



Fundamentals of Statistics: From Data to Models to Decision-Making

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Outline

- ① Introduction
- ② Models of Random Variables
- ③ Estimation Techniques
- ④ Multivariate Statistics
- ⑤ Data-Driven Modeling
- ⑥ Statistical Learning
- ⑦ Decision-Making Under Uncertainty

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Motivation



As engineers, we often use *laws* of physics and chemistry to make *decisions*:

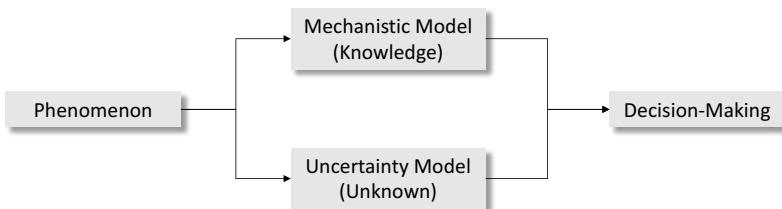
- The discovery of these governing laws has been the result of extensive collection and analysis of observations (data)
- A governing law is often expressed in the form of a mechanistic model
- A mechanistic model provides a concise summary of observations (knowledge) that allow us to predict and generalize

These laws are powerful but only provide limited descriptions of phenomena:

- Laws are applicable under specific settings (e.g., continuum vs. atomistic)
- Discovering laws and new mechanistic models might be challenging or cost-prohibitive (e.g., climate)
- Mechanistic predictions will *always* face a certain degree of *uncertainty* (due to our limited knowledge of the world).
- Despite these limitations, we still want to be able to *make decisions*. In fact, we as humans make decisions in our daily lives with limited use of mechanistic models and (somehow) by accounting for uncertainty.

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Motivation



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Motivation



Statistics is the branch of mathematics that offers tools to:

- Collect, analyze, and extract knowledge (models) from data
- Characterize and model the unknown (uncertainty)
- Systematically make decisions in the face of uncertainty

For an engineering perspective, statistics aids the discovery and development of mechanistic models and provides complementary (data-driven) modeling capabilities.

From a scientific perspective, statistics provides a framework for thinking about the world that can help us understand how humans naturally process data to extract knowledge and to ultimately make decisions.

Random Variables



- Measure \mathbb{P} has an associated cumulative density function (cdf) $F_X : \mathcal{D}_X \rightarrow [0, 1]$.
- Cdf assigns a probability to the event that X is below a certain threshold value x ; i.e., $F_X(x) = \mathbb{P}(X \leq x)$.
- Cdf has an associated probability density function (pdf) $f_X : \mathcal{D}_X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$.
- The pdf assigns a probability to the event that X takes a specific value x ; i.e., $f_X(x) = \mathbb{P}(X = x)$.
- An RV that has a unique (exhibits no variability) and known value is called a *deterministic variable*.
- When convenient, we will simplify notation and write $F(x)$ and $f(x)$ to denote cdf and pdf.

Random Variables



- In statistics, we use random variables (RVs) to *model* uncertainty.

• An RV (denoted as X) does not have a known value, often exhibits *variability*, and has the following properties:

- An RV is characterized by a realization set $\omega \in \Omega$ with associated values $x_\omega \in \mathcal{D}_X$ (a.k.a. realizations of X).
- Here, \mathcal{D}_X is the domain of X (domain covered by realizations x_ω).
- An RV is characterized by a measure $\mathbb{P} : \Omega \rightarrow [0, 1]$, which assigns probability to events (combinations of realizations); e.g., $\mathbb{P}(a \leq X \leq b)$.

Random Variables

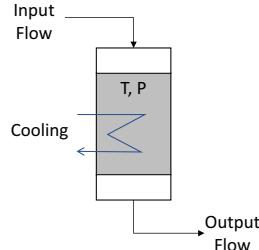


Don't Forget: A random variable is a *model* of a unknown phenomenon.

Example: Gibbs Reactor [gibbs.example.m](#)



- Consider a reactor under which the reaction $CO + 2H_2 \leftrightarrow CH_3OH$ takes place
- Reaction favored (achieves higher conversion C) at high pressure (P) and low temperature (T)
- Control system maintains P and T at desired conditions



$$\begin{aligned}\mu_{out}^k &= \mu_{in}^k + \gamma^k C, \quad k \in K \\ \mu_{tot} &= \sum_{k \in K} \mu_{out}^k \\ a^k &= \left(P \frac{\mu_{out}^k}{\mu_{tot}} \right)^{\gamma^k}, \quad k \in K \\ K_{eq}(T) &= \prod_{k \in K} a^k \\ \log K_{eq}(T) &= -\frac{\Delta H}{RT} + \frac{\Delta S}{R}\end{aligned}$$

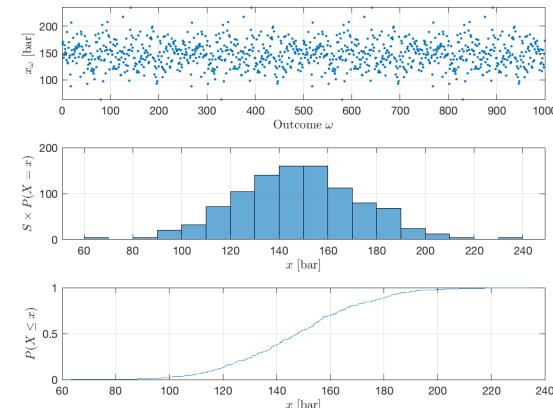
- What is unknown (what are sources of uncertainty)?

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Example: Gibbs Reactor [gibbs.example.m](#)



- Assume pressure (P) varies due to malfunction of control and model this as an RV
- Outcomes, pdf, and cdf of RV are shown below. How do we interpret these?



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Types of Random Variables



RVs are categorized as multivariate vs. univariate and continuous vs. discrete:

- A **multivariate** RV $X = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ has realizations that are vector values $x_\omega = (x_{\omega,1}, x_{\omega,2}, \dots, x_{\omega,n}) \in \mathbb{R}^n$; e.g., temperature, pressure, conversion.
- A **univariate** RV X is a multivariate with $n = 1$ and has realizations that are scalar values $x_\omega \in \mathbb{R}$; e.g., temperature.
- A **continuous** RV X is that in which the domain \mathcal{D}_X is continuous; e.g., $X = (X_1, X_2)$ has realizations satisfying $0 \leq x_{\omega,1} \leq 1$ and $0 \leq x_{\omega,2} \leq 1$.
- A **discrete** RV X is that in which the domain \mathcal{D}_X is discrete; e.g., $X = (X_1, X_2)$ has realizations satisfying $x_{\omega,1} \in \{0, 1\}$ and $x_{\omega,2} \in \{0, 1\}$.

There is a wide range of models of random variables that apply to different categories (e.g., Gaussian is for continuous and Poisson for discrete). We will explore these later.

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Probability Density of Discrete and Continuous RVs



A discrete X has a discrete domain \mathcal{D}_X and, as such, its pdf $f_X(x)$ is not a continuous function. The pdf has the following properties:

$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &\geq 0, \quad x \in \mathcal{D}_X \\ \sum_{x \in \mathcal{D}_X} f(x) &= 1 \\ \mathbb{P}(X \in \mathcal{A}) &= \sum_{x \in \mathcal{A}} f(x), \quad \mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{D}_X.\end{aligned}$$

A continuous X has a continuous domain \mathcal{D}_X and its pdf $f_X(x)$ is a continuous function. The pdf has the following properties:

$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &\geq 0, \quad x \in \mathcal{D}_X \\ \int_{x \in \mathcal{D}_X} f(x) dx &= 1 \\ \mathbb{P}(X \in \mathcal{A}) &= \int_{x \in \mathcal{A}} f(x) dx, \quad \mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{D}_X.\end{aligned}$$

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Probability Density of Discrete and Continuous RVs



- A discrete RV is easy to handle computationally (involves summations):
 - If \mathcal{D}_X is discrete then $\mathbb{P}(X \leq a) = F_X(a) = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{D}_X} f_X(x) \mathbf{1}[x \leq a]$.

Here, we use indicator function: $\mathbf{1}[x \leq a] = 1$ if $x \leq a$ and $\mathbf{1}[x \leq a] = 0$ if $x > a$.

- A continuous RV is difficult to handle computationally (involves integrals) but has useful properties that facilitate analysis:

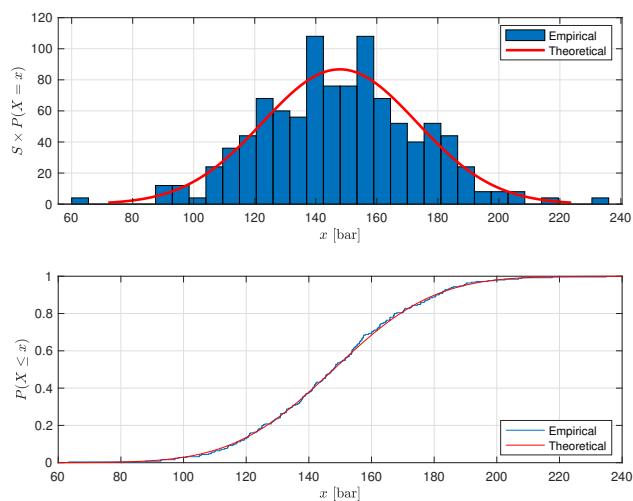
- If \mathcal{D}_X continuous then $\mathbb{P}(X \leq a) = F_X(a) = \int_{x \in \mathcal{D}_X} f_X(x) dx$.
- The cdf and pdf are related as $\frac{dF_X(x)}{dx} = f_X(x)$ and thus $\int_{x \in \mathcal{A}} f_X(x) dx = \int_{x \in \mathcal{A}} dF_X(x)$.

- Continuous RVs are often approximated using discrete RVs (discretization). This is analogous to approximating continuous time using discrete times.

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Example: Gibbs Reactor [gibbs.example.m](#)

- Comparison of empirical and theoretical pdfs and cdfs for reactor pressure



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From Data to Random Variables



We begin our discussion by considering RVs that are *univariate*.

- In practice, we often count with observations (*data*) $x_\omega, \omega \in \mathcal{S}$. Our objective is to use the data to create a theoretical RV model X .
- We assume the observation set \mathcal{S} (a.k.a. sample set) is a subset of realization set Ω (which is usually extremely large).
- We can construct a data-driven approximation (a.k.a. empirical or sample approximation) of the domain, cdf, and pdf of X :

- Empirical domain $\hat{\mathcal{D}}_X$ is domain covered by observations $x_\omega, \omega \in \mathcal{S}$.

- Theoretical pdf is approximated using empirical pdf:

$$\hat{f}_X(x) = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} \mathbf{1}[x_\omega = x], \quad x \in \hat{\mathcal{D}}_X$$

i.e., this is frequency at which X takes a value x (normalized by $S = |\mathcal{S}|$).

- Theoretical cdf is approximated using empirical cdf:

$$\hat{F}_X(x) = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} \mathbf{1}[x_\omega \leq x], \quad x \in \hat{\mathcal{D}}_X$$

i.e., this is frequency at which X takes a value below x (normalized by $S = |\mathcal{S}|$).

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Summarizing Statistics (Basic)



- Pdf and cdf are *functions* that fully characterize an RV X . However, in practice, we might be interested in using values (and not functions) to describe X .
- This is done by using *summarizing statistics* (a.k.a. descriptive statistics). Popular summarizing statistics are the expected value and variance:

For a discrete RV we have:

- Expected Value (measure of magnitude):* $\mathbb{E}_X := \sum_{x \in \mathcal{D}_X} x f_X(x)$
- Variance and Standard Deviation (measure of variability):*

$$\mathbb{V}_X = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{D}_X} f_X(x)(x - \mathbb{E}_X)^2, \quad \mathbb{SD}_X := \sqrt{\mathbb{V}_X}$$

For a continuous RV we have:

- Expected Value (measure of magnitude):* $\mathbb{E}_X := \int_{x \in \mathcal{D}_X} x f_X(x) dx$
- Variance and Standard Deviation (measure of variability):*

$$\mathbb{V}_X = \int_{x \in \mathcal{D}_X} f_X(x)(x - \mathbb{E}_X)^2 dx$$

$$\mathbb{SD}_X = \sqrt{\mathbb{V}_X}$$

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Summarizing Statistics (Sample Approximations)



If we only have observations $x_\omega, \omega \in \mathcal{S}$, we can approximate summarizing statistics using their sample approximations:

- *Sample Mean (measure of magnitude):*

$$\hat{\mathbb{E}}_X := \sum_{x \in \hat{\mathcal{D}}_X} x \hat{f}_X(x) = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} x_\omega$$

- *Sample Variance and Standard Deviation (measure of variability):*

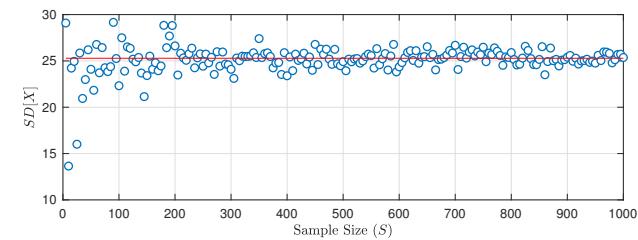
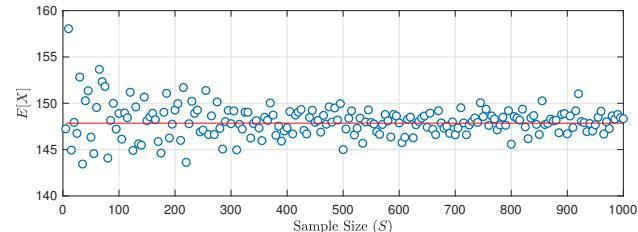
$$\hat{\mathbb{V}}_X := \sum_{x \in \hat{\mathcal{D}}_X} (x - \hat{\mathbb{E}}_X)^2 \hat{f}_X(x) = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} (x_\omega - \hat{\mathbb{E}}_X)^2, \quad \hat{\mathbb{SD}}_X = \sqrt{\hat{\mathbb{V}}_X}$$

Intuition tells us that sample approximations improve as we accumulate observations (S becomes large). We will see later on that this is indeed the case (under some conditions).

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Example: Gibbs Reactor [gibbs.example.m](#)

- Behavior of sample mean and standard deviation as we increase sample size $S = |\mathcal{S}|$



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Summarizing Statistics (Quantiles)



An important family of summarizing statistics are the quantiles (a.k.a. percentiles).

- The quantile is the inverse function of the cdf and, as such, it might be easier to explain it from this perspective. Consider the following equation for some $\alpha \in [0, 1]$:

$$F_X(x) = \mathbb{P}(X \leq x) = \alpha$$

- A value x that satisfies this equation is the α -quantile of the random variable X and is denoted as $\mathbb{Q}_X(\alpha)$. This means that we can express the quantile as:

$$\mathbb{Q}_X(\alpha) = F_X^{-1}(\alpha)$$

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Summarizing Statistics (Quantiles)



Some important observations about quantiles:

- Since the cdf can have a “staircase” form, there might be multiple values of x satisfying $F_X(x) = \alpha$. Consequently, α -quantile might be not be unique.
- Typically, the definition of the quantile is refined by looking for the smallest or center values of x satisfying $F_X(x) \geq \alpha$.
- Quantiles are related to other summarizing statistics for interest. For instance:
 - $\mathbb{Q}_X(0.5)$ is the *center value* of X (a.k.a. the median and denoted as \mathbb{M}_X)
 - $\mathbb{Q}_X(1) = \max_{x \in \mathcal{D}_X} x$ is the maximum value of X
 - $\mathbb{Q}_X(0) = \min_{x \in \mathcal{D}_X} x$ is the minimum value of X
- We can use empirical cdf $\hat{F}_X(x)$ to estimate empirical quantiles $\hat{\mathbb{Q}}_X(\alpha)$.

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Summarizing Statistics (Moments)



- Central moments are an important family of summarizing statistics
- The moments of X with pdf $f(x, \theta)$ are given by:

$$m_k := \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X])^k], \quad k = 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots,$$

- The normalized moments of X with pdf $f(x, \theta)$ are given by:

$$m_k := \frac{\mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X])^k]}{SD[X]^k}, \quad k = 1, 2, 3, 4, \dots,$$

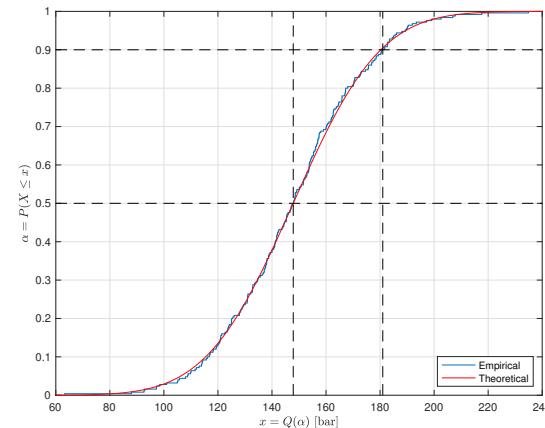
- First moment is simply $m_1 = 0$, second moment $m_2 = \mathbb{V}[X]$ is variance, third moment m_3 is known as skewness, and fourth moment m_4 is kurtosis.
- As with expectation and variance, we can use data to construct sample approximations for moments \hat{m}_k .

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Example: Gibbs Reactor [gibbs.example.m](#)



- Sample moment approximations with $S = 1000$ are $\hat{m}_1 = 0, \hat{m}_2 = 638, \hat{m}_3 = 1539$.
- Theoretical are $\hat{m}_1 = 0, \hat{m}_2 = 639, \hat{m}_3 = 0$. What is going on with third moment?
- Empirical and theoretical quantiles are shown below. How do we interpret this?



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Uncertainty Propagation and Mitigation



- Uncertainty (and variability) associated with RVs propagate through systems.
- Fortunately, we often have the ability to manipulate a system (e.g., via design or control) in order to mitigate the effects of uncertainty.
- Consider propagation of X through system $\varphi(X, u)$:

$$Y = \varphi(X, u)$$

where $u \in \mathcal{U}$ is a mitigating action (decision) and Y is the system output.

- We make the following observations:

- Output Y is an RV if the input X is an RV.
- Nature of Y (its cdf, pdf, and domain) depends on system function φ . Some systems magnify uncertainty and variability while others might damp it.
- Nature of Y depends on action u . Can use action to control uncertainty of Y .

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Uncertainty Propagation and Mitigation



Having data $x_\omega, \omega \in \mathcal{S}$ and a system model φ , we can characterize cdf, pdf, domain, and summarizing statistics of Y using the following simulation procedure:

- For a given decision u , perform simulations of the form:

$$y_\omega = \varphi(x_\omega, u), \omega \in \mathcal{S}$$

- Use y_ω to compute sample approximations of quantities of interest for Y such as:

- Sample mean:

$$\hat{\mathbb{E}}_Y = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} y_\omega = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} \varphi(x_\omega, u)$$

- Sample variance:

$$\hat{\mathbb{V}}_Y = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} (y_\omega - \hat{\mathbb{E}}_Y)^2$$

- Empirical cdf:

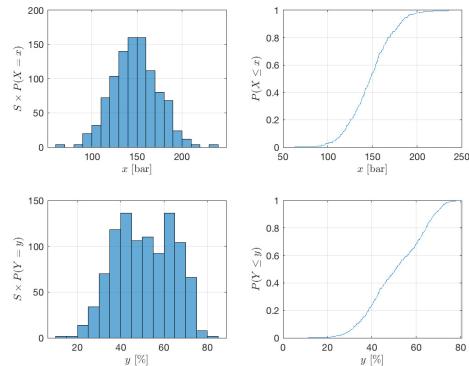
$$\hat{F}_Y(y) = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} \mathbf{1}[y_\omega \leq y]$$

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Example: Gibbs Reactor [gibbs.example.m](#)



- Empirical pdf and cdf for pressure (input X) and conversion (output Y).
- Note change in behavior of Y due to nonlinearity of system.



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Decision-Making under Uncertainty



Consider now that we would like to find a decision $u \in \mathcal{U}$ that controls $Y(u) = \varphi(X, u)$ in some desirable way. This gives rise to a couple of questions:

- If we have a couple of competing decisions u and u' giving rise to random outputs $Y(u)$ and $Y(u')$. How can we tell which one is better?
- How can we find the best possible decision u ?

Some observations:

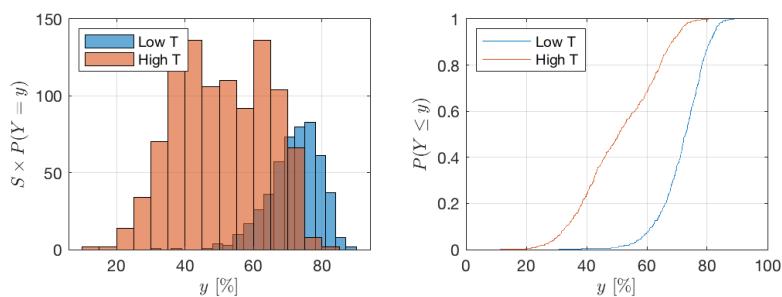
- If we assume a *deterministic setting* with no uncertainty, then $Y(u)$ and $Y(u')$ will each take a single value and one would select, *unambiguously*, the one with larger (or smaller) value. For instance, one would select u if $Y(u) \leq Y(u')$.
- In a *setting under uncertainty* this is no longer possible because $Y(u)$ and $Y'(u)$ have multiple possible outcomes and with different probabilities ($Y(u)$ and $Y'(u)$ are functions)
- Concept of “better” under uncertainty is ambiguous and mathematical statement $Y(u) \leq Y(u')$ does not even make sense.
- Does $Y(u) \leq Y(u')$ mean that all outcomes of $Y(u)$ are lower than those $Y(u')$? Does it mean that a subset of outcomes are lower?

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Example: Gibbs Reactor [gibbs.example.m](#)



- Can counteract variability in pressure X by operating at low or high temp u
- We compare empirical pdf and cdf for conversion at low $Y(u)$ and high $Y(u')$ temp
- Should we operate at low or high temperature?



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Estimation



Given data $x_\omega, y_\omega, \omega \in \mathcal{S}$ available, we now place our attention to the question:

Is the data following a particular pattern (trend)? If there is a pattern, can we model it?

In this context, by a model, we mean two things:

- If we have empirical statistics (e.g., cdf, pdf, mean, variance) obtained from data x_ω, y_ω , do these match the statistics of a *known RV*?
- If we do not know the system model φ that relates x_ω and y_ω , can we determine this by using input-output data?

Estimation is task of determining models from data. Having model will allow us:

- Determine if the available data is sufficient to say something meaningful about events that have not been observed (e.g., need more data to make a decision?).
- Make predictions about other possible events and their respective probabilities (e.g., how likely is an extreme event from happening?)
- Extract trends that help us summarize the data available (from data to knowledge).
- Conduct uncertainty quantification and ultimately make decisions.

Our first step is to postulate an RV model and see if this fits the data.

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Outline



① Introduction

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Model of a Gaussian RV



- A wide range of RV models have been developed over the years based on identification of common patterns that emerge in real-life phenomena.
- Many phenomena follow the behavior of a normal RV (a.k.a. Gaussian RV).

A Gaussian RV is continuous and has an associated pdf:

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}, \quad x \in \mathcal{D}_X = \{-\infty \leq x \leq \infty\}$$

- Scalar values $\mu \in \mathbb{R}, \sigma \in \mathbb{R}$ are parameters that are specific to application of interest.
- We will seek to tune the parameters to match the RV model to the available data.
- We express the fact that an RV X is Gaussian as $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$.

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Model of a Gaussian RV



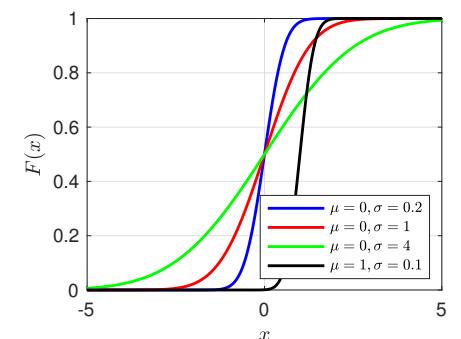
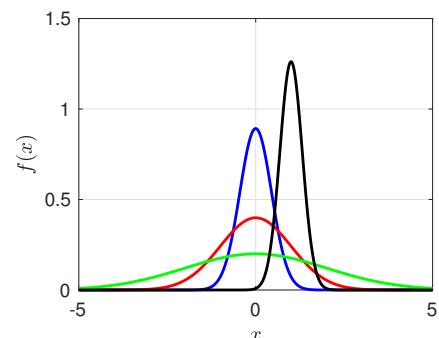
- Pdf tells us the behavior captured by a Gaussian RV:
 - Probability of an outcome x decays exponentially fast as we move from μ
 - Outcome of maximum probability (most likely outcome) is μ
 - Speed of the decay is dictated by σ
 - Decay in probability is symmetric around μ
- Gaussian model assumes that an outcome x can take any value in domain $(-\infty, \infty)$.
- This introduces complications, as many phenomena involve variables that cannot take negative values (e.g., mass) or infinite values (e.g., temperatures).
- Gaussian RVs can model a wide range of phenomena (e.g., diffusion).
- Moreover, many phenomena have the Gaussian RV as a limiting case (we will show this later).

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Model of a Gaussian RV [compare_gaussians.m](#)



- Here are the pdfs for $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$ for different values of μ and σ .
- What do you observe?
- What happens when $\sigma^2 \rightarrow 0$?



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Example: Diffusion Phenomena



- Gaussian RV naturally emerges in diffusion phenomena
- Consider question: What is probability of finding a particle in a particular location x in the spatial domain $[-\infty, \infty]$ and at a given time $t \in [0, T]$?
- One can show that such probability, denotes as $f(x, t)$ solves the diffusion equation:

$$\frac{\partial f(x, t)}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 f(x, t)}{\partial x^2}$$

with boundary conditions:

$$f(x, t) = 0, \quad x \in [-\infty, \infty]$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x, t) dx = 1, \quad t \in [0, T]$$

- The solution is:

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2}}, \quad x \in [-\infty, \infty]$$

with dispersion coefficient $\sigma^2 = 2Dt$.

- In other words, the particle position is random and given by $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$
- How does behavior change with diffusivity D ?

