Concentration Inequalities

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Proof of Proposition 1. We first prove (1). One has that the moment generating function of X is

$$\mathbb{E}(e^{\lambda X}) = e^{\lambda\mu + \lambda^2\sigma^2/2},$$

implies that the moment generating function of $X - \mu$ is $\varphi(\lambda) = e^{\lambda^2\sigma^2/2}$. Then

$$\inf_{\lambda\in[0,b]} \big\{-\lambda t + \log\varphi(\lambda)\big\} = \inf_{\lambda\in[0,b]} \{-\lambda t + \lambda^2\sigma^2/2\} = -\frac{t^2}{2\sigma^2}.$$

By Chernoff's inequality, one has that for all $t > 0$,

$$\log \mathbb{P}(X - \mu \geq t) \leq \inf_{\lambda\in[0,b]} \big\{-\lambda t + \log\varphi(\lambda)\big\} = -\frac{t^2}{2\sigma^2}$$

and

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geq \mu + t) \leq e^{-\frac{t^2}{2\sigma^2}}.$$

(1) holds.

Note that

$$\mathbb{P}\big(|X - \mu| \geq t\big) = \mathbb{P}\big(X - \mu \geq t\big) + \mathbb{P}\big(X - \mu \leq -t\big),$$

then (2) holds by symmetry. □

Proofs of Proposition 5. I will provide the proofs for both cases that $\sigma = b - a$ and $\sigma = (b-a)/2$. We firstly prove that X is sub-Gaussian with parameter $\sigma = b - a$. Let X' be an independent copy of X and ε be a Rademacher random variable independent with X and X'. In the following, the notation $\mathbb{E}_\star$ means that take expectation with respect to the random variables placed in the position of $\star$. Then one has that

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}(e^{\lambda X}) &= \mathbb{E}_X\Big[e^{\lambda\big\{X - \mathbb{E}_{X'}(X')\big\}}\Big] \\
&= \mathbb{E}_X\Big[e^{\mathbb{E}_{X'}\big\{\lambda(X-X')\big\}}\Big] \\
&\leq \mathbb{E}_{X,X'}\big\{e^{\lambda(X-X')}\big\} \\
&= \mathbb{E}_{X,X'}\Big[\mathbb{E}_\varepsilon\big\{e^{\lambda\varepsilon(X-X')}\big\}\Big] \\
&\leq \mathbb{E}_{X,X'}\big\{e^{\lambda^2(X-X')^2/2}\big\} \\
&\leq e^{\lambda^2(b-a)^2/2},
\end{aligned}$$

where the first "$\leq$" by using Jensen's inequality, the second "$\leq$" by using ε is sub-Gaussian with parameter $\sigma = 1$, and the last "$\leq$" by using $|X - X'| \leq b - a$.

Then we prove that X is sub-Gaussian with parameter $\sigma = (b-a)/2$. Denote $\psi(\lambda) = \log \mathbb{E}(e^{\lambda X})$. One can easily obtain that

$$\begin{aligned}\psi^{(1)}(\lambda) &= \frac{\mathbb{E}(Xe^{\lambda X})}{\mathbb{E}(e^{\lambda X})},\\ \psi^{(2)}(\lambda) &= \frac{\mathbb{E}(X^2 e^{\lambda X})\mathbb{E}(e^{\lambda X}) - \left\{\mathbb{E}(Xe^{\lambda X})\right\}^2}{\left\{\mathbb{E}(e^{\lambda X})\right\}^2}\\ &= \frac{\mathbb{E}(X^2 e^{\lambda X})}{\mathbb{E}(e^{\lambda X})} - \left\{\psi^{(1)}(\lambda)\right\}^2,\end{aligned}$$

and $\psi(0) = \psi^{(1)}(0) = 0$. Define another probability measure $\mathbb{Q}$ which satisfies that

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbb{Q}}{\mathrm{d}\mathbb{P}} = \frac{e^{\lambda X}}{\mathbb{E}(e^{\lambda X})},$$

then one has that

$$\begin{aligned}\psi^{(1)}(\lambda) &= \int X \frac{e^{\lambda X}}{\mathbb{E}(e^{\lambda X})}\mathrm{d}\mathbb{P} = \int X \mathrm{d}\mathbb{Q} = \mathbb{E}_{X\sim\mathbb{Q}}(X),\\ \psi^{(2)}(\lambda) &= \int X^2 \frac{e^{\lambda X}}{\mathbb{E}(e^{\lambda X})}\mathrm{d}\mathbb{P} - \left\{\psi^{(1)}(\lambda)\right\}^2 = \int X^2 \mathrm{d}\mathbb{Q} - \left\{\psi^{(1)}(\lambda)\right\}^2 = \mathrm{Var}_{X\sim\mathbb{Q}}(X),\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\sup_{\lambda\in\mathbb{R}} \left|\psi^{(2)}(\lambda)\right| \le (b-a)^2/4.$$

