#  <br> A Method for Generating Skewed Random Numbers Using Two Overlapping Uniform Distributions 

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# A Method for Generating Skewed Random Numbers Using Two Overlapping Uniform Distrilbutions 

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#### Abstract

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#### Abstract

The objective of this work was to implement and evaluate a method for generating skewed random numbers using a combination of uniform random numbers. The method provides a simple and accurate way of generating skewed random numbers from the specified first three moments without an a priori specification of the probability density function. We describe the procedure for generating skewed random numbers from uniform random numbers, and show that it accurately produces random numbers with the desired first three moments over a range of skewness values. We also show that in the limit of zero skewness, the distribution of random numbers is an accurate approximation to the Gaussian probability density function. Future work will use this method to provide skewed random numbers for a Langevin equation model for diffusion in skewed turbulence.


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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The motivation for this work on skewed random number generation is the study of the dispersion of pollutants in the convective boundary layer, CBL. The CBL is the daytime, unstably-stratified atmospheric boundary layer, and typically extends from the ground surface to a height of 1 km . Pollutant dispersion within the CBL is qualitatively different from that within a stably- or neutrally-stratified boundary layer, where dispersion can be described by standard Gaussian (unskewed) turbulence models.

During the last two decades, a clear understanding has emerged of the complex processes involved in the time-averaged vertical dispersion of a pollutant in the CBL. For an elevated source, the height of maximum concentration of pollutant exhibits the behavior of approaching the ground surface with increasing time and downwind distance. For a source at the ground surface, the height of maximum concentration increases with downwind distance. The initial understanding of these behaviors emerged from a combination of laboratory (Willis and Deardorff; 1976, 1978, 1981) and numerical studies (Lamb; 1978a, 1978b, 1982). Confirmation of these phenomena in the atmosphere has been found more recently in a field study by Briggs (1993).

These behaviors cannot be explained by the first moment (mean) of the vertical wind velocity, $\bar{w}$, which is typically zero, nor by the second moment, $\overline{w^{2}}$. However, they can be explained by the third moment, $w^{3}$. In the CBL, $w^{3}>0$ and correspondingly the probability distribution of vertical velocity, $P(w)$, is positively skewed, where skewness is defined as $S=\overline{w^{3}} /\left(\overline{w^{2}}\right)^{3 / 2}$. Positive skewness in the vertical wind velocity is the result of strong solar heating of the ground surface, e.g., during cloudless midday conditions. This heating generates strong updrafts or thermals ( $w>0$ ) over approximately $40 \%$ of the horizontal area, on average, and weak downdrafts ( $w<0$ ) over the remaining $60 \%$. Consequently, a plume from an elevated source has a higher probability of encountering a downdraft, so the locus of maximum concentration decreases in height with downwind distance. For near-surface releases, plumes travel horizontally near the ground surface until they become incorporated in an updraft, causing an increase in height of the maximum concentration.

The impact of these phenomena on the ground level concentration is of great importance, especially for elevated sources. Significant underprediction, by as much as a factor of 2.9 (Briggs, 1993), can occur if these processes are not taken into account in atmospheric dispersion models. Since accurate prediction of ground-level concentrations are critical to atmospheric dispersion modeling applications such as environmental impact assessment, safety analysis, and emergency response, these effects need to be included.

Atmospheric dispersion models based on the Langevin equation have been developed which attempt to simulate turbulent dispersion in the skewed turbulence of the CBL. The
most successful of these models have used a Gaussian (unskewed) random force (e.g., Thomson, 1987; Luhar \& Britter, 1989; and Weil, 1990). We are developing a Langevin equation model that uses a skewed random force, but which overcomes limitations of existing skewed-random-force models. To implement such a model, a method of generating skewed random numbers from the specified first three moments is required. Such a method is described and tested below.

## 2. THE DOUBLE-BLOCK DISTRIBUTION

We have developed a simple method which can be used to generate skewed random numbers. It uses a combination of two overlapping uniform probability distributions, which shall henceforth be referred to as a "double-block" distribution. Uniform distributions are the simplest probability distributions, and uniformly-distributed random numbers are easily generated using computer pseudo-random number generators.

