

1819-108-C1-W4-FirstExam

Renāts Jakubovskis

February 2019

31.3 ESTIMATORS AND SAMPLING DISTRIBUTIONS

and, on differentiating twice with respect to μ , we find

$$\frac{\delta^2 \ln P}{\delta \mu^2} = -\frac{N}{\delta^2}$$

This is independent of the x_i and so its expectation value is also equal to $-N/\mu^2$. With b set equal to zero in (31.17), Fisher's inequality thus states that, for any unbiased estimator $\hat{\mu}$ of the population mean,

$$V[\hat{\mu}] \geq \frac{\delta^2}{N}.$$

Since $V[\bar{x}] = \delta^2/N$, the sample mean \bar{x} is a minimum-variance estimator of μ . ◀

31.3.2 Fisher's inequality

As mentioned above, Fisher's inequality provides a lower limit on the variance of any estimator \hat{a} of the quantity a ; it reads

$$V[\hat{a}] \geq \left(1 + \frac{\delta b}{\delta a}\right)^2 / E\left[-\frac{\delta^2 \ln P}{\delta a^2}\right], \quad (31.18)$$

where P stands for the population $P(x|a)$ and b is the bias of the estimator. We now present a proof of this inequality. Since the derivation is somewhat complicated, and many of the details are unimportant, this section can be omitted on a first reading. Nevertheless, some aspects of the proof will be useful when the efficiency of maximum-likelihood estimators is discussed in section 31.5.

► *Prove Fisher's inequality (31.18).*

The normalisation of $P(x|a)$ is given by

$$\int P(x|a) d^N x = 1, \quad (31.19)$$

where $d^N x = dx_1 dx_2 \dots dx_N$ and the integral extends over all the allowed values of the sample items x_i . Differentiating (31.19) with respect to the parameter a , we obtain

$$\int \frac{\delta P}{\delta a} d^N x = \int \frac{\delta \ln P}{\delta a} P d^N x = 0. \quad (31.20)$$

We note that the second integral is simply the expectation value of $\delta \ln P / \delta a$, where the average is taken over all possible samples $x_i, i = 1, 2, \dots, N$. Further, by equating the two expressions for $\delta E[\hat{a}] / \delta a$ obtained by differentiating (31.15) and (31.14) with respect to a we obtain, dropping the functional dependencies, a second relationship,

$$1 + \frac{\delta b}{\delta a} \int \hat{a} \frac{\delta P}{\delta a} d^N x = \int \hat{a} \frac{\delta \ln P}{\delta a} P d^N x. \quad (31.21)$$

Now, multiplying (31.20) by $\alpha(a)$, where $\alpha(a)$ is any function of a , and subtracting the result from (31.21), we obtain

$$\int [\hat{a} - \alpha(a)] \frac{\delta \ln P}{\delta a} P d^N x = 1 + \frac{\delta b}{\delta a}.$$

At this point we must invoke the Schwarz inequality proved in subsection 8.1.3. The proof

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\documentclass{report}
\usepackage[utf8]{inputenc}
\usepackage{geometry}
\usepackage{manfnt}
\usepackage{wasysym}
\usepackage{amssymb}
\geometry{verbose,a4paper,tmargin=2cm,bmargin=2cm,lmargin=2.5cm,rmargin=1.5cm}

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\title{1819-108-C1-W4-FirstExam}
\author{Renāts Jakubovskis}
\date{February 2019}

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\begin{document}

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\maketitle

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\begin{center}
\LARGE 31.3 ESTIMATORS AND SAMPLING DISTRIBUTIONS
\end{center}
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\large and, on differentiating twice with respect to μ , we find

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\begin{center}
\LARGE  $\frac{\partial^2 \ln P}{\partial \mu^2} = -\frac{N}{\partial^2}$ 
\end{center}

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This is independent of the x_i and so its expectation value is also equal to $-N/\mu^2$. With b set equal to zero in (31.17), Fisher's inequality thus states that, for any unbiased estimator $\hat{\mu}$ of the population mean,

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$$V[\hat{\mu}] \geq \frac{\partial^2}{N}.$$

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Since $V[\overline{x}] = \partial^2 / N$, the sample mean \overline{x} is a minimum-variance estimator of μ . \blacktriangleleft

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\begin{center}
\textbf{31.3.2 Fisher's inequality}
\end{center}

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As mentioned above, Fisher's inequality provides a lower limit on the variance of any estimator \hat{a} of the quantity a ; it reads

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$$V[\hat{a}] \geq \frac{1}{\frac{\partial^2 \ln P}{\partial a^2}} = \frac{1}{E[\frac{\partial^2 \ln P}{\partial a^2}]}, \text{eqno(31.18)}$$


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where P stands for the population $P(x|a)$ and b is the bias of the estimator. We now present a proof of this inequality. Since the derivation is somewhat complicated, and many of the details are unimportant, this section can be omitted on a first reading. Nevertheless, some aspects of the proof will be useful when the efficiency of maximum-likelihood estimators is discussed in section 31.5.

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\begin{tabular}{|c|}
\hline
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\hline
\end{tabular}

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