

Stochastic Optimization

Recalls on probability

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Presentation Outline

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Probability space

- Let Ω be a set.
- A σ -algebra \mathcal{F} of Ω is a collection of subset of Ω such that
 - $\Omega \in \mathcal{F}$
 - \mathcal{F} is closed under complementation
 - \mathcal{F} is closed under countable union
- A measure $\mathbb{P} : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is a **probability** if
 - $\mathbb{P}(\Omega) = 1$
 - $\mathbb{P}(\cup_{i \in \mathbb{N}} A_i) = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{P}(A_i)$ where $\{A_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a collection of pairwise disjoint sets of \mathcal{F}
- $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ is a **probability space**.
- $A \in \mathcal{F}$ is **\mathbb{P} -almost-sure** if $\mathbb{P}(A) = 1$, and **negligible** if $\mathbb{P}(A) = 0$.
- $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ is **complete** if all subset of a negligible set is measurable.

Measurability and representation

- Let \mathcal{F} be a σ -algebra on Ω .
- A σ -algebra is **generated** by a collection of sets if it is the smallest containing the collection.
- A function $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is \mathcal{F} -measurable if $X^{-1}(I) \in \mathcal{F}$ for all boxes I of \mathbb{R}^n , we note $X \preceq \mathcal{F}$.
- A σ -algebra $\sigma(X)$ is **generated** by a function $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ sets if it is generated by $\{X^{-1}(I) \mid I \text{ boxes of } \mathbb{R}^n\}$.
- The σ -algebra generated by all boxes is called the **Borel** σ -algebra.

Theorem (Doob-Dynkin)

Let $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, $Y : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ be two \mathcal{F} -measurable functions. Then $Y \preceq \sigma(X)$ iff there exists a Borel measurable function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$ such that $Y = f(X)$.

Random variables

- Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ be a complete probability space.
- Define the equivalence class over the $\mathcal{L}^0(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; \mathbb{R}^n)$

$$X \sim Y \iff \mathbb{P}\left(\{\omega \in \Omega \mid X(\omega) = Y(\omega)\}\right) = 1$$

- A **random variable** \mathbf{X} is an element of $L^0(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; \mathbb{R}^n) := \mathcal{L}^0(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; \mathbb{R}^n) / \sim$.
- In other word a random variable is a measurable function from Ω to \mathbb{R}^n defined up to negligible set.

Expectation and variance

- We recall that $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}] := \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{X}(\omega) \mathbb{P}(d\omega)$.
- If \mathbb{P} is discrete, we have $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}] = \sum_{\omega=1}^{|\Omega|} \mathbf{X}(\omega) p_{\omega}$.
- If \mathbf{X} admit a density function f we have $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}] = \int_{\mathbb{R}} xf(x)dx$.
- We define the **variance** of \mathbf{X}

$$\text{var}(\mathbf{X}) := \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\mathbf{X} - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}] \right)^2 \right] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}^2] - (\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}])^2$$

- and the **standard deviation**

$$\text{std}(\mathbf{X}) := \sqrt{\text{var}(\mathbf{X})}$$

- the **covariance** is given by

$$\text{cov}(\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}\mathbf{Y}] - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}]\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{Y}]$$

Random variables spaces

- $L^0(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; \mathbb{R}^n)$ is the set of rv
- $L^1(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; \mathbb{R}^n)$ is the set of rv such that $\mathbb{E}[|\mathbf{X}|] < +\infty$
- $L^p(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; \mathbb{R}^n)$ is the set of rv such that $\mathbb{E}[|\mathbf{X}|^p] < +\infty$
- $L^\infty(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; \mathbb{R}^n)$ is the set of rv that is almost surely bounded
- $L^p(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; \mathbb{R}^n)$, for $p \in]1, +\infty[$ is a reflexive Banach space, with dual L^q , where $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$
- $L^1(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; \mathbb{R}^n)$ is a non-reflexive Banach space with dual L^∞
- $L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; \mathbb{R}^n)$ is a Hilbert space
- $L^\infty(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}; \mathbb{R}^n)$ is a non-reflexive Banach space

