

Statistical Signal Processing

Lecture 5

chapter 1: parameter estimation: deterministic parameters

- some optimality properties
- Maximum Likelihood estimation, examples
- Fischer Information Matrix
- Cramer-Rao lower bound on the MSE, example
- linear model
- asymptotic (large sample) properties
- recap: estimator properties and estimators
- simplified estimators: BLUE, (W)LS, method of moments



Asymptotic Properties

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Asymptotic (Large Sample) Properties

- asymptotic: $n \to \infty$
- asymptotically unbiased: $\lim_{n\to\infty} b_n(\theta) = 0$, $\forall \theta \in \Theta$
- Example (mean and variance of Gaussian i.i.d. variables):

$$E[\widehat{\sigma^2}_{ML}|\mu,\sigma^2] = \frac{n-1}{n}\sigma^2$$

$$b_n = \frac{n-1}{n}\sigma^2 - \sigma^2 = -\frac{\sigma^2}{n} \xrightarrow{n \to \infty} 0$$

 $\widehat{\sigma^2}_{ML}$: biased but asymptotically unbiased

- consistency : convergence of (a series of random vectors:) $\widehat{\theta}_n \to \theta$
 - convergence in probability
 - mean square convergence
 - convergence with probability one
 - convergence in distribution



Consistency

the sequence of estimates $\widehat{\theta}(Y_n)$ is said to be

• *simply* or *weakly consistent* if

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \Pr_{Y_n \mid \theta} \left\{ \|\widehat{\theta}(Y_n) - \theta\| < \epsilon \right\} = 1, \ \forall \epsilon > 0, \ \forall \theta \in \Theta$$

• mean-square consistent if

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} \mathbf{MSE}_n = \lim_{n\to\infty} E_{Y_n|\theta} \|\widehat{\theta}(Y_n) - \theta\|^2 = 0, \quad \forall \theta \in \Theta$$

• strongly consistent if

$$\Pr_{Y_{\infty}|\theta}\{\lim_{n\to\infty}\widehat{\theta}(Y_n)=\theta\}=1, \ \forall \theta\in\Theta$$

• Any of these 3 consistencies implies asymptotic unbiasedness. E.g. for mean-square:

$$\underbrace{E_{Y_n|\theta} \|\widehat{\theta}(Y_n) - \theta\|^2}_{\mathbf{MSE}} = \|\underbrace{E_{Y_n|\theta}\widehat{\theta}(Y_n) - \theta}_{\mathbf{bias}}\|^2 + \underbrace{E_{Y_n|\theta} \|\widehat{\theta}(Y_n) - E_{Y_n|\theta}\widehat{\theta}\|^2}_{\mathbf{variance}} \to 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{n \to \infty} E_{Y_n|\theta}\widehat{\theta}(Y_n) = \theta$$



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Asymptotic Properties

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Consistency (2)

- example: i.i.d. $y_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$, $\theta = \mu$, σ^2 known. $\widehat{\mu}_{ML} = \overline{y}$ $Var(\widehat{\mu}_{ML}) = \frac{\sigma^2}{n} \xrightarrow{n \to \infty} 0 \text{ mean-square consistent}$
- ullet example: i.i.d. $y_i \sim U[\theta \frac{1}{2}, \theta + \frac{1}{2}], \quad \widehat{\theta}_{ML} = \frac{y_{min} + y_{max}}{2}$ $\begin{cases} y_{min} \to \theta \frac{1}{2} & \text{in probability} \\ y_{max} \to \theta + \frac{1}{2} & \text{in probability} \end{cases}$ weak consistency $\widehat{\theta}_{ML} \to \theta \quad \text{in probability}$

