

# CHAPTER 1: DISTRIBUTION THEORY

## Basic Concepts

- Random Variables (R.V.)
  - discrete random variable: probability mass function
  - continuous random variable: probability density function

- “*Formal but Scary*” Definition of Random Variables
  - R.V. are some *measurable functions* from a *probability measure space* to real space;
  - probability is some non-negative value assigned to sets of a  *$\sigma$ -field*;
  - probability mass  $\equiv$  the *Radon-Nykodym derivative* of the *random variable-induced measure* w.r.t. to a *counting measure*;
  - probability density function  $\equiv$  the derivative w.r.t. *Lebesgue measure*.

- Descriptive quantities of univariate distribution
  - cumulative distribution function:  $P(X \leq x)$
  - moments (mean):  $E[X^k]$
  - quantiles
  - mode
  - centralized moments (variance):  $E[(X - \mu)^k]$
  - the skewness:  $E[(X - \mu)^3]/Var(X)^{3/2}$
  - the kurtosis:  $E[(X - \mu)^4]/Var(X)^2$

- Characteristic function (c.f.)

- $\phi_X(t) = E[\exp\{itX\}]$

- c.f. uniquely determines the distribution

$$F_X(b) - F_X(a) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-T}^T \frac{e^{-ita} - e^{-itb}}{it} \phi_X(t) dt$$

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-itx} \phi(t) dt.$$

- Descriptive quantities of multivariate R.V.s

- $Cov(X, Y), \quad corr(X, Y)$

- $f_{X|Y}(x|y) = f_{X,Y}(x, y) / f_Y(y)$

- $E[X|Y] = \int x f_{X|Y}(x|y) dx$

- Independence:

- $P(X \leq x, Y \leq y) = P(X \leq x)P(Y \leq y),$

- $f_{X,Y}(x, y) = f_X(x)f_Y(y)$

- Equalities of double expectations

$$E[X] = E[E[X|Y]]$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = E[\text{Var}(X|Y)] + \text{Var}(E[X|Y])$$

- Useful when the distribution of  $X$  given  $Y$  is simple!



## Examples of Discrete Distributions

- Binomial distribution

- *Binomial*( $n, p$ ):

$$P(S_n = k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1 - p)^{n-k}, \quad k = 0, \dots, n$$

- $E[S_n] = np, \text{Var}(S_n) = np(1 - p)$

$$\phi_X(t) = (1 - p + pe^{it})^n$$

- *Binomial*( $n_1, p$ ) + *Binomial*( $n_2, p$ )

$$\sim \text{Binomial}(n_1 + n_2, p)$$

- Negative Binomial distribution

- $P(W_m = k) = \binom{k-1}{m-1} p^m (1-p)^{k-m}$

$$k = m, m + 1, \dots$$

- $E[W_m] = m/p, \text{Var}(W_m) = m/p^2 - m/p$

- Neg-Binomial( $m_1, p$ ) + Neg-Binomial( $m_2, p$ )

$$\sim \text{Neg-Binomial}(m_1 + m_2, p)$$

- Hypergeometric distribution

- $P(S_n = k) = \binom{M}{k} \binom{N-M}{n-k} / \binom{N}{n}, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n$

- $E[S_n] = Mn / (M + N)$

- $Var(S_n) = \frac{nMN(M+N-n)}{(M+N)^2(M+N-1)}$

- Poisson distribution

- $P(X = k) = \lambda^k e^{-\lambda} / k!$ ,  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

- $E[X] = \text{Var}(X) = \lambda$ ,

$$\phi_X(t) = \exp\{-\lambda(1 - e^{it})\}$$

- $\text{Poisson}(\lambda_1) + \text{Poisson}(\lambda_2) \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)$

- Poisson vs Binomial

- $X_1 \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_1), X_2 \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_2)$
- $X_1 | X_1 + X_2 = n \sim \text{Binomial}(n, \frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2})$
- if  $X_{n1}, \dots, X_{nn}$  are i.i.d Bernoulli( $p_n$ ) and  $np_n \rightarrow \lambda$ , then

$$P(S_n = k) = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!} p_n^k (1-p_n)^{n-k} \rightarrow \frac{\lambda^k}{k!} e^{-\lambda}.$$

