

Exercises: Likelihood methods for large samples <sup>a</sup>, <sup>b</sup>

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<sup>a</sup> Author: Georgios P. Karagiannis.<sup>b</sup> Acknowledgments to students in 2018 for spotting typos.**Exercise 1**

(★★) From Fatou-Lesbeque Lemma, prove Monotone Convergence theorem. (Hint: Use  $Y \equiv 0$ , use  $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n$  and  $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n$ )

**Exercise 2**

(★★) From Fatou-Lesbeque Lemma, prove Lesbeque Dominant Convergence theorem. (Hint: Use that  $-Y \leq -X_n$  and  $-Y \leq X_n$ , use  $\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n$  and  $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n$ )

**Exercise 3**

(★★) Let  $\mu$  be a constant. Show that  $X_n \xrightarrow{qm} \mu$  if and only if  $EX_n \rightarrow \mu$  and  $\text{Var}(X_n) \rightarrow 0$ , both in uni-variate and multivariate case.

**Exercise 4**

(★★) Consider that  $\sqrt{n}(X_n - \mu) \xrightarrow{D} Z$ , where  $Z \sim N(0, \Sigma)$  for  $\Sigma > 0$  (positive definite). Show that  $X_n \xrightarrow{P} \mu$ . (Hint: Use the concept 'bounded in probability')

**Exercise 5**

(★★) Consider a sequence of discrete r.v.  $\{X_n\}$  with probability  $P(X_n = k) = \frac{1}{n}$ , for  $k = 1/n, 2/n, \dots, n/n$ . Show that  $X_n \xrightarrow{D} X$  where  $X \sim U(0, 1)$ . (Hint: Just use the definition.)

**Exercise 6**

(★)

1. Show that

$$E_{\pi}(X - \theta)^T(X - \theta) = \text{Var}_{\pi}(X) + (E_{\pi}(X) - \theta)^T(E_{\pi}(X) - \theta)$$

, where  $\theta$  is a constant point, and  $X$  is a random variable  $X \sim d\pi(\cdot)$ .

2. Show that

$$E_{\pi}|X - \theta|^2 = \text{Var}_{\pi}(X) + |E_{\pi}(X) - \theta|^2$$

, where  $\theta$  is a constant point,  $X$  is a random variable  $X \sim d\pi(\cdot)$ , and  $|X| = \sqrt{X_1^2 + \dots + X_d^2}$  is the Euclidean norm.

## Exercise 7

(\*\*)

1. If  $X_1, X_2, \dots$  are IID in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  with distribution giving probability

$$P(X = x) = \begin{cases} \theta_1 & , \text{ if } x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \theta_2 & , \text{ if } x = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ \theta_1 + \theta_2 & , \text{ if } x = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{cases}$$

there  $\theta_1 + \theta_2 \leq 1$ . What is the asymptotic distribution of  $\bar{X}_n$  given the CLT?

2. If  $X_1, X_2, \dots$  are IID from a Poisson distribution  $\text{Poi}(\theta)$  distribution as

$$P(x|\theta) = \frac{e^{-\theta}\theta^x}{x!} 1(x \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\})$$

Let  $Z_n$  be the proportion of zeros observed  $Z_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n 1(X_j = 0)$ . What is the joint asymptotic distribution of  $(\bar{X}_n, Z_n)$

## Exercise 8

(\*\*\*Super difficult) (The autoregressive model) Consider that  $\{\epsilon_n\}$  are IID, with mean  $E(\epsilon_n) = \mu$ , and variance  $\text{Var}(\epsilon_n) = \sigma^2$ ,  $\forall n$ . A time series  $\{X_n\}_{n \geq 1}$  is modeled as  $X_n \sim \text{AR}(\beta)$  where  $\beta \in (-1, 1)$  if

$$X_n = \beta X_{n-1} + \epsilon_n; \text{ for } n \geq 2$$

$$X_1 = \epsilon_1$$

Show that  $\bar{X}_n \xrightarrow{\text{qm}} \mu/(1 - \beta)$

1. Show that  $\bar{X}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_j (1 - \beta^{n-j+1}) / (1 - \beta)$
2. Find  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E(\bar{X}_n) = ?$
3. Show that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{Var}(\bar{X}_n) = 0$
4. Show that  $\bar{X}_n \xrightarrow{\text{qm}} \mu/(1 - \beta)$

