

Exponential Family

Single parameter exponential family

A single-parameter exponential family is a set of probability distributions whose probability density function (or probability mass function, for the case of a discrete distribution) can be expressed in the form

$$f_{\theta}(y) = h(y) \times \exp[\eta(\theta)T(y) - B(\theta)]$$

K-parameter exponential family

A k-parameter exponential family is a set of probability distributions whose probability density function (or probability mass function, for the case of a discrete distribution) can be expressed in the form

$$f_{\theta}(y) = h(y) \times \exp \left[\sum_{i=1}^k \eta_i(\theta) T_i(y) - B(\theta) \right]$$

Canonical Form

For an distribution in exponential family, if $\eta(\theta)$ and $T(y)$ are the identity functions, and $f_{\theta}(y)$ can be rewritten as

$$f_{\theta}(y) = \exp \left[\frac{y\theta - b(\theta)}{\phi} + c(y, \phi) \right]$$

where $\phi, b(\cdot)$ and $c(\cdot)$ are known

then θ is called the canonical parameter (or natural parameter).

Bernoulli(p)

The probability density function is

$$f_p(y) = p^y(1-p)^{1-y}$$

Rewrite $f_p(y)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} f_p(y) &= p^y(1-p)^{1-y} \\ &= \exp(\ln[p^y(1-p)^{1-y}]) \\ &= \exp[y \times \ln(p) + (1-y) \times \ln(1-p)] \\ &= \exp[y \times \ln(p) + \ln(1-p) - y \times \ln(1-p)] \\ &= 1 \times \exp\left[y \times \ln\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right) + \ln(1-p)\right] \\ &= 1 \times \exp[\theta \times y - \ln(1 + e^\theta)] \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\theta = \ln\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right), p = \frac{e^\theta}{1 + e^\theta}$$

$$h(y) = 1$$

$$\eta(\theta) = \theta$$

$$T(y) = y$$

$$B(\theta) = \ln(1 + e^\theta)$$

Canonical form

$$\begin{aligned} f_\theta(y) &= \exp[\theta y - \ln(1 + e^\theta)] \\ &= \exp\left[\frac{\theta y - \ln(1 + e^\theta)}{1} + 0\right] \\ &= \exp\left[\frac{y\theta - b(\theta)}{\phi} + c(y, \phi)\right] \end{aligned}$$

where

$$b(\theta) = \ln(1 + e^\theta)$$

$$\phi = 1$$

$$c(y, \phi) = 0$$

Binomial(n, p)

The probability density function is

$$f_p(y) = \binom{n}{y} p^y (1-p)^{1-y}$$

Rewrite $f_p(y)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} f_p(y) &= \binom{n}{y} p^y (1-p)^{n-y} \\ &= \binom{n}{y} \exp(\ln[p^y (1-p)^{n-y}]) \\ &= \binom{n}{y} \exp[y \times \ln(p) + (n-y) \times \ln(1-p)] \\ &= \binom{n}{y} \exp[y \times \ln(p) + n \times \ln(1-p) - y \times \ln(1-p)] \\ &= \binom{n}{y} \times \exp\left[y \times \ln\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right) + n \times \ln(1-p)\right] \\ &= \binom{n}{y} \times \exp[\theta \times y - n \times \ln(1+e^\theta)] \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\theta = \ln\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right), \quad p = \frac{e^\theta}{1+e^\theta}$$

$$h(y) = \binom{n}{y}$$

$$\eta(\theta) = \theta$$

$$T(y) = y$$

$$B(\theta) = n \times \ln(1+e^\theta)$$

Canonical form

$$\begin{aligned} f_\theta(y) &= \binom{n}{y} \times \exp[\theta \times y - n \times \ln(1+e^\theta)] \\ &= \exp\left[\frac{\theta y - n \times \ln(1+e^\theta)}{1} + \ln\left(\binom{n}{y}\right)\right] \\ &= \exp\left[\frac{y\theta - b(\theta)}{\phi} + c(y, \phi)\right] \end{aligned}$$

where

$$b(\theta) = n \times \ln(1+e^\theta)$$

$$\phi = 1$$

$$c(y, \phi) = \ln\left(\binom{n}{y}\right)$$

Exponential(λ)

The probability density function is

$$f_{\lambda}(y) = \lambda e^{-\lambda y}$$

Rewrite $f_{\lambda}(y)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} f_{\lambda}(y) &= \exp[\ln(\lambda e^{-\lambda y})] \\ &= 1 \times \exp[-\lambda y + \ln(\lambda)] \\ &= 1 \times \exp[\theta y + \ln(-\theta)] \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\theta = -\lambda, \lambda = -\theta$$

$$h(y) = 1$$

$$\eta(\theta) = \theta$$

$$T(y) = y$$

$$B(\theta) = -\ln(-\theta)$$

Canonical form

$$\begin{aligned} f_{\theta}(y) &= \exp[\theta y + \ln(-\theta)] \\ &= \exp\left[\frac{\theta y + \ln(-\theta)}{1} + 0\right] \\ &= \exp\left[\frac{y\theta - b(\theta)}{\phi} + c(y, \phi)\right] \end{aligned}$$

where

$$b(\theta) = -\ln(-\theta)$$

$$\phi = 1$$

$$c(y, \phi) = 0$$

Poisson(λ)

