Central Limit Theorem

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Outlines

- Functions of random variables.
- Central Limit Theorem
- Applications of C.L.T.

Expectation

- The expectation of a continuous random variable X is defined by

$$\mathbf{E}[X] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f_X(x) dx$$

- The expectation of a discrete random variable X is defined by

$$\mathbf{E}[X] = \sum_{\mathrm{k}} x_k \, P(X = x_k)$$

- As for discrete random variables, the expectation can be interpreted as
  - "center of gravity" of the PDF
  - anticipated average value of X in a large number of independent repetitions of the experiment.

Example

1. Let X be the outcome of rolling a **fair 6-sided die**. The probability mass function (PMF) is:

The expectation is calculated as:

2. Let X be an exponential distribution with pdf.

$$f(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}, \quad x \geq 0, \lambda > 0$$

The expectation is calculated as:

Function of random variable

- For any real-valued function $g(.)$, $Y = g(X)$ is also a random variable.

- The expectation of $g(X)$ is

$$\mathbf{E}[g(X)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x) f_X(x) dx\,.$$

Example

- A company manufactures LED lightbulbs, and the lifespan (in years) of each bulb follows an Exponential distribution with average life space of 5 years. The company offers a warranty where if a lightbulb fails within 3 years, it is replaced for free. The replacement cost per bulb is $10.
- What is the expected cost the company need to pay per light bulb under the warranty replacement?

Moments and variance

- The nth moment of X is defined by $\mathbf{E}[X^n]$.
- The variance of X is defined by

$$\mathbf{Var}[X] = \mathbf{E}[(X - \mathbf{E}[X])^2]$$
$$= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mathbf{E}[X])^2 f_X(x)\, dx$$

  - Please verify the equality.

Property of variance

- $0 \leq \mathbf{Var}[X] = \mathbf{E}[X^2] - (\mathbf{E}[X])^2$

- If $Y = aX + b$, then
$$\mathbf{E}[Y] = a\mathbf{E}[X] + b, \qquad \mathbf{Var}[Y] = a^2\mathbf{Var}[X].$$

- If $Y = a_1X_1 + a_2X_2$ and X_1, X_2 are independent*, then

$$\mathbf{E}[Y] = a_1\mathbf{E}[X_1] + a_2\mathbf{E}[X_2], \qquad \mathbf{Var}[Y] = a_1^2\mathbf{Var}[X_1] + a_2^2\mathbf{Var}[X_2].$$

What do we mean two RVs are independent?

Example

- A company manufactures LED lightbulbs, and the lifespan (in years) of each bulb follows an Exponential distribution with average life space of 5 years. The company offers a warranty where if a lightbulb fails within 3 years, it is replaced for free. The replacement cost per bulb is $10.
  - What is the variance of the lifespan of the lightbulb?
  - What is the variance of the cost of warranty replace for each lightbulb?

outline

- Expectation, moment, variance of a random variable:
  - Can be defined for both continuous and discrete RV.
- Important property of variance.

- Next: Central limit theorem.

Motivating problem:

- A machine process parts, one at a time, in a time independently and uniformly distributed in [1,5].
- What is the probability the machine processes at least 100 parts in 320 time units?

- Let $X_1, \cdots, X_n$ be a sequence of independent identically distributed random variable with mean μ and variance σ^2
- Let $S_n = \mathrm{X}_1 + \mathrm{X}_2 + \cdots + \mathrm{X}_\mathrm{n}$

- What is the mean of S_n?

- Let $X_1, \cdots, X_n$ be a sequence of independent identically distributed random variable with mean μ and variance σ^2
- Let $S_n = \mathrm{X}_1 + \mathrm{X}_2 + \cdots + \mathrm{X}_\mathrm{n}$

- What is the variance of S_n?

What is the variance of S_n

Background

- Because of independence, we have

$$\mathrm{var}(S_n) = \mathrm{var}(X_1) + \cdots + \mathrm{var}(X_n) = n\sigma^2$$

- The distribution of S_n spreads out as n increases
- S_n cannot have a meaningful limit.
- But the situation is different if we consider the sample mean

$$M_n = \frac{X_1 + \cdots + X_n}{n} = \frac{S_n}{n}.$$

The sample mean is itself a RV (why?) so we can compute its mean and variance

Background

- Given our calculation:

$$\mathbf{E}[M_n] = \mu, \ \ \mathrm{var}(M_n) = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}.$$

- The variance of M_n decreases to zero as n increases.
- Thus, the bulk of the distribution of M_n must be very close to the mean μ as n increases.

Background

- We will also consider a quantity which is intermediate between S_n and M_n.
- Z_n is defined as follows.

1. subtract $\boldsymbol{n\mu}$ from S_n, to obtain the zero-mean random variable $S_n - n\mu$
2. then divide by $\boldsymbol{\sigma\sqrt{n}}$, to form the random variable.

$$Z_n = \frac{S_n - n\mu}{\sigma\sqrt{n}}$$

Background

- Let's compute the mean and variance of Z_n

Formally

- Let $X_1, \cdots, X_n$ be a sequence of independent identically distributed random variable with mean μ and variance σ^2

- Define

$$Z_n = \frac{S_n - n\mu}{\sigma\sqrt{n}} = \frac{X_1 + \cdots + X_n - n\mu}{\sigma\sqrt{n}}.$$

The Central Limit Theorem

- *Theorem (The Central Limit Theorem)* The CDF of $Z_n = \frac{X_1+\cdots+X_n-n\mu}{\sigma\sqrt{n}}$ converges to standard normal CDF

$$\Phi(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\int_{-\infty}^{z} e^{-x^2/2}dx$$

in the sense that

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathrm{P}(Z_n \leq z) = \Phi(z)$$

Generality

- The central limit theorem is surprisingly general.
- Besides independence, and the implicit assumption that the mean and variance are finite, it places no other requirement on the distribution of the X_i,
  - which could be discrete, continuous, or mixed.

Going back to our example

Polling

- p: fraction of population that will vote "yes" in a referendum
- i-th random people polled: 1 : yes, 0: no
- Let X_i be the random variable.
- $M_n = \frac{X_1+X_2+\ldots+X_n}{n}$ the fraction of "yes" in our sample.
- We would like small error:

$$|M_n - p| \leq 0.01$$

- How many samples to generate so that the probability of error greater than 0.01 is smaller than 0.05?

Approximations example: Plane

- We load on a plane 100 packages whose weights are independent and uniform between 5 and 50.
- *Question: What is the probability that the total weight exceeds 3000?*

Conclusion