

MITx: 14.310x Data Analysis for Social Scientists

Helj



#### **Bookmarks**

- Module 1: The Basics of R and Introduction to the Course
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- Module 2: Fundamentals of Probability, Random Variables, Distributions, and Joint Distributions
- Module 3: Gathering and Collecting Data, Ethics, and Kernel Density Estimates
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# Maximum Likelihood Estimation - Quiz

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## Question 1

1.0/1.0 point (graded)

Which of the following is true about the maximum likelihood estimator? (Select all that apply.)

- a. The maximum likelihood estimator is the value of the parameter which corresponds to the distribution that most likely produced the observed data.
- b. The maximum likelihood estimator is the value of the parameter which describes the distribution for which the peak of the distribution is the same as the peak of a histogram that most closely matches the histogram made from the observed sample.
- c. The maximum likelihood estimator is always unbiased.
- d. To find the maximum likelihood estimator, we equate population and sample moments.



#### **Explanation**

- Module 5: Moments of a Random Variable,
   Applications to Auctions,
   Intro to Regression
- Module 6: Special
   <u>Distributions, the</u>

   <u>Sample Mean, the</u>
   <u>Central Limit Theorem,</u>
   and Estimation
- Module 7: Assessing and Deriving Estimators - Confidence Intervals, and Hypothesis Testing

### <u>Assessing and Deriving</u> Estimators

Finger Exercises due Nov 14, 2016 at 05:00 IST

# <u>Confidence Intervals and</u> <u>Hypothesis Testing</u>

Finger Exercises due Nov 14, 2016 at 05:00 IST

#### Module 7: Homework

<u>Homework due Nov 07, 2016 at 05:00 IST</u>

The maximum likelihood estimator is the value of the parameter associated with the member of the family of distributions we are examining that "best fits" the observed data. (a) and (b) are consistent with this definition. (c) must be false; we learnt previously that the nth order statistic, which is biased, is a maximum likelihood estimator. (d) is how we find estimators using the method of moments.

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You have used 1 of 2 attempts

#### Question 2

1.0/1.0 point (graded)

We find the maximum likelihood estimator by:

- ullet a. Maximizing the likelihood function, L( heta|x), over the parameter heta. ullet
- ullet b. Maximizing the likelihood function, L(x| heta), over the parameter heta.
- ullet c. Maximizing the likelihood function, L( heta|x), over the parameter x.
- ullet d. Maximizing the likelihood function, L(x| heta), over the parameter x.

#### **Explanation**

The likelihood function tells us the likelihood that the parameter of the underlying distribution is  $\theta$  given our observations x -- that is, it is function of our parameter  $\theta$  conditional on x (hence the  $\theta|x$ ).

Exit Survey

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Discussion

**Topic:** Module 7 / Maximum Likelihood Estimation - Quiz

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