1 Important probability distributions

Bernoulli

Parameter $p \in [0,1]$, discrete

$p_x(k) = \begin{cases} p, & \text{if k = 1} \\ (1-p), & \text{if k = 0} \end{cases}$

$\mathbb{E}[X] = p$

$Var(X) = p(1-p)$

Likelihood n trials:

$L_n(X_1, \dots, X_n, p) =$
$= p^{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i}(1-p)^{n-\sum_{i=1}^n X_i}$

Loglikelihood n trials:

$\ell_n(p) =$
$= \ln(p)\sum_{i=1}^n X_i + \left(n - \sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right)\ln(1-p)$

MLE:

$\hat{p}_{MLE} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i)}{n}$

Fisher Information:

$I(p) = \frac{1}{p(1-p)}$

Canonical exponential form:

$f_\theta(y) = \exp\left(y\theta - \underbrace{\ln(1+e^\theta)}_{b(\theta)} + \underbrace{0}_{c(y,\phi)}\right)$

$\theta = \ln\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right)$

$\phi = 1$

Binomial

Parameters p and n, discrete. Describes the number of successes in n independent Bernoulli trials.

$p_x(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}, k = 1, \dots, n$

$\mathbb{E}[X] = np$

$Var(X) = np(1-p)$

Likelihood:

$L_n(X_1, \dots, X_n, \theta) =$
$= \left(\prod_{i=1}^n \binom{K}{X_i}\right)\theta^{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i}(1-\theta)^{nK - \sum_{i=1}^n X_i}$

Loglikelihood:

$\ell_n(\theta) = C + \left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right)\log\theta + \left(nK - \sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right)\log(1-\theta)$

MLE:

Fisher Information:

$I(p) = \frac{n}{p(1-p)}$

Canonical exponential form:

$f_p(y) =$

$= \exp(y\underbrace{(\ln(p) - \ln(1-p))}_{\theta} + \underbrace{n\ln(1-p)}_{-b(\theta)} + \underbrace{\ln(\binom{n}{y})}_{c(y,\phi)})$

Multinomial

Parameters $n > 0$ and $p_1, \dots, p_r$.

$p_x(x) = \frac{n!}{x_1!, \dots, x_n!} p_1, \dots, p_r$

$\mathbb{E}[X_i] = n * p_i$

$Var(X_i) = np_i(1-p_i)$

Likelihood:

$p_x(x) = \prod_{j=1}^n p_j^{T_j}$, where $T^j = \mathbb{1}(X_i = j)$ is the count how often an outcome is seen in trials.

Loglikelihood:

$\ell_n = \sum_{j=2}^n T_j \ln\left(p_j\right)$

Poisson

Parameter λ. discrete, approximates the binomial PMF when n is large, p is small, and $\lambda = np$.

$\mathbf{p_x}(k) = exp(-\lambda)\frac{\lambda^k}{k!}$ for $k = 0, 1, \dots,$

$\mathbb{E}[X] = \lambda$

$Var(X) = \lambda$

Likelihood:

$L_n(x_1, \dots, x_n, \lambda) = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{\lambda^{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}}{\prod_{i=1}^n x_i!} e^{-n\lambda}$

Loglikelihood:

$\ell_n(\lambda) =$
$= -n\lambda + log(\lambda)(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i)) - log(\prod_{i=1}^n x_i!)$

MLE:

$\hat{\lambda}_{MLE} = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i)$

Fisher Information:

$I(\lambda) = \frac{1}{\lambda}$

Canonical exponential form:

$f_\theta(y) = \exp\left(y\theta - \underbrace{e^\theta}_{b(\theta)} \underbrace{- \ln y!}_{c(y,\phi)}\right)$

$\theta = \ln\lambda$

$\phi = 1$

Exponential

Parameter λ, continuous

$f_x(x) = \begin{cases} \lambda exp(-\lambda x), & \text{if x >= 0} \\ 0, & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$

$F_x(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - exp(-\lambda x), & \text{if x >= 0} \\ 0, & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$

$\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{1}{\lambda}$

$Var(X) = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$

Likelihood:

$L(X_1 \dots X_n; \lambda) = \lambda^n \exp\left(-\lambda\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right)$

Loglikelihood:

$\ell_n(\lambda) = nln(\lambda) - \lambda\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i)$

MLE:

$\hat{\lambda}_{MLE} = \frac{n}{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i)}$

Fisher Information:

$I(\lambda) = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$

Canonical exponential form:

$f_\theta(y) = \exp\left(y\theta - \underbrace{(-\ln(-\theta))}_{b(\theta)} + \underbrace{0}_{c(y,\phi)}\right)$

$\theta = -\lambda = -\frac{1}{\mu}$

$\phi = 1$

Shifted Exponential

Parameters $\lambda, \theta \in \mathbb{R}$, continuous

$f_x(x) = \begin{cases} \lambda exp(-\lambda(x-\theta)), & x >= \theta \\ 0, & x <= \theta \end{cases}$

$F_x(x) = \begin{cases} 1 - exp(-\lambda(x-a)), & if\, x >= \theta \\ 0, & x <= \theta \end{cases}$

$\mathbb{E}[X] = a + \frac{1}{\lambda}$

$Var(X) = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$

Likelihood:

$L(X_1 \dots X_n; \lambda, \theta) = \lambda^n \exp(-\lambda n(\overline{X}_n - \theta))1(X_1 \geq \theta)$

Univariate Gaussians

Parameters μ and $\sigma^2 > 0$, continuous

$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi\sigma^2)}} exp(-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2})$

$\mathbb{E}[X] = \mu$

$Var(X) = \sigma^2$

CDF of standard gaussian:

$\Phi(z) = \int_{-\infty}^z \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2} dx$

