

Methods of Estimation

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Outline

- 1 **Methods of Estimation I**
 - **Minimum Contrast Estimates**
 - Least Squares and Weighted Least Squares
 - Gauss-Markov Theorem
 - Generalized Least Squares (GLS)
 - Maximum Likelihood

Minimum Contrast Estimates

$X \in \mathcal{X}, X \sim P \in \mathcal{P} = \{P_\theta, \theta \in \Theta\}$.

Problem: Finding a function $\hat{\theta}(X)$ which is “close” to θ .

Consider

$$\rho : \mathcal{X} \times \Theta \rightarrow R.$$

and define $\mathcal{D}(\theta_0, \theta)$ to measure the *discrepancy* between θ and the true value θ_0 .

$$\mathcal{D}(\theta_0, \theta) = E_{\theta_0} \rho(X, \theta).$$

As a discrepancy measure, \mathcal{D} makes sense if the value of θ minimizing the function is $\theta = \theta_0$.

If P_{θ_0} were true, and we knew $\mathcal{D}(\theta_0, \theta)$, we could obtain θ_0 as the minimizer.

Instead of observing $\mathcal{D}(\theta_0, \theta)$, we observe $\rho(X, \theta)$.

- $\rho(\cdot, \cdot)$ is a contrast function
- $\hat{\theta}(X)$ is a minimum-contrast estimate.

The definition extends to

- Euclidean $\Theta \subset R^d$.
- θ_0 an interior point of Θ .
- Smooth mapping: $\theta \rightarrow D(\theta_0, \theta)$.
- $\theta = \theta_0$ solves

$$\nabla_{\theta} D(\theta_0, \theta) = 0.$$

where $\nabla_{\theta} = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_d} \right)^T$

- Substitute $\rho(X, \theta)$ for $D(\theta_0, \theta)$ and solve
$$\nabla_{\theta} \rho(X, \theta) = 0 \text{ at } \theta = \hat{\theta}.$$

Estimating Equations:

- $\Psi : \mathcal{X} \times R^d \rightarrow R^d$, where $\Psi = (\psi_1, \dots, \psi_d)^T$.
- For every $\theta_0 \in \Theta$, the expectation of Ψ given P_{θ_0} has a unique solution

$$V(\theta_0, \theta) = E_{\theta_0}[\Psi(X, \theta)] = 0$$

at $\theta = \theta_0$.

Example 2.1.1 Least Squares.

- $\mu(z) = g(\beta, z), \beta \in R^d$.
- $x = \{(z_i, Y_i) : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$, where Y_1, \dots, Y_n are independent.
- Define $\rho(X, \beta) = |Y - \mu|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n [Y_i - g(\beta, z_i)]^2$.
- Consider $Y_i = \mu(z_i) + \epsilon_i$, where $\mu(z_i) = g(\beta, z_i)$ and the ϵ_i are iid $N(0, \sigma_0^2)$.

Then, β parametrizes the model and we can write:

$$\begin{aligned} D(\beta_0, \beta) &= E_{\beta_0} \rho(X, \beta) \\ &= n\sigma_0^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n [g(\beta_0, z_i) - g(\beta, z_i)]^2. \end{aligned}$$

This is minimized by $\beta = \beta_0$ and uniquely so iff β identifiable.

- The *least-squares estimate* $\hat{\beta}$ minimizes $\rho(X, \beta)$.
Conditions to guarantee existence of $\hat{\beta}$:

- Continuity of $g(\cdot, z_i)$.
- Minimum of $\rho(X, \cdot)$ existing on compact set $\{\beta\}$
e.g., $\lim_{|\beta| \rightarrow \infty} |g(\beta, z_i)| = \infty$.
- If $g(\beta, z_i)$ is differentiable in β , then $\hat{\beta}$ satisfies the *Normal Equations* obtained by taking partial derivatives of $\rho(X, \beta) = \|Y - \mu\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n [Y_i - g(\beta, z_i)]^2$ and solving:

$$\frac{\partial \rho(X, \beta)}{\partial \beta_j} = 0$$

$$\rho(X, \beta) = |Y - \mu|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n [Y_i - g(\beta, z_i)]^2$$