- Multinomial Distribution

- $N_l, 1 \leq l \leq k$  counts the number of times that  $\{Y_1, \dots, Y_n\}$  fall into  $B_l$

- $P(N_1 = n_1, \dots, N_k = n_k) = \binom{n}{n_1, \dots, n_k} p_1^{n_1} \cdots p_k^{n_k}$

$$n_1 + \dots + n_k = n$$

- the covariance matrix for  $(N_1, \dots, N_k)$

$$n \begin{pmatrix} p_1(1 - p_1) & \cdots & -p_1 p_k \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -p_1 p_k & \cdots & p_k(1 - p_k) \end{pmatrix}$$

## Examples of Continuous Distribution



- Uniform distribution

- *Uniform*( $a, b$ ):  $f_X(x) = I_{[a,b]}(x)/(b - a)$

- $E[X] = (a + b)/2$  and  $Var(X) = (b - a)^2/12$

- Normal distribution

- $N(\mu, \sigma^2): f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\}$

- $E[X] = \mu$  and  $Var(X) = \sigma^2$

- $\phi_X(t) = \exp\{it\mu - \sigma^2 t^2/2\}$

- Gamma distribution

- $\text{Gamma}(\theta, \beta)$ :  $f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\beta^\theta \Gamma(\theta)} x^{\theta-1} \exp\{-\frac{x}{\beta}\}$ ,  $x > 0$

- $E[X] = \theta\beta$  and  $\text{Var}(X) = \theta\beta^2$

- $\theta = 1$  equivalent to  $\text{Exp}(\beta)$

- $\theta = n/2, \beta = 2$  equivalent to  $\chi_n^2$

- Cauchy distribution

- *Cauchy*( $a, b$ ):  $f_X(x) = \frac{1}{b\pi\{1+(x-a)^2/b^2\}}$

- $E[|X|] = \infty$ ,  $\phi_X(t) = \exp\{iat - |bt|\}$

- often used as counter example

## Algebra of Random Variables

- Assumption

- $X$  and  $Y$  are independent and  $Y > 0$
- we are interested in d.f. of  $X + Y, XY, X/Y$

- Summation of  $X$  and  $Y$

- Derivation:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{X+Y}(z) &= E[I(X + Y \leq z)] = E_Y[E_X[I(X \leq z - Y)|Y]] \\ &= E_Y[F_X(z - Y)] = \int F_X(z - y)dF_Y(y) \end{aligned}$$

- Convolution formula:

$$F_{X+Y}(z) = \int F_Y(z - x)dF_X(x) \equiv F_X * F_Y(z)$$

$$f_X * f_Y(z) \equiv \int f_X(z - y)f_Y(y)dy = \int f_Y(z - x)f_X(x)dx$$

- Product and quotient of  $X$  and  $Y$  ( $Y > 0$ )

- $F_{XY}(z) = E[E[I(XY \leq z)|Y]] = \int F_X(z/y)dF_Y(y)$

$$f_{XY}(z) = \int f_X(z/y)/y f_Y(y)dy$$

- $F_{X/Y}(z) = E[E[I(X/Y \leq z)|Y]] = \int F_X(yz)dF_Y(y)$

$$f_{X/Y}(z) = \int f_X(yz)y f_Y(y)dy$$



- Application of formulae

- $N(\mu_1, \sigma_1^2) + N(\mu_2, \sigma_2^2) \sim N(\mu_1 + \mu_2, \sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2)$

- $\text{Gamma}(r_1, \theta) + \text{Gamma}(r_2, \theta) \sim \text{Gamma}(r_1 + r_2, \theta)$

- $\text{Poisson}(\lambda_1) + \text{Poisson}(\lambda_2) \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)$

- $\text{Negative Binomial}(m_1, p) + \text{Negative Binomial}(m_2, p)$   
 $\sim \text{Negative Binomial}(m_1 + m_2, p)$

