

**Solutions to Homework 3**  
**BIOS 7731**

1. **BD 1.4.5. Give an example where the best linear predictor of  $Y$  given  $Z$  is a constant (has no predictive value) whereas the best predictor of  $Y$  given  $Z$  predicts  $Y$  perfectly.**

- Recall that the best linear predictor is  $\mu_L = a + bZ$ , where  $a = E[Y] - bE[Z]$  and  $b = \frac{Cov(Z,Y)}{Var(Z)}$ . To be constant, then  $Cov(Z,Y) = E[ZY] - E[Z]E[Y] = 0$ .

- For the best predictor of  $Y$  given  $Z$  to predict  $Y$  perfectly, then  $Y$  must be equal to some function of  $Z$ .

- We need to find a function of  $Z$  to set to  $Y$  and that has 0 covariance. Use the squared function  $Y = Z^2$ .

- Consider the joint density in this discrete example

	Z=1	Z=0	Z=-1	P(Y)
Y=0	0	1/3	0	1/3
Y=1	1/3	0	1/3	2/3
P(Z)	1/3	1/3	1/3	1

The MSPE is  $E[Y|Z]$  and in this case  $Y$  is related to  $Z$  by  $Y = Z^2$ , therefore the MSPE  $E[Y|Z] = Z^2$  predicts  $Y$  perfectly. Also,  $Cov(Z,Y) = E[ZY] - E[Z]E[Y] = 0$ , since  $E[ZY] = 1 * 1/3 + 0 * 1/3 - 1 * 1/3 = 0$ ,  $E[Z] = 0$  and  $E[Y] = 2/3$ . Therefore, the best linear predictor is a constant and  $\mu_L = E[Y] = 2/3$ .

- This can also be shown for a continuous case. For example assume  $Z \sim N(0,1)$ , and that  $Y = Z^2$  so the best predictor of  $Y$  given  $Z$  predicts  $Y$  perfectly. The covariance is  $Cov(Z,Y) = E[ZY] - E[Z]E[Y] = E[Z^3] - 0 = 0$  (3rd moment of  $N(0,1)$  is 0), and the best linear predictor is a constant.

2. **BD 1.4.14.** Let  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  be independent and have exponential distributions with density  $\lambda e^{-\lambda z}$ ,  $z > 0$ . Define  $Z = Z_2$  and  $Y = Z_1 + Z_1 Z_2$ .

Since  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  have exponential distributions, then

$$\begin{aligned} E(Z_1) = E(Z_2) &= \frac{1}{\lambda} \\ E(Z_1^2) = E(Z_2^2) &= \frac{2}{\lambda^2} \\ \text{Var}(Z_1) = \text{Var}(Z_2) &= \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \end{aligned}$$

These results can be obtained by using integration by parts and using the formula  $\text{Var}(Z) = E(Z^2) - (E(Z))^2$ .

- (a) The best MSPE predictor  $E(Y|Z = z)$  of  $Y$  given  $Z = z$ .

$$\begin{aligned} E(Y|Z = z) &= E(Z_1 + Z_1 Z_2 | Z_2 = z) \\ &= E(Z_1 + z Z_1 | Z_2 = z) \\ &= E((1 + z) Z_1 | Z_2 = z) \\ &= (1 + z) E(Z_1 | Z_2 = z) \\ &= (1 + z) E(Z_1) \\ &= \frac{1 + z}{\lambda} \end{aligned}$$

Note  $E(Z_1 | Z_2 = z) = E(Z_1)$  because  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  are independent.

- (b)  $E(E(Y|Z))$

$$\begin{aligned} E(E(Y|Z)) &= E\left(\frac{1 + Z}{\lambda}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda} E(1 + Z) \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda} (1 + E(Z)) \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\lambda}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda} + \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \end{aligned}$$

- (c)  $\text{Var}(E(Y|Z))$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(E(Y|Z)) &= \text{Var}\left(\frac{1}{\lambda} + \frac{Z}{\lambda}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \text{Var}(Z) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \left( \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{\lambda^4}
\end{aligned}$$

(d)  $Var(Y|Z = z)$

$$\begin{aligned}
Var(Y|Z = z) &= Var(Z_1 + Z_1 Z_2 | Z_2 = z) \\
&= Var(Z_1 + z Z_1 | Z_2 = z) \\
&= Var((1 + z) Z_1 | Z_2 = z) \\
&= (1 + z)^2 Var(Z_1 | Z_2 = z) \\
&= (1 + z)^2 Var(Z_1) \\
&= \frac{(1 + z)^2}{\lambda^2}
\end{aligned}$$

Note  $Var(Z_1 | Z_2 = z) = Var(Z_1)$  because  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  are independent.

