

STAT24410 NOTES

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- Last update: Thursday 31st October, 2024.
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1. PROBABILITY

1.1. CDF.

1.1.1. *Properties of CDF.*

- Nondecreasing.
- Right continuous.
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} F(x) = 0, \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} F(x) = 1$.

1.1.2. *Inverse of CDF.*

$$F^-(x) := \inf\{u : x \leq F(u)\}.$$

Proposition 1.1. *Let F be the CDF of X . If F is continuous and strictly increasing, then $Y := F(X) \sim \text{Uniform}[0, 1]$.*

Proof. For any $y \in [0, 1]$,

$$\mathbb{P}(F(X) \leq y) = F(F^{-1}(y)) = y.$$

□

Proposition 1.2. *Let $U \sim \text{Uniform}[0, 1]$ and X be the CDF of X . Then $F^{-1}(U) \stackrel{\mathcal{D}}{=} X$.*

Proof. For any $x \in [0, 1]$,

$$\mathbb{P}(F^{-1}(U) \leq x) = \mathbb{P}(U \leq F(x)) = F(x).$$

□

Remark 1.3. This is useful for simulation.

1.2. Transformations. For $Y := h(X)$, if h is one-to-one and differentiable, then

$$f_Y(y) = f_X(h^{-1}(y)) \cdot \left| \frac{dh^{-1}(y)}{dy} \right|.$$

1.3. Expectation. For an r.v. X . We define

$$X^+ = \max\{X, 0\}, \quad X^- = \max\{-X, 0\}.$$

Note that $X \equiv X^+ - X^-$.

Since X^+ is nonnegative,

$$\mathbb{E}(X^+) := \int_0^\infty x \, dF(x)$$

in the Riemann–Stieltjes sense, and similarly X^- .

Definition 1.4. X has expected value if at least one of $\mathbb{E}(X^+)$ and $\mathbb{E}(X^-)$ is finite, and when it does

$$\mathbb{E}(X) := \mathbb{E}(X^+) - \mathbb{E}(X^-).$$

Definition 1.5. We say Y **stochastically dominates** X , $Y \succeq X$, if

$$\mathbb{P}(X > t) \leq \mathbb{P}(Y > t), \quad \forall t.$$

Proposition 1.6.

- *Linearity.*
- *If*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} |x| f(x) \, dx < \infty$$

then

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} x f(x) \, dx.$$

- *If X is stochastically dominated by Y then $\mathbb{E}(X) \leq \mathbb{E}(Y)$.*
- *If X and Y are independent, then $\mathbb{E}(XY) = \mathbb{E}(X) \mathbb{E}(Y)$.*

Definition 1.7. The **variance** of X is given by

$$\text{Var}(X) := \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}(X))^2]$$

Proposition 1.8.

- $\text{Var}(X) = \mathbb{E}(X^2) - (\mathbb{E}(X))^2$.
- $\text{Var}(cX) = c^2 \text{Var}(X)$.
- *If X and Y are independent, then $\text{Var}(X + Y) = \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y)$.*

Proposition 1.9. *If $X \geq 0$ and there exists an at most countable subset $S = \{x_1, x_2, \dots\}$ of isolated points such that F_X is continuously differentiable on $[0, \infty) \setminus S$, then*

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \sum_{x \in S} x \mathbb{P}(X = x) + \int_0^\infty x F'_X(x) \, dx.$$

1.4. Probability Inequalities.

Theorem 1.10 (Markov's Inequality). *If $X \geq 0$ and $c > 0$, then*

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geq c) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}(X)}{c}.$$

(Equality is attained when $\mathbb{P}(X = 0 \text{ or } X = c) = 1$.)

Proof. Construct

$$Y := \begin{cases} c, & x \geq 0 \\ 0, & X < c. \end{cases}$$

Then $Y \leq X$ and

$$\mathbb{E}(Y) = c \cdot \mathbb{P}(X \geq c) \leq \mathbb{E}(X).$$

□

Theorem 1.11 (Chebychev's Inequality). *If $c > 0$, then*

$$\mathbb{P}(|X - \mu| \geq c) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[(X - \mu)^2]}{c^2}$$

for any μ .

Proof. Apply Markov's inequality to $(X - \mu)^2$.

□

Theorem 1.12 (Chernoff's Inequality). *If $c \in \mathbb{R}$ and $t > 0$, then*

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geq c) \leq e^{-tc} \mathbb{E}(e^{tX})$$

and

$$\mathbb{P}(X \leq c) \leq e^{tc} \mathbb{E}(e^{-tX}).$$

Proof. Apply Markov's inequality to e^{tX} and e^{-tX} .