**[Hint]** (1.) Show that  $\bar{X}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_j (1 - \beta^{n-j+1}) / (1 - \beta)$  (2) Find  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E(\bar{X}_n) = \mu/(1 - \beta)$  ;  
 (3) Show that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{Var}(\bar{X}_n) = 0$ , (4.) ...

### Exercise 9

(\*\*) Prove that:

1. if  $Z \sim N(0, I)$  then  $\varphi_Z(t) = \exp(-\frac{1}{2}t^T t)$  , where  $Z \in \mathbb{R}^d$
2. if  $X \sim N(\mu, \Sigma)$  then  $\varphi_X(t) = \exp(it^T \mu - \frac{1}{2}t^T \Sigma t)$  , where  $X \in \mathbb{R}^d$

**Hint:** Assume as known that if  $Z \sim N(0, 1)$  then  $\varphi_Z(t) = \exp(-\frac{1}{2}t^2)$ , where  $Z \in \mathbb{R}$

### Exercise 10

(\*\*) Let  $X_i \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} F_X$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , and  $F_X = P(X \leq x)$ . Show that the empirical distribution function  $\hat{F}_X(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n 1(x \in [x_i, \infty))$  is a strongly consistent estimator of  $F_X$ .

The next exercise is from Problem Class 2

### Exercise 11

Consider random variables  $X, X_1, X_2, \dots$ , where  $\mu_n = E(X - \mu)^n$ , and  $\mu = E(X)$

1. Show that,

$$\sqrt{n} \left( \begin{bmatrix} \bar{X} \\ s_x^2 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \mu \\ \sigma^2 \end{bmatrix} \right) \xrightarrow{D} N \left( \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \sigma^2 & \mu_3 \\ \mu_3 & \mu_4 - \sigma^4 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

2. Show that the asymptotic distribution of the coefficient of variation  $\text{cv} = \frac{s_x}{\bar{X}}$ , is

$$\sqrt{n} \left( \frac{s_x}{\bar{X}} - \frac{\sigma}{\mu} \right) \xrightarrow{D} N \left( 0, \frac{\mu_4 - \sigma^4}{4\mu^2\sigma^2} - \frac{\mu_3}{\mu^3} + \frac{\sigma^4}{\mu^4} \right)$$

3. Show that the asymptotic distribution of the 3rd central moment  $m_3 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_j - \bar{X})^3$  is

$$\sqrt{n}(m_3 - \mu_3) \xrightarrow{D} N(0, \mu_6 - \mu_3^2 - 6\sigma^2\mu_4 + 9\sigma^6)$$

### Exercise 12

(★★) Assume  $X_1, X_2, X_3$  independent from Uniform distribution  $U(0, 1)$ . Compare the exact, Normal approximation, and Edgeworth approximation.

**Hint:** The exact result is  $P(X_1 + X_2 + x_3 \leq 2) = 0.8333$

The next exercise is from Homework 3

### Exercise 13

(★★★) Consider an  $M$ -way contingency table and consider the quantities obs. cell counts, cell probabilities, cell proportions in their vectorised forms as

$$\underset{\sim}{n} = (n_1, \dots, n_N)^T; \quad \underset{\sim}{\pi} = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_N)^T; \quad \underset{\sim}{p} = (p_1, \dots, p_N)^T$$

where  $n = \sum_{j=1}^N n_j$ , and  $p_j = n_j/n$ .

