

Lecture 22

Instructor: Vishnu Boddeti

Scribe: Matthew McDerment

1 Limit Theorems: LLN and CLT

1.1 Strong Law of Large Numbers

$X_n : (\Omega, A, P) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ i.i.d (independent and identically distributed). Assume the mean $\mu := E(X_n) < \infty$, and $Var(X_n) =: r^2 < \infty$. Then: $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i = \mu$ a.s. and in L^2 .

Examples: Train error, test error. Converge to the true error. In statistics, compare if means of two distributions are the same.

1.2 Weak Law of Large Numbers:

Converge in probability

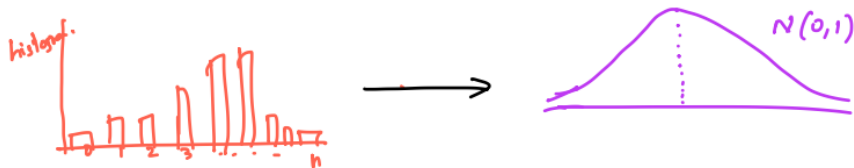
Remarks: Many versions of this theorem exist (slightly relaxing i.i.d)

- "Strong law" \Leftrightarrow Convergence a.s.
- "Weak law" \Leftrightarrow Convergence in probability.
- There are cases where this fails, e.g. heavy tailed distributions.
- If there is a selection bias in my samples (typical in human economic/rational behavior) the LLN does not mitigate the bias.

1.3 Central Limit Theorem

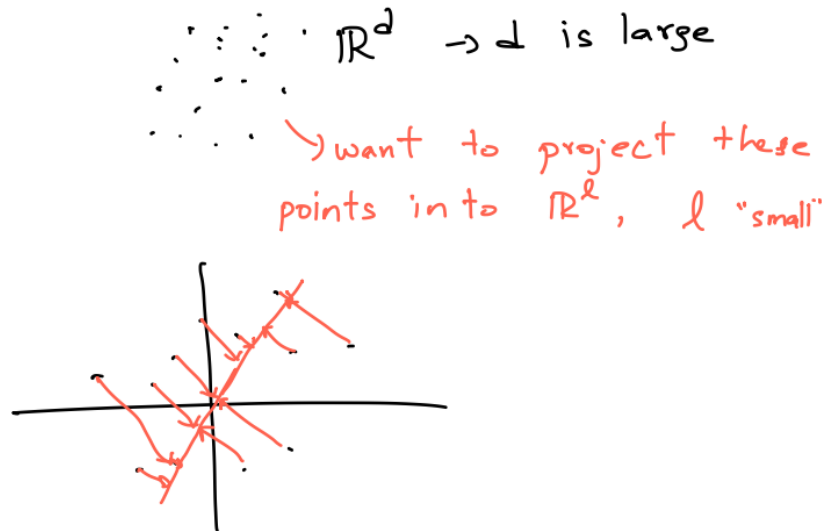
$(X_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ i.i.d random variables with mean μ and variance $r^2 < \infty$. Consider the RV $S_n := \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$. WE normalize it to $Y_n := \frac{S_n - n\mu}{\sqrt{nr}}$ (Which has mean 0 and std. deviation 1). Then $Y_n \rightarrow Y$ in distribution where $Y \sim N(0, 1)$

Illustration: X_i coin, head = 1, tail = 0 $S_n = \sum X_i \in [0, n]$



2 Concentration Inequalities

Motivation: Random projections



2.1 Theorem of Johnson-Lindenstrauss:

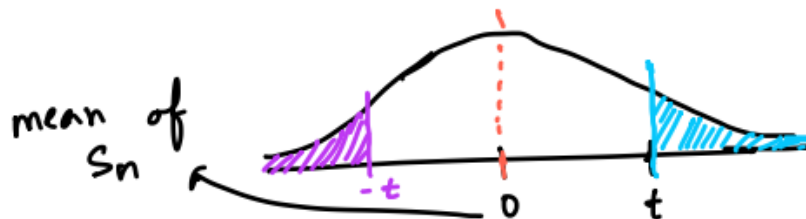
Can guarantee (for certain parameters ε, R)