Figs. la-b show an example of the combination of two overlapping uniform probability density functions. Fig. la shows the two individual probability density functions, $P_{1}(b)$ and $P_{2}(b)$, defined by six parameters: the means $m_{1}$ and $m_{2}$, half-widths $\Delta_{1}$ and $\Delta_{2}$, and probability densities $p_{1}$ and $p_{2}$. These parameters have the following properties:

$$
\Delta_{1}>\left|m_{1}\right| \text { and }
$$

$$
\Delta_{2}>\left|m_{2}\right| .
$$

Therefore, the two distributions overlap each other and both cover $b=0$.
Fig. 1b shows the double-block probability density function, $P(b)$, which is the sum of these two uniform distributions, i.e.,

$$
\begin{equation*}
P(b)=P_{1}(b)+P_{2}(b) \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
P_{1}(b)=\left\{\begin{array}{l}
p_{1}, \text { if }\left(m_{1}-\Delta_{1}\right)<b<\left(m_{1}+\Delta_{1}\right)  \tag{2}\\
0, \text { elsewhere }
\end{array}\right.
$$

and

$$
P_{2}(b)=\left\{\begin{array}{l}
p_{2}, \text { if }\left(m_{2}-\Delta_{2}\right)<b<\left(m_{2}+\Delta_{2}\right)  \tag{3}\\
0, \text { elsewhere }
\end{array}\right.
$$



Figure 1a. Example of two overlapping uniform probability density functions, $P_{1}(b)$ and $P_{2}(b)$ with means $m_{1}=-0.51$ and $m_{2}=0.73$; half-widths $\Delta_{1}=1.1$ and $\Delta_{2}=1.6$; and probability densities $p_{1}=0.26$ and $p_{2}=0.13$, respectively.


Figure 1b. Example of double-block probability density function, $P(b)$, which is the sum of the two overlapping uniform distributions in Fig. 1a. This distribution has a mean of zero, a variance of 1 and a skewness of 0.5.

In general, only the first three moments of the vertical wind velocity are known. Consequently, we will derive the six parameters of this distribution so that the desired first moment (the mean, assumed to be zero), second moment ( $\sigma^{2}$ ), and third moment ( $\zeta^{3}$ ) result. Moments zero through three provide us with four equations:

$$
\begin{align*}
& \overline{b^{0}}=\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} P(b) d b=1  \tag{4a}\\
& \bar{b}=\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} b P(b) d b=0  \tag{4b}\\
& \overline{b^{2}}=\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} b^{2} P(b) d b=\sigma^{2}, \text { and }  \tag{4c}\\
& \overline{b^{3}}=\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} b^{3} P(b) d b=\zeta^{3} \tag{4d}
\end{align*}
$$

Using Eqs. (1-3), Eqs. (4a-d) become

$$
\begin{gather*}
2 p_{1} \Delta_{1}+2 p_{2} \Delta_{2}=1  \tag{5a}\\
m_{1} p_{1} \Delta_{1}+m_{2} p_{2} \Delta_{2}=0  \tag{5b}\\
\frac{2}{3} p_{1} \Delta_{1}^{3}+2 \Delta_{1} m_{1}^{2} p_{1}+\frac{2}{3} p_{2} \Delta_{2}^{3}+2 \Delta_{2} m_{2}^{2} p_{2}=\sigma^{2}, \text { and }  \tag{5c}\\
2\left[\Delta_{1}^{3} m_{1} p_{1}+\Delta_{1} m_{1}^{3} p_{1}+\Delta_{2}^{3} m_{2} p_{2}+\Delta_{2} m_{2}^{3} p_{2}\right]=\zeta^{3} \tag{5d}
\end{gather*}
$$

Since there are four and equations and six unknowns, two more equations are required for closure. We use the following two equations:

$$
\begin{gather*}
\Delta_{1}=-a m_{1} \text { and }  \tag{5e}\\
\Delta_{2}=a m_{2} \tag{5f}
\end{gather*}
$$

where $a$ is a positive constant (assuming $m_{1}<0$ and $m_{2}>0$ ), which must be specified. For $a$ greater than one, the two distributions overlap at $b=0$. We have chosen $a=\sqrt{5}$, which gives the best fit to a Gaussian distribution (when $\zeta^{3}$ is zero).