Solve:

$$\frac{\partial \rho(X, \beta)}{\partial \beta_j} = 0$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n 2[Y_i - g(\beta, z_i)] \frac{\partial g(\beta, z_i)}{\partial \beta_j} (-1) = 0$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial g(\beta, z_i)}{\partial \beta_j} Y_i - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial g(\beta, z_i)}{\partial \beta_j} g(\beta, z_i) = 0$$

- Linear case:

$$g(\beta, z_i) = \sum_{j=1}^d z_{ij}\beta_j = \mathbf{z}_i^T \boldsymbol{\beta}$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho(\mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\beta})}{\partial \beta_j} = 0$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial g(\beta, z_i)}{\partial \beta_j} Y_i - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial g(\beta, z_i)}{\partial \beta_j} g(\beta, z_i) = 0$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n z_{ij} Y_i - \sum_{i=1}^n z_{i,j} (\mathbf{z}_i^T \boldsymbol{\beta}) = 0$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n z_{ij} Y_i - \sum_{k=1}^d \sum_{i=1}^n z_{i,j} z_{i,k} \beta_k = 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, d$$

$$\mathbf{Z}_D^T \mathbf{Y} - \mathbf{Z}_D^T \mathbf{Z}_D \boldsymbol{\beta} = 0$$

where \mathbf{Z}_D is the $(n \times d)$ design matrix with (i, j) element $z_{i,j}$

Note:

- Least Squares exemplifies *minimum contrast* and *estimating equation* methodology.
- Distribution assumptions are not necessary to motivate the estimate as a mathematical approximation.

Method of Moments

Method of Moments

- X_1, \dots, X_n iid $X \sim P_\theta, \theta \in R^d$.
- $\mu_1(\theta), \mu_2(\theta), \dots, \mu_d(\theta)$:
 $\mu_j(\theta) = \mu_j = E[X^j | \theta]$ the j th moment of X .

- Sample moments:

$$\hat{\mu}_j = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i^j, j = 1, \dots, d.$$

- Method of Moments: Solve for θ in the system of equations

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_1(\theta) &= \hat{\mu}_1 \\ \mu_2(\theta) &= \hat{\mu}_2 \\ &\vdots \\ \mu_d(\theta) &= \hat{\mu}_d \end{aligned}$$

Note: .

- θ must be identifiable
- Existence of μ_j : $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \hat{\mu}_j = \mu_j$ with $|\mu_j| < \infty$.
- If $q(\theta) = h(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_d)$, then the Method-of-Moments Estimate of $q(\theta)$ is
$$\hat{q}(\theta) = h(\hat{\mu}_1, \dots, \hat{\mu}_d).$$
- The MOM estimate of θ may not be unique!
(See Problem 2.1.11)

Plug-In and Extension Principles

Frequency Plug-In

- Multinomial Sample: X_1, \dots, X_n with K values v_1, \dots, v_K

$$P(X_i = v_j) = p_j \quad j = 1, \dots, K$$
- Plug in estimates: $\hat{p}_j = N_j/n$ where $N_j = \text{count}(\{i : X_i = v_j\})$
- Apply to any function $q(p_1, \dots, p_K)$:

$$\hat{q} = q(\hat{p}_1, \dots, \hat{p}_K)$$

- Equivalent to substituting the true distribution function

$$P_\theta(t) = P(X \leq t \mid \theta)$$
 underlying an iid sample with the empirical distribution function:

$$\hat{P}(t) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{1}\{x_i \leq t\}$$

\hat{P} is an estimate of P , and $\nu(\hat{P})$ is an estimate of $\nu(P)$.