- Summation of R.V.s using c.f.
  - Result: if  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent, then
$$\phi_{X+Y}(t) = \phi_X(t)\phi_Y(t)$$
  - Example:  $X$  and  $Y$  are normal with
$$\phi_X(t) = \exp\{i\mu_1 t - \sigma_1^2 t^2 / 2\},$$
$$\phi_Y(t) = \exp\{i\mu_2 t - \sigma_2^2 t^2 / 2\}$$
$$\Rightarrow \phi_{X+Y}(t) = \exp\{i(\mu_1 + \mu_2)t - (\sigma_1^2 + \sigma_2^2)t^2 / 2\}$$

- Further examples of special distribution

- assume  $X \sim N(0, 1)$ ,  $Y \sim \chi_m^2$  and  $Z \sim \chi_n^2$  are independent;

- 

$$\frac{X}{\sqrt{Y/m}} \sim \text{Student's } t(m),$$

$$\frac{Y/m}{Z/n} \sim \text{Snedecor's } F_{m,n},$$

$$\frac{Y}{Y+Z} \sim \text{Beta}(m/2, n/2).$$

- Densities of  $t$ –,  $F$ – and  $Beta$ – distributions

- $f_{t(m)}(x) = \frac{\Gamma((m+1)/2)}{\sqrt{\pi m} \Gamma(m/2)} \frac{1}{(1+x^2/m)^{(m+1)/2}} I_{(-\infty, \infty)}(x)$

- $f_{F_{m,n}}(x) = \frac{\Gamma(m+n)/2}{\Gamma(m/2)\Gamma(n/2)} \frac{(m/n)^{m/2} x^{m/2-1}}{(1+mx/n)^{(m+n)/2}} I_{(0, \infty)}(x)$

- $f_{Beta(a,b)}(x) = \frac{\Gamma(a+b)}{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)} x^{a-1} (1-x)^{b-1} I(x \in (0, 1))$

- Exponential vs Beta- distributions
  - assume  $Y_1, \dots, Y_{n+1}$  are i.i.d  $\text{Exp}(\theta)$ ;
  - $Z_i = \frac{Y_1 + \dots + Y_i}{Y_1 + \dots + Y_{n+1}} \sim \text{Beta}(i, n - i + 1)$ ;
  - $(Z_1, \dots, Z_n)$  has the same joint distribution as that of the order statistics  $(\xi_{n:1}, \dots, \xi_{n:n})$  of  $n$   $\text{Uniform}(0,1)$  r.v.s.

## Transformation of Random Vector

**Theorem 1.3** Suppose that  $X$  is  $k$ -dimension random vector with density function  $f_X(x_1, \dots, x_k)$ . Let  $g$  be a one-to-one and continuously differentiable map from  $R^k$  to  $R^k$ . Then  $Y = g(X)$  is a random vector with density function

$$f_X(g^{-1}(y_1, \dots, y_k)) |J_{g^{-1}}(y_1, \dots, y_k)|,$$

where  $g^{-1}$  is the inverse of  $g$  and  $J_{g^{-1}}$  is the Jacobian of  $g^{-1}$ .

- Example

- let  $R^2 \sim \text{Exp}\{2\}$ ,  $R > 0$  and  $\Theta \sim \text{Uniform}(0, 2\pi)$  be independent;
- $X = R \cos \Theta$  and  $Y = R \sin \Theta$  are two independent standard normal random variables;
- it can be applied to simulate normally distributed data.



