

# 现代信号处理

## Lecture 16

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### 3.4 Cramer-Rao Lower Bound

**Theorem 3.1 (Cramer-Rao Lower Bound - Scalar Parameter)** *It is assumed that the PDF  $p(x; \theta)$  satisfies the "regularity" condition*

$$E\left[\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta}\right] = 0 \quad \text{for all } \theta$$

*where the expectation is taken with respect to  $p(x; \theta)$ . Then, the variance of any unbiased estimator  $\hat{\theta}$  must satisfy*

$$\text{var}(\hat{\theta}) \geq \frac{1}{-E\left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2}\right]}$$

*where the derivative is evaluated at the true value of  $\theta$  and the expectation is taken with respect to  $p(x; \theta)$ . Furthermore, an unbiased estimator may be found that attains the bound for all  $\theta$  if and only if*

$$\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} = I(\theta)(g(x) - \theta)$$

*for some functions  $g$  and  $I$ . That estimator, which is the MVU estimator, is  $\hat{\theta} = g(x)$ , and the minimum variance is  $1/I(\theta)$ .*

## Example – CRLB for the PDF Dependence on Unknown Parameter example

If a single sample is observed as

$$x[0] = A + w[0]$$

where  $w[0] \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ , and it is desired to estimate  $A$

$$p(x[0]; A) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x[0]-A)^2\right]$$

$$\frac{\partial \ln p(x[0]; A)}{\partial A} = \frac{1}{\sigma^2}(x[0]-A)$$

$$-\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x[0]; A)}{\partial A^2} = \frac{1}{\sigma^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E\left[\frac{\partial \ln p(x[0]; A)}{\partial A}\right] &= E\left[\frac{1}{\sigma^2}(x[0]-A)\right] \\ &= \frac{1}{\sigma^2} E(x[0]) - \frac{1}{\sigma^2} A \\ &= \frac{1}{\sigma^2} A - \frac{1}{\sigma^2} A = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$p(x; \theta)$  satisfies the "regularity" condition

$$\text{var}(\hat{A}) \geq \frac{1}{-E\left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; A)}{\partial A^2}\right]} = \sigma^2 \quad \text{for all } A$$

Thus, no unbiased estimator can exist whose variance is lower than  $\sigma^2$  for even a single value of  $A$ . If  $\hat{A} = x[0]$ , then  $\text{var}(\hat{A}) = \sigma^2$ . Since  $x[0]$  is unbiased and attains the CRLB, it must therefore be the MVU estimator.

$$\frac{\partial \ln p(x[0]; A)}{\partial A} = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} (x[0] - A) \quad \frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} = I(\theta)(g(x) - \theta)$$

$$\theta = A, \quad I(\theta) = \frac{1}{\sigma^2}, \quad g(x[0]) = x[0]$$

Hence,  $\hat{A} = g(x[0]) = x[0]$  is the MVU estimator.

## Example – DC Level in White Gaussian Noise

Consider the multiple observations

$$x[n] = A + w[n], \quad n = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$$

where  $w[n] \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ , and it is desired to estimate  $A$

$$\begin{aligned} p(x; A) &= \prod_{n=0}^{N-1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x[n]-A)^2\right] \\ &= \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{\frac{N}{2}}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} (x[n]-A)^2\right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E\left[\frac{\partial \ln p(x[0]; A)}{\partial A}\right] &= E\left[\frac{N}{\sigma^2}(\bar{x}-A)\right] \\ &= \frac{N}{\sigma^2} E(\bar{x}) - \frac{N}{\sigma^2} A \\ &= \frac{N}{\sigma^2} A - \frac{N}{\sigma^2} A = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \ln p(x; A)}{\partial A} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial A} \left[ -\ln(2\pi\sigma^2)^{\frac{N}{2}} - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} (x[n]-A)^2 \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} (x[n]-A) = \frac{N}{\sigma^2}(\bar{x}-A) \\ -\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; A)}{\partial A^2} &= \frac{N}{\sigma^2} \end{aligned}$$

$p(x; A)$  satisfies the "regularity" condition

$$\text{var}(\hat{A}) \geq \frac{1}{-E\left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; A)}{\partial A^2}\right]} = \frac{\sigma^2}{N} \quad \text{for all } A$$

Thus, no unbiased estimator can exist whose variance is lower than  $\sigma^2 / N$  for even a single value of  $A$ . If  $\hat{A} = \bar{x}$ , then  $\text{var}(\hat{A}) = \sigma^2 / N$ . Since  $\bar{x}$  is unbiased and attains the CRLB, it must therefore be the MVU estimator.

$$\frac{\partial \ln p(x; A)}{\partial A} = \frac{N}{\sigma^2} (\bar{x} - A) \quad \frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} = I(\theta)(g(x) - \theta)$$

$$\theta = A, \quad I(\theta) = \frac{N}{\sigma^2}, \quad g(x) = \bar{x}$$

Hence,  $\hat{A} = g(x) = \bar{x}$  is the MVU estimator.

