

Lecture 6

How to know if the estimator is good or bad?
If you got different estimators by different methods which one will you prefer?

In order to decide which point estimator of a particular parameter is the best one to use we need to examine their statistical properties and develop some criteria for comparing estimators (we don't know population parameter)

Criteria

- unbiasedness
- Min Variance unbiased estimator MVUE
- efficiency
- consistency

I) unbiased estimators

if $\hat{\theta}$ is an estimator of θ

$$\hat{\theta} - \theta = \text{error}$$

diff between sample value expected and estimated value of parameter

We call $\text{bias}(\hat{\theta}) = E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta$

$\hat{\theta}$ is said to be unbiased when $E(\hat{\theta}) = \theta$

(if on the average its value are equal to θ)
 $\hat{\theta}$ is called Asymptotically unbiased when $E(\hat{\theta}) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \theta$

e.g. In normal distr
 $\hat{\mu} = \bar{X}$ (by MME, by MLE)

$$E(\hat{\mu}) = E(\bar{X}) = \mu$$

$\therefore \hat{\mu}$ is unbiased estimator of μ

The mean squared error MSE of estimator

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{MSE}(\hat{\theta}) &= E(\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2 \\
 &= E(\hat{\theta} - E(\hat{\theta}) + E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta)^2 \\
 &= E((\hat{\theta} - E(\hat{\theta})) + (E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta))^2 \\
 &= E((\hat{\theta} - E(\hat{\theta}))^2 + (E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta)^2 + 2(\hat{\theta} - E(\hat{\theta}))(E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta)) \\
 &= E(\hat{\theta} - E(\hat{\theta}))^2 + (E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta)^2
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{MSE}(\hat{\theta}) = \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}) + (\text{bias}(\hat{\theta}))^2$$

If $\hat{\theta}$ is unbiased $\text{bias}(\hat{\theta}) = 0$

$$\boxed{\text{MSE}(\hat{\theta}) = \text{Var}(\hat{\theta})}$$

$$\text{MSE}(\hat{\theta}) = E(\hat{\theta} - E(\hat{\theta}))^2$$

and also $\boxed{E(\hat{\theta}) = \theta}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &E((\hat{\theta} - E(\hat{\theta}))(\cancel{E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta})) \\
 &= E(\hat{\theta} - \theta)(\cancel{E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta}) \\
 &\quad \text{Constant} \quad \quad \quad \downarrow 0 \\
 &= \text{Zero}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Var}(X) &= E(X - \mu)^2 \\
 &= E(X - E(X))^2 \\
 \text{bias}(\hat{\theta}) &= E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta
 \end{aligned}$$

Ex (2.8) If X has binomial distr with parameters n, p
 $X \sim \text{Bin}(n, p)$.

Show that $\hat{p} = \frac{X}{n}$ is unbiased estimator of p

In Binomial distr $E(X) = np$, $V(X) = np(1-p)$

$$E(\hat{p}) = E\left(\frac{X}{n}\right) = \frac{1}{n} E(X) = \frac{1}{n} np = p$$

$\therefore \hat{p}$ is unbiased estimator of p

Ex (2.9) Suppose that X is a r.v. with mean μ and variance σ^2 . Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be a random sample from X . Show that the sample mean \bar{X} and the sample variance S^2 are unbiased estimators of μ, σ^2

$$\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$$

X_i i.i.d. distr.

$$E(\bar{X}) = E\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right) = \frac{1}{n} E(\sum X_i)$$

$$E(\bar{X}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n E(X_i)$$

$$E(\bar{X}) = \frac{1}{n} n\mu = \mu$$

$\therefore \bar{X}$ is unbiased estimator for μ

$$S^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum (X_i - \bar{X})^2$$

$$E(S^2) = \sigma^2$$

from chi-square

$\therefore S^2$ is unbiased estimator of σ^2

Recall that

$$\text{if } U \sim \chi^2_\nu$$

$$E(U) = \nu, \quad V(U) = 2\nu$$

$$\text{if } U = \frac{(n-1)S^2}{\sigma^2} \sim \chi^2_{n-1}$$

$$E(U) = n-1$$

$$E\left(\frac{(n-1)S^2}{\sigma^2}\right) = n-1$$

$$\frac{(n-1)}{\sigma^2} E(S^2) = n-1$$

$$\boxed{E(S^2) = \sigma^2}$$

(easier proof than the one in the book)

$$\frac{(n-1)^2}{\sigma^4} V(S^2) = 2(n-1)$$

$$V(S^2) = \frac{2\sigma^4}{n-1}$$

(will need it later)

[2] Minimum Variance unbiased estimator

$$\therefore \text{MSE}(\hat{\theta}) = \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}) + (\text{bias}(\hat{\theta}))^2$$

if we have two unbiased estimators $\hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2$ of θ

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\theta}_1) < \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}_2)$$

$\hat{\theta}_1$ is better estimator than $\hat{\theta}_2$

[3] Efficiency if $\hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2$ are two estimators of θ

$$\text{eff}(\hat{\theta}_2, \hat{\theta}_1) = \frac{\text{MSE}(\hat{\theta}_1)}{\text{MSE}(\hat{\theta}_2)}$$

relative eff.
of $\hat{\theta}_2$ to $\hat{\theta}_1$

If relative eff. < 1 $\hat{\theta}_1$ is more efficient estimator of θ than $\hat{\theta}_2$

e.g. Suppose that we wish to estimate the mean μ of population. we have a random sample of n observations X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n .

we wish to compare two possible estimators for μ the sample mean \bar{X} and a single observation. Say X_1

$$E(\bar{X}) = \mu$$

$$E(X_1) = \mu$$

both \bar{X}, X_1 are unbiased estimators of μ

But

$$MSE(\bar{X}) = \text{Var}(\bar{X}) = \frac{\sigma^2}{n} \quad \text{less}$$

$$MSE(X_1) = \text{Var}(X_1) = \sigma^2$$

Since $MSE(\bar{X}) < MSE(X_1)$

\bar{X} is more efficient estimator of μ than X_1

[4] Consistency

The estimator $\hat{\theta}$ is called a consistent estimator of the parameter θ iff

$$MSE(\hat{\theta}) = E(\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2 \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

(that is $E(\hat{\theta}) \xrightarrow{\text{unbiased}} \theta$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$)

$$MSE(\hat{\theta}) = V(\hat{\theta}) \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

e.g. let $\hat{\mu} = \bar{X}$

$$E(\hat{\mu}) = E(\bar{X}) = \mu \quad \hat{\mu} \text{ is unbiased}$$

$$MSE(\hat{\mu}) = \text{Var}(\hat{\mu}) = \text{Var}(\bar{X}) = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}$$

$$MSE(\hat{\mu}) \Big|_{n \rightarrow \infty} = 0$$

$\therefore \bar{X}$ is consistent estimator

means that $\bar{X} \rightarrow \mu$ when $n \rightarrow \infty$
(without knowing value of μ !!)

e.g. let $\hat{\sigma}^2 = S^2$ Show that Sample Variance is unbiased consistent estimator
 $E(\hat{\sigma}^2) = E(S^2) = \sigma^2$ S^2 is unbiased estimator of σ^2

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\sigma}^2) = \text{Var}(S^2) = \frac{2\sigma^4}{n-1} \quad (\text{page 13})$$

$$\text{As } n \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{MSE}(S^2) \rightarrow 0$$

S^2 is consistent estimator of σ^2

$$\text{as } n \rightarrow \infty \quad S^2 \rightarrow \sigma^2$$

ex in Binomial distr.

$$\hat{p} = \frac{X}{n}$$

$$E(\hat{p}) = E\left(\frac{X}{n}\right) = \frac{np}{n} = p \quad \text{unbiased}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(\hat{p}) &= \text{Var}\left(\frac{X}{n}\right) = \frac{1}{n^2} \text{Var}(X) \\ &= \frac{1}{n^2} np(1-p) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Var}(\hat{p}) = \frac{p(1-p)}{n}$$

$$\text{as } n \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{Var}(\hat{p}) = \text{MSE}(\hat{p}) \rightarrow 0$$

$\therefore \hat{p}$ is consistent estimator

Ex ① Given three estimators $\hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2, \hat{\theta}_3$
for population parameter θ as shown in
the figure

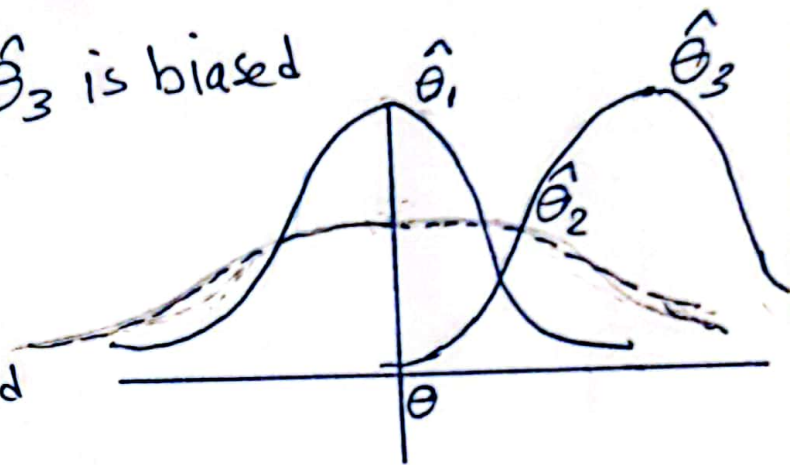
which estimator will you choose? why?

