

CS 189/289

Today's lecture:

- Maximum likelihood estimation (MLE)

Recall from last class:

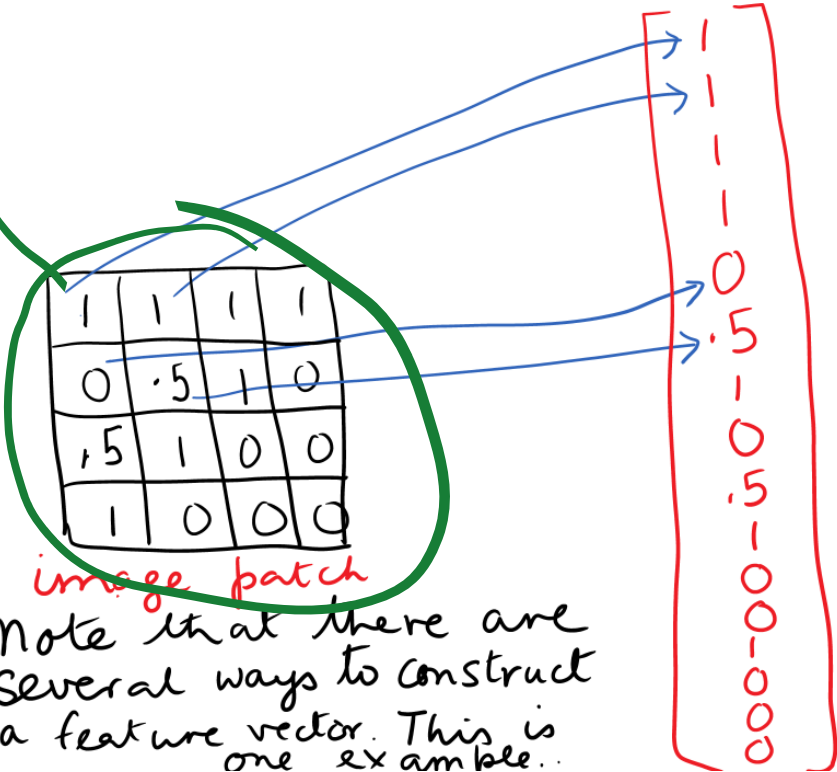
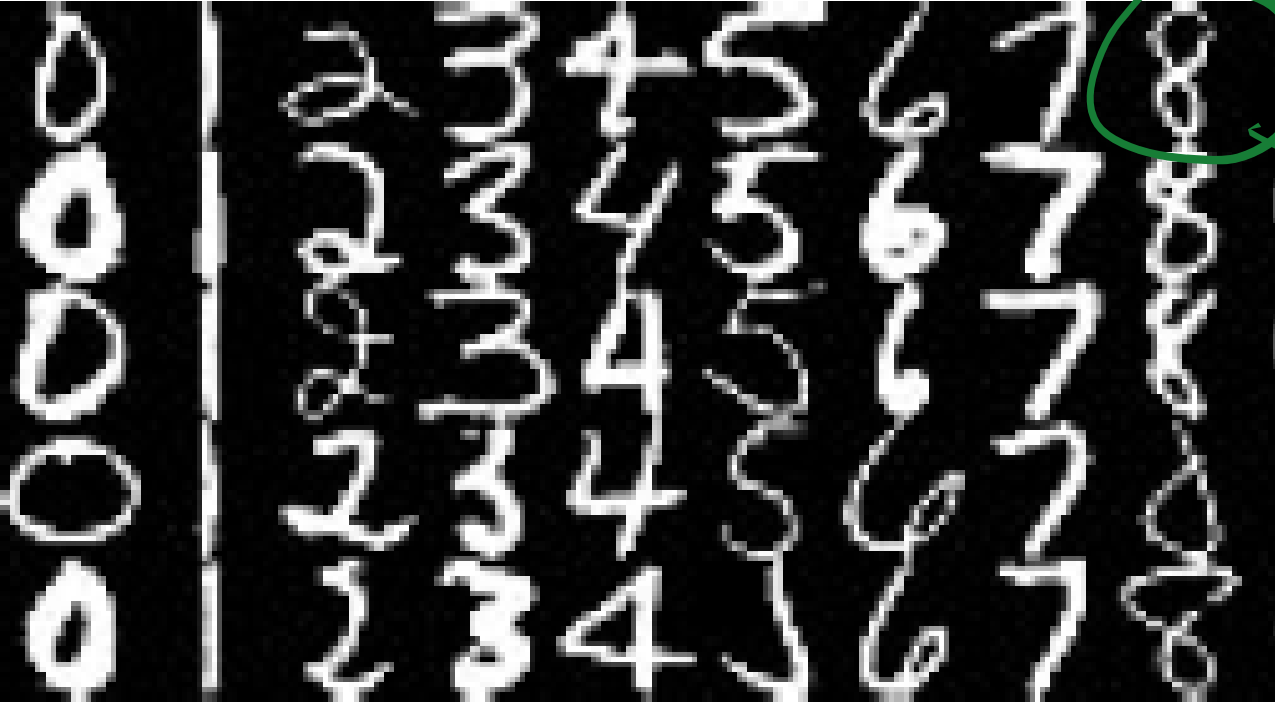
Problem of digit classification from handwriting: is  a "7", yes or no?



- 60K training examples of digits (6K per class)
- Each digit is a 28 x 28 pixel grey level image.

Recall from last class:

Problem of digit classification from handwriting: is  a "7", yes or no?

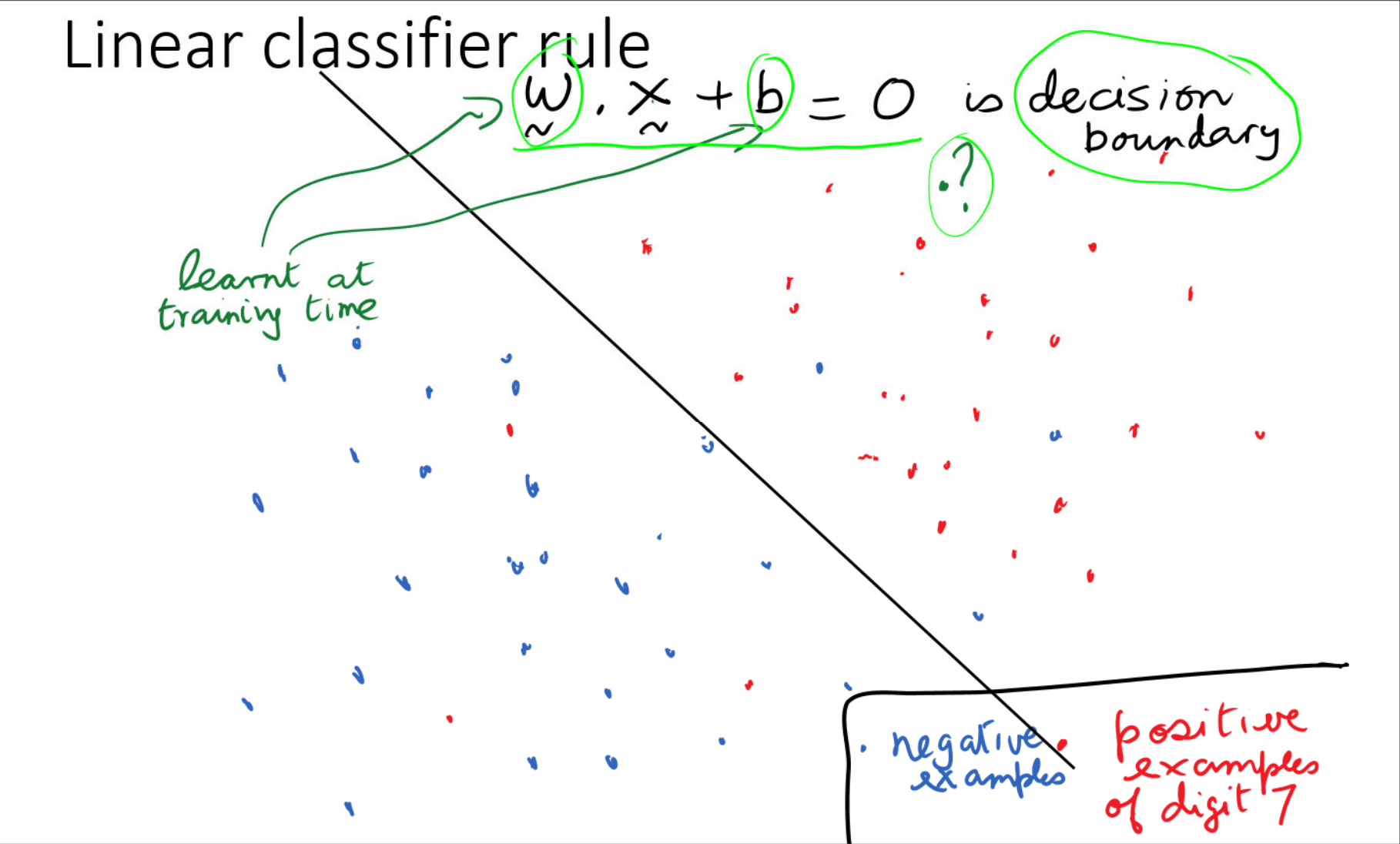
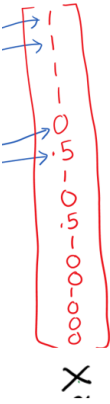


Feature vector \mathbb{R}^{16}

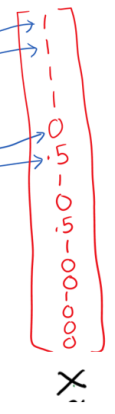
- 60K training examples of digits (6K per class)
- Each digit is a 28 x 28 pixel grey level image.

