556: MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS I

DEFINITIONS AND NOTATION FROM REAL ANALYSIS

Definition: Limits of sequences of reals
Sequence $\{a_n\}$ has limit a as $n \longrightarrow \infty$, written

$$\lim_{n \longrightarrow \infty} a_n = a$$

if, for every $\epsilon > 0$, there exists an $N = N(\epsilon)$ such that $|a_n - a| < \epsilon$ for all $n > N$. We say that $\{a_n\}$ is a **convergent** sequence, and that $\{a_n\}$ **converges** to a.

Definition: Limits of functions
Let f be a real-valued function of real argument x.

- Limit as $x \longrightarrow \infty$:

$$f(x) \longrightarrow a \qquad \text{or} \qquad \lim_{x \longrightarrow \infty} f(x) = a$$

  as $x \longrightarrow \infty$ if, every $\epsilon > 0$, $\exists M = M(\epsilon)$ such that $|f(x) - a| < \epsilon$, $\forall\ x > M$

- Limit as $x \longrightarrow x_0^{\pm}$:

$$f(x) \longrightarrow a \qquad \text{or} \qquad \lim_{x \longrightarrow x_0^{\pm}} f(x) = a$$

  as $x \longrightarrow x_0^{\pm}$ (that is, $x \longrightarrow x_0^-$ means "from below" and $x \longrightarrow x_0^+$ means "from above") if, for all $\epsilon > 0$, $\exists\ \delta$ such that $|f(x) - a| < \epsilon$, $\forall\ x_0 < x < x_0 + \delta$ (or, respectively $x_0 - \delta < x < x_0$).

- Left/Right Limit as $x \longrightarrow x_0$:

$$f(x) \longrightarrow a \qquad \text{or} \qquad \lim_{x \longrightarrow x_0} f(x) = a$$

  as $x \longrightarrow x_0$ if

$$\lim_{x \longrightarrow x_0^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \longrightarrow x_0^-} f(x) = a.$$

Definition: Continuity
Function $f(x)$ is continuous at x_0 if

$$\lim_{x \longrightarrow x_0^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \longrightarrow x_0^-} f(x) = f(x_0)$$

and all limits exist.

Definition: Supremum and Infimum
A set of real values S is **bounded above (bounded below)** if there exists a real number a (b) such that, for all $x \in S$, $x \leq a$ ($x \geq b$). The quantity a (b) is an **upper bound (lower bound)**. A real value a_L (b_U) is a **least upper bound (greatest lower bound)** if it is an upper bound (a lower bound) of S, and no other upper (lower) bound is smaller (larger) than a_L (b_U). We write

$$a_L = \sup S \qquad b_U = \inf S$$

for the a_L, the **supremum**, and b_U, the **infimum** of S.

If S comprises a sequence of elements $\{x_n\}$, then we can write

$$a_L = \sup_{x_n \in S} x_n \equiv \sup_n x_n \qquad b_U = \inf_{x_n \in S} x_n \equiv \inf_n x_n.$$

A sequence that is both bounded above and bounded below is termed **bounded**. Any bounded, monotone real sequence is **convergent**.

Definition: Limit Superior and Limit Inferior
Suppose that $\{x_n\}$ is a bounded real sequence. Define sequences $\{y_k\}$ and $\{z_k\}$ by

$$y_k = \inf_{n\geq k} x_n \qquad z_k = \sup_{n\geq k} x_n$$

Then $\{y_k\}$ is a **bounded non-decreasing** sequence and $\{z_k\}$ is a **bounded non-increasing** sequence, and

$$\lim_{k\to\infty} y_k = \sup_k y_k \qquad \text{and} \qquad \lim_{k\to\infty} z_k = \inf_k z_k$$

and we can consider the limits of these convergent sequences, known as the **lim sup** and **lim inf**:

- **lim sup** is the **limiting least upper bound**
- **lim inf** is the **limiting greatest lower bound**

Specifically, we define the **limit superior** (or **upper** limit, or **lim sup**) and the **limit inferior** (or **lower** limit, or **lim inf**) by

$$\limsup_{n\longrightarrow\infty} x_n = \lim_{k\to\infty} \sup_{n\geq k} x_n = \inf_k \sup_{n\geq k} x_n = \overline{\lim}\, x_n$$

$$\liminf_{n\longrightarrow\infty} x_n = \lim_{k\to\infty} \inf_{n\geq k} x_n = \sup_k \inf_{n\geq k} x_n = \underline{\lim}\, x_n$$

Then we have $\underline{\lim}\, x_n \leq \overline{\lim}\, x_n$ and $\lim x_n = x$ if and only if $\underline{\lim}\, x_n = x = \overline{\lim}\, x_n$.

