

Characterizations of Distributions using Moments of k-Records

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Research Article

Abstract: In this paper, we characterize some distributions using the moments of k-records associated with a sequence of i.i.d continuous random variables. The k-records are special cases of the (upper) generalized order statistics introduced by Kamps (1995). The basic idea comes from the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality.

Key Words: Generalized order statistics, k-record values, Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, Weibull distribution.

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1. Introduction

The concept of generalized order statistics (gos) was introduced by Kamps (1995). The random variables $U(r, n, \tilde{m}, k)$, $1 \leq r \leq n$ are called uniform upper generalized order statistics if they possess a joint probability density function of the form

$g(u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n) = k \left(\prod_{j=1}^{n-1} \gamma_j \right) \left(\prod_{i=1}^{n-1} (1 - u_i)^{m_i} \right) (1 - u_n)^{k-1}$ on the cone $0 \leq u_1 \leq u_2 \leq \dots \leq u_n < 1$ of the n -dimensional Euclidean space R^n , where $n \geq 2$, $k > 0$ and $\tilde{m} = (m_1, m_2, \dots, m_{n-1}) \in R^{n-1}$ are parameters such that $\gamma_r = k + n + r + \sum_{j=r}^{n-1} m_j > 0$ for all $r \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$ ($\gamma_n = k$). Consider a sequence $\{X_n, n \geq 1\}$ of independent and identically distributed (iid) random variables (r, v 's) with a common continuous distribution function (df) F . The upper generalized order statistics (ugos) based on F (or ugos associated with $\{X_n, n \geq 1\}$) are defined by the quantile transformation $X(r, n, \tilde{m}, k) = F^{-1}(U(r, n, \tilde{m}, k))$, $1 \leq r \leq n$. When $m_1 = m_2 = \dots = m_{n-1} = -1$, the resulting ugos are called upper k-record values. We denote the n^{th} upper k-record value by $X(n, k)$. A fairly good account of gos and related statistics can be found in Kamps (1995). For characterizations using gos see Ahsanullah, M. (2000, 2005), Claudia Keseling (1999), Claudia Keseling and Kamps, U. (2003), Cramer, E., Kamps, U. and Raqab, M. (2000), Kamps, U. and Gather, U. (1997), Nayak, S. S. and Kunichi, M. C. (2006, 2008a, 2008b), Raqab, M. Z. and Lina N. Abu-Lawi (2004) and Khan et al. (2013). In this paper, we characterize the shifted Weibull distribution and some others using the moments of the ugos.

2. Preliminaries

Lemma 2.1: If $E|X_1|^\gamma < \infty$ then $E|X(n, k)|^\delta < \infty$ for all $\delta < \gamma$ and all $n \geq 1$ where δ and γ are positive integers.

Proof: Let $U(n, k)$ be the n^{th} k-record associated with the standard uniform distribution. Then $X(n, k) = F^{-1}(U(n, k))$. The p.d.f of $U(n, k)$ is (Kamps, 1995)

$$\frac{k^n}{(n-1)!} \{-\log(1-x)\}^{n-1} (1-x)^{k-1}, 0 < x < 1.$$

$$\text{Hence } E|X(n, k)|^\delta = \int_0^1 \frac{k^n}{(n-1)!} |F^{-1}(x)|^\delta \{-\log(1-x)\}^{n-1} (1-x)^{k-1} dx$$

$$= \frac{k^n}{(n-1)!} \int_0^1 |F^{-1}(x)|^\gamma \{-\log(1-x)\}^{\frac{(n-1)\gamma}{\gamma-\delta}} (1-x)^{\frac{(k-1)\gamma}{\gamma-\delta}} dx \leq \frac{k^n}{(n-1)!} \left(\int_0^1 |F^{-1}(x)|^\gamma dx \right)^{\frac{\delta}{\gamma-\delta}} \left(\int_0^1 \{-\log(1-x)\}^{\frac{(n-1)\gamma}{\gamma-\delta}} (1-x)^{\frac{(k-1)\gamma}{\gamma-\delta}} dx \right)^{1-\frac{\delta}{\gamma-\delta}}$$

By Holder's inequality. The right side is finite since $\int_0^1 |F^{-1}(x)|^\gamma dx = E|X|^\gamma < \infty$ by hypothesis and

$$\int_0^1 \{-\log(1-x)\}^{\frac{(n-1)\gamma}{\gamma-\delta}} (1-x)^{\frac{(k-1)\gamma}{\gamma-\delta}} dx$$

$$= \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{(n-1)\gamma}{\gamma-\delta} + 1\right)}{\left(\frac{k\gamma-\delta}{\gamma-\delta}\right)^{\frac{(n-1)\gamma}{\gamma-\delta} + 1}} \text{ is finite.}$$

Lemma 2.2: Let f and g be any two square integrable continuous functions defined on $(0, 1)$. Let $a = \int_0^1 f(x) dx$ and $b = \int_0^1 g(x) dx$. Then

$$\left| \int_0^1 f(x)g(x) dx - ab \right| = \left(\int_0^1 f^2(x) dx - a^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\int_0^1 g^2(x) dx - b^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (2.1)$$

if and only if

$f(x) - a = \lambda(g(x) - b)$ for some real λ .

