

Chapter 4: Estimation and Information (JAW Ch 3)

4.1 CRLB: one-dimensional real parameter (JAW 3.7-10; Severini 3.6)

(i) (a) $X \sim P_\theta$ on $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{A})$, $\theta \in \Theta \subset \mathfrak{R}$.

(b) Density $f_\theta \equiv \frac{dP_\theta}{d\mu} \exists$ where μ is σ -finite on \mathcal{X} .

(c) $T \equiv T(X)$ estimates $q(\theta)$; $E_\theta|T(X)| < \infty$

(d) $b(\theta) \equiv E_\theta(T) - q(\theta) \equiv$ bias of T

(e) $q'(\theta) \exists$

(ii) Suppose: (a) Θ is an open subset of \mathfrak{R}

(b) $\exists B$, $\mu(B) = 0$ s.t. for $x \notin B$ $\frac{\partial f_\theta(x)}{\partial \theta} \exists \forall \theta$

(c) $A \equiv \{x : f_\theta(x) = 0\}$ does not depend on θ

(d) $I(\theta) \equiv E_\theta((\ell'_\theta(X))^2) > 0$ where $\ell'_\theta(x) \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f_\theta(x)$ is the *Score function* for θ .

$I(\theta)$ is the *Fisher Information* for θ .

(e) $\int f_\theta(x) d\mu(x)$ and $\int T(x) f_\theta(x) d\mu(x)$ can both be differentiated w.r.t. θ under the integral sign.

(iii) Then, if (ii), $\text{var}_\theta(T(X)) \geq (q'(\theta) + b'(\theta))^2 / I(\theta) \quad \forall \theta \in \Theta$ and equality holds $\forall \theta$ iff $\exists k(\theta)$ s.t.

$\ell'_\theta(X) = k(\theta)(T(X) - q(\theta) - b(\theta))$ a.e. (μ).

(iv) Proof: $E_\theta(\ell'_\theta(X)) = 0$ so $I(\theta) = E_\theta((\ell'_\theta(X))^2) = \text{var}(\ell'_\theta(X))$

$(q'(\theta) + b'(\theta)) = \text{Cov}(T(X), \ell'_\theta(X))$ and result follows from **Cauchy-Schwarz**, with equality iff $\ell'_\theta(X) = k(\theta)(T(X) + c(\theta))$; taking expectations gives $c(\theta) = -E_\theta(T) = -q(\theta) - b(\theta)$.

(v) If also $\int f_\theta(x) d\mu(x)$ can be differentiated twice under the integral

$$I(\theta) = -E\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} \log f_\theta(X)\right) = -E(\ell''_\theta(X))$$

Prf: Differentiating again, gives $E_\theta(\ell''_\theta(X)) + E((\ell'_\theta(X))^2) = 0$

4.2 Assumption verification, and notes

(i) Assumption (ii)(e) can be the hard one to check. It holds for exponential families: see 2.1 and Sev. P. 81-82. More generally: using ' to denote $\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}$, if $X'(\omega, \theta) \exists \forall \theta$ a.e. (μ) and $|X'(\omega, \theta)| \leq Y(\omega) \forall \theta$, and Y integrable, then DCT will give that $(\int_{\Omega} X(\omega, \theta) d\mu)' = \int_{\Omega} X'(\omega, \theta) d\mu$.

(ii) If $b(\theta) = 0$ and $\text{var}_{\theta}(T) = (q'(\theta))^2 / I(\theta)$, T is MVUE of $q(\theta)$, and $\ell'_{\theta}(X) = k(\theta)(T(X) - q(\theta))$. Conversely, if $\ell'_{\theta}(X) = \dots$ etc.

(iii) T is MVUE of $q(\theta)$ iff $aT + b$ is MVUE of $aq(\theta) + b$ but if π non-linear, \nexists unbiased estimator achieving CRLB for $\pi(q(\theta))$.

(iv) T is MVUE of $q(\theta) \Rightarrow T$ is MLE of $q(\theta)$.

(v) T a MVUE of $q(\theta) \Rightarrow$

$$\text{var}(T) = q'(\theta)^2 / E(\ell'_{\theta}(X))^2 = q'(\theta)^2 / (k(\theta)^2 (\text{var}_{\theta}(T)))$$

so $\text{var}(T) = |q'(\theta)/k(\theta)|$ and $I(\theta) = q'(\theta)^2 / \text{var}(T) = |q'(\theta)k(\theta)|$.

(vi) Example: TPE P. 118. JAW 3.8-9

X_i i.i.d. Poisson mean $\theta > 0$.

