

Review of Statistics II

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Review of Statistical Inference Theory

- Estimation
 - Properties of Estimators
 - Finite and asymptotic properties
 - Estimation methods
 - Hypothesis testing

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Point Estimation

- Purpose: To make inferences about population parameters using the sample information.
- For example suppose that we want to estimate the average disposable income of households in Istanbul. To make such an inference we need to know the sampling distribution of statistics e.g., sample means.
- Inference is based on the sample statistics.
- Two types of estimation: Point vs Interval

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Point Estimation

- An estimator for a population parameter is simply a function of sample information. Since it is a function of random variables an estimator itself is a random variable.
- The distribution of an estimator is called sampling distribution.
- A certain realization of an estimator based on a sample observation is called an estimate.
- Suppose we want to estimate the mean income of households in Istanbul. For this purpose we can use sample mean which is an estimator for the population mean.
- As we select a new sample it is almost certain that we will obtain a different estimate.
- But on the average we will obtain a value close to the true population mean.

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Point Estimation

Some parameters and estimators

Population parameter	Estimator	Estimate
Mean (μ)	\overline{X}	\bar{x}
Variance (σ^2)	s_X^2	s_x^2
Standard Deviation (σ)	s_X	s_x
Success rate (p)	\hat{p}_X	\hat{p}_x

Properties of Estimators

- How do we decide which estimators to use for inference? We require estimators to have certain properties.
- Finite sample properties: these are valid for any sample size n , unbiasedness and efficiency
- Asymptotic properties: only valid for large samples, e.g., consistency, asymptotic efficiency, asymptotic normality

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Unbiasedness

θ : Unknown population parameter

$\hat{\theta}$: a point estimator for θ

Definition: If the mean of the sampling distribution of $\hat{\theta}$ is equal to the population parameter θ , i.e.,

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

then we say that $\hat{\theta}$ is an *unbiased estimator* of θ .

What does it mean?

- Let us make an hypothetical experiment. Suppose we draw many samples from the population of interest and calculate the estimator for each sample.
- If our estimator is unbiased then the arithmetic mean of our calculated estimates will be equal to the population parameter.
- One can show that the following point estimators are unbiased:

$$E(\bar{X}) = \mu, \quad E(s_X^2) = \sigma^2, \quad E(\hat{p}_X) = p$$

- In other words, sample mean is an unbiased estimator of population mean, sample variance is an unbiased estimator of population variance.

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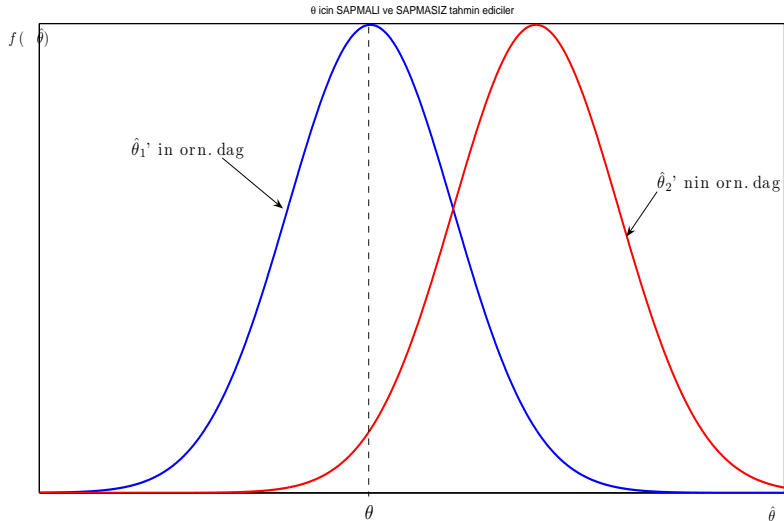
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Unbiasedness



- If an estimator is not unbiased then it is called biased:

$$Bias(\hat{\theta}) = E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta$$

- For an unbiased estimator we have $Bias(\hat{\theta}) = 0$.
- Unbiasedness does not mean that the value of the estimator is equal to the true parameter value. It just means that on average we would obtain the true parameter.

