

ON A NEW CLASS OF DISTRIBUTIONS (PART II)

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This is a follow-up paper to [4], for distributions with bounded support $[0, 1]$. We consider quantile functions of the form

$$Q(u; \mathbf{p}) := a \cdot u^b + (1 - a) \cdot [1 - (1 - u)^c]$$

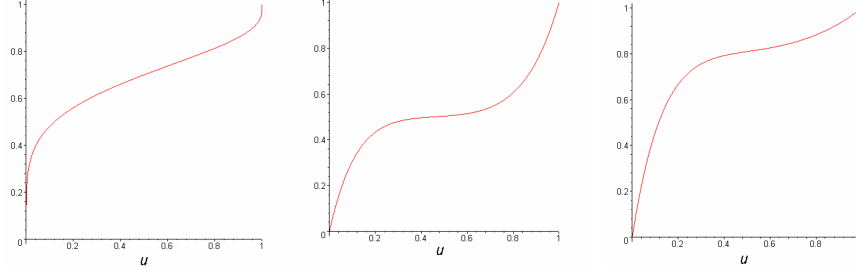
for $0 \leq u \leq 1$; $0 < a < 1$, $b, c > 0$, denoting $\mathbf{p} = (a, b, c)$.

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$$a = 0.75, b = 0.2, c = 0.3 \quad a = 0.5, b = 7, c = 9 \quad a = 0.2, b = 4, c = 8$$

Examples of quantile functions for different parameter values.

The advantage of these distributions is their easy simulation with standard uniform random numbers and the fact that moments - also for order statistics - can be easily calculated.

In particular, we have, for independent random variables $X_1, \dots, X_n$, distributed as X with the above quantile function:

$$\begin{aligned} E(X; \mathbf{p}) &= \int_0^1 Q(u; \mathbf{p}) du = \int_0^1 (a \cdot u^b + (1-a) \cdot [1 - (1-u)^c]) du \\ &= (1-a) \frac{c}{c+1} + \frac{a}{b+1}, \\ E(X^2; \mathbf{p}) &= \int_0^1 Q^2(u; \mathbf{p}) du = \int_0^1 (a \cdot u^b + (1-a) \cdot [1 - (1-u)^c])^2 du \\ &= (1-a)^2 \frac{c-1}{c+1} + \frac{2a \cdot (1-a)}{b+1} + \frac{a^2}{1+2b} + \frac{(a-1)^2}{1+2c} \\ &\quad + 2a \cdot (a-1) \cdot \text{Beta}(b+1, c+1), \end{aligned}$$

$$E(X_{k:n}; \mathbf{p}) = \frac{1}{\text{Beta}(k, n+1-k)} \int_0^1 Q(u, a, b, c) u^{k-1} (1-u)^{n-k} du$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{1 - a - \frac{\Gamma(n+1-k-c)\Gamma(n+1)}{\Gamma(n+1+c)\Gamma(n+1-k)}}{\text{Beta}(k, n+1-k)} \\
&+ \frac{a \cdot \Gamma(n+1) \cdot \left(\frac{\Gamma(b+k)}{\Gamma(n+b+k)\Gamma(k)} + \frac{\Gamma(n+1-k+c)}{\Gamma(n+1+c)\Gamma(n+1-k)} \right)}{\text{Beta}(k, n+1-k)}
\end{aligned}$$

for $1 \leq k \leq n$ (this follows, e.g., from [2], (5.1), p. 7). Here

$$\text{Beta}(\alpha, \beta) = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta)}, \quad \alpha, \beta > 0 \text{ denotes Euler's Beta function.}$$

Unfortunately, the corresponding distribution cannot be explicitly calculated in most situations. Here are a few results for some special cases:

$a = 0 : Q(u; 0, b, c) = u^b$: belongs to a standard beta distribution with $\alpha = \frac{1}{b}$, $\beta = 1$.

$a = 1 : Q(u; 1, b, c) = 1 - (1-u)^c$: belongs to a standard beta distribution with $\alpha = 1$, $\beta = \frac{1}{c}$.

$b = c = 2 : Q(u; a, 2, 2) := a \cdot u^2 + (1-a) \cdot [1 - (1-u)^2]$: belongs to the c.d.f. $F(x; a)$ given by

$$F(x; a) = \begin{cases} \frac{a-1 + \sqrt{(a-1)^2 + (2a-1) \cdot x}}{2a-1}, & a \neq \frac{1}{2}, \\ x, & a = \frac{1}{2} \end{cases}, \quad 0 \leq x \leq 1 \quad \text{with}$$

density $f(x; a)$ given by $f(x; a) = \frac{1}{2 \cdot \sqrt{(a-1)^2 + (2a-1) \cdot x}}$, $0 \leq x \leq 1$.