We now prove that when the CRLB is attained

$$\text{var}(\hat{\theta}) = \frac{1}{I(\theta)}$$

where

$$I(\theta) = -E\left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2}\right]$$

**Proof:**

The CRLB is attained

$$\text{var}(\hat{\theta}) = \frac{1}{-E\left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2}\right]}$$

Since

$$\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} = I(\theta)(g(x) - \theta) = I(\theta)(\hat{\theta} - \theta)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2} &= \frac{\partial I(\theta)}{\partial \theta}(\hat{\theta} - \theta) - I(\theta) \\ &\quad - E\left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2}\right] = -\frac{\partial I(\theta)}{\partial \theta}[E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta] + I(\theta) \\ &= -\frac{\partial I(\theta)}{\partial \theta}[\theta - \theta] + I(\theta) = I(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

## Example – Phase Estimation (the CRLB is not always satisfied)

Assume that we wish to estimate the phase  $\phi$  of a sinusoid embedded in WGN or

$$x[n] = A \cos(2\pi f_0 n + \phi) + w[n], \quad n = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$$

The amplitude  $A$  and frequency  $f_0$  are assumed known. The PDF is

$$p(x; \phi) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{\frac{N}{2}}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} [x[n] - A \cos(2\pi f_0 n + \phi)]^2\right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \ln p(x; \phi)}{\partial \phi} &= -\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} [x[n] - A \cos(2\pi f_0 n + \phi)] A \sin(2\pi f_0 n + \phi) \\ &= -\frac{A}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \left[ x[n] \sin(2\pi f_0 n + \phi) - \frac{A}{2} \sin(4\pi f_0 n + 2\phi) \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \phi)}{\partial \phi^2} = -\frac{A}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} [x[n] \cos(2\pi f_0 n + \phi) - A \cos(4\pi f_0 n + 2\phi)]$$

$$\begin{aligned}
E\left[\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \phi)}{\partial \phi}\right] &= -\frac{A}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \left[ \sin(2\pi f_0 n + \phi) E[x[n]] - \frac{A}{2} \sin(4\pi f_0 n + 2\phi) \right] \\
&= -\frac{A}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \left[ \sin(2\pi f_0 n + \phi) A \cos(2\pi f_0 n + \phi) - \frac{A}{2} \sin(4\pi f_0 n + 2\phi) \right] \\
&= 0
\end{aligned}$$

$p(x; \phi)$  satisfies the "regularity" condition

$$\text{var}(\hat{\phi}) \geq \frac{1}{-E\left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \phi)}{\partial \phi^2}\right]} \quad \text{for all } \phi$$

$$\begin{aligned}
-E\left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \phi)}{\partial \phi^2}\right] &= \frac{A}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} [E[x[n]] \cos(2\pi f_0 n + \phi) - A \cos(4\pi f_0 n + 2\phi)] \\
&= \frac{A}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} [A \cos^2(2\pi f_0 n + \phi) - A \cos(4\pi f_0 n + 2\phi)] \\
&= \frac{A^2}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cos(4\pi f_0 n + 2\phi) - \cos(4\pi f_0 n + 2\phi) \right] \approx \frac{NA^2}{2\sigma^2}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\cos(2x) = 2\cos^2 x - 1$$

Since

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^N \cos(4\pi f_0 n + 2\phi) \approx 0$$

