



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

**Spring Semester
2015–2016**

MAS6004 Inference

3 hours

*Candidates may bring to the examination a calculator that conforms to University regulations. Marks will be awarded for your best **five** answers. Total marks 100.*

**Please leave this exam paper on your desk
Do not remove it from the hall**

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- 1 (i) Five observations of the random variable X are recorded:

$$\{13.6, 17.0, 20.2, 16.1, 15.1\}$$

- (a) Sketch the empirical cumulative distribution function of X based on the observed sample. **(3 marks)**

- (b) Using the following five random draws from the $U[0, 1]$ distribution

$$\{0.02, 0.54, 0.46, 0.77, 0.66\},$$

sample from the empirical cumulative distribution function to produce a single bootstrap value of the sample median of 5 observations of X . **(4 marks)**

- (c) Explain how you would estimate the standard error of the estimate of the median of X . **(3 marks)**

- (ii) The waiting times, denoted t_1, \dots, t_n , between arrivals in a queue are claimed to be independent and to follow an exponential distribution with mean 1. The observed times are noted to be very similar, and it is suspected that the claim of independence may be false.

- (a) Assuming that arrival times really do have an exponential distribution, explain how a Monte Carlo test of size 0.05 could be conducted to test the hypothesis of independence, using the sample variance as a test statistic **(7 marks)**

- (b) What is the minimum number of random test statistics required to ensure a size of precisely 0.05? Why would it not be advisable to generate only this minimum number? **(3 marks)**

2 (i) If U is uniformly distributed over $(0, 1)$ then $x = -\ln U$ has the exponential distribution with density $f(x) = e^{-x}$ on $(0, \infty)$.

(a) If exponentials X_1, X_2, \dots, X_{2n} are generated as above from independent uniform variables U_1, U_2, \dots, U_{2n} , derive the variance of the

sample mean $\bar{X}_{2n} = \frac{1}{2n} \sum_{i=1}^{2n} X_i$. (3 marks)

(b) Letting $Y_i = -\ln(1 - U_i)$ and $\bar{Y}_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i$, prove that the variance

of $\frac{\bar{X}_n + \bar{Y}_n}{2}$ is $\frac{I}{2n}$, where

$$I = \int_0^1 \ln(x) \ln(1 - x) dx.$$

(6 marks)

(c) Given that $I = 2 - \pi^2/6$, show that $(\bar{X}_n + \bar{Y}_n)/2$ is a better estimator of the mean of the exponential distribution than \bar{X}_{2n} , and explain what type of procedure this is an example of.

(3 marks)

(ii) Survival times for 4 mice who took an experimental drug are recorded as $\{6, 6, 10, 20\}$ days. A Weibull distribution with probability density function

$$f_T(t) = \alpha\beta(\beta t)^{\alpha-1} \exp(-(\beta t)^\alpha)$$

is fitted to these data. The maximum likelihood estimators are $\hat{\alpha} = 2.0$ and $\hat{\beta} = 0.08$.

(a) Derive the profile log-likelihood function, $l_p(\alpha)$, for α .

(5 marks)

(b) By considering the profile deviance function, test the null hypothesis that $\alpha = 1$. You may assume that $l_p(\hat{\alpha}) = -12.2$, and that

$$\chi_1^2(0.95) = 3.84, \quad \chi_2^2(0.95) = 5.99, \quad \chi_3^2(0.95) = 7.82.$$

(3 marks)

- 3** The life times of light bulbs are modelled as exponential random variables with mean $1/\lambda$. Two separate experiments are performed to estimate λ . In the first, n bulbs are tested until they all fail, and the failure time t_i of each bulb $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ is recorded. In the second experiment, m bulbs are tested for h hours, and r , the number of bulbs failing by the end of the experiment is recorded. The $n + m$ life times may be assumed to be statistically independent.

We will now use the EM algorithm to estimate λ . Let S_1, \dots, S_m be the unrecorded failure times of the bulbs in the second experiment.

- (i) Show that the likelihood of the completed data $y = (t_1, \dots, t_n, S_1, \dots, S_m)$ is

$$(m + n) \log \lambda - \lambda \left(\sum_{i=1}^n t_i + \sum_{j=1}^m S_j \right).$$

(3 marks)

- (ii) By considering

$$F(t) = \mathbb{P}(S \leq t | S \leq h)$$

for $t \leq h$, prove that

$$\mathbb{E}(S | S \leq h, \lambda) = \frac{1}{\lambda} - \frac{he^{-\lambda h}}{1 - e^{-\lambda h}}.$$

(7 marks)

- (iii) Derive an expression for the quantity

$$Q(\lambda | \lambda^{(r)})$$

used in the E-step of the EM algorithm.

