

Tail bounds: ^{r.v. X is large/small} "some event has low prob."

Most basic: Markov's inequality.

Markov's ineq: Let X be a non-neg. r.v.

For any $k \geq 1$, have $\Pr\{X \geq \underbrace{k \cdot \mathbb{E}[X]}_a\} \leq \frac{1}{k}$.

Ex: let $X = \#$ children in a unif. random U.S. household.

Sps $\mathbb{E}[X] = 1.8$. Means must have $\Pr[X \leq 10] \leq .18$,

o/w $\mathbb{E}[X]$ couldn't be only 1.8.

Pf: \downarrow equiv. to: $\Pr[X \geq a] \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[X]}{a}$.

Have

$$\mathbb{E}[X] = \sum_b b \cdot \Pr[X=b]$$

$$= \underbrace{\sum_{b: b < a} b \cdot \Pr[X=b]}_{\geq 0} + \sum_{b: b \geq a} b \cdot \Pr[X=b]$$

$$\geq 0 \quad \left(+ \sum_{b: b \geq a} a \cdot \Pr[X=b] \right)$$

$$= a \cdot \Pr[X \geq a]$$

What about r.v. that take neg. values

Recall: Variance of a r.v. X is

$$\text{Var}[X] = \mathbb{E}[(X-\mu)^2], \text{ where}$$

$$\mu = \mathbb{E}\{X\}$$

(measures "spread")

Std dev of X : $\sigma(X) = \sqrt{\text{Var}[X]} = \text{std-dev}(X)$

Chebyshev's inequality: For any r.v. X , have

$$\Pr[|X-\mu| \geq a] \leq \frac{\text{Var}[X]}{a^2}.$$

Pf: $\Pr[|X-\mu| \geq a] = \Pr[(X-\mu)^2 \geq a^2]$
 $\leq \frac{\text{Var}[X]}{a^2}$ by Markov on $(X-\mu)^2$.

Intuitive statement of Cheby: every r.v. X
deviates from its mean by $\geq t$ std dev's w.p.
 $\leq 1/t^2$.

Above bds: very general, not very strong.

For r.v.'s X that are sums of many indep. RVs,

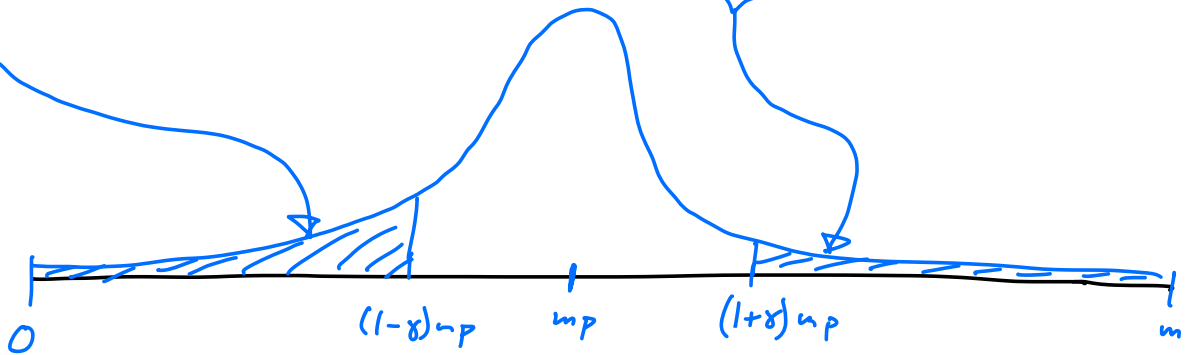
much stronger tail bounds hold. Here's one:

"multiplicative" independent, identically distributed
"Chernoff bound": Let X_1, \dots, X_m be i.i.d. Bernoulli r.v.'s with $\Pr[X_i=1]=p$ for all i .

Let $X = X_1 + \dots + X_m$ (so $\mathbb{E}[X] = mp$)
Then for all $0 \leq \gamma \leq 1$

$$\Pr\{X \leq (1-\gamma)mp\} \leq \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2} \cdot \gamma^2 \cdot mp\right), \quad \dagger$$

$$\Pr\{X \geq (1+\gamma)mp\} \leq \exp\left(-\frac{1}{3} \cdot \gamma^2 \cdot mp\right)$$



additive

Hoeffding bound: Let X_1, \dots, X_m as above.