Proof: We have

$$\left| \int_0^1 f(x)g(x) dx - ab \right| = \left| \int_0^1 (f(x) - a)(g(x) - b) dx \right|$$

$$\leq \left(\int_0^1 (f(x) - a)^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\int_0^1 (g(x) - b)^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \text{ by Cauchy-Schwarz inequality.}$$

$$= \left(\int_0^1 f^2(x) dx - a^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\int_0^1 g^2(x) dx - b^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Equality holds in this inequality if and only if $f(x) - a = \lambda(g(x) - b)$ for some real λ .

3. Characterizations

In this section, $\{X_n, n \geq 1\}$ is a sequence of independent and identically distributed (iid) random variables (r.v's) with a common continuous distribution function (df) F . We

assume that $E|X_1|^{2\alpha} < \infty$ so that $E|X_1|^\alpha < \infty$ where α is a positive integer. $\{X(n,k), n \geq 1\}$ is the corresponding sequence of n^{th} k -record values. By lemma 2.1, it follows that $E|X(n,k)|^\alpha < \infty$. Put $\mu'_r = EX_1^r, 0 \leq r \leq 2\alpha$.

Note that $EX^\alpha(n,k) = \int_0^1 \frac{k^n}{(n-1)!} U(u)^\alpha \{-\log(1-u)\}^{n-1} (1-u)^{k-1} du$ (3.1)

where $U(u) = F^{-1}(u)$.

Theorem 3.1:

- a) If either $k > 1, \alpha \geq 1, n \geq 2$ or $k=1, \alpha \geq 2(\text{even}), n \geq 2$ and $F^{-1}(0) < 0$ then there does not exist any d.f. F such that

$$|EX^\alpha(n,k) - \mu'_\alpha| = (\mu'_{2\alpha} - \mu'^2_\alpha)^{1/2} \left\{ \binom{2n-2}{n-1} \frac{k^{2n}}{(2k-1)^{2n-1}} - 1 \right\}^{1/2} \quad (3.2)$$

- b) Let $k=1, \alpha \geq 1, n \geq 2$ and $F^{-1}(0) \geq 0$. Then (3.2) holds if and only if

$$F(t) = 1 - \exp\left(-\left(\frac{(n-1)!(\lambda - \mu'_\alpha + t^\alpha)}{\lambda}\right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}\right), t > (\mu'_\alpha - \lambda)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}, \lambda > 0.$$

- c) Let $k=1, \alpha (\geq 1)$ odd, $n \geq 2$ and $F^{-1}(0) < 0$. Then (3.2) holds if and only if

$$F(t) = 1 - \exp\left(-\left(\frac{(n-1)!(\lambda - \mu'_\alpha - (-t)^\alpha)}{\lambda}\right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}\right), \text{ if } -(\lambda - \mu'_\alpha)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} < t \leq 0 \text{ and}$$

$$F(t) = 1 - \exp\left(-\left(\frac{(n-1)!(\lambda - \mu'_\alpha + t^\alpha)}{\lambda}\right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}\right), \text{ if } 0 \leq t < \infty \text{ where } \lambda > 0.$$

Proof: Taking $f(u) = \{F^{-1}(u)\}^\alpha$ and $g(u) = \frac{k^n}{(n-1)!} \{-\log(1-u)\}^{n-1} (1-u)^{k-1}$

In (2.1) we notice that $\int_0^1 f(x)g(x)dx = EX^\alpha(n,k)$ (from (3.1)), $a = \mu'_\alpha, b = 1$,

$$\int_0^1 f^2(x)dx = \mu'_{2\alpha} \text{ and}$$

$$\int_0^1 g^2(x)dx = \int_0^1 \frac{k^{2n}}{((n-1)!)^2} \{-\log(1-u)\}^{2(n-1)} (1-u)^{2(k-1)} du.$$

The substitution $-\log(1-u) = t$ gives

$$\int_0^1 g^2(u)du = \int_0^\infty \frac{k^{2n}}{((n-1)!)^2} e^{-(2k-1)t} t^{2(n-1)} dt = \binom{2n-2}{n-1} \frac{k^{2n}}{(2k-1)^{2n-1}}.$$

Now (2.1) reduces to (3.2).

