

## Extra Assignment 2

### Q1. [40 pts] Bias and Variance of MLE

Let  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  be a random sample of size  $n$  from a distribution with probability density function on  $(0, +\infty)$

$$p(x | \theta) = \frac{1}{\theta} \exp\left(-\frac{x}{\theta}\right) \quad (1)$$

with  $\theta > 0$ . As the density function above applies only to  $(0, +\infty)$ , this means  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n > 0$ . In addition, it can be shown that for  $x \sim p(x | \theta)$  above,  $E[x^k] = k! \cdot \theta^k$  for any  $k \geq 0$ .

(a) [10 pts] Find the maximum likelihood estimator  $\theta_{MLE}$  of  $\theta$ .

**Answer:**

$$L(\theta | x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \sum [1/\theta \exp(-x_i/\theta)] = \theta^{-n} \exp(-\sum x_i/\theta)$$

Taking the logarithm of both sides, we have:

$$\log L(\theta | x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = -n \log \theta - \sum x_i/\theta$$

To find the maximum likelihood estimator of  $\theta$ , we need to find the value of  $\theta$  that maximizes the above expression. Taking the derivative of the above expression with respect to  $\theta$ , we get:

$$d/d\theta \log L(\theta | x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = -n/\theta + (\sum x_i)/(\theta^2)$$

Setting the above expression to zero, we get:

$$n/\theta = (\sum x_i)/(\theta^2)$$

Solving for  $\theta$ , we get:

$$\theta_{MLE} = (\sum x_i)/n$$

Therefore, the maximum likelihood estimator of  $\theta$  is  $\theta_{MLE} = (\sum x_i)/n$ .

(b) [10 pts] Show that  $\theta_{MLE}$  is an unbiased estimator.

**Answer:**

To show that  $\theta_{MLE}$  is an unbiased estimator of  $\theta$ , we need to show that the expected value of  $\theta_{MLE}$  is equal to  $\theta$ .

We have:

$$E[\theta_{MLE}] = E[(\sum x_i)/n]$$

Since the expected value is a linear operator, we can write:

$$E[\theta_{MLE}] = (1/n) E[\sum x_i]$$

Now, using the linearity of the expected value operator again, we have:

$$E[\sum x_i] = \sum E[x_i]$$

From the problem statement, we know that  $E[x_i] = \theta$ , so we have:

$$E[\theta_{MLE}] = (1/n) \sum \theta$$

Simplifying the above expression, we get:

$$E[\theta_{MLE}] = \theta$$

Therefore, the maximum likelihood estimator  $\theta_{MLE}$  is an unbiased estimator of  $\theta$ .

## Extra Assignment 2

(c) [10 pts] Find the variance  $\text{Var}(\theta_{\text{MLE}})$  of this estimator.

**Answer:**

To find the variance of  $\theta_{\text{MLE}}$ , we need to use the formula:

$$\text{Var}(\theta_{\text{MLE}}) = E[(\theta_{\text{MLE}} - E[\theta_{\text{MLE}}])^2]$$

We know from the previous part that  $E[\theta_{\text{MLE}}] = \theta$ , so we can simplify the above expression as:

$$\text{Var}(\theta_{\text{MLE}}) = E[(\theta_{\text{MLE}} - \theta)^2]$$

Substituting the expression for  $\theta_{\text{MLE}}$ , we have:

$$\text{Var}(\theta_{\text{MLE}}) = E[(\sum x_i / n - \theta)^2]$$

Expanding the above expression, we get:

$$\text{Var}(\theta_{\text{MLE}}) = E[(\sum x_i^2 / n^2) - 2(\sum x_i) / n \theta + \theta^2]$$

Since the expected value is a linear operator, we can write:

$$\text{Var}(\theta_{\text{MLE}}) = (1/n^2) E[\sum x_i^2] - (2\theta/n) E[\sum x_i] + \theta^2$$

Using the fact that  $E[x_i] = \theta$  and  $E[x_i^2] = 2\theta^2$ , we have:

$$\text{Var}(\theta_{\text{MLE}}) = (2\theta^2/n) - (2\theta^2/n) + \theta^2$$

Simplifying the above expression, we get:

$$\text{Var}(\theta_{\text{MLE}}) = \theta^2/n$$

Therefore, the variance of  $\theta_{\text{MLE}}$  is  $\theta^2/n$ .

(d) [10 pts] Find the mean square error of  $\theta_{\text{MLE}}$ , which is defined as  $E[(\theta_{\text{MLE}} - \theta)^2]$ .

Hint: Use results of parts (b) and (c) and the identity  $\text{Var}(z) = E[z^2] - E^2[z]$  for any random variables  $z$ .

