

Expectation, Covariance, Some Inequalities and Distributions

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1 Expectation and Variance in the General Setting

Definition 1 Define $L^k(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$ space as:

$$L^k(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P) := \{X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid X \text{ measurable and } \int_{\Omega} |X|^k dP < \infty\}$$

(Here, “ $\int_{\Omega} |X|^k dP < \infty$ ” means that the integral $\int_{\Omega} |X|^k dP$ exists.)

An $L^k(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$ space is the set of all functions $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ that are measurable. (Ω, \mathcal{A}, P) denotes a probability space, where Ω is the sample space, \mathcal{A} is the σ -algebra, and $P_X = X(P)$ is the probability distribution.

Definition 2 If X is once-integrable, that is, $x \in L^1(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$, the expectation of X is defined as:

$$E(X) := \int_{\Omega} X dP = \int_{\mathbb{R}} x dP_X(x)$$

In case that P_X is the probability density, $E(X) := \int_{\mathbb{R}} x f(x) dx$. It is also called the first moment of X .

Similarly, if $X^k \in L^1(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$, then

$$E(X^k) = \int X^k dP$$

is called the k -th moment of X .

If $X^k \in L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$, we define

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(x) &= E((x - E(x))^2) \\ \text{Cov}(x, y) &= E((x - E(x)) \cdot (y - E(y))) \end{aligned}$$

2 Markov and Chebyshev Inequalities

2.1 Cauchy-Schwartz Inequality

Theorem 3 Cauchy-Schwartz Inequality. Let $x, y \in L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$. Then,

$$E(x \cdot y)^2 \leq E(x^2) \cdot E(y^2)$$

2.2 Markov Inequality

Theorem 4 Markov Inequality. For $\forall \varepsilon > 0, f : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$, if f is a monotonically increasing function, then

$$P(|y| > \varepsilon) \leq \frac{E(f(|y|))}{f(\varepsilon)}$$

In particular, take a special case of $f(x) = x$,

$$P(|y| > \varepsilon) \leq \frac{E(|y|)}{\varepsilon}$$

2.3 Chebyshev Inequality

Theorem 5 Chebyshev Inequality. For $\forall \varepsilon > 0, x \in L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, P)$, we have:

$$P(|x - E(x)| > \varepsilon) \leq \frac{\text{Var}(x)}{\varepsilon^2}$$

Note that Theorem 5 proves that the probability $P(|x - E(x)| > \varepsilon)$ is loosely (if ε is small) bounded by $\frac{\text{Var}(x)}{\varepsilon^2}$ with no other assumptions. This is an important quantity in learning theory.

3 Examples of Probability Distributions

Discrete distributions:

Definition 6 Uniform distribution on $\{1, \dots, n\}$

$$P(\{i\}) = \frac{1}{n}$$

Definition 7 Binomial distribution on $\{0, \dots, n\}$

Toss a coin n times, independently, each time with probability p of observing head. Denote head=1, tail=0, $x := \#$ heads.

$$P(X = k) := \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

Definition 8 Poisson distribution on N

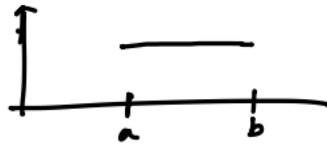
Parameter $\lambda > 0$

$$P(X = k) = \frac{\lambda^k \cdot e^{-\lambda}}{k!}$$

Intuition: number of jobs submitted to a cloud service.

Definition 9 *Continuous distribution:*

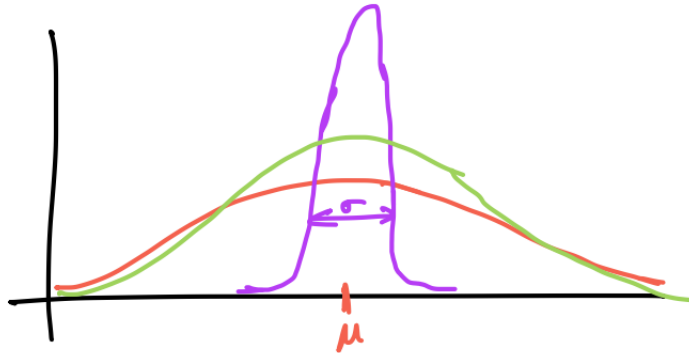
Uniform distribution on $[a, b]$: constant density



4 Normal Distribution on \mathbb{R}

Definition 10 *Density: parameter μ (mean), σ (std deviation)*

$$f_{\mu, \sigma}(x) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$



Notation: $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$

Some properties:

$x \sim N(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2)$, $y \sim N(\mu_2, \sigma_2^2)$

x, y are independent

then $x + y \sim N(\mu_1 + \mu_2, \sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2)$

5 Normal distribution in higher dimensions

$$X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, X = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \dots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}, \mu_i \in E(x_i), \mu = \begin{pmatrix} \mu_1 \\ \mu_2 \\ \dots \\ \mu_n \end{pmatrix}$$

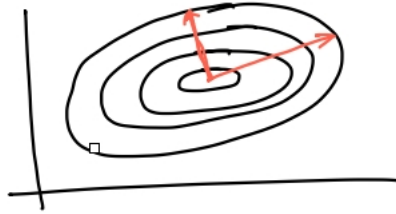
$\Sigma \in |\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ with $\Sigma_{ij} = \text{cov}(x_i, x_j)$ called the covariance matrix.

$$f_{\mu, \Sigma}(x) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{n}{2}} |\text{def} \Sigma|^{\frac{1}{2}}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}(x-\mu)^T \Sigma^{-1}(x-\mu)\right)$$

Notation: $N(\mu, \Sigma)$

Prop: Σ is semi-definite and symmetric.

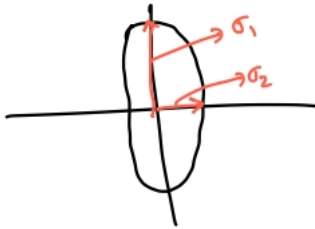
Consequence: Σ has real-valued, non-negative eigenvalues.



Contour lines of $f_{\mu, \Sigma}$

directions of eigenvectors

$$X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \text{ are independent} \Leftrightarrow \Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_2^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \sigma_n^2 \end{bmatrix}$$



$x \sim N(\mu_1, \Sigma_1), y \sim N(\mu_2, \Sigma_2)$ independent then $x + y \sim N(\mu_1 + \mu_2, \Sigma_1 + \Sigma_2)$

6 Mixture of Gaussians

Consider $\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_n$ with $0 \leq \pi_i \leq 1, \sum \pi_i = 1$

Consider the following density:

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^k \pi_i f_{\mu_i, \Sigma_i}(x)$$