(7 marks)

- (iv) Use the M-step to derive a formula for the next estimate of λ , denoted by $\lambda^{(r+1)}$, in terms of $\lambda^{(r)}$.

(3 marks)

4 In microscopic imaging it is common to model the number of photons arriving at the lens in each frame, X_i , as $\text{Po}(x_i | \lambda)$, where λ is the rate of photon emission per frame. Given a random sample, $\mathbf{x} = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$,

(i) (a) Show that $\pi(\lambda) = \text{Ga}(\lambda | a, b)$ is a conjugate prior and give explicit expressions for the posterior parameters. **(5 marks)**

(b) Find the Bayes estimator for λ under 0-1 loss; i.e. the posterior mode. **(3 marks)**

(ii) (a) Calculate the predictive distribution of Y , the number of photons captured by the lens in the next random sample of m frames,

$$Y = \sum_{j=n+1}^{n+m} X_j .$$

(7 marks)

(b) The scientist a priori believes that $\mathbb{E}[\lambda] = 10/3$ and $\mathbb{V}[\lambda] = 50/9$. Calculate the scientist's predictive probability of observing not more than one photon in the next frame if 3 photons were detected in a sample of $n = 10$ frames. **(5 marks)**

5 Consider the hierarchical model,

$$\begin{aligned} X_i &\sim \text{Ber}(x_i | \theta_i) , \text{ ind. } i = 1, \dots, n \\ \pi(\theta_i) &= \text{Be}(\theta_i | a, a) , \text{ ind. } i = 1, \dots, n \\ \pi(a) &= \text{Ga}(a | c, d) . \end{aligned}$$

(i) Derive the full conditional distributions for $\boldsymbol{\theta} = \{\theta_1, \dots, \theta_n\}$ and a . **(8 marks)**

(ii) Write pseudo-code for a Metropolis-within-Gibbs strategy to sample from $\pi(\boldsymbol{\theta}, a | \mathbf{x})$. **(12 marks)**

6 Assume $\mathbf{X} = \{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$ are independent random variables with

$$X_i \sim N\left(x_i \mid \mu, \frac{1}{a_i \lambda}\right),$$

for $i = 1, \dots, n$; where $\mathbf{a} = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$ are known constants with $0 < a_i < 1$ and $\sum_{i=1}^n a_i = 1$.

(i) Show that

$$\pi(\mu, \lambda) = N\left(\mu \mid m, \frac{1}{p\lambda}\right) \text{Ga}(\lambda \mid a, b)$$

is a conjugate prior and provide explicit expressions for the posterior parameters. **(15 marks)**

(ii) Show that

$$\mathbb{E}[\mu \mid \mathbf{x}] = w \hat{\mu} + (1 - w)m,$$

where $0 < w < 1$ and $\hat{\mu} = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i$ is the MLE. **(5 marks)**

End of Question Paper

Notation and distributions

Bayesian Statistics 2015–16

Throughout the course it is assumed that the probabilistic behaviour of available data, \mathbf{x} , is described by a parametric model; hence all inferences will be conditional to the selected model.

Each model is composed by a family of probability distributions, indexed by a parameter vector, $\boldsymbol{\theta}$, which in turn can be described by their appropriate density functions. We will denote a specific model by

$$\mathcal{M} = \{f(\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\theta}), \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}, \boldsymbol{\theta} \in \Theta\},$$

where $f(\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) \geq 0$ and $\int_{\mathcal{X}} f(\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) d\mathbf{x} = 1$; when there is no risk of confusion, we will refer to a model simply as $f(\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\theta})$. We call \mathcal{X} the support of the distribution and Θ the parameter space.

We will use $f(\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\phi})$ and $f(\mathbf{y} | \boldsymbol{\psi})$ to refer to probability densities of \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{y} , without necessarily meaning that both quantities share a common distribution. In general, the Greek alphabet is reserved for non-observables (typically, parameters) and the Latin alphabet for observations (data). Bold typeface denotes vector valued quantities.

Specific density functions are referred by appropriate names; e.g. if the observable x follows a Normal distribution with mean μ and variance σ^2 , its density is denoted by $N(x | \mu, \sigma^2)$. Tables below present some density functions used throughout the course.