Hence

$$\mathbb{E}(e^{\lambda X}) = e^{\psi(\lambda)} = \exp\left\{\int_0^\lambda \int_0^\mu \psi^{(2)}(t)\mathrm{d}t\mathrm{d}\mu\right\} \le \exp\left\{2^{-1}\lambda^2 \sup_{\lambda\in\mathbb{R}}\left|\psi^{(2)}(\lambda)\right|\right\} \le e^{\lambda^2(b-a)^2/8}.$$

□

Proof of Proposition 7. By using the sub-Exponential properties of X_i, one has that

$$\mathbb{E}\left\{e^{\lambda\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i-\mu_i)}\right\} = \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}\left\{e^{\lambda(X_i-\mu_i)}\right\} \le e^{\frac{\lambda^2\sum_{i=1}^n \nu_i^2}{2}} = e^{\frac{\nu_*^2\lambda^2}{2}},$$

for $|\lambda| < \min_{1\le i\le n}\alpha_i^{-1} = \alpha_*^{-1}$. Then by Chernoff's inequality, one has that

$$\begin{aligned}\log\mathbb{P}\left\{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i-\mu_i)\ge t\right\} &\le \inf_{\lambda\in[0,\alpha_*^{-1}]}\{-\lambda t + 2^{-1}\nu_*^2\lambda^2\}\\ &\le \begin{cases} -\frac{t^2}{2\nu_*^2} & ,0<t\le\frac{\nu_*^2}{\alpha}\\ -\frac{t}{2\alpha_*} & ,t>\frac{\nu_*^2}{\alpha_*}\end{cases}.\end{aligned}$$

Then the two-sided inequality can be obtained by symmetry. □

Proof of Theorem 8. For any $\boldsymbol{u} = (u_1,\ldots,u_d)^\mathsf{T} \in \mathbb{R}^d$, we construct F by $F(\boldsymbol{u}) = m^{-1/2}\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{u}$, where $\mathbf{X} = (X_{jk})_{m\times d}$ with $\{X_{jk}\}_{j,k=1}^{m,d}$ are independent $\mathcal{N}(0,1)$ random variables. Then one has that for any $\boldsymbol{u}\ne\mathbf{0}$,

$$\frac{\left\|F(\boldsymbol{u})\right\|_2^2}{\|\boldsymbol{u}\|_2^2} = \frac{\|\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{u}\|_2^2}{m\|\boldsymbol{u}\|_2^2} = m^{-1}\sum_{j=1}^m \underbrace{\frac{\left(\sum_{k=1}^d X_{jk}u_k\right)^2}{\sum_{k=1}^d u_k^2}}_{\text{Denote by } Y_j}$$

and $\{Y_j\}_{j=1}^m$ are independent Chi-square random variables with 1 degree of freedom. By using Proposition 7,

$$\mathbb{P}\Big\{\Big|\frac{\big\|F(\boldsymbol{u})\big\|_2^2}{\|\boldsymbol{u}\|_2^2}-1\Big|\geq\delta\Big\}=\mathbb{P}\Big\{\Big|\sum_{j=1}^m(Y_j-1)\Big|\geq m\delta\Big\}\leq 2e^{-\frac{m\delta^2}{8}}.$$

For $\boldsymbol{u}_i\neq\boldsymbol{u}_j$, one has that

$$\frac{\big\|F(\boldsymbol{u}_i)-F(\boldsymbol{u}_j)\big\|_2^2}{\|\boldsymbol{u}_i-\boldsymbol{u}_i\|_2^2}=\frac{\|\mathbf{X}(\boldsymbol{u}_i-\boldsymbol{u}_j)\|_2^2}{m\|\boldsymbol{u}_i-\boldsymbol{u}_j\|_2^2}=\frac{\big\|F(\boldsymbol{u}_i-\boldsymbol{u}_j)\big\|_2^2}{\|\boldsymbol{u}_i-\boldsymbol{u}_i\|_2^2}.$$