for  $f_0$  not near 0 or  $\frac{1}{2}$  (see Problem 3.7). Therefore

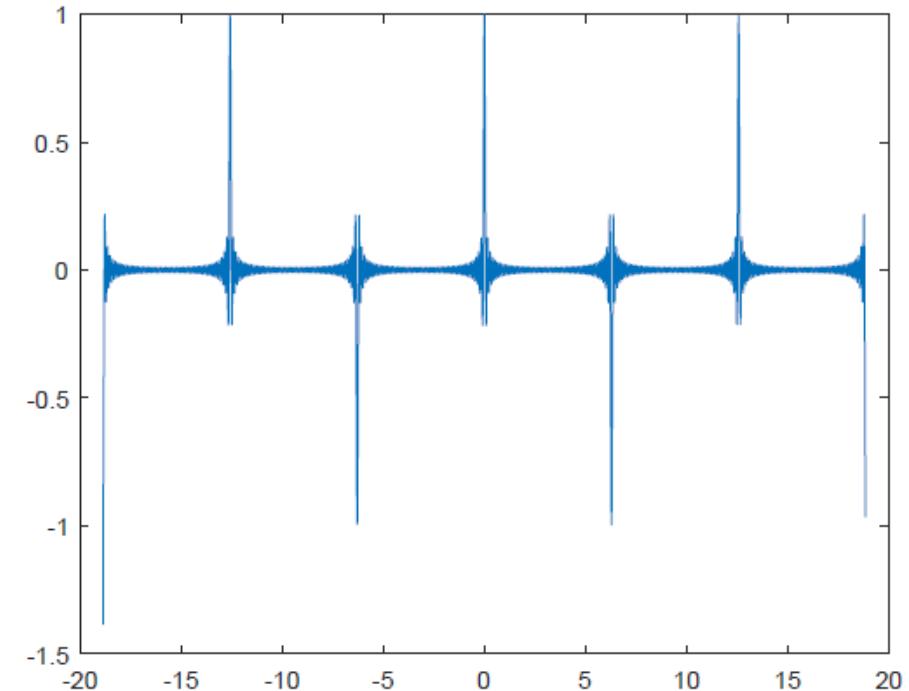
$$\text{var}(\hat{\phi}) \geq \frac{2\sigma^2}{NA^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \ln p(x; \phi)}{\partial \phi} &= -\frac{A}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \left[ x[n] \sin(2\pi f_0 n + \phi) - \frac{A}{2} \sin(4\pi f_0 n + 2\phi) \right] \\ &\neq I(\phi)(g(x) - \phi) \end{aligned}$$

The condition for the bound to hold is not satisfied. Hence, a phase estimator does not exist which is unbiased and attains the CRLB. It is still possible, however, that an MVU estimator may exist.

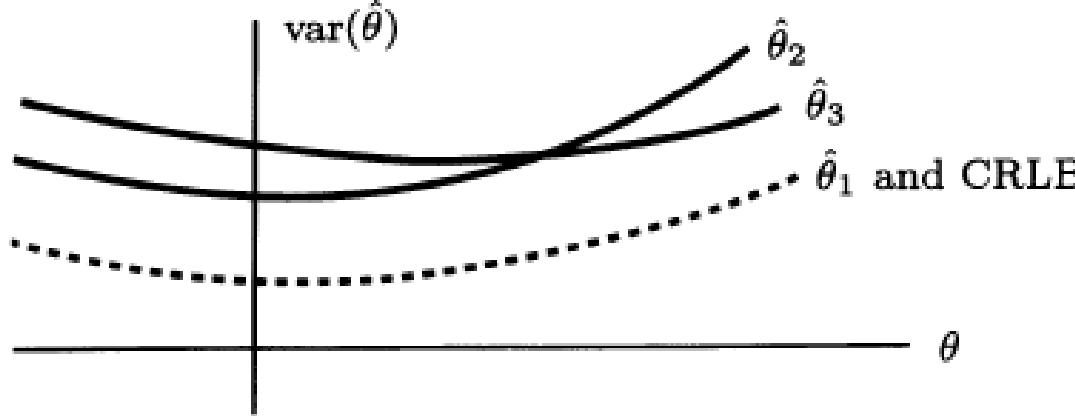
令  $\alpha = 4\pi f_0, \beta = 2\phi$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \cos(\alpha n + \beta) &= \frac{1}{N} \text{Re} \left( \sum_n e^{j(\alpha n + \beta)} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \text{Re} \left( e^{j\beta} \frac{1 - e^{j\alpha N}}{1 - e^{j\alpha}} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \text{Re} \left( e^{j\beta} \frac{e^{j\alpha N/2} e^{-j\alpha N/2} - e^{j\alpha N/2}}{e^{j\alpha/2} e^{-j\alpha/2} - e^{j\alpha/2}} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \text{Re} \left( e^{j\beta} e^{j\alpha(\frac{N-1}{2})} \frac{\sin N\alpha/2}{\sin \alpha/2} \right) \\ &= \frac{\sin N\alpha/2}{N \sin \alpha/2} \cos \left[ \alpha \left( \frac{N-1}{2} \right) + \beta \right] \end{aligned}$$

