$ obtains a boundary B of S. Then it follows from Equation 1 that instead of allowing $0 \le t_n < 1$, it can instead be set to $t_n = 1$ to obtain a uniform distribution over B. Thus, the marginal cumulative distributions for a boundary can be instead described as (with $i \ne n$):

$$F_{T_i}(t_i) = \alpha^{-1} \int_0^{t_i} \int_0^1 \cdots \int_0^1 \left| \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{t}} \right|_{t_n = 1} dt_1 \dots dt_{i-1} dt_{i+1} \dots dt_{n-1} dt_i$$
(3)

For many of these boundaries we may expect initially that it is difficult to find an appropriate region which satisfies this property. Indeed, in the case that the boundary B over ndimensions we wish to generate is open, S may not be a finite region. For these situations, a parameterization should be obtained directly for B with n-1 parameters. For most boundaries, a multiplication by a new nth parameter is sufficient, generating an artificial region for which setting $t_n = 1$ obtains B, as illustrated in Figure 4. Some special cases may have better region parameterizations, like the paraboloid distribution; see Appendix B.2.2.

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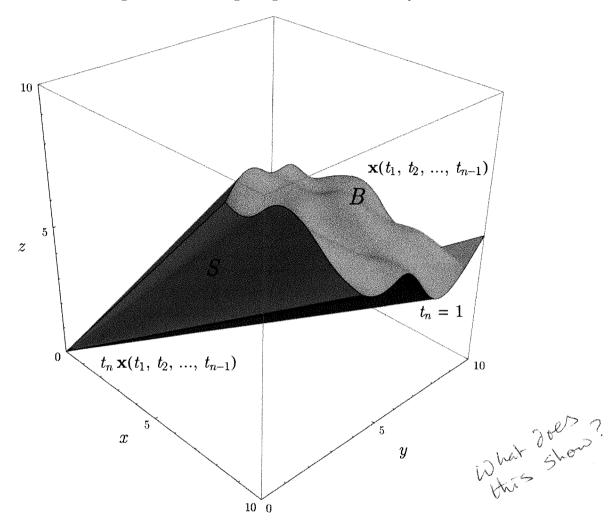


Figure 4: Producing a region from a boundary

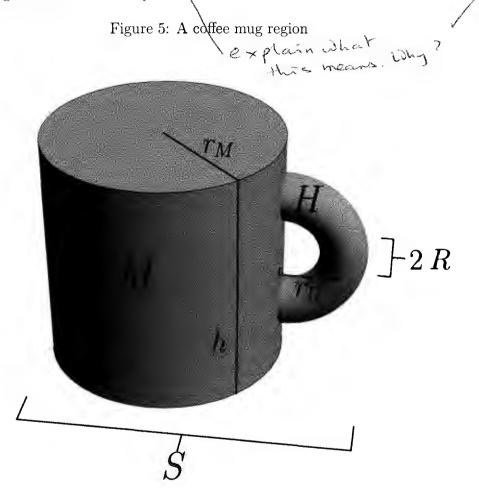
5 Constructing a solution algorithm

5.1 Coffee mug distributions

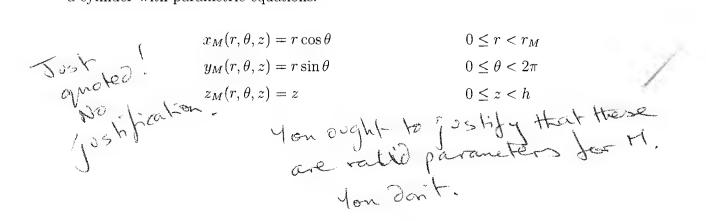
The solutions presented above may appear to cover most conceivable regions and boundaries. However, several assumptions have been made throughout the process. The final result for t_i^{-1} clearly shows the condition that the parameterization $\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{t})$ should exist and each of its components are differentiable with respect to all t_i . This is evidently a problem in polytopes, for which there may not be a satisfactory $\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{t})$ parameterization because of sharp edges and vertices. Indeed, many regions that are defined piecewise are nondifferentiable at specific points, and require an improved method to model with a uniform distribution; this provides a motivation to create an even more generalized algorithm for solving these cases.

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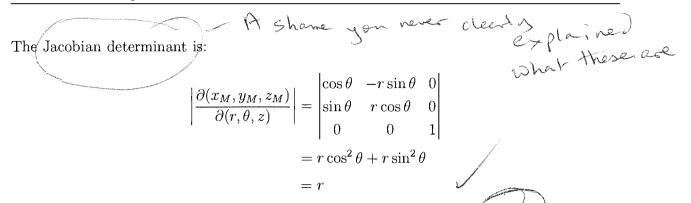
Many regions or boundaries for which a uniform distribution must be generated have parameterizations that are not differentiable everywhere. However, the problem may be simplified by considering that many nondifferentiable regions are essentially unions of multiple subregions, each of which is differentiable. Consider, for example, a coffee mug region S, illustrated in Figure 5; while the mug M and the handle H regions together approximate S and are nondifferentiable where they join, uniform distributions across the mug and the handle can be generated individually.



