

Statistics 2 - Notes

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Contents

1	Estimation	2
1.1	Introduction	2
1.2	The Likelihood Function	3
1.3	Maximum Likelihood Estimates	4
1.4	Determining MLEs - The Tractable Case	5
1.5	Statistics and Estimators	7
1.6	Probabilistic Convergence	9
1.7	Probabilistic Convergence & Estimators	11
1.8	The Fisher Information	12
1.9	Efficiency and The Cramer-Rao Bound	15
1.10	Asymptotic Distribution of the Maximum Likelihood Estimator	17
1.11	Confidence Sets Around the Maximum Likelihood Estimator	19
1.12	Asymptotic Approximation of Confidence Intervals	21
1.13	Estimating the Information for Maximum Likelihood Estimates	22
1.14	Transformations and Confidence Intervals	25
1.15	Likelihood Ratio Confidence Sets - Wilk's Approach	27
1.16	Transformation Invariant Confidence Sets	29
2	Testing	30
2.1	Introduction to Hypothesis Tests	30
2.2	Hypothesis Testing - Significance and Power	31
2.2.1	Power	32
2.3	Designing Tests - Neyman-Pearson Approach	34
2.4	Testing - p-Values, Equivalent Test Statistics and Computing the Power Function	36
2.5	Uniformly Most Powerful Tests	38
0	Appendix	40
0.1	Notation	40
0.2	R	40
0.3	Probability Distributions	40

1 Estimation

1.1 Introduction

Definition 1.1 - *Probabilty Space, $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$*

A mathematical construct for modelling the real world. A *Probabilty Space* has three elements

- i) Ω - Sample space.
- ii) \mathcal{F} - Set of events.
- iii) \mathbb{P} - Probability measure.

and most fulfil the following conditions

- i) $\Omega \in \mathcal{F}$;
- ii) $\forall A \in \mathcal{F} \implies A^c \in \mathcal{F}$;
- iii) $\forall A_0, \dots, A_n \in \mathcal{F} \implies \left(\bigcup_i A_i \right) \in \mathcal{F}$;
- iv) $\mathbb{P}(\Omega) = 1$; and,
- v) $\mathbb{P}\left(\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} A_i\right) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}(A_i)$ for disjoint A_1, A_2, \dots (Countable Additivity).

Definition 1.2 - *Random Variable*

A function which maps an event in the sample space to a value *e.g.* $X : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

Remark 1.1 - *Probability Density Function for iid Random Variable Vector*

For $\mathbf{X} \sim f_n(\cdot; \theta)$ where each component of \mathbf{X} is independent and identically distribution the probability density function of \mathbf{X} is

$$f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta) = \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i; \theta)$$

Definition 1.3 - *Expectation*

The mean value for a random variable. For rv X

$$\mathbb{E}(X) := \sum_{x \in \mathcal{X}} x f_X(x) \quad \& \quad \mathbb{E}(X) := \int_{\mathbb{R}} x f_X(x) dx$$

Theorem 1.1 - *Expection of a Function*

For a function $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and rv X with pmf f_X

$$\mathbb{E}(g(X)) := \sum_{g(x) \in \mathcal{X}} x f_X(x) \quad \& \quad \mathbb{E}(g(X)) := \int_{\mathbb{R}} g(x) f_X(x) dx$$

Theorem 1.2 - *Expectation of a Linear Operator*

For rv X with pmf f_X & $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\mathbb{E}(aX + b) = a\mathbb{E}(X) + b$$

Definition 1.4 - *Variance*

For rv X

$$\text{Var}(X) := \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}(X))^2] = \mathbb{E}(X^2) - \mathbb{E}(X)^2$$

Theorem 1.3 - Variance of a Linear Operator

For rv X and $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\text{Var}(aX + b) = a^2 \text{Var}(X)$$

Definition 1.5 - Moment of a Random Variable

For rv X the n^{th} moment of X is defined as $\mathbb{E}(X^n)$.

N.B. - $\mathbb{E}(X^n) \neq \mathbb{E}(X)^n$.

Definition 1.6 - Covariance

For rv X & Y

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y) := \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}(X))(Y - \mathbb{E}(Y))] = \mathbb{E}(XY) - \mathbb{E}(X)\mathbb{E}(Y)$$

Theorem 1.4 - Properties of Covariance

Let X & Y be independent random variables

i) $\text{Cov}(X, X) = \text{Var}(X)$;

ii) $\text{Cov}(X, Y) = 0$

Theorem 1.5 - Variance of two Random Variables with linear operators

$$\text{Var}(aX + bY) = a^2 \text{Var}(X) + b^2 \text{Var}(Y) + 2ab \text{Cov}(X, Y)$$

Theorem 1.6 - Independent Random Variables

Random variables X_1, \dots, X_n are independent iff

$$\mathbb{P}(X_1 \leq a_1, \dots, X_n \leq a_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbb{P}(X_i \leq a_i) \quad \forall a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{R}$$

1.2 The Likelihood Function**Definition 2.1 - Likelihood Function**

Define $\mathbf{X} \sim f_n(\cdot; \theta^*)$ for some unknown $\theta^* \in \Theta$ and let \mathbf{x} be an observation of \mathbf{X} .

A *Likelihood Function* is any function, $L(\cdot; \mathbf{x}) : \Theta \rightarrow [0, \infty)$, which is proportional to the PMF/PDF of the observed realisation \mathbf{x} .

$$L(\theta; \mathbf{x}) := C f_b(\mathbf{x}; \theta) \quad \forall C > 0$$

N.B. Sometimes this is called the *Observed Likelihood Function* since it is dependent on observed data.

Definition 2.2 - Log-Likelihood Function

Let $\mathbf{X} \sim f_n(\cdot; \theta^*)$ for some unknown $\theta^* \in \Theta$ and \mathbf{x} be an observation of \mathbf{X} .

The *Log-Likelihood Function* is the natural log of a *Likelihood Function*

$$\ell(\theta; \mathbf{x}) := \ln f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta) + C, \quad C \in \mathbb{R}$$

Theorem 2.1 - Multidimensional Transforms

Let \mathbf{X} be a continuous random vector in \mathbb{R}^n with PDF $f_{\mathbf{X}}$; $g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a continuous differentiable bijection; and, $h := g^{-1}$.

Then $\mathbf{Y} = g(\mathbf{X})$ is a continuous random vector and its PDF is

$$f_{\mathbf{Y}}(\mathbf{y}) = f_{\mathbf{X}}(h(\mathbf{y}))H_h(\mathbf{Y})$$

where

$$J_h := \left| \det \left(\frac{\partial h}{\partial \mathbf{y}} \right) \right|$$

Proposition 2.1 - *Invariance of Likelihood Function by bijective transformation of the observations independent of θ*

Let $g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a bijective transformation which is independent of θ ; and $\mathbf{Y} := g(\mathbf{X})$.

Then \mathbf{Y} is a random variable with PDF/PMF

$$f_{\mathbf{Y}}(\mathbf{y}; \theta) \propto f_{\mathbf{X}}(g^{-1}(\mathbf{y}); \theta)$$

Hence, if $\mathbf{y} = g(\mathbf{x})$ then $L_{\mathbf{Y}}(\theta; \mathbf{y}) \propto L_{\mathbf{X}}(\theta; \mathbf{x})$

Proof 2.1 - *Proposition 2.1*

Let $g : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a bijective transformation which is independent of θ ; $h := g^{-1}$; \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y} be a rvs st $\mathbf{Y} := g(\mathbf{X})$.

i) *Discrete Case* - Consider the case when \mathbf{X} is a discrete rv. Then

$$\begin{aligned} f_{\mathbf{Y}}(\mathbf{y}; \theta) &= \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{y}; \theta) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(g^{-1}(\mathbf{Y}) = g^{-1}(\mathbf{y}); \theta) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(h(\mathbf{Y}) = h(\mathbf{y}); \theta) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{X} = h(\mathbf{y}); \theta) \\ &= f_{\mathbf{X}}(g^{-1}(\mathbf{y}); \theta) \end{aligned}$$

ii) *Continuous Case* - Consider the case when \mathbf{X} is a continuous rv.

Then, by **Theorem 2.1**

$$f_{\mathbf{Y}}(\mathbf{y}; \theta) = f_{\mathbf{X}}(g^{-1}(\mathbf{y}); \theta) J_{g^{-1}}(\mathbf{y})$$

Since $J_{g^{-1}}$ does not depend on θ this case is solved.

Thus in both cases $L_{\mathbf{Y}}(\theta; \mathbf{y}) = f_{\mathbf{Y}}(\mathbf{y}; \theta) \propto f_{\mathbf{X}}(g^{-1}(\mathbf{y}); \theta) = L_{\mathbf{X}}(\theta; \mathbf{x})$. □

1.3 Maximum Likelihood Estimates

Definition 3.1 - *Maximum Likelihood Estimate*

Let $\mathbf{X} \sim f_n(\cdot; \theta)$; and \mathbf{x} be a realisation of \mathbf{X} .

The *Maximum Likelihood Estimate* is the value $\hat{\theta} \in \Theta$ st

$$\forall \theta \in \Theta \quad f_n(\mathbf{x}; \hat{\theta}) \geq f_n(\mathbf{x}, \theta)$$

Equivalently

$$\forall \theta \in \Theta \quad L(\hat{\theta}; \mathbf{x}) \geq L(\theta; \mathbf{x}) \quad \text{or} \quad \ell(\hat{\theta}; \mathbf{x}) \geq \ell(\theta; \mathbf{x})$$

i.e. $\hat{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) := \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} (L(\theta; \mathbf{x}))$.

Remark 3.1 - *The Maximum Likelihood Estimate may not be unique*

Example 3.1 - *MLE for Uniform Distribution*

Consider $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} U[0, \theta]$ for $\theta > 0$.

Then

$$\begin{aligned} L(\theta; \mathbf{x}) &\propto f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\theta} \mathbb{1}\{x_i \in [0, \theta]\} \\ &= \frac{1}{\theta^n} \prod_{i=1}^n \mathbb{1}\{x_i \in [0, \theta]\} \\ \implies \hat{\theta} &= \max\{x_i : x_i \in \mathbf{x}\} \end{aligned}$$

Remark 3.2 - MLE of Reparameterisation

Define $\tau(\theta) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then

$$\hat{\tau} = \tau(\hat{\theta})$$

N.B. We often write \tilde{f} to represent the pmf when τ is taken as a parameter rather than θ . *i.e.* $f(x; \theta) = \tilde{f}(x; \tau(\theta))$.

Theorem 3.1 - Invariance of MLE under bijective Reparameterisation

Let $g : \Theta \rightarrow G$ be a bijective transformation of the statistical parameter θ .

Let $\mathbf{X} \sim f(\cdot; \theta) = \tilde{f}(\cdot; g(\theta))$ for some θ , and let \mathbf{x} be a realisation of \mathbf{X} .

If $\hat{\theta}$ is an MLE of θ then $\hat{\tau} = g(\hat{\theta})$ is an MLE of τ .

Proof 3.1 - Theorem 3.1

This is a proof by contradiction.

Suppose $\exists \tau^* \in G$ st $\tilde{f}(x; \tau^*) > \tilde{f}(x; \hat{\tau})$. We know that $\forall \theta \in \Theta$, $f(x; \theta) = \tilde{f}(x; g(\theta))$ and $\forall \tau \in G$, $f(x; g^{-1}(\tau)) = \tilde{f}(x; \tau)$.

We deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} f(x; g^{-1}(\tau^*)) &= \tilde{f}(x; \tau^*) \\ &> \tilde{f}(x; \hat{\tau}) \text{ by assumption} \\ &= f(x; g^{-1}(\hat{\tau})) \\ &= f(x; \hat{\theta}) \end{aligned}$$

This contradicts the assumption that $\hat{\theta}$ is an maximum likelihood estimate of θ .

□

Remark 3.3 - Not all Reparameterisations are Bijective

When reparameterisations $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is not bijective it is helpful to consider the *induced likelihood*

$$L^*(\tau; \mathbf{x}) := \max_{\theta \in G_\tau} L(\theta; \mathbf{x}) \text{ where } G_\tau := \{\theta : g(\theta) = \tau\}$$

Since this reduces the domain to only where g is bijective.

1.4 Determining MLEs - The Tractable Case**Proposition 4.1 - Differentiable Likelihood in the continuous case - Multivariate**

When $L(\theta; \mathbf{x})$ is differentiable one can find MLEs by considering its extrema. This is done equating & solving the cases when the gradient is zero, *i.e.* $\nabla L(\theta; \mathbf{x}) = 0$, and then checking whether this is a maximum or minimum point.

A point is a local minimum if the Hessian at the point is *Negative Definite* *i.e.* $\mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} < 0 \forall \mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$.

Example 4.1 - MLE of Normal Distribution

Let $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 L(\mu, \sigma^2; \mathbf{x}) &= \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x_i - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \\
 \Rightarrow \ell(\mu, \sigma^2; \mathbf{x}) &= C - \frac{n}{2} \ln(\sigma^2) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2 \\
 \Rightarrow \nabla \ell(\mu, \sigma^2; \mathbf{x}) &= \left(\frac{-1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu), \quad -\frac{n}{2\sigma^2} + \frac{1}{2\sigma^4} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2 \right) \\
 \text{Setting } \frac{-1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu) &= 0 \\
 \Rightarrow \hat{\mu} &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i = \bar{x} \\
 \text{Setting } -\frac{n}{2\sigma^2} + \frac{1}{2\sigma^4} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2 &= 0 \\
 \Rightarrow \hat{\sigma}^2 &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i \hat{\mu})^2
 \end{aligned}$$

We now want to check whether $(\hat{\mu}, \hat{\sigma}^2)$ is a minimum.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \nabla^2 \ell(\mu, \sigma^2; \mathbf{x}) &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 \ell(\mu, \sigma^2; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \mu^2} & \frac{\partial^2 \ell(\mu, \sigma^2; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \mu \partial \sigma^2} \\ \frac{\partial^2 \ell(\mu, \sigma^2; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \mu \partial \sigma^2} & \frac{\partial^2 \ell(\mu, \sigma^2; \mathbf{x})}{\partial (\sigma^2)^2} \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{n}{\hat{\sigma}^2} & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{n}{2\hat{\sigma}^4} \end{pmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

Since $\begin{pmatrix} z_1 & z_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -a & 0 \\ 0 & -b \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \end{pmatrix} = -az_1^2 - bz_2^2 < 0 \forall a, b > 0$ and we have $\frac{n}{\hat{\sigma}^2}, \frac{n}{2\hat{\sigma}^4} > 0$ then we can conclude that $\nabla^2 \ell$ is negative definite.

Thus $\hat{\mu} = \bar{x}$ & $\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i \hat{\mu})^2$ is an MLE for the normal distribution.

Example 4.2 - MLE for Capture-Recapture Model

Suppose you are wanting to calculate the unknown size of a population, n . The Capture-Recapture Model is one technique that can be used. You tag $t \leq n$ members of the population; wait for a while; then recapture $c \leq n$ members of which $x \leq \min\{t, c\} \leq n$ are tagged.

With t, c, x known produce a MLE for n .

We first work out the associated probability distribution for X , the population size. We have

- i) $\binom{t}{x}$ ways of choosing x members among the tagged ones;
- ii) $\binom{n-t}{c-x}$ ways of choosing the remaining members among the non-tagged ones;
- iii) $\binom{n}{c}$ ways of choosing c members in a population of n individuals.

Thus

$$f_X(x; n) = \frac{\binom{t}{x} \binom{n-t}{c-x}}{\binom{n}{c}}$$

This means that $X \sim \text{Hypergeometric}(t, n, c)$ with t & c known.

Now we calculate the MLE for X

$$\begin{aligned}
 L(n; x) &= f_X(x; n) \\
 &= \frac{\binom{t}{x} \binom{n-t}{c-x}}{\binom{n}{c}} \\
 &= \frac{t!}{x!(t-x)!} \frac{(n-t)!}{(c-x)!(n-t-c+x)!} \\
 &= \frac{n!}{c!(n-c)!}
 \end{aligned}$$

Now we consider $L(n; x) = 0$ when $x > \min\{t, c\}$. We want to identify values of n for which $L(n; x) \geq L(n-1; x)$.

