

17. Convergence of Random Variables

①

Need notions for limits of sequences of RVs

$$\{X_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty} = X_1, X_2, \dots$$

What does it mean for X_1, X_2, \dots to converge to another RV X ?

17.1 Review (limits of real numbers) (non-random) (deterministic)

Dfn 17.1: Let $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty} = x_1, x_2, \dots$ be a sequence of real numbers. We say $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} x_i = a$

if for every $m \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists $N_m \in \mathbb{N}$

such that for every $j \geq N_m$, $|x_j - a| \leq \frac{1}{m}$.

Ex 17.2

$$\{x_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty} = 17, 17, 17, \dots$$

clearly $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} x_i = 17$

For every $m \in \mathbb{N}$
take $N_m = 1$.
So, every $j \geq N_m = 1$
 $|x_j - 17| = |17 - 17| = 0 \leq \frac{1}{m}$

Ex 17.3

$$\{x_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty} = \frac{1}{1}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \dots, \text{ i.e., } x_i = \frac{1}{i}$$

clearly $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} x_i = 0$

For every $m \in \mathbb{N}$
take $N_m = m$.
So, every $j \geq N_m = m$, $|x_j - 0| = \left| \frac{1}{j} - 0 \right| = \frac{1}{j} \leq \frac{1}{m}$

* We can think of a real number θ as a "Point Mass" RV X as follows.

Dfn 17.4. Point Mass(θ) RV. (2)

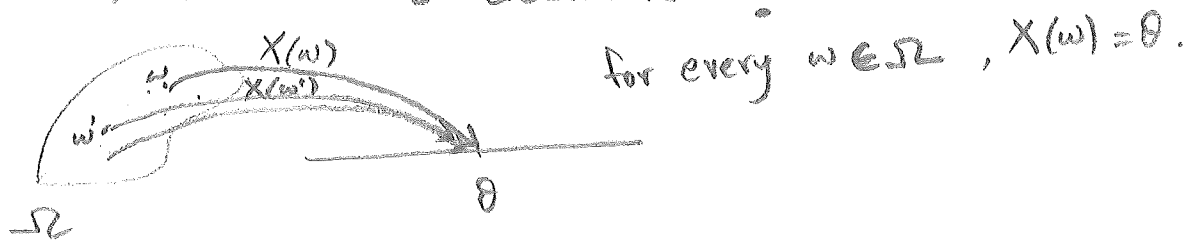
Given a specific point or real number θ , we say RV X has point mass at θ or is Point Mass(θ) distributed if the DF is:

$$F(x; \theta) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x < \theta \\ 1 & \text{if } x \geq \theta \end{cases} \quad (57)$$

and PMF is:

$$f(x; \theta) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \neq \theta \\ 1 & \text{if } x = \theta \end{cases}$$

* So, Point Mass(θ) RV X is deterministic!



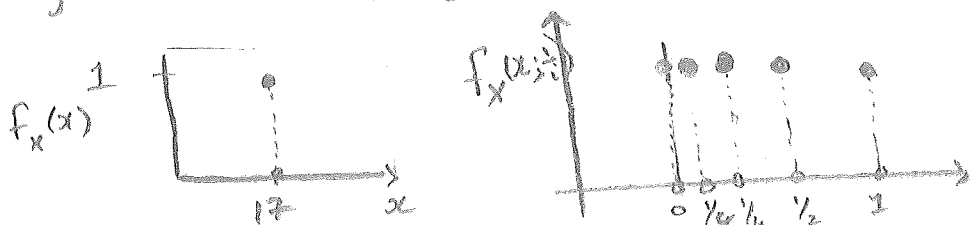
and:

$$E(X) = \sum_{x \in \{0\}} x f_x(x; \theta) = \theta \cdot 1 = \theta, \quad V(X) = E(X^2) - (E(X))^2 = \theta^2 - \theta^2 = 0.$$

EX 17.5

Can the sequences of $\{\text{Point Mass}(\theta_i = 17)\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ and $\{\text{Point Mass}(\theta_i = \frac{1}{i})\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$ RVs be the same as two sequences of real numbers $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty} = 17, 17, \dots$ and $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty} = \frac{1}{1}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \dots$?