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Properties of a Gaussian RV



A Gaussian RV $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ has many useful properties. For instance:

- Its expected value and variance are $\mathbb{E}_X = \mu$ and $\mathbb{V}[X] = \sigma^2$.
- Any linear transformation $Y = a + bX$ yields a Gaussian RV $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(a + b\mu, b^2\sigma^2)$. This implies that $\mathbb{E}_Y = a + b\mathbb{E}_X$ and $\mathbb{V}_Y = b^2\mathbb{V}_X$.
- Cdf of $Y = a + bX$ satisfies $F_Y(y) = F_X(x)$ for all $y = a + bx$.

Think about implications from an estimation and uncertainty propagation perspective:

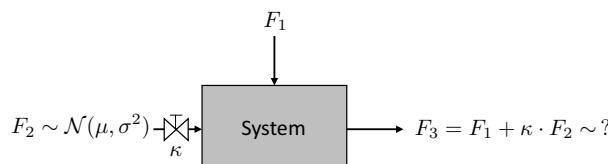
- We can estimate μ and σ from data as $\mu = \hat{\mathbb{E}}_X$ and $\sigma^2 = \hat{\mathbb{V}}[X]$. This is sufficient to create an empirical Gaussian model.
- Any linear system $\varphi(X) = a + bX$ will generate a Gaussian output. Moreover, system will shrink variability of X if $b < 1$ and will magnify if $b > 1$.

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Example: Mixing Problem



- We have input flow $F_1 = 10$ (gpm) that can be measured with high accuracy so it is OK to assume this to be deterministic.
- We have another input flow F_2 (gpm) that cannot be measured with high accuracy and is thus modeled as an RV $\mathcal{N}(20, 1)$.
- Uncertain flow F_2 can be controlled using a valve with coefficient $\kappa \in [0, 1]$.
- What type of RV is output flow $F_3 = F_1 + \kappa \cdot F_2$? What is its mean and std dev?
- How does uncertainty in F_3 change $\kappa \rightarrow 0$ and $\kappa \rightarrow 1$? Why?



- We have that $F_3 = 10 + \kappa F_2$ and is thus F_3 a linear transformation of F_2
- We thus have that $F_3 \sim \mathcal{N}(10 + \kappa \cdot 20, \kappa^2 \cdot 1)$

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Properties of a Gaussian RV



Cdf of a Gaussian RV is given by:

$$F_X(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{(x - \mu)/\sigma}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \right)$$

where $\operatorname{erf} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the error function:

$$\operatorname{erf} \left(\frac{(x - \mu)/\sigma}{\sqrt{2}} \right) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^{\frac{(x - \mu)/\sigma}{\sqrt{2}}} e^{-t^2} dt$$

Computing cdf involves evaluating an integral that depends on μ and σ .

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Properties of a Gaussian RV



- Fortunately, one can exploit properties of Gaussian RVs to avoid this issue.
- $Z = (X - \mu)/\sigma$ is a linear transformation of $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ and thus $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$.
- Now note that pdf and cdf of Z are simply:

$$f_Z(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}z^2}$$

$$F_Z(z) = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{z}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \right), \quad \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{z}{\sqrt{2}}\right) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^{\frac{z}{\sqrt{2}}} e^{-t^2} dt$$

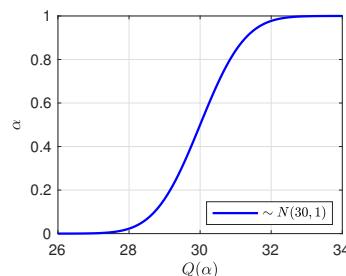
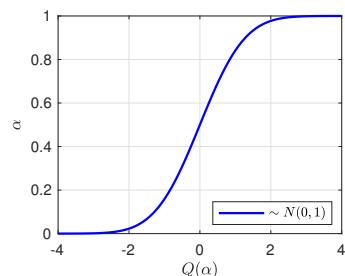
which do not depend on hyperparameters; Z is known as the standard normal RV.

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Example: Mixing Problem [mixing_gaussians.m](#)



- Recall $F_3 \sim \mathcal{N}(10 + \kappa \cdot 20, \kappa^2 \cdot 1)$
- Consider $\kappa = 1$ and thus flow $F_3 \sim \mathcal{N}(30, 1)$
- Quantile functions for $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ and $\mathcal{N}(30, 1)$ are shown below



- Quantile of $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ at $\alpha = 0.977$ is $Q(\alpha) = 2$
- Quantile of $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma)$ should be $\mu + 2 \cdot \sigma = 32$. Confirm this is true from plot

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Properties of a Gaussian RV



- From linear transformation properties we have that $F_X(x) = F_Z(z)$ holds for any $z = (x - \mu)/\sigma$ and thus we can evaluate $F_X(x)$ at a given value x by transforming x into z and then evaluate $F_Z(z)$.
- Since $F_Z(z)$ does not depend on any parameters, it can be precomputed (values of $F_Z(z)$ are available in software packages).
- If we want to compute $Q_X(\alpha) = F_X^{-1}(\alpha)$. As with cdf, we can compute this by using pre-computed quantiles of Z , which we denote as $z_\alpha := F_Z^{-1}(\alpha)$.
- Relationship between the quantiles of X and Z is obtained directly from the linear transformation $x = \mu + \sigma z$:

$$Q_X(\alpha) = \mu + \sigma z_\alpha.$$

The values z_α are known as the critical values of the standard normal. As with the cdf, these values have been precomputed and are available in software packages.

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Properties of a Gaussian RV



- Standardization allows us to easily determine probability that X is in specific ranges.
- Imagine that you precomputed $F_Z(k) = \mathbb{P}(Z \leq k)$ for $k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(Z \leq 0) &= 50.0\% \iff \mathbb{P}(X \leq \mu) = 50.0\% \\ \mathbb{P}(Z \leq 1) &= 84.1\% \iff \mathbb{P}(X \leq \mu + \sigma) = 84.1\% \\ \mathbb{P}(Z \leq 2) &= 97.7\% \iff \mathbb{P}(X \leq \mu + 2\sigma) = 97.7\% \\ \mathbb{P}(Z \leq 3) &= 99.9\% \iff \mathbb{P}(X \leq \mu + 3\sigma) = 99.9\% \end{aligned}$$

- i.e., probability that X is below its mean μ plus one σ is always 84.1%, probability that it is below μ plus three σ is always 99.9%, and so on.

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Properties of a Gaussian RV



- Standarization allows us to easily determine *confidence regions* for X .
- Assume probability level $\alpha \in [0, 1]$; we can show that critical value z satisfying

$$\mathbb{P}(-z \leq Z \leq z) = 1 - \alpha$$

is $z = F_Z^{-1}(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2})$ (we denote this as $z_{1-\frac{\alpha}{2}}$).

- In other words, we have that:

$$\mathbb{P}(-z_{1-\frac{\alpha}{2}} \leq Z \leq z_{1-\frac{\alpha}{2}}) = 1 - \alpha$$

- Using linear transformation property we obtain:

$$\mathbb{P}(\mu - z_{1-\frac{\alpha}{2}}\sigma \leq X \leq \mu + z_{1-\frac{\alpha}{2}}\sigma) = 1 - \alpha.$$

- i.e.; probability of finding $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ in region $\mu \pm z_{1-\frac{\alpha}{2}}\sigma$ is $1 - \alpha$.
- This gives an idea of how confident we are of finding X in a given region.
- Concept of confidence region is important in many topics of statistics.

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Model of an Exponential RV



Another RV that often appears in applications is the exponential random variable.

An exponential RV is continuous and has a pdf of the form:

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\beta} e^{-x/\beta}, \quad x \in \mathcal{D}_X = \{0 \leq x \leq \infty\}.$$

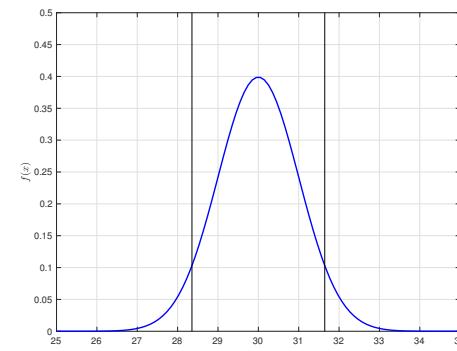
- The only parameter of this model is $\beta \in \mathbb{R}_+$ (a.k.a. scale value).
- Reciprocal $\eta = 1/\beta$ is known as the intensity and thus the pdf can also be written as $f_X(x) = \eta e^{-\eta \cdot x}$.
- We express the fact that X is exponential as $X \sim \text{Exp}(\beta)$.

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Example: Mixing Problem [mixing_gaussians.m](#)



- In what region do we expect flow $F_3 \sim \mathcal{N}(30, 1)$ to be with 90% probability?



- We have $1 - \alpha = 0.9$ and thus $\alpha = 0.1$ and quantile for $Q(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2}) = 1.644$.
- We thus have $F_3 \in [30 - 1.64 \cdot 1, 30 + 1.64 \cdot 1] = [28.36, 31.64]$ with 90% prob.

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Model of an Exponential RV



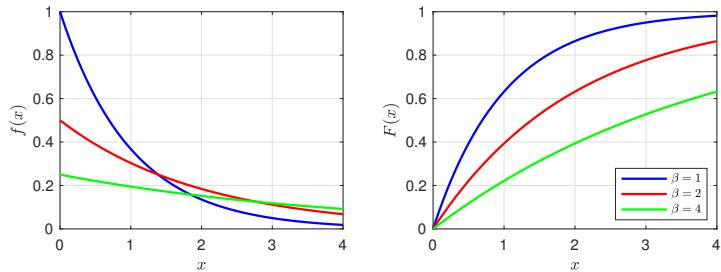
- Pdf of exponential RV tells us that:
 - Probability of finding X away from zero decays exponentially fast at rate η
 - There is zero probability of finding X below zero (pdf is asymmetric). One can think of an exponential RV as one side of a Gaussian RV.
- Cdf is $F_X(x) = 1 - e^{-x/\beta}$, expected value and variance are $\mathbb{E}_X = \beta$ and $\mathbb{V}_X = \beta^2$.
- This RV is often used to model time-dependent phenomena (e.g., *failures*).
- For instance, X can be used to model time that we have to wait until we observe first occurrence of an event (e.g., engine fails).
- In this context, we know average waiting time ($\mathbb{E}_X = \beta$) but actual time is unknown.

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Model of an Exponential RV [compare_exponentials.m](#)



- Pdfs and cdfs for $\text{Exp}(\beta)$ for different values of β .



How to determine β from cdf?

- Note that $F_X(x) = 1 - e^{-1} = 0.63$ when $x = \beta$.

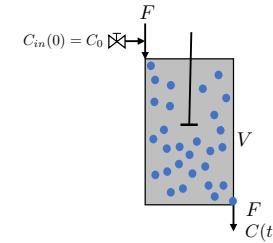
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Example: Residence Time in Mixing System



- Mixed system with volume V with input and output flow F
- At time $t = 0$ we inject particles so that input concentration is C_0 .
- The particle concentration in system at time t is $C(t)$

For how long will a particle reside in the system? What factors influence this time?



- Material balance reveals that:

$$f_T(t) = \frac{C(t)}{C_0} = \frac{1}{\tau} e^{-t/\tau} \quad \text{with } \tau = V/F$$

- Interpret T as time required for particle to exit system (residence time)

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Model of a Gamma RV



Example: Residence Time in Mixing System



$$f_T(t) = \frac{C(t)}{C_0} = \frac{1}{\tau} e^{-t/\tau} \quad \text{with } \tau = V/F$$

- Balance suggests that $T \sim \text{Exp}(\tau)$
- We thus have mean of residence time is $\mathbb{E}[T] = \tau = V/F$ and variance is $\mathbb{V}[T] = (V/F)^2$. What is effect of V and F ?
- Fraction of particles that have exited up to time t is $\mathbb{P}(T \leq t) = F_T(t)$.
- Note that $F_T(t) = \int_0^t (1/\tau) e^{-t/\tau} dt = (1 - e^{-t/\tau})$ and thus $F(0) = 0$ and $F(\infty) = 1$.
- Fraction of particles that are still in the system at time t is $\mathbb{P}(T > t) = 1 - F_T(t)$. This function is known as the survival function.

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Gamma RV is a generalization of exponential RV that has a pdf of the form:

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\beta^\alpha \Gamma(\alpha)} e^{-x/\beta} x^{\alpha-1}, \quad x \in \mathcal{D}_X = \{0 \leq x \leq \infty\}.$$

- The pdf has two hyperparameters $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}_+$
- $\Gamma(\alpha)$ is the gamma function (for integer $\alpha \geq 1$ we have $\Gamma(\alpha) = (\alpha - 1)!$).
- We express the fact that X is a gamma RV as $X \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$

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Model of a Gamma RV



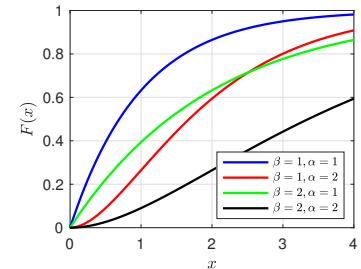
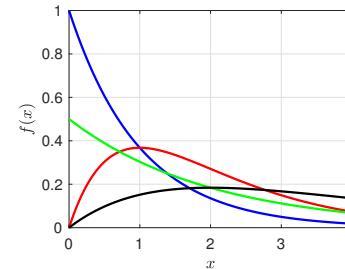
- Pdf tells us that one recovers an exponential RV when $\alpha = 1$.
- Term $x^{\alpha-1}$ introduces a competing (opposite) effect for the exponential decay, giving rise to peak in the pdf. The location of this peak is $x^* = (\alpha - 1)\beta$ and is the mode of the RV (point that maximizes $f_X(x)$).
- Expected value and variance are $\mathbb{E}_X = \alpha\beta$ and $\mathbb{V}_X = \alpha\beta^2$ (i.e., the parameters can be estimated from data by solving a set of two equations).
- In the context of time phenomena, this RV generalizes exponential in that it models amount of time that we have to wait until we observe the α -th occurrence of an event.
- Consequently, $\alpha=1$ means the first event (as in the exponential RV).
- This RV has applications not only in temporal but also in spatial phenomena. For instance, it can be used to model distance traveled until we find α -th occurrence of certain type of atom in a molecule.

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Model of an Gamma RV [compare_gammas.m](#)



- Below at the pdfs and cdfs for $\text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$ for different values of α, β .



- Note same as exponential for $\alpha = 1$.
- Note emergence of peaks due to competing effects for $\alpha = 2$.

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Model of a Chi-Squared RV



Chi-Square RV has pdf of the form:

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{2^{r/2}\Gamma(r/2)} e^{-x/2} x^{r/2-1}, \quad x \in \mathcal{D}_X = \{0 \leq x \leq \infty\}.$$

- Pdf has only one parameter $r \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ (a.k.a degrees of freedom).
- We express fact that X is a chi-squared RV as $X \sim \chi^2(r)$
- This is a Gamma RV with $\beta = 2$ and $\alpha = r/2$ (for a positive integer r).
- Expected value and variance can be derived from those of the Gamma RV.
- A crucial property of a chi-squared RV is that it is related to standard normal RV. In particular, one can show that:

$$\sum_{i=1}^r X_i^2 \sim \chi^2(r)$$

if $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ and X_i are independent. This property will be useful later on.

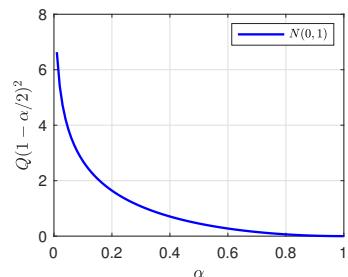
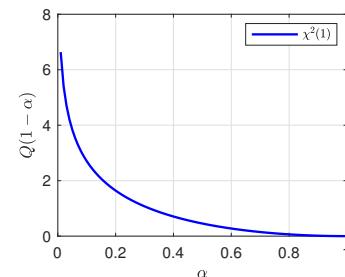
- From relationship with $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ we can show that $Q(1 - \alpha)$ of $\chi^2(1)$ is equal to $Q(1 - \alpha/2)^2$ of $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$. This is because $\mathbb{P}(-z \leq Z \leq z) = \mathbb{P}(Z^2 \leq z)$.

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Model of an Chi-Squared RV [compare_chisq.m](#)



- Compare quantiles $Q(1 - \alpha)$ of $\chi^2(1)$ and $Q(1 - \alpha/2)^2$ of $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$.



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Model of a Weibull RV

Weibull RV is a generalization of exponential RV that has pdf:

$$f_X(x) = \frac{\xi}{\beta} \left(\frac{x}{\beta}\right)^{\xi-1} \exp\left[-\left(\frac{x}{\beta}\right)^\xi\right], \quad x \in \mathcal{D}_X = \{0 \leq x \leq \infty\}.$$

- Pdf has parameters $\xi, \beta \in \mathbb{R}_+$ (a.k.a scale and shape).
- We express fact that X is a Weibull RV as $X \sim \text{Weibull}(\xi, \beta)$.
- One recovers an exponential RV when $\xi = 1$.
- Expected value and variance are $\mathbb{E}_X = \beta\Gamma(1 + 1/\xi)$ and $\mathbb{V}_X = \beta^2 (\Gamma(1 + 2/\xi) + \Gamma(1 + 1/\xi)^2)$. Dependence on gamma function makes it difficult to estimate ξ, β from these relationships.
- Cdf has nice form $F_X(x) = 1 - e^{(-x/\beta)^\xi}$ (ξ, β are often inferred from cdf). Note also that $\mathbb{P}(X \leq \beta) = 0.632$ for any ξ .
- Weibull RV is *de facto* model used in failure analysis and was proposed by statisticians Fischer and Tippett.
- Turns out that, as in the case of the Gaussian RV, many phenomena have the Weibull RV as a limiting case (we will show this later).

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Families of Random Variables

- Exponential, gamma, chi-squared, and weibull RVs are interrelated. In fact, these are captured by generalized gamma model with pdf:

$$F_X(x) = \frac{1}{\beta^\alpha \Gamma(\alpha)} \exp\left[-\left(\frac{x-\delta}{\beta}\right)^\alpha\right] \xi(x-\delta)^{\alpha\xi-1}, \quad x \in \mathcal{D}_X = \{0 \leq x \leq \infty\}.$$

- These RVs are known as the Gamma family.
- There are three major families of continuous RVs:
 - Gaussian family (includes Gaussian, LogNormal, and Raleigh)
 - Gamma family (includes exponential, Gamma, Chi-Squared, and Weibull)
 - Ratio family (includes Cauchy, Uniform, Beta, Fisher, Student)
- There is one family for discrete RVs, which includes Uniform (discrete), Bernoulli, Binomial, and Poisson.
- Each family models different type of phenomena and there exist relationships between RVs within families and across families.

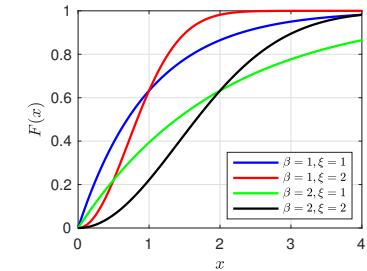
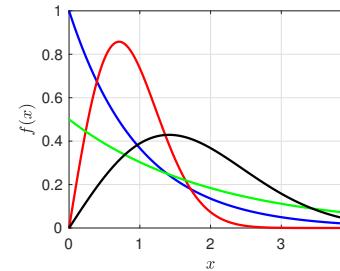
A detailed discussion of the modeling properties of RVs is beyond our scope. Here, we have only discussed the RVs that will be relevant in our subsequent discussion.

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Model of Weibull RV [compare_weibull.m](#)

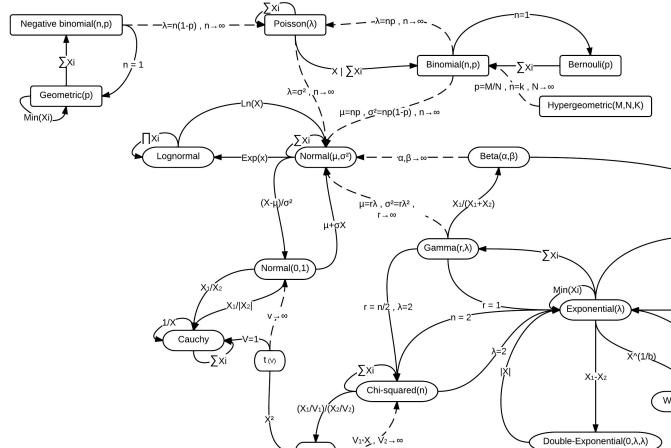
- Pdfs and cdfs for $\text{Weibull}(\beta, \xi)$ for different values of β, ξ .



- Same as exponential for $\xi = 1$.
- Note emergence of peaks due to competing effects for $\xi > 1$.
- Note $\mathbb{P}(X \leq \beta) = 0.632$ for any ξ (this differentiates it from gamma RV).



Families of Random Variables



Outline



- ① Introduction
- ② Models of Random Variables
- ③ Estimation Techniques
- ④ Multivariate Statistics
- ⑤ Data-Driven Modeling
- ⑥ Statistical Learning
- ⑦ Decision-Making Under Uncertainty

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Estimation Techniques



- We have now a basic idea of the types of RV models available to model phenomena. We proceed to develop procedures to determine if a RV model fits data at hand.
- We define an RV model in terms of its $f_X(x|\theta)$ (or $F_X(x|\theta)$), where θ are the model parameters.
- By estimating the RV model we mean that we seek to find θ that best fits data.

We explore a couple of estimation methods:

- Point Estimation (Method of Moments and Least-Squares Method)
- Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE)

- First step will be to explore our data and postulate an RV model (e.g., Gaussian or Exponential) based on any patterns exposed.
- Second step will be to tune θ to see if this fits the data satisfactorily. If fit is not adequate, we postulate another model.

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Method of Moments



- Recall the moments of X (with pdf $f_X(x|\theta)$ and hyperparameters θ) are given by:

$$m_k(\theta) := \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X])^k], \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

- Here, we highlight the dependence of the moments on the hyperparameters θ .
- Method of moments uses data $x_\omega, \omega \in \mathcal{S}$ to obtain sample approximations:

$$M_k = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} (x_\omega - m)^k, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

where $m = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} x_\omega$ is the sample mean.

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Method of Moments



- Our objective is to find θ that solve matching equations:

$$m_k(\theta) = M_k, \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

- In other words, we want to find θ that matches model and sample moments.
- A solution to these equations can also be found by solving minimization problem:

$$\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^N (m_k(\theta) - M_k)^2.$$

This problem is known as a least-squares problem (seeks to minimize discrepancy between model and sample moments).

- Least-squares is preferred when the matching equations do not have a solution. In this case, minimization problem finds θ that is most compatible with data.

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Example: Method of Moments



We illustrate how to estimate $\theta = (\mu, \sigma^2)$ using moment matching for $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$.

- We are given observations $x_\omega, \omega \in \mathcal{S}$.
- Sample mean is $\hat{E}_X = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}} x_\omega$ and variance $\hat{V}_X = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}} (x_\omega - \hat{E}_X)^2$.
- We have that $m_1(\theta) = \mathbb{E}[X - \mathbb{E}_X] = \mathbb{E}_X - \mu = 0$ and we thus estimate $\mu = \hat{E}_X$.
- We have that $m_2(\theta) = \mathbb{V}_X = \sigma^2$ and we thus estimate $\sigma^2 = \hat{V}_X$

Now consider we wish to estimate $\theta = (\xi, \beta)$ using moment matching for Weibull(ξ, β).

- We are given observations $x_\omega, \omega \in \mathcal{S}$.
- Sample mean is $\hat{E}_X = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}} x_\omega$ and variance $\hat{V}_X = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}} (x_\omega - \hat{E}_X)^2$.
- We find β, ξ that match $m_1(\theta)$ and $m_2(\theta)$ by solving nonlinear equations:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{E}_X &= \beta \Gamma(1 + 1/\xi) \\ \hat{V}_X &= \beta^2 (\Gamma(1 + 2/\xi) + \Gamma(1 + 1/\xi)^2)\end{aligned}$$

- This is challenging due to complex nature of Γ function. Is there another way?

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Least-Squares Method

- Moment functions $m_k(\theta)$ might be too complex for some RVs (e.g., Weibull).
- In such cases, we can use $F_X(t|\theta)$ to find parameters. For Weibull, we have $F_X(t|\theta) = (1 - e^{-(t/\beta)^\xi})$ with $\theta = (\xi, \beta)$.
- In the least-squares method, we find θ that best matches empirical cdf (obtained from data $x_\omega, \omega \in \mathcal{S}$).
- We propose a set of threshold values $t_k, k = 1, 2, \dots, N$ and compute:

$$\hat{F}_k = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} \mathbf{1}[x_\omega \leq t_k], \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, N$$

- We use these approximations to solve least-squares problem:

$$\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^N (F_X(t_k|\theta) - \hat{F}_k)^2$$

- If cdf has an exponential form, it is convenient to use log transformations:

$$\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^N (\log F_X(t_k|\theta) - \log \hat{F}_k)^2$$

- Least-squares method is general and can be used to match other statistics (e.g., empirical quantiles).

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Example: Weibull using Least-Squares [weibull.least.squares.m](#)



Example: Weibull using Least-Squares



Consider we wish to estimate $\theta = (\xi, \beta)$ using least-squares for Weibull(ξ, β).

- We are given observations $x_\omega, \omega \in \mathcal{S}$ and obtain empirical cdfs $\hat{F}(t_k)$ for given $t_k, k = 1, \dots, N$.
- Recall cdf of Weibull is $F_X(t|\theta) = (1 - e^{-(t/\beta)^\xi})$ and notice that:

$$\log(1 - F_X(t|\theta)) = -(t/\beta)^\xi$$

Moreover:

$$\log(-\log(1 - F_X(t|\theta))) = \xi \log t - \xi \log \beta$$

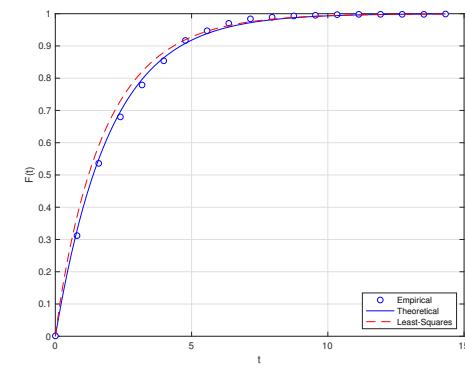
- We have $\log t = a \log(-\log(1 - F_X(t|\theta))) + b$ with $a = 1/\xi$ and $b = \log \beta$.
- We want to find a, b that best matches $\log t_k = a \cdot \log(-\log(1 - \hat{F}(t_k))) + b$. This is done by solving:

$$\min_{a,b} \sum_{k=1}^N (y_k - (a \cdot x_k + b))^2$$

where $x_k = \log(-\log(1 - \hat{F}(t_k)))$ and $y_k = \log t_k$.

