

Limit Theorems

Let Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n be random variables with cdfs F_1, F_2, \dots, F_n . Let Y be a random variable with cdf F .

The weak law of large numbers

We say that $\{Y_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges in probability to Y if

$$\forall \epsilon > 0, \quad P(|Y_n - Y| > \epsilon) \rightarrow 0 \quad (1)$$

Noted $Y_n \xrightarrow{P} Y$.

Almost surely

We say that $\{Y_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges almost surely to Y if

$$P(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |Y_n - Y| = 0) = 1 \quad (2)$$

Noted $Y_n \xrightarrow{a.s.} Y$.

We say that Y converges in distribution to Y if

$$F_n(x) \rightarrow_{n \rightarrow \infty} F(x) \text{ for all } x \quad (3)$$

Noted $Y \stackrel{d}{\simeq} Y$.

To illustrate the strenght of the above:

$$\{Y_n \xrightarrow{a.s.} Y\} \Rightarrow \{Y_n \xrightarrow{P} Y\} \Rightarrow \{Y_n \xrightarrow{d} Y\} \quad (4)$$

The law of large numbers

Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be iid random variables

$$\bar{X} := \bar{X}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n X_k. \quad (5)$$

This is a reasonable approximation to the mean of X_1 ($E[X_1] = \mu$).

$$E[\bar{X}] = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n E[X_k] = \frac{1}{n} n \mu = \mu \quad (6)$$

The strong law of large numbers

$$\bar{X}_n \xrightarrow{a.s.} \mu \quad (7)$$

Corollary 4.1

Consider an experiment where the event A occurs with probability p . Let this experiment be repeated independently. We note $X_k = 1_{\text{event } A \text{ occurs at } k\text{-th trial}}$. Then $\bar{X}_n \xrightarrow{P} P$. We call $\bar{X}_n = f_n$ the relative frequency of A .

Corollary 4.2

Let g be a continuous function $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then

$$g(\bar{X}_n) \xrightarrow{P} g(\mu), \text{ and } g(\bar{X}_n) \xrightarrow{a.s.} g(\mu) \quad (8)$$

Theorem 4.2: The Central Limit Theorem

Recall, that Φ is the cdf of $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. It describes convergence to the standard normal distribution:

$$\sqrt{n} \frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{\sigma} \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \quad (9)$$

Remarks:

- The CLT does not depend on the distribution of X_1 .
- The speed of convergence in " \sqrt{n} " is optimal.
- Direct consequence of the CLT:

$$P(|\bar{x} - \mu| > \epsilon) = P\left(\sqrt{n} \frac{|\bar{X} - \mu|}{\sigma} > \frac{\sqrt{n}\epsilon}{\sigma}\right) \simeq 2 \left(1 - \Phi\left(\frac{\sqrt{n}\epsilon}{\sigma}\right)\right) \quad (10)$$

Proposition 4.1: The Delta Method

Let g be a function from \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} such that $g'(\mu) \neq 0$. Then

$$\sqrt{n} \frac{g'(\bar{X}_n) - g(\mu)}{\sqrt{\sigma^2 [g'(\mu)]^2}} \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \quad (11)$$