

Maximum Likelihood Estimation for Toric Varieties

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Mathematical Methods in Data Analysis

Eliana Duarte



CENTRO DE
MATEMÁTICA
UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO



Lecture #1:

Toric varieties are exponential families + Examples

Lecture #2:

Fundamentals of MLE for toric varieties,
an algebraic approach

Lecture #3:

Toric varieties with rational MLE, recent trends
and open questions

\mathcal{M}_{Θ} = parametric statistical model $\subseteq \Delta_{r-1}^{\circ}$

$D = \{X^{(1)}, \dots, X^{(n)}\}$ i.i.d set of observations

The likelihood function is

$$L(\theta | D) := p_{\theta}(D) = \prod_{i=1}^n p_{\theta}(X^{(i)})$$

$u_j = \#$ of times j
is observed in D $p_{\theta}(D) = \prod_{j=1}^r p_{\theta}(j)^{u_j}$

$u = (u_1, \dots, u_n)$ summarizes D

The maximum likelihood estimate (MLE) $\hat{\theta}$ is
the maximizer of $L(\theta | D)$

$$\hat{\theta} := \arg \max_{\theta \in \Theta} L(\theta | D)$$

$l(\theta | D) := \log(L(\theta | D))$ is the log-likelihood

Example 2.1

Binomial(r) $r = \#$ of trials $D = \{X^{(1)}, \dots, X^{(n)}\}$

$u_j = \#$ of times each binomial experiment
gave j successes

$$L(\theta | D) = \prod_{i=1}^n p_{\theta}(X^{(i)}) = \prod_{i=0}^r p_{\theta}(i)^{u_i} = \prod_{i=0}^r \left[\binom{r}{i} \theta^i (1-\theta)^{r-i} \right]^{u_i}, \quad \theta \in (0, 1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} l(\theta | D) &= \log \left(\prod_{i=0}^r \left[\binom{r}{i} \theta^i (1-\theta)^{r-i} \right]^{u_i} \right) = \\ &= \log \left(\prod_{i=0}^r \binom{r}{i}^{u_i} \theta^{\sum_{i=0}^r i u_i} (1-\theta)^{\sum_{i=0}^r (r-i) u_i} \right) \\ &= C + \left(\sum_{i=0}^r i u_i \right) \log(\theta) + \left(\sum_{i=0}^r (r-i) u_i \right) \log(1-\theta) \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial l(\theta | D)}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^r i u_i}{\theta} - \frac{\sum_{i=0}^r (r-i) u_i}{1-\theta} = 0 \iff \hat{\theta} = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^r i u_i}{r n}$$

$$\hat{\theta} = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^r i u_i}{r n}$$

$$1 - \hat{\theta} = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^r (r-i) u_i}{r n}$$

$$n = \sum_{i=0}^r u_i$$

$$\Phi: \mathbb{N}^r \rightarrow \mathcal{M} \subseteq \Delta_r^0$$

Maximum Likelihood
Estimator

$$(u_0, \dots, u_r) \mapsto \left(\underbrace{\binom{r}{j} \hat{\theta}^j (1-\hat{\theta})^{r-j}}_{\Phi_j} \right)_{j \in \{0, 1, \dots, r\}}$$

Φ_j , j -th coordinate of Φ

Φ is a rational function of $u = (u_0, \dots, u_r)$!

For discrete models and data, $u = (u_1, \dots, u_r)$

$$l(\theta | u) = \sum_{j=1}^r u_j \log p_j(\theta)$$

To optimize we differentiate and set $= 0$.

Score equations $\left\{ \sum_{j=1}^r \frac{u_j}{p_j} \frac{\partial p_j(\theta)}{\partial \theta_i} = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, d \right.$

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Theorem 2.2: Let $\mathcal{M}_{\Theta} \subseteq \Delta_{r-1}$ be a statistical model. For generic data, the number of solutions to the score eqns is independent of u .

Def 2.3: The number of solutions for generic u is called the maximum likelihood degree of the parametric statistical model $p: \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \Delta_{r-1}^0$

If the model $\mathcal{M}_{\mathbb{H}}$ has MLdegree one \Rightarrow its MLE is a rational function of u .

$$\begin{array}{l} \Phi: \mathbb{N}^r \longrightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\mathbb{H}} \\ \quad u \longmapsto \hat{p} \end{array} \quad \text{is rational}$$

Example 2.1

$$(u_0, \dots, u_r) \longmapsto \left(\binom{r}{j} \left(\frac{\sum i u_i}{r u_+} \right) \left(\frac{\sum (r-i) u_i}{r u_+} \right) \right)_{j \in \{0, 1, \dots, r\}}$$

Φ_j , j -th coordinate of Φ

Examples:

- The simplex Δ_n , $\bar{\Phi}: u \mapsto \frac{1}{u_0 + \dots + u_n} (u_0, \dots, u_n)$

- The independence model

$$\bar{\Phi}: (u_{00}, u_{01}, u_{10}, u_{11}) \mapsto \left(\frac{u_{0+} u_{+0}}{u_{++}^2}, \frac{u_{0+} u_{+1}}{u_{++}^2}, \frac{u_{1+} u_{+0}}{u_{++}^2}, \frac{u_{1+} u_{+1}}{u_{++}^2} \right)$$

$$u_{++} := \sum u_{ij}, \quad u_{i+} = u_{i0} + u_{i1}, \quad u_{+j} = u_{0j} + u_{1j}$$

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Q: Models with rational MLE are a class of algebraic varieties, can we characterize them?

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For $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$, we say (H, λ) is a **Horn pair**, if the rational map $\varphi_{(H, \lambda)}: \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$

$$u \mapsto (\lambda_0 (Hu)^{h_0}, \lambda_1 (Hu)^{h_1}, \dots, \lambda_n (Hu)^{h_n})$$

- maps positive vectors to positive vectors, and
- $\lambda_0 (Hu)^{h_0} + \lambda_1 (Hu)^{h_1} + \dots + \lambda_n (Hu)^{h_n} = 1$

The MLE as a Horn pair

$$\bar{\Phi}: (u_{00}, u_{01}, u_{10}, u_{11}) \mapsto \left(\frac{u_{0+} u_{+0}}{u_{++}^2}, \frac{u_{0+} u_{+1}}{u_{++}^2}, \frac{u_{1+} u_{+0}}{u_{++}^2}, \frac{u_{1+} u_{+1}}{u_{++}^2} \right)$$

$$\lambda = (4, 4, 4, 4)$$

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ -2 & -2 & -2 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Hu = \begin{pmatrix} u_{0+} \\ u_{1+} \\ u_{+0} \\ u_{+1} \\ -2u_{++} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\varphi_{(H, \lambda)} = \bar{\Phi}$$

Theorem (D., Marigliano, Sturmfels):

The following are equivalent for a statistical model \mathcal{M} with MLE $\bar{\Phi}$:

- (1) The model \mathcal{M} has rational MLE.
- (2) There exist a Horn pair (H, λ) such that \mathcal{M} is the image of the Horn map $\varphi_{(H, \lambda)}$.
- (3) Formulation in terms of toric geometry.

$$\bar{\Phi} = \varphi_{(H, \lambda)} \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}_{>0}^{n+1}.$$

Examples:

- Undirected decomposable graphical models
- Discrete Bayesian networks
- Staged tree models
- Multinomial model