Likelihood:

$L(x_1 \dots X_n; \mu, \sigma^2) =$
$= \frac{1}{(\sigma\sqrt{2\pi})^n} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2\right)$

Loglikelihood:

$\ell_n(\mu, \sigma^2) =$
$= -nlog(\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2$

MLE:

Fisher Information:

Canonical exponential form:

Gaussians are invariant under affine transformation:

$aX + b \sim N(X + b, a^2\sigma^2)$

Sum of independent gaussians:

Let $X \sim N(\mu_X, \sigma_X^2)$ and $Y \sim N(\mu_Y, \sigma_Y^2)$

If $Y = X + Z$, then $Y \sim N(\mu_X + \mu_Y, \sigma_X + \sigma_Y)$

If $U = X - Y$, then $U \sim N(\mu_X - \mu_Y, \sigma_X + \sigma_Y)$

Symmetry:

If $X \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$, then $-X \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$

$\mathbb{P}(|X| > x) = 2\mathbb{P}(X > x)$

Standardization:

$Z = \frac{X-\mu}{\sigma} \sim N(0,1)$

$\mathbf{P}(X \leq t) = \mathbf{P}\left(Z \leq \frac{t-\mu}{\sigma}\right)$

Higher moments:

$\mathbb{E}[X^2] = \mu^2 + \sigma^2$
$\mathbb{E}[X^3] = \mu^3 + 3\mu\sigma^2$
$\mathbb{E}[X^4] = \mu^4 + 6\mu^2\sigma^2 + 3\sigma^4$

Quantiles:

Uniform

Parameters a and b, continuous.

$\mathbf{f_x}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{b-a}, & \text{if a < x <b} \\ 0, & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$

$\mathbb{E}[X] = \frac{a+b}{2}$

$Var(X) = \frac{(b-a)^2}{12}$

Likelihood:

$L(x_1 \dots x_n; b) = \frac{1(\max_i(x_i \leq b))}{b^n}$

Loglikelihood:

Cauchy

continuous, parameter m,

$f_m(x) = \frac{1}{\pi}\frac{1}{1+(x-m)^2}$

$\mathbb{E}[X] = notdefined!$
$Var(X) = notdefined!$

$\text{med}(X) = P(X > M) = P(X < M)$
$= 1/2 = \int_{1/2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\pi} \cdot \frac{1}{1+(x-m)^2}\, dx$

Chi squared

The χ_d^2 distribution with d degrees of freedom is given by the distribution of $Z_1^2 + Z_2^2 + \cdots + Z_d^2$, where $Z_1, \ldots, Z_d \overset{iid}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0,1)$

If $V \sim \chi_k^2$:

$\mathbb{E} = \mathbb{E}[Z_1^2] + \mathbb{E}[Z_2^2] + \ldots + \mathbb{E}[Z_d^2] = d$

$Var(V) = Var(Z_1^2) + Var(Z_2^2) + \ldots + Var(Z_d^2) = 2d$

Student's T Distribution

$T_n := \frac{Z}{\sqrt{V/n}}$ where $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0,1)$, and Z and V are independent

2 Quantiles of a Distribution

Let α in $(0,1)$. The quantile of order $1-\alpha$ of a random variable X is the number q_α such that:

$q_\alpha = \mathbb{P}(X \le q_\alpha) = 1 - \alpha$

$\mathbb{P}(X \ge q_\alpha) = \alpha$

$F_X(q_\alpha) = 1 - \alpha$

$F_X^{-1}(1-\alpha) = \alpha$

If $X \sim N(0,1)$:

$\mathbb{P}(|X| > q_\alpha) = \alpha$

3 Expectation

$\mathbb{E}[X] = \int_{-inf}^{+inf} x \cdot f_X(x) \quad dx$

$\mathbb{E}[g(X)] = \int_{-inf}^{+inf} g(x) \cdot f_X(x)\, dx$

$\mathbb{E}[X|Y=y] = \int_{-inf}^{+inf} x \cdot f_{X|Y}(x|y) \quad dx$

Integration limits only have to be over the support of the pdf. Discrete r.v. same as continuous but with sums and pmfs.

Total expectation theorem:

$\mathbb{E}[X] = \int_{-inf}^{+inf} f_Y(y) \cdot \mathbb{E}[X|Y=y]\, dy$

Expectation of constant a:

$\mathbb{E}[a] = a$

Product of **independent** r.vs X and Y:

$\mathbb{E}[X \cdot Y] = \mathbb{E}[X] \cdot \mathbb{E}[Y]$

Product of **dependent** r.vs X and Y:

$\mathbb{E}[X \cdot Y] \ne \mathbb{E}[X] \cdot \mathbb{E}[Y]$

$\mathbb{E}[X \cdot Y] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[Y \cdot X|Y]] = \mathbb{E}[Y \cdot \mathbb{E}[X|Y]]$

Linearity of Expectation where a and c are given scalars:

$\mathbb{E}[aX + cY] = a\mathbb{E}[X] + c\mathbb{E}[Y]$

If Variance of X is known:

$\mathbb{E}[X^2] = var(X) - \mathbb{E}[X]$

4 Variance

Variance is the squared distance from the mean.

