

# Homework 1

## Statistical Methods in Applied Computer Science

### DD2447

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**Exercise 2.16** Mean, mode, variance for the beta distribution  
Suppose  $\theta \sim \text{Beta}(a, b)$ . Derive the mean, mode and variance.

*Solution.* Denote  $\text{Beta}(a, b) = \text{Beta}_{a,b}$  to simplify the expressions later on. The mean of a random variable sampled from  $\text{Beta}(a, b)$  is defined as:

$$\mathbb{E} \theta = \int_{\Omega} \theta' \text{Beta}_{a,b}(\theta') d\theta' \quad (1)$$

where

$$\text{Beta}_{a,b}(\theta) = \frac{\theta^{a-1}(1-\theta)^{b-1}}{B(a,b)}, B(a,b) = \frac{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)}{\Gamma(a+b)} \quad (2)$$

and  $\Omega$  is the support  $[0, 1]$

*Lemma 0.1.*

$$B(a+1, b) = B(b, a) \bigwedge B(a+1, b) = \frac{a}{a+b} B(a, b) \quad (3)$$

*Proof.* The first relation is given by the symmetry in the definition of  $B$  together with a commutative multiplication. For the second relation we first need to show the well known identity

$$\Gamma(z+1) = z\Gamma(z) \quad (4)$$

By the definition of  $\Gamma(z) \triangleq \int_0^{\infty} u^{z-1} e^{-u} du$  and by using partial integration we get

$$\Gamma(z+1) = \int u^z e^{-u} du = \left[ -u^z e^{-u} \right]_{u=0}^{\infty} + \int_0^{\infty} z u^{z-1} e^{-u} du = z \int_0^{\infty} u^{z-1} e^{-u} du = z\Gamma(z) \quad (5)$$

Having this relation we can show that

$$B(a+1, b) = \frac{\Gamma(a+1)\Gamma(b)}{\Gamma(a+1+b)} = \frac{a\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)}{(a+b)\Gamma(a+b)} = \frac{a}{a+b}B(a, b) \quad (6)$$

□

Starting out by deriving the mean:

$$\begin{aligned} E\theta &= \int \theta' Beta_{a,b}(\theta') d\theta' = \int \frac{B(a+1, b) Beta_{a+1,b}(\theta')}{B(a, b)} d\theta' = \\ &= \frac{B(a+1, b)}{B(a, b)} \int Beta_{a+1,b}(\theta') d\theta' = \frac{B(a+1, b)}{B(a, b)} = \{\text{Using Lemma 0.1}\} = \\ &= \frac{aB(a, b)}{(a+b)B(a, b)} = \frac{a}{a+b} \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Next we derive the mode which is the most occurring  $\theta$

$$Mode(\theta) = \underset{\theta'}{argmax}(Beta_{a,b}(\theta')) \quad (8)$$

To find it we use

$$\frac{\partial Beta_{a,b}(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = 0 \quad (9)$$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= B(a, b) \frac{\partial Beta_{a,b}(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = \{\text{prod. rule}\} = \\ &= (a-1)\theta^{a-2}(1-\theta)^{b-1} - (b-1)\theta^{a-1}(1-\theta)^{b-2} \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

which gives us the equation

$$(a-1)\theta^{a-2}(1-\theta)^{b-1} = (b-1)\theta^{a-1}(1-\theta)^{b-2} \quad (11)$$

$$(a-1)(1-\theta) = (b-1)\theta \quad (12)$$

$$\theta = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{b-1}{a-1}} = \frac{a-1}{a-1+b-1} = \frac{a-1}{a+b-2} \quad (13)$$

Finally we deal with the variance:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(\theta) &= E\theta^2 - (E\theta)^2 = \int \theta'^2 Beta_{a,b}(\theta') d\theta' - (E\theta)^2 = \\ &= \frac{B(a+2, b)}{B(a, b)} - (E\theta)^2 = \frac{(a+1)}{(a+b+1)} \frac{a}{(a+b)} - \left(\frac{a}{a+b}\right)^2 = \\ &= \frac{a}{a+b} \left( \frac{(a+1)(a+b) - a(a+b+1)}{(a+b)(a+b+1)} \right) = \frac{ab}{(a+b)^2(a+b+1)} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

**Exercise 3.6** MLE for the Poisson distribution

The Poisson pmf is defined as  $Poi(x|\lambda) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!}$  for  $x \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  where  $\lambda > 0$  is the rate parameter. Derive the MLE.