Assuming $a=\sqrt{5}$ and solving Eqs. (5a-f) yields

$$
\begin{equation*}
m_{1}=\frac{2}{9 \sigma^{2}}\left[\zeta^{3}-\left(\zeta^{6}+\frac{243}{32} \sigma^{6}\right)^{1 / 2}\right] \tag{6a}
\end{equation*}
$$

$$
\begin{gather*}
m_{2}=\frac{2}{9 \sigma^{2}}\left[\zeta^{3}+\left(\zeta^{6}+\frac{243}{32} \sigma^{6}\right)^{1 / 2}\right]  \tag{6b}\\
p_{1}=\frac{m_{2}}{2 a m_{1}\left(m_{1}-m_{2}\right)}, \text { and }  \tag{6c}\\
p_{2}=\frac{m_{1}}{2 a m_{2}\left(m_{1}-m_{2}\right)} \tag{6d}
\end{gather*}
$$

Parameters $\Delta_{1}$ and $\Delta_{2}$ are then defined by eqs. ( $5 \mathrm{e}-\mathrm{f}$ ).
These equations ( $5 \mathrm{e}, \mathrm{f} ; 6 \mathrm{a}-\mathrm{d}$ ) completely define the double-block probability function $P(b)$, given the desired moments, $\bar{b}=0, \overline{b^{2}}=\sigma^{2}$, and $\overline{b^{3}}=\zeta^{3}$. A set of random numbers, $\left\{b_{i}\right\}$, can then be generated with these desired first three mornents. An algorithm for doing this (which was used for the sample calculations shown below in section 4) is as follows:

## Double-block random number algorithm

(1) For the desired values of $\sigma^{2}$ and $\zeta^{3}$, calculate $m_{1}, m_{2}, \Delta_{1}, \Delta_{2}$, and $p_{1}$ using Eqs. (6a), (6b), (5e), (5f), and (6c), respectively.
(2) For each random number $b_{i}$ :
(a) Obtain two uniformly-distributed random numbers $r_{i}^{\prime}$ and $r_{i}^{\prime \prime}$ on $(0,1)$
(b) If $r_{i}^{\prime}<2 \Delta_{l} p_{1}$ (total probability of first uniform distribution), then

$$
b_{i}=m_{1}+\left[2 \Delta_{1}\left(r_{i}^{\prime \prime}-0.5\right)\right]
$$

else

$$
b_{i}=m_{2}+\left[2 \Delta_{2}\left(r_{i}^{\prime \prime}-0.5\right)\right]
$$

An alternate method which requires only one uniform random number is as follows:

## Alternate double-block random number algorithm

(1) For the desired values of $\sigma^{2}$ and $\zeta^{3}$, calculate $m_{1}, m_{2}, \Delta_{1}, \Delta_{2}$, and $p_{1}$ using Eqs. (6a), (6b), (5e), (5f), and (6c), respectively.
(2) For each random number $b_{i}$ :
(a) Obtain one uniformly-distributed random numbers $r_{i}$ on $(0,1)$
(b) If $r_{i}<2 \Delta_{l} p_{l} \equiv \mathbb{P}_{1}$ (total probability of first uniform distribution), then
$r_{i}^{\prime}=r_{i} / \mathbb{P}_{1}$
$b_{i}=m_{1}+\left[2 \Delta_{1}\left(r_{i}^{\prime}-0.5\right)\right]$
else
$r_{i}^{\prime}=\left(r_{i}-\mathbb{P}_{1}\right) /\left(1-\mathbb{P}_{1}\right)$
$b_{i}=m_{2}+\left[2 \Delta_{2}\left(r_{i}^{\prime}-0.5\right)\right]$

## 3. COMBINATIONS OF DOUBLE-BLOCK DISTRIBUTIONS

While double-block distributions as in Fig. 1b, have the desired first three moments, they are not smooth and continuous. However, skewed random numbers with continuous distributions, and with the desired first three moments, can be generated from combinations of double-block random variables. Such a random variable, $B$, can be defined as follows

$$
\begin{equation*}
B=\frac{1}{N^{1 / 2}} \sum_{i=1}^{N} b_{i} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $b_{i}$ is a double-block random number and $N$ is the number of double-block random numbers used to generate $B$. The moments of $B$ are related to the moments of $b$, as follows:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\bar{B}=\frac{1}{N^{1 / 2}} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \overline{b_{i}}=0 \tag{8a}
\end{equation*}
$$

$$
\begin{gather*}
\overline{B^{2}}=\overline{\left(\frac{1}{N^{1 / 2}} \sum_{i=1}^{N} b_{i}\right)^{2}}=\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \overline{b_{i}^{2}}=\overline{b^{2}},  \tag{8b}\\
\overline{B^{3}}=\overline{\left(\frac{1}{N^{1 / 2}} \sum_{i=1}^{N} b_{i}\right)^{3}}=\frac{1}{N^{3 / 2}} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \overline{b_{i}^{3}}=N^{-1 / 2} \overline{b^{3}} . \tag{8c}
\end{gather*}
$$