□

Theorem 1.13 (Weak Law of Large Numbers). *Let X_1, X_2, \dots be i.i.d. with finite expectation μ and variance σ^2 . Then as n goes to infinity, $\bar{X}_n \xrightarrow{p} \mu$. That is*

$$\mathbb{P}\left[\left|\bar{X}_n - \mu\right| > \epsilon\right] \rightarrow 0.$$

Proof. Note that $\mathbb{E}(\bar{X}_n) = \mu$ and $\text{Var}(\bar{X}_n) = \sigma^2/n$. Chebyshev's gives

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\left|\bar{X}_n - \mu\right| < \epsilon\right) \leq \frac{\sigma^2}{n \cdot \epsilon^2} \rightarrow 0$$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

□

Proposition 1.14 (Large Deviations). *Let X_1, X_2, \dots be i.i.d. with finite expectation μ and variance σ^2 . Let $c > \mu$. Then*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \log \mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_n > c) = -\sup_t [tc - \kappa(t)],$$

where $\kappa(t) = \log \mathbb{E}(e^{tX})$.

We do not yet have the tools to prove that this is the limit, but we will use Chernoff's inequality to obtain a bound:

Proof. From Chernoff's inequality, for any t we have

$$\mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_n \geq c) = \mathbb{P}\left(\sum X_i \geq c \cdot n\right) \leq e^{-tnc} \mathbb{E}\left[e^{t(\sum X_i)}\right] = e^{-tnc + n\kappa(t)},$$

where $\kappa(t) = \log \mathbb{E}(e^{tX})$. Thus we have

$$\frac{1}{n} \log \mathbb{P}(\bar{X}_n \geq c) \leq -\sup_t [tc - \kappa(t)].$$

□

Remark 1.15.

- $\mathbb{E}[e^{tX}]$ is the **moment generating function**.
- $\kappa(t)$ is the **cumulant generating function**.
- $\sup_t [tc - \kappa(t)]$ is the **Legendre Transform**.

Definition 1.16. X_n converges in distribution to X , $X_n \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} X$, if

$$F_{X_n}(x) \longrightarrow F_X(x), \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Definition 1.17. The **moment generating function** of X is

$$\begin{aligned} M : \mathbb{R} &\longrightarrow [0, \infty] \\ t &\longmapsto \mathbb{E}[e^{tX}]. \end{aligned}$$

Proposition 1.18. *Properties of the moment generating function:*

- $\mathbb{E}[X^m] = M_X^{(m)}(0)$ when Fubini grants

$$\mathbb{E}[e^{tX}] = \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(tX)^n}{n!}\right] = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^n \mathbb{E}(X^n)}{n!}.$$

- $M_{cX}(t) = M_X(ct)$.
- If X and Y are independent, then

$$M_{X+Y}(t) = M_X(t) + M_Y(t).$$

- If X_1, X_2, \dots are i.i.d., then

$$M_{\sum X_i} = \prod M_{X_i}.$$

- $X_n \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} X$ if and only if $M_{X_n} \rightarrow M_X$ in a neighborhood of 0.

Theorem 1.19 (Central Limit Theorem). If X_1, X_2, \dots are i.i.d., $\mathbb{E}(X_i) = \mu$, and $\text{Var}(X_i) = \sigma^2$, then

$$\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \mu) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2).$$

The following proof works only when we have enough regularity; it is meant to provide a certain intuition (the general proof needs complex analysis):

Proof. We assume $\mu = 0$ and consider the mgf.

$$M_{\sum X_i/\sqrt{n}}(t) = M_{\sum X_i}\left(\frac{t}{\sqrt{n}}\right) = \left[M_{X_i}\left(\frac{t}{\sqrt{n}}\right)\right]^n.$$

We obtain an approximation though Taylor:

$$M_X\left(\frac{t}{\sqrt{n}}\right) \approx M_X(0) + \frac{t}{\sqrt{n}}M_X'(0) + \frac{t^2}{n}M_X''(0)$$

Noting that $M'_X(0) = \mathbb{E}[X] = 0$ and $M''_X(0) = \mathbb{E}[X^2] = \sigma^2$, we have

$$M_{\sum X_i/\sqrt{n}}(t) \approx \left[1 + \frac{t^2\sigma^2}{n}\right]^n \longrightarrow e^{t^2\sigma^2}.$$

The last term is precisely the mgf of $N(0, \sigma^2)$.

□

2. JOINT DISTRIBUTION

2.1. Random Vectors and Joint Distributions.

Proposition 2.1.

•

$$F(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{x_1} \cdots \int_{-\infty}^{x_n} f(x) \, dx.$$

- If F is continuous and differentiable, then X has density

$$f(X) = \frac{\partial^n F(x)}{\partial x_1 \cdots \partial x_n}.$$

- If X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are independent, then

$$F_X(x) = F_{X_1}(x_1) \cdots F_{X_n}(x_n).$$

- If F is differentiable, then

$$f_X(x) = f_{X_1}(x_1) \cdots f_{X_n}(x_n),$$

and conversely!

- If $X = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ has density f_X , then X_I has density

$$f_I(x_I) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n-|I|}} f(x_I, x_{S_n \setminus I}) \, dx_{S_n \setminus I},$$

where $S_n := \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ are all the indices. Think “integrating out” the other variables.