1. Consider a constant matrix  $C \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times N}$ , and show that

$$\sqrt{n}(C \log(\underset{\sim}{p}) - C \log(\underset{\sim}{\pi})) \xrightarrow{D} N(0, C \text{diag}(\underset{\sim}{\pi})^{-1} C^T - C 1 1^T C^T) \quad (1)$$

2. Consider a  $3 \times 3$  contingency table with probabilities  $(\pi_{i,j})$ . Find the joint asymptotic distribution of the vector of different log odd ratios

$$\log(\underset{\sim}{\theta}^C) = \begin{bmatrix} \log(\frac{\pi_{11}\pi_{22}}{\pi_{21}\pi_{12}}) \\ \log(\frac{\pi_{22}\pi_{33}}{\pi_{23}\pi_{32}}) \end{bmatrix}$$

### Exercise 14

(★★★) Consider a random sample  $X, X_1, X_2, \dots$  an IID sample with finite moments  $E(X) = 0$ , and  $E(X^4) < \infty$ .

1. Show that if  $m_1 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$  and  $m_2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2$  then

$$\sqrt{n} \left( \begin{bmatrix} m_1 \\ m_2 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \sigma^2 \end{bmatrix} \right) \xrightarrow{D} N(0, \Sigma)$$

$$\text{where } \Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \text{Var}(X) & \text{Cov}(X^2, X) \\ \text{Cov}(X^2, X) & \text{Var}(X^2) \end{bmatrix}$$

2. Find an  $(1 - a)\%$  asymptotic confidence interval for  $S_n^2$ .

The next exercise is from Homework 3

### Exercise 15

(★★) Consider an IID sample  $X, X_1, X_2, \dots$  with  $EX = 0$ ,  $EX^4 < \infty$ . Consider that

$$\sqrt{n} \frac{S_n^2 - \sigma^2}{\sqrt{EX^4 - \sigma^4}} \xrightarrow{D} N(0, 1) \quad (2)$$

where  $S_n^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2$ .

1. Find the asymptotic distribution of  $\log(S_n^2)$ .
2. Produce the  $1 - a$  asymptotic confidence interval for  $\log(\sigma_n^2)$ ; by performing suitable calculations, so that the boundaries of the confidence interval do not depend on any unknown moments of the real distribution.

### Exercise 16

(★★) Let function  $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\dot{g}(x)$  and  $\ddot{g}(x)$  are continuous in a neighborhood of  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ , and  $\dot{g}(\mu) = 0$ . Prove the following statement:

- If  $X_n \in \mathbb{R}$  is a sequence of random vectors such that  $\sqrt{n}(X_n - \mu) \xrightarrow{D} N(0, \sigma^2)$  then

$$n(g(X_n) - g(\mu)) \xrightarrow{D} \frac{\sigma^2 \ddot{g}(\mu)}{2} \chi_1^2$$

**Hint-1.** Use Taylor expansion of 2nd order.

**Hint-2.** The Taylor expansion of function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  around point  $x_0$  is:

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{k!} (x - x_0)^k f^{(k)}(x_0) + R_n(x)$$

where  $R_n(x) = \frac{1}{n!} \int_{x_0}^x (x-t)^n f^{(n)}(t) dt = o((x-x_0)^n)$  as  $x \rightarrow x_0$ , provided that the  $n$ -th derivative  $f^{(n)}(x)$  exists in some interval containing  $x_0$ .

The next exercise is from Homework 3

### Exercise 17

(★★) Consider random sample  $X, X_1, X_2, \dots$  IID from a Bernoulli distribution with probability of success  $p$ . Find the variance stabilization transformation for the estimator average  $\hat{p}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ .

### Exercise 18

Prove the Information inequality theorem:

Let  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$  random vector following distribution  $df_\theta(\cdot)$  labeled by a parameter  $\theta \in \Theta \subset \mathbb{R}^r$  and admitting PDF  $f(\cdot|\theta)$ . Consider an estimator  $\hat{\theta}_n := \hat{\theta}_n(x) \in \Theta \subset \mathbb{R}^r$  such that  $g(\theta) = E_{f_\theta}(\hat{\theta}_n)$  exists on  $\Theta$ . Assume that,  $\frac{d}{d\theta} f(x|\theta)$  exists ;  $\frac{d}{d\theta}$  can pass under the integral sign in  $\int f(x|\theta) dx$  and  $\int \hat{\theta}_n(x) f(x|\theta) dx$ . Then

$$\text{var}_{f_\theta}(\hat{\theta}_n(x)) \geq \frac{1}{n} \dot{g}(\theta) \mathcal{I}(\theta)^{-1} \dot{g}(\theta)^T \quad (3)$$

where  $\mathcal{I}(\theta)$  is the Fisher's information matrix.

- The quantity  $\frac{1}{n} \dot{g}(\theta) \mathcal{I}(\theta)^{-1} \dot{g}(\theta)^T$  is called Cramer-Rao lower bound (CRLB).

**Hint-1:** Use  $0 \leq \text{var}_{f_\theta}(\hat{\theta}_n - \dot{g}(\theta) \mathcal{I}(\theta)^{-1} \Psi(x, \theta)) = \dots$

**Hint-2:** Use  $\text{var}_{f_\theta}(A+B) = \text{var}_{f_\theta}(A) + \text{var}_{f_\theta}(B) + 2\text{cov}_{f_\theta}(A, B)$

### Exercise 19

Consider random sample  $x_1, \dots, x_n \stackrel{IID}{\sim} G(a, b)$ ,  $a > 0$ ,  $b > 0$  with PDF

$$f(x|a, b) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(a)b^a} x^{a-1} e^{-x/b} 1(x > 0)$$

1. Find the moment estimator  $\tilde{\theta}$  of  $\theta = (a, b)^T$  by using the first raw moment and the first central moment
2. Is the moment estimator  $\tilde{\theta}$  consistent and asymptotically Normal?

3. Find the one step estimator by Fisher scoring algorithm.

**Hint-1** Digamma function  $\psi(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \log \Gamma(x)$

**Hint-2** Trigamma function  $\psi_1(x) = \frac{d^2}{dx^2} \log \Gamma(x)$

**Hint-3**  $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\det(A)} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$

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### Exercise 20

Prove the following statement: Given that the assumptions of Cramer Theorem (for the Normality of MLE) are satisfied, and that  $\mathcal{I}(\theta)$  and  $\mathcal{J}_n(\theta)$  are continuous on  $\theta$ , then

$$\sqrt{n}\mathcal{I}(\theta_0)^{1/2}(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta_0) \xrightarrow{D} N(0, I) \quad (4)$$

$$\sqrt{n}\mathcal{I}(\hat{\theta}_n)^{1/2}(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta_0) \xrightarrow{D} N(0, I) \quad (5)$$

$$\mathcal{J}_n(\hat{\theta}_n)^{1/2}(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta_0) \xrightarrow{D} N(0, I) \quad (6)$$

where  $\hat{\theta}_n$  denotes the MLE,  $\theta_0$  denotes the true value of  $\theta$ , and  $A^{1/2}$  denotes the lower triangular matrix of the Cholesky decomposition of  $A$ ; i.e.,  $A = A^{1/2}(A^{1/2})^T$ .

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The next exercise is from Homework 4

### Exercise 21

(Log likelihood ratio statistic) Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  be IID random variables generated from a distribution  $f_\theta$  labeled by a  $d$ -dimensional parameter  $\theta \in \Theta \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ , and admitting PDF  $f(\cdot|\theta)$ . Assume the conditions from the Cramér Theorem are satisfied, and that  $\theta_0$  is the true value. Prove that

$$W_{LR}(\theta_0) = -2(\ell_n(\theta_0) - \ell_n(\hat{\theta}_n)) \xrightarrow{D} \chi_d^2$$

it is where  $\hat{\theta}_n$  is the MLE of  $\theta$ .