Therefore, random numbers, $B$, can be generated with desired moments $\bar{B}(=0), \bar{B}^{2}$, and $B^{3}$ by using Eq. (7) with double-block random numbers, $b_{i}$, which have the following moments:

$$
\begin{gather*}
\bar{b}=0,  \tag{9a}\\
\overline{b^{2}}=\sigma^{2}=\overline{B^{2}}  \tag{9b}\\
\overline{b^{3}}=\zeta^{3}=N^{1 / 2} \overline{B^{3}} \tag{9c}
\end{gather*}
$$

Note that the third moment of $b, \overline{b^{3}}=\zeta^{3}$, increases in a manner that is proportional to $N^{1 / 2}$, where $N$ is the number of double-block random numbers, $b_{i}$, per random number $B$. This is necessary in order to maintain the desired skewness of $B$ regardless of the number of double-block random numbers, $b_{i}$, that are combined to form $B$. If $\bar{b}^{3}$ did not depend on $N$, then, for large $N$, the Central Limit Theorem states that the distribution of $B$ as $N$ becomes large will approach a Gaussian distribution, which has zero skewness.

This method was tested for several values of skewness,

$$
S=\frac{\overline{B^{3}}}{\left(\overline{B^{2}}\right)^{3 / 2}}
$$

and for several values of $N$. A FORTRAN computer code which generates a sample of random numbers using this method, and calculates the corresponding histogram and probability density function is listed in the Appendix. Sample calculations using this method are given in the next section.

## 4. SAMPLE CALCULATIONS

Figs. 2-4 show calculated probability density values for $B$ using the above method for three values of skewness $(S=0.0,0.5$, and 1.5$)$ and for five values of $N(N=1,2,3,5$, and 10). All calculations are for a desired mean of 0 , desired variance ( $\sigma^{2}$ ) of 1 , and a sample of $10^{6}$ values of $B$. The number of occurrences of $B$ values in evenly-spaced bins from $B=-3 \sigma$ to $+3 \sigma$ were counted. For Figs. 2a-e, twenty four bins were used. For Figs. $3 \mathrm{a}-\mathrm{e}$ and $4 \mathrm{a}-\mathrm{e}$; forty eight bins were used. Probability density values for each bin were then calculated and plotted as dots.

Figs. 2a-e show the calculated probability density for zero skewness for values of $N=1$, $2,3,5$, and 10 . Also plotted (as a solid line) in these figures is the corresponding Gaussian probability density function with the same desired moments, i.e., mean of zero and variance of one. In this case, the Central Limit Theorem predicts that $B$ should approach a Gaussian distribution. From Figs. 2a-e, it can be seen that this occurs very quickly with increasing $N$. For $N=1$ (Fig. 2a), the first three moments are in excellent agreement with the specified values ( $\bar{B}=0.0, \overline{B^{2}}=1.0$, and $\overline{B^{3}}=0.0$ ). With increasing $N$, the fourth and higher moments approach the corresponding values for a Gaussian distribution. For a Gaussian distribution with zero mean, the odd moments are zero and the fourth moment is $\overline{B^{4}}=3 \sigma^{4}=3.0$.

Figs. 3a-e and 4a-e show calculations for non-zero skewness, $S=0.5$ and 1.5 , respectively. (Skewness of 0.5 is typical for vertical velocities in the CBL.) These figures show that the desired skewness is achieved quite accurately (to two decimal places) for all values of $N$. For increasing $N$, smooth distributions are quickly obtained.

## Figure 2a



> Desired Skewness $=0$. Desired Mean $=0$. Desired Variance $=1.0$ $\mathrm{~N}=1$ Number of final ran. num. $=1000000$ Calculated Skewness of $\mathrm{B}=0.00225$ Calculated Mean of B Calculated Variance of B Calculated 3rd moment of $\mathrm{B}=0.00105$ Calculated 4th moment of $\mathrm{B}=0.99829$ Calculated 5th moment of $\mathrm{B}=0.24393$ Can
(Note: $N=$ double-block random numbers, $b_{i}$, per final random number, B)

## Figure 2b



```
Desired skewness \(=0\).
Desired Mean \(=0\).
Desired Variance \(=1.0\)
\(\mathrm{N}=2\)
Number of final ran. num. \(=1000000\)
Calculated Skewness of \(B=-0.0035\)
Calculated Mean of \(B=-0.0005\)
Calculated Variance of \(B=0.99948\)
Calculated 3rd moment of \(B=-0.0035\)
Calculated 4 th moment of \(B=2.62087\)
Calculated 5 th moment of \(B=-0.0190\)
```

