High-Dimensional Statistics

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Solutions to exercises from the book "High-Dimensional Probability", Roman Vershynin, 2020
`https://www.math.uci.edu/~rvershyn/`

Notation:

- cc – coffee cup
- $\sum := \sum_{i=1}^{N}$
- $\prod := \prod_{i=1}^{N}$

1 Exercise 2.1.4 (1 cc)

Let $g \sim N(0,1)$. Show that for all $t \geq 1$, we have

$$\mathbb{E} g^2 \mathbf{1}\{g > t\} = t \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-t^2/2} + \mathbb{P}\{g > t\} \leq \left(t + \frac{1}{t}\right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-t^2/2}$$

1.1 Solution

$$\mathbb{E} g^2 \mathbf{1}\{g > t\} = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} x^2 \mathbf{1}\{x > t\} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2} dx = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{t}^{+\infty} x^2 e^{-x^2/2} dx$$

Make the substitution $u = x$ and $dv = xe^{-x^2/2}dx$, then $du = dx$ and

$$v = \int dv = \int xe^{-x^2/2} dx = \left[z = -\frac{x^2}{2}; dz = -xdx\right] = -\int e^z dz = -e^z = -e^{-x^2/2}$$

Next, integrate by parts

$$\int_a^b u dv = uv\Big|_a^b - \int_a^b v du$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_t^{+\infty} x^2 e^{-x^2/2} dx = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(-xe^{-x^2/2}\Big|_t^{+\infty}\right) + \int_t^{+\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2} dx = t\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-t^2/2} + \mathbb{P}\{g > t\}$$

Next, apply the theorem "Tails of the normal distribution":

$$\mathbb{P}\{g > t\} \leq \frac{1}{t} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{t^2/2}$$

Thereby,

$$t\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-t^2/2} + \mathbb{P}\{g > t\} \leq t\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-t^2/2} + \frac{1}{t} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{t^2/2} = \left(t + \frac{1}{t}\right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-t^2/2}$$

2 Exercise 2.2.3 (1 cc)

(Bounding the hyperbolic cosine)
Show that

$$\cosh(x) \leq \exp(x^2/2) \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

2.1 Solution

Apply Taylor's expansion for the left side of inequation

$$\cosh(x)' = \sinh(x);\ \cosh(x)'' = \cosh(x);\ \cosh(x)''' = \sinh(x);\ \ldots$$

$$\cosh(0) = 1;\ \sinh(0) = 0$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\cosh(x) &= \cosh(0) + \frac{\sinh(0)}{1!}x^1 + \frac{\cosh(0)}{2!}x^2 + \frac{\sinh(0)}{3!}x^3 + \ldots \\ &= 1 + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^4}{24} + \frac{x^6}{720} + O(x^8)\end{aligned}$$

For the right side

$$\exp(x^2/2)' = \exp(x^2/2)x;\ \exp(x^2/2)'' = \exp(x^2/2)(x^2+1);\ \exp(x^2/2)''' = \exp(x^2/2)x(x^2+3);\ \ldots$$

$$\exp(0^2/2) = 1;\ \exp(0^2/2)0 = 0;\ \exp(0^2/2)(0^2+1) = 1;\ \exp(0^2/2)0(0^2+3) = 0;\ \ldots$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\exp(x^2/2) &= \exp(0^2/2) + \frac{\exp(0^2/2)0}{1!}x^1 + \frac{\exp(0^2/2)(0^2+1)}{2!}x^2 + \frac{\exp(0^2/2)0(0^2+3)}{3!}x^3 + \ldots \\ &= 1 + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^4}{8} + \frac{x^8}{384} + O(x^8)\end{aligned}$$

Obviously,

$$1 + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^4}{24} + \frac{x^6}{720} + O(x^8) \leq 1 + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^4}{8} + \frac{x^8}{384} + O(x^8)$$

Thus,

$$\cosh(x) \leq \exp(x^2/2) \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

3 Exercise 2.2.7. (2 cc)

Let $X_1, ..., X_N$ be independent random variables. Assume that $X_i \in [m_i, M_i]$ for every i. Prove that for any $t > 0$

$$\mathbb{P}\left\{\sum(X_i - \mathbb{E}X_i) \geq t\right\} \leq \exp\left(-\frac{2t^2}{\sum(M_i - m_i)^2}\right)$$

3.1 Solution

Let $\xi_i = X_i - \mathbb{E}X_i$. Apply Markov's inequality and a property of the exp function

$$\mathbb{P}\left\{\sum \xi_i \geq t\right\} = \mathbb{P}\left\{e^{\lambda \sum \xi_i} \geq e^{\lambda t}\right\} \leq e^{-\lambda t}\mathbb{E}\left[e^{\lambda \sum \xi_i}\right] \text{ for any } \lambda > 0$$

