Math tools

Note: Statistical Inference Oct 2024

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4 CONTENTS

Preliminary

Statistical inference fundamentals

References: most of the contents are from the undergraduate course STA3020 (by Prof. Jianfeng Mao in 2022-2023 T1, and Prof. Jiasheng Shi in 2023-2024 T2) and postgraduate course STAT5010 (by Kin Wai Keith Chan in 2024-2025 T1), with main textbook Casella and Berger [1]

2.1 Statistical Models

See Chapter 3 of [1]. Suppose $X_i \sim_{\text{iid}} \mathbb{P}_*$, where \mathbb{P}_* refers to the unknown data generating process (DGPg), we find $\widehat{\mathbb{P}} \approx \mathbb{P}_*$. A statistical model is a set of distributions $\mathscr{F} = \{\mathbb{P}_{\theta} : \theta \in \Theta\}$, where Θ is the parameter space. A parametric model is the model with $\dim(\Theta) < \infty$, while a nonparametric model satisfies $\dim(\Theta) = \infty$.

Definition 2.1.1 (Exponential family). A k-dimensional exponential family (EF) $\mathscr{F} = \{f_{\theta} : \theta \in \Theta\}$ is a model consisting of pdfs of the form

$$f_{\theta}(x) = c(\theta)h(x) \exp\left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{k} \eta_{j}(\theta)T_{j}(x) \right\}$$
(2.1)

where $c(\theta), h(x) \geq 0$, $\Theta = \{\theta : c(\theta) \geq 0, \eta_j(\theta) \text{ being well defined for } 1 \leq j \leq k\}$. Let $\eta_j = \eta_j(\theta)$, the canonical form is

$$f_{\eta}(x) = b(\eta)h(x) \exp\left\{\sum_{j=1}^{k} \eta_j T_j(x)\right\}, \qquad (2.2)$$

- k-dim natural exponential family (NEF): $\mathscr{F}' = \{f_{\eta} : \eta \in \Xi\};$
- natural parameter $\eta = (\eta_1, \dots, \eta_k)^{\top}$;
- natural parameter space: $\Xi = \{ \eta \in \mathbb{R}^k : 0 < b(\eta) < \infty \};$
- the NEF \mathscr{F}' is of full rank if Ξ contains an open set in \mathbb{R}^k ;
- the EF is a curved exponential family if $p = \dim(\Theta) < k$.

Properties of EF:

- Let $X \sim f_{\eta}$, where $\eta \in \Xi$ such that (i) f_{η} is of the form (2.2) with $B(\eta) = -\log b(\eta)$, and (ii) Ξ contains an open set in \mathbb{R}^k . Then, for $j, j' = 1, \ldots, k$, $\mathbb{E}\{T_j(X)\} = \partial B(\eta)/\partial \eta_j$ and $\mathbb{C}\text{ov}\{T_j(X), T_{j'}(X)\} = \partial^2 B(\eta)/(\partial \eta_j \partial \eta_{j'})$.
- Stein's identity:

Definition 2.1.2 (Location-scale family). Let f be a density.

- A location-scale family is given by $\mathscr{F} = \{f_{\mu,\sigma} : \mu \in \mathbb{R}, \sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{++}\}$, where $f_{\mu,\sigma}(x) = f((x-\mu)/\sigma)/\sigma$.
- location parameter: μ ; scale parameter: σ ; standard density: f;
- A location family is $\mathscr{F} = \{f_{\mu,1} : \mu \in \mathbb{R}\}.$
- A scale family is $\mathscr{F} = \{f_{0,\sigma} : \sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{++}\}\$

Representation: $X = \mu + \sigma Z$, $Z \sim f_{0,1}(\cdot)$.

- $\bullet\,$ See some examples in Example 3.9, Keith's note 3, and Table 1 in Shi's note L1.
- Transform between location parameter and scale parameter by taking log.

Definition 2.1.3 (Identifiable family). If $\forall \theta_1, \theta_2 \in \Theta$ that

$$\theta_1 \neq \theta_2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad f_{\theta_1}(\cdot) \neq f_{\theta_2}(\cdot),$$

then \mathscr{F} is said to be an identifiable family, or equivalently $\theta \in \Theta$ is identifiable.

- 8 A typical feature of non-identifiable EF is that $GHAPT(G) \stackrel{?}{>} k$ FTATISTICAL INFERENCE FUNDAMENTALS
 - p < k, curved (must).
 - p = k, of full rank.
 - p > k, non-identifiable.

2.2 Principles of Data Reduction

Statistics: $T = T(X_{1:n})$, a function of $X_{1:n}$ and free of any unknown parameter.

2.2.1 Sufficiency Principle

Sufficiency principle: If $T = T(X_{1:n})$ is a "sufficient statistics" for θ , then any inference on θ will depend on $X_{1:n}$ only through T.

