

Lecture 3. *On point estimate*

I. Moment estimate properties

Definition 1: Sequence of r.v. $\{X_n\}$ almost probably converge to r.v. X , if

$$P\left\{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} X_n - X\right\} = 1.$$

Definition 2: Sequence of r.v. $\{X_n\}$ converges in probability to r.v. X , if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} P\{|X_n - X| \leq \varepsilon\} = 1.$$

Definition 3: Sequence of r.v. $\{X_n\}$ converges in the distribution to r.v. X (or weakly converges), if for all points of continuity of the probability distribution function the equality holds

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_{X_n}(x) = F_X(x) \quad \text{or} \quad F_{X_n}(x) \Rightarrow F_X(x)$$

Remark 1: Convergence almost probably implies convergence in probability!

Remark 2: Convergence in probability implies convergence in distribution!

Moments properties:

The sample mean $\bar{X}$ is unbiased, consistent and asymptotically normal estimation for the theoretical mean (expectation of r.v.)

Theorem 6

- 1) If $E|X_1| < \infty$, then $E\bar{X} = EX_1 = a$
- 2) If $E|X_1| < \infty$, then $\bar{X} \xrightarrow{P} EX_1 = a, n \rightarrow \infty$
- 3) If $D|X_1| < \infty, DX_1 \neq 0$, then $\sqrt{n}(\bar{X} - EX_1) \Rightarrow N(0, DX_1)$ ($\bar{X}$ is an asymptotically normal estimate for the true expectation EX_1 ; theoretical)

Proof:

According to properties of expectation:

$$1) E\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n}(EX_1 + \dots + EX_n) = \frac{1}{n}nEX_1 = EX_1 = a - \text{unbiased}$$

$$2) \text{ and LLN: } \bar{X} = \frac{1}{n}(X_1 + \dots + X_n) \xrightarrow{P} EX_1 = a$$

$$3) \sqrt{n}(\bar{X} - EX_1) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i - nEX_1}{\sqrt{n}} = \frac{X_1 - EX_1 + \dots + X_n - EX_n}{\sqrt{n}} = \dots$$

[according to (CLT) :

$$\frac{X_1 - a + \dots + X_n - a}{\sqrt{n}} \Rightarrow \mathcal{N}(0, DX_1), \text{ where } DX_1 = \sigma^2 - \text{true variance},$$

$$\text{that is if } X_i \in \mathcal{N}(a, \sigma^2) \text{ then } S_n = \frac{1}{n} \sum X_i \in \mathcal{N}\left(a, \frac{\sigma^2}{n}\right),$$

$$\text{and as result we obtain } \dots = \frac{X_1 - a + \dots + X_n - a}{\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{n}}} \in \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$$

Theorem 7

1. If $E|X_1|^k < \infty$, then $E\bar{X}^k = EX_1^k = m_k$
2. If $E|X_1|^k < \infty$, then $\bar{X}^k \xrightarrow{P} EX_1^k = m_k, n \rightarrow \infty$
3. If $DX_1^k < \infty$, and $DX_1^k \neq 0$ then $\sqrt{n}(\bar{X}^k - EX_1^k) \Rightarrow \mathcal{N}(0, DX_1^k)$

Theorem 8 *Variance properties.*

Let $DX_1 < \infty$, then

1. Sample variance $s^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2$ and $s_0^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2$ are consistent estimation for true variance: $s^2 \xrightarrow{P} DX_1 = \sigma^2$ and $s_0^2 \xrightarrow{P} DX_1 = \sigma^2$
2. Value s^2 – biased estimation of variance and s_0^2 – unbiased one:
$$ES^2 = \frac{n-1}{n} DX_1 = \frac{n-1}{n} \sigma^2 \neq \sigma^2, \quad ES_0^2 = DX_1 = \sigma^2$$
3. If $0 < D(X_1 - EX_1)^2 < \infty$, then s^2 and s_0^2 – asymptotically normal estimation of the true variance: $\sqrt{n}(s^2 - DX_1) \Rightarrow \mathcal{N}(0, D(X_1 - EX_1)^2)$

Proof:

1. $s^2 = \overline{X^2} - (\bar{X})^2 \xrightarrow{P} EX_1^2 - (EX_1)^2 = \sigma^2$. (theorem 7.1)
 $\frac{n}{n-1} \mapsto 1$, so $s_0^2 = \frac{n}{n-1} s^2 \xrightarrow{P} \sigma^2$
2. $ES^2 = E(\overline{X^2} - \bar{X}^2) \stackrel{prop.E}{=} E\overline{X^2} - E(\bar{X}^2) = \text{theor. 7} = EX_1^2 - E(\bar{X}^2) =$
[т. к. $D(\bar{X}) = E\bar{X}^2 - (E\bar{X})^2 = EX_1^2 - ((E\bar{X})^2 + D(\bar{X})) = EX_1^2 - (EX_1)^2 -$
 $D\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i\right) = \sigma^2 - \frac{1}{n^2} n DX_1 = \sigma^2 - \frac{\sigma^2}{n} = \frac{n-1}{n} \sigma^2$,
 $ES_0^2 = \frac{n}{n-1} ES^2 = \sigma^2$

3. Introduce new variables $Y_i = X_i - a$, such that :
 $DY_1 = DX_1 = \sigma^2, \quad EY_1 = 0$

$$\text{Sample variance } s^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - a - (\bar{X} - a))^2 = \overline{Y^2} - (\bar{Y})^2,$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{so } \sqrt{n}(s^2 - \sigma^2) &= \sqrt{n}(\overline{Y^2} - (\bar{Y})^2 - \sigma^2) = \sqrt{n}(\overline{Y^2} - EY_1^2) - \sqrt{n}(\bar{Y})^2 \\ &= (\text{theorem 7}) \\ &= \left[\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n Y_i^2 - n EY_1^2}{\sqrt{n}} - \bar{Y} \sqrt{n} \bar{Y} \right] \Rightarrow_{\{\text{tends to}\}} \mathcal{N}(0, DY_1^2) \\ &= \mathcal{N}(0, D(X_1 - a)^2), \\ &\text{because: if } \bar{Y} \xrightarrow{P} EY_1 = 0, \text{ then } \bar{Y} \sqrt{n} \bar{Y} \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

II. Parametric families. Point Estimate

Parametric families of distribution

Definition 1.

$\mathbf{X}=\{X_i\}$ – sample $\in$

$\mathcal{F}_\theta$ (known family, unknown parameter θ (scalar or vector)),

$\theta \in \Theta$ for example:

$$\mathcal{F}_\theta = \begin{cases} P_\lambda, & \theta = \lambda > 0, & \text{Poisson} \\ B(p), & \theta = p \in (0,1), & \text{Bernoulli} \\ U(a,b), & \theta = a,b; a < b, & \text{Uniform} \\ \mathcal{N}(a, \sigma^2), & \theta = a, \sigma, a \in \mathbb{R}, \sigma > 0, & \text{Normal} \end{cases}$$

Θ – is the set of possible values.

Statistics – an arbitrary Borel, measurable function – θ^* of the sample, $\theta^* = \theta^*(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ – estimate of θ ; θ^* – random value (as function of $\mathbf{X}$).

Definition 2. Statistics θ^* – unbiased ($\theta^* = \theta^*(X_1, \dots, X_n)$) – estimation of the true parameter θ ; if for $\forall \theta \in \Theta$, $E\theta^* = \theta$, n – fixed

Definition 3. Statistics θ^* – asymptotically unbiased estimation of θ ; if $\forall \theta \in \Theta$ the convergence takes place: $E\theta^* \rightarrow \theta$ if $n \rightarrow \infty$

Definition 4. Statistics $\theta^* = \theta^*(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ – consistent estimation of θ , if for $\forall \theta \in \Theta$, $\theta^* \xrightarrow{P} \theta$, if $n \rightarrow \infty$

Interpretation:

- ❖ Unbiasedness – no error on average (after using)
- ❖ Asymptotically unbiasedness – the difference between its mean and true parameter decrease with increasing of **sample size**
- ❖ Consistence – it means that the sequence of estimates tends to unknown parameter with increasing of the number of observations

Before we proved

Theorem 9.

- estimation for the **true mean** is the sample average ($a = EX_1 \leftarrow a^* = \bar{X}$), and a^* – is consistent and unbiased;
- for **true variance** two estimations exist:
 - $S^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2$
 - $S_0^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2$

Both variances are consistent, but S^2 – biased and asymptotically unbiased, and S_0^2 – unbiased.