## Multivariate Normal Distribution

- Definition

$Y = (Y_1, \dots, Y_n)'$  is said to have a multivariate normal distribution with mean vector  $\mu = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_n)'$  and non-degenerate covariance matrix  $\Sigma_{n \times n}$  if

$$f_Y(y_1, \dots, y_n) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{n/2} |\Sigma|^{1/2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}(y - \mu)' \Sigma^{-1} (y - \mu)\right\}$$

- Characteristic function

$$\begin{aligned}
& \phi_Y(t) \\
= & E[e^{it'Y}] = (2\pi)^{-\frac{n}{2}} |\Sigma|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \int \exp\left\{it'y - \frac{1}{2}(y - \mu)' \Sigma^{-1}(y - \mu)\right\} dy \\
= & (\sqrt{2\pi})^{-\frac{n}{2}} |\Sigma|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \int \exp\left\{-\frac{y' \Sigma^{-1} y}{2} + (it + \Sigma^{-1} \mu)' y - \frac{\mu' \Sigma^{-1} \mu}{2}\right\} dy \\
= & \frac{\exp\{-\mu' \Sigma^{-1} \mu/2\}}{(\sqrt{2\pi})^{n/2} |\Sigma|^{1/2}} \int \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2}(y - \Sigma it - \mu)' \Sigma^{-1}(y - \Sigma it - \mu)\right. \\
& \quad \left.+ (\Sigma it + \mu)' \Sigma^{-1}(\Sigma it + \mu)/2\right\} dy \\
= & \exp\left\{-\mu' \Sigma^{-1} \mu/2 + \frac{1}{2}(\Sigma it + \mu)' \Sigma^{-1}(\Sigma it + \mu)\right\} \\
= & \exp\left\{it' \mu - \frac{1}{2}t' \Sigma t\right\}.
\end{aligned}$$

- Conclusions

- multivariate normal distribution is uniquely determined by  $\mu$  and  $\Sigma$
- for standard multivariate normal distribution,  
 $\phi_X(t) = \exp\{-t't/2\}$
- the moment generating function for  $Y$  is  
 $\exp\{t'\mu + t'\Sigma t/2\}$

- Linear transformation of normal r.v.

**Theorem 1.4** If  $Y = A_{n \times k} X_{k \times 1}$  where  $X \sim N(0, I)$  (standard multivariate normal distribution), then  $Y$ 's characteristic function is given by

$$\phi_Y(t) = \exp \{ -t' \Sigma t / 2 \}, \quad t = (t_1, \dots, t_n) \in R^k$$

and  $\text{rank}(\Sigma) = \text{rank}(A)$ . Conversely, if

$\phi_Y(t) = \exp \{ -t' \Sigma t / 2 \}$  with  $\Sigma_{n \times n} \geq 0$  of rank  $k$ , then

$$Y = A_{n \times k} X_{k \times 1} \text{ with } \text{rank}(A) = k \text{ and } X \sim N(0, I).$$

**Proof**

$Y = AX$  and  $X \sim N(0, I) \Rightarrow$

$$\begin{aligned}\phi_Y(t) &= E[\exp\{it'(AX)\}] = E[\exp\{i(A't)'X\}] \\ &= \exp\{-(A't)'(A't)/2\} = \exp\{-t'AA't/2\}\end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow Y \sim N(0, AA')$ .

Note that  $\text{rank}(AA') = \text{rank}(A)$ .

Conversely, suppose  $\phi_Y(t) = \exp\{-t'\Sigma t/2\}$ . There exists  $O$ , an orthogonal matrix,

$$\Sigma = O'DO, \quad D = \text{diag}((d_1, \dots, d_k, 0, \dots, 0)'), \quad d_1, \dots, d_k > 0.$$

Define  $Z = OY$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \phi_Z(t) &= E[\exp\{it'(OY)\}] = E[\exp\{i(O't)'Y\}] \\ &= \exp\left\{-\frac{(O't)'\Sigma(O't)}{2}\right\} = \exp\{-d_1 t_1^2/2 - \dots - d_k t_k^2/2\}. \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow Z_1, \dots, Z_k$  are independent  $N(0, d_1), \dots, N(0, d_k)$  and  $Z_{k+1}, \dots, Z_n$  are zeros.

$\Rightarrow$  Let  $X_i = Z_i/\sqrt{d_i}, i = 1, \dots, k$  and  $O' = (B_{n \times k}, C_{n \times (n-k)})$ .

$$Y = O'Z = B \text{diag}\{(\sqrt{d_1}, \dots, \sqrt{d_k})\}X \equiv AX.$$

Clearly,  $\text{rank}(A) = k$ .