Hence, one has that the probability of the opposite event of

$$(1-\delta)\|\boldsymbol{u}_i-\boldsymbol{u}_j\|_2^2\leq\big\|F(\boldsymbol{u}_i)-F(\boldsymbol{u}_j)\big\|_2^2\leq(1+\delta)\|\boldsymbol{u}_i-\boldsymbol{u}_j\|_2^2,$$

for all pairs $\boldsymbol{u}_i\neq\boldsymbol{u}_j$ can be bounded by

$$2\binom{N}{2}e^{-\frac{m\delta^2}{8}}\leq N^2e^{-\frac{m\delta^2}{8}}.$$

. □

Proof of Theorem 10. By using Taylor's expansion, one has that

$$\begin{aligned}\Big|\mathbb{E}\big\{e^{\lambda(X_i-\mu_i)}\big\}-1-2^{-1}\lambda^2\sigma_i^2\Big|&\leq\sum_{k=3}^\infty\frac{|\lambda|^k}{k!}\Big|\mathbb{E}\big\{(X_i-\mu_i)^k\big\}\Big|\\&\leq\sum_{k=3}^\infty\frac{|\lambda|^k}{k!}2^{-1}k!\sigma_i^2b^{k-2}\\&=2^{-1}\lambda^2\sigma_i^2\sum_{k=3}^\infty\big(|\lambda|b\big)^{k-2}\\&=\frac{2^{-1}\lambda^2\sigma_i^2|\lambda|b}{1-|\lambda|b}\end{aligned}$$

for $|\lambda|<1/b$, then one has that

$$\mathbb{E}\big\{e^{\lambda(X_i-\mu_i)}\big\}\leq1+2^{-1}\lambda^2\sigma_i^2+\frac{2^{-1}\lambda^2\sigma_i^2|\lambda|b}{1-|\lambda|b}=1+\frac{2^{-1}\lambda^2\sigma_i^2}{1-|\lambda|b}\leq\exp\Big\{\frac{2^{-1}\lambda^2\sigma_i^2}{1-|\lambda|b}\Big\}$$

and

$$\mathbb{E}\big\{e^{\lambda\sum_{i=1}^n(X_i-\mu_i)}\big\}\leq\exp\Big\{\frac{2^{-1}\lambda^2\sum_{i=1}^n\sigma_i^2}{1-|\lambda|b}\Big\},$$

(1) holds.

By using Chernoff's inequality, one has that for all $t>0$,

$$\mathbb{P}\Big\{\sum_{i=1}^n(X_i-\mu_i)\geq t\Big\}\leq e^{-\lambda t}\mathbb{E}\big\{e^{\lambda\sum_{i=1}^n(X_i-\mu_i)}\big\}\leq\exp\Big\{-\lambda t+\frac{2^{-1}\lambda^2\sum_{i=1}^n\sigma_i^2}{1-|\lambda|b}\Big\}.$$

By taking

$$\lambda=\frac{t}{bt+\sum_{i=1}^n\sigma_i^2}\in[0,b^{-1}),$$

one has that

$$\mathbb{P}\Big\{\sum_{i=1}^{n}(X_i-\mu_i)\geq t\Big\}\leq \exp\Big\{-\frac{t^2}{2(bt+\sum_{i=1}^n\sigma_i^2)}\Big\}.$$

Then (2) can be obtained by symmetry. □

Proof of Theorem 14. We only prove (1). By tower property, one has that for $|\lambda|<\alpha_n^{-1}$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(e^{\lambda\sum_{k=1}^n D_k}) &= \mathbb{E}\big\{\mathbb{E}(e^{\lambda\sum_{k=1}^n D_k}|\mathcal{A}_{n-1})\big\}\\ &= \mathbb{E}\big\{e^{\lambda\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} D_k}\mathbb{E}(e^{\lambda D_n}|\mathcal{A}_{n-1})\big\}\\ &\leq e^{\nu_n^2\lambda^2/2}\mathbb{E}(e^{\lambda\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} D_k}).\end{aligned}$$

Iterating this procedure yields the bound

$$\mathbb{E}(e^{\lambda\sum_{k=1}^n D_k})\leq e^{\nu_*^2\lambda^2/2}$$

for all $|\lambda|<\alpha_*^{-1}$. □

Proof of Theorem 15. We only need to prove that $\mathbb{E}(e^{\lambda D_k}|\mathcal{A}_{k-1})\leq e^{\lambda^2(b_k-a_k)^2/8}$ almost surely. This argument is similar to the proof of Proposition 5. □