**Answer:**

We can use the identity  $\text{Var}(z) = E[z^2] - E^2[z]$  to find the mean square error of  $\theta_{\text{MLE}}$ :

$$E[(\theta_{\text{MLE}} - \theta)^2] = \text{Var}(\theta_{\text{MLE}}) + [E[\theta_{\text{MLE}}] - \theta]^2$$

From part (c), we know that  $\text{Var}(\theta_{\text{MLE}}) = \theta^2/n$ .

From part (b), we know that  $E[\theta_{\text{MLE}}] = \theta$ .

Substituting the above values in the equation, we have:

$$E[(\theta_{\text{MLE}} - \theta)^2] = \theta^2/n + [\theta - \theta]^2$$

Simplifying the above expression, we get:

$$E[(\theta_{\text{MLE}} - \theta)^2] = \theta^2/n$$

Therefore, the mean square error of  $\theta_{\text{MLE}}$  is  $\theta^2/n$ .

## Extra Assignment 2

### Q2. [40 pts] MLE on Bayesian Net

Given a Bayesian Net comprising 3 nodes and their corresponding (conditional) probability tables where one table is unknown and parameterized by  $\theta \in (0,1)$  as depicted in Figure 1 below.

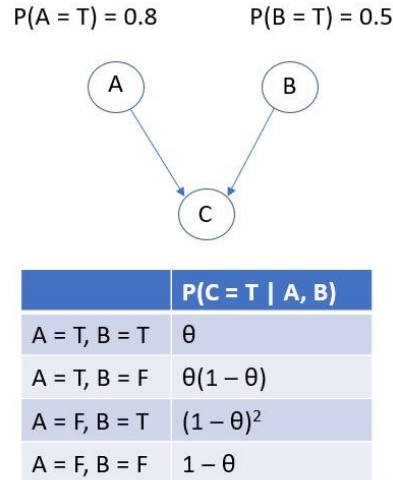


Figure 1: Bayesian Network

- (a) [20 pts] Derive  $P(A = T, C = T)$  and  $P(A = F, C = T)$  as functions of  $\theta$ .

**Answer:**

$P(A=T) = 0.8$  and  $P(B=T) = 0.5$  are given.

For  $P(A=T, C=T)$ , we need to consider the cases where  $A=T$  and  $C=T$ , given that  $B$  can be either  $T$  or  $F$ .

Using the conditional probability table for  $C$ , we have:

$$P(C=T \mid A=T, B=T) = \theta$$

$$P(C=T \mid A=T, B=F) = \theta(1-\theta)$$

Therefore, we can compute  $P(A=T, C=T)$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(A=T, C=T) &= P(C=T \mid A=T, B=T) \cdot P(B=T) \cdot P(A=T) + P(C=T \mid A=T, B=F) \cdot P(B=F) \cdot P(A=T) \\
 &= \theta \cdot 0.5 \cdot 0.8 + \theta(1-\theta) \cdot 0.5 \cdot 0.8 \\
 &= 0.4\theta + 0.4\theta(1-\theta) \\
 &= 0.4\theta + 0.4\theta - 0.4\theta^2 \\
 &= 0.8\theta - 0.4\theta^2
 \end{aligned}$$

For  $P(A=F, C=T)$ , we need to consider the cases where  $A=F$  and  $C=T$ , given that  $B$  can be either  $T$  or  $F$ .

Using the conditional probability table for  $C$ , we have:

$$P(C=T \mid A=F, B=T) = (1-\theta)^2$$

$$P(C=T \mid A=F, B=F) = 1-\theta$$

Therefore, we can compute  $P(A=F, C=T)$  as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(A=F, C=T) &= P(C=T \mid A=F, B=T) \cdot P(B=T) \cdot P(A=F) + P(C=T \mid A=F, B=F) \cdot P(B=F) \cdot P(A=F) \\
 &= (1-\theta)^2 \cdot 0.5 \cdot 0.2 + (1-\theta) \cdot 0.5 \cdot 0.2
 \end{aligned}$$

## Extra Assignment 2

$$= 0.1 - 0.3\theta + 0.3\theta^2$$

(b) [20 pts] Suppose we are given a set  $D = (D_1, D_2)$  of two independent snapshots of  $(A, C)$  as follow:

1.  $D_1 = (A = T, C = T)$

2.  $D_2 = (A = F, C = T)$

Derive  $P(D | \theta)$  using the result of part (a) and find  $\theta_{MLE} = \operatorname{argmax} P(D | \theta)$ .