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Definition 2.2.1 (Sufficient, minimal sufficient, ancillary, and complete statistics). Suppose X_{1:n} \sim_{iid} \mathbb{P}_{\theta}, where \theta \in \Theta. Let T = T(X_{1:n}) be a statistic. Then T is sufficient (SS) for \theta \Leftrightarrow (def) [X_{1:n} \mid T = t] is free of \theta for each t. \Leftrightarrow (technical lemma) T(x_{1:n}) = T(x'_{1:n}) implies that f_{\theta}(x_{1:n})/f_{\theta}(x'_{1:n}) is free of \theta. \Leftrightarrow (Neyman-Fisher factorization theorem) \forall \theta \in \Theta, x_{1:n} \in \mathcal{X}^n, f_{\theta}(x_{1:n}) = A(t,\theta)B(x_{1:n}). \Leftrightarrow Define \Lambda(\theta',\theta'' \mid x_{1:n}) := f_{\theta'}(x_{1:n})/f_{\theta''}(x_{1:n}). \forall \theta',\theta'' \in \Theta, \exists function C_{\theta',\theta''} such that \Lambda(\theta',\theta'' \mid x_{1:n}) = C_{\theta',\theta''}(t), for all x_{1:n} \in \mathcal{X}^n where t = T(x_{1:n}). T is minimal sufficient (MSS) for \theta \Leftrightarrow (def) (1) T is a SS for \theta; (2) T = g(S) for any other SS S. \Leftrightarrow (1) T is a SS for \theta; (2) S(x_{1:n}) = S(x'_{1:n}) implies T(x_{1:n}) = T(x'_{1:n}) for any SS S. \Leftrightarrow (Lehmann-Scheffé theorem) \forall x_{1:n}, x'_{1:n} \in \mathcal{X}^n, f_{\theta}(x_{1:n})/f_{\theta}(x'_{1:n}) is free of \theta \Leftrightarrow T(x_{1:n}) = T(x'_{1:n}). A = A(X_{1:n}) is ancillary (ANS) if the distribution of A does not depend on \theta. T is complete (CS) if \forall \theta \in \Theta, \mathbb{E}_{\theta}g(T) = 0 implies \forall \theta \in \Theta, \mathbb{P}_{\theta}\{g(T) = 0\} = 1.
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Properties

- (Transformation) If T = r(T'), then (i) T is $SS \Rightarrow T'$ is SS; (ii) T' is $CS \Rightarrow T$ is CS; (iii) r is one-to-one, then if one is SS/MSS/CS, then the another is.
- (Basu's Lemma) $X_i \sim_{iid} \mathbb{P}_{\theta}$, A is ANS and T s CSS, then $A \perp \!\!\! \perp T$.
- (Bahadur's theorem) $X_i \sim_{iid} \mathbb{P}_{\theta}$, if an MSS exists, then any CSS is also an MSS.
 - Then if a CSS exists, then any MSS is also a CSS \Rightarrow CSS=MSS.
 - All or nothing: start with MSS T, check whether T is CS. (i) Yes, it is both CSS and MSS, then the set of MSS=CSS; (ii) No, there is no CSS at all.
- (Exp-family) If $X_i \sim_{\text{iid}} f_{\eta}$ in (2.2), then $T = (\sum_{i=1}^n T_1(X_i), \dots, \sum_{i=1}^n T_k(X_i))$ is a SS, called natural sufficient statistic. If Ξ contains an open set in \mathbb{R}^k (i.e., \mathscr{F}' is of full rank), then T is MSS and CSS.

Proof techniques

- Prove T is not sufficient for θ : show if $\exists x_{1_n}, x'_{1:n} \in \mathcal{X}^n$ and $\theta', \theta'' \in \Theta$, such that $T(x_{1:n}) = T(x'_{1:n})$ and $\Lambda(\theta', \theta'' \mid x_{1:n}) \neq \Lambda(\theta', \theta'' \mid x'_{1:n})$.
- Prove A is an ANS: consider location-scale representation.
- Prove T is a CS: use definition or take $d\mathbb{E}_{\theta}g(T)/d\theta = 0$.
- Disprove T is CS:
 - Construct an ANS S(T) based on T, then $\mathbb{E}S(T)$ is free of θ , then $g(T) = S(T) \mathbb{E}S(T)$ is free of θ but $g(T) \neq 0$ w.p.1.
 - (Cancel the 1st moment) Find two unbiased estiamtors for θ as a function of T. E.g., $X_1, X_2 \sim_{\text{iid}} N(\theta, \theta^2)$, $T = (X_1, X_2), g(T) = X_1 X_2 \sim N(0, 2\theta^2)$.

Remark 2.2.2. • ANS A is useless on its own, but useful together with other information.

• $\mathbb{P}(A(X) \mid \theta)$ is free of θ , but for non-SS T, $\mathbb{P}(A(X) \mid T(X))$ is not necessarily free of θ .

2.2.2 Likelihood principle

Multivariate Inference Fundamentals

Reference:

- Robb J. Muirhead Aspects of multivariate statistical theory [3].
- CUHK STAT4002 Applied Multivariate Analysis (2023 Spring), by Zhixiang Lin.

3.1 Random vectors and distributions

Definition 3.1.1. Let $\boldsymbol{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_p)^{\top} \in \mathbb{R}^p$ be a random vector, • Mean $\mathbb{E}\boldsymbol{x} = \boldsymbol{\mu} = (\mathbb{E}x_1, \dots, \mathbb{E}x_p)^{\top} = (\mu_j)$.

- Covariance matrix $\mathbb{V}\operatorname{ar}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \mathbb{C}\operatorname{ov}(\boldsymbol{x}) = \Sigma = \mathbb{E}[(\boldsymbol{x} \mathbb{E}\boldsymbol{x})(\boldsymbol{x} \mathbb{E}\boldsymbol{x})^{\top}] = \mathbb{E}\boldsymbol{x}\boldsymbol{x}^{\top} \mathbb{E}\boldsymbol{x}\mathbb{E}\boldsymbol{x}^{\top} = (\sigma_{ij}), \ \Sigma \succeq \boldsymbol{0}.$
- Correlation matrix $R = D^{-1/2} \Sigma D^{-1/2}$, where $D = \text{diag}(\sigma_{11}, \dots, \sigma_{pp})$. We have $R_{ij} = \rho_{ij} = \sigma_{ij}/(\sqrt{\sigma_{ii}}\sqrt{\sigma_{jj}})$
- If $\boldsymbol{y} \in \mathbb{R}^q$ random vector, then $\mathbb{C}\text{ov}(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{y}) = \mathbb{E}[(\boldsymbol{x} \mathbb{E}\boldsymbol{x})(\boldsymbol{y} \mathbb{E}\boldsymbol{y})^\top] = \mathbb{E}\boldsymbol{x}\boldsymbol{y}^\top \mathbb{E}\boldsymbol{x}\mathbb{E}\boldsymbol{y}^\top \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times q}$.
- If $Z = (z_{ij}) \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times q}$ is a random matrix,
 - $\mathbb{E} \mathbf{Z} = (\mathbb{E} z_{ij}).$