Consider $n-1 \geq \min\{t, c\} \implies L(n-1; x) > 0$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Let } r(n) &:= \frac{L(n; x)}{L(n-1; x)} \\
 &= \frac{n-t}{n-t-c+x} \frac{n-c}{n} \\
 \Rightarrow 1 &\leq r(n) \\
 \Leftrightarrow 1 &\leq \frac{n-t}{n-t-c+x} \frac{n-c}{n} \\
 \Leftrightarrow n(n-t-c+x) &\leq (n-t)(n-c) \\
 \Leftrightarrow n^2 - nt - cn + xn &\leq n^2 - nt - cn + ct \\
 \Leftrightarrow xn &\leq ct \\
 \Leftrightarrow x &\leq \frac{ct}{n}
 \end{aligned}$$

So $L(n; x)$ is increasing for $n \leq \lfloor \frac{ct}{x} \rfloor$ & decreasing for $n > \lfloor \frac{ct}{x} \rfloor$.

Consequently $\hat{n}_{\text{MLE}}(x) = \lfloor \frac{ct}{x} \rfloor$

1.5 Statistics and Estimators

Definition 5.1 - Statistic

Given some data \mathbf{x} a statistic is a function of the data $T(\mathbf{x})$.

N.B. A statistic cannot depend on an unknown statistical parameter.

Definition 5.2 - Estimate

Let $\mathbf{X} \sim f_n(\cdot; \theta^*)$ with $\theta^* \in \Theta$ and \mathbf{x} be a realisation of \mathbf{X} .

An *Estimate* θ^* is a statistic $\hat{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) = T(\mathbf{x})$ which is intended to approximate the real value of θ^* .

N.B. An *Estimate* is a real value & thus is hard to evaluate.

Definition 5.3 - Estimator

Let $\mathbf{X} \sim f_n(\cdot; \theta^*)$ with $\theta^* \in \Theta$ and \mathbf{x} be a realisation of \mathbf{X} .

An *Estimator* of θ^* is $\hat{\theta}$ where $\hat{\theta}(\mathbf{x})$ is an *estimate*.

N.B. We call $T(\mathbf{X})$ an estimator. This is a random variable.

Definition 5.4 - Distribution of an Estimator

Let $\mathbf{X} \sim f_n(\cdot; \theta^*)$ with $\theta^* \in \Theta \subseteq \mathbb{R}$.

If $\hat{\theta}(\mathbf{X})$ is a real-valued random variable, we can write its CDF as

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_{\hat{\theta}(\mathbf{X})}(t; \theta^*) &= \mathbb{P}(\hat{\theta}(\mathbf{X}) \leq t; \theta^*) \\
 &= \int_{\mathcal{X}^n} \mathbb{1}\{\hat{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) \leq t\} f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta^*) d\mathbf{x}
 \end{aligned}$$

Remark 5.1 - Estimator depends upon true value

The distribution of $\hat{\theta}(\mathbf{X})$ depends on the distribution of \mathbf{X} which in turn depends upon the

distribution of θ^* .

Thus the distribution of an estimator depends on the true parameter of the variable it is estimating.

Remark 5.2 - Estimator Distribution & Sample Size

As sample size increases the distribution of an estimator may converge to a more standard distribution (e.g. Normal, Poisson).

Definition 5.5 - Bias

Bias is a measure of how much an estimator deviates from the true value, on average.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Bias}(\hat{\theta}; \theta^*) &:= \mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta}(\mathbf{X}) - \theta^*; \theta^*) \\ &= \mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta}; \theta^*) - \mathbb{E}(\theta^*; \theta^*) \\ &= \mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta}; \theta^*) - \theta^*\end{aligned}$$

Definition 5.6 - Unbiased Estimator

An *Estimator*, $\hat{\theta}$, is said to be *Unbiased* if $\forall \theta \in \Theta$, $\text{Bias}(\hat{\theta}; \theta) = 0$.
Equivalently $\mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta}; \theta) = \theta$.

Definition 5.7 - Mean Square Error

The *Mean Square Error* of an estimator is the mean of the squared error associated with rv $\hat{\theta}$.

$$MSE(\hat{\theta}; \theta^*) := \mathbb{E} \left[(\hat{\theta}(\mathbf{X}) - \theta^*)^2; \theta^* \right]$$

Proposition 5.1 - Simplification of MSE Formula

The MSE is a combination of variance & bias.

$$\begin{aligned}MSE(\hat{\theta}; \theta^*) &= \mathbb{E} \left[(\hat{\theta}(\mathbf{X}) - \theta^*)^2; \theta^* \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[\left\{ \hat{\theta} - \mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta}; \theta^*) \right\}^2; \theta^* \right] + \left(\mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta} - \theta^*; \theta^*) \right)^2 \\ &= \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}; \theta^*) + \text{Bias}(\hat{\theta}; \theta^*)^2\end{aligned}$$

Example 5.1 - Sample mean as an Estimator

Let $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Poisson}(\lambda^*)$.

Suppose we are using the sample mean, $\hat{\lambda}(\mathbf{x}) := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$, as an estimate of λ^* . We first want to show this estimator is *Unbiased*

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}(\hat{\lambda}; \lambda) &= \mathbb{E} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i; \lambda \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}(X_i; \lambda) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} n \lambda \\ &= \lambda\end{aligned}$$

Thus $\hat{\lambda}$ is unbiased.

Now we consider the MSE of $\hat{\lambda}$

$$\begin{aligned}MSE(\hat{\lambda}; \lambda) &= \text{Var}(\hat{\lambda}; \lambda) \\ &= \text{Var} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i; \lambda \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{n^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i; \lambda) \\ &= \frac{1}{n^2} n \lambda \\ &= \frac{\lambda}{n}\end{aligned}$$

This shows that as the sample size increases the MSE of $\hat{\lambda}$ converges to 0.

1.6 Probabilistic Convergence

Remark 6.1 - Motivation

Here we consider the properties of a maximum likelihood estimators as the sample size increases.

Theorem 6.1 - Markov's Inequality

For a *non-negative* random variable X and a constant $a > 0$

$$\mathbb{P}(X \geq a) \leq \frac{\mathbb{E}(X)}{a}$$

Proof 6.1 - Markov's Inequality

Consider continuous X . We have

$$\begin{aligned} a\mathbb{P}(X \geq a) &= a \int_a^\infty f_X(x) dx \\ &\leq \int_a^\infty x f_X(x) dx \\ &\leq \int_0^\infty x f_X(x) dx \\ &= \mathbb{E}(X) \\ \implies a\mathbb{P}(X \geq a) &= \mathbb{E}(X) \\ \implies \mathbb{P}(X \geq a) &\leq \frac{\mathbb{E}(X)}{a} \end{aligned}$$

□

Theorem 6.2 - Chebyshev's Inequality

Let $\mu = \mathbb{E}(X)$ and $\sigma^2 = \text{Var}(X)$. Then

$$\forall a > 0, \mathbb{P}(|X - \mu| \geq a) \leq \frac{\sigma^2}{a^2}$$

Proof 6.2 - Chebyshev's Inequality

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(|X - \mu| \geq a) &= \mathbb{P}(|X - \mu|^2 \geq a^2) \\ &\leq \frac{\mathbb{E}((X - \mu)^2)}{a^2} \text{ By Markov's Inequality} \\ &= \frac{\sigma^2}{a^2} \end{aligned}$$

□

Definition 6.1 - Convergence in Probability

We say the sequence of random variables $\{Z_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges in probability to the random variable Z if

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(|Z_n - Z| > \varepsilon) = 0$$

N.B. This is denoted $Z_n \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}} Z$.

N.B. The random variables $\{Z_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ & Z must be in the same probability space.

Theorem 6.3 - Weak Law of Large Numbers

If $\{X_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ are independent & identically distributed and $\mathbb{E}(X_1) = \mu < \infty$ then

$$Z_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}} \mu$$

N.B. This is an example of Convergence in Probability.

Definition 6.2 - Convergence in Distribution

We say the sequence of random variables $\{Z_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges in distribution to random variable Z if

$$\forall z \in \mathbb{R} \text{ where } \mathbb{P}(Z \leq z) \text{ is continuous, } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P}(Z_n \leq z) = \mathbb{P}(Z \leq z)$$

N.B. This is denoted $Z_n \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}} Z$.

N.B. The random variables $\{Z_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ & Z need not be in the same probability space.

Remark 6.2 - Equivalent Statements to Convergence in Distribution

Saying that $Z_n \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}} Z$ is equivalent to saying that

$$\forall z \in \mathbb{R} \text{ where } F_Z(z) \text{ is continuous, } \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_{Z_n}(z) = F_Z(z)$$

Theorem 6.4 - Central Limit Theorem

If $\{X_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ are independent & identically distributed, $\mathbb{E}(X_1) = \mu < \infty$ and $\text{Var}(X_1) = \sigma^2 < \infty$ then

$$\frac{\sqrt{n}}{\sigma}(Z_n - \mu) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}} Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$$

Theorem 6.5 - Convergence in Probability & Distribution

Convergence in probability \implies Convergence in distribution, **but** the opposite is not necessarily true.

Theorem 6.6 - Convergence in Probability & Distribution to a Constant

Convergence in distribution to a constant **and** convergence in probability to a constant are equivalent.

Example 6.1 -

Let $X \sim \text{Bernoulli}(\frac{1}{2})$ and $\{X_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of random variables where $X_i := (1 - X) + \frac{1}{n}$. We have

$$F_X(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & , x < 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} & , x \in [0, 1) \\ 1 & , x \geq 1 \end{cases} \quad F_{X_n}(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & , x < \frac{1}{n} \\ \frac{1}{2} & , x \in [\frac{1}{n}, 1 + \frac{1}{n}) \\ 1 & , x \geq 1 + \frac{1}{n} \end{cases}$$

Clearly $F_{X_n}(x) \rightarrow F_X(x)$ at all points at which F_X is continuous (i.e. $x \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0, 1\}$).

Thus $X_n \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}} X$.

Theorem 6.7 - Continuous Mapping Theorem

Let $g : Z \rightarrow G$ be a *continuous* function. Then

- i) If $Z_n \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}} Z$, then $g(Z_n) \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}} g(Z)$;
- ii) If $Z_n \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}} Z$, then $g(Z_n) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}} g(Z)$

Theorem 6.8 - Slutsky's Theorem

Let $\{Y_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ & $\{Z_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be sequences of random variables, Y be a random variable & $c \in \mathbb{R} \setminus 0$ be a constant.

If $Y_n \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}} Y$ and $Z_n \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}} c$, then

- i) $Y_n + Z_n \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}} Y + c$;
- ii) $Y_n Z_n \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}} Yc$; and,
- iii) $\frac{Y_n}{Z_n} \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}} \frac{Y}{c}$.

Definition 6.3 - Convergence in Quadratic Mean

Let $\{Z_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence of random variables & Z be a random variable.

We say that $\{Z_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ Converges in Quadratic Mean to the random variable Z if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}[(Z_n - Z)^2] = 0$$

N.B. This is denoted $Z_n \rightarrow_{qm} Z$.

Theorem 6.9 - If $Z_n \rightarrow_{qm} Z$ then $Z_n \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}} Z$

Proof 6.3 - Theorem 5.9

Fix any $\varepsilon > 0$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(|Z_n - Z| > \varepsilon) &= \mathbb{P}(|Z_n - Z|^2 > \varepsilon^2) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \mathbb{E}[(Z_n - Z)^2] \text{ by Markov's Inequality} \\ &\rightarrow 0 \text{ since } Z_n \rightarrow_{qm} Z. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $Z_n \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}} Z$. □

1.7 Probabilistic Convergence & Estimators**Definition 7.1 - Consistency of a Sequence of Estimators**

A sequence of estimators, $\{\hat{\theta}_n(\cdot) : \chi^n \rightarrow \Theta\}$, are said to be *Consistent* if

$$\forall \theta \in \Theta \text{ with } \mathbf{X}_n \sim f_n(\cdot; \theta), \hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n) \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta)} \theta$$

Remark 7.1 - Consistency of a Sequence of Estimators

- i) In numerous situations one will talk about the consistency of *the* estimator, *e.g.* for the MLE, but also for the mean, etc. This implicitly refers to the corresponding sequence of MLEs, sequence of means, etc.
- ii) Note the $\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta)$ in the limit above, and in particular the dependence on θ . This is often omitted in practice, you should however not forget what the symbols actually mean.
- iii) Quadratic mean / Mean Square convergence \implies consistency.
That is, if the MSE of the estimator converges to 0, the estimator is consistent.

Example 7.1 - Consistency of Flipping Coins

Let $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Bernoulli}(\theta^*)$ for some $\theta^* \in [0, 1]$.

The maximum likelihood estimate and method of moments for $\hat{\theta}_n$ are the sample mean.

$$\hat{\theta}_n(X_1, \dots, X_n) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$$

By the *Weak Law of Large Numbers* we have that *consistency* of $\{\hat{\theta}_n\}$, since $\mathbb{E}(X_1) = \theta^*$.

Example 7.2 - Crude Confidence Interval when Flipping Coins

Let $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Bernoulli}(\theta^*)$ for some $\theta^* \in [0, 1]$ and define $\hat{\theta}_n := \hat{\theta}_n(X_1, \dots, X_n)$.

We shall produce a *confidence interval* for θ^* .

$$\mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta}_n; \theta^*) = \theta^* \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}_n; \theta^*) = \frac{\theta^*(1 - \theta^*)}{n}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbb{P}\left(|\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*| \geq \varepsilon; \theta^*\right) &\leq \frac{\theta^*(1-\theta^*)}{n\varepsilon^2} \quad \text{by Chebyshev's Inequality} \\
\text{We don't know } \theta^*, \text{ but can deduce that } \theta^*(1-\theta^*) &\leq \frac{1}{4} \\
\implies \mathbb{P}\left(|\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*| \geq \varepsilon; \theta^*\right) &\leq \frac{1}{4n\varepsilon^2} \\
&\text{Define } \alpha := \frac{1}{4n\varepsilon^2} \\
\implies \mathbb{P}\left(|\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*| \geq \frac{1}{2\sqrt{n\alpha}}; \theta^*\right) &\leq \alpha \\
\implies \mathbb{P}\left(\hat{\theta}_n - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{n\alpha}} < \theta^* < \hat{\theta}_n + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{n\alpha}}; \theta^*\right) &\geq 1 - \alpha
\end{aligned}$$

This means the random interval $(\hat{\theta}_n - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{n\alpha}}, \hat{\theta}_n + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{n\alpha}}; \theta^*)$ contains θ^* with probability $1 - \alpha$. We can note that the interval decreases as n increases, and increases as α decreases. *N.B.* $\hat{\theta}_n$ is a random variable, while θ^* is not.

Example 7.3 - Asymptotically Exact Confidence Interval when Flipping Coins

This is an improvement on the bound produced in **Example 5.3**.

Let $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Bernoulli}(\theta^*)$ for some $\theta^* \in [0, 1]$, $W \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$ and define $\hat{\theta}_n := \hat{\theta}_n(X_1, \dots, X_n)$. We shall show that

$$\frac{\sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*)}{\sqrt{\hat{\theta}_n(1 - \hat{\theta}_n)}} \rightarrow_D W$$

We know that $\text{Var}(X_1) = \theta^*(1 - \theta^*)$.

By the *Weak Law of Large Numbers* $\hat{\theta}_n \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}} \theta^*$.

By the *Central Limit Theorem*

$$\frac{\sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*)}{\sqrt{\hat{\theta}_n(1 - \hat{\theta}_n)}} \rightarrow_D W$$

$$\text{Define } Y_n = \frac{\sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*)}{\sqrt{\theta^*(1 - \theta^*)}} \text{ and } Z_n = \frac{\sqrt{\theta^*(1 - \theta^*)}}{\sqrt{\hat{\theta}_n(1 - \hat{\theta}_n)}}.$$

By the *Continuous Mapping Theorem* tells us that $Z_n \rightarrow_D 1$ and $Z_n \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}} 1$.

