Stat 5101 Notes: Algorithms

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1 Calculating an Expectation or a Probability

Probability is a special case of expectation (deck 1, slide 62).

1.1 From a PMF

If f is a PMF having domain S (the $sample\ space)$ for a random variable X and g is any function, then

$$E\{g(X)\} = \sum_{x \in S} g(x)f(x)$$

(deck 1, slide 56 and deck 3, slide 12), and for any event A (a subset of S)

$$Pr(A) = \sum_{x \in S} I_A(x) f(x)$$
$$= \sum_{x \in A} f(x)$$

(deck 1, slide 62).

1.2 From a PDF

If f is a PDF having domain S (the *sample space*) for a random variable X and g is any function, then

$$E\{g(X)\} = \int_{S} g(x)f(x) \, dx$$

(deck 3, slide 66), and for any event A (a subset of S)

$$Pr(A) = \int_{S} I_A(x) f(x) dx$$
$$= \int_{A} f(x) dx$$

(deck 1, slide 84).

And similarly for random vectors,

$$E\{g(\mathbf{X})\} = \int_{S} g(\mathbf{x}) f(\mathbf{x}) \, d\mathbf{x}$$

(deck 3, slide 66), and

$$Pr(A) = \int_{S} I_A(\mathbf{x}) f(\mathbf{x}) \, d\mathbf{x}$$
$$= \int_{A} f(\mathbf{x}) \, d\mathbf{x}$$

(deck 1, slide 84), where the boldface indicates vectors and the integral signs indicate multiple integrals (the same dimension as the dimension of \mathbf{x}).

1.3 From given Expectations using Uncorrelated

If X and Y are uncorrelated random variables, then

$$E(XY) = E(X)E(Y)$$

(deck 2, slide 73).

1.4 From given Expectations using Independent

If X and Y are independent random variables and g and h are any functions, then

$$E\{g(X)h(Y)\} = E\{g(X)\}E\{h(Y)\}$$

(deck 2, slide 76).

More generally, if X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n are independent random variables and g_1, g_2, \ldots, g_n are any functions, then

$$E\left\{\prod_{i=1}^{n} g_i(X_i)\right\} = \prod_{i=1}^{n} E\{g_i(X_i)\}$$

(deck 2, slide 76).

1.5 From given Probabilities using Inclusion-Exclusion

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(A \cup B) &= \Pr(A) + \Pr(B) - \Pr(A \cap B) \\ \Pr(A \cup B \cup C) &= \Pr(A) + \Pr(B \cup C) - \Pr(A \cap (B \cup C)) \\ &= \Pr(A) + \Pr(B \cup C) - \Pr((A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)) \\ &= \Pr(A) + \Pr(B) + \Pr(C) - \Pr(B \cap C) \\ &- \Pr(A \cap B) - \Pr(A \cap C) + \Pr(A \cap B \cap C) \end{aligned}$$

and so forth (deck 2, slides 139 and 140).

In the special case that A_1, \ldots, A_n are mutually exclusive events

$$\Pr\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{n} A_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \Pr(A_i)$$

(deck 2, slide 137).

1.6 From given Probabilities using Complement Rule

$$\Pr(A^c) = 1 - \Pr(A)$$

(deck 2, slide 143).

1.7 From given Probabilities using Independent

In the special case that A_1, \ldots, A_n are independent events

$$\Pr\left(\bigcap_{i=1}^{n} A_i\right) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \Pr(A_i)$$

(deck 2, slide 147).

1.8 From given Expectations using Linearity of Expectation

1.8.1 Expectation of Sum and Average

If X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n are random variables, then

$$E\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i\right\} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} E(X_i)$$

(deck 2, slide 10). In particular, if X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n all have the same expectation μ , then

$$E\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i\right\} = n\mu$$

(deck 2, slide 90), and

$$E(\overline{X}_n) = \mu,$$

where

$$\overline{X}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \tag{1}$$

(deck 2, slide 90).

