## **Statistical Inference**

Lecture 07a

ANU - RSFAS

Last Updated: Mon Apr 17 23:34:22 2017

## **Principles of Data Reduction**

- Scientists use information in a sample  $X_1, \ldots, X_n$  to infer about an unknown parameter  $\theta$  (could be a vector).
- The scientist usually wants to summarize a few key features of the data, which is usually done by computing statistics.
- A statistic  $T(X) = T(X_1, ..., X_n)$  defines a reduction of the data into a summary measure.
- A scientist may just wish to use or store T(x) and will treat x and y the same if

$$T(\mathbf{x}) = T(\mathbf{y})$$

even though the samples may differ in some ways.

 While we typically no longer have need to store reduced versions of the data through statistics, the results can be useful for understanding models.

**Sufficiency Principle:** If T(X) is a sufficient statistic for  $\theta$ , then any inference about  $\theta$  should depend on the sample X only through T(X).

**Definition:** A statistic T(X) is **sufficient** for  $\theta$  if the conditional distribution of the sample X given T(X) does not depend on  $\theta$ .

$$P(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x} | T(\mathbf{X}) = T(\mathbf{x})) = \frac{P(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x} \text{ and } T(\mathbf{X}) = T(\mathbf{x}))}{P(T(\mathbf{X}) = T(\mathbf{x}))}$$
$$= \frac{P(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x})}{P(T(\mathbf{X}) = T(\mathbf{x}))}$$
$$= \frac{p(\mathbf{x} | \theta)}{q(T(\mathbf{x}) | \theta)}$$

Note: 
$$[\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}] \subset [T(\mathbf{X}) = T(\mathbf{x})]$$

- Eg. Let  $X_1, X_2, X_3$  be a sample of size n = 3 from a Bernoulli distribution with parameter p (i.e.,  $P(X_i = 1) = p$ ).
- Consider the following two statistics:

$$T_1 = X_1 X_2 + X_3$$

$$T_2 = X_1 + X_2 + X_3$$

• Suppose that  $T_1 = X_1X_2 + X_3 = 0$ . This suggests one of the three possible outcomes:

$$\mathcal{X} = \{A = (0,0,0), B = (1,0,0), C = (0,1,0)\}$$

Let's calculate the conditional distribution:

$$\begin{split} P(X_1 = 0, X_2 = 0, X_3 = 0 | T_1 = 0) &= \frac{P(X_1 = 0, X_2 = 0, X_3 = 0, T_1 = 0)}{P(T_1 = 0)} \\ &= \frac{P(X_1 = 0, X_2 = 0, X_3 = 0)}{P(A \text{ or } B \text{ or } C)} \\ &= \frac{(1 - p)^3}{(1 - p)^3 + 2p(1 - p)^2} \\ &= \frac{1 - p}{1 + p} \end{split}$$

 Conditioning (i.e. knowing) the information from the statistics does not remove the parameter. So knowing the statistic is not enough. It is not sufficient.

• Suppose that  $T_2 = X_1 + X_2 + X_3 = 1$ . This suggests one of the three possible outcomes:

$$\mathcal{X} = \{A = (1,0,0), B = (0,1,0), C = (0,0,1)\}$$

- Let's calculate the conditional distribution:
- We can then easily calculate the chance that the actual data set was (0,1,0) as the conditional distribution:

$$P(X_1 = 0, X_2 = 1, X_3 = 0 | T_2 = 1) = \frac{P(X_1 = 0, X_2 = 1, X_3 = 0, T_2 = 1)}{P(T_2 = 1)}$$

$$= \frac{P(X_1 = 0, X_2 = 1, X_3 = 0)}{P(A \text{ or } B \text{ or } C)}$$

$$= \frac{P(1 - p)^2}{3p(1 - p)^2} = \frac{1}{3}$$

 Similar calculations show that for any value T<sub>2</sub> = t, the conditional distribution does not depend on p. So the statistic is sufficient.

