

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.

To turn $p(s; \lambda)$ into the exponential family form we re-write it as

$$h(s)e^{\eta T(s) - A(\eta)} = \lambda e^{-\lambda s} = e^{-\lambda s + \log \lambda} \quad (2)$$

from that expression we can read the answer to all the questions below

Give expressions for

- (a) Base measure $h(s)$.

$$h(s) = 1$$

- (b) Sufficient statistic $T(s)$.

$$T(s) = s$$

- (c) canonical parameter η as a function of the natural parameter λ .

$$\eta = -\lambda$$

- (d) The cumulant function $A(\eta)$.

$$A(\eta) = -\log(\lambda) = -\log(-\eta) \quad (3)$$

- (e) The average and variance of s as a function of λ

$$\mathbb{E}(s) = A'(\eta) = \frac{-1}{\eta} = \frac{1}{\lambda} \quad (4)$$

$$\text{Var}(s) = A''(\eta) = \frac{1}{\eta^2} = \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \quad (5)$$

2. Gamma Distribution, shape parameter α known

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

$$p(s; \beta) = \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} s^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta s} \quad \text{for } \alpha > 0, \beta > 0 \quad (6)$$

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

To turn $p(s; \alpha, \beta)$ into the exponential family form we re-write it as

$$h(s) e^{\eta T(s) - A(\eta)} = \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} s^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta s} = \frac{s^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} e^{-\beta s + \alpha \log \beta} \quad (7)$$

from that expression we can read the answer to all the questions below

Give expressions for

(a) Base measure $h(s)$.

$$h(s) = \frac{s^{\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \quad (8)$$

(b) Sufficient statistic $T(s)$.

$$T(s) = s \quad (9)$$

(c) canonical parameter η as a function of the natural parameter β .

$$\eta = -\beta \quad (10)$$

(d) What does the constrain $\beta > 0$ in the definition of the Gamma distribution imply for the canonical parameter?

$$\eta < 0 \quad (11)$$

(e) The cumulant function $A(\eta)$.

$$A(\eta) = -\alpha \log(-\eta) \quad (12)$$

(f) The average and variance of s as a function of α and β

$$\mathbb{E}(s) = A'(\eta) = \frac{-\alpha}{\eta} = \frac{\alpha}{\beta} \quad (13)$$

$$\text{Var}(s) = A''(\eta) = \frac{\alpha}{\eta^2} = \frac{\alpha}{\beta^2} \quad (14)$$

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

setting $\alpha = 1$ the Gamma distribution reduces to the exponential one.

3. Gamma Distribution, shape parameter α unknown

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

$$p(s; \alpha, \beta) = \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} s^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta s} \quad \text{for } \alpha > 0, \beta > 0. \quad (15)$$

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

To turn $p(s; \alpha, \beta)$ into the exponential family form with two parameters we re-write it as

$$h(s) e^{\eta^T T(s) - A(\eta)} = \frac{\beta^\alpha}{\Gamma(\alpha)} s^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta s} = e^{-\beta s + (\alpha-1) \log s + \alpha \log \beta - \log \Gamma(\alpha)} \quad (16)$$

from that expression we can read the answer to all the questions below

Give expressions for

(a) Base measure $h(s)$.

$h(s) = 1$, or you could also write $h(s) = \frac{1}{s}$.

(b) Sufficient statistic $T(s) = (T_1(s), T_2(s))$.

$$T_1(s) = s \quad (17)$$

$$T_2(s) = \log s \quad (18)$$

(c) canonical parameter $\eta = (\eta_1, \eta_2)$ as a function of the natural parameters (α, β) .

$$\eta_1 = -\beta \quad (19)$$

$$\eta_2 = \alpha - 1 \quad (20)$$

If you have chosen $h(s) = \frac{1}{s}$ then $\eta_2 = \alpha$.

