

Methods of Point Estimation

Goal: Introduce two methods $\xrightarrow{\text{Method of moments}}$ Maximum Likelihood Estimation

Suppose

Population has distribution $\xrightarrow{\text{pmf/pdf of } X}$ $f(x)$

Let $\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{random sample of size } n}$ from population.

Then for $k=1, 2, 3, \dots$

(1) The k^{th} population moment or the k^{th} distribution moment $\xrightarrow{\text{The expected value of the } k^{\text{th}} \text{ population moment}}$ $E(X^k)$.

(2) The k^{th} sample moment for the random sample $\xrightarrow{\text{for the random sample }} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^k$

The Method of Moments

If there are m parameters $\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3, \dots, \theta_m$ that we want to estimate using $\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$

get m -equations by "equating" the first m population moments to the first m sample moments

Play that you can solve these equations to get estimators $\hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2, \dots, \hat{\theta}_m$ for $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_m$ resp.

Example

① Sampling from exponential distribution

Suppose $\{X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_n\}$ random sample from $\exp(\lambda)$

only one parameter to estimate, i.e. λ .

only need to calculate first moments.

first population moment $\xrightarrow{\text{moment}} E(X) = \frac{1}{\lambda}$

first sample moment $\xrightarrow{\text{moment}} \frac{1}{n} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i \right) = \bar{X}$ Sample mean

Equating the population moments to sample moments:

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} = \bar{X} \Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{1}{\bar{X}}$$

Method of moments estimator for λ $\xrightarrow{\text{estimator for } \lambda} \hat{\lambda} = \frac{1}{\bar{X}}$

② Sampling from Normal distribution

$\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$ coming from $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$

want to estimate μ and σ^2 ($i.e. k=2$)

(1) Calculate k^{th} population moments:

$$k=1 \xrightarrow{\text{moment}} E(X) = \mu$$

$k=2 \xrightarrow{\text{moment}} E(X^2)$, recall awesome identity

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma^2 &= V(X) = E(X^2) - (E(X))^2 \\ &= E(X^2) - \mu^2 \\ &\therefore E(X^2) = \sigma^2 + \mu^2 \end{aligned}$$

Equating population moments to sample moments:

$$E(X) = \mu = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i = \bar{X}$$

$$E(X^2) = \sigma^2 + \mu^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2$$

The moment estimators are

$$\hat{\mu} = \bar{X} \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 - \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i \right)^2$$

③ Sampling from Gamma Distribution

$\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$ from Gamma(α, β)

$\alpha \xrightarrow{\text{shape}}$ $\beta \xrightarrow{\text{scale}}$

Recall: $E(X) = \alpha\beta$ $V(X) = \alpha\beta^2$

$$\begin{aligned} E(X^2) - E(X)^2 &= \alpha\beta^2 \\ \Rightarrow E(X^2) &= \alpha\beta^2 + (E(X))^2 \end{aligned}$$

Population moments are

$$\begin{aligned} E(X) &= \alpha\beta \\ E(X^2) &= \alpha\beta^2 + (\alpha\beta)^2 \\ &= \alpha\beta^2(1+\alpha) \end{aligned}$$

Equating sample moments to population moments we get

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{X} &= \alpha\beta \\ \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 &= \alpha\beta^2(1+\alpha) \end{aligned}$$

Let $A = \bar{X}$ and $B = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2$

need to solve the following for α, β

$$A = \alpha\beta \quad \text{and} \quad B = \alpha\beta^2(1+\alpha)$$

$$\Rightarrow \beta = \frac{A}{\bar{X}}, \therefore B = \alpha \cdot \frac{A^2}{\bar{X}^2}(1+\alpha)$$

$$\therefore \alpha B = A^2 + A^2 \alpha \Rightarrow \alpha(B - A^2) = A^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha = \frac{A^2}{B - A^2}$$

The method of moment estimators are:

$$\hat{\alpha} = \frac{\bar{X}^2}{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^2 - \bar{X}^2}, \quad \hat{\beta} = \frac{\bar{X}}{\hat{\alpha}}$$

Maximum Likelihood Estimation

Suppose $\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{random sample from pmf/pdf}}$ with pdf/pmf: $f(x)$.

