

§3.7 Hierarchical models

Ex 2: Number N of fish Y catches is $\text{Poisson}(\lambda)$.

Y is the number of HS in N tosses of a coin with $P(H) = p$.

Comment on Ex. 2. In this example,

a) we can say Y is binomial (N, p) : given $N=n$, Y is binomial (n, p) .

b) alternatively to a), Y can be modeled as

$$(3) \left\{ Y = \sum_{i=1}^N X_i \right\}, \text{ where } X_i \text{ are independent Bernoulli}(p), \text{ independent of } N.$$

Again, given $N=n$, Y is the sum of n independent r.v.,

$$Y = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \text{ is binomial } (n, p):$$

$$\begin{aligned} E(Y|N=n) &= \sum_{i=1}^n E(X_i) = n \cdot p, \quad \text{Var}(Y|N=n) = \text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i) = n \cdot p q. \end{aligned}$$

Properties of conditional expectations

$$1. E(Y) = E[E(Y|X)]; \quad E[k(X)Y] = E[k(X)E(Y|X)]$$

$$2. \text{ Recall } E(Y|X) = h(X), \text{ where } h(x) = E(Y|X=x).$$

$E(Y|X)$ is the best mean square estimate of Y by a function of X :

$$E[(Y - h(X))^2] \leq E[(Y - g(X))^2] \text{ for any other } g(X).$$

$$\text{Why? } E[(Y - g(X))^2] = E[(Y - h(X) + (h(X) - g(X)))^2]$$

Why? $E[(Y - g(X))^2] = E\left[(Y - h(X) + \underbrace{(h(X) - g(X))}_{k(X)})^2\right]$

$$= E[(Y - h(X))^2] + E[k(X)^2] + 2E[k(X)(Y - h(X))] = 0$$

$\geq E[(Y - h(X))^2]$, because $h(X) = E(Y|X)$, and

$$E[k(X)(Y - h(X))] = E[k(X)Y] - E[k(X)h(X)] = 0.$$

More properties

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{a) } E[g(X)|X] = g(X) \\ E[g(X)Y|X] = g(X)E[Y|X] \end{array} \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{Given } X, \\ g(X) \text{ is a 'constant'}. \end{array} \right.$$

Indeed, $E[g(X)Y|X=x] = E[g(x)Y|X=x] = g(x)E[Y|X=x].$

b) Conditional expectation is expectation: it has all expectation properties.

c) If X, Y are independent, then $P(Y=y|X=x) = \underline{P(Y=y)},$

$$E(Y|X=x) = E(Y), \quad \underline{E(Y|X) = E(Y)}.$$

3.8 Sums of r.v

Thm 1. Let $f(x, y)$ be joint pdf of X, Y . Then

$$f_{X+Y}(z) = \sum_x f(x, z-x) = \sum_y f(z-y, y), \quad -\infty < z < \infty.$$

Proof. $\{X+Y=z\} = \bigcup_x \{X+Y=z, X=x\}$ disjoint implies

$$\begin{aligned} P(X+Y=z) &= \sum_x P(\underbrace{X+Y=z, X=x}) = \sum_x P(Y=z-x, X=x) \\ &= \sum_x f(x, z-x). \end{aligned}$$

Corollary. If X, Y are independent, then

$$f_{X+Y}(z) = \sum_x f_X(x) f_Y(z-x) = \sum_y f_X(z-y) f_Y(y),$$

because $f(x, y) = f_X(x) f_Y(y)$.

Ex 1. Let $X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$, $Y \sim \text{Poisson}(\mu)$ be independent. Show that $X+Y \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda+\mu)$.

Answer. Range of $X+Y$ is $\{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$.

$$f_X(x) = e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!}, x \geq 0, \quad f_Y(y) = e^{-\mu} \frac{\mu^y}{y!}, y \geq 0. \quad \text{For } z \geq 0,$$

$$f_{X+Y}(z) = \sum_x \underbrace{f_X(x)}_{x \geq 0} \underbrace{f_Y(z-x)}_{z-x \geq 0} = \sum_{x \geq 0, z-x \geq 0} e^{-\lambda} \frac{\lambda^x}{x!} e^{-\mu} \frac{\mu^{z-x}}{(z-x)!} =$$

$$= \sum_{x=0}^z \frac{e^{-(\lambda+\mu)}}{z!} \frac{z!}{x!(z-x)!} \lambda^x \mu^{z-x} = \frac{e^{-(\lambda+\mu)}}{z!} \sum_{x=0}^z \binom{z}{x} \lambda^x \mu^{z-x} =$$

$$= e^{-(\lambda+\mu)} \frac{(\lambda+\mu)^z}{z!}, \quad z = 0, 1, \dots,$$

Poisson($\lambda+\mu$)-probability.

because $(a+b)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} a^k b^{n-k}$.

3.5. Various discrete r.v.