

MEM-264 Applied Statistics

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5th Lecture - 22-02-2021

Maximum likelihood estimator (Εκτιμήτρια μέγιστης πιθανοφάνειας)

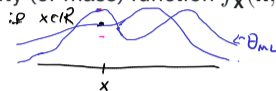
X_1, \dots, X_n iid $X_i \sim f_X(x_i; \theta)$

Definition : Likelihood function

$$\underline{\mathbf{x}} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)^T$$

For a realization \mathbf{x} of a random variable \mathbf{X} with a probability density (or mass) function $f_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$, the likelihood function \mathcal{L} is defined by

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta; \mathbf{x}) = f_{\mathbf{X}}(\underline{\mathbf{x}}; \theta)$$



Definition : Log-likelihood function

$$\ell(\theta; \mathbf{x}) = \log \mathcal{L}(\theta; \mathbf{x})$$



Definition : Likelihood estimator

An estimator t is called the **maximum likelihood estimator** of θ if

$$t(\mathbf{x}) = \arg \sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathcal{L}(\theta; \mathbf{x}) = \arg \sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \ell(\theta; \mathbf{x})$$

the maximum likelihood estimator (MLE) of $g(\theta)$ is given by

$$g(\hat{\theta}_{MLE})$$

where $\hat{\theta}_{MLE}$ is the maximum likelihood estimator of θ .

► We will denote the maximum likelihood estimator as $\hat{\theta}_{ml}$ or simply $\hat{\theta}$.

Example

$$\tilde{X} = (X_1, \dots, X_n)^T \quad \tilde{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)^T \quad \text{argmax } \log L(\theta; \tilde{x})$$

Let X_1, \dots, X_n be an i.i.d sample and $X_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$. Find the maximum likelihood estimator of $\theta = (\mu, \sigma^2)^T$.

$$f(x_i; \mu, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left\{-\frac{(x_i - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\} \quad f_{\tilde{X}}(\tilde{x}; \mu, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{n/2}} \exp\left\{-\sum_{j=1}^n \frac{(x_j - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right\} = \mathcal{L}(\mu, \sigma^2; \tilde{x})$$

$$\ell(\mu, \sigma^2; \tilde{x}) = -\frac{n}{2} \left\{ \log 2\pi + \log \sigma^2 \right\} - \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{(x_j - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \ell(\mu, \sigma^2; \tilde{x}) = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{(x_j - \mu)}{\sigma^2} = 0 \Rightarrow \sum_{j=1}^n (x_j - \mu) = 0 \Rightarrow \hat{\mu}_{ml} = \frac{\sum x_j}{n} = \bar{x}_n$$

$$\sigma^2 = \tau$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \ell(\mu, \tau; \tilde{x})$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \sigma^2} \ell(\mu, \sigma^2; \tilde{x}) = -\frac{n}{2} \frac{1}{\sigma^2} + \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{(x_j - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^4} = 0 \Rightarrow \hat{\sigma}_{ml}^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n (x_j - \bar{x}_n)^2$$

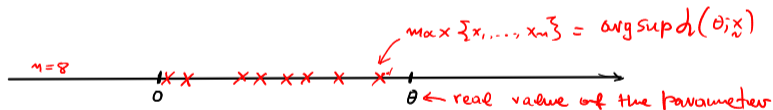
Example

$$\theta > 0$$

Let X_1, \dots, X_n be an i.i.d sample and $X_1 \sim \mathcal{U}(0, \theta)$. Find the maximum likelihood estimator of θ .

$$f_{X_1}(x_1; \theta) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\theta}, & x_1 \in (0, \theta) \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} = \frac{1}{\theta} \mathbb{1}_{\{x \in (0, \theta)\}}$$

$$L(\theta; \mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{\theta^n} \prod_{j=1}^n \mathbb{1}_{\{x_j \in (0, \theta)\}} = \frac{1}{\theta^n} \mathbb{1}_{\{\min\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} > 0\}} \mathbb{1}_{\{\max\{x_1, \dots, x_n\} < \theta\}}$$