Independence

- The **cumulative distribution function (cdf)** of a random variable \mathbf{X} is

$$F_{\mathbf{X}}(x) := \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{X} \leq x)$$

- Two random variables \mathbf{X} and \mathbf{Y} are independent iff (one of the following)
 - $F_{\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}}(a, b) = F_{\mathbf{X}}(a)F_{\mathbf{Y}}(b)$ for all a, b
 - $\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{X} \in A, \mathbf{Y} \in B) = \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{X} \in A)\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{Y} \in B)$ for all Borel sets A and B
 - $\mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{X})g(\mathbf{Y})] = \mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{X})]\mathbb{E}[g(\mathbf{Y})]$ for all Borel functions f and g
- A sequence of identically distributed independent variables is denoted iid.

Inequalities

- (Markov) $\mathbb{P}(|\mathbf{X}| \geq a) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[|\mathbf{X}|]}{a}$, for $a > 0$.
- (Chernoff) $\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{X} \geq a) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}[e^{t\mathbf{X}}]}{e^{ta}}$, for $t, a > 0$.
- (Chebyshev) $\mathbb{P}(|\mathbf{X} - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}]| \geq a) \leq \frac{\text{var}(\mathbf{X})}{a^2}$, for $a > 0$.
- (Jensen) $\mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{X})] \geq f(\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}])$ for f convex
- (Cauchy-Schwartz) $\mathbb{E}[|\mathbf{X}\mathbf{Y}|] \leq \|\mathbf{X}\|_2 \|\mathbf{Y}\|_2$
- (Hölder) $\mathbb{E}[|\mathbf{X}\mathbf{Y}|] \leq \|\mathbf{X}\|_p \|\mathbf{Y}\|_q$ for $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$
- (Hoeffding) $\mathbb{P}(\mathbf{M}_n - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{M}_n] \geq t) \leq \exp\left(\frac{-2n^2 t^2}{\sum_{i=1}^n (b_i - a_i)^2}\right)$ where $\{\mathbf{X}_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a sequence of bounded independent rv with $a_i \leq \mathbf{X}_i \leq b_i$.

Limits of random variable

Let $\{\mathbf{X}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of random variables.

- We say that $\{\mathbf{X}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ **converges almost surely** toward \mathbf{X} if

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\lim_n (\mathbf{X}_n - \mathbf{X}) = 0\right) = 1.$$

- We say that $\{\mathbf{X}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ **converges in probability** toward \mathbf{X} if

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \quad \mathbb{P}(|\mathbf{X}_n - \mathbf{X}| > \varepsilon) \rightarrow 0.$$

- We say that $\{\mathbf{X}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ **converges in L^p** toward \mathbf{X} if

$$\|\mathbf{X}_n - \mathbf{X}\|_p = \mathbb{E}\left[|\mathbf{X}_n - \mathbf{X}|^p\right] \rightarrow 0.$$

- We say that $\{\mathbf{X}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ **converges in law** toward \mathbf{X} if

$$\mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{X}_n)] \rightarrow \mathbb{E}[f(\mathbf{X})] \quad \text{for all bounded Lipschitz } f$$

Conditional expectation

- $\mathbb{P}(A|B) = \mathbb{P}(A \cap B)/\mathbb{P}(B)$
- If (\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) has density $f_{\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}}$, then the conditional law $(\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{Y})$ has density $f_{\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{Y}}(x|y) = f_{\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}}(x, y)/f_{\mathbf{Y}}(y)$.
- In the continuous case we have

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{Y} = y] = \int_{\mathbb{R}} x f_{\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{Y}}(x|y) dx.$$

- More generally if \mathcal{G} is a sub-sigma-algebra of \mathcal{F} , the conditional expectation of $\mathbf{X} \in L^1(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ w.r.t \mathcal{G} is the \mathcal{G} -measurable random variable \mathbf{Y} satisfying