- This is a simple linear optimization problem. We will see later on how to solve this.

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Maximum Likelihood Method



The maximum likelihood estimation (MLE) method is:

- Assume we have observations $x_\omega, \omega \in \mathcal{S}$ (selected at random).
- We postulate $f_X(x|\theta)$ for RV X and recall that $f(x_\omega|\theta)$ is probability (likelihood) that X takes value of observation x_ω .
- Consequently, we find θ that maximize joint probability that X takes observations $x_\omega, \omega \in \mathcal{S}$. This is done by solving maximization problem:

$$\max_{\theta} L(\theta) = \prod_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} f(x_\omega|\theta).$$

Here, $L(\theta)$ is known as the likelihood function.

- It is often convenient to solve the equivalent problem:

$$\max_{\theta} \log L(\theta) = \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} \log f(x_\omega|\theta).$$

This problem can be solved by hand when pdf is simple but requires numerical techniques when complex.

- We will soon discuss what "random observations" and "joint probability" mean.

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Example: Maximum Likelihood for Exponential RV



- Want to estimate β for $\text{Exp}(\beta)$ using observations x_ω .
- Pdf of exponential is $f(x|\beta) = \frac{1}{\beta} e^{-x/\beta}$ and thus likelihood function is:

$$L(\beta) = \left(\frac{1}{\beta} e^{-x_1/\beta} \right) \left(\frac{1}{\beta} e^{-x_2/\beta} \right) \cdots \left(\frac{1}{\beta} e^{-x_S/\beta} \right) \\ = \frac{1}{\beta^S} \exp \left(-\frac{1}{\beta} \sum_{\omega=1}^S x_\omega \right).$$

- We find β that maximizes log likelihood $\log L(\beta)$:

$$\max_{\beta} \log L(\beta) = -S \log \beta - \frac{1}{\beta} \sum_{\omega=1}^S x_\omega$$

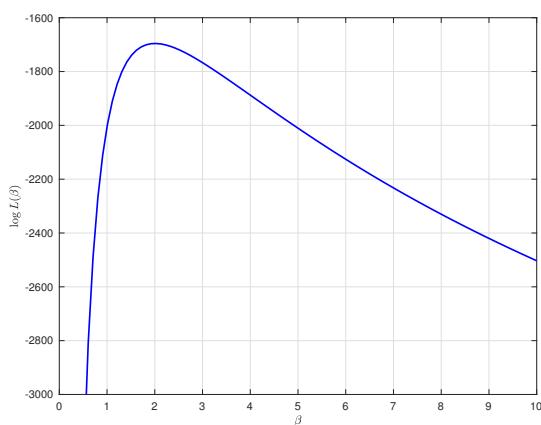
- Solution of this problem is $\hat{\beta} = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega=1}^S x_\omega$.
- i.e., best estimate $\hat{\beta}$ is sample mean (which makes sense because $\mathbb{E}[X] = \beta$).

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Example: Maximum Likelihood for Exponential RV [exp_mle.m](#)



- Plot of $\log L(\beta)$ (obtained with data x_ω generated from $\text{Exp}(2)$).
- Note that value of β that maximizes $\log L(\beta)$ ($\hat{\beta}$) coincides with true value $\beta = 2$.



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Advanced Estimation Techniques

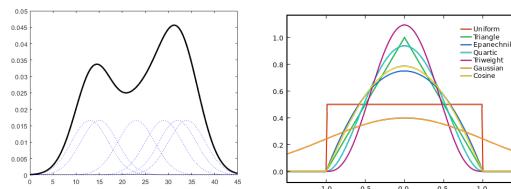


- If data does not fit a known RV model, one can resort to determine pdf and cdf numerically by using kernel-based (functional) techniques.
- Kernel techniques use data $x_\omega, \omega \in \mathcal{S}$ to create functional approximation:

$$\hat{f}_h(x) = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega=1}^S K_h(x - x_\omega)$$

where K_h is the kernel function (with parameter h).

- Here are typical kernel functions and the type of complex behavior they can capture:



- We will explore later on the working principles behind kernel methods.

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Sampling and Asymptotic Properties



- So far, we have assumed that we have data $x_\omega, \omega \in \mathcal{S}$.
- However, we have not discussed how this data is being *collected*.
- We also want to know how sample approximations and estimates $\hat{\theta}$ behave as we accumulate data.

We make the following observations:

- Data samples $x_\omega \in \mathcal{S}$ is a set of observations of X collected from a population Ω by a defined procedure; i.e., sampling is a data collection procedure.
- A data sample sequence $x_\omega \in \mathcal{S}$ is called *random* if each sample x_ω is drawn from the same underlying pdf $f_X(x)$ and if it is drawn *independently* from the others; i.e., samples are independent and identically distributed (i.i.d.).
- If sample x_ω is selected at random, the sample itself is an RV. Consequently, sometimes we denote data sample sequence as a sequence of RVs $X_\omega \in \mathcal{S}$.

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Sampling and Asymptotic Properties



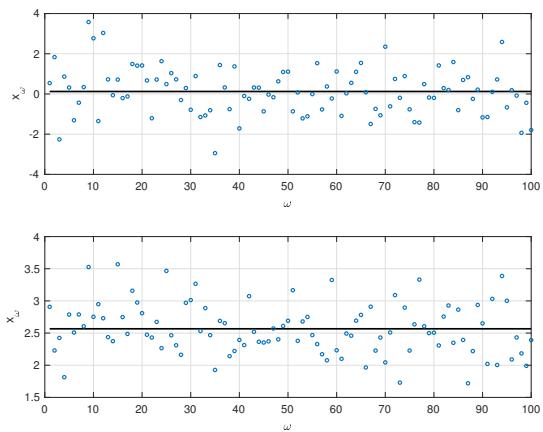
- Random sample X_ω has same probability $1/S$ of being selected and is *unbiased*.
- Lack of bias indicates that $\mathbb{E}[X_\omega] = \mathbb{E}[X]$ (drawing sample many times and averaging results gives same expected value of actual RV X).
- Random samples can be used to construct *approximation* techniques with powerful asymptotic properties.
- Collecting data at random is not as easy as it sounds, one must ensure that there is no bias in selecting a sample (i.e., there is no hidden mechanism). As humans, it is strikingly difficult to pick something randomly.

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Sampling and Asymptotic Properties random_sample.m



- Below we show a random and nonrandom (biased) sample sequence for $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ and their corresponding long-term averages.
- For nonrandom, we select a particular element of the sample (this introduces a bias and thus $\mathbb{E}[X_\omega] \neq 0$).



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Monte Carlo Approximations



Monte Carlo (MC) is a set of computational techniques that use *random samples* to infer properties of X and derived quantities (e.g., summarizing statistics). For example, we can use random sample $x_\omega \in \mathcal{S}$ to compute sample approximations:

- Expectation of X : $\hat{\mathbb{E}}_X^S := \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} x_\omega \approx \mathbb{E}[X]$
- Variance of X : $\hat{\mathbb{V}}_X^S := \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} (x_\omega - \hat{\mathbb{E}}_X^S)^2 \approx \mathbb{V}[X]$
- CDF of X : $\hat{F}_X^S(x) := \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} \mathbf{1}[x_\omega \leq x] \approx F_X(x) = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{1}[X \leq x]]$
- Expectation of system $\hat{\mathbb{E}}_\varphi^S := \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} \varphi(x_\omega, u) \approx \mathbb{E}[\varphi(X, u)]$.

Natural questions that emerge here are:

- Do the approximations become exact as $S \rightarrow \infty$?
- How accurate are these approximations for finite S ?
- Most approximations use an expectation function and we thus restrict our discussion to the behavior of $\hat{\mathbb{E}}_X^S$.
- There are approximation techniques that use systematic (biased) sampling methods (data is not collected at random).

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Law of Large Numbers



Lets assess quality of MC approximations as $S \rightarrow \infty$.

- Consider i.i.d. random sample sequence X_1, X_2, \dots, X_S for RV X . Since samples are i.i.d, they have same underlying pdf with expected value $\mathbb{E}[X]$.
- This implies that $\mathbb{E}[X_1] = \mathbb{E}[X_2] = \dots = \mathbb{E}[X_S] = \mathbb{E}[X]$.
- Consider MC approximation of $\mathbb{E}[X]$:

$$\hat{\mathbb{E}}_X^S = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega \in S} X_\omega$$

The law of large numbers (LLN) states that:

$$\lim_{S \rightarrow \infty} \hat{\mathbb{E}}_X^S = \mathbb{E}[X]$$

- LLN is a fundamental result in statistics and is important because it guarantees *stable long-run* behavior of random variables.
- In other words, if process is truly random, samples fluctuate around $\mathbb{E}[X]$ and average out. Conversely, if there is a systematic bias, fluctuations will accumulate and process will drift.
- LLN implies that MC approximations become asymptotically exact as $S \rightarrow \infty$. Importantly, result holds for any random variable (e.g., discrete, continuous, univariate, multivariate).

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Central Limit Theorem



Lets turn our attention to assessing quality of MC approximations for finite S .

- This can be addressed by using a powerful result in statistics known as the central limit theorem (CLT).
- Consider that sample sequence X_1, X_2, \dots, X_S is i.i.d and has *known* expected value $e = \mathbb{E}[X]$ and variance $v^2 = \mathbb{V}[X]$.
- We know that X_ω are RVs and so is $\hat{\mathbb{E}}_X^S$.

CLT will answer the following question:

- What is pdf of $\hat{\mathbb{E}}_X^S$ as $S \rightarrow \infty$?

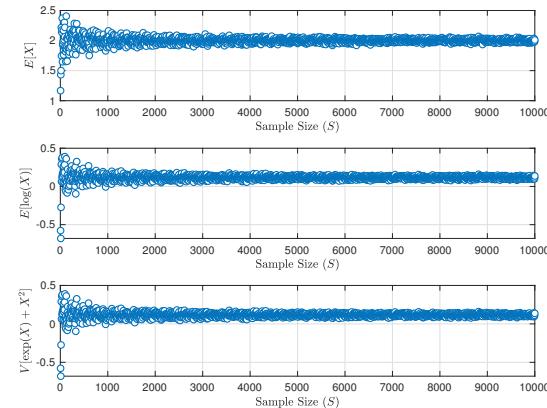
If we know it, we can say something about variability (accuracy) of MC approximation.

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Example: Monte Carlo Approximations `mc_approx.m`



- Consider random samples $x_\omega, \omega \in S$ obtained from $X \sim \text{Weibull}(2, 1)$
- MC approximations for $\mathbb{E}[X], \mathbb{E}[\log(X)]$ and $\mathbb{V}[\exp(X) + X^2]$ for different S .



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Central Limit Theorem



CLT states that:

$$\lim_{S \rightarrow \infty} \hat{\mathbb{E}}_X^S \sim \mathcal{N}(e, v/\sqrt{S})$$

This result is one of the most surprising and useful results in statistics. Let's explain why:

- CLT says that, *regardless* of underlying nature of X (e.g., Weibull, Exponential), its sample approximation $\hat{\mathbb{E}}_X^S$ will *always* become a Gaussian RV as S increases.
- CLT also says that variance of $\hat{\mathbb{E}}_X^S \sim \mathcal{N}(e, v/\sqrt{S})$ shrinks with S . In other words, $\hat{\mathbb{E}}_X^S$ becomes more certain as S increases.
- Implication is that, since we have a cdf and pdf for $\hat{\mathbb{E}}_X^S$, we can compute all quantities of interest for it. For example, we can compute confidence regions:

$$\mathbb{P}\left(e - z_{1-\alpha/2}v/\sqrt{S} \leq \hat{\mathbb{E}}_X^S \leq e + z_{1-\alpha/2}v/\sqrt{S}\right) = 1 - \alpha.$$

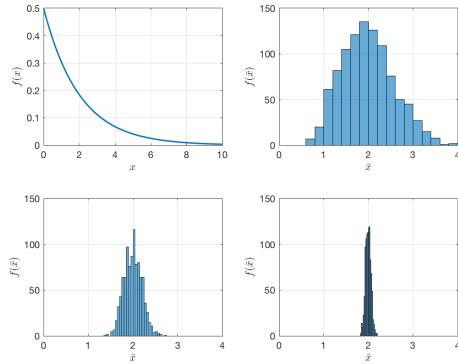
Consequently, for given S , we know how confident we are that $\hat{\mathbb{E}}_X^S$ is in a region.

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Example: Central Limit Theorem [central_limit_theorem.m](#)



- We have samples X_1, X_2, \dots, X_S obtained from $X \sim \text{Weibull}(2, 1)$.
- Want distribution of $\hat{\mathbb{E}}_X^S = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega=1}^S X_\omega$ (denoted as \bar{X}) for different values of S .
- Below we show pdf of Weibull(2, 1) and of $\hat{\mathbb{E}}_X^S$ for $S = 10, 100, 1000$.



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Extreme Value Theorem



- In CLT we are interested in the limiting behavior of *sample average* $\hat{\mathbb{E}}_X^S = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega \in S} X_\omega$.
- What if we are interested in a different statistic? For instance, *sample maximum*:

$$X_{max}^S = \max\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_S\}$$

- There exists a result (analogous to CLT) that characterizes pdf of X_{max}^S as $S \rightarrow \infty$. The result is known as the extreme value theorem (EVT).
- Consider, as before, an i.i.d. sequence X_1, X_2, \dots, X_S for RV X .

EVT states that:

$$\lim_{S \rightarrow \infty} X_{max}^S \sim \text{GEV}(a, b, c)$$

where $\text{GEV}(a, b, c)$ is the generalized extreme value (GEV) RV with parameters a, b, c .

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Extreme Value Theorem



GEV RV has a pdf of the form:

$$f(s; \xi) = \begin{cases} (1 + cs)^{(-1/c)-1} \exp(-(1 + cs)^{-1/c}) & c \neq 0 \\ \exp(-s) \exp(-\exp(-s)) & c = 0 \end{cases}$$

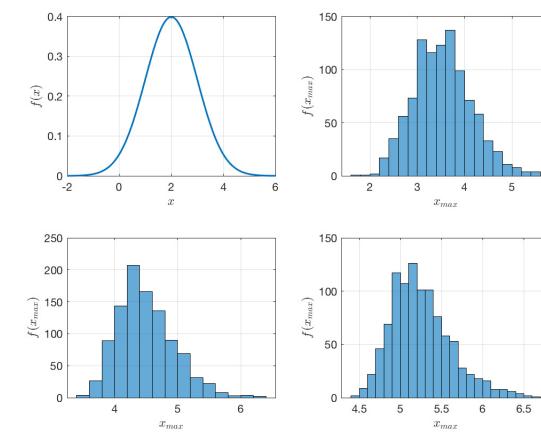
and a cdf of the form:

$$F_X(x) = \begin{cases} \exp(-(1 + cs)^{-1/c}) & c \neq 0 \\ \exp(-\exp(-s)) & c = 0 \end{cases}$$

where $s = (x - a)/b$ is a standarized variable.

- GEV RV is a general RV that includes Weibull (for $c < 0$), Frechet (for $c > 0$), and Gumbel (for $c = 0$) RVs.
- GEV RV is widely used in failure analysis because max operator characterizes peak (extreme) events.
- As with CLT, EVT does not depend on the underlying nature of X .

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Outline



- 1 Introduction
- 2 Models of Random Variables
- 3 Estimation Techniques
- 4 Multivariate Statistics
- 5 Data-Driven Modeling
- 6 Statistical Learning
- 7 Decision-Making Under Uncertainty

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Multivariate Statistics



- So far, we have assumed that RV X is univariate and thus has scalar observations $x_\omega \in \mathbb{R}$.
- We have also informally mentioned concept of independent and joint RVs in the context of estimation and sampling. What do these mean?
- We now consider multivariate RV $X = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ with observations $x_\omega = (x_{\omega,1}, x_{\omega,2}, \dots, x_{\omega,n}) \in \mathbb{R}^n$; e.g., input-output pair (X, Y) discussed in uncertainty propagation is a multivariate RV with $n = 2$.

Questions that we are interested in answering are:

- Are there any connections between RVs? Is there a pattern that suggests they vary together? Are they independent of one another?
- If they are connected, how strong are connections?
- If there are connected, how does knowledge of one affects uncertainty of the other?
- How to analyze connections between many RVs? (e.g., n is in the hundreds)
- How to generalize previous results from univariate case to multivariate case?

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Joint PDFs and CDFs



For simplicity, we consider bivariate RV $X = (X_1, X_2)$. The concepts presented easily generalize to larger n .

- Observation $\omega \in \Omega$ of RV X generates observation pair $x_\omega = (x_{\omega,1}, x_{\omega,2})$
- We assume that domain of X is a 2-D box:

$$\mathcal{D}_1 = \{-\infty \leq x_1 \leq \infty\}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_2 = \{-\infty \leq x_2 \leq \infty\}$$

$$\mathcal{D} = \mathcal{D}_1 \times \mathcal{D}_2 = \{-\infty \leq x_1 \leq \infty, -\infty \leq x_2 \leq \infty\}$$

- Joint pdf and cdf of multivariate RV are:

$$f(x_1, x_2) = \mathbb{P}(X_1 = x_1 \& X_2 = x_2), (x_1, x_2) \in \mathcal{D}$$

$$F(x_1, x_2) = \mathbb{P}(X_1 \leq x_1 \& X_2 \leq x_2), (x_1, x_2) \in \mathcal{D}$$

- Note sign & inside measure; i.e., $f(x_1, x_2)$ is probability of event in which X_1 takes value x_1 and X_2 takes value x_2 .

- Pdf must satisfy $f(x_1, x_2) \geq 0$, $(x_1, x_2) \in \mathcal{D}$ and $\int_{(x_1, x_2) \in \mathcal{D}} f(x_1, x_2) dx_1 dx_2 = 1$.

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Joint PDFs and CDFs



Consider a box subdomain $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{D}$ of the form:

$$\mathcal{A} = \{a_1 \leq x_1 \leq b_1 \& a_2 \leq x_2 \leq b_2\}$$

- For discrete RV we have that pdf is discontinuous and:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(X \in \mathcal{A}) &= \sum_{(x_1, x_2) \in \mathcal{A}} f(x_1, x_2) \\ &= \sum_{\omega \in \Omega} f(x_1, x_2) \mathbf{1}[(x_{\omega,1}, x_{\omega,2}) \in \mathcal{A}].\end{aligned}$$

- For continuous RV we have that pdf is continuous and:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(X \in \mathcal{A}) &= \int_{(x_1, x_2) \in \mathcal{A}} f(x_1, x_2) dx_1 dx_2 \\ &= \int_{a_1}^{b_1} \int_{a_2}^{b_2} f(x_1, x_2) dx_1 dx_2 \\ &= \int_{a_1}^{b_1} \int_{a_2}^{b_2} dF(x_1, x_2)\end{aligned}$$

The last expression implies that $\frac{dF(x_1, x_2)}{dx_1 dx_2} = f(x_1, x_2)$.

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Example: Control System Reliability



- Reliability of control system depends on lifetime of processor X_1 and actuator X_2 .
- Probability that lifetime of X_1 is x_1 and X_2 is x_2 is given by joint pdf of $X = (X_1, X_2)$:

$$f(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{50} e^{-(0.2x_1 + 0.1x_2)}$$

- What is probability that system lasts more than 2 years?

$$\mathbb{P}(X_1 \geq 2 \& X_2 \geq 2) = \int_2^\infty \int_2^\infty \frac{1}{50} e^{-(0.2x_1 + 0.1x_2)} dx_1 dx_2 = 0.549$$

- What is probability that processor lasts more than 5 years and actuator lasts more than 10 years?

$$\mathbb{P}(X_1 \geq 5 \& X_2 \geq 10) = \int_5^\infty \int_{10}^\infty \frac{1}{50} e^{-(0.2x_1 + 0.1x_2)} dx_1 dx_2 = 0.135$$

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Conditional PDFs and CDFs

Joint pdf $f(x_1, x_2)$ tells us probability that (X_1, X_2) takes value (x_1, x_2) .

- Imagine now we want to know probability that X_1 takes x_1 given knowledge that X_2 takes value x_2 (or other way around).

- These probabilities are obtained from *conditional pdfs*:

$$f(x_1|x_2) = \frac{f(x_1, x_2)}{f_2(x_2)}, \quad x_1 \in \mathcal{D}_1$$

$$f(x_2|x_1) = \frac{f(x_1, x_2)}{f_1(x_1)}, \quad x_2 \in \mathcal{D}_2$$

i.e., $f(x_1|x_2) = \mathbb{P}(X_1 = x_1 | X_2 = x_2)$ and $f(x_2|x_1) = \mathbb{P}(X_2 = x_2 | X_1 = x_1)$.

- These expressions can also be written as:

$$f_2(x_2)f(x_1|x_2) = f(x_1, x_2), \quad x_1 \in \mathcal{D}_1$$

$$f_1(x_1)f(x_2|x_1) = f(x_1, x_2), \quad x_2 \in \mathcal{D}_2$$

i.e., consider we want $\mathbb{P}(a_1 \leq X_1 \leq b_1 | X_2 = x_2)$:

$$\mathbb{P}(a_1 \leq X_1 \leq b_1 | X_2 = x_2) = \int_{a_1}^{b_1} f(x_1|x_2) dx_1$$

- Joint pdfs have associated marginal cdfs $F(x_1|x_2)$ and $F(x_2|x_1)$.

Marginal PDFs



- Imagine now we want to know probability that X_1 takes x_1 regardless of what value X_2 takes (or other way around).
- These probabilities are obtained from marginal pdfs. For a continuous RV:

$$f_1(x_1) = \int_{x_2 \in \mathcal{D}_2} f(x_1, x_2) dx_2, \quad x_1 \in \mathcal{D}_1$$

$$f_2(x_2) = \int_{x_1 \in \mathcal{D}_1} f(x_1, x_2) dx_1, \quad x_2 \in \mathcal{D}_2$$

i.e., marginal pdfs integrate out effect of RV we ignore (for discrete RV we sum out)

- Marginals represent:

$$f_1(x_1) = \mathbb{P}(X_1 = x_1 | X_2 \in \mathcal{D}_2) = \mathbb{P}(X_1 = x_1)$$

$$f_2(x_2) = \mathbb{P}(X_2 = x_2 | X_1 \in \mathcal{D}_1) = \mathbb{P}(X_2 = x_2).$$

- As an example, consider we want $\mathbb{P}(a_1 \leq X_1 \leq b_1)$; we have that:

$$\mathbb{P}(a_1 \leq X_1 \leq b_1) = \int_{a_1}^{b_1} \int_{x_2 \in \mathcal{D}_2} f(x_1, x_2) dx_2 dx_1 = \int_{a_1}^{b_1} f_1(x_1) dx_1$$

- Marginal pdfs have associated marginal cdfs $F_1(x_1)$ and $F_2(x_2)$.

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Independence

So conditional pdfs tell us how knowledge in one RV resolves uncertainty in the other (i.e., how much knowledge of one is embedded in the other).

So what if knowledge of one does not resolve uncertainty of the other?

This gives rise to concept of *independence*.

- RVs X_1 and X_2 are said to be independent if:

$$f(x_1|x_2) = f_1(x_1), \quad x_1 \in \mathcal{D}_1$$

$$f(x_2|x_1) = f_2(x_2), \quad x_2 \in \mathcal{D}_2$$

- This implies that:

$$f(x_1, x_2) = f_2(x_2)f_1(x_1), \quad (x_1, x_2) \in \mathcal{D}$$

- Equivalently:

$$\mathbb{P}(X_1 = x_1 \& X_2 = x_2) = \mathbb{P}(X_1 = x_1)\mathbb{P}(X_2 = x_2)$$

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Example: Control System Reliability



- Recall joint pdf of $X = (X_1, X_2)$ is:

$$f(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{50} e^{-(0.2x_1 + 0.1x_2)}$$

- Probability that $X_1 = x_1$ regardless of knowledge that $X_2 = x_2$ is:

$$f_1(x_1) = \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{50} e^{-(0.2x_1 + 0.1x_2)} dx_2 = \frac{1}{5} e^{-0.2x_1}$$

- Probability that $X_2 = x_2$ regardless of knowledge that $X_1 = x_1$ is:

$$f_2(x_2) = \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{50} e^{-(0.2x_1 + 0.1x_2)} dx_1 = \frac{1}{10} e^{-0.1x_2}$$

- Probability that $X_1 = x_1$ given that we know $X_2 = x_2$ is:

$$f(x_1|x_2) = \frac{\frac{1}{50} e^{-(0.2x_1 + 0.1x_2)}}{\frac{1}{10} e^{-0.1x_2}} = \frac{1}{5} e^{-0.2x_1}$$

- Probability that $X_2 = x_2$ given that we know $X_1 = x_1$ is:

$$f(x_2|x_1) = \frac{\frac{1}{50} e^{-(0.2x_1 + 0.1x_2)}}{\frac{1}{5} e^{-0.2x_1}} = \frac{1}{10} e^{-0.1x_2}$$

- We conclude that lifetime X_1 is independent of knowledge of lifetime X_2 (and viceversa).

