

(1) Method of moment estimator

Let X_1, \dots, X_n be a random sample from a population with pdf

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\theta x^{\theta-1}}{3^\theta}, & 0 < x < 3 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^+$ is unknown parameter.

(a) Show that the method of moments estimator for θ is $T_n = \frac{\bar{X}}{3-\bar{X}}$.

(b) Find the limiting distribution of $\frac{T_n - \theta}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}}$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

$$a) \mu(\theta) = \int_0^3 \frac{\theta x^{\theta-1}}{3^\theta} x dx = \theta 3^{-\theta} \left[\frac{x^{\theta+1}}{\theta+1} \right]_{x=0}^3 = \frac{\theta}{\theta+1} 3 \stackrel{!}{=} \bar{X} \Leftrightarrow 3\theta = \bar{X}\theta + \bar{X} \Leftrightarrow \theta(3-\bar{X}) = \bar{X}$$

$$\text{Thus, } T_n = \frac{\bar{X}}{3-\bar{X}}.$$

$$b) g:]0, 3[\rightarrow \mathbb{R}: y \mapsto \frac{y}{3-y}; \quad g'(y) = (3-y)^{-1} + y(3-y)^{-2} = \frac{3-y+y}{(3-y)^2} = \frac{3}{(3-y)^2}$$

$$(\sigma(\theta))^2 - (\mu(\theta))^2 = \int_0^3 \frac{\theta x^{\theta-1}}{3^\theta} x^2 dx = \theta 3^{-\theta} \left[\frac{x^{\theta+2}}{\theta+2} \right]_0^3 = \frac{9\theta}{\theta+2} \Rightarrow (\sigma(\theta))^2 = \frac{9\theta}{\theta+2} - \frac{9\theta^2}{(\theta+1)^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow (\sigma(\theta))^2 = ((\theta+2)(\theta+1)^2)^{-1} (9\theta(\theta+1)^2 - 9\theta^2(\theta+2)) \\ = ((\theta+2)(\theta+1)^2)^{-1} (9\theta^3 + 18\theta^2 + 9\theta - 9\theta^3 - 18\theta^2) = 9\theta((\theta+2)(\theta+1)^2)^{-1}$$

$$\text{By CLT, we have } \sqrt{n} \left(\bar{X} - \frac{3\theta}{\theta+1} \right) \xrightarrow{d} Y \sim \mathcal{N}(0, (\sigma(\theta))^2) = \mathcal{N}\left(0, \frac{9\theta}{(\theta+2)(\theta+1)^2}\right).$$

$$g\left(\frac{3\theta}{\theta+1}\right) = \frac{\frac{3\theta}{\theta+1}}{3 - \frac{3\theta}{\theta+1}} = \frac{3\theta}{3(\theta+1) - 3\theta} = \frac{3\theta}{3\theta + 3 - 3\theta} = \theta$$

We apply the delta method and obtain

$$\sqrt{n}(T_n - \theta) = \sqrt{n}\left(g(\bar{X}) - g\left(\frac{3\theta}{\theta+1}\right)\right) \rightarrow \mathcal{N}\left(0, (\sigma(\theta))^2 \left(g'\left(\frac{3\theta}{\theta+1}\right)\right)^2\right)$$

$$g'\left(\frac{3\theta}{\theta+1}\right) = \frac{3}{\left(3 - \frac{3\theta}{\theta+1}\right)^2} = \frac{3(\theta+1)^2}{(3(\theta+1) - 3\theta)^2} = \frac{(\theta+1)^2}{3}$$

$$\Rightarrow (\sigma(\theta))^2 \left(g'\left(\frac{3\theta}{\theta+1}\right)\right)^2 = \frac{9\theta}{(\theta+2)(\theta+1)^2} \cdot \frac{(\theta+1)^4}{9} = \frac{\theta(\theta+1)^2}{\theta+2}$$

$$\text{Thus, } \sqrt{n}(T_n - \theta) \rightarrow \mathcal{N}\left(0, \frac{\theta(\theta+1)^2}{\theta+2}\right)$$

(2) Box of candles

There are blue and red candles in a box. Probability that a randomly chosen candle is blue is $\frac{1}{1+2a}$, for $a > 0$. Based on a sample of sample size n , find the maximum likelihood estimator (MLE) \hat{a} of the parameter a .

$$p(a) = (1+2a)^{-1} \Rightarrow p'(a) = -2(1+2a)^{-2}$$

For $x \in \{0,1\}^n$:

$$L(a|x) = \prod_{i=1}^n (p(a))^{x_i} (1-p(a))^{1-x_i} = (p(a))^{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i} (1-p(a))^{(n-\sum_{i=1}^n x_i)}, \text{ hence}$$

$$\ell(a|x) = \log(p(a)) \sum_{i=1}^n x_i + \left(n - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right) \log(1-p(a))$$

$$\begin{aligned} \ell'(\hat{a}|x) &= \frac{1}{p(\hat{a})} p'(\hat{a}) \sum_{i=1}^n x_i + \left(n - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right) \frac{1}{1-p(\hat{a})} (-p'(\hat{a})) \\ &= -2(1+2\hat{a})^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i + \left(n - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right) (1 - (1+2\hat{a})^{-1})^{-1} 2(1+2\hat{a})^{-2} \end{aligned}$$

$$= -2(1+2\hat{a})^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i + \left(n - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right) (2\hat{a})^{-1} (1+2\hat{a}) 2(1+2\hat{a})^{-2}$$

$$= \left((1+2\hat{a}) \hat{a}\right)^{-1} \left(-2\hat{a} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i + \left(n - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right)\right) \stackrel{!}{=} 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow -2\hat{a} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i + n - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i = 0 \Leftrightarrow \hat{a} = \frac{1}{2} \left(n \left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right) - 1\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \ell''(\hat{a}|x) &= 4(1+2\hat{a})^{-2} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i + \left(n - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right) \left((-1)(\hat{a})^{-2} (1+2\hat{a})^{-1} - \hat{a}^{-1} (1+2\hat{a})^{-2}\right) \\ &= \left((1+2\hat{a}) \hat{a}\right)^{-2} \left(4\hat{a}^2 \sum_{i=1}^n x_i - \left(n - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right)\right) \left((1+2\hat{a}) + \hat{a}\right) \end{aligned}$$

(2) Box of candles

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$$\text{For } x \in \{0,1\}^n: \quad S_n = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$$

$$L_n(a) = \prod_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{1}{1+2a} \right)^{x_i} \left(1 - \frac{1}{1+2a} \right)^{1-x_i} = \left(\frac{1}{1+2a} \right)^{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i} \left(\frac{2a}{1+2a} \right)^{n - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i}$$

$$\ell_n(a) = -S_n \log(1+2a) + (n-S_n) (\log(2a) - \log(1+2a)) = \log(2a) (n-S_n) - n \log(1+2a)$$

$$\ell_n'(a) = \frac{n-S_n}{a} - \frac{2n}{1+2a} \stackrel{!}{=} 0 \Leftrightarrow (n-S_n)(1+2a) = 2na \Leftrightarrow n+2na-S_n-2aS_n=2na \\ \Leftrightarrow n-S_n = 2aS_n \Leftrightarrow a = \frac{n-S_n}{2S_n}$$

$$\ell_n''(a) = -\frac{n-S_n}{a^2} + \frac{4n}{(1+2a)^2}$$

$$\ell_n''\left(\frac{n-S_n}{2S_n}\right) = -\frac{4S_n^2}{n-S_n} + 4n \left(\frac{S_n+n-S_n}{S_n} \right)^{-2} = \frac{4S_n^2}{n} - \frac{4S_n^2}{n-S_n} = 4S_n^2 \left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n-S_n} \right) < 0 \quad 0 < S_n < n$$

$$\text{If } S_n = 0, \text{ then } L_n(a) = \left(\frac{2a}{1+2a} \right)^n \text{ is infinitely increasing, hence } \hat{a} = \infty$$

$$\text{If } S_n = n, \text{ then } L_n(a) = \left(\frac{1}{1+2a} \right)^n \text{ is decreasing, hence } \hat{a} = 0$$

$$\text{in general: } \hat{a} = \frac{n-S_n}{2S_n}$$

(3) Point estimator statistics: Comparison

Let $X_1 \dots X_n$ be i.i.d. uniform $(0, \theta)$, with unknown parameter $\theta > 0$.

(a) Show that the method of moments estimator of θ is $2\bar{X}$ and the MLE of θ is $X_{(n)} = \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} X_i$.

(b) Compare the mean square errors of the two estimators. Which of the estimators should be preferred if any? Explain your reasoning.

$$a) \mu(\theta) = \int_0^\theta \frac{1}{\theta} x dx = \frac{1}{\theta} \frac{\theta^2}{2} = \frac{\theta}{2} \stackrel{!}{=} \bar{X} \Leftrightarrow \theta = 2\bar{X} \dots \text{method of moments estimator}$$

For $x \in [0, \theta]^n$:

$$L_n(\theta) = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\theta} = \frac{1}{\theta^n},$$

For $\theta_1, \theta_2 \in [\max\{x_i | 1 \leq i \leq n\}, \infty)$: $L_n(\theta_1) > L_n(\theta_2) \Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{\theta_1^n} > \frac{1}{\theta_2^n} \Leftrightarrow \theta_2 > \theta_1$,
hence $L_n(\theta)$ is decreasing. Therefore, it has its maximum at $\theta = \max\{x_i | 1 \leq i \leq n\}$,
which is, consequently, the MLE.

$$b) 2\bar{X} - \theta = \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i - \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\theta}{2} = \frac{2}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(X_i - \frac{\theta}{2}\right) \quad \text{independence}$$

$$MSE_\theta(2\bar{X}) = E((2\bar{X} - \theta)^2) = \frac{4}{n^2} E\left(\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \left(X_i - \frac{\theta}{2}\right)\right)^2\right) = \frac{4}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i) = \frac{4}{n^2} \frac{n\theta^2}{12} = \frac{\theta^2}{3n}$$

$$\begin{aligned} MSE_\theta(X_{(n)}) &= E((X_{(n)} - \theta)^2) = \int_{[\theta, \theta]^n} (\max(x) - \theta)^2 \frac{1}{\theta^n} dx = \frac{n}{\theta^n} \underbrace{\int_0^\theta \int_0^{x_n} \dots \int_0^{x_n}}_{n-1 \text{ times}} (x_n - \theta)^2 dx_1 \dots dx_n \\ &= \frac{n}{\theta^n} \int_0^\theta (x_n - \theta)^2 x_n^{n-1} dx_n = \frac{n}{\theta^n} \int_0^\theta (x_n^{n+1} - 2x_n^n \theta + \theta^2 x_n^{n-1}) dx_n \\ &= \frac{n}{\theta^n} \left(\frac{\theta^{n+2}}{n+2} - 2\frac{\theta^{n+2}}{n+1} + \frac{\theta^{n+2}}{n} \right) \\ &= \theta^2 n \left(\frac{n(n+1) - 2n(n+2) + (n+1)(n+2)}{n(n+1)(n+2)} \right) \\ &= \theta^2 \left(\frac{n^2 + n - 2n^2 - 4n + n^2 + 3n + 2}{(n+1)(n+2)} \right) = \frac{2\theta^2}{(n+1)(n+2)} \end{aligned}$$

The MLE converges faster.

(4) Unbiased estimators

Let \hat{a} and \hat{b} be unbiased estimators of unknown parameters a and b respectively.

(a) Check if $\alpha \hat{a} + \beta \hat{b}$ is an unbiased estimator of the parameter $\alpha a + \beta b$, where $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$.

(b) Is \hat{a}^2 an unbiased estimator of a^2 ?

(c) Based on the following measurements of a side of a square (in milimeters)

15, 17, 16, 16, 17, 14

find an unbiased estimator of the area.

a) Let X be a random variable corresponding to the data, such that

$$\mathbb{E}(\hat{a}(X)) = a \text{ and } \mathbb{E}(\hat{b}(X)) = b.$$

Since $\mathbb{E}(\alpha \hat{a}(X) + \beta \hat{b}(X)) = \alpha \mathbb{E}(\hat{a}(X)) + \beta \mathbb{E}(\hat{b}(X)) = \alpha a + \beta b$, $\alpha \hat{a} + \beta \hat{b}$ is an unbiased estimator of $\alpha a + \beta b$.

$$b) \mathbb{E}((\hat{a}(X))^2) = \text{Var}(\hat{a}(X)) + (\mathbb{E}(\hat{a}(X)))^2 = \text{Var}(\hat{a}(X)) + a^2$$

$\Rightarrow \mathbb{E}((\hat{a}(X))^2) - a^2 = \text{Var}(\hat{a}(X)) \geq 0$, equality holds only if $\hat{a}(X)$ is constant almost everywhere.

$$c) \hat{a}: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}: x \mapsto \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{\substack{j \in \{1, \dots, n\} \\ j \neq i}} x_i x_j$$

$$\mathbb{E}(\hat{a}(X)) = \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{\substack{j \in \{1, \dots, n\} \\ j \neq i}} \mathbb{E}(x_i x_j) = \frac{1}{n(n-1)} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{\substack{j \in \{1, \dots, n\} \\ j \neq i}} \mathbb{E}(x_i) \mathbb{E}(x_j) = \ell^2 =: a$$

where $\ell = \mathbb{E}(x_i)$ for all $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, hence ℓ is the true length of a side of the square.

In our case, $n=6$, and we obtain $\hat{a}(x) = \frac{7574}{30} = \frac{3757}{15} \approx 250,5 \text{ (mm}^2\text{)}.$

(5) Rayleigh distribution

Let X_1, \dots, X_n be a random sample with Rayleigh distribution

$$f(x|\theta) = \begin{cases} \frac{x}{\theta^2} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2\theta^2}}, & x \geq 0 \\ 0, & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

where $\theta > 0$ is unknown.

(a) Find the method of moments estimator of θ .

(b) Find the MLE of θ and its asymptotic variance.

Hint: Show that the first two moments are $\mathbb{E}X = \theta\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}}$ and $\mathbb{E}X^2 = 2\theta^2$.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(X_i) &= \int_0^\infty \frac{x^2}{\theta^2} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\theta^2}\right) dx = \theta \int_0^\infty u^2 \exp\left(-\frac{u^2}{2}\right) du = \frac{\theta}{2} \sqrt{2\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} u^2 \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp\left(-\frac{u^2}{2}\right) du \\ &= \theta \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \mathbb{E}(V^2) = \theta \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} (\text{Var}(V) + (\mathbb{E}(V))^2) = \theta \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}}, \text{ where } V \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(X_i^2) &= \int_0^\infty \frac{x^3}{\theta^2} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\theta^2}\right) dx = \int_0^\infty 2\theta^2 u \exp(-u) du = 2\theta^2 \int_0^\infty u e^{-u} du \\ &= 2\theta^2 \left([-u e^{-u}]_0^\infty + \int_0^\infty e^{-u} du \right) = 2\theta^2 [-e^{-u}]_0^\infty = 2\theta^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} u &= \frac{x^2}{2\theta^2} \\ \frac{du}{dx} &= \frac{x}{\theta^2} \\ dx &= du \frac{\theta^2}{x} \end{aligned}$$

a) $\bar{X} = \hat{\theta} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \Leftrightarrow \hat{\theta} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \bar{X}$

b) $L(\theta|x) = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\theta^2} \exp\left(-\frac{x_i^2}{2\theta^2}\right) \rightarrow \ell(\theta|x) = -2n \log(\theta) + \sum_{i=1}^n \left(-\frac{x_i^2}{2\theta^2}\right)$

$$= -2n \log(\theta) - \frac{1}{2} \theta^{-2} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2$$

$$\ell'(\theta|x) = \frac{-2n}{\theta} + \theta^{-3} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 \stackrel{!}{=} 0 \Leftrightarrow \theta^2 = \frac{1}{2n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 \Leftrightarrow \theta = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2}$$

$$\ell''(\theta|x) = 2n \theta^{-2} - 3 \theta^{-4} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 \text{ and}$$

$$\ell''\left(\left(\frac{1}{2n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} | x\right) = \frac{4n^2}{|x|^2} - \frac{12n^2}{|x|^2} = -\frac{8n^2}{|x|^2} < 0$$

By the CLT, $\sqrt{n} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - 2\theta^2 \right) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, \text{Var}(x_i^2))$

$$g: \mathbb{R}_0^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}: x \mapsto \sqrt{\frac{x}{2}}, \quad g'(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{1}{2} x^{-\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{\frac{2}{x}}$$

Applying the delta method, we obtain

$$\sqrt{n} \left(\sqrt{\frac{1}{2n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2} - \theta \right) = \sqrt{n} \left(g\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2\right) - g(2\theta^2) \right) \rightarrow \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{\theta} \mathcal{N}(0, \text{Var}(x_i^2))$$

Thus, the asymptotic variance is $\frac{\text{Var}(x_i^2)}{16\theta^2} = \frac{\theta^2}{4}$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(X_i^4) &\stackrel{\text{computer}}{=} 8\theta^4 \\ \Rightarrow \text{Var}(X_i^2) &= 8\theta^4 - 4\theta^4 = 4\theta^4 \end{aligned}$$