(a) Conditions (a)-(d) are trivial. For (e) $E(T(X^{(n)})) = \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_n} t(x^{(n)}) e^{-n\theta} \theta^{\sum x_i} / (\prod x_i!)$, which is absolutely cgt power series in θ if $E(|T(X^{(n)})|) < \infty$, so can difte term-by-term.

(b) $\ell_{\theta}(X^{(n)}) = n(\overline{X}_n - \theta)/\theta$. \overline{X}_n attains lower bound for $q(\theta) = \theta$, and $\text{var}(\overline{X}_n) = \theta/n = \text{CRLB}$. $I(\theta) = n/\theta$.

(c) For, $q(\theta) = \theta^2$, $\text{CRLB} = 4\theta^3/n$

$E(\overline{X}_n^2) = \theta^2 + \theta/n$, so $T^* = \overline{X}_n^2 - \overline{X}_n/n$ is unbiased for θ^2 and is min variance (by Lehmann-Scheffé & Rao-Blackwell).

$\text{var}(T^*) = 4\theta^3/n + 2\theta^2/n^2 > \text{CRLB}$, but $\rightarrow \text{CRLB}$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

(Note $\overline{X}_n \sim n^{-1}\mathcal{P}(n\theta)$): See TPE P.30 for Poisson moments).

4.3 Examples

(i) Information in an n-sample

If X and Y are independent;

$$\begin{aligned}\ell'_\theta(X, Y) &\equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}(\log(f_\theta(X, Y))) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta}(\log f_\theta(X) + \log f_\theta(Y)) \\ &= \ell'_\theta(X) + \ell'_\theta(Y)\end{aligned}$$

These two terms are independent, each mean 0 , so $E(\ell'_\theta(X, Y)^2) = E(\ell'_\theta(X)^2) + E(\ell'_\theta(Y)^2)$ or $I_{X,Y}(\theta) = I_X(\theta) + I_Y(\theta)$
For $X^{(n)} = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$, X_i i.i.d.; $I_n(\theta) = nI_1(\theta)$.

(ii) Location parameter: JAW 3.9, TPE P.119

$$f_\theta(x) = g(x - \theta) \text{ for known } g, \ell'_\theta(x) = - (g'(x - \theta)/g(x - \theta))$$

$$I(\theta) = E((\ell'_\theta(X))^2) = \int \frac{g'(y)^2}{g(y)} dy \equiv I_g$$

For n-sample: $I_n(\theta) = nI_g$, $E_\theta(T(X^{(n)})) = \theta \Rightarrow \text{var}_\theta(T_n) \geq 1/nI_g$;
 $\text{var}_\theta(n^{\frac{1}{2}}(T_n - \theta)) \geq 1/I_g$.

(iii) Scale parameter: JAW3.9, TPE P.119

$$f_\theta(x) = \theta^{-1}g(x/\theta), \ell'_\theta(x) = \theta^{-1}(-1 - (x/\theta)(g'(x/\theta)/g(x/\theta)))$$

$$I(\theta) = \theta^{-2} \int (-1 - yg'(y)/g(y))^2 g(y) dy \equiv \theta^{-2}I_g^*$$

For n-sample: $I_n(\theta) = nI_g$, $E_\theta(T(X^{(n)})) = \theta \Rightarrow \text{var}_\theta(T_n) \geq \theta^2/nI_g^*$;
 $\text{var}_\theta(n^{\frac{1}{2}}(T_n - \theta)/\theta) \geq 1/I_g^*$.

(iv) Reparametrization: $\psi = \psi(\theta)$ a 1-1 transformation.

$$\text{Then } \ell'_\psi(X) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi}(\log f_\theta(X)) = (\psi'(\theta))^{-1} \ell'_\theta(X)$$

$$I(\psi) = (\psi'(\theta))^{-2} I(\theta).$$

But also $\frac{\partial}{\partial \psi}(q(\theta) + b(\theta)) = (q'(\theta) + b'(\theta))/\psi'(\theta)$, so the CRLB is unchanged – as should be so!!

4.4 Other lower bounds

(i) Back to Cauchy-Schwarz:

Suppose $E_\theta(T^2) < \infty$ and $\Psi(X; \theta)$ any function with $0 < E_\theta(\Psi(X, \theta)^2) < \infty$, then $\text{var}_\theta(T) \geq (\text{Cov}_\theta(T, \psi))^2 / \text{var}_\theta(\Psi)$. In general, this is not useful since the r.h.s. involves T .

(ii) Blyth's Theorem

(a) $\text{Cov}_\theta(T, \Psi)$ depends on T only through $E_\theta(T)$ iff

(b) $\text{Cov}_\theta(V, \Psi) = 0 \forall V$ s.t. $E_\theta(V) = 0 \forall \theta$ and $E_\theta(V^2) < \infty$.