mean-square consistency can also be shown



Asymptotic Normality

- if $\widehat{\theta}_n$ consistent, then $\widetilde{\theta} \to 0$ in some sense
- introduce a magnifying glass: $d_n(\widehat{\theta}_n \theta)$ where $0 < d_{n-1} \le d_n \to \infty$
- convergence in distribution: weaker than the 3 forms of convergence of sequences of random vectors mentioned before
- if $d_n(\widehat{\theta}_n \theta) \stackrel{in \, dist.}{\longrightarrow} \xi$, some random vector, then the distribution of ξ useful as a measure for the limiting behavior of $\widehat{\theta}_n$
- usually $d_n = \sqrt{n}$
- $\widehat{\theta}_n$ consistent asymptotically normal (CAN): if $\widehat{\theta}_n$ simply consistent and $d_n(\widehat{\theta}_n-\theta) \stackrel{in\, dist.}{\longrightarrow} \mathcal{N}(0,\Xi(\theta))$ CAN implies asympt. unbiased (which requires that bias $\longrightarrow 0$ faster than $\frac{1}{d_n}$), Ξ = asymptotic normalized covariance of $\widehat{\theta}_n$. We say that $\widehat{\theta}_n=\theta+\mathcal{O}_p(\frac{1}{d_n})$
- distinguish $\Xi(\theta)$ from $V(\theta) = \lim_{n \to \infty} d_n^2 \, C_{\tilde{\theta}\tilde{\theta}}(\theta)$ which may not even exist for a CAN estimate (if $\hat{\theta}_n$ is simply but not mean-square consistent). $V(\theta)$ exists for a mean-square consistent $\hat{\theta}_n$, but is not necessarily $= \Xi(\theta)$.
- Hence CAN can be used to formulate *interval estimators* on the basis of *point estimators*.



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Asymptotic Propertie

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Asymptotic Optimality of ML

- asymptotic normalized information matrix : $J_0(\theta) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{d_n^2} J_n(\theta)$ if it exists $(J_0(\theta))$ = asymptotic average information per data sample y_n if $d_n = \sqrt{n}$
- best asymptotically normal (BAN): CAN and $\Xi(\theta) = J_0^{-1}(\theta)$ also called asymptotically efficient
- under some regularity conditions (maximum of the likelihood function unique, y_i given θ i.i.d.,...) the ML estimate is strongly consistent and BAN with $d_n = \sqrt{n}$ (\Rightarrow another use of the CRB). In particular, the ML estimate is
 - asymptotically unbiased
 - asymptotically efficient (i.i.d.: $J_n = nJ_1 \implies J_0 = J_1$)
 - asymptotically normal
- example: i.i.d. $y_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$, $\theta = \mu$, σ^2 known. $\widehat{\mu}_{ML} = \overline{y}$

$$\widehat{\mu}_{ML} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n}) \longrightarrow \sqrt{n}(\widehat{\mu}_{ML} - \mu) \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2), \ J_n = \frac{n}{\sigma^2} \Rightarrow J_0^{-1} = \sigma^2 = \Xi(\theta)$$



Recap: Properties of Estimators $\widehat{\theta}(Y)$

small sample (finite n):

- bias: $b_{\hat{\theta}}(\theta) = E_{Y|\theta} \hat{\theta}(Y) \theta$ (= 0, $\forall \theta \in \Theta$: unbiased)
- error correlation: $R_{\tilde{\theta}\tilde{\theta}} = E_{Y|\theta} \left(\widehat{\theta}(Y) \theta \right) \left(\widehat{\theta}(Y) \theta \right)^T$

Cramer-Rao Bound : $\widehat{\theta}$ unbiased: $R_{\widetilde{\theta}\widetilde{\theta}} = C_{\widetilde{\theta}\widetilde{\theta}} = C_{\widehat{\theta}\widetilde{\theta}}$

$$C_{\tilde{\theta}\tilde{\theta}} \geq J^{-1}(\theta)$$
 , $J(\theta) = -E_{Y|\theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left(\frac{\partial \ln f(Y|\theta)}{\partial \theta} \right)^T$ information matrix

efficient:
$$C_{\tilde{\theta}\tilde{\theta}}=J^{-1}(\theta)\;,\;\forall \theta\in\Theta\quad\Rightarrow\quad\widehat{\theta}(Y)\;\mathrm{is}\;\mathrm{UMVUE}$$

large sample $(n \to \infty)$:

- asymptotically unbiased: $\lim_{n\to\infty} b_{\hat{\theta}}(\theta) = 0, \ \forall \theta \in \Theta$
- consistency (weak, in mean square, strong): ⇒ asymptotically unbiased
- asymptotic normality:



