Statistical Inference

Lecture 05a

ANU - RSFAS

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- We now have a few approaches to obtain point estimators.
- Now we must decide which one we ought to choose and for what reason.
- We have hinted at the idea of unbiasedness.

Definition 1: The bias of a point estimator T of a parameter θ is the difference between the expected value of T and θ .

$$Bias_{\theta} = E[T] - \theta$$

• For $X_1, \ldots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} f(x)$ where $E[X] = \mu, \ V(X) = \sigma^2$.

$$E[\bar{X}] = \mu, \quad E[S^2] = \sigma^2$$

• $\operatorname{Bias}(\bar{X}) = E[\bar{X}] - \mu = 0$. We say that the estimator is unbiased.

Eg. Let's consider $X_1, \ldots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{normal } (\mu, \sigma^2)$.

- We know the $E[S^2] = \sigma^2$. So it is unbiased.
- I actually think I like the estimator:

$$\frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \bar{x})^2$$

What do you think?

Recall: Definition 2: The mean squared error (MSE) of an estimator $T \equiv T(X)$ of a parameter θ is the function

$$E_{\theta}(T-\theta)^2$$

Eg. Let's reconsider our question for $X_1, \ldots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{normal } (\mu, \sigma^2)$.

- The MoM & ML estimator for σ^2 was $\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n (X_i \bar{X})^2$
- The unbiased estimator is $S^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (X_i \overline{X})^2$

$$\mathrm{MSE}(S^2) = \mathrm{Var}(S^2) = \frac{2\sigma^4}{n-1}$$
 $\mathrm{MSE}(\hat{\sigma}^2) = \frac{(2n-1)\sigma^4}{n^2}$
 $\mathrm{MSE}(S^2) > \mathrm{MSE}(\hat{\sigma}^2)$

- Let's now consider $\tilde{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i \bar{x})^2$:
- First let's derive the variance of S^2 :

$$(n-1)S^2/\sigma^2 \sim \chi_{n-1}^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad V\left((n-1)S^2/\sigma^2\right) = 2(n-1)$$

$$\left[(n-1)/\sigma^2\right]^2 V\left(S^2\right) = 2(n-1)$$

$$= \quad V\left(S^2\right) = \frac{2(n-1)\sigma^4}{(n-1)^2} = \frac{2\sigma^4}{(n-1)}$$

$$\tilde{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2$$
$$= \frac{n-1}{n+1} S^2$$

$$E[\tilde{\sigma}^2] = E\left[\frac{n-1}{n+1}S^2\right] = \frac{n-1}{n+1}E\left[S^2\right] = \frac{n-1}{n+1}\sigma^2$$

$$V[\tilde{\sigma}^2] = V\left[\frac{n-1}{n+1}S^2\right] = \left[\frac{n-1}{n+1}\right]^2V\left[S^2\right] = \left[\frac{n-1}{n+1}\right]^2\frac{2\sigma^4}{(n-1)}$$

 $MSE[\tilde{\sigma}^2] = \frac{2(n-1)\sigma^4}{(n+1)^2} + \left[\frac{n-1}{n+1}\sigma^2 - \sigma^2\right]^2 = \frac{2\sigma^4}{n+1}$

• Now let's compare to the MLE:

$$\begin{array}{cccc} \frac{2\sigma^4}{n+1} & ? & \frac{(2n-1)\sigma^4}{n^2} \\ \frac{2}{n+1} - \frac{(2n-1)\sigma^4}{n^2} & ? & 0 \\ & \frac{(1-n)\sigma^4}{n^2(n+1)} & <0 & \text{for n } \ge 1 \end{array}$$

$$MSE(\tilde{\sigma}^2) < MSE(\hat{\sigma}^2) < MSE(S^2)$$

Eg.: $X_1, \ldots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Bernoulli}(p)$.

- The MLE is $\hat{p} = \bar{X}$. The bias: $Bias(\hat{p}) = E[\hat{p}] p = p p = 0$.
- The variance of $\hat{p} = V(\bar{X}) = \frac{1}{n^2} np(1-p) = \frac{p(1-p)}{n}$.

$$MSE(\hat{p}) = \frac{p(1-p)}{n} + 0^2 = \frac{p(1-p)}{n}$$

- Let's consider a Bayesian estimator when $p \sim beta(a, b)$.
- We found $[p|x] \sim beta(y+a, n-y+b)$. Where $Y = \sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i$.
- If we use the mean of the posterior distribution we have the following Bayesian estimator:

$$\hat{p}_B = \frac{y+a}{a+b+n}$$

 Now we will again let Y be random to compare the MSE of the Bayesian and ML estimators.

$$E\left[\frac{Y+a}{a+b+n}\right] = \frac{E[Y]+a}{a+b+n} = \frac{np+a}{a+b+n}$$

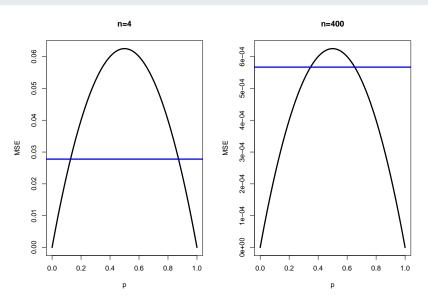
$$V\left[\frac{Y+a}{a+b+n}\right] = \left[\frac{1}{a+b+n}\right]^2 V(Y) = \left[\frac{1}{a+b+n}\right]^2 np(1-p)$$

$$MSE[\hat{p}_B] = MSE\left[\frac{Y+a}{a+b+n}\right] = \left[\frac{np(1-p)}{(a+b+n)^2}\right] + \left[\frac{np+a}{a+b+n} - p\right]^2$$

- To compare with the MLE we need specific values for a and b. Let's pick these to make the $MSE[\hat{p}_B]$ constant for p. You of course can try other values!
- It turns out that if we set $a = b = \sqrt{n/4}$ then we get (which is constant for p):

$$\hat{p}_B = rac{Y + \sqrt{n/4}}{n + \sqrt{n}}$$
 $MSE[\hat{p}_B] = rac{1}{(4(1+\sqrt{n})^2)}$

```
p \leftarrow seq(0,1, by=0.001)
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
n < -4
MSE.mle \leftarrow p*(1-p)/n
plot(p, MSE.mle, type="1", lwd=3, main="n=4", ylab="MSE")
abline(h = 1/(4*(sqrt(n) + 1)^2), 1wd=3, col="blue")
n < -400
MSE.mle \leftarrow p*(1-p)/n
plot(p, MSE.mle, type="1", lwd=3, main="n=400", ylab="MSE")
abline(h = 1/(4*(sqrt(n) + 1)^2), 1wd=3, col="blue")
```



- For small n the Bayesian estimator is the better choice, unless we believe p is near 0 or 1.
- For large n, then the MLE is the better choice, unless we believe p is near 1/2.

Of course this is based on the way we set our prior.

Eg.: An estimator T^* is a best unbiased estimator of $\tau(\theta)$ if it satisfies $E[T^*] = \tau(\theta)$ for all θ and, for any other estimator T with $E[T] = \tau(\theta)$ we have

$$V(T^*) \leq V(T) \ \forall \ \theta.$$

 T^* is also called a uniform minimum variance unbiased estimator (UMVUE) for $\tau(\theta)$.

• Finding a best unbiased estimator can be difficult.

Eg.: $X_1, \ldots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$.

- $E[\bar{X}] = \lambda$
- $E[S^2] = \lambda$
- Through a lot of work we can show:

$$V(\bar{X}) < V(S^2)$$

ullet But we could also consider (infinite number of choices for $a\in [0,1]$):

$$T(\bar{X}, S^2) = a\bar{X} + (1-a)S^2$$

- Are there other unbiased estimators?
- We would like to know if we have unbaised estimator whether its variance is the smallest possible!

Rice 8.7 Theorem A (Cramer-Rao Inequality [lower bound]): Let X_1, \ldots, X_n be a random sample from a distribution family with density function $f_X(x;\theta)$ where θ is a scalar parameter. Also, let $T=t(X_1,\ldots,X_n)$ be an unbiased estimator for $\tau(\theta)$. Then under certain regularity (smoothness) conditions:

$$Var_{ heta}(T) \geq rac{\{ au'(heta)\}^2}{ni(heta)} = \{ au'(heta)\}^2 I(heta)^{-1}$$

- $\tau'(\theta) = \frac{d}{d\theta}\tau(\theta)$
- Where $I(\theta) = ni(\theta)$ is called the Expected Fisher Information.

•
$$I(\theta) = E\left[\left(\frac{\partial I(\theta)}{\partial \theta}\right)^2\right] = -E\left[\frac{\partial^2 I(\theta)}{\partial \theta^2}\right]$$

Theorem A Extended: Let X_1, \ldots, X_n be a sample [note we don't have to have iid] with pdf $f(x|\theta)$ and let T(X) be an estimator [doesn't have to be unbiased] then based on regularity conditions we have:

$$V[T(\mathbf{X})] \ge \frac{\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} E[T(\mathbf{X})]\right]^2}{E\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right)^2\right]} = \frac{\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} E[T(\mathbf{X})]\right]^2}{I(\theta)}$$

• If $E[T(\mathbf{X})] = \tau(\theta)$, so $T(\mathbf{X})$ is an unbiased estimator for $\tau(\theta)$,

$$V[T(\boldsymbol{X})] \geq \frac{[\tau'(\theta)]^2}{I(\theta)}$$

If we have iid samples:

$$V[T(\boldsymbol{X})] \geq \frac{[\tau'(\theta)]^2}{ni(\theta)}$$

Eg: Poisson distribution: $X_1, \ldots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$.

$$f(x|\lambda) = \frac{\lambda^x exp(-\lambda)}{x!}$$

•
$$\tau(\lambda) = \lambda \Rightarrow \frac{d}{d\theta}\tau(\lambda) = 1$$
.

Eg: Poisson distribution.

$$i(\lambda) = E\left[\left(\frac{d}{d\lambda}\ln\{f(x|\lambda)\}\right)^{2}\right]$$

$$= E\left[\left(\frac{d}{d\lambda}\{x\ln(\lambda) - \lambda - x!\}\right)^{2}\right]$$

$$= E\left[\left(\frac{X}{\lambda} - 1\right)^{2}\right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{\lambda^{2}}E\left[(X - \lambda)^{2}\right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{\lambda^{2}}Var(X)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\lambda^{2}}\lambda = \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

$$V_{\lambda}(T) \geq \frac{1}{n\lambda^{-1}} = \frac{\lambda}{n}$$

We will show that a sufficient statistic for λ to be $\sum_{i=1}^{n} X_i$ so \bar{X} is also a sufficient statistic.

$$V(\bar{X}) = \frac{\lambda}{n}$$

We see that the lower bound is achieved by \bar{X} thus it is the Uniform Minimum Variance Unbiased Estimator (UMVUE) of λ .

Cramer-Rao Inequality - Regularity Conditions

- $\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} ln\{f(x|\theta)\}$ exists for all x and θ ;
- interchange of integration and differentiation is permissible;
- The expectation $i(\theta) = E\left[\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}ln\{f(x|\theta)\}\right]^2\right]$, where X is a generic random variable having distribution with density $f(x|\theta)$, is finite for all $\theta \in \Theta$.

 The proof is based on the Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality: For any two random variables Y and Z:

$$[Cov(Y,Z)]^2 \leq V(Y)V(Z) \Rightarrow V(Y) \geq \frac{[Cov(Y,Z)]^2}{V(Z)}$$

- We choose Y in this equation to be T(X) and Z to be $\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x|\theta)$.
- Recall:

$$V(Z) = E[Z^2] - (E[Z])^2$$

 $Cov(Y, Z) = E[YZ] - E[Y] E[Z]$

First note:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} E[T(\mathbf{X})] = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \int_{\mathcal{X}} T(\mathbf{x}) f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) d\mathbf{x}$$

$$= \int_{\mathcal{X}} T(\mathbf{x}) \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) \right] d\mathbf{x}$$

$$= \int_{\mathcal{X}} T(\mathbf{x}) \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) \frac{f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)}{f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)} \right] d\mathbf{x}$$

$$= E \left[T(\mathbf{X}) \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) \right]$$

$$= E \left[T(\mathbf{X}) \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) \right]$$

Second note:

$$E\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right] = \int_{\mathcal{X}} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right] f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) dx$$

$$= \int_{\mathcal{X}} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right] f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) dx$$

$$= \int_{\mathcal{X}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) dx$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \int_{\mathcal{X}} f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) dx$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} (1) = 0$$

$$Cov \left[T(\mathbf{X}), \ \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) \right] = E \left[T(\mathbf{X}) \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) \right]$$

$$-E \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) \right] E \left[T(\mathbf{X}) \right]$$

$$= E \left[T(\mathbf{X}) \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) \right] - [0] E \left[T(\mathbf{X}) \right]$$

$$= E \left[T(\mathbf{X}) \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) \right]$$

$$= \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} E [T(\mathbf{X})]$$

$$V\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right] = E\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right)^{2}\right] - \left(E\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right]\right)^{2}$$
$$= E\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right)^{2}\right] - (0)^{2}$$
$$= E\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right)^{2}\right]$$

$$V(Y) \geq \frac{\left[Cov(Y,Z)\right]^{2}}{V(Z)}$$

$$V[T(X)] \geq \frac{\left[Cov\left[T(X), \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x|\theta)\right]\right]^{2}}{V\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x|\theta)\right]}$$

$$\geq \frac{\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} E[T(X)]\right]^{2}}{E\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x|\theta)\right)^{2}\right]}$$

