

MSE for Uniform model

By convention, we prefer an estimator with small MSE for all of the values of the parameter θ at once.

If for two estimators T_1 and T_2 , we have

$$E_{\theta}[(T_1 - g(\theta))^2] \leq E_{\theta}[(T_2 - g(\theta))^2] \text{ for all } \theta \in \Theta,$$

with a strict inequality for at least one value of θ , then we prefer T_1 .

Example: Let $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim U[0, \theta]$. The estimator

$2\bar{X}$ is unbiased because:

$$E_{\theta}[2\bar{X}] = \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n E[X_i] = \frac{2}{n} n \frac{\theta}{2} = \underline{\theta},$$

$$MSE_{\theta}(2\bar{X}) = 4 \text{Var}_{\theta}(\bar{X}) = \frac{4}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}_{\theta}(X_i) = \underline{\frac{\theta^2}{3n}}$$

The estimator $X_{(n)}$ (^{last ordered} value) is biased because

$$E_{\theta}[X_{(n)}] = \int_0^{\theta} x n x^{n-1} \frac{1}{\theta^n} dx = \underline{\frac{n}{n+1} \theta}$$

$$MSE_{\theta}(X_{(n)}) = \underline{\frac{2\theta}{(n+2)(n+1)}}$$

We can cancel out the bias by the constant $\left(\frac{n+1}{n}\right)$.

However, the biased estimator $\left(\frac{n+2}{n+1}\right) X_{(n)}$ is better than all estimators (smallest MSE).

Reference: An Introduction to Mathematical Statistics;
Bijma, Jonker, van der Vaart; 2016.