X

Recall from last class:



Recall from last class:



Linear classifier rule

$$\tilde{w} \cdot \tilde{x} + b = 0 \text{ is decision boundary}$$

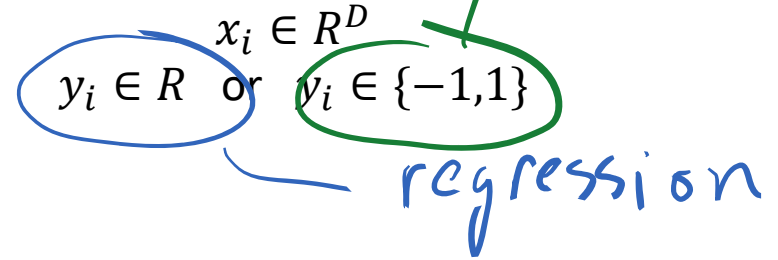
- One of the main ways to “learn” (aka estimate) the setting of “good” parameters in statistical models:
- Principle of *Maximum Likelihood Estimation* (MLE).



ML: main concepts

- Training data set:

$$D = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^N$$



ML: main abstract ideas

- Training data set:

$$D = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^N \quad \begin{array}{l} x_i \in R^D \\ y_i \in R \text{ or } y_i \in \{-1, 1\} \end{array}$$

SUPERVISED

$$D = \{(x_i)\}_{i=1}^N \quad x_i \in R^D$$

UNSUPERVISED

"label"
provides
supervision

ML: main abstract ideas

- Training data set:

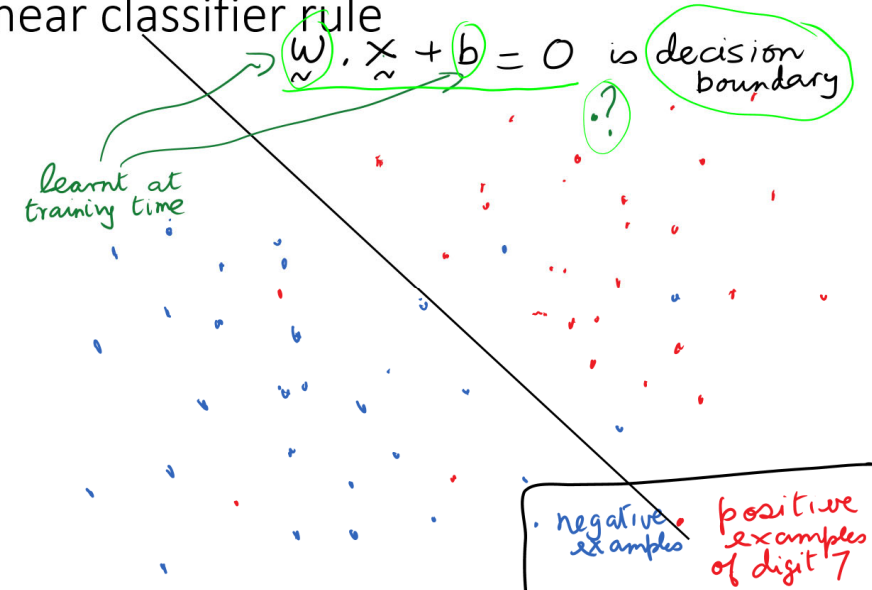
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- Model class:
aka hypothesis class

$$f(x|w, b) = w^T x + b$$

Linear Models

Linear classifier rule



ML: main abstract ideas

- Training data set:

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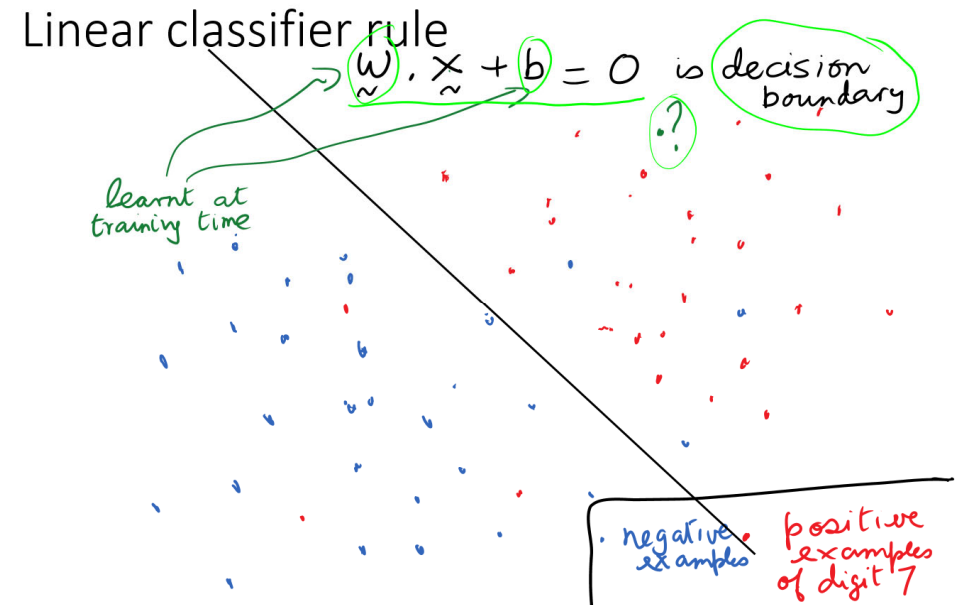
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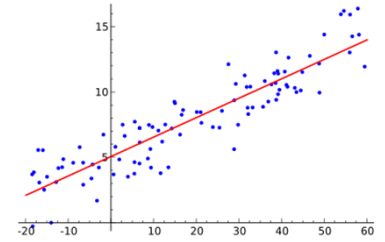
$$f(x|w, b) = w^T x + b$$

Linear Models

- Optimization goal: find "good" values of parameters (w, b) .
But what does "good" mean?



ML: main abstract ideas



- Training data set: $D = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^N$ $x_i \in R^D$
 $y_i \in R$ or $y_i \in \{-1, 1\}$

- Model class:
aka hypothesis class $f(x|w, b) = w^T x + b$ **Linear Models**

- Loss Function: $L(a, b) = (a - b)^2$ **Squared Loss**

- Learning Objective: $\operatorname{argmin}_{w, b} \sum_{i=1}^N L(y_i, f(x_i | w, b))$

Optimization Problem

Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE)



This principle gives a useful, principled and widely-used loss function to estimate parameters of statistical models (from linear regression, to neural networks, and beyond).

- Training data set: $D = \{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^N$ $x_i \in R^D$
 $y_i \in R$ or $y_i \in \{-1, 1\}$
- Model class:
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Optimization Problem

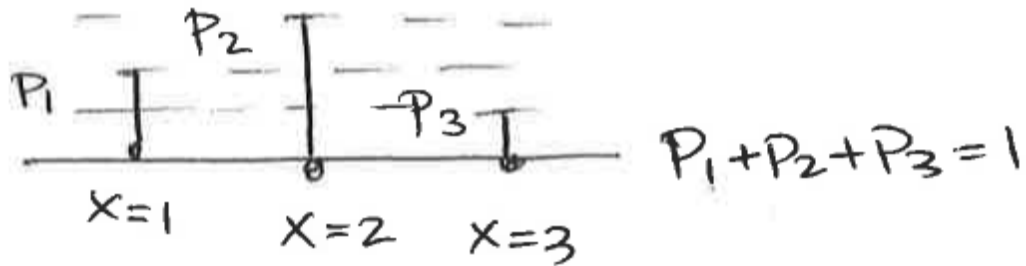
RVs!