Hence for $a = \frac{1}{2}$, the continuous uniform distribution is obtained.

This is obviously also true for the choice $b = c = 1$, $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$.

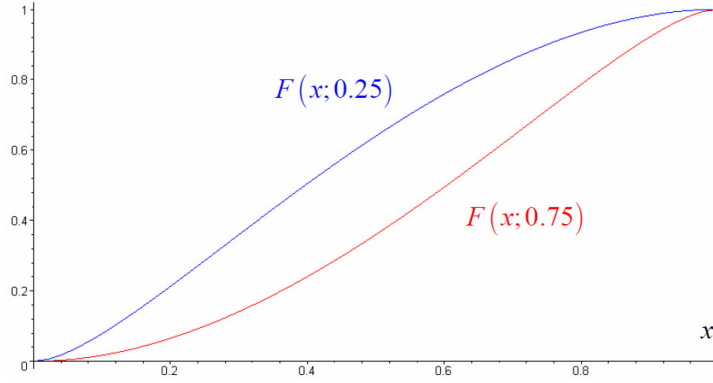
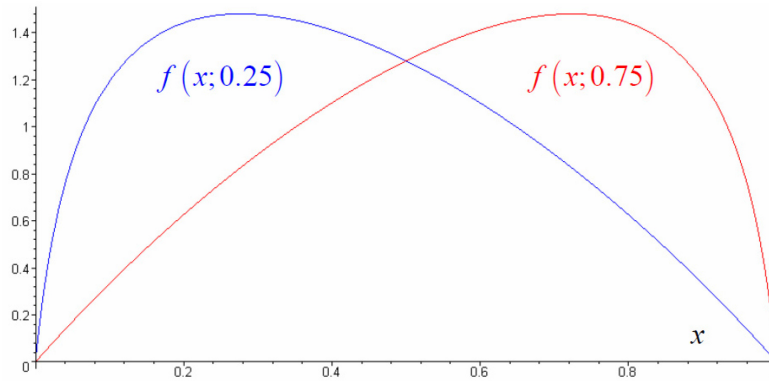
Another case of an explicit representation of the c.d.f. $F(x; a)$ can be obtained for $b = c = \frac{1}{2}$, namely by solving the pertaining quadratic equation:

$$F(x; a) = \frac{x \cdot (a^2 - (1-a)^2) \cdot (x - 2 \cdot (1-a)) + 2a^2 \cdot (1-a)^2}{((1-a)^2 + a^2)^2} \\ + \frac{2a \cdot (1-a)^2 \cdot (x - 1 + a) \sqrt{a^2 - x^2 + 2 \cdot (1-a) \cdot x}}{((1-a)^2 + a^2)^2},$$

$0 < x < 1$. The corresponding density $f(x; a)$ is given by

$$f(x; a) = \frac{2 \cdot (a^2 - (1-a)^2) \cdot (x - 1 + a) - \frac{2a \cdot (1-a) \cdot (x - 1 + a)^2}{\sqrt{a^2 - x^2 + 2 \cdot (1-a) \cdot x}}}{((1-a)^2 + a^2)^2} \\ + \frac{2a \cdot (1-a) \sqrt{a^2 - x^2 + 2 \cdot (1-a) \cdot x}}{((1-a)^2 + a^2)^2},$$

$0 < x < 1$. The following figures show some particular cases for different values of a :

**Figure 1.****Figure 2.**

Also, in some cases the quantile function (or c.d.f., resp.) of a standard beta distribution can be closely approximated by our approach, in particular, if $b, c < 1$. Note that the density $g(x; \alpha, \beta)$ of the standard beta distribution is given by

$$g(x; \alpha, \beta) = \frac{x^{\alpha-1} \cdot (1-x)^{\beta-1}}{\beta(\alpha, \beta)}, \quad 0 < x < 1; \quad \alpha, \beta > 0$$

(cf. [1], Chapter 25, p. 210).