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deterministic parameter estimation

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Recap: Estimation Techniques

- Uniformly Minimum Variance Unbiased Estimator (UMVUE): complicated (via "sufficient statistics")
- Maximum likelihood (ML): $\widehat{\theta}_{ML} = \arg \max_{\theta} f(Y|\theta)$

Qualities:

$$\diamondsuit$$
 if \exists efficient $\widehat{\theta} = \widehat{\theta}_{eff}$ and $\widehat{\theta}_{ML}$ is obtained from $\frac{\partial \ln f(Y|\theta)}{\partial \theta} = 0$
 $\Rightarrow \widehat{\theta}_{eff} = \widehat{\theta}_{ML} = \widehat{\theta}_{UMVUE}$
 $\diamondsuit \widehat{\theta}_{ML} = \text{BAN}$

Problems:

- \diamondsuit what if $f(Y|\theta)$ is unknown?
- \diamondsuit if $f(Y|\theta)$ is not concave (local maxima)
- simplified estimators:
 - ♦ Best Linear Unbiased Estimator (BLUE) → linear model
 - ♦ *Method of Moments*
 - \Diamond Least-Squares (LS) \rightarrow linear model



Best Linear Unbiased Estimator (BLUE)

- deterministic analog of LMMSE in the Bayesian case
- linear: $\widehat{\theta}(Y) = FY \quad (F: m \times n)$
- unbiased: $E_{Y|\theta}\widehat{\theta} = F E(Y|\theta) = \theta$
- best = minimum variance: $\min C_{\tilde{\theta}\tilde{\theta}}$
- remarks:
 - BLUE inferior to UMVUE unless UMVUE is linear
 - generalizations: X=g(Y) : $\widehat{\theta}(Y)=F$ X=F g(Y) (linear in X) e.g.: linear in Y inappropriate if $\theta \neq 0$ and $E(Y|\theta)=0$



deterministic parameter estimation

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Example of X = g(Y)

•
$$y_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$$
 i.i.d., $\theta = \sigma^2, Y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}$

- linear: $\widehat{\sigma^2} = F Y \implies E_{Y|\sigma^2} \widehat{\sigma^2} = F E (Y|\sigma^2) = 0 \neq \sigma^2$ no linear unbiased estimator $\widehat{\sigma^2}$ exists
- ullet however, let $x_i=y_i^2, \ X=\left[egin{array}{c} y_1^2 \ dots \ y_n^2 \end{array}
 ight]$
- $\bullet \ \widehat{\sigma^2} = F X \ \Rightarrow \ E_{Y|\sigma^2} \widehat{\sigma^2} = F E \left(X | \sigma^2 \right) = \sigma^2 F \mathbf{1} = \sigma^2 \ \Rightarrow \ F \mathbf{1} = 1$
- for this problem: $\widehat{\sigma}^2_{UMVUE} = \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{1}^T X = \widehat{\sigma}^2_{BLUE} \ (F = \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{1}^T)$



BLUE Assumptions

- unbiased: $FE(Y|\theta) = \theta$, $\forall \theta \in \Theta$ unbiasedness and the requirement that a large class of linear unbiased estimators (many F satisfying $FE(Y|\theta) = \theta$) should exist naturally lead to:
- assumption $I: E(Y|\theta) = H\theta$, $(H: n \times m)$ unbiasedness $\rightarrow FH = I_m \ (\Rightarrow n \geq m)$
- variance:

$$\begin{split} C_{\tilde{\theta}\tilde{\theta}} &= C_{\hat{\theta}\hat{\theta}} = E_{Y|\theta} \left(\widehat{\theta} - E_{Y|\theta} \widehat{\theta} \right) \left(\widehat{\theta} - E_{Y|\theta} \widehat{\theta} \right)^T \\ &= E_{Y|\theta} \left(F \, Y - F \, E \left(Y | \theta \right) \right) \left(F \, Y - F \, E \left(Y | \theta \right) \right)^T \\ &= F \, E_{Y|\theta} \left(Y - E \left(Y | \theta \right) \right) \left(Y - E \left(Y | \theta \right) \right)^T F^T = F \, C_{YY}(\theta) \, F^T \end{split}$$