1.8.2 Variance of Sum and Average

If X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n are random variables, then

$$\operatorname{var}\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{n} X_{i}\right\} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \operatorname{cov}(X_{i}, X_{j})$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \operatorname{var}(X_{i}) + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1 \neq i}^{n} \operatorname{cov}(X_{i}, X_{j})$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \operatorname{var}(X_{i}) + 2\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=i+1}^{n} \operatorname{cov}(X_{i}, X_{j})$$

(deck 2, slide 71). In particular, if X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n are uncorrelated, then

$$\operatorname{var}\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i\right\} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \operatorname{var}(X_i)$$

(deck 2, slide 75). More particular, if X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n are uncorrelated and all have the same variance σ^2 , then

$$\operatorname{var}\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i\right\} = n\sigma^2$$

(deck 2, slide 90) and

$$\operatorname{var}(\overline{X}_n) = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}$$

(deck 2, slide 90), where \overline{X}_n is given by (1).

1.8.3 Expectation and Variance of Linear Transformation

If X is a random variable and a and b are constants, then

$$E(a + bX) = a + bE(X)$$

var(a + bX) = b² var(X)

(deck 2, slide 8 and slide 37).

1.8.4 Covariance of Linear Transformations

If X and Y are random variables and a, b, c, and d are constants, then

$$cov(a + bX, c + dY) = bd cov(X, Y)$$

(homework problem 3-7).

1.8.5 Expectation and Variance of Vector Linear Transformation

If \mathbf{X} is a random vector, \mathbf{a} is a constant vector, and \mathbf{B} is a constant matrix such that $\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{X}$ makes sense (the dimension of \mathbf{a} and the row dimension of \mathbf{B} are the same, and the dimension of \mathbf{X} and the column dimension of \mathbf{B} are the same), then

$$E(\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{B}E(\mathbf{X})$$
$$var(\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{X}) = \mathbf{B}var(\mathbf{X})\mathbf{B}^{T}$$

(deck 2, slide 64).

1.8.6 "Short Cut" Formulas

If X is a random variable, then

$$\operatorname{var}(X) = E(X^2) - E(X)^2$$

(deck 2, slide 21).

If X and Y are random variables, then

$$cov(X,Y) = E(XY) - E(X)E(Y)$$

(homework problem 3-7).

1.9 From Moment Generating Function

$$E(X^k) = \varphi^{(k)}(0)$$

(deck 3, slide 20), where φ is the moment generating function of the random variable X and the right-hand side denotes the k-th derivative of φ evaluated at zero.

1.10 Convolution Formula

If X and Y are independent random variables in the same probability model and Z = X + Y and f_X , f_Y , and f_Z denote the PMFs of these random variables, then

$$f_Z(z) = \sum_x f_X(x) f_Y(z - x)$$

(deck 3, slide 52), where the sum ranges over the possible values of X and f_Y is extended to be zero off of the support of Y.

And similarly if X and Y are independent continuous random variables with PDFs f_X and f_Y

$$f_Z(z) = \int f_X(x) f_Y(z-x) \, dx$$

(this assumes f_X and f_Y are defined on the whole real line having the value zero off the respective supports).

2 Change of Variable Formulas

2.1 Discrete Distributions

2.1.1 One-to-one Transformations

If f_X is the PMF of the random variable X, if Y = g(X), and g is an invertible function with inverse function h (that is, X = h(Y)), then

$$f_Y(y) = f_X[h(y)]$$

and the domain of f_Y is the range of the function g (the set of possible Y values) (deck 2, slide 86).

2.1.2 Many-to-one Transformations

If f_X is the PMF of the random variable X having sample space S and Y = g(X), then

$$f_Y(y) = \sum_{\substack{x \in S \\ g(x) = y}} f_X(x)$$

and the domain of f_Y is the codomain of the function g (deck 2, slide 81).

2.2 Continuous Distributions

2.2.1 One-to-one Transformations

Univariate If f_X is the PDF of the random variable X, if Y = g(X), and g is an invertible function with inverse function h (that is, X = h(Y)), then

$$f_Y(y) = f_X[h(y)] \cdot |h'(y)|$$

and the domain of f_Y is the range of the function g (the set of possible Y values) (deck 3, slide 123).