Reminder: probability distributions

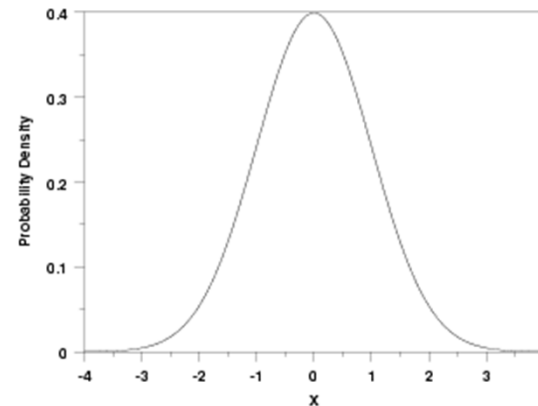
Random variable (RV) is a function: $\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ e.g. $p(\text{heads}) = 0.5$

1. Discrete RV, e.g. coin toss heads/tails.
2. Continuous RV, e.g. height

Discrete RVs have a Probability Mass Function (PMF)



Continuous RVs have a Probability Density Function (PDF)



integrates to 1

e.g. distributions of discrete RVs

1. Bernoulli RV—model the toss of a coin that can be biased
 $P(\textit{heads}) = p$, $P(\textit{tails}) = 1 - p$, parameter is p .

e.g. distributions of discrete RVs

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2. Binomial RV—model number of heads, k , of n biased coin tosses.

$$P(X=k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

e.g. distributions of discrete RVs

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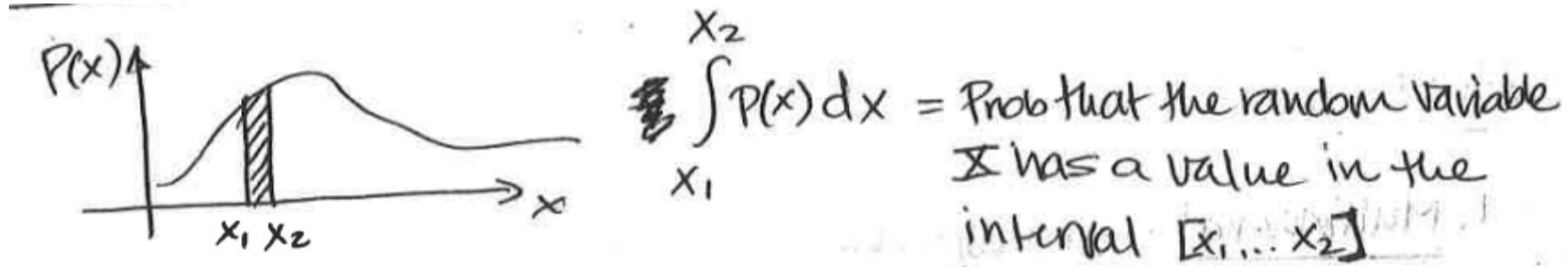
$$P(X=k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

3. Poisson RV— model number of mutations, k , occurring in a cell population with mean mutation rate, λ , over fixed time interval

$$P(X=k) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^k}{k!}$$

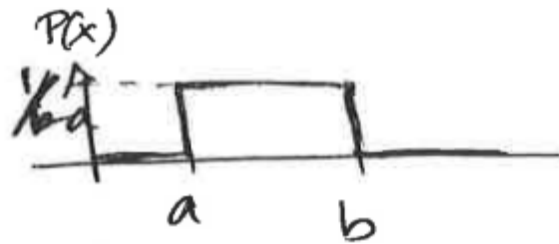
Distributions of continuous RVs

Continuous RVs have a Probability Density Function



Examples:

1. Uniform



Parameters: a, b

2. Gaussian

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

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

Multivariate distributions

Space of outcomes is a vector instead of a scalar:

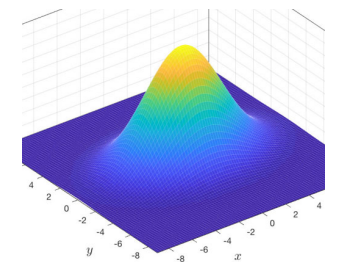
Multinomial (generalization from binomial):

- urn with balls of different colors.
- Pick a ball at random.
- p_1 it is green, p_2 it is blue and p_3 it is red



Multivariate Gaussian:

- Mean is a vector, and variance becomes covariance.
- Will learn more about this next lecture.



The basic set-up of MLE

- Given data $D = \{x_i\}_{i=1}^N$ for $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$
- Assume a set (family) of distributions on \mathbb{R}^d , $\{p_\theta(x) \mid \theta \in \Theta\}$.

Same as
 $p(\lambda/\theta)$

e.g. mean (μ) and
variance (σ^2)
for $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^1$

The basic set-up of MLE

Same as
 $p(x|\theta)$

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- Assume D contains samples from one of these distributions:

$$x_i \sim p_{\hat{\theta}}(x)$$

- This assumes that each element of D is *identically and independently distributed* (iid).

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Goal of MLE: "learn"/estimate the value of θ that defines the distribution from which the data came.

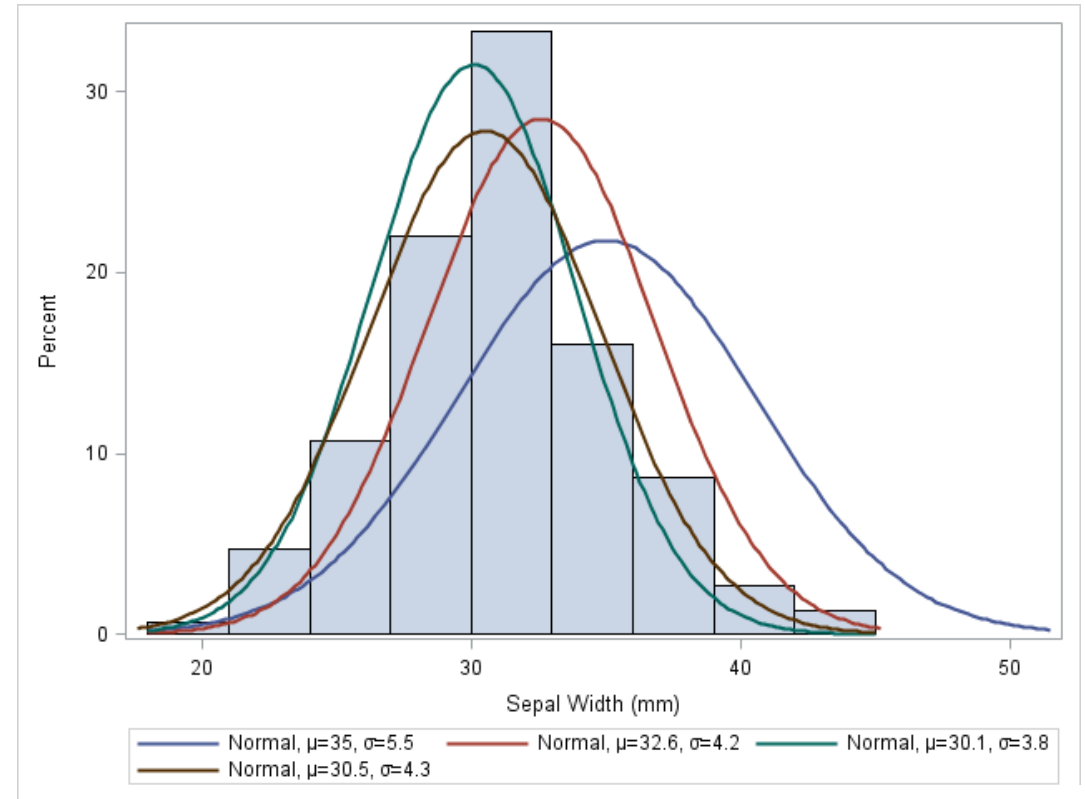
Definition: θ_{MLE} is a MLE for θ with respect to the data and set of distributions, if $\theta_{MLE} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta \in \Theta} p(D|\theta)$.

e.g. mean (μ) and variance (σ^2) for $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^1$

"likelihood function"
of θ .

