

6.3.15

(a) To check unbiasedness, the expectation must be computed. $E_\theta(x_1) = 1 \cdot \theta + 0 \cdot (1 - \theta) = \theta$. Hence, x_1 is an unbiased estimator of θ .

(b) Since the value of x_1 is only 0 or 1, the equation $x_1^2 = x_1$ always holds. Thus, $E_\theta(x_1^2) = E_\theta(x_1) = \theta$. Hence, x_1^2 is not an unbiased estimator of θ^2 . In this exercise, we showed an unbiased estimator is not transformation invariant.

6.3.23

(a) First of all, $(n-1)s^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \bar{x})^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n [x_i^2 - 2\bar{x}x_i + \bar{x}^2] = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - n\bar{x}^2$. The expectation of the first summation term is

$$E\left[\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2\right] = nE[X^2] = n(\mu^2 + \sigma^2).$$

Since $n\bar{x}^2 = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \sum_{j=1}^n x_j$,

$$\begin{aligned} E[n\bar{x}^2] &= \frac{1}{n} E\left[\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n x_i x_j\right] = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^n E[x_i x_j] + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n E[x_i^2] \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \cdot n(n-1) \cdot \mu^2 + \frac{1}{n} \cdot n \cdot (\mu^2 + \sigma^2) = n\mu^2 + \sigma^2. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, $E[(n-1)s^2] = n(\mu^2 + \sigma^2) - (n\mu^2 + \sigma^2) = (n-1)\sigma^2$. Therefore $E[s^2] = \sigma^2$ and s^2 is an unbiased estimator of the variance σ^2 .

(b) Let $\hat{\sigma}^2 = (n-1)s^2/n$. The bias of $\hat{\sigma}^2$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \text{bias}(\hat{\sigma}^2) &= E[\hat{\sigma}^2] - \sigma^2 = ((n-1)/n)E[s^2] - \sigma^2 = [(n-1)/n]\sigma^2 - \sigma^2 \\ &= -\sigma^2/n. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, the bias $-\sigma^2/n$ converges to 0 as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

6.3.24

(a) Since T_1 and T_2 are unbiased estimators of $\psi(\theta)$, $E[T_1] = E[T_2] = \psi(\theta)$. Hence, $E[\alpha T_1 + (1-\alpha)T_2] = \alpha E[T_1] + (1-\alpha)E[T_2] = \alpha\psi(\theta) + (1-\alpha)\psi(\theta) = \psi(\theta)$. Therefore, $\alpha T_1 + (1-\alpha)T_2$ is also an unbiased estimator of $\psi(\theta)$.

(b) From Theorem 3.3.4, 3.3.1 (b) and 3.3.2, $\text{Var}_\theta(\alpha T_1 + (1-\alpha)T_2) = \text{Var}_\theta(\alpha T_1) + \text{Var}_\theta((1-\alpha)T_2) + 2\text{Cov}_\theta(\alpha T_1, (1-\alpha)T_2) = \alpha^2 \text{Var}_\theta(T_1) + (1-\alpha)^2 \text{Var}_\theta(T_2) + 2\alpha(1-\alpha)\text{Cov}_\theta(T_1, T_2)$. The independence between T_1 and T_2 implies $\text{Cov}_\theta(T_1, T_2) = 0$ and $\text{Var}_\theta(\alpha T_1 + (1-\alpha)T_2) = \alpha^2 \text{Var}_\theta(T_1) + (1-\alpha)^2 \text{Var}_\theta(T_2)$. (c) The variance of $\alpha T_1 + (1-\alpha)T_2$ can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} & \alpha^2(\text{Var}_\theta(T_1) + \text{Var}_\theta(T_2)) - 2\alpha\text{Var}_\theta(T_2) + \text{Var}_\theta(T_2) \\ &= (\text{Var}_\theta(T_1) + \text{Var}_\theta(T_2)) \left(\alpha - \frac{\text{Var}_\theta(T_2)}{\text{Var}_\theta(T_1) + \text{Var}_\theta(T_2)} \right)^2 + \frac{\text{Var}_\theta(T_1)\text{Var}_\theta(T_2)}{\text{Var}_\theta(T_1) + \text{Var}_\theta(T_2)}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, it is minimized when $\alpha = \text{Var}_\theta(T_2) / (\text{Var}_\theta(T_1) + \text{Var}_\theta(T_2))$. If $\text{Var}_\theta(T_1)$ is very large relative to $\text{Var}_\theta(T_2)$, then α will be very small. Hence, the estimator $\alpha T_1 + (1-\alpha)T_2$ is almost similar to T_2 . (d) In part (b), the variance of $\alpha T_1 + (1-\alpha)T_2$ is given by $\alpha^2 \text{Var}_\theta(T_1) + (1-\alpha)^2 \text{Var}_\theta(T_2) + 2\alpha(1-\alpha)\text{Cov}_\theta(T_1, T_2)$. By rearranging terms, we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \alpha^2(\text{Var}_\theta(T_1) + \text{Var}_\theta(T_2) - 2\text{Cov}_\theta(T_1, T_2)) \\ & \quad - 2\alpha(\text{Var}_\theta(T_2) + \text{Cov}_\theta(T_1, T_2)) + \text{Var}_\theta(T_2). \end{aligned}$$