$Var(X) = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}(X))^2]$

$Var(X) = \mathbb{E}\left[X^2\right] - (\mathbb{E}[X])^2$

Variance of a product with constant a:

$Var(aX) = a^2 Var(X)$

Variance of sum of two **dependent** r.v.:

$Var(X+Y) = Var(X) + Var(Y) + 2Cov(X,Y)$

Variance of sum of two **independent** r.v.:

$Var(X+Y) = Var(X) + Var(Y)$

$Var(X-Y) = Var(X) + Var(Y)$

5 Sample Mean and Sample Variance

Let $X_1, ..., X_n \overset{iid}{\sim} P_\mu$, where $E(X_i) = \mu$ and $Var(X_i) = \sigma^2$ for all $i = 1, 2, ..., n$

Sample Mean:

$\overline{X}_n = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n X_i$

Sample Variance:

$S_n = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \overline{X}_n)^2 =$
$= \frac{1}{n}(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2) - \overline{X}_n^2$

Cochranes Theorem:

If $X_1, ..., X_n \overset{iid}{\sim} N\mu, \sigma^2$ the sample mean $\overline{X}_n$ and the sample variance S_n are independent $\overline{X}_n \perp\!\!\!\perp S_n$ for all n. The sum of squares of n Numbers follows a Chi squared distribution $\frac{nS_n}{\sigma^2} \sim \chi_{n-1}^2$

Unbiased estimator of sample variance:

$$\tilde{S}_n = \frac{1}{n-1}\sum_{i=1}^n \left(X_i - \overline{X}_n\right)^2 = \frac{n}{n-1} S_n$$

6 Covariance

The Covariance is a measure of how much the values of each of two correlated random variables determine each other

$Cov(X,Y) = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mu_X)(Y - \mu_Y)]$

$Cov(X,Y) = \mathbb{E}[XY] - \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y]$

$Cov(X,Y) = \mathbb{E}[(X)(Y - \mu_Y)]$

Possible notations:

$Cov(X,Y) = \sigma(X,Y) = \sigma_{(X,Y)}$

Covariance is commutative:

$Cov(X,Y) = Cov(Y,X)$

Covariance with of r.v. with itself is variance:

$Cov(X,X) = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mu_X)^2] = Var(X)$

Useful properties:

$Cov(aX + h, bY + c) = abCov(X,Y)$

$Cov(X, X+Y) = Var(X) + cov(X,Y)$

$Cov(aX + bY, Z) = aCov(X,Z) + bCov(Y,Z)$

If $Cov(X,Y) = 0$, we say that X and Y are uncorrelated. If X and Y are independent, their Covariance is zero. The converse is not always true. It is only true if X and Y form a gaussian vector, ie. any linear combination $\alpha X + \beta Y$ is gaussian for all $(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ without $\{0,0\}$.

7 Law of large Numbers and Central Limit theorem univariate

Let $X_1, ..., X_n \overset{iid}{\sim} P_\mu$, where $E(X_i) = \mu$ and $Var(X_i) = \sigma^2$ for all $i = 1, 2, ..., n$ and $\overline{X_n} = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n X_i$.

Law of large numbers:

$\overline{X_n} \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{P,a.s.} \mu$.

$\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n g(X_i) \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{P,a.s.} \mathbb{E}[g(X)]$

Central Limit Theorem:

$\sqrt(n)\frac{\overline{X_n} - \mu}{\sqrt(\sigma^2)} \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{(d)} N(0,1)$

$\sqrt(n)(\overline{X_n} - \mu) \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{(d)} N(0,\sigma^2)$

Variance of the Mean:

$Var(\overline{X_n}) =$
$(\frac{\sigma^2}{n})^2 Var(X_1 + X_2, ..., X_n) = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}$.

Expectation of the mean:

$E[\overline{X_n}] = \frac{1}{n}E[X_1 + X_2, ..., X_n] = \mu$.

8 Random Vectors

A random vector $\mathbf{X} = \left(X^{(1)}, \ldots, X^{(d)}\right)^T$ of dimension $d \times 1$ is a vector-valued function from a probability space ω to $\mathbb{R}^d$:

$\mathbf{X} : \Omega \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$

$$\omega \longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} X^{(1)}(\omega) \\ X^{(2)}(\omega) \\ \vdots \\ X^{(d)}(\omega) \end{pmatrix}$$

where each $X^{(k)}$, is a (scalar) random variable on Ω.

PDF of $\mathbf{X}$: joint distribution of its components $X^{(1)}, \ldots, X^{(d)}$.

CDF of $\mathbf{X}$:

$\mathbb{R}^d \to [0,1]$

$\mathbf{x} \mapsto \mathbf{P}(X^{(1)} \le x^{(1)}, \ldots, X^{(d)} \le x^{(d)})$.

The sequence $\mathbf{X}_1, \mathbf{X}_2, \ldots$ converges in probability to $\mathbf{X}$ if and only if each component of the sequence $X_1^{(k)}, X_2^{(k)}, \ldots$ converges in probability to $X^{(k)}$.

Expectation of a random vector

The expectation of a random vector is the elementwise expectation. Let $\mathbf{X}$ be a random vector of dimension $d \times 1$.

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}] = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{E}[X^{(1)}] \\ \vdots \\ \mathbb{E}[X^{(d)}] \end{pmatrix}.$$

The expectation of a random matrix is the expected value of each of its elements. Let $X = \{X_{ij}\}$ be an $n \times p$ random matrix. Then $\mathbb{E}[X]$, is the $n \times p$ matrix of numbers (if they exist):

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{E}[X_{11}] & \mathbb{E}[X_{12}] & \ldots & \mathbb{E}[X_{1p}] \\ \mathbb{E}[X_{21}] & \mathbb{E}[X_{22}] & \ldots & \mathbb{E}[X_{2p}] \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbb{E}[X_{n1}] & \mathbb{E}[X_{n2}] & \ldots & \mathbb{E}[X_{np}] \end{bmatrix}$$

Let X and Y be random matrices of the same dimension, and let A and B be conformable matrices of constants.