(Note: $N=$ double-block random numbers, $b_{i}$, per final random number, B)

## Figure 2c



```
Desired Skewness \(=0\).
Desired Mean \(=0\).
Desired Variance \(=1.0\)
\(\mathrm{N}=3\)
Number of final ran. num. \(=1000000\)
Calculated Skewness of \(B=-0.0042\)
Calculated Mean of \(B=-0.0012\)
Calculated Variance of \(B=1.00090\)
Calculated 3rd moment of \(B=-0.0042\)
Calculated 4th moment of \(\mathrm{B}=2.75655\)
Calculated 5th moment of \(B=-0.0247\)
```

(Note: $N=$ double-block random numbers, $b_{i}$, per final random number, B)

## Figure 2d



Desired Skewness $=0$.
Desired Mean $=0$.
Desired Variance $=1.0$
$\mathrm{N}=5$
Number of final ran. num. $=1000000$
Calculated Skewness of $B=-0.0028$
Calculated Mean of $B \quad=-0.0008$
Calculated Variance of $B=1.00209$
Calculated 3rd moment of $B=-0.0029$
Calculated 4 th moment of $B=2.86242$
Calculated 5 th moment of $B=-0.0143$
(Note: $N=$ double-block random numbers, $b_{i}$, per final random number, B)

## Figure $2 e$



```
Desired Skewness = 0.
Desired Mean = 0.
Desired Variance = 1.0
N}=1
Number of final ran. num.= 1000000
Calculated Skewness of B = -0.0021
Calculated Mean of B = -0.0008
Calculated Variance of B = 1.00205
Calculated 3rd moment of B = -0.0021
Calculated 4th moment of B = 2.93680
Calculated 5th moment of B = -0.0083
```

```
(Note: \(N=\) double-block random numbers, \(b_{i}\), per
```

(Note: $N=$ double-block random numbers, $b_{i}$, per
final random number, B)

```
    final random number, B)
```


## Figure 3a



Desired skewness $=0.5$
Desired Mean $=0$.
Desired Variance $=1.0$
$\mathrm{N}=1$
Number of final ran. num. $=1000000$
Calculated Skewness of $B=0.50456$
Calculated Mean of $B \quad=0.00118$
Calculated Variance of $B=0.99906$
Calculated 3rd moment of $B=0.50385$
Calculated 4 th moment of $B=2.54383$
Calculated 5 th moment of $B=2.85461$
(Note: $N=$ double-block random numbers, $b_{i}$, per final random number, B)

## Figure 3b



```
Desired Skewness \(=0.5\)
Desired Mean \(=0\).
Desired Variance \(=1.0\)
\(\mathrm{N}=2\)
Number of final ran. num. \(=1000000\)
Calculated skewness of \(B=0.49820\)
Calculated Mean of \(B \quad=-0.0003\)
Calculated Variance of \(B=0.99951\)
Calculated 3rd moment of \(B=0.49784\)
Calculated 4 th moment of \(B=2.91312\)
Calculated 5 th moment of \(B=3.98529\)
```

```
(Note: \(N=\) double-block random numbers, \(b_{i}\), per
```

(Note: $N=$ double-block random numbers, $b_{i}$, per
final random number, B)

```
    final random number, B)
```


## Figure 3c



```
Desired Skewness \(=0.5\)
Desired Mean \(=0\).
Desired Variance \(=1.0\)
\(\mathrm{N}=3\)
Number of final ran. num. \(=1000000\)
Calculated Skewness of \(\mathrm{B}=0.49600\)
Calculated Mean of \(B=-0.0016\)
Calculated Variance of \(B=0.99882\)
Calculated 3rd moment of \(B=0.49513\)
Calculated 4 th moment of \(B=3.04044\)
Calculated 5 th moment of \(B=4.37807\)
```

(Note: $N=$ double-block random numbers, $b_{i}$, per final random number, B)

## Figure 3d



Desired skewness $=0.5$
Desired Mean $=0$.
Desired Variance $=1.0$
$\mathrm{N}=5$
Number of final ran. num. $=1000000$
Calculated Skewness of $B=0.49894$
Calculated Mean of $B=-0.0011$
Calculated Variance of $B=1.00133$
Calculated 3rd moment of $B=0.49995$
Calculated 4 th moment of $B=3.15260$
Calculated 5 th moment of $B=4.71858$
(Note: $N=$ double-block random numbers, $b_{i}$, per final random number, B)