We can define the same concepts for real functions; we write

$$\limsup_{x\longrightarrow\infty} f(x) = \lim_{y\longrightarrow\infty} \left\{ \sup_{x\geq y}\{f(x)\} \right\} \qquad \liminf_{x\longrightarrow\infty} f(x) = \lim_{y\longrightarrow\infty} \left\{ \inf_{x\geq y}\{f(x)\} \right\}$$

and the limit as $x \longrightarrow \infty$ exists if and only if

$$\limsup_{x\longrightarrow\infty} f(x) = \liminf_{x\longrightarrow\infty} f(x) = \lim_{x\longrightarrow\infty} f(x).$$

For example, the function $f(x) = \cos(x)$ does not converge to any limit as $x \longrightarrow \infty$. But

$$\sup_{x\geq y}\{\cos(x)\} = 1 \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad \limsup_{x\longrightarrow\infty} f(x) = \lim_{y\longrightarrow\infty} \left\{ \sup_{x\geq y}\{\cos(x)\} \right\} = \lim_{y\longrightarrow\infty} \{1\} = 1$$

and similarly $\liminf\limits_{x\longrightarrow\infty} f(x) = -1$

Definition: Order Notation (little oh and big oh)
Consider $x \longrightarrow x_0$ where x_0 is possibly $\pm\infty$. Then we write

$$f(x) \sim g(x) \qquad \text{if} \qquad \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \longrightarrow 1 \quad \text{as} \quad x \longrightarrow x_0$$

$$f(x) = \mathrm{o}(g(x)) \qquad \text{if} \qquad \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \longrightarrow 0 \quad \text{as} \quad x \longrightarrow x_0$$

$$f(x) = \mathrm{O}(g(x)) \qquad \text{if} \qquad \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \longrightarrow b \quad \text{as} \quad x \longrightarrow x_0, \text{ for some } b$$

with similar notation for real sequences. For example

$$\sin x = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} + \cdots = x + \mathrm{o}(x)$$

as $x \longrightarrow 0$, and

$$(x+1)^3 = x^3 + 3x^2 + 3x + 1 = x^3 + \mathrm{o}(x^3) = \mathrm{o}(x^4)$$

as $x \longrightarrow \infty$.

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SOME USEFUL MATHEMATICAL RESULTS

- **Series Summations:**

GEOMETRIC $$\frac{1}{1-z} = 1 + z + z^2 + \cdots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} z^k \qquad |z| < 1$$

EXPONENTIAL $$e^z = 1 + z + \frac{z^2}{2!} + \cdots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^k}{k!} \qquad z \in \mathbb{R}$$

BINOMIAL $(n = 1, 2, \cdots)$ $$(1+z)^n = 1 + nz + \frac{n(n-1)}{2!}z^2 + \cdots + \alpha z^{n-1} + z^n = \sum_{k=0}^{n} \binom{n}{k} z^k$$

BINOMIAL $(\alpha > 0)$ $$(1+z)^\alpha = 1 + \alpha z + \frac{\alpha(\alpha-1)}{2!}z^2 + \cdots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{\alpha}{k} z^k$$

NEG. BINOMIAL $(\alpha > 0)$ $$\frac{1}{(1-z)^\alpha} = 1 + \alpha z + \frac{\alpha(\alpha+1)}{2!}z^2 + \cdots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \binom{\alpha+k-1}{k} z^k \qquad |z| < 1$$

LOGARITHMIC $$-\log(1-z) = z + \frac{z^2}{2} + \frac{z^3}{3} + \cdots = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^k}{k} \qquad |z| < 1$$

$$\log(1+z) = z - \frac{z^2}{2} + \frac{z^3}{3} - \cdots = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{k+1} \frac{z^k}{k} \qquad |z| < 1$$

where, if $\Gamma(.)$ is the **gamma function**, in general

$$\binom{\theta}{x} = \frac{\Gamma(\theta+1)}{\Gamma(x+1)\Gamma(\theta-x+1)}.$$

- **Exponential Function:** For real $x > 0$

$$\lim_{n\to\infty}\left(1+\frac{x}{n}\right)^n = \lim_{n\to\infty}\left(1-\frac{x}{n}\right)^{-n} = e^x \qquad \lim_{n\to\infty}\left(1-\frac{x}{n}\right)^n = \lim_{n\to\infty}\left(1+\frac{x}{n}\right)^{-n} = e^{-x}$$

- **Taylor Series:** For real function f and real number x_0, under mild regularity assumptions

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(x-x_0)^k}{k!} f^k(x_0) = \sum_{k=0}^{r} \frac{(x-x_0)^k}{k!} f^k(x_0) + \mathrm{o}((x-x_0)^r)$$

where the approximation holds as $x \longrightarrow x_0$, and

$$f^k(x_0) = \frac{d^k}{dx^k}\left\{f(x)\right\}_{x=x_0}$$

if this derivative exists.