

Problem Set #1

MACS 30250, Dr. Evans

Due Monday, May. 6 at 1:30pm

1. **2D kernel density estimator (5 points).** The data `BQmat_orig.txt` is a 78×7 matrix of percentages representing the values of a two-dimensional histogram of the percent of the U.S. population that receives all the bequests (inheritances) by a recipient's age (ages 18 to 95, rows) and by a recipient's lifetime income group (7 categories, columns). The seven lifetime income groups are percentiles. Let $prcntl_j$ be the percent of the population in lifetime income group j . The lifetime income groups in the $J = 7$ columns of the `BQmat_orig.txt` data are the following.

$$\mathbf{prcntl} = [0.25, 0.25, 0.20, 0.10, 0.10, 0.09, 0.01], \quad \text{such that} \quad \sum_{j=1}^7 prcntl_j = 1$$

You can read this file into memory using the `numpy.loadtxt` function.

```
bq_data = np.loadtxt('BQmat_orig.txt', delimiter=',')
```

So the $[11, 5]$ -th element of the `bq_data` matrix represents the percent of total bequests (inheritances) received by age-28 and lifetime income group $j = 5$ (80th to 90th percentile of lifetime income).

- (a) Read in the bequests data as a 78×7 NumPy array. Plot the 2D empirical histogram of these data as a 3D surface plot with age and income group on the x -axis and y -axis and the histogram density on the z -axis using a 3D surface plot tool (not a 3D bar histogram tool). Make sure that the axes are labeled correctly. And make sure that your 3D histogram is presented from a perspective that allows a viewer to see that data (don't let the data be hidden by a poor angle of the plot.)
- (b) Fit a bivariate kernel density estimator to the data. Use a Gaussian kernel. Choose a bandwidth parameter λ that you think is best. Justify your choice of that parameter. Plot the surface of your chosen kernel density estimator. Make sure that the axes are labeled correctly. And make sure that your 3D histogram is presented from a perspective that allows a viewer to see that data. What is the estimated density for bequest recipients who are age 61 in the 6th lifetime income category ($j = 6$, 90th to 99th percentile).

2. **Parallel computing versus serial computing a bootstrapped cross validation (5 points).** In Exercise 3 of [Problem Set 6](#) of the MACS 30150 Perspectives on Computational Economic Modeling class, you estimated a multivariable logistic model and evaluated its fit using the validation set approach (one training set and one test set). For this exercise, you will use the same [Auto.csv](#) file. This dataset includes 397 observations on miles per gallon (`mpg`), number of cylinders (`cylinders`), engine displacement (`displacement`), horsepower (`horsepower`), vehicle weight (`weight`), acceleration (`acceleration`), vehicle year (`year`), vehicle origin (`origin`), and vehicle name (`name`). We will study the factors that make miles per gallon high or low. Create a binary variable `mpg_high` that equals 1 if `mpg_high` \geq `median(mpg_high)` and equals 0 if `mpg_high` $<$ `median(mpg_high)`. Create two indicator variables for vehicle origin 1 (`orgn1`) and vehicle origin 2 (`orgn2`). [This leaves the third origin category out as the excluded indicator variable.]

$$Pr(mpg_high = 1 | \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \frac{e^{\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}}}{1 + e^{\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}}}$$

$$\text{where } \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 cyl_i + \beta_2 dspl_i + \beta_3 hpwr_i + \beta_4 wgt_i + \beta_5 accl_i + \beta_6 yr_i + \beta_7 orgn1_i + \beta_8 orgn2_i$$

- (a) Using serial computation, perform an estimation of the logistic model on 100 bootstrapped training sets (with replacement) on random draws of training sets of 65% of the data. Compute the error rate for each of the 100 test sets. Calculate the average error rate. Make sure to set the seed on each of the 100 random draws so that these draws can be replicated in part (b). What is your error rate? How long did this computation take?
- (b) Now write a function that takes as arguments the bootstrap number (1 through 100 or 0 through 99), random seed, and the data, and estimates the logistic model on 65% of the data and calculates an error rate on the remaining 35%. Use **Dask** to parallelize these bootstraps. What is your error rate from this parallelized list of error rates? It should be the same as part (a). How long did this computation take?