Let $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \xrightarrow{\text{joint pdf/pdf of } X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n}$

X_i 's are independent,

$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i)$$

Now, given sample data $\xrightarrow{\text{from sample data}} \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$

want to estimate parameters $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_m$

The Likelihood function for sample data $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ fixed sample data unknown parameters

Only over all possible choices of parameters

"Likelihood function" is function of the parameters $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_m$ given sample data $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$

Maximum likelihood estimation $\xrightarrow{\text{find choices of parameters } \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_m}$ which maximize the likelihood function for the observed sample data $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$

That is,

find $\hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2, \dots, \hat{\theta}_m$ such that

$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; \hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2, \dots, \hat{\theta}_m) \geq f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_m)$$

for all possible values of $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_m$

Since $\ln L$ is an increasing function,

$$\lambda = \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right)^{-1} \text{ maximizes } L(\lambda) \Rightarrow \lambda = \left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right)^{-1} \text{ maximizes the likelihood function } g(\lambda)$$

$$\therefore \text{MLE for } \lambda \xrightarrow{\text{MLE}} \hat{\lambda} = \frac{1}{\bar{X}}$$

Note: this is the same as the moment estimator for λ .

② Sampling from Normal Distribution

$\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{random sample from }} N(\mu, \sigma^2)$

X_i has pdf $\xrightarrow{\text{pdf of } X_i} f(x_i; \mu, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{(x_i-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$

The likelihood function is given as

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; \mu, \sigma^2) &= \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i; \mu, \sigma^2) \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \right)^n e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2} \end{aligned}$$

so that log-likelihood function is

$$\begin{aligned} \ln(f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; \mu, \sigma^2)) &= \ln \left(\prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i; \mu, \sigma^2) \right) \\ &= \frac{n}{2} \ln \left(\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \right) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2 \\ h(\mu, \sigma^2) &= \frac{n}{2} \ln \left(\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \right) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2 \end{aligned}$$

Need to maximize $h(\mu, \sigma^2)$ $\xrightarrow{\text{calculate critical values}}$

$$\left(\frac{\partial h}{\partial \mu} = 0 \text{ and } \frac{\partial h}{\partial \sigma^2} = 0 \right)$$

use Jacobian matrix to show that these are max.

We can show that the MLE's are

$$\hat{\mu} = \bar{X} \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2$$

Note: While $\hat{\mu}$ is unbiased, $\hat{\sigma}^2$ is biased!

Properties of MLEs

① Invariance Principle $\xrightarrow{\text{If } \hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2, \dots, \hat{\theta}_m \text{ are MLE's}}$

for $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_m$, then $\hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2, \dots, \hat{\theta}_m$ is an MLE for $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_m$

② Large Sample Behavior $\xrightarrow{\text{When sample size is large, the MLE } \hat{\theta} \text{ for } \theta \text{ is almost always unbiased (i.e. } E(\hat{\theta}) \approx \theta \text{) and has variance that is either small or (for nearly as small as) can be achieved by any estimator.}}$

The MLE $\hat{\theta}$ is exactly or almost always the MVUE for θ .

Method of Moments.

Population moments.

Sample moment

Quantities involving the parameters of interest

Quantities involving the random sample

Want: To repackage the problem of finding estimators.

problem of finding solutions to a system of equation.

n -linear equations in n -variables

Under some condition can guarantee solutions

$\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ random sample pofm pdf $f(x)$.
If $k=1, 2, 3, \dots$

k^{th} population moment = $E(X^k)$

For example $k=1$ gives
 $E(X) = \bar{x}$ = mean of the population

$k=2$, want $E(X^2)$

$$V(X) = E(X^2) - (E(X))^2$$

$$\Rightarrow E(X^2) = V(X) + (E(X))^2$$

$$E(X^2) = \sigma^2 + \mu^2$$

The k^{th} sample moment = Avg of $\{x_i^k, i=1, 2, \dots, n\}$

$$= \frac{x_1^k + x_2^k + \dots + x_n^k}{n}$$

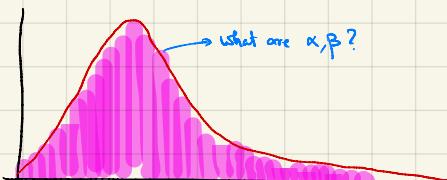
Method of moments: If estimating $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_m$

Calculate the m -population moments and the m -sample moments.

And equating these m -moments gives m -equations that

involve $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_m$ and x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n

Solve for θ_i 's.



$$\text{data} = \{x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_{150}\}$$

Use these 150 numbers to estimate α, β .

