

Info

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is written (completely with human hands) by [Rupadarshi Ray](#),
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Laplace's method for approximating integral of e^{Mf} for large M

Let $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ have a unique global maximum at $x_0 \in (a, b)$.

Example

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{10} \left(1 - \left(x - \frac{1}{2} \right)^2 \right)$$

$$f(x) = 0.1(1 - (x - 0.5)^2)$$

$$e^{-\{Mf(x)\}}$$

$$M = [1, 5, 10, 20, 60]$$

Naive calculations

$$f(x) = f(x_0) + \frac{(x - x_0)^2}{2} f''(x_0) + O(x - x_0)^3$$

Then

$$\int_{[a,b]} e^{Mf} = e^{Mf(x_0)} \int_{[a,b]} e^{M \frac{(x-x_0)^2}{2} f''(x_0)} \int_{[a,b]} e^{MO(x-x_0)^3}$$

where

$$\int_{[a,b]} e^{M \frac{(x-x_0)^2}{2} f''(x_0)} = \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{-M f''(x_0)}}$$

by Gaussian integral.

☰ Let $f \in \mathcal{C}^2[a, b]$ and there exists a unique global maximum $x_0 \in (a, b)$ such that

$$f(x_0) = \max_{x \in [a, b]} f(x), \quad f''(x_0) < 0$$

then

$$\lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\int_{[a, b]} e^{Mf}}{e^{Mf(x_0)} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{-Mf''(x_0)}}} = 1$$

• **Lower bound**

- $\forall \epsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} x \in B_\delta(x_0) &\implies f''(x_0) - f''(x) \leq \epsilon \\ &\implies f''(x) \geq f''(x_0) - \epsilon \end{aligned}$$

- Because the above inequality is true on $B_\delta(x_0)$ using

☰ **(Mean value form of Taylor's theorem)** Let $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and a positive integer $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ with $f^{(n-1)}$ is continuous on $[a, b]$ and $f^{(n)}$ exists on (a, b) . Then there exists $c \in (\alpha, x) \subseteq [a, b]$ such that

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \left(\frac{f^{(k)}(\alpha)}{k!} (x - \alpha)^k \right) + \frac{f^{(n)}(c)}{n!} (x - \alpha)^n$$

(where the c depends on x).

repeated use of mean value theorem

$$P(x) := \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \left(\frac{f^{(k)}(\alpha)}{k!} (x - \alpha)^k \right)$$

For a fixed interval $(\alpha, \beta) \subseteq [a, b]$, let M be the number defined by

$$f(x) = P(x) + M(\beta - \alpha)^n$$

and put

$$g(t) := f(t) - P(t) - M(t - \alpha)^n \text{ on } t \in (a, b)$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} g^{(k)}(t) &= f^{(k)}(t) - P^{(k)}(t) - k! M(t - \alpha)^{n-k} \\ g^{(n)}(t) &= f^{(n)}(t) - n!M \text{ on } t \in (a, b) \end{aligned}$$

and for $0 \leq k \leq n - 1$ we have

$$P^{(k)}(\alpha) = f^{(k)}(\alpha) \implies g^{(k)}(\alpha) = 0$$

Also,

$$g(\beta) = 0$$

from definition.

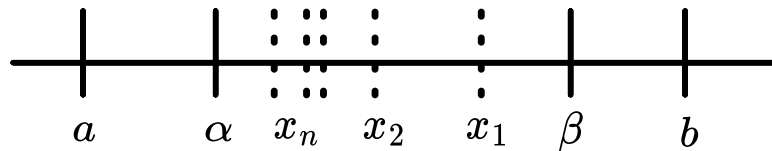
- Hence, as $g(\alpha) = 0 = g(\beta)$, by mean value theorem

$$\exists x_1 \in (\alpha, \beta) : g'(x_1) = 0$$

- Since $g'(\alpha) = 0 = g'(x_1)$, by mean value theorem

$$\exists x_2 \in (\alpha, x_1) : g'(x_2) = 0$$

- After n such steps



we arrive at the conclusion that

$$\exists x_n \in (\alpha, x_{n-1}) \subset (\alpha, \beta) : g'(x_n) = 0$$

Hence, there is a $c \in (\alpha, \beta)$ such that

$$f^{(n)}(c) = n!M$$

and same δ gives

$$x \in B_\delta(x_0) \implies f(x) \geq f(x_0) + \frac{(x - x_0)^2}{2}(f''(x_0) - \epsilon)$$

