

Intro Prob Lecture Notes

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- Some stuff I missed...
- Two important properties:
 - 1) If X, Y are independent... etc
 - 2) If X, Y have the same MGF, then X, Y have to have the same probability distribution.
 - When they exist, they uniquely identify the distribution of a random variable. That is, two different distributions cannot lead to the same MGF.
- Ex: $X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$. Find the MGF if it exists

$$\begin{aligned}M_X(t) &= E(e^{tX}) \\&= \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} e^{tx} \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!} \\&= e^{-\lambda} \sum_{x=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\lambda e^t)^x}{x!} \\&= e^{-\lambda} e^{\lambda e^t} \\&= e^{\lambda(e^t - 1)}\end{aligned}$$

- Homework (expectation): Compute MGF of $\text{Gamma}(\alpha, \text{beta})$ to be $(1 - \beta t)^{-\alpha}$
- Ex: $Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$

$$\begin{aligned}
E(e^{tZ}) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tz} \frac{e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} dz \\
&= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{2}(z^2 - 2tz)}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} dz \\
&= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{2}(z^2 - 2tz + t^2 - t^2)}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} dz \\
&= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{2}((z-t)^2 - t^2)}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} dz \\
&= e^{\frac{t^2}{2}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\frac{(z-t)^2}{2}}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} dz \\
&= e^{\frac{t^2}{2}}
\end{aligned}$$

- Recall if $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ then

$$X = \mu + \sigma Z$$

So,

$$E(e^{tX}) = e^{\mu t + \frac{\sigma^2 t^2}{2}} \text{ (Details omitted)}$$

- Ex: Suppose $X_1, X_2 \sim \text{independent Poisson}(\lambda)$
 - Find the distribution of $X_1 + X_2$ using MGFs
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$$\begin{aligned}
M_{X_1+X_2}(t) &= M_{X_1}(t) \cdot M_{X_2}(t) \\
&= e^{\lambda(e^t-1)} \cdot e^{\lambda(e^t-1)} \\
&= e^{2\lambda(e^t-1)}
\end{aligned}$$

– Same MGF as MGF of $\text{Poisson}(2\lambda)$. Therefore the sum IS the $\text{Poisson}(2\lambda)$

- Remark: If X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are independent then

$$M_{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i}(t) = \prod_{i=1}^n M_{X_i}(t)$$

A Central Limit Theorem

- $X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots \sim \text{independent Poisson}(\lambda)$
- Define $S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \sim \text{Poisson}(n\lambda)$
- Standardize S_n by subtracting the mean and dividing by the variance $Y_n := \frac{S_n - n\lambda}{\sqrt{n\lambda}}$
- Find the MGFA of Y_n
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$$\begin{aligned}
 E(e^{t(\frac{S_n - n\lambda}{\sqrt{n\lambda}})}) &= E(e^{\frac{t}{\sqrt{n\lambda}} \cdot S_n} e^{-\sqrt{n\lambda}t}) \\
 &= e^{-\sqrt{n\lambda}t} E(e^{\frac{t}{\sqrt{n\lambda}} \cdot S_n}) \text{ Note: the expectation is MGF } M_{S_n}(\frac{t}{\sqrt{n\lambda}}) \\
 &= e^{-\sqrt{n\lambda}t} e^{n\lambda(e^{\frac{t}{\sqrt{n\lambda}}} - 1)} \\
 \text{Note: } e^{\frac{t}{\sqrt{n\lambda}}} &\approx 1 + \frac{t}{\sqrt{n\lambda}} + \frac{t^2}{2n\lambda} + \dots \\
 &= e^{\frac{t^2}{2}} + \text{terms with n in denominator} \rightarrow e^{\frac{t^2}{2}}
 \end{aligned}$$

- Therefore, it converges to the standard normal distribution