Linear Transformation (Special Case of Above) If f_X is the PDF of the random variable X defined on the whole real line and Y = a + bX with b > 0, then the PDF of Y is

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{b} f_X\left(\frac{y-a}{b}\right)$$

and the domain of f_Y is the whole real line (deck 3, slide 140).

Multivariate If $f_{\mathbf{X}}$ is the PDF of the random vector \mathbf{X} , if $\mathbf{Y} = g(\mathbf{X})$, and g is an invertible function with inverse function h (that is, $\mathbf{X} = h(\mathbf{Y})$), then

$$f_{\mathbf{Y}}(\mathbf{y}) = f_{\mathbf{X}}[h(\mathbf{y})] \cdot |\det J(\mathbf{y})|$$

and the domain of $f_{\mathbf{Y}}$ is the range of the function g (the set of possible \mathbf{Y} values) (deck 3, slide 122), where $J(\mathbf{y})$ is the Jacobian matrix of the transformation h, the matrix whose i, j component is $\partial h_i(\mathbf{y})/\partial y_j$, where

$$h(\mathbf{y}) = (h_1(\mathbf{y}), \dots, h_n(\mathbf{y}))$$

(deck 3, slide 121).

2.2.2 Alternate Method (Does not Require One-to-one)

If f_X is the PDF of the random variable X and Y = g(X), then the DF of Y is

$$F_Y(y) = \Pr(Y \le y) = \Pr\{g(X) \le y\}$$

(deck 3, slide 154), and then the PDF of Y can be found by differentiation (Section 4.1 below).

3 PMF or PDF and Independence

If X_1, \ldots, X_n are independent random variables having PMF or PDF f_1, \ldots, f_n , then

$$f(x_1,\ldots,x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n f_i(x_i)$$

(deck 1, slide 98 and deck 3, slide 115). In this terminology of deck 5 (Section 6 below) this says the joint is the product of the marginals (when the components are independent).

In particular, if X_1, \ldots, X_n are independent and identically distributed random variables having PMF or PDF h, then

$$f(x_1,\ldots,x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n h(x_i).$$

4 PDF or PMF to DF and Vice Versa

4.1 DF to PDF

If f is the PDF of a random variable defined on the whole real line and F is the corresponding DF, then

$$f(x) = F'(x)$$
, at points x where F is differentiable

(deck 3, slide 105) (and may be arbitrarily defined at other points).

4.2 PDF to DF

If f is the PDF of a random variable defined on the whole real line and F is the corresponding DF, then

$$F(x) = \Pr(X \le x)$$
$$= \int_{-\infty}^{x} f(s) \, ds$$

(deck 3, slides 92 and 104).

4.3 PDF to DF (Alternative Method)

If f is the PDF of a random variable defined by case splitting, say

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} f_1(x), & x < a_1 \\ f_2(x), & a_1 < x < a_2 \\ f_3(x), & a_2 < x < a_3 \\ f_4(x), & a_3 < x \end{cases}$$

then the DF is

$$F(x) = \int f_i(x) \, dx$$

on each of the four intervals, the indefinite integral containing an arbitrary constant, which is different for each interval, and the constants must be adjusted to make F have the properties of a DF given on deck 3, slides 112 and 113, that is F is continuous, goes to zero as $x \to -\infty$ and goes to one as $x \to +\infty$.

4.4 DF to PMF

If f is the PMF of a random variable defined on the whole real line and F is the corresponding DF, then f(x) is the size of the jump F makes at x, that is,

$$f(x) = F(x) - \sup_{y < x} F(y)$$

(deck 3, slide 109). In particular, f(x) = 0 whenever F is continuous at x.

4.5 DF to PMF

If $f: S \to \mathbb{R}$ is the PMF of a random variable and F is the corresponding DF, then

$$F(x) = \sum_{\substack{s \in S \\ s \le x}} f(s)$$

(deck 3, slide 109).

5 Quantiles

5.1 Continuous Random Variables

If F is the DF of a continuous random variable, then the p-th quantile of this random variable or this distribution is any x satisfying

$$F(x) = p$$

and the solution is unique if F is differentiable at x with F'(x) > 0 (deck 4, slide 2).

