

New Probability Distributions in Astrophysics: XI. Left Truncation for the Topp-Leone Distribution

Lorenzo Zaninetti

Physics Department, University of Turin, Turin, Italy
Email: l.zaninetti@alice.it

How to cite this paper: Zaninetti, L. (2023) New Probability Distributions in Astrophysics: XI. Left Truncation for the Topp-Leone Distribution. *International Journal of Astronomy and Astrophysics*, 13, 154-165.
<https://doi.org/10.4236/ijaa.2023.133009>

Received: June 9, 2023

Accepted: August 28, 2023

Published: August 31, 2023

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Abstract

The Topp-Leone (T-L) distribution has aided the modeling of scientific data in many contexts. We demonstrate how it can be adapted to model astrophysical data. We analyse the left truncated version of the T-L distribution, deriving its probability density function (PDF), distribution function, average value, r th moment about the origin, median, the random generation of its values, and its maximum likelihood estimator, which allows us to derive the two unknown parameters. The T-L distribution, in its regular and truncated versions, is then applied to model the initial mass function for the stars. A comparison is made with specific clusters and between proposed functions for the IMF. The Topp-Leone distribution can provide an excellent fit in some cases.

Keywords

Stars: Normal, Stars: Luminosity Function, Mass Function Stars: Statistics

1. Introduction

A family of univariate J-shaped probability distributions was introduced by Topp & Leone in 1955 [1], in the following T-L. After 50 years, a derivation of the moments of the T-L distribution was done by [2] in terms of the Gauss hypergeometric function, and a numerical analysis of its skewness was done by [3]. At the moment of writing, the study of the generalizations of the T-L distributions is an active field of research, we cite among others some approaches: the introduction of two sides and a generalization [4], a new family of distributions called the Marshall-Olkin Topp Leone-G family [5], a new trigonometric family of distributions defined from the alliance of the families known as sine-G and

Topp-Leone generated distributions [6]. This paper introduces in Section 2 the scale for the T-L distribution, which is originally defined in the interval $[0,1]$. Section 3 introduces a left truncation of the T-L distribution and Section 4 applies the derived results to the mass distribution for stars.

2. Topp-Leone Distribution with Scale

Let Y be a random variable taking values y in the interval $[0,1]$. The *Topp-Leone* probability density function (PDF), (in the following T-L) is

$$f(y) = \beta(2-2y)(-y^2+2y)^{\beta-1}, \quad (1)$$

where $\beta > 0$ is the shape parameter [1]. We now introduce the scale, b , with the change of variable $y = \frac{x}{b}$: the T-L PDF with scale defined in $[0,1]$ is

$$f(x;b,\beta) = \frac{\beta \left(2 - \frac{2x}{b}\right) \left(-\frac{x^2}{b^2} + \frac{2x}{b}\right)^{\beta-1}}{b}, \quad (2)$$

where $b > 0, \beta > 0$. The distribution function, (DF), of the T-L with scale is

$$F(x;b,\beta) = \left(\frac{x}{b}\right)^\beta \left(2 - \frac{x}{b}\right)^\beta, \quad (3)$$

its average value or mean, μ , is

$$\mu(b,\beta) = -\frac{b \left(\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma(\beta+1) - 2 \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2} + \beta\right) \right)}{2 \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2} + \beta\right)}, \quad (4)$$

where

$$\Gamma(z) = \int_0^\infty e^{-t} t^{z-1} dt, \quad (5)$$

is the gamma function. Its variance, σ^2 , is

$$\sigma^2(b,\beta) = -\frac{\left(-4 \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2} + \beta\right)^2 + \pi \Gamma(\beta+1)^2 (\beta+1) \right) b^2}{4(\beta+1) \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2} + \beta\right)^2}, \quad (6)$$