The basic set-up of MLE

$$\theta_{MLE} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta \in \Theta} p(D|\theta)$$



$$D = \{x_i\}_{i=1}^N = \{20.1, 33.8, 34.6, 36.2, \dots\}$$

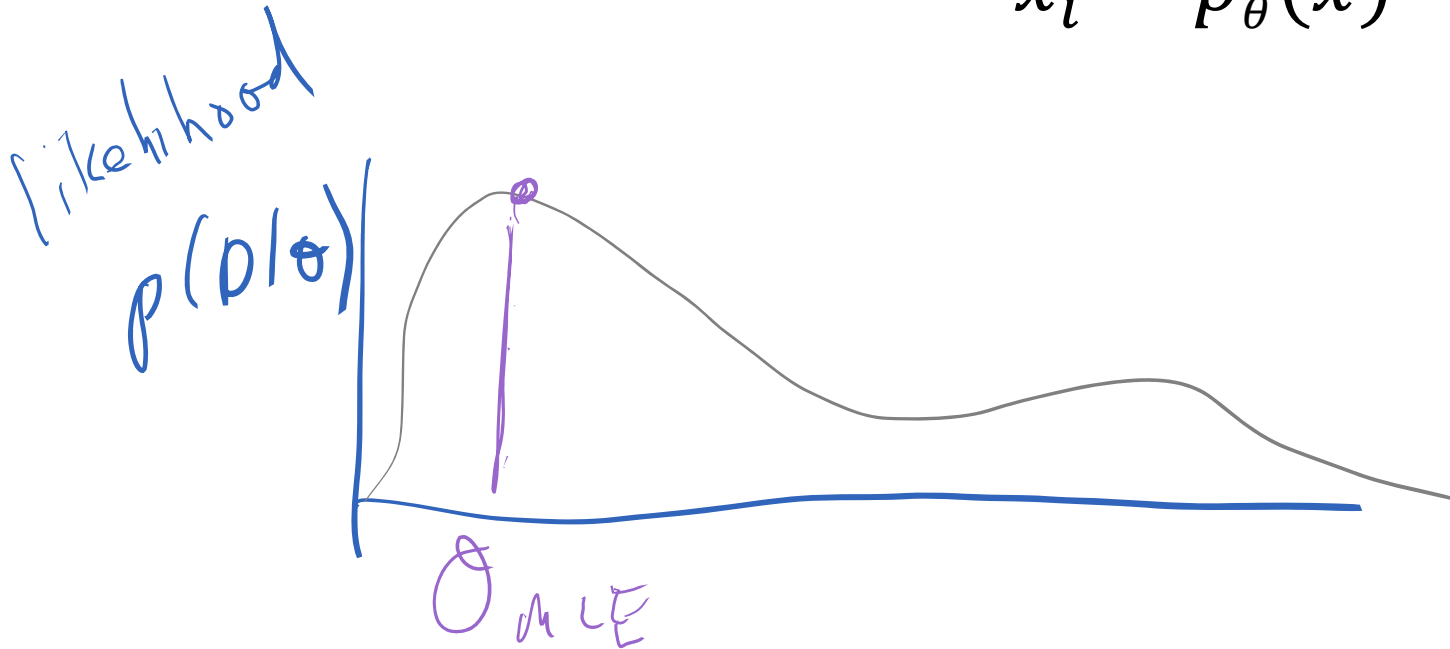
Note that $p(D|\theta) = p(\{x_i\}_{i=1}^N|\theta) = \prod_{i=1}^N p(x_i|\theta)$

because
iid

The basic set-up of MLE

- Given data $D = \{x_i\}_{i=1}^N$ for $x_i \in R^d$
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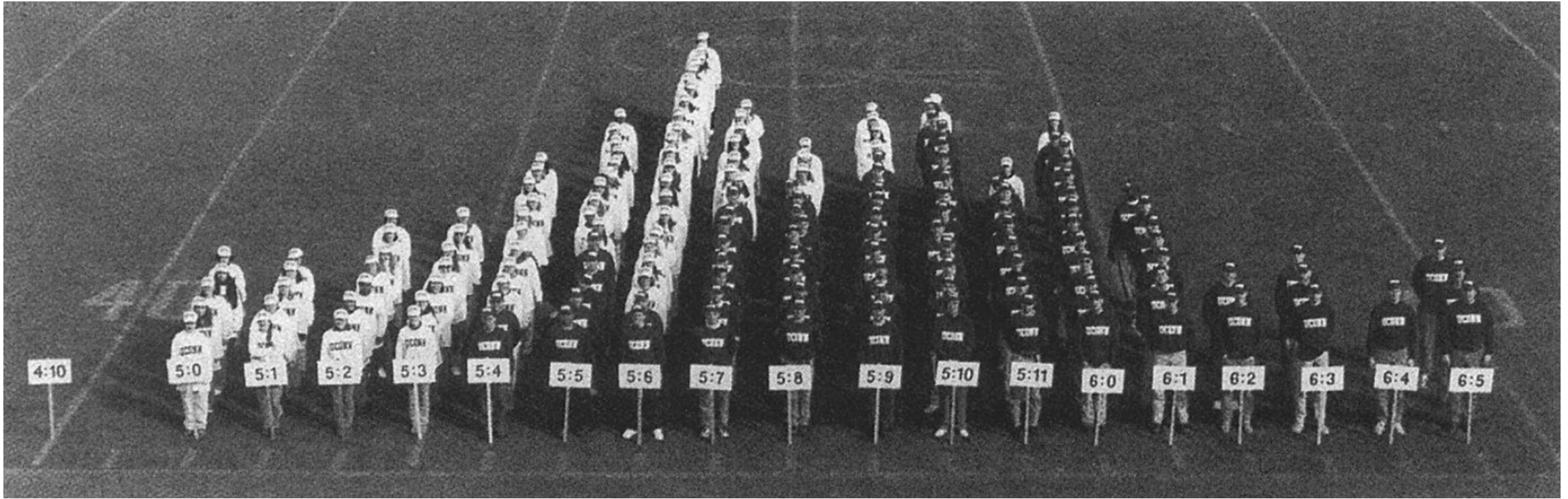
Is there always one unique MLE parameter value?

Some properties of MLE

eg $N(x|\mu, \sigma)$
vs
 $N(x|2+\mu, \sigma)$

- The MLE is a *consistent* estimator: meaning that as we get more and more data (drawn from one distribution in our family), then we converge to estimating the true value of θ for D .
- The MLE is *statistically efficient*: it's making good use of the data available to it ("least variance" parameter estimates).
- The value of $p(D|\theta_{MLE})$ is invariant to re-parameterization.
- MLE can still yield a parameter estimate even when the data were not generated from that family (pew & caveat emptor).

e.g. MLE for univariate Gaussian



- Arguments can be made from the Central Limit Theorem that height is normally distributed.
- Suppose you were given a set of height measurements, $\{x_i\}$, how would you derive the estimate for the mean and variance, using MLE?

e.g. MLE for univariate Gaussian

Goal: $\theta_{MLE} = \underset{\theta \in \Theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} p(D|\theta)$ from set of data $D = \{x_i\}_{i=1}^N$

- Assume data are generated as $X \sim N(x|\mu, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp -\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}$
- So assume MLE family of distributions, $p(X = x|\theta) = N(X|\mu, \sigma^2)$.
- Now our goal is to find $\theta_{MLE} = (\mu_{MLE}, \sigma_{MLE}^2) = \underset{\theta \in \Theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} p(D|\mu, \sigma^2)$.
- First step, write down the likelihood function:
 - $p(D|\theta) = p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N|\mu, \sigma^2) = \prod_{i=1}^N p(x_i|\mu, \sigma^2)$.
- The product of the terms is a little inconvenient to work with.

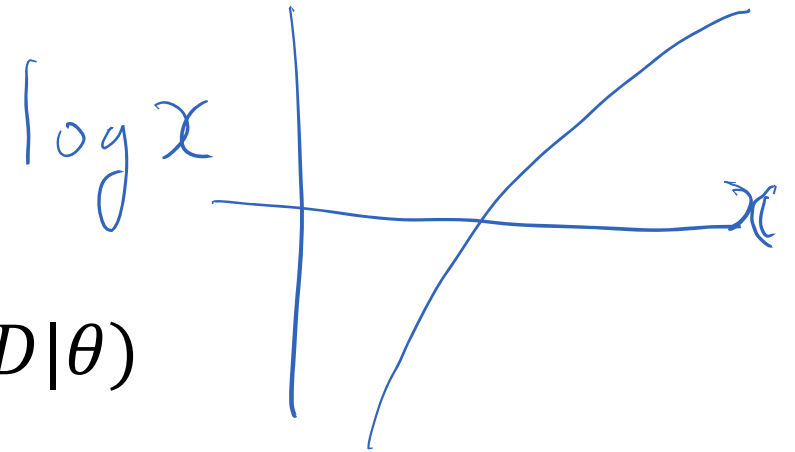
e.g. MLE for univariate Gaussian

- Likelihood: $p(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N | \mu, \sigma^2) = \prod_{i=1}^N p(x_i | \mu, \sigma^2)$.