Binomial distributions

Let X_1, \dots, X_n be an i.i.d sample and $X_1 \sim \text{Bin}(N, \theta)$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n X_j \sim \text{Bin}(nN, \theta)$$

~~Normal~~
Poisson

Normal distributions

Let X_1, \dots, X_n be an i.i.d sample and $X_1 \sim \text{Po}(\theta)$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n X_j \sim \text{Po}(n\theta)$$

Normal distributions

Let X_1, \dots, X_n be an i.i.d sample and $X_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n X_j \sim \mathcal{N}(n\mu, n\sigma^2)$$

Exercise

Let $X \sim \text{Bin}(4, \theta)$ and $x = 3$ a single realization of X . Find the maximum likelihood estimator of θ .

Repeat the estimation for the independent observations $\mathbf{x} = (3, 1)^T$. X_1, X_2 iid $X_i \sim \text{Bin}(4, \theta)$

Student's t-distribution

$$S_n^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{j=1}^n (X_j - \bar{X}_n)^2$$
$$S_n = \sqrt{S_n^2}$$

Let X_1, \dots, X_n be an i.i.d sample with $X_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$.

We define the random variable T as

$$T = \frac{\bar{X}_n - \mu}{S_n / \sqrt{n}}$$

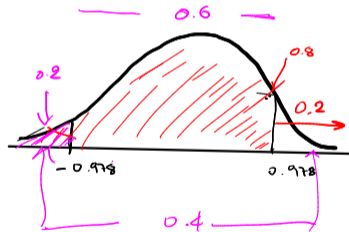
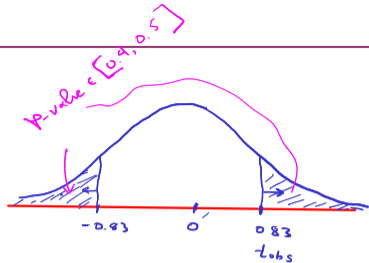
$$\frac{S_n}{\sqrt{n}}$$

$$\bar{X}_n \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbb{E}\{X_i\}, \frac{\text{Var}\{X_i\}}{n}\right)$$
$$\mathcal{N}\left(\mu, \frac{\sigma^2}{n}\right)$$

The distribution of T is called t-distribution with $n - 1$ degrees of freedom.