Generally if we have:

$$X_1, \ldots, X_n \sim \operatorname{Bernoulli}(\theta)$$
 and  $T(\boldsymbol{X}) = X_1 + \cdots + X_n$ , then:

$$P(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x} | T(\mathbf{X}) = t) = \frac{p(\mathbf{x} | \theta)}{q(T(\mathbf{x} | \theta))}$$

$$= \frac{\prod_{i=1}^{n} \theta^{x_i} (1 - \theta)^{1 - x_i}}{\binom{n}{t} \theta^t (1 - \theta)^{n - t}}$$

$$= \frac{\theta^{\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i} (1 - \theta)^{n - \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i}}{\binom{n}{t} \theta^t (1 - \theta)^{n - t}}$$

$$= \frac{\theta^t (1 - \theta)^{n - t}}{\binom{n}{t} \theta^t (1 - \theta)^{n - t}} = \frac{1}{\binom{n}{t}}$$

• The conditional distribution does not depend on  $\theta$ , thus  $T(\mathbf{X})$  is sufficient.

**Theorem A:** A neccessary and sufficient condition for T(X) to be sufficient for a paramter  $\theta$  is that the joint probability function factors in the form:

$$f(x_1,...,x_n|\theta) = f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) = g(t|\theta)h(\mathbf{x})$$

#### Proof (based on discrete distributions):

**1.** Suppose T(X) is a sufficient statistic.

$$f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) = P_{\theta}(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x})$$

$$= P_{\theta}(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x} \text{ and } T(\mathbf{X}) = T(\mathbf{x}))$$

$$= P(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x}|T(\mathbf{X}) = T(\mathbf{x}))P_{\theta}(T(\mathbf{X}) = T(\mathbf{x}))$$

$$= h(\mathbf{x})g(T(\mathbf{x})|\theta) = h(\mathbf{x})g(t|\theta)$$

#### Proof (based on discrete distributions):

2. Assume that a factorization exists. Then we can write the marginal distirbution of T(x) as:

$$f_{T(\mathbf{x})}(t) = \sum_{\{\mathbf{x}: T(\mathbf{x})=t\}} h(\mathbf{x})g(t|\theta) = g(t|\theta) \sum_{\{\mathbf{x}: T(\mathbf{x})=t\}} h(\mathbf{x})$$

$$P(\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{x} | T(\mathbf{X}) = T(\mathbf{x})) = \frac{f(\mathbf{x} | \theta)}{q(T(\mathbf{x}) | \theta)} = \frac{h(\mathbf{x})g(T(\mathbf{x}) | \theta)}{q(T(\mathbf{x}) | \theta)}$$

$$= \frac{h(\mathbf{x})g(T(\mathbf{x}) | \theta)}{g(T(\mathbf{x}) | \theta) \sum_{\{\mathbf{x}: T(\mathbf{x}) = t\}} h(\mathbf{x})}$$

$$= \frac{h(\mathbf{x})}{\sum_{\{\mathbf{x}: T(\mathbf{x}) = t\}} h(\mathbf{x})}$$

Example: Normally distributed data.

$$X_1,\ldots,X_n \stackrel{\mathrm{iid}}{\sim} N(\mu,\sigma^2)$$

- 1. What are the sufficient statistic(s) when  $\mu$  is unknown and  $\sigma^2$  is known?
- 2. What are the sufficient statistic(s) when  $\mu$  and  $\sigma^2$  is uknown?
- 3. What are the sufficient statistic(s) when  $\mu$  is known and  $\sigma^2$  is unknown?

## **Exponential Families**

A family of pdfs or pmfs is called an exponential family if it can be expressed as

$$f(x|\theta) = S^*(x)d^*(\theta)\exp\left(\sum_{i=1}^k c_i(\theta)T_i(x)\right)$$

or

$$f(x|\theta) = exp\left(\sum_{i=1}^{k} c_i(\theta)T_i(x) + log(S^*(x)) + log(d^*(\theta))\right)$$
  
=  $exp\left(\sum_{i=1}^{k} c_i(\theta)T_i(x) + S(x) + d(\theta)\right)$ 

## **Exponential Families**

- The above is for a k-dimensional parameter  $\theta = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k)$  and suitable choices of the functions  $S(\cdot)$ ,  $d(\cdot)$   $c_i(\cdot)$  and  $T_i(\cdot)$  (for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ ) is termed a k-parameter exponential family.
- Note: it is important that the number of  $c_i(\cdot)$  and  $T_i(\cdot)$  functions is the same as the dimension of the parameter vector k.