- Example: α th population quantile

$$\nu_\alpha(P) = \frac{1}{2}[F^{-1}(\alpha) + F_U^{-1}(\alpha)], \text{ with } 0 < \alpha < 1:$$

where

$$F^{-1}(\alpha) = \inf\{x : F(x) \geq \alpha\}$$

$$F_U^{-1}(\alpha) = \sup\{x : F(x) \leq \alpha\}$$

The plug-in estimate is

$$\hat{\nu}_\alpha(P) = \nu_\alpha(\hat{P}) = \frac{1}{2}[\hat{F}^{-1}(\alpha) + \hat{F}_U^{-1}(\alpha)].$$

- Example: Method of Moments Estimates of j th Moment


$$\nu(P) = \mu_j = E(X^j)$$

$$\hat{\nu}(P) = \hat{\mu}_j = \nu(\hat{P}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^j$$

Extension Principle

- Objective: estimate $q(\theta)$, a function of θ .
- Assume $q(\theta) = h(p_1(\theta), \dots, p_K(\theta))$, where $h(\cdot)$ is continuous.
- The extension principle estimates $q(\theta)$ with

$$\hat{q}(\theta) = h(\hat{p}_1, \dots, \hat{p}_K)$$

- $h(\cdot)$ may not be unique: what $h(\cdot)$ is optimal? 

Notes on Method-of-Moments/Frequency Plug-In Estimates

- Easy to compute
- Valuable as initial estimates in iterative algorithms.
- Consistent estimates (close to true parameter in large samples).
- Best Frequency Plug-In Estimates are Maximum-Likelihood Estimates.
- In some cases, MOM estimators are foolish (See Example 2.1.7).

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Least Squares

General Model: Only Y Random

- $X = \{(z_i, Y_i) : 1 \leq i \leq n\}$, where
 Y_1, \dots, Y_n are independent.
 $z_1, \dots, z_n \in R^d$ are fixed, non-random.
- For cases $i = 1, \dots, n$
 $Y_i = \mu(z_i) + \epsilon_i$, where
 $\mu(z) = g(\beta, z), \beta \in R^d$.
 ϵ_i are independent with $E[\epsilon_i] = 0$.
- The Least-Squares Contrast function is
 $\rho(X, \beta) = |Y - \mu|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n [Y_i - g(\beta, z_i)]^2$.
- β parametrizes the model and we can write the discrepancy function

$$D(\beta_0, \beta) = E_{\beta_0} \rho(X, \beta)$$

Least Squares: Only Y Random

Contrast Function:

$$\rho(X, \beta) = |Y - \mu|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n [Y_i - g(\beta, z_i)]^2.$$

Discrepancy Function:

$$\begin{aligned} D(\beta_0, \beta) &= E_{\beta_0} \rho(X, \beta) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(\epsilon_i) + \sum_{i=1}^n [g(\beta_0, z_i) - g(\beta, z_i)]^2. \end{aligned}$$

- The model is semiparametric with unknown parameter β and unknown (joint) distribution P_ϵ of $\epsilon = (\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_n)$.

Gauss-Markov Assumptions

- Assume that the distribution of ϵ satisfy:

$$\begin{aligned} E(\epsilon_i) &= 0 \\ \text{Var}(\epsilon_i) &= \sigma^2 \\ \text{Cov}(\epsilon_i, \epsilon_j) &= 0 \quad \text{for } i \neq j \end{aligned}$$

General Model: (Y, Z) Both Random

- $(Y_1, Z_1), \dots, (Y_n, Z_n)$ are i.i.d. as $X = (Y, Z) \sim P$
- Define $\mu(z) = E[Y \mid Z = z] = g(\beta, z)$, where
 $g(\cdot, \cdot)$ is a known function and
 $\beta \in R^d$ is unknown parameter
- Given $Z_i = z_i$, define $\epsilon_i = Y_i - \mu(z_i)$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$
- Conditioning on the z_i we can write:

$$Y_i = g(\beta, z_i) + \epsilon_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$
 where $\epsilon = (\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_n)$ has (joint) distribution P_ϵ
- The Least-Squares Estimate of $\hat{\beta}$ is the plug-in estimate $\beta(\hat{P})$, where \hat{P} is the empirical distribution for the sample $\{(Z_i, Y_i), i = 1, \dots, n\}$
- The function $g(\beta, z)$ can be linear in β and z or nonlinear.
- Closed-form solutions exist for $\hat{\beta}$ when g is linear in β .