Proof: Suppose (b), and let $E_\theta(T_1) = E_\theta(T_2)$. Consider $V = T_1 - T_2$. So $\text{Cov}(T_1, \Psi) = \text{Cov}(T_2, \Psi)$, Hence (a).

Suppose (a), and take V with $E_\theta(V) = 0 \forall \theta$. So $E_\theta(T + V) = E_\theta(T)$. So $\text{Cov}_\theta(T + V, \Psi) = \text{Cov}_\theta(T, \Psi)$. Hence (b).

(iii) **Cor 1:** $\Psi(X, \theta) = \ell'_\theta(X)$, satisfies $\text{Cov}_\theta(V, \Psi) = (E_\theta(V))'$ for any V , hence (b), hence also (a), and $\text{Cov}_\theta(T, \Psi) = (E_\theta(T))'$, giving the CRLB.

(iv) Cor 2: Hammersley-Chapman-Robbins Inequality

Assume $f_\theta(x) > 0 \forall x \in \mathcal{X}$. Let $\Psi(x, \theta) = (f_{\theta+\Delta}(x)/f_\theta(x) - 1)$.

So $E_\theta(\Psi(X, \theta)) = 0 \forall \Delta$ and for V s.t. (b) $\text{Cov}(V, \Psi) = E_\theta(\Psi V) = E_{\theta+\Delta}(V) - E_\theta(V) = 0$ and $\text{Cov}(T, \Psi) = E_{\theta+\Delta}(T) - E_\theta(T)$, so $\forall \Delta$

$$\text{var}_\theta(T) \geq (E_{\theta+\Delta}(T) - E_\theta(T))^2 / E_\theta \left(\frac{f_{\theta+\Delta}(X)}{f_\theta(X)} - 1 \right)^2$$

(v) **Cor 3:** with appropriate differentiability, regularity etc., let $\Delta \rightarrow 0$ in Cor 2, and we get back to CRLB $((E_\theta(T))')^2 / I(\theta)$.

4.5 Multiparameter CRLB: $\Theta \subset \mathfrak{R}^k$. (Sev. P90-91).

(i) **Theorem (Vector version of Cauchy-Schwarz/Blyth)**
For any unbiased estimator T of $q(\theta)$, and any functions $\Psi_i(X, \theta)$ with $E_\theta(\Psi_i^2(X, \theta)) < \infty$, let $C_{ij} = \text{Cov}_\theta(\Psi_i, \Psi_j)$, and $\gamma_i = \text{Cov}(T, \Psi_i)$. Then (a) $\text{var}(T) \geq \gamma^t C^{-1} \gamma$.

(b) **The lower bound depends on T only through $q(\theta)$ provided $\text{Cov}(V, \Psi) = 0 \forall V$ s.t. $E_\theta(V) = 0 \forall \theta$ and $E_\theta(V^2) < \infty$.**

(ii) **First, let $W = (W_1, \dots, W_k)$ and T be r.vs with finite 2nd moments. Let $\rho(a) \equiv \rho(a^t W, T) \leq 1$. We show in (iv),(v) that $\sup_a(\rho^2(a)) = \gamma^t C^{-1} \gamma / \text{var}(T)$, where $C = \text{var}(W)$ and $\gamma = \text{Cov}(W, T)$.**

(iii) $\sup_a(\rho^2(a)) \leq 1$, so putting $W = \Psi$ gives theorem part (a). Then (b) follows exactly as in Blyth's theorem.

(iv) **Suppose $C = \text{var}(W)$ is positive definite, so $C = AA^t$, with A non-singular. Then**

$$\rho^2(a) = \frac{(\text{Cov}(a^t W, T))^2}{\text{var}(a^t W) \text{var}(T)} = \frac{(a^t \gamma)^2}{(a^t C a) \text{var}(T)}$$

and $(a^t \gamma)^2 = (a^t A A^{-1} \gamma)^2 = ((A^t a)^t (A^{-1} \gamma))^2 \leq (a^t A A^t a) \cdot (\gamma^t (A^{-1})^t A^{-1} \gamma) = (a^t C a) (\gamma^t C^{-1} \gamma)$ gives result.

