

Estimation

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Population parameters

Sample statistics

μ

\bar{x}

σ^2

s^2

p, \dots

\hat{p}, \dots

- We would like to estimate μ & σ^2 (or any other population parameters) in terms of sample statistics.

- We can have

Point estimates

Interval estimates

For example

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{n}$$

can

be a point estimation of the population mean.

(Here we would like to find an interval where our population parameter will belong).

- Let us first talk about point estimators.

Unbiasedness :- A sample statistics $\hat{\theta}$ is said to be an unbiased estimator of a population parameter θ if

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

For example s^2 is an unbiased estimator of σ^2 .

How?

$$s^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{(n-1)}$$

$$(n-1)s^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x} + \mu - \mu)^2 \quad (\text{adding \& subtracting } \mu)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n ((x_i - \mu) - (\bar{x} - \mu))^2$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2 + (\bar{x} - \mu)^2 - 2(x_i - \mu)(\bar{x} - \mu)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{x} - \mu)^2 - 2 \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)(\bar{x} - \mu)$$

independent of i independent of i

$$(n-1)s^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2 + (\bar{x} - \mu)^2 \sum_{i=1}^n 1 - 2(\bar{x} - \mu) \left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i - \mu \sum_{i=1}^n 1 \right)$$

$= n$ $= n\mu$ $= n$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2 + n(\bar{x} - \mu)^2 - 2n(\bar{x} - \mu)^2$$

$$(n-1)s^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2 - n(\bar{x} - \mu)^2$$

$$E((n-1)s^2) = E\left(\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2 - n(\bar{x} - \mu)^2\right)$$

$$(n-1)E(s^2) = \sum_{i=1}^n E((x_i - \mu)^2) - n \sum_{i=1}^n E((\bar{x} - \mu)^2)$$

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

variance of sampling distribution of mean

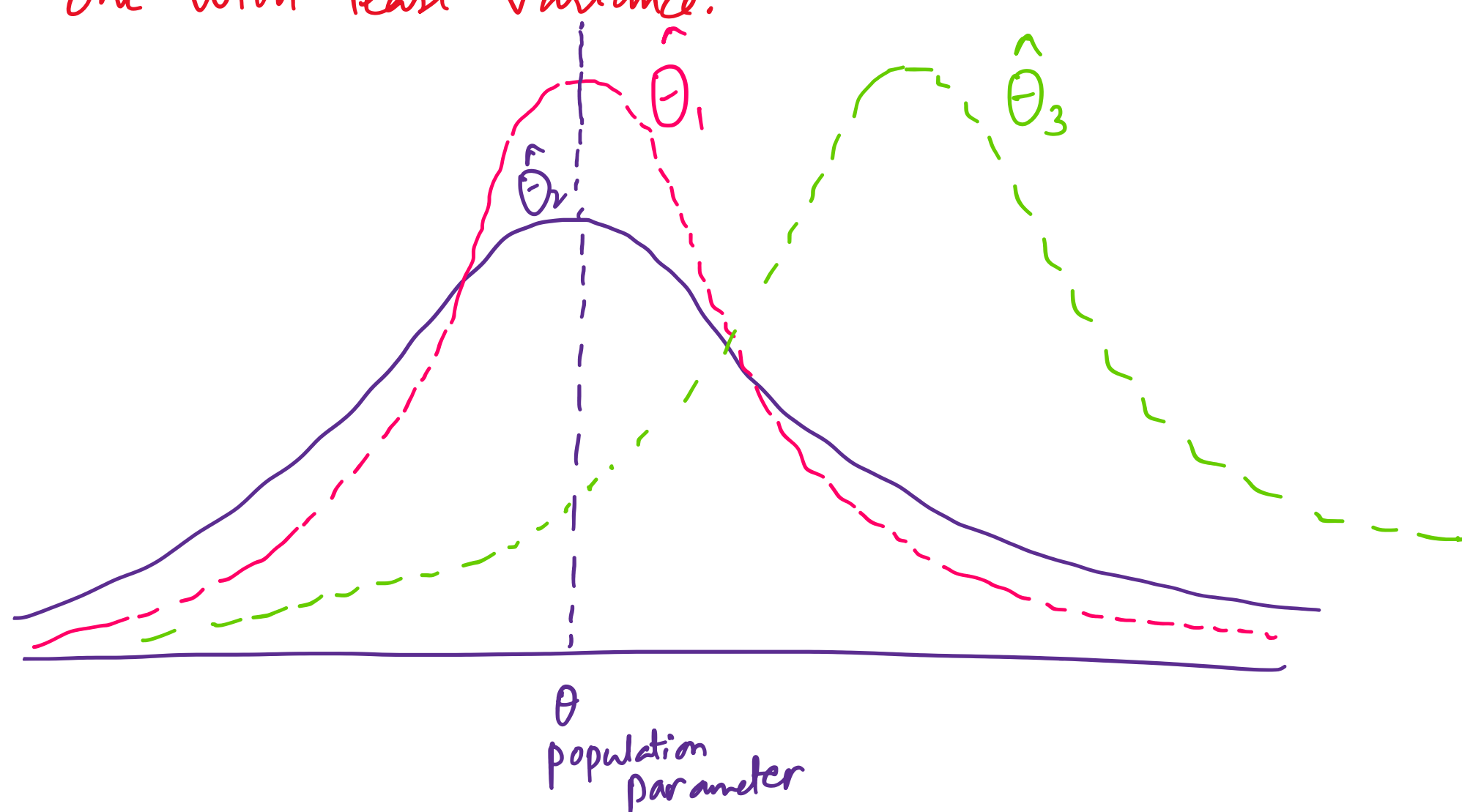
$$(n-1)E(s^2) = n\sigma^2 - \sigma^2 = (n-1)\sigma^2$$

$$\Rightarrow E(s^2) = \sigma^2$$

- out of a biased and an unbiased estimator, we always choose the unbiased estimator.

Note

- Out of many unbiased estimators available we choose the one with least variance.



- out of $\hat{\theta}_1$, $\hat{\theta}_2$, $\hat{\theta}_3$

$\hat{\theta}_1$ & $\hat{\theta}_2$ are unbiased

& $\hat{\theta}_3$ is biased, so we choose $\hat{\theta}_1$ or $\hat{\theta}_2$.

- Out of $\hat{\theta}_1$ and $\hat{\theta}_2$, $\hat{\theta}_1$ has less variance so we choose $\hat{\theta}_1$.