• assumption 2: $C_{YY}(\theta) = c(\theta) C$ $c(\theta) \ (>0, \forall \theta)$ is a scalar function of $\theta, C > 0$ is constant w.r.t. θ



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BLUE Optimization Problem

- $\bullet \min_{\widehat{\theta}: E_{Y|\theta} \widehat{\theta}(Y) = \theta} C_{\widetilde{\theta}\widetilde{\theta}} \quad \to \quad \min_{F: FH = I} F C F^T$
- introduce matrix square root B $(n \times n)$ of $C = C^T > 0$ $(n \times n)$: $C = BB^T$ notation: $B = C^{1/2}$, $C^{T/2} = (C^{1/2})^T$, $C = C^{1/2}C^{T/2}$, $C^{-1} = C^{-T/2}C^{-1/2}$
- Consider a vector space of matrices with n columns with matrix inner product $\langle X_1, X_2 \rangle = X_1 X_2^T$. Take $X_1 = H^T C^{-T/2}$, $X_2 = F C^{1/2}$. With FH = I:

$$\left\langle \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle = \begin{bmatrix} H^T C^{-T/2} \\ F C^{1/2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} H^T C^{-T/2} \\ F C^{1/2} \end{bmatrix}^T = \begin{bmatrix} H^T C^{-1} H & I \\ I & F C F^T \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R_{11} & R_{12} \\ R_{21} & R_{22} \end{bmatrix} \ge 0$$

- From the Schur Complements Lemma, $R_{22} \geq R_{21}R_{11}^{-1}R_{12}$ with equality iff $X_2 = R_{21}R_{11}^{-1}X_1$.
- Hence $\min_{F:FH=I} F C F^T = (H^T C^{-1} H)^{-1}$ for $F = (H^T C^{-1} H)^{-1} H^T C^{-1}$.
- Or $\widehat{\theta}_{BLUE} = (H^T C^{-1} H)^{-1} H^T C^{-1} Y = (H^T C_{YY}^{-1} H)^{-1} H^T C_{YY}^{-1} Y$ with $C_{\widetilde{\theta}\widetilde{\theta}} = F C_{YY} F^T = c(\theta) F C F^T = c(\theta) (H^T C^{-1} H)^{-1} = (H^T C_{YY}^{-1} H)^{-1}$



BLUE: Example Cont'd and Recap

Example Cont'd:

•
$$y_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$$
 i.i.d., $\theta = \sigma^2, x_i = y_i^2, \widehat{\sigma^2} = FX$

• BLUE assumptions OK: $E\left(X|\sigma^2\right)=\mathbf{1}\ \sigma^2=H\ \theta,\ C_{XX}=2\sigma^4\ I=c(\theta)\ C$

$$R_{x_i x_j} = E y_i^2 y_j^2 = \begin{cases} \sigma^2 &, i \neq j \\ 3\sigma^2 &, i = j \end{cases} \Rightarrow R_{XX} = 2\sigma^4 I + \sigma^4 \mathbf{1} \mathbf{1}^T, C_{XX} = R_{XX} - m_X m_X^T = 2\sigma^4 I$$

$$\bullet \widehat{\sigma^2}_{BLUE} = \left(H^T C^{-1} H\right)^{-1} H^T C^{-1} X = \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{1}^T X$$

$$C_{\widehat{\sigma^2 \sigma^2}}(\sigma^2) = \left(H^T C_{XX}^{-1} H\right)^{-1} = \frac{2\sigma^4}{n}$$

• note: this example is not a linear model!

Recap: BLUE assumptions:

$$\bullet \begin{cases} (1) \ E(Y|\theta) = H \theta \\ (2) \ C_{YY}(\theta) = c(\theta) C \end{cases}$$

Only need to know the first two moments of $f(Y|\theta)$ which need to satisfy these assumptions. The higher-order moments of $f(Y|\theta)$: don't need to know, can be arbitrary functions of θ . So the problem should more or less look like a linear model problem, up to the second-order moments.



