

Feel free to work with other students, but make sure you write up the homework and code on your own (no copying homework *or* code; no pair programming). Feel free to ask students or instructors for help debugging code or whatever else, though.

**1 (Murphy 2.16)** Suppose  $\theta \sim \text{Beta}(a, b)$  such that

$$\mathbb{P}(\theta; a, b) = \frac{1}{B(a, b)} \theta^{a-1} (1 - \theta)^{b-1} = \frac{\Gamma(a+b)}{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)} \theta^{a-1} (1 - \theta)^{b-1}$$

where  $B(a, b) = \Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)/\Gamma(a+b)$  is the Beta function and  $\Gamma(x)$  is the Gamma function. Derive the mean, mode, and variance of  $\theta$ .

The mean can be found by calculating the expected value. For Beta distributions, the expected value is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[\theta] &= \int_0^1 \theta \mathbb{P}(\theta; a, b) d\theta \\ &= \int_0^1 \frac{1}{B(a, b)} \theta^a (1 - \theta)^{b-1} d\theta \\ &= \frac{1}{B(a, b)} \int_0^1 \theta^a (1 - \theta)^{b-1} d\theta \\ &= \frac{B(a+1, b)}{B(a, b)}. \end{aligned}$$

Because  $\Gamma(x) = (x-1)!$ , we know that  $B(a+1, b) = \frac{a!(b-1)!}{(a+b)!}$  and  $B(a, b) = \frac{(a-1)!(b-1)!}{(a+b-1)!}$ , so

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[\theta] &= \frac{a!(b-1)!}{(a+b)!} \cdot \frac{(a+b-1)!}{(a-1)!(b-1)!} \\ &= \frac{a!}{(a-1)!} \cdot \frac{(a+b-1)!}{(a+b)!} \\ \mathbb{E}[\theta] &= \frac{a}{a+b}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the mean of  $\theta$  is  $\frac{a}{a+b}$ . In order to compute the mode of  $\theta$ , we must first solve for the gradient of  $\mathbb{P}(\theta; a, b)$ , which is

$$\nabla_{\theta} [\theta^{a-1} (1 - \theta)^{b-1}] = (a-1)\theta^{a-2} (1 - \theta)^{b-1} - (b-1)\theta^{a-1} (1 - \theta)^{b-2}.$$

Then, set the gradient equal to zero and solve for  $\theta$ , so

$$(a-1)\theta^{a-2} (1 - \theta)^{b-1} - (b-1)\theta^{a-1} (1 - \theta)^{b-2} = 0$$

$$(a-1)\theta^{a-2}(1-\theta)^{b-1} = (b-1)\theta^{a-1}(1-\theta)^{b-2}$$

$$\theta(b-1) = (a-1)(1-\theta)$$

$$b\theta - \theta = a - 1 - a\theta + \theta$$

$$a\theta + b\theta - 2\theta = a - 1$$

$$\theta(a+b-2) = a-1$$

$$\theta = \frac{a-1}{a+b-2}.$$

Therefore, the mode of  $\theta$  is  $\frac{a-1}{a+b-2}$ . Variance is defined as

$$\text{var}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}[\theta^2] - \mathbb{E}[\theta]^2.$$

First, let us determine  $\mathbb{E}[\theta^2]$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[\theta^2] &= \int_0^1 \theta^2 \mathbb{P}(\theta; a, b) \\ &= \frac{1}{B(a, b)} \int_0^1 \theta^2 (a+1)(1-\theta)^{b-1} d\theta \\ &= \frac{B(a+2, b)}{B(a, b)} \\ &= \frac{(a+1)!(b-1)!}{(a+b+1)!} \cdot \frac{(a+b-1)!}{(a-1)!(b-1)!} \\ &= \frac{(a+1)!}{(a-1)!} \cdot \frac{(a+b-1)!}{(a+b+1)!} \\ \mathbb{E}[\theta^2] &= \frac{a(a+1)}{(a+b)(a+b+1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Since we know that the mean of  $\theta$  is  $\frac{a}{a+b}$ , then  $\mathbb{E}[\theta]^2 = \frac{a^2}{(a+b)^2}$ . Thus, the variance of  $\theta$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \text{var}(\theta) &= \frac{a(a+1)}{(a+b)(a+b+1)} - \frac{a^2}{(a+b)^2} \\ &= \frac{a(a+b)(a+1) - a^2(a+b+1)}{(a+b)^2(a+b+1)} \\ &= \frac{a^3 + a^2b + a^2 + ab - a^3 - a^2b - a^2}{(a+b)^2(a+b+1)} \\ \text{var}(\theta) &= \frac{ab}{(a+b)^2(a+b+1)} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the variance of  $\theta$  is  $\frac{ab}{(a+b)^2(a+b+1)}$ . ■

