

26 Aug

26 August 2025 10:03

$$X \sim N_p(\mu, \Sigma)$$

Random sample $\overset{\rightarrow p \times 1}{\tilde{x}_1}, \dots, \tilde{x}_n$ are all iid random variable

$$\tilde{x}_i \sim N_p(\mu, \Sigma) \quad 1 \leq i \leq n$$

$$f_{\tilde{x}_i}(x_i; \mu, \Sigma) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{p/2} |\Sigma|^{1/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} (x_i - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x_i - \mu)\right)$$

Joint pdf = product of marginals
of $\tilde{x}_1, \dots, \tilde{x}_n$

Likelihood function $L(x_1, \dots, x_n; \mu, \Sigma) = \prod_{i=1}^n f_{\tilde{x}_i}(x_i; \mu, \Sigma)$

$\left[\begin{array}{l} x_i \text{ is realization of } \tilde{x}_i \\ \downarrow \\ p \times 1 \end{array} \right] = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{np/2} |\Sigma|^{n/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x_i - \mu)\right)$

~~What~~ What is maximum likelihood estimator (MLE) of μ and Σ .
 $\hookrightarrow \hat{\mu}$ and $\hat{\Sigma}$ such that $L(\cdot)$ is maximized.

x_1, \dots, x_n are given
 $M_{p \times 1}$ is unknown $\rightarrow p$ parameters
 $\sum_{\substack{p \times p \\ \text{symmetric}}} \text{is unknown} \rightarrow \frac{p(p+1)}{2}$ parameters
 } this grows with p

classical calculus: evaluate derivative wrt each parameter

Trace

$$\text{Tr}(A+B) = \text{Tr}(A) + \text{Tr}(B)$$

$$\text{Tr}(KA) = k \text{Tr}(A)$$

\uparrow real constant

$$\text{Tr}(AB) = \text{Tr}(BA)$$

$\hookrightarrow \text{Tr}(X^T A X) = \text{Tr}(A X X^T)$

if A is symmetric then A is diagonalizable: $A = P \Lambda P^T$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Tr}(A) = \text{Tr}(P \Lambda P^T) \\
 & = \text{Tr}(\Lambda) = \boxed{\text{sum of eigen values of } A}
 \end{aligned}$$

$(PP^T = I = P^T P)$

MLE:

$$\max_{\mu, \Sigma} L(x_1, \dots, x_n; \mu, \Sigma) \equiv L(\mu, \Sigma)$$

$$= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{np/2} |\Sigma|^{n/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x_i - \mu)\right)$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x_i - \mu) = \text{Trace} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x_i - \mu) \right)$$

\nwarrow [this is 1×1 matrix \equiv trace of matrix]

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Tr} \left((x_i - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x_i - \mu) \right)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Tr} \left(\begin{matrix} \Sigma^{-1} & (n \times n) \\ (x_i - \mu)^T & (1 \times n) \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} (x_i - \mu) & (n \times 1) \\ (x_i - \mu)^T & (1 \times n) \end{matrix} \right)$$

$$= \text{Tr} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \Sigma^{-1} (x_i - \mu) (x_i - \mu)^T \right)$$

$$= \text{Tr} \left(\Sigma^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu) (x_i - \mu)^T \right)$$

from notes:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (n-1)S &= \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(x_i - \bar{x})^T \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu + \mu - \bar{x})(x_i - \mu + \mu - \bar{x})^T \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)(x_i - \mu)^T - n(\bar{x} - \mu)(\bar{x} - \mu)^T
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)(x_i - \mu)^T = (n-1)S + n(\bar{x} - \mu)(\bar{x} - \mu)^T$$

$$= nS_n + n(\bar{x} - \mu)(\bar{x} - \mu)^T$$

$$\text{where } S_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(x_i - \bar{x})^T$$

$$= \frac{n-1}{n} \times \frac{1}{n-1} \times \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})(x_i - \bar{x})^T$$

$$= \frac{n-1}{n} S$$

so now

$$\begin{aligned}
 L(\mu, \Sigma) &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{np/2} |\Sigma|^{n/2}} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \left(\Sigma^{-1} (n S_n + n(\bar{x} - \mu)(\bar{x} - \mu)^T) \right) \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{np/2} |\Sigma|^{n/2}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{n}{2} \text{Tr}(\Sigma^{-1} S_n) - \frac{n}{2} \text{tr}(\Sigma^{-1}(\bar{x} - \mu)(\bar{x} - \mu)^T) \right\} \\
 &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{np/2} |\Sigma|^{n/2}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{n}{2} \text{Tr}(\Sigma^{-1} S_n) - \frac{n}{2} \text{Tr}((\bar{x} - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (\bar{x} - \mu)) \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

Aim is to maximize this

wrt μ : only term: $(\bar{x} - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (\bar{x} - \mu) \leftarrow$ positive definite

if we minimize this, L maximize

① $\mu = \bar{x}$ this is zero (minimum)

$$\therefore \boxed{\hat{\mu}_{MLE} = \bar{x}}$$

now $L = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{np/2} |\Sigma|^{n/2}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{n}{2} \text{Tr}(\Sigma^{-1} S_n) \right\}$

consider $\text{Tr}(\Sigma^{-1} S_n)$

$$= \text{Tr}(\underbrace{\Sigma^{-1} S_n^{1/2}}_{\text{product of sym pd}} S_n^{1/2})$$

$$= \text{Tr}(S_n^{1/2} \Sigma^{-1} S_n^{1/2})$$

(product of sym pd
 \therefore this is also pd)

= sum of eigen values
 of $S_n^{1/2} \Sigma^{-1} S_n^{1/2}$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^p \eta_i$$

\uparrow
 i^{th} eigen value

both Σ and S_n are positive definite and symmetric

$$S_n = P \Lambda P^T \quad (P^T P = P P^T = I)$$

$$\text{define } \Lambda^{1/2} = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{\lambda_1} & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \sqrt{\lambda_p} \end{pmatrix}$$

$\lambda_i > 0$

$$S_n^{1/2} = P \Lambda^{1/2} P^T$$

$$S_n^{1/2} S_n^{1/2} = S_n$$

$$I \sim 1/2 \rightarrow -1 \sim 1/2$$

$$\frac{n}{11} n.$$

now consider $|S_n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^p \lambda_n| = \prod_{i=1}^p \eta_i$

$$= |\Sigma^{-1}| \times |S_n|$$

$$\Rightarrow |\Sigma| = \frac{|S_n|}{\prod_{i=1}^p \eta_i}$$

substitute in L :

$$L = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{np/2}} \times \left(\frac{\prod_{i=1}^p \eta_i}{|S_n|} \right)^{n/2} \times \exp\left(-\frac{n}{2} \sum_{i=1}^p \eta_i\right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{np/2} \times |S_n|^{n/2}} \times \prod_{i=1}^p \left\{ \eta_i^{n/2} \exp\left(-\frac{n\eta_i}{2}\right) \right\}$$