

PC 3 – Random vectors & Convergence

Gamma distribution

Exercise 1

(Gamma distribution). One says that X has Gamma distribution with parameters $p > 0$ et $\theta > 0$, denoted by $\gamma(p, \theta)$, if its density is given by

$$f(x) = \frac{\theta^p}{\Gamma(p)} \exp(-\theta x) x^{p-1} \mathbb{1}_{[0, +\infty[}(x)$$

The associated characteristic function is given by

$$\Phi_X(t) = \frac{1}{(1 - it/\theta)^p}, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Here $\Gamma(\cdot)$ denotes the Gamma function defined as

$$\forall \alpha > 0, \quad \Gamma(\alpha) = \int_0^\infty x^{\alpha-1} \exp(-x) dx, \quad \Gamma(\alpha + 1) = \alpha \Gamma(\alpha), \quad \Gamma(1/2) = \sqrt{\pi}$$

1. Compute $\mathbb{E}[X^k]$ for $k \geq 1$. Deduce that $\mathbb{E}[X] = p/\theta$ and $\text{Var}(X) = p/\theta^2$.
2. Let $a > 0$. Show that $X/a \sim \gamma(p, a\theta)$.
3. Let X and Y be two independent random variables with Gamma distribution $\gamma(p_1, \theta)$ and $\gamma(p_2, \theta)$, respectively. Show that $X + Y \sim \gamma(p_1 + p_2, \theta)$.
4. Let Z have standard normal distribution $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. What is the distribution of Z^2 ?
5. Let X_1, \dots, X_n be n i.i.d. random variables aléatoires with exponential distribution $\text{Exp}(\theta)$. Determine the distribution of the sum $S_n = X_1 + \dots + X_n$. Compute $\mathbb{E}[S_n]$ and $\text{Var}(S_n)$.
6. Let X_1, \dots, X_n be n i.i.d. random variables aléatoires with standard normal distribution $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. Determine the distribution of the sum $S'_n = X_1^2 + \dots + X_n^2$. Compute $\mathbb{E}[S'_n]$ and $\text{Var}(S'_n)$.

Solution 1 1. We have:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[X^k] &= \frac{\theta^p}{\Gamma(p)} \int_0^\infty x^k e^{-\theta x} x^{p-1} dx \\ &= \frac{\theta^p}{\Gamma(p)} \frac{\Gamma(k+p)}{\theta^{k+p}} \\ &= \frac{(k+p-1) \times \dots \times p}{\theta^k} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = p/\theta$$

and

$$\text{Var}(X) = p/\theta^2$$

2. For $a > 0$, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_{X/a}(t) &= \mathbb{E}[e^{itX/a}] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[e^{i\frac{t}{a}X}] \\ &= \frac{1}{(1 - i\frac{t}{a\theta})^p}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore $X/a \sim \gamma(p, a\theta)$ identifying random variables from characteristic functions.

3. We have

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_{X+Y}(t) &= \Phi_X(t)\Phi_Y(t) \\ &= \frac{1}{(1 - i\frac{t}{a\theta})^{p_1}} \frac{1}{(1 - i\frac{t}{a\theta})^{p_2}} \\ &= \frac{1}{(1 - i\frac{t}{a\theta})^{p_1+p_2}}\end{aligned}$$

Which concludes.

4. The distribution of Z is exactly a Gamma distribution $\gamma(1/2, 1/2)$ (or a Chi-squared distribution χ_1^2 with one degree of liberty):

$$f_{Z^2}(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi x}} e^{-x/2}$$

Indeed, $\forall t \geq 0$,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}[Z^2 \leq x] &= \mathbb{P}[|Z| \leq \sqrt{x}] \\ &= \int_{-\sqrt{x}}^{\sqrt{x}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{t^2}{2}} dt \\ &= \int_0^{\sqrt{x}} \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\Gamma(1/2)} e^{-\frac{t^2}{2}} dt \\ &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\Gamma(1/2)} \int_0^x \frac{1}{\sqrt{u}} e^{-u/2} du \text{ with } u = \sqrt{t} \\ &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(1/2)(\frac{1}{2})^{\frac{1}{2}}} \int_0^x u^{1-\frac{1}{2}} e^{-u/2} du\end{aligned}$$

which concludes identifying a gamma distribution with parameters $\gamma(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$.