$\mathbb{E}[X + Y] = \mathbb{E}[X] + \mathbb{E}[Y]$
$\mathbb{E}[AXB] = A\mathbb{E}[X]B$

Covariance Matrix

Let X be a random vector of dimension $d \times 1$ with expectation μ_X.
Matrix outer products!

$\Sigma = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mu_X)(X - \mu_X)^T] =$

$$\mathbb{E}\left(\begin{bmatrix} X_1-\mu_1 \\ X_2-\mu_2 \\ \dots \\ X_d-\mu_d \end{bmatrix}[X_1-\mu_1, X_2-\mu_2, \dots, X_d-\mu_d]\right)$$

$$\Sigma = Cov(X) = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{11} & \sigma_{12} & \cdots & \sigma_{1d} \\ \sigma_{21} & \sigma_{22} & \cdots & \sigma_{2d} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \sigma_{d1} & \sigma_{d2} & \cdots & \sigma_{dd} \end{bmatrix}$$

The covariance matrix Σ is a $d \times d$ matrix. It is a table of the pairwise covariances of the elemtents of the random vector. Its diagonal elements are the variances of the elements of the random vector, the off-diagonal elements are its covariances. Note that the covariance is commutative e.g. $\sigma_{12} = \sigma_{21}$

Alternative forms:

$$\Sigma = \mathbb{E}[XX^T] - \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[X]^T =$$
$$= \mathbb{E}[XX^T] - \mu_X \mu_X^T$$

Let the random vector $X \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and A and B be conformable matrices of constants.

$Cov(AX+B) = Cov(AX) = ACov(X)A^T = A\Sigma A^T$
Every Covariance matrix is positive definite.

$\Sigma \prec 0$

Gaussian Random Vectors

A random vector $\mathbf{X} = (X^{(1)}, \dots, X^{(d)})^T$ is a Gaussian vector, or multivariate Gaussian or normal variable, if any linear combination of its components is a (univariate) Gaussian variable or a constant (a "Gaussian"variable with zero variance), i.e., if $\alpha^T \mathbf{X}$ is (univariate) Gaussian or constant for any constant non-zero vector $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}^d$.

Multivariate Gaussians

The distribution of, X the d-dimensional Gaussian or normal distribution, is completely specified by the vector mean $\mu = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}] = (\mathbb{E}[X^{(1)}], \dots, \mathbb{E}[X^{(d)}])^T$ and the $d \times d$ covariance matrix Σ. If Σ is invertible, then the pdf of X is:

$$f_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^d \det(\Sigma)}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x}-\mu)^T \Sigma^{-1}(\mathbf{x}-\mu)},$$

$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$

Where $\det(\Sigma)$ is the determinant of Σ, which is positive when Σ is invertible.
If $\mu = 0$ and Σ is the identity matrix, then X is called a standard normal random vector .
If the covariant matrix Σ is diagonal, the pdf factors into pdfs of univariate Gaussians, and hence the components are independent.

The linear transform of a gaussian $X \sim N_d(\mu, \Sigma)$ with conformable matrices A and B is a gaussian:

$AX + B = N_d(A\mu + b, A\Sigma A^T)$

Multivariate CLT

Let $X_1, \dots, X_d \in \mathbb{R}^d$ be independent copies of a random vector X such that $\mathbb{E}[x] = \mu$ ($d \times 1$ vector of expectations) and $Cov(X) = \Sigma$

$$\sqrt(n)(\overline{X_n} - \mu) \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{(d)} N(0, \Sigma)$$

$$\sqrt(n)\Sigma^{-1/2}\overline{X_n} - \mu \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{(d)} N(0, I_d)$$

Where $\Sigma^{-1/2}$ is the $d \times d$ matrix such that $\Sigma^{-1/2}\Sigma^{-1/2} = \Sigma^1$ and I_d is the identity matrix.

Multivariate Delta Method

Gradient Matrix of a Vector Function:

Given a vector-valued function $f : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^k$, the gradient or the gradient matrix of f, denoted by ∇f , is the $d \times k$ matrix:

$$\nabla f =$$
$$= \begin{pmatrix} | & | & | & | \\ \nabla f_1 & \nabla f_2 & \dots & \nabla f_k \\ | & | & | & | \end{pmatrix} =$$
$$= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_k}{\partial x_1} \\ \vdots & \dots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x_d} & \dots & \frac{\partial f_k}{\partial x_d} \end{pmatrix}.$$

This is also the transpose of what is known as the Jacobian matrix $\mathbf{J}_f$ of f.

General statement, given

- $(\mathbf{T}_n)_{n\geq 1}$ a sequence of random vectors
- satisfying $\sqrt{n}\left(\mathbf{T}_n - \vec{\theta}\right) \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{(d)} \mathbf{T}$,
- a function $\mathbf{g} : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^k$ that is continuously differentiable at $\vec{\theta}$,

then

$$\sqrt{n}\left(\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{T}_n) - \mathbf{g}(\vec{\theta})\right) \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{(d)} \nabla\mathbf{g}(\vec{\theta})^T \mathbf{T}$$

With multivariate Gaussians and Sample mean:

Let $\mathbf{T}_n = \overline{\mathbf{X}}_n$ where $\overline{\mathbf{X}}_n$ is the sample average of $\mathbf{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{X}_n \overset{iid}{\sim} \mathbf{X}$, and $\vec{\theta} = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}]$. The (multivariate) CLT then gives $\mathbf{T} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \Sigma_{\mathbf{X}})$ where $\Sigma_{\mathbf{X}}$ is the covariance of $\mathbf{X}$. In this case, we have:

$$\sqrt{n}\left(\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{T}_n) - \mathbf{g}(\vec{\theta})\right) \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{(d)} \nabla\mathbf{g}(\vec{\theta})^T \mathbf{T}$$

$$\nabla\mathbf{g}(\vec{\theta})^T \mathbf{T} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(0, \nabla\mathbf{g}(\vec{\theta})^T \Sigma_{\mathbf{X}} \nabla\mathbf{g}(\vec{\theta})\right)$$

$$(\mathbf{T} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \Sigma_{\mathbf{X}}))$$

9 Statistical models

$E, \{P_\theta\}_{\theta\in\Theta}$

E is a sample space for X i.e. a set that contains all possible outcomes of X

$\{\mathbb{P}_\theta\}_{\theta\in\Theta}$ is a family of probability distributions on E.