and its standard deviation, std , is

$$std = \sqrt{\sigma^2}. \quad (7)$$

Its r th moment about the origin, μ'_r , is

$$\mu'_r(b,\beta) = -\frac{\beta \left(2^\beta {}_2F_1\left(-\beta+1, \beta+r; 1+\beta+r; \frac{1}{2}\right) r - 2\beta - 2r \right) b^r}{(\beta+r)(2\beta+r)}, \quad (8)$$

where ${}_2F_1(a,b;c;\nu)$ is a regularized hypergeometric function [7] [8] [9] [10]. Its skewness is

$$\text{skewness} = \frac{N}{D}, \tag{9}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 N = 768 & \left[3 \left(\frac{4(\beta+2)(\beta+1)^3 \Gamma\left(\frac{5}{2} + \beta\right)^3}{3} - 2(\beta+1)^2 \sqrt{\pi}(\beta+2) \right. \right. \\
 & \times \Gamma(\beta+2) \left(\frac{3}{2} + \beta\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{5}{2} + \beta\right)^2 + (\beta+1)\pi \Gamma(\beta+2)^2 \left(\frac{3}{2} + \beta\right)^3 \Gamma\left(\frac{5}{2} + \beta\right) \\
 & \left. \left. - \frac{\pi^{\frac{3}{2}} \left(\beta + \frac{5}{4}\right) \Gamma(\beta+2)^3 \left(\frac{3}{2} + \beta\right)^3}{6} \right) (\beta+1)(\beta-1) 2^\beta \Gamma\left(\frac{5}{2} + \beta\right) \left(\beta + \frac{7}{3}\right) \right. \\
 & \times {}_2F_1\left(\beta, -\beta+2; \beta+1; \frac{1}{2}\right) + 8(\beta+1)^4 \beta(\beta+2) \left(\beta + \frac{7}{3}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{5}{2} + \beta\right)^4 \\
 & - 8(\beta+1)^2 \sqrt{\pi}(\beta+2) \left(\beta^4 + \frac{29}{6}\beta^3 + \frac{79}{12}\beta^2 + \frac{8}{3}\beta - \frac{11}{24}\right) \Gamma(\beta+2) \left(\frac{3}{2} + \beta\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{5}{2} + \beta\right)^3 \\
 & + 12 \left(\beta^3 + \frac{5}{2}\beta^2 + \frac{1}{2}\beta - \frac{1}{2}\right) (\beta+1)^2 \pi \Gamma(\beta+2)^2 \left(\beta + \frac{7}{3}\right) \left(\frac{3}{2} + \beta\right)^2 \Gamma\left(\frac{5}{2} + \beta\right)^2 \\
 & - 6(\beta+1) \pi^{\frac{3}{2}} \left(\beta^4 + \frac{38}{9}\beta^3 + \frac{301}{72}\beta^2 - \frac{19}{36}\beta - \frac{23}{24}\right) \Gamma(\beta+2)^3 \left(\frac{3}{2} + \beta\right)^3 \Gamma\left(\frac{5}{2} + \beta\right) \\
 & \left. + \pi^2 \left(\beta + \frac{1}{2}\right) \left(\beta + \frac{5}{4}\right) \left(\beta - \frac{1}{2}\right) \Gamma(\beta+2)^4 \left(\beta + \frac{7}{3}\right) \left(\frac{3}{2} + \beta\right)^4 \right] b^3 \tag{10}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$D = \text{std}^3 (\beta+1)^3 512(4\beta^2 - 1)(3+2\beta)(\beta+1) \Gamma\left(\frac{5}{2} + \beta\right)^4. \tag{11}$$

Figure 1 shows the behaviour of the skewness as a function of the parameter β ; the transition from positive to negative values is at $\beta = 2.563$ and [3] quotes $\beta = 2.56$.

The kurtosis of the T-L has a complicated expression and we limit ourselves to a numerical display, see **Figure 2**; the minimum value is at $\beta = 1.843$ when $b = 1$.