Hence, by *Slutsky's Theorem*

$$\frac{\sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*)}{\sqrt{\hat{\theta}_n(1 - \hat{\theta}_n)}} = Y_n Z_n \rightarrow_D W$$

This gives us random interval

$$\left(\hat{\theta}_n - z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{\frac{\hat{\theta}_n(1 - \hat{\theta}_n)}{n}}, \hat{\theta}_n + z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{\frac{\hat{\theta}_n(1 - \hat{\theta}_n)}{n}} \right)$$

This interval captures θ^* asymptotically (in n) with probability $1 - \alpha$.

N.B. $z_{\alpha} = \Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha)$ where Φ is the cumulative density function of a $\text{Normal}(0, 1)$.

1.8 The Fisher Information

Remark 8.1 - Motivation

In the next part of the content we shall show that given $\mathbf{X}_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} f(\cdot; \theta^*)$ then for sufficiently regular models

- i) There exists a lower bound on the achievable performance of any estimate of θ^* .
- ii) A scaled & centered sequence of maximum likelihood estimators $\{\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n)\}$ become asymptotically normal as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Remark 8.2 - Measuring Performance of Estimator

We measure the performance of an estimator $\hat{\theta}$ in terms of variance, since its mean should be θ^* . Lower variance indicates better performance.

Definition 8.1 - The Score Function

Let $\ell(\theta; x) := \ln f(x; \theta)$.

The *Score Function* is a measure of the sensitivity of the likelihood function wrt θ

$$\ell'(\theta; x) := \frac{d}{d\theta} \ell(\theta; x) = \frac{\frac{d}{d\theta} \ln f(x; \theta)}{\ln f(x; \theta)} = \frac{\ln L'(\theta; x)}{\ln L(\theta; x)}$$

Remark 8.3 - θ^* is a turning point of $\ell(\theta; x)$

Note that under the *Fisher Information Regularity Conditions* we have that $\forall \theta \in \Theta$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}(\ell'(\theta; X); \theta) &= \int_S \frac{\frac{d}{d\theta} f(x; \theta)}{f(x; \theta)} f(x; \theta) dx \\ &= \int_S \frac{d}{d\theta} f(x; \theta) dx \\ &= \frac{d}{d\theta} \int_S f(x; \theta) dx \\ &= \frac{d}{d\theta} (1) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

This shows that we expect the derivative to equal 0 at θ^* . Further, this means θ^* is a turning point of the log-likelihood function (hopefully a maximum).

Example 8.1 - Application of Remark 6.3

Let $X \sim \text{Poisson}(\theta)$. Then $f_X(x; \theta) = \frac{\theta^x}{x!} e^{-\theta} \mathbf{1}\{x \in \mathbb{N}\}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \implies \ell(\theta; x) &= -\theta + x \ln \theta - \ln x! \\ \implies \ell'(\theta; x) &= -1 + \frac{x}{\theta} \\ \implies \mathbb{E}(\ell'(\theta; X); \theta) &= -1 + \frac{\theta}{\theta} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Definition 8.2 - Fisher Information Regularity Conditions

Let Θ be an open interval in \mathbb{R} and $f(x; \theta)$ be a pmf/pdf.

Below are conditions which a model is required to meet in order to be considered sufficiently regular such that *Fisher Information* can be drawn from it.

- i) Both $L'(\theta; x) = \frac{d}{d\theta} f(x; \theta)$ and $L''(\theta; x) = \frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} f(x; \theta)$ exist for any $x \in \mathcal{X}$.
- ii) $\forall \theta \in \Theta$ the set $S := \{x \in \mathcal{X} : f(x; \theta) > 0\}$ does not depend on $\theta \in \Theta$.
- iii) The identity below exists

$$\int_S \frac{d}{d\theta} f(x; \theta) dx = \frac{d}{d\theta} \int_S f(x; \theta) dx = 0$$

Definition 8.3 - Fisher Information

Fisher Information is a technique for measuring the amount of information that an observable random variable X carries about an unknown parameter θ upon which the probability of X depends.

Let $X \sim f(\cdots; \theta)$. Then the *Fisher Information* for any $\theta \in \Theta$ is

$$I(\theta) := \mathbb{E}(\ell'(\theta; X)^2; \theta) \geq 0$$

N.B. This is the *Expectation of the score, squared* \equiv *Second moment of the score*.

Remark 8.4 - Fisher Information

- i) *Fisher Information* is a function of the parameter, θ , not the data, X .
- ii) $I(\theta)$ can be thought of as being the average *information* brought by a single observation X about θ , assuming $X \sim f(\cdot; \theta)$.
- iii) Since $\forall \theta \in \Theta$, $\mathbb{E}(\ell'(\theta; X); \theta) = 0$ then

$$I(\theta) = \text{Var}(\ell'(\theta; X); \theta)$$

The variance of the score.

Example 8.2 - Fisher Information of Poisson

Let $X \sim \text{Poisson}(\theta)$.

From **Example 6.1** we know that $\ell'(\theta; x) = -1 + \frac{x}{\theta}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} I(\theta) &= \text{Var}(\ell'(\theta; X); \theta) \\ &= \text{Var}\left(-1 + \frac{X}{\theta}; \theta\right) \\ &= \text{Var}\left(\frac{X}{\theta}; \theta\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\theta^2} \text{Var}(X; \theta) \\ &= \frac{1}{\theta^2} \cdot \theta \text{ since } X \sim \text{Poisson}(\theta) \\ &= \frac{1}{\theta} \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 8.1 - Alternative Expression of Fisher Information

Let $f(x; \theta)$ be a pmf/pdf which satisfies the conditions of **Definition 6.2**. If

$$\forall \theta \in \Theta \quad \int_{\mathcal{X}} \frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} f(x; \theta) dx = \frac{d}{d\theta} \int_{\mathcal{X}} \frac{d}{d\theta} f(x; \theta) dx$$

Then

$$I(\theta) = -\mathbb{E}\left(\frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} \ell(\theta; X); \theta\right)$$

N.B. $\frac{d}{d\theta} \int_{\mathcal{X}} \frac{d}{d\theta} f(x; \theta) dx = 0$ by the regularity conditions.

Proof 8.1 - Theorem 6.1

By the *Quotient Rule*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} \ell(\theta; x) &= \frac{d}{d\theta} \frac{\frac{d}{d\theta} f(x; \theta)}{f(x; \theta)} \\ &= \frac{\frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} f(x; \theta)}{f(x; \theta)} - \left(\frac{\frac{d}{d\theta} f(x; \theta)}{f(x; \theta)} \right)^2 \end{aligned}$$

Consequently

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}\left(\frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} \ell(\theta; X); \theta\right) &= \int_S \frac{\frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} f(x; \theta)}{f(x; \theta)} f(x; \theta) dx - \int_S \left(\frac{\frac{d}{d\theta} f(x; \theta)}{f(x; \theta)} \right)^2 f(x; \theta) dx \\ &= \int_S \frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} f(x; \theta) dx - \int_S \ell'(\theta; x)^2 f(x; \theta) dx \\ &= 0 - \mathbb{E}(\ell'(\theta; X)^2; \theta) \\ &= -I(\theta) \\ \Rightarrow \quad I(\theta) &= -\mathbb{E}\left(\frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} \ell(\theta; X); \theta\right) \end{aligned}$$

□

1.9 Efficiency and The Cramer-Rao Bound

Definition 9.1 - IID Score Function

Let $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} f(\cdot; \theta)$ for some $\theta \in \Theta$. Then the *Score Function* is

$$\ell'_n(\theta; \mathbf{x}) := \frac{d}{d\theta} \ell_n(\theta; \mathbf{x}) \text{ where } \ell_n(\theta; \mathbf{x}) := \ln f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta) = \sum_{i=1}^n \ell(\theta; x_i)$$

N.B. $\frac{d}{d\theta} \ell_n(\theta; \mathbf{x}) = \frac{d}{d\theta} \sum \ell(\theta; x_i) = \sum \ell'(\theta; x_i)$.

Definition 9.2 - IID Fisher Information

Let $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} f(\cdot; \theta)$ for some $\theta \in \Theta$. Then the *Fisher Information* is

$$I_n(\theta) := \mathbb{E}(\ell'_n(\theta; \mathbf{X})^2; \theta) = \text{Var}(\ell'_n(\theta; \mathbf{X}); \theta)$$

Theorem 9.1 - Relationship between IID Fisher Information & Fisher Information

Consider the situation where $\forall \theta \in \Theta$, $f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta) = \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i; \theta)$. Then

$$\forall \theta \in \Theta, I_n(\theta) = nI(\theta)$$

Proof 9.1 - Theorem 7.1

Let $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} f(\cdot; \theta)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} I_n(\theta) &= \text{Var}(\ell'_n(\theta; \mathbf{X}); \theta) \\ &= \text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(\theta; X_i); \theta\right) \\ &= n\text{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(\theta; X_1); \theta\right) \\ \implies I_n(\theta) &= nI(\theta) \end{aligned}$$

□

Theorem 9.2 - Cauchy-Schwarz Inequality for Expectation

Let X & Y be real-valued random variables in the same probability space. Then

$$\mathbb{E}(XY)^2 \leq \mathbb{E}(X^2)\mathbb{E}(Y^2)$$

Proof 9.2 - Theorem 7.2

If $\mathbb{E}(Y^2) = 0$ then $\mathbb{P}(Y = 0) = 1$ so $\mathbb{E}(XY) = 0$ and the statement holds.

Thus, assume $\mathbb{E}(Y^2) > 0$ and define $\lambda := \frac{\mathbb{E}(XY)}{\mathbb{E}(Y^2)}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq \mathbb{E}(X - \lambda Y)^2 \\ &= \mathbb{E}(X^2) - 2\lambda\mathbb{E}(XY) + \lambda^2\mathbb{E}(Y^2) \\ &= \mathbb{E}(X^2) - 2\frac{\mathbb{E}(XY)^2}{\mathbb{E}(Y^2)} + \frac{\mathbb{E}(XY)^2}{\mathbb{E}(Y^2)} \\ &= \mathbb{E}(X^2) - \frac{\mathbb{E}(XY)^2}{\mathbb{E}(Y^2)} \\ \implies \mathbb{E}(XY)^2 &\leq \mathbb{E}(X^2)\mathbb{E}(Y^2) \end{aligned}$$

□

Theorem 9.3 - Covariance Inequality

Let X and Y be real-valued random variables in the same probability space. Then

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y)^2 \leq \text{Var}(X)\text{Var}(Y)$$

Proof 9.3 - Theorem 7.3

Let $W = X - \mathbb{E}(X)$ and $Z = Y - \mathbb{E}(Y)$ giving $\mathbb{E}(WZ) = \text{Cov}(X, Y)$, $\mathbb{E}(W^2) = \text{Var}(X)$ and $\mathbb{E}(Z^2) = \text{Var}(Y)$.

By applying the *Cauchy-Schwarz inequality* we get

$$\text{Cov}(X, Y)^2 = \mathbb{E}(WZ)^2 \leq \mathbb{E}(W^2)\mathbb{E}(Z^2) = \text{Var}(X)\text{Var}(Y) \iff \text{Cov}(X, Y)^2 \leq \text{Var}(X)\text{Var}(Y)$$

Remark 9.1 - Correlation value

The result in **Theorem 7.3** is the reason why correlation is valued in $[-1, 1]$.

$$\text{Corr}(X, Y) = \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(X)\text{Var}(Y)}}$$

Theorem 9.4 - Cramer-Rao Inequality - Scalar Parameter

Let $\mathbf{X}_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} f(\cdot; \theta)$ and assume the *Fisher Information Regularity Conditions* hold.

Let $\hat{\theta}_n(\cdot)$ be an estimator of θ with expectation $m(\theta) := \mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n); \theta)$ which satisfies

$$\forall \theta \in \Theta, \underbrace{\frac{d}{d\theta} \int \hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{x}) f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta) d\mathbf{x}}_{\mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta}_n)} = \int \hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{x}) \frac{d}{d\theta} f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta) d\mathbf{x}$$

Then

$$\forall \theta \in \Theta, \quad \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n); \theta) \geq \frac{m'(\theta)^2}{nI(\theta)}$$

Proof 9.4 - Theorem 7.4

We notice that

$$\begin{aligned} m'(\theta) &= \frac{d}{d\theta} \mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n); \theta) \\ &= \frac{d}{d\theta} \int_{S^n} \hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{x}_n) f_n(\mathbf{x}_n; \theta) d\mathbf{x}_n \end{aligned}$$

The clever part of this proof is to observe that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n); \theta) nI(\theta) &= \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n); \theta) \text{Var}(\ell'_n(\theta; \mathbf{X}_n); \theta) \\ &\geq \text{Cov}(\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n), \ell'_n(\theta; \mathbf{X}_n); \theta)^2 \text{ by Covariance Inequality} \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cov}(\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n), \ell'_n(\theta; \mathbf{X}_n); \theta)^2 &= \mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n) \ell'_n(\theta; \mathbf{X}_n); \theta) - \mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n); \theta) \mathbb{E}(\ell'_n(\theta; \mathbf{X}_n); \theta) \\ &= \mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n) \ell'_n(\theta; \mathbf{X}_n); \theta) - \mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n); \theta) \times 0 \\ &= \mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n) \ell'_n(\theta; \mathbf{X}_n); \theta) \\ &= \int_{S^n} \hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{x}_n) \ell'_n(\theta; \mathbf{x}_n) f_n(\mathbf{x}_n; \theta) d\mathbf{x}_n \\ &= \int_{S^n} \hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{x}_n) \frac{\frac{d}{d\theta} f_n(\mathbf{x}_n; \theta)}{f_n(\mathbf{x}_n; \theta)} f_n(\mathbf{x}_n; \theta) d\mathbf{x}_n \\ &= \int_{S^n} \hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{x}_n) \frac{d}{d\theta} f_n(\mathbf{x}_n; \theta) \\ &= \frac{d}{d\theta} \int_{S^n} \hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{x}_n) f_n(\mathbf{x}_n; \theta) d\mathbf{x}_n \text{ by regularity assumption} \\ &= m'(\theta) \\ \implies \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n); \theta) nI(\theta) &\geq m'(\theta)^2 \end{aligned}$$

Proposition 9.1 - Useful result from Cramer-Rao Inequality

If $\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n)$ is an unbiased estimator (i.e. $m(\theta) = \theta$) then

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n); \theta) = \text{MSE}(\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n); \theta) \geq \frac{1}{nI(\theta)}$$

This shows there is a lower bound on the possible performance of an estimator.

Definition 9.3 - Efficient Estimator

An *Estimator* is said to be *Efficient* when its variance is equal to the *Cramer-Rao lower bound* $\forall \theta^*$.

Example 9.1 - Efficient Coin Flipping

Let $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Bernoulli}(\theta)$ with $\theta \in [0, 1]$, this corresponds to flipping a coin n times and considering each flip the random variable $X : \{H, T\} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ such that $X(H) = 1$ and $X(T) = 0$ with probability distribution such that $\mathbb{P}(X = 1; \theta) = \theta$ and $\mathbb{P}(X = 0; \theta) = 1 - \theta$. We consider the intuitive estimator of θ

$$\hat{\theta}_n := \hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n) := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$$

The estimator is unbiased $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ and its variance is

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\theta}_n; \theta) = \frac{\text{Var}(X_1; \theta)}{n} = \frac{\mathbb{E}(X_1^2; \theta) - \mathbb{E}(X_1; \theta)^2}{n} = \frac{\theta - \theta^2}{n} = \frac{\theta(1 - \theta)}{n}$$

Now we consider the *Cramer-Rao bound*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{We find } L(\theta; x) &= \theta^x (1 - \theta)^{1-x} \\ \implies \ell(\theta; x) &= x \ln \theta + (1 - x) \ln(1 - \theta) \\ \implies \ell'(\theta; x) &= \frac{x}{\theta} - \frac{1-x}{1-\theta} \\ \implies \ell''(\theta; x) &= -\frac{x}{\theta^2} - \frac{1-x}{(1-\theta)^2} \end{aligned}$$

Thus we can use $I(\theta) = -\mathbb{E}(\ell''(\theta; X); \theta)$

$$\begin{aligned} \implies I(\theta) &= -\mathbb{E}\left(-\frac{X}{\theta^2} - \frac{1-X}{(1-\theta)^2}; \theta\right) \\ &= \mathbb{E}\left(\frac{X}{\theta^2} + \frac{1-X}{(1-\theta)^2}; \theta\right) \\ &= \frac{\theta}{\theta^2} + \frac{1-\theta}{(1-\theta)^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{\theta} + \frac{1}{1-\theta} \\ &= \frac{1}{\theta(1-\theta)} \\ I_n(\theta) &= nI(\theta) \text{ Since } X_1, X_2, \dots \text{ are iid} \end{aligned}$$

The *Cramer-Rao bound* for the variance is

$$\frac{1}{nI(\theta)} = \frac{\theta(1 - \theta)}{n}$$

Thus our estimator is efficient.