- Conditional normal distributions

**Theorem 1.5** Suppose that  $Y = (Y_1, \dots, Y_k, Y_{k+1}, \dots, Y_n)'$  has a multivariate normal distribution with mean  $\mu = (\mu^{(1)'}, \mu^{(2)'})'$  and a non-degenerate covariance matrix

$$\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \Sigma_{11} & \Sigma_{12} \\ \Sigma_{21} & \Sigma_{22} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then

- (i)  $(Y_1, \dots, Y_k)' \sim N_k(\mu^{(1)}, \Sigma_{11})$ .
- (ii)  $(Y_1, \dots, Y_k)'$  and  $(Y_{k+1}, \dots, Y_n)'$  are independent if and only if  $\Sigma_{12} = \Sigma_{21} = 0$ .
- (iii) For any matrix  $A_{m \times n}$ ,  $AY$  has a multivariate normal distribution with mean  $A\mu$  and covariance  $A\Sigma A'$ .



(iv) The conditional distribution of  $Y^{(1)} = (Y_1, \dots, Y_k)'$  given  $Y^{(2)} = (Y_{k+1}, \dots, Y_n)'$  is a multivariate normal distribution given as

$$Y^{(1)} | Y^{(2)} \sim N_k(\mu^{(1)} + \Sigma_{12} \Sigma_{22}^{-1} (Y^{(2)} - \mu^{(2)}), \Sigma_{11} - \Sigma_{12} \Sigma_{22}^{-1} \Sigma_{21}).$$

## Proof

Prove (iii) first.  $\phi_Y(t) = \exp\{it'\mu - t'\Sigma t/2\}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow \quad \phi_{AY}(t) &= E[e^{it'AY}] = E[e^{i(A't)'Y}] \\ &= \exp\{i(A't)'\mu - (A't)'\Sigma(A't)/2\} \\ &= \exp\{it'(A\mu) - t'(A\Sigma A')t/2\}\end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad AY \sim N(A\mu, A\Sigma A').$$

Prove (i).

$$\begin{pmatrix} Y_1 \\ \vdots \\ Y_k \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} I_{k \times k} & \mathbf{0}_{k \times (n-k)} \end{pmatrix} Y.$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$\begin{pmatrix} Y_1 \\ \vdots \\ Y_k \end{pmatrix} \sim N \left( \begin{pmatrix} I_{k \times k} & \mathbf{0}_{k \times (n-k)} \end{pmatrix} \mu, \right.$$

$$\left. \begin{pmatrix} I_{k \times k} & \mathbf{0}_{k \times (n-k)} \end{pmatrix} \Sigma \begin{pmatrix} I_{k \times k} & \mathbf{0}_{k \times (n-k)} \end{pmatrix}' \right).$$

Prove (ii).  $t = (t^{(1)}, t^{(2)})'$

$$\phi_Y(t) = \exp \left[ it^{(1)'} \mu^{(1)} + it^{(2)'} \mu^{(2)} - \frac{1}{2} \left\{ t^{(1)'} \Sigma_{11} t^{(1)} + 2t^{(1)'} \Sigma_{12} t^{(2)} + t^{(2)'} \Sigma_{22} t^{(2)} \right\} \right].$$

$\Rightarrow t^{(1)}$  and  $t^{(2)}$  are separable iff  $\Sigma_{12} = 0$ .

(ii) implies that two normal random variables are independent if and only if their covariance is zero.

Prove (iv). Consider

$$Z^{(1)} = Y^{(1)} - \mu^{(1)} - \Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^{-1}(Y^{(2)} - \mu^{(2)}).$$

$$\Rightarrow Z^{(1)} \sim N(0, \Sigma_Z)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Sigma_Z &= \text{Cov}(Y^{(1)}, Y^{(1)}) - 2\Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^{-1}\text{Cov}(Y^{(2)}, Y^{(1)}) \\ &\quad + \Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^{-1}\text{Cov}(Y^{(2)}, Y^{(2)})\Sigma_{22}^{-1}\Sigma_{21} = \Sigma_{11} - \Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^{-1}\Sigma_{21}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Cov}(Z^{(1)}, Y^{(2)}) = \text{Cov}(Y^{(1)}, Y^{(2)}) - \Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^{-1}\text{Cov}(Y^{(2)}, Y^{(2)}) = 0.$$

$\Rightarrow Z^{(1)}$  is independent of  $Y^{(2)}$ .