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Summarizing Statistics for Multivariate RVs



Computing summarizing statistics for multivariate RVs is similar to doing so for univariate RVs but there are a few key differences that we highlight:

- Joint expectation of $X = (X_1, X_2)$ is a vector $\mathbb{E}[X] = (\mathbb{E}[X_1], \mathbb{E}[X_2])$ with:

$$\mathbb{E}[X_1] = \int_{x_1 \in \mathcal{D}_1} x_1 f_1(x_1) dx_1, \quad \mathbb{E}[X_2] = \int_{x_2 \in \mathcal{D}_2} x_2 f_2(x_2) dx_2.$$

- Joint expectation of $\varphi(X) = \varphi(X_1, X_2)$ is a scalar:

$$\mathbb{E}[\varphi(X)] = \int_{x_1 \in \mathcal{D}_1} \int_{x_2 \in \mathcal{D}_2} \varphi(x_1, x_2) f(x_1, x_2) dx_1 dx_2$$

- Conditional expectation of X_1 (given knowledge $X_2 = x_2$) is:

$$\mathbb{E}[X_1|X_2 = x_2] = \int_{x_1 \in \mathcal{D}_1} x_1 f(x_1|x_2) dx_1$$

- Conditional expectation of $\varphi(X) = \varphi(X_1, X_2)$ (given knowledge $X_2 = x_2$) is:

$$\mathbb{E}[\varphi(X)|X_2 = x_2] = \int_{x_1 \in \mathcal{D}_1} \varphi(x_1, x_2) f(x_1|x_2) dx_1$$

- Expressions for discrete RVs are analogous (replace integrals for sums).

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Summarizing Statistics for Multivariate RVs



In multivariate case, concepts of *covariance* and *correlation* emerge:

- Define marginal expectations and variances:

$$\mu_1 = \mathbb{E}[X_1]$$

$$\mu_2 = \mathbb{E}[X_2]$$

$$\sigma_1^2 = \mathbb{V}[X_1] = \mathbb{E}[(X_1 - \mu_1)^2]$$

$$\sigma_2^2 = \mathbb{V}[X_2] = \mathbb{E}[(X_2 - \mu_2)^2].$$

- Covariance between X_1 and X_2 is:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(X_1, X_2) &= \mathbb{E}[(X_1 - \mu_1)(X_2 - \mu_2)] \\ &= \int_{x_1 \in \mathcal{D}_1} \int_{x_2 \in \mathcal{D}_2} (x_1 - \mu_1)(x_2 - \mu_2) f(x_1, x_2) dx_1 dx_2. \end{aligned}$$

- Define $\sigma_{i,j} = \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j)$ and note $\sigma_{2,1} = \sigma_{1,2}$, $\text{Cov}(X_1, X_1) = \sigma_1^2$ and $\text{Cov}(X_2, X_2) = \sigma_2^2$.

- Correlation between X_1 and X_2 is:

$$\text{Corr}(X_1, X_2) = \frac{\sigma_{1,2}}{\sigma_1 \sigma_2}$$

- Define $\rho_{i,j} = \text{Corr}(X_i, X_j)$ and note $\rho_{1,2} \in [-1, 1]$, $\rho_{2,1} = \rho_{1,2}$, $\rho_{1,1} = \rho_{2,2} = 1$.

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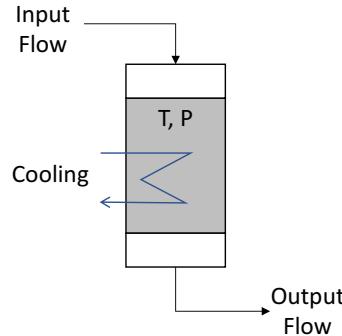
Presence of correlation reveals emergent trends. For instance, if X_1 and X_2 are related as $X_2 = \alpha X_1$ then $\text{Cov}(X_1, X_2) = \alpha \mathbb{V}[X_1]$.

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Example: Covariance and Correlation for Reactor

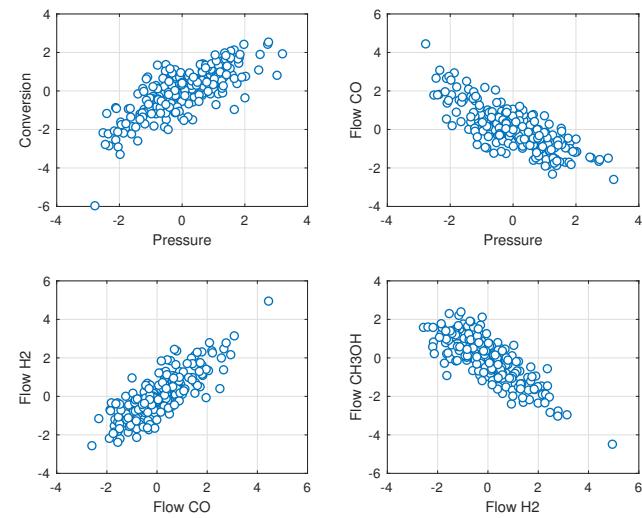
- Consider reactor under which reaction $CO + 2H_2 \leftrightarrow CH_3OH$ takes place
- Equilibrium is favored by high pressure (P) and low temperature (T)
- Have data for pressure, conversion, and output flow of CO , H_2 , and CH_3OH



- Do you expect a positive or negative correlation between conversion and pressure?
- How are output flows for CO , H_2 , and CH_3OH related?

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Example: Covariance and Correlation for Gibbs Reactor [gibbs_covariance.m](#)



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Covariance and Correlation Matrices

- Covariance between variables is often expressed in matrix form as:

$$\text{Cov}[X] = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_{1,1} & \sigma_{1,2} \\ \sigma_{2,1} & \sigma_{2,2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix is symmetric ($\sigma_{1,2} = \sigma_{2,1}$) and has positive eigenvalues (it is positive definite).

- Covariance matrix (for any dimension n) can be computed as:

$$\text{Cov}[X] = \mathbb{E} \left[(X - \mathbb{E}[X])(X - \mathbb{E}[X])^T \right]$$

- Correlation between variables is often expressed in matrix form as:

$$\text{Corr}[X] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \rho_{1,2} \\ \rho_{2,1} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Matrix is symmetric ($\rho_{1,2} = \rho_{2,1}$) and is positive definite.

- Correlation matrix (for any dimension n) can be computed as:

$$\text{Corr}[X] = D^{-1} \text{Cov}(X) D^{-1}$$

where $D = \text{diag}(\text{Cov}[X])$ contains the diagonal elements of $\text{Cov}[X]$.

- Sample covariance and correlation matrices can be computed from data.

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Example: Covariance and Correlation for Gibbs Reactor [gibbs_covariance.m](#)

- Consider reactor under which reaction $CO + 2H_2 \leftrightarrow CH_3OH$ takes place
- Have data for pressure, conversion, and output flow of CO , H_2 , and CH_3OH ($n = 5$)
- Sample covariance and correlation matrices are shown below;

$$\hat{\text{Cov}}[X] = \begin{bmatrix} 1.28 & 1.03 & -0.97 & -0.90 & 0.96 \\ 1.03 & 1.38 & -1.05 & -1.00 & 1.04 \\ -0.97 & -1.05 & 1.20 & 0.98 & -0.97 \\ -0.90 & -1.00 & 0.98 & 1.23 & -0.97 \\ 0.96 & 1.04 & -0.97 & -0.97 & 1.21 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\hat{\text{Corr}}[X] = \begin{bmatrix} 1.00 & 0.77 & -0.78 & -0.71 & 0.77 \\ 0.77 & 1.00 & -0.81 & -0.77 & 0.81 \\ -0.78 & -0.81 & 1.00 & 0.81 & -0.80 \\ -0.71 & -0.77 & 0.81 & 1.00 & -0.79 \\ 0.77 & 0.81 & -0.80 & -0.79 & 1.00 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Do you expect a positive or negative correlation between conversion and pressure?
- How are output flows for CO , H_2 , and CH_3OH related?

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Multivariate Gaussian Variables



Surprisingly enough, there are actually few established models for multivariate RVs. The most used model is that of the Gaussian RV, which has a wide range of properties:

- Consider a multivariate RV vector $X = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$.
- Denoted as $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$, where $\mu \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ are parameters.
- RV $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$ has joint pdf of the form:

$$f_X(x) = f_X(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{n/2} |\Sigma|^{1/2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(x - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x - \mu)\right)$$

- $|\Sigma|$ is determinant of Σ (product of its eigenvalues) and Σ is positive definite.
- Domain of X is $\mathcal{D} = [-\infty, \infty]^n$.
- Parameters are given by expected value $\mu = \mathbb{E}[X]$ and covariance $\Sigma = \text{Cov}[X]$.

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Properties of Multivariate Gaussian RVs



Consider the case with $n = 2$:

- Can show that marginal pdfs of X are Gaussian:

$$f_1(x_1) = \int_{x_2 \in \mathcal{D}_2} f(x_1, x_2) dx_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_1^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x_1 - \mu_1)^2}{2\sigma_1^2}\right)$$

$$f_2(x_2) = \int_{x_1 \in \mathcal{D}_1} f(x_1, x_2) dx_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_2^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x_2 - \mu_2)^2}{2\sigma_2^2}\right)$$

- In other words, $X_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2)$ and $X_2 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_2, \sigma_2^2)$.

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Properties of Multivariate Gaussian RVs



- Can show that conditional pdfs of X are Gaussian:

$$f(x_1|x_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_{1|2}^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x_1 - \mu_{1|2})^2}{2\sigma_{1|2}^2}\right)$$

$$f(x_2|x_1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_{2|1}^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x_2 - \mu_{2|1})^2}{2\sigma_{2|1}^2}\right).$$

- That is, $X_1|X_2 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_{1|2}, \sigma_{1|2})$ and $X_2|X_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_{2|1}, \sigma_{2|1})$ with hyperparameters:

$$\mu_{1|2} = \mu_1 + \sigma_{1,2}\sigma_{22}^{-1}(x_2 - \mu_2)$$

$$\sigma_{1|2} = \sigma_{1,1} - \sigma_{1,2}\sigma_{2,2}^{-1}\sigma_{2,1}$$

$$\mu_{2|1} = \mu_2 + \sigma_{2,1}\sigma_{1,1}^{-1}(x_1 - \mu_1)$$

$$\sigma_{2|1} = \sigma_{2,2} - \sigma_{2,1}\sigma_{1,1}^{-1}\sigma_{1,2}$$

- What if X_1 and X_2 are independent? What if they are strongly correlated?

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Example: Uncertainty Reduction in Gibbs Reactor [gibbs.joint.m](#)



- Consider covariance for pressure X_1 and conversion X_2 and assume Gaussian.
- Marginal means are $\mu_1 = 147$, $\mu_2 = 0.69$.
- Covariance matrix is:

$$\text{Cov}[X] = \begin{bmatrix} 641.31 & 1.84 \\ 1.84 & 0.24 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Marginal variance for conversion is $\sigma_{2,2} = 0.24$ (use this as measure of uncertainty).
- Since pressure and conversion are correlated, we expect that having knowledge of pressure decreases uncertainty in conversion. To verify this, we compute the variance of conditional density $f(x_2|x_1)$

$$\sigma_{2|1}^2 = (0.24 - 1.84 \cdot (641.31)^{-1} \cdot 1.84)^2 \\ = 0.05$$

- Consequently, uncertainty in conversion is *reduced by 80%* if we know pressure.
- In other words, since pressure and conversion are correlated, data on pressure carries information on conversion (and the other way around).

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Properties of Multivariate Gaussian RVs

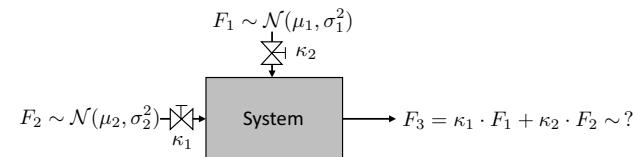


- Linear transformation of a multivariate Gaussian is Gaussian:
 - If $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$, then $Y = AX + b$ is $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(A\mu + b, A\Sigma A^T)$.
- Linear transformation property is used to establish useful properties:
 - Mixture model:
If $X_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_i, \sigma_i^2)$, then $Y = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ is Gaussian with $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i, \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i^2)$.
 - Multivariate standard normal:
If $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, I)$ then $Y = \sqrt{\Sigma}X + \mu$ is Gaussian with $Y \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$.
- Standardization result used to generate samples of $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$ from samples of $\mathcal{N}(0, I)$.

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Example: Gaussian Mixture

- Have system with random revenue streams $F_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2)$ and $F_2 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_2, \sigma_2^2)$
- Can control amount of revenue using $\kappa_1 \in [0, 1]$ and $\kappa_2 \in [0, 1]$
- What is uncertainty of total revenue F_3 ? How is this affected by κ_1 and κ_2 ?



- We can write F_3 as a linear combination of F_1 and F_2 :

$$F_3 = [\kappa_1 \kappa_2] \begin{bmatrix} F_1 \\ F_2 \end{bmatrix} = \kappa_1 F_1 + \kappa_2 F_2$$

- We thus have that $F_3 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_3, \sigma_3^2)$ with:

$$\mu_3 = [\kappa_1 \kappa_2] \begin{bmatrix} \mu_1 \\ \mu_2 \end{bmatrix} = \kappa_1 \mu_1 + \kappa_2 \mu_2$$

$$\sigma_3^2 = [\kappa_1 \kappa_2] \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_2^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \kappa_1 \\ \kappa_2 \end{bmatrix} = \kappa_1^2 \sigma_1^2 + \kappa_2^2 \sigma_2^2$$

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Geometry of Multivariate Gaussian Variables



Understanding geometry of multivariate Gaussian facilitates *data visualization*.

- For $n = 2$ we write joint pdf of $X = (X_1, X_2)$ as:

$$f_X(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma_1\sigma_2} \exp(-U(x_1, x_2))$$

where

$$U(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{2(1-\rho^2)} \left[\frac{(x_1 - \mu_1)^2}{\sigma_1^2} + \frac{(x_2 - \mu_2)^2}{\sigma_2^2} - 2\rho \frac{(x_1 - \mu_1)(x_2 - \mu_2)}{\sigma_1\sigma_2} \right]$$

- If we fix probability $f_X(x_1, x_2) = \alpha$ with $\alpha \in [0, 1]$, pdf defines an equation in variables (x_1, x_2) . This is equation of ellipse centered at (μ_1, μ_2) . This ellipse is known as the α -level set of pdf.
- Correlation coefficient $\rho = \text{Corr}(X_1, X_2)$ dictates *orientation of ellipse*:
 - If $\rho > 0$ this is tilted to right
 - If $\rho < 0$ this is tilted to left
 - If $\rho = 0$ (e.g., X_1 and X_2 are independent) ellipse has no tilt.
- Length of axes* are dictated by σ_1^2 and σ_2^2 (variances of X_1 and X_2).
- Maximum value of $f_X(x_1, x_2)$ is achieved at $x_1 = \mu_1$ and $x_2 = \mu_2$.

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Geometry of Multivariate Gaussian Variables



- We are interested in box confidence regions \mathcal{B} satisfying:

$$\mathbb{P}(X \in \mathcal{B}) = 1 - \alpha.$$

- For $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$, box is:

$$\mathcal{B} = \{x \mid x \in [\mu \pm \sqrt{\mathbb{Q}(1-\alpha)\sigma}] \}$$

where $\mathbb{Q}(1-\alpha)$ is the $(1-\alpha)$ -quantile of $\chi^2(1)$.

- For $X = (X_1, X_2)$ with $X_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2)$ and $X_2 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_2, \sigma_2^2)$, box is:

$$\mathcal{B} = \{(x_1, x_2) \mid x_1 \in [\mu_1 \pm \sqrt{\mathbb{Q}(1-\alpha)\sigma_1}] \& x_2 \in [\mu_2 \pm \sqrt{\mathbb{Q}(1-\alpha)\sigma_2}] \}.$$

- This box (a.k.a. marginal box) does not capture correlations in X_1 and X_2 .

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Geometry of Multivariate Gaussian Variables



- In multivariate Gaussians, observations concentrate in ellipses. We are thus interested in finding *ellipsoidal* confidence region \mathcal{E} satisfying:

$$\mathbb{P}(X \in \mathcal{E}) = 1 - \alpha.$$

- For $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$, the ellipsoidal region is given by:

$$\mathcal{E} = \{x \mid (x - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x - \mu) \leq Q(1 - \alpha)\}.$$

where $Q(1 - \alpha)$ is the $(1 - \alpha)$ -quantile of $\chi^2(n)$.

- Interpretation of region is:

- If draw sample from $\mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$, there is probability $1 - \alpha$ that it will land in \mathcal{E}
- The larger the $1 - \alpha$, the larger the ellipsoid (more likely it is to land in \mathcal{E})

- Tightest box that encloses \mathcal{E} is:

$$\mathcal{B} = \{(x_1, x_2) \mid x_1 \in [\mu_1 \pm \sqrt{Q(1 - \alpha)}\sigma_1] \text{ and } x_2 \in [\mu_2 \pm \sqrt{Q(1 - \alpha)}\sigma_2]\}.$$

where $Q(1 - \alpha)$ is $(1 - \alpha)$ -quantile of $\chi^2(n)$ (note difference with marginal box).

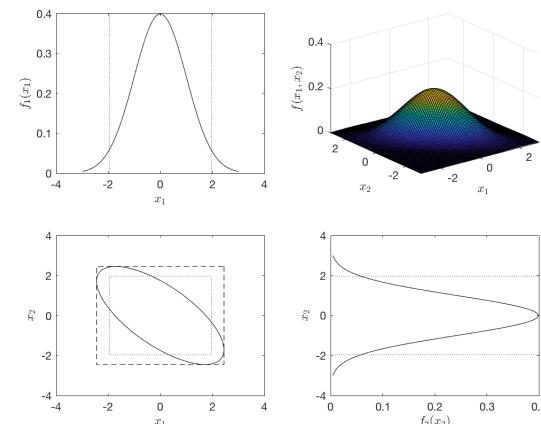
- Ellipsoidal and enclosing box capture correlations in X_1 and X_2 .

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Example: Geometry of Multivariate Gaussian Variables



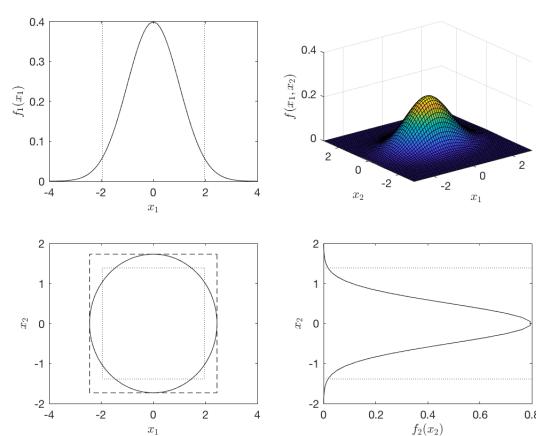
Marginal pdfs, joint pdf and confidence ellipse and boxes for Gaussian with correlation.



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Example: Geometry of Multivariate Gaussian Variables [geometry_gaussian.m](#)

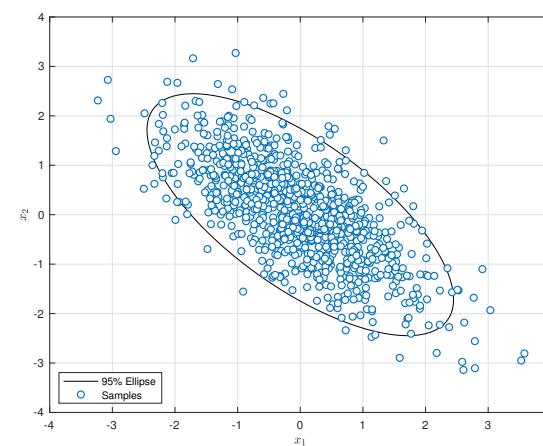
Marginal pdfs, joint pdf and confidence ellipse and boxes for Gaussian with no correlation.



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Example: Geometry of Multivariate Gaussian Variables [samples_ellipse.m](#)

- Here are $S = 1,000$ observations for Gaussian RV and 95% confidence ellipsoid
- Total of 942 samples lie inside ellipsoid



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Outline



- 1 Introduction
- 2 Models of Random Variables
- 3 Estimation Techniques
- 4 Multivariate Statistics
- 5 Data-Driven Modeling
- 6 Statistical Learning
- 7 Decision-Making Under Uncertainty

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Data-Driven Modeling



When X, Y are correlated, variations in Y align with those in X (there is a *trend*).

What if connection is deep (e.g., variations in Y are *caused* by variations in X)?

- Consider univariate RVs Y and X and postulate that any behavior in Y is due to a systematic dependence of X :

$$Y = \theta X$$

Here, θ is a parameter that captures a *linear* dependence between X and Y .

- Use samples (y_ω, x_ω) and, based on postulated model, assume they are related as:

$$y_\omega = \theta x_\omega + \epsilon_\omega, \omega \in \mathcal{S}.$$

- We introduce hidden RV $\epsilon_\omega \in \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ with known σ^2 to capture behavior that cannot be explained by model (the unknown).

- Note y_ω is an RV because ϵ_ω is an RV. Moreover, y_ω is linear transformation of ϵ_ω and thus y_ω is Gaussian with $\mathbb{E}[y_\omega | x_\omega, \theta] = \theta x_\omega$ and $\mathbb{V}[y_\omega | x_\omega, \theta] = \sigma^2$.

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Data-Driven Modeling



Data-Driven Modeling

- Recall $f(y_\omega | x_\omega, \theta)$ is probability that $Y = y_\omega$ given that we know $X = x_\omega$ and θ . This is equivalent to assume that θ and x_ω are *deterministic* (more on this later).
- We use a maximum likelihood approach and seek to find θ that maximizes joint likelihood $\prod_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} f(y_\omega | x_\omega, \theta)$. This gives:

$$\max_{\theta} \log L(\theta) = \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} \log f(y_\omega | x_\omega, \theta)$$

- Since $y_\omega \sim \mathcal{N}(\theta x_\omega, \sigma^2)$, we know that:

$$\log f(y_\omega | x_\omega, \theta) = -\log \sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2} - \frac{(y_\omega - \theta x_\omega)^2}{2\sigma^2}$$

- Terms $\log \sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}$ and $2\sigma^2$ are constants and we thus obtain:

$$\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} (y_\omega - \theta x_\omega)^2$$

This is a least-squares problem and aims to find the estimate $\hat{\theta}$ that minimizes discrepancy between the observed output y_ω and model prediction $\hat{\theta}x_\omega$.

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We denote best parameter that is *learned* from data as $\hat{\theta}$.

- Recall $\hat{\theta}$ minimizes $S(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} (y_\omega - \theta x_\omega)^2$ and thus satisfies:

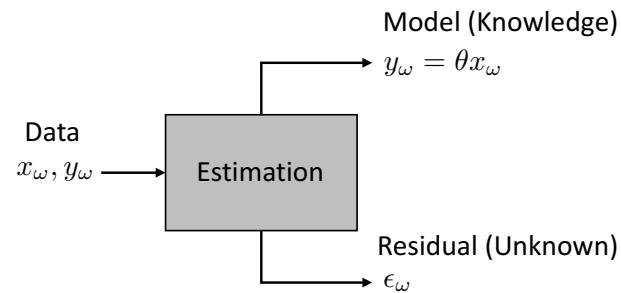
$$\frac{\partial S(\hat{\theta})}{\partial \theta} = - \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} x_\omega (y_\omega - \hat{\theta} x_\omega) = 0, \quad \frac{\partial^2 S(\hat{\theta})}{\partial \theta^2} > 0$$

These conditions lead to:

$$\hat{\theta} = \frac{\sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} x_\omega y_\omega}{\sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} x_\omega^2}, \quad \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} x_\omega^2 > 0$$

- Estimate $\hat{\theta}$ captures *interactions* in data x_ω, y_ω .
- Estimate $\hat{\theta}$ is *unique* and becomes better defined as we add more data.
- Recall $y_\omega \sim \mathcal{N}(\hat{\theta} x_\omega, \sigma^2)$, implying that prediction $\hat{\theta} x_\omega$ is the most likely outcome and that the larger σ^2 , the more uncertainty we have in y_ω .
- Estimate gives *residual noise estimates* $\hat{\epsilon}_\omega = y_\omega - \hat{\theta} x_\omega$. If these estimates follow our assumption $\mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ then the available data and postulated model is satisfactory. If not, more data or another model is needed (e.g., nonlinear).
- From $y_\omega = \hat{\theta} x_\omega + \epsilon_\omega$ we note that model $\hat{\theta} x_\omega$ represents what we know about y_ω while ϵ_ω represents the unknown. Estimation problem thus seeks to extract maximum knowledge from data (minimize the unknown).

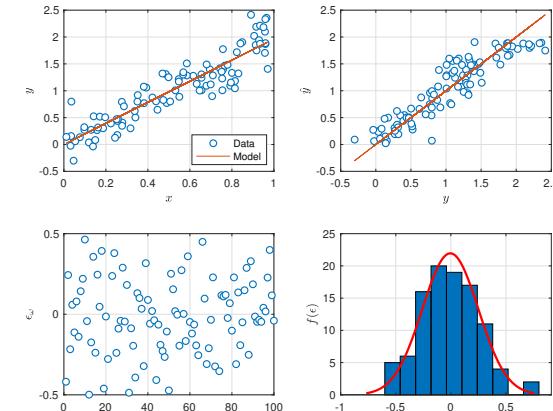
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Example: Data-Driven Modeling [linear.est.example.m](#)

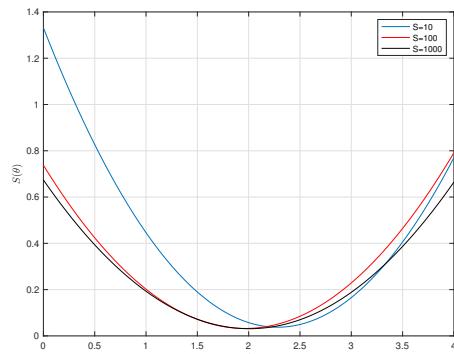
- Consider input-output pair data (Y, X) with true relationship $Y = \theta X$ and $\theta = 2$
- Observations y_ω are corrupted by noise $\epsilon_\omega \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 0.25)$
- If we use $S = 100$ observations, best estimate is $\hat{\theta} = 1.96$



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Example: Data-Driven Modeling [linear.est.example.m](#)

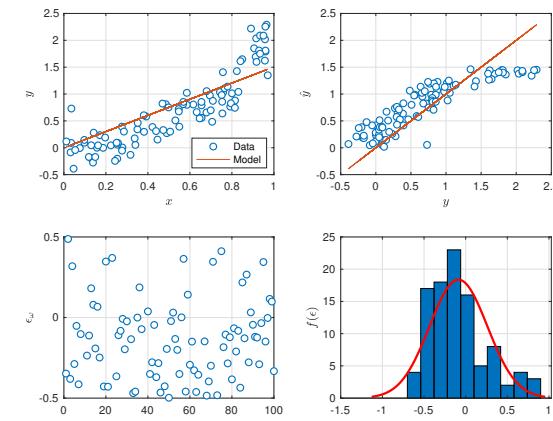
- Below we show function $S(\theta)$ for different amounts of data $S = 10, 100, 1000$
- Note how surface becomes better defined as we add data



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Example: Data-Driven Modeling [linear.est.wrongmodel.m](#)

- Assume now true relationship $Y = \theta X^2$ and $\theta = 2$
- Below we show model predictions if we postulate wrong model $Y = \theta X$



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- Residual statistics play key role in determining appropriateness of postulated model.