(e)  $E(Var(Y|Z))$

$$\begin{aligned}
E(Var(Y|Z)) &= E\left((1 + Z)^2 \frac{1}{\lambda^2}\right) \\
&= \frac{1}{\lambda^2} E(1 + 2Z + Z^2) \\
&= \frac{1}{\lambda^2} (E(1) + 2E(Z) + E(Z^2)) \\
&= \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \left(1 + \frac{2}{\lambda} + \frac{2}{\lambda^2}\right) \\
&= \frac{1}{\lambda^2} + \frac{2}{\lambda^3} + \frac{2}{\lambda^4}
\end{aligned}$$

(f) **The best linear MSPE predictor of Y based on  $Z = z$ .**

Two alternative ways to show this:

- The best MSPE predictor from part a) is  $\frac{1}{\lambda} + \frac{z}{\lambda}$ , which is linear. Therefore, it is the best linear MSPE predictor.

- Otherwise, derive using Theorem 1.43, where the unique best linear predictor is

$$\mu_L(Z) = a_1 + b_1 Z, \text{ where } b_1 = \frac{Cov(Z, Y)}{Var(Z)} \text{ and } a_1 = E[Y] - b_1 E[Z].$$

$$\begin{aligned}
Cov(Z, Y) &= E[(Z - E[Z])(Y - E[Y])] \\
&= E\left[\left(Z - \frac{1}{\lambda}\right)\left(Y - \left(\frac{1}{\lambda} + \frac{1}{\lambda^2}\right)\right)\right] \\
&= E[ZY] - \frac{1}{\lambda} E[Y] - \left(\frac{1}{\lambda} + \frac{1}{\lambda^2}\right) E[Z] + \frac{1}{\lambda} \left(\lambda + \frac{1}{\lambda^2}\right)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= E[Z(Z_1 + Z_1Z)] - \frac{1}{\lambda}\left(\frac{1}{\lambda} + \frac{1}{\lambda^2}\right) - \frac{1}{\lambda}\left(\frac{1}{\lambda} + \frac{1}{\lambda^2}\right) + \frac{1}{\lambda}\left(\frac{1}{\lambda} + \frac{1}{\lambda^2}\right) \\
&= E[ZZ_1] + E[Z^2Z] - \frac{1}{\lambda}\left(\lambda + \frac{1}{\lambda^2}\right) \\
&= E[Z]E[Z_1] + E[Z^2]E[Z_1] - \frac{1}{\lambda}\left(\lambda + \frac{1}{\lambda^2}\right) \\
&= \frac{1}{\lambda^2} + (Var(Z) + (E[Z])^2)\frac{1}{\lambda} - \frac{1}{\lambda}\left(\lambda + \frac{1}{\lambda^2}\right) \\
&= \frac{1}{\lambda^2} + \left(\frac{1}{\lambda^2} + \frac{1}{\lambda^2}\right)\frac{1}{\lambda}\left(\lambda + \frac{1}{\lambda^2}\right) \\
&= \frac{1}{\lambda^2} + \frac{2}{\lambda^2} - \frac{1}{\lambda^2} - \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \\
&= \frac{1}{\lambda^3}
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
b_1 &= \frac{Cov(Z, Y)}{Var(Z)} \\
&= \frac{\frac{1}{\lambda^3}}{\frac{1}{\lambda^2}} \\
&= \frac{1}{\lambda}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
a_1 &= E[Y] - b_1E[Z] \\
&= E[E[Y|Z]] - \frac{1}{\lambda}\left(\frac{1}{\lambda}\right) \\
&= \frac{1}{\lambda} + \frac{1}{\lambda^2} - \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \\
&= \frac{1}{\lambda}
\end{aligned}$$

So the unique best linear predictor is  $\mu_L(Z) = \frac{1}{\lambda} + \frac{Z}{\lambda} = \frac{1+Z}{\lambda}$ .