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- Unbiasedness is not sufficient to obtain good estimators
- In general one can define many unbiased estimators for a parameter.
- We can choose from these unbiased estimators based on their variability, i.e., their variance.
- We would prefer an estimator with smaller variability.
- Definition: let $\hat{\theta}_1$ and $\hat{\theta}_2$ be two unbiased estimators for θ . If

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

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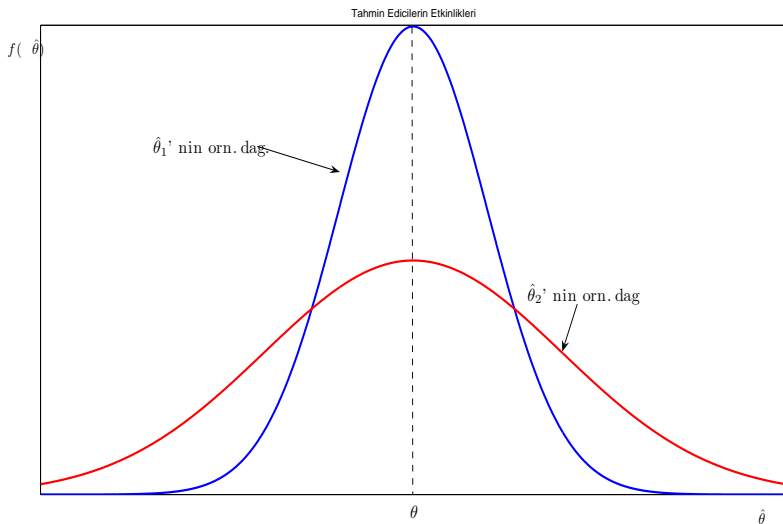
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Efficiency - Example

- Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_{10} be a random sample from a population with mean μ and variance σ^2 . Suppose also that there are two estimators for the population mean: $\hat{\theta}_1 = X_1$ and $\hat{\theta}_2 = 10^{-1} \sum X_i$. Are these estimators unbiased? Which one is more efficient?
- Answer: For unbiasedness we must have $E(\hat{\theta}_1) = \mu$. Since $E(\hat{\theta}_1) = E(X_1) = \mu$, $\hat{\theta}_1$ is an unbiased estimator. Similarly, $E(\hat{\theta}_2) = E(10^{-1} \sum X_i) = \mu$, $\hat{\theta}_2$ is also an unbiased estimator.
- For efficiency we need to calculate their variances.

$$Var(\hat{\theta}_1) = Var(X_1) = \sigma^2 \quad Var(\hat{\theta}_2) = Var(10^{-1} \sum X_i) = 0.01\sigma^2$$

- Obviously $Var(\hat{\theta}_2) < Var(\hat{\theta}_1)$ thus $\hat{\theta}_2$ is more efficient than $\hat{\theta}_1$.
- Relative efficiency = $\frac{Var(X_1)}{Var(10^{-1} \sum X_i)} = \frac{\sigma^2}{0.01\sigma^2} = 10$

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Asymptotic Properties

- In the previous example our first estimator was defined as the value of the first observation. Note that in this case we would not use the full information contained in the sample.
- As we have shown this estimator is unbiased but inefficient. Not matter how large the sample is this variance will not get smaller.
- In most cases we would like our estimators to have good properties as we collect more information, that is as the sample size gets bigger.
- For example, as n becomes large the variance of \bar{X} gets smaller so that it approaches the true value μ at certain rate.
- On the contrary an estimator such as X_1 does not change as n approaches infinity.
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- For a small arbitrary number $\epsilon > 0$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P \left[|\hat{\theta}_n - \theta| < \epsilon \right] = 1 \quad \text{or} \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P \left[|\hat{\theta}_n - \theta| > \epsilon \right] = 0$$

then we say that $\hat{\theta}_n$ is a consistent estimator for θ

- When this condition is satisfied θ is the probability limit of $\hat{\theta}_n$ and written more compactly as:

$$\text{plim}(\hat{\theta}_n) = \theta$$

- This means: as the sample size gets bigger the sampling distribution of $\hat{\theta}_n$ becomes more concentrated around the true parameter value θ . In the limit it becomes degenerate at the true value.
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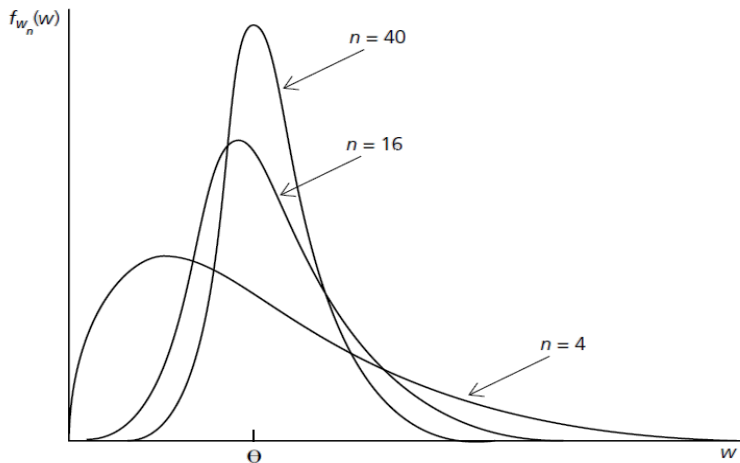
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Consistency - Sampling Distributions of a Consistent Estimator



Consistency

- Law of Large Numbers: Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be a random sample from a population with μ and variance σ^2 . According to LLN:

$$\text{plim}(\bar{X}_n) = \text{plim} \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \right) = \mu$$

- Since $\text{Var}(\bar{X}_n)$ converges to 0 in the limit sample mean approaches the true value μ . Collecting more information leads to smaller and smaller variability.
- In general unbiased estimators with variances converging to zero as n gets bigger are consistent.
- An inconsistent estimator cannot provide information on population parameters.
- An unbiased estimator can be inconsistent and vice versa.

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- Law of Large Numbers: Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be a random sample from a population with μ and variance σ^2 . According to LLN:

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- The following two conditions are sufficient for an estimator to be consistent:

1. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E(\hat{\theta}_n) = \theta$

2. $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} Var(\hat{\theta}_n) = 0$

- According to the first condition as the sample size increases expected value becomes closer to the true value. In other words as n goes to infinity bias converges to zero.
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- Besides the sample mean \overline{X}_n the following estimators are defined based on a random sample of size n

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$$\hat{\mu}_n^1 = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i,$$

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$$\hat{\mu}_n^2 = \frac{1.02}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i,$$

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$$\hat{\mu}_n^3 = 0.01X_1 + \frac{0.99}{n-1} \sum_{i=2}^n X_i$$

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- The first estimator is biased but consistent:

$$E(\hat{\mu}_n^1) = E\left(\frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i=1}^n X_t\right) = \frac{n}{n+1} \mu \implies \text{biased}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(\hat{\mu}_n^1) &= \text{Var}\left(\frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i=1}^n X_t\right) = \frac{n^2}{(n+1)^2} \text{Var}(\bar{X}_n) \\ &= \frac{n^2}{(n+1)^2} \frac{\sigma^2}{n} = \frac{n}{(n+1)^2} \sigma^2 \end{aligned}$$

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Consistency - Example

- Second estimator is biased and inconsistent:

$$E(\hat{\mu}_n^2) = E\left(\frac{1.01}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_t\right) = 1.01E(\bar{X}_n) = 1.01\mu \implies \text{biased}$$

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- Third estimator is unbiased and inconsistent:

$$\begin{aligned} E(\hat{\mu}_n^3) &= 0.01E(X_1) + \frac{0.99}{n-1}E\left(\sum_{i=2}^n X_t\right) = 0.01\mu + \frac{0.99}{n-1}(n-1)\mu \\ &= \mu \implies \text{unbiased} \end{aligned}$$

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Consistency - Properties of PLIM

- Recall the definition of probability limit:

$$\text{plim}(Y_n) = \alpha$$

- The most important property of plim is the following: for any function $g(Y_n)$ of Y_n

$$\text{plim}g((Y_n)) = g(\text{plim}(Y_n)) = g(\alpha)$$

- For example let $\bar{X}_n > 0$, $g(\bar{X}_n) = \ln(\bar{X}_n)$. We know that expectation operator does not apply to nonlinear functions:

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- Suppose we want to estimate the percentage difference in earnings $\alpha = (\mu_Z - \mu_Y)/\mu_Y$ between the two groups.
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Asymptotic Normality

- Consistency does not say anything about the distribution around the true value. In most cases we want to determine the distribution of the estimator in the limit.
- Most estimators we encounter in the social sciences have normal limit distributions. In other words their sampling distributions converge to normal as the sample size approaches infinity.
- This is called *asymptotic normality*.
- Let $\{Z_n : n = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$ be sequence of random variables. Also let $\Phi(z)$ be cdf of standard normal distribution. If for every z the following condition is satisfied

$$n \longrightarrow \infty \quad P(Z \leq z) \longrightarrow \Phi(z)$$

then we say that Z_n has an asymptotic normal distribution.