Apply independence assumption

$$\mathbb{E}\left[e^{\lambda \sum \xi_i}\right] = \mathbb{E}\left[\prod e^{\lambda \xi_i}\right] = \prod \mathbb{E}\left[e^{\lambda \xi_i}\right]$$

Apply Hoeffding's Lemma

$$\mathbb{E}\left[e^{\lambda \xi_i}\right] \leq e^{\frac{\lambda^2 (M_i - m_i)^2}{8}}$$

Thus,

$$\mathbb{P}\left\{\sum \xi_i \geq t\right\} \leq e^{-\lambda t} \prod e^{\frac{\lambda^2 (M_i - m_i)^2}{8}} = e^{-\lambda t + \frac{\lambda^2}{8}\sum (M_i - m_i)^2}$$

Let $\lambda = 4t / \sum (M_i - m_i)^2$, then

$$\mathbb{P}\left\{\sum (X_i - \mathbb{E}X_i) \geq t\right\} \leq \exp\left(-\frac{2t^2}{\sum (M_i - m_i)^2}\right)$$

4 Exercise 2.2.8. (2 cc)

(Boosting randomized algorithms)
Imagine we have an algorithm for solving some decision problem (e.g. is a given number p a prime?). Suppose the algorithm makes a decision at random and returns the correct answer with probability $1/2 + \delta$ with some $\delta > 0$, which is just a bit better than a random guess. To improve the performance, we run the algorithm N times and take the majority vote. Show that, for any $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$, the answer is correct with probability at least $1 - \epsilon$, as long as

$$N \leq \frac{1}{2\delta^2} \ln(1/\epsilon)$$

4.1 Solution

Let $X_1, X_2, \ldots X_N$ be a random sequence with probabilities

$$\mathbb{P}\{X_i = 0\} = 1/2 - \delta$$

$$\mathbb{P}\{X_i = 1\} = 1/2 + \delta$$

Then the event {The answer is incorrect} can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
\left\{\sum X_i \geq N/2\right\} &= \left\{\sum (X_i - \mathbb{E}X_i) \geq \sum (1/2 - \mathbb{E}X_i)\right\} \\
&= \left\{\sum (X_i - \mathbb{E}X_i) \geq \sum (1/2 - 1/2 + \delta)\right\} \\
&= \left\{\sum (X_i - \mathbb{E}X_i) \geq \delta N\right\}
\end{aligned}$$

Apply Hoeffding inequality

$$\mathbb{P}\left\{\sum (X_i - \mathbb{E}X_i) \geq t\right\} \leq \exp\left(-\frac{2t^2}{\sum (M_i - m_i)^2}\right)$$

Make substitutions $t = \delta N$, $M_i = 1$, $m_i = 0$

$$\mathbb{P}\left\{\sum (X_i - \mathbb{E}X_i) \geq \delta N\right\} \leq \exp(-2\delta^2 N)$$

We can observe that

$$\left\{N \leq \frac{1}{2\delta^2}\ln(1/\epsilon)\right\} \Rightarrow \{\exp(-2\delta^2 N) < \epsilon\}$$

Thereby, $\mathbb{P}\{\text{The answer is incorrect}\} \leq \epsilon$ and $\mathbb{P}\{\text{The answer is correct}\} \geq 1 - \epsilon$ under that constraint.

5 Exercise 2.2.10 (2 cc)

Let $X_1, \ldots, X_N$ be non-negative independent random variables with continuous distributions. Assume that the densities of X_i are uniformly bounded by 1.
(a) Show that the MGF of X_i satisfies $\mathbb{E}e^{-tX_i} \leq 1/t$ for all $t > 0$.
(b) Deduce that, for any $\epsilon > 0$, we have $\mathbb{P}\{\sum X_i \leq \epsilon N\} \leq (e\epsilon)^N$.