**Answer:**

$$P(D|\theta) = P(D_1|\theta) \cdot P(D_2|\theta)$$

$$= (0.8\theta - 0.4\theta^2) \cdot (0.1 - 0.3\theta + 0.3\theta^2)$$

To find  $\theta_{MLE}$ , we need to maximize the likelihood function  $P(D|\theta)$  with respect to  $\theta$ :

$$\theta_{MLE} = \operatorname{argmax} P(D|\theta)$$

Taking the derivative of  $P(D|\theta)$  with respect to  $\theta$ , we get:

$$d/d\theta P(D|\theta) = 0.24\theta^3 - 0.38\theta^2 + 0.14\theta - 0.04$$

Setting this derivative to zero to find the maximum, we get:

$$0.24\theta^3 - 0.38\theta^2 + 0.14\theta - 0.04 = 0$$

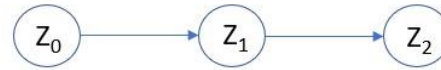
Solving this equation for  $\theta$ , we get:

$$\theta_{MLE} \approx 0.728$$

## Extra Assignment 2

### Q3. [20 pts] MLE on Markov Chain

Consider the first-order Markov chain in Fig. 2 below. At each step  $i$ , the (random) state  $Z_i$  of the chain at step  $i$  can take any values in  $\{0,1,2\}$ . The probability of moving to  $Z_{i+1} = v$  from  $Z_i = u$  is detailed in the transition matrix in Fig. 2, which is parameterized by a parameter  $\theta \in (0,1)$ .



$$Z_i \in \{0, 1\}$$

	0	1
0	$\theta$	$1 - \theta$
1	$1 - \theta$	$\theta$

Transition Matrix

$$P(Z_{i+1} = v \mid Z_i = u) = T_{uv}$$

where  $T_{uv}$  = the value at row  $u$  and column  $v$  of  $T$

Figure 2: First-Order Markov Chain

- (a) [10 pts] Given  $P(Z_0 = 0) = 1/4$  and  $P(Z_0 = 1) = 3/4$ , compute  $P(Z_2 = 0)$  and  $P(Z_2 = 1)$  as a function of  $\theta$ .

Hint: Use the filtering (without observation) formulation described in the Recitation of Week 11.

**Answer:**

$$\alpha_1(u) = P(Z_1 = u) = T_{0u} * P(Z_0 = 0) + T_{1u} * P(Z_0 = 1)$$

$$\alpha_i(u) = \sum_v (T_{vu} * \alpha_{i-1}(v)), i > 1$$

Using the above formula, we can compute  $\alpha_1(0)$  and  $\alpha_1(1)$  as follows:

$$\alpha_1(0) = T_{00} * P(Z_0 = 0) + T_{10} * P(Z_0 = 1) = \theta * 1/4 + (1 - \theta) * 3/4 = (3 - 2\theta)/4$$

$$\alpha_1(1) = T_{01} * P(Z_0 = 0) + T_{11} * P(Z_0 = 1) = (1 - \theta) * 1/4 + \theta * 3/4 = (2\theta + 1)/4$$

Next, we can compute  $\alpha_2(0)$  and  $\alpha_2(1)$  using the recursive formula:

$$\alpha_2(0) = T_{00} * \alpha_1(0) + T_{10} * \alpha_1(1) = \theta * (3 - 2\theta)/4 + (1 - \theta) * (2\theta + 1)/4 = (1 + 4\theta - 4\theta^2)/4$$

$$\alpha_2(1) = T_{01} * \alpha_1(0) + T_{11} * \alpha_1(1) = (1 - \theta) * (3 - 2\theta)/4 + \theta * (2\theta + 1)/4 = (4\theta^2 - 4\theta + 3)/4$$

Therefore, we have:

$$P(Z_2 = 0) = \alpha_2(0) = (1 + 4\theta - 4\theta^2)/4$$

$$P(Z_2 = 1) = \alpha_2(1) = (4\theta^2 - 4\theta + 3)/4$$

- (b) [10 pts] Suppose we are given 3 independent observations of  $Z_2$  where two of them have value 1 while one of them has value 0. Find the maximum likelihood estimator  $\theta_{MLE}$  of  $\theta$ .

## Extra Assignment 2

Hint: Find  $\theta$  such that  $P(Z_2 = 0) \cdot P(Z_2 = 1)^2$  is maximized.

**Answer:**

The likelihood function is given by:

$$L(\theta) = P(Z_2 = 0) \cdot P(Z_2 = 1)^2$$

Now, let's find the maximum likelihood estimator of  $\theta$  by maximizing this likelihood function.

$$P(Z_2 = 0) = 1 - \theta$$

$$P(Z_2 = 1) = \theta$$

Substituting these values in the likelihood function, we get:

$$L(\theta) = (1 - \theta) \cdot \theta^2$$

Taking the derivative of  $L(\theta)$  with respect to  $\theta$ , we get:

$$d/d\theta L(\theta) = 2\theta - 3\theta^2$$

Setting this derivative to zero to find the maximum, we get:

$$2\theta - 3\theta^2 = 0$$

$$2\theta = 3\theta^2$$

$$\theta = 2/3$$

Therefore, the maximum likelihood estimator of  $\theta$  is  $\theta_{MLE} = 2/3$ .