

SM-4331 Exercise 1

1. (a) Let X be a random variable with mean μ and variance σ^2 . Show that $P(|X - \mu| > 2\sigma) \leq 0.25$. What does this inequality tell us about the distribution of X ?

Solution: Using Chebyshev's inequality directly,

$$P(|X - \mu| > 2\sigma) \leq \frac{1}{2^2} = 0.25.$$

The probability that X takes values that are within 2 s.d. away from the mean is 0.75.

- (b) Let X_1, \dots, X_n be an iid sample from a population with mean μ and variance σ^2 . Show that for any $\epsilon > 0$, $P(|\bar{X}_n - \mu| > \epsilon\sigma) \leq \frac{1}{n\epsilon^2}$. Compare this bound with the approximation implied by the CLT when n is large.

Solution: Using Markov's inequality,

$$P(|\bar{X}_n - \mu| > \epsilon\sigma) \leq \frac{E[(\bar{X}_n - \mu)^2]}{\epsilon^2\sigma^2} = \frac{\sigma^2/n}{\epsilon^2\sigma^2} = \frac{1}{n\epsilon^2}.$$

By the CLT, $\bar{X}_n \xrightarrow{D} N(\mu, \sigma^2/n)$, and thus the bound implied by this is

$$P(|\bar{X}_n - \mu| > \epsilon\sigma) = P\left(\left|\frac{\bar{X}_n - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}}\right| > \sqrt{n}\epsilon\right) = 2(1 - \Phi(\sqrt{n}\epsilon)).$$

[Note: The conditions required for these inequalities are minimum, and you may assume that they are met.]

2. Let X and Y be two r.v. with positive and finite variances. The correlation coefficient of X and Y is defined as

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

(If $\rho = 0$, X and Y are said to be uncorrelated or linearly independent).

- (a) Show that $|\rho| < 1$. *Hint: Use the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality.*

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} |\text{Cov}(X, Y)|^2 &= |E[(X - EX)(Y - EY)]|^2 \\ &\leq E[(X - EX)^2] E[(Y - EY)^2] \\ &= \text{Var}(X) \text{Var}(Y) \\ \Rightarrow |\rho| &:= \left| \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(X) \text{Var}(Y)}} \right| \leq 1 \end{aligned}$$

- (b) If $Y = aX + b$ for some constant $a \neq 0$ and b , show that $|\rho| = 1$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Cov}(X, aX + b) &= E[X(aX + b)] - E(X) E(aX + b) \\
 &= E(aX^2 + bX) - a E(X)^2 - b E(X) \\
 &= a(E(X^2) - E(X)^2) + \cancel{b E(X) - b E(X)}^0 \\
 &= a \text{Var}(X)
 \end{aligned}$$

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

$$|\rho| = \left| \frac{\text{Cov}(X, aX + b)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(X) \text{Var}(aX + b)}} \right| = \left| \frac{a \text{Var}(X)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(X) a^2 \text{Var}(X)}} \right| = 1$$

[Note: In fact, $|\rho| = 1$ if and only if $Y = aX + b$ for some constants $a \neq 0$ and b .]

3. Let X_1, \dots, X_n be a sample from a distribution with mean μ and variance $\sigma^2 \in (0, 1)$. Let $S_n^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2$, where \bar{X}_n is the sample mean.
- (a) Show that $S_n^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 - \frac{n}{n-1} \bar{X}_n^2$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}
 S_n^2 &= \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i^2 + \bar{X}_n^2 - 2\bar{X}_n X_i) \\
 &= \frac{1}{n-1} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 + n\bar{X}_n^2 - 2\bar{X}_n \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \right\} \\
 &= \frac{1}{n-1} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 + n\bar{X}_n^2 - 2n\bar{X}_n^2 \right\} \\
 &= \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 - \frac{n}{n-1} \bar{X}_n^2
 \end{aligned}$$

- (b) Using Slutsky's theorem, show that $S_n^2 \xrightarrow{P} \sigma^2$.

Solution: By the WLLN, $\frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 \xrightarrow{P} E(X_1)^2$. Also, since $X_n \xrightarrow{P} \mu$, Slutsky's theorem gives us $X_n^2 \xrightarrow{P} \mu^2$ and $n/(n-1) \rightarrow 1$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, $\frac{n}{n-1} \bar{X}_n^2 \xrightarrow{P} \mu^2$. Another application of Slutsky's theorem gives us

$$S_n^2 = \left\{ \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 - \frac{n}{n-1} \bar{X}_n^2 \right\} \xrightarrow{P} E(X_1)^2 - \mu^2 = \sigma^2$$

4. Let X_1, \dots, X_n be sample from $\text{Bern}(p)$, and Y_1, \dots, Y_m be a sample from $\text{Bern}(q)$, and the two samples are independent of one another.