Data-Driven Modeling



Now generalize linear model to account for influence of multiple inputs. We postulate:

$$Y = \theta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n \theta_i X_i$$

Use samples (data) pairs (y_ω, x_ω) and, based on postulated model, we have that:

$$y_\omega = \theta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n \theta_i x_{i,\omega} + \epsilon_\omega, \quad \omega \in \mathcal{S}.$$

This set of equations can be expressed compactly using matrix notation:

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\theta} + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}$$

where:

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_S \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x_{1,1} & x_{1,2} & \dots & x_{1,n} \\ 1 & x_{2,1} & x_{2,2} & \dots & x_{2,n} \\ \vdots & & & & \vdots \\ 1 & x_{S,1} & x_{S,2} & \dots & x_{S,n} \end{bmatrix} \quad \boldsymbol{\theta} = \begin{bmatrix} \theta_0 \\ \theta_1 \\ \vdots \\ \theta_n \end{bmatrix} \quad \boldsymbol{\epsilon} = \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_1 \\ \epsilon_2 \\ \vdots \\ \epsilon_S \end{bmatrix}$$

We assume unknown noise is $\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma)$ with $\Sigma_{\omega,\omega} = \sigma^2$ for $\omega \in \mathcal{S}$.

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Data-Driven Modeling



Now note that $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\theta} + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}$ is an RV ($\boldsymbol{\theta}$ is true parameter). Consequently:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} &= (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T (\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\theta} + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}) \\ &= (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})\boldsymbol{\theta} + (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \boldsymbol{\epsilon} \\ &= \boldsymbol{\theta} + (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X} \boldsymbol{\epsilon} \end{aligned}$$

Estimate $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$ is thus an RV (linear transformation of $\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma)$) and thus:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \sim \mathcal{N}(\boldsymbol{\theta}, (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \sigma^2)$$

Some observations:

- Expected value of estimate is $\mathbb{E}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}] = \boldsymbol{\theta}$ (estimate is unbiased).
- Covariance of estimate is $\text{Cov}[\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}] = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \sigma^2$.
- As σ^2 increases so does variance of $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$ (covariance is sensitivity of estimates to noise).
- Matrix $(\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1}$ can dampen or magnify this sensitivity (more on this later).

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Data-Driven Modeling



Best estimate $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$ is found as the solution of max likelihood problem:

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\theta})^T (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\theta})$$

Problem can also be written as:

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\theta}\|^2$$

Solution of this problem must satisfy:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial S(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} &= -\mathbf{X}^T (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\theta}) = 0 \\ \left| \frac{\partial^2 S(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}^2} \right| &= \left| \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} \right| > 0 \end{aligned}$$

First condition yields:

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y}.$$

Second condition indicates that $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$ is unique if matrix $\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$ is positive definite.

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Data-Driven Modeling



How much of the variability in data \mathbf{y} can be explained by our gained knowledge (model $\hat{\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{X}^T \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}$) and how much of it cannot be explained (unknown $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}$)?

This can be addressed using *analysis of variance* (ANOVA). Total variability of data is:

$$S_y = \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} (y_\omega - \bar{y})^2 \quad \text{with} \quad \bar{y} = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} y_\omega$$

Total variability can be decomposed into contributions as:

$$S_y = \underbrace{\sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} (\hat{y}_\omega - \bar{y})^2}_{S_m} + \underbrace{\sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} (y_\omega - \hat{y}_\omega)^2}_{S_e}$$

Here, S_m is known as model sum of squares and S_e is known as sum of squared errors. Based on these quantities we define index:

$$R^2 = \frac{S_m}{S_y} = 1 - \frac{S_e}{S_y}$$

This is fraction of variability captured by model. Fraction that is left unexplained is $1 - R^2 = S_e/S_y$; consequently, $R^2 \rightarrow 1$ indicates model fully explains variability.

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Data-Driven Modeling



How confident are we in estimate $\hat{\theta}$ and in model predictions $\hat{y} = \mathbf{X}\hat{\theta}$?

- We have established that $\hat{\theta} \sim \mathcal{N}(\theta, (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \sigma^2)$. We thus have that true θ lies in ellipsoid \mathcal{E} defined by:

$$(\hat{\theta} - \theta)^T \left(\frac{\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}}{\sigma^2} \right) (\hat{\theta} - \theta) \leq Q(1 - \alpha)$$

where $Q(1 - \alpha)$ is $(1 - \alpha)$ -quantile of $\chi^2(n + 1)$.

- In most scientific literature, confidence in estimates is reported using marginals:

$$\hat{\theta}_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\theta_i, \sigma^2 (\mathbf{X} \mathbf{X})_{ii}^{-1}), i = 0, \dots, n$$

as:

$$\theta_i = \hat{\theta}_i \pm m_i \quad m_i = \sqrt{Q(1 - \alpha) \sigma^2 (\mathbf{X} \mathbf{X})_{ii}^{-1}}$$

where $Q(1 - \alpha)$ is $(1 - \alpha)$ -quantile of $\chi^2(1)$ (this disregards correlations in parameters).

- We can construct confidence intervals for model predictions by noticing that $\hat{y} = \mathbf{X}\hat{\theta}$ and thus:

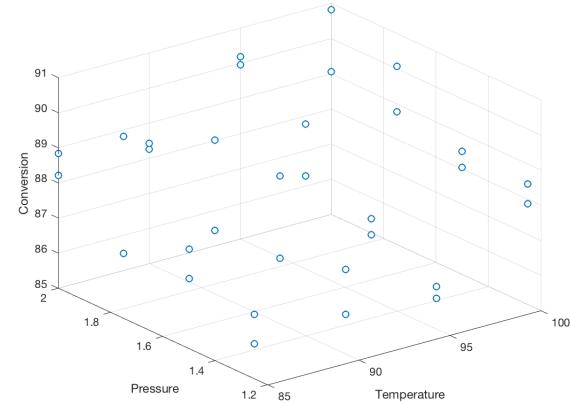
$$\hat{y} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \sigma^2)$$

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Example: Catalytic Reactor [catalytic_reactor.lin.est.m](#)



- Given experimental data for pressure X_1 , temperature X_2 , and conversion Y
- Total of $S = 32$ observations



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Data-Driven Modeling



Is the available data sufficient (or too much) to construct model?

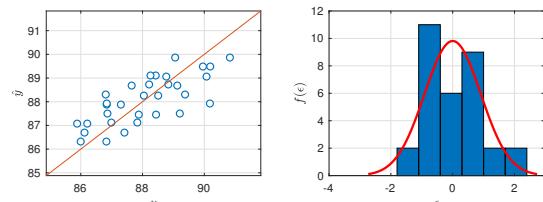
Some observations on having sufficient data:

- Matrix $\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$ plays a fundamental role as it contains all input data and determines sharpness of minimum and variance and sensitivity of estimate $\hat{\theta}$.
 - If one or more eigenvalues of $\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$ are large, $\hat{\theta}$ is well-defined by the data and its variance is small. This manifests as a sharp minimum $S(\hat{\theta})$ and low sensitivity.
 - If one or more eigenvalues of $\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$ are close to zero, $\hat{\theta}$ is ill-defined by the data and variance is large. This manifests as a flat minimum $S(\hat{\theta})$ and high sensitivity.
 - If one eigenvalue of $\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$ is zero, $\hat{\theta}$ cannot be obtained uniquely from data.
- Volume of data is not sufficient, we also require *quality of data*.
 - Observations do not provide information if redundant ($\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$ has dependent rows).
 - If selected inputs X do not explain output y estimates $\hat{\theta}$ might exhibit high variability (regardless of number of observations).
 - Using knowledge of application to select input variables is important.
- Selection of input variables and observations is a topic of *design of experiments*.
- Inputs X are a.k.a. *regressor variables*, *explanatory variables*, *features*, or *descriptors*.

Example: Catalytic Reactor [catalytic_reactor.lin.est.m](#)



- We postulate model $Y = \theta_0 + \theta_1 X_1 + \theta_2 X_2$ with noise model $\epsilon \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma)$
- Model fit and residual pdf is shown below



- $R^2 = 0.55$ (55% of total variability is explained by model)
- Parameters 95% confidence intervals (marginals) are:

$$\theta_0 \in [69.8858, 81.8434]$$

$$\theta_1 \in [0.0149, 0.1366]$$

$$\theta_2 \in [1.9946, 4.4299]$$

Model seems satisfactory, low R^2 suggests that measurements are inaccurate.

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Data-Driven Modeling



Is the available data sufficient (or too much) to construct model?

Some observations on using excessive data:

- A common issue is that we use too many inputs X to explain output Y . This can result in a large number of parameters and *overfitting*.
- Check that $\hat{\theta}$ obtained with observations (y_ω, x_ω) , $\omega \in S$ predicts well in an independent set of observations (y_ω, x_ω) , $\omega \in T$. This procedure is called *cross-validation* or *out-of-sample testing*.
- Cross validation will ensure that model is *generalizable*.
- In linear models, and adjusted R^2 index is used to account for number of parameters:

$$R_{adj}^2 = 1 - \frac{S_e}{S_y} \frac{(S-1)}{(S-n)}$$

As number of parameters n increases, we have that R_{adj}^2 decreases.

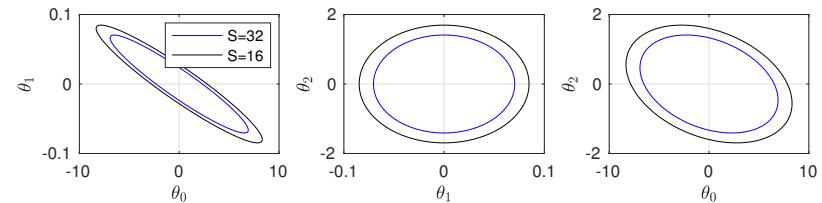
- Note that the size of confidence ellipsoid $\mathcal{E}(\theta)$ depends on n .
- A strategy to deal with many parameters is *regularization* (will be covered later). Regularization seeks to embed *prior* knowledge in estimation problem.

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Example: Catalytic Reactor [catalytic_reactor_ellipse.m](#)



- $R^2 = 0.55$, $R_{adj}^2 = 0.52$ (model does not seem overparameterized)
- Below we show confidence ellipses for $S = 32$ (all data) and $S = 16$ (reduced data).
- Low impact of data reduction on uncertainty tells us that there redundancy in data.



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Data-Driven Modeling (Nonlinear)



Now generalize linear model to general form:

$$y_\omega = g(\theta, x_\omega) + \epsilon_\omega, \omega \in S.$$

where $g : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the model (function of parameters and inputs).

- Model can be nonlinear and capture mechanistic relationships between inputs, parameters, and outputs.
- In linear case we have $g(\theta, x_\omega) = \sum_{i=1}^n \theta_i x_{i,\omega} + \epsilon_\omega$.
- Use an MLE framework to estimate θ :

$$\min_{\theta} S(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\omega \in S} (y_\omega - m_\omega(\theta))^2$$

where $m_\omega(\theta) = g(\theta, x_\omega)$. Problem can be expressed in vector form:

$$\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{m}(\theta)\|^2$$

- Solution $\hat{\theta}$ satisfies following set of n nonlinear equations (a.k.a. score functions):

$$\nabla_{\theta} S(\theta) = 0 \iff \nabla_{\theta} m(\theta)^T (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{m}(\theta)) = 0$$

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Data-Driven Modeling (Nonlinear)



- Solution $\hat{\theta}$ also satisfies $|\mathbf{H}(\hat{\theta})| > 0$ where:

$$\mathbf{H}(\theta) = \frac{\partial^2 S(\theta)}{\partial \theta^2} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 S(\theta)}{\partial \theta_1 \partial \theta_1} & \frac{\partial^2 S(\theta)}{\partial \theta_1 \partial \theta_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 S(\theta)}{\partial \theta_1 \partial \theta_n} \\ \frac{\partial^2 S(\theta)}{\partial \theta_1 \partial \theta_2} & \frac{\partial^2 S(\theta)}{\partial \theta_2 \partial \theta_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 S(\theta)}{\partial \theta_2 \partial \theta_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial^2 S(\theta)}{\partial \theta_1 \partial \theta_n} & \frac{\partial^2 S(\theta)}{\partial \theta_2 \partial \theta_n} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 S(\theta)}{\partial \theta_n \partial \theta_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

This matrix is known as the *Hessian* matrix.

- For linear models the Hessian is:

$$\mathbf{H}(\theta) = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$$

because $\nabla_{\theta} m(\theta) = \mathbf{X}$.

- As in linear case, eigenvalues of Hessian encode information about data quality and quantity.

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Nonlinear Estimation



What is different about nonlinear estimation?

- Difficult to obtain pdf of $\hat{\theta}$. Typically, this is approximated as:

$$\hat{\theta} \sim \mathcal{N}(\theta, \mathbf{H}(\hat{\theta})^{-1}\sigma^2)$$

The approximation is accurate if nonlinearity of model $m(\theta)$ is not too strong.

- Function $S(\theta)$ might have multiple points satisfying optimality conditions.
- Problems are often solved using local search algorithms (based on Newton's method) and thus initial guess of $\hat{\theta}$ influences estimate found. One can also resort to using global search algorithms.
- Hessian can be difficult to compute but one can approximate it as $H(\theta) \approx \nabla_\theta m(\theta)^T \nabla_\theta m(\theta)$ (a.k.a. Gauss-Newton approximation).
- Modern modeling languages can compute exact Hessians (e.g., JuMP, Pyomo, Casadi).
- Surprisingly, standard tools such as Matlab do not provide efficient capabilities to compute Hessians.

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Example: Hessian of Heat Capacity Problem

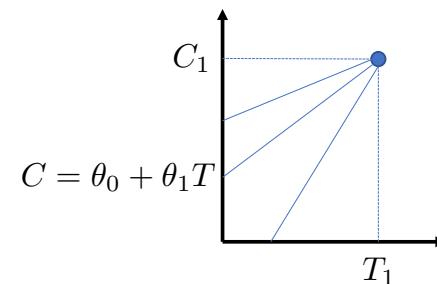


- You would like to create a model to predict heat capacity as a function of temperature:

$$C = \theta_0 + \theta_1 T$$

- Assume that you have one experimental data point available (T_1, C_1)

Can θ_0, θ_1 be estimated *uniquely* from (T_1, C_1) ? Why?



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Example: Hessian of Heat Capacity Problem



- Lets analyze how to reach conclusion by analyzing Hessian. Estimation problem is:

$$\min_{\theta_0, \theta_1} S(\theta_0, \theta_1) = \frac{1}{2}(C_1 - \theta_0 - \theta_1 T_1)^2$$

- First-order derivatives of $S(\theta)$ are:

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial \theta_0} = -(C_1 - \theta_0 - \theta_1 T_1)$$

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial \theta_1} = -T_1(C_1 - \theta_0 - \theta_1 T_1)$$

- Second derivatives of $S(\theta)$ are:

$$\frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial \theta_0 \partial \theta_0} = 1, \quad \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial \theta_0 \partial \theta_1} = T_1$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial \theta_1 \partial \theta_0} = T_1, \quad \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial \theta_1 \partial \theta_1} = T_1^2.$$

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Example: Hessian of Heat Capacity Problem



- Hessian matrix is thus:

$$H(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & T_1 \\ T_1 & T_1^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Determinant of this matrix is:

$$|H(\theta)| = T_1^2 - T_1^2 = 0$$

- Consequently, matrix is singular (it has eigenvalues that are zero)

- Parameters θ_0, θ_1 cannot be estimated uniquely, as expected.

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Example: Hessian of Heat Capacity Problem



- Now imagine that you obtain another experimental data point (T_2, C_2) to estimate parameters. Problem becomes:

$$\min_{\theta_0, \theta_1} S(\theta_0, \theta_1) = \frac{1}{2}(C_1 - \theta_0 - \theta_1 T_1)^2 + \frac{1}{2}(C_2 - \theta_0 - \theta_1 T_2)^2$$

- Hessian is:

$$H(\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & T_1 + T_2 \\ T_1 + T_2 & T_1^2 + T_2^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Determinant is:

$$\begin{aligned} |H(\theta)| &= 2(T_1^2 + T_2^2) - (T_1 + T_2)^2 \\ &= T_1^2 - 2T_1 T_2 + T_2^2 \\ &= (T_1 - T_2)^2 \end{aligned}$$

- Under what conditions are parameters unique?
- Parameters are unique as long as $T_1 \neq T_2$ (data is not redundant).

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Example: Hougen-Watson Reaction



- You would like to find parameters for the Hougen-Watson function:

$$Y = \frac{(\theta_0 X_2 - X_3 / \theta_4)}{(1 + \theta_1 X_1 + \theta_2 X_2 + \theta_3 X_3)}$$

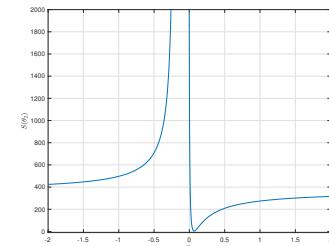
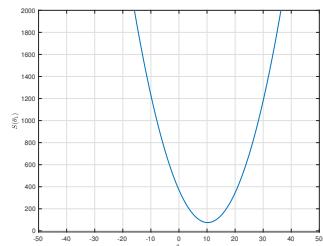
- Model captures effect of competitive reaction and adsorption rates, Y is production rate and X are species concentrations.
- Parameters θ have physical meaning (represent adsorption and reaction rates).
- We have $S = 13$ data pairs (y_ω, x_ω) available and $m = 5$ parameters to estimate.

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Example: Hougen-Watson Reaction [hougen_watson_reaction.m](#)



- Model is highly nonlinear and this can result in high nonlinearity of $S(\theta)$.
- Below we show behavior of $S(\theta)$ as we span range for θ_1 and θ_2 .



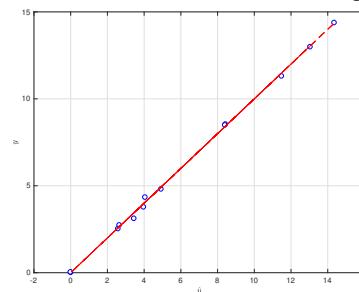
- In nonlinear models, we might see emergence of maxima and minima in $S(\theta)$.

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Example: Hougen-Watson Reaction [hougen_watson_reaction.m](#)



- Solution of problem with Matlab built-in function `fitnlm` gives following fit:



- Parameters 95% confidence intervals are:

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_0 &\in [-0.75, 3.25], & \theta_1 &\in [-0.04, 0.16] \\ \theta_2 &\in [-0.03, 0.11], & \theta_3 &\in [-0.06, 0.29], & \theta_4 &\in [-0.74, 3.12]. \end{aligned}$$

- Do these intervals make physical sense?
- If we analyze output of Matlab, we realize that algorithm does not report Hessian. Because of this, it is impossible to conclude if estimates are unique.
- Check also what happens if you provide a bad initial guess to parameters.

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Prior Knowledge



How can we incorporate prior (expert, physical) knowledge about parameters in estimation problem?

- Prior knowledge helps us eliminate spurious estimates $\hat{\theta}$ (e.g., avoid estimates with no physical meaning).
- Prior knowledge helps us reduce number of parameters or narrow space over we search on.

We can incorporate prior knowledge in estimation (a.k.a. regularization) by using:

- Bounds on parameters (e.g., kinetic parameters are positive):

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{m}(\theta)\|^2 \\ \text{s.t. } \theta_L \leq \theta \leq \theta_U \end{aligned}$$

- Constraints to fix parameters (e.g., sum of parameters must be equal to some value):

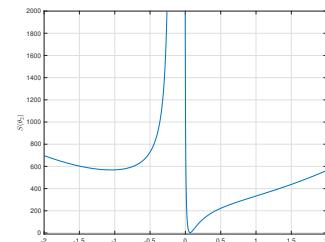
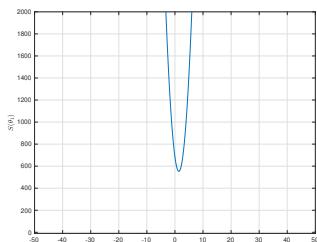
$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{m}(\theta)\|^2 \\ \text{s.t. } \Pi \theta = r \end{aligned}$$

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Example: Hougen-Watson Reaction [hougen_watson_regularized.m](#)



- Below we show behavior of $S(\theta) + \frac{1}{2}(\theta - \bar{\theta})^T \Sigma_{\theta}^{-1}(\theta - \bar{\theta})$



- Bayes regularizer helps better define minima but in this case does not avoid presence of non-physical regions (this can only be achieved with constraints).
- The presence of non-physical regions can introduce numerical instability (nothing prevents solvers from visiting such regions).

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Prior Knowledge



- Penalty term to control parameter behavior (e.g., penalize movements from reference):

$$\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{m}(\theta)\|^2 + \kappa \cdot \rho(\theta)$$

Where $\kappa \geq 0$ is constant that trades-off fit and allowed movement.

- Common choices for penalty function $\rho(\theta)$ are:

- ℓ_2 -norm (a.k.a ridge or Tikhonov penalty): $\rho(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \|\theta - \bar{\theta}\|_2^2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (\theta_i - \bar{\theta}_i)^2$
- ℓ_1 -norm (a.k.a. lasso penalty): $\rho(\theta) = \|\theta - \bar{\theta}\|_1 = \sum_{i=1}^n |\theta_i - \bar{\theta}_i|$
- Bayes penalty: $\rho(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} (\theta - \bar{\theta})^T \Sigma_{\theta}^{-1} (\theta - \bar{\theta})$

- Different penalties (a.k.a. regularizers) induce different behavior and some of them can be derived from statistical principles. There are many regularizers in the literature (seeking to embed different type of knowledge).

- Statistics help us to understand type of *prior knowledge* that regularizers convey.

- Understanding statistical principles of constraints is a more difficult question but one can often reformulate constraints as penalty functions.

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Example: Hougen-Watson Reaction [hougen_watson_constraints.m](#)



- Instead, filter out parameters with non-physical meaning by directly imposing constraints. We formulate problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{m}(\theta)\|^2 \\ \text{s.t. } \theta_L \leq \theta \leq \theta_U \end{aligned}$$

where

$$m_{\omega}(\theta) = \frac{(\theta_0 x_{2,\omega} - x_{3,\omega}/\theta_4)}{(1 + \theta_1 x_{1,\omega} + \theta_2 x_{2,\omega} + \theta_3 x_{3,\omega})}$$

and we set $\theta_L = (0, 0, 0, 0, 0)$ and $\theta_U = (2, 2, 2, 2, 2)$.

- This problem can be solved using Matlab's built-in tool lsqnonlin.
- This tool does not provide Hessian but provides Jacobian $\nabla_{\theta} m(\theta)$.
- We can approximate Hessian as $H(\theta) \approx \nabla_{\theta} m(\theta)^T \nabla_{\theta} m(\theta)$.
- All eigenvalues of Hessian are positive (parameters are unique).

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Bayesian Estimation



Bayes theorem provides a statistical basis to derive a wide range of estimation formulations.

- In the context of our estimation problem of interest, Bayes theorem states that:

$$f(\theta|y) = \frac{f(y|\theta)f(\theta)}{f(y)}$$

- $f(\theta|y)$ is probability that parameters take value θ given knowledge that output takes value y (a.k.a. posterior pdf)
- $f(y|\theta)$ is probability that output takes value y given knowledge that parameters take value θ (a.k.a. likelihood)
- $f(\theta)$ is marginal probability of parameters (a.k.a prior pdf)
- $f(y)$ is marginal probability of outputs (this is irrelevant as it does not carry knowledge on parameters)

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Bayesian Estimation



- Goal in Bayesian estimation is to maximize probability of parameters $f(\theta|y)$ (not of outputs as in MLE). Bayes theorem tells us that:

$$f(\theta|y) \propto f(y|\theta)f(\theta)$$

- This approach carries prior knowledge of θ . Recall that in MLE we find estimate $\hat{\theta}$ that maximizes $f(y|\theta)$ (it is assumed that θ is deterministic).
- We thus find estimate $\hat{\theta}$ by solving:

$$\max_{\theta} \log f(y|\theta) + \log f(\theta)$$

This problem is equivalent to that of MLE but we incorporate prior term $\log f(\theta)$.

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Bayesian Estimation



- If we have prior knowledge that $\theta \sim \mathcal{N}(\bar{\theta}, \Sigma_\theta)$, then:

$$\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{2} \|y - m(\theta)\|^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\theta - \bar{\theta}) \Sigma_\theta^{-1} (\theta - \bar{\theta})$$

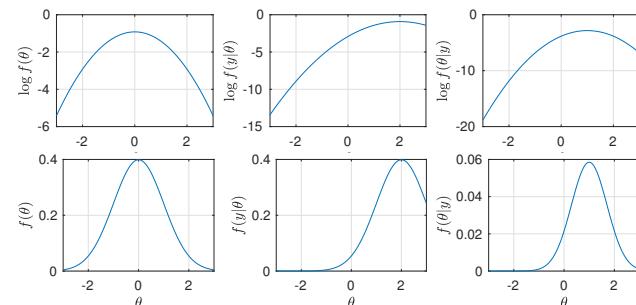
- Gaussian prior $f(\theta)$ achieves its maximum at $\theta = \bar{\theta}$ while $f(y|\theta)$ achieves its maximum when θ fits data.
- Estimation problem seeks to find *balance* between what we previously knew about θ and new knowledge gained through observations y .
- If ignore prior knowledge, all that we know about θ is through y (which might lead to ambiguity if data is insufficient).
- Adding prior knowledge reduces *ambiguity*.

