

## Lecture 11

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## 1 Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC)

## 1. Monto Carlo Simulator

Goal: evaluate  $E[f(X)]$  for  $X \sim P$  (target distribution) sample  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  as i.i.d. from  $P$  and calculate  $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x_i)$

- (a) vanilla MC
- (b) rejection sampling
- (c) importance sampling

## 2. MCMC VS MC

Construct a i.i.d. markov chain  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ . Estimate  $\theta$  as  $\hat{\theta} = \frac{1}{n-k} \sum_{i=k+1}^n f(x_i)$ , the chunk that is thrown away is called the burn-in period

## 3. Background: First-order Markov Chain

- (a)  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, x_{n+1}, \dots$

- (b) First order

$$P(x_{n+1}|x_1, \dots, x_n) = P(x_{n+1}|x_n)$$

- (c) Invariant distribution

$\Pi$  is the probability.  $\pi$  is the density

$$\Pi(dy) = \int T(x, dy)\pi(x) dx$$

$T(x, dy)$  is called transition probability

e.g. in the discrete case,  $\Pi = \pi$ ,  $x_i \in \{1, 2\}$ ,

$$\pi(x_{n+1} = 2) = \sum_{i=1}^2 P(x_{n+1} = 2|x_n = i) \cdot \pi(x_n = i) = \sum_{i=1}^2 T(i, 2) \cdot \pi(x_n = i)$$

- (d) Transition probability

$$T(x, dy) = P(x_{n+1} \in dy|x_n = x)$$

- (e) Markov chain converges to invariant distribution

Transition probability of different orders: For starting value  $x$ , we have

$$p^{(1)}(x, A) = T(x, A)$$

$$p^{(2)}(x, A) = \int p^{(1)}(x, dy)T(y, A)$$

$$p^{(3)}(x, A) = \int p^{(2)}(x, dy)T(y, A)$$

$\vdots$

$$p^{(n)}(x, A) = \int p^{(n-1)}(x, dy)T(y, A) \approx \Pi(A)$$

- (f) Markov Chain theory is mainly concerned about: for a given  $T(x, dy)$ , what is  $\Pi$ ?

- (g) MCMC goes backwards: given a marginal distribution (target distribution)  $\Pi$ , can we create a Markov chain with some  $T(x, dy)$  that  $\Pi$  is the invariant distribution?

- (h) "reversibility" criterion

$$\pi(x) \cdot t(x, y) = \pi(y) \cdot t(y, x), \text{ where } t(x, y) = \frac{d}{dy}T(x, dy)$$

$$\Rightarrow \int T(x, A)\pi(x) dx = \iint_A t(x, y)dy\pi(x)dx$$

$$= \int_A \int t(x, y)\pi(x) dx dy$$

$$= \int_A \int t(y, x)\pi(y) dx dy$$

$$= \int_A (\int t(y, x) dx) \pi(y) dy = \int_A \pi(y) dy = \pi(A)$$

#### 4. Setup of MCMC

(a)  $\Pi$  is known

(b) how to construct  $T(x, dy)$ ?

Suppose we take any conditional probability  $q(x, y)$ , e.g.  $q(x, y) = f(y|x) = \phi(y - x)$  and we have

$$\pi(x) \cdot q(x, y) > \pi(y) \cdot q(y, x)$$

we “fudge”  $q(x, y)$  by multiplying a “fudge” factor,  $\alpha(x, y) \leq 1$  such that

$$\pi(x)q(x, y)\alpha(x, y) = \pi(y)q(y, x)\alpha(y, x)$$

$$\text{(LHS)} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{(RHS)}$$

**Theorem**  $\alpha(x, y) = \min\left[\frac{\pi(y) \cdot q(y, x)}{\pi(x) \cdot q(x, y)}, 1\right]$

*Proof.* When  $\pi(x)q(x, y) < \pi(y)q(y, x)$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha(x, y) = 1, \alpha(y, x) = \frac{\pi(x) \cdot q(x, y)}{\pi(y) \cdot q(y, x)}$$

so LHS =  $\pi(x)q(x, y)$ ; RHS =  $\pi(x)q(x, y)$

When  $\pi(x)q(x, y) > \pi(y)q(y, x)$ , can prove LHS=RHS in a similar way

## 2 The Metropolis-Hasting algorithm (MH)

Given an (arbitrary) starting value  $X_1$ , generate  $X_2$  as follows.

- Sample  $Y$  from the conditional density  $q(x_1)$  and  $U \sim \text{Unif}(0, 1)$ ,  $Y \perp U$ .
- If  $U \leq \alpha(X_1, Y)$ , accept the candidate  $Y$  and set  $X_2 = Y$
- Else reject the candidate  $Y$  and set  $X_2 = X_1$

## 3 The Gibbs Sampler

1. We want to samples  $x = (x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(m)}) \sim P$ , the joint distribution is complicated

2. sample each  $x^{(i)}$  conditional on others, that is, in iteration  $(n + 1)$ ,

$$x_{n+1}^{(1)} \sim P(x^{(1)} | x_n^{(2)}, x_n^{(3)}, \dots, x_n^{(m)})$$

$$x_{n+1}^{(2)} \sim P(x^{(2)} | x_{n+1}^{(1)}, x_n^{(2)}, \dots)$$

⋮

$$x_{n+1}^{(m)} \sim P(x^{(m)} | x_{n+1}^{(1)}, \dots, x_{n+1}^{(m-1)})$$

3. Gibbs sampler is useful because conditional distributions are often much simpler

4. Relationship to Metropolis-Hasting

Gibbs sampler is in fact an MH algorithm with the conditional distribution:

$q((x_n^{(i)}, x^{(-i)}), (x_{n+1}^{(i)}, x^{(-i)})) = P(x_{n+1}^{(i)} | x^{(-i)})$  The “fudge” factor (acceptance probability):

$$\alpha((x_n^{(i)}, x^{(-i)}), (x_{n+1}^{(i)}, x^{(-i)}))$$

$$= \frac{\pi(x_{n+1}^{(i)}, x^{(-i)}) \cdot p(x_n^{(i)} | x^{(-i)})}{\pi(x_n^{(i)}, x^{(-i)}) \cdot p(x_{n+1}^{(i)} | x^{(-i)})}$$

$$= \frac{p(x^{(-i)}) \cdot p(x_{n+1}^{(i)} | x^{(-i)}) \cdot p(x_n^{(i)} | x^{(-i)})}{p(x^{(-i)}) \cdot p(x_{n+1}^{(i)} | x^{(-i)}) \cdot p(x_n^{(i)} | x^{(-i)})}$$

$$= 1$$

## 4 Critique

Draw from the points discussed in class. Write the critiques in about a paragraph for each paper.

## 5 Possible Extensions

## 6 Conclusions

## References

- [1] S. Katti, H. Rahul, W. Hu, D. Katabi, M. Médard, M. and J. Crowcroft, “XORs in the air: practical wireless network coding”, *IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking*, vol. 16, no. 3, pp. 497–510, 2008.
- [2] H. Rahul, N. Kushman, D. Katabi, C. Sodin, and F. Edalat, “Learning to Share: Narrowband-Friendly Wideband Wireless Networks”, *ACM SIGCOMM Computer Communication Review*, vol. 38, no. 4, pp. 147–158, 2008.