

Review on Probability Theory

Nima Reyhani

October 3, 2006

Let Ω be an abstract space, and $\mathcal{F} \subset 2^\Omega$. Suppose \mathcal{F} satisfies

- 1 $\emptyset \in \mathcal{F}, \Omega \in \mathcal{F}$
- 2 $F \in \mathcal{F}$ implies that $F^c \in \mathcal{F}$
- 3 \mathcal{F} is closed under finite intersection and union
- 4 \mathcal{F} is closed under countable unions and intersections

\mathcal{F} is an *algebra* if it satisfies (1),(2) and (3), and *σ -algebra* if it satisfies (1),(2) and (4).

σ algebra examples

- $\mathcal{A} = \{\emptyset, \Omega\}$
- $A \subset \Omega$, we have $\sigma(A) = \{\emptyset, A, A^c, \Omega\}$
- when $\Omega = \mathbb{R}$, the *Borel σ -algebra* is the σ -algebra generated by open sets $(-\infty, a), a \in \mathbb{R}$.

Probability Measure $P : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ which satisfies

- $P(\Omega) = 1$
- **Countable Additivity** for countable sequence A_n of elements \mathcal{F} and $A_i \cap A_j = \emptyset$ we have

$$P(\cup_{n=1}^{\infty} A_n) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} P(A_n)$$

$P(A)$ is called the probability of A .

Random Variable

A random variable on probability space $\{\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P\}$ is a function $x : \Omega \rightarrow X \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ such that $x^{-1}(B) \in \mathcal{F}, \forall B \in \mathcal{B}$. Probability of x is

$$P_x(B) = P(x^{-1}(B)), B \in \mathcal{B}$$

Distribution function

$$F_x(x) = P(\{\omega; x(\omega) \leq x\}) = P_x((-\infty, x)) \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$F_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{x}) = F_{\mathbf{x}}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) = P_{\mathbf{x}}\{(-\infty, x_1) \cap \dots \cap (-\infty, x_k)\}$$

Probability mass function

For discrete x define

$$p_x(x) = P(\{\omega; x(\omega) = x\})$$

Density function

$$P_x(x \in B) = \int_B p_x(t) dt = \int_B dF_x(t), \quad B \in \mathcal{B}$$

$$P_{\mathbf{x}}(B) = \int_B p_{\mathbf{x}} d\mathbf{x} = \int_B p_{\mathbf{x}}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k) dx_1 dx_2 \dots dx_k, \quad B \in \mathcal{B}$$

Simple r.v. $X = \sum_1^n a_i 1_{A_i}$

Expectation $\mathbb{E}\{X\} = \sum_1^n a_i P(A_i) = \int X(\omega)P(d\omega) = \int X dp$

Let $X^+ = \max(0, X)$, $X^- = \min(0, X)$, then r.v. X has a finite expectation if both $\mathbb{E}\{X^+\}$, $\mathbb{E}\{X^-\}$ and

$$\mathbb{E}\{X\} = \mathbb{E}\{X^+\} - \mathbb{E}\{X^-\}$$

Expectation of arbitrary r.v.

For every r.v. X there is a sequence $\{X_n\}_{n \leq 1}$ of positive simple r.v. such that $X_n \rightarrow X$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Example

$$X_n = \begin{cases} k2^{-n} & k2^{-n} \leq X(\omega) < (k+1)2^{-n} \text{ and } 0 \leq k \leq n2^{-n} - 1 \\ n & X(\omega) \geq n \end{cases}$$

Moment of order $n = n_1 + n_2 + \cdots + n_k$

$$\mathbb{E} \left\{ \prod_{i=1}^k x_i^{n_i} \right\}$$

Covariance

$$\mathbb{C} \{x_i, x_j\} = \mathbb{E} \{ (x_i - \mathbb{E} \{x_i\}) (x_j - \mathbb{E} \{x_j\}) \}$$

Correlation

$$\mathbb{R} \{x_i, x_j\} = \frac{\mathbb{C} \{x_i, x_j\}}{\text{Var} \{x_i\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \text{Var} \{x_j\}^{\frac{1}{2}}}$$

Marginal Density

$(x_1, \dots, x_k) \rightarrow \mathbf{y} = (x_1, \dots, x_t)$ and $\mathbf{z} = (x_{t+1}, \dots, x_k)$

$$p_{\mathbf{y}} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{k-t}} p(x_1, \dots, x_k) dx_{t+1} \dots dx_k$$

The conditional density $p_{\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{y}) = \frac{p_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z})}{p_{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{y})}$

Bayes' Theorem

$$p_{\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{z}}(\mathbf{y}|\mathbf{z}) = \frac{p_{\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{z}|\mathbf{y})p_{\mathbf{y}}(\mathbf{y})}{p_{\mathbf{z}}(\mathbf{z})}$$

Independent random variables

- Sub σ -algebra $\{\mathcal{F}_i\}_{i \in I}$ of \mathcal{F} , are independent if for every finite subset $J \subseteq I$, and all $F_i \in \mathcal{F}_i$ one has

$$P(\cap_{i \in J} A_i) = \prod_{i \in J} P(A_i)$$

- R.V. $\{X_i\}$ with values in (E_i, \mathcal{E}_i) are independent if the generated σ -algebras $X_i^{-1}(\mathcal{E}_i)$ are independent

Conditional independence can be induced by restricting to the given information

Theorem

Two random variables X and Y are independent if and only if $\mathbb{E}\{f(X)g(Y)\} = \mathbb{E}\{f(X)\}\mathbb{E}\{g(Y)\}$ for every bounded f and g .