Suppose Sampling from Gamma(α, β)

$\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ rand sample

$$X_i \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta)$$

Want estimators for α, β .

Need to calculate the first two population and sample moments.

$$\Rightarrow E(X) = \mu = \alpha\beta$$

$$\Rightarrow E(X^2) = ? \quad \text{Note } V(X) = E(X^2) - (E(X))^2$$

$$\Rightarrow E(X^2) = V(X) + (E(X))^2$$

$$= \alpha\beta^2 + (\alpha\beta)^2$$

$$E(X^2) = \alpha\beta^2(1+\alpha)$$

Equating population moments to sample moments.

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

$$\alpha\beta^2(1+\alpha) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 = B$$

$\alpha, \beta > 0$

$$\alpha\beta = A \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha\beta^2(1+\alpha) = B$$

$$B = \frac{A}{\alpha}$$

$$\alpha \left(\frac{A}{\alpha} \right)^2 (1+\alpha) = B$$

$$\alpha \frac{A^2}{\alpha^2} (1+\alpha) = B$$

$$A^2(1+\alpha) = \alpha B \Rightarrow A^2 + A^2\alpha = \alpha B$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha(B - A^2) = A^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha = \frac{A^2}{B - A^2}$$

Method of moment estimators are

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

Use R to calculate empirical bias of $\hat{\alpha}$ and $\hat{\beta}$

Given a random sample $\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$ coming from $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$$

$$S_{xx} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2}{n-1} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{→ squared deviations} \\ \text{of } X_i \text{ from the} \\ \text{sample mean } \bar{X}. \end{matrix}$$

$$\underline{s^2 = \frac{1}{(n-1)} S_{xx}}$$

$$\underline{\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n} S_{xx}} \quad (\text{if } X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2))$$

Want to study/understand S_{xx} .

Goal: Calculate $E(S_{xx})$?

$$\begin{aligned} S_{xx} &= \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2 \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu + \mu - \bar{X})^2 \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n ((X_i - \mu) - (\bar{X} - \mu))^2 \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n ((X_i - \mu)^2 - 2(X_i - \mu)(\bar{X} - \mu) + (\bar{X} - \mu)^2) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 - 2(\bar{X} - \mu) \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu) + \sum_{i=1}^n (\bar{X} - \mu)^2 \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 - 2(\bar{X} - \mu)(n\bar{X} - n\mu) + n(\bar{X} - \mu)^2 \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 - 2n(\bar{X} - \mu)^2 + n(\bar{X} - \mu)^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$S_{xx} = \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 - \frac{(\bar{X} - \mu)^2}{n}$$

If $Z \sim N(0, 1)$ $\Rightarrow Z^2 \sim \chi^2$ dist with df = 1.

$$\frac{S_{xx}}{\sigma^2} = \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{X_i - \mu}{\sigma} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{\bar{X} - \mu}{\sigma/\sqrt{n}} \right)^2$$

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$$\ln(a \cdot b) = \ln(a) + \ln(b), \quad \ln(a^n) = n \ln(a), \quad \ln(\exp(x)) = x$$

Maximum Likelihood Estimator

Suppose population has distribution whose pdf/pdf: $f(x)$.

Given a random sample:

$\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\} \rightsquigarrow$ independent random variables.

What is the joint pdf of $x_1, x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n$.

$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = f(x_1) \cdot f(x_2) \cdots f(x_n) \\ = \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i)$$

Likelihood function: Suppose you want to estimate

$$(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_m) \in \Theta_1 \times \Theta_2 \times \dots \times \Theta_m = \Theta$$

Given sample data (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) .

Likelihood function:

$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; \underbrace{\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_m}_{\text{fixed}}) = f(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_m | (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)) \\ \underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{\text{function of the parameters}} \\ \text{given sample data } (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n).$$

The maximum likelihood Estimates are choices of $\hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2, \dots, \hat{\theta}_m$ which maximize the likelihood function.

$\hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2, \dots, \hat{\theta}_m$ satisfy

$$f(\hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2, \dots, \hat{\theta}_m | (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)) \geq f(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_m | (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)) \\ \forall (\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_m) \in \Theta.$$

Suppose $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ random sample from $\exp(\lambda)$.