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then we say that Z_n has an asymptotic normal distribution.

- More compactly:

$$Z_n \sim N(0, 1) \quad \text{or} \quad Z_n \longrightarrow N(0, 1)$$

Estimation Methods

- General ways of obtaining point estimators for unknown population parameters
- There are several estimation procedures available.
- Classical estimation methods are
 - Method of Moments
 - Maximum Likelihood
 - Least Squares
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Method of Moments - MoM

- One of the oldest estimation methods
- Relies on matching population moments to sample moments
- Suppose we have k population parameters which we want to estimate: $\theta_1, \theta_1, \dots, \theta_k$
- MoM estimators are found by solving the following system

$$\begin{aligned}E(X) &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \\E(X^2) &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 \\&\vdots \\E(X^k) &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^k\end{aligned}$$

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Population and sample moments

k	Population Moments	Sample Moments
1	$\mu_1 = E(X)$	$\hat{\mu}_1 = n^{-1} \sum X_i$
2	$\mu_2 = E(X^2)$	$\hat{\mu}_2 = n^{-1} \sum X_i^2$
3	$\mu_3 = E(X^3)$	$\hat{\mu}_3 = n^{-1} \sum X_i^3$
4	$\mu_4 = E(X^4)$	$\hat{\mu}_4 = n^{-1} \sum X_i^4$
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots
k	$\mu_k = E(X^k)$	$\hat{\mu}_k = n^{-1} \sum X_i^k$

MoM - Example

- Using a random sample of size n drawn from $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ find the MoM estimators for μ and σ^2 .
- Note that there are two unknown parameters. Thus we need two moment conditions.
- Using the first two moments we have

$$\begin{aligned}E(X) &= \mu = \bar{X} \\E(X^2) &= \mu^2 + \sigma^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2\end{aligned}$$

- Solving this system we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{\mu}_{mom} &= \bar{X} \\ \hat{\sigma}_{mom}^2 &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2\end{aligned}$$

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- Frequently used in practice to estimate fully specified parametric models
- Good asymptotic properties, consistent and asymptotically most efficient
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- Let $f(x; \theta)$ represent the distribution (in most cases pdf). Also let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n be a random sample of n observations and let x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n be realizations of these random variables.
- Since we have a random sample the joint pdf can be written as follows

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; \theta) &= f_1(x_1; \theta) \cdot f_2(x_2; \theta) \cdot \dots \cdot f_n(x_n; \theta) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i; \theta), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n \end{aligned}$$

- Now suppose that we observe the random sample but we do not know the population parameters. Likelihood function is simply a function of θ given the realization of the random sample \mathbf{x} :

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- Usually instead of solving the maximization problem defined above it is much easier to work with the loglikelihood function:

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- Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_{10} be a random sample drawn from a Bernoulli distribution with success probability p ($0 < p < 1$). Also let x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{10} be the observed values of this random sample.
- Let $y = x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_{10}$ denote total number of successes in the random sample. Then the likelihood function is given by:

$$L(p \mid x_1, x_2, \dots, x_{10}) = p^y (1 - p)^{n-y}$$

- Suppose that out of 10 trials we observed 6 successes, i.e., $y = x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_{10} = 6$.
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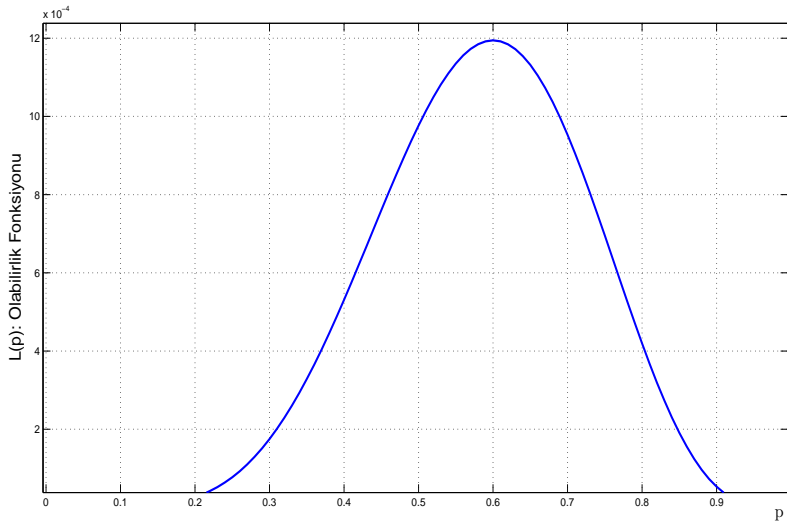
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The likelihood values for the interval $0.1, 0.2, \dots, 0.9$ are given in the following table:

p	$L(p \mid \mathbf{x}) = p^6(1 - p)^4$
0.1	0.00000066
0.2	0.00002621
0.3	0.00017503
0.4	0.00053084
0.5	0.00097656
0.6	0.00119439
0.7	0.00095296
0.8	0.00041943
0.9	0.00005314

MLE - Likelihood Function



MLE - Example

- Suppose that $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ is random sample drawn from a Poisson distribution. Find the MLE of λ .
- The probability distribution of $X \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda)$ is given by:

$$f(x_i; \lambda) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^{x_i}}{x_i!}, \quad x_i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

- The loglikelihood function is

$$\begin{aligned} \ln L(\lambda \mid \mathbf{x}) &= \ln \left[\prod_{i=1}^n \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^{x_i}}{x_i!} \right] = \ln \left[e^{-n\lambda} \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{\lambda^{x_i}}{x_i!} \right] \\ &= -n\lambda + \ln(\lambda) \sum_{i=1}^n x_i - \ln \left[\prod_{i=1}^n x_i! \right] \\ &= -n\lambda + n \ln(\lambda) \bar{x} - \ln \left[\prod_{i=1}^n x_i! \right] \end{aligned}$$

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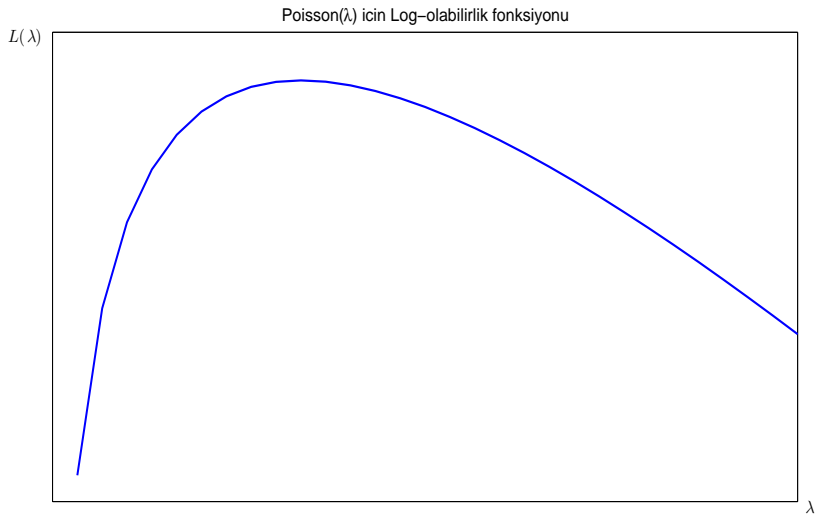
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$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \lambda^2} \ln L(\lambda \mid \mathbf{x}) = -\frac{n\bar{x}}{\lambda^2} < 0, \quad \text{for each } \lambda$$

- Thus the MLE of λ is

$$\hat{\lambda}_{mle} = \bar{X}$$

MLE Example continued



MLE - Another Example

- Suppose that $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ represent the observed values of a random sample drawn from a normal distribution with mean μ and variance σ^2 . Find the MLE of μ and σ^2 .
- $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ the pdf is:

$$f(x_i; \mu, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x_i - \mu)^2\right), \quad -\infty < x_i < \infty,$$

