

MT2021130

⇒ Task: Derive Maximum likelihood function for normal/gaussian distribution.

Preamble:

Data $\{x_i\}_{i=1:N}$

Gaussian model

$$p(x_i | \mu, \sigma) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x_i - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

Maximum Likelihood function,

$$p(X|\theta) = p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n | \theta)$$

⇒ Proof:

Here, we're assuming that x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n are independent

$$\begin{aligned} \text{so } p(X|\theta) &= p(x_1|\theta) p(x_2|\theta) \dots p(x_n|\theta) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i|\theta) \end{aligned}$$

for gaussian $\theta = \mu, \sigma$

$$p(x|\theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x_1-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \dots \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x_n-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

taking log on both side

$$\ln(p(x|\theta)) = \ln\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x_1-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}\right) \dots \ln\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x_n-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}\right) \quad (1)$$

⇒ to simplify process just taking 'ln' of first term then put in result for all

$$\ln\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x_1-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}\right)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \ln(2\pi\sigma^2) - \frac{(x_1-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \ln(2\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \ln(\sigma^2) - \frac{(x_1-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \ln(2\pi) - \ln(\sigma) - \frac{(x_1-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \quad (2)$$

Putting eq (2) result into eq (1) for all the terms we get

$$\ln(P(x|\theta)) = -\frac{n}{2} \ln(2\pi) - \frac{n}{2} \ln(\sigma) - \left[\frac{(x_1 - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} + \dots + \frac{(x_n - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right]$$

Now, to minimize MLF we differentiate w.r.t θ which in case of normal distribution is μ, σ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So, } \frac{\partial \ln P(x|\theta)}{\partial \mu} &= 0 - 0 + \frac{(x_1 - \mu)}{\sigma^2} + \dots + \frac{(x_n - \mu)}{\sigma^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sigma^2} [(x_1 + \dots + x_n) - n\mu] \quad \text{--- (3)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{for, } \frac{\partial \ln P(x|\theta)}{\partial \sigma} &= -\frac{n}{\sigma} + \left[\frac{(x_1 - \mu)^2}{\sigma^3} + \dots + \frac{(x_n - \mu)^2}{\sigma^3} \right] \\ &= -\frac{n}{\sigma} + \frac{1}{\sigma^3} [(x_1 - \mu)^2 + \dots + (x_n - \mu)^2] \quad \text{--- (4)} \end{aligned}$$

Now, equating eq (4) w.r.t $\mu = 0$

$$\frac{1}{\sigma^2} [(x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n) - n\mu] = 0$$

$$(x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n) - n\mu = 0$$

$$\boxed{\mu = \frac{x_1 + \dots + x_n}{n}}$$

Similarly, for eq (5)

$$-\frac{n}{\sigma} + \frac{1}{\sigma^3} [(x_1 - \mu)^2 + \dots + (x_n - \mu)^2] = 0$$

$$n = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} [(x_1 - \mu)^2 + \dots + (x_n - \mu)^2]$$

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{n} [(x_1 - \mu)^2 + \dots + (x_n - \mu)^2]$$

$$\boxed{\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{(x_1 - \mu)^2 + \dots + (x_n - \mu)^2}{n}}}$$

So, optimal parameters for normal distribution using MLE are

$$\mu = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{n}$$

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2}{n}}$$