The median, $q_{1/2}$, is at

$$q_{1/2}(b, \beta) = \left(1 - \sqrt{1 - 2^{-\frac{1}{\beta}}} \right) b, \tag{12}$$

and the mode is at

$$\text{mode}(b, \beta) = \frac{(\sqrt{2\beta - 1} - 1)b}{\sqrt{2\beta - 1}}. \tag{13}$$

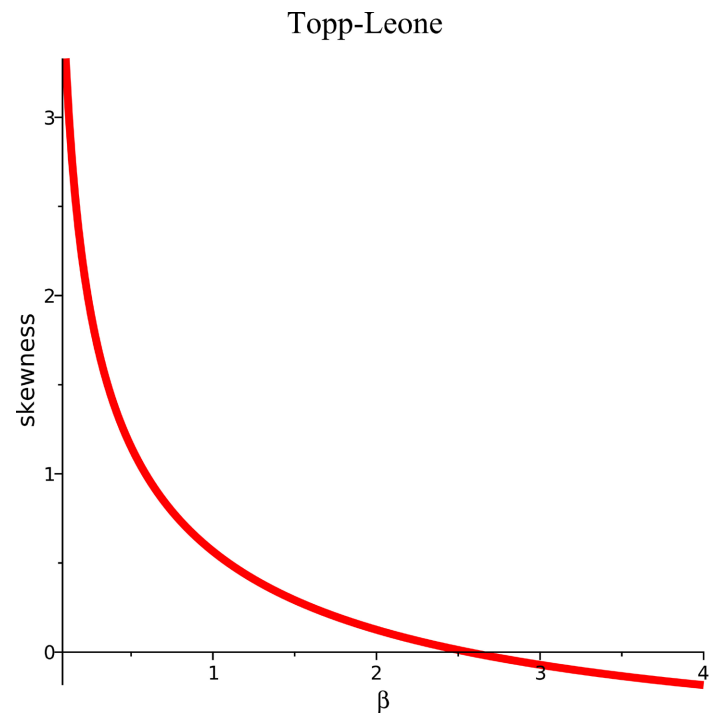


Figure 1. Skewness of the T-L distribution with scale as a function of β when $b = 1$.

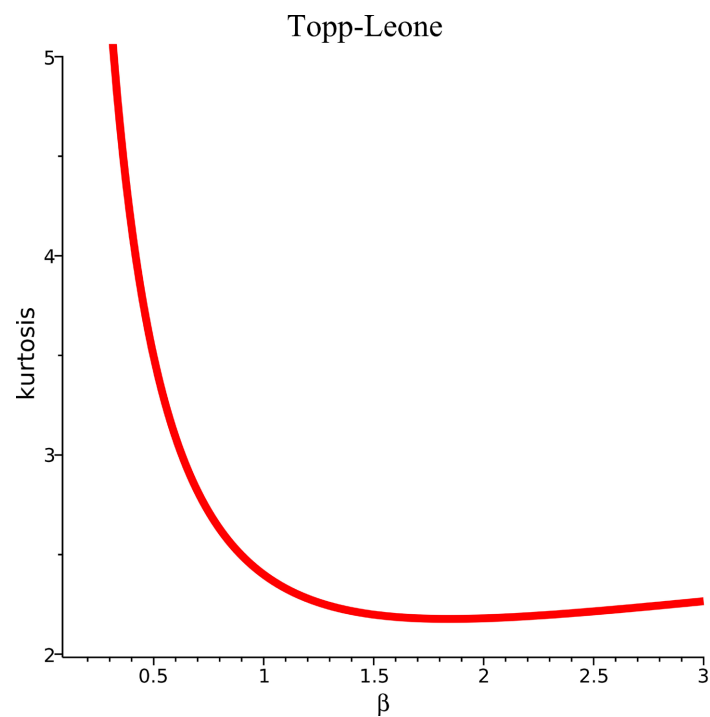


Figure 2. Kurtosis of the T-L distribution with scale as a function of β when $b = 1$.