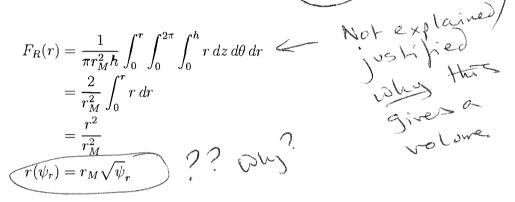
Suppose we want to generate a uniform distribution inside the coffee cup. Region M is a cylinder with parametric equations:



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This is independent of both θ and z, so only r must be considered. Clearly, the volume $\alpha = \pi r_M^2 h:$



The handle H can be parametrized as a half torus. Its center is located at $(r_M, 0, h/2)$, and it has the limitation $0 < R < r_H$. The half torus has the parameterization: $0 \le r < R$ $-\pi/2 \le \theta < \pi/2$ $0 \le \phi < 2\pi$ $0 \le \phi < 2\pi$ Why To shift

$$x_H(r,\theta,\phi) = r_M + (r_H + r\cos\phi)\cos\theta$$
$$y_H(r,\theta,\phi) = r\sin\phi$$
$$z_H(r,\theta,\phi) = h/2 + (r_H + r\cos\phi)\sin\theta$$

The Jacobian determinant is:

$$\frac{\left|\frac{\partial(x_H, y_H, z_H)}{\partial(r, \theta, \phi)}\right|}{\left|\frac{\partial(r, \theta, \phi)}{\partial(r, \theta, \phi)}\right|} = \begin{vmatrix} \cos\phi\cos\theta & -(r_H + r\cos\phi)\sin\theta & -r\sin\phi\cos\theta \\ \sin\phi & 0 & r\cos\phi \\ \cos\phi\sin\theta & (r_H + r\cos\phi)\cos\theta & -r\sin\phi\sin\theta \end{vmatrix}$$
$$= -r\sin\phi(r_H + r\cos\phi)(\sin\phi\sin^2\theta + \sin\phi\cos^2\theta) \\ - r\cos\phi(r_H + r\cos\phi)(\cos\phi\cos^2\theta + \cos\phi\sin^2\theta) \\ = -r\sin^2\phi(r_H + r\cos\phi) - r\cos^2\phi(r_H + r\cos\phi) \\ = -r(r_H + r\cos\phi)$$

The volume of this half torus is:

$$\alpha = \int_{0}^{2\pi} \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \int_{0}^{R} -r \left(r_{H} + r\cos\phi\right) dr \, d\theta \, d\phi$$

= $-\int_{0}^{2\pi} \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \left(R^{2}r_{H}/2 + R^{3}\cos\phi/3\right) d\theta \, d\phi$
= $-\pi \int_{0}^{2\pi} \left(R^{2}r_{H}/2 + R^{3}\cos\phi/3\right) d\phi$
= $-\pi^{2}R^{2}r_{H}$

The Jacobian determinant is independent of θ .

$$F_{R}(r) = \frac{1}{\pi^{2}R^{2}r_{H}} \int_{0}^{r} \int_{0}^{2\pi} \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} r\left(r_{H} + r\cos\phi\right) d\theta \, d\phi \, dr$$

$$= \frac{2}{R^{2}r_{H}} \int_{0}^{r} r_{H}r \, dr$$

$$= \frac{r^{2}}{R^{2}}$$

$$F(\psi_{r}) = R\sqrt{\psi_{r}}$$

$$F_{\Phi}(\phi) = \frac{1}{\pi^{2}R^{2}r_{H}} \int_{0}^{\phi} \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} \int_{0}^{R} r\left(r_{H} + r\cos\phi\right) dr \, d\theta \, d\phi$$

$$= \frac{1}{6\pi r_{H}} \int_{0}^{\phi} (3r_{H} + 2R\cos\phi) \, d\phi$$

$$= \frac{3r_{H}\phi + 2R\sin\phi}{6\pi r_{H}}$$

Notably, this expression cannot simply be inverted into commonly used functions due to the separate trigonometric $2R \sin \phi$ and polynomial $3r_H \phi$ terms. This also suggests that it is necessary to check the validity of this cumulative distribution; for it to be valid, it must be monotonically increasing between $0 \le \phi < 2\pi$. Thus, we require for all ϕ :

$$\frac{d}{d\phi} \frac{3r_H \phi + 2R \sin \phi}{6\pi r_H} \ge 0$$

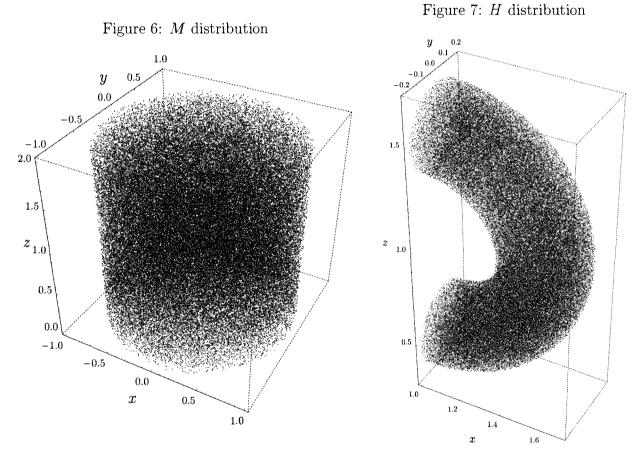
$$3r_H + 2R \cos \phi \ge 0 \quad \forall \text{ why does this follow } ?$$