Student's t-distribution

cum. prob one-tail two-tails	$t_{.50}$	$t_{.75}$	$t_{.80}$	$t_{.85}$	$t_{.90}$	$t_{.95}$	$t_{.975}$	$t_{.99}$	$t_{.995}$	$t_{.999}$	$t_{.9995}$
	0.50	0.25	0.20	0.15	0.10	0.05	0.025	0.01	0.005	0.001	0.0005
df											
1	0.000	1.000	1.376	1.963	3.078	6.314	12.71	31.82	63.66	318.31	636.62
2	0.000	0.816	1.061	1.386	1.886	2.920	4.303	6.965	9.925	22.327	31.599
3	0.000	0.765	0.978	1.250	1.638	2.353	3.182	4.541	5.841	10.215	12.924
4	0.000	0.741	0.941	1.190	1.533	2.132	2.776	3.747	4.604	7.173	8.610
5	0.000	0.727	0.920	1.156	1.476	2.015	2.571	3.365	4.032	5.893	6.869
6	0.000	0.718	0.906	1.134	1.440	1.943	2.447	3.143	3.707	5.208	5.959
7	0.000	0.711	0.896	1.119	1.415	1.895	2.365	2.998	3.499	4.785	5.408
8	0.000	0.706	0.889	1.108	1.397	1.860	2.306	2.896	3.355	4.501	5.041
9	0.000	0.703	0.883	1.100	1.383	1.833	2.262	2.821	3.250	4.297	4.781
10	0.000	0.700	0.879	1.093	1.372	1.812	2.228	2.764	3.169	4.144	4.587
11	0.000	0.697	0.876	1.088	1.363	1.796	2.201	2.718	3.106	4.025	4.437
12	0.000	0.695	0.873	1.083	1.356	1.782	2.179	2.681	3.055	3.930	4.318
13	0.000	0.694	0.870	1.079	1.350	1.771	2.160	2.650	3.012	3.852	4.221
14	0.000	0.692	0.868	1.076	1.345	1.761	2.145	2.624	2.977	3.787	4.140
15	0.000	0.691	0.866	1.074	1.341	1.753	2.131	2.602	2.947	3.733	4.073
16	0.000	0.690	0.865	1.071	1.337	1.746	2.120	2.583	2.921	3.686	4.015
17	0.000	0.689	0.863	1.069	1.333	1.740	2.110	2.567	2.898	3.646	3.965
18	0.000	0.688	0.862	1.067	1.330	1.734	2.101	2.552	2.878	3.610	3.922
19	0.000	0.688	0.861	1.066	1.328	1.729	2.093	2.539	2.861	3.579	3.883
20	0.000	0.687	0.860	1.064	1.325	1.725	2.086	2.528	2.845	3.552	3.850
21	0.000	0.686	0.859	1.063	1.323	1.721	2.080	2.518	2.831	3.527	3.819
22	0.000	0.686	0.858	1.061	1.321	1.717	2.074	2.508	2.819	3.505	3.792
23	0.000	0.685	0.858	1.060	1.319	1.714	2.069	2.500	2.807	3.485	3.768
24	0.000	0.685	0.857	1.059	1.318	1.711	2.064	2.492	2.797	3.467	3.745
25	0.000	0.684	0.856	1.058	1.316	1.708	2.060	2.485	2.787	3.450	3.725
26	0.000	0.684	0.856	1.058	1.315	1.706	2.056	2.479	2.779	3.435	3.707
27	0.000	0.684	0.855	1.057	1.314	1.703	2.052	2.473	2.771	3.421	3.690
28	0.000	0.683	0.855	1.056	1.313	1.701	2.048	2.467	2.763	3.408	3.674
29	0.000	0.683	0.854	1.055	1.311	1.699	2.045	2.462	2.756	3.396	3.659
30	0.000	0.683	0.854	1.055	1.310	1.697	2.042	2.457	2.750	3.385	3.646
40	0.000	0.681	0.851	1.050	1.303	1.684	2.021	2.423	2.704	3.307	3.551
60	0.000	0.679	0.848	1.045	1.296	1.671	2.000	2.390	2.660	3.232	3.460
80	0.000	0.678	0.846	1.043	1.292	1.664	1.990	2.374	2.639	3.195	3.416
100	0.000	0.677	0.845	1.042	1.290	1.660	1.984	2.364	2.626	3.174	3.390
1000	0.000	0.675	0.842	1.037	1.282	1.646	1.962	2.330	2.581	3.098	3.300
Z	0.000	0.674	0.842	1.036	1.282	1.645	1.960	2.326	2.576	3.090	3.291
	0%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	95%	98%	99%	99.8%	99.9%
	Confidence Level										



Example

Let X_1, \dots, X_4 be an i.i.d sample and $X_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$. Accept or reject the null hypothesis.

$$H_0 : \mu = 2 \quad \text{vs} \quad H_1 : \mu \neq 2 \quad \text{observations : } \mathbf{x} = (1.5, 2.4, 1.6, 4.5)^T$$

Let's assume that H_0 is true.

$$X \sim \mathcal{N}(2, \sigma^2)$$

↑
unknown

$$T = t(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}) = \frac{\bar{X}_n - 2}{S_n / \sqrt{n}}$$

$$t_{\text{obs}} = 0.829$$

$$\bar{X}_n = 2.5$$

$$T \sim t_{df=3} = t_3$$

$$S_n = 1.2$$

P-value $\in [0.4, 0.5]$

There is no evidence against the null hypothesis !!