## **Exponential Families**

Eg: Poisson distribution.

$$X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda), \quad x = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$f_X(x|\lambda) = \frac{\lambda^x exp(-\lambda)}{x!}$$
  
=  $exp\{xln(\lambda) - \lambda - ln(x!)\}$ 

 The Poisson family is a one-dimensional exponential family with functions:

$$S(x) = -\ln(x!)$$

$$d(\lambda) = -\lambda$$

$$c_1(\lambda) = \ln(\lambda)$$

$$T_1(x) = x$$

## **Exponential Families - Canonical Form**

• If we define:

$$\eta = (\eta_1, \ldots, \eta_k) = c(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \{c_1(\boldsymbol{\theta}), \ldots, c_k(\boldsymbol{\theta})\}\$$

then  $\eta$  is referred to as the canonical parameter for the exponential family and the density function can be written in the form:

$$f_X(x|\theta) = exp\left\{\sum_{i=1}^k \eta_i T_i(x) + B(\eta) + S(x)\right\}$$

Note:

$$\theta = c^{-1}(\eta)$$

$$B(\eta) = d\{c^{-1}(\eta)\}$$

# **Exponential Families - Canonical Form**

Eg: Poisson distribution.

$$X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda), \quad x = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$f_X(x|\lambda) = \frac{\lambda^x \exp(-\lambda)}{x!}$$
  
=  $\exp\{x\ln(\lambda) - \lambda - \ln(x!)\}$ 

• The canonical parameter is  $\eta = ln(\lambda)$ . So based on the inverse relationship we have:

$$f_X(x|\lambda) = exp\{x\eta - exp(\eta) - ln(x!)\}$$

## Poisson Regression - Canonical Link Function

- In generalized linear models, one of the 'link' functions (the main one) is the canonical link function.
- The canonical link function is from the canonical form of an exponential family.
- Suppose we have data that may reasonably be considered from a Poisson distribution:

$$Y_1, \ldots, Y_n \stackrel{\text{indep.}}{\sim} \text{Poisson}(\lambda_i)$$

• Now we want to relate the mean of  $Y_i$  to a linear function of covariates  $(x_1, \ldots, x_k)$ :

$$E[Y_i] = \lambda_i = \exp(\beta_0 + \beta_1 x_{1i} + \dots + \beta_k x_{ki}) = \exp(\eta_i)$$

• So we link the mean of the response (Y) to a linear function of the covariates  $(\eta)$  via the link function.

**Theorem:** Let  $X_1, \ldots, X_n$  be iid observations from a pdf or pmf  $f(x|\theta)$  that belongs to an exponential family given by

$$f(x|\theta) = S^*(x)d^*(\theta)exp\left(\sum_{i=1}^k c_i(\theta)T_i(x)\right),$$

where  $\theta = (\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k)$ . Then

$$T(\mathbf{x}) = \left(\sum_{j=1}^n T_1(X_j), \ldots, \sum_{j=1}^n T_k(X_j)\right)$$

is sufficient for  $\theta$ .

**Proof:** Tutorial question.

**Corollary A:** If T(X) is sufficient for  $\theta$ , the maximum likleihood estimate is a function of T(X).

**Proof:** As we assume we have a sufficient statistic, then we can factor the likelihood:

$$f(x_1,...,x_n|\theta) = L(\theta|\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) = g(t|\theta)h(\mathbf{x})$$

To maximize the likleihood, we only need to maximize  $g(t|\theta)$ .