Proposition 3.1.2. Let $x \in \mathbb{R}^p$ be a random vector, $a, b \in \mathbb{R}^p$ be vectors, $A \in \mathbb{R}^{r_1 \times p}$, $B \in \mathbb{R}^{r_2 \times p}$ be matrices,

- $\mathbb{E} a^{\top} x = a^{\top} \mathbb{E} x$, $\mathbb{V} \operatorname{ar}(a^{\top} x) = a^{\top} \Sigma a$, and $\mathbb{C}\operatorname{ov}(a^{\top} x, b^{\top} x) = a^{\top} \Sigma b$.
- $\mathbb{E} A \boldsymbol{x} = A \mathbb{E} \boldsymbol{x}$, $\mathbb{V} \operatorname{ar}(A \boldsymbol{x}) = A \Sigma A^{\top}$, and $\mathbb{C} \operatorname{ov}(A \boldsymbol{x}, B \boldsymbol{x}) = A \Sigma B^{\top}$.

• If $\mathbf{y} = A\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b}$, where $A \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times p}$, $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^q$, then $\boldsymbol{\mu_y} = A\boldsymbol{\mu_x} + \mathbf{b}$ and $\boldsymbol{\Sigma_y} = A\boldsymbol{\Sigma_x}A^{\top}$. Let $\mathbf{Z} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times q}$ be a random matrix, $B \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times p}$, $C \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times n}$, and $D \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$ constants, then

- $\mathbb{E}(B\mathbf{Z}C+D)=B\mathbb{E}(\mathbf{Z})C+D.$
- The $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}$ is a covariance matrix (i.e., $\Sigma = \mathbb{C}\text{ov}(\boldsymbol{x})$ for some random vector $\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{R}^p$) iff $\Sigma \succeq \mathbf{0}$.
 - (\Leftarrow): suppose $r(\Sigma) = r \le p$, write full rank decomposition $\Sigma = CC^{\top}$, $C \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times r}$. Let $y \sim [0_r, I_r]$, then $\mathbb{C}ov(Cy) = \Sigma$.
- If Σ is not PD, then $\exists \boldsymbol{a} \neq \boldsymbol{0}_p$ s.t. $\mathbb{V}\operatorname{ar}(\boldsymbol{a}^{\top}\boldsymbol{x}) = 0$ so w.p.1., $\boldsymbol{a}^{\top}\boldsymbol{x} = k$, i.e., \boldsymbol{x} lies in a hyperplane.

Theorem 3.1.3. If $x \in \mathbb{R}^p$ random, then its distribution is uniquely determined by the distributions of $a^{\top}x$, $\forall \boldsymbol{a} \in \mathbb{R}^p$.

The proof uses the fact that a distribution in \mathbb{R}^p is uniquely determined by its ch.f., see Theorem 1.2.2. [3].

Definition 3.1.4. Dataset contains p variables and n observations are represented by $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n)^{\top}$, where the *i*th row $\mathbf{x}_i^{\top} = (x_{i1}, \dots, x_{ip})$ is the *i*th observation vector, $i = 1, \dots, n$.

- (Sample mean vector) $\bar{x} = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i = (\bar{x}_1, \dots, \bar{x}_p)^{\top}$, where $\bar{x}_j = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{ij}$.
- (Sum of squares and cross product (SSCP) matrix) $A = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i \bar{x})(x_i \bar{x})^{\top}$.
- (Sample covariance matrix) $S = (n-1)^{-1}A$.
- (Sample correlation matrix) $\mathbf{R} = D^{-1/2} \mathbf{S} D^{-1/2}$, where $D^{-1/2} = \operatorname{diag}(1/\sqrt{s_{11}}, \dots, 1/\sqrt{s_{pp}})$.
- $\bar{\boldsymbol{x}} = n^{-1} \boldsymbol{X}^{\top} \boldsymbol{1}_n$, and

$$egin{aligned} oldsymbol{A} &= \sum_{i=1}^n (oldsymbol{x}_i - oldsymbol{\mu}) (oldsymbol{x}_i - oldsymbol{\mu})^ op - n(ar{oldsymbol{x}} - oldsymbol{\mu}) (ar{oldsymbol{x}} - oldsymbol{\mu})^ op \ &= (oldsymbol{X} - oldsymbol{1}_n ar{oldsymbol{x}}^ op)^ op (oldsymbol{X} - oldsymbol{1}_n ar{oldsymbol{x}}^ op)^ op (oldsymbol{0}. \end{aligned}$$

• $\mathbb{E}\bar{x} = \mu$, $\mathbb{V}\operatorname{ar}(\bar{x}) = n^{-1}\Sigma$, $\mathbb{E}A = (n-1)\Sigma$, and $\mathbb{E}S = \Sigma$.

Definition 3.1.5 (Original definition of multivariate normal). The random vector $x \in \mathbb{R}^p$ is said to have an p-variate normal distribution $(\mathbf{x} \sim N_p)$ if $\forall \mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{R}^p$, the distribution of $\mathbf{a}^{\top} \mathbf{x}$ is univariate normal.