$$3r_H - 2R \ge 0 \quad \forall (r_H > R > 0)$$

This is trivially satisfied with $R < r_H$. Although we may expect a need to find an explicit expression for the inverse of F_{Φ} , it is not required in practice as it can be numerically calcu-

lated. 10^5 points in each of the two distributions obtained are illustrated Figures 6 and 7, with $r_M = 1$, h = 2, $r_H = 0.5$, and R = 0.2, and projections of these distributions onto the three axis planes are illustrated in Appendix A, Figures 9 and 10.

now



The final step in generating a coffee mug distribution is to combine these two distributions such that the overall distribution is uniform. This can be achieved by considering the relative volumes of each region; the ratio of volumes of M and H is $r_M^2 h : \pi R^2 r_H$. Thus, it would be sufficient for $\frac{r_M^2 h}{r_M^2 h + \pi R^2 r_H}$ of points to be chosen from M, and the rest from H. For example, in 10⁵ points chosen in S with the values in Figures 6 and 7, approximately 96954 points are chosen from M, and the remaining 3046 points are from H. This final result is illustrated in Figure 8.

By whom?

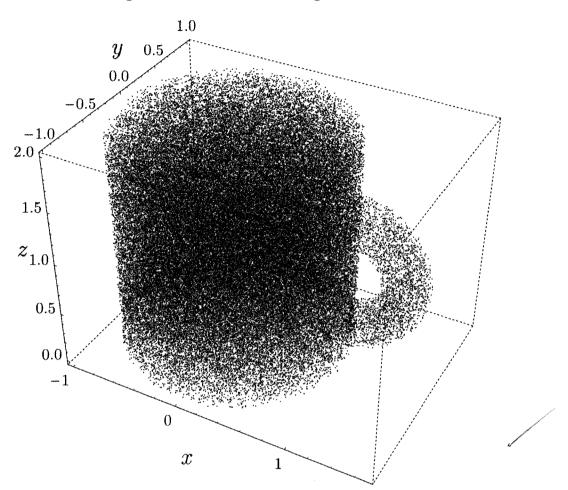


Figure 8: A uniform coffee mug distribution

5.2 The generalized algorithm

The method to generate any desired region or boundary can be summarized in the following algorithm:

- 1. Begin with *n*-dimensional region *R*. Divide *R* into continuous subregions $\{R_1, R_2, ...\}$ such that union of all R_i is *R*. As this may be difficult to implement in practice, these subregions are best decided by human input.
- 2. For each R_i , compute using its parameterization a Jacobian determinant, multiplying the parametric equations by t_n if R_i is a boundary.
- 3. For each R_i , compute its total volume by integrating the Jacobian determinant over the complete region, obtaining α_i . Obtain expressions for the cumulative distribution Ne_i and C_i functions $F_{R_i,T_j}(t_j)$ for each parameter t_j of each region R_i through integrating com-

16 not explained. pletely the Jacobian determinant divided by α_i over all other parameters and partially for t_{j} , then calculate (exactly or numerically) their inverses. even this never stated.

4. For each random point on R, choose an R_i randomly using weighted probabilities, with weights α_i . Then generate with a PRNG n uniformly distributed random values over [0,1) and transform these values by the inverses calculated for the R_i . Apply the parametric equations over the transformed values to obtain the desired Cartesian point.

6 Useful solutions

Section 5 presents a solution algorithm in which sections of complex regions are modularized into smaller, manageable subregions. This suggests that subregions that are common to many complex regions or a class of regions may appear often, and the inverse transformations for these subregions can be computed before even R is known. Examples of these subregions are simplices (especially for polytopes) and quadric surfaces. Table 1 lists some of these subregions, their parameterizations, and their required transformations $t_i(\psi_i)$. More details including the derivations of these solutions are included in Appendix B, in which Table 3 also illustrates the 'naive' uniform parameter approach and the corrected distributions after Should be ber application of the following solutions.