Yes! Why not? Just move to the space of distributions over \mathbb{R} .

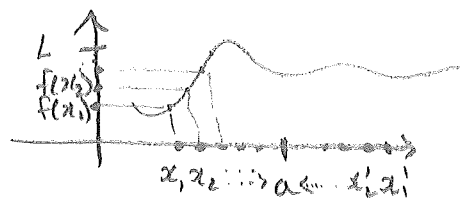


Dfn 17.6 (Limits of functions).

We say a function $f(x): \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ has a limit $L \in \mathbb{R}$ as x approaches a

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$$

provided $f(x)$ is arbitrarily close to L for all values of x that are sufficiently close to but not equal to a .



$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x_i)$ $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x'_i)$
 left limit right limit

Ex 17.7. $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{1}{x^2} = 1 \in \mathbb{R} \text{ so limit exists.}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x^2} = \infty \notin \mathbb{R} \text{ so limit doesn't exist (diverges)}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{x^3 - 1}{x - 1} = 3, \text{ despite } f(1) = \frac{0}{0}$$

being undefined or indeterminate

Ex 17.8. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (1+x)^{1/x} = e \approx 2.71828$

limits of

Ex 17.9 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^n = e^{-\lambda}$

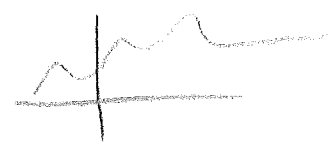
Ex 17.10 $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 - \frac{\lambda}{n}\right)^{-n} = 1 \text{ for } \lambda > 0$

Dfn 17.11 (Continuity of a function)

A function $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous at a provided

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = f(a)$$

f is a continuous function if it is continuous at every $a \in \mathbb{R}$

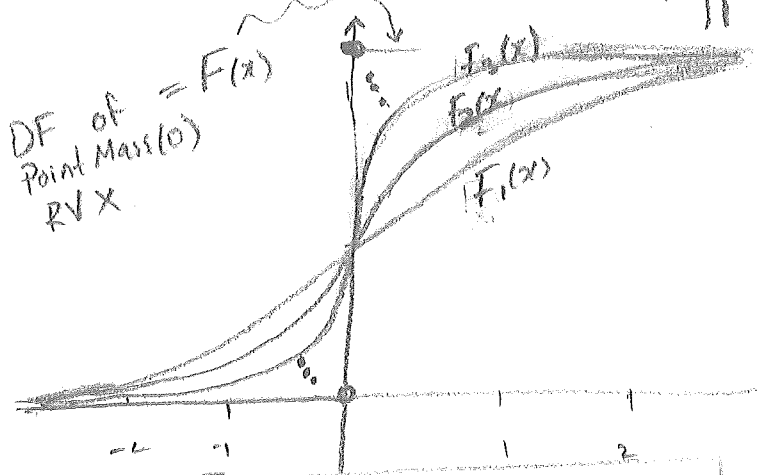


Ex 17.12 convince yourself that $f(x) = (1+x)^{1/x}$ is contin. at 1 but not at 0. So $f(x)$ is not a continuous function

Ex 17.3

Convergence of $X_n \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1/n)$

Let $\{X_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} = X_1, X_2, \dots$ be an independent sequence of RVs, where each $X_n \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1/n)$,

with DF $F_n(x) = F_{X_n}(x)$.Let's see what happens to X_n as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

can we say "

" $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} X_n = X$, where X is Point Mass (0) RV?NO because no matterhow large n is, X_n is cont RVand so $P(X_n = X) = 0$.ie, $P(X_n = 0) = 0$." $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} X_n = X$ "

to match intuition!