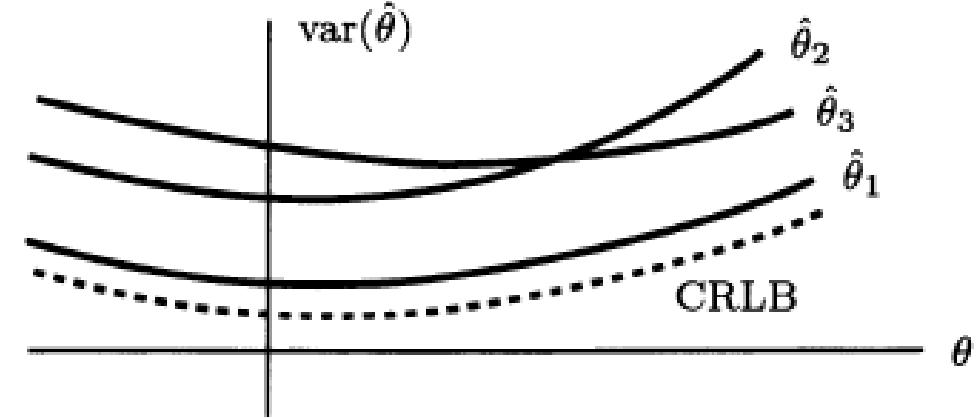


除非  $\alpha$  在  $2\pi$  的整数倍附近，否则  $\frac{\sin N\alpha/2}{N \sin \alpha/2} \approx 0$ 。当  $\alpha$  取  $2\pi$  时， $f_0$  取  $1/2$ 。  
图为  $N=100$  时， $\frac{\sin Nx/2}{N \sin x/2}$  的取值。

An estimator which is unbiased and attains the CRLB is said to be *efficient* in that it efficiently uses the data. An MVU estimator may or may not be efficient.



(a)  $\hat{\theta}_1$  efficient and MVU



(b)  $\hat{\theta}_1$  MVU but not efficient

**Figure 3.2** Efficiency vs. minimum variance

**Efficient Estimator:** an unbiased estimator that attains CRLB, meaning its variance is the smallest theoretically achievable, hence it is called "*efficient*".

**MVU estimator:** the estimator with the smallest variance among all unbiased estimators, but it may not necessarily attain the CRLB, and thus may not be efficient.

### 3.5 General CRLB for Signals in White Gaussian Noise

Assume that a deterministic signal with an unknown parameter  $\theta$  is observed in WGN as

$$x[n] = s[n; \theta] + w[n], \quad n = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$$

The likelihood function is

$$p(x; \theta) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{\frac{N}{2}}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} (x[n] - s[n; \theta])^2 \right\}$$

$$\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} (x[n] - s[n; \theta]) \frac{\partial s[n; \theta]}{\partial \theta}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2} = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \left\{ (x[n] - s[n; \theta]) \frac{\partial^2 s[n; \theta]}{\partial \theta^2} - \left( \frac{\partial s[n; \theta]}{\partial \theta} \right)^2 \right\}$$

$$E \left( \frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2} \right) = -\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \left( \frac{\partial s[n; \theta]}{\partial \theta} \right)^2$$

$$\text{var}(\hat{\theta}) \geq \frac{\sigma^2}{\sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \left( \frac{\partial s[n; \theta]}{\partial \theta} \right)^2}$$

This form of the bound demonstrates the importance of the signal dependence on  $\theta$ . Signals that change rapidly as the unknown parameter changes result in accurate estimators.

The CRLB may also be expressed in a slightly different form. Since

$$E\left[\left(\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta}\right)^2\right] = -E\left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2}\right] \quad (\text{see Appendix 3A})$$

we have

$$\text{var}(\hat{\theta}) \geq \frac{1}{E\left[\left(\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta}\right)^2\right]} \quad (\text{see Problem 3.8})$$

## Fisher information

$$I(\theta) = E \left[ \left( \frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \right)^2 \right] = -E \left[ \frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2} \right]$$

$$\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} = \frac{1}{p(x; \theta)} \frac{\partial p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta}$$

$$\int p(x; \theta) dx = 1 \quad \int \frac{\partial p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} dx = 0 \quad E \left[ \frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \right] = \int \underline{\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta}} p(x; \theta) dx = 0$$

"regularity" condition

$$I(\theta) = E \left[ \left( \frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \right)^2 \right] = \int \left( \frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \right)^2 p(x; \theta) dx = \int \underline{\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta}} \underline{\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta}} p(x; \theta) dx$$

$$I(\theta) = \int \frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} dx$$

## Fisher information

$$I(\theta) = \int \frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} dx$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left[ p(x; \theta) \frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \right] = \frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \frac{\partial p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial^2 \theta} p(x; \theta)$$

$$I(\theta) = \int \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left[ p(x; \theta) \frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \right] dx - \int \frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial^2 \theta} p(x; \theta) dx$$

$$\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} = \frac{1}{p(x; \theta)} \frac{\partial p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \quad I(\theta) = \int \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \frac{\partial p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \right) dx - E \left[ \frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial^2 \theta} \right]$$

## Fisher information

$$I(\theta) = \int \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \frac{\partial p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \right) dx - E \left[ \frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial^2 \theta} \right]$$

$$I(\theta) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \int \frac{\partial p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} dx - E \left[ \frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial^2 \theta} \right]$$

$$\int \frac{\partial p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} dx = 0 \quad I(\theta) = E \left[ \left( \frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \right)^2 \right] = -E \left[ \frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2} \right]$$

$$\text{var}(\hat{\theta}) \geq \frac{1}{-E \left[ \frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2} \right]} = \frac{1}{I(\theta)}$$