

Lambda Distribution and Its Application in Data Fitting

Zhao-Hui Lu and Yan-Gang Zhao

Background and Objective

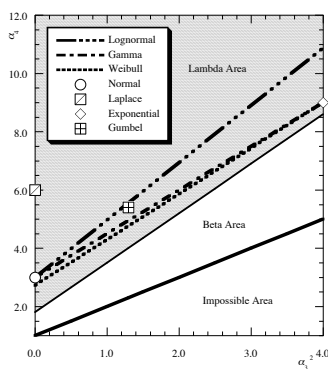
Usually, the method for determining the probability distribution of a variable is to fit the histogram of the statistical data with a candidate distribution. Generally, such candidate distribution would have parameters that may be evaluated from the mean value and standard deviation of the statistical data. However, the two-parameter distributions may not be appropriate when the skewness and kurtosis of the statistical data are important and must be reflected in the distribution.

In the present research, a four-parameter Lambda distributions is introduced and the simplicity, flexibility and advantages of this distribution in fitting statistical data are identified and discussed.

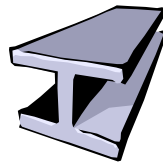
Definition of the Lambda distribution

$$z = R(p) = \lambda_1 + [p^{\lambda_3} - (1-p)^{\lambda_4}] / \lambda_2 \quad (0 \leq p \leq 1)$$

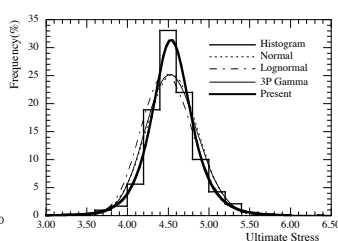
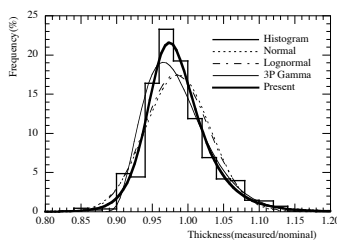
Operable area in the α_3^2 - α_4 Plane



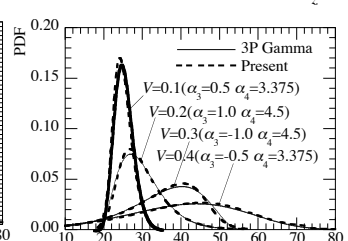
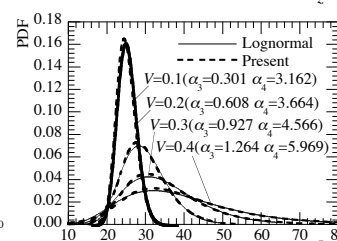
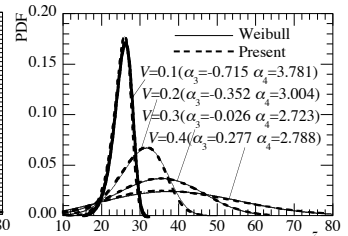
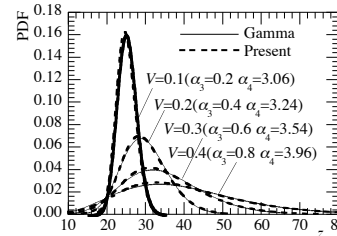
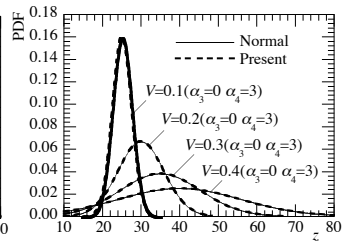
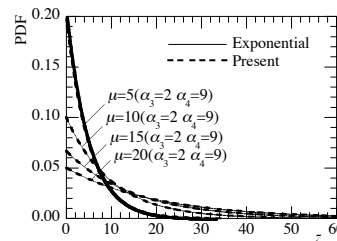
Main contents



Data Fitting of thickness and ultimate stress of H-shape steel



Approximation for one-, Two- and Three-Parameter Distributions



Outcomes

- The distribution has a single expression, and it is generally operable for common engineering use.
- The distribution has more flexibility for fitting statistical data of variables, and can more effectively fit the histograms of available data than two- or three-parameter distributions.
- The 4P Lambda distribution can be used to approximate some popular distributions, such as one-parameter exponential distribution, two-parameter distributions including normal, lognormal, Gamma, Weibull distributions and three-parameter Gamma distribution and so on.