Theorem 3.1.6 (Fundamental properties). Let $x \sim N_p$, we have

- 1. Both $\mu = \mathbb{E}x$ and $\Sigma = \mathbb{C}ov(x)$ exist and the distribution of x is determined by μ and Σ . Write $x \sim N_p(\mu, \Sigma)$.
- 2. (Representation) Let $\Sigma \succeq \mathbf{0}_{p \times p}$, $r(\Sigma) = r \leq p$, and $u_{1:r} \sim_{iid} N(0,1)$, i.e., $\mathbf{u} \sim N_r(\mathbf{0}_r, I_r)$, then if C is the full rank decomposition of Σ and $\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{R}^p$, then $\boldsymbol{x} = C\boldsymbol{u} + \boldsymbol{\mu} \sim N_p(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \Sigma)$.
 - Let $\Sigma = HDH^{\top}$ be the spectral decomposition, then $\boldsymbol{x} = HD^{1/2}\boldsymbol{z} + \boldsymbol{\mu}$, where $\boldsymbol{z} \sim \mathrm{N}_p(\boldsymbol{0}_p, I_p)$.
- 3. If $\mathbf{x} \sim N_p(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$, then its ch.f. $\phi_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{t}) = \exp(i\boldsymbol{\mu}^{\top} \mathbf{t} \mathbf{t}^{\top} \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \mathbf{t}/2)$.
- 4. (Density) $\boldsymbol{x} \sim N_p(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$ with $\boldsymbol{\Sigma} \succ \boldsymbol{0}$, then \boldsymbol{x} has pdf

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{p/2} |\Sigma|^{1/2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T \Sigma^{-1} (\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})\right\}.$$
 (3.1)

Note that we guarantee the existence of $N_p(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$ by means of the representation in point 2. By its density, we have MVN kernel: If

$$f(\boldsymbol{x}) \propto \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}(\boldsymbol{x}^{\top}A\boldsymbol{x} - 2\boldsymbol{x}^{\top}B)\right\} = \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}(\boldsymbol{x} - A^{-1}B)^{\top}A(\boldsymbol{x} - A^{-1}B) - B^{\top}A^{-1}B\right\},$$

then $x \sim N_p(A^{-1}B, A^{-1})$.

Theorem 3.1.7 (Properties of multivariate normal). If $x \sim N_p(\mu, \Sigma)$, then we have

- 1. (Linearity) Let $B \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times p}$, $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}^q$ nonrandom, and $B \Sigma B^{\top} \succ \mathbf{0}$, then $B \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{b} \sim N_q (B \boldsymbol{\mu} + \mathbf{b}, B \Sigma B^{\top})$.
- 2. (Linear combinations) If $\mathbf{x}_k \sim \mathrm{N}_p(\boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \Sigma_k) \perp \text{for } k = 1, \ldots, N$, then for any fixed constants $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_N$, $\sum_{k=1}^N \alpha_k \mathbf{x}_k \sim \mathrm{N}_p(\sum_{k=1}^N \alpha_k \boldsymbol{\mu}_k, \sum_{k=1}^N \alpha_k^2 \Sigma_k)$.

 The sample mean $\bar{\mathbf{x}} \sim \mathrm{N}_p(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \Sigma/N)$.
- 3. (Subset) The marginal distribution of any subset of k(< p) components of x is k-variate normal.
- 4. (Marginal distribution) Partition

$$oldsymbol{x} = \left[egin{array}{c} oldsymbol{x}_1 \ oldsymbol{x}_2 \end{array}
ight], \quad oldsymbol{\mu} = \left[egin{array}{c} oldsymbol{\mu}_1 \ oldsymbol{\mu}_2 \end{array}
ight], \quad oldsymbol{\Sigma} = \left[egin{array}{cc} \Sigma_{11} & \Sigma_{12} \ \Sigma_{21} & \Sigma_{22} \end{array}
ight], \quad oldsymbol{x}_1 \in \mathbb{R}^q, oldsymbol{x}_2 \in \mathbb{R}^{p-q}, \Sigma_{12} \in \mathbb{R}^{q imes (p-q)}.$$

Then $x_1 \sim N_q(\boldsymbol{\mu}_1, \Sigma_{11}), \ \boldsymbol{x}_1 \perp \boldsymbol{x}_2 \ \text{iff } \Sigma_{12} = \boldsymbol{0}.$

- 5. (Conditional distribution) Let Σ_{22}^- be a generalized inverse of Σ_{22} (i.e., $\Sigma_{22}\Sigma_{22}^-\Sigma_{22}=\Sigma_{22}$), then (a) $x_1 - \Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^-x_2 \sim N_q(\mu_1 - \Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^-\mu_2, \Sigma_{11} - \Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^-\Sigma_{21})$, and $\perp x_2$. (b) $[x_1 \mid x_2] \sim N_q(\mu_1 + \Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^-(x_2 - \mu_2), \Sigma_{11} - \Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^-\Sigma_{21}).$
- 6. (Cramér) If $p \times 1$ random vectors $\mathbf{x} \perp \mathbf{y}$ and $\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} \sim N_p$, then both $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \sim N_p$.
- 7. (MLE) of (μ, Σ) is $(\bar{x}, A/n)$.
- 8. (Quadratic form) If $\mathbf{x}_{1:n} \sim_{\text{iid}} N_p(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \Sigma)$, then $n(\bar{\mathbf{x}} \boldsymbol{\mu})^\top \Sigma^{-1}(\bar{\mathbf{x}} \boldsymbol{\mu}) \sim \chi_p^2$. The squared generalized distance (Mahalanobis distance) $d_i^2 = (\boldsymbol{x}_i - \bar{\boldsymbol{x}})^{\top} \boldsymbol{S}^{-1} (\boldsymbol{x}_i - \bar{\boldsymbol{x}}) \xrightarrow{d} \chi_n^2$.