Parameterization	Cumulative distributions	Solutions	
$\mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{p}_0;$ $\mathbf{x}_{n+1} = t_{n+1}x_n + (1 - t_{n+1})\mathbf{p}_{n+1}$	$F_{T_i}(t_i) = t_i^i$	$t_i = \sqrt[4]{\psi_i}$?
$x = ar \cos \theta \sin \phi$ $y = br \sin \theta \sin \phi$ $z = cr \cos \phi$	$F_{\Theta}(\theta) = \theta/2\pi$ $F_{\Phi}(\phi) = \sin^2(\phi/2)$ $F_R(r) = r^3$	$\theta = 2\pi\psi_1$ $\phi = 2 \arcsin\sqrt{\psi_2}$ $r = \sqrt[3]{\psi_3}$,,
	$\mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{p}_0;$ $\mathbf{x}_{n+1} = t_{n+1}x_n + (1 - t_{n+1})\mathbf{p}_{n+1}$ $x = ar\cos\theta\sin\phi$ $y = br\sin\theta\sin\phi$	Parameterizationdistributions $\mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{p}_0;$ $\mathbf{x}_{n+1} = t_{n+1}x_n + (1-t_{n+1})\mathbf{p}_{n+1}$ $F_{T_i}(t_i) = t_i^i$ $x = ar \cos \theta \sin \phi$ $F_{\Theta}(\theta) = \theta/2\pi$ $y = br \sin \theta \sin \phi$ $F_{\Phi}(\phi) = \sin^2(\phi/2)$	ParameterizationdistributionsSolutions $\mathbf{x}_0 = \mathbf{p}_0;$ $\mathbf{x}_{n+1} = t_{n+1}x_n + (1 - t_{n+1})\mathbf{p}_{n+1}$ $F_{T_i}(t_i) = t_i^i$ $t_i = \sqrt[4]{\psi_i}$ $x = ar \cos \theta \sin \phi$ $F_{\Theta}(\theta) = \theta/2\pi$ $\theta = 2\pi\psi_1$ $y = br \sin \theta \sin \phi$ $F_{\Phi}(\phi) = \sin^2(\phi/2)$ $\phi = 2 \arcsin \sqrt{\psi_2}$

Table 1: Common subregions and their solutions

Continued on next page

Region	Parameterization	Cumulative distributions	Solutions
Paraboloid bounded by $z \leq m$	$x = ahr \cos \theta$ $y = bhr \sin \theta$ $z = ch^{2}$	$F_H(h) = c^2 h^4 / m^2$ $F_{\Theta}(\theta) = \theta / 2\pi$ $F_R(r) = r^2$	$h = \sqrt[4]{m^2 \psi_1/c^2}$ $\theta = 2\pi \psi_2$ $r = \sqrt{\psi_3}$
Single-sheet hyperboloid	$x = ar \cos \theta \cosh m$ $y = br \sin \theta \cosh m$ $z = c \sinh m$	See Appendix B.2.3 $F_{\Theta}(\theta) = \theta/2\pi$ $F_R(r) = r^2$	Numerical $\theta = 2\pi\psi_2$ $r = \sqrt{\psi_3}$
Double-sheet hyperboloid	$x = ar \cos \theta \sinh m$ $y = br \sin \theta \sinh m$ $z = c \cosh m$	See Appendix B.2.4 $F_{\Theta}(\theta) = \theta/2\pi$ $F_R(r) = r^2$	Numerical $ heta=2\pi\psi_2$ $r=\sqrt{\psi_3}$
Cone between $z_0 \le z < z_1$	$\begin{aligned} x &= arz\cos\theta\\ y &= brz\sin\theta\\ z &= z \end{aligned}$	$F_Z(z) = \frac{z^3 - z_0^3}{z_1^3 - z_0^3}$ $F_\Theta(\theta) = \theta/2\pi$ $F_R(r) = r^2$	$z = (z_0^3 + (z_1^3 - z_0^3)\psi_1)^{1/3}$ $\theta = 2\pi\psi_2$ $r = \sqrt{\psi_3}$
Cylinder between $z_0 \leq z < z_1$	$\begin{aligned} x &= ar\cos\theta\\ y &= br\sin\theta\\ z &= z \end{aligned}$	$F_Z(z) = \frac{z - z_0}{z_1 - z_0}$ $F_\Theta(\theta) = \theta/2\pi$ $F_R(r) = r^2$	$z = z_0 + (z_1 - z_0)\psi_1$ $\theta = 2\pi\psi_2$ $r = \sqrt{\psi_3}$

7 Conclusion

None of this is justified. Some in Appendix B, but it would have been for better to explain the basics then to 20 cell this.

7.1 Evaluation

My solution framework modularizes a single complex problem into smaller units. This process is greatly reminiscent of a much more common and simpler problem: volume calculation of nonregular solids. Consider the coffee cup example of Section 5; to calculate the volume, one

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would have to calculate the volumes of the half torus and the cylinder separately and add them to find the total volume. This seems almost identical to my method, which has simply been adapted to consider distributions rather than direct volumes, leading to some interesting implications. Nonreducible problems in volumes are also nonreducible in distributions. As my method involves a volume calculation step, distribution computation is strictly a 'harder' problem than volume computation. Consequently, the 'unit' solutions for distributions form strictly a subset of the set of 'unit' solutions for volumes.

Being 'harder' than volume calculation with almost the same method, uniform distribution computation inherits various problems. Some regions cannot be easily broken down precisely into convenient subregions. For example, the coffee cup was approximated as a cylinder with a half torus; however, as the cylinder has a curved surface which is connected to the flat cross section of the half torus, there is a small region between the cylinder and the half torus that is within the coffee cup but not considered in the final distribution. While for practical purposes this imperfection may be quite unnoticeable, mathematically the two distributions are not equivalent. Sometimes a complex region is also nonreducible, in which case the volume and in effect the distribution must be entirely numerically complicated for nonintegratable parameterizations.