The probability density function is

$$f_{\lambda}(y) = \frac{\lambda^y e^{-\lambda}}{y!}$$

Rewrite $f_{\lambda}(y)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} f_{\lambda}(y) &= \frac{1}{y!} \exp[\ln(\lambda^y e^{-\lambda})] \\ &= \frac{1}{y!} \exp[y \ln(\lambda) - \lambda] \\ &= \frac{1}{y!} \times \exp(\theta y - e^{\theta}) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\theta = \ln(\lambda), \lambda = e^{\theta}$$

$$h(y) = \frac{1}{y!}$$

$$\eta(\theta) = \theta$$

$$T(y) = y$$

$$B(\theta) = e^{\theta}$$

Canonical form

$$\begin{aligned} f_{\theta}(y) &= \frac{1}{y!} \times \exp(\theta y - e^{\theta}) \\ &= \exp \left[\frac{\theta y - e^{\theta}}{1} - \ln(y!) \right] \\ &= \exp \left[\frac{y\theta - b(\theta)}{\phi} + c(y, \phi) \right] \end{aligned}$$

where

$$b(\theta) = e^{\theta}$$

$$\phi = 1$$

$$c(y, \phi) = -\ln(y!)$$

Normal(μ, σ^2)

The probability density function is

$$f_{\mu, \sigma^2}(y) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (y - \mu)^2 \right]$$

Rewrite $f_{\mu, \sigma^2}(y)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} f_{\lambda}(y) &= \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (y - \mu)^2 \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (y^2 + \mu^2 - 2\mu y) - \ln(\sigma) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left[-\frac{y^2}{2\sigma^2} - \frac{\mu^2}{2\sigma^2} + \frac{\mu y}{\sigma^2} - \ln(\sigma) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left[\left(\frac{\mu y}{\sigma^2} - \frac{y^2}{2\sigma^2} \right) - \left(\ln(\sigma) + \frac{\mu^2}{2\sigma^2} \right) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left[(\theta_1 y + \theta_2 y^2) - \left(-\frac{1}{2} \ln(-2\theta_2) - \frac{\theta_1^2}{4\theta_2} \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\theta_1 = \frac{\mu}{\sigma^2}, \theta_2 = -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}$$

$$\mu = -\frac{\theta_1}{2\theta_2}, \sigma^2 = -\frac{1}{2\theta_2}$$

$$h(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$$

$$\eta_1(\theta_1, \theta_2) = \theta_1$$

$$T_1(y) = y$$

$$\eta_2(\theta_1, \theta_2) = \theta_2$$

$$T_2(y) = y^2$$

$$B(\mu, \sigma^2) = -\frac{1}{2} \ln(-2\theta_2) - \frac{\theta_1^2}{4\theta_2}$$

Normal(μ, σ^2), σ^2 is known

The probability density function is

$$f_{\mu}(y) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (y - \mu)^2 \right]$$

Rewrite $f_{\mu}(y)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} f_{\lambda}(y) &= \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (y - \mu)^2 \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (y^2 + \mu^2 - 2\mu y) - \ln(\sigma) \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left(-\frac{\mu^2}{2\sigma^2} + \frac{\mu y}{\sigma^2} \right) \times \exp \left(-\frac{y^2}{2\sigma^2} - \ln(\sigma) \right) \\ &= \frac{\exp \left(-\frac{y^2}{2\sigma^2} \right)}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left(\frac{\mu y}{\sigma^2} - \frac{\mu^2}{2\sigma^2} \right) \\ &= \frac{\exp \left(-\frac{y^2}{2\sigma^2} \right)}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left[\left(\theta y - \frac{(\theta\sigma^2)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right) \right] \\ &= \frac{\exp \left(-\frac{y^2}{2\sigma^2} \right)}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left[\left(\theta y - \frac{\sigma^2\theta^2}{2} \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\theta = \frac{\mu}{\sigma^2}, \mu = \theta\sigma^2$$

$$h(y) = \frac{\exp \left(-\frac{y^2}{2\sigma^2} \right)}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}}$$

$$\eta(\theta) = \theta$$

$$T(y) = y$$

$$B(\theta) = \frac{\sigma^2\theta^2}{2}$$

Canonical form

$$\begin{aligned} f_{\theta}(y) &= \frac{\exp \left(-\frac{y^2}{2\sigma^2} \right)}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left(\frac{\mu y}{\sigma^2} - \frac{\mu^2}{2\sigma^2} \right) \\ &= \exp \left[\frac{\mu y - \frac{1}{2}\mu^2}{\sigma^2} + \left(-\frac{y^2}{2\sigma^2} \right) - \ln(\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}) \right] = \exp \left[\frac{y\theta - b(\theta)}{\phi} + c(y, \phi) \right] \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\theta = \mu$$

$$b(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \theta^2$$

$$\phi = \sigma^2$$

$$c(y, \phi) = \left(-\frac{y^2}{2\sigma^2} \right) - \ln(\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}) = -\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{y^2}{\phi} \right) - \ln(2\pi\phi)^{\frac{1}{2}} = -\frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{y^2}{\phi} + \ln(2\pi\phi) \right]$$