

Applied Data Analysis

Exercise Sheet 5 - Solutions

Exercise 18

- (a) According to the first hint, applying a Taylor expansion (or the definition of differentiability of vector valued functions) to the function g around μ , we obtain:

$$(1) \quad g(\mathbf{x}) = g(\mu) + (D_g(\mu))'(\mathbf{x} - \mu) + r_\mu(\mathbf{x}) \|\mathbf{x} - \mu\|, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^p,$$

with a function $r_\mu : \mathbb{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^q$ fulfilling:

$$(2) \quad \lim_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mu} r_\mu(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0}$$

Further, by the assumptions of Exercise 18, it holds with $\mathbf{Z} \sim \mathcal{N}_p(\mathbf{0}, \Sigma)$:

$$(3) \quad \sqrt{n}(\mathbf{X}_n - \mu) \xrightarrow{d} \mathbf{Z} \quad \text{for } n \rightarrow \infty$$

Then, applying the continuous mapping to the continuous norm, it follows by (3):

$$(4) \quad \|\sqrt{n}(\mathbf{X}_n - \mu)\| \xrightarrow{d} \|\mathbf{Z}\| \quad \text{for } n \rightarrow \infty$$

Further, we obtain by (3) applying *Slutsky's Lemma* (hint 2):

$$(5) \quad \mathbf{X}_n - \mu = \underbrace{\sqrt{n}(\mathbf{X}_n - \mu)}_{\xrightarrow{d} \mathbf{Z}} \underbrace{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}}_{\rightarrow 0} \xrightarrow{d} \mathbf{0} \cdot \mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{for } n \rightarrow \infty$$

Since convergence in distribution to a constant (!) is equivalent to convergence in probability to that constant, (5) yields:

$$(6) \quad \mathbf{X}_n - \mu \xrightarrow{P} \mathbf{0} \quad \text{for } n \rightarrow \infty$$

(with P denoting the underlying probability measure).

Then, again applying *Slutsky's Lemma*, we finally obtain for $n \rightarrow \infty$:

$$(7) \quad \sqrt{n}(g(\mathbf{X}_n) - g(\mu)) \stackrel{(1)}{=} \underbrace{(D_g(\mu))'}_{\text{const.}} \underbrace{\sqrt{n}(\mathbf{X}_n - \mu)}_{\xrightarrow{d} \mathbf{Z} \text{ by (3)}} + \underbrace{r_\mu(\mathbf{X}_n)}_{\xrightarrow{P} \mathbf{0} \text{ by (2) and (6)}} \underbrace{\|\sqrt{n}(\mathbf{X}_n - \mu)\|}_{\xrightarrow{d} \|\mathbf{Z}\| \text{ by (4)}} \\ \xrightarrow[\text{Slutsky}]{d} (D_g(\mu))' \mathbf{Z} \stackrel[\text{I.2.11}]{\text{Choice of } \mathbf{Z}} \mathcal{N}_q(\mathbf{0}, (D_g(\mu))' \Sigma D_g(\mu))$$

Remark:

Slutsky's Lemma and the continuous mapping theorem (for the different kinds of convergence) can (for example) be found in R.J. Serfling, *Approximation theorems of mathematical statistics*, Wiley, 1980, Sections 1.5 and 1.6.

- (b) (i) A solution to this part of Exercice 18 and/or corresponding remarks to the statements(s) to be proven, will follow.

(ii) First, with $\pi \in (0, 1)$, it holds for $n \in \mathbb{N}$:

$$(8) \quad P(X_n = 0) \stackrel{\text{Ass.}}{=} (1 - \pi)^n > 0$$

(with P denoting the underlying probability measure).

By (8), we obtain for $n \in \mathbb{N}$:

$$(9) \quad \mathbb{E}(|Y_n|) \stackrel{\text{Def.}}{=} \sum_{i=0}^n \left| \ln \left(\frac{i}{n} \right) \right| P(X_n = i) \geq \underbrace{\left| \ln \left(\frac{0}{n} \right) \right|}_{= |\ln(0)| = \infty} \underbrace{P(X_n = 0)}_{>0} = \infty$$

Thus, for $n \in \mathbb{N}$, even the first moment of Y_n does *not* exist implying that also the second moment and the variance of Y_n does *not* exist.

Note, however, that with

$$(10) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(X_n = 0) \stackrel{(8)}{=} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (1 - \pi)^n = 0$$

Y_n is well defined in the limit.

Now, let us consider the asymptotic variance of Y_n for $n \rightarrow \infty$.