The random generation of the T-L variate X is given by

$$X : b, \beta \approx \left(1 - \sqrt{1 - R^{\frac{1}{\beta}}} \right) b, \quad (14)$$

where R is the unit rectangular variate. The two parameters b and β can be derived by the numerical solution of the two following equations, which arise from the maximum likelihood estimator (MLE),

$$\frac{-2n - \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(2\beta - 2)x_i^2 + (-4\beta + 5)bx_i + 2b^2(\beta - 2)}{(b - x_i)(2b - x_i)} \right)}{b} = 0, \tag{15a}$$

$$\frac{n}{\beta} + \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \ln \left(\frac{x_i(2b - x_i)}{b^2} \right) \right) = 0, \tag{15b}$$

where x_i are the elements of the experimental sample with i varying between 1 and n .

3. Truncated Topp-Leone Distribution with Scale

Let X be a random variable defined in $[x_l, b]$; the left truncated two-parameter T-L DF, $F_T(x)$, is

$$F_T(x; \beta, x_l, b) = \frac{b^{-2\beta} \left(x_l^\beta (2b - x_l)^\beta - x^\beta (2b - x)^\beta \right)}{x_l^\beta b^{-2\beta} (2b - x_l)^\beta - 1}, \tag{16}$$

and its PDF, $f_T(x)$, is

$$f_T(x; \beta, x_l, b) = \frac{\beta \left(2 - \frac{2x}{b} \right) \left(-\frac{x^2}{b^2} + \frac{2x}{b} \right)^{\beta-1}}{b \left(1 - x_l^\beta b^{-2\beta} (2b - x_l)^\beta \right)}. \tag{17}$$

Its average value or mean, μ_T , is

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_T(\beta, x_l, b) = & \frac{1}{2(\beta + 1)(\beta + 2)\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2} + \beta\right) \left(x_l^\beta (2b - x_l)^\beta - b^{2\beta} \right)} \\ & - x_l^{\beta+2} \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2} + \beta\right) \beta 2^{\beta+1} b^{\beta-1} (\beta + 1) {}_2F_1\left(-\beta + 1, \beta + 2; \beta + 3; \frac{x_l}{2b}\right) \\ & + x_l^{\beta+1} \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2} + \beta\right) \beta b^\beta (\beta 2^{\beta+1} + 42^\beta) {}_2F_1\left(\beta + 1, -\beta + 1; \beta + 2; \frac{x_l}{2b}\right) \\ & + b^{2\beta+1} (\beta + 1)(\beta + 2) \left(\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma(\beta + 1) - 2\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2} + \beta\right) \right), \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

Its r th moment about the origin, $\mu'_{r,T}$, is

$$\begin{aligned} \mu'_{r,T}(\beta, x_l, b) = & \frac{1}{\left(x_l^\beta (2b - x_l)^\beta - b^{2\beta} \right) (\beta + r)(2\beta + r)} \left(2\beta x_l^{\beta+r} b^\beta \left(\frac{2b - x_l}{b} \right)^\beta \right. \\ & + 2rx_l^{\beta+r} b^\beta \left(\frac{2b - x_l}{b} \right)^\beta - {}_2F_1\left(\beta + r, -\beta + 1; 1 + \beta + r; \frac{x_l}{2b}\right) r x_l^{\beta+r} 2^\beta b^\beta \\ & \left. + {}_2F_1\left(\beta + r, -\beta + 1; 1 + \beta + r; \frac{1}{2}\right) r b^{2\beta+r} 2^\beta - 2\beta b^{2\beta+r} - 2r b^{2\beta+r} \right) \beta. \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

Its variance can be evaluated with the usual formula:

$$\sigma_T^2(\beta, x_i, b) = \mu'_{2,T} - (\mu'_{1,T})^2. \quad (20)$$

The random generation of the truncated T-L variate X is obtained by solving the following nonlinear equation in x :

$$F_T(x; \beta, x_i, b) = R, \quad (21)$$

where R is the unit rectangular variate. The three parameters x_i , b and β can be obtained in the following way. Consider a sample $\mathcal{X} = x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$ and let $x_{(1)} \geq x_{(2)} \geq \dots \geq x_{(n)}$ denote their order statistics, so that