For point 3, each component of a random vector is (marginally) normal does not imply that the vector has a multivariate normal distribution. Counterexample: let $U_1, U_2, U_3 \sim_{iid} N(0, 1), Z \perp \!\!\! \perp U_{1:3}$. Define

$$X_1 = \frac{U_1 + ZU_3}{\sqrt{1 + Z^2}}, \quad X_2 = \frac{U_2 + ZU_3}{\sqrt{1 + Z^2}}.$$

Then $[X_1|Z] \sim N(0,1)$, free of Z, so $X_1 \sim N(0,1)$, and $X_2 \sim N(0,1)$. But (X_1,X_2) not normal. The converse is true if the components of x are all independent and normal, or if x consists of independent subvectors, each of which is normally distributed.

For the proof of point 5, we use the lemma: if $\Sigma \succeq \mathbf{0}$, then $\ker(\Sigma_{22}) \subset \ker(\Sigma_{12})$, and $\operatorname{range}(\Sigma_{21}) \subset \operatorname{range}(\Sigma_{22})$. So $\exists B \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times (p-q)} \text{ satisfying } \Sigma_{12} = B\Sigma_{22}.$

The noncentral χ^2 and F distributions 3.1.2

3.2Asymptotic properties

3.2.1Asymptotic distributions of sample means and covariance matrices

Refer to section 1.2.2, [3].

Theorem 3.2.1 (CLT for sample means). Let $x_{1:n} \sim_{\text{iid}} [\mu, \Sigma]$, then

$$\sqrt{n}(\bar{\boldsymbol{x}}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n (\boldsymbol{x}_i - \boldsymbol{\mu}) \xrightarrow{d} \mathrm{N}_p(\boldsymbol{0}_p, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}).$$

Theorem 3.2.2 (CLT for sample covariance matrices). Let $\mathbf{x}_{1:n} \sim_{\text{iid}} [\boldsymbol{\mu}, \Sigma]$ with finite fourth moments, SSCP matrix $\mathbf{A} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (\mathbf{x}_i - \bar{\mathbf{x}}) (\mathbf{x}_i - \bar{\mathbf{x}})^{\top}$, and $\mathbf{S} = (n-1)^{-1} \mathbf{A}$. Let $V = \mathbb{C}\text{ov}[\text{vec}((\mathbf{x}_1 - \boldsymbol{\mu})(\mathbf{x}_1 - \boldsymbol{\mu})^{\top})]$, then

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}(\operatorname{vec}(\boldsymbol{A}) - n \cdot \operatorname{vec}(\Sigma)) \xrightarrow{d} \operatorname{N}_{p^2}(\boldsymbol{0}, V),$$

$$\sqrt{n-1}(\operatorname{vec}(\boldsymbol{S}) - \operatorname{vec}(\Sigma)) \xrightarrow{\mathrm{d}} \operatorname{N}_{p^2}(\boldsymbol{0}, V).$$

Note that $V \in \mathbb{R}^{p^2 \times p^2}$ is singular as the LHS vectors above have repeated elements.

Bayesian Inference

Structural Equation Model (SEM)

Reference:

- CUHK STAT5020 Topics in multivariate analysis (2025 Spring), by Xin Yuan SONG.
- Sik-Yum Lee and Xin-Yuan Song Basic and advanced Bayesian structural equation modeling: With applications in the medical and behavioral sciences [2].

5.1 SEM models

Goal: to examine the relationships among the variables of interest.

Approach: group observed variables to form laten variables. Advantages:

- Reduce the number of variables compared to direct regression.
- As highly correlated observed variables are grouped into latent variables, the problem induced by multicollinearity is alleviated.
- It gives better assessments on the interrelationships of latent constructs.

Definition 5.1.1 (Linear SEMs). Assume that the observed variables $y_p \sim_{\text{iid}} N_p$ with mean μ_p . Let ω_q be latent variables. $\omega_q = (\eta_{q_1}^\top, \xi_{q_2}^\top)^\top$, where η_{q_1} is the key outcome latent variables, and ξ_{q_2} is the explanatory latent variables. Define

where Λ is the unknown factor loading matrix, Γ is the unknown matrix of regression coeffcients, and ϵ and δ are measurement (residual) errors. An extension:

$$\eta_{q_1} = \Pi_{q_1 \times q_1} \eta_{q_1} + \Gamma_{q_1 \times q_2} \xi_{q_2} + \delta_{q_1},$$

where Π is a matrix of unknown coefficients such that $I_{q_1} - \Pi$ is nonsingular and the diagonal elements of Π are

Assumption 5.1.2 (Standard linear SEMs). For i = 1, ..., n,

- (A1) $\epsilon_i \sim_{\text{iid}} N[\mathbf{0}_p, \mathbf{\Psi}_{\epsilon}]$, where $\mathbf{\Psi}_{\epsilon} \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}$ is diagonal.
- (A2) $\boldsymbol{\xi}_i \sim_{\text{iid}} N[\mathbf{0}_{q_2}, \boldsymbol{\Phi}]$, where $\boldsymbol{\Phi}$ is a general.
- (A3) $\delta_i \sim_{iid} N[\mathbf{0}_{q_1}, \mathbf{\Psi}_{\delta}]$, where $\mathbf{\Psi}_{\delta}$ is diagonal.
- (A4) $\delta_i \perp \!\!\! \perp \boldsymbol{\xi}_i$, and $\epsilon_i \perp \!\!\! \perp \boldsymbol{\omega}_i, \delta_i$.