**2 (Murphy 9)** Show that the multinoulli distribution

$$\text{Cat}(\mathbf{x}|\mu) = \prod_{i=1}^K \mu_i^{x_i}$$

is in the exponential family and show that the generalized linear model corresponding to this distribution is the same as multinoulli logistic regression (softmax regression). ■

In order to show that  $\text{Cat}(\mathbf{x}|\mu)$  is in the exponential family, we must show that it can be rearranged into the form of

$$\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{y}; \eta) = b(\mathbf{y}) \exp \left[ \eta^T T(\mathbf{y}) - a(\eta) \right].$$

Consider taking the exponential logarithm of the product:

$$\exp \left[ \log \prod_{i=1}^K \mu_i^{x_i} \right].$$

We know  $\log xy = \log x + \log y$ , so

$$= \exp \left[ \sum_{i=1}^K \log(\mu_i^{x_i}) \right].$$

Since  $\log x^y = y \log x$ ,

$$= \exp \left[ \sum_{i=1}^K x_i \log \mu_i \right].$$

We know  $\sum_{i=1}^K x_i = 1$ , so  $x_K = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} x_i$  and  $\mu_K = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} \mu_i$ . Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} &= \exp \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} x_i \log \mu_i + x_K \log \mu_K \right] \\ &= \exp \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} x_i \log \mu_i + \left( 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} x_i \right) \log \mu_K \right] \\ &= \exp \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} x_i \log \mu_i + \log \mu_K - \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} x_i \log \mu_K \right] \\ &= \exp \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} x_i (\log \mu_i - \log \mu_K) + \log \mu_K \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Because  $\log a - \log b = \log \frac{a}{b}$ ,

$$= \exp \left[ \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} x_i \log \frac{\mu_i}{\mu_K} + \log \mu_K \right].$$

Therefore, we can see that the distribution  $\text{Cat}(\mathbf{x}|\mu)$  is in the form of the exponential family, where

$$\begin{aligned}\eta &= \begin{bmatrix} \log \frac{\mu_i}{\mu_K} \\ \vdots \\ \log \frac{\mu_{K-1}}{\mu_K} \end{bmatrix} \\ b(\mathbf{y}) &= 1 \\ T(\mathbf{y}) &= \mathbf{x} \\ a(\eta) &= -\log \mu_K.\end{aligned}$$

All that is left to show is that the general linear model  $\mu$  for  $\text{Cat}(\mathbf{x}|\mu)$  is the same as the softmax function  $h_\theta(x)$ . The softmax regression indicates that the softmax function is

$$h_\theta(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{e^{\theta_1^T x}}{1 + \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} e^{\theta_i^T x}} \\ \frac{e^{\theta_2^T x}}{1 + \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} e^{\theta_i^T x}} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{e^{\theta_{K-1}^T x}}{1 + \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} e^{\theta_i^T x}} \end{bmatrix}.$$

From earlier, we determined that  $\mu_K = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} \mu_i$ . And by looking at  $\eta$ , we see that  $\mu_i = \mu_K e^{\eta_i}$ . Therefore,

$$\mu_k = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} \mu_k e^{\eta_i} = 1 - \mu_k \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} e^{\eta_i} = \frac{1}{1 + \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} e^{\eta_i}}.$$

And so

$$\mu_i = \frac{e^{\eta_i}}{1 + \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} e^{\eta_i}}.$$

Thus,  $\mu$  is the same as the softmax function, being of the form

$$\mu = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{e^{\eta_1}}{1 + \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} e^{\eta_i}} \\ \frac{e^{\eta_2}}{1 + \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} e^{\eta_i}} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{e^{\eta_{K-1}}}{1 + \sum_{i=1}^{K-1} e^{\eta_i}} \end{bmatrix}.$$