2.2. Transformations.

Definition 2.2. The **Jacobian** of $g : G \rightarrow H \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, where G and H are open, is given by

$$J_g(y) := \det \left[\frac{\partial g_i}{\partial y_j} \right].$$

If $X : \Omega \rightarrow H \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ and $h : H \rightarrow G \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, where H and F are open, are such that h is one-to-one and differentiable and $h^{-1} : G \rightarrow H$ is differentiable. Then $Y := h(X)$ has density

$$f_Y(y) = \begin{cases} f_X(h^{-1}(y)) \cdot |Jh^{-1}(y)|, & y \in G \\ 0, & y \notin G. \end{cases}$$

Definition 2.3. The Gamma function is given by

$$\Gamma(\lambda) := \int_0^\infty e^{-x} x^{\lambda-1} \, dx.$$

Proposition 2.4. *Properties:*

- $\Gamma(1) = 1$.

- $\Gamma(1/2) = \sqrt{\pi}$.
- $\Gamma(x+1) = x\Gamma(x)$.
- $\Gamma(n) = (n-1)!$ for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

2.3. Conditional distribution. The continuous case:

Definition 2.5. We define the **conditional density** as

$$f_{X|Y}(x|y) := \frac{f_{X,Y}(x, y)}{f_Y(y)},$$

2.4. Covariance and Correlation.

Definition 2.6. The **covariance** of random variables X and Y is

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) = \mathbb{E}((X - \mu_X) \cdot (Y - \mu_Y)).$$

Their **correlation** is given by

$$\text{Corr}(X, Y) = \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sigma_X \sigma_Y}.$$

Proposition 2.7. Properties:

- $\text{Var}(a + bX) = b^2 \text{Var}(X)$.
- $\text{Cov}(a + bX, c + dY) = bd \text{Cov}(X, Y)$.
- $\text{Var}(X + Y) = \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y) + 2 \text{Cov}(X, Y)$.
- If X and Y are independent, then $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$. But the converse is not true. For example, if $Z \sim N(0, 1)$, and S and T are random signs (1 or -1), then $\text{Cov}(SZ, TZ) = 0$.

Theorem 2.8.

- If (X, Y) has density f , then $X|Y$ has density

$$\frac{f(x, y)}{f_Y(y)}.$$

- If (X, Y) has a pmf, then $X|Y$ is discrete with pmf

$$\frac{p(x, y)}{p_Y(y)}.$$

Note that $E(X|Y = y)$ is a number, and $\mathbb{E}(X|Y)$ is a random variable.

Proposition 2.9.

- (i) If X and Y are independent, then

$$\mathbb{E}(X|Y) = \mathbb{E}(X) \quad \text{with probability 1.}$$

- (ii) Law of total expectation / Tower law:

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X|Y]] = \mathbb{E}[X].$$

(iii)

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X)h(Y)|Y] = h(Y) \mathbb{E}(g(X)|Y) \quad \text{with probability 1.}$$

And

$$\mathbb{E}[X|T(Y)] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X|T(Y)|Y]] \quad \text{with probability 1.}$$

(iv) Law of total variations

$$\text{Var}(Y) = \mathbb{E}[\text{Var}(Y|X)] + \text{Var}[\mathbb{E}(Y|X)],$$

where

$$\text{Var}(Y|X) := \mathbb{E}(Y^2|X) - (\mathbb{E}(Y|X))^2.$$

2.5. Rejection Sampling. If for some constant c we have

$$h(x) \geq c \cdot f(x), \quad \forall x,$$

then we can obtain a sample from distribution with density f using samples from distribution with density h using **rejection sampling**:

- (1) Sample Y from g and U from Uniform(0, 1), with Y and U independent.
- (2) Set $X := Y$ if

$$U \leq \frac{c \cdot f(Y)}{h(Y)}$$

and return to (1) otherwise.

Remark 2.10.

- Think sampling on the area under f (as a subset of the area under g).
- Rejection sampling can also be used if

$$f(x) = \frac{g(x)}{N},$$

where N is an unknown constant (e.g., an integral with numerical approximations but no closed form solutions). We need only find h such that

$$h(x) \geq cN \cdot g(x).$$

Think

$$h(x) \gg g(x).$$

3. POINT ESTIMATES

Example 3.1. Modeling lifetime $T : \Omega \rightarrow [0, \infty)$.

Definition 3.2.

- The **survival** function is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} S : [0, \infty) &\longrightarrow [0, 1] \\ x &\longmapsto \mathbb{P}(T > x) = 1 - F_Y(x). \end{aligned}$$

- The **failure rate** function is defined as

$$h(x) := \frac{f(x)}{S(x)}.$$

Remark 3.3.

$$\mathbb{P}(T \leq x + \Delta x | T > x) = \frac{\mathbb{P}[x < T \leq x + \Delta x]}{\mathbb{P}[T > x]} = \frac{F(x + \Delta x) - F(x)}{S(x)} \approx \Delta x \cdot \frac{f(x)}{S(x)} = \Delta x \cdot h(x).$$

Think of an increasing failure rate as “aging.”