According to the central limit theorem, it holds:

$$(11) \quad \sqrt{n} \left(\frac{X_n}{n} - \pi \right) = \frac{X_n - n\pi}{\sqrt{n}} \xrightarrow{d} Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \pi(1 - \pi))$$

Further, $g : (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, defined by

$$(12) \quad g(x) := \ln(x), \quad x \in (0, \infty),$$

is continuously differentiable on $(0, \infty)$ with

$$(13) \quad g'(x) = \frac{1}{x}, \quad x \in (0, \infty)$$

Applying the (univariate) delta method to (11), we obtain for $n \rightarrow \infty$:

$$(14) \quad \begin{aligned} \sqrt{n} (Y_n - \ln(\pi)) &\stackrel{\text{Def. } Y_n}{\stackrel{(12)}{=}} \sqrt{n} \left(g \left(\frac{X_n}{n} \right) - g(\pi) \right) \\ &\xrightarrow{d} g'(\pi) Z \stackrel{(13)}{=} \frac{1}{\pi} Z \stackrel{(11)}{\approx} \mathcal{N} \left(0, \frac{1 - \pi}{\pi} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Thus, for sufficiently large $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we obtain:

$$(15) \quad \text{Var}(\sqrt{n} (Y_n - \ln(\pi))) \approx \frac{1 - \pi}{\pi}$$

where the righthand side of (15) denotes the asymptotic variance of $(Y_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$.

(To be more precise, the the righthand side of (15) denotes asymptotic variance of the sequence $(\sqrt{n} (Y_n - \ln(\pi)))_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$.)

Exercise 19

In this Exercise, again, we consider multiple linear regression models according to I.5.3 with stochastically independent and identically distributed error terms $\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$, where $\sigma > 0$ is unknown.

For such a model and a realization $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ of $\mathbf{Y} = (Y_1, \dots, Y_n)'$, by I.5.3 and I.2.5, the corresponding likelihood function (i.e. density) $L^{\mathbf{Y}}(\bullet | \mathbf{y}) : \mathbb{R}^d \times (0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ of \mathbf{Y} is given by

$$(1) \quad L^{\mathbf{Y}}(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2 | \mathbf{y}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(2\pi\sigma^2)^n}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(\mathbf{y} - B\boldsymbol{\beta})'(\mathbf{y} - B\boldsymbol{\beta})\right), \quad (\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times (0, \infty),$$

where d denotes the dimension of the parameter vector $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ in the considered model.

Then, the corresponding log-likelihood function $l^{\mathbf{Y}}(\bullet | \mathbf{y}) : \mathbb{R}^d \times (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ of \mathbf{Y} is given by

$$\begin{aligned} (2) \quad l^{\mathbf{Y}}(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2 | \mathbf{y}) &:= \ln(L^{\mathbf{Y}}(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2 | \mathbf{y})) \\ &\stackrel{(1)}{=} \ln((2\pi\sigma^2)^{-n/2}) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2}(\mathbf{y} - B\boldsymbol{\beta})'(\mathbf{y} - B\boldsymbol{\beta}) \\ &= -\frac{n}{2} \ln(2\pi\sigma^2) - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \|\mathbf{y} - B\boldsymbol{\beta}\|^2, \quad (\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times (0, \infty) \end{aligned}$$

(For the representations (1) of the likelihood function and (2) of the log-likelihood function, respectively, cf. the solution of Exercise 13, (e) with I_n instead of Σ .)

According to I.4.31, the corresponding maximum likelihood estimates $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ and $\hat{\sigma}^2$ of σ^2 are given by

$$(3) \quad \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = (B' B)^{-1} B' \mathbf{y} \quad (\text{identical to the LSE of } \boldsymbol{\beta} \text{ given by I.5.4})$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} (4) \quad \hat{\sigma}^2 &= \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{y}' \underbrace{(I_n - B(B' B)^{-1} B')}_{\text{symmetric and idempotent}} \mathbf{y} \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \mathbf{y}' (I_n - B(B' B)^{-1} B')' (I_n - B(B' B)^{-1} B') \mathbf{y} \\ &\stackrel{(3)}{=} \frac{1}{n} (\mathbf{y} - B\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})' (\mathbf{y} - B\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) = \frac{1}{n} \|\mathbf{y} - B\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}\|^2 \stackrel{\text{I.5.12}}{=} \frac{1}{n} \text{SSE} \end{aligned}$$

