
Subject: Re: Random Numbers

Posted by [David](#) on Thu, 25 Oct 2012 14:37:59 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Yngvar Larsen writes:

```
>
> On Wednesday, 24 October 2012 23:38:34 UTC+2, John O'Neill wrote:
>> Hello Everyone,
>>
>> I am trying to create a set of random numbers using an Inverse Gaussian Distribution (Wald
distribution) but randomu doesn't seem able to do this. Is there anything more general than
randomu, or something where I can define what function I want to use to create random numbers?
>
>
> Google and Wikipedia are your friends.
>
> http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inverse\_Gaussian\_distribution#G
enerating\_random\_variates\_from\_an\_inverse-Gaussian\_distribution
>
> IDL> N = 100
> IDL> mu = 1d0 & lambda = 1d0
> IDL> nu = randomn(seed, N)
> IDL> z = randomu(seed, N)
> IDL> igvariates = dblarr(N)
> IDL> y = nu^2
> IDL> x = mu + mu^2*y/(2*lambda) - mu/2/lambda*sqrt(4*mu*lambda*y + mu^2*y^2)
> IDL> ind = where(z le mu/(mu+x), complement=cind)
> IDL> igvariates[ind] = x[ind]
> IDL> igvariates[cind] = mu^2/x[cind]
>
> Include checking for empty index arrays IND and/or CIND if you use IDL version < 8.0.
```

This code is easy enough to implement that I just wrote a function, `cgRandomWald` to do it this morning. You can find it here:

<http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/cgrandomwald.pro>

It works very much like the other `RandomX` functions in IDL.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