1.10 Asymptotic Distribution of the Maximum Likelihood Estimator

Theorem 10.1 -

Suppose that $\mathbf{X}_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} f(\cdot; \theta^*)$ for some $\theta^* \in \Theta$ and assume that

- i) The sequence of maximum likelihood estimators $\{\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n)\}$ is consistent;
- ii) The *Fisher Information Regularity Conditions* (**Definition 6.2**) hold and $I(\theta^*) = -\mathbb{E}[\ell''(\theta; X); \theta] > 0$.
- iii) $\exists C(\cdot) : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ such that $\mathbb{E}(C(X_1); \theta^*) < \infty$, $\Xi \subset \Theta$ an open set containing θ^* and $\Delta(\cdot) : \Xi \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ continuous at 0 st $\Delta(0) = 0$, st $\forall \theta, \theta', x \in \Xi \times \mathcal{X}$.

$$|\ell''(\theta; x) - \ell''(\theta'; x)| \leq C(x)\Delta(\theta - \theta')$$

Then $\forall \theta^* \in \Theta$

$$\sqrt{nI(\theta^*)}(\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n) - \theta^*) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}(\cdot; \theta^*)} Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$$

Theorem 10.2 -

Under the conditions of **Theorem 8.1**, with $\hat{\theta}_n := \hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X})$ the maximum likelihood estimator

$$\ell'_n(\hat{\theta}_n; \mathbf{X}) = \ell'_n(\theta^*; \mathbf{X}) + (\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*)\{\ell''_n(\theta^*; \mathbf{X}) + R_n\}$$

where $\frac{1}{n}R_n \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} 0$.

Proof 10.1 - Theorem 8.1

By **Theorem 8.2** $\ell'_n(\hat{\theta}_n; \mathbf{X}) = \ell'_n(\theta^*; \mathbf{X}) + (\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*)\{\ell''_n(\theta^*; \mathbf{X}) + R_n\}$ where $\frac{1}{n}R_n \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} 0$.

Since $\hat{\theta}_n$ is the maximum likelihood estimator & the *Fisher Information Regularity Conditions* hold, the score at $\ell'(\hat{\theta}_n; X) = 0$.

Hence, $0 = \ell''(\hat{\theta}_n; X) = \ell'_n(\theta; X) + (\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*)\{\ell''(\theta; X) + R_n\}$.

Rearranging & rescaling by \sqrt{n} gives

$$\sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*) = \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}\ell'(\theta^*; X)}{-\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}\{\ell''(\theta^*; X) + R_n\}} =: \frac{U_n}{V_n - \frac{R_n}{n}}$$

Recall that $\ell'_n(\theta^*; X) = \sum_{i=1}^n \ell'(\theta^*; X_i)$ and $\ell''_n(\theta^*; X) = \sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(\theta^*; X_i)$.

Since $\mathbb{E}(\ell'(\theta^*; X_i); \theta^*) = 0$ and $\text{Var}(\ell'(\theta^*; X_i); \theta^*) = I(\theta^*)$

$\Rightarrow U_n \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}(\cdot; \theta^*)} U \sim \text{Normal}(0, I(\theta^*))$ by the *Central Limit Theorem*.

We observed that $V_n \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} I(\theta^*)$ by the *Weak Law of Large Numbers* since $\mathbb{E}(-\ell''(\theta^*; X_i); \theta^*) = I(\theta^*)$.

It follows that $V_n - \frac{1}{n}R_n \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} I(\theta^*)$ by *Slutsky's Theorem*.

Using *Slutsky's Theorem* again

$$\sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*) = \frac{U_n}{V_n - \frac{1}{n}R_n} \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}(\cdot; \theta^*)} \frac{\sqrt{I(\theta^*)}}{I(\theta^*)} Z \text{ where } Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$$

We can rewrite this as

$$\sqrt{nI(\theta^*)}(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}(\cdot; \theta^*)} Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$$

Proof 10.2 - Theorem 8.2

This is a non-examinable, sketch proof of Theorem 8.2.

By the regularity conditions and the mean value theorem

$$\frac{\ell'_n(\theta; \mathbf{x}) - \ell'_n(\theta^*; \mathbf{x})}{\theta - \theta^*} = \ell''_n(\tilde{\theta}; \mathbf{x})$$

for some $\tilde{\theta} \in (\theta, \theta^*)$. Hence, we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} \ell'_n(\theta; \mathbf{x}) - \ell'_n(\theta^*; \mathbf{x}) &= (\theta - \theta^*)\ell''_n(\tilde{\theta}; \mathbf{x}) \\ &= (\theta - \theta^*)\{\ell''_n(\theta^*; \mathbf{x}) + [\ell''_n(\tilde{\theta}; \mathbf{x}) - \ell''_n(\theta^*; \mathbf{x})]\} \\ &= (\theta - \theta^*)\{\ell''_n(\theta; \mathbf{x}) + R_n(\theta, \theta^*, \mathbf{x})\} \end{aligned}$$

Now we replace θ with the maximum likelihood estimator $\hat{\theta}_n := \hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X})$. We find

$$\ell'(\hat{\theta}_n; \mathbf{X}) = \ell'_n(\theta^*; \mathbf{X}) + (\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*)\{\ell''_n(\theta^*; \mathbf{X}) + R_n(\hat{\theta}_n, \theta^*, \mathbf{x})\}$$

and we need to analyse R_n .

Since $\hat{\theta}_n \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} \theta^*$ we can take n large enough that $\mathbb{P}(\hat{\theta}_n \in \Xi; \theta^*)$ with arbitrarily high probability.

On the event $\{\hat{\theta} \in \Xi\}$ and we have $\{\tilde{\theta}_n \in \Xi\}$ since $\tilde{\theta}_n \in (\hat{\theta}_n, \theta^*)$ and

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \frac{1}{n} R_n \right| &= \frac{1}{n} \left| \ell''_n(\tilde{\theta}_n; \mathbf{X}) - \ell''_n(\theta^*; \mathbf{X}) \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \left| \sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(\tilde{\theta}_n; X_i) - \ell''(\theta^*; X_i) \right| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left| \ell''(\tilde{\theta}_n; X_i) - \ell''(\theta^*; X_i) \right| \\ &\leq \Delta(\tilde{\theta}_n - \theta^*) \left\{ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n C(X_i) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

from the smoothness condition on ℓ'' .

From the *Weak Law of Large Numbers*

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n C(X_i) \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} \mathbb{E}(C(X_1); \theta^*) < \infty$$

and from the consistency of $\{\hat{\theta}_n\}$ and $\{\tilde{\theta}_n\}$ and continuity of $\Delta(\cdot)$ we have by the *Continuous Mapping Theorem*

$$\Delta(\tilde{\theta}_n - \theta^*) \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} 0$$

Hence, $\frac{1}{n} R_n \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} 0$ □

Definition 10.1 - Asyptically Efficient

A sequence of estimators $\{\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X})\}$ is *Asymptotically Efficient* if either its mean-squared error converges to the *Cramer-Rao Lower Bound*

$$\forall \theta \in \Theta, \text{ nMSE}(\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}_n); \theta) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{I(\theta)}$$

or $\hat{\theta}_n$ is *Asumptotically Normally Distributed* in the sense of **Theorem 8.1**

$$\forall \theta \in \Theta, \sqrt{nI(\theta)}(\hat{\theta} - \theta) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}(\cdot; \theta)} Z$$

N.B. The variance of $\frac{Z}{\sqrt{(nI(\theta^*))}}$ is exactly $\frac{1}{nI(\theta)}$.

Theorem 10.3 -

Under the conditions of **Theorem 8.1** the maximum likelihood estimator is *asymptotically efficient*.

Definition 10.2 - Regular Statistical Model

Any *Statistical Model* which satisfies the condition of **Theorem 8.1** is a *Regular Statistical Model*.

Remark 10.1 - Why use MLE over others

Due to the *Asymptotic Efficiency* of maximum likelihood estimators it is beter to use them in *Regular Statistical Models*.

1.11 Confidence Sets Around the Maximum Likelihood Estimator

Definition 11.1 - Coverage of an Interval

Let $\mathbf{X} \sim f_n(\cdot; \theta)$, $\theta \in \Theta = \mathbb{R}$, $L(\cdot) : \mathcal{X}^n \rightarrow \Theta$ and $U(\cdot) : \mathcal{X}^n \rightarrow \Theta$ where $\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}^n$, $L(\mathbf{x}) < U(\mathbf{x})$. Then, $\forall \theta \in \Theta$ the coverage $C_{\mathcal{I}}(\theta)$ of the random interval $\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{X}) := [L(\mathbf{X}), U(\mathbf{X})]$ at θ is

$$C_{\mathcal{I}}(\theta) := \mathbb{P}(\theta \in [L(\mathbf{X}), U(\mathbf{X})]; \theta) = \mathbb{P}(L(\mathbf{X}) \leq \theta \leq U(\mathbf{X}); \theta)$$

Remark 11.1 - Coverage of an Interval in Words

$C_{\mathcal{I}}(\theta)$ is the probability that the deterministic quantity θ falls into the random interval $\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{X})$ under the probability distribution $\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta)$ where $\mathbf{X} \sim f_n(\cdot; \theta)$.

Remark 11.2 - Multi-Dimensional Coverage

We can extend *Coverage of an Interval* to the multi-dimensional case by considering confidence sets and then considering the probability $\mathbb{P}(\theta \in \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{X}); \theta)$.

Definition 11.2 - Confidence Interval

$\forall \alpha \in [0, 1]$ we say that an interval $\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{X}) := [L(\mathbf{X}), U(\mathbf{X})]$ is a $1 - \alpha$ confidence interval if $\forall \theta \in \Theta$ its coverage is at least $1 - \alpha$ or more formally $\inf_{\theta \in \Theta} C_{\mathcal{I}}(\theta) \geq 1 - \alpha$.

Remark 11.3 - Exact Confidence Interval

If $C_{\mathcal{I}}(\theta) = 1 - \alpha \forall \theta \in \Theta$ then \mathcal{I} is an exact $1 - \alpha$ confidence interval.

Definition 11.3 - Observed Confidence Interval

For an interval $\mathcal{I}(\cdot) = [L(\cdot), U(\cdot)]$ with $L : \mathcal{X}^n \rightarrow \Theta$ and $U : \mathcal{X}^n \rightarrow \Theta$, and a realisation \mathbf{x} , the corresponding *Observed Confidence Interval* is $\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{x})$.

N.B. Nothing interesting can be said about the probability that $\theta \in \mathcal{I}(\mathbf{x})$ since θ and $\mathcal{I}(\mathbf{x})$ are deterministic.

Notation 11.1 - Quantile of Normal(0, 1)

For any $\beta \in (0, 1)$ let $z_{\beta} \in \mathbb{R}$ be such that for $Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$, $1 - \Phi(z_{\beta}) = \mathbb{P}(Z > z_{\beta}) = \beta$.

Example 11.1 - Confidence interval for the mean of a Normal Distribution

Let $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Normal}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ for $\theta = (\mu, \sigma^2) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$ and where σ^2 is known.

Consider the estimator $\hat{\mu}_n = \hat{\mu}_n(\mathbf{X}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ of μ . Then we know that the following non-asymptotic result holds.

We have $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \sim \text{Normal}(\mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n})$. Thus

$$\frac{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i - \mu}{\sqrt{\sigma^2/n}} \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \forall \alpha \in (0, 1) \quad , \quad & \mathbb{P} \left(z_{1-\alpha/2} \leq \frac{\hat{\mu}_n(\mathbf{X}) - \mu}{\sqrt{\sigma^2/n}} \leq z_{\alpha/2}; \mu \right) \\ &= \mathbb{P} \left(\frac{\hat{\mu}_n(\mathbf{X}) - \mu}{\sqrt{\sigma^2/n}} \leq z_{\alpha/2} \right) - \mathbb{P} \left(\frac{\hat{\mu}_n(\mathbf{X}) - \mu}{\sqrt{\sigma^2/n}} \leq z_{1-\alpha/2} \right) \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2} \right) - \left(1 - \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{2} \right) \right) \\ &= 1 - \alpha \end{aligned}$$

By symmetry we notice that $z_{1-\frac{\alpha}{2}} = -z_{\alpha/2}$.

By rearranging we have the equivalence of events

$$\left\{ -z_{\alpha/2} \leq \frac{\hat{\mu}_n(\mathbf{X}) - \mu}{\sqrt{\sigma^2/n}} \leq z_{\alpha/2} \right\} = \left\{ \hat{\mu}_n(\mathbf{X}) - z_{\alpha/2} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \leq \mu \leq \hat{\mu}_n(\mathbf{X}) + z_{\alpha/2} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right\}$$

To rearrange we separate into two events & treat them separately

$$\begin{aligned} \left\{ \frac{\hat{\mu}_n(\mathbf{X}) - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \leq z_{\alpha/2} \right\} &= \left\{ \frac{\hat{\mu}_n(\mathbf{X})}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} - z_{\alpha/2} \leq \frac{\mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \mu \geq \hat{\mu}_n(\mathbf{X}) - \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} z_{\alpha/2} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Similarly

$$\begin{aligned} \left\{ -z_{\alpha/2} \leq \frac{\hat{\mu}_n(X) - \mu}{\sqrt{\sigma^2/n}} \right\} &= \left\{ \frac{\mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \leq \frac{\hat{\mu}_n(X)}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} + z_{\alpha/2} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \mu \leq \hat{\mu}_n(X) + z_{\alpha/2} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

So the interval $\mathcal{I}(X) = [L(X), U(X)]$ where $L(\mathbf{x}) = \bar{x} - z_{\alpha/2} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$ and $U(\mathbf{x}) = \bar{x} + z_{\alpha/2} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$ is an $1 - \alpha$ exact confidence interval.

Remark 11.4 - *Confidence Intervals with unknown σ^2*

When σ^2 is unknown we can define $\{\hat{\sigma}_n^2\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ to be a consistent sequence of estimators of σ^2 (e.g. the sample variance)

$$\hat{\sigma}_n^2 := \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \hat{\mu}_n(\mathbf{X}))^2$$

1.12 Asymptotic Approximation of Confidence Intervals

Theorem 12.1 -

Assume $\mathbf{X} \sim f(\cdot; \theta^*)$. Let $\{\hat{\theta}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a consistent sequence of estimators of θ^* and assume that $\{\hat{\theta}_n\}$ is asymptotically normal in the sense that

$$\exists \sigma^2 > 0 \text{ st } \frac{\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}) - \theta^*}{\sqrt{\sigma^2/n}} \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}(\cdot; \theta^*)} Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$$

Then $\forall \alpha \in (0, 1)$, $\mathcal{I}_n(\mathbf{X}) = [L_n(\mathbf{X}), U_n(\mathbf{X})]$ is an asymptotically exact $1 - \alpha$ confidence interval, where $L_n(\mathbf{x}) := \hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{x}) - z_{\alpha/2} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$ and $U_n(\mathbf{x}) := \hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{x}) + z_{\alpha/2} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}$.

Proof 12.1 - *Theorem 10.1*

Let $\{W_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be defined by $W_n := \frac{\hat{\theta}_n(X) - \theta^*}{\sqrt{\sigma^2/n}}$.

Since $W_n \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}(\cdot; \theta^*)} Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(-z_{\alpha/2} \leq W_n \leq z_{\alpha/2}) &= F_{W_n}(z_{\alpha/2}) - F_{W_n}(-z_{\alpha/2}) \\ &\xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \Phi(z_{\alpha/2}) - \Phi(-z_{\alpha/2}) \\ &= 1 - \alpha \end{aligned}$$

Similarly to before we have the equivalence of events

$$\{-z_{\alpha/2} \leq W_n \leq z_{\alpha/2}\} = \left\{ \hat{\theta}_n - z_{\alpha/2} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \leq \theta^* \leq \hat{\theta}_n + z_{\alpha/2} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \right\}$$

So $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{P} \left(\hat{\theta}_n(X) - z_{\alpha/2} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \leq \theta^* \leq \hat{\theta}_n(X) + z_{\alpha/2} \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}; \theta^* \right) = 1 - \alpha$

Remark 12.1 - *Theorem 10.1*

The confidence interval is only asymptotically exact. For finite n , the overage of the confidence interval will be different from $1 - \alpha$ but the difference will converge to 0 as n increases. In practice σ^2 may be unknown, in these cases substitute for a consistent sequence of estimators of σ^2 .

Theorem 12.2 -

Assume $\mathbf{X} \sim f(\cdot; \theta^*)$ let $\{\hat{\theta}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a consistent sequence of estimators of θ^* and assume that $\{\hat{\theta}_n\}$ is asymptotically normal in the sense that

$$\exists \sigma^2 > 0 \text{ st } \frac{\hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{X}) - \theta^*}{\sqrt{\sigma^2/n}} \rightarrow_{\text{mathcal{D}(\cdot; \theta^*)}} Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$$

Assume also that $\{\hat{\sigma}_n^2\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a consistent sequence of estimators of σ^2 . Then $\forall \alpha \in (0, 1)$, $\mathcal{I}_n(\mathbf{X}) = [L_n(\mathbf{X}), U_n(\mathbf{X})]$ is an asymptotically exact $1 - \alpha$ confidence interval, where $L_n(\mathbf{x}) := \hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{x}) - z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{\hat{\sigma}_n^2(\mathbf{x})/n}$ and $U_n(\mathbf{x}) := \hat{\theta}_n(\mathbf{x}) + z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{\hat{\sigma}_n^2(\mathbf{x})/n}$.

Proof 12.2 - Theorem 10.2

Define $W_n := \frac{\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*}{\sqrt{\hat{\sigma}_n^2(X)/n}} = \frac{\hat{\theta}_n(X) - \theta^*}{\sqrt{\sigma^2/n}} - \sqrt{\frac{\sigma^2}{\hat{\sigma}_n^2(X)}}$.

By consistency of $\{\hat{\sigma}_n^2\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and the *Continuous Mapping Theorem*

$$\sqrt{\frac{\sigma^2}{\hat{\sigma}_n^2(X)}} \xrightarrow{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} 1$$

By *Slutsky's Theorem*

$$W_n \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}(\cdot; \theta^*)} Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$$

The rest of the proof is the same as for **Theorem 10.1**.

Remark 12.2 - Theorem 10.2

For a given n the quality of the normal approximation will be affected by this additional approximation. One may find that for less accurate estimators of σ^2 , the n required for the confidence interval to have almost the right coverage will be higher.

1.13 Estimating the Information for Maximum Likelihood Estimates

Remark 13.1 - Applying Theorem 10.2 to sequences of MLEs for regular statistical models

When dealing with *Maximum Likelihood Estimators* for regular statistical models we have that $\sigma^2 = 1/I(\theta^*)$ thus

$$\sqrt{nI(\theta^*)}(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}(\cdot; \theta^*)} Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$$

However the *Fisher Information* is unknown so we consider two cases

- i) When the expectation, $I(\theta^*) = -\mathbb{E}(\ell''(\theta^*; X_1); \theta^*)$, can be calculated. In this case we replace θ^* with $\hat{\theta}_n$ in the equation.
- ii) When the expectation **cannot** be calculated we invoke the *Weak Law of Large Numbers* and consider the sequence of estimators, $J_n(\hat{\theta}_n) := -\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(\hat{\theta}_n; X_i)$.

Theorem 13.1 - Case i)

Assume $\{\hat{\theta}_n\}$ is a sequence of *Maximum Likelihood Estimators* st $\hat{\theta}_n \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} \theta^*$ and I is a continuous function of θ . Then $I(\hat{\theta}_n) \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} I(\theta^*)$.

N.B. The proof of this follows directly from the *Continuous Mapping Function*.

Remark 13.2 - Theorem 11.1

It is only necessary for I to be continuous in the neighbourhood of θ^* . This is due to an extension of the *Continuous Mapping Theorem* that states

$$\text{If } X_n \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}} X \text{ and } g \text{ is a function with discontinuity set } D \text{ then} \\ \mathbb{P}(X \in D) = 0 \implies (X_n) \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}} g(X).$$

Theorem 13.2 - Case ii)

Assume that $\{\hat{\theta}_n\}$ is a sequence of *Maximum Likelihood Estimators* st

- i) $\hat{\theta}_n \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} \theta^*$;
- ii) $I(\theta) = -\mathbb{E}(\ell''(\theta; X); \theta) \forall \theta \in \Theta$

- iii) $\exists C : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ st $\mathbb{E}(C(X_1); \theta^*) < \infty$, $\Xi \subset \Theta$ is an open set containing θ^* and $\Delta(\cdot) : \Xi \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ is continuous at 0 st $\Delta(0) = 0$, and st $\forall \theta, \theta^*, x \in \Xi^2 \times \mathcal{X} \quad |\ell''(\theta; x) - \ell''(\theta'; x)| \leq C(x)\Delta(\theta - \theta')$

Then

$$J_n(\hat{\theta}_n) \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} I(\theta^*)$$

Proof 13.1 - Theorem 11.2

Consider the following decomposition

$$\begin{aligned} J_n(\hat{\theta}) - I(\theta^*) &= -\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(\hat{\theta}_n; X_i) - I(\theta^*) \\ &= T_1 + T_2 \\ \text{Where } T_1 &= -\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(\hat{\theta}_n; X_i) + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(\theta^*; X_i) \\ \text{and } T_2 &= -\left\{ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(\theta^*; X_i) \right\} - I(\theta^*) \end{aligned}$$

Now the first term can be upper bounded as follows (for sufficiently large n , with arbitrary large probability the second inequality holds)

$$\begin{aligned} |T_1| &= \left| -\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(\hat{\theta}_n; X_i) + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(\theta^*; X_i) \right| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left| \ell''(\hat{\theta}_n; X_i) - \ell''(\theta^*; X_i) \right| \\ &\leq \Delta(\theta_n - \theta^*) \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n C(X_i) \end{aligned}$$

By the *Weak Law of Large Numbers*

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n C(X_i) \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} \mathbb{E}(C(X_1); \theta^*)$$

by the assumed consistency of $\{\hat{\theta}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and continuity of Δ we have that

$$\Delta(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*) \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} 0$$

Consequently $T_1 \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} 0$.

By the *Weak Law of Large Numbers* we have

$$\begin{aligned} &-\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(\theta^*; X_i) \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} I(\theta^*) \\ \implies T_2 &= -\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(\theta^*; X_i) - I(\theta^*) \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} 0 \end{aligned}$$

Since $T_1 \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} 0$ and $T_2 \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} 0$ we deduce from the earlier decomposition that

$$J_n(\hat{\theta}_n) \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} I(\theta^*)$$

□

Remark 13.3 - Summary

Whenever **Theorem 8.1** holds for a sequence of *Maximum Likelihood Estimators*

$$\text{i.e. } \sqrt{nI(\theta^*)}(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}(\cdot; \theta^*)} Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$$

we can replace $I(\theta^*)$ with one of two options

i) $I(\hat{\theta}_n)$ whenever

- (a) $I(\theta)$ is continuous in a neighbourhood of θ^* ; and,
- (b) The interval $[L(\mathbf{X}), U(\mathbf{X})]$ with $L(\mathbf{x}) := \hat{\theta}_n - z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{nI(\hat{\theta})}$ and $U(\mathbf{x}) := \hat{\theta}_n + z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{nI(\hat{\theta})}$ is an asymptotically exact $1 - \alpha$ confidence interval for θ^* .

ii) $J_n(\hat{\theta}_n) := -\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(\hat{\theta}_n; X_i)$ whenever

- (a) The assumptions of **Theorem 11.2** hold; and,
- (b) The interval $[L(\mathbf{X}), U(\mathbf{X})]$ with $L(\mathbf{x}) := \hat{\theta}_n - z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{nJ_n(\hat{\theta}_n)}$ and $U(\mathbf{x}) := \hat{\theta}_n + z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{nJ_n(\hat{\theta}_n)}$ is an asymptotically exact $1 - \alpha$ confidence interval for θ^* .

Example 13.1 - Coin Flipping

Here the new results for this chapter are applied in order to simplify methods used in previous examples when finding confidence intervals & upper bounds on θ^* .

The sequence of estimators $\hat{\theta}_n := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$ is consistent by the *Weak Law of Large Numbers* and the conditions for asymptotic normality hold $\forall \theta \in \Theta$. Hence

$$\sqrt{nI(\theta^*)}(\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}(\cdot; \theta^*)} Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$$

We can compute the *Fisher Information* $\forall \theta \in \Theta$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \ell'(\theta(x)) &= \frac{x}{\theta} - \frac{1-x}{1-\theta} \\ \text{and } \ell''(\theta; x) &= -\frac{x}{\theta^2} - \frac{1-x}{(1-\theta)^2} \\ \implies I(\theta) &= \frac{1}{\theta} + \frac{1}{1-\theta} \\ &= \frac{1}{\theta(1-\theta)} \end{aligned}$$

In practice θ^* is unknown so we replace $I(\theta^*)$ with $I(\hat{\theta}_n)$ to give the asymptotically exact confidence interval, $[L(\mathbf{X}), U(\mathbf{X})]$ where

$$L(\mathbf{X}) = \hat{\theta}_n - z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{\frac{\hat{\theta}_n(1-\hat{\theta}_n)}{n}} \text{ and } U(\mathbf{X}) = \hat{\theta}_n + z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{\frac{\hat{\theta}_n(1-\hat{\theta}_n)}{n}}$$

If we did not know how to compute $I(\theta)$ we could instead compute

$$\begin{aligned} J_n(\hat{\theta}_n) &= -\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(\hat{\theta}_n; X_i) \\ &= -\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left\{ -\frac{X_i}{\hat{\theta}_n^2} - \frac{1-X_i}{(1-\hat{\theta}_n)^2} \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{\hat{\theta}_n^2} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \right) + \frac{1}{(1-\hat{\theta}_n)^2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \right) \\ &= \frac{\hat{\theta}_n}{\hat{\theta}_n^2} + \frac{1-\hat{\theta}_n}{(1-\hat{\theta}_n)^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{\hat{\theta}_n(1-\hat{\theta}_n)} \end{aligned}$$

In this case $J_n(\hat{\theta}_n) = I(\hat{\theta}_n)$, this is not always true.

Definition 13.1 - Observed Fisher Information

Let $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} f(\cdot; \theta^*)$ be a vector of n random variables.

The *Observed Fisher Information* at θ is

$$nJ_n(\theta) = -\ell''(\theta; \mathbf{X}) = -\sum_{i=1}^n \ell''(\theta; X_i)$$

N.B. $\mathbb{E}(J_n(\theta^*); \theta^*) = I(\theta^*)$ and that it differs from the *Fisher Information* (under the *Fisher Information Regularity Conditions* by not being an expectation.

1.14 Transformations and Confidence Intervals

Definition 14.1 - Wald Approach

The confidence intervals seen so far fit the *Wald Approach*.

If $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} f(\cdot; \theta^*)$ where $\theta^* \in \Theta \subset \mathbb{R}$ then one can define a confidence interval for θ^* using the asymptotic distribution of the *Maximum Likelihood Estimator*

$$L(\mathbf{x}) = \hat{\theta}_n - z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{nI(\theta^*)} \text{ and } U(\mathbf{x}) = \hat{\theta}_n + z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{nI(\theta^*)}$$

which ensures that as $n \rightarrow \infty$, $\mathbb{P}(\theta^* \in [L(\mathbf{X}), U(\mathbf{X})]) \rightarrow 1 - \alpha$.

Proposition 14.1 - Transformed Confidence Interval - Increasing

Let $\tau := g(\theta)$ be a bijective, continuously differentiable & increasing function.

This gives a direct transformation of $[L(\mathbf{x}), U(\mathbf{x})]$ to $[g(L(\mathbf{x})), g(U(\mathbf{x}))]$.

$$\text{i.e. } \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}^n : L(\mathbf{x}) \leq \theta^* \leq U(\mathbf{x})\} = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}^n : g(L(\mathbf{x})) \leq \tau^* \leq g(U(\mathbf{x}))\}$$

Consequently

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\theta^* \in [L(\mathbf{X}), U(\mathbf{X})]; \theta^*) &= \mathbb{P}(\tau^* \in [g(L(\mathbf{X})), g(U(\mathbf{X}))]) \\ &\rightarrow 1 - \alpha \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty \end{aligned}$$

i.e. $[g(L(\mathbf{X})), g(U(\mathbf{X}))]$ is an asymptotically exact $1 - \alpha$ for τ^* .

Proposition 14.2 - Transformed Confidence Interval - Decreasing

Let $\tau := g(\theta)$ be a bijective, continuously differentiable & decreasing function.

This gives a direct transformation of $[L(\mathbf{X}), U(\mathbf{X})]$ to $[g(U(\mathbf{X})), g(L(\mathbf{X}))]$ which is an asymptotically exact $1 - \alpha$ confidence interval for τ^* .

Remark 14.1 - Deriving Reparameterised Confidence Intervals

We can obtain a reparameterised *Confidence Interval* by working with the reparameterised likelihood, $\tilde{f}(\mathbf{x}; \tau) := f(\mathbf{x}; g^{-1}(\tau))$. Now we can find $\tilde{L}(\mathbf{x})$ and $\tilde{U}(\mathbf{x})$ directly.

Theorem 14.1 -

Assume $X \in f(\cdot; \theta)$ for $\theta \in \Theta \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ and let $\tau := g(\theta)$ where g is bijective & continuously differentiable.

The *Fisher Information* for the parameterisation $\tilde{f}(x; \tau) := f(x; g^{-1}(\tau))$ is

$$\tilde{I}(\tau) = \frac{I(\theta)}{g'(\theta)^2}$$

Proof 14.1 - Theorem 12.1

Since $\tilde{f}(x; \tau) = f(x; g^{-1}(\tau))$ the log-likelihood for τ is

$$\tilde{\ell}(\tau; x) = \ln \tilde{f}(x; \tau) = \ln f(x; g^{-1}(\tau))$$

The score is therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\ell}'(\tau; x) &= \frac{d}{d\tau} \ln f(x; g^{-1}(\tau)) \\ &= \frac{d}{d\theta} \ln f(x; g^{-1}(\tau)) \times \frac{d}{d\tau} g^{-1}(\tau) \\ &= \ell'(g^{-1}(\tau); x) \times \frac{1}{g'(g^{-1}(\tau))} \\ &= \frac{\ell'(\theta; x)}{g'(\theta)} \end{aligned}$$

No we use the definition of *Fisher Information*

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tilde{I}(\tau) &= \mathbb{E}(\tilde{\ell}'(\tau; X)^2; \tau) \\
 &= \mathbb{E}\left(\frac{\ell'(\theta; X)^2}{g'(\theta)^2}; \theta\right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{g'(\theta)^2} \mathbb{E}(\ell'(\theta; X)^2; \theta) \\
 &= \frac{I(\theta)}{g'(\theta)^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

Remark 14.2 -

As a consequence, for regular statistical models

$$\sqrt{n\tilde{I}(\tau^*)}(\hat{\tau}_n - \tau^*) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}(\cdot; \tau^*)} Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$$

is equivalent to

$$\sqrt{\frac{nI(\theta^*)}{g'(\theta^*)^2}}(\hat{\tau}_n - \tau^*) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}(\cdot; \theta^*)} Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$$

which leads to

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tilde{L}(\mathbf{x}) &= \hat{\tau}_n - z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{\frac{g'(\theta^*)^2}{nI(\theta^*)}} \\
 \tilde{U}(\mathbf{x}) &= \hat{\tau}_n + z_{\alpha/2} \sqrt{\frac{g'(\theta^*)^2}{nI(\theta^*)}}
 \end{aligned}$$

N.B. This is not necessarily the same *Confidence Interval* as obtained by transforming $[L(\mathbf{x}), U(\mathbf{x})]$ directly.

Example 14.1 -

Consider $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Normal}(\mu, 1)$.

We know that the *Maximum Likelihood Estimator* of μ is $\bar{X} \sim \text{Normal}(\mu, \frac{1}{n})$.

A $1 - \alpha$ *Confidence Interval* for μ is

$$\left[\bar{X} - \frac{z_{\alpha/2}}{\sqrt{n}}, \bar{X} + \frac{z_{\alpha/2}}{\sqrt{n}} \right]$$

Consider the parameterisation $\tau = \frac{1}{\mu}$. This corresponds to $g(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ which is bijective & continuously differentiable except at 0, and is decreasing.

Hence, a $1 - \alpha$ exact *Confidence Interval* for τ is

$$\left[\frac{1}{\bar{X} + z_{\alpha/2}/\sqrt{n}}, \frac{1}{\bar{X} - z_{\alpha/2}/\sqrt{n}} \right]$$

Consider the two ways to find an asymptotically $1 - \alpha$ *Exact Confidence Interval* for τ . After direct calculations we find that

$$\tilde{\ell}''(\tau; x) = -\frac{3}{\tau^4} + \frac{2x}{\tau^3}$$

So

$$\tilde{I}(\tau) := i\mathbb{E}(\tilde{\ell}''(\tau; X); \tau) = \frac{3}{\tau^3} - \frac{2}{\tau^4} = \frac{1}{\tau^4}$$

Noting that the *Maximum Likelihood Estimator* for τ is $1/\bar{X}$ we find that

$$\sqrt{\frac{n}{\tau^4}} \left(\frac{1}{\bar{X}} - \tau \right) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}(\cdot; \tau)} Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$$

so an asymptotically exact $1 - \alpha$ *Confidence Interval* is

$$\left[\frac{1}{\bar{X}} - z_{\alpha/2} \frac{\tau^2}{\sqrt{n}}, \frac{1}{\bar{X}} + z_{\alpha/2} \frac{\tau^2}{\sqrt{n}} \right]$$

Alternatively, instead of working out $\tilde{I}(\tau)$ as above, we could use **Theorem 12.1** to find that

$$\tilde{I}(\tau) = \frac{I(\theta)}{g'(\theta)^2}, \quad \theta = g^{-1}(\tau) = \frac{1}{\tau}$$

Since $I(\theta) = 1$ and $g(\theta) = 1/\theta \implies g'(\theta) = -1/\theta^2 = -\tau^2$, we have

$$\tilde{I}(\tau) = \frac{1}{(-1/\theta^2)^2} = \frac{1}{(-\tau^2)^2} = \frac{1}{\tau^4}$$

Remark 14.3 - Example 12.1

- i) The transformed *Confidence Interval* is exact, which the second *Confidence Interval* is not since $\sqrt{n/\tau^4} \left(\frac{1}{\bar{X}} - \tau \right)$ is not exactly normally distributed, but only asymptotically so.
- ii) The transformed *Confidence Interval* is not generally centred at $\hat{\tau}$.
- iii) This serves as an example that convergence in distribution says nothing about convergence of moments. In particular, you can derive that $\frac{1}{\bar{X}}$ does not have a mean for any $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$.

1.15 Likelihood Ratio Confidence Sets - Wilk's Approach

Remark 15.1 - Motivation

Consider a *Wald Confidence Interval* $\mathcal{I}(\theta^*)$.

It is possible for some $\theta \notin \mathcal{I}(\theta^*)$ to have a greater likelihood interval than some $\theta' \in \mathcal{I}(\theta^*)$. It is possible $\exists \theta \in \mathcal{I}(\theta^*)$ st $L(\theta; \mathbf{x}) = 0$.

Wald Confidence Intervals are not invariant under reparameterisation.

These features of *Wald Confidence Intervals* motivate why we may wish to consider a different type of *Confidence Interval*.

Definition 15.1 - Likelihood Ratio

Define $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} f(\cdot; \theta^*)$ for some $\theta^* \in \Theta$, let $\{\hat{\theta}_i\}$ be a sequence of consistent *Maximum Likelihood Estimators* of $\theta^* \in \Theta$.

Define $\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}^n$ the *Likelihood Ratio*

$$\Lambda_n(\mathbf{x}) := \frac{L(\theta^*; \mathbf{x})}{L(\hat{\theta}_n; \mathbf{x})} \in [0, 1]$$

Theorem 15.1 -

Define $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} f(\cdot; \theta^*)$ for some $\theta^* \in \Theta$, let $\{\hat{\theta}_i\}$ be a sequence of consistent *Maximum Likelihood Estimators* of $\theta^* \in \Theta$ and assume that the conditions of **Theorem 8.1** hold (implying asymptotic normality). Then

$$-2 \ln \Lambda_n(\mathbf{X}_n) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}(\cdot; \theta^*)} Z^2 \sim \chi_1^2$$

Remark 15.2 -

We observe that

$$-2 \ln \Lambda_n(\mathbf{x}) = -2 \left(\ell(\theta^*; \mathbf{x}) - \ell(\hat{\theta}_n; \mathbf{x}) \right) = 2 \left(\ell(\hat{\theta}_n; \mathbf{x}) - \ell(\theta^*; \mathbf{x}) \right)$$

i.e. This is twice the difference of the log-likelihoods for $\hat{\theta}_n$ and θ^* .

Definition 15.2 - Confidence Sets

Define $\chi_{1,\alpha}^2$ to be the number st $\mathbb{P}(W \leq \chi_{1,\alpha}^2) = 1 - \alpha$ for $W \sim \chi_1^2$. The *Confidence Sets*

$$C(\mathbf{X}_n) := \left\{ \theta \in \Theta : 2 \left[\ell(\hat{\theta}_n; \mathbf{X}_n) - \ell(\theta; \mathbf{X}_n) \right] \leq \chi_{1,\alpha}^2 \right\} \subseteq \Theta$$

are asymptotically exact $1 - \alpha$ *Confidence Sets* for θ^* since

$$\mathbb{P}(\theta^* \in C(\mathbf{X}_n; \theta^*)) = \mathbb{P}(-2 \ln \Lambda_n(\mathbf{X}_n) \leq \chi_{1,\alpha}^2; \theta^*) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 1 - \alpha$$

Remark 15.3 - Interpreting Confidence Sets

$C(\mathbf{x}_n)$ contains the values θ st $\ell(\theta; \mathbf{x}_n)$ is not too much less than $\ell(\hat{\theta}_n; \mathbf{x}_n)$. Hence, these confidence intervals contain those values of θ with the greatest likelihood values.

Remark 15.4 -

The observed confidence set $C(\mathbf{x})$ is defined implicitly, and finding an explicit representation of such sets might not be easy. This difficulty explains why *Wald's Approach* has been historically popular, despite its shortcomings. However, with the help of a computer, it is often easy to determine $C(\mathbf{x})$ numerically.

Proof 15.1 - Theorem 13.1

Consider the second order *Taylor Expansion* of $\ell_n(\theta; x) = \ln f_n(x; \theta)$

$$\ell_n(\theta; x) = \ell_n(\theta_0; x) + (\theta - \theta_0)\ell'_n(\theta_0; x) + \frac{(\theta - \theta_0)^2}{2}\ell''_n(\bar{\theta}; x) \text{ for some } \bar{\theta} \in [\theta, \theta_0]$$

Rearranging we find

$$\ell_n(\theta; x) - \ell_n(\theta_0; x) = (\theta - \theta_0)\ell'_n(\theta_0; x) + \frac{(\theta - \theta_0)^2}{2}\ell''_n(\bar{\theta}; x)$$

Take $\theta = \theta^*$ and $\theta_0 = \hat{\theta}_n$.

Since $\ell'_n(\hat{\theta}_n; x) - \ell_n(\hat{\theta}_n; x)$ then

$$\begin{aligned} \ln \Lambda_n(x) &= \ell_n(\theta^*; x) - \ell_n(\hat{\theta}_n; x) \\ &= \frac{(\theta^* - \hat{\theta}_n)^2}{2}\ell''_n(\bar{\theta}_n; x) \text{ for some } \bar{\theta}_n \in [\theta^*, \hat{\theta}_n] \\ \implies -2 \ln \Lambda(x) &= -(\theta^* - \hat{\theta}_n)^2 \ell''_n(\bar{\theta}_n; x) \\ &= -\left[\sqrt{nI(\theta^*)}\right]^2 (\theta^* - \hat{\theta}_n)^2 \frac{1}{nI(\theta^*)} \ell''_n(\bar{\theta}_n; x) \end{aligned}$$

Consider the random variable $-2 \ln \Lambda(X)$. Then we have

$$\sqrt{nI(\theta^*)}(\hat{\theta}_n(X) - \theta^*) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}(\cdot; \theta^*)} Z \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$$

By the *Continuous Mapping Theorem*

$$\left[\sqrt{nI(\theta^*)}\right]^2 (\hat{\theta}_n - \theta^*)^2 \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}(\cdot; \theta^*)} Z^2$$

Since $\bar{\theta}_n \in [\theta^*, \hat{\theta}_n]$

$$-\frac{1}{n}\ell''_n(\bar{\theta}_n; X) \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}(\cdot; \theta^*)} I(\theta^*)$$

By *Slutsky's Theorem*

$$-2 \ln \Lambda_n(X) \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}(\cdot; \theta^*)} Z^2 \sim \chi_1^2$$

□

Remark 15.5 - A Rule of Thumb

Under the assumptions of **Theorem 13.1**, the set

$$\left\{ \theta \in \Theta : \ell(\theta; \mathbf{x}) \geq \ell(\hat{\theta}_n; \mathbf{x}) - 2 \right\}$$

is an asymptotically approximate 95% confidence set for θ^* .

Proof 15.2 - Remark 13.1

We have $\chi_{0.05}^2 = 3.84$.

The result follows from the approximation $1.92 \approx 2$ □

1.16 Transformation Invariant Confidence Sets**Remark 16.1 - Motivation**

Here we investigate whether the likelihood ratio approach to determining confidence sets is invariant to transformations, in contrast to *Wald's Approach*.

Consider the reparameterisation of the likelihood in terms of $\tau := g(\theta)$ where $g : \Theta \rightarrow G$ is bijective. We have

$$\tilde{f}(\mathbf{x}; \tau) := f(\mathbf{x}; g^{-1}(\tau)) = f(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$$

We can now define

$$C(\mathbf{x}) := \left\{ \theta \in \Theta : -2 \left[\ell(\theta; \mathbf{x}) - \ell(\hat{\theta}_n; \mathbf{x}) \right] \leq \chi_{1,\alpha}^2 \right\} \text{ and } \tilde{C}(\mathbf{x}) := \left\{ \theta \in \Theta : -2 \left[\tilde{\ell}(\theta; \mathbf{x}) - \tilde{\ell}(\hat{\theta}_n; \mathbf{x}) \right] \leq \chi_{1,\alpha}^2 \right\}$$

We want to know whether $\theta \in C(\mathbf{x}) \iff g(\theta) \in \tilde{C}(\mathbf{x}) \forall \mathbf{x} \in \chi^n$.
i.e. $C(\mathbf{x})$ & $\tilde{C}(\mathbf{x})$ define the same sets up to reparameterisation.

Theorem 16.1 -

Let $\mathbf{X} \sim f(\cdot; \theta^*)$, C and \tilde{C} defined as in **Remark 14.1**.

Assume that $g : \Theta \rightarrow G$ is bijective. Then

$$\forall \mathbf{x} \in \chi^n \text{ and } \theta^* \in \Theta, \theta \in C(\mathbf{x}) \iff g(\theta) \in \tilde{C}(\mathbf{x})$$

Thus

$$\mathbb{P}(\theta^* \in C(\mathbf{X}); \theta^*) = \mathbb{P}(g(\theta^*) \in \tilde{C}(\mathbf{X}); \tau = g(\theta^*))$$

Proof 16.1 - Theorem 14.1

Let $\mathbf{x} \in \chi^n$ be arbitrary.

Everything rests on the observation that

$$\forall \theta \in \Theta, \ell(\theta; \mathbf{x}) = \ln f(\mathbf{x}; \theta) = \ln f(\mathbf{x}; g(\theta)) = \tilde{\ell}(g(\theta); \mathbf{x})$$

and similarly

$$\forall \tau \in G, \tilde{\ell}(\tau; \mathbf{x}) = \ln \tilde{f}(\mathbf{x}; \tau) = \ln f(\mathbf{x}; g^{-1}(\tau)) = \ell(g^{-1}(\tau); \mathbf{x})$$

Note that $g(\hat{\theta}_n)$ is the *Maximum Likelihood Estimate* of τ .

Assume $\theta \in C(\mathbf{x})$. Then

$$-2 \left[\ell(\theta; \mathbf{x}) - \ell(\hat{\theta}_n; \mathbf{x}) \right] \leq \chi_{1,\alpha}^2$$

Thus

$$-2 \left[\tilde{\ell}(g(\theta); \mathbf{x}) - \tilde{\ell}(g(\hat{\theta}_n); \mathbf{x}) \right] \leq \chi_{1,\alpha}^2$$

Thus $g(\theta) \in \tilde{C}(\mathbf{x})$.

So $\theta \in C(\mathbf{x}) \implies g(\theta) \in \tilde{C}(\mathbf{x})$.

Similarly, assume that $g(\theta) \in \tilde{C}(\mathbf{x})$. Thus

$$-2 \left[\ell(\theta; \mathbf{x}) - \ell(\hat{\theta}_n; \mathbf{x}) \right] \leq \chi_{1,\alpha}^2$$

Thus $\theta \in C(\mathbf{x})$.

So $\theta \in C(\mathbf{x}) \iff g(\theta) \in \tilde{X}(\mathbf{x})$.

For the last part, this correspondence implies that

$$\{\mathbf{x} \in \chi^n; \theta^* \in C(\mathbf{x})\} = \{\mathbf{x} \in \chi^2 : g(\theta^*) \in \tilde{C}(\mathbf{x})\}$$

Thus, we can conclude from the equivalence of the events

$$\{\theta^* \in C(\mathbf{X}) = \{g(\theta^*) \in \tilde{C}(\mathbf{X})\}$$

2 Testing

2.1 Introduction to Hypothesis Tests

Remark 1.1 - Motivation

Hypothesis testing allows us to make decisions about a parameter, rather than just estimating a range of values.

Definition 1.1 - Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis Testing is a process for deciding which of two competing hypotheses, H_0 or H_1 , is more consistent with an observation $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ of $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_n) \sim f(\cdot; \theta)$.

Remark 1.2 - Difference to Statistics 1

In Statistics 1 we always had the null hypothesis be $H_0 = \mu$. Now we consider a more general case where

- i) $\mathbf{X} \sim f(\cdot; \theta)$ where $\theta \in \Theta$ is unknown.
- ii) We have an observation \mathbf{x} of \mathbf{X} ;
- iii) We have formulated a null hypothesis concerning possible values of θ (e.g. $H_0 : \theta \in \Theta_0$)
- iv) We have an alternative hypothesis, $H_1 : \theta \in \Theta_1 = \Theta \setminus \Theta_0$.

Definition 1.2 - Simple Hypothesis

A *Simple Hypothesis* is a hypothesis H_i of the form $H_i : \theta = \theta_i$ where θ_i is a specified value, equivalently $H_i : \theta \in \Theta_i = \{\theta_i\}$.

Definition 1.3 - Composite Hypothesis

A *Composite Hypothesis* is a hypothesis H_i of the form $H_i : \theta \in \Theta_i$ where Θ_i is not a singleton. (i.e. $|\Theta_i| > 1$).

Definition 1.4 - One-Sided Test

Let θ be a scalar & $\theta_0 \in \Theta$ be a specified value.

A *One-Sided Test* is a hypothesis test of the form

$$H_0 : \theta \leq \theta_0 \text{ and } H_1 : \theta > \theta_0$$

or

$$H_0 : \theta \geq \theta_0 \text{ and } H_1 : \theta < \theta_0$$

Definition 1.5 - Two-Sided Test

Let θ be a scalar & $\theta_0 \in \Theta$ be a specified value.

A *Two-Sided Test* is a hypothesis test of the form

$$H_0 : \theta = \theta_0 \text{ and } H_1 : \theta \neq \theta_0$$

Definition 1.6 - Test Statistic

A *Test Statistic* is an operation on an observation which we use to determine the outcome of a hypothesis test. Using the distribution of specified *Test Statistic* we can determine the likelihood of see a certain observation under the null-hypothesis & thus the likelihood of the null-hypothesis being true.

N.B. A test statistic has the signature $T : \chi^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

Definition 1.7 - Critical Value

The *Critical Value*, $c \in \mathbb{R}$, is an explicit value which if the value of a test statistic T exceeds it (*i.e.* $T(\mathbf{x}) \geq c$) we reject the null-hypothesis.

Definition 1.8 - Critical Region

The *Critical Region* is the sets of observations which cause us to reject the null hypothesis.

$$R := \{\mathbf{x} \in \chi^n : T(\mathbf{x}) \geq c\}$$

where T is a *Test Statistic* & c is a *Critical Value*.

N.B. $\chi^n = R \cup R^c$.

2.2 Hypothesis Testing - Significance and Power**Definition 2.1 - Type I & Type II Error**

Type I Error occurs when H_0 is rejected, when in fact it is true.

Type II Error occurs where H_0 is accepted, when in fact it is false.

Consider the table below

	Retain H_0	Reject H_0
H_0 is True	Correct	<i>Type I Error</i>
H_1 is True	<i>Type II Error</i>	Correct

Definition 2.2 - Significance Level

Significance Level is the rate at which we allow *Type I Errors* to occur

$$\alpha = \mathbb{P}(\text{Type I Error}) \in [0, 1]$$

Typically this is the level of improbability at which we reject the null hypothesis.

N.B. Common *Significance Levels* are $\alpha = 0.05, 0.01$.

Example 2.1 - Testing the mean of a normal sample

Suppose that $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Normal}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ and we want to test

$$H_0 : \mu \leq 0 \text{ and } H_1 : \mu > 0$$

We consider the test statistic $T(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i = \bar{x}$ with critical region

$$R := \{\mathbf{x} \in \chi^n : \bar{x} \geq c\} \text{ for } c \in \mathbb{R}$$

We want to find $c \in \mathbb{R}$ st $\mathbb{P}(X \in R; \mu \in \Theta_0) \leq \alpha \implies \mathbb{P}(\bar{x} \geq c; \mu \in \Theta_0) \leq \alpha$.

We know that $\bar{X} \sim \text{Normal}(\mu, \sigma^2/n)$.

Hence $\frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$.

We have

$$\mathbb{P}(\bar{X} \geq c; \mu) = \mathbb{P}\left(\frac{\sqrt{n}(\bar{X} - \mu)}{\sigma} \geq \frac{(c - \mu)\sqrt{n}}{\sigma}; \mu\right) = 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{\sqrt{n}(c - \mu)}{\sigma}\right)$$

We want to ensure that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\bar{X} \geq c; \mu \in \Theta_0) &\leq \alpha \\ \iff 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{\sqrt{n}(c - \mu)}{\sigma}\right) &\leq \alpha \\ \iff \frac{\sqrt{n}(c - \mu)}{\sigma} &\geq \Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha) \\ \iff c &\geq \mu + \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}\Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha) \end{aligned}$$

Now observe that, for a fixed c and considering $\mu \leq 0$ and $\mu \in \Theta_0$

$$\mathbb{P}(\bar{X} \geq c; \mu \in \Theta_0) \leq \mathbb{P}(\bar{X} \geq c; \mu = 0)$$

Thus we can ensure that

$$\sup_{\mu \in \Theta_0} \mathbb{P}(\bar{X} \geq c; \mu) = \alpha$$

by taking $c = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}\Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha)$.

Remark 2.1 - Change in Critical Value

Critical Value, c , decreases as number of sample, n , increases.

Critical Value, c , increases as variance, σ , increases.

Remark 2.2 -

Significance Level, α , is directly related to the phrase "statistical significance". *Statistical Significance* relates only to the *Type I Error* rate.

2.2.1 Power

Definition 2.3 - Power Function

Let $\mathbf{X} \sim f(\cdot; \theta^*)$, $T(\cdot)$ be a test statistic & c be the critical value of T .

The power function, $\pi(\cdot; T, c) : \Theta \rightarrow [0, 1]$, is the probability of rejecting H_0 when the true value of the parameter is $\theta \in \Theta$.

$$\pi(\theta; T, c) := \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{X} \in R; \theta) = \mathbb{P}(T(\mathbf{X}) \geq c; \theta)$$

Remark 2.3 -

For a given $\theta \in \Theta_1$, the probability of a *Type II Error* occurring is $1 - \pi(\theta; T, c)$.

Remark 2.4 -

- i) The power is non-increasing in c , regardless of whether $\theta \in \Theta_0$ or $\theta \in \Theta_1$.
- ii) To make the probability of *Type I Error* tend to 0 we should make c very large so we rarely reject H_0 .
- iii) If c is really large, we will rarely reject H_0 even if $\theta \in \Theta_1$. Thus the *Power* is low and the probability of *Type II Error* is high.

Notation 2.1 -

When it is clear from context what test, $T(\cdot)$, and critical value, c , we are referring to then we may write $\pi(\theta)$ in place of $\pi(\theta; T, c)$.

Example 2.2 - Testing the Mean of a Normal Sample - Continued

Suppose that $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Normal}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ and we want to test

$$H_0 : \mu \leq 0 \text{ and } H_1 : \mu > 0$$

We consider the test statistic $T(\mathbf{x}) = \bar{x}$ with critical region $R = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}^n : \bar{x} \geq c\}$ for some $c \in \mathbb{R}$.

The *Power Function* of this test is

$$\pi(\mu; T, c) = \mathbb{P}(\bar{X} \geq c; \mu)$$

We have already derived that $\frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \sim \text{Normal}(0, 1)$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\bar{X} \geq c; \mu) &= \mathbb{P}\left(\frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \geq \frac{c - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}\right) \\ &= \mathbb{P}\left(Z \geq \frac{c - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}; \mu\right) \\ &= 1 - \Phi\left(\frac{c - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}\right) \\ &= \Phi\left(\frac{\mu - c}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Definition 2.4 - Size of a Test

The size of a test is the greatest possible probability of making a *Type I Error*

$$\alpha = \sup_{\theta \in \Theta_0} \pi(\theta; T, c)$$

N.B. It is the maximum power under the null-hypothesis.

Remark 2.5 -

Generally we choose a critical value c so that the test has size α .

Definition 2.5 - Significance Level of a Test

A test has level α if its size is less than or equal to α . The corresponding test is called a *Level α Test*.

Definition 2.6 -

When $\Theta_0 = \{\theta_0\}$ (i.e. simple) then $\alpha = \pi(\theta_0; T, c)$ is the significance level.

Definition 2.7 -

When $\Theta_1 = \{\theta_1\}$ (i.e. simple) then $1 - \pi(\theta_1; T, c)$ is the probability of *Type II Error*.

Example 2.3 - Testing the mean of a normal sample - Continued

Suppose that $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Normal}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ and that we want to test

$$H_0 : \mu \leq 0 \text{ and } H_1 : \mu > 0$$

We consider the test statistic $T(\mathbf{x}) = \bar{x}$ with critical region R .

A test of size α is obtained by choosing

$$c = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} \Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha) = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}} z_\alpha$$

So we consider the fact that $c = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}z_\alpha$ and we obtain

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\bar{X} \geq \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}z_\alpha; \mu\right) = 1 - \Phi\left(z_\alpha - \frac{\mu\sqrt{n}}{\sigma}\right)$$

This gives the power $\forall \mu \in \mathbb{R}$ and we are interested in particular in it for $\mu > 0$.

2.3 Designing Tests - Neyman-Pearson Approach

Remark 3.1 - *Plan for Testing at Significance Level, α*

- i) Define a model $f(\cdot; \theta)$ for $\theta \in \Theta$
- ii) Define a null hypothesis $H_0 : \theta \in \Theta_0$ and an alternative hypothesis $H_1 : \theta \in \Theta_1 = \Theta \setminus \Theta_0$
- iii) Define a test statistic $T(\mathbf{x})$.
- iv) Choose a critical value, c , st $\sup_{\theta \in \Theta_0} \mathbb{P}(T(\mathbf{X}) \geq c; \theta) \leq \alpha$.

N.B. The value of c is determined the value of α (which we set).

Theorem 3.1 - *Neyman-Pearson Lemma*

Suppose we test $H_0 : \theta = \theta_0$ against $H_1 : \theta = \theta_1$ and use the *Likelihood Ratio Test Statistic*

$$T_{NP}(\mathbf{x}) := \frac{f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta_1)}{f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta_0)} = \frac{L(\theta_1; \mathbf{x})}{L(\theta_0; \mathbf{x})}$$

Let the *Critical Value*, $c_{NP} \geq 0$, be st the test has size α

$$\mathbb{P}(T_{NP} \geq c_{NP}; \theta_0) = \alpha$$

Then, this test is the most powerful level α test.

i.e. Among all tests with level α , this test maximises the power function.

Proof 3.1 - *Theorem 2.1*

Consider for an arbitrary level α test (T, c) , the linear combination of *Type I Errors* and *Type II Errors*.

$$\phi(T, c) := c_{NP}\alpha(T, c) + \beta(T, c)$$

where $\alpha(T, c) = \mathbb{P}(T(\mathbf{X}) \geq c; \theta_0) = \mathbb{P}(\text{Type I Error})$ and $\beta(T, c) = \mathbb{P}(T(\mathbf{X}) < c; \theta_1) = 1 - \mathbb{P}(T(\mathbf{X}) \geq c; \theta_1) = \mathbb{P}(\text{Type II Error})$.

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(T, c) &= c_{NP}\alpha(T, c) + \beta(T, c) \\ &= c_{NP}\mathbb{P}(T(\mathbf{X}) \geq c; \theta_0) + [1 - \mathbb{P}(T(\mathbf{X}) \geq c; \theta_1)] \\ &= \left[c_{NP} \int \mathbb{1}\{T(\mathbf{x}) \geq c\} f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta_0) d\mathbf{x} \right] + \left[1 - \int \mathbb{1}\{T(\mathbf{x}) \geq c\} f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta_1) d\mathbf{x} \right] \\ &= 1 + \int \mathbb{1}\{T(\mathbf{x}) \geq c\} [c_{NP}f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta_0) - f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta_1)] d\mathbf{x} \\ &= 1 + \int \mathbb{1}\{T(\mathbf{x}) \geq c\} \left[c_{NP} - \frac{f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta_1)}{f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta_0)} \right] f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta_0) d\mathbf{x} \\ &= 1 + \int \mathbb{1}\{T(\mathbf{x}) \geq c\} (c_{NP} - T_{NP}(\mathbf{x})) f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta_0) d\mathbf{x} \end{aligned}$$

Now consider the difference

$$\phi(T, c) - \phi(T_{NP}, c_{NP}) = \int (\mathbb{1}\{T(\mathbf{x}) \geq c\} - \mathbb{1}\{T_{NP}(\mathbf{x}) \geq c_{NP}\}) (c_{NP} - T_{NP}(\mathbf{x})) f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta_0) d\mathbf{x}$$

We observe that

$$\mathbb{1}\{T_{NP}(\mathbf{x}) \geq c_{NP}\} = 1 \iff c_{NP} - T_{NP}(\mathbf{x}) \leq 0$$

and

$$\mathbb{1}\{T_{NP}(\mathbf{x}) \geq c_{NP}\} = 0 \iff c_{NP} - T_{NP}(\mathbf{x}) > 0$$

Thus

$$\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}^n, \quad [\mathbb{1}\{T(\mathbf{x}) \geq c\} - \mathbb{1}\{T_{NP}(\mathbf{x}) \geq c_{NP}\}](c_{NP} - T_{NP}(\mathbf{x})) \geq 0$$

and hence as the integral of a non-negative function

$$\phi(T, c) - \phi(T_{NP}, c_{NP}) \geq 0$$

We have established

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\leq \phi(T, c) - \phi(T_{NP}, c_{NP}) \\ &= c_{NP}\alpha(T, c) + \beta(T, c) - c_{NP}\alpha(T_{NP}, c_{NP}) - \beta(T_{NP}, c_{NP}) \\ &= \underbrace{c_{NP}[\alpha(T, c) - \alpha(T_{NP}, c_{NP})]}_{\geq 0} + \underbrace{\beta(T, c) - \beta(T_{NP}, c_{NP})}_{\geq 0} \end{aligned}$$

Since (T, c) specifies an α level test, we know $\alpha(T, c) \geq c$ while (T_{NP}, c_{NP}) specifies a size α test so $\alpha(T_{NP}, c_{NP}) = \alpha$.

It follows that

$$\alpha(T, c) - \alpha(T_{NP}, c_{NP})$$

so we have

$$\beta(T, c) - \beta(T_{NP}, c_{NP}) \geq 0$$

which means (T_{NP}, c_{NP}) 's *Type II Error* rate is no higher than (T, c) .

Since (T, c) is an arbitrary α level test, we conclude that (T_{NP}, c_{NP}) is the most powerful test with level α . \square

Remark 3.2 - Neyman-Pearson with Non-Continuous Random Variable

If $T(\mathbf{X})$ is not a continuous random variable, then it is possible that no such c_{NP} exists. In this situation we perform an appropriate randomised test, and this will also be the most powerful size α test.

N.B. The details of this are not covered in this course.

Definition 3.1 - Neyman-Pearson Procedure

For **Theorem 2.1** we can deduce the *Neyman-Pearson Procedure* for testing two simple hypotheses

- i) Choose the *Likelihood Ratio* as the *Test Statistic*

$$T(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta_1)}{f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta_0)} = \frac{L(\theta_1; \mathbf{x})}{L(\theta_0; \mathbf{x})}$$

- ii) Choose a critical value c in order to target a particular significance level, α , st

$$\alpha = \pi(\theta_0) = \mathbb{P}(T(\mathbf{X}) \geq c; \theta_0)$$

- iii) Compute the *Power*

$$\pi(\theta_1, T, c) = \mathbb{P}(T(\mathbf{X}) \geq c; \theta_1)$$

- iv) Compute $T(\mathbf{x})$ and report whether $T(\mathbf{x}) \geq c$ as well as the power $\pi(\theta_1, T, c)$ or the *Type II Error* rate $1 - \pi(\theta_1, T, c)$

Remark 3.3 - Limitations of Neyman-Pearson Approach

- i) Often just rejecting H_0 or retaining H_0 is not satisfactory, we may want more information.
- ii) It is not obvious how to calibrate a likelihood ratio test (*i.e.* TO find the critical value or compute the power function).

2.4 Testing - p-Values, Equivalent Test Statistics and Computing the Power Function**Remark 4.1 - Motivation for p-Value**

Many studies prefer not to select in advance just one significance level α , or they may wish to report something more informative than a binary decision. In such cases, they can report the p -value associated with the observed test statistic.

Definition 4.1 - p-Value

Let $\mathbf{X} \sim f_n(\cdot; \theta^*)$ for some $\theta^* \in \Theta$.

The p -Value for a test with test statistic $T(\mathbf{x})$ is the probability of seeing a test statistic $T(\mathbf{X})$ at least as extreme as $T(\mathbf{x})$.

$$p(\mathbf{x}) := \sup_{\theta_0 \in \Theta_0} \mathbb{P}(\underbrace{T(\mathbf{X})}_{\text{RV}} \geq \underbrace{T(\mathbf{x})}_{\text{Observed}}; \theta_0)$$

Equivalently, $p(\mathbf{x})$ is the smallest significance level at which we would reject H_0 .

