

Assignment 7

AI1110: Probability and Random Variables

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Question: The random variable X has the Erlang density $f(x) = c^4 \cdot x^3 \cdot e^{-cx}$. We observe the samples $X_i = 3.1, 3.4, 3.3$. Find the ML estimate c .

Solution: Let's generalize and find ML. Let's take for n random values the p.d.f will be

$$f(x, c) = c^4 \cdot x^3 \cdot e^{-cx} \quad (1)$$

$$f(x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n, c) = c^{4n} \cdot (x_1 \dots x_n)^3 \cdot e^{-nc\hat{x}} \quad (2)$$

Where \hat{x} is the mean of random variable X .

Now to find ML of this function partially differentiate it w.r.t c .

$$\frac{\partial f(X, c)}{\partial c} = \frac{\partial c^{4n} \cdot (x_1 \dots x_n)^3 \cdot e^{-nc\hat{x}}}{\partial c} \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{\partial f(X, c)}{\partial c} = n \cdot c^{4n-1} \cdot x^3 e^{-cn\hat{x}} (4 - c\hat{x}) \quad (4)$$

for ML equate partial differentiation to zero and that value is the estimate of c ,

$$n \cdot c^{4n-1} \cdot x^3 e^{-cn\hat{x}} (4 - c\hat{x}) = 0 \quad (5)$$

$$4 - c\hat{x} = 0 \quad (6)$$

$$c = \frac{4}{\hat{x}} \quad (7)$$

given that, $X_i = 3.1, 3.4, 3.3$,

$$\hat{x} = \frac{3.1 + 3.3 + 3.4}{3} \quad (8)$$

$$\hat{x} = 3.27 \quad (9)$$

Now, We can Assume that

$$c = \frac{4}{\hat{x}} \quad (10)$$

$$c = \frac{4}{3.27} \quad (11)$$

$$c = 1.224. \quad (12)$$