Θ is a parameter set, i.e. a set consisting of some possible values of Θ.

θ is the true parameter and unknown. In a parametric model we assume that $\Theta \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, for some $d \geq 1$.

Identifiability:

$\theta \neq \theta' \Rightarrow \mathbb{P}_\theta \neq \mathbb{P}_{\theta'}$

$\mathbb{P}_\theta = \mathbb{P}_{\theta'} \Rightarrow \theta = \theta'$

A Model is well specified if:

$\exists\theta \text{ s.t. } \mathbb{P} = \mathbb{P}_\theta$

10 Estimators

A statistic is any measurable functionof the sample, e.g. $\overline{X_n}, max(X_i)$, etc. An Estimator of θ is any statistic which does not depend on θ.
An estimator $\hat{\theta}_n$ is weakly consistent if: $\lim_{n\to\infty} \hat{\theta}_n = \theta$ or $\hat{\theta}_n \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{P} \mathbb{E}[g(X)]$. If the convergence is almost surely it is strongly consistent.

Asymptotic normality of an estimator:

$$\sqrt(n)(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta) \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{(d)} N(0, \sigma^2)$$

σ^2 is called the **Asymptotic Variance** of $\hat{\theta}_n$. In the case of the sample mean it the variance of a single X_i. If the estimator is a function of the sample mean the **Delta Method** is needed to compute the Asymptotic Variance. Asymptotic Variance $\neq$ Variance of an estimator.

Bias of an estimator:

$Bias(\hat{\theta}_n = \mathbb{E}[\hat{\theta}_n] - \theta$

Quadratic risk of an estimator:

$R(\hat{\theta}_n) = \mathbb{E}[(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta)^2] = Bias^2 + Variance$

11 Confidence intervals

Let $(E, (\mathbb{P}_\theta)_{\theta\in\Theta})$ be a statistical model based on observations $X_1, \dots X_n$ and assume $\Theta \subseteq \mathbb{R}$. Let $\alpha \in (0,1)$.

Non asymptotic confidence interval of level $1-\alpha$ for θ:

Any random interval $\mathcal{I}$, depending on the sample $X_1, \dots X_n$ but not at θ and such that:

$\mathbb{P}_\theta[\mathcal{I} \ni \theta] \geq 1-\alpha, \quad \forall\theta \in \Theta$

Confidence interval of **asymptotic level** $1-\alpha$ for θ:

Any random interval $\mathcal{I}$ whose boundaries do not depend on θ and such that:

$\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbb{P}_\theta[\mathcal{I} \ni \theta] \geq 1-\alpha, \quad \forall\theta \in \Theta$

Two-sided asymptotic CI

Let $X_1, \dots, X_n = \tilde{X}$ and $\tilde{X} \overset{iid}{\sim} P_\theta$. A two-sided CI is a function depending on $\tilde{X}$ giving an upper and lower bound in which the estimated parameter lies $\mathcal{I} = [l(\tilde{X}, u(\tilde{X})]$ with a certain probability $\mathbb{P}(\theta \in \mathcal{I}) \geq 1 - q_\alpha$ and conversely $\mathbb{P}(\theta \notin \mathcal{I}) \leq \alpha$

Since the estimator is a r.v. depending on $\tilde{X}$ it has a variance $Var(\hat{\theta}_n$ and a mean $\mathbb{E}[\hat{\theta}_n]$. After finding those it is possible to standardize the estimator using the CLT. This yields an asymptotic CI:
$\mathcal{I} = \hat{\theta}_n + [\frac{-q_{\alpha/2}\sqrt{Var(\theta)}}{\sqrt{n}}, \frac{q_{\alpha/2}\sqrt{Var(\theta)}}{\sqrt{n}}]$
This expression depends on the real variance $Var(\theta)$ of the r.vs, the variance has to be estimated. Three possible methods: plugin (use sample mean), solve (solve quadratic inequality), conservative (use the maximum of the variance).

Delta Method

If I take a function of the mean and want to make it converge to a function of the mean.

$$\sqrt{n}(g(\widehat{m}_1) - g(m_1(\theta))) \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{(d)} \mathcal{N}(0, g'(m_1(\theta))^2\sigma^2)$$

12 Hypothesis tests

Comparisons of two proportions

Let $X_1, \dots, X_n \overset{iid}{\sim} Bern(p_x)$ and $Y_1, \dots, Y_n \overset{iid}{\sim} Bern(p_y)$ and be X independent of Y. $\hat{p}_x = 1/n\sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ and $\hat{p}_x = 1/n\sum_{i=1}^n Y_i$

$H_0 : p_x = p_y; H_1 : p_x \neq p_y$
To get the asymptotic Variance use multivariate Delta-method. Consider $\hat{p}_x - \hat{p}_y = g(\hat{p}_x, \hat{p}_y); g(x,y) = x - y$, then

$$\sqrt(n)(g(\hat{p}_x, \hat{p}_y) - g(p_x - p_y)) \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{(d)} N(0, \nabla g(p_x - p_y)^T \Sigma \nabla g(p_x - p_y))$$

$$\Rightarrow N(0, p_x(1-px) + p_y(1-py))$$

Pivot:

Let $X_1, \dots, X_n$ be random samples and let T_n be a function of X and a parameter vector θ. That is, T_n is a function of $X_1, \dots, X_n, \theta$. Let $g(T_n)$ be a random variable whose distribution is the same for all θ . Then, g is called a pivotal quantity or a pivot.