These assumptions imply that

$$egin{aligned} oldsymbol{\eta}_i \sim_{ ext{iid}} \mathrm{N}_{q_1} (\mathbf{0}_{q_1}, oldsymbol{\Gamma} oldsymbol{\Phi} oldsymbol{\Gamma}^ op + oldsymbol{\Psi}_{oldsymbol{\delta}}), \quad oldsymbol{\omega}_i \sim_{ ext{iid}} \mathrm{N}_q \left(\mathbf{0}_q, oldsymbol{\Sigma}_{oldsymbol{\omega}} = egin{bmatrix} oldsymbol{\Gamma} oldsymbol{\Phi} oldsymbol{\Gamma}^ op + oldsymbol{\Psi}_{oldsymbol{\delta}} & oldsymbol{\Gamma} oldsymbol{\Phi} \ oldsymbol{\Phi} oldsymbol{\Gamma}^ op + oldsymbol{\Psi}_{oldsymbol{\delta}} & oldsymbol{\sigma} oldsymbol{\Gamma} oldsymbol{\Phi} oldsymbol{\Gamma} \end{pmatrix}, \quad oldsymbol{y}_i \sim_{ ext{iid}} \mathrm{N}_p (oldsymbol{\mu}, oldsymbol{\Sigma}(oldsymbol{\theta}) = oldsymbol{\Lambda} oldsymbol{\Sigma}_{oldsymbol{\omega}} oldsymbol{\Lambda}^ op + oldsymbol{\Psi}_{oldsymbol{\delta}}). \end{aligned}$$

There is an identifiability issue relevant to all SEMs: The measurement equation is identified if $\forall \theta_1, \theta_2$, MeaEq(θ_1) = MeaEq(θ_2) implies $\theta_1 = \theta_2$. The structural equation is identified if $\forall \theta_1, \theta_2$, StEq(θ_1) = StEq(θ_2) implies $\theta_1 = \theta_2$. The SEM is identified if both of its MeaEq and StEq are identified.

• A simple and common method is using a Λ with the non-overlapping structure, e.g.,

where 1's are fixed to introduce a scale to latent variables

Example 5.1.3. Study the kidney disease of type 2 diabetic patients. We observe: plasma creatine (PCr), urinary albumin creatinine ratio (ACR), systolic blood pressure (SBP), diastolic blood pressure (DBP), body mass index (BMI), waist hip ratio (WHR), glycated hemoglobin (HbAlc), fasting plasma glucose (FPG). Group

- {PCr, ACR}: 'kidney disease (KD)'
- {SBP, DBP}: 'blood pressure (BP)'
- {BMI, WHR}: 'obesity (OB)'
- {HbA1c, FPG}: 'glycemic control (GC)'

 $\boldsymbol{y} = (PCr, ACR, SBP, DBP, BMI, WHR)^{\top}, \ \boldsymbol{\omega} = (KD, BP, OB)^{\top}, \ \boldsymbol{\eta} = KD, \ \boldsymbol{\xi} = (BP, OB)^{\top}, \ p = 6, \ q = 3, q_1 = 1, q_2 = 2.$ Then the measurement equation is

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{PCr} \\ \text{ACR} \\ \text{SBP} \\ \text{DBP} \\ \text{BMI} \\ \text{WHR} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mu_1 \\ \mu_2 \\ \mu_3 \\ \mu_4 \\ \mu_5 \\ \mu_6 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_{11} & 0 & 0 \\ \lambda_{21} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_{32} & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_{42} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_{53} \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_{63} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{KD} \\ \text{BP} \\ \text{OB} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_1 \\ \epsilon_2 \\ \epsilon_3 \\ \epsilon_4 \\ \epsilon_5 \\ \epsilon_6 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We know that KD is only linked with PCr and ACR, ... The structural equation can be defined as:

$$KD = \gamma_1 BP + \gamma_2 OB + \delta.$$

Suppose we wish to study the effects of ξ on $\eta = (KD, \eta_A)^{\top}, q_1 = 2$,

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathrm{KD} \\ \eta_A \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ \pi & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathrm{KD} \\ \eta_A \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_1 & \gamma_2 \\ \gamma_3 & \gamma_4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathrm{BP} \\ \mathrm{OB} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \delta \\ \delta_A \end{pmatrix}.$$

Definition 5.1.4 (More SEM models).

• SEMs with fixed covariates

$$y_p = A_{p \times r_1} c_{r_1} + \Lambda_{p \times q} \omega_q + \epsilon_p,$$

$$\eta_{q_1} = B_{q_1 \times r_2} d_{r_2} + \Pi_{q_1 \times q_1} \eta_{q_1} + \Gamma_{q_1 \times q_2} \xi_{q_2} + \delta_{q_1},$$
(5.2)

where A, B are a matrix of unknown coeffcients, c, d are a vector of fixed covariates (known).

• Nonlinear SEMs

$$y_p = \mu_p + \Lambda_{p \times q} \omega_q + \epsilon_p,$$

$$\eta_{q_1} = \Pi_{q_1 \times q_1} \eta_{q_1} + \Gamma_{q_1 \times t} F_t(\xi_{q_2}) + \delta_{q_1},$$
(5.3)

where $F(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = (f_1(\boldsymbol{\xi}), \dots, f_t(\boldsymbol{\xi}))^{\top}$ with nonzero, known, and linearly independent differentiable functions $f_1, \dots, f_t, t \geq q_2$.

• Nonlinear SEMs with fixed covariates

$$y_p = A_{p \times r_1} c_{r_1} + \Lambda_{p \times q} \omega_q + \epsilon_p,$$

$$\eta_{q_1} = B_{q_1 \times r_2} d_{r_2} + \Pi_{q_1 \times q_1} \eta_{q_1} + \Gamma_{q_1 \times t} F_t(\xi_{q_2}) + \delta_{q_1}.$$
(5.4)

A simple extension of the StEq is

$$oldsymbol{\eta}_{q_1} = oldsymbol{\Pi}_{q_1 imes q_1} oldsymbol{\eta}_{q_1} + oldsymbol{\Lambda}_{oldsymbol{\omega}} oldsymbol{G}_t(oldsymbol{d}, oldsymbol{\xi}) + oldsymbol{\delta}_{q_1}$$

where $G(d\xi) = (g_1(d,\xi), \dots, g_t(d,\xi))^{\top}$ is a vector-valued function with nonzero, known, and linearly independent differentiable functions.