$\Rightarrow$  The conditional distribution  $Z^{(1)}$  given  $Y^{(2)}$  is the same as the unconditional distribution of  $Z^{(1)}$

$$\Rightarrow Z^{(1)}|Y^{(2)} \sim Z^{(1)} \sim N(0, \Sigma_{11} - \Sigma_{12}\Sigma_{22}^{-1}\Sigma_{21}).$$

- Remark on Theorem 1.5
  - The constructed  $Z$  in (iv) has a geometric interpretation using the projection of  $(Y^{(1)} - \mu^{(1)})$  on the normalized variable  $\Sigma_{22}^{-1/2}(Y^{(2)} - \mu^{(2)})$ .

- Example

- $X$  and  $U$  are independent,  $X \sim N(0, \sigma_x^2)$  and  $U \sim N(0, \sigma_u^2)$

- $Y = X + U$  (measurement error)

- the covariance of  $(X, Y)$ : 
$$\begin{pmatrix} \sigma_x^2 & \sigma_x^2 \\ \sigma_x^2 & \sigma_x^2 + \sigma_u^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

- $X|Y \sim N\left(\frac{\sigma_x^2}{\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_u^2}Y, \sigma_x^2 - \frac{\sigma_x^4}{\sigma_x^2 + \sigma_u^2}\right) \equiv N(\lambda Y, \sigma_x^2(1 - \lambda))$

$$\lambda = \sigma_x^2 / \sigma_y^2 \text{ (reliability coefficient)}$$

- Quadratic form of normal random variables
  - $N(0, 1)^2 + \dots + N(0, 1)^2 \sim \chi_n^2 \equiv \text{Gamma}(n/2, 2)$ .
  - If  $Y \sim N_n(0, \Sigma)$  with  $\Sigma > 0$ , then  $Y'\Sigma^{-1}Y \sim \chi_n^2$ .
  - Proof:  
 $Y = AX$  where  $X \sim N(0, I)$  and  $\Sigma = AA'$ .

$$Y'\Sigma^{-1}Y = X'A'(AA')^{-1}AX = X'X \sim \chi_n^2.$$



- Noncentral Chi-square distribution

- assume  $X \sim N(\mu, I)$
- $Y = X'X \sim \chi_n^2(\delta)$  and  $\delta = \mu'\mu$ .
- $Y$ 's density:

$$f_Y(y) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\exp\{-\delta/2\}(\delta/2)^k}{k!} g(y; (2k + n)/2, 1/2).$$

- Additional notes on normal distributions

- noncentral  $t$ -distribution:  $N(\delta, 1)/\sqrt{\chi_n^2/n}$   
noncentral  $F$ -distribution:  $\chi_n^2(\delta)/n/(\chi_m^2/m)$

- how to calculate  $E[X'AX]$  where  $X \sim N(\mu, \Sigma)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} E[X'AX] &= E[\text{tr}(X'AX)] = E[\text{tr}(AXX')] \\ &= \text{tr}(AE[XX']) = \text{tr}(A(\mu\mu' + \Sigma)) \\ &= \mu' A \mu + \text{tr}(A\Sigma) \end{aligned}$$

## Families of Distributions

- *location-scale family*
  - $aX + b$ :  $f_X((x - b)/a)/a$ ,  $a > 0, b \in \mathbb{R}$
  - mean  $aE[X] + b$  and variance  $a^2\text{Var}(X)$
  - examples: normal distribution, uniform distribution, gamma distributions etc.