And then use two

of the most powerful theorems for experimenters

1. Law of Large Numbers (LLN)

2. Central Limit Theorem (CLT)

Defn 17.14 (Converge in distribution)

Let X_1, X_2, \dots be a sequence of RVs and let X be another RV. Let F_n be DF of X_n and F be DF of X . Then we say X_n converges in distribution to X and write $X_n \xrightarrow{d} X$

if for any real number ϵ at which F is continuous,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_n(t) = F(t)$$

Ex 17.15 Returning to $X_n \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1/n)$ with DF F_n (types in notes) and $X \sim \text{Point Mass}(0)$ with DF F

we are now avoiding the discontinuity point 0 of F , and formalizing our intuition that X_n is concentrating about 0 as $n \rightarrow \infty$ by saying:

X_n is converging in distn. to X

or, $X_n \rightsquigarrow X$

18 Some Basic Limit Laws of Statistics.

Thm 18.1 Law of Large Numbers (LLN)

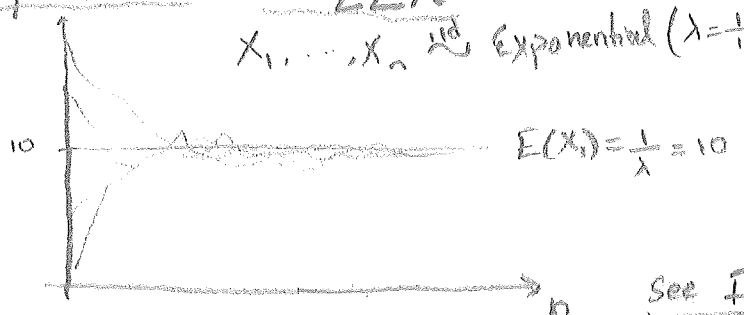
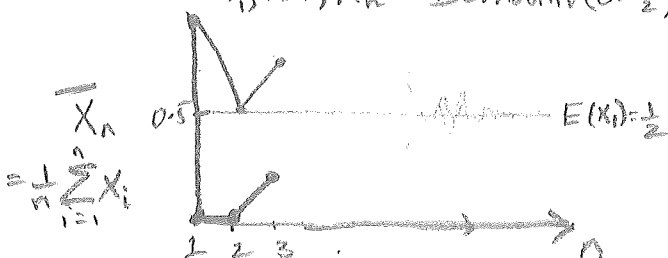
IF $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} X_1$ and if $E(\text{abs}(X)) < \infty$ then $\bar{X}_n \rightsquigarrow \text{Point Mass}(E(X))$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

[proof idea via Taylor expansion of c.f. of $\bar{X}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ see notes if curious.

Heuristic/Intuitive Interpretation of LLN

$X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \text{Bernoulli}(\theta = \frac{1}{2})$

$X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \text{Exponential}(\lambda = \frac{1}{10})$



See Fig 18

Application Point Estimation of $E(X_i)$ based on $\textcircled{6}$
 \downarrow
 "single best guess" for $E(X_i)$ ← unknown
 SRS $X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} X_i$

Ex 18.2 Let $X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} X_i$, where $X_i \sim \text{Exponential}(\lambda^*)$

We don't know true parameter λ^* underpinning the law of distribution of data vector (X_1, \dots, X_n) .

$$\lambda^* \in \Lambda = (0, \infty)$$

\uparrow parameter space (bold uppercase lambda)

So we don't know pop. mean or $E(X_i) = \frac{1}{\lambda^*}$.

BUT by LLN we know: $\bar{X}_n \rightsquigarrow \text{Point Mass}(E(X_i)) = \text{Point Mass}(\frac{1}{\lambda^*})$
 \uparrow
 Sample mean

So, can use the statistic \bar{X}_n as our point estimator of $E(X_i) = \frac{1}{\lambda^*}$ or $\frac{1}{\bar{X}_n}$ as our point estimator of λ^* .

Model Orbiter Waiting times.

Model $X_1, \dots, X_7 \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \text{Exponential}(\lambda^*)$

observed data
 $(x_1, \dots, x_7) = (2, 12, 8, 9, 14, 15, 11)$ in minutes

observed sample mean
 $\bar{x}_7 = (2+12+8+9+14+15+11)/7 = 71/7 \approx 10.14$

So, $\bar{x}_7 = 10.14$ is our point estimate of $E(X_i) = \frac{1}{\lambda^*}$

and $\frac{1}{\bar{x}_7} = \frac{7}{71} \approx 0.0986$ is our point estimate of λ^*

Ex 18.4 let $X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim}$ Bernoulli (θ^*)

(7)

↑ don't know. find a point and want to estimate of it

Using LLN

$$\bar{X}_n \rightsquigarrow \text{Point Mass } (E(X_i)) = \text{Point Mass } (\theta^*)$$

Suppose you toss a coin 7 times and get data

$$(x_1, \dots, x_7) = (0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0)$$

then $\bar{x}_7 = \frac{3}{7} \approx 0.4286$ is our point estimate of θ^*

Problem with point estimation.