The x_i 's have pdf $f(x_i; \lambda) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x_i}$

Likelihood function:

$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; \lambda) = \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i; \lambda) = \prod_{i=1}^n \lambda e^{-\lambda x_i} \\ = \lambda e^{-\lambda x_1} \cdot \lambda e^{-\lambda x_2} \cdots \lambda e^{-\lambda x_n} \\ = \lambda^n e^{-\lambda \sum_{i=1}^n x_i} = \lambda^n \exp(-\lambda \sum_{i=1}^n x_i)$$

$$g(\lambda) = \lambda^n \exp(-\lambda \sum_{i=1}^n x_i)$$

want to maximize as a function of λ .

Log likelihood function: $l(\lambda) = \ln(g(\lambda))$

$$l(\lambda) = n \ln(\lambda) - \lambda \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$$

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i} \text{ is a maximizer.}$$

$$\boxed{\lambda = \frac{1}{\bar{x}}} \rightsquigarrow \text{MLE for } \lambda.$$

If $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n; \mu, \sigma^2) = \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i; \mu, \sigma^2) \\ = \prod_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{(x_i-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} \right) \\ = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \right)^n e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i-\mu)^2}$$

The rule's are:

$$\hat{\mu} = \bar{x}$$

$\underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{\text{unbiased.}}$

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

$\underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{\text{biased.}}$

Question: What good is it to accept a biased estimator for σ^2 ?

Notion of "Goodness of an estimator".



Mean - squared - error.

Suppose $\hat{\theta}$ estimates θ the mean squared error of $\hat{\theta}$



want to talk about deviations.



$E((\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2)$ = expected value / mean of the squared deviations of $\hat{\theta}$ from θ .

$$\begin{aligned} E((\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2) &= E(\hat{\theta}^2 - 2\hat{\theta}\theta + \theta^2) \\ &= E(\hat{\theta}^2) - 2\theta \cdot E(\hat{\theta}) + E(\theta^2) \end{aligned}$$

$\hat{\theta}^2$ (constant).

$$\begin{aligned} V(\hat{\theta}) &= E(\hat{\theta}^2) - (E(\hat{\theta}))^2 \\ \Rightarrow E(\hat{\theta}^2) &= V(\hat{\theta}) + (E(\hat{\theta}))^2 \end{aligned}$$

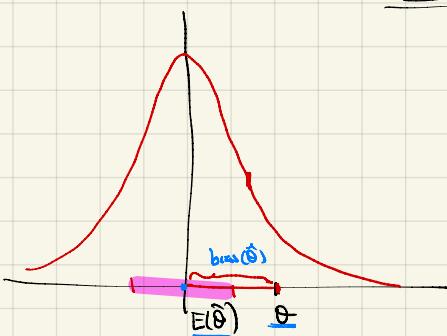
$$= V(\hat{\theta}) + \underbrace{(E(\hat{\theta}))^2}_{\text{Bias}(\hat{\theta})} - 2\theta \cdot E(\hat{\theta}) + \theta^2$$

$$= V(\hat{\theta}) + (E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta)^2$$

$MSE(\hat{\theta}) = \underline{V(\hat{\theta})} + \underline{(Bias(\hat{\theta}))^2}$

∴ if $\hat{\theta}$ was unbiased $\Rightarrow MSE(\hat{\theta}) = \underline{V(\hat{\theta})}$

↓
MVUE's.



Suppose $\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n\}$ is from $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$S^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} S_{xx} = \frac{1}{(n-1)} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2 \xrightarrow{\text{unbiased estimator}} \text{for } \sigma^2$$

$$\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n} S_{xx} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2 \xrightarrow{\text{MLE}} \text{for } \sigma^2$$

Define a new estimator for σ^2

$$\hat{\theta}_k = k \cdot S_{xx} = k \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2$$

$$\hat{\theta}_k = \hat{\sigma}^2, \hat{\theta}_{k+1} = S^2$$

Can you calculate the MSE of $\hat{\theta}_k$?

$MSE(\hat{\theta}_k) = \text{function depending } k \text{ and } \sigma^2$
 $= \text{quadratic function in } k$

Minimizing $MSE(\hat{\theta}_k)$ as a function of k gives

the $MSE(\hat{\theta}_k)$ is the smallest when $k = \frac{1}{n+1}$

$\hat{\theta} = \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2$ is the estimator
 that minimizes
 $MSE(\hat{\theta})$.