(d) The cumulant function $A(\eta)$.

$$A(\eta) = -\alpha \log \beta + \log \Gamma(\alpha) = -(\eta_2 + 1) \log(-\eta_1) + \log \Gamma(\eta_2 + 1) \quad (21)$$

If we chose $h(s) = \frac{1}{s}$ we have the slightly simpler

$$A(\eta) = -\eta_2 \log(-\eta_1) + \log \Gamma(\eta_2) \quad (22)$$

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 α fixed

$$p(y|x; \eta, \alpha) = h(y)e^{\eta y - A(\eta)} \quad (23)$$

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

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

$$\eta(x) = -(b + x^T w). \quad (24)$$

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 $E_{\text{Gam}}(b, w; \{x_i, y_i\})$

$$E_{\text{Gam}}(b, w; \{x_i, y_i\}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i A(\eta(x_i)) - y_i \eta(x_i) \quad (25)$$

$$= \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \{-\alpha \log(b + x_i^T w) + y_i(b + x_i^T w)\} \quad (26)$$

$$(27)$$

- (b) The expected value $\hat{y}(x; b, w)$ of y conditional on x as a function of α , b and w

Using the result from exercise 2f, we have

$$\hat{y}(x; w, b) = \mathbb{E}(y|\eta(x)) = -\frac{\alpha}{\eta(x)} = \frac{\alpha}{b + x^T w} \quad (28)$$

- (c) The gradient of the loss E_{Gam} for changes of b and w_d

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial b} E_{\text{Gam}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \{\hat{y}(x; b, w) - y_i\} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \left\{ \frac{\alpha}{b + x^T w} - y_i \right\} \quad (29)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w_d} E_{\text{Gam}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i x_{i,d} \{\hat{y}(x; b, w) - y_i\} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i x_{i,d} \left\{ \frac{\alpha}{b + x^T w} - y_i \right\} \quad (30)$$

- (d) What does the constrain $\beta > 0$ in the definition of the Gamma probability distribution imply for the parameters b and w ?

$\beta > 0$ implies $\eta(x_i) < 0$ for each observation using its definition

$$b + x_i^T w > 0 \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \dots, N \quad (31)$$

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

$$p(y|x; \eta, \alpha) = h(s)e^{\eta s - A(s)} \quad (32)$$

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

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

$$\eta(x) = \psi(b + x^T w) = -e^{-b - x^T w}. \quad (33)$$

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

- (a) The maximum likelihood loss function $E_{\text{Gam}}^{\log}(b, w; \{x_i, y_i\})$

$$E_{\text{Gam}}^{\log}(b, w; \{x_i, y_i\}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i A(\eta(x_i)) - y_i \eta(x_i) \quad (34)$$

$$= \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \left\{ -\alpha \log(e^{-b - x_i^T w}) + y_i e^{-b - x_i^T w} \right\} \quad (35)$$

$$= \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \left\{ \alpha(b + x_i^T w) + y_i e^{-b - x_i^T w} \right\} \quad (36)$$

- (b) The expected value $\hat{y}(x; b, w)$ of y conditional on x as a function of α , b and w

Using the result from exercise 2f, we have

$$\hat{y}(x; w, b) = \mathbb{E}(y|\eta(x)) = -\frac{\alpha}{\eta(x)} = \alpha e^{b + x^T w} \quad (37)$$

As

$$\log \hat{y}(x; w, b) = \alpha + b + x^T w \quad (38)$$

This is known as the **log link**

- (c) The gradient of the loss E_{Gam}^{\log} for changes of b and w_d
 Given that $\psi(\eta) = -e^{-\eta}$ we have that

$$\psi'(\eta) = e^{-\eta} \quad (39)$$

using that expression

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial b} E_{\text{Gam}}^{\log} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \{\hat{y}(x; b, w) - y_i\} \psi'(\eta) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \left\{ \alpha - y_i e^{-b - x^T w} \right\} \quad (40)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial w_d} E_{\text{Gam}}^{\log} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i x_{i,d} \{\hat{y}(x; b, w) - y_i\} \psi'(\eta) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i x_{i,d} \left\{ \alpha - y_i e^{-b - x^T w} \right\} \quad (41)$$