

# Welcome Today we'll discuss Worksheet B-Part 2

## Section 6.2: Method of Moments (MOM) Estimates

- Let  $X$  be a random variable with pdf  $f(x; \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k)$  that depends on parameters  $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k$ .
- If we independently pick a random variables  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  from population  $X$ , we can determine what values of  $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k$  that best fit the data in the following sense:
  - The **mean of the population**  $X$  equals the **sample mean**.
  - The **variance of the population** equals the **variance of the sample**.
  - The skewness of the population equals the skewness of the sample.
  - ... and so on.
- We find values of the parameters so the properties of random variable  $X$  are equal to corresponding properties of our sample.

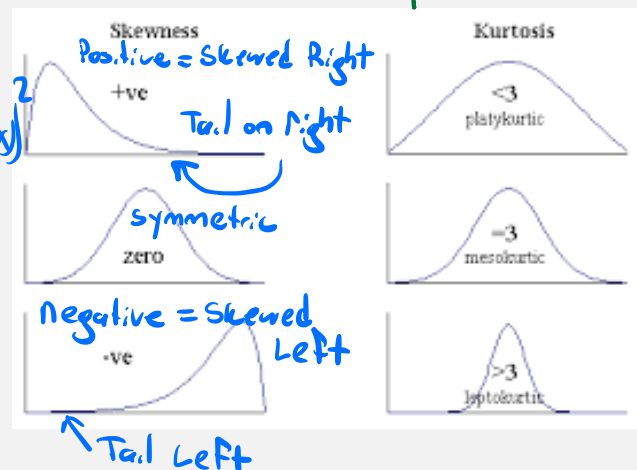
goal: our pop should have some properties as observed in sample

Let  $X$  be a random variable with pdf  $f(x)$ . For a positive integer  $k$ , the  $k$ th theoretical moment of  $X$  is

$$\mu_k = E[X^k] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^k f(x) dx \quad \text{or} \quad \mu_k = E[X^k] = \sum_X x^k f(x),$$

↑  
depend on parameters

- The **mean**  $\mu = E[X]$  is the first moment.
- The **variance** is related to the second moment  $\mu_2 = E[X^2]$ .  $\text{Var}(X) = E(X^2) - (E(X))^2$
- The **skewness** is related the third moment  $\mu_3 = E[X^3]$ .
- The **kurtosis** (how "peaky" or flat the distribution is) is related to  $\mu_4 = E[X^4]$ .



For a sample we called the corresponding properties **sample moments** denoted by  $M_k$ .

↑  
values we calculate

## Section 6.2: Method of Moments Estimate

1. Let  $X$  be a random variable with pdf  $f(x; \lambda, \delta) = \lambda e^{-\lambda(x-\delta)}$  for  $x > \delta$  with parameters  $\lambda, \delta > 0$ . Find the first and second theoretical moments of  $X$ .

$$\mu_1 = E(X) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) dx = \int_{\delta}^{\infty} x (\lambda e^{-\lambda(x-\delta)}) dx = \delta + \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

$$\mu_2 = E(X^2) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 f(x) dx = \int_{\delta}^{\infty} x^2 (\lambda e^{-\lambda(x-\delta)}) dx = \left(\delta + \frac{1}{\lambda}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$$

2. Let  $X_1 = 3$ ,  $X_2 = 4$ ,  $X_3 = 5$ , and  $X_4 = 8$  be a random sample from a random variable  $X$  with pdf  $f(x; \lambda, \delta)$ . Find the first and second sample moments.

$$m_1 = \frac{3+4+5+8}{4} = 5$$

$$m_2 = \frac{3^2+4^2+5^2+8^2}{4} = 28.5$$

Let  $X$  be a random variable with pdf  $f(x; \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k)$  and let  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$  be a random sample.

- The theoretical moments  $\mu_k$  are functions of the  $k$  parameters  $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k$ .
- The sample moments  $M_k$  are values we calculate based on the sample.
- The **method of moments (MOM) estimate** is obtained by solving the system:

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_1 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) dx = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i = M_1 \\ \mu_2 &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 f(x) dx = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 = M_2 \\ &\vdots \\ \mu_k &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^k f(x) dx = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^k = M_k\end{aligned}$$

If  $X$  is a discrete random variable, change the integrals to summations.

**Practice**

3. Let  $X$  be a random variable with pdf  $f(x; \lambda, \delta) = \lambda e^{-\lambda(x-\delta)}$  for  $x > \delta$  with parameters  $\lambda, \delta > 0$ . If  $X_1 = 3, X_2 = 4, X_3 = 5$ , and  $X_4 = 8$  is a random sample picked from random variable  $X$ , find the first and second sample moments.

