

Exponential Families: Definition

Exponential Family

A family of distribution $\{\mathbb{P}_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$, $\Theta \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ is said to be a k -parameter exponential family on \mathbb{R}^d , if there exist real valued functions:

- ▶ $\eta_1, \eta_2, \dots, \eta_k$ and B of θ ,
- ▶ T_1, T_2, \dots, T_k , and h of $y \in \mathbb{R}^d$ such that the density function (pmf or pdf) of \mathbb{P}_θ can be written as

$$f_\theta(y) = \exp \left[\sum_{i=1}^k \eta_i(\theta) T_i(y) - B(\theta) \right] h(y)$$

Handwritten notes:

$$f_\theta(y) = \exp \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^k (\eta_i(\theta) - \eta_i(\theta_0)) T_i(y)}{\eta_k(\theta) - \eta_k(\theta_0)} \right) \left(\frac{f_{\theta_0}(y)}{h(y)} \right)$$
$$f_\theta(y) = \exp \left(\eta(\theta)^T T(y) - B(\theta) + \eta(\theta_0)^T T(y) - B(\theta_0) \right) \left(\frac{f_{\theta_0}(y)}{h(y)} \right)$$
$$f_\theta(y) = \exp \left(\eta(\theta)^T T(y) - B(\theta) \right) \exp \left(\eta(\theta_0)^T T(y) - B(\theta_0) \right) h(y)$$

happen.

So we'll say there's a bunch of limitations to this very general family.

It's actually quite general, but it does not allow everything.

But the fact that I can take any function η here

and any function t here just gives me a lot of flexibility.

It's not uniquely defined, right?

I could multiply my η s by 2 and divide my t by 2,

and that would give me the same guy.



8:09 / 8:09



1.50x



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Recall from lecture that a family of distribution $\{\mathbf{P}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} : \boldsymbol{\theta} \in \Theta\}$, where the parameter space $\Theta \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ is k -dimensional, is called a **k -parameter exponential family** on \mathbb{R}^q if the pmf or pdf $f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} : \mathbb{R}^q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ of $\mathbf{P}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$ can be written in the form

$$f_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}(\mathbf{y}) = h(\mathbf{y}) \exp(\boldsymbol{\eta}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \cdot \mathbf{T}(\mathbf{y}) - B(\boldsymbol{\theta})) \quad \text{where} \quad \begin{cases} \boldsymbol{\eta}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \begin{pmatrix} \eta_1(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \\ \vdots \\ \eta_k(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \end{pmatrix} & : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k \\ \mathbf{T}(\mathbf{y}) = \begin{pmatrix} T_1(\mathbf{y}) \\ \vdots \\ T_k(\mathbf{y}) \end{pmatrix} & : \mathbb{R}^q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^k \\ B(\boldsymbol{\theta}) & : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ h(\mathbf{y}) & : \mathbb{R}^q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}. \end{cases}$$

When $k = q = 1$, this reduces to

$$f_{\theta}(y) = h(y) \exp(\eta(\theta) T(y) - B(\theta)).$$

Note: The following exercises are similar to what will be presented in lecture, but we encourage you to first attempt these yourselves.

Practice: Decomposing the exponent

4 points possible (graded)

For the two following pmfs with one parameter θ that are written in the form

$$f_{\theta}(y) = h(y) e^{w(\theta, y)},$$

first decompose $w(\theta, y)$ as

$$w(\theta, y) = \eta(\theta) T(y) - B(\theta),$$

then enter the product $\eta(\theta) T(y)$ below. Select the distribution that f_θ defines.

1. For $f_\theta(y) = e^{w(\theta,y)}$ where

$$w(\theta, y) = y \ln(\theta) + (1 - y) \ln(1 - \theta)$$

and $y = 0, 1, \theta \in (0, 1)$:

$\eta(\theta) T(y) =$

What distribution does the pmf $f_\theta(y)$ define?

☐ $\mathcal{N}(\theta, 1)$

☐ $\mathcal{N}(1, \theta)$

☐ **Ber** (θ)

☐ **Poiss** (θ)

☐ none of the above

2. For $f_\theta(y) = \frac{1}{y!} e^{w(\theta,y)}$ where $w(\theta, y) = -\theta + y \ln(\theta)$, and $y = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \theta \in (0, 1)$:

$$\eta(\theta) T(y) =$$

What distribution does the pmf $f_{\theta}(y)$ define?

☐ $\mathcal{N}(\theta, 1)$

☐ $\mathcal{N}(1, \theta)$

☐ $\text{Ber}(\theta)$

☐ $\text{Poiss}(\theta)$

☐ none of the above

STANDARD NOTATION

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You have used 0 of 3 attempts

Practice: Normal distribution with known variance

1 point possible (graded)

The normal distribution $\mathcal{N}(\theta, 1)$ with mean θ and known variance $\sigma^2 = 1$ has pdf

$$f_{\theta}(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(y-\theta)^2}{2}}.$$

Rewrite f_{θ} in the form

$$f_{\theta}(y) = h(y) e^{\eta(\theta)T(y) - B(\theta)} \quad \text{where } \eta(\theta), T(y) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

and enter the product $\eta(\theta)T(y)$ below.

$\eta(\theta)T(y) =$

STANDARD NOTATION

Submit

You have used 0 of 3 attempts

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Topic: Unit 7 Generalized Linear Models:Lecture 21: Introduction to Generalized Linear Models; Exponential Families / 6. The Exponential Family

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Hints for the exercise please

I took my best shot and got them wrong. I have no idea how to approach this.

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