



Why

What if the best estimator for a real-value random variable if we consider the squared loss.

Definition

Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{P})$ be a probability space and $x : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ a random variable.

A minimum mean squared error estimator or MMSE estimator or least square estimator is a value $\xi \in \mathbf{R}$ which minimizes $\mathbf{E}(x - \xi)^2$.

Proposition 1. *There is a unique MMSE estimator and it is given by $\mathbf{E}(x)$.*

Vector Case

Let $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbf{P})$ be a probability space and $y : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ a random variable.¹

A minimum mean squared error estimator or MMSE estimator or least square estimator is a value $\xi \in \mathbf{R}$ which minimizes $\mathbf{E}|x - \xi|^2$.

Proposition 2. *There is a unique MMSE estimator and it is given by $\mathbf{E}(y)$.*

¹Future editions might collapse this into the previous case.

Case with observation

Let $x : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ and $y : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^m$. A *minimum mean squared error estimator* or *MMSE estimator* or *least square estimator* for x given y is an estimator $f : \mathbf{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbf{R}^n$ which minimizes $\mathbf{E}|f(x) - y|^2$.