(a) Find a reasonable estimator for $p - q$ and its standard error.

Solution: Let $\theta = p - q$, and $\hat{\theta} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m Y_i$. We will show that $\hat{\theta}$ is unbiased and consistent.

$$E(\hat{\theta}) = E(\bar{X}_n - \bar{Y}_m) = p - q$$

hence it is unbiased. Now,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MSE}(\hat{\theta} - \theta) &= \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}) \quad \text{since it is unbiased} \\ &= \text{Var}(\bar{X}_n - \bar{Y}_m) \\ &= \text{Var}(X_1)/n + \text{Var}(Y_1)/m \\ &= p(1-p)/n + q(1-q)/m \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

as $n, m \rightarrow \infty$, hence $\hat{\theta} \xrightarrow{P} \theta$. The standard error is given by

$$\text{SE}(\hat{\theta}) = \sqrt{\bar{X}_n(1 - \bar{X}_n)/n + \bar{Y}_m(1 - \bar{Y}_m)/m}$$

- (b) Find an approximate 95% confidence interval for $p - q$ when both n and m are large.

Solution: This relationship holds approximately true:

$$\frac{\hat{\theta} - \theta}{\text{SE}(\hat{\theta})} \sim N(0, 1)$$

So an approximate 95% confidence interval for $\theta = p - q$ is

$$\hat{\theta} \pm 1.96 \times \text{SE}(\hat{\theta})$$

5. 100 people are given a standard antibiotic to treat an infection and another 100 are given a new antibiotic. In the first group, 90 people recover, while in the second group, 85 people recover. Let p_1 be the probability of recovery with the standard antibiotic, and p be the probability of recovery with the new antibiotic. We are interested in estimating $\theta = p_1 - p_2$. Provide an estimate, standard error, an 80% confidence interval, and a 95% confidence interval for θ .

Solution: $\bar{X}_n = 90/100 = 0.9$ and $\bar{Y}_n = 85/100 = 0.85$. Therefore, $\hat{\theta} = 0.9 -$

0.85 = 0.05. The standard error for this estimate is

$$\text{SE}(\hat{\theta}) = \sqrt{\frac{0.9(1-0.9)}{100} - \frac{0.85(1-0.85)}{100}} = 0.04663.$$

Using the answers to Q4, an 80% confidence interval is

$$0.05 \pm 1.282 \times 0.04663 = (-0.0094, 0.109)$$

while a 95% confidence interval is

$$0.05 \pm 1.96 \times 0.04663 = (-0.0414, 0.141)$$

6. Let Y_1, \dots, Y_n be a sample from a Poisson distribution with mean $\theta > 0$ unknown.

(a) Let $Y = Y_1 + \dots + Y_n$. Find the mean, variance, and the distribution of Y .

Hint 1: Use the moment generating function (MGF) to solve this. The MGF of a random variable Y_i is given by $M_{Y_i}(t) = E(e^{tY_i})$. Furthermore, use the fact that $M_Y(t) = \prod_{i=1}^n M_{Y_i}(t)$.

Hint 2: If X and Z are two random variables such that $M_X(t) = M_Z(t)$, then X and Z have the same probability distribution.

Solution: Using the hint, the MGF for a Poisson r.v. is

$$\begin{aligned} M_{Y_i}(t) &= E[\exp(tY_i)] \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} e^{tk} \cdot \frac{e^{-\theta} \theta^k}{k!} \\ &= e^{-\theta} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\theta e^t)^k}{k!} \\ &= e^{-\theta} e^{\theta e^t} \\ &= e^{\theta(e^t - 1)} \end{aligned}$$

So,

$$M_Y(t) = \prod_{i=1}^n M_{Y_i}(t) = e^{n\theta(e^t - 1)}$$

which implies that $Y \sim \text{Pois}(n\theta)$. Therefore, $E(Y) = \text{Var}(Y) = n\theta$.

(b) Obtain the MLE for θ and its standard error.

Solution: The log-likelihood for θ from n observations of Y_i is

$$\begin{aligned} l(\theta|Y_1, \dots, Y_n) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \log \left(\frac{e^{-\theta} \theta^{Y_i}}{Y_i!} \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \{-\theta + Y_i \log \theta - \log Y_i!\} \\ &= \text{const.} - n\theta + \log \theta \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i \end{aligned}$$

Taking first derivatives wrt θ and equating to zero we get

$$\begin{aligned} l'(\theta) &= -n + \frac{n\bar{Y}_n}{\theta} = 0 \\ \Rightarrow \hat{\theta} &= \bar{Y}_n \end{aligned}$$

- (c) Suppose now that only the first m ($m < n$) observations of the sample are known explicitly, while for the other $n - m$ only their sum is known, determine the MLE for θ .