Given h we can recover f :

$$h(x) = \frac{f(x)}{1 - F(x)} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \log(1 - F(x)).$$

So,

$$\log(1 - F(x)) = -\int_0^x h(t) dt + C.$$

Since $F(0) = 0$ we know $C = 0$. We have

$$s(x) = \exp\left(-\int_0^x h\right)$$

and

$$f(x) = h(x) \exp\left(-\int_0^x h\right).$$

Example 3.4.

- If $h(x) = \lambda$ is a constant function, we have $T \sim \text{Exponential}(\lambda)$:

$$f(x) = \lambda \exp\left(-\int_0^x \lambda dt\right) = \lambda \exp(-\lambda x), \quad \forall x > 0.$$

- If $h(x) = \alpha + \beta x$ with $\alpha, \beta > 0$, then T follows the Gompertz distribution.
- If $h(x) = \lambda \beta x^{\beta-1}$, then T follows the Weibull distribution.

3.1. Estimating parameters. We next assume $T_1, T_2, \dots \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Exponential}(\lambda)$ and estimate λ .

Remark 3.5. Metrics to evaluate an estimator:

- Bias: $\mathbb{E}(\hat{\lambda}) - \lambda$.
- Variance: $\text{Var}[\hat{\lambda}]$.
- Mean Squared Error: $\text{MSE}[\hat{\lambda}] = \mathbb{E}[(\hat{\lambda} - \lambda)^2] = \text{Bias}^2 + \text{Variance}$.

Definition 3.6. An estimator $\hat{\theta}_n$ of θ is said to be **consistent** if

$$\hat{\theta}_n \xrightarrow{p} \theta.$$

That is, if for any $\epsilon > 0$,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(|\hat{\theta}_n - \theta| > \epsilon) = 0.$$

3.1.1. Asymptotic Estimation.

Definition 3.7 (Method of Moments). Let $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} F$ with n parameters. To estimate the parameters, we equate n (usually the first n) theoretical moments to the n corresponding sample moments:

$$\mathbb{E}[X^k] = \frac{1}{n} \sum X_i^k, \quad 1 \leq k \leq n.$$

Example 3.8. Consider $T_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Exponential}(\lambda)$.

- Since $\mathbb{E}(\bar{T}_n) = 1/\lambda$, we may use $\hat{\lambda} := 1/\bar{T}_n$ as an estimator for λ .
- Since

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\sum T_i^2/n\right] = \frac{2}{\lambda^2},$$

we may also use

$$\hat{\lambda}_2 = \sqrt{\frac{2n}{\sum T_i^2}}$$

as an estimator.

Example 3.9.

- Consider $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Uniform}[0, \theta]$. We have $\mathbb{E}[X] = \theta/2$.

$$\hat{\theta} := 2\hat{X}.$$
- Consider $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$. We have $\mathbb{E}[X] = \alpha/\beta$ and $\mathbb{E}[X^2] = \alpha/\beta^2 + (\alpha/\beta)^2$. Thus we solve

$$\frac{\hat{\alpha}}{\hat{\beta}} = \bar{X}, \quad \frac{\hat{\alpha}}{\hat{\beta}^2} + \frac{\hat{\alpha}^2}{\hat{\beta}^2} = \frac{\sum X_i^2}{n}.$$

The following theorems help us characterize these estimators.

Theorem 3.10 (Continuous mapping theorem).

- (i) if $X_n \xrightarrow{p} X$ and g is continuous, then $g(X_n) \xrightarrow{p} g(X)$.
- (ii) If $X_n \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} X$ and g is continuous, then $g(X_n) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} g(X)$.

Lemma 3.11 (Slutsky). If $X_n \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} X$ and $Y_n \xrightarrow{p} c$, where c is a constant, then

$$X_n + Y_n \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} X + c, \quad X_n Y_n \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} cX.$$

Theorem 3.12 (Delta Method). If X_n is such that

$$\sqrt{n}(X_n - \theta) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$$

and g is continuously differentiable, then

$$\sqrt{n}(g(X_n) - g(\theta)) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 [g'(\theta)]^2).$$

Remark 3.13. Intuition: We can write

$$\sqrt{n}(g(X_n) - g(\theta)) = g'(\tilde{\theta}_n) \sqrt{n}(X_n - \theta), \quad \tilde{\theta}_n \in (x_n, \theta).$$

We know that $g'(\tilde{\theta}_n) \xrightarrow{p} g'(\theta)$ and $\sqrt{n}(X_n - \theta) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$, so Slutsky's gives the desired result.

We can now characterize estimators obtained from the method of moments:

Proposition 3.14.

- *Non-uniqueness: we can obtain multiple estimators.*
- *Consistency: Law of Large Numbers gives*

$$\bar{X} \xrightarrow{p} \mathbb{E}[X],$$

and the continuous mapping theorem then gives consistency (under certain conditions).