A good approximation can be obtained by equating the first moments

of the beta distribution with those of our approach. For this purpose, let Y be standard beta distributed with parameters $\alpha, \beta > 0$ and X be distributed as above. From the equations

$$E(Y) = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \beta} = E(X) = (1 - a) \frac{c}{c + 1} + \frac{a}{b + 1}$$

and

$$E(Y^2) = \frac{\alpha \cdot (\alpha + 1)}{(\alpha + \beta) \cdot (\alpha + \beta + 1)} = E(X^2)$$

we obtain the relations

$$\alpha = \frac{E(X) \cdot (E(X) - E(X^2))}{E(X^2) - \{E(X)\}^2}, \quad \beta = \frac{(E(X) - E(X^2)) \cdot (1 - E(X))}{E(X^2) - \{E(X)\}^2}. \quad (*)$$

Example 1. Consider the above case $a = 0.75$, $b = 0.2$, $c = 0.3$. From (*) we get $\alpha = 6.3026$ and $\beta = 2.9294$. The c.d.f. F derived from our quantile function is quite close to the c.d.f. $\tilde{F}$ of a standard beta distribution with the above parameters, as can be seen from the following graph, obtained by numerical inversion:

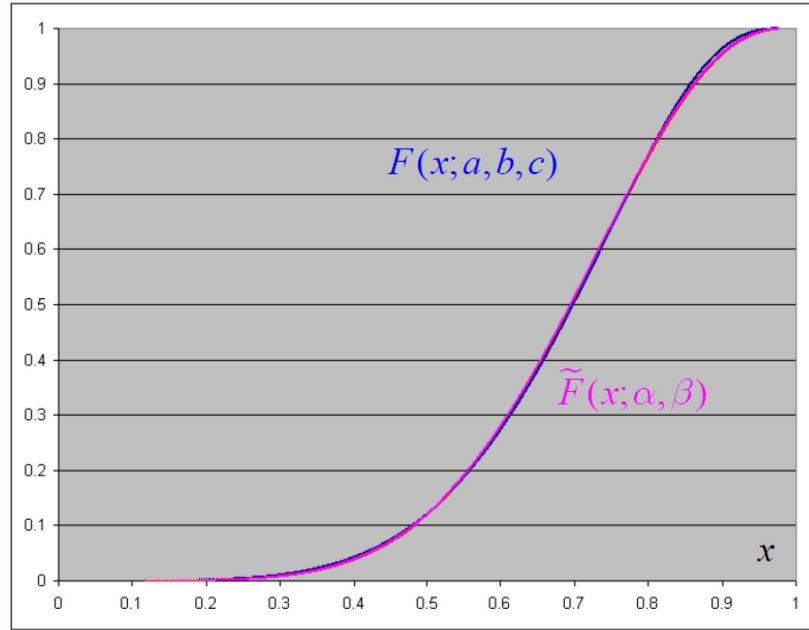


Figure 3. Comparison of F and $\tilde{F}$.

The following graph shows the corresponding densities f and $\tilde{f}$:

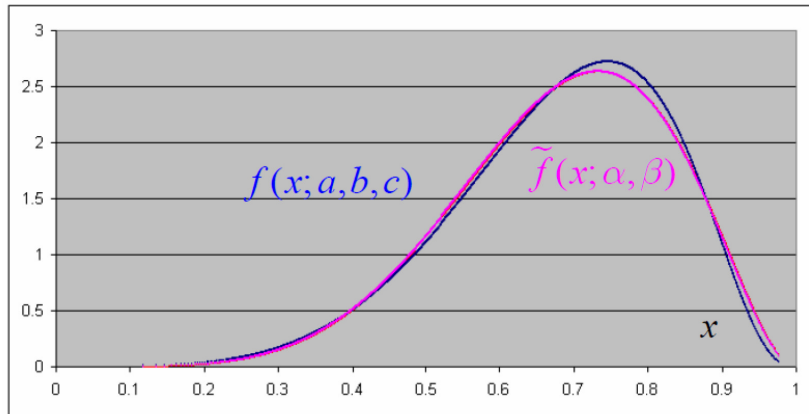


Figure 4. Comparison of f and $\tilde{f}$.

Example 2. Consider the case $a = 0.25$, $b = 0.4$, $c = 0.3$. From (*)

we get $\alpha = 1.9867$ and $\beta = 3.6630$. The c.d.f. F derived from our quantile function is also quite close to the c.d.f. $\tilde{F}$ of a standard beta distribution with the above parameter, as can be seen from the following graph, obtained by numerical inversion:

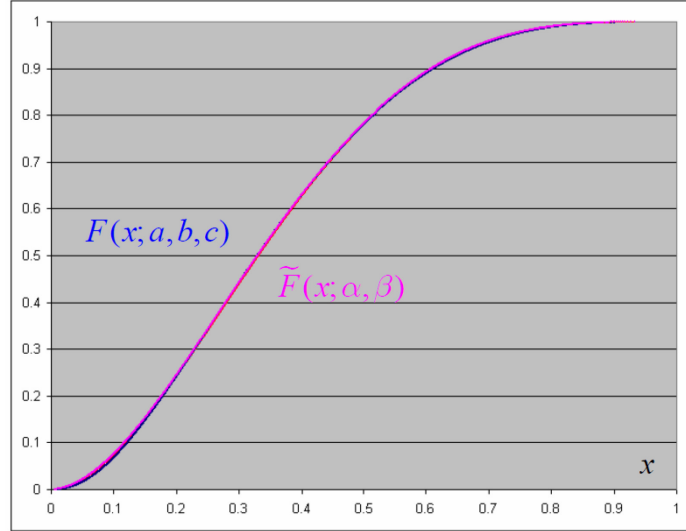


Figure 5. Comparison of F and $\tilde{F}$.

The following graph shows the corresponding densities f and $\tilde{f}$:

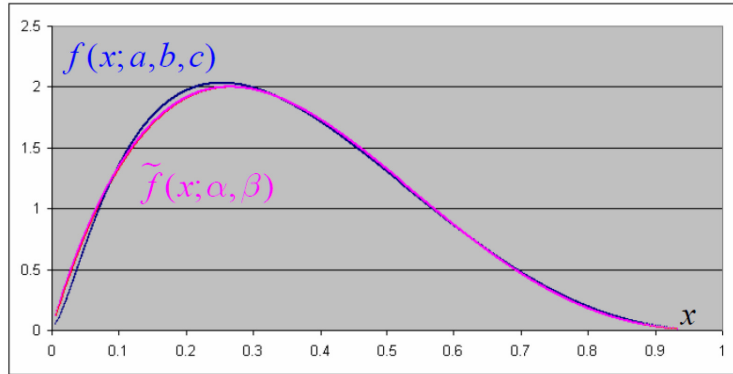


Figure 6. Comparison of f and $\tilde{f}$.

Example 3. Consider the case $a = 0.75$, $b = 0.5$, $c = 0.5$ (cf. p. 3 above). From (*) we get $\alpha = 2.0361$ and $\beta = 1.4544$. The c.d.f F derived from our quantile function is also quite close to the c.d.f. $\tilde{F}$ of a standard beta distribution with the above parameter, as can be seen from the following graph, obtained by numerical inversion:

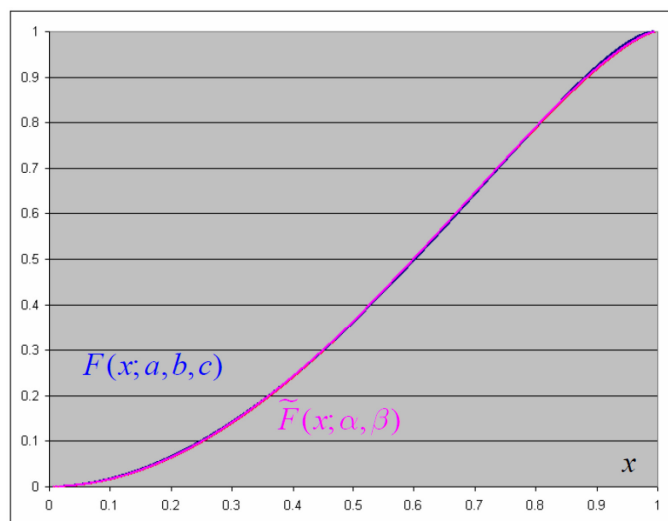


Figure 7. Comparison of F and $\tilde{F}$.

The following graph shows the corresponding densities f and $\tilde{f}$:

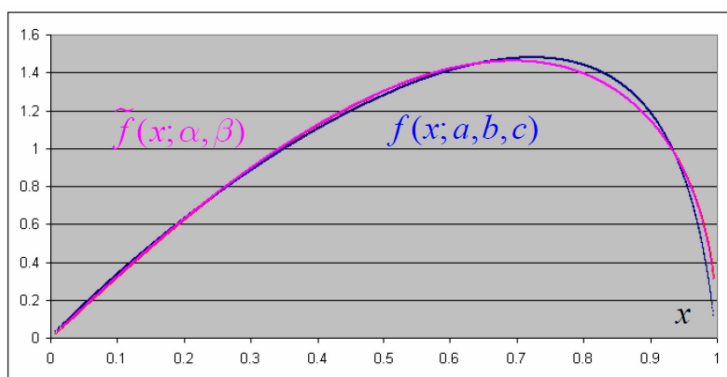


Figure 8. Comparison of f and $\tilde{f}$.