(v) **Note the sup is attained iff $A^t a \propto A^{-1} \gamma$; that is $a \propto C^{-1} \gamma$.**

(vi) **Under multidimensional analogues of 4.1 (ii) (a)-(e), $\text{var}(T) \geq \alpha^t (I(\theta))^{-1} \alpha$ where $\alpha = \nabla E_\theta(T(X))$, and $I(\theta) = E_\theta(\nabla \ell_\theta(X) \nabla \ell_\theta(X)^t)$.**

(vii) **Proof: set $\Psi = \nabla \ell_\theta(X)$, and show $E_\theta(\Psi) = 0$, $\gamma = \text{Cov}(T, \nabla \ell_\theta(X)) = \nabla E_\theta(T(X)) = \alpha$ and $C = I(\theta)$.**

(viii) **For $a \propto C^{-1} \gamma$, $a^t \Psi \propto (\nabla E_\theta(T))^t I(\theta)^{-1} \nabla \ell_\theta(X) = \tilde{\ell}_\theta(X)$. This function is known as the *efficient influence function***

4.6 Nuisance parameters and submodels (Sev P.93-95)

(i) If $E_\theta(T) = c^t\theta$, $\alpha = c$, $\text{var}(T) \geq c^t(I(\theta))^{-1}c$

If $E_\theta(T) = \theta_1$, $\text{var}(T) \geq ((I(\theta))^{-1})_{11} = (I_{11} - I_{12}I_{22}^{-1}I_{21})^{-1} \geq (I_{11})^{-1}$,
and $= (I_{11})^{-1}$ iff $I_{12} = 0$.

(ii) **Attaining the bound:** For $\text{var}(T) = \gamma^t C^{-1} \gamma$,
 $(T - E_\theta(T)) \propto \tilde{\ell}_\theta(X) = \nabla(q(\theta))I(\theta)^{-1} \nabla \ell_\theta(X)$.

(iii) **Exponential families**

$\ell_\pi(X) = \log(c(\pi)) + \sum_{j=1}^k \pi_j T_j(X) + \log h(X)$.

$\nabla(\ell_\pi) = (T - E_\pi(T)) = (T - \tau(\pi))$

$I(\pi) = E((\nabla(\ell_\pi))(\nabla(\ell_\pi))^t) = \text{var}(T)$

Now $\frac{\partial \tau}{\partial \pi} = \text{Cov}(T, \nabla(\ell_\pi)) = \text{Cov}(T, T - \tau) = \text{var}(T)$,

so $\text{var}(T) = I(\pi) = \text{var}(T)I(\tau)\text{var}(T)$,

or $I(\tau) = (\text{var}(T))^{-1}$.

(iv) **Location-scale families:** $f_{\theta,\sigma}(x) = \sigma^{-1}g((x - \theta)/\sigma)$.

Then $I_{11} = \sigma^{-2}I_g$, $I_{22} = \sigma^{-2}I_g^*$ **and** $I_{12} = \sigma^{-2} \int y \frac{g'(y)^2}{g(y)} dy$.

Note $I_{12} = 0$ if $g()$ is symmetric about 0.

(v) **Orthogonal parameters (Sev. 3.6.4):** $\theta = (\psi, \phi)$

If $\ell(\psi, \phi) = \ell^{(1)}(\psi) + \ell^{(2)}(\phi)$, ψ and ϕ are orthogonal.

Inferences about ψ and ϕ can be made separately.

If $I_{\psi\phi}(\theta) \equiv E(\ell_\psi \ell_\phi^t) = -E_\theta(\ell_{\psi\phi}(\theta)) = 0$. **then** ψ and ϕ are
(approx/asymptotically) orthogonal.

(Here and on following page: subscripts on ℓ denote derivatives.)

4.7 Finding orthogonal parametrization (Severini P.95)

ψ is parameter of interest, λ a nuisance parameter;

log-likelihood $\ell(\psi, \lambda)$

Reparametrize as $\ell^*(\psi, \phi)$, where $\lambda = \lambda(\psi, \phi)$, $\phi = \phi(\psi, \lambda)$.

$$\ell_{\phi}^*(\psi, \phi)^t = \ell_{\lambda}(\psi, \lambda)^t \frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial \phi}$$

$$\ell_{\psi}^*(\psi, \phi) = \ell_{\psi}(\psi, \lambda) + \left(\frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial \psi}\right)^t \ell_{\lambda}(\psi, \lambda)$$

$$\text{So } I_{\psi\phi}^*(\psi, \phi) = I_{\psi\lambda}(\psi, \lambda) \frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial \phi} + \left(\frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial \psi}\right)^t I_{\lambda\lambda}(\psi, \lambda) \frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial \phi}$$

For $I_{\psi,\phi}^*(\psi, \phi) = 0$, $(\partial\lambda/\partial\psi) = -(I_{\lambda\lambda}(\psi, \lambda))^{-1} I_{\psi\lambda}(\psi, \lambda)$.

