

## Uniform Distribution (mod 1)

We consider  $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$  ( $= [0, 1)$ )

Let  $X = (x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \in (\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^{\mathbb{N}}$

For each  $0 \leq a < b < 1$  define  $\varphi_N$  as follow:

$$\varphi_N(a, b) = |\{n \leq N : x_n \in [a, b)\}|$$

Definition: If  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \varphi_N(a, b) = b - a$ , then

$X$  is said to be a uniformly distributed sequence.

Remark:  $(x_n)$  is uniformly distributed,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$   
 $\Rightarrow (x_n + \alpha)$  is uniformly distributed (mod 1).

Remark:  $X = (x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$  is uniformly distributed

modulo 1 :  $\Leftrightarrow (x_n - [x_n])_{n \in \mathbb{N}} = (\{x_n\})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is

uniformly distributed.

Remark:  $X = (x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is uniformly distributed  
 modulo 1  $\Rightarrow \{x_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is dense in  $[0, 1)$ .

Remark:  $(\{\log(n)\})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is dense in  $[0, 1)$

But it is not uniformly distributed.

Theorem: (H. Weyl)

Let  $X = (x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}}$ . Then  $X$  is uniformly distributed modulo 1 iff  $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}^x$ , we have

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N e^{2\pi i k x_n} = 0$$

Example: Let  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$ . Consider  $x_n = \alpha n$

$$\sum_{n=1}^N e^{2\pi i k \alpha n} = \frac{e((N+1)\alpha) - e(k\alpha)}{1 - e(k\alpha)} ;$$

$$e(z) = e^{2\pi i z}$$

$$\Rightarrow \left| \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N e^{2k\pi i \alpha n} \right| \leq \frac{1}{N} \frac{2}{|1 - e(k\alpha)|} \rightarrow 0$$

as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ .

$\Rightarrow (n\alpha)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is uniformly distributed modulo 1.

Example: The sequence  $(\log n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is not uniformly distributed

Sketch of proof:

Recall:

$$f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f \in C^1, (a_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathbb{N}} \Rightarrow$$

$$A(t) = \sum_{n \leq t} a_n$$

$$\sum_{1 \leq n \leq x} a_n f(n) = A(x) f(x) - \int_1^x A(t) f'(t) dt$$

$$f(t) = e^{2\pi i \log t} = t^{2\pi i}, a_n = 1$$

$$\sum_{1 \leq n \leq N} e(\log n) = \dots = \frac{N^{1+2\pi i}}{1+2\pi i} + O(\log N) \neq o(N)$$

Lemma: Let  $X \in (\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^{\mathbb{N}}$ . Then TFAE:

(a)  $X$  is uniformly distributed modulo 1.

$$(b) \forall f \in C(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}) \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N f(x_n) = \int_0^1 f(x) dx$$

$$\left( \varphi_N(I) = |\{n \leq N : x_n \in I\}| = \sum_{n=1}^N \chi_I(x_n) \right)$$

$$(c) \forall f \in \mathcal{X}(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}), \quad \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N f(x_n) = \int_0^1 f(x) dx$$

proof: (c)  $\Rightarrow$  (a) is trivial (Just put  $f = \chi_I$ )

(a)  $\Rightarrow$  (c):  $X$  is uniformly distributed  $\Rightarrow$

(\*) holds true for any step function  $S$

$$s(x) = \sum a_n \chi_{I_n}(x)$$

Now, let  $f \in \mathcal{R}(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$ . There exist step functions on  $[0, 1)$  s.t.  $s \leq f \leq t$  and  $\int_0^1 (t(x) - s(x)) dx < \varepsilon$ .

For  $t$ ,  $\exists N(\varepsilon) \in \mathbb{N} \quad \forall N \geq N(\varepsilon)$

$$\left| \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N t(x_n) - \int_0^1 t(x) dx \right| < \varepsilon$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N f(x_n) - \int_0^1 f(x) dx &= \frac{1}{N} \left( \sum_{n=1}^N f(x_n) - t(x_n) \right) + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N t(x_n) \\ &\quad - \int_0^1 t(x) dx + \int_0^1 t(x) dx - \int_0^1 f(x) dx \leq \underbrace{\left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N t(x_n) - \int_0^1 t(x) dx \right)}_{\leq 0} \\ &\quad + \left( \int_0^1 (t(x) - f(x)) dx \right) < 2\varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

similarly, by using  $s(x)$  instead of  $t(x)$ , we get

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N f(x_n) - \int_0^1 f(x) dx > -2\varepsilon$$

$$\Rightarrow \left| \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N f(x_n) - \int_0^1 f(x) dx \right| < 2\varepsilon \Rightarrow \text{the result follows.}$$

(c)  $\Rightarrow$  (b):  $\checkmark$

(b)  $\Rightarrow$  (a): follows from approximating the characteristic functions of intervals by continuous functions from above and below.



proof of the Weyl criterion:

$X$  is uniformly distributed iff  $\forall k \in \mathbb{Z}^*$

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N e(kx_n) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } N \rightarrow \infty \quad (**)$$

( $\Rightarrow$ ) follows from the lemma above.