Since the likelihood function and the log-likelihood function attain their maxima at the same arguments, we obtain (by definition of maximum likelihood estimates):

$$\begin{aligned} (5) \quad \max \{l^{\mathbf{Y}}(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2 | \mathbf{y}) \mid \boldsymbol{\beta} \in \mathbb{R}^d, \sigma > 0\} &= l^{\mathbf{Y}}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}, \hat{\sigma}^2 | \mathbf{y}) \\ &\stackrel{(2)}{=} -\frac{n}{2} \ln(2\pi\hat{\sigma}^2) - \frac{1}{2\hat{\sigma}^2} \|\mathbf{y} - B\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}\|^2 \stackrel{(4)}{=} -\frac{n}{2} \ln(2\pi\hat{\sigma}^2) - \frac{1}{2\hat{\sigma}^2} n\hat{\sigma}^2 \\ &= -\frac{n}{2} (\ln(2\pi\hat{\sigma}^2) + 1) \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by Definition II.2.39, Akaike's Information Criterion for that model is given by

$$(6) \quad \text{AIC} \stackrel{\text{Def.}}{=} -2 \max \{l^{\mathbf{Y}}(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2 | \mathbf{y}) \mid \boldsymbol{\beta} \in \mathbb{R}^d, \sigma > 0\} + 2k \stackrel{(5)}{=} n (\ln(2\pi\hat{\sigma}^2) + 1) + 2k,$$

where k denotes the total number of parameters in the model.

By (6), for model \mathcal{M}_1 with $p + 1 = m + 2$ parameters, we obtain

$$(7) \quad \text{AIC}(\mathcal{M}_1) = n \left(\ln(2\pi \hat{\sigma}_1^2) + 1 \right) + 2(p + 1)$$

and for model \mathcal{M}_2 with $p + 1 + q$ parameters, we obtain

$$(8) \quad \text{AIC}(\mathcal{M}_2) = n \left(\ln(2\pi \hat{\sigma}_2^2) + 1 \right) + 2(p + 1 + q)$$

with $\hat{\sigma}_1^2$ and $\hat{\sigma}_2^2$ denoting the maximum likelihood estimates of the unknown variance σ^2 for models \mathcal{M}_1 and \mathcal{M}_2 , respectively.

Thus, finally, we obtain:

$$(9) \quad \begin{aligned} & \text{AIC}(\mathcal{M}_2) < \text{AIC}(\mathcal{M}_1) \\ \stackrel{(7),(8)}{\iff} & n \left(\ln(2\pi \hat{\sigma}_2^2) + 1 \right) + 2(p + 1 + q) < n \left(\ln(2\pi \hat{\sigma}_1^2) + 1 \right) + 2(p + 1) \\ \iff & n \left(\ln(2\pi \hat{\sigma}_2^2) - \ln(2\pi \hat{\sigma}_1^2) \right) < -2q \iff \ln \left(\frac{\hat{\sigma}_2^2}{\hat{\sigma}_1^2} \right) < -\frac{2q}{n} \\ \iff & \frac{\text{SSE}_2}{\text{SSE}_1} \stackrel{(4)}{=} \frac{n \hat{\sigma}_2^2}{n \hat{\sigma}_1^2} = \frac{\hat{\sigma}_2^2}{\hat{\sigma}_1^2} < \exp \left(-\frac{2q}{n} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 20

- (a) Let a GLM according to section II.2 be given. Then, according to II.2.16, the corresponding likelihood equations are given by

$$(1) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{y_i - E(Y_i)}{\text{Var}(Y_i)} \frac{\partial g^{-1}}{\partial \eta_i}(\eta_i) x_{ik} \right) = 0 \quad \text{for } k \in \{1, \dots, p\},$$

where p denotes the dimension of the parameter vector $\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p$. Note that these likelihood equations implicitly depend on β (as mentioned in the Lecture).

However, in general, the likelihood equations (1) do *not* imply

$$(2) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \mu_i) = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - E(Y_i)) = 0$$

as will be shown by a counter-example at the end of part (a).

Thus, if $\hat{\mu} = (\hat{\mu}_1, \dots, \hat{\mu}_n)' := g^{-1}(X \hat{\beta})$ for a solution $\hat{\beta}$ of (1), we will – in general – *not* obtain:

$$(3) \quad \bar{e} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n e_i \stackrel{\text{Def}}{=} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{\mu}_i) = 0$$

If, especially, we consider a GLM with a canonical link function, according to II.2.19, the likelihood equations in (1) simplify to

$$(4) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - E(Y_i)) x_{ik} = 0 \quad \text{for } k \in \{1, \dots, p\}$$

If, additionally, the GLM has an intercept term, i.e. $x_{i1} = 1$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, then (4) evaluated for $k = 1$ yields (2) and, thus, the corresponding estimated residuals have a mean of 0 as derived in (3).

If the GLM has no intercept term, again, we cannot imply the zero mean of the estimated residuals, since then x_{1k}, \dots, x_{nk} may attain different values for each $k \in \{1, \dots, p\}$.

