STAT 450: Statistical Theory

Distribution Theory

Basic Problem: Start with assumptions about f or CDF of random vector $X = (X_1, \ldots, X_p)$. Define $Y = g(X_1, \ldots, X_p)$ to be some function of X (usually some statistic of interest). How can we compute the distribution or CDF or density of Y?

Univariate Techniques

Method 1: compute the CDF by integration and differentiate to find f_Y.

Example: $U \sim \text{Uniform}[0,1]$ and $Y = -\log U$.

$$\begin{aligned} F_Y(y) &= P(Y \le y) = P(-\log U \le y) \\ &= P(\log U \ge -y) = P(U \ge e^{-y}) \\ &= \begin{cases} 1 - e^{-y} & y > 0 \\ 0 & y \le 0\,. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

so Y has standard exponential distribution.

Example: $Z \sim N(0,1)$, i.e.

$$f_Z(z) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-z^2/2}$$

and $Y = Z^2$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} F_Y(y) &= P(Z^2 \le y) \\ &= \begin{cases} 0 & y < 0 \\ P(-\sqrt{y} \le Z \le \sqrt{y}) & y \ge 0\,. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Now differentiate

$$P(-\sqrt{y} \le Z \le \sqrt{y}) = F_Z(\sqrt{y}) - F_Z(-\sqrt{y})$$

to get

$$f_Y(y) = \begin{cases} 0 & y < 0 \\ \frac{d}{dy}\left[F_Z(\sqrt{y}) - F_Z(-\sqrt{y})\right] & y > 0 \\ \text{undefined} & y = 0\,. \end{cases}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dy} F_Z(\sqrt{y}) &= f_Z(\sqrt{y}) \frac{d}{dy}\sqrt{y} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\left(\sqrt{y}\right)^2/2\right) \frac{1}{2} y^{-1/2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2\pi y}} e^{-y/2}\,. \end{aligned}$$

(Similar formula for other derivative.) Thus

$$f_Y(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi y}} e^{-y/2} & y > 0 \\ 0 & y < 0 \\ \text{undefined} & y = 0\,. \end{cases}$$

We will find **indicator** notation useful:

$$1(y > 0) = \begin{cases} 1 & y > 0 \\ 0 & y \le 0 \end{cases}$$

which we use to write

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi y}} e^{-y/2} 1(y > 0)$$

(changing definition unimportantly at $y = 0$).

Notice: I never evaluated F_Y before differentiating it. In fact F_Y and F_Z are integrals I can't do but I can differentiate then anyway. Remember fundamental theorem of calculus:

$$\frac{d}{dx}\int_a^x f(y)\,dy = f(x)$$

at any x where f is continuous.
Summary: for $Y = g(X)$ with X and Y each real valued

$$\begin{aligned} P(Y \le y) &= P(g(X) \le y) \\ &= P(X \in g^{-1}(-\infty, y])\,. \end{aligned}$$

Take d/dy to compute the density

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{d}{dy}\int_{\{x:g(x)\le y\}} f_X(x)\,dx\,.$$

Often can differentiate without doing integral.
Method 2: Change of variables.
Assume g is one to one. I do: g is increasing and differentiable. Interpretation of density (based on density $= F'$):

$$\begin{aligned} f_Y(y) &= \lim_{\delta y \to 0} \frac{P(y \le Y \le y + \delta y)}{\delta y} \\ &= \lim_{\delta y \to 0} \frac{F_Y(y+\delta y) - F_Y(y)}{\delta y} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$f_X(x) = \lim_{\delta x \to 0} \frac{P(x \le X \le x + \delta x)}{\delta x}\,.$$

Now assume $y = g(x)$. Define δy by $y + \delta y = g(x + \delta x)$. Then

$$P(y \le Y \le g(x+\delta x)) = P(x \le X \le x + \delta x)\,.$$

Get

$$\frac{P(y \le Y \le y + \delta y))}{\delta y} = \frac{P(x \le X \le x + \delta x)/\delta x}{\{g(x+\delta x) - y\}/\delta x}\,.$$

Take limit to get

$$f_Y(y) = f_X(x)/g'(x)$$

or

$$f_Y(g(x))g'(x) = f_X(x)\,.$$

Alternative view:

Each probability is integral of a density.

The first is the integral of the density of Y over the small interval from $y = g(x)$ to $y = g(x + \delta x)$. The interval is narrow so f_Y is nearly constant and

$$P(y \le Y \le g(x+\delta x)) \approx f_Y(y)(g(x+\delta x) - g(x))\,.$$

Since g has a derivative the difference

$$g(x+\delta x) - g(x) \approx \delta x g'(x)$$

and we get

$$P(y \le Y \le g(x+\delta x)) \approx f_Y(y)g'(x)\delta x\,.$$

Same idea applied to $P(x \le X \le x + \delta x)$ gives

$$P(x \le X \le x + \delta x) \approx f_X(x)\delta x$$

so that

$$f_Y(y) g'(x)\delta x \approx f_X(x)\delta x$$

or, cancelling the δx in the limit

$$f_Y(y) g'(x) = f_X(x) .$$

If you remember $y = g(x)$ then you get

$$f_X(x) = f_Y(g(x)) g'(x) .$$

Or solve $y = g(x)$ to get x in terms of y, that is, $x = g^{-1}(y)$ and then

$$f_Y(y) = f_X(g^{-1}(y))/g'(g^{-1}(y)) .$$

This is just the change of variables formula for doing integrals.