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MLE Example continued

- Likelihood function is

$$\begin{aligned}L(\mu, \sigma^2 \mid \mathbf{x}) &= \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i; \mu, \sigma^2) = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x_i - \mu)^2\right) \\&= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}}\right)^n \prod_{i=1}^n \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x_i - \mu)^2\right) \\&= (2\pi\sigma^2)^{-n/2} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2\right)\end{aligned}$$

- Loglikelihood function is

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$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \ln L(\mu, \sigma^2 \mid \mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu) = 0$$

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$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \mu \partial \sigma^2} \ln L(\mu, \sigma^2 \mid \mathbf{x}) = -\frac{1}{\sigma^4} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial (\sigma^2)^2} \ln L(\mu, \sigma^2 \mid \mathbf{x}) = \frac{n}{2\sigma^4} - \frac{1}{\sigma^6} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2$$

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Example continued

- Evaluating the Hessian at the MLE we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} H|_{\hat{\mu}_{mle}, \hat{\sigma}_{mle}^2} &= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \mu^2} \ln L(\mu, \sigma^2 | \mathbf{x}) & \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \mu \partial \sigma^2} \ln L(\mu, \sigma^2 | \mathbf{x}) \\ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \sigma^2 \partial \mu} \ln L(\mu, \sigma^2 | \mathbf{x}) & \frac{\partial^2}{\partial (\sigma^2)^2} \ln L(\mu, \sigma^2 | \mathbf{x}) \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{n}{\hat{\sigma}_{mle}^2} & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{n}{2\hat{\sigma}_{mle}^4} \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

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- Invariance: Let $\hat{\theta}_{mle}$ be the MLE of θ . Also let $\gamma = g(\theta)$ be a function of θ then the MLE of γ is $\hat{\gamma}_{mle} = g(\hat{\theta}_{mle})$.
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Hypothesis Tests

- Definitions
 - Let the unknown population parameter be θ
 - **Null Hypothesis:** this is the hypothesis that we believe to be true until evidence suggests the otherwise. Contradiction of the alternative hypothesis. Denoted by the symbol H_0
 - **Alternative Hypothesis:** is the hypothesis we wish to support. If the null hypothesis is false, the alternative hypothesis must be true. Denoted by the symbol H_1 or H_a
 - H_0 specifies hypothesized values for one or more population parameters.
 - For example, we might wish to test the null hypothesis that a population mean is equal to 10, hoping to show, in fact that the mean exceeds 10.
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DECISION: After specifying the null and alternative hypothesis and collecting the sample data we need to make a decision about the null hypothesis using a decision rule.

- Two decisions: **Fail to reject** (“accept”) the null hypothesis or **reject** the null hypothesis in favor of the alternative.
- We need to develop a decision rule using the sample.
- This decision rule is generally based on the sampling distributions of test statistics.
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- TYPE I ERROR: rejecting a null hypothesis when it is in fact TRUE
- The probability of Type I Error is denoted α and called the significance level.
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	H_0 TRUE	H_0 FALSE
ACCEPT H_0	Correct Decision probability= $1 - \alpha$	Type II Error probability= β
REJECT H_0	Type I Error probability= α	Correct Decision probability= $1 - \beta$

$\alpha = P(\text{reject } H_0 \mid H_0 \text{ is true}):$ Significance Level

$\beta = P(\text{fail to reject } H_0 \mid H_0 \text{ is false}):$ probability of Type II Error

