

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 Ω 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 θ

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

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 λ

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

Find the maximum likely λ by finding the maximum log-likely λ 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 λ :

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

Exercise 3.7 Bayesian analysis of the Poisson distribution

In exercise 3.6, we defined the Poisson distribution with rate λ 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.