Problem Set #6

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Question 1

Find $\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{Y}|\mathbf{X_1}, \mathbf{X_2}, \mathbf{X_3}]|\mathbf{X_1}, \mathbf{X_2}]|\mathbf{X_1}]$

By the Law of Iterated Expectation,

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[Y|X_1, X_2, X_3]|X_1, X_2]|X_1] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[Y|X_1, X_2]|X_1]$$
$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[Y|X_1, X_2]|X_1] = \mathbb{E}[Y|X_1]$$

Thus, $\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[Y|X_1, X_2, X_3]|X_1, X_2]|X_1] = \mathbb{E}[Y|X_1]$

Question 2

Prove that for any function $h(x)$ such that $\mathbb{E}\,|h(X)e| < \infty$ then $\mathbb{E}[h(X)e] = 0$, where $e = Y - m(X)$ and $m(X) = \mathbb{E}[Y|X]$

According to the conditioning theorem, if $\mathbb{E}\,|Y| < \infty$, then

$$\mathbb{E}[g(X)Y|X] = g(X)\,\mathbb{E}[Y|X]$$

Thus, Since $\mathbb{E}\,|h(X)e| < \infty$ trivially implies $\mathbb{E}\,|Y| < \infty$, we can use the Law of Iterated Expectation to solve:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[h(X)e] &= \mathbb{E}[h(X)Y - h(X)m(X)] = \mathbb{E}[h(X)Y] - \mathbb{E}[h(X)m(X)] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[h(X)Y|X]] - \mathbb{E}[h(X)m(X)] = \mathbb{E}[h(X)\,\mathbb{E}[Y|X]] - \mathbb{E}[h(X)m(X)] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[h(X)m(X)] - \mathbb{E}[h(X)m(X)] = 0\end{aligned}$$

$\therefore$ for any function $h(x)$ such that $\mathbb{E}\,|h(X)e| < \infty$ then $\mathbb{E}[h(X)e] = 0$ $\blacksquare$

Question 3

$$\mathbb{E}[Y|X] = \begin{cases} .4, & X = 0 \\ .3, & X = 1 \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbb{E}[Y^2|X] = \begin{cases} .4, & X = 0 \\ .3, & X = 1 \end{cases}$$

$$Var(Y|X) = \mathbb{E}[Y^2|X] - (\mathbb{E}[Y|X])^2 = \begin{cases} .24, & X = 0 \\ .21, & X = 1 \end{cases}$$

Question 4

Show that $\sigma^2(X)$ minimizes the mean-squared error and is thus the best predictor.

The variance of $\hat{\beta}_{OLS} = \mathbb{E}(Y|X)$ is

$$\sigma^2(X) = \mathbb{E}\left[(Y - h(X))^2\right] = \sigma^2(X'X)^{-1}$$

Where $\sigma^2 = \mathbb{E}(\varepsilon|X)$ and $h(X)$ is the predictor of Y, which, in this case, is $E(Y|X)$. It is clear that minimizing the variance of $\hat{\beta}$ will also minimize mean-squared error. Thus, we can show that this minimizes mean-squared error among all linear unbiased estimators by comparing this variance to the variance of an arbitrary linear estimator, $\tilde{\beta} = a + Ay$. In order for $\tilde{\beta}$ to be unbiased, it must be the case that $\mathbb{E}(\tilde{\beta}) = \mathbb{E}(\tilde{\beta}|X) = \beta$. Thus,

$$\beta = \mathbb{E}(\tilde{\beta}|X) = \mathbb{E}(a + Ay|X) = a + A\,\mathbb{E}(y|x) = a + A\beta$$

This only holds if $a = 0$, so $\tilde{\beta} = Ay$. Then, the variance of $\tilde{\beta}$ is:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{E}(\tilde{\beta}|X) &= V(Ay|X) = AV(y|X)A' = \sigma^2 AA' \\
&= \sigma^2\left[A - (X'X)^{-1} + (X'X)^{-1}X'\right]\left[A' - (X'X)^{-1} + (X'X)^{-1}X'\right] \\
&= \text{... skipping intermediate steps for brevity} \\
&= \sigma^2[A - (X'X)^{-1}X'][A - (X'X)^{-1}X']' + \sigma^2(X'X)^{-1}X'X(X'X)^{-1} \\
&= \sigma^2(X) + \sigma^2[A - (X'X)^{-1}X'][A - (X'X)^{-1}X']' \\
&\geq \sigma^2(X)
\end{aligned}$$

Thus, $\sigma^2(X)$ minimizes the mean-squared error over any other linear estimator.

Question 5

Compute $\mathbb{E}[Y|X]$ and $Var(Y|X)$ for a Poisson-distributed Y given X. Does this justify a linear regression model?

The conditional mean and variance are:

$$\mathbb{E}[Y|X] = x'\beta \text{ , } Var(Y|X) = x'\beta$$

A linear regression model is satisfied if the three Gauss-Markov assumptions are violated. Provided rank$X = k$, that is the case in this situation, because $Var(Y|X) = x'$ implies that the model has constant variance, and:

$$\mathbb{E}[Y|X] = x'\beta \iff \mathbb{E}(\varepsilon|X) = 0$$

Thus, a linear regression model is justified.