Evidently, a more complex method also brings additional problems. For example, the half torus component of the distribution could not be completely symbolically computed, involving a numerical inverse. Not only is this mathematically a problem, but methods used to compute numerical inverses can often lead to roundoff errors or other inaccuracies (Abate, Choudhury, and Whitt 15). The existence of the inverse in the first place can be a concern, with the half torus being limited by $3r_H \geq 2R$. Ultimately, this can only be solved by choosing 'good' parameterizations for each unique problem.

7.2 Further investigation

Although my method provides solutions in the general case, these solutions are by no means the only possible ways to generate uniform distributions over arbitrary regions. For example, to generate a unit sphere, it may be sufficient to simply generate points in the unit cube and eliminate points outside the sphere. Alternatively, methods such as generating points across the sphere 'naively' as shown in Section 2.1, then removing points around the denser center with a normalizing probability as per the Jacobian, eliminate the need to use the computationally heavy inverse sine function. So, further analysis and benchmarking of different sampling techniques may help elucidate the differences between these methods.

Clearly, distributions over regions are also not limited to being uniform. However, how

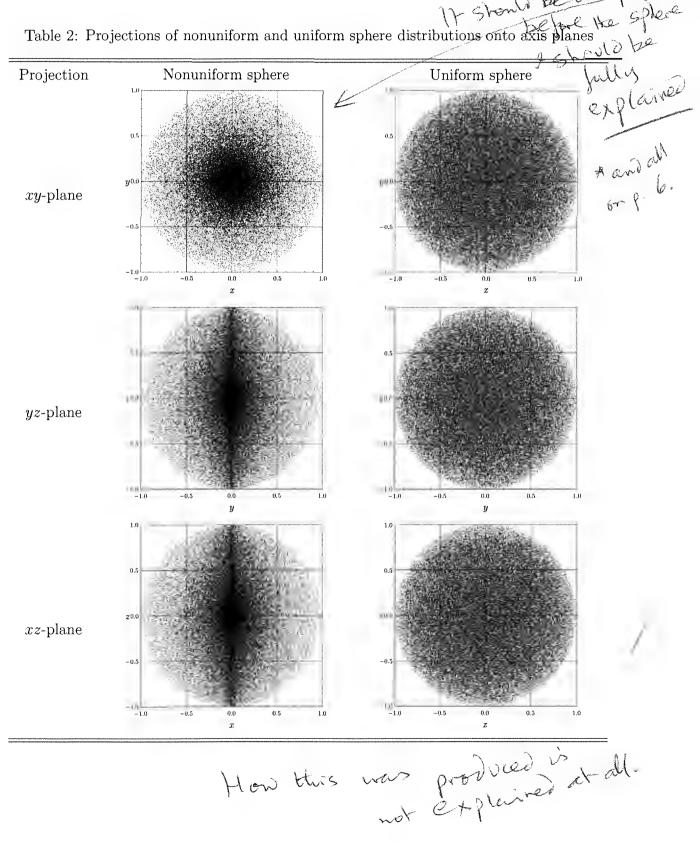
to generalize common one-dimensional distributions to higher dimensions is not entirely obvious. Despite this, some work has been done in this direction, and the normal distribution has been generalized to the multivariate case to produce Gaussian distributions over a plane (Do). In any case, it is difficult to reconcile the concept of these random variables, distributed over infinite spatial regions, to discrete, finite regions of space. Additionally, while these solutions are quite useful for cases up to three dimensions, where Monte Carlo modeling methods become commonly used approximations of reality, the practical application of additional dimensions that my solution offers is still unclear. Even so, an examination of the uniform case may provide insight into how to formalize these generalizations for future investigation.

Additional figures Appendix A

20

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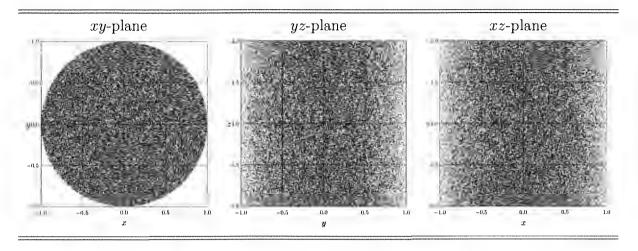
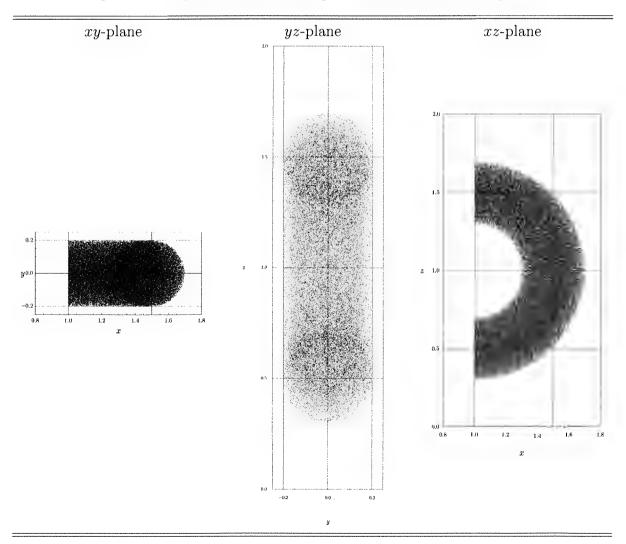