*Solution.* The data  $D = \{x_i\}$  is *i.i.d*  $\wedge x_i \sim Poi(\lambda)$

$$p(x_i|\lambda) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^{x_i}}{x_i!} \quad (15)$$

The probability for  $D$ :

$$L(\lambda) = p(\{x_i\}|\lambda) = \prod_i p(x_i|\lambda) = \prod_i e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^{x_i}}{x_i!} \quad (16)$$

The log-likelihood for the parameter  $\lambda$

$$\ell(\lambda) = \log\left(\prod_i e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^{x_i}}{x_i!}\right) = \sum_i (-\lambda + x_i \log \lambda - \log x_i) \quad (17)$$

Find the maximum likely  $\lambda$  by finding the maximum log-likely  $\lambda$  which will coincide since log is a strictly increasing function.

$$\frac{\partial \ell(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda} = 0 \quad (18)$$

$$\frac{\partial \ell(\lambda)}{\partial \lambda} = \sum_i \left(-1 + \frac{x_i}{\lambda}\right) = -|\{x_i\}| + \frac{\sum x_i}{\lambda} = 0 \quad (19)$$

Which gives MLE for  $\lambda$ :

$$\lambda = \frac{\sum x_i}{|\{x_i\}|} (= \mathbb{E} x) \quad (20)$$

**Exercise 3.7** Bayesian analysis of the Poisson distribution

In exercise 3.6, we defined the Poisson distribution with rate  $\lambda$  and derived its MLE. Here we perform a conjugate Bayesian analysis.

- a. Derive the posterior  $p(\lambda|D)$  assuming a conjugate prior  $p(\lambda) = Ga(\lambda|a, b) \propto \lambda^{a-1} e^{-\lambda b}$ .  
Hint: the posterior is also a Gamma distribution.
- b. What does the posterior mean tend to as  $a \rightarrow 0$  and  $b \rightarrow 0$ ? (Recall that the mean of a  $Ga(a, b)$  distribution is  $a/b$ .)

*Solution.*  $Ga(a, b)$  is denoted  $\Gamma(a, b)$  and  $a, b > 0$  of a  $\Gamma$ -distribution.

$$\begin{aligned} p(\lambda|D) &\propto p(D|\lambda)p(\lambda) = \lambda^{a-1} e^{-\lambda b} \prod_i \left(e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^{x_i}}{x_i!}\right) \propto \lambda^{a-1} e^{-\lambda b} e^{-|D|\lambda} \prod_i \lambda^{x_i} = \\ &= e^{-|D|\lambda} e^{-\lambda} \lambda^{a-1} \lambda^{\sum x_i} = e^{-(|D|+b)\lambda} \lambda^{\sum x_i + a - 1} \propto \Gamma\left(\sum x_i + a, |D| + b\right) \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

with the parameters for the  $\Gamma$ -function being  $a' = \sum x_i + a \geq a > 0$  and  $b' = |D| + b \geq b > 0$  together with the fact that  $p(\lambda|D)$  is a distribution, that is properly normalized, it will result in not only being proportional but equally distributed:

$$p(\lambda|D) = \Gamma\left(\sum x_i + a, |D| + b\right) \quad (22)$$

still acting as a distribution, the samples

$$X \sim \Gamma\left(\sum x_i + a, |D| + b\right) \quad (23)$$

in the limit the  $E$  becomes

$$\lim_{a,b \rightarrow 0} E X = \lim_{a,b \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sum x_i + a}{|D| + b} = \frac{\sum x_i}{|D|} (= E x) \quad (24)$$