$$x_{(1)} = \max(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n), \quad x_{(n)} = \min(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n). \quad \text{The first parameter } x_i \text{ is} \quad (22)$$

$$x_i = x_{(n)}.$$

One method, the MLE, allows us to derive the two remaining parameters maximizing the log-likelihood:

$$\begin{aligned} & \ln(\mathcal{L}(x_i; \beta, x_i, b)) \\ &= n \ln(2) + n \ln(\beta) - 2n \ln(b) + \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \ln \left(- \frac{(b-x_i) \left(\frac{x_i(2b-x_i)}{b^2} \right)^{\beta-1}}{x_i^\beta b^{-2\beta} (2b-x_i)^\beta - 1} \right) \right), \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

where $\mathcal{L}(x_i; \beta, x_i, b)$ is the likelihood function. The two parameters b and β are derived by the numerical solution of the two following equations,

$$\frac{\partial \ln(\mathcal{L}(x_i; \beta, x_i, b))}{\partial \beta} = 0, \quad (24a)$$

$$\frac{\partial \ln(\mathcal{L}(x_i; \beta, x_i, b))}{\partial b} = 0, \quad (24b)$$

where x_i are the elements of the experimental sample with i varying between 1 and n . Another method is the method of moments, which derives β and b from the following two non-linear equations:

$$\mu_T(\beta, x_i, b) = \bar{x}, \quad (25a)$$

$$\sigma_T^2(\beta, x_i, b) = Var, \quad (25b)$$

where \bar{x} and Var are, respectively, the average value and the variance of the experimental sample [11].

4. Astrophysical Applications

This section reviews the adopted statistics; the lognormal distribution is also used here for the sake of comparison. The new results are applied to the initial mass function (IMF) for stars.

4.1. Statistics

The merit function χ^2 is computed according to the formula:

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(T_i - O_i)^2}{T_i}, \tag{26}$$

where n is the number of bins, T_i is the theoretical value, and O_i is the experimental value represented by the frequencies. The theoretical frequency distribution is given by

$$T_i = N\Delta x_i p(x), \tag{27}$$

where N is the number of elements of the sample, Δx_i is the magnitude of the size interval, and $p(x)$ is the PDF under examination. A reduced merit function χ_{red}^2 is given by

$$\chi_{red}^2 = \chi^2 / NF, \tag{28}$$

where $NF = n - k$ is the number of degrees of freedom, n is the number of bins, and k is the number of parameters. The goodness of the fit can be expressed by the probability Q , see equation 15.2.12 in [11], which involves the number of degrees of freedom and χ^2 . According to [11] p. 658, the fit “may be acceptable” if $Q > 0.001$. The Akaike information criterion (AIC), see [12], is defined by

$$AIC = 2k - 2\ln(L), \tag{29}$$

where L is the likelihood function and k the number of free parameters in the model. We assume a Gaussian distribution for the errors. The likelihood function can then be derived from the χ^2 statistic $L \propto \exp\left(-\frac{\chi^2}{2}\right)$ where χ^2 has been computed by Equation (29), see [13] [14]. Now the AIC becomes:

$$AIC = 2k + \chi^2. \tag{30}$$

The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (K-S), see [15] [16] [17], does not require the data to be binned. The K-S test, as implemented by the FORTRAN subroutine KSONE in [11], finds the maximum distance, D , between the theoretical and the astronomical DF, as well as the significance level P_{KS} ; see formulas 14.3.5 and 14.3.9 in [11]. If $P_{KS} \geq 0.1$, then the goodness of the fit is believable.