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Gauss-Markov Theorem: Assumptions

$$\text{Data } \mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \mathbf{X} = \begin{bmatrix} x_{1,1} & x_{1,2} & \cdots & x_{1,p} \\ x_{2,1} & x_{2,2} & \cdots & x_{2,p} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_{n,1} & x_{n,2} & \cdots & x_{p,n} \end{bmatrix}$$

follow a linear model satisfying the **Gauss-Markov Assumptions** if \mathbf{y} is an observation of random vector $\mathbf{Y} = (Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_N)^T$ and

- $E(\mathbf{Y} \mid \mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}$, where $\boldsymbol{\beta} = (\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_p)^T$ is the p -vector of regression parameters.
- $\text{Cov}(\mathbf{Y} \mid \mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\beta}) = \sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_n$, for some $\sigma^2 > 0$.
I.e., the random variables generating the observations are uncorrelated and have constant variance σ^2 (conditional on \mathbf{X} , and $\boldsymbol{\beta}$).

Gauss-Markov Theorem

For known constants $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_p, c_{p+1}$, consider the problem of estimating

$$\theta = c_1\beta_1 + c_2\beta_2 + \dots + c_p\beta_p + c_{p+1}.$$

Under the Gauss-Markov assumptions, the estimator

$$\hat{\theta} = c_1\hat{\beta}_1 + c_2\hat{\beta}_2 + \dots + c_p\hat{\beta}_p + c_{p+1},$$

where $\hat{\beta}_1, \hat{\beta}_2, \dots, \hat{\beta}_p$ are the least squares estimates is

- 1) An **Unbiased Estimator** of θ
- 2) A **Linear Estimator** of θ , that is

$$\tilde{\theta} = \sum_{i=1}^n b_i y_i, \text{ for some known (given } \mathbf{X} \text{) constants } b_i.$$

Theorem: Under the Gauss-Markov Assumptions, the estimator $\hat{\theta}$ has the smallest (*Best*) variance among all *Linear Unbiased Estimators* of θ , i.e., $\hat{\theta}$ is *BLUE*.

Gauss-Markov Theorem: Proof

Proof: Without loss of generality, assume $c_{p+1} = 0$ and define $\mathbf{c} = (c_1, c_2, \dots, c_p)^T$.

The Least Squares Estimate of $\theta = \mathbf{c}^T \boldsymbol{\beta}$ is:

$$\hat{\theta} = \mathbf{c}^T \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \mathbf{c}^T (\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{y} \equiv \mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{y}$$

a linear estimate in \mathbf{y} given by coefficients $\mathbf{d} = (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)^T$.

Consider an alternative linear estimate of θ :

$$\tilde{\theta} = \mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{y}$$

with fixed coefficients given by $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, \dots, b_n)^T$.