By (2.2), (3.2) holds if and only if $\{F^{-1}(u)\}^\alpha = \mu'_\alpha + \lambda(g(u)-1)$ for some λ real. (3.3)

a) First let $k > 1, \alpha \geq 1$ and $n \geq 2$. Since $k > 1$, $g(u)$ is increasing in the interval $(0, u_0)$ and decreasing in the interval $(u_0, 1)$ where,

$u_0 = 1 - e^{\frac{n-1}{k-1}}$. Hence the right side of (3.3) is not monotonic in $(0,1)$. But, the left side of (3.3) is non-increasing in $(0,1)$. Hence (3.3) cannot be satisfied for any d.f. F .

Now let $k=1, \alpha (\geq 2)$ even, $n \geq 2$ and $F^{-1}(0) < 0$. Note that $g(u) = \frac{(-\log(1-u))^{n-1}}{(n-1)!}$,

and $g'(u) > 0, 0 < u < 1$. Since the left side of (3.3) is non-decreasing, we must have $\lambda > 0$. Hence the right side of (3.3) is negative for

$$0 < u < u_1 = 1 - \exp\left(-\left(\frac{(\lambda - \mu'_\alpha)(n-1)!}{\lambda}\right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}\right). \text{ But, the left side of (3.3) is positive since } \alpha (\geq 2) \text{ is even. Thus (3.3)}$$

cannot be satisfied for any d.f. F .

b) Since $k = 1$, we have $g(u) > 0, 0 < u < 1$. Since the left side of (3.3) is non-decreasing, we must have $\lambda > 0$. Since $F^{-1}(0) \geq 0$ and $g(0) = 0$, it follows that $\mu'_\alpha - \lambda \geq 0$ and $F^{-1}(u) = \{\mu'_\alpha + \lambda(g(u) - 1)\}^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}, 0 < u < 1$.

Note that $g'(x) = 1 - \exp\left\{-\left(\frac{(n-1)!}{\lambda}\right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}}\right\}, x > 0$.

Putting $t = \{\mu'_\alpha + \lambda(g(u) - 1)\}^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}$, we notice that $t > (\mu'_\alpha - \lambda)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} \geq 0$ and

$$F(t) = g^{-1}\left(\frac{t^\alpha + \lambda - \mu'_\alpha}{\lambda}\right)$$

$$= 1 - \exp \left\{ - \left(\frac{(t^\alpha + \lambda - \mu'_\alpha)(n-1)!}{\lambda} \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \right\}, t > (\mu'_\alpha - \lambda)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}, \lambda > 0$$

c) Let $k = 1$, $\alpha (\geq 1)$ odd, $n \geq 2$ and $F^{-1}(0) < 0$. As in case b), we have $\lambda > 0$.

Since $F^{-1}(0) < 0$ and α is odd, we observe from (3.3) that $\mu'_\alpha - \lambda < 0$,

$F^{-1}(u) < 0$ for $0 < u < u_1$ and $F^{-1}(u) > 0$ for $u_1 < u < 1$, where u_1 is as in case a).

Let $0 < u < u_1$. Then $F^{-1}(u) = -h(u)$, where $h(u) > 0$. From (3.3), we have $(-h(u))^\alpha = \mu'_\alpha + \lambda (g(u) - 1)$. This gives

$$F^{-1}(u) = -\{-(\mu'_\alpha + \lambda (g(u) - 1))\}^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}, 0 < u < u_1.$$

Proceeding as in case b), we get

$$F(t) = 1 - \exp \left\{ - \left(\frac{(n-1)!(\lambda - \mu'_\alpha - (-t)^\alpha)}{\lambda} \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \right\}, -(\lambda - \mu'_\alpha)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} < t < 0.$$

Now let $u_1 < u < 1$. In this case $F^{-1}(u) = \{\mu'_\alpha + \lambda (g(u) - 1)\}^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}, u_1 < u < 1$.

Proceeding as in case b), we get

$$F(t) = 1 - \exp \left\{ - \left(\frac{(n-1)!(\lambda - \mu'_\alpha + t^\alpha)}{\lambda} \right)^{\frac{1}{n-1}} \right\}, t > 0.$$

Remark: 3.1: In case b), the d.f is Weibull distribution with shifted origin.

