

# Preclass

## 1. Maximum Likelihood Estimation of a Bernoulli Distribution

Suppose we have a random sample  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  where:

- $X_i = 0$  if a randomly selected student does not eat meat, and
- $X_i = 1$  if a randomly selected student does eat meat.

Assuming that the  $X_i$  are independent Bernoulli random variables with unknown parameter  $p$ , derive the maximum likelihood estimator of  $p$ , the proportion of students who eat meat.

The image shows a handwritten derivation on grid paper. It starts with the likelihood function  $L(p) = \binom{n}{x} p^x (1-p)^{n-x}$ . The next step is to take the log of the likelihood function, indicated by a blue arrow pointing to  $\log(p^x (1-p)^{n-x})$ . The binomial coefficient  $\binom{n}{x}$  is then discarded. This results in the log-likelihood function  $\log p^x + \log(1-p)^{n-x} = x \log p + (n-x) \log(1-p)$ . To find the maximum likelihood estimator, the derivative of the log-likelihood function with respect to  $p$  is set to zero:  $\frac{\partial}{\partial p} [x \log p + (n-x) \log(1-p)] = \frac{x}{p} - \frac{n-x}{1-p} = 0$ . Solving for  $p$  gives  $p = \frac{x}{n}$ , where  $x$  is labeled as the "number of success" and  $n$  is labeled as the "total number of trials".

## 2. Maximum Likelihood Estimation for a Normal Distribution

Derive the maximum likelihood estimate for a group of observations that is normally distributed, but with unknown mean and variance. How does the maximum likelihood estimate compare to the standard estimates of an unknown mean and variance?

For these questions, make sure your answers are uploaded to your personal repository **before** the start of class

(2)

$$\mu = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{n}$$

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2}{n}$$

Mean

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \sum_{i=1}^n \log\left(\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}}\right) - \frac{(x_i - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} - \frac{2(x_i - \mu)(-1)}{2\sigma^2}$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{x_i - \mu}{\sigma^2}$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu) = 0$$

Likelihood of a group

$$\prod_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x_i - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

log version

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \log\left(\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}}\right) - \frac{(x_i - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n x_i - n\mu = 0$$

$$\mu = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{n}$$

Std

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \ln\left(\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}}\right) - \frac{(x_i - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right]$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \frac{1}{\sigma} + \frac{(x_i - \mu)^2}{\sigma^3} \right] = 0$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n (-\sigma^2 + (x_i - \mu)^2) = 0$$

$$-\cancel{\sum_{i=1}^n \sigma^2} + n(x_i - \mu)^2 = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \ln\left(\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}}\right)$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \ln(\sigma\sqrt{2\pi})^{-1}$$

$$= -\frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} = -\frac{1}{\sigma}$$

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2}{n}$$

 $\cancel{\sigma^2}$