5. For X following an exponential distribution,

$$\Phi_X(t) = \frac{1}{1 - it/\theta}$$

Therefore,

$$\Phi_{S_n}(t) = \left(\frac{1}{1 - it/\theta} \right)^n$$

And finally $S_n \sim \gamma(n, \theta)$ with same expected value and variance than in 1.

6. Using question 3 and 4 for n variables:

$$X_1^2 + \dots + X_n^2 \sim \gamma(n/2, 1/2)$$

Random vectors

Exercise 2

Denote

$$f(x, y) = ce^{-x} \mathbb{1}_{|y| \leq x}$$

1. Find c such that f is a probability density function of a pair (X, Y) of random variables.
2. Compute the marginal distributions of X and Y .
3. Conclude on the independence of X and Y .

Solution 2 1. We have:

$$\begin{aligned} f \text{ is a density} &\iff \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} ce^{-x} \mathbb{1}_{|y| \leq x} d(x, y) = 1 \\ &\iff \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} ce^{-x} \mathbb{1}_{|y| \leq x} dx dy = 1 \\ &\iff \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} 2xce^{-x} dx = 1 \\ &\iff 2c \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} xe^{-x} dx = 1 \\ &\iff 2c = 1 \iff c = \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

2. Moreover,

$$f_X(x) = xe^{-x}$$

And

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{2}e^{-|y|}$$

3. We finally have:

$$f(x, y) \neq f_X(x)f_Y(y)$$

and the random variables therefore are not independent.

Exercise 3

Let X and Y be two random variables taking their values in \mathbb{N} . Consider the joint probability mass function of (X, Y) given by

$$\mathbb{P}[(X = i) \cap (Y = j)] = \frac{a}{2^{i+j}}, i, j \in \mathbb{N}, a \in \mathbb{R}.$$

1. Compute a .
2. Give the marginal distributions of X and Y .
3. Are X and Y independent?

Solution 3 1. We have:

$$\sum_{i,j=0}^{\infty} \frac{a}{2^{i+j}} = a \left(\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^i} \right)^2 = a \cdot 2 = 2a$$

Therefore, $2a = 1$ and finally $a = \frac{1}{2}$.

2. We have:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}[X = i] &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}[(X = i) \cap (Y = j)] \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{4 \cdot 2^i \cdot 2^j} \\ &= \frac{1}{2^{i+1}}\end{aligned}$$

In the same way:

$$\mathbb{P}[Y = i] = \frac{1}{2^{i+1}}$$

3. We have:

$$\mathbb{P}[(X = i) \cap (Y = j)] = \frac{1}{2^{i+j+2}} = \left(\frac{1}{2^{i+1}}\right) \left(\frac{1}{2^{j+1}}\right) = \mathbb{P}[X = i] \mathbb{P}[Y = j]$$

And the random variables are therefore independent.

Exercise 4

Denote

$$f(x, y) = a(x^2 + y^2) \mathbb{1}_{(x, y) \in [-1, 1]^2}.$$

1. Find a such that f is a probability density. We denote (X, Y) the pair of random variables with joint distribution f .
2. Compute the marginal distributions of X and Y .
3. Compute the covariance of X and Y .
4. Are X and Y independent?

Solution 4 1. We have

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{[-1, 1]^2} x^2 + y^2 dx dy &= 2 \int_{[-1, 1]^2} x^2 dx dy \\ &= 4 \int_{[-1, 1]^2} x^2 dx \\ &= 8 \int_0^1 x^2 dx \\ &= \frac{8}{3}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore $a = \frac{3}{8}$.

2. We have

$$\begin{aligned}f_X(x) &= a \int_{-1}^1 x^2 + y^2 dy \\ &= a \left(\int_{-1}^1 x^2 dy + \int_{-1}^1 y^2 dy \right) \\ &= 2a \left(x^2 + \frac{1}{3} \right) \\ &= \frac{3}{4} \left(x^2 + \frac{1}{3} \right) \\ &= \frac{3x^2 + 1}{4}\end{aligned}$$

And by symmetry $f_Y = f_X$.