$(1 - \varepsilon)\|x_i - x_j\|_{\mathbb{R}^d} \leq \|\pi(x_i) - \pi(x_j)\|_{\mathbb{R}^l} \leq (1 + \varepsilon)\|x_i - x_j\|_{\mathbb{R}^d}$ Constructon/Proof steps:

- Assume you know $\|x_i - x_j\|_{\mathbb{R}^d} = 1$. Compute $E(\|\pi(x_i) - \pi(x_j)\|_{\mathbb{R}^l})$
- $P(|\|\pi(x_i) - \pi(x_j)\|_{\mathbb{R}^l} - E(\dots)| > t)$?

3 Hoeffding Inequality

Theorem 1 Hoeffding: $x_1 \dots x_n : (\omega, \mathcal{A}, P) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{B})$ RVs, independent, assume that $X_i \in [a_i, b_i]$ a.s. for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$. Let $S_n := \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - E(x_i))$. Then for any $t > 0$, $P(S_n \geq t) \leq \exp\left(\frac{-2t^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (b_i - a_i)^2}\right)$



3.1 Application of Hoeffding: SLLN

Prop: $(X_i)_{i \in \mathcal{I}}$ i.i.d. RV, $a \leq x_i \leq b$, let x have the same distribution as the x_i then $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \rightarrow E x$ a.s.

Proof: Hoeffding \rightarrow

- $P(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i - E(x) > t) \leq \exp(\frac{-2(nt)^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (b-a)^2}) = \exp(\frac{-2nt^2}{(b-a)^2})$
- $P(\frac{1}{n} \sum x_i - E(x) < -t) = P(\frac{1}{n} \sum (-x_i) - E(-x) > t) \leq \exp(\frac{-2nt^2}{(b-a)^2})$

Combining the two, we get

$$P(|\frac{1}{n} \sum x_i - E(x)| > t) \leq 2 \exp(\frac{-2nt^2}{(b-a)^2}).$$

Now we want to apply Borel-Cantelli to get a.s. convergence: $Z = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$
 $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P(Z_n - E(x) > t) \leq 2 * r < \infty$

- Substitute $r := \exp(\frac{-2t^2}{(b-a)^2}) \in [0, 1]$
- Observe: $\exp(\frac{-2nt^2}{(b-a)^2}) = r^n$
- Sum: $2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r^n = 2 * \frac{1}{1-r} < \infty$

Now Borel-Cantelli gives almost sure convergence. □

Remark: Hoeffding is tight (cannot be improved without further assumptions). For fair coin tosses it is tight. But not tight if coin is biased \rightarrow need other inequalities.

4 Bernstein Inequality

Theorem 2 *Bernstein:* x_1, \dots, x_n , independent with 0 mean, $|x_i| < 1$ a.s. Let $\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \text{var}(x_i)$. Then for all $t > 0$,
 $P(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i > t) \leq \exp(\frac{-nt^2}{2(\sigma^2 + \frac{t}{3})})$

5 Concentration Inequality For Funcs. With Bounded Difference

Consider a function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ (or more generally, $f : x^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ for some arbitrary space x).

We say that f has the bounded difference property if there exists constants c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n such that

$$x_1 \dots x_n \in x \implies |f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, x_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n) - f(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, \tilde{x}_i, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_n)| \leq c_i$$

Example: $f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$ and $a \leq x_i \leq b \forall i$, then f satisfies with $c_i = b - a$.

Theorem 3 *McDiarmid:* x_1, \dots, x_n independent RV; $x_i \in x_i$, $f : x_1 * x_2, \dots, x_n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ function with bounded difference property. Then, for any $t > 0$,

$$P(f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) - E(f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n))) > t) \leq \exp(\frac{-2t^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n c_i^2})$$

Applications:

- Leave one out of error estimates
- Stability in ML
- Standard theoretical CS, randomized algos. (eg. traveling salesman problem)
- Largest eigenvalue of random symmetric matrices