Name:

UTeid:

M378K Introduction to Mathematical Statistics
Spring 2025
University of Texas at Austin
In-Term Exam III
Instructor: Milica Čudina

Notes: This is a closed book and closed notes exam. The maximal score on the exam is 100 points.
Time: 50 minutes

All written work handed in by the student is considered to be
their own work, prepared without unauthorized assistance.

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3.1. **Formulas.** If Y has the binomial distribution with parameters n and p, then $p_Y(k) = \mathbb{P}[Y = k] = \binom{n}{k} p^k (1-p)^{n-k}$, for $k = 0, \ldots, n$, $\mathbb{E}[Y] = np$, $\mathrm{Var}[Y] = np(1-p)$. The binomial coefficients are defined as follows for integers $0 \le k \le n$, $\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k!(n-k)!}$. The moment generating function of Y is given by $m_Y(t) = (pe^t + q)^n$.

If Y has a geometric distribution with parameter p, then $p_Y(k) = p(1-p)^k$ for $k = 0, 1, \ldots$, $\mathbb{E}[Y] = \frac{1-p}{p}$, $\mathrm{Var}[Y] = \frac{1-p}{p^2}$. Its mgf is $m_Y(t) = \frac{p}{1-qe^t}$ for t such that $qe^t < 1$.

If Y has a Poisson distribution with parameter λ, then $p_Y(k) = e^{-\lambda}\frac{\lambda^k}{k!}$ for $k = 0, 1, \ldots$, $\mathbb{E}[Y] = \mathrm{Var}[Y] = \lambda$. Its mgf is $m_Y(t) = e^{\lambda(e^t - 1)}$.

If Y has a uniform distribution on $[l, r]$, its density is

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{r-l}\mathbf{1}_{(l,r)}(y),$$

its mean is $\frac{l+r}{2}$, and its variance is $\frac{(r-l)^2}{12}$. Let $U \sim U(0,1)$. The mgf of U is $m_U(t) = \frac{1}{t}(e^t - 1)$.

If Y has the standard normal distribution, then its mean is zero, its variance is one, and its density equals

$$\varphi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2} \quad x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Its mgf is $m_Y(t) = e^{\frac{t^2}{2}}$.

If Y has the exponential distribution with parameter τ, then its cumulative distribution function is $F_Y(y) = 1 - e^{-\frac{y}{\tau}}$ for $y \ge 0$, its probability density function is $f_Y(y) = \frac{1}{\tau}e^{-y/\tau}$ for $y \ge 0$. Also, $\mathbb{E}[Y] = SD[Y] = \tau$. Its mgf is $m_Y(t) = \frac{1}{1-\tau t}$.

The mgf of $Y \sim \Gamma(k, \tau)$ is

$$m_Y(t) = \frac{1}{(1-\tau t)^k} \text{ for } t < 1/\tau.$$

Its expectation is $k\tau$ and its variance is $k\tau^2$. The χ^2−distribution with n degrees of freedom is the special case $\Gamma\left(\frac{n}{2}, 2\right)$

3.2. **DEFINITIONS.**

Problem 3.1. (10 points) Write down the definition of the **bias** of an estimator $\hat{\theta}$ of a parameter θ.

Solution:

$$\text{bias}(\hat{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}[\hat{\theta}] - \theta$$

Problem 3.2. (10 points) Write down the definition of the **mean squared error** of an estimator $\hat{\theta}$ of a parameter θ.

Solution:

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

3.3. **TRUE/FALSE QUESTIONS.**

Problem 3.3. (5 points) Let Z be a standard normal random variable and let Q^2 have the χ^2-distribution with $\nu \geq 2$ degrees of freedom. Assume that Z and Q^2 are independent. Set

$$T = \frac{Z}{\sqrt{\frac{Q^2}{\nu}}}\,.$$

Then, T has a $t-$distribution with ν degrees of freedom. *True or false? Why?*

Solution: TRUE
From the definition of the $t-$distribution, we know that

$$T = \frac{Z}{\sqrt{\frac{Q^2}{\nu}}}$$

has the $t-$ distribution with ν degrees of freedom.