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{Y} \mathbf{1}_G] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X} \mathbf{1}_G], \quad \forall G \in \mathcal{G}$$

- Finally, we always have

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}|\mathbf{Y}]] = \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}]$$

Presentation Outline

Monotone and dominated convergence

Theorem (Monotone convergence)

Let $\{\mathbf{X}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of random variables such that

- $\mathbf{X}_{n+1} \geq \mathbf{X}_n$ \mathbb{P} -a.s.
- $\mathbf{X}_n \rightarrow \mathbf{X}_\infty$ \mathbb{P} -a.s.

then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}_n] = \mathbb{E}[\lim_n \mathbf{X}_n]$

Theorem (Dominated convergence)

Let $\{\mathbf{X}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of random variables, and \mathbf{Y} such that

- $|\mathbf{X}_n| \leq \mathbf{Y}$ \mathbb{P} -a.s. with $\mathbb{E}[|\mathbf{Y}|] < +\infty$
- $\mathbf{X}_n \rightarrow \mathbf{X}_\infty$ \mathbb{P} -a.s.

then $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}_n] = \mathbb{E}[\lim_n \mathbf{X}_n]$

Measurability of multi-valued function

Consider a measurable space (Ω, \mathcal{F}) .

- A function $f : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is \mathcal{F} -measurable if $f^{-1}(I) \in \mathcal{F}$ for all interval I of \mathbb{R} .
- A multi-function $\mathcal{G} : \Omega \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^n$ is \mathcal{F} -measurable if

$$\forall A \subset \mathbb{R}^n \text{ closed, } \mathcal{G}^{-1}(A) := \{\omega \in \Omega \mid \mathcal{G}(\omega) \cap A \neq \emptyset\} \in \mathcal{F}.$$

- A closed valued multi-function $\mathcal{G} : \Omega \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^n$ is \mathcal{F} -measurable iff $d_x(\omega) := \text{dist}(x, \mathcal{G}(\omega))$ is \mathcal{F} -measurable.

Theorem (Measurable selection theorem)

If $\mathcal{G} : \Omega \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^n$ is a closed valued measurable multifunction, then there exists a *measurable selection* of \mathcal{G} , that is a measurable function $\pi : \text{dom}(\mathcal{G}) \subset \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $\pi(\omega) \in \mathcal{G}(\omega)$ for all $\omega \in \text{dom}(\mathcal{G})$.

Normal integrand

Assume that \mathcal{F} is \mathbb{P} -complete.

Definition (Caratheodory function)

$f : \mathbb{R}^n \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a **Carathéodory function** if

- $f(\cdot, \omega)$ is continuous for a.a. $\omega \in \Omega$
- $f(x, \cdot)$ is measurable for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

Definition (Normal integrand)

$f : \mathbb{R}^n \times \Omega \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{R}}$ is a **normal integrand** (aka random lowersemicontinuous function) if

- $f(\cdot, \omega)$ is lsc for a.a. $\omega \in \Omega$
- $f(\cdot, \cdot)$ is measurable

f is a **convex normal integrand** if in addition it is convex in x for a.a. $\omega \in \Omega$.

Measurability of minimum and argmin

Theorem (Measurability of minimum)

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \times \Omega \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{R}}$ be a *normal integrand* and define

$$\vartheta(\omega) := \inf_x f(x, \omega) \quad X^*(\omega) := \arg \min_x f(x, \omega).$$

Then, ϑ and X^* are measurable.

Theorem (Pointwise minimization)

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \times \Omega \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{R}}$ be a *normal convex integrand* then

$$\inf_{U \in \mathcal{L}^0, U \in U} \mathbb{E}[f(U(\omega), \omega)] = \mathbb{E} \left[\inf_{u \in U(\omega)} f(u, \omega) \right]$$

Continuity and derivation under expectation

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^n \times \Omega$ be a random function (i.e. measurable in ω for all x). We say that f is **dominated** on X if, for all $x \in X$, there exists an integrable random variable Y such that $f(x, \cdot) \leq Y$ almost surely. If f is dominated on $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$, we define $F(x) := \mathbb{E}[f(x, \omega)]$.

