

correspond to the state where $x_3 = 1$, then \mathbf{x} will be represented by

$$\mathbf{x} = (0, 0, 1, 0, 0)^T. \quad (3.13)$$

Note that such vectors satisfy $\sum_{k=1}^K x_k = 1$. If we denote the probability of $x_k = 1$ by the parameter μ_k , then the distribution of \mathbf{x} is given by

$$p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\mu}) = \prod_{k=1}^K \mu_k^{x_k} \quad (3.14)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\mu} = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_K)^T$, and the parameters μ_k are constrained to satisfy $\mu_k \geq 0$ and $\sum_k \mu_k = 1$, because they represent probabilities. The distribution (3.14) can be regarded as a generalization of the Bernoulli distribution to more than two outcomes. It is easily seen that the distribution is normalized:

$$\sum_{\mathbf{x}} p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\mu}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \mu_k = 1 \quad (3.15)$$

and that

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\mu}] = \sum_{\mathbf{x}} p(\mathbf{x}|\boldsymbol{\mu}) \mathbf{x} = \boldsymbol{\mu}. \quad (3.16)$$

Now consider a data set \mathcal{D} of N independent observations $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N$. The corresponding likelihood function takes the form

$$p(\mathcal{D}|\boldsymbol{\mu}) = \prod_{n=1}^N \prod_{k=1}^K \mu_k^{x_{nk}} = \prod_{k=1}^K \mu_k^{(\sum_n x_{nk})} = \prod_{k=1}^K \mu_k^{m_k} \quad (3.17)$$

where we see that the likelihood function depends on the N data points only through the K quantities:

$$m_k = \sum_{n=1}^N x_{nk}, \quad (3.18)$$

which represent the number of observations of $x_k = 1$. These are called the *sufficient statistics* for this distribution. Note that the variables m_k are subject to the constraint

$$\sum_{k=1}^K m_k = N. \quad (3.19)$$

To find the maximum likelihood solution for $\boldsymbol{\mu}$, we need to maximize $\ln p(\mathcal{D}|\boldsymbol{\mu})$ with respect to μ_k taking account of the constraint (3.15) that the μ_k must sum to one. This can be achieved using a Lagrange multiplier λ and maximizing

$$\sum_{k=1}^K m_k \ln \mu_k + \lambda \left(\sum_{k=1}^K \mu_k - 1 \right). \quad (3.20)$$

Section 3.4

Appendix C