**Definition:** A sufficient statistic  $T(\mathbf{X})$  is called a minimal sufficient statistic if, for any other sufficient statistic  $T'(\mathbf{X})$ ,  $T(\mathbf{X})$  is a function of  $T'(\mathbf{X})$ .

• Not easy to use the definition to find a minimal sufficient statistic!

**Theorem:** Let  $f(x|\theta)$  be the pdf or pmf of a sample X. Suppose there exists a function T(x) such that, for every two sample points x and y the ratio

$$f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)/f(\mathbf{y}|\theta)$$

is constant as function of  $\theta$  if and only if

$$T(\mathbf{x}) = T(\mathbf{y}).$$

Then T(X) is a minimal sufficient statistic.

**Proof:** Suppose that T(x) is a sufficient statistics for  $\theta$ . Let T'(x) be any other sufficient statistic.

ullet By the Factorization Theorem, there exists functions g' and h' such that

$$f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) = g'(T'(\mathbf{x})|\theta)h'(\mathbf{x})$$

• Let x and y be an two sample points with T'(x) = T'(y), then

$$\frac{f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)}{f(\mathbf{y}|\theta)} = \frac{g'(T'(\mathbf{x})|\theta)h'(\mathbf{x})}{g'(T'(\mathbf{y})|\theta)h'(\mathbf{y})}$$
$$= \frac{h'(\mathbf{x})}{h'(\mathbf{y})}$$

• The ratio does not depend on  $\theta$ , therefore T(x) is a minimal sufficient statistic for  $\theta$ .

#### Example:

- Let  $X_1, \ldots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} n(\mu, \sigma^2)$ , with both  $\mu, \sigma^2$  unknown.
- Let x and y be two sample points.
- Let  $(\bar{x}, s_x^2)$  and  $(\bar{y}, s_y^2)$  be the sample means and sample variances for the samples x and y.

$$\frac{f(\mathbf{x}|\mu,\sigma^{2})}{f(\mathbf{y}|\mu,\sigma^{2})} = \frac{(2\pi\sigma^{2})^{-n/2}\exp(-[n(\bar{\mathbf{x}}-\mu)^{2}-(n-1)s_{\mathbf{x}}^{2}]/(2\sigma^{2}))}{(2\pi\sigma^{2})^{-n/2}\exp(-[n(\bar{\mathbf{y}}-\mu)^{2}-(n-1)s_{\mathbf{y}}^{2}]/(2\sigma^{2}))} 
= \exp([-n(\bar{\mathbf{x}}^{2}-\bar{\mathbf{y}}^{2})+2n\mu(\bar{\mathbf{x}}-\bar{\mathbf{y}})-(n-1)(s_{\mathbf{x}}^{2}-s_{\mathbf{y}}^{2})]/(2\sigma^{2}))$$

- This ratio will not depend on  $\mu$  and  $\sigma^2$  if and only if  $\bar{x} = \bar{y}$  and  $s_x^2 = s_y^2$ .
- $(\bar{X}, S^2)$  are minimally sufficient for  $\mu, \sigma^2$ .

- Note: Minimal sufficient statistics are not unique. Any one-to-one function of a minimal sufficient statistic is also minimal sufficient.
- In the previous example  $(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i, \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2)$  is also a set of minimal sufficient statistics for  $(\mu, \sigma^2)$

**Theorem:** Let  $X_1, \ldots, X_n$  be iid observations from a pdf or pmf  $f(x|\theta)$  that belongs to an exponential family then

$$T(\mathbf{x}) = \left(\sum_{j=1}^n T_1(X_j), \dots, \sum_{j=1}^n T_k(X_j)\right)$$

is minimal sufficient for  $\theta$ .

#### What do we know?

#### Theorem A (Rao-Blackwell):

- Let W be any unbiased estimator of  $\tau(\theta)$ .
- Let T be a sufficient statistic for  $\theta$ .
- Define  $\phi(T) = E[W|T]$ .
- Then

$$E[\phi(T)] = \tau(\theta)$$

$$V[\phi(T)] \leq V[W]$$

• So if we have unbiased estimator and condition it on a sufficient statistic, our new statistic  $\phi(T)$  has the same or smaller variance!!