If $b = c = \frac{1}{2}$, we can find the following close estimates for the parameters of the approximate beta distribution, depending on a :

$$\alpha = \alpha(a) = 1 + 2.3584a - 2.1931a^2 + 2.5142a^3 - 1.6795a^4, \quad (**)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \beta = \beta(a) = & 1 + 2.3584(1 - a) - 2.1931(1 - a)^2 \\ & + 2.5142(1 - a)^3 - 1.6795(1 - a)^4 \end{aligned}$$

for $0 \leq a \leq 1$. The following figure shows the functional relationship between α and $\alpha(a)$ and $\beta(a)$.

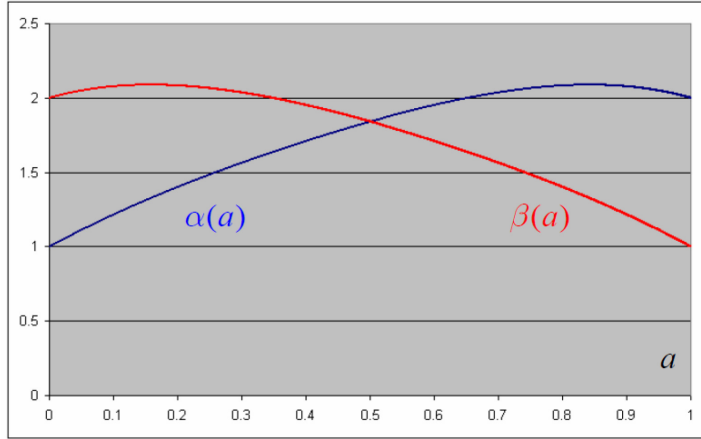


Figure 9. Functional dependence of $\alpha(a)$ and $\beta(a)$.

The following graph shows the difference $d(u; a) := \left(u; a, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right) - \tilde{Q}(u; \alpha(a), \beta(a))$ of the approximate quantile function Q and the exact quantile function $\tilde{Q}$ with the parameters $\alpha(a)$ and $\beta(a)$ according to (**), for different values of a .

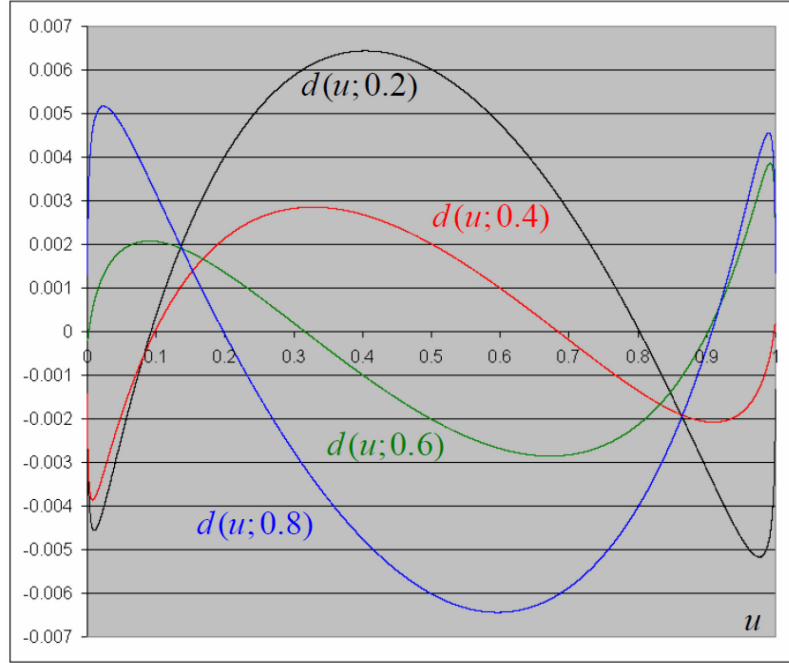


Figure 10. Graphical representation of $d(u; a)$ for different values of $a \in [0, 1]$.

Conversely, if α of the beta distribution is given, then we should have approximately

$$\alpha = 0.7297\alpha^4 - 4.1522\alpha^3 + 8.923\alpha^2 - 7.9947\alpha + 2.518,$$

$$\beta = -1.6795\alpha^4 + 4.204\alpha^3 - 4.7278\alpha^2 + 1.1972\alpha + 2.0066$$

for $1 \leq \alpha \leq 2$. For a further discussion of distributions concentrated on $[0, 1]$ see [3].

References

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