

M378K Introduction to Mathematical Statistics

Problem Set #17

Relative efficiency.

Definition 17.1. Given two unbiased estimators $\hat{\theta}_1$ and $\hat{\theta}_2$, the efficiency of $\hat{\theta}_1$ relative to $\hat{\theta}_2$ is defined as

$$\text{eff}(\hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2) = \frac{\text{Var}[\hat{\theta}_2]}{\text{Var}[\hat{\theta}_1]}.$$

Problem 17.1. Let Y_1, Y_2 be a random sample from the exponential distribution with the unknown parameter θ .

- (i) The estimator $\hat{\theta}_1 = (Y_1 + Y_2)/2$ for θ is proposed. What is its variance?
- (ii) The estimator $\hat{\theta}_2 = cY_{(1)}$ for θ is proposed. Find the constant c such that $\hat{\theta}_2$ is an unbiased estimator of θ . What is its variance?
- (iii) Calculate the efficiency of $\hat{\theta}_1$ relative to $\hat{\theta}_2$.