- The *log likelihood* ("LL") is a monotonically increasing function of the likelihood.

$$\log p(D|\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^N \log p(x_i | \mu, \sigma^2)$$



- Therefore $\theta_{MLE} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta \in \Theta} p(D|\theta) = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta \in \Theta} \log p(D|\theta)$

e.g. MLE for univariate Gaussian

- Now we have a concrete optimization problem to work with:

$$\mu_{MLE}, \sigma_{MLE}^2 = \underset{\theta \in \Theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} \log p(D|\theta) = \underset{\mu, \sigma^2}{\operatorname{argmax}} \sum_{i=1}^N \log p(x_i|\mu, \sigma^2)$$

- How will we solve this optimization problem?
- Find a setting of the parameters for which the partial derivatives are 0 (*i.e.*, a stationary point).
- Then check whether the setting is a maximum (negative second derivative), a minimum, etc. (first year calculus).
- (if #params > 1, check if Hessian is negative definite; for 1D Gaussian, Hessian is diagonal, so can check each separately).

e.g. MLE for univariate Gaussian

- Find the setting of the parameters that set the partial derivatives to zero:

$$\mu_{MLE}, \sigma_{MLE}^2 = \underset{\theta \in \Theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} \log p(D|\theta) = \underset{\mu, \sigma^2}{\operatorname{argmax}} \sum_{i=1}^N \log p(x_i|\mu, \sigma^2)$$

- Lets expand out so we can take the derivative:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \sum_{i=1}^N \log p(x_i|\mu, \sigma^2) = \sum_i \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \log \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x_i - \mu)^2\right) \right]$$

e.g. MLE for univariate Gaussian

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$$= \sum_i \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \left[-\log(\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x_i-\mu)^2 \right]$$

$$= \sum_i \left[0 + \frac{1}{\sigma^2}(x_i-\mu) \right] \Rightarrow \sum_i x_i = \sum_i \mu$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_i x_i &= N\mu \\ \Rightarrow \mu &= \frac{\sum_i x_i}{N} \end{aligned}$$

e.g. MLE for univariate Gaussian

$$\frac{d^2(LL)}{d\mu^2} =$$

• Find the setting of the parameters that set the partial derivatives to zero:

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• Lets expand out so we can take the derivative:

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Handwritten notes:
- A purple oval highlights the sum of log probabilities in the first line.
- A dashed purple arrow points from this oval to the term $\frac{1}{\sigma^2}(x_i-\mu)$ in the third line.
- The text "set to zero" is written in green above the arrow.
- The final result $\mu = \frac{\sum_i x_i}{N}$ is circled in green.

e.g. MLE for univariate Gaussian

$$\frac{d^2(LL)}{d\mu^2} = \sum_i \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \cdot (-1) = -\frac{N}{\sigma^2} < 0 \Rightarrow \text{min.}$$

$$\frac{d}{d\mu} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \log p(x_i | \mu, \sigma^2) \right) = \sum_i \frac{d}{d\mu} \log \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x_i - \mu)^2\right) \right] \quad \text{MLE}$$

$$= \sum_i \frac{d}{d\mu} \left[\log(\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x_i - \mu)^2 \right]$$

$$= \sum_i \left[0 + \frac{1}{\sigma^2}(x_i - \mu) \right] \xrightarrow{\text{set to zero}} \sum_i x_i = \sum_i \mu \Rightarrow \mu = \frac{\sum_i x_i}{N}$$

$\sum_i x_i = N\mu$

e.g. MLE for univariate Gaussian

- Again, but this time for σ^2 :

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \sigma^2} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \sigma^2} \left(-\frac{N}{2} \log(2\pi\sigma^2) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{n=1}^N (x_n - \mu)^2 \right) \\ &= -\frac{N}{2} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \sigma^2} (\log(2\pi\sigma^2)) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \sigma^2} \left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{n=1}^N (x_n - \mu)^2 \right) \\ &= -\frac{N}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} \cdot 2\pi + \frac{\partial}{\partial \sigma^2} \left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{n=1}^N (x_n - \mu)^2 \right) \\ &= -\frac{N}{2\sigma^2} + \sum_{n=1}^N \left(-\frac{1}{2} \cdot -1 \cdot (\sigma^2)^{-2} \cdot 1 \cdot (x_n - \mu)^2 \right) \\ &= -\frac{N}{2\sigma^2} + \sum_{n=1}^N \left(\frac{1}{2\sigma^4} \cdot (x_n - \mu)^2 \right)\end{aligned}$$

$$N(x|\mu, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp -\frac{(x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}$$
$$\mu_{MLE}, \sigma_{MLE}^2 = \operatorname{argmax} \sum_{i=1}^N \log N(x_i|\mu, \sigma^2)$$

$$0 = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \left(-N + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=1}^N (x_n - \mu)^2 \right)$$

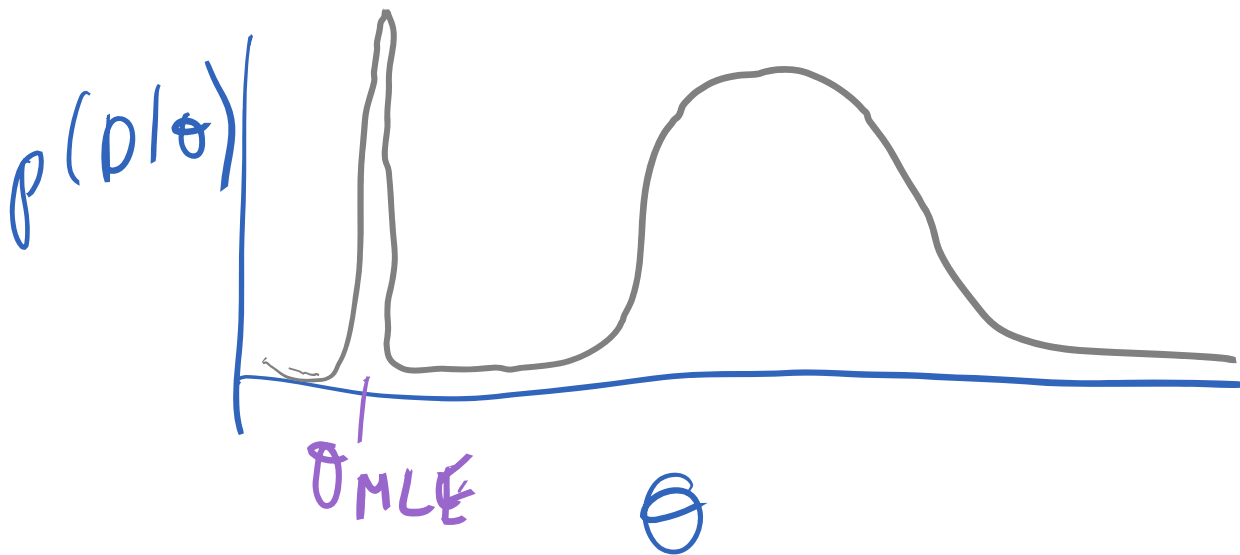
$$0 = -N + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=1}^N (x_n - \mu)^2$$

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N (x_n - \mu)^2$$

σ^2
MLE

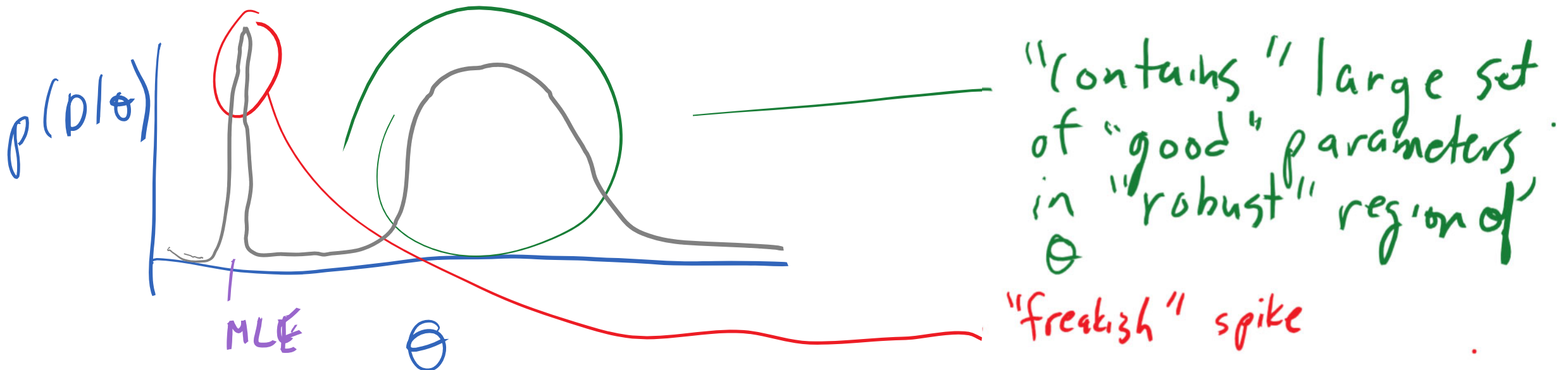
MLE yields a “point estimate” of our parameter

- When we perform MLE, we get just one single estimate of the parameter, θ , rather than a distribution over it which captures uncertainty.
- In Bayesian statistics, we obtain a (posterior) distribution over θ . We will touch more on this in a few lectures.