The solution is non-unique only if F has a flat section with value p, that is if there exist points a and b with a < b such that

$$F(x) = p, \qquad a \le x < b$$

in which case every $x \in [a, b]$ is a *p*-th quantile.

5.2 Discrete Random Variables

If F is the DF of a discrete random variable, then the p-th quantile of this random variable or this distribution is any x satisfying

$$F(y) \le p \le F(x),$$
 for all $y < x$

(deck 4, slide 2).

There are two cases. The solution is unique if we do not have F(x) = p for any x. In that case the p-th quantile is the point x where F jumps past p, that is,

$$F(y)$$

The solution is non-unique if we do have F(x) = p for some x, in which case (because the DF of a discrete random variable is a step function) we must have F(x) = p for all x in an interval, and every such x is a p-th quantile.

6 Joint, Marginal, Conditional

The probability distribution of a random vector is often called the *joint* distribution of the components of the random vector.

In this context the probability distribution of a random vector comprising some subset of these components is called a *marginal* distribution.

The terms *joint* and *marginal* have meaning only in context. They have no context-independent meaning.

We can say f(x, y, z) is the joint PDF of X, Y, and Z, and f(x, y), f(y, z), and f(x, z) are three marginal PDF. So in one context f(x, y, z) is a joint distribution and f(x, y) is a marginal. But in another context we can say f(x, y) is a joint distribution and f(x) and f(y) are its marginals. (Pedantically, each f here should have a different letter or distinguishing subscript because each is a different function.)

6.1 Joint to Marginal

To derive a marginal PMF or PDF from a joint PMF or PDF, sum or integrate out the variable(s) you don't want (sum if discrete, integrate if continuous). (deck 5, slides 4–9). Given the joint of X and Y, to obtain the marginal of X sum out y

$$f_X(x) = \sum_y f_{X,Y}(x,y)$$

or integrate out y

$$f_X(x) = \int f_{X,Y}(x,y) \, dy$$

as the case may be.

Given the joint of X, Y, and Z, to obtain the marginal of X sum out y and z

$$f_X(x) = \sum_y \sum_z f_{X,Y,Z}(x,y,z)$$

or integrate out y and z

$$f_X(x) = \iint f_{X,Y,Z}(x,y,z) \, dy \, dz$$

as the case may be.

Given the joint of X, Y, and Z, to obtain the (bivariate) marginal of X and Y sum out z

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = \sum_{z} f_{X,Y,Z}(x,y,z)$$

or integrate out z

$$f_{X,Y}(x,y) = \int f_{X,Y,Z}(x,y,z) \, dz$$

as the case may be.

And so forth (many special cases of the general principle could be given).

6.2 Joint to Conditional

 $\text{conditional} = \frac{\text{joint}}{\text{marginal}}$

and the marginal is the marginal for the variable(s) behind the bar in the conditional

a ()

$$f(x \mid y) = \frac{f(x, y)}{f(y)}$$
$$f(w, x \mid y, z) = \frac{f(w, x, y, z)}{f(y, z)}$$

and so forth (pedantically, each f here should have a different letter or distinguishing subscript because each is a different function).

6.3 Conditional and Marginal to Joint

$$joint = conditional \times marginal$$

and the marginal is the marginal for the variable(s) behind the bar in the conditional

$$\begin{aligned} f(x,y) &= f(x \mid y) f(y) \\ f(w,x,y,z) &= f(w,x \mid y,z) f(y,z) \end{aligned}$$

and so forth (pedantically, each f here should have a different letter or distinguishing subscript because each is a different function).

Note that the equations in this section are the equations in the preceding section rearranged.