- *Asymptotic normality: the Delta Method gives normality (under certain conditions).*

3.1.2. *Estimators for Smaller n.* We can obtain the exact distribution of \bar{T}_n . Since

$$T \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Exponential}(\lambda) = \text{Gamma}(1, \lambda),$$

we know by the properties of gamma distributions that

$$\sum T_i \sim \text{Gamma}(n, \lambda).$$

Again by properties of gamma distributions, we know that the estimator $\hat{\lambda}_1 := 1/\bar{T}_n$ is biased for small n :

$$\mathbb{E}[\hat{\lambda}_1] = n \cdot \mathbb{E}\left[\frac{1}{\sum T_i}\right] = \frac{n\lambda}{n-1}.$$

The estimator

$$\hat{\lambda}_3 := \frac{n-1}{n} \hat{\lambda}_1,$$

then, is unbiased and has smaller variance.

Remark 3.15. This is a rare case. Oftentimes, we have instead a trade off between bias and variance.

3.2. Maximum Likelihood Estimator. The above may be summed up as the following steps:

- Estimators
- Evaluations
- Distribution for estimators (which allows for the construction of probabilistic statements)

Maximum Likelihood estimator accomplishes all the above in a streamlined fashion.

Definition 3.16. Let $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} F_\theta$, where $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^k$ is a parameter for the distribution. Let $f(x, \theta)$ ¹ be the density or pmf of F_θ . The **Likelihood** of θ given observations X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n is

$$L(\theta) = L_n(\theta) := \prod_{i=1}^n f(X_i, \theta).$$

The **maximum likelihood estimator** is the value at which L obtains its maximum:

$$\hat{\theta} = \hat{\theta}_n := \arg \max_{\theta} L(\theta).$$

Remark 3.17. It is often easier to work with the **log likelihood**:

$$\ell(\theta) = \ell_n(\theta) := \log L(\theta).$$

Remark 3.18.

- Might be non-unique. Consider $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Uniform}(\theta, \theta+1)$.
- Might not exist. Consider X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n iid with density

$$f(x, \mu, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2} + \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \right].$$

Think $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ with probability 1/2 and $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ with probability 1/2. The likelihood function is unbounded:

$$\max_{\mu, \sigma^2} L(\mu, \sigma^2) \geq \max_{\sigma} L(X_1, \sigma^2) \geq \frac{1}{2^n} \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \right] \prod_{k=1}^n e^{-X_k^2/2}.$$

¹Some also write $f_\theta(x)$ or $f(x|\theta)$.

3.3. Likelihood Theory.

Definition 3.19 (Score Function).

$$\dot{\ell}_n(\theta) := \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \ell_n(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta}(x_i, \theta)}{f(x_i, \theta)} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{f'(x_i, \theta)}{f(x_i, \theta)}.$$

Remark 3.20. We find the MLE by setting the score function to 0.

Proposition 3.21. *If $f(x, \theta)$ has common support, that is, if $\{x : f(x, \theta) > 0\}$ does not depend on θ , then*

$$\mathbb{E}_{\theta_0} \left[\frac{L_n(\theta)}{L_n(\theta_0)} \right] = 1.$$

Equivalently,

$$\mathbb{E} [\exp (\ell_n(\theta) - \ell_n(\theta_0))] = 1.$$

Proposition 3.22. *If the density functions are smooth, then*

- (a) $\mathbb{E}_{\theta} [\dot{\ell}_n(\theta)] = 0.$
- (b) $-\mathbb{E}_{\theta} [\ddot{\ell}_n(\theta)] = \mathbb{E} [\dot{\ell}_n(\theta)^2].$

Definition 3.23 (Fisher Information).

$$I(\theta) := \mathbb{E}_{\theta} [\dot{\ell}(\theta)^2] = \mathbb{E}_{\theta} [-\ddot{\ell}(\theta)].$$

That is,

$$I(\theta) := \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(X, \theta) \right)^2 \right] = -\mathbb{E} \left[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} \log f(X, \theta) \right],$$

where the expectation is taken with respect to $X \sim f(x, \theta)$.

Remark 3.24. Intuitively, the more variation there is in the density functions $f(x, \theta)$ as we vary θ , the more information we can get from data. Fisher information measures the variation in density functions by looking at its derivative.

Theorem 3.25 (Cramér–Rao Inequality). *Let $T(X_n)$ be any unbiased estimator for $g(\theta)$. Then*

$$\text{Var}[T(X_n)] \geq \frac{[g'(\theta)]^2}{nI(\theta)}.$$

Remark 3.26. The Cramér–Rao lower bound is attained if and only if

$$\text{Corr}(\hat{\theta}(X), \dot{\ell}(X)) = 1.$$

By Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, this is equivalent to $\hat{\theta}(X)$ and $\dot{\ell}(X)$ being linearly related random variables. That is,

$$\dot{\ell}(\theta) = \alpha(\theta)\hat{\theta}(X) + \beta(\theta)$$

for functions α and β that do not depend on X .