3. **BD 1.6.4 b) d) f)** Which of the following families of distributions are exponential families? (Prove or disprove.)

- b)  $p(x, \theta) = \exp[-2\log(\theta) + \log(2x)]1[x \in (0, \theta)]$

The density is

$$p(x, \theta) = \exp[-2\log(\theta) + \log(2x)]1[x \in (0, \theta)].$$

This is not an exponential family since  $p(x, \theta)$  can not be written in the form of an exponential family  $h(x) \exp[\eta(\theta)T(x) - B(\theta)]$ . The indicator  $1[x \in (0, \theta)]$  depends on  $\theta$  and cannot be separated into  $\eta(\theta)T(x)$ .

- d)  $N(\theta, \theta^2)$ ,  $\theta > 0$ .

The density is

$$p(x, \theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\theta} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\theta^2}(x - \theta)^2\right).$$

With some re-arranging, this is an exponential family with  $\eta(\theta) = [\frac{1}{\theta}, -\frac{1}{2\theta^2}]$ ,  $T(x) = [x, x^2]$ ,  $B(\theta) = \log \theta$ , and  $h(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp(-\frac{1}{2})$ . However, the parameter space has dimension  $l = 1$ , which is lower dimension than  $\eta$  and  $T$ , which has dimension  $k = 2$ . Therefore, this is a curved exponential family.

- f)  $p(x, \theta)$  is the conditional frequency function of a binomial  $B(n, \theta)$ , variable  $X$ , given that  $X > 0$ .

The density is

$$p(x, \theta) = \frac{p(X = x, X > 0)}{P(X > 0)} = \frac{\binom{n}{x} \theta^x (1 - \theta)^{n-x}}{1 - (1 - \theta)^n}.$$

With some re-arranging, this is an exponential family with  $\eta(\theta) = \log \theta - \log(1 - \theta)$ ,  $T(x) = x$ ,  $B(\theta) = -\log(\frac{(1-\theta)^n}{1-(1-\theta)^n})$  and  $h(x) = \binom{n}{x}$ .

4. **BD 1.6.11** Use Theorems 1.6.2 and 1.6.3 to obtain moment-generating functions for the sufficient statistics, when sampling from the following distributions.

(a) Normal,  $\vec{\theta} = (\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(x, \vec{\theta}) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) \\
 &= \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}\log(2\pi\sigma^2) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x-\mu)^2\right) \\
 &= \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(x^2 - 2x\mu + \mu^2) - \frac{1}{2}\log(2\pi\sigma^2)\right) \\
 &= \exp\left(\frac{\mu x}{\sigma^2} - \frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2} - \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\mu^2}{\sigma^2} + \log(2\pi\sigma^2)\right)\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

This corresponds to a 2-parameter exponential family where  $h(x) = 1$ ,  $\theta_1 = \mu$ ,  $\theta_2 = \sigma^2$ ,  $\eta_1 = \frac{\mu}{\sigma^2}$ ,  $T_1(x) = x$ ,  $\eta_2 = -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}$ ,  $T_2(x) = x^2$ , and  $B(\theta) = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\mu^2}{\sigma^2} + \log(2\pi\sigma^2)\right)$ , for  $\eta_1 \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\eta_2 \in \mathbb{R}^-$

Rewrite this expression in the following form:

$$q(x, \vec{\eta}) = h(x) \left( \exp\left(\mathbf{T}^T(x) \vec{\eta} - A(\vec{\eta})\right) \right).$$

$\mathbf{T} = (x, x^2)$  and  $\vec{\eta} = \left(\frac{\mu}{\sigma^2}, -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\right)$  and

$$A(\vec{\eta}) = \frac{1}{2}\left(-\frac{\eta_1^2}{2\eta_2} + \log\left(-\frac{\pi}{\eta_2}\right)\right) = -\frac{\eta_1^2}{4\eta_2} - \frac{1}{2}\log(-\eta_2) + \frac{1}{2}\log(\pi).$$