As an example, let us consider the observation vector $y := (0, 0, 1, 1, 0)'$ of 5 independent Bernoulli trials with parameter $\pi \in (0, 1)$ and with only one explanatory variable and corresponding data vector $x := (3, 1, 2, 4, 2)'$.

First, we fit the logit model with intercept, i.e. a GLM with canonical link and intercept:

$$(5) \quad \text{logit}(\pi_i) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, 5\}$$

Then, we obtain $\bar{e} = 0$ as provided by the derivations above.

Next, we fit the logit model without intercept:

$$(6) \quad \text{logit}(\pi_i) = \beta_1 x_i, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, 5\}$$

Then, we obtain $\bar{e} = -0.1 \neq 0$.

Finally, we fit the GLM with intercept, but with the identity function instead of the logit function as link function, i.e. a simple linear regression model given by

$$(7) \quad \pi_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_i, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, 5\}$$

Then, we obtain $\bar{e} \approx -0.027 \neq 0$.

- (b) According to the given hint, as a counter-example for part (b), we consider the intercept-GLM for a single random variable $Y \sim \mathcal{B}(n, \pi)$ with $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\pi \in (0, 1)$ and with the identity link function. This is *not* the canonical one, since the logit function is the canonical link for that model.

Thus, the single model equation (according to sample size 1) is just given by:

$$(8) \quad \pi_i = \beta_0$$

Then, for a realization $y \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ of Y , the corresponding log-likelihood function $l^{\mathbf{Y}}(\bullet | \mathbf{y}) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ of \mathbf{Y} is given by

$$(9) \quad \begin{aligned} l^{\mathbf{Y}}(\beta_0 | \mathbf{y}) &= \ln \left(\binom{n}{y} \beta_0^y (1 - \beta_0)^{n-y} \right) \\ &= \ln \left(\binom{n}{y} \right) + y \ln(\beta_0) + (n - y) \ln(1 - \beta_0), \quad \beta_0 \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned}$$

By (9), the log-likelihood function $l^{\mathbf{Y}}(\bullet | \mathbf{y})$ is twice differentiable on \mathbb{R} , and its first two derivatives are given by

$$(10) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{d}{d\beta_0} l^{\mathbf{Y}}(\beta_0 | \mathbf{y}) &\stackrel{(9)}{=} \frac{y}{\beta_0} - \frac{n-y}{1-\beta_0} = \frac{y(1-\beta_0) - (n-y)\beta_0}{\beta_0(1-\beta_0)} \\ &= \frac{y - n\beta_0}{\beta_0(1-\beta_0)}, \quad \beta_0 \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned}$$

$$(11) \quad \begin{aligned} \frac{d^2}{d\beta_0^2} l^{\mathbf{Y}}(\beta_0 | \mathbf{y}) &\stackrel{(10)}{=} \frac{-n(\beta_0 - \beta_0^2) - (y - n\beta_0)(1 - 2\beta_0)}{\beta_0^2(1-\beta_0)^2} \\ &= \frac{-n\beta_0 + n\beta_0^2 - y + n\beta_0 + 2y\beta_0 - 2n\beta_0^2}{\beta_0^2(1-\beta_0)^2} \\ &= \frac{-y - n\beta_0^2 + 2y\beta_0}{\beta_0^2(1-\beta_0)^2}, \quad \beta_0 \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned}$$

In the given situation, according to Definition II.2.23, the observed information matrix (which is a real number in this case) is given by

$$(12) \quad \mathcal{J}_F^{\text{obs}}(\beta_0) = -\frac{d^2}{d\beta_0^2} l^{\mathbf{Y}}(\beta_0 | \mathbf{y}) \stackrel{(9)}{=} \frac{y + n\beta_0^2 - 2y\beta_0}{\beta_0^2(1-\beta_0)^2}, \quad \beta_0 \in \mathbb{R},$$

which, obviously, is dependent on the data $y \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ and therefore is different to the expected information (matrix).