Question 6

2.10 True. By the law of iterated expectations,

$$\mathbb{E}[X^2 e] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X^2 e|X]] = \mathbb{E}[X^2\, \mathbb{E}[e|X]] = 0$$

2.11 False. Consider $X = \{-1, 1\}$ with constant error $e = \overline{e}$ and $\Pr(X = -1) = \Pr(X = 1) = \frac{1}{2}$. In this case, $\mathbb{E}[Xe] = 0$ and $\mathbb{E}[X^2 e] = \overline{e}$

2.12 True. $\mathbb{E}[e] = 0$ by definition, so e is independent of X if and only if $\mathbb{E}[Xe] = \mathbb{E}[e]\,\mathbb{E}[X] = 0$. By the law of iterated expectations,

$$\mathbb{E}[Xe] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[Xe|X]] = \mathbb{E}[X\, \mathbb{E}[e|X]] = 0$$

2.13 False. Consider the same example from 2.11. $E[eX] = 0$, but $\mathbb{E}[e|X] = \overline{e}$.

2.14 True. Using the law of iterated examples explanation from 2.12, $\mathbb{E}[e|X] = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}[Xe] = 0$.

Question 7

Let X and Y have the joint density $f(x,y) = \frac{3}{2}(x^2+y^2)$ on $0 \le x \le 1,\ 0 \le y \le 1$. Compute the coefficients of the best linear predictor $Y = \alpha + \beta X + e$. Compute the conditional expectation $m(x) = \mathbb{E}[Y|X=x]$. Are the best linear predictor and conditional expectation different?

The conditional expectation, $m(x) = \mathbb{E}[Y|X=x]$, can be calculated as:

$$
\begin{aligned}
f(y|x) &= \frac{f(x,y)}{\int_0^1 f(x,y)dy} = \frac{\frac{3}{2}(x^2+y^2)}{\int_0^1 \frac{3}{2}(x^2+y^2)dy} = \frac{x^2+y^2}{x^2+\frac{1}{3}} \\
\mathbb{E}[Y|X=x] &= \int_0^1 f(y|x)ydy = \int_0^1 \frac{x^2+y^2}{x^2+\frac{1}{3}}ydy = \frac{1}{x^2+\frac{1}{3}}\left(x^2\int_0^1 ydy + \int_0^1 y^3dy\right) \\
&= \frac{1}{x^2+\frac{1}{3}}\left(\frac{1}{2}x^2+\frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{2x^2+1}{4x^2+4/3} \\
&= \frac{6x^2+3}{12x^2+4}
\end{aligned}
$$

And the coefficients α and β can be calculated as:

$$
\begin{pmatrix}\alpha\\ \beta\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}(\mathbb{E}(Y) - \mathbb{E}(X)\beta \\ \frac{\mathbb{E}(XY)-\mathbb{E}(X)\,\mathbb{E}(Y)}{\mathbb{E}(X^2)-(\mathbb{E}(X))^2}\end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\mathbb{E}(X^2)-(\mathbb{E}(X))^2}\begin{pmatrix}\mathbb{E}(Y)\,\mathbb{E}(X^2) - \mathbb{E}(X)\,\mathbb{E}(XY) \\ \mathbb{E}(XY) - \mathbb{E}(X)\,\mathbb{E}(Y)\end{pmatrix}
$$

Where:

$$
\begin{aligned}
f(x) &= \int_0^1 f(x,y)dy = \int_0^1 \frac{3}{2}(x^2+y^2)dy = \frac{3}{2}x^2 + \int_0^1 \frac{3}{2}y^2dy = \frac{3}{2}x^2+\frac{1}{2} \\
\mathbb{E}(X) &= \int_0^1 f(x)xdx = \int_0^1 \frac{3}{2}x^3dx + \frac{1}{2}\int_0^1 xdx = \frac{5}{8} \\
\mathbb{E}(X^2) &= \int_0^1 f(x)x^2dx = \int_0^1 \frac{3}{2}x^4dx + \frac{1}{2}\int_0^1 x^2dx = \frac{7}{15} \\
\mathbb{E}(XY) &= \int_0^1\int_0^1 f(x,y)xydxdy = \int_0^1\int_0^1 \frac{3}{2}(x^2+y^2)xydxdy \\
&= \text{... (intermediate steps omitted for brevity)} \\
\mathbb{E}(XY) &= \frac{3}{8}
\end{aligned}
$$

Since X and Y have symmetric marginal distributions, $\mathbb{E}(X) = \mathbb{E}(Y)$. Thus,

$$
\begin{pmatrix}\alpha\\ \beta\end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\frac{7}{15}-\frac{25}{64}}\begin{pmatrix}\left(\frac{5}{8}\right)\left(\frac{7}{15}\right) - \left(\frac{5}{8}\right)\left(\frac{3}{8}\right) \\ \left(\frac{3}{8}\right) - \left(\frac{5}{8}\right)\left(\frac{5}{8}\right)\end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{73}\begin{pmatrix}55\\ 15\end{pmatrix}
$$

Question 8

4.1 - 4.6