Moments and other descriptive measures of probability distributions are described by appropriate symbols. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\theta}] &= \int_{\mathcal{X}} \mathbf{x} f(\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) d\mathbf{x}, \\ \mathbb{V}[\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\theta}] &= \int_{\mathcal{X}} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\theta}])^2 f(\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) d\mathbf{x}, \\ \text{Cov}[\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\theta}] &= \int_{\mathcal{X}} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\theta}])^t (\mathbf{x} - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\theta}]) f(\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\theta}) d\mathbf{x},\end{aligned}$$

respectively stand for the expected value, variance and covariance of the given quantity, while $\text{Med}[\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\theta}]$ and $\text{Mode}[\mathbf{x} | \boldsymbol{\theta}]$ denote the median and mode, respectively. Sums are used instead of integrals when the support of the random quantity is discrete.

We use, $\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{t}(\mathbf{x})$ to denote a generic statistic (typically sufficient) derived from observed data, $\mathbf{x} = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$; standard symbols are used for common statistics; thus,

$$\bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \quad \text{and} \quad s_x^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2$$

denote the sample mean and variance, respectively; while $x_{(p)}$ stands for the p^{th} order statistic; in particular $x_{(1)}$ and $x_{(n)}$ respectively denote the minimum and maximum observed values.

SOME DISCRETE DISTRIBUTIONS

Name	Context	Notation	p.f. $p(x \theta)$	$\mathbb{E}[X \theta]$	$\mathbb{V}[X \theta]$	Applications	Comments
Uniform	Set of k equally likely outcomes (usually, not necessarily, the integers)	$U(1, \dots, k)$	$p(x) = 1/k$ $\mathcal{X} = \{1, \dots, k\}, \mathcal{K} = \mathbb{Z}_+$	$\frac{k+1}{2}$	$\frac{k^2-1}{12}$	Dice	
Bernoulli	Expt. with two outcomes: 'success' w.p. θ and 'failure' w.p. $1 - \theta$ $X \equiv$ no. successes	$\text{Ber}(x \theta)$	$p(x) = \theta^x(1 - \theta)^{1-x}$ $\mathcal{X} = \{0, 1\}$ $\Theta = (0, 1)$	θ	$\theta(1 - \theta)$	Coins, constituent of more complex distributions	
Binomial	$X \equiv$ no. successes in n ind. $\text{Ber}(x \theta)$ trials	$\text{Bi}(x n, \theta)$	$p(x) = \binom{n}{x}\theta^x(1 - \theta)^{n-x}$ $\mathcal{X} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n\}$ $\Theta = (0, 1)$	$n\theta$	$n\theta(1 - \theta)$	Sampling with replacement	$\text{Bi}(x 1, \theta) \equiv \text{Ber}(x \theta)$
Geometric	$X \equiv$ no. failures until 1st success in sequence of ind. $\text{Ber}(x \theta)$ trials	$\text{Ge}(x \theta)$	$p(x) = \theta(1 - \theta)^x$ $\mathcal{X} = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ $\Theta = (0, 1)$	$\frac{1 - \theta}{\theta}$	$\frac{1 - \theta}{\theta^2}$	Waiting times (for single events)	Alternative formulation in terms of $Y \equiv$ no. of trials to 1st success ($Y = X + 1$)
Negative binomial (or Pascal)	$X \equiv$ no. failures to m -th success in sequence of ind. $\text{Ber}(x \theta)$ trials. Generalisation of Geometric	$\text{NB}(x m, \theta)$	$p(x) = \binom{m+x-1}{x}\theta^m(1 - \theta)^x$ $\mathcal{X} = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ $\Theta = (0, 1)$	$\frac{m(1 - \theta)}{\theta}$	$\frac{m(1 - \theta)}{\theta^2}$	Waiting times (for compound events)	$\text{NB}(x 1, \theta) \equiv \text{Ge}(x \theta)$
Poisson	Arises empirically or via Poisson Process (PP) for counting events. For PP rate ν the no. of events in time $t \sim \text{Po}(x \nu t)$. Also as an approx. to the Binomial	$\text{Po}(x \lambda)$	$p(x) = \frac{e^{-\lambda}\lambda^x}{x!}$ $\mathcal{X} = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ $\Lambda = \mathbb{R}^+$	λ	λ	Counting events occurring 'at random' in space or time	$\text{Bi}(x n, \theta) \equiv \text{Po}(x n\theta)$ if n large, θ small