3.4. **Free-response problems.**

Please, explain carefully all your statements and assumptions. Numerical results or single-word answers without an explanation (even if they're correct) are worth 0 points.

Problem 3.4. (15 points) Let $Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_n$ be a random sample from a population with a uniform distribution on $(\theta, \theta+1)$. Then,

$$\hat{\theta}_n = \bar{Y}_n - \frac{1}{2}$$

is a **consistent estimator** for θ

Solution: We can use the same theorem we used in class, i.e., we can demonstrate that

- $\hat{\theta}_n$ is *unbiased*; and
- $\mathrm{Var}[\hat{\theta}_n] \to 0$, as $n \to \infty$.

To show that $\hat{\theta}_n$ is unbiased, we must prove that

$$\mathbb{E}[\hat{\theta}_n] = \theta.$$

From the given definition of $\hat{\theta}_n$, we have

$$\mathbb{E}[\hat{\theta}_n] = \mathbb{E}\left[\bar{Y}_n - \tfrac{1}{2}\right] = \mathbb{E}[Y_1] - \frac{1}{2} = \theta + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} = \theta.$$

Hence, $\hat{\theta}_n$ is, indeed, unbiased.

As for the other claim, we have that

$$\mathrm{Var}[\hat{\theta}_n] = \mathrm{Var}\left[\bar{Y}_n - \frac{1}{2}\right] = \mathrm{Var}[\bar{Y}_n].$$

Since $Y_1, \dots, Y_n$ is a random sample, the additive formula for the variance applies. So, we get

$$\mathrm{Var}[\hat{\theta}_n] = \frac{\mathrm{Var}[Y_1]}{n} = \frac{1}{12n}\,.$$

The above converges to 0 as $n \to \infty$ which concludes our proof.

Problem 3.5. (20 points) Let $Y_1, Y_2, \ldots, Y_n$ be a random sample from $E(\tau)$. Consider the following two estimators for τ:

$$\hat{\theta}_1 = \bar{Y} \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\theta}_2 = nY_{(1)}$$

You know that $\hat{\theta}_2$ is unbiased and that $\mathrm{MSE}(\hat{\theta}_2) = \tau^2$. Find the efficiency of $\hat{\theta}_1$ relative to $\hat{\theta}_2$.

Solution: We have shown in class (multiple times) that $\bar{Y}$ is unbiased for the population mean. So, $\hat{\theta}_1$ is unbiased.

By definition, the relative efficiency we are looking for is

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

We have shown in class that

$$\mathrm{Var}[\hat{\theta}_1] = \mathrm{Var}[\bar{Y}] = \frac{\tau^2}{n}.$$

From the given information, we know that

$$\mathrm{Var}[\hat{\theta}_2] = \mathrm{MSE}(\hat{\theta}_2) = \tau^2.$$

So, the relative efficiency is

$$\mathrm{eff}(\hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2) = \frac{\tau^2}{\frac{\tau^2}{n}} = n.$$

Problem 3.6. (20 points) Let $Y_1, \dots, Y_n$ be a random sample from an exponential distribution with an unknown parameter τ. What is the maximum likelihood estimator for τ? Make sure that you prove your claim!

Solution: Let $y_1, \dots, y_n$ represent a set of observations of the above random sample. Then, the likelihood function is

$$L(\tau; y_1, \dots, y_n) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \left(\frac{1}{\tau} e^{-\frac{y_i}{\tau}} \right) = \frac{1}{\tau^n} e^{-\frac{1}{\tau} \sum y_i}.$$

The log-likelihood function is

$$\ell(\tau; y_1, \dots, y_n) = -n \ln(\tau) - \tfrac{1}{\tau} \sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i.$$

Differentiating with respect to τ, we get

$$\ell'(\tau; y_1, \dots, y_n) = -\frac{n}{\tau} + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} y_i}{\tau^2}.$$

Equating the above to 0 and solving for τ, we get

$$\hat{\tau}_{MLE} = \bar{Y}.$$

3.5. **MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS.**

Problem 3.7. (5 points) In a sample $Y_1, \dots, Y_n$ from the uniform distribution on $(0, \theta)$ with parameter $\theta > 0$, $U = cY_{(n)}$ is a pivotal quantity if the value of the constant c is

(a) $\frac{1}{2}$
(b) $1/\theta$
(c) θ
(d) $\frac{n+1}{n}$
(e) none of the above

Solution: The correct answer is **(b)**.
The pivotal quantity

$$U = \frac{Y_{(n)}}{\theta} = \max(Y_1, \dots, Y_n)/\theta$$

has the distribution with cdf y^n on $[0, 1]$.