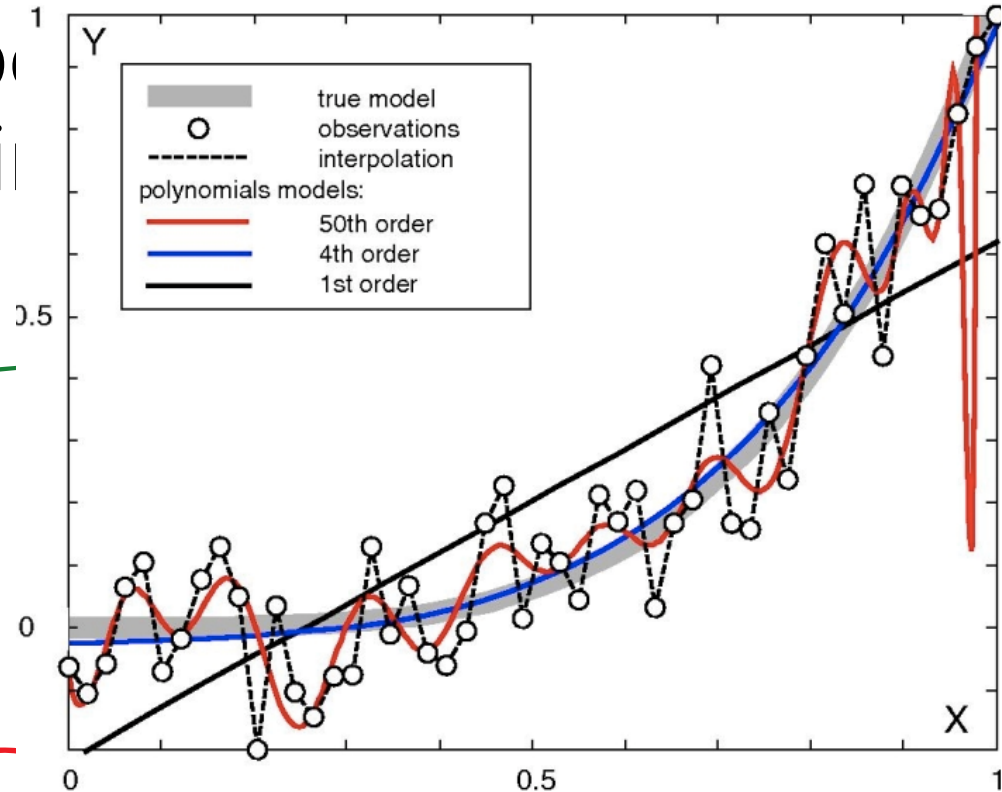
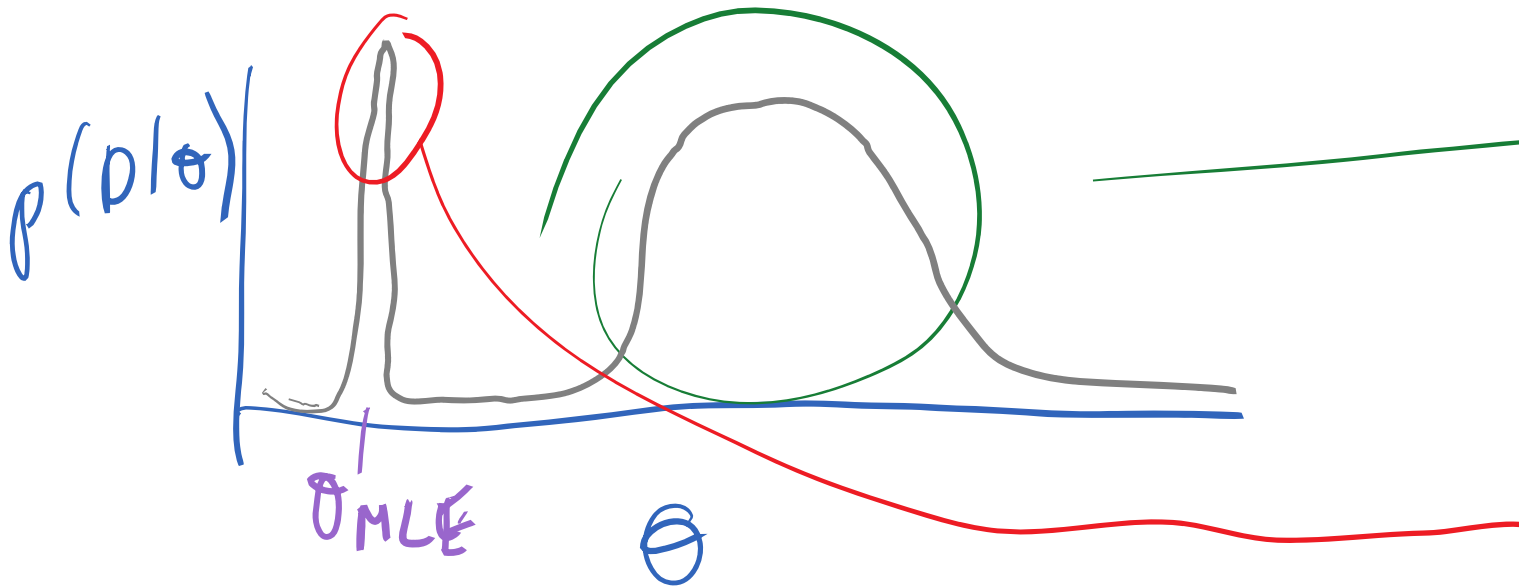
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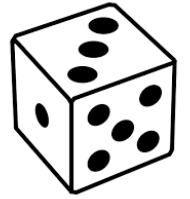


MLE yields a "point estimate" of our parameter

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e.g. MLE for the multinomial distribution



- Consider a six-sided die that we will roll, and we want to know the probability of each side of the die turning up ($\theta = \theta_1 \dots \theta_6$).
- Assume we have observed N rolls, with RV, $X \sim p_\theta(X)$.
- We write that $P(X = k|\theta) = \theta_k$ (when k^{th} side faced up).
- Lets use MLE to estimate these parameters.
- First, since one side must always face up, we know that $1 = \sum_k \theta_k$.
- Second, we can write $P(X = x|\theta) = \theta_x$ (pick off the right parameter).
- Now we write the likelihood:

$$P(D|\theta) = p(x_1, \dots, x_N|\theta) = \prod_{i=1}^N p(x_i|\theta) = \prod_{i=1}^N \prod_{k=1}^6 \theta_k^{I[x_i=k]} = \prod_{k=1}^6 \theta_k^{\sum_i^N I[x_i=k]} = \prod_{k=1}^6 \theta_k^{n_k}$$

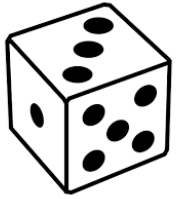
$$n_k \equiv |\{i | x_i = k\}|$$

Now our MLE problem becomes:

$$\theta_{MLE} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta \in \Theta} \log p(D|\theta) = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta \in \{\Theta | 1 = \sum_k \theta_k\}} \sum_{k=1}^6 \log \theta_k^{n_k}$$

constrained optimization

e.g. MLE for the multinomial distribution



Have a constrained optimization problem:

$$\theta_{MLE} = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta \in \Theta} \log p(D|\theta) = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta \in \{\Theta | 1 = \sum_k \theta_k\}} \sum_{k=1}^6 \log \theta_k^{n_k}$$

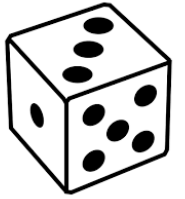
constrained optimization

What is one technique you should have learned in first year calculus to solve this?

The technique of [Lagrange multipliers](#):

$$J(\theta, \lambda) = \log p(D|\theta) + \lambda(1 - \sum_k \theta_k) \text{ (look for stationary points wrt } \theta, \lambda)$$

e.g. MLE for the multinomial distribution



$$J(\theta, \lambda) = \log p(D|\theta) + \lambda(1 - \sum_k \theta_k) = \sum_{k=1}^6 \log \theta_k^{n_k} + \lambda(1 - \sum_k \theta_k)$$

1. $\frac{\partial J}{\partial \lambda} = 0 \Rightarrow 1 = \sum_k \theta_k$ (we just get the constraint back)