If I toss another 7 times I'll get a different point estimate, say $\frac{5}{7}$ or $\frac{4}{7}$.

So, we want to quantify this estimation error by:

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{error} < \text{tolerance}) &= P(|\bar{X}_n - E(X_i)| < \epsilon) \\ &= P(-\epsilon < \bar{X}_n - E(X_i) < \epsilon) = 1 - \alpha \end{aligned}$$

The next thm helps here!

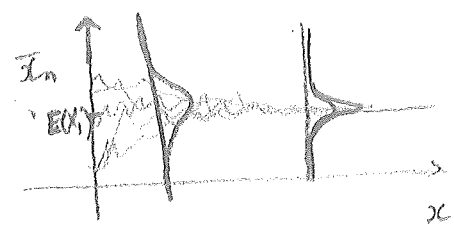
Thm 18.5 Central Limit Theorem (CLT)

If $X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} X_1$ and if $E(X_i) < \infty$ and $V(X_i) < \infty$

Then $\bar{X}_n \rightsquigarrow \text{Normal}(E(X_i), \frac{V(X_i)}{n})$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ (59)

or $\frac{\bar{X}_n - E(X_i)}{\sqrt{\frac{V(X_i)}{n}}} \rightsquigarrow \text{Normal}(0, 1)$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ (60)

picture idea



Proof idea CFs, Taylor expansions, independence, ...

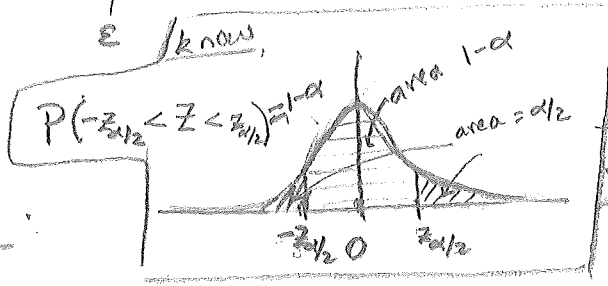
Application: Tolerating Errors in our estimate of $E(X_i)$.

Want:

$$P(\text{error} < \text{tolerance}) = P(-\epsilon < \bar{X}_n - E(X_i) < \epsilon) = 1 - \alpha$$

$\bar{X}_n - E(X_i)$

ϵ / know



(typically) // says

$$1 - \alpha = 0.95, \quad \alpha = 0.05$$

By CLT:

so we can set

$$\frac{\epsilon}{\sqrt{V(X_i)/n}} = z_{\alpha/2}$$

// $z_{\alpha/2}$

// $z_{\alpha/2}$

$$P(-\epsilon < \bar{X}_n - E(X_i) < \epsilon) = P\left(-\frac{\epsilon}{\sqrt{V(X_i)/n}} < Z < \frac{\epsilon}{\sqrt{V(X_i)/n}}\right)$$

want

$$P(\cdot) = 1 - \alpha$$

this is setting $\frac{\epsilon}{\sqrt{V(X_i)/n}} = z_{\alpha/2}$

$$\text{or just } n = \left(\frac{\sqrt{V(X_i)} z_{\alpha/2}}{\epsilon}\right)^2$$

$$(61)$$

std Normal RV.

Example 18-6

Suppose you have IID (SRS) observations (X_1, \dots, X_{80})

from a distribution with $V(X_i) = 4$.

What is prob that error in \bar{X}_n used to estimate $E(X_i)$ is less than 0.1?

$$P(\text{error} < 0.1) \approx P\left(-\frac{0.1}{\sqrt{4/80}} < Z < \frac{0.1}{\sqrt{4/80}}\right) = P(-0.447 < Z < 0.447)$$

assuming $n=80$ is large enough.