Solution: Let $Z = Y_{m+1}, \dots, Y_n$. From part (a) we know that $Z \sim \text{Pois}(\lambda)$, where $\lambda = (n - m)\theta$. The log-likelihood due to the known data is

$$\begin{aligned} l(\theta|Y_1, \dots, Y_m, Z) &= \log \left\{ \prod_{i=1}^m f(y_i|\theta) f(z|(n-m)\theta) \right\} \\ &= \text{const.} - m\theta + \log \theta \sum_{i=1}^m Y_i - (n-m)\theta + \log((n-m)\theta)Z \end{aligned}$$

Taking first derivatives wrt θ and equation to zero we get

$$\begin{aligned} l'(\theta) &= -m + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m Y_i}{\theta} - n + m + \frac{Z}{\theta} \\ &= -n + \frac{Z + \sum_{i=1}^m Y_i}{\theta} = 0 \\ \Rightarrow \hat{\theta} &= \bar{Y}_n \end{aligned}$$

7. Find the MLE for λ given a random sample from the gamma distribution with pdf

$$f(x|\lambda, r) = \frac{\lambda^r}{\Gamma(r)} e^{-\lambda x} x^{r-1},$$

where r is a known constant.

Solution: The log-likelihood for λ is

$$\begin{aligned} l(\lambda|x_1, \dots, x_n) &= \log \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{\lambda^r}{\Gamma(r)} e^{-\lambda x_i} x_i^{r-1} \\ &= \text{const.} + nr \log \lambda - \lambda \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \end{aligned}$$

Therefore the MLE is obtained by differentiating and equation to zero the above log-likelihood, as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} l'(\lambda) &= \frac{nr}{\lambda} - \sum_{i=1}^n x_i = 0 \\ &\Rightarrow \hat{\lambda} = r/\bar{x} \end{aligned}$$

8. Find the MLE for θ from a random sample from the population with density function

$$f(y|\theta) = \frac{2y}{\theta^2}$$

where $0 < y \leq \theta$, and $\theta > 0$. **Do not use calculus.** Draw a picture of the likelihood function.

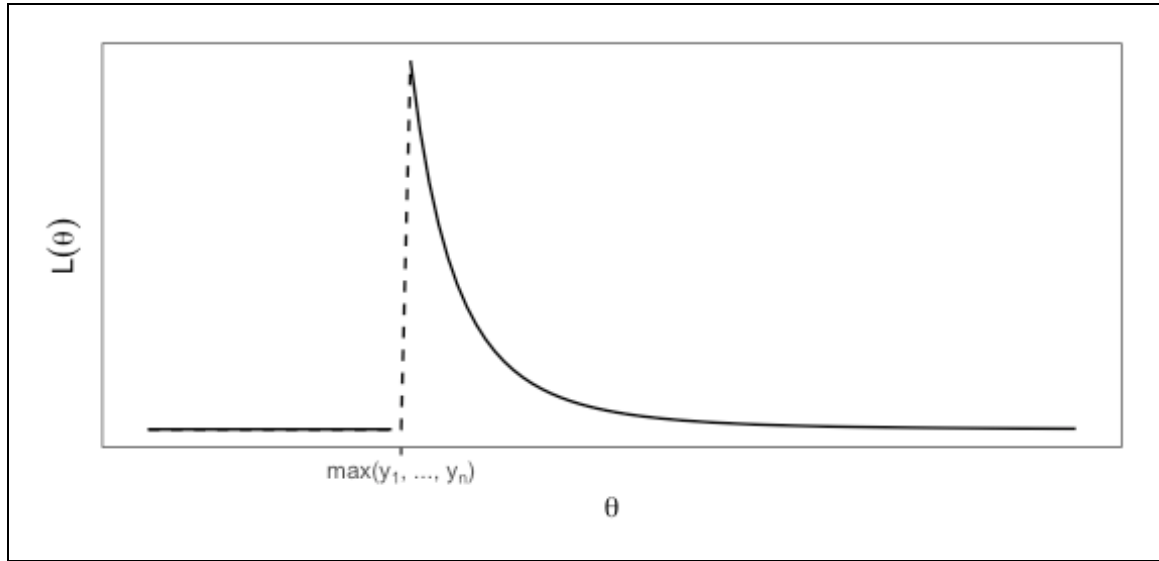
Solution: The key here is to realise that the value of θ determines the value of y_i that is observed, because the support of y is $(0, \theta]$. It is not possible to get values $y > \theta$ by definition. Therefore, the likelihood is

$$L(\theta|y_1, \dots, y_n) = \begin{cases} \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{2y_i}{\theta^2} & \text{if } 0 < y_1, \dots, y_n \leq \theta \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