- If f is lsc in x and dominated on X , then F is lsc.
- If f is continuous in x and dominated on X , then F is continuous.
- If f is Lipschitz in x , with $\mathbb{E}[\text{lip}(f(\cdot, \omega))] < +\infty$, then F is Lipschitz continuous. Moreover if f is differentiable in x , we have

$$\nabla F(x) = \mathbb{E}[\nabla_x f(x, \omega)].$$

- If f is a convex normal integrand, and $x_0 \in \text{int}(\text{dom}(F))$, then

$$\partial F(x_0) = \mathbb{E}[\partial f(x_0, \omega)]$$

Presentation Outline

Strong Law of large number

- We consider a function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \times \Xi \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, and a random variable ξ which takes values in Ξ , and define $F(x) := \mathbb{E}[f(x, \xi)]$.
- We consider a sequence of random variables $\{\xi_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$.
- We define the average function

$$\hat{F}_N(x) := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f(x, \xi_i)$$

- We say that we have a Law of Large Number (LLN) if,

$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad \mathbb{P}\left(\lim_n \hat{F}_n(x) = F(x)\right) = 1$$

- The strong LLN state that LLN holds if $f(x, \xi)$ is integrable, and $\{\xi_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a iid (with same law as ξ).

Uniform Law of large number

- Having LLN means that, for all $\varepsilon > 0$ (and almost all sample),

$$\forall x, \quad \exists N_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{N}, \quad n \geq N \quad \Longrightarrow \quad |\hat{F}_N(x) - F(x)| \leq \varepsilon$$

- We say that we have ULLN if for all $\varepsilon > 0$ (and almost all sample),

$$\exists N_\varepsilon \in \mathbb{N}, \quad \forall x, \quad n \geq N \quad \Longrightarrow \quad |\hat{F}_N(x) - F(x)| \leq \varepsilon$$

or equivalently

$$\exists N \in \mathbb{N} \quad n \geq N \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \sup_x |\hat{F}_N(x) - F(x)| \leq \varepsilon$$

Theorem

If f is a dominated Caratheodory function on X compact and the sample is iid then we have ULLN on X .

Central Limit Theorem

Theorem

Let $\{\mathbf{X}_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of rv iid, with finite second order moments.
Then we have

$$\sqrt{n} \left(\underbrace{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{X}_i}_{M_n} - \mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}] \right) \rightarrow \mathcal{N}(0, \text{std}(\mathbf{X}))$$

where the convergence is in law.

Monte-Carlo method

- Let $\{\mathbf{X}_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of rv iid with finite variance.
- We have $\mathbb{P}\left(M_N \in \left[\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}] \pm \frac{\Phi^{-1}(p)\text{std}(\mathbf{X})}{\sqrt{N}}\right]\right) \approx p$
- In order to estimate the expectation $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}]$, we can
 - sample N independent realizations of \mathbf{X} , $\{\mathbf{X}_i\}_{i \in \llbracket 1, N \rrbracket}$
 - compute the empirical mean $M_N = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \mathbf{X}_i}{N}$, and standard-deviation s_N
 - choose an error level p (e.g. 5%) and compute $\Phi^{-1}(1 - p/2)$ (1.96)
 - and we know that, asymptotically, the expectation $\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}]$ is in $\left[M_N \pm \frac{\Phi^{-1}(p)s_N}{\sqrt{N}}\right]$ with probability (on the sample) $1 - p$
- In the case of bounded independent variable we can use Hoeffding

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\mathbb{E}[\mathbf{X}] \in [M_n \pm t]\right) \geq 2e^{-\frac{2nt^2}{b-a}}$$

Presentation Outline

The (deterministic) newsboy problem

In the 50's a boy would buy a stock u of newspapers each morning at a cost c , and sell them all day long for a price p . The number of people interested in buying a paper during the day is d . We assume that $0 < c < p$.