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BLUE: Linear Model

• $Y = H \theta + V$, EV = 0, $EVV^T = C_{VV}$ (EV and C_{VV} independent of θ , only first two moments of V specified)

• BLUE assumptions satisfied:

$$\begin{cases} E(Y|\theta) = H \theta \\ C_{YY}(\theta) = E_{Y|\theta} (Y - E(Y|\theta)) (Y - E(Y|\theta))^T = E_V V V^T = C_{VV} = C (c(\theta) = 1) \end{cases}$$

$$\bullet \ \widehat{\theta}_{BLUE} = \left(H^T C_{VV}^{-1} H\right)^{-1} H^T C_{VV}^{-1} Y \text{ with } C_{\widetilde{\theta}\widetilde{\theta}} = \left(H^T C_{VV}^{-1} H\right)^{-1}$$

• If
$$V \sim \mathcal{N}(0, C_{VV})$$
 then $\widehat{\theta}_{BLUE} = \widehat{\theta}_{ML} = \text{efficient } \Rightarrow = \widehat{\theta}_{UMVUE}$



Method of Moments

Principle:

ullet $f(Y|\theta)$ depends on $\theta \Rightarrow its$ moments also

 $\bullet \text{ take } m \text{ moments } \mu = g(\theta) = \left[\begin{array}{c} g_1(\theta) \\ \vdots \\ g_m(\theta) \end{array} \right] = \left[\begin{array}{c} \mu_1 \\ \vdots \\ \mu_m \end{array} \right]$

such that g(.) is invertible, i.e. $\theta = g^{-1}(\mu)$: can determine θ from μ .

• estimate the moments: $\hat{\mu}$ (e.g. sample moments)

• method of moments: $\hat{\theta}_{MM} = g^{-1}(\hat{\mu})$



deterministic parameter estimation

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Method of Moments: Example 1

• $y_i, i=1,\ldots,n$ i.i.d., $f(y|\theta)$ mixture distribution, θ mixture parameter $f(y|\theta)=(1-\theta)\phi_1(y)+\theta\phi_2(y)\;,\quad \phi_k(y)=\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_i^2}}e^{-\frac{y^2}{2\sigma_k^2}}, k=1,2$

$$\bullet \ \mu = E\left(y^2|\theta\right) = (1-\theta) \ \sigma_1^2 + \theta \ \sigma_2^2 = g(\theta) \ \Rightarrow \ \theta = g^{-1}(\mu) = \frac{\mu - \sigma_1^2}{\sigma_2^2 - \sigma_1^2}$$

$$\bullet \ \widehat{\theta}_{MM} = g^{-1}(\widehat{\mu}) = \frac{\widehat{\mu} - \sigma_1^2}{\sigma_2^2 - \sigma_1^2} \ , \quad \widehat{\mu} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i^2 \quad \text{sample mean squared value}$$

• bias:
$$E\widehat{\theta} = \frac{1}{\sigma_2^2 - \sigma_1^2} E\widehat{\mu} - \frac{\sigma_1^2}{\sigma_2^2 - \sigma_1^2} = \frac{1}{\sigma_2^2 - \sigma_1^2} \mu - \frac{\sigma_1^2}{\sigma_2^2 - \sigma_1^2} = \theta$$
: unbiased



Method of Moments: Example 1 (cont'd)

$$\begin{split} Var\left(\widehat{\theta}\right) &= Var\left(\frac{1}{\sigma_{2}^{2} - \sigma_{1}^{2}}\widehat{\mu} - \frac{\sigma_{1}^{2}}{\sigma_{2}^{2} - \sigma_{1}^{2}}\right) = \frac{1}{\left(\sigma_{2}^{2} - \sigma_{1}^{2}\right)^{2}}Var\left(\widehat{\mu}\right) = \frac{1}{\left(\sigma_{2}^{2} - \sigma_{1}^{2}\right)^{2}}Var\left(\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}y_{i}^{2}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\left(\sigma_{2}^{2} - \sigma_{1}^{2}\right)^{2}}\sum_{i=1}^{n}Var\left(\frac{1}{n}y_{i}^{2}\right) = \frac{1}{\left(\sigma_{2}^{2} - \sigma_{1}^{2}\right)^{2}}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\frac{1}{n^{2}}Var\left(y_{i}^{2}\right) = \frac{1}{\left(\sigma_{2}^{2} - \sigma_{1}^{2}\right)^{2}}\frac{1}{n}Var\left(y^{2}\right) \end{split}$$