6.4 Conditional Probability and Expectation

Everything in Sections 1 to 5 above can be redone for conditional probability distributions. The variables behind the bar in the conditional distribution just go along for the ride like parameters in unconditional distributions (deck 5, slides 11–22). Calculating expectations (compare with Section 1 above)

$$E\{g(X) \mid Y\} = \int g(x)f(x \mid y) \, dx$$
$$E\{g(W, X) \mid Y, Z\} = \int g(w, x)f(w, x \mid y, z) \, dw \, dx$$

(replace integrals with sums if W and X are discrete). Calculating probabilities (compare with Section 1 above)

$$\Pr\{X \in A \mid Y\} = \int_{A} f(x \mid y) \, dx$$
$$\Pr\{(W, X) \in A \mid Y, Z\} = \int I_{A}(w, x) f(w, x \mid y, z) \, dw \, dx$$

(replace integrals with sums if W and X are discrete). PDF to DF (compare with Section 4.2 above)

$$F(x \mid y) = \int_{-\infty}^{x} f_{X|Y}(s \mid y)$$

(replace the integral with a sum if X is discrete). Quantiles (compare with Section 5 above, if F is the conditional DF of X given Y and X is continuous, then the p-th quantile of this distribution is the x that satisfies

$$F(x \mid y) = p$$

7 Conditional and Unconditional

7.1 Iterated Expectation Formula

$$E(Y) = E\{E(Y \mid X)\}$$

and the same goes with multiple variables "behind the bar"

$$E(Y) = E\{E(Y \mid X_1, \dots, X_k)\}$$

(deck 5, slides 48 and 51).

7.2 Functions of Variables "Behind the Bar" Come Out

For any functions g and h

$$E\{g(X)h(Y) \mid X\} = g(X)E\{h(Y) \mid X\}$$

and the same goes with multiple variables "behind the bar"

 $E\{g(X_1, \dots, X_k)h(Y) \mid X_1, \dots, X_k\} = g(X_1, \dots, X_k)E\{h(Y) \mid X_1, \dots, X_k\}$

(deck 5, slides 50 and 51).

7.3 Iterated Variance Formula

 $\operatorname{var}(Y) = E\{\operatorname{var}(Y \mid X)\} + \operatorname{var}\{E(Y \mid X)\}$

and the same goes with multiple variables "behind the bar"

$$\operatorname{var}(Y) = E\{\operatorname{var}(Y \mid X_1, \dots, X_k)\} + \operatorname{var}\{E(Y \mid X_1, \dots, X_k)\}$$

(deck 5, slide 63).

8 Conditional Probability and Independence

Random variables X and Y are independent if and only if the conditional distribution of X given Y is the same as the marginal distribution of X

$$f_X(x) = f_{X|Y}(x \mid y)$$

and similarly with X and Y interchanged (and x and y interchanged) (deck 5, slide 65). and similarly with X and Y changed to boldface (turned into random vectors) (and similarly for x and y) (deck 5, slide 66).

9 Poisson Process

9.1 Any Dimension

A random pattern of points in space is a *Poisson process* if the number of points X_A in region A has either of the following properties.

(i) If A_1, \ldots, A_k are disjoint regions, then X_{A_1}, \ldots, X_{A_k} are independent random variables.

(ii) For any region A, the random variable X_A has the Poisson distribution.

(deck 3, slide 41).

A Poisson process is homogeneous if $E(X_A)$ is proportional to the size of the region A.

9.2 One Dimensional

A one-dimensional Poisson is a random pattern of points in a line or line segment. It still has the two properties stated in Section 9.1.

But for a homogeneous Poisson process in one dimension we also have exponential waiting times and interarrival times (deck 5, slides 70–78).

Suppose X_1, \ldots, X_N are the points in a one-dimensional homogeneous Poisson process on the interval (a, b). N is capitalized because the number of points is random. N = 0 is allowed, in which case there are no points. If $N \ge 1$, then X_1 is the position of the first point. If $N \ge 2$, then X_2 is the position of the second point. If $N \ge 1$, then X_N is the position of the last point. We always have $X_1 < X_2 < \ldots < X_N$ by definition.

$$T_1 = X_1 - a$$

is called the *waiting time* until the first point and

$$T_2 = X_2 - X_1$$
$$T_3 = X_3 - X_2$$
$$\vdots$$
$$T_N = X_N - X_{N-1}$$

are called the *interarrival times* between the points.

If $E(N) = \lambda(b-a)$, so the expected number of points is λ per unit time, then all the waiting and interarrival times have the $\text{Exp}(\lambda)$ distribution.