**Hint-1** Expand  $\ell_n(\theta_0)$  around  $\hat{\theta}_n$  by Taylor expansion

**Hint-2** Prove that  $W_{LR}(\theta_0) \xrightarrow{a.s} n(\theta_0 - \hat{\theta}_n)^T \mathcal{I}(\theta_0)(\theta_0 - \hat{\theta}_n)$

**Hint-3** Prove that  $W_{LR}(\theta_0) \xrightarrow{D} \chi_d^2$

The next exercise is from Homework 4

### Exercise 22

Let  $x_1, \dots, x_n \stackrel{IID}{\sim} f_\theta$  with unknown parameter  $\theta \in (0, \infty)$  and PDF

$$f(x|\theta) = \begin{cases} \theta \exp(-x) + (1 - \theta)x \exp(-x) & , x \geq 0 \\ 0 & , x < 0 \end{cases}$$

1. Calculate the moment estimator  $\tilde{\theta}_n$  of  $\theta$ , (I give you a bit of freedom here)
2. Calculate the asymptotic distribution of the  $\tilde{\theta}_n$
3. Find the 1-step estimator  $\check{\theta}_n$  of  $\theta$  such that it can be asymptotically efficient.

**Hint:** Recall that  $\Gamma(a) = \int_0^\infty x^{a-1} e^{-x} dx$ , and  $\Gamma(a) = (a-1)\Gamma(a-1)$

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The next exercise is from Homework 4

### Exercise 23

Let

$$y_i \stackrel{\text{ind}}{\sim} \text{Bin}(n, \pi_i)$$

where  $i = 1, \dots, N$ . Consider that the probability of success is modeled such as

$$\text{logit}(\pi_i) = x_i^T \theta \tag{7}$$

where  $\text{logit}(\pi_i) = \log(\frac{\pi_i}{1-\pi_i})$ . Here  $x_i = (x_{i,1}, \dots, x_{i,d})^T$  are known vectors containing the values of the  $d$  regressions at the  $i$ -th observation, and  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .

1. Show that

$$\pi_i = \frac{e^{x_i^T \theta}}{1 + e^{x_i^T \theta}}$$

2. Assume that the MLE  $\hat{\theta}$  of  $\theta$  is known/calculated. Show that the  $(1 - \alpha)$  Wald confidence interval for the unknown parameter  $\theta$ , by using the observed information matrix, is

$$\text{C.I.} : \{ \theta \in \mathbb{R}^d : (\hat{\theta}_n - \theta)^T X^T (\text{diag}_{\forall i} (n \hat{\pi}_i (1 - \hat{\pi}_i))) X (\hat{\theta}_n - \theta) \leq \chi_{d, 1-\alpha}^2 \}$$

where

$$\hat{\pi}_i = \frac{e^{x_i^T \hat{\theta}}}{1 + e^{x_i^T \hat{\theta}}}$$



$X$  is the so called design matrix from the regression

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{logit}(\pi_1) \\ \vdots \\ \text{logit}(\pi_N) \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \leftarrow x_1^T \rightarrow \\ \vdots \\ \leftarrow x_N^T \rightarrow \end{bmatrix}}_{=X} \theta$$

$$\text{and } \text{diag}_{\mathbb{V}_i}(\heartsuit_i) = \begin{bmatrix} \heartsuit_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \heartsuit_N \end{bmatrix}.$$

3. Find the score statistic rejection area for the hypothesis test  $H_0 : \theta = \theta_*$  versus  $H_1 : \theta \neq \theta_*$ .

