

(5) Sufficiency, bias, Rao-Blackwell theorem

Let X_1, \dots, X_n be i.i.d. $Poi(\lambda)$, with unknown $\lambda > 0$.

(a) Show that $Y = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ is a sufficient statistic for λ .

(b) Find an unbiased estimator of $p_r = P(X = r)$, which depends only on X_1 .

Find $P(X_1 = r | Y = k)$ both for $k \geq r$ and $k < r$.

Hence use the Rao-Blackwell theorem to improve your estimator of p_r .

$$a) L(x|\lambda) = \begin{cases} \lambda^{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i} \left(\prod_{i=1}^n x_i! \right)^{-1} \exp(-n\lambda) & , \text{ if } x = 0, 1, \dots \\ 0 & , \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

From now on we only consider $x \in \{0, 1, \dots\}$. Let $g(z|\lambda) := \lambda^z \exp(-n\lambda)$, and $h(x) := \left(\prod_{i=1}^n x_i! \right)^{-1}$. We have $L(x|\lambda) = g(Y, \lambda) h(x)$, hence Y is a sufficient statistic for λ .

$$b) p_r = P(X=r) = \frac{\lambda^r}{r!} e^{-\lambda}, \quad \hat{p}_r(x) := \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x_1 = r \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}, \text{ then } \hat{p}_r(X) \text{ is an}$$

unbiased estimator of p_r , since $E_\lambda(\hat{p}_r(X)) = \frac{\lambda^r}{r!} e^{-\lambda} = p_r$

Let $k < r$, if there was ω with $k = Y(\omega) = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i(\omega)$ and $X_1(\omega) = r$, then

$$r = X_1(\omega) \leq \sum_{i=1}^n X_i(\omega) = k, \text{ hence } P(X_1=r | Y=k) = 0$$

Let $r \leq k$, then

$$P(X_1=r | Y=k) = \frac{P(X_1=r, \sum_{i=2}^n X_i=k-r)}{P(Y=k)} = \frac{P(X_1=r) P(\sum_{i=2}^n X_i=k-r)}{P(Y=k)}$$

$$= \frac{\lambda^r}{r!} e^{-\lambda} \frac{((n-1)\lambda)^{k-r}}{(k-r)!} e^{-(n-1)\lambda} \left(\frac{(n\lambda)^k}{k!} e^{-n\lambda} \right)^{-1} \\ = \frac{k!}{r!(k-r)!} \frac{(n-1)^{k-r}}{n^k} = \binom{k}{r} \frac{(n-1)^{k-r}}{n^k}$$

We used that $\sum_{i=2}^n X_i \sim Poi((n-1)\lambda)$ and $Y \sim Poi(n\lambda)$

$$\text{Hence } \phi(k) = E(X_1=r | Y=k) = P(X_1=r | Y=k) = \begin{cases} \binom{k}{r} \frac{(n-1)^{k-r}}{n^k}, & \text{if } 0 \leq r \leq k \\ 0 & , \text{ otherwise} \end{cases}$$

By the Rao-Blackwell Theorem, $\phi(Y)$ is an unbiased estimator of p_r with

$$\text{Var}_p(\phi(Y)) \leq \text{Var}(\hat{p}_r(X)).$$