

Special Mathematics Lecture
 Introduction to Probability (Spring 2021)

Report: Random number sampling
 Box-Muller transform

It is of great interest in Brownian Dynamics simulations to study how to generate Gaussian random number R_G with variance of 1. This report introduce the Box Muller method with a corresponding C++ code. I also briefly introduce the Marsaglia polar methods as an acceleration technique for the Box Muller method.

① Box Muller Method

Given U_1, U_2 random numbers uniformly distributed in the range $[0, 1]$, then the following X_1 and X_2 have independent Gaussian distributions with variance 1:

$$X_1 = \sqrt{-2 \ln U_1} \cos(2\pi U_2) \quad (1)$$

$$X_2 = \sqrt{-2 \ln U_1} \sin(2\pi U_2) \quad (2)$$

Proof:

$$+ \text{From (1) and (2)} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \ln(U_1) = -\frac{1}{2}(X_1^2 + X_2^2) \Rightarrow U_1 = \exp\left[-\frac{X_1^2 + X_2^2}{2}\right] = U_1(x_1, x_2) \\ \tan(2\pi U_2) = \frac{X_2}{X_1} \Rightarrow U_2 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{X_2}{X_1}\right) = U_2(x_1, x_2) \end{cases}$$

+ Let $P(x_1, x_2)$ be the joint pdf of X_1 and X_2

$\bar{P}(u_1, u_2)$ be the joint pdf of U_1 and U_2

By the Jacobian formula (6.51)

$$\Rightarrow P(x_1, x_2) = \bar{P}(u_1(x_1, x_2), u_2(x_1, x_2)) |J(x_1, x_2)|$$

• Since U_1 and U_2 are independent uniform random variables in $[0, 1]$

$$\Rightarrow \bar{P}(u_1, u_2) = \bar{P}(u_1) \bar{P}(u_2) = 1 \cdot 1 = 1 \quad (3)$$

$$\bullet U_1(x_1, x_2) = \exp\left(-\frac{x_1^2 + x_2^2}{2}\right) \Rightarrow \frac{\partial U_1}{\partial x_1} = -x_1 U_1 \quad ; \quad \frac{\partial U_1}{\partial x_2} = -x_2 U_1$$

$$U_2(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{x_2}{x_1}\right) \Rightarrow \frac{\partial U_2}{\partial x_1} = -\frac{\cos^2(2\pi U_2) x_2}{2\pi x_1^2} \quad ; \quad \frac{\partial U_2}{\partial x_2} = +\frac{\cos^2(2\pi U_2)}{2\pi x_1}$$

$$\Rightarrow |J(x_1, x_2)| = \left| \det \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial U_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial U_2}{\partial x_1} \\ \frac{\partial U_1}{\partial x_2} & \frac{\partial U_2}{\partial x_2} \end{bmatrix} \right| = \left| \begin{matrix} \frac{\partial U_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial U_2}{\partial x_1} \\ \frac{\partial U_1}{\partial x_2} & \frac{\partial U_2}{\partial x_2} \end{matrix} \right|$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow |J(x_1, x_2)| &= \left| \frac{1}{2\pi} x_1 U_1 \frac{\cos^2(2\pi U_2)}{x_1} + \frac{1}{2\pi} x_2 U_1 \frac{\cos^2(2\pi U_2) x_2}{x_1^2} \right| \text{ with } 1 + \left(\frac{x_2}{x_1}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{\cos^2(2\pi U_2)} \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi} |U_1| = \frac{1}{2\pi} \exp\left[-\frac{x_1^2 + x_2^2}{2}\right] \end{aligned}$$

→ substitute to (3)

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow P_{(X_1, X_2)} &= 1 \cdot \frac{1}{2\pi} \exp\left[-\frac{X_1^2 + X_2^2}{2}\right] \\ &= \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{X_1^2}{2}}\right)}_{\tilde{P}_{(X_1)}} \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{X_2^2}{2}}\right)}_{\tilde{P}_{(X_2)}} \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow P_{(X_1, X_2)} = \tilde{P}_{(X_1)} \tilde{P}_{(X_2)}$ where $\tilde{P}_{(X_i)}$ is pdf of random variables X_i with gaussian distribution of mean 0 and variance 1

$\Leftrightarrow X_1$ and X_2 are independent random variables with gaussian distribution of mean 0 and variance 1 □

② An acceleration technique for Box Muller method: Marsaglia polar method

In computational simulations, calculations of trigonometric functions can rapidly become calculation load. Thus, I introduced a Box Muller method without using trigonometric functions explicitly.

Implementation procedure for the efficient Box Muller method

① Set $R = (u_1, u_2)$, where u_1, u_2 are uniform random numbers distributed in $[-1; 1]$

We adopt only R inside the unit circle centered at $(0; 0)$ and dismiss all other data

② $R^2 = u_1^2 + u_2^2$ uniformly distributed in $[0; 1]$

Set $Q_1 = R^2$ and calculate $\sqrt{-2 \ln(Q_1)}$

③ as R 's deflection angle is random

$\Rightarrow \cos(2\pi Q_2) \cong \frac{u_1}{R}$ and $\sin(2\pi Q_2) \cong \frac{u_2}{R}$ can be obtained

without calculating trigonometric function explicitly.

I design the beside example code in C++ language, adopting the Marsaglia polar method for Box Muller transformation. A function for generating a random number is also presented as below.

```
double unif_rand(double left, double right)
{
    return left + (right - left)*rand()/RAND_MAX;
}
```

```
double gaussian_rand(void)
{
    static double iset = 0;
    static double gset;
    double fac, rsq, v1, v2;

    if (iset == 0) {
        do {
            v1 = unif_rand(-1, 1);
            v2 = unif_rand(-1, 1);
            rsq = v1*v1 + v2*v2;
        } while (rsq >= 1.0 || rsq == 0.0);
        fac = sqrt(-2.0*log(rsq)/rsq);

        gset = v1*fac;
        iset = 0.50;
        return v2*fac;
    } else {
        iset = 0;
        return gset;
    }
}
```