Problem 3.8. (5 points) In a random sample of 100 voters 64 prefer candidate A and the rest prefer candidate B. The (approximate) $(1-\alpha)$-confidence interval for the parameter p (the population proportion of A voters) is of the form

$$[0.64 - z_{\alpha/2} \times c, 0.64 + z_{\alpha/2} \times c],$$

where $z_{\alpha/2} = \texttt{qnorm}(1 - \alpha/2, 0, 1)$.
The value of c is:

(a) 0.016
(b) 0.024
(c) 0.036
(d) 0.048
(e) ≥ 0.05

Solution: The correct answer is **(d)** since $c = \sqrt{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})/n} = \sqrt{0.64 \times 0.36/100} = 0.048$.

Problem 3.9. (5 points) A sample of size $n = 2$ from normal distribution with unknown μ and σ is collected and the data are

$$y_1 = 1 \text{ and } y_2 = 5.$$

The right end-point of a symmetric 95% confidence interval for σ^2 is

(a) 8/`qchisq(0.975,2)`
(b) 16/`qchisq(0.025,1)`
(c) 8/`qchisq(0.025,1)`
(d) 16/`qchisq(0.975,2)`
(e) **None of the above**

Solution: The correct answer is **(c)**.
The confidence interval is based on the pivotal quantity $(n-1)S^2/\sigma^2$ whose distribution is $\chi^2(n-1)$. In this case, $n = 2$, $\bar{Y} = 3$ so that $(n-1)s^2 = (y_1 - \bar{y})^2 + (y_2 - \bar{y})^2 = 2^2 + 2^2 = 8$, which produces the interval [8/`qchisq(0.975,1)`, 8/`qchisq(0.025,1)`].

Problem 3.10. (5 points)Let $Y_1, \dots, Y_5$ be a random sample from the normal distribution $N(\mu, 2)$, with an unknown mean μ and the known standard deviation $\sigma = 2$. The collected data turn out to be

$$y_1 = 2,\ y_2 = 5,\ y_3 = 1,\ y_4 = 4,\ y_5 = 3.$$

The right end-point $\hat{\mu}_R$ of the symmetric 90%-confidence interval $[\hat{\mu}_L, \hat{\mu}_R]$ for μ is

(a) $3 + \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}}\texttt{qnorm}(0.95, 0, 1)$.
(b) $3 - \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}}\texttt{qnorm}(0.95, 0, 1)$.
(c) $3 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}}\texttt{qt}(0.95, 4)$.
(d) $3 + \frac{1}{5}\texttt{qnorm}(0.9, 5)$.
(e) none of the above

Solution: The correct answer is **(a)**.
The confidence interval in this case is based on the pivotal quantity $\sqrt{5}\left(\frac{\mu-\bar{Y}}{2}\right)$ which has the $N(0,1)$ distribution. Therefore, for $a = \texttt{qnorm}(0.95, 0, 1)$ we have

$$\mathbb{P}\left[-a \le \sqrt{5}\left(\tfrac{\mu-\bar{Y}}{2}\right) \le a\right] = 0.90.$$

We solve for μ to obtain

$$\mathbb{P}[\bar{Y} - \tfrac{2}{\sqrt{5}}a \le \mu \le \bar{Y} + \tfrac{2}{\sqrt{5}}a] = 0.90.$$

For our data set $\bar{y} = 3$, so $\hat{\mu}_R = 3 + \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}}\texttt{qnorm}(0.95, 0, 1)$.