① Look at how many parameters are in your model  
2 -  $\lambda$  and  $\delta$

② Calculate as many sample moments as there are parameters (Question 2)

③ Calculate as many theoretical moments as there are parameters (Question 1)

④ set sample and theoretical moments equal, and solve for parameters

4. Let  $X_1 = 1, X_2 = 3, X_3 = 7, X_4 = 10$  be four numbers picked at random from the uniform distribution on  $[\alpha, \beta]$ . Find the MoM estimates of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ .

Theoretical

$$\mu_1 = \delta + \frac{1}{\lambda}$$

$$\mu_2 = \left(\delta + \frac{1}{\lambda}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$$

Sample

$$m_1 = \frac{3+4+5+8}{4} = 5$$

$$m_2 = \frac{3^2+4^2+5^2+8^2}{4} = 28.5$$

$$\begin{cases} \delta + \frac{1}{\lambda} = 5 & (1^{\text{st}} \text{ moment}) \\ \left(\delta + \frac{1}{\lambda}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{\lambda^2} = 28.5 & (2^{\text{nd}} \text{ moment}) \end{cases}$$

$$(5)^2 + \frac{1}{\lambda^2} = 28.5$$

$$\frac{1}{\lambda^2} = 28.5 - 25$$

$$\lambda^2 = \frac{1}{3.5}$$

$$\hat{\lambda}_{\text{mom}} \approx 0.535$$

$$\delta + \frac{1}{0.535} = 5$$

$$\hat{\delta}_{\text{mom}} = 3.131$$

4. Let  $X_1 = 1, X_2 = 3, X_3 = 7, X_4 = 10$  be four numbers picked at random from the uniform distribution on  $[\alpha, \beta]$ . Find the MoM estimates of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ .

① Look at how many parameters are in your model

2 -  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$

② Calculate as many sample moments as there are parameters

$$n_1 = \frac{1+3+7+10}{4} = 5.25 \quad n_2 = \frac{1^2+3^2+7^2+10^2}{4} = 39.75$$

③ Calculate as many theoretical moments as there are parameters

Recall:  $E(X) = \frac{\alpha + \beta}{2}$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{(\beta - \alpha)^2}{12} = E(X^2) - \underbrace{(E(X))^2}$$

$$E(X^2) = \frac{(\beta - \alpha)^2}{12} + \left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{2}\right)^2$$

④ set sample and theoretical moments equal, and solve for parameters

$$\frac{\alpha + \beta}{2} = 5.25$$

**Solve**

$$\frac{(\beta - \alpha)^2}{12} + \left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{2}\right)^2 = 39.75$$

$$\frac{\alpha + \beta}{2} = 5.25$$

$$\frac{(\beta - \alpha)^2}{12} + \left(\frac{\alpha + \beta}{2}\right)^2 = 39.75$$

$$\left(\frac{\beta - \alpha}{12}\right)^2 + (5.25)^2 = 39.75$$

$$\beta - \alpha = 12.093$$

$$\beta + \alpha = 10.5$$

$$2\beta = 22.593$$

$$\hat{\beta}_{\text{mom}} = 11.297$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha + 11.297 = 10.5$$

$$\hat{\alpha}_{\text{mom}} = -0.797$$

$$x_1 = 1, x_2 = 3, x_3 = 7, x_4 = 10$$

## Section 6.3.1: Unbiasedness

Which method is best? We will wrap up Chapter 6 by looking at some properties we can use to gauge estimates, such as unbiasedness, efficiency, and Mean Square Error.

**Bias:** We like an estimator to be, on average, equal to the parameter it is estimating:  $E[\hat{\theta}] - \theta = 0$ .

- Sample mean is unbiased estimator of  $\mu$ .
- Sample proportion is an unbiased estimator of  $p$ .

5. Show that the MLE estimate for the variance for  $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ ,

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

★ Optional

is a biased estimate for  $\sigma^2$

IF  $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma)$ .  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$

MLE:

$$\hat{\mu}_{MLE} = \bar{x} = \frac{\sum x_i}{n}$$

$$\hat{\sigma}_{MLE}^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} E(\hat{\mu}_{MLE}) - \mu &= E\left(\frac{\sum x_i}{n}\right) - \mu \\ &= \frac{1}{n} E\left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right) - \mu \\ &= \frac{1}{n} (\mu \cdot n) - \mu = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$E(\hat{\sigma}_{MLE}^2) - \sigma^2 = 0??$$

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

$$E(\hat{\sigma}^2) = \frac{1}{n} E\left(\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2\right) \\ = \frac{n-1}{n} \sigma^2 \neq \sigma^2$$