If $T_1 = T_2$, then $\alpha T_1 + (1-\alpha)T_2 = T_1 = T_2$ and there is nothing to do. So $P(T_1 = T_2) < 1$ is assumed. Thus, $\text{Var}_\theta(T_1) + \text{Var}_\theta(T_2) - 2\text{Cov}_\theta(T_1, T_2) = \text{Var}_\theta(T_1 - T_2) > 0$. Therefore, the variance of $\alpha T_1 + (1-\alpha)T_2$ is maximized when $\alpha = (\text{Var}_\theta(T_2) + \text{Cov}_\theta(T_1, T_2)) / \text{Var}_\theta(T_1 - T_2)$. If $\text{Var}_\theta(T_1)$ is very large relative to $\text{Var}_\theta(T_2)$, then α is very small again. Hence, the linear combination estimator $\alpha T_1 + (1-\alpha)T_2$ highly depends on T_2 .

6.4.1 An approximate .95-confidence interval for μ_3 is given by

$$m_3 \pm z_{\frac{1+.95}{2}} \frac{s_3}{\sqrt{n}} = (26.027, 151.373)$$

since $m_3 = 88.7$, $z_{.975} = 1.96$, and $s_3 = 143.0$.

6.4.2 Recall that, the variance of a random variable can be expressed in terms of the moments as $\sigma_X^2 = \mu_2 - \mu_1^2$. Hence, the method of moments estimator of the population variance is given by $\hat{\sigma}_X^2 = m_2 - m_1^2$. To check if this estimator is unbiased we compute

$$\begin{aligned} E(m_2 - m_1^2) &= \mu_2 - (\text{Var}(m_1) + E^2(m_1)) = \mu_2 - \left(\frac{1}{n} (\mu_2 - \mu_1^2) + \mu_1^2 \right) \\ &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{n} \right) \sigma_X^2 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, this estimator is not unbiased.

6.4.5 Recall from Problem 3.4.15 that the moment generating function of a $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ is given by $m_X(s) = \exp(\mu s + \sigma^2 s^2/2)$. Then, by Theorem 3.4.3 the third moment is given by

$$m_X'''(0) = 3\sigma^2 (\mu + \sigma^2 s) e^{\mu s + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 s^2} + (\mu + \sigma^2 s)^3 e^{\mu s + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 s^2} \Big|_{s=0} = 3\sigma^2 \mu + \mu^3$$

The plug-in estimator of μ_3 is given by $\hat{\mu}_3 = 3(m_2 - m_1^2)m_1 + m_1^3$, while the method of moments estimator of μ_3 is $m_3 = \frac{1}{n} \sum x_i^3$. So these estimators are different.