CLT approx.

$$= 0.345$$

(from Normal table)

Skip

In Summary

General formula for such problems (don't know $E(X_i)$ but know $V(X_i)$)

How large should n be to ensure

$$P(\text{error} < \epsilon) = 1 - \alpha$$

By CLT

$$n = \left(\frac{\sqrt{V(X_i)} z_{\alpha/2}}{\epsilon}\right)^2$$

(61)

* useful to remember: If $\alpha = 0.05$, $1 - \alpha = 0.95$ Then $z_{\alpha/2} = z_{0.025} = 1.96$

Ex 18.7

$X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim} X_1$, knows $V(X_1) = 4$, want to know $E(X_1)$

How large should n be to ensure

$$P(|\bar{X}_n - E(X_1)| < \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \epsilon}}{0.1}) = \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ 1-\alpha}}{0.95}$$

Using (61):

$$n = \left(\frac{\sqrt{4} \times 1.96}{0.1} \right)^2 \approx 1537$$

pretty big!

Application Set Estimation of $E(X_1)$

By CLT we can get "(1- α) confidence interval"

that contains $E(X_1)$, The quantity we want, with prob 1- α :
(a bivariate random vector with first comp. \leq second comp.)

$$(62) \quad \left(\bar{X}_n \pm z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{V(X_1)/n} \right) = \left(\bar{X}_n - z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{V(X_1)/n}, \bar{X}_n + z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{V(X_1)/n} \right)$$

Intuition:

If I repeat my experiment 100 times then (1- α)100% of the times my (1- α) conf. interval will contain the unknown $E(X_1)$ and α 100% of times it won't contain $E(X_1)$

Also

If we don't know $V(X_1)$ we can use its point estimate: Sample Variance $S_n^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2$ and use

The following $1-\alpha$ confidence interval for $E(X_i)$: (10)

$$(\bar{X}_n \pm z_{\alpha/2} S_n / \sqrt{n}), \quad S_n = \sqrt{S_n^2} \quad \text{the sample std dev.}$$

Ex 18.9 Orbiter Waiting times.

$X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim}$ Exponential (λ^*)

obs data (2, 12, 8, 9, 14, 15, 11), $\bar{x}_7 = 10.143$, $S_7^2 = 19.143$,
 $S_7 = 4.375$

Our $1-\alpha = 95\%$ conf. int. for λ^* is

$$\begin{aligned} (\bar{x}_7 \pm z_{\alpha/2} S_7 / \sqrt{7}) &= (10.143 \pm 1.96 * 4.375 / \sqrt{7}) \\ &= (6.9016, 13.3841) \ni 10 \end{aligned}$$

so, with high confidence the mean time promised by Orbiter (of 10 minutes) is held.

Ex 18.10 $X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{iid}{\sim}$ Bernoulli (θ^*)

obs $(x_1, \dots, x_7) = (0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0)$, $\bar{x}_7 = 0.4286$, $S_7^2 = 0.2857$
 $S_7 = 0.5345$

so, 95% conf. int. For θ^* is:

$$\begin{aligned} (\bar{x}_7 \pm z_{\alpha/2} S_7 / \sqrt{7}) &= (0.4286 \pm 1.96 * 0.5345 / \sqrt{7}) \\ &= (0.0326, 0.8246) \ni \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

so, with high confidence (95%) we cannot rule out that $E(X_i) = \theta^* \neq \frac{1}{2}$ i.e. The coin is not fair.