For example, let X be a random variable with mean μ and variance σ^2 . Let $X_1, \dots, X_n$ be iid samples of X. Then,

$$g_n \triangleq \frac{\overline{X_n}-\mu}{\sigma}$$

is a pivot with $\theta = \begin{bmatrix}\mu & \sigma^2\end{bmatrix}^T$ being the parameter vector. The notion of a parameter vector here is not to be confused with the set of paramaters that we use to define a statistical model.

Onesided

Twosided

P-Value

Walds Test

$X_1,\dots,X_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathbf{P}_{\theta^*}$ for some true parameter $\theta^* \in \mathbb{R}^d$. We construct the associated statistical model $(\mathbb{R}, \{\mathbf{P}_\theta\}_{\theta\in\mathbb{R}^d})$ and the maximum likelihood estimator $\widehat{\theta}_n^{MLE}$ for θ^*.
Decide between two hypotheses:
$H_0 : \theta^* = \mathbf{0}$ VS $H_1 : \theta^* \neq \mathbf{0}$
Assuming that the null hypothesis is true, the asymptotic normality of the MLE $\widehat{\theta}_n^{MLE}$ implies that the following random variable $\left\|\sqrt{n}\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{0})^{1/2}(\widehat{\theta}_n^{MLE}-\mathbf{0})\right\|^2$ converges to a χ^2_k distribution.

$$\left\|\sqrt{n}\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{0})^{1/2}(\widehat{\theta}_n^{MLE}-\mathbf{0})\right\|^2 \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{(d)} \chi^2_d$$

Wald's Test in 1 dimension:

In 1 dimension, Wald's Test coincides with the two-sided test based on on the asymptotic normality of the MLE.
Given the hypotheses
$H_0 : \theta^* = \mathbf{0}$ VS $H_1 : \theta^* \neq \mathbf{0}$
a two-sided test of level α, based on the asymptotic normality of the MLE, is $\psi_\alpha = \mathbf{1}\left(\sqrt{nI(\theta_0)}\left|\widehat{\theta}^{\text{MLE}}-\theta_0\right| > q_{\alpha/2}(\mathcal{N}(0,1))\right)$
where the Fisher information $I(\theta_0)^{-1}$ is the asymptotic variance of $\widehat{\theta}^{\text{MLE}}$ under the null hypothesis.
On the other hand, a Wald's test of level α is
$\psi_\alpha^{\text{Wald}} = \mathbf{1}\left(nI(\theta_0)\left(\widehat{\theta}^{\text{MLE}}-\theta_0\right)^2 > q_\alpha(\chi^2_1)\right) = \mathbf{1}\left(\sqrt{nI(\theta_0)}\left|\widehat{\theta}^{\text{MLE}}-\theta_0\right| > \sqrt{q_\alpha(\chi^2_1)}\right).$

13 Distance between distributions

Total variation

The total variation distance TV between the propability measures P and Q with a sample space E is defined as:

$$\text{TV}(\mathbf{P},\mathbf{Q}) = \max_{A\subset E}|\mathbf{P}(A)-\mathbf{Q}(A)|,$$

Calculation with f and g:

$$\text{TV}(\mathbf{P},\mathbf{Q}) = \begin{cases}\frac{1}{2}\sum_{x\in E}|f(x)-g(x)|, & \text{discr}\\ \frac{1}{2}\int_{x\in E}|f(x)-g(x)|dx, & \text{cont}\end{cases}$$

Symmetry:
$d(\mathbf{P},\mathbf{Q}) = d(\mathbf{Q},\mathbf{P})$
nonnegative:
$d(\mathbf{P},\mathbf{Q}) \geq 0$
definite:
$d(\mathbf{P},\mathbf{Q}) = 0 \iff \mathbf{P} = \mathbf{Q}$
triangle inequality:
$d(\mathbf{P},\mathbf{V}) \leq d(\mathbf{P},\mathbf{Q}) + d(\mathbf{Q},\mathbf{V})$
If the support of $\mathbf{P}$ and $\mathbf{Q}$ is disjoint:
$d(\mathbf{P},\mathbf{V}) = 1$
TV between continuous and discrete r.v: $d(\mathbf{P},\mathbf{V}) = 1$

KL divergence

the KL divergence (also known as relative entropy) KL between between the propability measures P and Q with the common sample space E and pmf/pdf functions f and g is defined as:

$$\text{KL}(\mathbf{P},\mathbf{Q}) = \begin{cases}\sum_{x\in E} p(x)\ln\left(\frac{p(x)}{q(x)}\right), & \text{discr}\\ \int_{x\in E} p(x)\ln\left(\frac{p(x)}{q(x)}\right)dx, & \text{cont}\end{cases}$$

Not a distance!
Sum over support of P!
Asymetric in general:
$\text{KL}(\mathbf{P},\mathbf{Q}) \neq \text{KL}(\mathbf{Q},\mathbf{P})$
Nonnegative:
$\text{KL}(\mathbf{P},\mathbf{Q}) \geq 0$
Definite:
if $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{Q}$ then $\text{KL}(\mathbf{P},\mathbf{Q}) = 0$
Does not satisfy triangle inequality in general:
$KL(\mathbf{P},\mathbf{V}) \nleq KL(\mathbf{P},\mathbf{Q}) + KL(\mathbf{Q},\mathbf{V})$

