

Agenda

- Monte Carlo methods
- Sampling

Last class we talked about vanilla monte-carlo and what's called change of measure

So we wish to calculate some integral $\int_A f dx$ but this is analytically intractable

Instead of not calculating the integral, we can do the following:

we will change $\int_A f dx = E\left(\frac{f(x)}{g_x(x)}\right)$ where $g_x(x)$ is the density of some r.v. x defined on A . Then, using the law of large numbers, $\frac{1}{n} \sum \frac{f(x_i)}{g_x(x_i)} \rightarrow E\left(\frac{f(x)}{g_x(x)}\right) = \int_A f dx$
when $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n \sim P$ where P is dist'n of X

How is this different from just using $\frac{1}{n} \sum f(x_i)$ to approximate $\int_A f dx$

We may guess that $\frac{1}{n} \sum f(x_i) \rightarrow \int_A f dx$ by WLLN but this is not true

This is wrong because $\frac{1}{n} \sum f(x_i) \xrightarrow{P} E(f(x)) = \int f(x) g_x(x) dx \neq \int f(x) dx$

When we want to find $\int_0^1 f(x) dx = \int_0^1 \frac{f(x)}{1} \cdot \frac{1}{1} dx = \int_0^1 \frac{f(x)}{g_x(x)} g_x(x) dx$ where g_x is density of $X \sim \text{unif}(0,1)$

In MOM or bootstrap, we wanted to estimate $E(f(x))$ so we can directly use $\frac{1}{n} \sum f(x_i)$ by WLLN

EX) $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^4} dx$ calculate this

Sol'n

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^4} dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-x^4}}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-x^2/2}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-x^2/2} dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-x^4} e^{-x^2/2}}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-x^2/2}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-x^2/2} dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-x^4} e^{-x^2/2}}{g_x(x)} \cdot g_x(x) dx = E\left(\frac{e^{-x^4} e^{-x^2/2}}{g_x(x)}\right)$$

density choice algebra Def'n of expectation WLLN

see code

$X \sim N(0,1)$

$$\approx \frac{1}{n} \sum \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-x_i^4} e^{-x_i^2/2}$$

EX) calculate $\int_0^5 e^{-x^4} dx$

Sol'n

$$\int_0^5 e^{-x^4} dx = \int_0^5 \frac{e^{-x^4}}{1/5} \cdot \frac{1}{5} dx = E(5e^{-x^4}) \approx \frac{1}{n} \sum 5e^{-x_i^4}$$

see code

Soln

$$\int_0^5 e^{-x^4} dx = \int_0^5 \frac{e^{-x^4}}{1/5} \cdot \frac{1}{5} dx = E(5e^{-X^4}) \approx \frac{1}{n} \sum 5e^{-X_i^4}$$

$X \sim \text{unif}(0,5)$

see code

What happens if we naively apply the WLLN?

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum f(x_i) \xrightarrow{???} \int_A f(x) dx \quad \text{see code}$$

How can we generate random samples?

Suppose we want a sample of $Y \sim P$ and we know the CDF of Y , $F_Y(y)$.

We will do a two step process

1) generate $U \sim \text{unif}(0,1)$

2) set $Y = F_Y^{-1}(U)$, then $Y \sim P$

Ex] Find the transformation of $U \sim \text{unif}(0,1)$ that gives $Y \sim \exp(\lambda)$

Soln

Recall that if $Y \sim \exp(\lambda)$, then $F_Y(y) = 1 - e^{-y/\lambda}$, thus

$$U = F_Y(y) = 1 - e^{-y/\lambda} \Rightarrow y = -\lambda \ln(1-U) \sim \exp(\lambda)$$

Some distns we can sample from:

1) $Y = -2 \sum_{i=1}^n \ln(U_i) \sim \chi^2(2n)$

2) $Y = -\beta \sum_{i=1}^n \ln(U_i) \sim \text{gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$

3) $Y = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^a \ln(U_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^{a+b} \ln(U_i)} \sim \text{beta}(a, b)$

What about discrete random variables?

Since if X is discrete, F_X has no inverse, we will use the quantile function

$$F_X^{-1}(u) = \inf \{x : F_X(x) \geq u\}$$

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