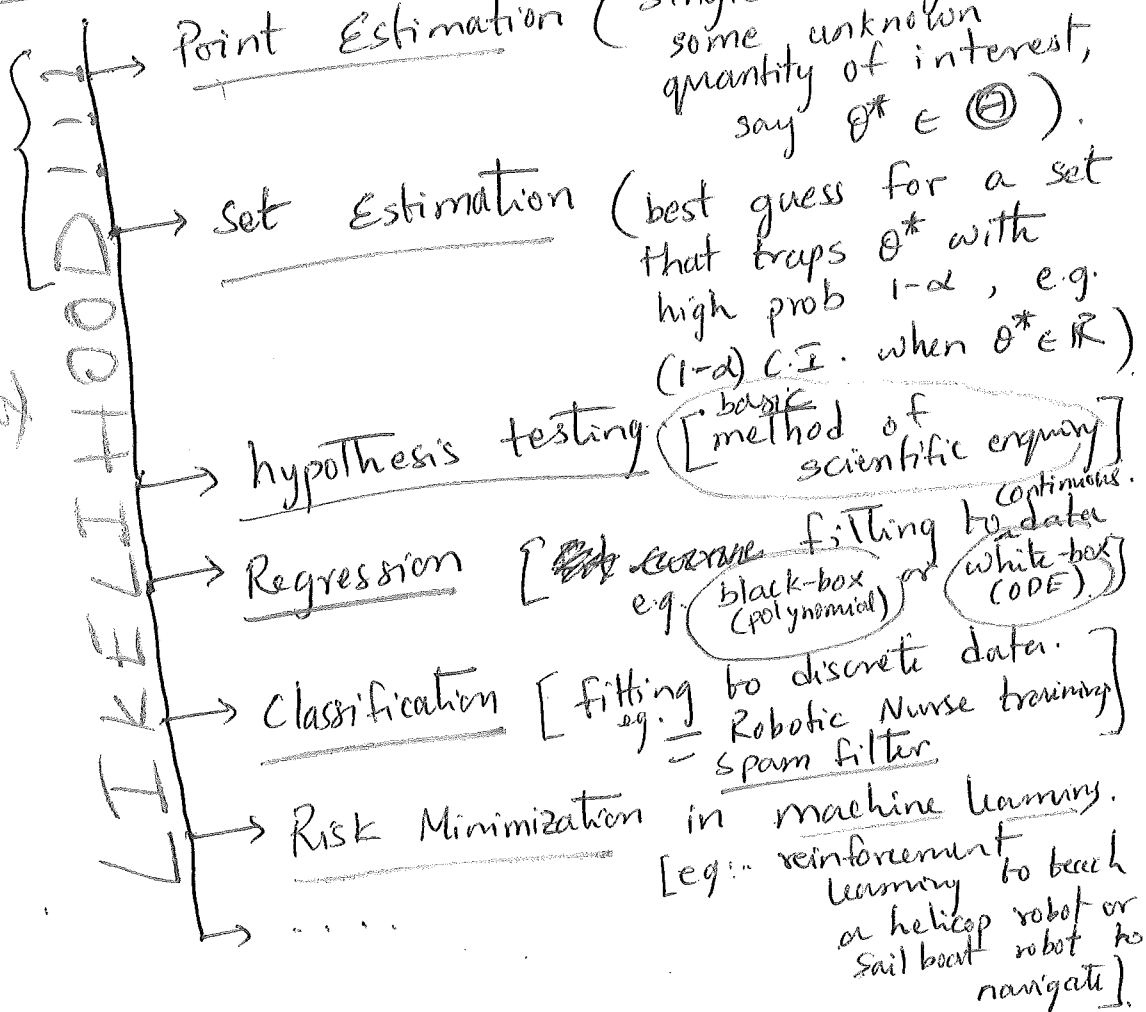
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Likelihood

One of the most fundamental concepts in statistical inference. Unifying

emphasis in EMTH210.

KISS
2 minutes Max



Dfn 19.3 Likelihood Function

Suppose (X_1, \dots, X_n) is a RV with joint ~~density~~ JPDF or JPMF $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; \theta)$, specified by parameter $\theta \in \Theta$. Let the observed data be (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) . Then, the likelihood function is:

$$L_n(\theta): \Theta \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad L_n(\theta) = L_n(x_1, \dots, x_n; \theta) \quad (64)$$

The log-likelihood function is:

$$l_n(\theta) = \log(L_n(\theta)) \quad (65)$$
log is log base e

Dfn 19.5
Maximum

Likelihood Estimator (MLE). (2)

Let $(X_1, \dots, X_n) \sim f(x_1, \dots, x_n; \theta^*)$
 X_1, \dots, X_n

The MLE $\hat{\theta}_n$ of the (~~fixed and possibly~~
~~unknown~~) parameter $\theta^* \in \Theta$ is the value of θ that maximises the likelihood function:

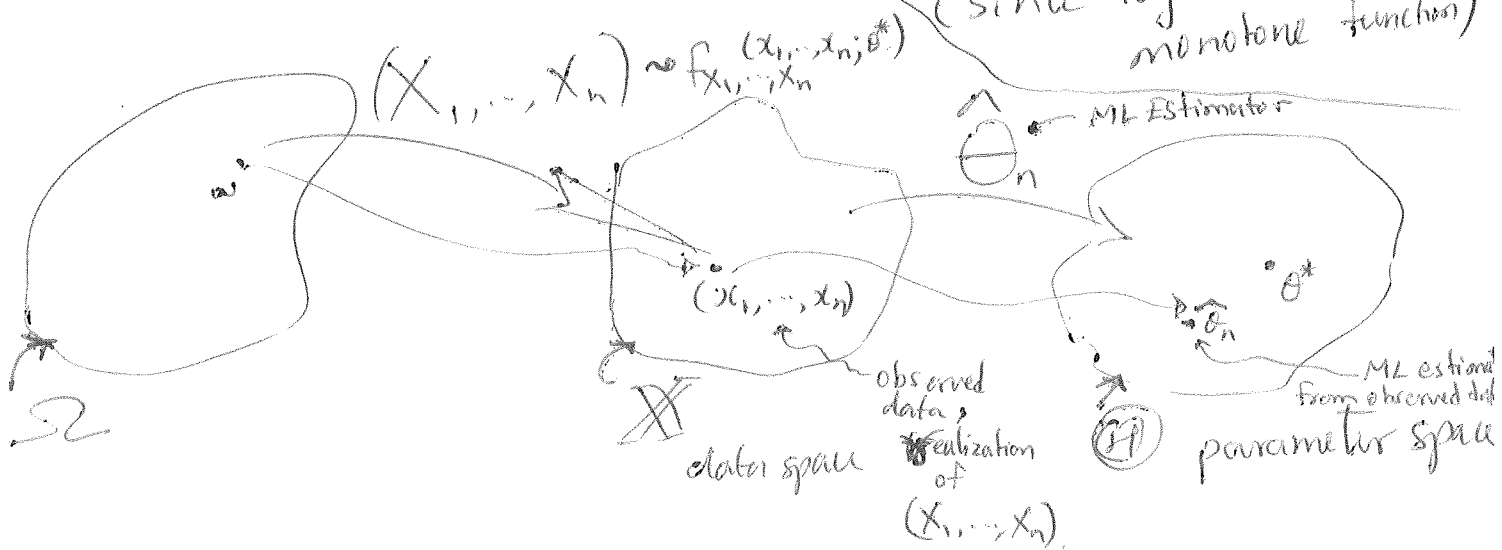
$$\hat{\theta}_n = \hat{\theta}_n(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta \in \Theta} L_n(\theta).$$

$$= \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta \in \Theta} \log(L_n(\theta))$$

$L_n(\theta)$.

Point Estimation (single best guess for θ^*)

(since log is a monotone function)



* Properties of MLE (pages 125-127)

$\hat{\theta}_n$ gives point estimate of θ^* (5)

(1) $\hat{\theta}_n \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} \theta^*$

(2) $\hat{\theta}_n \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} \text{Normal}(\theta^*, \underbrace{(\hat{se}_n(\hat{\theta}_n))^2}_{\text{var}})$ *requires*

where the std. dev. of $\hat{\theta}_n$ is *std. error* $\hat{se}_n(\hat{\theta}_n) \approx \sqrt{\left[\frac{-d^2 l(\theta)}{d\theta^2} \right]_{\theta=\hat{\theta}_n}^{-1}}$

So, $(\hat{\theta}_n \pm Z_{\alpha/2} \hat{se}_n)$ gives $1-\alpha$ C.I. for θ^*

For us to use MLEs only the following conditions need to be held:

- The set of possible values of X_1, \dots, X_n should not depend on θ (of course the probabilities do!).
- If Θ the set of possible values for θ is bounded, then θ^* should not occur at the boundaries of Θ .
(eg: $X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim}$ Bernoulli(θ^*), $\theta^* \in \Theta = [0, 1]$ so $\theta^* \neq 0, \theta^* \neq 1$)

skip

Of course $\theta^* \in \mathbb{R}$

Recall. 4 parameters fitted for The Gompertz logistic I.V.P.

and MLE $\hat{\theta}_n \xrightarrow{} \theta^*$ and $\hat{\theta}_n \xrightarrow{} \text{Multivariate Normal}(\theta^*, \dots)$

But we will only study $d=1$ here. with

$\theta^* \in \mathbb{R}^1$

Example 19.7 MLE of Orbiter waiting times. (6)

Joshua Fenimore & Yiran Wang (2008) collected data

$$(x_1, \dots, x_{132}) = (8, 3, 7, \dots, 23, 1)$$

$$\bar{x}_{132} = 9.0763 \text{ minutes.}$$

Model: $X_1, \dots, X_n \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\sim} \text{Exponential}(\lambda^*)$, $\lambda^* \in \Delta = (0, \infty)$
 parameter space.