Characteristic function

$$\phi_x(t) = \mathbb{E} \{ e^{itx} \}, t \in \mathbb{R}$$

Properties

- $|\phi_x(t)| = 1, \phi_x(0) = 1$
- $\phi_x(\cdot)$ is uniformly continuous
- x_1, \dots, x_n iid, $s = \sum_1^n x_i$, then, $\phi_s(t) = \prod_1^n \phi_{x_i}(t)$
- every distribution has its own characteristic function
- if $\mathbb{E} \{ x^k \} < \infty$ then $\phi_x(t) = \sum_1^k \frac{(it)^j}{j!} \mathbb{E} \{ x^j \} + o(t^k)$

Convergence type

In mean $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E} \left\{ (x_n - x)^2 \right\} = 0$

Almost surely $P(\{\omega : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n(\omega) = x(\omega)\}) = 1$

In probability $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(\{\omega : |x_n(\omega) - x(\omega)| > \varepsilon\}) = 0$

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

Convergence in mean square \implies Convergence in probability

Almost sure convergence \implies Convergence in probability

Convergence in probability \implies Convergence in distribution

By definition, sequence f_t converges to f in limit, if the norm of difference converges to zero in limit

Suppose x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n are independent, identically distributed.

The "law of large numbers"

Let $\mathbb{E}\{x_i^2\} < \infty$ $\mathbb{E}\{x_i\} = \mu$ Then,

$$\left\{ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right\}_n = \bar{x}_n \rightarrow \mu$$

in mean square sense

Weak law of large numbers Let $\mathbb{E}\{x_i\} = \mu$ Then, \bar{x}_n converges in probability to μ

Strong law of large numbers Under the same condition as "weak law ...", \bar{x}_n converges almost surely to μ

Suppose x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n are independent, identically distributed.
The central limit theorem

central limit theorem when

$$\mathbb{E}\{x_i\} = \mu \quad \mathbb{E}\{x_i^2\} - \mathbb{E}\{x_i\}^2 = \sigma^2, \forall i \text{ then}$$

$$z_n = \frac{\bar{x}_n - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

law of iterated logarithms Under the same condition as central
limit theorem

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\bar{x}_n - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} (2 \log \log n)^{-\frac{1}{2}} = 1$$

Dirichlet Distribution

r.v. $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_k)$ has a Dirichlet distribution, with parameters $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{k+1}) > 0$ if its probability density $Di(x|\alpha)$, $0 < x < 1$, $\sum_1^k x_i < 1$ is

$$Di(x|\alpha) = \frac{\Gamma(\sum_1^{k+1} \alpha_i)}{\prod_{i=1}^{k+1} \Gamma(\alpha_i)} x_1^{\alpha_1-1} \dots x_k^{\alpha_k-1} \left(1 - \sum_1^k x_i\right)^{\alpha_{k+1}-1}$$

Then we also have

$$\mathbb{E}\{x_i\} = \frac{\alpha_i}{\sum_1^{k+1} \alpha_j}; \text{Var}\{x_i\} = \frac{\mathbb{E}\{x_i\}(1 - \mathbb{E}\{x_i\})}{1 + \sum_1^{k+1} \alpha_j}$$

and

$$C\{x_i, x_j\} = -\frac{\mathbb{E}\{x_i\}\mathbb{E}\{x_j\}}{1 + \sum_1^{k+1} \alpha_j}$$

- $\alpha_i > 1, i = 1, \dots, k$ there is mode given by

$$M \{x_i\} = \frac{\alpha_i - 1}{\sum_{j=1}^{k+1} \alpha_j - k - 1}$$

- Marginal distribution $x^{(m)} = (x_1, \dots, x_m), m < k$ is

$$p(x^{(m)}) = Di_m \left(x^{(m)} \mid \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m, \sum_{m+1}^{k+1} \alpha_j \right)$$

- The conditional distribution given x_{m+1}, \dots, x_k of

$$x'_i = \frac{x_i}{1 - \sum_{m+1}^k x_j}, i = 1, \dots, m$$

is $\sim Di_m (x'_1, x'_2, \dots, x'_m \mid \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_m, \alpha_{k+1})$

Question

Find the expectation of

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$$