**Proof:** Recall, that if X and Y are any two random variables:

$$E[X] = E[E(X|Y)]$$

$$V[X] = V[E(X|Y)] + E[V(X|Y)]$$

• Show that  $\phi(T)$  is unbiased for  $\tau(\theta)$ :

$$E[W] = \tau(\theta)$$
  
 $E[W] = E[E[W|T]] = E[\phi(T)] = \tau(\theta)$ 

• Show that  $V[\phi(T)] \leq V[W]$ :

$$V[W] = V[E(W|T)] + E[V(W|T)]$$
  
=  $V[\phi(T)] + E[V(W|T)]$   
\geq  $V[\phi(T)]$ 

• As  $V(W|T) \ge 0$ 

- So the whole idea seems quite cool. We can potentially get better estimators. But the key seems to be that idea of sufficiency.
- What happens if we don't condition on a sufficient statistic?

**Example:**  $X_1, X_2 \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} n(\theta, 1)$ . Consider the statistic  $\bar{X}$ :

$$E[\bar{X}] = \theta$$
  $V(\bar{X}) = 1/2$ 

• Now let's condition on  $X_1$ . This is not a sufficient statistic! Recall our new estimator is  $\phi(X_1) = E[\bar{X}|X_1]$  (note the expectation):

$$\phi(X_1) = E[\bar{X}|X_1] 
= \frac{1}{2}E[X_1|X_1] + \frac{1}{2}E[X_2|X_1] 
= \frac{1}{2}E[X_1|X_1] + \frac{1}{2}E[X_2] 
= \frac{1}{2}E[X_1|X_1] + \frac{1}{2}\theta$$

- As  $\phi(X_1)$  depends on an unknown parameter it is not even an estimator (statistic).
- Recall, conditioning on a sufficient statistic removes the parameter!

**Theorem:** If W is the best unbiased estimator of  $\tau(\theta)$  (UMVUE), then W is unique.

#### **Proof:**

- Let W' be a second UMVUE.
- Set  $W^* = \frac{1}{2}(W + W')$ . Note: we have  $E[W^*] = \tau(\theta)$

$$V(W^*) = \frac{1}{4}V(W) + \frac{1}{4}V(W') + 2\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2}Cov(W, W')$$

$$= \frac{1}{4}V(W) + \frac{1}{4}V(W') + \frac{1}{2}Cov(W, W')$$

$$\leq \frac{1}{4}V(W) + \frac{1}{4}V(W') + \frac{1}{2}[V(W) \times V(W')]^{1/2}$$

• Note: V(W) has to equal V(W') as the are both UMVUEs!

$$V(W^*) \leq \frac{1}{4}V(W) + \frac{1}{4}V(W) + \frac{1}{2}[V(W) \times V(W)]^{1/2} = V(W)$$

However, we can't have  $V(W^*) < V(W)!$  So  $V(W^*) = V(W)!$ 

## **Complete Statistics**

**Definition:** Let  $f(t|\theta)$  be a family of pdfs or pmfs for a statistic T(x). The family of probability distributions is called complete if

$$E[g(T)] = \int g(t)f_T(t)dt = 0$$

for all  $\theta$  implies that

$$P(g(T)=0)=1$$

for all  $\theta$ .

## **Complete Statistic**

#### **Example:**

- Suppose that T has a binomial (n, p) distribution, 0 .
- Let g be a function such that  $E_{\theta}[g(T)] = 0$ .

$$0 = E[g(T)] = \sum_{t=0}^{n} g(t) \binom{n}{t} p^{t} (1-p)^{n-t}$$

$$= (1-p)^{n} \sum_{t=0}^{n} g(t) \binom{n}{t} \left(\frac{p}{(1-p)}\right)^{t}$$

$$= \sum_{t=0}^{n} g(t) \binom{n}{t} \left(\frac{p}{(1-p)}\right)^{t}$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 = \sum_{t=0}^{n} g(t) \binom{n}{t} r^{t}$$

## **Complete Statistic**

$$0 = \sum_{t=0}^{n} g(t) \binom{n}{t} r^{t} \quad \forall \ r$$

- The only way for this to occur is that  $g(t) = 0 \ \forall \ t$ .
- So we have:

$$P_p(g(T)=0)=1$$

T is a complete statistic.