4.2. Lognormal Distribution

Let X be a random variable defined in $[0, \infty]$; the *lognormal* PDF, following [18] or formula (14.2) in [19], is

$$PDF(x; m, \sigma) = \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\left(\ln\left(\frac{x}{m}\right)\right)^2}}{x\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}}, \tag{31}$$

where m is the median and σ the shape parameter. Its CDF is

$$CDF(x; m, \sigma) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{\sqrt{2}(-\ln(m) + \ln(x))}{2}\right), \tag{32}$$

where $\operatorname{erf}(x)$ is the error function, defined as

$$\operatorname{erf}(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^x e^{-t^2} dt, \tag{33}$$

see [10]. Its average value or mean, $E(X)$, is

$$E(X; m, \sigma) = m e^{\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2}, \quad (34)$$

its variance, $Var(X)$, is

$$Var = e^{\sigma^2} (e^{\sigma^2} - 1) m^2, \quad (35)$$

and its second moment about the origin, $E^2(X)$, is

$$E(X^2; m, \sigma) = m^2 e^{2\sigma^2}. \quad (36)$$

4.3. The IMF for Stars

The *first* test is performed on NGC 2362, where the 271 stars have a range of $1.47M_{\odot} \geq M \geq 0.11M_{\odot}$, see [20] and CDS catalog J/MNRAS/384/675/table1. According to [21], the distance of NGC 2362 is 1480 pc.

The *second* test is performed on the low-mass IMF in the young cluster NGC 6611, see [22] and CDS catalog J/MNRAS/392/1034. This massive cluster has an age of 2 - 3 Myr and contains masses from $1.5M_{\odot} \geq M \geq 0.02M_{\odot}$. Therefore, the brown dwarfs (BD) region, $\approx 0.2M_{\odot}$, is covered. The *third* test is performed on the γ Velorum cluster where the 237 stars have a range of

$1.31M_{\odot} \geq M \geq 0.15M_{\odot}$, see [23] and CDS catalog J/A+A/589/A70/table5. The *fourth* test is performed on the young cluster Berkeley 59, where the 420 stars have a range of $2.24M_{\odot} \geq M \geq 0.15M_{\odot}$, see [24] and CDS catalog J/AJ/155/44/table3.

The results are presented in **Table 1** for the lognormal distribution, in **Table 2**

Table 1. Numerical values of χ_{red}^2 , AIC, probability Q , D , the maximum distance between theoretical and observed CDF, and P_{KS} the significance level, in the K-S test of the lognormal distribution, see Equation (34), for different mass distributions. The number of linear bins, n , is 10.

Cluster	parameters	AIC	χ_{red}^2	Q	D	P_{KS}
NGC 2362	$\sigma = 0.5$, $\mu_{LN} = -0.55$	27.77	2.97	2.5×10^{-3}	0.073	0.105
NGC 6611	$\sigma = 1.03$, $\mu_{LN} = -1.26$	23.66	2.45	1.16×10^{-2}	0.093	0.049
γ Velorum	$\sigma = 0.5$, $\mu_{LN} = -1.08$	31.73	3.46	5.27×10^{-4}	0.092	0.034
Berkeley 59	$\sigma = 0.49$, $\mu_{LN} = -0.92$	33.16	3.64	2.96×10^{-4}	0.11	6.46×10^{-5}

Table 2. Numerical values of χ_{red}^2 , AIC, probability Q , D , the maximum distance between theoretical and observed DF, and P_{KS} the significance level, in the K-S test of the T-L distribution with scale, see Equation (2), for different astrophysical environments. The last column (F) indicates a P_{KS} higher (Y) or lower (N) than that for the lognormal distribution. The number of linear bins, n , is 10.

Cluster	parameters	AIC	χ_{red}^2	Q	D	P_{KS}	F
NGC 2362	$b = 1.47$, $\beta = 1.73$	19.61	1.95	4.83×10^{-2}	7.35×10^{-2}	0.1	N
NGC 6611	$b = 1.46$, $\beta = 0.796$	9.71	0.713	0.679	0.0627	0.377	Y
γ Velorum	$b = 1.317$, $\beta = 0.812$	167	20.3	3.5×10^{-31}	0.297	5.2×10^{-19}	N
Berkeley 59	$b = 2.24$, $\beta = 0.467$	418	51.82	0	0.42	0	N

Table 3. Numerical values of χ_{red}^2 , AIC, probability Q , D , the maximum distance between theoretical and observed DF, and P_{KS} the significance level, in the K-S test of the truncated T-L distribution with scale, see Equation (18), for different astrophysical environments. The last column (F) indicates a P_{KS} higher (Y) or lower (N) than that for the lognormal distribution. The number of linear bins, n , is 10.