Define $\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{b} - \mathbf{d}$ and note that

$$\tilde{\theta} = \mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{y} = (\mathbf{d} + \mathbf{f})^T \mathbf{y} = \hat{\theta} + \mathbf{f}^T \mathbf{y}$$

- If $\tilde{\theta}$ is unbiased then because $\hat{\theta}$ is unbiased
 $0 = E(\mathbf{f}^T \mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{f}^T E(\mathbf{y}) = \mathbf{f}^T (\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})$ for all $\boldsymbol{\beta} \in R^p$
 $\implies \mathbf{f}$ is orthogonal to column space of \mathbf{X}
 $\implies \mathbf{f}$ is orthogonal to $\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{X}(\mathbf{X}^T \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{c}$

If $\tilde{\theta}$ is unbiased then

- The orthogonality of \mathbf{f} to \mathbf{d} implies

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(\tilde{\theta}) &= \text{Var}(\mathbf{b}^T \mathbf{y}) = \text{Var}(\mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{f}^T \mathbf{y}) \\ &= \text{Var}(\mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{y}) + \text{Var}(\mathbf{f}^T \mathbf{y}) + 2\text{Cov}(\mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{f}^T \mathbf{y}) \\ &= \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}) + \text{Var}(\mathbf{f}^T \mathbf{y}) + 2\mathbf{d}^T \text{Cov}(\mathbf{y}) \mathbf{f} \\ &= \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}) + \text{Var}(\mathbf{f}^T \mathbf{y}) + 2\mathbf{d}^T (\sigma^2 \mathbf{I}_n) \mathbf{f} \\ &= \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}) + \text{Var}(\mathbf{f}^T \mathbf{y}) + 2\sigma^2 \mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{f} \\ &= \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}) + \text{Var}(\mathbf{f}^T \mathbf{y}) + 2\sigma^2 \times 0 \\ &\geq \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}) \end{aligned}$$

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Generalized Least Squares (GLS) Estimates

Consider generalizing the Gauss-Markov assumptions for the linear regression model to

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}$$

where the random n -vector $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}$: $E[\boldsymbol{\epsilon}] = \mathbf{0}_n$ and $E[\boldsymbol{\epsilon}\boldsymbol{\epsilon}^T] = \sigma^2\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$.

- σ^2 is an unknown scale parameter
- $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$ is a known ($n \times n$) positive definite matrix specifying the relative variances and correlations of the component observations.

Transform the data (\mathbf{Y}, \mathbf{X}) to $\mathbf{Y}^* = \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-\frac{1}{2}}\mathbf{Y}$ and $\mathbf{X}^* = \boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-\frac{1}{2}}\mathbf{X}$ and the model becomes

$$\mathbf{Y}^* = \mathbf{X}^*\boldsymbol{\beta} + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}^*, \text{ where } E[\boldsymbol{\epsilon}^*] = \mathbf{0}_n \text{ and } E[\boldsymbol{\epsilon}^*(\boldsymbol{\epsilon}^*)^T] = \sigma^2\mathbf{I}_n$$

By the Gauss-Markov Theorem, the BLUE ('GLS') of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ is

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = [(\mathbf{X}^*)^T(\mathbf{X}^*)]^{-1}(\mathbf{X}^*)^T(\mathbf{Y}^*) = [\mathbf{X}^T\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}\mathbf{X}]^{-1}(\mathbf{X}^T\boldsymbol{\Sigma}^{-1}\mathbf{Y})$$

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Maximum Likelihood Estimation

- $X \sim P_\theta, \theta \in \Theta$ with density or pmf function $p(x | \theta)$.
- Given an observation $X = x$, define the likelihood function $L_x(\theta) = p(x | \theta)$:
a mapping: $\Theta \rightarrow R$.
- $\hat{\theta}_{ML} = \hat{\theta}_{ML}(x)$: the Maximum-Likelihood Estimate of θ is the value making $L_x(\cdot)$ a maximum
 $\hat{\theta}$ is the MLE if $L_x(\hat{\theta}) = \max_{\theta \in \Theta} L_x(\theta)$.
- The MLE $\hat{\theta}_{ML}(x)$ identifies the distribution making x “most likely”
- The MLE coincides with the mode of the Posterior Distribution if the Prior Distribution on Θ is uniform:

$$\pi(\theta | x) \propto p(x | \theta)\pi(\theta) \propto p(x | \theta).$$

Maximum Likelihood

Examples

- Example 2.2.4: Normal Distribution with Known Variance
- Example 2.2.5: Size of a Population

X_1, \dots, X_n are iid $U\{1, 2, \dots, \theta\}$, with $\theta \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$.

