



Why

We consider the probabilistic linear model in which all random variables involved are normal.

Definition

The *normal linear model* is a linear model in which the signal and noise have normal (Gaussian) densities. For this reason, the model is often called the *Gaussian linear model* or the *linear model with Gaussian noise*.

Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{P})$ be a probability space. Let $x : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^d$ and $e : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^d$ be independent normal random vectors with zero mean and covariances Σ_x and Σ_e . Let $y = Ax + e$. We have n precepts in \mathbf{R}^d . So let $a^1, \dots, a^n \in \mathbf{R}^d$ with data matrix $A \in \mathbf{R}^{n \times d}$.

Maximum conditional estimate of x

Since x and e are gaussian, y is gaussian. So the random vector (x, y) has normal density with mean zero and covariance

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Sigma_x & \Sigma_x A^\top \\ A \Sigma_x & A \Sigma_x A^\top + \Sigma_e \end{pmatrix}.$$

This is also called *bayesian linear regression* or the *bayesian analysis of the linear model*. The word bayesian is in reference to treating the quantity of interest— x —as a random variable.

Proposition 1. *The maximum conditional estimate of x :*

$\Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^d$ given observed value $\gamma \in \mathbf{R}^n$ of $y : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ is the conditional mean $\Sigma_{xy}\Sigma_{yy}^{-1}\gamma$.

Recall that the maximum conditional estimate also maximizes the joint density.

Uncorrelated noise

Suppose that $\Sigma_e = \sigma^2 I$.

Proposition 2. *A solution to maximize $g(\alpha, \gamma)$ with respect to α is $\alpha = -\Sigma^{-1}\Sigma X^\top \gamma$.*

Proposition 3. *$g_{\theta|y}(\alpha, \gamma)$ is normal with mean*

$$\tilde{\mu}(\gamma) = \Sigma X^\top (X \Sigma X^\top)^{-1} \gamma$$

and covariance

$$\tilde{\Sigma} = \Sigma - \Sigma X^\top (X \Sigma X^\top)^{-1} X \Sigma.$$

Proposition 4. *A solution to maximize $g_{\theta|y}(\alpha, \gamma)$ w.r.t. α is*

$$\tilde{\Sigma} \tilde{\Sigma}^{-1} \tilde{\mu}(\gamma).$$

But, of course, y also has a density. Denote the density of y by $g : \mathbf{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$. In other words, $g \geq 0$ and $\int g = 1$.

Proposition 5.

$$\log g(\gamma) = -1/2(\gamma^\top (X \Sigma X^\top)^{-1} \gamma) - \frac{d}{2} \log 2\pi - \frac{1}{2} \log \mathbf{det} (X \Sigma X^\top)$$

Test

This expression makes clear that y is has a normal density with mean $X \mathbf{E}(x)$ and covariance $X \mathbf{E}(x) X^\top$.

Let $w : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^d$ be a random vector with mean 0 and covariance ηI . Let $x^1, \dots, x^n \in \mathbf{R}^d$ Define $y^i : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ by $y_i(\omega) = w(\omega)^\top x^i$ for $i = 1, \dots, d$.

Noise setup

Let $e : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ be a normal random vector with mean 0 and covariance σI . Define $\tilde{y} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ by $\tilde{y} = y(\omega) + e(\omega)$.

Proposition 6. *\tilde{y} is a normal random vector with mean zero and covariance $X \Sigma X^\top + \sigma I$.*