- Exponential family
  - examples: binomial, poisson distributions for discrete variables and normal distribution, gamma distribution, Beta distribution for continuous variables
  - has a general expression of densities
  - possesses nice statistical properties

- Form of densities

- $\{P_\theta\}$ , is said to form an  $s$ -parameter exponential family:

$$p_\theta(x) = \exp \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^s \eta_k(\theta) T_k(x) - B(\theta) \right\} h(x)$$

$$\exp\{B(\theta)\} = \int \exp\left\{ \sum_{k=1}^s \eta_k(\theta) T_k(x) \right\} h(x) d\mu(x) < \infty$$

- if  $\{\eta_k(\theta)\} = \theta$ , the above form is called the canonical form of the exponential family.

- Examples

- $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ :

$$\exp \left\{ \frac{\mu}{\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - \frac{n}{2\sigma^2} \mu^2 \right\} \frac{1}{(\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma)^n}$$

- $X \sim \text{Binomial}(n, p)$ :

$$\exp \left\{ x \log \frac{p}{1-p} + n \log(1-p) \right\} \binom{n}{x}$$

- $X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$ :

$$P(X = x) = \exp\{x \log \lambda - \lambda\} / x!$$

- Moment generating function (MGF)

- MGF for  $(T_1, \dots, T_s)$ :

$$M_T(t_1, \dots, t_s) = E [\exp\{t_1 T_1 + \dots + t_s T_s\}]$$

- the coefficients in the Taylor expansion of  $M_T$  correspond to the moments of  $(T_1, \dots, T_s)$



- Calculate MGF in the exponential family

**Theorem 1.6** Suppose the densities of an exponential family can be written as the canonical form

$$\exp\left\{\sum_{k=1}^s \eta_k T_k(x) - A(\eta)\right\} h(x),$$

where  $\eta = (\eta_1, \dots, \eta_s)'$ . Then for  $t = (t_1, \dots, t_s)'$ ,

$$M_T(t) = \exp\{A(\eta + t) - A(\eta)\}.$$

## Proof

$$\exp\{A(\eta)\} = \int \exp\left\{\sum_{k=1}^s \eta_k T_k(x)\right\} h(x) d\mu(x).$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$\begin{aligned} M_T(t) &= E[\exp\{t_1 T_1 + \dots + t_s T_s\}] \\ &= \int \exp\left\{\sum_{k=1}^s (\eta_k + t_k) T_k(x) - A(\eta)\right\} h(x) d\mu(x) \\ &= \exp\{A(\eta + t) - A(\eta)\}. \end{aligned}$$

- Cumulant generating function (CGF)
  - $K_T(t_1, \dots, t_s) = \log M_T(t_1, \dots, t_s) = A(\eta + t) - A(\eta)$
  - the coefficients in the Taylor expansion are called the cumulants for  $(T_1, \dots, T_s)$
  - the first two cumulants are the mean and variance

- Examples revisited

- Normal distribution:  $\eta = \mu/\sigma^2$  and

$$A(\eta) = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\mu^2 = \eta^2\sigma^2/2$$

⇒

$$M_T(t) = \exp\left\{\frac{\sigma^2}{2}((\eta + t)^2 - \eta^2)\right\} = \exp\{\mu t + t^2\sigma^2/2\}.$$

From the Taylor expansion, for  $X \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ ,

$$E[X^{2r+1}] = 0, E[X^{2r}] = 1 \cdot 2 \cdots (2r - 1)\sigma^{2r}, r = 1, 2, \dots$$

- gamma distribution has a canonical form

$$\exp\{-x/b + (a - 1) \log x - \log(\Gamma(a)b^a)\} I(x > 0).$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad \eta = -1/b, T = X$$

$$A(\eta) = \log(\Gamma(a)b^a) = a \log(-1/\eta) + \log \Gamma(a).$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$M_X(t) = \exp\left\{a \log \frac{\eta}{\eta + t}\right\} = (1 - bt)^{-a}.$$

$$E[X] = ab, E[X^2] = ab^2 + (ab)^2, \dots$$

*READING MATERIALS:* Lehmann and Casella,  
Sections 1.4 and 1.5