$\hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2$ are unbiased, $\hat{\theta}_3$ is biased

$$E(\hat{\theta}_1) = \theta$$

$$E(\hat{\theta}_2) = \theta$$

their distributions are centered
at θ



but $\hat{\theta}_1$ has smaller variance than $\hat{\theta}_2$

$\Rightarrow \hat{\theta}_1$ is more efficient (less MSE)

\Rightarrow Choose estimator $\hat{\theta}_1$

Ex 2 Consider $\hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2$ are two estimators for Population Parameter θ such that

$$E(\hat{\theta}_1) = \theta, \quad \text{var}(\hat{\theta}_1) = \frac{\theta^2}{3}$$

$$E(\hat{\theta}_2) = \frac{\theta}{3}, \quad \text{var}(\hat{\theta}_2) = \frac{\theta^2}{9}$$

Find \uparrow bias $(\hat{\theta}_2)$

\uparrow efficiency $(\hat{\theta}_2/\hat{\theta}_1)$ which estimator is more efficient

$$E(\hat{\theta}_1) = \theta \Rightarrow \hat{\theta}_1 \text{ is unbiased} \Rightarrow \text{bias}(\hat{\theta}_1) = 0$$

$$\text{bias}(\hat{\theta}_2) = E(\hat{\theta}_2) - \theta = \frac{\theta}{3} - \theta = -\frac{2\theta}{3}$$

$$\therefore \text{MSE}(\hat{\theta}_1) = \text{var}(\hat{\theta}_1) + (\text{bias}(\hat{\theta}_1))^2$$

$$\text{MSE}(\hat{\theta}_1) = \frac{\theta^2}{3}$$

$$\text{MSE}(\hat{\theta}_2) = \frac{\theta^2}{9} + \left(-\frac{2\theta}{3}\right)^2 = \frac{5\theta^2}{9}$$

$$\text{efficiency}(\hat{\theta}_2/\hat{\theta}_1) = \frac{\text{MSE}(\hat{\theta}_1)}{\text{MSE}(\hat{\theta}_2)} = \frac{\frac{\theta^2}{3}}{\frac{5\theta^2}{9}} = \frac{3}{5} < 1$$

$\therefore \hat{\theta}_1$ is more efficient

EX(3) let us define $\hat{S}^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2}{n}$, estimator for σ^2

Show that $E(\hat{S}^2) = \left[\frac{n-1}{n}\right] \sigma^2$

and hence \hat{S}^2 is a biased estimator for σ^2
and Find $\text{bias}(\hat{S}^2)$, $\text{MSE}(\hat{S}^2)$, Is \hat{S}^2 consistent?

$$\therefore S^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2}{n-1}, \quad \hat{S}^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2}{n}$$

$$\hat{S}^2 = \frac{(n-1)}{n} S^2$$

$$E(\hat{S}^2) = E\left(\frac{n-1}{n} S^2\right)$$

$$E(\hat{S}^2) = \frac{n-1}{n} E(S^2) = \frac{n-1}{n} \sigma^2 \neq \sigma^2$$

$\therefore \hat{S}^2$ is biased estimator for σ^2

$$\begin{aligned} \text{bias}(\hat{S}^2) &= E(\hat{S}^2) - \sigma^2 \\ &= \frac{(n-1)}{n} \sigma^2 - \sigma^2 \\ &= \left[-\frac{1}{n}\right] \sigma^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{MSE}(\hat{S}^2) = \text{Var}(\hat{S}^2) + (\text{bias}(\hat{S}^2))^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(\hat{S}^2) &= \text{Var}\left(\frac{(n-1)}{n} S^2\right) \\ &= \frac{(n-1)^2}{n^2} \text{Var}(S^2) = \frac{(n-1)^2}{n^2} \frac{2\sigma^4}{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

$\text{bias}(\hat{\theta}) = E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta$
$\text{MSE}(\hat{\theta}) = \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}) + (\text{bias}(\hat{\theta}))^2$
$E(S^2) = \sigma^2$
$\text{Var}(S^2) = \frac{2\sigma^4}{n-1}$

$$\text{Var}(\hat{S}^2) = \frac{2(n-1)}{n^2} \sigma^4$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \text{MSE}(\hat{S}^2) &= \text{Var}(\hat{S}^2) + (\text{bias}(\hat{S}^2))^2 \\ &= \frac{2(n-1)}{n^2} \sigma^4 + \frac{1}{n^2} \sigma^4 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{MSE}(\hat{S}^2) = \frac{2n-1}{n^2} \sigma^4$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MSE}(\hat{S}^2) &= \text{Var}(\hat{S}^2) \\ &= \frac{2\sigma^4}{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{As } n \rightarrow \infty = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{MSE}(\hat{S}^2)$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2n-1}{n^2} \sigma^4$$

$$= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{2}{n} - \frac{1}{n^2}}{1} \sigma^4$$

$$= 0$$

$\therefore \hat{S}^2$ is consistent estimator

Regards

