

Maximum Likelihood Estimation

Exponential model

$$L(\lambda | X) = \prod_{i=1}^n \lambda e^{-\lambda x_i} = \lambda^n e^{-\lambda \sum_{i=1}^n x_i}$$

log likelihood :

$$\ell(\lambda | X) = n \ln(\lambda) - \lambda \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$$

$$\frac{\partial \ell(\lambda | X)}{\partial \lambda} = \frac{n}{\lambda} - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \quad \stackrel{\text{set}}{\Rightarrow} 0$$

$$\frac{n}{\lambda} = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \hat{\lambda}_{MLE} = \frac{n}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i} = \frac{1}{\bar{x}}$$

Reference : Any good mathematical Statistics textbook.