In other words, the likelihood will take positive value in the case where $\theta > \max(y_1, \dots, y_n)$, and zero otherwise. Therefore, $\hat{\theta} = \max(y_1, \dots, y_n)$. We can write the likelihood as

$$L(\theta|y_1, \dots, y_n) \propto \theta^{-2n} \mathbf{1}_{[\theta > \max(y_1, \dots, y_n)]}(\theta)$$

which is plotted roughly as follows:



9. Let X_1, \dots, X_n be a sample from $\text{Unif}(0, \theta)$, where $\theta > 0$ is an unknown parameter. Find the MLE for θ . Derive the distribution for $\hat{\theta}$, and therefore, show that $\hat{\theta}$ is a consistent estimator in the sense that $\hat{\theta} \xrightarrow{P} \theta$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. *Hint:* $P(\max_{1 \leq i \leq n} X_i \leq y) = \prod_{i=1}^n P(X_i \leq y)$.

Solution: This is similar to the previous question. Realise that the support of X_i is $(0, \theta)$, and therefore all values X_1, \dots, X_n must fall within $(0, \theta)$. This must mean that $\max(X_1, \dots, X_n) \leq \theta$. In any case, the pdf of $X \sim \text{Unif}(0, \theta)$ is $f(x|\theta) = \frac{1}{\theta}$ if $x \in (0, \theta)$, and 0 otherwise. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} L(\theta|X_1, \dots, X_n) &= \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{[X_i \in (0, \theta)]}{\theta} = \theta^{-n} [X_1, \dots, X_n \in (0, \theta)] \\ &= \theta^{-n} [\max(X_1, \dots, X_n) \leq \theta] \end{aligned}$$

where $[\cdot]$ refers to the Iverson bracket (equals 1 if the event is achieved, and 0 otherwise). Again, by reasoning that the likelihood is positive when $\max(X_1, \dots, X_n) \leq \theta$, it must be that the MLE is $\hat{\theta} = \max(X_1, \dots, X_n)$.

To show that it is consistent, consider

$$\begin{aligned} P[\max(X_1, \dots, X_n) \leq x] &= \prod_{i=1}^n P(X_i \leq x) \\ &= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x < 0 \\ \left(\frac{x}{\theta}\right)^n & \text{if } x \in (0, \theta) \\ 1 & \text{if } x > \theta \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

So for $\epsilon > 0$

$$\begin{aligned} P(|\hat{\theta} - \theta| > \epsilon) &= P(\hat{\theta} - \theta < -\epsilon) + P(\hat{\theta} - \theta > \epsilon) \\ &= P(\hat{\theta} < \theta - \epsilon) + (1 - P(\hat{\theta} < \theta + \epsilon)) \\ &= \left(\frac{\theta - \epsilon}{\theta}\right)^n \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$ (multiplying fraction which is less than one infinite number of times).
Thus, $\hat{\theta} \xrightarrow{P} \theta$, and is therefore consistent.

10. Let X_1, \dots, X_n be a random sample from a Bernoulli distribution, i.e.

$$X_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{w.p. } p \\ 0 & \text{w.p. } 1 - p \end{cases}$$

for $i = 1, \dots, n$, where $p \in (0, 1)$ is unknown. Let $\theta = p^2$.

(a) Find the Cramér-Rao lower bound for the variance of unbiased estimators of θ .

Solution: First we find the Fisher information for p for a single observation. The derivative of the score function is

$$\begin{aligned} S'(p) &= \frac{\partial^2}{\partial p^2} \{X_i \log p + (1 - X_i) \log(1 - p)\} \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \left\{ \frac{nX_i}{p} - \frac{1 - X_i}{1 - p} \right\} \\ &= -\frac{X_i}{p^2} + \frac{1 - X_i}{(1 - p)^2} \end{aligned}$$

The Fisher information is then given by $\mathcal{I}(p) = -E[S'(p)]$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_{X_i}(p) &= E \left[\frac{X_i}{p^2} - \frac{1 - X_i}{(1 - p)^2} \right] \\ &= \frac{E(X_i)}{p^2} - \frac{1 - E(X_i)}{(1 - p)^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{p(1 - p)} \end{aligned}$$

Of course, the full Fisher information is simply the sum of these unit Fisher information:

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathbf{X}}(p) = \frac{n}{p(1 - p)}$$

Suppose $T = T(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ is a statistic for which $E(T) = g(p) = p^2 =: \theta$.