For $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$,

$$\begin{aligned} L_{\mathbf{x}}(\theta) &= \prod_{i=1}^n \theta^{-1} \mathbf{1}(1 \leq x_i \leq \theta) \\ &= \theta^{-n} \times \mathbf{1}(\max(x_1, \dots, x_n) \leq \theta) \\ &= \begin{cases} 0 & , \text{ if } \theta = 0, 1, \dots, \max(x_i) - 1 \\ \theta^{-n} & \text{ if } \theta \geq \max(x_i) \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Maximum Likelihood As a Minimum Contrast Method

- Define $l_X(\theta) = \log L_X(\theta) = \log p(x | \theta)$
- Because $-\log(\cdot)$ is monotone decreasing,
 $\hat{\theta}_{ML}(x)$ minimizes $-l_X(\theta)$
- For an iid sample $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$ with densities $p(x_i | \theta)$,

$$\begin{aligned} l_X(\theta) &= \log p(x_1, \dots, x_n | \theta) \\ &= \log \left[\prod_{i=1}^n p(x_i | \theta) \right] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \log p(x_i | \theta) \end{aligned}$$
- As a minimum contrast function ,
 $\rho(X, \theta) = -l_X(\theta)$
 yields the MLE $\hat{\theta}_{ML}(x)$
- The discrepancy function corresponding to the contrast function $\rho(X, \theta)$ is

$$D(\theta_0, \theta) = E[\rho(X, \theta) | \theta_0] = -E[\log p(x | \theta) | \theta_0]$$

- Suppose that $\theta = \theta_0$ uniquely minimizes $D(\theta_0, \cdot)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} D(\theta_0, \theta) - D(\theta_0, \theta_0) &= -E[\log p(x | \theta) | \theta_0] - (-E[\log p(x | \theta_0) | \theta_0]) \\ &= -E[\log \frac{p(x|\theta)}{p(x|\theta_0)} | \theta_0] \\ &> 0, \text{ unless } \theta = \theta_0. \end{aligned}$$

This difference is the *Kullback-Leibler Information Divergence* between distribution P_{θ_0} and P_{θ} :

$$K(P_{\theta_0}, P_{\theta}) = -E[\log(\frac{p(x|\theta)}{p(x|\theta_0)}) | \theta_0]$$

Lemma 2.2.1 (Shannon, 1948) The mutual entropy $K(P_{\theta_0}, P_{\theta})$ is always well defined and

- $K(P_{\theta_0}, P_{\theta}) \geq 0$
- Equality holds if and only if $\{x : p(x | \theta) = p(x | \theta_0)\}$ has probability 1 under both P_{θ_0} and P_{θ} .

Proof Apply Jensen's Inequality (B.9.3)

Likelihood Equations

Suppose:

- $X \sim P_\theta$, with $\theta \in \Theta$, an open parameter space
- the likelihood function $l_X(\theta)$ is differentiable in θ
- $\hat{\theta}_{ML}(x)$ exists

Then: $\hat{\theta}_{ML}(x)$ must satisfy the **Likelihood Equation(s)**

$$\nabla_{\theta} l_X(\theta) = 0.$$

Important Cases

For independent X_i with densities/pmf's $p_i(x_i | \theta)$,

$$\nabla_{\theta} l_X(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^n \nabla_{\theta} \log p_i(x_i | \theta) = 0$$

NOTE: $p_i(\cdot | \theta)$ may vary with i .

Examples

- Hardy-Weinberg Proportions (Example 2.2.6)
- Queues: Poisson Process Models (Exponential Arrival Times and Poisson Counts) (Example 2.2.7)
- Multinomial Trials (Example 2.2.8)
- Normal Regression Models (Example 2.2.9).

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