There are some standard methods for obtaining point estimates:

III. Point estimate construction.

1. Moment method (MM)

The main idea: each moment of r. v. X_1 – is some function h of θ ; substituting the sample analogue of the moment in the inverse function h^{-1} with respect to θ instead of the true value, we get an estimate θ^* of the true value θ .

Let $X_1, \dots, X_n$ – the sample $\in \mathcal{F}_\theta, \theta \in \Theta \subseteq R$. Function $g(y)$ such that $Eg(X_1) = h(\theta)$ ($g: R \rightarrow R$) and h^{-1} – exists, $\theta = h^{-1}(Eg(X_1)), \theta^* = h^{-1}(\overline{g(X)}) = h^{-1}(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n g(X_i))$

$$\text{Let } g(y) = y^k \ (k = 1, \dots), (- \text{ general choice}) \ EX_1^k = h(\theta), \\ \theta = h^{-1}(EX_1^k), \quad \theta^* = h^{-1}(\overline{X_1^k}) = h^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^k\right)$$

Property of MM estimation:

Let $\theta^* = h^{-1}(\overline{g(X)})$ – MM estimate of θ , h^{-1} – continuous function then θ^* – consistent estimate.

Interpretation: The MM estimate is taken as an estimate of a random parameter value, at which the true point coincides with the moment of sampling

Example : $X_1, \dots, X_n$ – sample $\in$ uniform distribution $U(0, \theta), \theta > 0$.

Determine θ_1^* and θ_k^* (using the first and k – th moments):

a) θ_1^* : $g(y) = y$; for uniform distributed random variable f.e. X_1

$$EX_1 = \frac{\theta}{2}, \text{ so } \theta = 2EX_1, \theta_1 = 2\bar{X}$$

$$b) \theta_k^*: EX_1^k = \int_0^\theta y^k \frac{1}{\theta} dy = \frac{\theta^k}{k+1}; \quad \theta = \sqrt[k]{(k+1)EX_1^k} \Rightarrow \theta_k^* = \sqrt[k]{(k+1)\overline{X_1^k}}$$

2. Maximum likelihood method (MLM)

MLM – another approach to construct estimate of unknown distribution's parameters using sample $(X_1, \dots, X_n)$.

The main idea: as the most plausible parameter value will be taken the value θ , maximizing probability of obtaining the sample $(X_1, \dots, X_n)$

$$P(X_1 \in (y, y + dy)) = f_\theta(y)dy \quad (\text{noted } f(y, \theta) = f_\theta(y))$$

Given the nature of random variable, we proposed the following kind of density function:

$$f(y, \theta) = \begin{cases} f(y, \theta), & \text{if } \mathcal{F}_\theta - \text{absolutely continuous} \\ P_\theta(X_1 = y), & \text{if } \mathcal{F}_\theta - \text{descrete} \end{cases}$$

Here $\mathcal{F}_\theta$ – distribution family.

Definition. Likelihood function (LF) is

$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n, \theta) = f_n(X_1, \theta) \cdot f(X_2, \theta) \cdot \dots \cdot f(X_n, \theta) =$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^n f(X_i, \theta) \quad \text{and (LLF) Logarithmic likelihood function}$$

$$- \text{is } L(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n, \theta) = \ln(f(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n, \theta)) = \sum_{i=1}^n \ln f(X_i, \theta)$$

Both functions are random for a fixed θ .

- For **discrete case**, when $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ are values (outcomes) of random variables $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$, X_i – independent then probability to obtain $\mathbf{X}$ depends on θ and equal to

$$f(\mathbf{X}, \theta) = \prod_{i=1}^n f(X_i, \theta) = P_\theta(X_1 = x_1) \cdot \dots \cdot P_\theta(X_n = x_n) =$$

$$= P_\theta(X_1 = x_1, X_2 = x_2, \dots, X_n = x_n)$$

- For **absolutely continuous case**, this function is proportional to the probability of getting “almost” to the point $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$, namely is cube with the sides $dx_1, dx_2, \dots, dx_n$ around the point.

Definition. Likelihood estimation $\hat{\theta}$ of θ is a value of θ such that the maximum of the functions $f(X_1, \dots, X_n, \theta)$ or $L(X_1, \dots, X_n, \theta)$ is achieved.