Let Λ_k^{\top} be the kth row of Λ , and $\Lambda_k^{\top} = (\Lambda_{k\eta}^{\top}, \Lambda_{k\xi}^{\top})$ be a partition correspondings to the partition of $\boldsymbol{\omega} = (\boldsymbol{\eta}^{\top}, \boldsymbol{\xi}^{\top})^{\top}$. For model (5.3),

$$\mathbb{E}(\boldsymbol{\xi}) = \mathbf{0}_{q_2}, \quad \mathbb{E}(\boldsymbol{\eta}) = [(I_{q_1} - \boldsymbol{\Pi})^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Gamma}] \mathbb{E}(\boldsymbol{F}(\boldsymbol{\xi})),$$
$$\mathbb{E}(y_k) = \mu_k + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{k\boldsymbol{\eta}}^{\top} [(I_{q_1} - \boldsymbol{\Pi})^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Gamma}] \mathbb{E}(\boldsymbol{F}(\boldsymbol{\xi})).$$

For model (5.4), let A_k^{\top} be the kth row of A,

$$\mathbb{E}(y_k) = \boldsymbol{A}_k^{\top} \boldsymbol{c} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{k\boldsymbol{\eta}}^{\top} \mathbb{E}(\boldsymbol{\eta}) = \boldsymbol{A}_k^{\top} \boldsymbol{c} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{k\boldsymbol{\eta}}^{\top} [(I_{q_1} - \boldsymbol{\Pi})^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{\boldsymbol{\omega}}] \mathbb{E}(\boldsymbol{G}(\boldsymbol{d}, \boldsymbol{\xi})).$$

In developing the Bayesian methods for analyzing SEMs, we usually assign fixed known values to the hyperparameters in the conjugate prior distributions. Consider the modified model (5.4):

$$egin{aligned} m{y}_i &= m{\mu} + m{\Lambda} m{\omega}_i + m{\epsilon}_i, \ m{\eta}_i &= m{B} m{d}_i + m{\Pi} m{\eta}_i + m{\Gamma} m{F}(m{\xi}_i) + m{\delta}_i = m{\Lambda}_{m{\omega}} m{G}(m{\omega}_i) + m{\delta}_i, \end{aligned}$$

where $\Lambda_{\omega} = (B, \Pi, \Gamma) \in \mathbb{R}^{q_1 \times (r_2 + q_1 + t)}$, and $G(\omega_i) = (d_i^{\top}, \eta_i^{\top}, F(\xi_i)^{\top})^{\top} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_2 + q_1 + t}$. Assumption 5.1.2 is satisfied. $\begin{aligned} & \boldsymbol{\xi}_i \sim_{\mathrm{iid}} \mathrm{N}[\mathbf{0}_{q_2}, \boldsymbol{\Phi}], \ \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_i \sim_{\mathrm{iid}} \mathrm{N}[\mathbf{0}_p, \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}} = \mathrm{diag}(\psi_{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}k})], \text{and} \ \boldsymbol{\delta}_i \sim_{\mathrm{iid}} \mathrm{N}[\mathbf{0}_{q_1}, \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\boldsymbol{\delta}} = \mathrm{diag}(\psi_{\boldsymbol{\delta}k})]. \\ & \bullet \ \ \mathrm{Prior} \ (\mathrm{conjugate}) \ \ \mathrm{for} \ \boldsymbol{\theta}_{\boldsymbol{y}} = (\boldsymbol{\mu}, \boldsymbol{\Lambda}, \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}) \colon \ \mathrm{let} \ \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_k^\top \ \ \mathrm{be} \ \mathrm{the} \ \mathrm{kth} \ \mathrm{row} \ \mathrm{of} \ \boldsymbol{\Lambda}, \ \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}, \end{aligned}$

$$\psi_{\epsilon k} \sim \text{IG}(\alpha_{0\epsilon k}, \beta_{0\epsilon k}), \quad [\mathbf{\Lambda}_k \mid \psi_{\epsilon k}] \sim \text{N}_q(\mathbf{\Lambda}_{0k}, \psi_{\epsilon k} \mathbf{H}_{0\mathbf{y}k}), \ k = 1, \dots, p,$$

$$\boldsymbol{\mu} \sim \text{N}_n(\boldsymbol{\mu}_0, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_0).$$

• Prior (conjugate) for $\theta_{\omega} = (\Lambda_{\omega}, \Psi_{\delta}, \Phi)$: let $\Lambda_{\omega k}^{\top}$ be the kth row of Λ_{ω} , Ψ_{δ} ,

$$\Phi \sim IW_{q_2}(\mathbf{R}_0^{-1}, \rho_0),$$

$$\psi_{\delta k} \sim IG(\alpha_{0\delta k}, \beta_{0\delta k}), \quad [\mathbf{\Lambda}_{\omega k} \mid \psi_{\delta k}] \sim N_{r_2+q_1+t}(\mathbf{\Lambda}_{0\omega k}, \psi_{\delta k} \mathbf{H}_{0\omega k}), \ k = 1, \dots, q_1.$$

• Assume the prior $\theta_y \perp \!\!\! \perp \theta_\omega$.