Proposition 3.27. *Under the regularity conditions in the Cramér–Rao inequality, there exists an unbiased estimator $\hat{\theta}(X)$ of θ whose variance attains the Cramér–Rao lower bound if and only if the score can be expressed in the form*

$$\dot{\ell}(\theta) = I(\theta) \{ \hat{\theta}(X) - \theta \},$$

or, equivalently, if and only if the function

$$\frac{\dot{\ell}(\theta)}{I(\theta)} + \theta$$

does not depend on θ .

Theorem 3.28 (Fisher). *Let $X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} f(x|\theta_0)$, with f satisfying certain smoothness conditions. As $n \rightarrow \infty$, we have*

$$\sqrt{nI(\theta_0)} \cdot (\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

and

$$\sqrt{nI(\hat{\theta})} \cdot (\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

Remark 3.29. One may also think

$$\hat{\theta} \approx \mathcal{N}\left(\theta_0, \frac{1}{nI(\theta_0)}\right).$$

Proposition 3.30. *Assumptions:*

- *Common support:* $\{x : f(x, \theta) > 0\}$ does not depend on x .
- *Smoothness of densities.*
- *Distinct densities:* if $\theta_1 \neq \theta_2$ then $f(x, \theta_1) \neq f(x, \theta_2)$.

Properties of maximal likelihood estimators under the above assumptions:

- *consistency,*
- *asymptotic normality,*
- *has known and optimal asymptotic variance (**efficiency**). That is, it attains the Cramér–Rao bound.*
- *Invariance in the following sense:*

Theorem 3.31. *If $\hat{\theta}_n$ is an MLE of θ , then $\hat{\tau}_n := g(\hat{\theta}_n)$ is an MLE of $g(\theta)$.*

3.4. Jensen Inequality.

Theorem 3.32. *If $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is convex and X is a random variable such that $\mathbb{E}|X| < \infty$, then*

$$f(\mathbb{E} X) \leq \mathbb{E} f(X).$$

Proof. From the convexity of f we know $f(x) \geq f(y) + f'(y)(x - y)$ for any x and y . Setting $y = \mu =: \mathbb{E} X$ gives

$$f(X) \geq f(\mu) + f'(\mu)(X - \mu), \quad \forall x, y.$$

Taking expectation on both sides gives the desired result. \square

3.4.1. Applications of Jensen Inequality.

- If f is concave, then $f(\mathbb{E} X) \geq \mathbb{E} f(X)$.
- The convex function $x \mapsto x^2$ and the concave function $x \mapsto \log x$ give two special cases:

$$(\mathbb{E} X)^2 \leq \mathbb{E} X^2, \quad \log \mathbb{E} X \geq \mathbb{E} \log X.$$

- If $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n > 0$ and $p_i \geq 0$ such that $\sum p_i = 1$, then

$$\prod x_i^{p_i} \leq \sum p_i x_i.$$

Remark 3.33. When $p_i = 1/n$, this result reduces to the geometric mean-arithmetic mean equality.

Proof. Let X be a discrete variable such that $\mathbb{P}(X = x_i) = p_i$. Then

$$\sum p_i \log x_i = \mathbb{E} \log X \leq \log \mathbb{E} X \leq \sum p_i x_i.$$

Taking exp on both sides gives the desired result. \square

- **Hölder's inequality:** If $X, Y \geq 0$ are random variables and $p, q > 0$ are such that $1/p + 1/q = 1$, then

$$\mathbb{E}(XY) \leq (\mathbb{E} X^p)^{1/p} \cdot (\mathbb{E} Y^q)^{1/q}.$$

Proof. If $\mathbb{E} X^p = \mathbb{E} Y^q = 1$, then

$$XY = (X^p)^{1/p} (Y^q)^{1/q} \leq \frac{1}{p} X^p + \frac{1}{q} Y^q,$$

where the last inequality follows from the previous result. Taking expectation on both sides then gives $\mathbb{E}[XY] \leq \mathbb{E} X^p \mathbb{E} Y^q$.

For the general case, normalize by setting

$$\tilde{X} := \frac{X}{(\mathbb{E} X^p)^{1/p}}, \quad \tilde{Y} := \frac{Y}{(\mathbb{E} Y^q)^{1/q}}.$$

\square

- **Cauchy Inequality:** Taking $p = q = 2$ in Hölder gives

$$\mathbb{E}|XY| \leq \sqrt{\mathbb{E} X^2} \sqrt{\mathbb{E} Y^2}.$$

- The consistency of likelihood.

3.5. Multivariate Normal.

Definition 3.34. The random vector $X = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k)$ is said to follow a **multivariate normal distribution** if for each $a \in \mathbb{R}^k$, $a^\top X$ is normal. We write

- $\mu = \mathbb{E} X \in \mathbb{R}^k$.
- $\Sigma = \text{Var}(X) = \mathbb{E} [(X - \mu)(X - \mu)^\top] \in \mathbb{R}^{2k}$.

Proposition 3.35.