## Figure 3 e



Desired Skewness $=0.5$
Desired Mean $=0$.
Desired Variance $=1.0$
$\mathrm{N}=10$
Number of final ran. num. $=1000000$
Calculated Skewness of $B=0.49844$
Calculated Mean of $B=-0.0010$
Calculated Variance of $B=1.00032$
Calculated 3rd moment of $B=0.49868$
Calculated 4 th moment of $B=3.22919$
Calculated 5 th moment of $B=4.97588$
(Note: $N=$ double-block random numbers, $b_{i}$, per final random number, B)

## Figure 4a



```
Desired Skewness \(=1.5\)
Desired Mean \(=0\).
Desired Variance \(=1.0\)
\(\mathrm{N}=1\)
Number of final ran. num. \(=1000000\)
Calculated Skewness of \(B=1.50333\)
Calculated Mean of \(B \quad=0.00091\)
Calculated Variance of \(B=0.99837\)
Calculated 3rd moment of \(B=1.49967\)
Calculated 4th moment of \(B=4.90601\)
Calculated 5th moment of \(B=12.7426\)
(Note: \(N=\) double-block random numbers, \(b_{i}\), per
    final random number, B)
```


## Figure 4b



```
Desired Skewness \(=1.5\)
Desired Mean \(=0\).
Desired Variance \(=1.0\)
\(N=2\)
Number of final ran. num. \(=1000000\)
Calculated Skewness of \(B=1.49890\)
Calculated Mean of \(B=0.00006\)
Calculated Variance of \(B=0.99955\)
Calculated 3rd moment of \(\mathrm{B}=1.49791\)
Calculated 4 th moment of \(\mathrm{B}=5.26957\)
Calculated 5 th moment of \(B=16.1751\)
(Note: \(N=\) double-block random numbers, \(b_{i}\), per final random number, B)
```


## Figure 4c



```
Desired Skewness \(=1.5\)
Desired Mean \(=0\).
Desired Variance \(=1.0\)
\(\mathrm{N}=3\)
Number of final ran. num. \(=1000000\)
Calculated Skewness of \(\mathrm{B}=1.49754\)
Calculated Mean of \(B \quad=-0.0011\)
Calculated Variance of \(\mathrm{B}=0.99859\)
Calculated 3rd moment of \(B=1.49437\)
Calculated 4 th moment of \(\mathrm{B}=5.38421\)
Calculated 5th moment of \(\mathrm{B}=17.2935\)
```

```
(Note: \(N=\) double-block random numbers, \(b_{i}, ~ p e r\)
```

(Note: $N=$ double-block random numbers, $b_{i}, ~ p e r$
final random number, B)

```
    final random number, B)
```


## Figure 4d



Desired skewness $=1.5$
Desired Mean $=0$.
Desired Variance $=1.0$
$\mathrm{N}=5$
Number of final ran. num. $=1000000$
Calculated Skewness of $B=1.50270$
Calculated Mean of $B=-0.0005$
Calculated Variance of $B=1.00105$
Calculated 3rd moment of $B=1.50508$
Calculated 4th moment of $B=5.52842$
Calculated 5th moment of $B=18.3748$
(Note: $N=$ double-block random numbers, $b_{i}$, per final random number, B)

## Figure 4 e



```
Desired skewness \(=1.5\)
Desired Mean \(=0\).
Desired Variance \(=1.0\)
\(\mathrm{N}=10\)
Number of final ran. num. \(=1000000\)
Calculated Skewness of \(\mathrm{B}=1.50213\)
Calculated Mean of \(B=-0.0006\)
Calculated Variance of \(B=0.99922\)
Calculated 3rd moment of \(B=1.50039\)
Calculated 4th moment of \(B=5.61930\)
Calculated 5 th moment of \(B=19.4374\)
```

(Note: $N=$ double-block random numbers, $b_{i}$, per final random number, B)

## 5. SUMMARY

The initial testing of probability distributions from combinations of double-block random numbers has shown that this is a promising technique for generating skewed random numbers. The method can generate random numbers with the desired first, second and third moments. For calculations with zero skewness, the higher moments of a Gaussian distribution were accurately reproduced when multiple double-block random numbers were combined.