Can, in principle, be solved to find (many) $\phi(\psi, \lambda)$.

Example: Weibull dsn: with ψ the parameter of interest

$$f(y; \psi, \lambda) = \psi \lambda^{\psi} y^{(\psi-1)} \exp(-(\lambda y)^{\psi}) I_{(0,\infty)}(y)$$

$$I(\psi, \lambda) = \begin{pmatrix} ??? & (1-\gamma)/\lambda \\ (1-\gamma)/\lambda & (\psi/\lambda)^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

so ψ and λ are not orthogonal. ($\gamma = \text{Euler's const}$)

To find an orthogonal reparametrization

$$(\partial\lambda/\partial\psi) = -(1-\gamma)\lambda/\psi^2 \text{ or } \lambda(\psi) = C \exp((1-\gamma)/\psi).$$

That is $C = \exp(\log(\lambda) + (\gamma-1)/\psi)$, so $\phi = g(\log(\lambda) + (\gamma-1)/\psi)$ will work, where g is any smooth function.

4.8 Asymptotic relative efficiency (ARE)

(i) Let $T_{1,n}$ and $T_{2,n}$ be two sequences of estimators, each consistent for $q(\theta)$ and $T_{i,n}$ being based on an n -sample $X^{(n)}$. Let $n_2(n_1)$ be defined s.t. $\text{var}(T_{2,n_2}) = \text{var}(T_{1,n_1})$. Then the A.R.E. of $(T_{1,n})$ to $(T_{2,n})$ is $\lim_{n_1 \rightarrow \infty} n_2(n_1)/n_1$.

(ii) **Asymptotically Gaussian regular estimators:**

If T_n is a consistent estimator of $q(\theta)$ based on i.i.d n -sample $X^{(n)}$, then (T_n) is an asymptotically Gaussian regular estimator if $n^{\frac{1}{2}}(T_n - q(\theta)) \rightarrow_d N(0, \tau^2(\theta))$.

(iii) **For two Asymptotically Gaussian Regular estimators:**
 $\text{var}(n_1^{\frac{1}{2}}T_{1,n_1}) \rightarrow \tau_1^2$, $\text{var}(n_2^{\frac{1}{2}}T_{2,n_2}) = (\sqrt{n_1/n_2})^2 \text{var}(n_2^{\frac{1}{2}}T_{2,n_2})$. For equal variance, for large n_1 , $(n_1/n_2)\tau_2^2 \approx \tau_1^2$ or $\lim(n_2/n_1) = \tau_2^2/\tau_1^2$.

(iv) **Example:** Suppose X_1, \dots, X_n are i.i.d from $F(x - \theta)$ with $F(0) = 1/2$ and $E(X_i) = \theta$. Then \bar{X}_n and $M = \text{med}(X_i)$ are both consistent estimators of θ .

Suppose F has density f , $f(0) > 0$, and $\text{var}(X_i) = \sigma^2 < \infty$. Then $n^{\frac{1}{2}}(\bar{X}_n - \theta) \rightarrow_d N(0, \sigma^2)$ and $n^{\frac{1}{2}}(M - \theta) \rightarrow_d N(0, 1/4(f(0))^2)$. So the ARE of \bar{X}_n to M is $1/(4\sigma^2 f(0)^2)$

(v) **Examples (Note scale parameter cancels out)**

$X_i \sim N(\theta, \sigma^2)$: $\hat{\theta}_n = \bar{X}_n$, $\text{var}(X_i) = \sigma^2$, **ARE** = $\pi/2$.

$X_i \sim DE(\theta, \lambda)$: $\hat{\theta}_n = M$, $\text{var}(X_i) = 2\lambda^2$, **ARE** = $1/2$.

$X_i \sim U(\theta - \psi, \theta + \psi)$: $\text{var}(X_i) = \psi^2/3$, $f(0) = (2\psi)^{-1}$, **ARE** = **3**.

(vi) **Asymptotic efficiency of asymptotically Gaussian regular estimators: (when CRLB conditions apply)**

If (T_n) is consistent for $q(\theta)$ and $n^{\frac{1}{2}}(T_n - q(\theta)) \rightarrow_d N(0, \tau^2(\theta))$, then $\tau^2(\theta) \geq (q'(\theta))^2/I_1(\theta)$. We define the (absolute) asymptotic efficiency of (T_n) to be $(q'(\theta))^2/(I_1(\theta)\tau^2)$

$$= \lim(q'(\theta))^2/(I_n(\theta)\text{var}(T_n)) = \lim(q'(\theta))^2/(I_1(\theta)\text{var}(n^{\frac{1}{2}}T_n)) \leq 1$$