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# ML - Exercise Sheet 5 - kernels

## Exercise 1 - logSumExp Trick

$$P_{\times} = \prod_{i=1}^n P_i$$

$$P_{+} = \sum_{i=1}^n P_i$$

① (a) Compute  $P_{\times}$  and  $P_{+}$  using  $P_i \in [0, 1]$  - why numerical instabilities?

$P_{\times}$ : when we work with probabilities  $\in [0, 1]$ , if we multiply many probabilities to compute  $P_{\times}$ , the result can become extremely tiny and may underflow to zero in the computer however the true result is not zero.

Example  $\Rightarrow$  let  $n = 1000$  and  $P_i = 0.01$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$

$$P_{\times} = \prod_{i=1}^{1000} P_i = (0.01)^{1000} = (10^{-2})^{1000} = 10^{-2000} \Rightarrow \text{which is very small to be considered as a number not equal to zero in computer.}$$

$P_{+}$ : when we add numbers with from  $[0, 1]$ , if we have very small numbers for sum of  $P_i$  these numbers may lose their effect when comparing but relatively high numbers in this interval.

Example:  $P_1 = 0.9$   $P_2 = 0.05$   $P_3 = (0.01)^{-10}$

when we add these numbers in computer result ~~could be as~~ <sup>considered</sup>  $P_2 + P_3 \approx 0$ .  
 $P_2 + P_3 = P_1 + P_2 + P_3 = 0.9 + 0.05 + 0.01^{-10} = 0.95 \Rightarrow$  the effect of  $P_3$  is not considered.

②  $\ln P_{\times}$  given  $\ln P_i$ 's  $\Rightarrow P_i \in [k_1, k_2, \dots, k_n]$  s.t.  $k_i \leq P_i \leq k_i$

$$P_{\times} = \prod_{i=1}^n P_i \Rightarrow \ln P_{\times} = \ln \left( \prod_{i=1}^n P_i \right) = \ln \left( \prod_{i=1}^n e^{k_i} \right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \ln e^{k_i} = \sum_{i=1}^n k_i$$

if we are given the values  $k_i = \ln P_i$  we could use linear <sup>sum</sup> of the given values. Since we don't compute the product of tiny numbers, this method avoids underflow.

③ Compute  $\ln P_{+}$  given  $\ln P_i$ 's:  $\ln P_{+} = \ln \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \exp(\ln P_i) \right) = e^{\ln P_1 - c} \cdot e^c \cdot e^{\ln P_2} \dots \checkmark$

④ logSumExp Trick

$$\ln P_{+} = \ln \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \exp(\ln P_i) \right) \xrightarrow{C = \max \ln P_i} \ln P_{+} = \ln \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \exp(\ln P_i - C) \cdot \exp(C) \right) \\ = \ln(\exp(C)) + \ln \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \exp(\ln P_i - C) \right) = C + \ln \sum_{i=1}^n \exp(\ln P_i - C)$$

The result is the same with original formula, we just pull out the maximum value out of exponential.

⑤ why this method reduce numerical stability issues?  
 when we subtract the  $\max \ln P_i$  from all  $P_i$  the all terms  $(\ln P_i - \max \ln P_i)$  will be less or equal to zero and the exponentials will be less or equal to one always. Hence we will not have overflow for any term  $\exp(\ln P_i - C)$  and tiny probabilities ~~being too close to zero~~ will become numbers in  $[0, 1]$  preventing underflow.



# Exercise sheet 5 - kernels

Exercise 2: prove that Gaussian kernel is Mercer kernel

$$K(x, y) = \exp\left(-\frac{\|x - y\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

$$\|x - y\|^2 = \|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2 - 2x^T y$$

$$\Rightarrow K(x, y) = \exp\left(-\frac{\|x\|^2 + \|y\|^2 - 2x^T y}{2\sigma^2}\right) = \exp\left(-\frac{\|x\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{\|y\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \cdot \exp\left(\frac{x^T y}{\sigma^2}\right)$$

Taylor series for  $\exp\left(\frac{x^T y}{\sigma^2}\right)$ :

$$\exp\left(\frac{x^T y}{\sigma^2}\right) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(x^T y)^n}{n! \sigma^{2n}}$$

multinomial theorem for  $(x^T y)^n$ :

$$(x^T y)^n = \left(\sum_{i=1}^d x_i y_i\right)^n = \sum_{k_1 + k_2 + \dots + k_d = n} \frac{n!}{k_1! k_2! \dots k_d!} \prod_{i=1}^d (x_i^{k_i} y_i^{k_i})$$

$\downarrow$  constant       $\downarrow$  function of  $x$        $\downarrow$  function of  $y$

$$\Rightarrow (x^T y)^n = \sum_k f_k(x) \cdot f_k(y) = \prod_{i=1}^d \frac{x_i^{k_i} y_i^{k_i}}{k_i!}$$

Now if we consider  $\exp\left(-\frac{\|x\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$  together with  $f_k(x)$  and also  $\exp\left(-\frac{\|y\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$  with  $f_k(y)$ :

$$K(x, y) = \underbrace{\exp\left(-\frac{\|x\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \cdot \left(\sum_k f_k(x)\right)}_{\text{function of } x} \cdot \underbrace{\exp\left(-\frac{\|y\|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \cdot \left(\sum_k f_k(y)\right)}_{\text{function of } y}$$

$$K(x, y) = \langle F(x), F(y) \rangle$$

inner product in some other feature space