Theorem 3.2: Let F be a continuous d.f symmetric about the origin. Let

k, α and n be integers such that

- (i) $k > 1, \alpha \geq 1, n \geq 2$ or
- (ii) $k = 1, \alpha \geq 2(\text{even}), n \geq 2$ or
- (iii) $k = 1, \alpha (\geq 1) \text{ odd}, n = 2$.

a) In cases (i) and (ii) there does not exist any d.f F such that

$$|EX^\alpha(n, k) - b\mu'_\alpha| = (\mu'_{2\alpha} - \mu'^2_\alpha)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{k^{2n}}{2} \left(\frac{\binom{2n-2}{n-1}}{(2k-1)^{2n-1}} + (-1)^\alpha A_{n,k} \right) - b^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (3.4)$$

$$\text{where } b = \frac{1+(-1)^\alpha}{2} \text{ and } A_{n,k} = \frac{1}{((n-1)!)^2} \int_0^1 (\log(1-u))^{n-1} (1-u)^{k-1} (\log u)^{n-1} u^{k-1} du.$$

b) In case (iii), (3.4) is true if and only if

$$F(t) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp\left(\frac{-2t^\alpha}{\lambda}\right)}, -\infty < t < \infty, \lambda > 0.$$

Proof: Take $f(u) = \{F^{-1}(u)\}^\alpha$ and

$$g(u) = \frac{k^n}{2(n-1)!} ((-\log(1-u))^{n-1} (1-u)^{k-1} + (-1)^\alpha (-\log u)^{n-1} u^{k-1})$$

In (2.1). Then $\int_0^1 f(u)g(u)du = \frac{k^n}{2(n-1)!} \int_0^1 U^\alpha(u)(-\log(1-u))^{n-1} (1-u)^{k-1} du$

$$+ \frac{k^n(-1)^\alpha}{2(n-1)!} \int_0^1 U^\alpha(u)(-\log u)^{n-1} u^{k-1} du.$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} EX^\alpha(n, k) + \frac{k^n(-1)^\alpha}{2(n-1)!} \int_0^1 \{-U(1-u)\}^\alpha (-\log u)^{n-1} u^{k-1} du.$$

(from (3.1) and the fact that the symmetry of F about zero implies

$$U(u) = -\square(I - \square), 0 < \square < I.)$$

$$= \frac{I}{2} \square \square (\square, \square) + \frac{\square \square}{2(\square - I)!} \int_0^I \square \square (\square) (-\log(I - \square))^{\square - I} (I - \square)^{\square \square}$$

$$= \square \square \square (\square, \square).$$

$$\text{Also, } a = \square'_\square, b = \frac{I+(-I)^\square}{2}, \int_0^I \square^2(\square) \square \square = \square'_{2\square} \text{ and}$$

$$\int_0^I \square^2(\square) \square \square = \frac{\square^2 \square}{2} \left(\frac{\binom{2\square - 2}{\square - I}}{(2\square - I)^{2\square - I}} + (-I)^\square \square \square, \square \right), \text{ where } A_{n,k} \text{ is as in (a).}$$

Then (2.1) reduces to (3.4). By (2.2), (3.4) holds good if and only if

$$\{\square^{-I}(\square)\}^\square - \square'_\square = \square(\square(\square) - \square) \text{ for some } \lambda > 0. \quad (3.5)$$

a) Note that the left side of (3.5) is non-decreasing in $(0,1)$ whereas then right side is not non-decreasing in $(0,1)$ in cases

(i) and (ii). Hence there does not exist any d.f F for which (3.4) is true.

b) Let $k = 1, n = 2$ and $\alpha \geq 1$ (odd). Then (3.5) reduces to

$$\{\square^{-I}(\square)\}^\square = \frac{\square}{2} \log \left(\frac{\square}{I - \square} \right), 0 < u < 1.$$

Since $(F^{-1}(u))^{\alpha}$ is non-decreasing, it follows that $\lambda > 0$. Since α is odd, we see that $F^{-1}(u)$ is negative or positive according as $0 < u < 1/2$ or $1/2 < u < 1$.

First let $0 < u < 1/2$. Then

$$\square^{-1}(\square) = -\left(\frac{\square}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} \left(\square \square \square \left(\frac{1-\square}{\square} \right) \right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}.$$

Putting $\square = -\left(\frac{\square}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} \left(\square \square \square \left(\frac{1-\square}{\square} \right) \right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}$ and solving for u , we get

$$\square(\square) = \frac{1}{1 + \square^{\frac{2}{\alpha}}(-\square)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}}, \square < 0.$$

Similarly for $1/2 < u < 1$, we get

$$\square(\square) = \frac{1}{1 + \square^{\frac{2}{\alpha}}\square^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}}, \square > 0.$$

Since α is odd, we observe that

$$\square(\square) = \frac{1}{1 + \square^{\frac{2}{\alpha}}\square^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}}, -\infty < \square < \infty, \square > 0.$$

Remark 3.2: Note that in case b) F reduces to the logistic d.f when $\alpha = 1$.

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