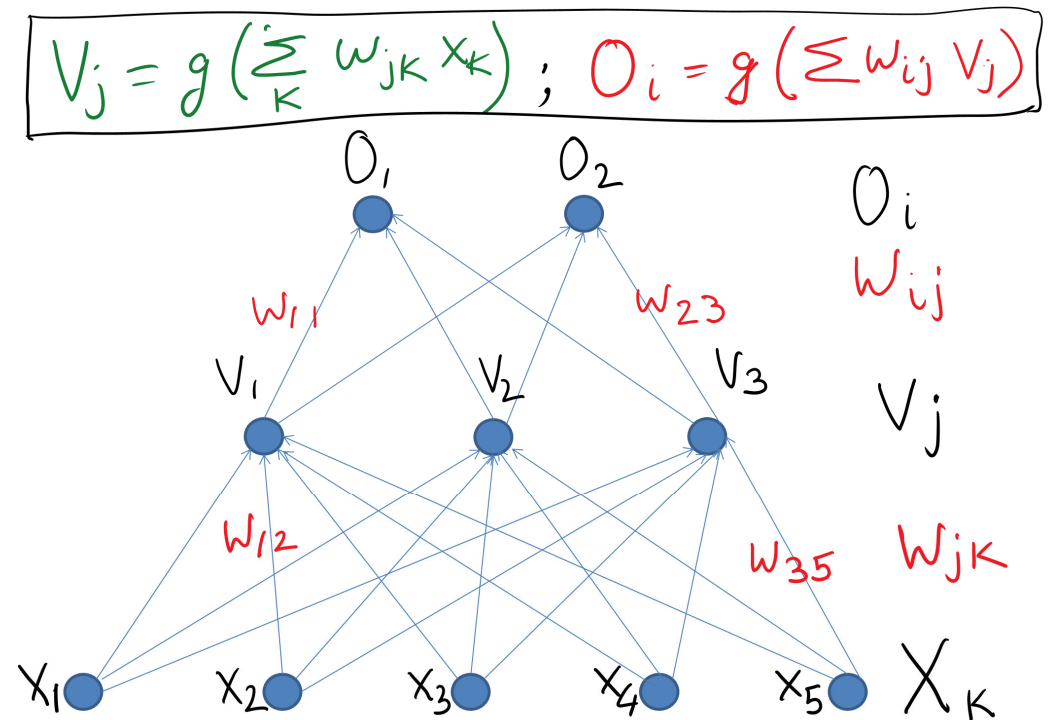
2. $\frac{\partial J}{\partial \theta_k} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_k} \sum_{k=1}^6 \log \theta_k^{n_k} - \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_k} \lambda \theta_k = \frac{n_k}{\theta_k} - \lambda = 0 \Rightarrow \theta_k = \frac{n_k}{\lambda}$.

3. Lets plug this into 1), $1 = \sum_k \theta_k = \sum_k \frac{n_k}{\lambda} \Rightarrow \lambda = \sum_k n_k = N$.

4. All together then, $\theta_k = \frac{n_k}{N}$.

Doing MLE requires optimization $\theta_{MLE} = \underset{\theta \in \Theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} \log p(D|\theta)$

- For Gaussian, multinomial (and more), the MLE can be obtained in closed form by setting the derivative to zero.
- What if we had a model such as Prof. Malik mentioned in the first lecture?
- Here, we need *iterative optimization* (can take entire classes on special cases of this (e.g. Convex Optimization). More later.



Prof. Malik in first lecture:

- Mentioned that a good loss to estimate parameters is the *cross-entropy* (rather than the likelihood).
- So why are we teaching you MLE?! They are equivalent.

Training a single layer neural network

- A good choice of loss function is the **cross entropy**

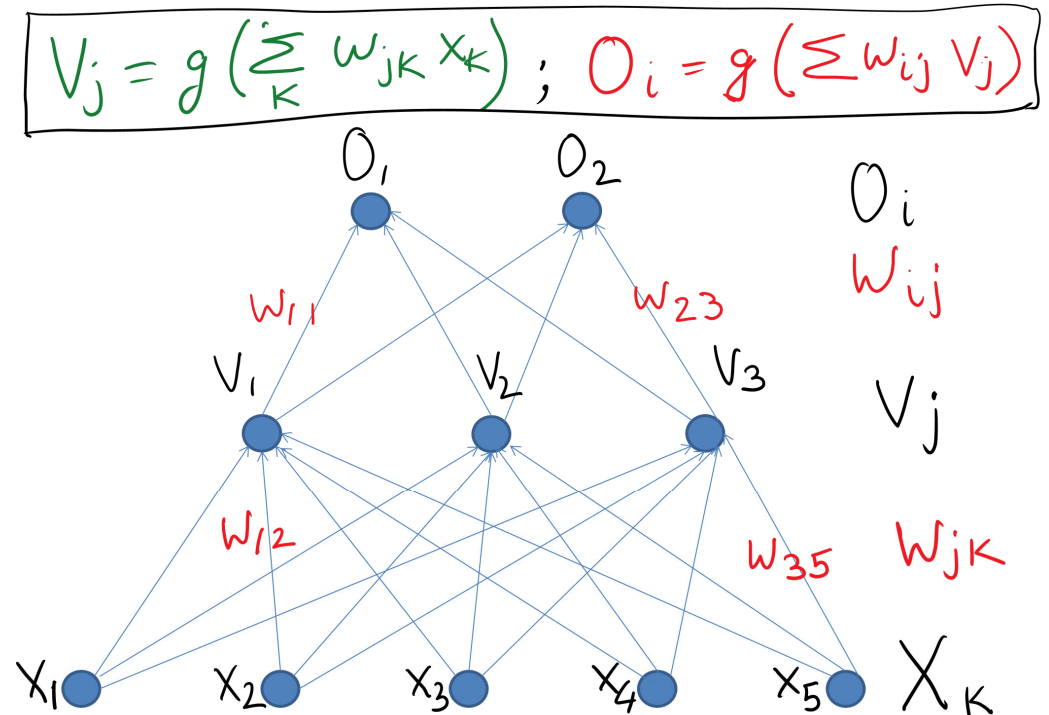
$$L = - \sum_{\text{input data}} (y_i \ln O_i + (1-y_i) \ln(1-O_i))$$

- We model the activation function g as a sigmoid

$$g(z) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(-z)}$$

- Finding w reduces to logistic regression!

We can use **STOCHASTIC GRADIENT DESCENT**.



Relationship between likelihood, cross-entropy, *etc.*

- The *cross-entropy* is a term from *information* theory.
- To understand the connection between MLE and maximizing the cross-entropy, we need to know some concepts from information theory:
 1. Entropy
 2. Cross-entropy
 3. KL-divergence (relative entropy).

Entropy: a measure of expected surprise

Think about a flipping a coin once, and how surprised you would be at observing a head.

$$p(\text{head}) = 0.5$$



$$p(\text{head}) = 0$$

$$p(\text{head}) = 1$$



$$p(\text{head}) = 0.01$$

Entropy: a measure of expected surprise



- The “surprise” of observing that a discrete random variable Y takes on value k is:

$$\log \frac{1}{P(Y = k)} = -\log(P(Y = k))$$

- As $P(Y = k) \rightarrow 0$, the surprise of observing k approaches ∞ .
- As $P(Y = k) \rightarrow 1$, the surprise of observing k approaches 0 .
- The entropy of the distribution of Y is the *expected surprise*:

$$H(Y) \equiv E_Y[-\log P(Y = k)] = \sum_k P(Y = k) \log P(Y = k)$$

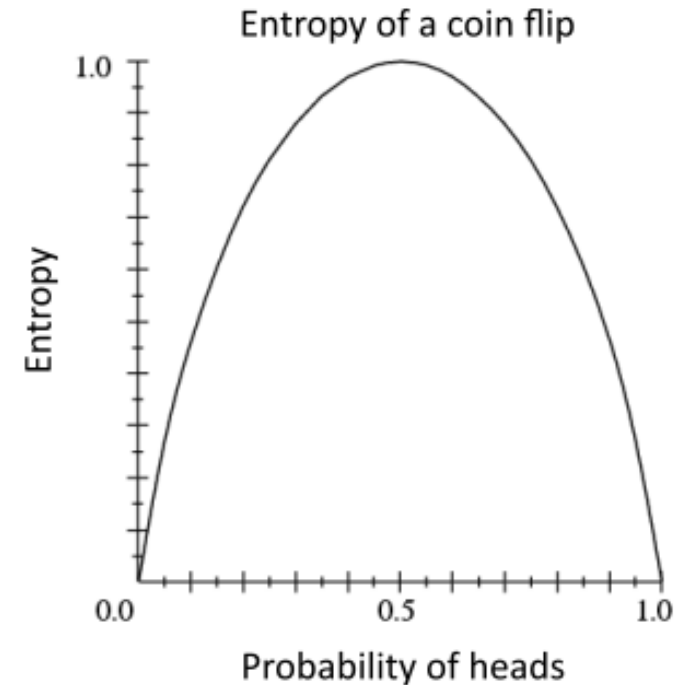
Entropy example: flipping a coin

$$H(Y) = - \sum_{i=1}^{\mathcal{K}} P(Y = y_i) \log_2 P(Y = y_i)$$

$$P(Y=\mathbf{t}) = \mathbf{5/6}$$

$$P(Y=\mathbf{f}) = \mathbf{1/6}$$

$$\begin{aligned} H(Y) &= - \mathbf{5/6} \log_2 \mathbf{5/6} - \mathbf{1/6} \log_2 \mathbf{1/6} \\ &= 0.65 \end{aligned}$$