Now, the Cramér-Rao lower bound for $g(p) = p^2 =: \theta$ is

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Var}(T) &\geq \frac{[g'(p)]^2}{\mathcal{I}_{\mathbf{X}}(p)} \\ &= \frac{4p^3(1-p)}{n}\end{aligned}$$

(b) Find the MLE $\hat{\theta}$ for θ .

Solution: We know that $\hat{p} = \bar{X}_n$ is the MLE for p so therefore by the invariance property of the MLE, $\hat{\theta} = \hat{p}^2 := (\bar{X}_n)^2$ is the MLE for $\theta = p^2$.

(c) Show that $E(\hat{\theta}) \neq \theta$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}E(\hat{\theta}) &= E\left[\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right)^2\right] = \frac{1}{n^2} E\left[\sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 + \sum_{i \neq j} X_i X_j\right] \\ &= \frac{1}{n^2} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n E(X_i^2) + \sum_{i \neq j} E(X_i X_j)\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{n^2} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n (p(1-p) + p^2) + \sum_{i \neq j} p^2\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{n^2} (np + n(n-1)p^2) \\ &= p^2 + \underbrace{\frac{p(1-p)}{n}}_{\text{bias}}\end{aligned}$$

In the above, we used the property that

$$E(X_i^2) = \text{Var}(X_i) + E^2(X_i) = p(1-p) + p^2 = p$$

and also for two independent Bernoulli r.v. X_i and X_j , the product $X_i X_j$ has the distribution

$$X_i X_j = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{w.p. } p^2 \\ 0 & \text{w.p. } 1 - p^2 \end{cases}$$

Therefore, $E(X_i X_j) = 1 \cdot p^2 + 0 \cdot (1 - p^2) = p^2$.

11. Let $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_n)^\top$ be a sample from $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$. Let $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (\mu, \sigma^2)^\top$. Find the Fisher information matrix $\mathcal{I}_{\mathbf{X}}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$, i.e. the Fisher information using all n data points. *Hint:*

Use $\theta_2 = \sigma^2$ in your calculations.

Solution: Define $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (\mu, \sigma^2)^\top$. The log-likelihood function for the normal distribution from a single observation is

$$l(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = -\frac{1}{2} \log 2\pi - \frac{1}{2} \log \theta_2 - \frac{(X_i - \theta_1)^2}{2\theta_2}$$

The derivative w.r.t to θ_1 and θ_2 (which are the first and second components of the score function) are as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} S_1(\boldsymbol{\theta}) &:= \frac{\partial l(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \theta_1} = \frac{X_i - \theta_1}{\theta_2} \\ S_2(\boldsymbol{\theta}) &:= \frac{\partial l(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \theta_2} = -\frac{1}{2\theta_2} + \frac{(X_i - \theta_1)^2}{2\theta_2^2} \end{aligned}$$

Taking further derivatives gives us

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 l(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \theta_1^2} &= -\frac{1}{\theta_2} \\ \frac{\partial^2 l(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \theta_2^2} &= \frac{1}{2\theta_2^2} - \frac{(X_i - \theta_1)^2}{\theta_2^3} \\ \frac{\partial^2 l(\boldsymbol{\theta})}{\partial \theta_1 \partial \theta_2} &= -\frac{X_i - \theta_1}{\theta_2^2} \end{aligned}$$

Taking negative expectations of the above yield the entries of the unit Fisher information $\mathcal{I}_{X_i}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}(\boldsymbol{\theta})_{11} &= -\mathbb{E}(-1/\theta_2) = \theta_2^{-1} = \sigma^{-2} \\ \mathcal{I}(\boldsymbol{\theta})_{22} &= -\mathbb{E}\left[\frac{1}{2\theta_2^2} - \frac{(X_i - \theta_1)^2}{\theta_2^3}\right] = -\frac{1}{2\sigma^4} + \frac{1}{\sigma^4} = \frac{1}{2\sigma^4} \\ \mathcal{I}(\boldsymbol{\theta})_{12} = \mathcal{I}(\boldsymbol{\theta})_{21} &= -\mathbb{E}\left[-\frac{X_i - \theta_1}{\theta_2^2}\right] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\mathcal{I}_{X_i}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma^{-2} & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2\sigma^4 \end{pmatrix}$$

and hence

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathbf{X}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{I}_{X_i}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \begin{pmatrix} n\sigma^{-2} & 0 \\ 0 & n/2\sigma^4 \end{pmatrix}$$