- Because $e^x > 0$ we have

$$\int_{[a,b]} e^{Mf} \geq \int_{B_\delta(x_0)} e^{Mf}$$

which along with

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{B_\delta(x_0)} e^{Mf(x_0) + \frac{M(x-x_0)^2}{2}(f''(x_0) - \epsilon)} \\ &= e^{Mf(x_0)} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{-M(f''(x_0) - \epsilon)}} \end{aligned}$$

gives

$$\epsilon > 0 \implies \frac{\int_{[a,b]} e^{Mf}}{e^{\alpha f^n M f(x_0)} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{-M f''(x_0)}}} \geq \sqrt{\frac{f''(x_0)}{f''(x_0) - \epsilon}}$$

- **Upper bound**

- Let $f''(x_0) + \epsilon < 0$ then by

☰ (Mean value form of Taylor's theorem) Let $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and a positive integer $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ with $f^{(n-1)}$ is continuous on $[a, b]$ and $f^{(n)}$ exists on (a, b) . Then there exists $c \in (\alpha, x) \subseteq [a, b]$ such that

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \left(\frac{f^{(k)}(\alpha)}{k!} (x - \alpha)^k \right) + \frac{f^{(n)}(c)}{n!} (x - \alpha)^n$$

(where the c depends on x).

repeated use of mean value theorem

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and for $0 \leq k \leq n - 1$ we have

$$P^{(k)}(\alpha) = f^{(k)}(\alpha) \implies g^{(k)}(\alpha) = 0$$

Also,

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from definition.

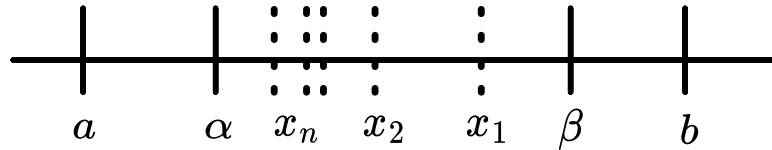
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- After n such steps



we arrive at the conclusion that

$$\exists x_n \in (\alpha, x_{n-1}) \subset (\alpha, \beta) : g'(x_n) = 0$$

Hence, there is a $c \in (\alpha, \beta)$ such that

$$f^{(n)}(c) = n!M$$

Taylor's theorem, we find $\delta > 0$ such that

$$x \in B_\delta(x_0) \implies f(x) \leq f(x_0) + \frac{(x - x_0)^2}{2}(f''(x_0) + \epsilon)$$

- Because $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ we have $\eta > 0$ such that

$$x \in [a, b] \setminus B_\delta \implies f(x) \leq f(x_0) - \eta$$

- Now

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{[a,b]} e^{Mf} &\leq \left(\int_{[a,b] \setminus B_\delta} + \int_{B_\delta(x_0)} \right) e^{Mf} \\ &\leq (b-a)e^{M(f(x_0)-\eta)} + \underbrace{\int_{B_\delta(x_0)} e^{Mf(x_0) + \frac{M(x-x_0)^2}{2}(f''(x_0)+\epsilon)}}_{\sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{-M(f''(x_0)+\epsilon)}}} \end{aligned}$$

so we have

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon > 0 \implies &\frac{\int_{[a,b]} e^{Mf}}{e^{Mf(x_0)} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{-Mf''(x_0)}}} \\ &\leq (b-a)e^{-M\eta} \sqrt{-M \frac{f''(x_0)}{2\pi}} + \sqrt{\frac{-f''(x_0)}{-f''(x_0) - \epsilon}} \end{aligned}$$

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- [int](#)
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