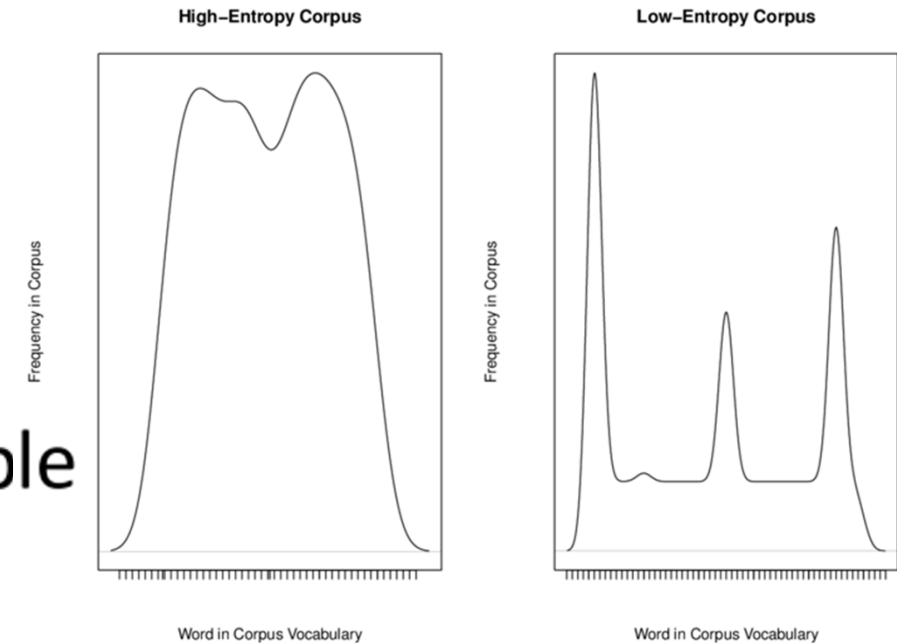
Entropy of a random variable Y :

“High Entropy”

- Y is from a uniform like distribution
- Flat histogram
- Values sampled from it are less predictable

“Low Entropy”

- Y is from a varied (peaks and valleys) distribution
- Histogram has many lows and highs
- Values sampled from it are more predictable



https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Hypothetical-distributions-of-term-frequency-in-high-and-low-entropy-corpora_fig1_305417514

From Entropy to *Relative Entropy*

- Also called the Kullback-Leibler (KL) Divergence.
- Measures how much one distribution diverges from another.
- For discrete probability distributions, P and Q , it is defined as:

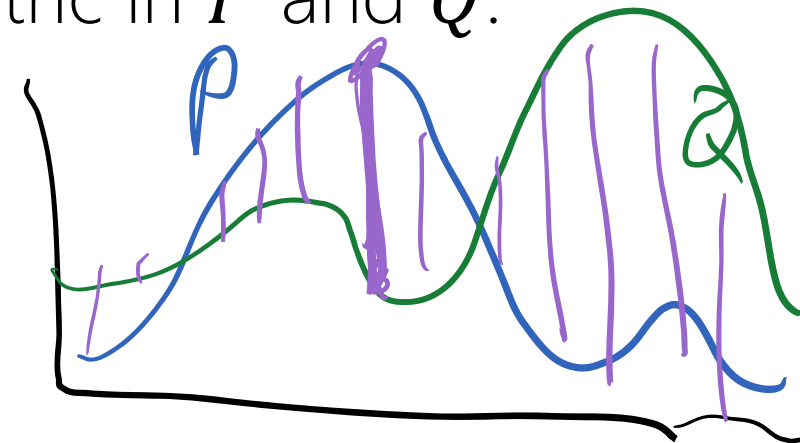
$$D_{KL}(P||Q) = \sum_x P(x) \ln \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$$

- Not a true distance metric because not symmetric in P and Q :

$$D_{KL}(P||Q) \neq D_{KL}(Q||P)$$

Properties of KL Divergence

- ▶ $KL(p||q) \geq 0$
- ▶ $KL(p||q) = 0$ if and only if $p = q$



From Relative Entropy to Cross-Entropy (then to MLE!)

$$\begin{aligned} D_{KL}(P||Q) &= \sum_x P(x) \log \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} \\ &= E_{P(x)} \left[\log \frac{1}{Q(X)} \right] - E_{P(x)} \left[\log \frac{1}{P(X)} \right] \end{aligned}$$

From Relative Entropy to Cross-Entropy (then to MLE!)

$$\begin{aligned} D_{KL}(P||Q) &= \sum_x P(x) \log \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} \\ &= E_{P(x)} \left[\log \frac{1}{Q(X)} \right] - E_{P(x)} \left[\log \frac{1}{P(X)} \right] \\ &= \underbrace{H(P, Q)}_{\text{cross-entropy}} - \underbrace{H(P)}_{\text{entropy}} \end{aligned}$$

- Consider data, D where $x_i \sim \hat{p}_{data}$ and a model with params θ , $p(x|\theta)$.
- If minimizing the KL divergence (instead of MLE),
 $\operatorname{argmin}_{\theta} D_{KL}(\hat{p}_{data} || p(x|\theta)) =) =$

From Relative Entropy to Cross-Entropy (then to MLE!)

$$\begin{aligned}D_{KL}(P||Q) &= \sum_x P(x) \log \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} \\&= E_{P(x)} \left[\log \frac{1}{Q(X)} \right] - E_{P(x)} \left[\log \frac{1}{P(X)} \right] \\&= \underbrace{H(P, Q)}_{\text{cross-entropy}} - \underbrace{H(P)}_{\text{entropy}}\end{aligned}$$

no dependence on θ

- Consider data, D where $x_i \sim \hat{p}_{data}$ and a model with params $\theta, p(x|\theta)$.
- If minimizing the KL divergence (instead of MLE),

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\theta} D_{KL}(\hat{p}_{data} || p(x|\theta)) = \operatorname{argmin}_{\theta} H(\hat{p}_{data}, p(x|\theta)) + H(\hat{p}_{data})$$

$$= \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} E_{\hat{p}_{data}} [\log p(x|\theta)]$$

negative cross-entropy

From Relative Entropy to Cross-Entropy (then to MLE!)

$$\begin{aligned} D_{KL}(P||Q) &= \sum_x P(x) \log \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} \\ &= E_{P(x)} \left[\log \frac{1}{Q(X)} \right] - E_{P(x)} \left[\log \frac{1}{P(X)} \right] \\ &= \underbrace{H(P, Q)}_{\text{cross-entropy}} - \underbrace{H(P)}_{\text{entropy}} \end{aligned}$$

MLE problem

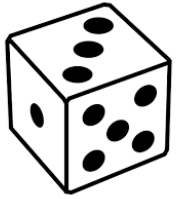
- Consider data, D where $x_i \sim \hat{p}_{data}$ and a model with params θ , $p(x|\theta)$.
- If minimizing the KL divergence (instead of MLE),
$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\theta} D_{KL}(\hat{p}_{data} || p(x|\theta)) = \operatorname{argmin}_{\theta} H(\hat{p}_{data}, p(x|\theta)) + H(\hat{p}_{data})$$
$$= \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} E_{\hat{p}_{data}} [\log p(x|\theta)] = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} \sum_i^N \log p(x_i|\theta).$$

From Relative Entropy to Cross-Entropy (then to MLE!)

- Performing MLE maximizes the likelihood function.
- This is equivalent to maximizing the cross-entropy.
- And equivalent to minimizing the KL-divergence (aka relative entropy).

Extra

e.g. MLE for the multinomial distribution



$J(\theta, \lambda) = \log p(D|\theta) + \lambda(1 - \sum_k \theta_k)$ (look for stationary points wrt θ, λ)

1. $\frac{\partial J}{\partial \lambda} = 0 \rightarrow 1 = \sum_k \theta_k$ (we just get the constraint back)

2. $\frac{\partial J}{\partial \theta_k} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_k} \sum_{k=1}^6 \log \theta_k^{n_k} - \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_k} \lambda \theta_k = \frac{n_k}{\theta_k} - \lambda = 0 \rightarrow \theta_k = \frac{n_k}{\lambda}$. $\Rightarrow D_{KL} = 0$

3. Lets plug this into 1: $\sum_k \theta_k = 1 = \sum_k \frac{n_k}{\lambda} \rightarrow \lambda = \sum_k n_k = N$. but $D_{KL} \geq 0$

4. All together then, $\theta_k = \frac{n_k}{N}$.

This is a stationary point. But is it a maximum? Could check Hessian, but lets instead consider our know equivalence

$$D_{KL}(p_{data} || p(x|\theta)) = \sum_{k=1}^6 P_{data}(X = k) \log \frac{P_{data}(X=k)}{P(X=k|\theta)} \rightarrow \theta_k = \frac{n_k}{N}$$

$\log(1) = 0$
 $\Rightarrow D_{KL} = 0$
but $D_{KL} \geq 0$
so we have
minimized the D_{KL}
&
maximized
log likelihood!