SOME CONTINUOUS DISTRIBUTIONS

Name	Notation	p.d.f. $f(x \theta)$	$E[X \theta]$	$V[X \theta]$	Applications	Comments
Uniform	$Un(x \alpha, \beta)$	$f(x) = \frac{1}{\beta - \alpha}$ $\mathcal{X} = [\alpha, \beta]$ $\Theta = \{(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \alpha < \beta\}$	$\frac{\alpha + \beta}{2}$	$\frac{(\beta - \alpha)^2}{12}$	Rounding errors $Un(x -1/2, 1/2)$. Simulating other distributions from $Un(x 0, 1)$	
Exponential	$Ex(x \lambda)$	$f(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}$ $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}_+$ $\Lambda = \mathbb{R}_+$	$\frac{1}{\lambda}$	$\frac{1}{\lambda^2}$	Inter-event times for Poisson Process. Models lifetimes of non-ageing items.	Also parameterised in terms of $1/\lambda$. $Ga(x 1, \lambda) \equiv Ex(x \lambda)$
Gamma	$Ga(x \alpha, \beta)$	$f(x) = \frac{\beta^\alpha x^{\alpha-1} e^{-\beta x}}{\Gamma[\alpha]}$ $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}_+$ $\Theta = \{(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \alpha > 0, \beta > 0\}$	$\frac{\alpha}{\beta}$	$\frac{\alpha}{\beta^2}$	Times between k events for Poisson Process. Lifetimes of ageing items.	Also parameterised in terms of $1/\beta$ $Ga(x 1, \lambda) \equiv Ex(x \lambda)$, $Ga(x \nu/2, 1/2) \equiv \chi_{(\nu)}^2(x)$
Beta	$Be(x \alpha, \beta)$	$f(x) = \frac{x^{\alpha-1}(1-x)^{\beta-1}}{B(\alpha, \beta)}$ $\mathcal{X} = (0, 1)$ $\Theta = \{(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \alpha > 0, \beta > 0\}$	$\frac{\alpha}{\alpha + \beta}$	$\frac{\alpha\beta(\alpha + \beta)^{-2}}{(\alpha + \beta + 1)}$	Useful model for variables with finite range. Also as a Bayesian conjugate prior.	$Be(x 1, 1) \equiv Un(x 0, 1)$ $Be(x \alpha, \beta)$ is reflection about $\frac{1}{2}$ of $Be(x \beta, \alpha)$. Can re-scale $Be(x \alpha, \beta)$ to any finite range $[a, b]$ by $Y = (b - a)X + a$
Normal (Gaussian)	$N(x \mu, \sigma^2)$	$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}\right)^2\right]$ $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}$ $\Theta = \{(\mu, \sigma^2) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \sigma^2 > 0\}$	μ	σ^2	Empirically and theoretically (via CLT) a useful model. Often parameterised in terms of the precision $\lambda = 1/\sigma^2$	$Y = aX + b \sim N(y a\mu + b, a^2\sigma^2)$ $Z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma} \sim N(z 0, 1)$ $P[X \in (u, v)] = P\left[Z \in \left(\frac{u - \mu}{\sigma}, \frac{v - \mu}{\sigma}\right)\right]$
Chi-square	$\chi_{(\nu)}^2(x)$	$f(x) = \frac{2^{-\nu/2}}{\Gamma(\nu/2)} x^{\nu/2-1} e^{-x/2}$ $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}_+$; $\Theta = \mathbb{R}_+$	ν	2ν	Sum of squares of ν independent standard Gaussians	$\chi_{(\nu)}^2(x) \equiv Ga(x \nu/2, 1/2)$
Student t	$St(x \mu, \lambda, \nu)$	$f(x) = \frac{\Gamma[(\nu+1)/2]}{\Gamma[\nu/2]} \left(\frac{\lambda}{\nu\pi}\right)^{1/2} \times$ $(1 + \lambda(x - \mu)^2/\nu)^{-(\nu+1)/2}$ $\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{R}, \mu \in \mathbb{R}, \lambda, \nu > 0$	μ (if $\nu > 1$)	$\lambda^{-1} \frac{\nu}{\nu - 2}$ (if $\nu > 2$)	Useful alternative to Gaussian for variables with heavy tails.	If $X \sim N(x 0, 1)$ and $Y \sim \chi_{(\nu)}^2(y)$ independent then $\frac{X}{\sqrt{Y/\nu}} \sim t_\nu$. If $Y = \sqrt{\lambda}(x - \mu)$ then $Y \sim t_\nu(y)$ $t_1 \equiv$ Cauchy. $t_\nu^2 \equiv F_{1,\nu}$.