Estimator of KL divergence:

$$\text{KL}(\mathbf{P}_{\theta^*},\mathbf{P}_\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{\theta^*}\left[\ln\left(\frac{p_{\theta^*}(X)}{p_\theta(X)}\right)\right],$$

$\widehat{KL}(\mathbf{P}_{\theta_*},\mathbf{P}_\theta) = const - \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n log(p_\theta(X_i))$

Maximum likelihood estimation

Cookbook: take the log of the likelihood function. Take the partial derivative of the loglikelihood function with respect to the parameter. Set the partial derivative to zero and solve for the parameter.
If an indicator function on the pdf/pmf does not depend on the parameter, it can be ignored. If it depends on the parameter it can't be ignored because there is an discontinuity in the loglikelihood function. The maximum/minimum of the X_i is then the maximum likelihood estimator.
Maximum likelihood estimator:

Let $\left\{E, (\mathbf{P}_\theta)_{\theta\in\Theta}\right\}$ be a statistical model associated with a sample of i.i.d. random variables $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$. Assume that there exists $\theta^* \in \Theta$ such that $X_i \sim \mathbf{P}_{\theta^*}$.
The maximum likelihood estimator is the (unique) θ that minimizes $\widehat{\text{KL}}(\mathbf{P}_{\theta^*},\mathbf{P}_\theta)$ over the parameter space. (The minimizer of the KL divergence is unique due to it being strictly convex in the space of distributions once is fixed.)
$\widehat{\theta}_n^{MLE} =$
$\text{argmin}_{\theta\in\Theta}\widehat{\text{KL}}_n(\mathbf{P}_{\theta^*},\mathbf{P}_\theta) =$
$\text{argmax}_{\theta\in\Theta}\sum_{i=1}^n \ln p_\theta(X_i) =$
$\text{argmax}_{\theta\in\Theta}\ln\left(\prod_{i=1}^n p_\theta(X_i)\right)$

Gaussian Maximum-loglikelihood estimators:

MLE estimator for $\sigma^2 = \tau$:
$\hat{\tau}_n^{MLE} = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2$

MLE estimators:

$\hat{\mu}_n^{MLE} = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}(x_i)$

13.1 Fisher Information

The Fisher information is the covariance matrix of the gradient of the loglikelihood function. It is equal to the negative expectation of the Hessian of the loglikelihood function and captures the negative of the expected curvature of the loglikelihood function.

Let $\theta \in \Theta \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ and let $(E, \{\mathbf{P}_\theta\}_{\theta\in\Theta})$ be a statistical model. Let $f_\theta(\mathbf{x})$ be the pdf of the distribution $\mathbf{P}_\theta$. Then, the Fisher information of the statistical model is.

$\mathcal{I}(\theta) = Cov(\nabla\ell(\theta)) =$
$= \mathbb{E}[\nabla\ell(\theta))\nabla\ell(\theta)^T] - \mathbb{E}[\nabla\ell(\theta)]\mathbb{E}[\nabla\ell(\theta)] =$
$= -\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{H}\ell(\theta)]$

Where $\ell(\theta) = \ln f_\theta(\mathbf{X})$.If $\nabla\ell(\theta) \in \mathbb{R}^d$ it is a $d\times d$ matrix. The definition when the distribution has a pmf $p_\theta(\mathbf{x})$ is also the same, with the expectation taken with respect to the pmf.

Let $(\mathbb{R}, \{\mathbf{P}_\theta\}_{\theta\in\mathbb{R}})$ denote a continuous statistical model. Let $f_\theta(x)$ denote the pdf (probability density function) of the continuous distribution $\mathbf{P}_\theta$. Assume that $f_\theta(x)$ is twice-differentiable as a function of the parameter θ.

Formula for the calculation of Fisher Information of X:

$$\mathcal{I}(\theta) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty}\frac{\left(\frac{\partial f_\theta(x)}{\partial\theta}\right)^2}{f_\theta(x)}dx$$

Models with one parameter (ie. Bernulli):

$\mathcal{I}(\theta) = \mathsf{Var}(\ell'(\theta))$

$\mathcal{I}(\theta) = -\mathbf{E}(\ell''(\theta))$

Models with multiple parameters (ie. Gaussians):

$\mathcal{I}(\theta) = -\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{H}\ell(\theta)]$

Cookbook:

Better to use 2nd derivative.

- Find loglikelihood
- Take second derivative (=Hessian if multivariate)
- Massage second derivative or Hessian (isolate functions of X_i to use with $-\mathbf{E}(\ell''(\theta))$ or $-\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{H}\ell(\theta)]$.
- Find the expectation of the functions of X_i and subsitute them back into the Hessian or the second derivative. Be extra careful to subsitute the right power back. $\mathbb{E}[X_i] \neq \mathbb{E}[X_i^2]$.
- Don't forget the minus sign!

Asymptotic normality of the maximum likelihood estimator

Under certain conditions the MLE is asymptotically normal and consistent. This applies even if the MLE is not the sample average.
Let the true parameter $\theta^* \in \Theta$. Necessary assumptions:

- The parameter is identifiable
- For all $\theta \in \Theta$, the support $\mathbb{P}_\theta$ does not depend on θ (e.g. like in $Unif(0,\theta)$);
- θ^* is not on the boundary of Θ;
- Fisher information $\mathcal{I}(\theta)$ is invertible in the neighborhood of θ^*
- A few more technical conditions

The asymptotic variance of the MLE is the inverse of the fisher information.
$\sqrt(n)(\widehat{\theta}_n^{\text{MLE}} - \theta^*) \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{(d)} N_d(0, \mathcal{I}(\theta^*)^{-1})$