Hyperparameter selection: If we have good prior information about a parameter – select the prior distribution with a small variance. E.g.,

- if $\Lambda_k \approx \Lambda_{0k}$, then $H_{0yk} = 0.5I_q$. If not, select the prior with a larger variance;
- since $\epsilon_{ik} \sim N(0, \psi_{\epsilon k})$, if the variation is small, $\psi_{\epsilon k}$ is small, then choose small $\mathbb{E}(\psi_{\epsilon k}) = \beta_{0\epsilon k}/(\alpha_{0\epsilon k} 1)$ and $\operatorname{Var}(\psi_{\epsilon k}) = \beta_{0\epsilon k}^2 / \{(\alpha_{0\epsilon k} - 1)^2 (\alpha_{0\epsilon k} - 2)\};$
- if $\Phi \approx \Phi_0$, since $\mathbb{E}(\Phi) = R_0^{-1}/(\rho_0 q_2 1)$, choose $R_0^{-1} = (\rho_0 q_2 1)\Phi_0$.

If the sample size is large, can use a portion of the data to estimate Λ_{0k} , $\Lambda_{0\omega k}$ and Φ_0 . If the sample size is moderate, can use the same data twice.

Noninformative prior (Jeffrey): If information is not available and the sample size is small,

$$\mathbb{P}(\boldsymbol{\Lambda}, \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}) \propto \mathbb{P}(\psi_{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}1}, \cdots, \psi_{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}p}) \propto \prod_{k=1}^{p} \psi_{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}k}^{-1}, \quad \mathbb{P}(\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{\boldsymbol{\omega}}, \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\boldsymbol{\delta}}) \propto \mathbb{P}(\psi_{\boldsymbol{\delta}1}, \cdots, \psi_{\boldsymbol{\delta}q_1}) \propto \prod_{k=1}^{q_1} \psi_{\boldsymbol{\delta}k}^{-1},$$

$$\mathbb{P}(\boldsymbol{\Phi}) \propto |\boldsymbol{\Phi}|^{-(q_2+1)/2}.$$

5.2.1Bayesian estimation using MCMC

Model: Linear SEM with fixed covariates (5.2) without intercept:

$$egin{aligned} oldsymbol{y}_i &= oldsymbol{\Lambda} oldsymbol{\omega}_i + oldsymbol{\epsilon}_i, \ oldsymbol{\eta}_i &= oldsymbol{B} oldsymbol{d}_i + oldsymbol{\Pi} oldsymbol{\eta}_i + oldsymbol{\Gamma} oldsymbol{\xi}_i + oldsymbol{\delta}_i, \end{aligned}$$

where $\Lambda_{\boldsymbol{\omega}} = (\boldsymbol{B}, \boldsymbol{\Pi}, \boldsymbol{\Gamma}) \in \mathbb{R}^{q_1 \times (r_2 + q_1 + q_2)}$, and $\boldsymbol{v}_i = (\boldsymbol{d}_i^{\top}, \boldsymbol{\eta}_i^{\top}, \boldsymbol{\xi}_i^{\top})^{\top} \in \mathbb{R}^{r_2 + q_1 + q_2}$. That is, assume $\boldsymbol{\mu} = \boldsymbol{0}_p$ and $\boldsymbol{F}(\boldsymbol{\xi}_i) - \boldsymbol{\xi}_i$. Denote data $Y = (y_1, \dots, y_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n}$, matrix of latent variables $\Omega = (\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n) \in \mathbb{R}^{q \times n}$, and $\theta = (\Lambda, B, \Pi, \Gamma, \Phi, \Psi_{\epsilon}, \Psi_{\delta})$ $(\Lambda, \Lambda_{\omega}, \Phi, \Psi_{\epsilon}, \Psi_{\delta}).$

Proposition 5.2.1. The above model has the following posterior distributions:

1. Conditional distribution $\mathbb{P}(\Omega \mid Y, \theta) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \mathbb{P}(\omega_i \mid y_i, \theta) \propto \prod_{i=1}^{n} \mathbb{P}(\omega_i \mid \theta) \mathbb{P}(y_i \mid \omega_i, \theta)$, where

$$egin{aligned} [oldsymbol{\omega}_i \mid oldsymbol{ heta}] &\sim \mathrm{N}_q(oldsymbol{\mu}_{oldsymbol{\omega}_i}, oldsymbol{\Sigma}_{oldsymbol{\omega}}), & [oldsymbol{y}_i \mid oldsymbol{\omega}_i, oldsymbol{ heta}] &\sim \mathrm{N}_q(oldsymbol{\Sigma}^{*-1}(oldsymbol{\Sigma}_{oldsymbol{\omega}}^{-1}oldsymbol{\mu}_{oldsymbol{\omega}_i} + oldsymbol{\Lambda}^{ op}oldsymbol{\Psi}_{oldsymbol{\epsilon}}^{-1}oldsymbol{y}_i), oldsymbol{\Sigma}^{*-1}) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{split} & \boldsymbol{\Pi}_0 = I_{q_1} - \boldsymbol{\Pi}, \ \boldsymbol{\mu}_{\boldsymbol{\omega}_i} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\Pi}_0^{-1} \boldsymbol{B} \boldsymbol{d}_i \\ \boldsymbol{0}_{q_2} \end{pmatrix}, \ \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{\omega}} = \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\Pi}_0^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\Gamma} \boldsymbol{\Phi} \boldsymbol{\Gamma}^\top + \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\boldsymbol{\delta}}) \boldsymbol{\Pi}_0^{-\top} & \boldsymbol{\Pi}_0^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Gamma} \boldsymbol{\Phi} \\ \boldsymbol{\Phi} \boldsymbol{\Gamma}^\top \boldsymbol{\Pi}_0^{-\top} & \boldsymbol{\Phi} \end{bmatrix}, \\ & \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^* = \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{\boldsymbol{\omega}}^{-1} + \boldsymbol{\Lambda}^\top \boldsymbol{\Psi}_{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}^{-1} \boldsymbol{\Lambda}. \end{split}$$

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