Remark:

In the given situation of the considered counter-example, the expected information (matrix) is given by

$$\mathcal{J}_F(\beta_0) = \frac{n}{\beta_0(1-\beta_0)} = \frac{1}{\text{Var}_{\beta_0}(\hat{\beta}_0)} = \frac{1}{\text{Var}_{\beta_0}(Y/n)}, \quad \beta_0 \in \mathbb{R}$$

(c) First, we know from classical introductions to statistics:

$$(13) \quad E_{\pi}(\hat{\pi}_1) \stackrel{\text{Def.}}{=} E_{\pi}(\overline{Y}) = \pi, \quad \pi \in (0, 1)$$

$$(14) \quad \text{Var}_{\pi}(\hat{\pi}_1) \stackrel{\text{Def.}}{=} \text{Var}_{\pi}(\overline{Y}) = \frac{\pi(1-\pi)}{100}, \quad \pi \in (0, 1)$$

For the second estimator, we obtain:

$$(15) \quad E_{\pi}(\hat{\pi}_2) \stackrel{\text{Def.}}{=} E_{\pi}\left(\frac{\overline{Y}}{2} + \frac{1}{4}\right) \stackrel{\text{Lin.}}{\underset{(13)}{=}} \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{1}{4} \neq \pi \quad \text{for } \pi \neq \frac{1}{2}$$

$$(16) \quad \text{Var}_{\pi}(\hat{\pi}_2) \stackrel{\text{Def.}}{=} \text{Var}_{\pi}\left(\frac{\overline{Y}}{2} + \frac{1}{4}\right) = \frac{1}{4} \text{Var}_{\pi}(\overline{Y}) \stackrel{(14)}{=} \frac{\pi(1-\pi)}{400}, \quad \pi \in (0, 1)$$

(i) By (13) and (15), only the first estimator $\hat{\pi}_1$ of $\pi \in (0, 1)$ is unbiased, while the second estimator $\hat{\pi}_2$ is biased.

(ii) By (14) and (16), it holds:

$$\text{Var}_{\pi}(\hat{\pi}_2) = \frac{\pi(1-\pi)}{400} < \frac{\pi(1-\pi)}{100} = \text{Var}_{\pi}(\hat{\pi}_1), \quad \pi \in (0, 1)$$

Thus, the estimator $\hat{\pi}_2$ has a smaller variance than the estimator $\hat{\pi}_1$ for each $\pi \in (0, 1)$

(iii) For the two estimators, we obtain the following mean squared errors:

$$(17) \quad \text{MSE}_{\pi}(\hat{\pi}_1) \stackrel{\text{Def.}}{=} E_{\pi}\left((\hat{\pi}_1 - \pi)^2\right) \stackrel{(13)}{=} E_{\pi}\left((\hat{\pi}_1 - E_{\pi}(\hat{\pi}_1))^2\right)$$

$$\stackrel{\text{Def.}}{=} \text{Var}_{\pi}(\hat{\pi}_1) \stackrel{(14)}{=} \frac{\pi(1-\pi)}{100}, \quad \pi \in (0, 1)$$

$$(18) \quad \text{MSE}_{\pi}(\hat{\pi}_2) \stackrel{\text{Def.}}{=} E_{\pi}\left((\hat{\pi}_2 - \pi)^2\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \underbrace{E_{\pi}\left((\hat{\pi}_2 - E_{\pi}(\hat{\pi}_2))^2\right)}_{=\text{Var}_{\pi}(\hat{\pi}_2)} + \underbrace{E_{\pi}\left((E_{\pi}(\hat{\pi}_2) - \pi)^2\right)}_{=\text{Bias}_{\pi}^2(\hat{\pi}_2)} \\ &\stackrel{(15),(16)}{=} \frac{\pi(1-\pi)}{400} + \left(\frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{1}{4} - \pi\right)^2 = \frac{\pi - \pi^2}{400} + \frac{(1-2\pi)^2}{16} \\ &= \frac{\pi - \pi^2 + 25 - 100\pi + 100\pi^2}{400} = \frac{99\pi^2 - 99\pi + 25}{400}, \end{aligned}$$

$\pi \in (0, 1)$

Thus, we obtain for $\pi \in (0, 1)$:

$$\begin{aligned} (19) \quad \text{MSE}_{\pi}(\hat{\pi}_2) &< \text{MSE}_{\pi}(\hat{\pi}_1) \stackrel{(17),(18)}{\iff} \\ \frac{99\pi^2 - 99\pi + 25}{400} &< \frac{\pi - \pi^2}{100} \iff 99\pi^2 - 99\pi + 25 < 4\pi - 4\pi^2 \\ &\iff 103\pi^2 - 103\pi + 25 < 0 \end{aligned}$$

which is satisfied for all

$$(20) \quad \pi \in \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{3/103}}{2}, \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3/103}}{2}\right) \approx (0.415, 0.585)$$

Remark to Exercise 20, (c):

A practical application for the situation considered in part (c) could be given by a polling agency, which wants to estimate the proportion of votes for a candidate A over a second candidate B in an election between these two candidates. If the agency expects the proportion to be close to 50:50, the estimator $\hat{\pi}_2$ is more efficient than $\hat{\pi}_1$.