14 Method of Moments

Let $X_1,\dots,X_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathbf{P}_{\theta^*}$ associated with model $(\mathbb{E}, \{\mathbf{P}_\theta\}_{\theta\in\Theta})$, with $\mathbb{E} \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ and $\Theta \subseteq \mathbb{R}$, for some d ≥ 1
Population moments:

$m_k(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_\theta[X_1^k], 1 \leq k \leq d$

Empirical moments:

$\widehat{m_k}(\theta) = \overline{X_n^k} = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n X_i^k$
Convergence of empirical moments:

$\widehat{m_k} \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{P,a.s.} m_k$

$(\widehat{m_1},\dots,\widehat{m_d}) \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{P,a.s.} (m_1,\dots,m_d)$
MOM Estimator M is a map from the parameters of a model to the moments of its distribution. This map is invertible, (ie. it results into a system of equations that can be solved for the true parameter vector θ^*). Find the moments (as many as parameters), set up system of equations, solve for parameters, use empirical moments to estimate.
$\psi : \Theta \to \mathbb{R}^d$

$\theta \mapsto (m_1(\theta), m_2(\theta), \dots, m_d(\theta))$

$M^{-1}(m_1(\theta^*), m_2(\theta^*), \dots, m_d(\theta^*))$
The MOM estimator uses the empirical moments:

$M^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n X_i, \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2, \dots, \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n X_i^d\right)$

Assuming M^{-1} is continuously differentiable at $M(0)$, the asymptotical variance of the MOM estimator is:

$$\sqrt(n)(\widehat{\theta_n^{MM}} - \theta) \xrightarrow[n\to\infty]{(d)} N(0, \Gamma)$$

where,

$$\Gamma(\theta) = \left[\frac{\partial M^{-1}}{\partial \theta}(M(\theta))\right]^T \Sigma(\theta) \left[\frac{\partial M^{-1}}{\partial \theta}(M(\theta))\right]$$

$\Gamma(\theta) = \nabla_\theta (M^{-1})^T \Sigma \nabla_\theta (M^{-1})$

Σ_θ is the covariance matrix of the random vector of the moments $(X_1^1, X_1^2 \ldots, X_1^d)$.

15 OLS

$Y|X = x \sim N(\mu(x), \sigma^2 I)$

Regression function $\mu(x)$:

$\mathbb{E}[Y|X = x] = \mu(x) = x^T \beta$

Random Component of the Linear Model:
Y is continous and $Y|X = x$ is Gaussian with mean $\mu(x)$

16 Generalized Linear Models

We relax the assumption that μ is linear. Instead, we assume that g $\circ \mu$ is linear, for some function g:

$g(\mu(\mathbf{x})) = \mathbf{x}^T \beta$

The function g is assumed to be known, and is referred to as the link function. It maps the domain of the dependent variable to the entire real Line.
it has to be strictly increasing,
it has to be continuously differentiable and
its range is all of $\mathbb{R}$

16.1 The Exponential Family

A family of distribution $\{\mathbf{P}_\theta : \theta \in \Theta\}$, where the parameter space $\Theta \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ is -k dimensional, is called a k-parameter exponential family on $\mathbb{R}^1$ if the pmf or pdf $f_\theta : \mathbb{R}^q \to \mathbb{R}$ of $\mathbf{P}_\theta$ can be written in the form:

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

if $k = 1$ it reduces to:

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

17 Algebra

Absolute Value Inequalities:
$|f(x)| < a \Rightarrow -a < f(x) < a$
$|f(x)| > a \Rightarrow f(x) > a$ or $f(x) < -a$

18 Matrixalgebra

$||\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}||^2 = (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x})^T(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}^T\mathbf{A}^T\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}$

19 Calculus

Differentiation under the integral sign

$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\left(\int_{a(x)}^{b(x)} f(x,t)\mathrm{d}t\right) = f(x, b(x))b'(x) - f(x, a(x))a'(x) + \int_{a(x)}^{b(x)} f_x(x,t)\mathrm{d}t.$

Concavity in 1 dimension

If $g : I \to \mathbb{R}$ is twice differentiable in the interval I:
concave:
if and only if $g''(x) \leq 0$ for all $x \in I$

strictly concave:
if $g''(x) < 0$ for all $x \in I$

convex:
if and only if $g''(x) \geq 0$ for all $x \in I$

strictly convex if:
$g''(x) > 0$ for all $x \in I$

Multivariate Calculus

The Gradient ∇ of a twice differntiable function f is defined as:
$\nabla f : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^d$

$$\theta = \begin{pmatrix} \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 \\ \vdots \\ \theta_d \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \left.\begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta_1} \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta_2} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta_d} \end{pmatrix}\right|_\theta$$

Hessian

The Hessian of f is a symmetric matrix of second partial derivatives of f

$$\mathbf{H}h(\theta) = \nabla^2 h(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial \theta_1 \partial \theta_1}(\theta) & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial \theta_1 \partial \theta_d}(\theta) \\ & \vdots & \\ \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial \theta_d \partial \theta_1}(\theta) & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 h}{\partial \theta_d \partial \theta_d}(\theta) \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$$

A symmetric (real-valued) $d \times d$ matrix $\mathbf{A}$ is:

Positive semi-definite:
$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} \geq 0 \quad$ for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$.

Positive definite:
$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} > 0$ for all non-zero vectors $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d$

Negative semi-definite (resp. negative definite):
$\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$ is negative for all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^d - \{\mathbf{0}\}$.

Positive (or negative) definiteness implies positive (or negative) semi-definiteness.

If the Hessian is positive definite then f attains a local minimum at a (convex).

If the Hessian is negative definite at a, then f attains a local maximum at a (concave).

If the Hessian has both positive and negative eigenvalues then a is a saddle point for f.