Proof of Theorem 17. Let

$$D_k=\mathbb{E}\big\{f(\mathbf{X})\big|X_1,\ldots,X_{k-1},X_k\big\}-\mathbb{E}\big\{f(\mathbf{X})\big|X_1,\ldots,X_{k-1}\big\},$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}A_k&=\inf_x\mathbb{E}\big\{f(\mathbf{X})\big|X_1,\ldots,X_{k-1},X_k=x\big\}-\mathbb{E}\big\{f(\mathbf{X})\big|X_1,\ldots,X_{k-1}\big\},\\ B_k&=\sup_x\mathbb{E}\big\{f(\mathbf{X})\big|X_1,\ldots,X_{k-1},X_k=x\big\}-\mathbb{E}\big\{f(\mathbf{X})\big|X_1,\ldots,X_{k-1}\big\}.\end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned}D_k-A_k&=\mathbb{E}\big\{f(\mathbf{X})\big|X_1,\ldots,X_{k-1},X_k\big\}-\inf_x\mathbb{E}\big\{f(\mathbf{X})\big|X_1,\ldots,X_{k-1},X_k=x\big\}\geq 0,\\ B_k-D_k&=\sup_x\mathbb{E}\big\{f(\mathbf{X})\big|X_1,\ldots,X_{k-1},X_k=x\big\}-\mathbb{E}\big\{f(\mathbf{X})\big|X_1,\ldots,X_{k-1},X_k\big\}\geq 0,\end{aligned}$$

Then one has that $D_k\geq A_k$ and $D_k\leq B_k$ almost surely. Then we will show that $B_k-A_k\leq L_k$ almost surely. By using the independence of $\sigma(X_{k+1}^n)$ and $\sigma(X_1^k)$, one has that

$$\begin{aligned}B_k-A_k&=\sup_x\mathbb{E}\big\{f(\mathbf{X})\big|X_1,\ldots,X_{k-1},X_k=x\big\}-\inf_x\mathbb{E}\big\{f(\mathbf{X})\big|X_1,\ldots,X_{k-1},X_k=x\big\}\\ &=\sup_{x,x'}\Big|\mathbb{E}\big\{f(\mathbf{X})\big|X_1,\ldots,X_{k-1},X_k=x\big\}-\mathbb{E}\big\{f(\mathbf{X})\big|X_1,\ldots,X_{k-1},X_k=x'\big\}\Big|\\ &=\sup_{x,x'}\Big|\mathbb{E}_{X_{k+1}^n}\big\{f(X_1^{k-1},x,X_{k+1}^n)\big\}-\mathbb{E}_{X_{k+1}^n}\big\{f(X_1^{k-1},x',X_{k+1}^n)\big\}\Big|\\ &\leq L_k\end{aligned}$$

almost surely. Then the inequality can be obtained by using Theorem 15. □

Lemma 1. *Suppose that $f : \mathbb{R}_n \to \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable. Then for any convex function $\phi : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$, one has that*

$$\mathbb{E}\Big\{\phi\Big(f(\mathbf{X}) - \mathbb{E}\{f(\mathbf{X})\}\Big)\Big\} \leq \mathbb{E}\Big\{\phi\Big(\frac{\pi}{2}\langle \nabla f(\mathbf{X}), \mathbf{Y}\rangle\Big)\Big\},$$

where $\mathbf{X}$ and $\mathbf{Y}$ are independent $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_n)$ random vectors.

Proof. By symmetry and Jensen's inequality, one has that

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}\Big\{\phi\Big(f(\mathbf{X}) - \mathbb{E}\{f(\mathbf{X})\}\Big)\Big\} &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}}\Big\{\phi\Big(f(\mathbf{X}) - \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{Y}}\{f(\mathbf{Y})\}\Big)\Big\} \\
&= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}}\Big\{\phi\Big(\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{Y}}\{f(\mathbf{X}) - f(\mathbf{Y})\}\Big)\Big\} \\
&\leq \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X},\mathbf{Y}}\Big\{\phi\big(f(\mathbf{X}) - f(\mathbf{Y})\big)\Big\} \\
&= \mathbb{E}\Big\{\phi\big(f(\mathbf{X}) - f(\mathbf{Y})\big)\Big\}.
\end{aligned}$$