SOME MULTIVARIATE DISTRIBUTIONS

Name	Notation	p.d.f. $f(x \theta)$	$\mathbb{E}[X \theta]$	$\mathbb{V}[X \theta]$	Applications	Comments
Multinomial	$\text{Mu}(\mathbf{x} \boldsymbol{\theta}, n)$	$p(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{n!}{\prod_{l=1}^k x_l!} \prod_{l=1}^k \theta_l^{x_l}$ $\mathbf{x} = \{x_1, \dots, x_k\}, x_l = 0, 1, \dots, \sum x_l = n$ $\boldsymbol{\theta} = \{\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k\}, 0 < \theta_l < 1, \sum \theta_l = 1$	$\mathbb{E}[x_i] = n\theta_i$	$\mathbb{V}[x_i] = n\theta_i(1 - \theta_i)$ $\text{Cov}[x_i, x_j] = -n\theta_i\theta_j$	Counts of events with more than two possible outcomes	Generalisation of the Binomial distribution
Dirichlet	$\text{Di}(\mathbf{x} \boldsymbol{\alpha})$	$f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\Gamma(\sum \alpha_l)}{\prod \Gamma(\alpha_l)} \prod x_l^{\alpha_l - 1}$ $\mathbf{x} = \{x_1, \dots, x_k\}, 0 < x_l < 1, \sum_{l=1}^k x_l = 1$ $\boldsymbol{\alpha} = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k\}, 0 < \alpha_l$	$\mathbb{E}[x_i] = \mu_i = \frac{\alpha_i}{\sum \alpha_l}$	$\mathbb{V}[x_i] = \frac{\mu_i(1 - \mu_i)}{1 + \sum \alpha_l}$ $\text{Cov}[x_i, x_j] = -\frac{\mu_i\mu_j}{1 + \sum \alpha_l}$	Distribution of points in a simplex	Generalisation of the Beta distribution
Normal-Gamma	$\text{NG}(x, y \mu, \lambda, \alpha, \beta)$	$f(x, y) = \text{N}(x \mu, (y\lambda)^{-1})\text{Ga}(y \alpha, \beta)$ $\mathcal{X} = \{(x, y) : x \in \mathbb{R}, y > 0\}$ $\mu \in \mathbb{R}; \lambda, \alpha, \beta > 0$	$\mathbb{E}[x] = \mu$ $\mathbb{E}[y] = \alpha\beta^{-1}$	$\mathbb{V}[x] = \frac{\beta}{\lambda(\alpha - 1)}$ $\mathbb{V}[y] = \alpha\beta^{-2}$	Conjugate prior for Gaussian data	$f(x) = \text{St}(x \mu, \lambda\alpha\beta^{-1}, 2\alpha)$
Gaussian	$\text{N}_k(\mathbf{x} \boldsymbol{\mu}, \Lambda)$	$f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{ \Lambda ^{1/2}}{(2\pi)^{k/2}} \exp[-\frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})' \Lambda (\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})]$ $\mathcal{X} = \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^k$ $\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{R}^k; \Lambda$ symmetric positive-definite	$\boldsymbol{\mu}$	Λ^{-1}	See univariate case	Usually parameterised in terms of the covariance matrix $\Sigma = \Lambda^{-1}$
Student	$\text{St}_k(\mathbf{x} \boldsymbol{\mu}, \Lambda, \nu)$	$f(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{ \Lambda ^{1/2} \Gamma((\nu + k)/2)}{(\nu\pi)^{k/2} \Gamma(\nu/2)} \times$ $\left[1 + \frac{1}{\nu} (\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu})' \Lambda (\mathbf{x} - \boldsymbol{\mu}) \right]^{-(\nu+k)/2}$ $\mathcal{X} = \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^k$ $\boldsymbol{\mu} \in \mathbb{R}^k; \Lambda$ symmetric positive-definite, $\nu > 0$	$\boldsymbol{\mu}$ (if $\nu > 1$)	$\frac{\nu}{\nu - 2} \Lambda^{-1}$ (if $\nu > 2$)	See univariate case	Usually parameterised in terms of the covariance matrix $\Sigma = \Lambda^{-1}$