

Machine Learning: Homework Assignment 6  
E4525 Spring 2018,  
IEOR, Columbia University

Due: Apr 19th, 2018

1. **Exponential Distribution**

$s \in \mathbb{R}^+$  ( $s$  continuous and  $s > 0$ ) has exponential distribution

$$p(s; \lambda) = \lambda e^{-\lambda s} \quad \text{for } \lambda > 0 \quad (1)$$

which is an exponential family distribution.

Give expressions for

- (a) Base measure  $h(s)$ .
- (b) Sufficient statistic  $T(s)$ .
- (c) canonical parameter  $\eta$  as a function of the natural parameter  $\lambda$ .
- (d) The cumulant function  $A(\eta)$ .
- (e) The average and variance of  $s$  as a function of  $\lambda$

2. **Gamma Distribution, shape parameter  $\alpha$  known**

$s \in \mathbb{R}^+$  ( $s$  continuous and  $s > 0$ ),  $s$  has Gamma distribution

$$p(s; \beta) = \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} s^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta s} \quad \text{for } \alpha > 0, \beta > 0 \quad (2)$$

if we assume  $\alpha$  is a known fixed number,  $p(s; \beta)$  is has an exponential family distribution with a scalar canonical parameter  $\eta$ .

Give expressions for

- (a) Base measure  $h(s)$ .
- (b) Sufficient statistic  $T(s)$ .
- (c) canonical parameter  $\eta$  as a function of the natural parameter  $\beta$ .
- (d) What does the constrain  $\beta > 0$  in the definition of the Gamma distribution imply for the canonical parameter?
- (e) The cumulant function  $A(\eta)$ .
- (f) The average and variance of  $s$  as a function of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$

- (g) show that the exponential distribution of exercise 1 is an special case of the Gamma distribution.

**3. Gamma Distribution, shape parameter  $\alpha$  unknown**

$s \in \mathbb{R}^+$  ( $s$  continuous and  $s > 0$ ) has distribution

$$p(s; \alpha, \beta) = \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} s^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta s} \quad \text{for } \alpha > 0, \beta > 0. \quad (3)$$

If we assume  $\alpha$  is unknown number,  $p(s; \alpha, \beta)$  is an exponential family distribution with a two dimensional canonical parameter  $\eta = (\eta_1, \eta_2)$ .

Give expressions for

- (a) Base measure  $h(s)$ .
- (b) Sufficient statistic  $T(s) = (T_1(s), T_2(s))$ .
- (c) canonical parameter  $\eta = (\eta_1, \eta_2)$  as a function of the natural parameters  $(\alpha, \beta)$ .
- (d) The cumulant function  $A(\eta)$ .

**4. Generalized Linear Model for Gamma Distribution: canonical link**

We have two random variables  $X \in \mathbb{R}^D$  and  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^+$ . We assume that  $Y|_X$  is a Gamma distribution with the same assumptions of problem 2:  $Y$  has a Gamma distribution with  $\alpha$  fixed

$$p(y|x; \eta, \alpha) = h(y) e^{\eta y - A(\eta)} \quad (4)$$

where  $h(y)$  and  $A(\eta)$  are given as the solutions of problem 2.

We further assume the canonical link (note the minus sign)

$$\eta(x) = -(b + x^T w). \quad (5)$$

where  $w = (w_1, \dots, w_D)$ .

Given  $N$  observations  $\{x_i, y_i\}$  give expression for the following

- (a) The maximum likelihood loss function  $E_{\text{Gam}}(b, w; \{x_i, y_i\})$
- (b) The expected value  $\hat{y}(x; b, w)$  of  $y$  conditional on  $x$  as a function of  $\alpha$ ,  $b$  and  $w$
- (c) The gradient of the loss  $E_{\text{Gam}}$  for changes of  $b$  and  $w_d$
- (d) What does the constrain  $\beta > 0$  in the definition of the Gamma probability distribution imply for the parameters  $b$  and  $w$ ?

**5. Generalized Linear Model for Gamma Distribution: log link**

To avoid the constrained optimization that you analyzed in problem 4d We have two random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ . We assume that  $Y|_X$  is a Gamma

distribution with the assumptions of problem 2 For  $s \in \mathbb{R}^+$  ( $s$  continuous and  $s > 0$ ) has Gamma distribution

$$p(y|x; \eta, \alpha) = h(s)e^{\eta s - A(s)} \quad (6)$$

where  $\eta$ ,  $h(s)$  and  $A(\eta)$  are given as the solutions of problem 2.

We further a non-canonical link defined by  $\psi(\eta) = -e^{-\eta}$

$$\eta(x) = \psi(b + x^T b) = -e^{-b - x^T w}. \quad (7)$$

Given N observations  $\{x_i, y_i\}$  give expression for the following

- (a) The maximum likelihood loss function  $E_{\text{Gam}}^{\log}(b, w; \{x_i, y_i\})$
- (b) The expected value  $\hat{y}(x; b, w)$  of  $y$  conditional on  $x$  as a function of  $\alpha$ ,  $b$  and  $w$
- (c) The gradient of the loss  $E_{\text{Gam}}^{\log}$  for changes of  $b$  and  $w_d$