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Example: Bayesian Estimation `bayes_example.m`



- Consider estimation problem for model $Y = \theta X$ and assume single observation (x, y)
- Evidence provided by prior knowledge is $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ with pdf $f(\theta)$
- Evidence provided by data (x, y) is $\mathcal{N}(y - \theta x, 2)$ with pdf $f(y|\theta)$
- Combined evidence is pdf $f(\theta|y) \propto f(y|\theta)f(\theta)$
- Below we show pdfs in log and original scale:



- According to prior evidence $f(\theta)$, $\theta = 0$ is most likely value
- According to data evidence $f(y|\theta)$, $\theta = 2$ is most likely value
- According to combined evidence $f(\theta|y)$, $\theta = 1$ is most likely value

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Outline



- ① Introduction
- ② Models of Random Variables
- ③ Estimation Techniques
- ④ Multivariate Statistics
- ⑤ Data-Driven Modeling
- ⑥ Statistical Learning
- ⑦ Decision-Making Under Uncertainty

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Statistical Learning



Machine learning (ML) is fast growing field that combines techniques from diverse branches of science and engineering to perform tasks such as:

- Data Analysis (e.g., dimension reduction, clustering, computer vision)
- Data-Driven Modeling (e.g., neural nets, kriging, support vector machines)
- Artificial Intelligence (e.g., data collection, experimentation, learning, control)

Statistical learning is a subset of ML that provides tools derived from *statistical principles*.

- Some tools of machine learning are derived from other mathematical principles (e.g., geometry, topology, optimization, linear algebra).
- Our focus here is not to provide an extensive review of all tools. Instead, we focus on general statistical principles behind such tools.

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Data Analysis



- How can I interpret and extract knowledge from high-dimensional data?
- How can I reduce (compress) my data?

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Analysis of Multivariate Data



Consider the following problem:

- You have multiple input RVs $X = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ entering a system.
- You want to create a product that is a *mixture* (blend) of these RVs:

$$t = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i X_i = w^T X$$

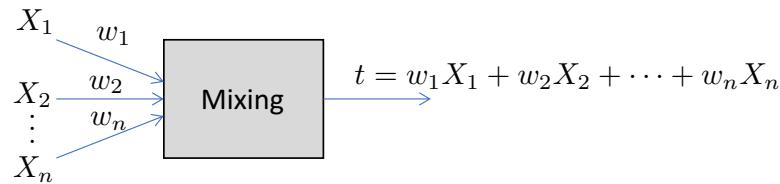
where $w_i \in \mathbb{R}$ are mixture proportions satisfying $\|w\| = 1$, with $w = (w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n)$.

- What proportions w give product that contains maximum information about X ?
- What proportions w give product that contains second most information about X ?
- What proportions w give product that contains minimum information about X ?

Think about analogy of this problem with a physical blending (mixing) process:

We want to mix a set of input flows in a way that product is as valuable as possible.

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Data mixing problem can be solved using *principal component analysis* (PCA).

- Collect observations for $x_\omega \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\omega \in 1, \dots, S$ for the RV $X = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$.
- Store the observations in $S \times n$ data matrix:

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{1,1} & x_{1,2} & \cdots & x_{1,n} \\ x_{2,1} & x_{2,2} & \cdots & x_{2,n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ x_{S,1} & x_{S,2} & \cdots & x_{S,n} \end{bmatrix}$$

- Normalize columns in such a way that $\frac{1}{S} \sum_{i=1}^S \mathbf{X}_{i,j} = 0$ for all $j = 1, \dots, n$. This centers the data around zero.
- After normalization, the sample covariance matrix of X is $\text{Cov}(X) \propto \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$ (denote this as Σ and note this is $n \times n$).
- Covariance matrix contains all information (variance) of inputs X .



- For mixture $t = w^T X$ we can show that $\hat{\mathbb{V}}[t] = w^T \Sigma w$.
- Consequently, the mix proportions that contain max variance of X can be found as:

$$\max_w w^T \Sigma w \text{ s.t. } \|w\| = 1$$

- Solution of this problem is eigenvector w_1 of Σ associated with largest eigenvalue λ_1 . Consequently, proportions w_1 give mixture $t_1 = w_1^T X$ that contains maximum information about X .

- Mixture that contains minimum information about X is found by solving:

$$\min_w w^T \Sigma w \text{ s.t. } \|w\| = 1$$

this gives eigenvector w_n associated with smallest eigenvalue $\lambda_n = w_n^T \Sigma w_n$

- We can find and rank mixtures based on information content by performing an eigendecomposition:

$$\Sigma = W \Lambda W^T = \lambda_1 w_1 w_1^T + \lambda_2 w_2 w_2^T + \cdots + \lambda_n w_n w_n^T$$

- Eigenvalues are arranged as $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \cdots \geq \lambda_n$. Consequently, mix $t_1 = w_1^T X$ contains most info while $t_2 = w_2^T X$ contains second most info and so on.



- Mixtures (a.k.a. principal components) t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n contain information about X . Consequently, select a few of them (typically two or three) to visualize data X in a small dimensional space (PCA is a dimensionality reduction technique).

- Truncating the eigendecomposition series enables compression of data matrix Σ .

- Key property of principal components is that they retain structure of high-dimensional data. Visualizing data by dropping variables destroys structure.

- We can show that principal components are uncorrelated and thus $\text{Cov}(t_i, t_j) = 0$ for all $i \neq j$ (i.e., mixtures contain complementary types of information).

- We can use eigenvector matrix $W = [w_1 | w_2 | \cdots | w_n] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, to can project data matrix \mathbf{X} to the principal component (information) space as:

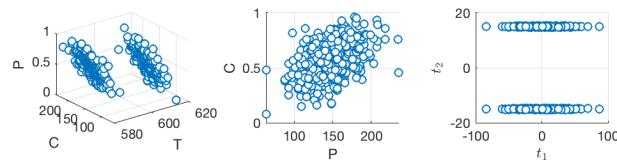
$$\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{X}W$$

where $\mathbf{T} \in \mathbb{R}^{S \times n}$ is a matrix with entries $t_{i,j}$, $i = 1, \dots, S$, $j = 1, \dots, n$.

Example: Gibbs Reactor [gibbs.pca.m](#)



- Have data set with pressure, temperature, and conversion (P, T, C).
- If we visualize data in a 3D (P, T, C) space, there are clearly two clusters revealed (one is reactor operating under failure mode and one under normal mode).
- Imagine we drop T data because we believe this is unimportant and visualize (P, C) space alone. We can see that failure clusters cannot be spotted. This illustrates how improper reduction of data can miss significant information.
- By using PCA, we retain structure and can visualize in 2D space (t_1, t_2).



- Eigenvalues obtained with PCA are $\lambda = (3.19 \times 10^5, 1.12 \times 10^5, 4)$.
- This indicates that one of the principal components carries small information (there is a redundant dimension). This is because of high correlation between P and C (i.e., if you know P , you know C and vice versa).

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Example: Image Compression [svd_reconstruction.m](#)



- An image is a matrix \mathbf{X} (each entry represents a pixel and the number the intensity)
- We decompose the image using SVD as $\mathbf{X} = \sum_{j=1}^n s_j u_j v_j^T$ (elements of series are arranged in order of information content).
- Large components tend to contain broad (global) features of image while small components contain granular (local) features.
- We can truncate series to compress image (i.e., ignore granular behavior and noise).



- This image is a matrix \mathbf{X} of dimension 747×941

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Singular Value Decomposition



- PCA decomposes covariance $\Sigma = \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X}$ as $\Sigma = W \Lambda W^T$
- One can also implement PCA by decomposing data matrix $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{R}^{S \times n}$ directly. This is done by using a technique called singular value decomposition (SVD):

$$\mathbf{X} = U S V^T$$

- Here, $U \in \mathbb{R}^{S \times S}$ is left eigenvector matrix, $V \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ is right eigenvector matrix and $S \in \mathbb{R}^{S \times n}$ is singular value matrix (a diagonal matrix).
- Matrices U, V are orthogonal and thus satisfy $U^T U = I$ and $V^T V = I$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X} &= (U S V^T)^T (U S V^T) \\ &= V S^T S V^T \end{aligned}$$

- By defining $W = V$ and $\Lambda = S^T S$, we obtain standard PCA.
- SVD of \mathbf{X} can be written as an expansion of the form:

$$\mathbf{X} = \sum_{j=1}^n s_j u_j v_j^T$$

where $s_j = S_{j,j}$ and u_j and v_j are columns of U and V , respectively.

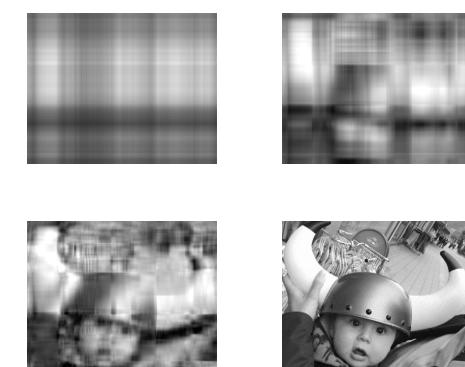
- Why would you prefer to decompose \mathbf{X} over decomposing Σ ?

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Example: Image Compression [svd_reconstruction.m](#)



- Approximate images (matrices) obtained using truncated series $\mathbf{X}_k = \sum_{j=1}^k s_j u_j v_j^T$ for $k = 1, 3, 10, 100$:



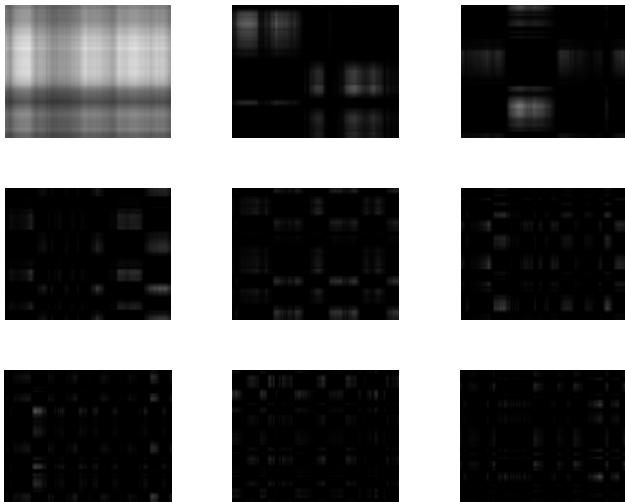
- Note how coarse features develop quickly while granular develop slowly
- Each element $s_j u_j v_j^T$ encodes different “features” of the image
- Nearly perfect image obtained with $k = 100$ (13% of original data)
- Truncating series cuts down non-informative features

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Example: Image Compression `svd_components.m`



- Here are first nine elements $s_j u_j v_j^T$ of series $\mathbf{X} = \sum_{j=1}^n s_j u_j v_j^T$.



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Analysis of Space-Time Data



- PCA assumes observations x_ω , $\omega \in \mathcal{S}$ are independent
- But what if there is correlation between observations x_ω and $x_{\omega'}$?
- For instance, what if there is a temporal correlation (i.e., x_ω , $x_{\omega+1}$ are correlated)?
- Consider $x_\omega \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are observations at time t_ω and consider mixture:
$$t_\omega = w^T x_\omega, \quad \omega \in \mathcal{S}$$
- This forms a time series t_1, t_2, \dots, t_S and we assume temporal model of the form:
$$\hat{t}_\omega = \beta_1 t_{\omega-1} + \beta_2 t_\omega + \dots + \beta_r t_{\omega-r}$$
- This linear model is known as a time-series model (a whole topic on its own).

$$t_\omega = w^T x_\omega, \quad \omega \in \mathcal{S}$$

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Analysis of Space-Time Data



- Our goal is to find parameters w and β such that t_ω capture most information of x_ω .
- This can be done by solving the following optimization problem:

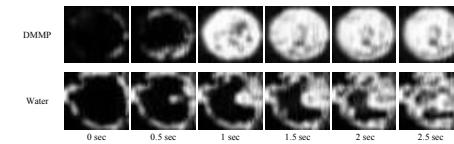
$$\begin{aligned} \max_{w, \beta} \quad & \sum_{\omega=1}^S t_\omega \hat{t}_\omega \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & t_\omega = w^T x_\omega, \quad \omega = 1, \dots, S \\ & \hat{t}_\omega = \beta_1 t_{\omega-1} + \beta_2 t_\omega + \dots + \beta_r t_{\omega-r}, \quad \omega = 1, \dots, S \end{aligned}$$

with $\|\beta\| = 1$ and $\|w\| = 1$.

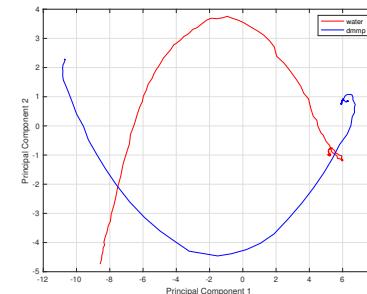
- This can be interpreted as finding w, β that maximize predictability of \hat{t}_ω .
- One can show that problem is a special type of an eigenvalue problem that captures static and temporal variance of x_ω .
- Time series \hat{t}_ω , $\omega \in \mathcal{S}$ contains maximum information about x_ω (these are known as dynamic principal components).
- As in PCA, we find a time series that contains second most information and so on.
- This provides powerful approach to visualize dynamics of high-dimensional data.

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Example: Dynamic Image Analysis `dynamic_image_analysis.m`



- Chemical sensor responds to different contaminants, seek to spot differences in space-dynamic response to identify contaminant type.
- Each observation x_ω is an image and we have a sequence $\omega = 1, \dots, S$.
- Below we show dynamics for first two principal components extracted from data.



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Data-Driven Modeling (Classification)



Consider following problem:

- You have input $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ with observations $x_\omega \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $\omega \in \mathcal{S}$. Domain \mathcal{D}_X can be discrete or continuous.
- You have output Y with observations $y_\omega \in \mathbb{R}$ and discrete domain $\mathcal{D}_Y = \{0, 1\}$.
- We postulate that there exists a relationship between X and Y of the form:

$$Y = g(X, \theta)$$

where $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are parameters and $g(X, \theta)$ is model.

- Our objective is to find model that best explains observations:

$$y_\omega = g(x_\omega, \theta) + \epsilon_\omega$$

- This estimation problem is known as a *classification* problem. In this context, inputs X are known as features or descriptors while Y are known as labels or classes.
- What is different (and difficult) here is the binary nature of output Y . In standard estimation problems, Y is assumed to be continuous.

Think about chemical classification problem:

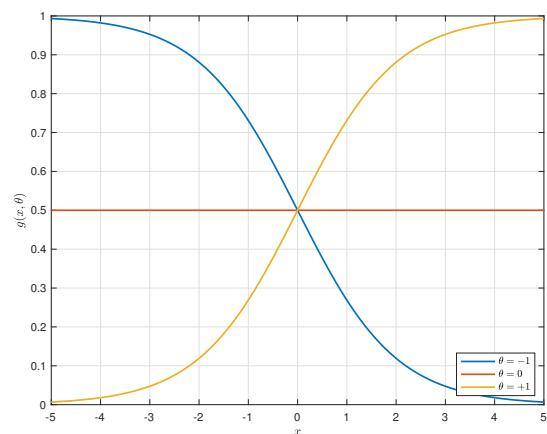
Given a set of features for a chemical, can we predict if this is toxic or not?

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Classification [plot_logistic_function.m](#)



Here is a visualization of the logistic function for different values of θ and for scalar x .



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Classification



- To solve problem, we postulate a model function of the form:

$$g(x, \theta) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\theta^T x}}$$

- The mixture $\theta^T x = \sum_{i=1}^n \theta_i x_i$ is known as *evidence*. Parameters reflect weights that we place on different features.
- Postulated model is known as the logistic function and seeks to capture 0-1 logic.
- Logistic function is a sigmoidal function that satisfies:
 - $g(x, \theta) \rightarrow 1$ as $\theta^T x \rightarrow +\infty$
 - $g(x, \theta) \rightarrow 0$ as $\theta^T x \rightarrow -\infty$
 - $g(x, \theta) = \frac{1}{2}$ if $\theta^T x = 0$

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Classification



- Logistic function $g(x, \theta)$ can model probabilities $\mathbb{P}(Y = 1 | x, \theta)$ and $\mathbb{P}(Y = 0 | x, \theta) = 1 - \mathbb{P}(Y = 1 | x, \theta)$:

- If evidence is strongly positive, there is a high probability that $Y = 1$
- If evidence is strongly negative, there is a high probability that $Y = 0$
- If evidence is weak, there is ambiguity (it is equally probable that $Y = 0$ or $Y = 1$)

- This logic can be captured by defining a conditional pdf of the form:

$$f(y|x, \theta) = \mathbb{P}(Y = y | x, \theta) = g(x, \theta)^y (1 - g(x, \theta))^{1-y}$$

- Goal is to find estimate $\hat{\theta}$ that maximizes joint probability $\prod_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} f(y_\omega | x_\omega, \theta)$:

$$\max_{\theta} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} y_\omega \log(g(x_\omega, \theta)) + (1 - y_\omega) \log(1 - g(x_\omega, \theta))$$

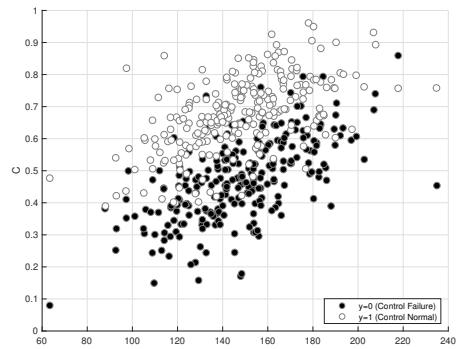
- Having estimate $\hat{\theta}$ we use model $g(x, \hat{\theta})$ to predict class of input with features x .
- This approach does not minimize sum of squared errors (and is standard estimation). The objective function is called *log loss*.

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Example: Gibbs Reactor [gibbs.logistic.m](#)



- Have data $(P_\omega, C_\omega, T_\omega)$ for reactor.
- Reactor is in normal mode when T_ω is low ($y_\omega = 1$) and in failure mode when T_ω is high ($y_\omega = 0$).
- We seek to develop a model that predicts mode by using data $x_\omega = (P_\omega, C_\omega)$.
- Data tells us that this might be achievable due to strong cluster separation.

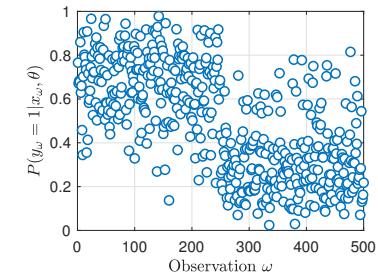
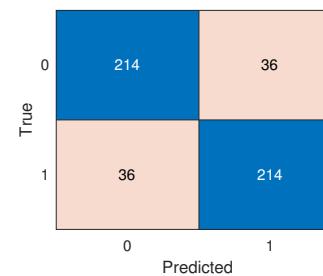


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Example: Gibbs Reactor [gibbs.logistic.m](#)



- After estimation, we find that model correctly classifies failure 85% of the time.
- Logistic classification also gives us an estimate of the probability that predictions are in a given class and which observations are in a "fuzzy" (confusion) region.
- If data noise is increased, cluster separation is not as strong and accuracy decreases.



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Data-Driven Modeling (Kernel Methods)



- A flexible approach to constructing models is to *mix* different types of models.
- Assume that Y and $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ follow a relationship of the form:

$$Y = \sum_{j=1}^m \theta_j \phi_j(X) = \theta^T \phi(X)$$

- $\phi_j(X)$, $j = 1, \dots, m$ is collection of basic models (a.k.a. basis functions).
- We define vector $\phi(X) = (\phi_1(X), \dots, \phi_m(X))$.
- Basis function $\phi_j(X)$ can be nonlinear (e.g., polynomial, sigmoidal, exponential) or linear (in which case $\phi(X) = X$).
- Parameters $\theta_j \in \mathbb{R}$ are mixing coefficients of basis functions.

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Data-Driven Modeling (Kernel Methods)



- Assume we determine estimate $\hat{\theta}$ by solving regularized MLE problem:

$$\min_{\theta} S(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} (y_\omega - \theta^T \phi(x_\omega))^2 + \lambda \theta^T \theta$$

In vector form:

$$\min_{\theta} S(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} (\Phi \theta - \mathbf{y})^T (\Phi \theta - \mathbf{y}) + \lambda \theta^T \theta$$

- $\Phi \in \mathbb{R}^{S \times n}$ is input data matrix with $\Phi_{\omega,j} = \phi_j(x_\omega)$ and \mathbf{y} is output data vector
- If basis functions are linear then $\Phi = X$.

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Kernel Methods



- Optimality conditions indicate that best estimate satisfies:

$$\theta = \frac{1}{\lambda} \Phi^T \mathbf{r}$$

where we define residuals (mismatch errors) $\mathbf{r} = (\Phi\theta - \mathbf{y})$.

- By substituting in $S(\theta)$ we obtain:

$$S(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{r}^T \Phi \Phi^T \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}^T \Phi \Phi^T \mathbf{y} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{y} + \frac{\lambda}{2} \mathbf{r}^T \Phi \Phi^T \mathbf{r}$$

We define matrix $K = \Phi \Phi^T \in \mathbb{R}^{S \times S}$ and simplify:

$$S(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{r}^T K K \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}^T K \mathbf{y} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{y} + \frac{\lambda}{2} \mathbf{r}^T K \mathbf{r}$$

- Note that $S(\theta)$ can be defined entirely in terms of \mathbf{r} .

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Kernel Methods



- This suggests an alternative strategy to find estimate $\hat{\theta}$.

- We solve the following problem to find an optimal $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$:

$$\min_{\mathbf{r}} \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{r}^T K K \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}^T K \mathbf{y} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{y}^T \mathbf{y} + \frac{\lambda}{2} \mathbf{r}^T K \mathbf{r}$$

- We recover estimate $\hat{\theta} = \Phi^T \hat{\mathbf{r}}$

- It turns out, however, that parameters $\hat{\theta}$ are *not needed at all*.

- To see this, note that $\hat{\mathbf{r}}$ satisfies $\hat{\mathbf{r}} = (K + \lambda I)^{-1} \mathbf{y}$ and thus optimal prediction is:

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}} = K(K + \lambda I)^{-1} \mathbf{y}$$

- Optimal prediction only depends on input data (in matrix K) and output data (in \mathbf{y}).

- We thus see that θ are not needed to make predictions (these are just intermediary).

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Kernel Methods



Kernel Methods

- Matrix K is known as kernel matrix and captures interactions in input variables.
- Given input data x_ω , $\omega \in \mathcal{S}$, the kernel matrix can be constructed as:

$$K_{i,j} = k(x_i, x_j) \quad i, j \in \mathcal{S}$$

where $k(x_i, x_j)$ is the *kernel function*.

- The case for linear estimation corresponds to defining kernel function:

$$k(x_i, x_j) = x_i^T x_j$$

In this case, note that $K = \text{Cov}(X)$ (after normalization).

- The case of basis functions corresponds to defining a kernel function:

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \phi(x_i)^T \phi(x_j)$$

- Typically, the kernel function is chosen to be the radial basis function (RBF):

$$k(x_i, x_j) = \exp(-\gamma \|x_i - x_j\|^2)$$

where γ is a parameter. This kernel is also known as the Gaussian kernel.

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RBF kernel is simple but captures a wide range of nonlinear behavior.

Consider case where x_ω is a scalar and notice that:

$$\begin{aligned} \exp(-\gamma(x_i - x_j)^2) &= \exp(-\gamma x_i^2 + 2\gamma x_i x_j - \gamma x_j^2) \\ &= \exp(-\gamma x_i^2 - \gamma x_j^2) \left(1 + \frac{2\gamma x_i x_j}{1!} + \frac{(2\gamma x_i x_j)^2}{2!} + \dots\right) \end{aligned}$$

We thus have that RBF can be written as:

$$\exp(-\gamma(x_i - x_j)^2) = \phi(x_i)^T \phi(x_j)$$

where $\phi(x)$ is an *infinite* collection of polynomial basis functions:

$$\phi(x) = e^{-\gamma x} (1, x \sqrt{2\gamma/1!}, x^2 \sqrt{(2\gamma)^2/2!}, x^3 \sqrt{(2\gamma)^3/3!}, \dots)$$

- In kernel methods, we do not need to postulate an input-output model (e.g., $Y = \theta^T \phi(X)$) and estimate its parameters (θ).
- Instead, we postulate a kernel model and estimate its parameters (e.g., γ).
- Number of parameters of a kernel function is often small (typically a handful).
- Small number of parameters is a key advantage over standard estimation approaches.

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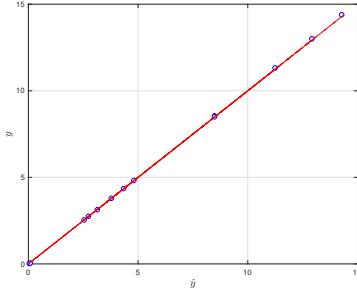
Example: Hougen-Watson Reaction [hougen_watson_kernel.m](#)



- Mechanistic model fits data well but is highly nonlinear and has five parameters:

$$Y = \frac{(\theta_0 X_2 - X_3/\theta_4)}{(1 + \theta_1 X_1 + \theta_2 X_2 + \theta_3 X_3)}$$

- Instead of using this model, we use data (x_ω, y_ω) to construct a kernel model.
- We use Gaussian kernel $k(x_\omega, x_{\omega'}) = \exp(-\gamma \|x_\omega - x_{\omega'}\|^2)$ with $\gamma = 0.01$.
- Kernel model only requires one parameter (γ).
- Below we show the fit of the data:



- The kernel model can indeed capture the high nonlinearity of mechanistic model.

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Data-Driven Modeling (Kriging)



How do we estimate kernel function hyperparameters?

This can be done by using a technique called kriging.

- In kriging we postulate a model of the form:

$$y_\omega = g(x_\omega) + \epsilon_\omega, \omega \in \mathcal{S}$$

- In vector form:

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{g} + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}$$

- If we assume that $\epsilon_\omega \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma)$ then we have that $f(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{g})$ corresponds to $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{g}, \sigma \mathbb{I})$.
- Note absence of parameters in postulated model.