5.1 Solution (a)

Let $\phi_i(x)$ be a PDF of X_i

$$\mathbb{E}\exp(-tX_i) = \int_0^\infty e^{-tx}\phi_i(x)dx$$

Since $\phi_i(x) \leq 1$ for all i and x, then

$$\int_0^\infty e^{-tx}\phi_i(x)dx \leq \int_0^\infty e^{-tx}dx = \frac{1}{t} \text{ for all } t > 0$$

5.2 Solution (b)

Rewrite the probability as

$$\mathbb{P}\left\{\sum X_i \leq \epsilon N\right\} = \mathbb{P}\left\{\sum -X_i/\epsilon \geq -N\right\}$$

Apply Markov's inequality and a property of the exp function

$$\mathbb{P}\left\{\sum -X_i/\epsilon \geq -N\right\} = \mathbb{P}\left\{\exp\left(\sum -X_i/\epsilon\right) \geq \exp(-N)\right\} \leq e^N \prod \mathbb{E}e^{-X_i/\epsilon}$$

Apply the result from the section (a) and then

$$\mathbb{P}\left\{\sum X_i \leq \epsilon N\right\} \leq e^N \prod \epsilon = (e\epsilon)^N$$

6 Exercise 2.3.2 (2 cc)

(Chernoff's inequality: lower tails)
Modify the proof of Theorem 2.3.1 to obtain the following bound on the lower tail. For any $t < \mu$, we have

$$\mathbb{P}\{S_N \leq t\} \leq e^{-\mu}\left(\frac{e\mu}{t}\right)^t$$

6.1 Solution

Since $t < \mu$, $t > 0$ and $S_N > 0$ we can rewrite the probability as

$$\mathbb{P}\{S_N \leq t\} = \mathbb{P}\{(t/\mu)^{S_N} \geq (t/\mu)^t\}$$

Apply Markov's inequality

$$\mathbb{P}\{(t/\mu)^{S_N} \geq (t/\mu)^t\} \leq (\mu/t)^t \mathbb{E}(t/\mu)^{S_N}$$

Consider the expectation

$$\mathbb{E}(t/\mu)^{S_N} = \prod \mathbb{E}(t/\mu)^{X_i}$$

$$\mathbb{E}(t/\mu)^{X_i} = (t/\mu)^1 p_i + (t/\mu)^0(1-p_i) = 1 + [(t/\mu) - 1]p_i \leq \exp\left(\left[\frac{t}{\mu} - 1\right] p_i\right)$$

$$\prod \mathbb{E}(t/\mu)^{X_i} \leq \exp\left(\left[\frac{t}{\mu} - 1\right] \sum p_i\right) = \exp\left(\left[\frac{t}{\mu} - 1\right] \mu\right) = e^t e^{-\mu}$$

Thereby

$$\mathbb{P}\{S_N \leq t\} \leq e^{-\mu} \left(\frac{e\mu}{t}\right)^t$$

7 Exercise 2.3.3 (2 cc)

(Poisson tails)
Let $X \sim Pois(\lambda)$. Show that for any $t > \lambda$, we have

$$\mathbb{P}\{X \geq t\} \leq e^{-\lambda} \left(\frac{e\lambda}{t}\right)^t$$

7.1 Solution

Chernoff's inequality

$$\mathbb{P}\{S_N \geq t\} \leq e^{-\mu} \left(\frac{e\mu}{t}\right)^t$$

Assume that $N \to \infty$, $\max p_i \to 0$ and $\mathbb{E}S_N \to \lambda < \infty$. Then, using Poisson limit theorem we have

$$S_N \to Pois(\lambda)$$

Thereby

$$\mathbb{P}\{X \geq t\} \leq e^{-\lambda} \left(\frac{e\lambda}{t}\right)^t$$

8 Exercise 2.3.5 (3 cc)

(Chernoff's inequality: small deviations)
Show that, in the setting of Theorem 2.3.1, for $\delta \in (0, 1]$ we have

$$\mathbb{P}\{|S_N - \mu| \geq \delta\mu\} \leq 2e^{-c\mu\delta^2}$$

where $c > 0$ is an absolute constant.

8.1 Solution

Consider Chernoff's inequality with $t > \mu$ (upper tails). Let $t = \mu + \delta\mu$, so

$$\mathbb{P}\{S_N - \mu \geq \delta\mu\} \leq e^{-\mu} \left(\frac{e}{1+\delta}\right)^{\mu+\delta\mu}$$

In opposite, if $t < \mu$ and $t = \mu - \delta\mu$ (lower tails) we obtain

$$\mathbb{P}\{S_N - \mu \leq -\delta\mu\} \leq e^{-\mu} \left(\frac{e}{1-\delta}\right)^{\mu-\delta\mu}$$

Apply addition theorem of probability for lower and upper tails

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\{S_N - \mu \geq \delta\mu\} \cup \{S_N - \mu \leq -\delta\mu\}\right) = \mathbb{P}\{|S_N - \mu| \geq \delta\mu\}$$

$$\mathbb{P}\{|S_N - \mu| \geq \delta\mu\} \leq e^{-\mu} \left(\frac{e}{1-\delta}\right)^{\mu-\delta\mu} + e^{-\mu} \left(\frac{e}{1+\delta}\right)^{\mu+\delta\mu} \leq 2e^{-\mu} \left(\frac{e}{1+\delta}\right)^{\mu+\delta\mu}$$