10 Existence of Integrals and Infinite Sums

10.1 Integrals

10.1.1 Bounded Function, Bounded Domain

The integral of a bounded function over a bounded domain of integration always exists (deck 6, slide 2). Moreover, a continuous function defined on a closed interval is always bounded.

10.1.2 Bounded Function, Unbounded Domain ("Case I")

Suppose a > 0, suppose g is continuous on $[a, \infty)$, and suppose

$$\lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{|g(x)|}{x^{\alpha}} = c$$

exists and is finite. If $\alpha < -1$, then

$$\int_{a}^{\infty} |g(x)| \, dx < \infty.$$

Conversely, if c > 0 and $\alpha \ge -1$, then

$$\int_{a}^{\infty} |g(x)| \, dx = \infty$$

(deck 6, slide 9). And similarly for integrals on $(-\infty, a]$.

10.1.3 Unbounded Function, Bounded Domain ("Case II")

Suppose g is continuous on (a, b] and suppose

$$\lim_{x \downarrow a} \frac{|g(x)|}{(x-a)^{\alpha}} = c$$

exists and is finite. If $\alpha > -1$, then

$$\int_{a}^{b} |g(x)| \, dx < \infty.$$

Conversely, if c > 0 and $\alpha \leq -1$, then

$$\int_{a}^{b} |g(x)| \, dx = \infty$$

(deck 6, slide 24). And similarly when the integrand is unbounded at b instead of a (deck 6, slide 25).

10.2 Infinite Sums

Suppose

$$\lim_{i\to\infty}\frac{|a_i|}{i^\alpha}=c$$

exists and is finite. If $\alpha < -1$, then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |a_i| < \infty.$$

Conversely, if c > 0 and $\alpha \ge -1$, then

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} |a_i| = \infty$$

(deck 6, slide 31).

10.3 Moments

If any *p*-th absolute moment exists, then all *q*-th moments exist for $0 < q \leq p$. Conversely, if any *q*-th absolute moment fails to exist, then all *p*-th moments fail to exist for $q \leq p$ (deck 6, slide 56).

Bounded random variables always have expectation (deck 6, slide 58).

If X and Y both have p-th moments, then so does X + Y (deck 6, slide 59).

11 Asymptotics (Large Sample Theory)

11.1 Central Limit Theorem

If X_1, X_2, \ldots are independent and identically distributed (IID) random variables having mean μ and variance σ^2 , then

$$\sqrt{n}(\overline{X}_n - \mu) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$$

(deck 7, slide 32).

("Sloppy version") under the same conditions

$$\overline{X}_n \approx \mathcal{N}\left(\mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n}\right)$$

(deck 7, slide 34), where \approx has no formal mathematical definition but means approximately distributed as.

11.2 Continuous Mapping Theorem

Suppose

$$X_n \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} X$$

and g is a function that is continuous on a set A such that

$$\Pr(X \in A) = 1.$$

Then

$$g(X_n) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} g(X)$$

11.3 Slutsky's Theorem

Suppose (X_i, Y_i) , i = 1, 2, ... are random vectors and

$$\begin{array}{c} X_n \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} X \\ Y_n \xrightarrow{P} a \end{array}$$

where X is a random variable and a is a constant. Then

$$X_n + Y_n \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} X + a$$
$$X_n - Y_n \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} X - a$$
$$X_n Y_n \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} aX$$

and if $a \neq 0$

$$X_n/Y_n \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} X/a$$

11.4 Delta Method

11.4.1 General

Suppose

$$n^{\alpha}(X_n - \theta) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} Y,$$

where $\alpha > 0$, and suppose g is a function differentiable at θ , then

$$n^{\alpha}[g(X_n) - g(\theta)] \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} g'(\theta)Y$$

(deck 7, slide 52).

11.4.2 Normal Asymptotic Distribution

Suppose

$$\sqrt{n}(X_n - \theta) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2),$$

and suppose g is a function differentiable at θ , then the delta method says

$$\sqrt{n}[g(X_n) - g(\theta)] \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{N}(0, [g'(\theta)]^2 \sigma^2)$$

(deck 7, 59).