Ongoing and future work will use this skewed random number generator for the random forcing term in a Langevin model for skewed turbulence in the convective boundary layer. The results will be compared with analytical results, laboratory and field experiments, and other Langevin models.

## 6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## APPENDIX

## FORTRAN Double-block random number generator code

```
    program db
C
c
C
c db (Double Block)
c
c
c
C
c author: John Nasstrom
c
c date: April 1994
c
c purpose: Generate random numbers from double, overlapping "blocks"
c of two uniform probability density functions using method
c developed by Don Ermak
c
c
```

```
implicit none
```

implicit none
integer ndb, nfinal, idb, ifinal, nbins, ibin
integer ndb, nfinal, idb, ifinal, nbins, ibin
parameter(nbins=48)
parameter(nbins=48)
integer*4 ranseed
integer*4 ranseed
real mom2, skew, dbmom3, dbmean1, dbmean2, dbprob1,
real mom2, skew, dbmom3, dbmean1, dbmean2, dbprob1,
\& dbdelta1, dbdelta2, rana, ranb,
\& dbdelta1, dbdelta2, rana, ranb,
\& dbran, sumdbran,
\& dbran, sumdbran,
\& sumdbran2, sumdbran3,
\& sumdbran2, sumdbran3,
\& finalran, sumfinalran, sumfinalran2, sumfinalran3,
\& finalran, sumfinalran, sumfinalran2, sumfinalran3,
\& sumfinalran4, sumfinalran5,
\& sumfinalran4, sumfinalran5,
\& finalmean, finalmom2, finalmom3, finalmom4, finalmom5,
\& finalmean, finalmom2, finalmom3, finalmom4, finalmom5,
\& finalskew,
\& finalskew,
\& finalpdf(nbins), histbincount(nbins), histbinwidth,
\& finalpdf(nbins), histbincount(nbins), histbinwidth,
\& histbinlowval(nbins), histsigmas,
\& histbinlowval(nbins), histsigmas,
\& a, b, c, terma, termb

```
& a, b, c, terma, termb
```

```
parameter(histsigmas=3.)
```

```
c--------------- Start execution ------------------
c----- Assign constants
    a = sqrt(5.)
    b = 2./9.
    c = 243./32.
    ranseed = 97531
c---- Read input parameters:
C - Number of double-block random numbers (ndb) to sum for each
C random number in final distribution
C - Number of values of final random number to calculate (nfinal)
C - Desired skewness (skew) and second moment (mom2) of final
C distribution (mean is assumed to be zero)
    open(unit=1, name='dbin.dat', err=100, status='OLD')
    go to }12
100 continue
    stop 'Error opening input parameter file: dbin.dat'
continue
read(1,*) ndb, nfinal, skew, mom2
Close(unit=1)
c------ Open output file
    open(unit=2, name='dbout.dat', err=200, status='NEW')
    go to 220
200 continue
    stop ' Error opening output file: dbout.dat'
220 continue
    write(2,250) ndb, nfinal, skew, mom2
250 format(' ndb=',I8,'; nfinal=',I8, '; skew=', f7.3,
    & '; mom2=', f7.3,';',/)
```

    do ibin = 1, nbins
        histbinlowval(ibin) = -histsigmas*sqrt(mom2)
    &
                        + float(ibin-1)*histbinwidth
        histbincount(ibin)}=0
    end do
    ```
```

c-------- Calculate parameters for double block (db) distribution---

```
c-------- Calculate parameters for double block (db) distribution---
    dbmom3 = sqrt(float(ndb)) * skew * (mom2**1.5)
    dbmom3 = sqrt(float(ndb)) * skew * (mom2**1.5)
    terma = b/mom2
    terma = b/mom2
    termb = sqrt(dbmom3**2 + c*mom2**3)
    termb = sqrt(dbmom3**2 + c*mom2**3)
    dbmean1 = terma*(dbmom3-termb)
    dbmean1 = terma*(dbmom3-termb)
    dbmean2 = terma*(dbmom3+termb)
    dbmean2 = terma*(dbmom3+termb)
    dbprob1 = dbmean2/(2.*a*dbmean1*(dbmean1-dbmean2))
    dbprob1 = dbmean2/(2.*a*dbmean1*(dbmean1-dbmean2))
    dbdeltal = -a*dbmean1
    dbdeltal = -a*dbmean1
    dbdelta2 = a*dbmean2
    dbdelta2 = a*dbmean2
    write(2,300) dbmom3,dbmean1,dbmean2,dbprob1,dbdelta1, dbdelta2
300 format( ' dbmom3=', F16.10, ';', /,
    & ' dbmean1=', F16.10, ';', /,
    & ' dbmean2=', F16.10, ';', /,
    & ' dbprob1=', F16.10, ';', /,
    & ' dbdelta1=', F16.10, ';', /,
    & ' dbdelta2=', F16.10, ';', /
    & )
c------ Initialize sums for final random number moments ----
    sumfinalran = 0.
    sumfinalran2 = 0.
    sumfinalran3 = 0.
    sumfinalran4 = 0.
    sumfinalran5 = 0.
```

