High Dimensional Probability Notes

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1 Random variables

1.1 Basic inequalities

First, we revisit the definition of a random variable as well as some basic inequalities that we learned in introductory statistics.

Definition 1.1.

Random variable Let $(\Omega, \Sigma.\mathbb{P})$ be a probability space. A random variable X is defined as a mapping from the sample space Ω to \mathbb{R} :

$$X: \Omega \to \mathbb{R} \tag{1}$$

 Σ is the σ -algebra containing the possible events (collection of subsets of Ω) and \mathbb{P} is a probability measure that assigns events with probabilities:

$$\mathbb{P}: \Sigma \to [0, 1] \tag{2}$$

For a given probability space $(\Omega, \Sigma, \mathbb{P})$ and a random variable $X : \Omega \to \mathbb{R}$, we will use the following basic notations throughout this note:

• $||X||_{L^p}$ - The p^{th} root of the p^{th} moment of the random variable X.

$$||X||_{L^p} = (\mathbb{E}|X|^p)^{1/p}, \ p \in (0, \infty)$$
 (3)

$$||X||_{L^{\infty}} = \operatorname{ess\,sup}|X| \tag{4}$$

• $L^p(\Omega, \Sigma, \mathbb{P})$ - The space of random variables X satisfying:

$$L^{p}(\Omega, \Sigma, \mathbb{P}) = \left\{ X : \Omega \to \mathbb{R} \middle| \|X\|_{L^{p}} < \infty \right\}$$
 (5)

Some basic inequalities and identities:

• 1. Jensen's Inequality - For a random variable X and a convex function $\varphi : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$, we have:

$$\varphi(\mathbb{E}X) \leqslant \mathbb{E}\varphi(X) \tag{6}$$

• 2. Monotonicity of L^p norm - For a random variable X:

$$||X||_{L^p} \leqslant ||X||_{L^q}, \ 0 \leqslant p \leqslant q \leqslant \infty \tag{7}$$

• 3. Minkowski's Inequality - For $1 \le p \le \infty$ and two random variables X, Y in $L^p(\Omega, \Sigma, \mathbb{P})$ space:

$$||X + Y||_{L^p} \le ||X||_{L^p} + ||Y||_{L^p} \tag{8}$$

• 4. Holder's Inequality - For $p, q \in [1, \infty]$ such that 1/p + 1/q = 1. Then, for random variables $X \in L^p(\Omega, \Sigma, \mathbb{P})$ and $Y \in L^q(\Omega, \Sigma, \mathbb{P})$, we have:

$$|\mathbb{E}XY| \leqslant ||X||_{L^p} \cdot ||Y||_{L^q} \tag{9}$$

• 5. Markov's Inequality - For a non-negative random variable X and t > 0, we have:

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geqslant t) \leqslant \frac{\mathbb{E}X}{t} \tag{10}$$

• 6. Chebyshev's Inequality - For a random variable X with mean μ and variance σ^2 . Then, for any t > 0, we have:

$$\mathbb{P}(|X - \mu| \ge t) \le \frac{\sigma^2}{t^2} \tag{11}$$

• 7. Integral Identity - Let X be a non-negative random variable, we have:

$$\mathbb{E}X = \int_0^\infty \mathbb{P}(X > t)dt \tag{12}$$

Exercises

Exercise 1.1.1: Generalized Integral Identity

Let X be a random variable (not necessarily non-negative). Prove the following identity:

$$\mathbb{E}X = \int_0^\infty \mathbb{P}(X > t)dt - \int_{-\infty}^0 \mathbb{P}(X < t)dt \tag{13}$$

Solution (Exercise 1.1.1).

Exercise 1.1.2: p^{th} -moments via tails

Let X be a random variable and $p \in (0, \infty)$. Show that:

$$\mathbb{E}|X|^p = \int_0^\infty pt^{p-1}\mathbb{P}(|X| > t)dt \tag{14}$$

Solution (Exercise 1.1.2).

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1.2 Limit Theorems

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