

(4) Normal unbiased estimator of  $\mu^2$

Let  $X_1 \dots X_n$  be i.i.d.  $\mathcal{N}(\mu, 1)$ .

(a) Show that  $\bar{X}^2 - \frac{1}{n}$  is unbiased estimator of  $\mu^2$ .

(b) By using Stein's Lemma, calculate its variance and show that it is greater than the Cramér-Rao lower bound.

Hint: Recall, Stein's Lemma states that for  $X \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$  and a differentiable function  $g$  satisfying  $E|g'(X)| < \infty$  it holds  $\mathbb{E}(g(X)(X - \mu)) = \sigma^2 \mathbb{E}g'(X)$ .

a) For  $i \neq j$  we have

$$\text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} xy \frac{1}{2\pi} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} dx dy = 0$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}\left(\bar{X}^2 - \frac{1}{n}\right) &= \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbb{E}(X_i X_j) - \frac{1}{n} \\ &= \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \left(\mathbb{E}((X_i - \mu)(X_j - \mu)) + \mu^2\right) - \frac{1}{n} \\ &= \mu^2 + \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \text{Cov}(X_i, X_j) - \frac{1}{n} = \mu^2 + \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n 1 - \frac{1}{n} = \mu^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{b) } \mathbb{E}\left(\left(\bar{X}^2 - \frac{1}{n} - \mu^2\right)^2\right) &= \mathbb{E}\left(\left((\bar{X} + \mu)(\bar{X} - \mu) - \frac{1}{n}\right)^2\right) \\ &= \mathbb{E}\left((\bar{X} + \mu)^2 (\bar{X} - \mu)^2\right) - \frac{2}{n} \mathbb{E}\left((\bar{X} + \mu)(\bar{X} - \mu)\right) + \frac{1}{n^2} \end{aligned}$$

We define  $g_1(x) := x + \mu$  and  $g_2(x) := (x + \mu)^2 (x - \mu)$  and have

$g_1'(x) = 1$  and  $g_2'(x) = 2(x + \mu)(x - \mu) + (x + \mu)^2 = 2x^2 - 2\mu^2 + (x + \mu)^2$ , hence

$$\mathbb{E}(|g_1'(\bar{X})|) = \mathbb{E}(1) = 1, \text{ and}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(|g_2'(\bar{X})|) &\leq 2\mathbb{E}(\bar{X}^2) + 2\mathbb{E}(\mu^2) + \mathbb{E}((\bar{X} + \mu)^2) \\ &= 2\mathbb{E}(\bar{X}^2) + 2\mu^2 + \mathbb{E}(\bar{X}^2) + 2\mu\mathbb{E}(\bar{X}) + \mu^2 < \infty \end{aligned}$$

We already know that  $\bar{X} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\frac{n\mu}{n}, \frac{n}{n^2}\right) = \mathcal{N}\left(\mu, \frac{1}{n}\right)$

By applying Stein's Lemma, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}\left(\bar{X}^2 - \frac{1}{n}\right) &= \mathbb{E}\left(\left(\bar{X}^2 - \frac{1}{n} - \mu^2\right)^2\right) = \mathbb{E}\left(g_2(\bar{X})(\bar{X} - \mu)\right) - \frac{2}{n} \mathbb{E}\left(g_1(\bar{X})(\bar{X} - \mu)\right) + \frac{1}{n^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \mathbb{E}\left(g_2'(\bar{X})\right) - \frac{2}{n^2} \mathbb{E}\left(g_1'(\bar{X})\right) + \frac{1}{n^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \left(2\mathbb{E}(\bar{X}^2) - 2\mu^2 + \mathbb{E}(\bar{X}^2) + 2\mu\mathbb{E}(\bar{X}) + \mu^2\right) - \frac{1}{n^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \left(3\left(\frac{2}{n} + \mu^2\right) + \mu^2\right) - \frac{1}{n^2} = \frac{2}{n^2} + \frac{4\mu^2}{n} \end{aligned}$$

We define  $\theta := \mu^2$  and obtain the log-likelihood function

$$l_n(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^n \log(f(x_i)) = -\frac{n}{2} \log(2\pi) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \sqrt{\theta})^2, \text{ hence}$$

$$l_n'(\theta) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \sqrt{\theta}) \left(-\frac{1}{2} \theta^{-\frac{1}{2}}\right) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{x_i - \sqrt{\theta}}{\sqrt{\theta}} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{x_i}{\sqrt{\theta}} - \frac{n}{2}$$

$$l_n''(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) \theta^{-\frac{3}{2}} = -\frac{1}{4} \theta^{-\frac{3}{2}} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$$

We obtain

$$I_n(\theta) = \mathbb{E}(l_n''(\theta)) = -\frac{1}{4} \theta^{-\frac{3}{2}} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}(x_i) = -\frac{1}{4} \mu^{-3} n\mu = -\frac{n}{4\mu^2},$$

and we conclude that

$$-\frac{1}{I_n(\theta)} = \frac{4\mu^2}{n} < \frac{2}{n^2} + \frac{4\mu^2}{n} = \mathbb{V}_n(\bar{X}^2 - \frac{1}{n})$$