How shall we model this ?

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How shall we model this ?

- Control $u \in \mathbb{R}^+$
- Cost $L(u) = cu - p \min(u, d)$

Leading to

$$\begin{aligned} \min_u \quad & cu - p \min(u, d) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & u \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

The (stochastic) newsboy problem

Demand d is unknown at time of purchasing. We model it as a random variable d with known law. Note that

- the control $u \in \mathbb{R}^+$ is deterministic
- the cost is a random variable (depending of d). We choose to minimize its expectation.

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We consider the following problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_u \quad & \mathbb{E}[cu - p \min(u, d)] \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & u \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

How can we justify the expectation ?

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How can we justify the expectation ?

By **law of large number**: the Newsboy is going to sell newspaper again and again. Then optimizing the sum over time of its gains is closely related to optimizing the expected gains.

Solving the stochastic newsboy problem

For simplicity assume that the demand \mathbf{d} has a continuous density f . Define $J(u)$ the expected "loss" of the newsboy if he bought u newspaper. We have

$$\begin{aligned} J(u) &= \mathbb{E} [cu - p \min(u, \mathbf{d})] \\ &= (c - p)u - p \mathbb{E} [\min(0, \mathbf{d} - u)] \\ &= (c - p)u - p \int_{-\infty}^u (x - u) f(x) dx \\ &= (c - p)u - p \left(\int_{-\infty}^u x f(x) dx - u \int_{-\infty}^u f(x) dx \right) \end{aligned}$$

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Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} J'(u) &= (c - p) - p \left(uf(u) - \int_{-\infty}^u f(x)dx - uf(u) \right) \\ &= c - p + pF(u) \end{aligned}$$

where F is the cumulative distribution function (cdf) of \mathbf{d} . F being non decreasing, the optimum control u^* is such that $J'(u^*) = 0$, which is

$$u^* \in F^{-1} \left(\frac{p - c}{p} \right)$$

News vendor problem (continued)

We assume that the demand can take value $\{d_i\}_{i \in \llbracket 1, n \rrbracket}$ with probabilities $\{p_i\}_{i \in \llbracket 1, n \rrbracket}$.

News vendor problem (continued)

We assume that the demand can take value $\{d_i\}_{i \in [1, n]}$ with probabilities $\{p_i\}_{i \in [1, n]}$.

In this case the stochastic news vendor problem reads

$$\begin{aligned} \min_u \quad & \sum_{i=1}^n p_i (cu - p \min(u, d_i)) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & u \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Two-stage newsvendor problem

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We can represent the newsvendor problem in a 2-stage framework.

- Let u_0 be the number of newspaper bought in the morning.
- let u_1 be the number of newspaper sold during the day.

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The problem reads

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{u_0, u_1} \quad & \mathbb{E} [cu_0 - pu_1] \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & u_0 \geq 0 \\ & u_1 \leq u_0 && \mathbb{P} - \text{as} \\ & u_1 \leq d && \mathbb{P} - \text{as} \\ & u_1 \preceq d \end{aligned}$$

In extensive formulation the problem reads

$$\begin{aligned}
 \min_{u_0, \{u_1^i\}_{i \in [1, n]}} & \quad \sum_{i=1}^n p_i (cu_0 - pu_1^i) \\
 \text{s.t.} & \quad u_0 \geq 0 \\
 & \quad u_1^i \leq u_0 \quad \forall i \in [1, n] \\
 & \quad u_1^i \leq d_i \quad \forall i \in [1, n]
 \end{aligned}$$

Note that there are as many second-stage control u_1^i as there are possible realization of the demand \mathbf{d} , but only one first-stage control u_0 .

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 & \quad u_1^i \leq u_0 \quad \forall i \in [1, n] \\
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 \end{aligned}$$

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Practical work

- Using julia we are going to model and work around the Newsvendor problem
- Download the files at <https://github.com/leclere/TP-Saclay>
- Start working on the "Newsvendor Problem" up to question 3.