## **Complete Statistic**

**Theorem:** Let  $X_1, \ldots, X_n$  be iid observations from a pdf or pmf  $f(x|\theta)$  that belongs to an exponential family then

$$T(\mathbf{x}) = \left(\sum_{j=1}^n t_1(X_j), \ldots, \sum_{j=1}^n t_k(X_j)\right)$$

in addition to being minimal sufficient for  $\theta$  is also complete as long as the parameter space for  $\Theta$  contains an open set in  $\mathcal{R}^k$ .

#### Lehman - Scheffe Theorem

**Theorem:** Let  $X_1, \ldots, X_n$  be a random sample from a distribution with density function  $f(x|\theta)$ . If  $T = T(\mathbf{X})$  is a complete and sufficient statistic, and  $\phi(T)$  is an unbiased estimator of  $\tau(\theta)$ , then  $\phi(T)$  is the unique UMVUE of  $\tau(\theta)$ .

#### **Proof:**

- Let U be any other unbiased estimator of  $\tau(\theta)$ .
- Let  $U^* = E[U|T]$ .
- Consider  $h(T) = U^* \phi(T)$ . Recall:  $\phi(T) = E[W|T]$ . This means:

$$E[h(T)] = E[U^*] - E[\phi(T)] = 0, \quad \forall \quad \theta$$

We know that T is complete. So:

$$h(T) = U^* - \phi(T) = 0 \Rightarrow U^* = \phi(T)$$

# There is only one unbiased estimator of $\tau(\theta)$ that is a function of T!

- How to find UMVUEs? It seems we have an approach:
  - 1. Find or construct a sufficient and complete statistic T.
  - **2.** Find an unbiased estimator W for  $\tau(\theta)$ .
  - **3.** Compute  $\phi(T) = E[W|T]$ , then  $\phi(T)$  is the UMVUE.
- Or:
  - **1.** Find or construct a sufficient and complete statistic T.
  - **2.** Find a function g(T), where  $E[g(T)] = \tau(\theta)$  (i.e. it is unbiased).
  - **3.** Then g(T) is the UMVUE.

## Method 1

**Example:** Let  $X_1, \ldots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Bernoulli}(\theta)$ .

- $T = \sum_{i=1}^{n}$  is a sufficient and complete statistic for  $\theta$ .
- Let's consider  $W = X_1$ .  $E[W] = \theta$ . So W is unbiased.
- Compute  $\phi(T) = E[W|T]$ .

Note: W is 0 or 1.  $E[W] = 1P(X_1 = 1) + 0P(X_1 = 0)$ .

$$E[W|T] = P(X_1 = 1|T = t)$$

$$= \frac{P(X_1 = 1, T = t)}{P(T = t)}$$

$$= \frac{P(X_1 = 1, \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i = t)}{P(\sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i = t)}$$

$$= \frac{P(X_1 = 1, \sum_{i=2}^{n} X_i = t)}{P(\sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i = t)}$$

$$= \frac{P(X_1 = 1, \sum_{i=2}^{n} X_i = (t - 1))}{P(\sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i = t)}$$

$$= \frac{P(X_1 = 1) \times P(\sum_{i=2}^{n} X_i = (t - 1))}{P(\sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i = t)}$$

$$= \frac{[\theta] \times [\binom{n-1}{t-1}\theta^{t-1}(1 - \theta)^{(n-1)-(t-1)}]}{\binom{n}{t}\theta^{t}(1 - \theta)^{n-t}}$$

$$= \frac{t}{n} \Rightarrow \frac{T}{n} = \bar{X}$$

 $\bar{X}$  is the UMVUE of  $\theta$ .