By Theorem 1.63, if  $\mathcal{E}$  has nonempty interior in  $\mathcal{R}^k$  and  $\eta_0 \in \mathcal{E}$ , then  $T(X)$  has under  $\eta_0$  a moment generating function  $M$  given by  $M(s) = \exp(A(\eta_0 + s) - A(\eta_0))$  valid for all  $s$  such that  $\eta_0 + s \in \mathcal{E}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 M(s) &= \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{-(\eta_1 + s_1)^2}{2(\eta_2 + s_2)} + \log(\pi) - \log(-(\eta_2 + s_2))\right) - \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{-\eta_1^2}{2\eta_2} + \log(\pi) - \log(-\eta_2)\right)\right) \\
 &= \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{-(\eta_1 + s_1)^2}{2(\eta_2 + s_2)} - \frac{-\eta_1^2}{2\eta_2}\right) - \frac{1}{2}\left(\log(-(\eta_2 + s_2)) - \log(-\eta_2)\right)\right) \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{\eta_2}{\eta_2 + s_2}} \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{-(\eta_1 + s_1)^2}{2(\eta_2 + s_2)}\right)\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Sanity check for  $A(\eta)$

Note that  $\mu = -\frac{\eta_1}{2\eta_2}$  and  $\sigma^2 = -\frac{1}{2\eta_2}$ , then taking the first and second derivatives of  $A(\eta)$  to find the mean and variance of  $T(X)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_{\eta_0} \mathbf{T}(X) &= A'(\eta_0) \\
 &= \left(\frac{\partial A}{\partial \eta_1}, \frac{\partial A}{\partial \eta_2}\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \left( -\frac{\eta_1}{2\eta_2}, \frac{\eta_1^2}{4\eta_2^2} - \frac{1}{2\eta_2} \right) \\
&= (\mu, \mu^2 + \sigma^2)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
Var_{\eta_0}(\mathbf{T}(X)) &= \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial \eta_1^2} & \frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial \eta_1 \partial \eta_2} \\ \frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial \eta_1 \partial \eta_2} & \frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial \eta_2^2} \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{2\eta_2} & \frac{\eta_1}{2\eta_2^2} \\ \frac{\eta_1}{2\eta_2^2} & \frac{1}{2\eta_2^2} + \frac{\eta_1^2}{2\eta_2^3} \end{pmatrix} \\
&= \begin{pmatrix} \sigma^2 & 2\mu\sigma \\ 2\mu\sigma & 2\sigma^4 + 2\mu^2\sigma^2 \end{pmatrix}
\end{aligned}$$

(b) Gamma,  $\Gamma(p, \lambda)$ ,  $\theta = \lambda$ ,  $p$  fixed

$$\begin{aligned}
p(x, \lambda) &= \frac{\lambda^p x^{p-1} \exp(-\lambda x)}{\Gamma(p)} \\
&= \frac{x^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \exp(p \log(\lambda) - \lambda x) \\
&= \frac{x^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)} \exp(-\lambda x - (-p \log(\lambda)))
\end{aligned}$$

This corresponds to a one-parameter exponential family where  $h(x) = \frac{x^{p-1}}{\Gamma(p)}$ ,  $\eta(\theta) = -\lambda$ ,  $T(x) = x$ , and  $B(\theta) = -p \log(\lambda)$ , where  $\eta \in R^-$ . Rewrite this expression in the following form:

$$q(x, \eta) = h(x) \left( \exp(\eta T(x) - A(\eta)) \right).$$

Note  $h(x)$ ,  $\eta$  and  $T(x)$  remain the same but now  $A(\eta) = -p \log(-\eta)$ . By Theorem 1.6.2, if  $X$  is distributed according to the form of a canonical exponential family, and  $\eta$  is an interior point of  $\mathcal{E}$ , the moment generating function of  $T(X)$  exists and is given by  $M(s) = \exp(A(s + \eta) - A(\eta))$  for  $s$  in some neighborhood of 0.

$$\begin{aligned}
M(s) &= \exp[-p \log(-(\eta + s)) - (-p \log(-\eta))] \\
&= \exp[-p \log\left(\frac{-(\eta + s)}{-\eta}\right)] \\
&= \exp\left[\log\left(\frac{\eta + s}{\eta}\right)^{-p}\right] \\
&= \left(\frac{\eta + s}{\eta}\right)^{-p} \\
&= \left(\frac{\eta}{\eta + s}\right)^p
\end{aligned}$$

For the mean and variance, since  $\eta = -\lambda$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} E(T(X)) &= A'(\eta) \\ &= -\frac{p}{\eta} \\ &= \frac{p}{\lambda} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} Var(T(X)) &= A''(\eta) \\ &= \frac{p}{\eta^2} \\ &= \frac{p}{\lambda^2} \end{aligned}$$



5. **BD 2.2.8 Find the least square estimate for the model  $Y_i = \theta_1 + \theta_2 x_i + \epsilon_i$  as given in (2.2.4)-(2.2.6) under the restrictions  $\theta_1 \geq 0, \theta_2 \leq 0$**

With no restrictions the least squares estimates (LSE) minimize

$$\rho((Y, Z), \beta) = -|y - (\theta_1 - \theta_2 z)|^2.$$

They LSE exist and are  $\hat{\theta}_1 = \bar{y} - \hat{\theta}_2 \bar{z}$  and  $\hat{\theta}_2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (z_i - \bar{z})(y_i - \bar{y})}{\sum_{i=1}^n (z_i - \bar{z})^2}$  (see BD pg. 100). The LSE may fall into the restricted region and the problem is completed

- However, if the LSE do not fall in to the restricted region, then they must be on the boundary since  $\rho((Y, Z), \beta) = -|y - (\theta_1 - \theta_2 z)|^2$  cannot reach a local minimum in an interior point of the restricted region with a non-vanishing derivative.

- Define the set  $\Gamma$  at the boundary where

$$\Gamma = \{(\theta_1, 0) : \theta_1 \geq 0\} \cup \{(0, \theta_2) : \theta_2 \leq 0\}.$$

Minimizing the least square function over  $\Gamma$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{\Gamma} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \theta_1 - \theta_2 z_i)^2 \\ &= \min \left\{ \min_{\theta_1 \geq 0} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \theta_1)^2, \min_{\theta_2 \leq 0} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \theta_2 z_i)^2 \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\theta_1^* = \bar{y}$  be the minimizer of  $\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \theta_1)^2$  and  $\theta_2^* = \frac{\sum z_i y_i}{\sum z_i^2}$  be the minimizer of  $\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \theta_2 z_i)^2$  at the respective boundary subspace ( $\theta_2 = 0$  or  $\theta_1 = 0$ ).

- There are four cases in the set  $\Gamma$ :

- (a)  $\theta_1^* \geq 0, \theta_2^* \leq 0$

In this case, both estimates satisfy the conditions (under  $\Gamma$ ), therefore we check where the minimum is achieved above (either for  $\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \theta_1)^2$  or  $\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \theta_2 z_i)^2$ ).

$$\begin{aligned} (\hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2) &= (0, \theta_2^*) \text{ if } \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \theta_1^*)^2 \geq \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \theta_2^* z_i)^2 \\ &= (\theta_1^*, 0) \text{ o.w.} \end{aligned}$$

(In other words, we need to check both boundaries to see where the minimum is achieved).

(b)  $\theta_1^* \leq 0, \theta_2^* \leq 0$

In this case,  $\theta_1^*$  does not satisfy the condition under  $\Gamma$ , therefore it is set to 0.

$$\begin{aligned} (\hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2) &= (0, \theta_2^*) \text{ if } \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i)^2 \geq \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \theta_2^* z_i)^2 \\ &= (0, 0) \text{ o.w.} \end{aligned}$$

(c)  $\theta_1^* \geq 0, \theta_2^* \geq 0$

In this case,  $\theta_2^*$  does not satisfy the condition under  $\Gamma$ , therefore it is set to 0.

$$\begin{aligned} (\hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2) &= (\theta_1^*, 0) \text{ if } \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \theta_1^*)^2 \leq \sum_{i=1}^n y_i^2 \\ &= (0, 0) \text{ o.w.} \end{aligned}$$

(d)  $\theta_1^* \leq 0, \theta_2^* \geq 0$

$$(\hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2) = (0, 0)$$

To get full credit for the problem, you need to examine the value of the least squares function  $\rho$  to examine where the minimum is achieved.