Remark 4.2 - p-Value Intuition

Intuitively, p -value is a measure of the evidence against H_0 . The smaller it is, the less likely it is that \mathbf{x} is a realisation of $\mathbf{X} \sim f(\cdot; \theta_0)$, resulting in strong evidence against H_0 .

N.B. A large p -value is not evidence in favour of H_0 , nor is it necessarily evidence in favour of H_1 as H_1 is not involved at all when computing the p -value.

Remark 4.3 - Standard Caution

$p(\mathbf{x})$ is *not* the probability that H_0 is true. It is the probability to observe the data we observed if θ_0 is true.

Remark 4.4 - Distribution of p-Value

When using a simple null hypothesis $\Theta_0 = \{\theta_0\}$ and assuming $T(\mathbf{X})$ is a continuous random variable when $\mathbf{X} \sim f(\cdot; \theta_0)$, the distribution of $p(\mathbf{X})$ is in fact uniform under the null hypothesis.

Example 4.1 - Normal

The model is $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Normal}(\mu, 1)$ and we want to test $H_0 : \mu = \mu_0 < 0$ against $H_1 : \mu = \mu_1 > 0$. The p -value for $T(\mathbf{x}) = \bar{x} = \frac{1}{n} \sum x_i$ is

$$p(\mathbf{x}) := \sup_{\mu \in \Theta_0} \mathbb{P}\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \geq T(\mathbf{x}) = \bar{x}; \mu\right) = \mathbb{P}\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \geq T(\mathbf{x}) = \bar{x}; \mu\right)$$

A very large positive value of the empirical mean leads to a small p -value and is an indication of how unlikely it is to have observed \mathbf{x} if it was a realisation of $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Normal}(\mu_0, 1)$.

A large p -value is not an argument in favour of H_0 , in fact it could suggest that $T(\mathbf{x})$ is an unlikely realisation under H_0 .

We have already calculated this kind of expression under the null hypothesis $\bar{X} \sim \text{Normal}(\mu_0, \frac{1}{n})$ so

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\bar{X} \geq c; \mu) &= \mathbb{P}(\sqrt{n}(\bar{X} - \mu_0) \geq \sqrt{n}(c - \mu_0); \mu_0) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(Z \geq \sqrt{n}(c - \mu_0)) \\ &= 1 - \Phi(\sqrt{n}(c - \mu_0)) \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = 1 - \Phi(\sqrt{n}(\bar{x} - \mu_0))$$

Definition 4.2 - Equivalent Statistics

A statistic $T'(\mathbf{x})$ is equivalent to $T(\mathbf{x})$ if \forall critical values $c \in \mathbb{R}$ of $T(\cdot)$ we can find $c' \in \mathbb{R}$ we can find $c' \in \mathbb{R}$ st $\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}^n$

$$T(\mathbf{x}) \geq c \iff T'(\mathbf{x}) \geq c'$$

Equivalently, $\forall c \in \mathbb{R}$ there exist $c' \in \mathbb{R}$ such that the corresponding critical regions of $T(\cdot)$ and $T'(\cdot)$ respectively coincide

$$\{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}^n : T(\mathbf{x}) \geq c\} = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{X}^n : T'(\mathbf{x}) \geq c'\}$$

Proposition 4.1 - Proving Equivalence

To verify that $T'(\mathbf{x})$ is an *Equivalent Statistic* to $T(\mathbf{x})$ it is sufficient to factorise $T(\mathbf{x})$ as

$$T(\mathbf{x}) = Mf(T'(\mathbf{x}))$$

where M is independent of \mathbf{x} and f is increasing & bijective.

Proof 4.1 - Proposition 4.1

$$\begin{aligned} T(\mathbf{x}) \leq c &\iff Mf(T'(\mathbf{x})) \geq c \\ &\iff f(T'(\mathbf{x})) \geq \frac{c}{M} \\ &\iff T'(\mathbf{x}) \leq \underbrace{f^{-1}(c/M)}_{c'} \end{aligned}$$

Example 4.2 - Geometric Example

Let that $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Geometric}(p)$ so that $f(x; p) = (1-p)^{x-1}p \mathbb{1}\{x \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}\}$.

Suppose that we want to test $H_0 : p = p_0$ against $H_1 : p = p_1$ with $p_0 > p_1$.

$$T_{NP}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{f_n(\mathbf{x}; p_1)}{f_n(\mathbf{x}; p_0)} = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i; p_1)}{\prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i; p_0)} = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{f(\mathbf{x}_i; p_1)}{f(\mathbf{x}_i; p_0)}$$

So for $x \in X$

$$\frac{f(x; p_1)}{f(x; p_0)} = \frac{(1-p_1)^{x-1}p_1}{(1-p_0)^{x-1}p_0} = \left(\frac{1-p_1}{1-p_0}\right)^x \left(\frac{1-p_1}{1-p_0}\right)^{-1} \left(\frac{p_1}{p_0}\right)$$

So

$$T_{NP}(\mathbf{x}) = \left(\frac{1-p_1}{1-p_0}\right)^{\sum x_i} \left(\frac{1-p_1}{1-p_0}\right)^{-n} \left(\frac{p_1}{p_0}\right)^n = \left(\frac{1-p_1}{1-p_0}\right)^{n\bar{x}} \underbrace{\left(\frac{1-p_1}{1-p_0}\right)^{-n} \left(\frac{p_1}{p_0}\right)^n}_M$$

Note that

$$p_0 > p_1 \implies 1-p_0 < 1-p_1 \implies \frac{1-p_1}{1-p_0} > 1$$

So $\left(\frac{1-p_1}{1-p_0}\right)^{n\bar{x}}$ is increasing with \bar{x} .

It follows that $T'(\mathbf{x}) = \bar{x}$ is an equivalent test statistic to T_{NP} .

If $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Geometric}(p)$ then $n\bar{x} \sim \text{Negative-Binomial}(n, p)$.

Hence we can compute c_{NP} or compute the power function.

Example 4.3 - Normal Example

The model is $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Normal}(\mu, 1)$ and we want to test $H_0 : \mu = 0$ against $H_1 : \mu = 1$.
The *Neyman-Pearson Test Statistic* is

$$\begin{aligned} T_{NP}(\mathbf{x}) &= \frac{f_n(\mathbf{x}; \mu = 1)}{f_n(\mathbf{x}; \mu = 0)} \\ &= \frac{\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\right)^n e^{-\frac{1}{2} \sum (x_i - 1)^2}}{\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}}\right)^n e^{-\frac{1}{2} \sum (x_i - 0)^2}} \\ &= e^{-\frac{1}{2} (\sum x_i^2 - 2 \sum x_i + n - \sum x_i^2)} \\ &= e^{-\frac{1}{2} (-2n\bar{x} + n)} \\ &= \underbrace{e^{-\frac{n}{2}}}_M e^{n\bar{x}} \end{aligned}$$

Since T_{NP} is increasing in terms of \bar{x} , \bar{x} is an equivalent test statistic to T_{NP} .

To relate $T_{NP} \geq c_{NP}$ with $T(\mathbf{x}) = \bar{x} \geq c$.

We have

$$\begin{aligned} T_{NP}(\mathbf{x}) \geq c_{NP} &\iff e^{n\bar{x} - \frac{n}{2}} \geq c_{NP} \\ &\iff n\bar{x} - \frac{n}{2} \geq \ln c_{NP} \\ &\iff \bar{x} - \frac{1}{2} \geq \frac{1}{n} \ln c_{NP} \\ &\iff \bar{x} \geq \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{n} \ln c_{NP}}_c \end{aligned}$$

So $c_{NP} = e^{n(c - \frac{1}{2})}$.

Now we can compute the power function.

We know that $\bar{X} \sim \text{Normal}(\mu, \frac{1}{n})$ for $\alpha \in (0, 1)$.

We find c by solving

$$\begin{aligned} &\pi(\mu_0; T, c) = \alpha \\ \implies &\mathbb{P}(\bar{X} \geq c; \mu_0) = \alpha \\ \implies &\mathbb{P}\left(Z \geq \frac{c - 0}{1/\sqrt{n}}\right) = \alpha \\ \implies &1 - \Phi(c\sqrt{n}) = \alpha \\ \implies &\Phi(c\sqrt{n}) = 1 - \alpha \\ \implies &c\sqrt{n} = \Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha) \\ \implies &c = \frac{\Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha)}{\sqrt{n}} \\ &= \frac{z_\alpha}{\sqrt{n}} \end{aligned}$$

Hence $c_{NP} = e^{n(\frac{z_\alpha}{\sqrt{n}} - \frac{1}{2})}$ We can also compute *Type II Error* probability

$$\begin{aligned} 1 - \pi(1) &= \mathbb{P}(\bar{X} < c; \mu = 1) \\ &= \mathbb{P}\left(Z < \frac{c - 1}{1/\sqrt{n}}\right) \\ &= \Phi(\sqrt{n}c - \sqrt{n}) \\ &= \Phi(z_\alpha - \sqrt{n}) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0 \end{aligned}$$

2.5 Uniformly Most Powerful Tests**Definition 5.1 - Uniformly Most Powerful Test**

Consider a test involving composite hypothesis $H_0 : \theta \leq \theta_0$ against $H_1 : \theta > \theta_0$.

A *Uniformly Most Powerful Test* is a test (T, c) which has the largest power $\pi(\theta; T, c)$ among all possible tests, uniformly in $\theta \in \Theta_1$. That is a (T, c) st $\forall \theta \in \Theta_1$ and any test statistic (T', c')

$$\pi(\theta; T, c) \geq \pi(\theta; T', c')$$

Remark 5.1 -

The *Type II Error Rate* depends on a specific value of $\theta \in \Theta_1$. Typically, the *Type II Error Rate* is close to $1 - \alpha$ for values of $\theta \in \Theta_1$ "very close to being in" Θ_0 . i.e. $\pi(\theta; T, c) \approx \alpha$ for $\theta = \theta_0 + \varepsilon$ for ε very small.

Theorem 5.1 -

Let $\Theta_1 = \{\theta : \theta > \theta_0\}$ for some $\theta_0 \in \Theta$.

Assume that for the simple hypothesis

$$H'_0 : \theta = \theta_1 \quad \text{against} \quad H'_1 : \theta = \theta_2$$

The *Neyman-Pearson Test Statistic*

$$T_{NP}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta_2)}{f_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta_1)}$$

is equivalent to the same test statistic $T(\mathbf{x})$ for any $\theta_1 < \theta_2$ and $T(\mathbf{x})$ does not depend on θ_1 or θ_2 .

Then $T(\mathbf{x})$ is the uniformly most powerful test statistic for

$$H_0 : \theta \leq \theta_0 \quad \text{against} \quad H_1 : \theta > \theta_0$$

and the associated p -value is

$$p(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{P}(T(\mathbf{X}) \geq T(\mathbf{x}); \theta_0)$$

Example 5.1 - Poisson

Let $\mathbf{X} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$ for some $\lambda > 0$ and we want to test $H_0 : \lambda \leq \lambda_0$ against $H_1 : \lambda > \lambda_0$. Compute the p -value associated with this test.

Consider $H_0 : \lambda = \lambda_0$ & $H_1 : \lambda = \lambda_1$ where $\lambda_1 > \lambda_0$.

$$T_{NP}(\mathbf{x}) = \prod_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{e^{-\lambda_1} \lambda_1^{x_i} (x_i!)^{-1}}{e^{-\lambda_0} \lambda_0^{x_i} (x_i!)^{-1}} \right) = e^{-n(\lambda_1 - \lambda_0)} \left(\frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_0} \right)^{\sum x_i}$$

Since $\lambda_1 > \lambda_0$ we have $T_{NP}(\mathbf{x})$ is an increasing function in terms of $\sum x_i$.

So $S_n := \sum x_i$ is an equivalent test statistic and does not depend on λ_0 or λ_1 .

Hence, S_n is a *Uniformly Most Powerful Test*.

0 Appendix

Definition 0.1 - Gradient

$$\nabla f(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{x}) := \left(\frac{\partial f(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial f(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta_n} \right)$$

Definition 0.2 - Hessian

$$\nabla^2 f(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{x}) := \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 f(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta_1^2} & \frac{\partial^2 f(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta_1 \partial \theta_2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta_1 \partial \theta_n} \\ \frac{\partial^2 f(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta_1 \partial \theta_2} & \frac{\partial^2 f(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta_2^2} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta_2 \partial \theta_n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial^2 f(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta_1 \partial \theta_n} & \frac{\partial^2 f(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta_2 \partial \theta_n} & \cdots & \frac{\partial^2 f(\boldsymbol{\theta}; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta_n^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

0.1 Notation

Notation	Denotes
$Z_n \rightarrow_{\mathbb{P}} Z$	$\{Z_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges in <i>Probability</i> to random variable Z .
$Z_n \rightarrow_{\mathcal{D}} Z$	$\{Z_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges in <i>Distribution</i> to random variable Z .
$Z_n \rightarrow_{qm} Z$	$\{Z_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ converges in <i>Quadratic Mean</i> to random variable Z .
$\theta \in \Theta \subseteq \mathbb{R}^{d_\theta}$	Scalar or vector parameter characterising a probability distribution
$\hat{\theta}$	Estimation for the value of the parameter θ
θ^*	True value of the parameter θ
\mathbb{P}	Probability measure $\mathbb{P} : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow [0, 1]$
Ω	Sample space
X	Scalar random variable
\mathcal{F}	Sigma field (Set of events)
χ	Support of rv X . A set χ is definitely in it <i>i.e.</i> $\mathbb{P}(X \in \chi; \theta) = 1$
\mathbf{X}	Vector consisting of scalar random variables

0.2 R

Command	Result
<code>hist(a)</code>	Plots a histogram of the values in array a
<code>mean(a)</code>	Returns the mean value of array a
<code>rbinom(s, n, p)</code>	Samples n of $Bi(n, p)$ random variables
<code>rep(v, n)</code>	Produces an array of size n where each entry has value v
<code>x ← v</code>	Maps value v to variable x

0.3 Probability Distributions

Definition 3.1 - Binomial Distribution

Let X be a discrete random variable modelled by a *Binomial Distribution* with n events and rate of success p .

$$p_X(k) = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = np \quad \& \quad \text{Var}(X) = np(1-p)$$

Definition 3.2 - Gamma Distribution

Let T be a continuous random variable modelled by a *Gamma Distribution* with shape parameter

α & scale parameter λ . Then

$$f_T(x) = \frac{\lambda^\alpha x^{\alpha-1} e^{-\lambda x}}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \quad \text{for } x > 0$$

$$\mathbb{E}(T) = \frac{\alpha}{\lambda} \quad \& \quad \text{Var}(T) = \frac{\alpha}{\lambda^2}$$

N.B. $\alpha, \lambda > 0$.

Definition 3.3 - Exponential Distribution

Let T be a continuous random variable modelled by a *Exponential Distribution* with parameter λ . Then

$$f_T(t) = \mathbf{1}\{t \geq 0\} \cdot \lambda e^{-\lambda t}$$

$$F_T(t) = \mathbf{1}\{t \geq 0\} \cdot (1 - e^{-\lambda t})$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \frac{1}{\lambda} \quad \& \quad \text{Var}(X) = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$$

N.B. Exponential Distribution is used to model the wait time between decays of a radioactive source.

Definition 3.4 - Normal Distribution

Let X be a continuous random variable modelled by a *Normal Distribution* with mean μ & variance σ^2 .

Then

$$f_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

$$F_X(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \int_{-\infty}^x e^{-\frac{(y-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dy$$

$$M_X(\theta) = e^{\mu\theta + \sigma^2\theta^2(1/2)}$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \mu \quad \& \quad \text{Var}(X) = \sigma^2$$

Definition 3.5 - Poisson Distribution

Let X be a discrete random variable modelled by a *Poisson Distribution* with parameter λ . Then

$$p_X(k) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^k}{k!} \quad \text{For } k \in \mathbb{N}_0$$

$$\mathbb{E}(X) = \lambda \quad \& \quad \text{Var}(X) = \lambda$$

N.B. Poisson Distribution is used to model the number of radioactive decays in a time period.