Cluster	parameters	AIC	χ_{red}^2	Q	D	P_{KS}	F
NGC 2362	$b = 1.47, \beta = 1.73$	20.61	2.08	4.12×10^{-2}	6.09×10^{-2}	0.25	Y
NGC 6611	$b = 1.46, \beta = 0.796$	10.55	0.65	0.714	0.0627	0.377	Y
γ Velorum	$b = 1.317, \beta = 0.812$	99	13.33	2.58×10^{-17}	0.291	5.56×10^{-18}	N
Berkeley 59	$b = 2.24, \beta = 0.467$	188	26.01	7.11×10^{-36}	0.32	0	N

Table 4. Numerical values of D , the maximum distance between theoretical and observed DF, and P_{KS} the significance level, in the K-S test for different distributions in the case of γ Velorum cluster.

Distribution	Reference	D	P_{KS}
truncated Topp-Leone	here	6.09×10^{-2}	0.25
Frècet	[25]	0.125	3.13×10^{-4}
truncated Frècet	[25]	0.077	0.07
truncated Weibull	[26]	0.046	0.576
truncated Sujatha	[27]	0.0485	0.534
truncated Lindley	[28]	0.11	0.48
generalized gamma	[29]	0.11	1.24×10^{-3}
truncated generalized gamma	[29]	0.062	0.24
lognormal	[30]	0.0729	0.11
truncated lognormal	[30]	0.047	0.55
gamma	[31]	0.059	0.28
truncated gamma	[31]	0.0754	0.08
beta	[32]	0.059	0.28

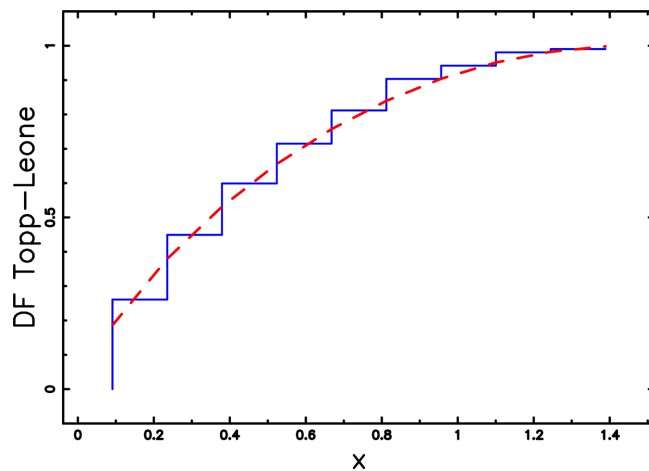


Figure 3. Empirical DF of the mass distribution for NGC 6611 (blue histogram) with a superposition of the T-L DF (red dashed line). Theoretical parameters as in Table 2.

for the T-L distribution with scale, and in **Table 3** for the truncated T-L distribution with scale. In **Table 2** and **Table 3** the last column shows whether the results of the K-S test are better when compared to the Weibull distribution (Y) or worse (N). As an example, the empirical DF visualized through histograms and the theoretical T-L DF for NGC 6611 is presented in **Figure 3**.

5. Conclusions

The Truncated Distribution

We derived the PDF, the DF, the average value, the r th moment, and the MLE for the left truncated T-L distribution with scale.

Astrophysical Applications

The application of the T-L distribution to the IMF for stars gives better results than the lognormal distribution for one out of four samples, see **Table 2**. The truncated T-L distribution gives better results than the T-L distribution for two out of four samples, see **Table 2** and **Table 3**.

The results for the mass distribution of γ Velorum cluster compared with other distributions are shown in **Table 4**, in which the truncated T-L distribution occupies the 7th position.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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