Remark: For g decreasing $g' < 0$ but Then the interval $(g(x), g(x + \delta x))$ is really $(g(x + \delta x), g(x))$ so that $g(x) - g(x + \delta x) \approx -g'(x)\delta x$. In both cases this amounts to the formula

$$f_X(x) = f_Y(g(x))|g'(x)| .$$

Mnemonic:

$$f_Y(y)dy = f_X(x)dx .$$

Example: $X \sim$ Weibull(shape α, scale β) or

$$f_X(x) = \frac{\alpha}{\beta}\left(\frac{x}{\beta}\right)^{\alpha-1} \exp\left\{-(x/\beta)^\alpha\right\} 1(x > 0) .$$

Let $Y = \log X$ or $g(x) = \log(x)$.
Solve $y = \log x$: $x = \exp(y)$ or $g^{-1}(y) = e^y$.
Then $g'(x) = 1/x$ and $1/g'(g^{-1}(y)) = 1/(1/e^y) = e^y$.
Hence

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{\alpha}{\beta}\left(\frac{e^y}{\beta}\right)^{\alpha-1} \exp\left\{-(e^y/\beta)^\alpha\right\} 1(e^y > 0)e^y .$$

For any y, $e^y > 0$ so indicator $= 1$. So

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{\alpha}{\beta^\alpha} \exp\left\{\alpha y - e^{\alpha y}/\beta^\alpha\right\} .$$

Define $\phi = \log\beta$ and $\theta = 1/\alpha$; then,

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{\theta} \exp\left\{\frac{y - \phi}{\theta} - \exp\left\{\frac{y - \phi}{\theta}\right\}\right\} .$$

Extreme Value density with **location** parameter ϕ and **scale** parameter θ. (Note: several distributions are called Extreme Value.)

Marginalization

Simplest multivariate problem:

$$X = (X_1, \ldots, X_p), \qquad Y = X_1$$

(or in general Y is any X_j).

Theorem 1 *If X has density $f(x_1,\ldots,x_p)$ and $q<p$ then $Y=(X_1,\ldots,X_q)$ has density*

$$f_Y(x_1,\ldots,x_q)=\int_{-\infty}^{\infty}\cdots\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x_1,\ldots,x_p)\,dx_{q+1}\ldots dx_p\,.$$

$f_{X_1,\ldots,X_q}$ is the **marginal** density of $X_1,\ldots,X_q$ and f_X the **joint** density of X but they are both just densities. "Marginal" just to distinguish from the joint density of X.

Example The function

$$f(x_1,x_2)=Kx_1x_2 1(x_1>0,x_2>0,x_1+x_2<1)$$

is a density provided

$$P(X\in R^2)=\int_{-\infty}^{\infty}\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x_1,x_2)\,dx_1\,dx_2=1\,.$$

The integral is

$$\begin{aligned}
K\int_0^1\int_0^{1-x_1} & x_1x_2\,dx_1\,dx_2\\
&=K\int_0^1 x_1(1-x_1)^2\,dx_1/2\\
&=K(1/2-2/3+1/4)/2\\
&=K/24
\end{aligned}$$

so $K=24$. The marginal density of x_1 is

$$\begin{aligned}
f_{X_1}(x_1)=&\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} 24x_1x_2\\
&\times 1(x_1>0,x_2>0,x_1+x_2<1)\,dx_2\\
=&24\int_0^{1-x_1} x_1x_2 1(0<x_1<1)dx_2\\
=&12x_1(1-x_1)^2 1(0<x_1<1)\,.
\end{aligned}$$

This is a Beta$(2,3)$ density.

General problem has $Y=(Y_1,\ldots,Y_q)$ with $Y_i=g_i(X_1,\ldots,X_p)$.

Case 1: $q>p$. Y **won't** have density for "smooth" g. Y will have a **singular** or discrete distribution. Problem rarely of real interest. (But, e.g., residuals have singular distribution.)

Case 2: $q=p$. We use a change of variables formula which generalizes the one derived above for the case $p=q=1$. (See below.)