Optional

$$\text{As } n \rightarrow \infty \quad E(\hat{\sigma}^2) \rightarrow \sigma^2$$

Asymptotically unbiased

$$\hat{S}^2 = \frac{n \hat{\sigma}^2}{n-1} \rightarrow E(\hat{S}^2) = \frac{n}{n-1} E(\hat{\sigma}^2)$$

$$\hat{S}^2 = \frac{n}{n-1} \left( \frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{n} \right) = \frac{n}{n-1} \left( \frac{n-1}{n} \sigma^2 \right) = \sigma^2$$

$$\boxed{\hat{S}^2 = \frac{\sum (x_i - \bar{x})^2}{n-1}} \text{ is an unbiased estimator for variance}$$

$$E(Y) = \mu ?$$

$$Y = \frac{1}{6} X_1 + \frac{1}{3} X_2 + \frac{1}{2} X_3$$

$$E(Y) = \frac{1}{6} E(X_1) + \frac{1}{3} E(X_2) + \frac{1}{2} E(X_3) \\ = \frac{1}{6} \mu_x + \frac{1}{3} \mu_x + \frac{1}{2} \mu_x = \mu_x \quad \checkmark$$



### Section 6.3.2: Efficiency

Let  $X_1, X_2, X_3$  be independent random variables from an identical distribution with mean and variance  $\mu$  and  $\sigma^2$ , respectively.

- We have shown  $\bar{X} = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + X_3}{3}$  is an unbiased estimator of  $\mu$ .
- The weighted mean  $Y = \frac{1}{6}X_1 + \frac{1}{3}X_2 + \frac{1}{2}X_3$  is also unbiased.
- Is one better than the other?

On HW  
(not optional)

6. We have two unbiased estimators of  $\mu$  given below. Which estimator has less variability?

$$\bar{X} = \frac{X_1 + X_2 + X_3}{3} \quad \text{and} \quad Y = \frac{1}{6}X_1 + \frac{1}{3}X_2 + \frac{1}{2}X_3.$$

$$\text{Var}[\bar{X}] = \text{Var}\left[\frac{X_1 + X_2 + X_3}{3}\right] = \frac{1}{3^2}(3\sigma^2) = \frac{\sigma^2}{3}.$$

Less  
variance

$$\frac{1}{3} < \frac{7}{18}$$

$$\text{Var}[Y] = \text{Var}\left[\frac{1}{6}X_1 + \frac{1}{3}X_2 + \frac{1}{2}X_3\right] = \left(\frac{1}{36} + \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{4}\right)(3\sigma^2) = \frac{7}{18}\sigma^2.$$

If  $E(\hat{\mu}) = \mu$   
unbiased, great!  
A little bias might not  
be so bad if  
 $\text{Var}(\hat{\mu})$  is small (efficient)

If  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_2$  are both unbiased estimators of  $\theta$ , then  $\theta_1$  is said to be more **efficient** than  $\theta_2$  if  $\text{Var}[\theta_1] < \text{Var}[\theta_2]$ .

### Section 6.3.3: Mean Square Error

Optional

The **Mean Square Error (MSE)** of an estimator measures the average squared distance between the estimator and the parameter:

$$\text{MSE}[\hat{\theta}] = E[(\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2].$$

**Proposition 6.3.3** shows that  $\text{MSE}[\hat{\theta}] = \text{Var}[\hat{\theta}] + (\text{Bias}[\hat{\theta}])^2$ .

- MSE is a criterion that combines bias and variance.
- If two estimators are unbiased, one is more efficient than the other if and only if its MSE is smaller.
- In general, we are often faced with a trade-off between variability and bias.

7. Let  $X \sim \text{Binom}(n, p)$  with  $n$  known and parameter  $p$  unknown.

(a) Find the variance and MSE for if we use the sample proportion  $\hat{p}_1 = \frac{X}{n}$  as an estimate for  $p$ .

$$E(\hat{p}_1) = E\left(\frac{X}{n}\right) = \frac{1}{n} E(X) = \left(\frac{1}{n}\right)(np) = p$$

(b) If we add two more trials to the sample, and assume one is a failure and the other a success, then we can define a second estimator for  $p$

$$\hat{p}_2 = \frac{X+1}{n+2}$$

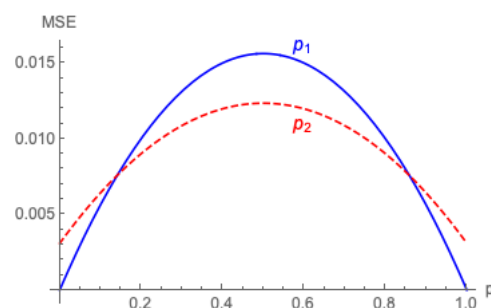
Added two attempts to our sample, one is a success.

(c) Is  $\hat{p}_2$  is a biased or unbiased estimator for  $p$ ?

$$E(\hat{p}_2) = \frac{1}{n+2} E(X+1) = \frac{1}{n+2} (E(X) + E(1)) = \frac{np+1}{n+2}$$

(d) Find the Var  $[\hat{p}_2]$  and MSE  $[\hat{p}_2]$ .

Optional



- We have looked at two more estimators for unknown population parameters: MLE and MoM.
- We looked at different criteria to compare different estimators: Bias, Efficiency, and MSE.
- The text discusses more properties at the end of Section 6.3 that are more technical.