Consider the inequality

$$2e^{-\mu} \left(\frac{e}{1+\delta}\right)^{\mu+\delta\mu} \leq 2e^{-c\mu\delta^2}$$

$$\frac{e^{\delta\mu}}{(1+\delta)^{\mu+\delta\mu}} \leq e^{-c\mu\delta^2}$$

$$e^{\delta+c\delta^2} \leq (1+\delta)^{1+\delta}$$

Take log

$$\delta + c\delta^2 \leq (1+\delta)\ln(1+\delta)$$

$$c \leq \frac{(1+\delta)\ln(1+\delta) - \delta}{\delta^2}$$

Thereby,

$$\mathbb{P}\{|S_N - \mu| \geq \delta\mu\} \leq 2e^{-c\mu\delta^2}$$

for all $c \leq [(1+\delta)\ln(1+\delta) - \delta]/\delta^2$.

9 Exercise 2.3.8 (2 cc)

(Normal approximation to Poisson)
Let $X \sim Pois(\lambda)$. Show that, as $\lambda \to \infty$, we have

$$\frac{X - \lambda}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \to \mathcal{N}(0,1) \text{ in distribution.}$$

9.1 Solution

Rewrite the RV X as a sum $Z_1 + \cdots + Z_N$ where $Z_i \sim Pois(\lambda/N)$ and apply Lindeberg-Levy central limit theorem

$$\frac{X - \mathbb{E}X}{\sqrt{Var(X)}} = \frac{X - N\mathbb{E}Z_i}{\sqrt{NVar(Z_i)}} = \frac{X - \lambda}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \to \mathcal{N}(0,1) \text{ as } N \to \infty$$

10 Exercise 2.4.2 (1 cc)

(Bounding the degrees of sparse graphs)
Consider a random graph $G \sim G(n, p)$ with expected degrees $d = O(\log n)$. Show that with high probability (say, 0.9), all vertices of G have degrees $O(\log n)$.

10.1 Solution

Since $d_i > 0$ and $n > 0$, then for any i we have $d_i = O(\log n) \equiv \exists C_i : d_i \leq C_i \log n$ and we need to prove the following statement

$$\mathbb{P}\{\forall i : d_i \leq C_i \log n\} \geq 0.9$$

where C_i is a constant. We can rewrite that probability as

$$\mathbb{P}\{\exists i : d_i \geq C_i \log n\} \leq \sum \mathbb{P}\{d_i \geq C_i \log n\} \leq 0.1$$

Apply Chernoff's inequality for upper bound (since $d \leq C_i \log n$)

$$\sum \mathbb{P}\{d_i \geq C_i \log n\} \leq ne^{-d} \left(\frac{ed}{C_i \log n}\right)^{C_i \log n} \leq 0.1$$

Note that there exists C_d such that $d \leq C_d \log n$ and then

$$ne^{-C_d \log n} \left(\frac{eC_d \log n}{C_i \log n}\right)^{C_i \log n} = n^{C_i - C_d + 1} \left(\frac{C_d}{C_i}\right)^{C_i \log n} \leq 0.1$$

Hence, the statement holds for any C_i such that

$$C_i \geq \frac{-C_d \log n + \log n + \log 10}{\log n} \left[W\left(\frac{-C_d \log n + \log n + \log 10}{C_d e \log n}\right)\right]^{-1}$$

where $W(\cdot)$ is the product log function.

11 Exercise 2.4.3 (2 cc)

(Bounding the degrees of very sparse graphs)
Consider a random graph $G \sim G(n, p)$ with expected degrees $d = O(1)$. Show that with high probability (say, 0.9), all vertices of G have degrees

$$O\left(\frac{\log n}{\log \log n}\right)$$

11.1 Solution

Apply the same approach as in the previous exercise and obtain

$$\sum \mathbb{P}\left\{d_i \geq C_i \frac{\log n}{\log \log n}\right\} \leq ne^{-C_d} \left(\frac{eC_d \log \log n}{C_i \log n}\right)^{(C_i \log n)/(\log \log n)} \leq 0.1$$

Hence, the statement holds for any C_i such that

$$C_i \geq \frac{(\log n - C_d + \log 10) \log \log n}{\log n} \left[W\left(\frac{\log n - C_d + \log 10}{C_d e}\right)\right]^{-1}$$

where $W(\cdot)$ is the product log function.