("Sloppy version") under the same conditions

$$g(\overline{X}_n) \approx \mathcal{N}\left(g(\mu), \frac{[g'(\mu)]^2 \sigma^2}{n}\right)$$

(deck 7, 61), where \approx has no formal mathematical definition but means approximately distributed as.

11.5 Variance Stabilizing Transformation

Suppose

$$\sqrt{n}(X_n - \theta) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{N}(0, v(\theta)),$$

and define

$$g(\theta) = c \int \frac{d\theta}{v(\theta)^{1/2}}$$

where c is any nonzero constant, which does not depend on θ (and the integral above is an indefinite integral so there is another additive constant, which is also arbitrary but does not depend on θ), then

$$\sqrt{n}[g(X_n) - g(\theta)] \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$$

where the asymptotic variance σ^2 does not depend on θ (deck 7, slides 64–65).

11.6 Multivariate Central Limit Theorem

Suppose X_1, X_2, \ldots is an IID sequence of random vectors having mean vector $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ and variance matrix \mathbf{M} and

$$\overline{\mathbf{X}}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{X}_i$$

Then

$$\sqrt{n}(\overline{\mathbf{X}}_n - \boldsymbol{\mu}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{M})$$

(deck 7, slide 90).

("Sloppy version") under the same conditions

$$\overline{\mathbf{X}}_n \approx \mathcal{N}\left(\boldsymbol{\mu}, \frac{\mathbf{M}}{n}\right)$$

(deck 7, slide 90), where \approx has no formal mathematical definition but means approximately distributed as.

11.7 Multivariate Continuous Mapping Theorem

Suppose

$$\mathbf{X}_n \stackrel{\mathcal{D}}{\longrightarrow} \mathbf{X}$$

and g is a function that is continuous on a set A such that

$$\Pr(\mathbf{X} \in A) = 1.$$

Then

$$g(\mathbf{X}_n) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} g(\mathbf{X})$$

(deck 7, slide 86).

11.8 Multivariate Slutsky's Theorem

Suppose

$$\mathbf{X}_n = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{X}_{n1} \\ \mathbf{X}_{n2} \end{pmatrix}$$

are partitioned random vectors and

$$\mathbf{X}_{n1} \stackrel{\mathcal{D}}{\longrightarrow} \mathbf{Y}$$

 $\mathbf{X}_{n2} \stackrel{P}{\longrightarrow} \mathbf{a}$

where \mathbf{Y} is a random vector and \mathbf{a} is a constant vector, and suppose g is a function that is continuous at points of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{y} \\ \mathbf{a} \end{pmatrix}$$
,

then we have

$$g(\mathbf{X}_{n1},\mathbf{X}_{n2}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} g(\mathbf{Y},\mathbf{a})$$

(deck 7, slides 87-89).

11.9 Multivariate Delta Method

11.9.1 General

Suppose

$$n^{\alpha}(\mathbf{X}_n - \boldsymbol{\theta}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \mathbf{Y},$$

where $\alpha > 0$, and suppose g is a function differentiable at θ , then

$$n^{\alpha}[g(\mathbf{X}_n) - g(\boldsymbol{\theta})] \stackrel{\mathcal{D}}{\longrightarrow} [\nabla g(\boldsymbol{\theta})] \mathbf{Y}$$

(deck 7, slide 99), where the right-hand side means the matrix multiplication of the nonrandom matrix $\nabla g(\theta)$ times the random vector **Y**.

11.9.2 Normal Asymptotic Distribution

Suppose

$$\sqrt{n}(\mathbf{X}_n - \boldsymbol{\theta}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{M}),$$

and suppose g is a function differentiable at $\boldsymbol{\theta}$, then the delta method says

$$\sqrt{n}[g(\mathbf{X}_n) - g(\boldsymbol{\theta})] \xrightarrow{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{N}(0, \mathbf{B}\mathbf{M}\mathbf{B}^T),$$

where

$$\mathbf{B} = \nabla g(\boldsymbol{\theta})$$

(deck 7, slide 100).

("Sloppy version") under the same conditions

$$g(\mathbf{X}_n) \approx \mathcal{N}\left(g(\boldsymbol{\theta}), \frac{\mathbf{B}\mathbf{M}\mathbf{B}^T}{n}\right)$$