Let $\hat{p} = \frac{1}{m}(X_1 + \dots + X_m)$. Then

$$\Pr[\hat{p} - p \geq \epsilon] \leq \exp(-2m\epsilon^2) \quad \dagger$$

$$\Pr[p - \hat{p} \geq \epsilon] \leq \exp(-2m\epsilon^2).$$

Rand. alg. for identity testing

IO-TEST: input is 2 ^{p, q} multivariate algebraic expressions
 formed with $+, -, \cdot$: e.g. (coeff in \mathbb{N})

$$p(x_1, \dots, x_6) = ((x_1 + x_2) \cdot (3x_1 - 2x_4) + (5(x_1 + 6(x_3(x_4 - x_2))) - 7x_5) \cdot (x_4 - x_6))$$

$$q(x_1, \dots, x_6) = (x_1 - x_2) \cdot (x_3 - x_4) \cdot (x_5 - x_6)$$

(Think of domain as \mathbb{R})

Question: is $p \equiv q$? (if we were to expand them out into "canonical form")

$$\sum_{a_1, \dots, a_6 \in \mathbb{N}} c_{a_1, \dots, a_6} x_1^{a_1} x_2^{a_2} \dots x_6^{a_6}$$

they'd be the same)

Ex:
$$\begin{aligned} p &= x \cdot x - y \cdot y \\ g &= (x-2y) \cdot (x+2y) + 3y^2 \end{aligned} \quad \left. \vphantom{\begin{aligned} p \\ g \end{aligned}} \right\} \text{YES}$$

How to solve?

1st try: expand out p, g .

Too Inefficient:

$$p = (x_1 + x_2)(x_3 + x_4) \dots (x_{l-1} + x_l)$$
, expanded out,
has $2^{l/2}$ monomials

2nd try: plug in values $\bar{\alpha} = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_l)$ for x_1, \dots, x_l .

If $p(\alpha) \neq g(\alpha)$: "Know answer is NO."

If $p(\alpha) = g(\alpha)$: not sure.

Doing this deterministically won't work: for any fixed α , there's a p, g pair that it "fools."

e.g. $\alpha = (1, 2, 3)$

$$p = x_1 + x_2 + x_3$$

6

$$g = x_1 \cdot x_2 \cdot x_3$$

6

Right approach: tweak α by picking α randomly.

The alg:

$$p = x_1 + x_2 + x_3$$

$$\alpha_1 = 4$$

$$\alpha_2 = 2 \quad \alpha_3 = 6$$

Input: $p(x_1, \dots, x_\ell) + q(x_1, \dots, x_\ell)$

$$p(\bar{\alpha}) = 4 + 2 + 6$$

- length of p
↓
- Let $m = |p| + |q|$, $M = 2^m$
 - Choose $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_\ell$ indep. + uni f. from $S = \{1, \dots, M\}$
 $\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\text{p}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_\ell)}$
 - Evaluate $p(\bar{\alpha})$, $g(\alpha)$
 - output "SAME" if $p(\alpha) = g(\alpha)$,
"DIFFERENT" if $p(\alpha) \neq g(\alpha)$.

Claim 1: If $p \equiv q$, alg says SAME w.p. 1.

Claim 2: If $p \not\equiv q$, then $\Pr[\text{alg says SAME}] \leq \frac{m}{M} = \frac{m}{2^m}$.

Note: this holds for all $p \not\equiv q$;

Rand. is over coin tosses of the alg.

To do: Claim 2 pf. Ideas:

- deg of p, q can't be too high; so
 $r = p - q$ can't have too high degree
- "low" deg r can't have many roots, so
 prob. a is a root (i.e. $p(a) = q(a)$) is low.

Degree of a multivariable polynomial: max
 deg of any monom. in canonical form of the poly.

(deg of multivariate monom: sum of indiv. var. degs).

$$p = x^4 y^3 + 4x^6 - x^3 y z : \text{deg}(p) = 7$$

Lemma: If r is an alg. formula,
 $\text{deg}(r) \leq |r|$.

Pf: easy induction ($x \cdot x \cdot x \cdot x \cdot x$ length 5,
 degree 5).

Key: Schwarz-Zippel lemma:

S-Z lemma: Let S be any finite set of #s.
 Let $r(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ be a not identically 0 poly.

Then

$$\Pr_{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n \sim S} [r(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) = 0] \leq \frac{\deg(r)}{|S|} .$$

PF: next time: