

Mean and Variance of Exponential

Family models (3/3)

Given a model with location parameter θ and scale parameter ϕ , with log likelihood function

$l(\theta, \phi, y)$ and having density or mass function

$$f(y; \theta, \phi) = \exp\left(\frac{y\theta - b(\theta)}{a(\phi)} + c(y, \theta)\right)$$

where $a(\cdot)$, $b(\cdot)$ and $c(\cdot)$ are specific functions.

We can prove that $\text{var}\left(\frac{\partial l}{\partial \theta}\right) = b''(\theta)a(\phi)$, indeed:

$$\text{var}\left(\frac{\partial l}{\partial \theta}\right) = -E\left[\frac{\partial^2 l}{\partial^2 \theta}\right] \quad \text{by definition}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \text{var}\left(\frac{y - b'(\theta)}{a(\phi)}\right) = -E\left[\frac{-b''(\theta)}{a(\phi)}\right]$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{a^2(\phi)} \text{var}(y) = \frac{b''(\theta)}{a(\phi)}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \text{var}(y) = b''(\theta) a(\phi)$$

So the variance of the variable of interest y is the second derivative of the function containing only the location parameter θ times the function containing the scale parameter ϕ .