Case 3: $q<p$. Pad out Y–add on $p-q$ more variables (carefully chosen) say $Y_{q+1},\ldots,Y_p$. Find functions $g_{q+1},\ldots,g_p$. Define for $q<i\le p$, $Y_i=g_i(X_1,\ldots,X_p)$ and $Z=(Y_1,\ldots,Y_p)$. Choose g_i so that we can use change of variables on $g=(g_1,\ldots,g_p)$ to compute f_Z. Find f_Y by integration:

$$f_Y(y_1,\ldots,y_q)=\int_{-\infty}^{\infty}\cdots\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f_Z(y_1,\ldots,y_q,z_{q+1},\ldots,z_p)dz_{q+1}\ldots dz_p$$

Change of Variables

Suppose $Y=g(X)\in R^p$ with $X\in R^p$ having density f_X. **Assume g is a one to one ("injective") map,** i.e., $g(x_1)=g(x_2)$ if and only if $x_1=x_2$. Find f_Y:

Step 1: Solve for x in terms of y: $x=g^{-1}(y)$.

Step 2: Use basic equation:

$$f_Y(y)dy=f_X(x)dx$$

and rewrite it in the form

$$f_Y(y) = f_X(g^{-1}(y)) \frac{dx}{dy} \, .$$

Interpretation of derivative $\frac{dx}{dy}$ when $p > 1$:

$$\frac{dx}{dy} = \left| \det \left(\frac{\partial x_i}{\partial y_j} \right) \right|$$

which is the so called **Jacobian**.

Equivalent formula inverts the matrix:

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{f_X(g^{-1}(y))}{\left| \frac{dy}{dx} \right|}$$

This notation means

$$\left| \frac{dy}{dx} \right| = \left| \det \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial y_1}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial y_1}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial y_1}{\partial x_p} \\ & \vdots & & \\ \frac{\partial y_p}{\partial x_1} & \frac{\partial y_p}{\partial x_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial y_p}{\partial x_p} \end{bmatrix} \right|$$

but with x replaced by the corresponding value of y, that is, replace x by $g^{-1}(y)$.

Example: The density

$$f_X(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \exp\left\{ -\frac{x_1^2 + x_2^2}{2} \right\}$$

is the **standard bivariate normal density**. Let $Y = (Y_1, Y_2)$ where $Y_1 = \sqrt{X_1^2 + X_2^2}$ and $0 \le Y_2 < 2\pi$ is angle from the positive x axis to the ray from the origin to the point (X_1, X_2). I.e., Y is X in polar co-ordinates.

Solve for x in terms of y:

$$\begin{aligned} X_1 &= Y_1 \cos(Y_2) \\ X_2 &= Y_1 \sin(Y_2) \end{aligned}$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned} g(x_1, x_2) &= (g_1(x_1, x_2), g_2(x_1, x_2)) \\ &= (\sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2}, \text{argument}(x_1, x_2)) \\ g^{-1}(y_1, y_2) &= (g_1^{-1}(y_1, y_2), g_2^{-1}(y_1, y_2)) \\ &= (y_1 \cos(y_2), y_1 \sin(y_2)) \\ \left| \frac{dx}{dy} \right| &= \left| \det \begin{pmatrix} \cos(y_2) & -y_1 \sin(y_2) \\ \sin(y_2) & y_1 \cos(y_2) \end{pmatrix} \right| \\ &= y_1 \, . \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$f_Y(y_1, y_2) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \exp\left\{ -\frac{y_1^2}{2} \right\} y_1 \times 1(0 \le y_1 < \infty) 1(0 \le y_2 < 2\pi) \, .$$

Next: marginal densities of Y_1, Y_2?

Factor f_Y as $f_Y(y_1, y_2) = h_1(y_1) h_2(y_2)$ where

$$h_1(y_1) = y_1 e^{-y_1^2/2} 1(0 \le y_1 < \infty)$$

and

$$h_2(y_2) = 1(0 \le y_2 < 2\pi)/(2\pi) \, .$$

Then

$$
\begin{aligned}
f_{Y_1}(y_1) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h_1(y_1)h_2(y_2)\,dy_2 \\
&= h_1(y_1)\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h_2(y_2)\,dy_2
\end{aligned}
$$

so marginal density of Y_1 is a multiple of h_1. Multiplier makes $\int f_{Y_1} = 1$ but in this case

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h_2(y_2)\,dy_2 = \int_0^{2\pi} (2\pi)^{-1} dy_2 = 1$$

so that

$$f_{Y_1}(y_1) = y_1 e^{-y_1^2/2} 1(0 \le y_1 < \infty) .$$

(Special case of Weibull or Rayleigh distribution.) Similarly

$$f_{Y_2}(y_2) = 1(0 \le y_2 < 2\pi)/(2\pi)$$

which is the **Uniform**$((0, 2\pi)$ density.

Exercise: $W = Y_1^2/2$ has standard exponential distribution.

Recall: by definition $U = Y_1^2$ has a χ^2 distribution on 2 degrees of freedom.

Exercise: find χ_2^2 density.

Note: We show below factorization of density is equivalent to independence.