#### Exercise 24

For  $i = 1, \dots, k$ , let  $x_{i,1}, \dots, x_{i,n} \stackrel{\text{IID}}{\sim} \text{Poi}(\theta_i)$ . Find the asymptotic likelihood ratio rejection area for testing the hypothesis

$$H_0 : \theta_1 = \dots = \theta_k$$

**Hint:** It is

$$f(x|\theta) = \frac{\theta^x e^{-\theta}}{x!} 1(x \in \mathbb{N})$$

#### Exercise 25

Let  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_c) \sim \text{Mult}(\pi_1, \dots, \pi_c)$ , with  $\pi_i \in (0, \infty)$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^c \pi_i = 1$ . Find the asymptotic likelihood ratio rejection area for testing the hypothesis

$$H_0 : \pi_1 = \dots = \pi_c = \frac{1}{c}$$

**Hint:** It is

$$f(x|\theta) = \binom{n}{x_1 \dots x_c} \prod_{i=1}^c \pi_i^{x_i}$$

The next exercise was addressed in the last Lecture in Term 1

### Exercise 26

(Very difficult) Consider a contingency table with  $N$  cells. Consider a Multinomial sampling scheme was used to collect  $n$  observations. Let  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_N)^T$  be the observed counts, and  $\pi = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_N)^T$  be the expected probabilities in  $N$  cells of a contingency table. Let the total number of observations be  $n = \sum_{i=1}^N y_i$ . Assume that

$$y \sim \text{Mult}(n, \pi) \quad (8)$$

where

$$f(y|n, \pi) = \binom{n}{y_1 \dots y_N} \prod_{i=1}^N \pi_i^{y_i}$$

Consider a log-linear model

$$\pi_i = \pi_i(\theta) = \frac{\exp(x_i^T \theta)}{\sum_{\forall k} \exp(x_k^T \theta)} \quad (9)$$

$\theta \in \Theta$  is a  $d$ -dimensional vector of unknown coefficients, and  $x_i = (x_{i,1}, \dots, x_{i,d})^T$  are the values of  $d$  regressors.

In a matrix form

$$\pi = \frac{\exp(X\theta)}{1_d^T \exp(X\theta)}$$

where

$$X = \begin{bmatrix} \leftarrow x_1^T \rightarrow \\ \vdots \\ \leftarrow x_N^T \rightarrow \end{bmatrix}$$

Assume that Cramer's Theorem conditions are satisfied. Consider that the MLE  $\hat{\theta}_n$  of  $\theta$  is computed/calculated, and that  $\theta_0$  is the unknown true value of  $\theta$ . Then

1. Show that

$$\frac{d\pi}{d\theta} = (\text{diag}(\pi) - \pi\pi^T)X$$

2. Show that the likelihood equations to find the MLE  $\hat{\theta}$  of  $\theta$  are such as

$$X^T y = nX^T \pi(\hat{\theta}_n)$$

Does it ring a bell?

3. Consider the  $j$ -th single observation  $\xi_j = (\xi_{j,1}, \dots, \xi_{j,N})^T$  where  $\xi_{j,i} = 1$  if it falls in cell  $i$  and  $\xi_{j,i} = 0$  if it does not fall in cell  $i$ . Write the probability distribution  $f(\xi_i|...) = ?$  in the form of the Multinomial distribution.
4. Calculate the asymptotic distribution of the MLE  $\hat{\theta}$  of  $\theta$ .

**Hint:** Use the fact that a single observation falls in only one cell, and use its probability.

5. Calculate the asymptotic distribution of cell probability estimators  $\hat{\pi}$  of  $\pi$ .
6. Calculate the Wald's  $(1 - a)$  CI for  $\theta$ , that results as an ellipsoid easy to compute or plot in 2D on 3D.

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**Exercise 27**

Show that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n} a_n\right)^n = \exp\left(\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} a_n\right)$$

provided that  $\frac{1}{n} a_n \rightarrow 0$ , as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Hint:** From Taylor expansion, it is

$$\log(1 + x) = x + o(x), \text{ as } x \rightarrow 0.$$