Figure 9: Projections of coffee mug M distribution onto axis planes

Figure 10: Projections of coffee mug H distribution onto axis planes



Appendix B Derivations and illustrations of Section 6 solutions

B.1 *n*-simplical regions

Let the vertices of the *n*-simplex be column vectors $\mathbf{p}_0, \mathbf{p}_1, ..., \mathbf{p}_n$. The 0-simplex has parameterization $\mathbf{x}_0() = \mathbf{p}_0$. The 1-simplex (line segment) has the well-known parameterization $\mathbf{x}_1(t_1) = t_1 \mathbf{p}_{-0} + (1 - t_1) \mathbf{p}_1$. (n + 1)-simplices can be formed with an infinite number of line segments radiating from the next vertex, \mathbf{p}_{n+1} , to all points on a corresponding *n*-simplex. Hence, the *n*-simplex parameterization follows the recurrence relation $\mathbf{x}_{n+1}(t_1, t_2, ..., t_{n+1}) =$ $t_{n+1}\mathbf{x}_n(t_1, t_2, ..., t_n) + (1 - t_{n+1})\mathbf{p}_{n+1}$.

For the Jacobian, we must compute each column vector $\partial \mathbf{x}_n / \partial t_i$. The recurrence relation implies $\partial \mathbf{x}_n / \partial t_n = \mathbf{x}_{n-1} - \mathbf{p}_n$. For i < n, $\partial \mathbf{x}_n / \partial t_i = t_n \partial \mathbf{x}_{n-1} / \partial t_i$, so with reductions of the RHS until $\partial \mathbf{x}_i / \partial t_i$, we can obtain:

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{x}_n}{\partial t_i} = t_n t_{n-1} \cdots t_{i+1} \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}_i}{\partial t_i} = t_{i+1} t_{i+2} \cdots t_n (\mathbf{x}_{i-1} - \mathbf{p}_i)$$

The Jacobian determinant of the region is therefore:

$$\begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}_n}{\partial \mathbf{t}} \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}_n}{\partial t_1} & \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}_n}{\partial t_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}_n}{\partial t_n} \end{vmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{vmatrix} t_2 t_3 \cdots t_n (\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{p}_1) & t_3 t_4 \cdots t_n (\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{p}_2) & \cdots & \mathbf{x}_{n-1} - \mathbf{p}_n \end{vmatrix}$$
$$= c(t_2 t_3 t_4 \cdots t_n)(t_3 t_4 \cdots t_n) \cdots (t_n)$$
$$= ct_2^1 t_3^2 t_4^3 \cdots t_n^{n-1}$$

Here, $c = |\mathbf{x}_0 - \mathbf{p}_1 \ \mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{p}_2 \ \cdots \ \mathbf{x}_{n-1} - \mathbf{p}_n|$. Consider the recurrence relation rearrangement $\mathbf{x}_i - t_i(\mathbf{x}_{i-1} - \mathbf{p}_i) = \mathbf{p}_i$ and that matrix determinants remain constant under column addition. Hence, by subtracting each kth column by the (k-1)th column with factor t_k for $k \geq 2$:

$$c = |\mathbf{p}_0 - \mathbf{p}_1 \quad \mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_2 \quad \cdots \quad \mathbf{p}_{n-1} - \mathbf{p}_n|$$

Thus, c is independent of the parameters t_i . Finally:

$$\alpha = \int_0^1 \cdots \int_0^1 ct_2^1 t_3^2 t_4^3 \cdots t_n^{n-1} dt_1 \dots dt_n$$
$$= \frac{c}{n!}$$

$$F_{T_i}(t_i) = n! \int_0^{t_i} \int_0^1 \cdots \int_0^1 t_2^1 t_3^2 t_4^3 \cdots t_n^{n-1} dt_1 \dots dt_{i-1} dt_{i+1} \dots dt_n dt_i$$

= t_i^i
 $t_i(\psi_i) = \sqrt[i]{\psi_i}$

B.2 Quadric surfaces

B.2.1 Ellipsoid

Consider an ellipsoid satisfying $x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 + z^2/c^2 = 1$. The region has the well-known parameterization $\mathbf{x}(\theta, \phi, r) = (ar\cos\theta\sin\phi, br\sin\theta\sin\phi, cr\cos\phi)$ for $0 \le \theta < 2\pi, 0 \le \phi < \pi$, and $0 \le r < 1$. $|\partial \mathbf{x}/\partial \mathbf{t}| = -abcr^2\sin\phi$ and $\alpha = -4\pi abc/3$:

$$F_{\Theta}(\theta) = \frac{\theta}{2\pi} \longrightarrow \qquad \theta(\psi_1) = 2\pi\psi_1;$$