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Kriging



- What is unique about kriging is that \mathbf{g} is treated as a random function (non-parametric).
- In the techniques that we have discussed we defined parametric functions $\mathbf{g}(\theta)$.
- Assume that the random function \mathbf{g} has pdf $f(\mathbf{g}|\gamma)$ corresponding to $\mathcal{N}(0, K(\gamma))$.
- Here, $K(\gamma) = \text{Cov}(\mathbf{g})$ is a covariance function and γ are its parameters.
- Think about $K(\gamma)$ as a function that generates samples of random model \mathbf{g} .
- Kernel matrix has entries:

$$K_{i,j}(\gamma) = k(x_i, x_j, \gamma)$$

where $k(x_i, x_j, \gamma)$ is kernel function.

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Kriging



- Marginal of \mathbf{y} is:

$$f(\mathbf{y}|\gamma) = \int f(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{g})f(\mathbf{g}|\gamma)d\mathbf{g}$$

- One can show that this corresponds to pdf of $\mathcal{N}(0, C(\gamma))$ with entries:

$$C_{i,j}(\gamma) = K_{i,j}(\gamma) + \sigma^2 \cdot \delta_{i,j}, \quad i, j \in \mathcal{S}$$

where $\delta_{i,j} = 1$ if $x_i = x_j$ and zero otherwise.

- One approach to estimate $\hat{\gamma}$ consists of maximizing $\log f(\mathbf{y}|\gamma)$:

$$\max_{\gamma} -\frac{1}{2} \log |C(\gamma)| - \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{y}^T C(\gamma) \mathbf{y} - \frac{S}{2} \log 2\pi$$

- As a kernel method, in kriging one computes predictions by using kernel function (which only depends on $\hat{\gamma}$ and input data).

- This is done by using conditional pdf $f(y|\mathbf{y})$ where y is predicted output at a new point x and \mathbf{y} are observations used to determine $\hat{\gamma}$.

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Kriging

- Conditional pdf $f(y|\mathbf{y})$ is Gaussian $\mathcal{N}(m(x), \sigma^2(x))$ with:

$$m(x) = \mathbf{k}^T C^{-1} \mathbf{y}$$

$$\sigma^2(x) = c - \mathbf{k}^T C \mathbf{k}$$

and:

$$C = C(\hat{\gamma})$$

$$c = k(x, x, \hat{\gamma})$$

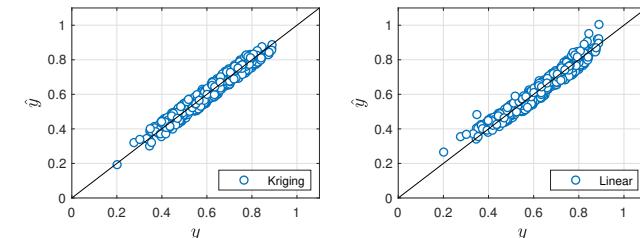
$$\mathbf{k}_i = k(x_i, x, \hat{\gamma}), i = 1, \dots, S$$

- Mean prediction of y is $m(x)$ and variance is $\sigma^2(x)$.
 - There is a wide range of kernel functions that can be used in kriging. The generalized Gaussian kernel resembles the RBF and takes the form:
- $$k(x_i, x_k, \gamma) = \gamma_0 \exp\left(-\frac{\gamma_1}{2} \|x_i - x_k\|^2\right) + \gamma_2$$
- It is possible to combine parametric and non-parametric estimation within kriging.
 - This can be done by defining $f(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{g}, \theta)$ as $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{g} + \Phi\theta, \sigma\mathbb{I})$ where Φ is an input data matrix with entries $\Phi_{\omega,j} = \phi_j(x_\omega)$ and $\phi_j(x)$ is a collection of basis functions.

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Example: Gibbs Reactor `gibbs_kriging.m`

- We compare performance of kriging (nonlinear) and linear models
- We construct models with inputs $X = (P, T)$ and output $Y = C$
- Below we show fit obtained with both models:

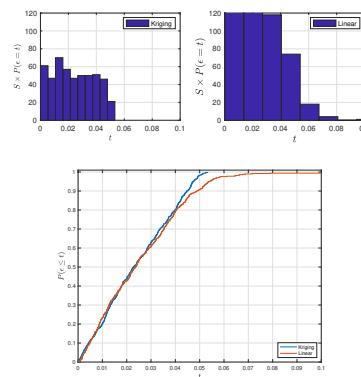


- The kriging model can predict better over entire domain
- Linear model predicts accurately in the middle of the domain but fails on the extremes (where nonlinearity is more marked)

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Example: Gibbs Reactor `gibbs_kriging.m`

- We can benchmark models by comparing pdfs and cdfs of their residuals
- Here are the empirical cdfs for residuals $|\epsilon| = |y - \hat{y}|$ for kriging and linear models:

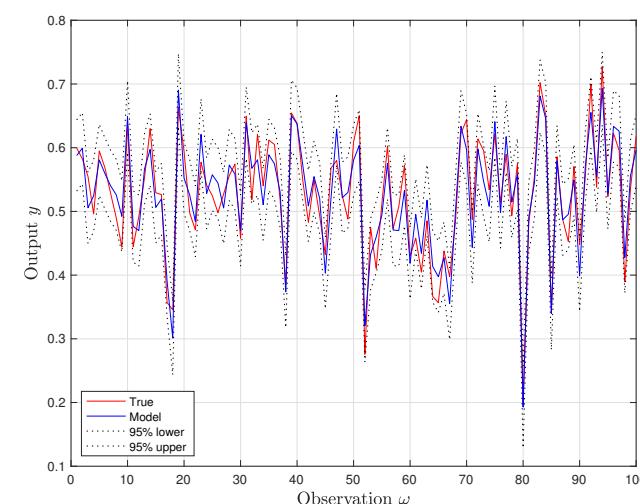


- Kriging never exceeds threshold $t = 0.06$ while linear reach levels of $t = 0.1$
- How do you interpret above graphs?

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Example: Gibbs Reactor `gibbs_kriging.m`

- An important feature of kriging is that it provides uncertainty on predictions



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How do humans learn? How do they establish connections between variables to make predictions and decisions?

- Neural networks (NNs) are nature-inspired parametric models of the form:

$$Y = g(X, \theta)$$

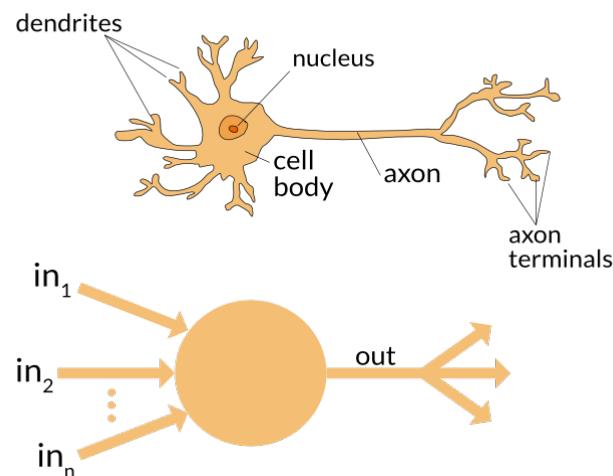
- What is different about NNs is that the model function $g(X, \theta)$ is automatically constructed by using a set of activation (basis) functions that are mixed (combined) in a hierarchical manner. This seeks to mimic how the brain works.
- NNs provide a flexible approach to capture virtually any type of relationship between X and Y . A key advantage of this is that we do not need to postulate a model (e.g., nonlinear, linear, logistic, mechanistic).
- As with estimation and classification, the objective is to build a NN model (estimate parameters θ) to fit the observations:

$$y_\omega = g(x_\omega, \theta) + \epsilon_\omega, \omega \in \mathcal{S}$$

- Determination of θ from data mimics the *learning* process of a human.

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Neural Networks



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Neural Networks



- NNs seek to mimic how the brain responds when exposed to data and how we learn and accumulate knowledge.
- The brain is a highly sophisticated network that has neurons as basic processing (decision) units that interact with one another through signals.
- The mathematical description of a neuron is called a *perceptron*. A perceptron generates a signal if evidence $\sum_{i=1}^n \theta_i x_i + \theta_0$ is strong enough.
- Parameter θ_0 is called the *bias*; this captures situations in which we make decisions based on our inherent biases (ignoring evidence).
- Binary behavior of perceptron is similar to that logistic classification. In fact, perceptrons are often modeled using logistic functions.
- Perceptron is a decision unit that decides to "fire" or not when exposed to evidence. How to respond to different pieces of evidence is captured by parameters θ .
- An NN is a hierarchical architecture of perceptrons that constructs *complex logic*.

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Neural Networks

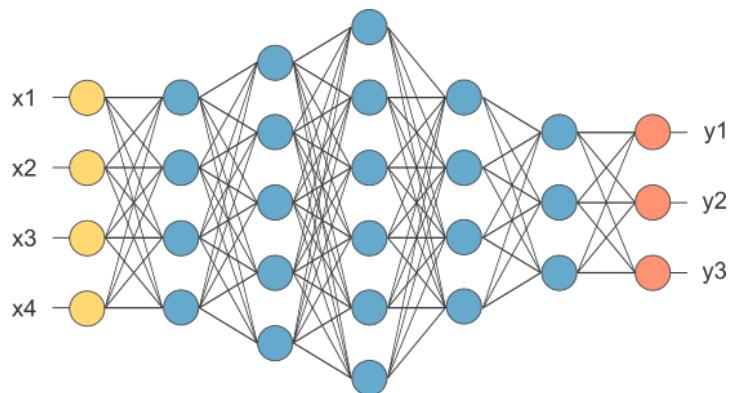


The components of a NN hierarchy are: input layers, hidden layers, and output layers.

- Input layer contains perceptrons that take input data X to generate signals. This layer captures basic logic (i.e., I decided this because of that).
- Hidden layer contains perceptrons that take signals from input layer to generate additional signals. This layer captures abstract logic. This layer captures aspects that are difficult for humans to rationalize (i.e., why did I decide that?).
- Output layer contains perceptrons that take signals from hidden layer to generate a final output signal Y . Signal can be continuous or discrete.

We now proceed to show how to train NNs. For simplicity, we will assume a NN architecture with one input layer, one hidden layer, and one output layer.

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- *Input layer* is composed of $j = 1, \dots, n_I$ perceptrons. Evidence in perceptron j is :

$$a_j = \sum_{i=1}^n \theta_{j,i}^I x_i + \theta_{j,0}^I$$

Here, $\theta_{j,i}^I$ are parameters of perceptron ($\theta_{j,0}^I$ is bias) and x_i is input data (for an observation ω). Given evidence, perceptron j generates output signal:

$$z_j = h(a_j)$$

here, $h(a_j)$ is known as activation function and is often modeled using a sigmoidal function (tanh and max functions are also often used).

- *Hidden layer* is composed of $k = 1, \dots, n_H$ perceptrons. Evidence in perceptron k is:

$$a_k = \sum_{j=1}^{n_I} \theta_{k,j}^H z_j + \theta_{k,0}^H$$

Given evidence, output signal is:

$$w_k = h(a_k)$$



- *Output layer* takes signals of hidden layer and can have one or multiple perceptrons (depending on how many outputs Y we have). If there is one output, evidence is:

$$a = \sum_{k=1}^{n_H} \theta_k^O w_k + \theta_0^O$$

Final output (model prediction) is $m = \sigma(a)$ where $\sigma(a)$ is a sigmoidal function if output Y is binary (e.g., classification) or $\sigma(a) = a$ if continuous (e.g., regression).

- Given parameters $\theta = (\theta^I, \theta^H, \theta^O)$, NN propagates input x_ω into output $m_\omega(\theta)$. This forward propagation can be written as:

$$m_\omega(\theta) = \sigma \left(\sum_{k=1}^{n_H} \theta_k^O h \left(\sum_{j=1}^n g \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \theta_{j,i}^I x_i^\omega + \theta_{j,0}^I \right) + \theta_{k,0}^H \right) + \theta_0^O \right), \quad \omega \in \mathcal{S}$$

- Derivatives $\nabla_\theta m_\omega(\theta)$ are computed using a technique called *back propagation*.



- We can use an MLE framework to estimate θ . For regression problems:

$$\min_{\theta} S(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\omega \in \mathcal{S}} (y_\omega - m_\omega(\theta))^2$$

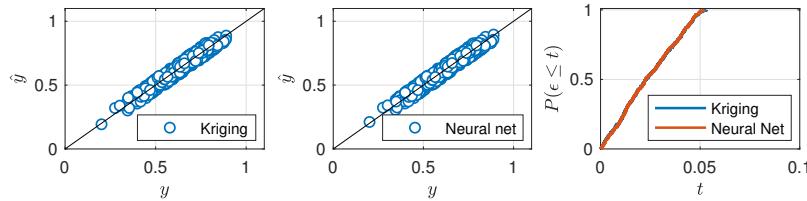
In the context of NNs, $S(\theta)$ is also known as the loss function.

- For classification problems we find θ that maximizes the log loss.
- Main advantage of NNs is that they are completely data-driven (no mechanistic understanding is needed). However, this is also the main disadvantage of NNs.
- Parameters and hidden variables often have no physical meaning and it is thus difficult to convey prior knowledge.
- This often manifests as a need for large amounts of data to determine parameters which are also many (on the order of thousands to millions). In the architecture discussed with have $n_I \cdot n + n_H \cdot n_I + n_H$ parameters.
- As a result, a typical issue with NNs is that of *overfitting*. Regularization terms (e.g., $\rho(\theta) = \lambda \theta^T \theta$) are often added to the loss function but there is often no mechanistic basis to construct more sophisticated strategies (e.g., Bayesian).
- Conducting cross-validation in NNs is particularly critical.

Example: Gibbs Reactor `gibbs_kriging.m`



- We now compare the performance of NN against kriging
- NN contains one hidden layer (with two perceptrons)



- We see that performance is virtually the same (NN can capture high nonlinearity)
- Reducing perceptrons worsens predictions (but not by much)

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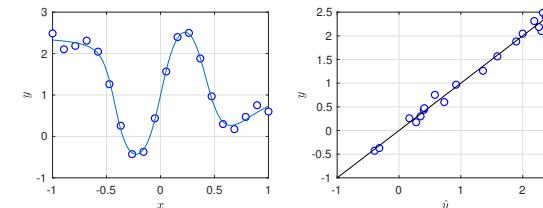
Example: Sigmoids as Basis Functions `gibbs_kriging.m`

- So why are NNs so effective at capturing nonlinear behavior?
- NNs are sophisticated basis function models (use activation functions)
- To see this, construct a simple NN model with sigmoidal activation functions:

$$\phi_k(z) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}}, \quad k = 1, \dots, N$$

where $z = \theta_k \cdot x + b_k$

- NN output is $y = \sum_{k=1}^N w_k \phi_k(z)$ (there are no hidden layers).
- Fit of NN model to function $y = \sin(4x) + \sin(8x) + \exp(-x)$ is shown below:



- The Hessian $H(\hat{\theta})$ has five eigenvalues below 1×10^{-5} (surface of $S(\theta)$ is flat).

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Convolutional Neural Networks

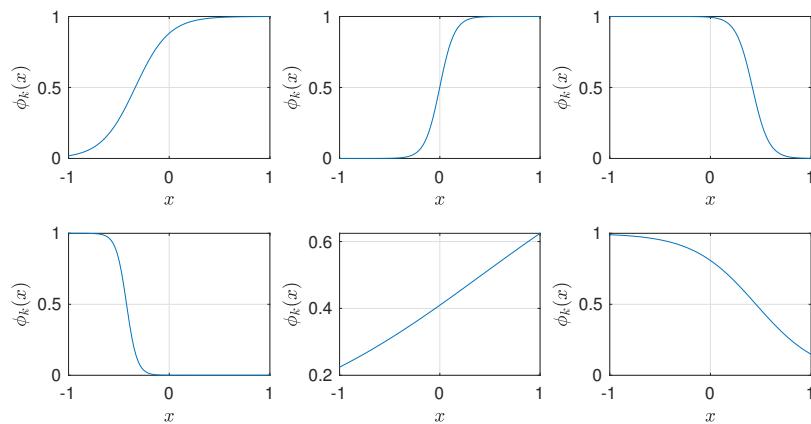


- Convolutional Neural Nets (CNNs) are NNs that are specialized to take images (matrices \mathbf{X}_ω) as inputs to make predictions y_ω (e.g., classify or predict value).
- In principle, we could create a large vector $\text{vec}(\mathbf{X}_\omega)$ and feed this into a NN to make a prediction. However, this approach can lead to a large number of parameters.
- Instead, CNNs seek to summarize (compress) images by extracting relevant features. Such features are extracted by using filters (a filter is a small matrix \mathbf{W} that encodes a pattern).
- Extracted features are then used as evidence in the perceptrons that generate activation signals (also matrices).
- In a CNN, the filter matrices and the parameters of the activation functions are learned from data.
- Different filters extract different features (patterns) of an image (analogous to SVD).

Example: Sigmoids as Basis Functions `nn_basis.m`



- Basis functions (with estimated parameters) are shown below.



- NN model $y = \sum_{k=1}^N w_k \phi_k(z)$ thus captures nonlinear behavior.

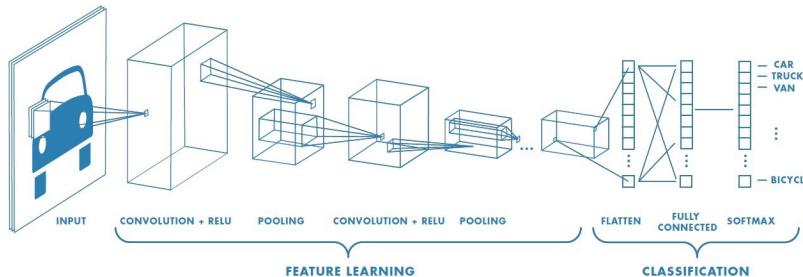
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Convolutional Neural Networks



- Here is a typical architecture of a CNN:

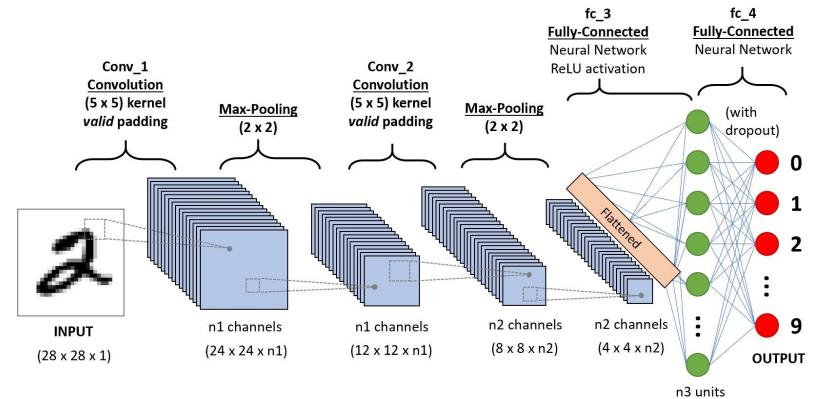


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Convolutional Neural Networks



- Images can be expressed by multiple matrices (e.g., color channels).



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Convolutional Neural Networks



- Convolution is a pattern matching operation
- In signal processing, convolutions are used to identify if a signal "looks like" a another reference signal (filter)
- Procedure generates a filtered image (convolved feature)

1	1	1	0	0
0	1	1	1	0
0	0	1	1	1
0	0	1	1	0
0	1	1	0	0

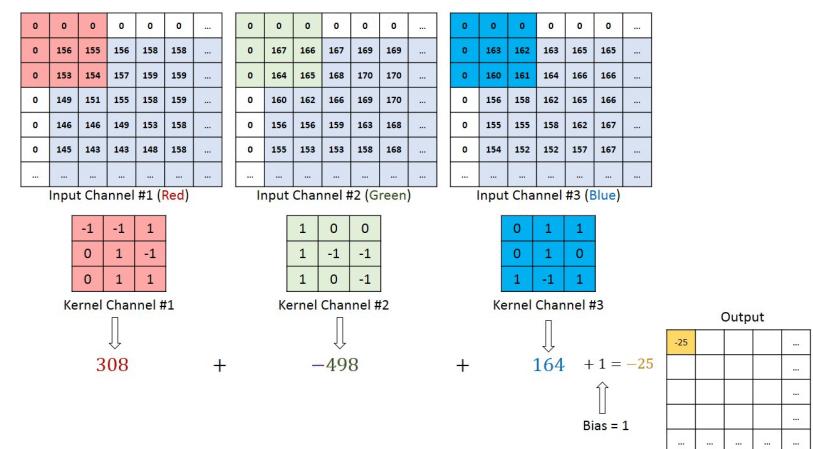
Image

4		

Convolved Feature

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Convolutional Neural Networks

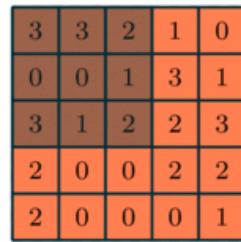
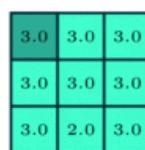


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Convolutional Neural Networks



- Pooling is a procedure to compress filtered images into smaller sizes

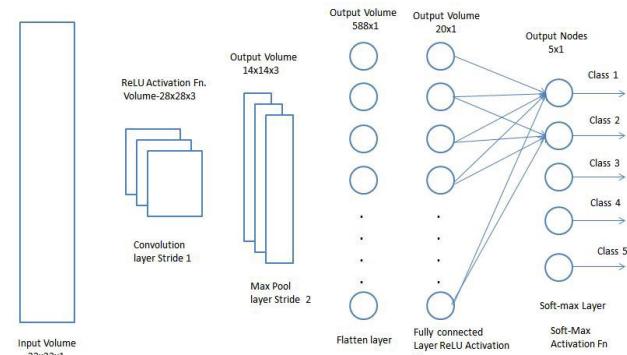


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Convolutional Neural Networks



- Subsequent convolutions of the image generate output features that are used by a standard NN to perform predictions
- This NN layer is called the fully connected layer

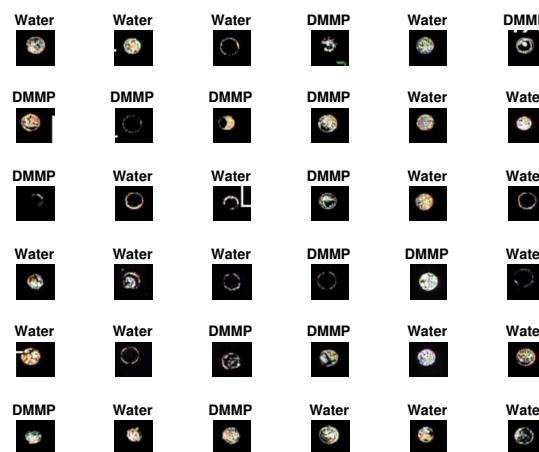


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Example: Classifying Contaminants [cnn_contaminants.m](#)



- Here are some example images of a sensor exposed to DMMP and Water
- Have a total set of $S = 500$ for training

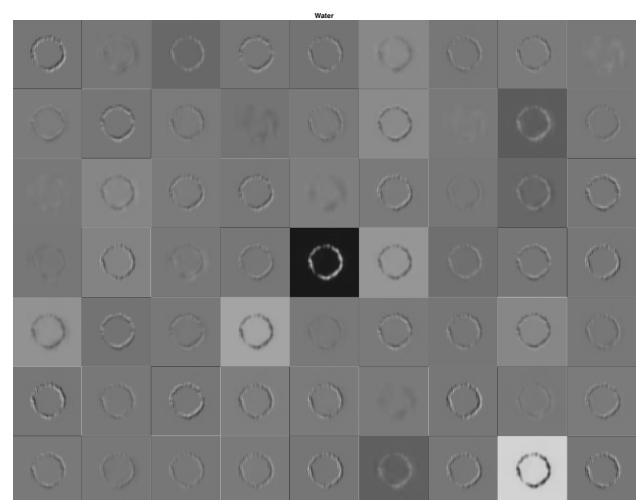


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Example: Classifying Contaminants [cnn_contaminants.m](#)



- Here are the filtered images (activations) obtained from filters for DMMP

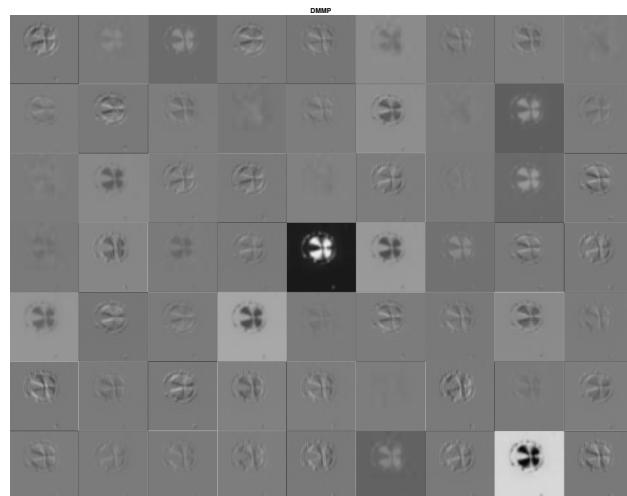


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Example: Classifying Contaminants [cnn_contaminants.m](#)



- Here are the filtered images (activations) obtained from filters for Water



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Example: Classifying Contaminants [cnn_contaminants.m](#)



- Here is the confusion matrix obtained from classification for an independent set of images (accuracy of 77%)

		Predicted	
		DMMP	Water
True	DMMP	20	20
	Water	3	57

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Outline



- ① Introduction
- ② Models of Random Variables
- ③ Estimation Techniques
- ④ Multivariate Statistics
- ⑤ Data-Driven Modeling
- ⑥ Statistical Learning
- ⑦ Decision-Making Under Uncertainty

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Decision-Making under Uncertainty



- We have learned to use data to model uncertainty as RVs and to build models to capture connections between RVs.
- We have also learned how to characterize uncertainty for functions of RVs using Monte Carlo simulations and RV transformations.
- We now shift our attention on how to use these capabilities to *make decisions*.
- Fundamental issue with making decisions under uncertainty is that humans take different attitudes towards risk and tend to severely under/overestimate uncertainty. Also, “risk” means different things to different people.
- Consider setting in which we would like to choose between decisions u and u' with associated univariate RVs $Y(u)$ and $Y(u')$ (e.g., cost).
- Another setting is that in which we want to find a decision u that manipulates RV $Y(u)$ in a particular way (e.g., it maximizes it or reduces its variability).