3. We have

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \int_{-1}^1 x \frac{3x^2 + 1}{4} dx = 0$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}[X] &= \mathbb{E}[X^2] \\ &= \int_{-1}^1 x^2 \frac{3x^2 + 1}{4} dx \\ &= \frac{3}{4} \int_{-1}^1 x^4 + \frac{1}{2} \\ &= \frac{8}{10} \end{aligned}$$

and same for Y .

4. As clearly $f \neq f_X \cdot f_Y$, X and Y are not independent.

Exercise 5

Let $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, X_3)$ be a random vector with the following covariance matrix

$$\text{Cov}(\mathbf{X}) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 5 & 6 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 \end{pmatrix}$$

1. Give the variance of X_2 and the covariance between X_1 and X_3 .
2. Compute the variance of $Z = X_3 - \alpha_1 X_1 - \alpha_2 X_2$ for $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathbb{R}$.
3. Deduce that X_3 is almost surely a linear combination of X_1 and X_2 .
4. More generally, let \mathbf{Y} be a random vector. Give a necessary and sufficient condition on the covariance matrix of \mathbf{Y} ensuring that one of the components of \mathbf{Y} is almost surely a linear combination of the components of \mathbf{Y} .

Solution 5 1. We have $\text{Var}[X_2] = 5$ and $\text{Cov}[X_1, X_3] = 3$.

2. We want to compute $\text{Var}[Z]$. Let us note that $Z = X.y$ with $y = \begin{pmatrix} -\alpha_1 \\ -\alpha_2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}[Z] &= \text{Var}[X.y] \\ &= y^T \text{Var}[X] y \\ &= (-\alpha_1 \quad -\alpha_2 \quad 1) \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 5 & 6 \\ 3 & 6 & 9 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -\alpha_1 \\ -\alpha_2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= (-\alpha_1 \quad -\alpha_2 \quad 1) \begin{pmatrix} 3 - 2\alpha_1 - \alpha_2 \\ 6 - \alpha_1 - 5\alpha_2 \\ 9 - 3\alpha_1 - 6\alpha_2 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

It is possible to cancel each line of the right vector for values $\alpha_1 = 1$ and $\alpha_2 = 1$. Therefore, the variance is 0 for some values of α_1 and α_2 .

3. Thus in this case, $Z = 0$ almost surely and finally X_3 is almost surely a linear combination of X_1 and X_2 .

4. The necessary and sufficient condition on $\text{Cov}[Y]$ is:

$$\exists y \in \mathbb{R}^n, Y \cdot y = 0 \text{ almost surely} \iff \text{Cov}[Y] \text{ singular matrix}$$

The proof is quite the same as in Question 2.:

$$\begin{aligned} \exists y \in \mathbb{R}^n, Y \cdot y = 0 \text{ almost surely} &\iff \text{Var}[Y \cdot y] = 0 \\ &\iff y^T \text{Var}[Y] y = 0 \end{aligned}$$

As $\text{Var}[Y]$ is a symmetric matrix semi-definite positive, it can be written $\text{Var}[Y] = \Lambda^T \Lambda$ (Cholesky decomposition). Therefore :

$$\begin{aligned} \exists y \in \mathbb{R}^n, Y \cdot y = 0 \text{ almost surely} &\iff y^T \Lambda^T \Lambda y = 0 \\ &\iff \|\Lambda y\|_2^2 = 0 \\ &\iff \Lambda y = 0_n \\ &\iff \Lambda^T \Lambda y = 0_n \\ &\iff \exists y, \text{Var}[Y] \cdot y = 0_n \\ &\iff \text{Cov}[Y] \text{ singular matrix} \end{aligned}$$

Convergence

Exercise 6

Let $\{X_i\}_{i \geq 0}$ be a sequence of i.i.d. Bernoulli variables with parameter θ .

1. Show that $\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \theta) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, \theta(1 - \theta))$, where $\bar{X}_n = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$.
2. Show that $\bar{X}_n(1 - \bar{X}_n) \xrightarrow{P} \theta(1 - \theta)$.
3. Show that $\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \theta)^2 \xrightarrow{P} 0$.
4. Determine the limit distribution of $\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n(1 - \bar{X}_n) - \theta(1 - \theta))$.