$$F_{\Phi}(\phi) = \sin^2\frac{\phi}{2} \longrightarrow \qquad \phi(\psi_2) = 2\arcsin\sqrt{\psi_2};$$

$$F_R(r) = r^3 \longrightarrow \qquad r(\psi_3) = \sqrt[3]{\psi_3}$$

B.2.2 Paraboloid

Consider the region bounded by the paraboloid $x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 - z/c = 0$ and the plane z = m. This region can be constructed as an infinite number of ellipses parallel to the z-axis between the origin and z = m. Hence, with $z = ch^2$, where $0 \le h < \sqrt{m/c}$, the elliptical regions can be produced for each z as $x = ahr \cos \theta$ and $y = bhr \sin \theta$, where $0 \le r < 1$ and $0 \le \theta < 2\pi$ (r = 1 produces the paraboloid itself). Note that this is not a typical region that is generated by multiplying by some t_3 . $|\partial(x, y, z)/\partial(h, \theta, r)| = -2abch^3r$ and $\alpha = -\pi abm^2/2c$:

$$F_H(h) = \frac{c^2 h^4}{m^2} \longrightarrow h(\psi_1) = \sqrt[4]{\frac{m^2 \psi_1}{c^2}};$$

$$F_{\Theta}(\theta) = \frac{\theta}{2\pi} \longrightarrow \theta(\psi_2) = 2\pi \psi_2;$$

$$F_R(r) = r^2 \longrightarrow r(\psi_3) = \sqrt{\psi_3}$$

B.2.3 Single-sheet hyperboloid

Consider the region bounded by the hyperboloid $x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 - z^2/c^2 = 1$ and the planes $z = c \sinh m_0$ and $z = c \sinh m_1$ (with $m_1 > m_0$). Like the paraboloid, this may be parametrized using an infinite number of ellipses; using this, an appropriate parameterization is $\mathbf{x}(m, \theta, r) = (ar \cos \theta \cosh m, br \sin \theta \cosh m, c \sinh m)$ for $m_0 \leq m < m_1$. Hence,

the Jacobian $|\partial \mathbf{x}/\partial \mathbf{t}| = -abcr \sinh^3 m$ and $\alpha = -\pi abc (g(m_1) - g(m_0))/12$, where $g(m) = 9 \sinh m + \sinh 3m$:

$$F_M(m) = \frac{g(m) - g(m_0)}{g(m_1) - g(m_0)};$$

$$F_{\Theta}(\theta) = \frac{\theta}{2\pi} \longrightarrow \qquad \theta(\psi_2) = 2\pi\psi_2;$$

$$F_R(r) = r^2 \longrightarrow \qquad r(\psi_3) = \sqrt{\psi_3}$$

B.2.4 Double-sheet hyperboloid

Consider the region bounded by the hyperboloid $x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 - z^2/c^2 = -1$ and the plane $z = c \cosh m_1$. Like the single-sheet hyperboloid, this may be parametrized using an infinite number of ellipses beginning from z = c; an appropriate parameterization is $\mathbf{x}(m, \theta, r) = (ar \cos \theta \sinh m, br \sin \theta \sinh m, c \cosh m)$ for $0 \le m < m_1$. $|\partial \mathbf{x}/\partial \mathbf{t}| = -abcr \cosh^3 m$ and $\alpha = -\pi abc (g(m_1) - 8)/12$, where $g(m) = 9 \cosh m - \cosh 3m$:

$$F_M(m) = \frac{g(m) - 8}{g(m_1) - 8};$$

$$F_{\Theta}(\theta) = \frac{\theta}{2\pi} \rightarrow \qquad \theta(\psi_2) = 2\pi\psi_2;$$

$$F_R(r) = r^2 \rightarrow \qquad r(\psi_3) = \sqrt{\psi_3}$$

B.2.5 Cone

Consider the region bounded by the cone $x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 - z^2 = 0$ and the planes $z = z_0$ and $z = z_1$ (with $z_0 < z_1$). A common parameterization is $\mathbf{x}(z, \theta, r) = (arz \cos \theta, brz \sin \theta, z)$ for $z_0 \le z < z_1$. $|\partial \mathbf{x}/\partial \mathbf{t}| = -abrz^2$ and $\alpha = -\pi ab (z_1^3 - z_0^3)/3$:

$$F_{Z}(z) = \frac{z^{3} - z_{0}^{3}}{z_{1}^{3} - z_{0}^{3}} \longrightarrow z(\psi_{1}) = \sqrt[3]{(z_{1}^{3} - z_{0}^{3})\psi_{1} + z_{0}^{3}};$$

$$F_{\Theta}(\theta) = \frac{\theta}{2\pi} \longrightarrow \theta(\psi_{2}) = 2\pi\psi_{2};$$

$$F_{R}(r) = r^{2} \longrightarrow r(\psi_{3}) = \sqrt{\psi_{3}}$$

B.2.6 Elliptic cylinder

Consider the region bounded by the cylinder $x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 = 1$ and the planes $z = z_0$ and $z = z_1$ (with $z_0 < z_1$). A common parameterization is $\mathbf{x}(z, \theta, r) = (ar \cos \theta, br \sin \theta, z)$ for