$1 - \beta = P(\text{reject } H_0 \mid H_0 \text{ is false}):$ Power of test

Hypothesis Tests

- Trade-off: we cannot make both α and β as small as we want
- As α gets smaller, that is, as the probability of Type I error decreases, the probability of conducting Type II error increases, i.e., β gets bigger
- $\alpha \downarrow \beta \uparrow (1 - \beta) \downarrow$
- What to do?
- Fix α at a small level, e.g. 0.05 and let β be determined
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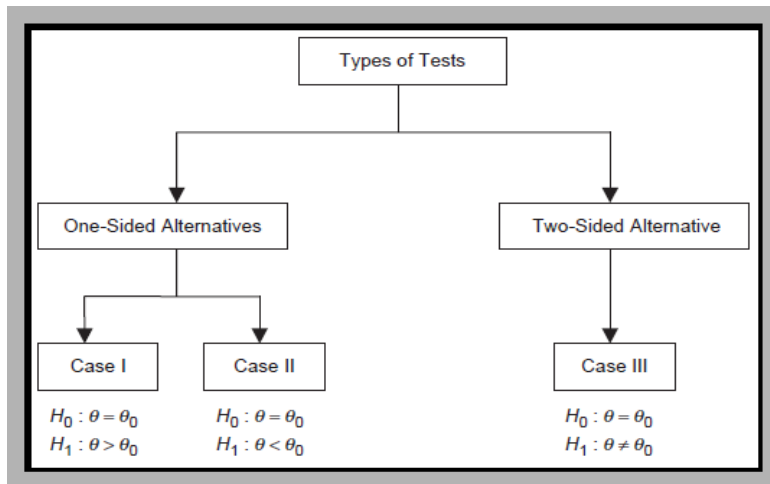
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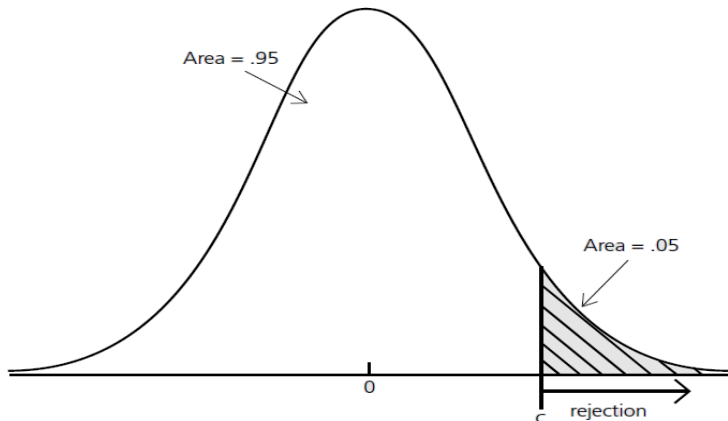
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Types of tests



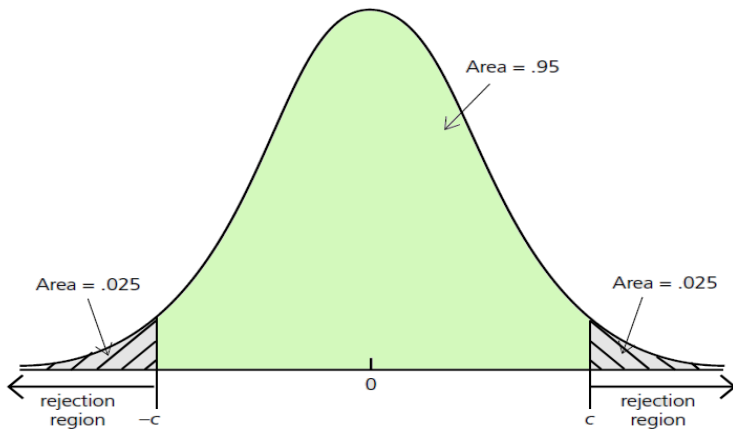
One-sided Alternative - Right Tail Test

Rejection region for a 5% significance level test against the one-sided alternative $\mu > \mu_0$.



Two-sided Alternative

Rejection region for a 5% significance level test against the two-sided alternative $H_1: \mu \neq \mu_0$.



- Test results may depend on the significance level chosen by the researcher.
- Instead of choosing a significance level prior to the testing we may ask the following question: What is the largest significance level at which we could carry out the test and still fail to reject the null hypothesis?
- This is called the p-value
- A small p-value indicates strong evidence against H_0
- If $p\text{-value} < \alpha$ H_0 can be rejected at significance level α
- For example, suppose that a large random sample ($n > 120$) is drawn from a $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ population and we want to test $H_0 : \mu = 0$ against one-sided alternative $H_1 : \mu > 0$

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- Our test statistic is

$$T = \frac{\bar{X}}{s/\sqrt{n}}$$

where s is the sample standard deviation.

- Suppose that the value of T for our sample is $t = 1.52$
- What is the p-value? i.e., the largest significance level at which we would fail to reject H_0
- ... or the smallest significance level at which we would reject H_0
- Since our sample is large enough so that the distribution of the test statistic is standard normal we can write

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- Our test statistic is

$$T = \frac{\bar{X}}{s/\sqrt{n}}$$

where s is the sample standard deviation.

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The p -value when $t = 1.52$ for the one-sided alternative $\mu > \mu_0$.