Solution 6 1. Using Central Limit Theorem, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \theta) &= \sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \mathbb{E}[X_1]) \\ &\xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, \text{Var}(X_1)) \\ &= \mathcal{N}(0, \theta(1 - \theta)) \end{aligned}$$

2. Applying Law of Large Numbers, we have $\bar{X}_n \xrightarrow{P} \mathbb{E}[X_1] = \theta$. The function $h(x) = x(1 - x)$ being continuous, we obtain

$$\bar{X}_n(1 - \bar{X}_n) = h(\bar{X}_n) \xrightarrow{P} h(\theta) = \theta(1 - \theta)$$

applying continuity theorem.

3. We have

$$\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \theta)^2 = \sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \theta)(\bar{X}_n - \theta)$$

but

$$\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \theta) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, \theta(1 - \theta))$$

and $(\bar{X}_n - \theta) \xrightarrow{d} 0$. Finally

$$\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \theta)^2 \xrightarrow{d} 0$$

As convergence in law towards a constant is equivalent to the probability convergence, we can extrapolate the wanted result.

4. We write

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n(1 - \bar{X}_n) - \theta(1 - \theta)) &= \sqrt{n}((\bar{X}_n - \theta)(1 - \bar{X}_n) + \theta(1 - \bar{X}_n) - \theta(1 - \theta)) \\ &= \sqrt{n}((\bar{X}_n - \theta)(1 - \bar{X}_n) - \theta(\bar{X}_n - \theta)) \end{aligned}$$

but

$$\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \theta) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, \theta(1 - \theta))$$

and

$$(1 - \bar{X}_n - \theta) \xrightarrow{P} (1 - 2\theta)$$

Therefore,

$$(\bar{X}_n(1 - \bar{X}_n) - \theta(1 - \theta)) \xrightarrow{d} (1 - 2\theta)N(0, \theta(1 - \theta)) = N(0, \theta(1 - \theta)(1 - 2\theta)^2)$$

applying Slutsky theorem.

Exercise 7

Let $(X_n)_{n \geq 1}$ be a sequence of i.i.d. square-integrable random variables with mean m and variance $\sigma^2 > 0$. Denote $\bar{X}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ and $\hat{\sigma}_n^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2$.

1. Show that $\hat{\sigma}_n^2$ converges in probability to σ^2 as $n \rightarrow \infty$.
2. Determine the limit distribution of $\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - m) / \hat{\sigma}_n$.

Solution 7 Let us study the limit case of $\hat{\sigma}_n^2$ when $n \rightarrow +\infty$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned} (n-1)\hat{\sigma}_n^2 &= \sum_{k=1}^n (X_k - \bar{X}_n)^2 \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n (X_k - m)^2 + 2 \sum_{k=1}^n (X_k - m)(m - \bar{X}_n) + n(m - \bar{X}_n)^2 \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n (X_k - m)^2 - n(m - \bar{X}_n)^2. \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{n-1}{n} \hat{\sigma}_n^2 &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n (X_k - m)^2 - (m - \bar{X}_n)^2 \\ &\xrightarrow{a.s.} \mathbb{E}[(X_1 - m)^2] - 0 = \text{Var}(X_1) =: \sigma^2, \end{aligned}$$

Here, the limit is given by the Law of Large Numbers. As a result, $\hat{\sigma}_n \rightarrow \sigma$ almost surely. Let us note $Z_n := \sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - m)$. Applying Central Limit Theorem, Z_n converges in law to a gaussian random variable $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$. According to Slutsky theorem, the couple $(Z_n, \hat{\sigma}_n^{-1})$ converges in law to (Z, σ^{-1}) . In particular, the product function being continuous, $\frac{Z_n}{\hat{\sigma}_n} \xrightarrow{d} Z/\sigma \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

Exercise 8

(Poisson model). Let (X_1, \dots, X_n) be an i.i.d. sample from the Poisson distribution with unknown parameter $\lambda > 0$. Denote $\bar{X}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$.

1. Show that \bar{X}_n is an unbiased estimator of λ , that is $\mathbb{E}[\bar{X}_n] = \lambda$.
2. Show that \bar{X}_n converges in probability to λ when n tends to infinity.
3. Determine the limit distribution of $\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \lambda) / \sqrt{\bar{X}_n}$.
4. Find an appropriate function g such that $\sqrt{n}(g(\bar{X}_n) - g(\lambda)) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$.

Solution 8 1. We recall that, for $X \sim \mathcal{P}(\lambda)$ and $\lambda > 0$, we have $\mathbb{E}[X] = \text{Var}[X] = \lambda$.