① Let's obtain MLE $\hat{\lambda}_n$ of λ^*

Step 1:

$$\begin{aligned} \ell(\lambda) &= \log(L(x_1, \dots, x_n; \lambda)) = \log(f(x_1, \dots, x_n; \lambda)) \\ &= \log\left(\prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i; \lambda)\right) \quad \text{by independ.} \\ &= \log\left(\prod_{i=1}^n \lambda e^{-\lambda x_i}\right) \\ &= \log\left(\lambda^n e^{-\lambda \sum_{i=1}^n x_i}\right) \\ &= \log(\lambda^n) + \log\left(e^{-\lambda \sum_{i=1}^n x_i}\right) \\ &= \log(\lambda^n) - \lambda \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \end{aligned}$$

Step 2: Take derivative w.r.t. λ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{d\lambda}(\ell(\lambda)) &= \frac{d}{d\lambda}\left(\log(\lambda^n) - \lambda \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right) = \frac{d}{d\lambda}(\log(\lambda^n)) - \frac{d}{d\lambda}\left(\lambda \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda^n} n \lambda^{n-1} - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i = \frac{n}{\lambda} - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \end{aligned}$$

Step 3: set derivative = 0 and solve for λ .

$$0 = \frac{d}{d\lambda}(\ell(\lambda)) \Leftrightarrow 0 = \frac{n}{\lambda} - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \Leftrightarrow \lambda = \frac{n}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}$$

Step 4: when $\lambda = \frac{n}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}$ we know slope = 0 but could be max or min.
 so, let's check $\frac{d^2}{d\lambda^2}(\ell(\lambda)) \Big|_{\lambda = \frac{n}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}} < 0 \Rightarrow$ maxima.



(Step 4) contd...

(7)

$$\frac{d^2}{d\lambda^2} \ell(\lambda) = \frac{d}{d\lambda} \left(\frac{d}{d\lambda} \ell(\lambda) \right) = \frac{d}{d\lambda} \left(\frac{n}{\lambda} - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right) = \frac{-n}{\lambda^2} < 0$$

since $\lambda > 0$

Yes, we have a maximum

Step 5

Thus, MLE $\hat{\lambda}_n = \frac{n}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i} = \frac{1}{\bar{x}_n}$

For Orbiter data $\hat{\lambda}_{132} = 1/\bar{x}_{132} = 1/9.0763 = 0.1102$

(2) Now, let's get 95% = $1-\alpha$ C.I. for λ^*

(i) Find $\hat{SE}_n = \sqrt{\left[-\frac{d^2 \ell(\lambda)}{d\lambda^2} \right]_{\lambda=\hat{\lambda}_n}^{-1}} = \sqrt{\left[-\left(-\frac{n}{\lambda^2} \right) \right]_{\lambda=\hat{\lambda}_n}^{-1}}$

~~$= \sqrt{\left(\frac{n}{\hat{\lambda}_n^2} \right)^{-1}}$~~ $= \sqrt{\left(\frac{n}{\hat{\lambda}_n^2} \right)^{-1}} = \sqrt{\frac{\hat{\lambda}_n^2}{n}} = \sqrt{\frac{0.1102^2}{132}} = 0.0096$

(ii) $1-\alpha$ C.I. is $\left(\hat{\lambda}_n \pm z_{\alpha/2} \hat{SE}_n \right)$

and $z_{\alpha/2} = 1.96$ for $\alpha = 5\%$ to get $1-\alpha = 0.95$

So, 95% C.I. for λ^* is

$\left(0.1102 \pm 1.96 * 0.0096 \right)$

$= (0.0914, 0.1290)$

Same idea for iid Bernoulli(θ) trials (start from Prep. Problem 3) & see notes