$$\begin{split} f(y|\theta) &= (1-\theta)\,\phi_1(y) \; + \theta\,\phi_2(y) \\ \bullet \; Var(y^2) &= Ey^4 - (Ey^2)^2 \;, \qquad Ey^2 \; = \; (1-\theta)\,\sigma_1^2 \quad + \theta\,\sigma_2^2 \\ Ey^4 &= \; (1-\theta)\,3\sigma_1^4 \quad + \theta\,3\sigma_2^4 \end{split}$$



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MM Example 2: Sinusoid in White Noise

• $y_k = s_k + v_k = A \cos(\omega k + \phi) + v_k$, k = 1, ..., n

$$Y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{bmatrix}, S = \begin{bmatrix} s_1 \\ \vdots \\ s_n \end{bmatrix}, V = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix}, \theta = \begin{bmatrix} A \\ \omega \\ \sigma_v^2 \end{bmatrix}, \Theta : A > 0, \omega \in [0, \pi], \sigma_v^2 > 0$$

- distributions: $\phi \sim \mathcal{U}[0, 2\pi]$ independent of θ, V ; EV = 0, $EVV^T = \sigma_v^2 I_n$ randomness: $f(Y, \phi|\theta) = f(\phi|\theta) f(Y|\theta, \phi) = f(\phi) f_{\mathbf{V}|\sigma_v^2}(Y - S(A, \omega, \phi)|\sigma_v^2)$ in what follows: only first and second moments of V needed
- mean: $E_{Y,\phi|\theta} y_k = AE\cos(\omega k + \phi) + Ev_k = 0$ covariance sequence:

$$r_{yy}(i) = Ey_k y_{k+i} = A^2 E \cos(\omega k + \phi) \cos(\omega k + \phi + \omega i)$$

$$+ AE \cos(\omega k + \phi) Ev_{k+i} + AE \cos(\omega k + \phi + \omega i) Ev_k + Ev_k v_{k+i}$$

$$= \frac{A^2}{2} E \cos(2\omega k + 2\phi + \omega i) + \frac{A^2}{2} E \cos(\omega i) + \sigma_v^2 \delta_{i0}$$

$$= \frac{A^2}{2} \cos(\omega i) + \sigma_v^2 \delta_{i0}$$



MM Example 2: Sinusoid in White Noise (2)

$$\bullet \text{ moments: } \mu = \begin{bmatrix} r_{yy}(0) \\ r_{yy}(1) \\ r_{yy}(2) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{A^2}{2} + \sigma_v^2 \\ \frac{A^2}{2} \cos(\omega) \\ \frac{A^2}{2} \cos(2\omega) \end{bmatrix} = g(\theta)$$

$$\omega = \begin{cases}
\arccos\left(\frac{r_{yy}(2) + \sqrt{r_{yy}^{2}(2) + 8r_{yy}^{2}(1)}}{4r_{yy}(1)}\right), r_{yy}(1) \neq 0 \\
\frac{\pi}{2}, r_{yy}(1) = 0
\end{cases}$$

$$A = \begin{cases}
\sqrt{\frac{2r_{yy}(1)}{\cos(\omega)}}, r_{yy}(1) \neq 0 \\
\sqrt{-2r_{yy}(2)}, r_{yy}(1) = 0
\end{cases}$$

• sample moments $\widehat{\mu}$: $\widehat{r}_{yy}(i) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n-i} y_k y_{k+i}, i = 0, 1, 2$



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Method of Moments: Properties

- ullet $\widehat{\mu}$ easy to compute, $\widehat{ heta}_{MM}=g^{-1}(\widehat{\mu})$ straightforward if μ chosen well, hence $\widehat{ heta}_{MM}$ easy to determine and easy to implement
- no optimality properties but usually consistent (since $\hat{\mu}$ consistent)
- ullet if performance of $\widehat{\theta}_{MM}$ not satisfactory, can use $\widehat{\theta}_{MM}$ as initialization in an iterative optimization procedure that finds $\widehat{\theta}_{ML}$