Then, the estimator \bar{X}_n is therefore unbiased ($\mathbb{E}[\bar{X}_n] = \lambda$) and consistent using the Strong Law of Large Numbers ($\bar{X}_n \xrightarrow{p.s.} \mathbb{E}[X_1] = \lambda$). Finally, \bar{X}_n is asymptotically normal using the Central Limit Theorem:

$$\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \lambda) = \sqrt{n}(\bar{X}_n - \mathbb{E}[X_1]) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \mathcal{N}(0, \text{Var}[X_1]) = \mathcal{N}(0, \lambda) \text{ when } n \rightarrow \infty$$

2. Using the previous question and Slutsky theorem, we get

$$\sqrt{n} \left(\frac{\bar{X}_n - \lambda}{\sqrt{\bar{X}_n}} \right) = \underbrace{\sqrt{n} \left(\frac{\bar{X}_n - \lambda}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \right)}_{\xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \mathcal{N}(0, 1)} \underbrace{\frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{\sqrt{\bar{X}_n}}}_{\xrightarrow{P} \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{\sqrt{\mathbb{E}[X_1]}} = 1} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

3. Applying Delta method, for any function g continuously differentiable on \mathbb{R}_+ , we get

$$\sqrt{n}(g(\bar{X}_n) - g(\lambda)) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \mathcal{N}\left(0, g'(\lambda)^2 \text{Var}[X]\right)$$

We are looking for a function g with 1 as a limit variance. This means that

$$(g'(\lambda))^2 \text{Var}[X] = 1 \Leftrightarrow (g'(\lambda))^2 = \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

We therefore can choose $g(u) = 2\sqrt{u}$ with, as a derivative, $g'(u) = 1/\sqrt{u}$ and we get

$$\sqrt{n}(2\sqrt{\bar{X}_n} - 2\sqrt{\lambda}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \mathcal{N}\left(0, \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda}}\right)^2 \lambda\right) = \mathcal{N}(0, 1).$$

Exercise 9

Let $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. Let $Y := \mathbb{1}_{X < \theta}$ for $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$. We observe a sample Y_1, \dots, Y_n of i.i.d. realizations of Y and suppose that parameter θ is unknown. Denote by Φ the cumulative distribution function of the standard normal distribution $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. An estimator $\hat{\theta}_n$ of θ is given by

$$\hat{\theta}_n = \Phi^{-1}(\bar{Y}_n)$$

where $\bar{Y}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i$

1. Determine the distribution of Y .
2. Study the convergence in probability of $\hat{\theta}_n$ towards θ when n tends to infinity.
3. Study the limit distribution of $\sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta)$.

Solution 9 1. As Y takes its values $\{0, 1\}$, Y follows a Bernoulli law with parameter $\mathbb{P}[Y = 1] = \mathbb{P}[\theta > \xi] = \Phi(\theta)$

2. As $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i \rightarrow \mathbb{E}[Y_1] = \Phi(\theta)$ a.s and Φ^{-1} is a continuous function, we have $\hat{\theta}_n = \Phi^{-1}(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i) \rightarrow \Phi^{-1}(\Phi(\theta)) = \theta$ p.s. Therefore, $\hat{\theta}_n$ is consistant for θ .

3. According to CLT, (as $\mathbb{E}[Y_1^2] < \infty$), we have $\sqrt{n}(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i - \Phi(\theta)) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \mathcal{N}(0, \text{Var}([Y_1]) = \mathcal{N}(0, \Phi(\theta)(1 - \Phi(\theta)))$. The function $\Phi^{-1}(\theta)$ is continuously differentiable with derivative $(\Phi^{-1})'(\theta) = 1/\varphi(\Phi^{-1}(\theta))$. Applying Delta method, we obtain :

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta) &= \sqrt{n} \left(\Phi^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i \right) - \Phi^{-1}(\Phi(\theta)) \right) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} \mathcal{N}(0, ((\Phi^{-1})'(\Phi(\theta)))^2 \Phi(\theta)(1 - \Phi(\theta))) \\ &= \mathcal{N} \left(0, \frac{\Phi(\theta)(1 - \Phi(\theta))}{\varphi^2(\theta)} \right) \end{aligned}$$