

Theory of Probability

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Moment Generating Function

$$M(t) = E[e^{tx}]$$
$$= \int e^{tx} f(x) dx$$

Similar to the Laplace Transform of f

(the function M for $t \neq 0$, might not exist.)

Usefulness:

$$M(0) = E[e^0] = E[1] = 1$$

$$M'(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \int e^{tx} f(x) dx$$

$$= \int \frac{d}{dt} e^{tx} f(x) dx$$

$$= \int x e^{tx} f(x) dx$$

$$\Rightarrow M'(0) = \int x f(x) dx = E[X].$$

$$M''(0) = E[X^2]$$

$$\Rightarrow M^{(n)}(0) = E[X^n].$$

Ex: Std. Normal

$$M(t) = E[e^{tz}] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tz} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-z^2/2} dz$$
$$= e^{t^2/2}$$

$$M'(t) = \frac{zt}{2} e^{t^2/2} = t e^{t^2/2}$$

$$M'(0) = 0 = \text{Mean} [E[z]]$$

$$M''(t) = e^{t^2/2} + t^2 e^{t^2/2}$$

$$M''(0) = 1 = \text{Var}[z] = E[z^2].$$

For $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$X = \mu + \sigma z$$

$$M_X(t) = E[e^{tX}] = E[e^{t(\mu + \sigma z)}]$$

$$= e^{t\mu} E[e^{t\sigma z}]$$

$$= e^{t\mu} e^{t^2\sigma^2/2}$$

$$= e^{t\mu + t^2\sigma^2/2}$$

If X, Y are independent, then

$$M(t) = E[e^{t(X+Y)}] = E[e^{tX} e^{tY}]$$

$$= E[e^{tX}] E[e^{tY}]$$

$$= M_X(t) M_Y(t)$$

Lastly: If $M(t) < \infty$ and exists in a neighborhood of $t=0$, then this uniquely defines the probability distribution (i.e. the PDF).

Joint MGF

If X_1, \dots, X_n have joint pdf $f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$, then

$$M(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n) = \int \dots \int e^{t_1 x_1 + t_2 x_2 + \dots + t_n x_n} f(x_1, \dots, x_n) d\vec{x}.$$

$$= E[e^{t_1 X_1 + t_2 X_2 + \dots + t_n X_n}]$$

$$M_{X_i}(t) = M(0, \dots, 0, t_i, 0, \dots, 0)$$

Additional Normal R.V. Properties

Let Z_1, \dots, Z_n be IID standard normal random variables. For constants μ_i, a_{ij} $i=1, \dots, m, j=1, \dots, n$, define:

$$X_1 = a_{11} Z_1 + a_{12} Z_2 + \dots + a_{1n} Z_n + \mu_1$$

\vdots

$$X_m = a_{m1} Z_1 + a_{m2} Z_2 + \dots + a_{mn} Z_n + \mu_m$$

$$\vec{X} = \begin{pmatrix} X_1 \\ \vdots \\ X_m \end{pmatrix} = A \vec{Z} + \vec{\mu} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} Z_1 \\ \vdots \\ Z_n \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \mu_1 \\ \vdots \\ \mu_m \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow E[X_i] = \mu_i$$

$$\text{Var}[X_i] = \text{Var}\left[\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} Z_j\right]$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}^2$$

$$\text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) = \text{Cov} \left(\sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik} z_k, \sum_{k'=1}^n a_{jk'} z_{k'} \right)$$

$$= \sum_{k, k'} a_{ik} a_{jk'} \text{Cov}(z_k, z_{k'})$$

$$C_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^n a_{ik} a_{jk} \quad \left. \vphantom{\sum_{k=1}^n} \right\} \text{Inner product of } \vec{a}_i \text{ with } \vec{a}_j.$$

The Joint MGF for X_1, \dots, X_m

$$M(t_1, \dots, t_m) = e^{\sum_{i=1}^m t_i \mu_i + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} t_i t_j C_{ij}}$$

\Rightarrow Since M determines the PDF, and M depends only on μ_i, C_{ij} , then the joint

PDF must only depend on μ_i, C_{ij} .

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_m) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{m/2} \sqrt{|C|}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}(\vec{x} - \vec{\mu})^T C^{-1} (\vec{x} - \vec{\mu})}$$

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} C_{11} & C_{12} & C_{13} & \dots & C_{1m} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ C_{m1} & & & & C_{mm} \end{pmatrix}.$$