Cramer-Rao Inequality

So we have:

$$V[T(\mathbf{X})] \ge \frac{\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} E[T(\mathbf{X})]\right]^2}{E\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right)^2\right]}$$

Corollarly (iid case): If the regularity conditions hold and T(X) is an unbiased estimator for $\tau(\theta)$ and we have $X_1, \ldots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} f(x|\theta)$, then

$$V[T(\mathbf{X})] \ge \frac{\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} E[T(\mathbf{X})]\right]^2}{nE\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right)^2\right]} = \frac{\left[\tau'(\theta)\right]^2}{ni(\theta)} = \left\{\tau'(\theta)\right\}^2 I(\theta)^{-1}$$

We need to show

$$E\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right)^{2}\right] = nE\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right)^{2}\right]$$

$$E\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right)^{2}\right] = E\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log \prod_{i=1}^{n} f(x_{i}|\theta)\right)^{2}\right]$$

$$= E\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \log f(x_{i}|\theta)\right)^{2}\right]$$

$$= E\left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x_{i}|\theta)\right)^{2}\right]$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} E\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x_{i}|\theta)\right)^{2}\right]$$

$$+ \sum_{i \neq i} E\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x_{i}|\theta)\right) \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x_{i}|\theta)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} E\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x_{i}|\theta)\right)^{2}\right]$$

$$+ \sum_{i \neq j} E\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x_{i}|\theta) \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x_{j}|\theta)\right)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} E\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x_{i}|\theta)\right)^{2}\right]$$

$$+ \sum_{i \neq j} E\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x_{i}|\theta)\right) E\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x_{j}|\theta)\right)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} E\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x_{i}|\theta)\right)^{2}\right] + [0][0]$$

$$= nE\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x_{j}|\theta)\right)^{2}\right] = ni(\theta)$$

Fisher Information

 The Fisher information, or expected Fisher information, or the information number is:

$$I(\theta) = E\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right)^{2}\right] = -E\left[\left(\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial \theta^{2}} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right)\right]$$

• For one data point we have:

$$i(\theta) = E\left[\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x|\theta)\right)^2\right]$$

• For iid data:

$$ni(\theta) = I(\theta)$$

Fisher Information - Proof

First note:

$$\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial \theta^{2}} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)
= \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \frac{\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)}{f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)}
= \frac{\left[\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial \theta^{2}} f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right] f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) - \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right] \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right]}{\left[f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right]^{2}}
= \frac{\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial \theta^{2}} f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)}{f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)} - \left[\frac{\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)}{f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)}\right]^{2}
= \frac{\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial \theta^{2}} f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)}{f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)} - \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right]^{2}$$

Fisher Information - Proof

Now let's take expectations:

$$E\left[\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial \theta^{2}} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right] = E\left[\frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial \theta^{2}} f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right] - E\left[\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right]^{2}\right]$$

$$= -E\left[\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right]^{2}\right] + \int_{\mathcal{X}} \frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial \theta^{2}} f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) d\mathbf{x}$$

$$= -E\left[\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right]^{2}\right] + \int_{\mathcal{X}} \frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial \theta^{2}} f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) d\mathbf{x}$$

$$= -E\left[\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right]^{2}\right] + \frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial \theta^{2}} \int_{\mathcal{X}} f(\mathbf{x}|\theta) d\mathbf{x}$$

$$= -E\left[\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right]^{2}\right] + \frac{\partial^{2}}{\partial \theta^{2}} [1]$$

$$= -E\left[\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right]^{2}\right] + 0$$

Fisher Information - Proof

• So we have:

$$E\left[\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right]^2\right] = -E\left[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right]$$

• Note: We already showed $E\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right] = 0$. We also showed the following (but just to make it clear)

$$V\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right] = E\left[\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right]^{2}\right] - \left(E\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right]\right)^{2}$$
$$= E\left[\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(\mathbf{x}|\theta)\right]^{2}\right]$$