```
c------ Loop for calculation of final random number
        Do ifinal = 1, nfinal
    c----- Initialize values of final random number
        sumdbran = 0.
c-------------------------------------------------------------------
c------ Loop for summation of double block random numbers -----
c------ in each final random number
    Do idb = 1, ndb
    rana = ran(ranseed)
    ranb = ran(ranseed)
    if (rana .lt. (2.*dbdelta1*dbprob1) ) then
        dbran = dbmean1 + 2.*dbdeltal*ranb - dbdeltal
        else
        dbran = dbmean2 + 2.*dbdelta2*ranb - dbdelta2
        end if
    c--------- add to sums for final random number
        sumdbran = sumdbran + dbran
        end do
c------------end of loop for double-block random numbers--------------
c-------- Calculate final random number
    finalran = sumdbran / sqrt(float(ndb))
c-------- Increment count for appropriate bin of histogram of
c-------- final random number distribution
    do ibin = 1, nbins
        if (finalran.ge.histbinlowval(ibin) .and.
        & finalran .lt. (histbinlowval(ibin)+histbinwidth) ) then
            histbincount(ibin) = histbincount(ibin) + I.
                go to 450
        end if
        end do
```

```
c-------- Add to sums for moments of final random numbers
    sumfinalran = sumfinalran + finalran
    sumfinalran2 = sumfinalran2 + finalran**2
    sumfinalran3 = sumfinalran3 + finalran**3
    sumfinalran4 = sumfinalran4 + finalran**4
    sumfinalran5 = sumfinalran5 + finalran**5
```

        end do
    c---------end of loop for final random numbers--------------------------1
c------- Calculate moments of final random number distribution
finalmean $=$ sumfinalran / nfinal
finalmom2 $=$ sumfinalran2 / nfinal
finalmom3 $=$ sumfinalran3 / nfinal
finalmom4 = sumfinalran4 / nfinal
finalmom5 = sumfinalran5 / nfinal
finalskew $=$ finalmom3 / finalmom2**1.5
c------- Calculate final prodability density function (pdf)
do ibin $=1$, nbins
finalpdf(ibin) $=$ histbincount(ibin) / (nfinal*histbinwidth)
end do
c------- Write out results in format readable by Mathematica
write (2,1100) finalmean, finalmom2, finalmom3,
\& finalmom4, finalmom5, finalskew
1100 format(' finalmean=', F16.10 ,';' ,/,
\& $\quad$ finalmom2=', F16.10 ,';' ./,
\& ' finalmom3=', F16.10 ,';' ,/,
\& ' finalmom4=', F16.10,';', /,
\& ' finalmom5=', F16.10 ,';' ,/,
\& ' finalskew=', F16.10,';' ,/
\& )
write (2, 1200)
1200 format(' finalranhistogram = \{' )
do ibin = 1, nbins
if(ibin.ne.nbins) then
write(2, 1210) ibin, histbincount(ibin)
1210
format(' \{',i3, ', ', f10.0, '\},')
else

```
            write(2,1215) ibin, histbincount(ibin)
            format(' {',i3, ',', f10.0, '}')
        end if
        end do
        write(2, 1216)
        format(' } ;' )
        write(2, 1220)
        format(/,' finalranpdf ={' )
        do ibin = 1, nbins
        if(ibin.ne.nbins) then
            write(2, 1230) (histbinlowval(ibin)+histbinwidth/2.),
    &
                    finalpdf(ibin)
1230 format(' {', f13.7, ',', F16.10, '},')
        else
            write(2,1235) (histbinlowval(ibin)+histbinwidth/2.),
    &
                finalpdf(ibin)
1235 Eormat(' {', f13.7, ',', F16.10, '} ')
        end if
    end do
    write(2, 1240)
1240 format(' } ;' )
    close(unit=2)
    stop 'normal'
    end
```