- If Σ is positive definite, then X has density

$$f(X) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{k/2} \det(\Sigma)} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(X - \mu)^\top \Sigma^{-1}(X - \mu)\right).$$

- If (X_1, X_2) is bivariate normal and $\text{Cov}(X_1, X_2) = 0$, then X_1 and X_2 are independent.
- If $U \sim N_k(\mu, \Sigma)$, $a \in \mathbb{R}^p$, and B is a $p \times k$ matrix, then

$$V = a + BU \sim N_p(a + B\mu, B\Sigma B^\top).$$

4. CONFIDENCE INTERVALS

Definition 4.1. Suppose $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} F_\theta$. Confidence intervals (CIs) are probabilistic statements on data of the form

$$\mathbb{P}_\theta [A(X_1, \dots, X_n) \leq \theta \leq B(X_1, \dots, X_n)] = \alpha.$$

The interval

$$[A(X_1, \dots, X_n), B(X_1, \dots, X_n)]$$

is called a $\alpha \cdot 100\%$ **confidence interval**.

Remark 4.2. We are typically interested in $\alpha = 0.95$ or $\alpha = 0.99$.

Remark 4.3.

- The probabilistic statement concerns the interval ends, not θ , which is fixed. The interval ends are random variables.
- Interpretation (frequentist): the long run frequency of the CI covering θ is α .

Definition 4.4. The α quantile of $X \sim F$, q_α , is such that

$$\mathbb{P}[X \leq q_\alpha] = \alpha.$$

Example 4.5. Let $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Exponential}(\lambda) = \text{Gamma}(1, \lambda)$. Then $\sum X_i \sim \text{Gamma}(n, \lambda)$ and $\lambda \sum X_i \sim \text{Gamma}(n, 1)$. Note that the distribution of $\lambda \sum X_i$ does not depend on λ . We then have

$$\left[\frac{q_{0.025}}{\sum X_i}, \frac{q_{0.975}}{\sum X_i} \right],$$

where q refer to the quantile of $\text{Gamma}(n, 1)$, is a 95% CI.

Definition 4.6. Let $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} F_\theta$. The function

$$g(X_1, \dots, X_n, \theta)$$

is called a **pivot** if its distribution does not depend on θ .

Remark 4.7. One may use the distribution of the pivot $g(X_1, \dots, X_n, \theta) \sim F^*$ to build CIs. Let L and U be the $(1 - \alpha)/2$ and $1 - (1 - \alpha)/2$ quantiles for F^* . Then

$$\alpha = \mathbb{P}[L \leq g(X_1, \dots, X_n, \theta) \leq U] = \mathbb{P}[\theta \in S(X_1, \dots, X_n, L, U)]$$

for some set S . If S is an interval, it is a CI.

Theorem 4.8. Let $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$. Let

$$\bar{X}_n \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n}\right), \quad S^2 := \frac{1}{n-1} \sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2.$$

Then

$$\sqrt{n} \cdot \frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{S} \sim t_{n-1}, \quad (n-1) \frac{S^2}{\sigma^2} \sim \chi_{n-1}^2.$$

Remark 4.9. Thus $\sqrt{n} \cdot \frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{S}$ is a pivot estimator for μ and $(n-1) \frac{S^2}{\sigma^2}$ is a pivot estimator for σ .

Remark 4.10. We may use the central limit theorem and the above results to obtain approximate CIs for large samples. Let $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} F$ with $\mathbb{E}[X] = \mu$ and $\text{Var}[X] = \sigma^2$. The central limit theorem gives

$$\sqrt{n} \cdot \frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{\sigma} \approx \mathcal{N}(0, 1).$$

Thus

$$\left[\bar{X} - q_{\alpha/2} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}, \bar{X} + q_{\alpha/2} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right],$$

where q is the quantiles on $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ contains μ with probability α . We can approximate σ using S to obtain the following CI:

$$\left[\bar{X} - q_{\alpha/2} \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}}, \bar{X} + q_{\alpha/2} \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}} \right].$$

Note that we used two approximations: central limit theorem and using S to approximate σ .

Remark 4.11. For a MLE $\hat{\theta}$, we can use the following two results to construct approximate CIs:

$$\sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta} - \theta) \approx \mathcal{N}\left(0, \frac{1}{I(\theta)}\right), \quad \sqrt{nI(\theta)}(\hat{\theta} - \theta) \approx \mathcal{N}(0, 1).$$

Remark 4.12. The above cases fail, however, if either the distribution of the pivot or the variance of the estimators is unknown.

5. THE BOOTSTRAP

Definition 5.1. Let $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} F$. The **empirical distribution function (EDF)**, \hat{F}_n , is the CDF that puts probability $1/n$ at each X_i .

$$\hat{F}_n(x) := \frac{1}{n} \sum \mathbb{1}_{\{X_i \leq x\}}.$$

Remark 5.2. Note that $\mathbb{1}_{\{X_i \leq x\}} \sim \text{Bernoulli}(F(x))$. This gives the following properties:

Proposition 5.3.