( $\Leftarrow$ ) (\*\*) implies that for every trigonometric polynomial  $P$ ,  $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N P(x_n) \rightarrow 0$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$

Let  $f \in C(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})$ . By Stone-Weierstrass Theorem, we can find a trigonometric polynomial  $T$  s.t.  $\|f - T\|_\infty < \varepsilon$

$$\left| \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N f(x_n) - \int_0^1 f(x) dx \right| \leq \left| \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N (f(x_n) - T(x_n)) \right| \\ + \left| \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N T(x_n) - \int_0^1 T(x) dx \right| + \left| \int_0^1 T(x) dx - \int_0^1 f(x) dx \right| < 3\varepsilon$$

for  $N$  large enough. ■

### Some Variants & Generalizations

Let  $Q \subseteq \mathbb{R}^p$  be the unit cube,  $x \in Q^{\mathbb{N}}$ . If  $V \subseteq Q$  is another cube,

$$\varphi_N(V) = \left| \{n \leq N : x(n) \in V\} \right|$$

$$\forall V \subseteq Q, \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\varphi_N(V)}{N} = m(V)$$

we say that  $X$  is uniformly distributed.

Theorem:  $X$  is uniformly distributed iff

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N e^{2\pi i(k \cdot x(n))} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } N \rightarrow \infty \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{Z}^p - \{(0, \dots, 0)\}.$$

Conclusion:  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p, 1\}$  is linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow (n\alpha = (n\alpha_1, \dots, n\alpha_p))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is

uniformly distributed mod  $Q$

Another view:

$$\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}, a_n = \alpha n + \beta$$

$T_\alpha: x \rightarrow x + \alpha \Rightarrow$  Then there is only one measure  $\mu$  on  $S^1$  s.t.  $\mu(A) = \mu(T_\alpha^{-1}(A))$  for all meaningful  $A$ .

Theorem: (Weyl)

$\alpha \notin \mathbb{Q} \Rightarrow (n^2\alpha)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is uniformly distributed.

Theorem:  $P(x) = a_d x^d + a_{d-1} x^{d-1} + \dots + a_1 x + a_0$  is

a polynomial with  $d \geq 2$ ,  $a_d \neq 0$ . If at least one of  $a_1, \dots, a_d$  is irrational, then  $(P(n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is uniformly distributed.

Theorem: Let  $(a(n))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a sequence of

distinct integers, i.e.,  $a(n) \neq a(m)$  when  $n \neq m$ .

Then, for almost all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $(a(n)\alpha)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is uniformly distributed.

Definition:  $\alpha \in (0,1)$  is said to be normal

iff for any  $t \in \{0,1,\dots,9\}$

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \left| \{n \leq N : a_n = t\} \right| = \frac{1}{10}$$

, where  $\alpha = 0, a_1 a_2 a_3 \dots a_n \dots$

Examples:

1. Champernowne ('33):  $0,12345678910111213\dots$
2. Copeland - Erdős ('46):  $0,23571113192329\dots$
3. Pavenpart - Erdős ('52):  $f(x) \in \mathbb{R}[x]$  s.t.  $f(n) \in \mathbb{N}$   
 $\forall n \in \mathbb{N} \Rightarrow 0, f(1)f(2)f(3)\dots$  is normal.

Question: Let  $f(x) \in \mathbb{R}[x]$  s.t.  $f(n) \in \mathbb{N} \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Let  $p_i$  be  $i$ th prime.

Is the number  $0, f(p_1)f(p_2)f(p_3)\dots$  normal?

Theorem:  $\alpha \in (0,1)$  is normal iff  $(10^n \alpha)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is uniformly distributed.

Question: Find an irrational number which is not normal. (Answer:  $0,01001000100001\dots$ )

Problem: Find more normal normal numbers!

(Are  $\pi, e, \sqrt{3}, \dots$  normal?)



References:

1. Equidistribution in Number Theory,  
A. Granville
2. Uniform Distribution of Sequences - Kuipers.