6. **BD 2.3.35** Let  $g(x) = \frac{1}{\pi}(1+x^2)$ ,  $x \in R$  be the Cauchy density. Let  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  be i.i.d. with density  $g(x-\theta)$ ,  $\theta \in R$ . Let  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  be the observations and set  $\Delta = \frac{1}{2}(x_1 - x_2)$ . Let  $\hat{\theta} = \arg \max L_X(\theta)$  be “the” MLE.

The log likelihood is

$$l_x(\theta) = -2\log(\pi) - \log(1 + (x_1 - \theta)^2) - \log(1 + (x_2 - \theta)^2).$$

Taking the derivative,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial l_x(\theta)}{\partial \theta} &= -2 \frac{(x_1 - \theta)}{1 + (x_1 - \theta)^2} - 2 \frac{(x_2 - \theta)}{1 + (x_2 - \theta)^2} \\ &= 2(x_1 - \theta)(1 + (x_2 - \theta)^2) + 2(x_2 - \theta)(1 + (x_1 - \theta)^2). \end{aligned}$$

Rewriting,

$$\begin{aligned} &= 2(x_1 - \theta) + 2(x_2 - \theta) + 2[(x_1 - \theta)(x_2 - \theta)^2 + (x_2 - \theta)(x_1 - \theta)^2] \\ &= 4(\bar{x} - \theta) + 4[(x_1 - \theta)(x_2 - \theta)(\bar{x} - \theta)] \\ &= 4(\bar{x} - \theta)[1 + (x_1 - \theta)(x_2 - \theta)]. \end{aligned}$$

Noting that  $x_1 - \theta = \bar{x} + \Delta - \theta$  and  $x_2 - \theta = \bar{x} - \Delta - \theta$ , where  $\Delta = \frac{1}{2}(x_1 - x_2)$ , then plugging in above,

$$2(\bar{x} - \theta)[(\bar{x} + \Delta - \theta)(\bar{x} - \Delta - \theta) + 1] = 2(\bar{x} - \theta)[(\bar{x} - \theta)^2 - \Delta^2 + 1].$$

Therefore, setting the derivative to zero, the MLE  $\hat{\theta}$  solves

$$2(\bar{x} - \hat{\theta})[(\bar{x} - \hat{\theta})^2 - \Delta^2 + 1] = 0.$$

- When  $|\Delta| \leq 1$ , the right factor is strictly positive and the only solution is  $\hat{\theta} = \bar{x}$ . The second derivative with respect to  $\theta$  is:

$$-2[(\bar{x} - \theta)^2 - \Delta^2 + 1] - 4(\bar{x} - \theta)^2 = -6(\bar{x} - \theta)^2 + 2\Delta^2 - 2.$$

The second derivative at  $\bar{x}$  is negative since  $|\Delta|^2 \leq 1$ .

Alternatively, can also show that a maximum is achieved  $\bar{x}$  because  $l'_x(\theta) > 0$  for  $\theta < \bar{x}$  and  $l'_x(\theta) < 0$  for  $\theta > \bar{x}$

- When  $|\Delta| > 1$ , then there are two roots  $\hat{\theta} = \bar{x} \pm \sqrt{(\Delta^2 - 1)}$ . We need to show that the second derivative is negative at these points. Since  $(\bar{x} - \hat{\theta})^2 = (\Delta^2 - 1)$  for both roots, the second derivative is  $-4\Delta^2 + 4 < 0$ , since  $|\Delta| > 1$ , and both roots are maximums.

- Not required but graphs can show the behavior of this likelihood. Define  $\hat{\theta}_1 = \bar{x} - \sqrt{(\Delta^2 - 1)}$ ,  $\hat{\theta}_2 = \bar{x}$  and  $\hat{\theta}_3 = \bar{x} + \sqrt{(\Delta^2 - 1)}$ . Graphs below using example parameter values for the likelihood and derivative of the log likelihood. The lines are for  $\hat{\theta}_1$ ,  $\hat{\theta}_2$  and  $\hat{\theta}_3$ . The left graph is an example of the case  $|\Delta| \leq 1$ , the middle graph is an example of the case  $|\Delta| > 1$  and the right graph shows the same example for  $|\Delta| > 1$  but for the first derivative (numerator only since the denominator is always positive).