Let $\mathbf{Z}(\theta) = \big\{Z_1(\theta), \ldots, Z_n(\theta)\big\}^{\mathsf{T}}$, where $Z_k(\theta) = X_k \sin\theta + Y_k \cos\theta$. One has that

$$\begin{aligned}
f(\mathbf{X}) - f(\mathbf{Y}) &= f\big(\mathbf{Z}(\pi/2)\big) - f\big(\mathbf{Z}(0)\big) \\
&= \int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{\mathrm{d}f\big(\mathbf{Z}(\theta)\big)}{\mathrm{d}\theta}\mathrm{d}\theta \\
&= \int_0^{\pi/2} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \frac{\partial f\big(\mathbf{Z}(\theta)\big)}{\partial x_k}\frac{\mathrm{d}Z_k(\theta)}{\mathrm{d}\theta}\mathrm{d}\theta \\
&= \int_0^{\pi/2} \Big\langle \nabla f\big(\mathbf{Z}(\theta)\big), \nabla \mathbf{Z}(\theta)\Big\rangle \mathrm{d}\theta \\
&= \frac{2}{\pi}\int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{\pi}{2}\Big\langle \nabla f\big(\mathbf{Z}(\theta)\big), \nabla \mathbf{Z}(\theta)\Big\rangle \mathrm{d}\theta,
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}\Big\{\phi\Big(f(\mathbf{X}) - \mathbb{E}\{f(\mathbf{X})\}\Big)\Big\} &\leq \mathbb{E}\Big\{\phi\big(f(\mathbf{X}) - f(\mathbf{Y})\big)\Big\} \\
&= \mathbb{E}\Big\{\phi\Big(\frac{2}{\pi}\int_0^{\pi/2} \frac{\pi}{2}\Big\langle \nabla f\big(\mathbf{Z}(\theta)\big), \nabla \mathbf{Z}(\theta)\Big\rangle \mathrm{d}\theta\Big)\Big\} \\
&\leq \frac{2}{\pi}\int_0^{\pi/2} \mathbb{E}\Big\{\phi\Big(\frac{\pi}{2}\Big\langle \nabla f\big(\mathbf{Z}(\theta)\big), \nabla \mathbf{Z}(\theta)\Big\rangle\Big)\Big\}\mathrm{d}\theta.
\end{aligned}$$

Note that for $\theta \in [0, \pi/2]$, $\big(Z_k(\theta), Z_k^{(1)}(\theta)\big)^{\mathsf{T}}$ is jointly Gaussian with mean vector $(0,0)^{\mathsf{T}}$ and covariance matrix $\mathbf{I}_2$, then one has that

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{2}{\pi}\int_0^{\pi/2} \mathbb{E}\Big\{\phi\Big(\frac{\pi}{2}\Big\langle \nabla f\big(\mathbf{Z}(\theta)\big), \nabla \mathbf{Z}(\theta)\Big\rangle\Big)\Big\}\mathrm{d}\theta &= \frac{2}{\pi}\int_0^{\pi/2} \mathbb{E}\Big\{\phi\Big(\frac{\pi}{2}\langle \nabla f(\tilde{\mathbf{X}}), \tilde{\mathbf{Y}}\rangle\Big)\Big\}\mathrm{d}\theta \\
&= \mathbb{E}\Big\{\phi\Big(\frac{\pi}{2}\langle \nabla f(\tilde{\mathbf{X}}), \tilde{\mathbf{Y}}\rangle\Big)\Big\},
\end{aligned}$$

where $\tilde{\mathbf{X}}$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{Y}}$ are independent $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_n)$ random vectors. □

Proof of Theorem 19. In Lemma 1, take $\phi(t) = e^{\lambda t}$. One has that

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}\Big[\exp\Big\{\lambda\Big[f(\mathbf{X}) - \mathbb{E}\big\{f(\mathbf{X})\big\}\Big]\Big\}\Big] &\leq \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X},\mathbf{Y}}\Big[\exp\Big\{\frac{\pi\lambda}{2}\Big\langle\nabla f(\mathbf{X}), \mathbf{Y}\Big\rangle\Big\}\Big] \\
&\leq \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}}\Big[\exp\Big\{\frac{\lambda^2\pi^2}{8}\big\|\nabla f(\mathbf{X})\big\|_2^2\Big\}\Big] \\
&\leq \exp\{\lambda^2\pi^2L^2/8\}.
\end{aligned}$$

$\square$