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Consider now the following questions:

- What is risk? How do I measure risk?
- How can I make a decision that withstands uncertainty?
- How can I take optimal proactive actions in the face of uncertainty?

Concepts and techniques that answer these questions are studied in the area of *stochastic optimization* (a.k.a. stochastic programming).



At this point, we have all fundamentals of statistics needed to properly define risk and figure out how to measure it.

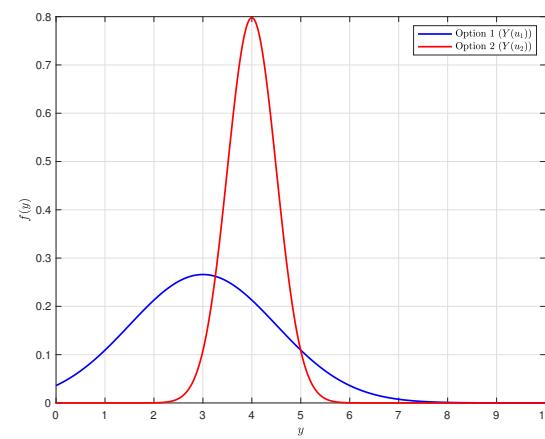
- Consider an input X with pdf $f_X(x)$ and cdf $F_X(x)$ and utility function $\varphi(X, u)$ that depends on the input RV and a decision u .
- Since X is an RV, utility is also an RV that we represent as univariate RV $Y(u) = \varphi(X, u)$ with pdf $f_{Y(u)}(y)$ and cdf $F_{Y(u)}(y)$.
- The pdf and cdf of $Y(u)$ depend on the decision u ; consequently, u can be used to manipulate these and to manipulate the statistics of $Y(u)$.
- In popular culture, risk is associated with a decision or situation (e.g., "this is a risky investment", "the reactor is operating at risky conditions") and is associated with extreme events or large/catastrophic losses.



- When making decisions, however, we want precise measures that tell us exactly what constitutes a risky decision and how risky it is.
- Unfortunately, there is no unique mathematical definition of risk because humans tend to value different aspects of uncertainty (e.g., probability of failure vs. magnitude of failure vs. worst-case failure).
- Moreover, humans tend to disagree on what probability levels are acceptable (e.g., what seems risky to me might not seem risky to you).
- Disagreements arise because decision-makers (DMs) take different risk attitudes.
- As a result, what we want to explore here is not what risk is but rather what *definitions* of risk exist.
- Ultimately, establishing a definition of risk for a particular situation at hand should be based on consensus between DMs.



- Consider options $Y(u_1)$ and $Y(u_2)$
 - $Y(u_1)$ has low mean cost but high variance
 - $Y(u_2)$ has high mean cost and but low variance
- Which one is better?



Defining and Measuring Risk



To motivate potential definitions of risk that we might consider, we explore different attitudes towards risk that DMs might take:

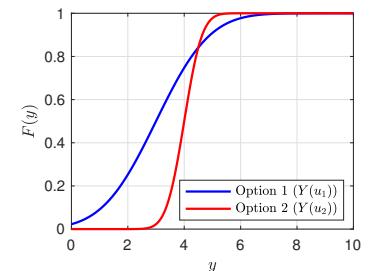
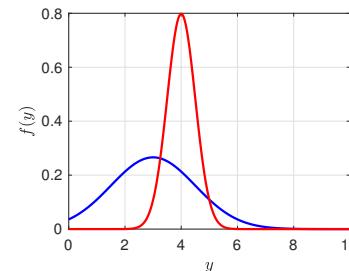
- **Risk-Neutral:** DM prefers $Y(u)$ over $Y(u')$ if $\mathbb{E}_{Y(u)} \leq \mathbb{E}_{Y(u')}$.
 - This DM worries about performance on average and is not concerned with the fact that $Y(u)$ might have outcomes with large values compared to those of $Y'(u')$.
- **Risk-Conscious:** DM prefers $Y(u)$ over $Y(u')$ if $\mathbb{P}(Y(u) \leq y) \geq \mathbb{P}(Y(u') \leq y)$.
 - This DM wants a decision that will likely achieve lower outcomes. This type of DM might also prefer $\mathbb{V}_{Y(u)} \leq \mathbb{V}_{Y(u')}$ because u has lower variability than u' .
- **Risk-Averse:** DM prefers $Y(u)$ over $Y(u')$ if $\max Y(u) \leq \max Y(u')$.
 - This DM only worries about the worst possible outcome of u and u' .
- **Risk-Taker:** DM prefers $Y(u)$ over $Y(u')$ if $\min Y(u) \leq \min Y(u')$.
 - This DM only worries about the best possible outcome of u and u' .

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Example: Defining and Measuring Risk [mean.variance.comparison.m](#)



- Which option to select if you are risk-neutral, risk-conscious, risk-averse, or risk-taker DM?



Defining and Measuring Risk



So, how do we measure risk?

A risk measure is a function $\rho(Y(u))$ that maps a univariate RV $Y(u)$ to a scalar quantity (it is a summarizing statistic). Common risk measures used in practice are:

- Expected Value: $\mathbb{E}[Y(u)]$
- Variance: $\mathbb{V}[Y(u)] = \mathbb{E}[(Y(u) - \mathbb{E}[Y(u)])^2]$
- Mean-Variance: $\text{MV}_\kappa[Y(u)] = \mathbb{E}[Y(u)] + \kappa\mathbb{V}[Y(u)]$ (for some κ)
- Probability of Loss: $\mathbb{P}(Y(u) > y)$ or $\mathbb{P}(Y(u) \leq y)$ (a.k.a. probability of failure)
- Value-at-Risk: $\text{VaR}_\alpha(Y(u))$ (also written as VaR_α)
- Conditional Value-at-Risk: $\mathbb{E}[Y(u)|Y(u) \geq \text{VaR}_\alpha]$ (a.k.a. expected short fall)
- Mean Deviation: $\mathbb{E}[|Y(u) - \mathbb{E}[Y(u)]|]$
- Worst/Best-Case: $\max Y(u)$ or $\min Y(u)$

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Defining and Measuring Risk



Some observations:

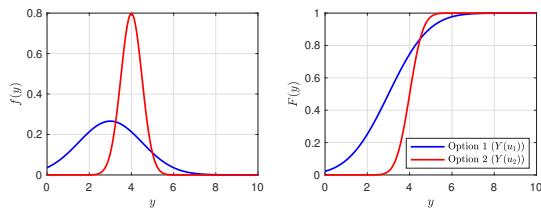
- Different measures are used to model different risk attitudes.
- Probability of loss is what is colloquially known as risk because it has a natural interpretation that DMs find useful in practice. This measure has important its caveats.
- In principle, we have the freedom of using any statistic of $Y(u)$ (e.g., moments, entropy) as risk measure but, as expected, not all measures are expected to be adequate.

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Example: Defining and Measuring Risk [mean_variance_comparison.m](#)



For previous example we have:



- Expected Value: $\mathbb{E}[Y(u_1)] = 3$, $\mathbb{E}[Y(u_2)] = 4$
- Variance: $\text{Var}[Y(u_1)] = 2.2$, $\text{Var}[Y(u_2)] = 0.2$
- Mean-Variance: $\text{MV}_\kappa[Y(u_1)] = 5.2$, $\text{MV}_\kappa[Y(u_2)] = 4.2$ for $\kappa = 1$
- Probability of Loss:
 - $\mathbb{P}(Y(u_1) > y) = 9\%$, $\mathbb{P}(Y(u_2) > y) = 2\%$ for $y = 5$
 - $\mathbb{P}(Y(u_1) > y) = 2\%$, $\mathbb{P}(Y(u_2) > y) = 5\%$ for $y = 4$
- Value-at-Risk: $\text{VaR}_{\alpha}(Y(u_1)) = 4.92$, $\text{VaR}_{\alpha}(Y(u_2)) = 4.64$ for $\alpha = 0.9$
- Conditional Value-at-Risk: $\text{CVaR}_{\alpha}(Y(u_1)) = 5$, $\text{CVaR}_{\alpha}(Y(u_2)) = 4.9$ for $\alpha = 0.9$

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Stochastic Dominance



So, what are desirable features of a risk measure? What is an adequate risk measure?

- To answer these questions, it is necessary to first discuss what makes an RV better than another RV (how do we compare RVs?).
- An important concept that arises here is that of *stochastic dominance* (SD).

We say that Y stochastically dominates Y' (written as $Y \preceq Y'$) if:

$$\mathbb{P}(Y \leq y) \geq \mathbb{P}(Y' \leq y) \text{ for all } y \in \mathcal{D}$$

where \mathcal{D} is the domain of Y and Y' .

Some observations:

- SD says that Y is better (dominates) Y' if probability of Y taking a value less than a threshold y is higher than probability of Y' being below same threshold. Moreover, the probability is higher or equal for any threshold value.
- Can also express SD as $F_Y(y) \geq F_{Y'}(y)$ for all $y \in \mathcal{D}$. We thus have that cdf curve of Y is always above that of Y' .

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Stochastic Dominance



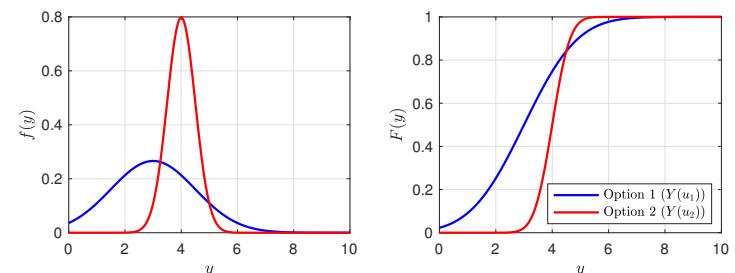
- Note how SD is different than the traditional dominance concept we are familiar with (a decision dominates another one if it is *always* better).
 - In statistical terms, this would imply that outcomes of Y are always lower or equal than those of Y' :
- $$y_\omega \leq y'_\omega, \quad \omega \in \Omega$$
- This requirement is strict and it is unlikely to occur in practice. SD is a more flexible requirement.
 - A risk-conscious DM would require that $\mathbb{P}(Y \leq y) \geq \mathbb{P}(Y' \leq y)$ holds for a single y .
 - Note that SD is a stricter requirement because it requires $\mathbb{P}(Y \leq y) \geq \mathbb{P}(Y' \leq y)$ to hold for all possible y .
 - As such, there are weakened (relaxed) versions of SD that are also often used in practice (e.g., holds for some y).

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Example: Stochastic Dominance [mean_variance_comparison.m](#)



- Does $Y(u_1)$ dominate $Y(u_2)$ (i.e., $Y(u_1) \preceq Y(u_2)$)?



- No, $Y(u_1)$ dominates $Y(u_2)$ only for some values of threshold y .

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Coherency Properties of Risk Measures



There are a number of fundamental properties that an adequate (a.k.a. coherent) risk measure should satisfy. These properties have been proposed based on their usefulness in actual practical applications and on mathematical consistency.

- Translation Invariance: $\rho(Y + c) = \rho(Y) + c$ for $c \in \mathbb{R}$.
 - Adding a constant value to an RV should result in adding same constant to the risk measure (i.e., adding a constant does not alter inherent properties of RV).
- Subadditivity: $\rho(Y + Y') \leq \rho(Y) + \rho(Y')$.
 - The risk of a combined pair of RVs cannot exceed sum of individual risks.
- Monotonicity: If $Y \preceq Y'$ then $\rho(Y) \leq \rho(Y')$.
 - If Y stochastically dominates Y' , then its risk should also be lower. This indicates that risk measure reflects dominance.
- Positive Homogeneity: $\rho(c \cdot Y) = c\rho(Y)$ for $c \in \mathbb{R}_+$.
 - Scaling RV by a constant does not affect inherent properties of RV.

We will see later that some of these properties resemble those of vector norms.

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Risk Measures as Norms



- Recall that the norm $\rho(\mathbf{y})$ of a vector \mathbf{y} is a measure of its size. Norms are used to compare vectors and to establish bounding properties.
- Recall that most used vector norm is $\ell - p$ norm:

$$\|\mathbf{y}\|_p = \left(\sum_{i=1}^S |y_i|^p \right)^{1/p}.$$

This norm has the following special cases:

- For $p = 1$, $\|\mathbf{y}\|_1 = \sum_{i=1}^S |y_i|$ and note that this is S times the average magnitude of the entries (analogous of expected value).
 - For $p = \infty$, $\|\mathbf{y}\|_\infty = \max_i |y_i|$ and note this is largest value (analogous of worst-case).
- As in the case of risk measures, one can define many types of norms to measure and compare vectors in different forms.
- For instance, an interesting norm is k -max norm. This norm is the sum of k -largest elements of vector \mathbf{y} . This norm is analogous to expected shortfall.

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Risk Measures as Norms



The risk measure of an RV is analogous to a norm of a vector. To see this, we ask the question:

How can we say that vector $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_S)$ is better than $\mathbf{y}' = (y'_1, y'_2, \dots, y'_S)$?

This reveals similar difficulties that arise when comparing RVs. Consider:

- We can say that \mathbf{y} is better than \mathbf{y}' if the total magnitude of its entries is lower ($\sum_{i=1}^S y_i \leq \sum_{i=1}^S y'_i$). This can be written as $(1/S) \sum_{i=1}^S y_i \leq (1/S) \sum_{i=1}^S y'_i$ and is analogous to expected value.
- We can say that \mathbf{y} is better than \mathbf{y}' if $\max_i y_i \leq \max_i y'_i$. This is analogous to worst-case risk measure.
- We can say that \mathbf{y} is better than \mathbf{y}' if $y_i \leq y'_i$ for all $i = 1, \dots, S$. This is analogous to say that Y is always better than Y' . Note, however, that the entries are not arranged in order so maybe an entry of \mathbf{y} is much larger than any entry of \mathbf{y}' .
- Consequently, perhaps a better approach would be arranging entries in decreasing order and then compare the rearranged entries. This is analogous to stochastic dominance (we establish a threshold on the magnitude of the entries) and counts how many entries of the vectors are below that threshold value.

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Risk Measures as Norms



As with risk measures, one must ensure that any norm that we define satisfy basic properties. A *proper* norm of a vector must satisfy the following properties:

- Homogeneity: $\rho(c \cdot \mathbf{y}) = c \cdot \rho(\mathbf{y})$ for $c \in \mathbb{R}_+$
- Subadditivity (Triangle Inequality): $\rho(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{y}') \leq \rho(\mathbf{y}) + \rho(\mathbf{y}')$
- Normalization: $\rho(\mathbf{0}) = 0$.

The homogeneity property is analogous to that of a proper risk measure. Moreover, the triangle inequality is analogous to the subadditivity property.

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Example: Risk Measures as Norms



- Consider vectors $y_1 = (100, 70, 50, 20, 10)$ and $y_2 = (110, 80, 40, 10, 0)$
- What is mean and worst-case for such vectors?
 - Mean is $(1/5) \cdot (100 + 70 + 50 + 20 + 10) = 50$ and $(1/5) \cdot (110 + 80 + 40 + 10 + 0) = 48$
 - Worst-Case is 100 and 110
- What is CVaR for such vectors?
 - If $\alpha = 5/5$ then $(1/5) \cdot (100 + 70 + 50 + 20 + 10) = 50$ and $(1/5) \cdot (110 + 80 + 40 + 10 + 0) = 48$
 - If $\alpha = 4/5$ then $(1/4) \cdot (100 + 70 + 50 + 20) = 60$ and $(1/4) \cdot (110 + 80 + 40 + 10) = 60$
 - If $\alpha = 3/5$ then $(1/3) \cdot (100 + 70 + 50) = 73$ and $(1/3) \cdot (110 + 80 + 40) = 76$
 - If $\alpha = 1/5$ then $(1/1) \cdot (100) = 100$ and $(1/1) \cdot (110) = 60$
- We thus have that CVaR has mean and worst-case as extremes.

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Variance Properties



We now discuss the properties of variance $\mathbb{V}[Y] = \mathbb{E}[(Y - \mathbb{E}[Y])^2]$.

- Variance is a measure of variability (i.e., $\mathbb{V}[Y] \leq \mathbb{V}[Y']$ indicates that Y has less variability than Y') and therefore has a natural and intuitive interpretation.
- An issue with the variance is that it does not capture magnitude of RV. To remedy this issue, variance is often used in conjunction with expected value by using mean-variance measure $\mathbb{E}[Y] + \kappa\mathbb{V}[Y]$ where κ is a weighting vector that helps span a range of attitudes towards risk (from risk neutral to risk conscious).
- Mean-variance was proposed by Harry Markowitz in the 1950s and became the standard in the finance industry for many years (Markowitz earned a Nobel prize).
- Variance takes into consideration outcomes of large values (in upper tail of pdf) but this connection is not direct and this results in several important inefficiencies. Specifically, the variance is centered around the expected value and penalizes deviations from it symmetrically.
- Symmetry is undesirable in applications because we are often only interested in accounting for outcomes of large magnitude (and not with those of low magnitude). Moreover, in many applications, RV does not have a symmetric pdf and therefore variance can fail to properly capture tail effects.

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Expected Value Properties



We now have all elements needed to judge whether a risk measure is adequate or not. We begin by discussing the properties of expected value $\mathbb{E}[Y]$.

- Expected value is a measure of the magnitude of Y (i.e., $\mathbb{E}[Y] \leq \mathbb{E}[Y']$ indicates that Y is, on average, smaller than Y') and therefore has a natural intuitive interpretation. Because of this, this is a common measure used in practice.
- Expected value is a coherent risk measure.
- Expected value ignores outcomes with extreme values. For instance, even if $\mathbb{E}[Y] \leq \mathbb{E}[Y']$ holds, Y can have outcomes of large magnitude that Y' does not have.

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Variance Properties



- Importantly, the variance is not a proper risk measure. Specifically, it does not satisfy monotonicity (it is not consistent with SD).
- The variance and expected value do not have the same units. Consequently, it is often preferred to use the standard deviation $\text{SV}[Y] = \sqrt{\mathbb{V}[Y]}$.
- The variance remains widely used in industry because it is an easily-interpretable measure of variability and uncertainty. This measure, however, has important deficiencies.

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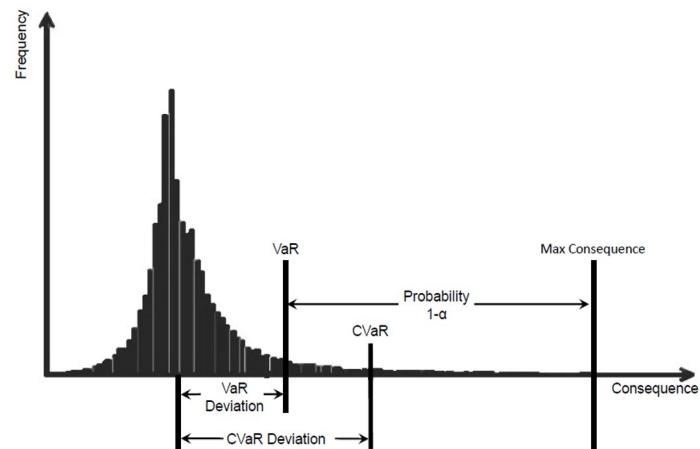
Expected Shortfall Properties



The expected shortfall overcomes many of deficiencies of the variance and has recently become the standard risk measure. This measure has many important properties and connections with other risk measures that are worth highlighting.

- Recall that the expected shortfall of Y at probability α is $\mathbb{E}[Y|Y \geq Q(\alpha)]$, where $Q(\alpha)$ is the α -quantile of Y .
- Expected loss takes expected value losses above quantile $Q(\alpha)$. The α -quantile is threshold value t at which $\mathbb{P}(Y \leq t) = \alpha$.
- Expected loss captures magnitude of outcomes of high value while ignoring those of small magnitude (it is an asymmetric risk measure). This becomes obvious if we write the expected loss as $\mathbb{E}[(Y - Q(\alpha))_+]$.

Example: Expected Shortfall Properties



Expected Shortfall Properties



- If we set $\alpha = 0$, quantile $Q(\alpha)$ is minimum value of Y and therefore the expected loss is the expected value $\mathbb{E}[Y]$.
- If we set $\alpha = 1$, quantile is maximum value and therefore the expected loss is the worst-case value $\max Y$.
- Consequently, expected loss captures a range of risk attitudes (from risk neutral to conscious to averse).
- Expected loss is a coherent risk measure.
- A caveat of the expected loss is that it offers no direct control on the probability of loss, which is a measure of interest to many DMs. In other words, reducing the expected loss does not necessarily imply reducing the probability of loss.
- Moreover, DM needs to specify α and this selection can lead to disagreement.

Probability of Loss Properties



Probability of loss is one of most widely used measures of risk.

- Recall that the probability of loss is simply $\mathbb{P}(Y > y)$ and this is also often expressed as probability of no loss as $\mathbb{P}(Y \leq y) = 1 - \mathbb{P}(Y > y)$.
- What constitutes a loss is defined by threshold value y . Consequently, it is more appropriate to call this measure the "probability of unacceptable loss".
- Meaning of probability of loss is intuitive.
- Biggest caveat of probability of loss is that it says nothing about actual magnitude of the losses. For example, even if $\mathbb{P}(Y > y) \leq \mathbb{P}(Y' > y)$, one might still prefer Y' because losses incurred are not that large compared to those of Y . In other words, Y' is less catastrophic than Y .
- Probability of loss is not coherent risk measure.
- Finally, one needs to specify a threshold value to express what constitutes an unacceptable loss, and this selection often leads to disagreement of DMs.

Risk Measures



The different advantages and disadvantages encountered with risk measures highlight the difficulty in controlling and comparing RVs. In particular:

- Risk measures are often *conflicting* (e.g., reducing one measure often results in increasing another measure).
- Measuring risk leads to *ambiguity* (expressing mathematically what a DM might be looking for is challenging). This is analogous to measuring happiness or fairness.

Despite these limitations, risk measures are an essential component of decision-making under uncertainty.

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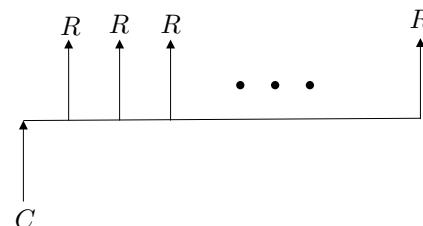
Example: Investment Options [npv_comparison.m](#)

- We have investment options:
 - Initial capital $C_1 = \$25,000$ with annual rate of return $R_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(0.5, 0.1)$
 - Initial capital $C_2 = \$50,000$ with annual rate of return $R_2 \sim \mathcal{N}(0.4, 0.2)$
- We compare net present value for both options (10 yr, interest rate of 5%):

$$NPV_1 = C_1 - R_1 \cdot C_1 \cdot \frac{(1 - (1 + i)^{-10})}{i}$$

$$NPV_2 = C_2 - R_2 \cdot C_2 \cdot \frac{(1 - (1 + i)^{-10})}{i}.$$

- Note we want NPV to be as *negative* as possible.



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Making Optimal Decisions

Instead of comparing decisions, a DM might also want to directly find best decision possible. Such a decision is also influenced by the attitude towards risk and gives rise to different optimization problems (depending on the risk measure used):

- Expected value and variance:

$$u^* = \underset{u}{\operatorname{argmin}} \mathbb{E}[Y(u)] + \kappa \mathbb{V}[Y(u)]$$

- Probability of loss

$$u^* = \underset{u}{\operatorname{argmin}} \mathbb{P}(Y(u) > y)$$

- Expected shortfall:

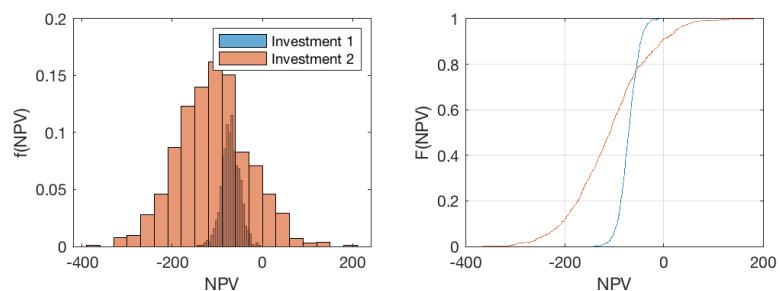
$$u^* = \underset{u}{\operatorname{argmin}} \mathbb{E}[Y(u) | Y(u) \geq Q(\alpha)]$$

Another possibility is to find a decision that dominates a given benchmark. In other words, we seek u such that $Y(u) \leq Y'$ for a given Y' . An issue with this approach is that the problem might have no solution.

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Example: Investment Options [npv_comparison.m](#)



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Deterministic Decision-Making



DMs often make decisions in real-life by ignoring uncertainty all-together. This *deterministic* DM approach follows the logic:

- Assume input X takes a single value $x = \mathbb{E}[X]$ (i.e., average historical value). This assumes that input is deterministic and thus output Y is deterministic with value:

$$y = \varphi(x, u)$$

- Based on this assumed behavior, we can obtain a decision:

$$u_D^* = \operatorname{argmin}_u \varphi(x, u)$$

- The assumed deterministic behavior simplifies the decision-making process (removes ambiguity) but fails to ignore the inherent variability of X seen in real-life.
- Decision u_D^* might not be capable of controlling real output $Y(u_D^*)$, which is characterized by outcomes $y_\omega = \varphi(x_\omega, u_D^*)$, $\omega \in \mathcal{S}$.
- As a result, decision u_D^* might be vulnerable to uncertainty and incur large losses.

Example: Deterministic vs. Stochastic Solutions [stoch_prog_example.m](#)



- We consider the minimization of the cost function:

$$\varphi(u, X) = (u - X)^2 - e^{\alpha X}$$

with input uncertainty $X \in \mathcal{N}(2, 1)$

- We obtain solution using deterministic approach, which finds decision by solving:

$$u_D^* = \operatorname{argmin}_u \varphi(\mathbb{E}[X], u)$$

- We obtain solution using stochastic approach, which finds decision by solving:

$$u^* = \operatorname{argmin}_u \mathbb{Q}_{\varphi(u, X)}(\alpha)$$

- Pdfs and cdfs for costs $\varphi(u_D^*, X)$ and $\varphi(u^*, X)$ are shown below:

