



## Why

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A conditional distribution (density)  $q : Y \times X \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is *functionally parametrizable* if there exists a function  $f : X \rightarrow \Theta$  and distribution (density) family  $\{p^{(\theta)} : Y \rightarrow \mathbf{R}\}_{\theta \in \Theta}$  satisfying  $q(y, x) \equiv p^{(f(x))}(\gamma)$  for all  $x \in X$  and  $y \in Y$ .

In this case we call  $f$  the *parameterizer* and we call  $\{p^{(\theta)}\}_{\theta \in \Theta}$  the *parameterized family*. A *parameterized conditional distribution* is an ordered pair whose first coordinate is a function from  $X$  to  $\Theta$  and whose second coordinate is a family of distributions on  $X$  with parameter set  $\Theta$ . For a particular choice of parameterizer and family, it induces a conditional distribution.

Since all conditional distributions are functionally parametrizable (consider  $\{q(\cdot, \xi)\}_{\xi \in X}$  with parameters  $X$  and identity parameterizer), we are interested in parameterizers and parameterized families that are simple. Said differently, we are interested in approximating a conditional distribution by selecting an appropriate parameterizer and parameterized family.

If  $\{f_\phi : X \rightarrow \Theta\}_{\phi \in \Phi}$  is a family of functions and  $\{q^{(\theta)}\}$  is a family of distributions, then  $\{p^{(\phi)} : X \times Z \rightarrow \mathbf{R}\}_\phi$  defined by  $p^{(\phi)}(\cdot, \zeta) \equiv q^{(f_\phi(\zeta))}$  is a conditional distribution family called a *functionally parameterized conditional distribution family*. In

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<sup>1</sup>Future editions will include.

other words, by selecting some parameters  $\phi$ , we induce a conditional distribution  $p^{(\phi)} : X \times Z \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$

We similarly define *parameterized conditional densities* and *functionally parameterized conditional density families*.

### Basic example

Let  $Z = \{1, 2\}$  and  $X = \mathbf{R}$ . Let  $f : \{1, 2\} \rightarrow \mathbf{R} \times \mathbf{R}_+$  be defined by  $f(1) = (\mu_1, \sigma_1)$  and  $f(2) = (\mu_2, \sigma_2)$ . Let  $\{g^{(\theta)}\}_\theta$  be the normal family. Then  $(f, \{g^{(\theta)}\})$  is a *functionally parameterized conditional density*.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Future editions will modify.