- $\hat{F}(x)$ is an unbiased estimator for $F(x)$:

$$\mathbb{E}[\hat{F}(x)] = F(x).$$

- $\hat{F}(x)$ has variance:

$$\text{Var}(\hat{F}(x)) = \frac{F(x)(1 - F(x))}{n}.$$

- By the law of large numbers,

$$\hat{F}(x) \xrightarrow{p} F(x).$$

Moreover, $\hat{F}_n(x) \rightarrow F(x)$ uniformly. That is:

Theorem 5.4 (Glivenko-Cantelli). If $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} F$, then as $n \rightarrow \infty$ we have

$$\sup_x |\hat{F}_n(x) - F(x)| \rightarrow 0.$$

Remark 5.5. For variable $\theta := T(F)$, we can thus construct estimator $\hat{T} := T(\hat{F})$.

Example 5.6. For $T = \int x \, dF(x)$, θ is the mean. For $T = \int (x - \mu)^2 \, dF(x)$, θ is the variance. For $T = F^{-1}(1/2)$, θ is the median.

Remark 5.7. Let $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} F$ and $T_n := g(X_1, \dots, X_n)$. We want to find $\text{Var}(T_n)$. If it is possible to sample from F , then we may repeated the following procedure

- Take repeated samples of size n .
- Calculate T_n for each sample.

to obtain k samples of $T_n, T_{n,1}, \dots, T_{n,k}$. We may use

$$\frac{1}{k} \sum \left(T_{n,j} - \bar{T}_n \right)^2$$

as an estimator for the variance of T_n , $\text{Var}_F(T_n)$.

Remark 5.8. If we cannot directly sample from F , we may use \hat{F} as an approximation. That is, given a sample of size n , we sample repeatedly with replacement k samples also of size n from the given sample, and calculate the statistic of interest for each sample to estimate the distribution of T_n . This procedure is called **bootstrapping**, and each sample is called a **bootstrap sample**.

APPENDIX A: COMMON DISTRIBUTIONS

| Distribution | Support | PMF | Mean | Variance |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Binomial(n, p) | $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, n\}$ | $\binom{n}{x} p^x (1-p)^{n-x}$ | np | $np(1-p)$ |
| Geometric(p) | $\{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ | $(1-p)^{x-1} p$ | $\frac{1}{p}$ | $\frac{1-p}{p^2}$ |
| Poisson(λ) | $\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$ | $\frac{\lambda^x e^{-\lambda}}{x!}$ | λ | λ |

TABLE 1. Key Properties of Discrete Distributions

| Distribution | Support | PDF | Mean | Variance |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Uniform(a, b) | $[a, b]$ | $\frac{1}{b-a}$ | $\frac{a+b}{2}$ | $\frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$ |
| $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ | $(-\infty, \infty)$ | $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$ | μ | σ^2 |
| Exponential(λ) | $[0, \infty)$ | $\lambda e^{-\lambda x}$ | $\frac{1}{\lambda}$ | $\frac{1}{\lambda^2}$ |
| Gamma(α, β) | $(0, \infty)$ | $\frac{\beta^\alpha x^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta x}}{\Gamma(\alpha)}$ | $\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$ | $\frac{\alpha}{\beta^2}$ |
| Beta(α, β) | $(0, 1)$ | $\frac{x^{\alpha-1} (1-x)^{\beta-1}}{B(\alpha, \beta)}$ | $\frac{\alpha}{\alpha+\beta}$ | $\frac{\alpha\beta}{(\alpha+\beta)^2(\alpha+\beta+1)}$ |

TABLE 2. Key Properties of Continuous Distributions

5.1. Properties of the uniform distribution.

Proposition 5.9. Let $X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$.

- $\mathbb{E}[S^2] = \sigma^2$.
- \bar{X} and S^2 are independent.

5.2. Properties of the exponential distribution.

Proposition 5.10.

(i) The “memoryless” property:

$$\mathbb{P}(T \leq x + y | T > x) = \mathbb{P}(T \leq y).$$

(ii) $\text{Exponential}(\lambda) = \text{Gamma}(1, \lambda)$.

5.3. Properties of the gamma distribution.

Proposition 5.11.

(i) If $X_i \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Gamma}(\alpha_i, \beta)$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$, then

$$\sum X_i \sim \text{Gamma}\left(\sum \alpha_i, \beta\right).$$

(ii) If $X \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$ and $\alpha > 1$, then

$$\mathbb{E}[1/X] = \frac{\beta}{\alpha - 1}.$$

(iii) If $X \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$, then

$$\beta X \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, 1).$$

Proof.

(i) Note that

$$\mathbb{E}[e^{tX_i}] = \left(1 - \frac{t}{\beta}\right)^{-\alpha_i}, \quad \forall t < \beta.$$

We then have

$$M_{\sum X_i}(t) = \prod M_{X_i}(t) = \left(1 - \frac{t}{\beta}\right)^{-\sum \alpha_i}.$$

(ii) We have

$$\mathbb{E}[1/X] = \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \cdot x^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta x} dx,$$

which we can integrate by reducing to the Γ function.

□