

I'll perform this estimation via GMM. For simplicity, I'll weight by the identity matrix.

$$J_n(\mu, \sigma^2) = n\bar{g}(\mu, \sigma^2)' \mathbf{I} \bar{g}(\mu, \sigma^2) \\ = \frac{1}{n} \left(\left[\sum (x_t - \mu) \right]^2 + \left[\sum \{ (x_t - \mu)^2 - \sigma^2 \} \right]^2 + \left[\sum (x_t - \mu)^3 \right]^2 + \left[\sum \{ (x_t - \mu)^4 - 3\sigma^4 \} \right]^2 \right)$$

For now, I'm imposing that my Newton-Raphson algorithm needs analytic expressions for the gradient and Hessian. The gradient in this case is

$$\nabla J_n(\mu, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{n} \begin{bmatrix} -2n \sum (x_t - \mu) + 2 \left[\sum \{ (x_t - \mu)^2 - \sigma^2 \} \right] (-2) \sum (x_t - \mu) \\ + 2 \left[\sum (x_t - \mu)^3 \right] (-3) \sum (x_t - \mu)^2 + 2 \left[\sum \{ (x_t - \mu)^4 - 3\sigma^4 \} \right] (-4) \sum (x_t - \mu)^3 \\ 2 \left[\sum \{ (x_t - \mu)^2 - \sigma^2 \} \right] (-1)n + 2 \left[\sum \{ (x_t - \mu)^4 - 3\sigma^4 \} \right] (-6)\sigma^2 \end{bmatrix} \\ = \frac{1}{n} \begin{bmatrix} -2n \sum (x_t - \mu) - 4 \left[\sum \{ (x_t - \mu)^2 - \sigma^2 \} \right] \sum (x_t - \mu) \\ - 6 \left[\sum (x_t - \mu)^3 \right] \sum (x_t - \mu)^2 - 8 \left[\sum \{ (x_t - \mu)^4 - 3\sigma^4 \} \right] \sum (x_t - \mu)^3 \\ - 2n \left[\sum \{ (x_t - \mu)^2 - \sigma^2 \} \right] - 12n \left[\sum \{ (x_t - \mu)^4 - 3\sigma^4 \} \right] \sigma^2 \end{bmatrix}$$