Remark: maximum points for both functions are the same because of monotonicity of the function $\ln x$ (function values in extreme points are different).

Example 1.

Let $X_1, \dots, X_n \in P_\lambda$, $\lambda > 0$. Find $\hat{\lambda}$.

Based on density function for Poisson family distribution P_λ :

$$f_\lambda(y) = P(X_1 = y) = \frac{\lambda^y}{y!} e^{-\lambda}; \quad y = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

We will determine likelihood function

$$f(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n, \lambda) = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{\lambda^{X_i}}{X_i!} e^{-\lambda} = \frac{\lambda^{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i}}{\prod_{i=1}^n X_i!} e^{-\lambda n} = \frac{\lambda^{n\bar{X}}}{\prod_{i=1}^n X_i!} e^{-\lambda n}; \quad \lambda > 0,$$

likelihood function f – differentiated function, but easier to use L

$$L(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n, \lambda) = \ln f(X_1, \dots, X_n, \lambda) = \ln \left(\frac{\lambda^{n\bar{X}}}{\prod_{i=1}^n X_i!} e^{-\lambda n} \right) = n\bar{X} \ln \lambda - \ln \prod_{i=1}^n X_i! - n\lambda;$$

partial derivative:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} L(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n, \lambda) = \frac{n\bar{X}}{\lambda} - n = 0$$

$$\hat{\lambda} = \bar{X}, \quad \text{where } \hat{\lambda} - \text{maximal value, why?}$$

Example 2.

Let sample $X_1, \dots, X_n \in \mathcal{N}(a, \sigma^2)$, $a \in R, \sigma > 0$; a, σ – unknown

$$f(y, a, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} e^{\frac{-(y-a)^2}{2\sigma^2}};$$

$$LF: f(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n, a, \sigma^2) = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} e^{\frac{(X_i-a)^2}{2\sigma^2}} = \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{\frac{n}{2}}} e^{\frac{-\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i-a)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

$$LLF: L(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n, a, \sigma^2)$$

$$= \ln f(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n, a, \sigma^2) = -\ln(2\pi)^{\frac{n}{2}} - \frac{n}{2} \ln(\sigma^2) - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - a)^2}{2\sigma^2}$$

Find extreme points:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial L}{\partial a} = \frac{2 \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - a)}{2\sigma^2} = \frac{n\bar{X} - na}{\sigma^2} = 0 \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial \sigma^2} = -\frac{n}{2\sigma^2} + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - a)^2}{2\sigma^4} = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$LM \text{ estimations : } n\bar{X} - na = 0; -\sigma^2 + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - a)^2 = 0$$

$\hat{a} = \bar{X}$, $\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2 = S^2$ – identical to the first and second empirical moments.

IV. Estimate Comparison.**1. Mean square approach (MSA)**

There are examples where the estimates according to MM and LM are different.

Let's introduce “distance” between true parameter θ and its estimation $\hat{\theta}$ as expectation of deviation $E(\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2$ for each permissible θ .

Let $X_1, \dots, X_n$ – sample $\in \mathcal{F}_\theta, \theta \in \Theta$.

Definition. θ_1^* better than θ_2^* in sense of MSA, if for any $\theta \in \Theta$,

$$E(\theta_1^* - \theta)^2 \leq E(\theta_2^* - \theta)^2$$

2. Asymptotically normal estimate (ANE)

MSA creates problems for calculation moment of $\theta^* - \theta$, because of density functions non-linearity leads to methodological difficulties, often.

Statement. Let $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$ – sample $\in \mathcal{F}_\theta, \theta \in \Theta$.

Estimation θ^* is called ANE of θ with variance $\sigma^2(\theta)$,

if for $\forall \theta \in \Theta$ there is a weak convergence:

$$\sqrt{n}(\theta^* - \theta) \Rightarrow \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2(\theta)) \text{ or the same } \sqrt{n} \frac{\theta^* - \theta}{\sigma(\theta)} \Rightarrow \mathcal{N}(0, 1), n \rightarrow \infty$$

Remark. This statement important for estimates sequence,
to determine confidence interval, or statistical tests.

Definition

It is said that there is weak convergence $\xi_n \rightarrow F$, if for $\forall (\cdot) x$ – point
of function continuity take a place convergence $P(\xi_n < x) \rightarrow F(x)$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$