 $z_0 \leq z < z_1$. $|\partial \mathbf{x} / \partial \mathbf{t}| = -abr$ and $\alpha = -\pi ab (z_1 - z_0)$:

$$F_Z(z) = \frac{z - z_0}{z_1 - z_0} \longrightarrow z(\psi_1) = (z_1 - z_0)\psi_1 + z_0;$$

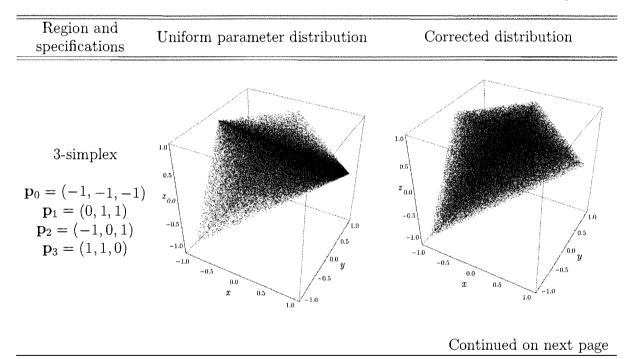
$$F_\Theta(\theta) = \frac{\theta}{2\pi} \longrightarrow \theta(\psi_2) = 2\pi\psi_2;$$

$$F_R(r) = r^2 \longrightarrow r(\psi_3) = \sqrt{\psi_3}$$

B.3 Illustrations of subsection solutions

For the variable geometric specifications for each region, refer to the corresponding parameterization of the region. All of the corrected distributions were generated using the solutions presented in Table 1 with 10^5 points each.

Table 3: Illustrations of 'naive' and corrected distributions over Section 6 subregions



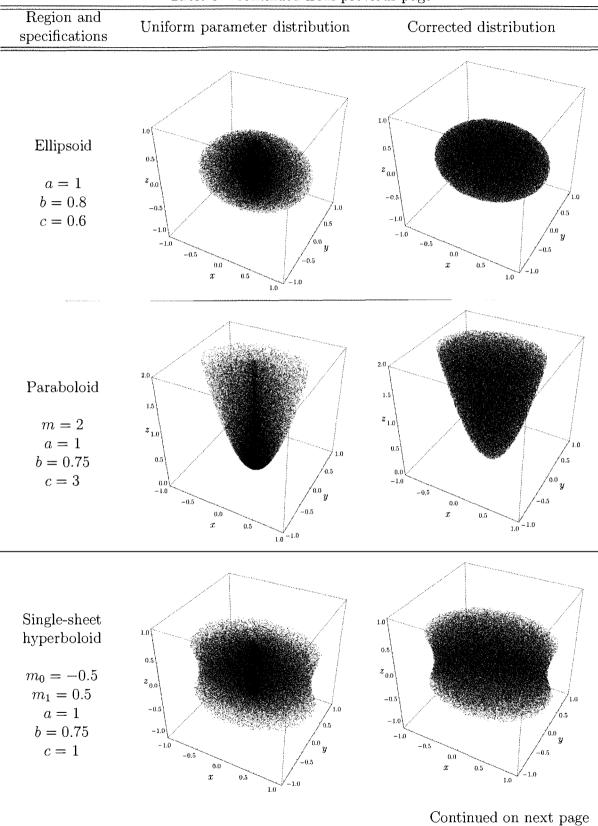


Table 3 – continued from previous page

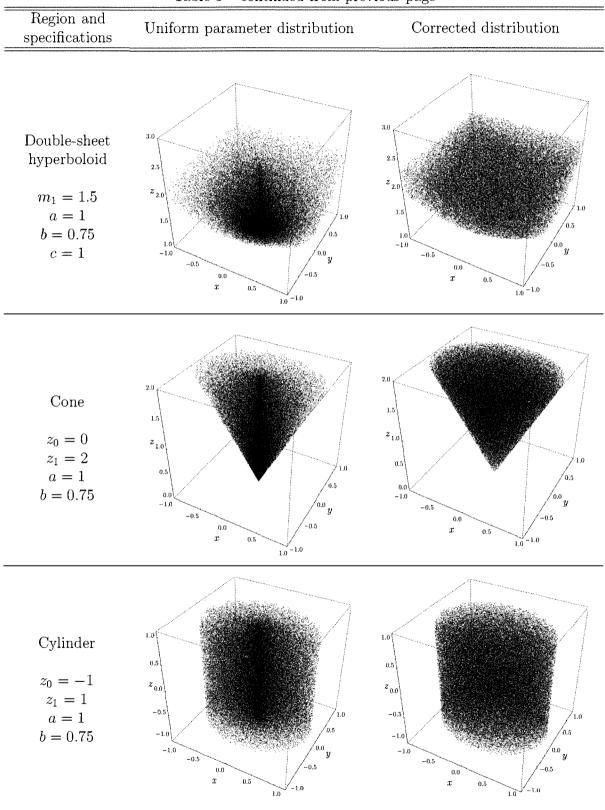


Table 3 - continued from previous page

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