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## Extremum Estimators (Consistency/Normality)

Know the necessary assumptions!

a good source is the Newey/McFadden chapter of the Handbook of Econometrics (~94)

may be posted on Juergen's website.

Example:  $X_i \sim \text{Poisson}(\theta_0)$  iid  $\Rightarrow f_{X_i}(x_i, \theta) = \frac{e^{-\theta} \theta^{x_i}}{x_i!}$ ,  $x_i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

What is  $\hat{\theta}_n^{\text{MLE}}$  and what are its asymptotic properties?

$$L(\theta, x_1, \dots, x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{e^{-\theta} \theta^{x_i}}{x_i!} = \frac{e^{-n\theta} \theta^{\sum x_i}}{\prod x_i!}$$

$$\Rightarrow \ln L = -n\theta + (\sum x_i) \ln \theta - \ln \prod_{i=1}^n x_i!$$

$$\text{FOC: } \frac{\partial \ln L}{\partial \theta} = -n + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{\hat{\theta}_n^{\text{MLE}}} = 0 \Rightarrow \hat{\theta}_n^{\text{MLE}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \equiv \bar{X}_n$$

Now, using the extremum estimator framework:

$$\hat{\theta}_n \equiv \underset{\theta \in \Theta}{\text{argmax}} Q_n(\theta)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Here, } Q_n(\theta) &= \ln L(\theta, x_1, \dots, x_n) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ln \left[ \frac{e^{-\theta} \theta^{x_i}}{x_i!} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n m(w_i, \theta) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ln f_{X_i}(x_i, \theta) \end{aligned} \quad \left. \vphantom{\begin{aligned} \text{Here, } Q_n(\theta) &= \ln L(\theta, x_1, \dots, x_n) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ln \left[ \frac{e^{-\theta} \theta^{x_i}}{x_i!} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n m(w_i, \theta) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ln f_{X_i}(x_i, \theta) \end{aligned}} \right\} \text{notation.}$$

Consistency (Thm 1.2): Check the assumptions.

(i)  $\Theta$  compact  $\Leftrightarrow \Theta$  is closed and bounded

o In practice, we never really know whether or not this is satisfied.

o permissive condition - just assume it

(ii)  $Q_n(w_i, \theta)$  is continuous in  $\theta \forall w_i$ .

$$\text{Eg: } Q_n(w_i, \theta) = \frac{1}{n} (-n\theta + (\sum_{i=1}^n x_i) \ln(\theta) - \sum_{i=1}^n \ln(x_i!))$$

↳ Yes, this is continuous

(iii)  $Q_n(w_i, \theta)$  is measurable in  $w_i \forall \theta$ . (ignore this)

(iv) This is tricky. Two parts:

(a) Identification

(b) Uniform convergence in probability

(a) Want to show:  $\theta \neq \theta_0 \Rightarrow f_{x_i}(x_i, \theta) \neq f_{x_i}(x_i, \theta_0)$

$$\text{Let } \theta \neq \theta_0 \Rightarrow \frac{f_{x_i}(x_i, \theta)}{f_{x_i}(x_i, \theta_0)} = \frac{(e^{-\theta} \theta^{x_i}) / x_i!}{(e^{-\theta_0} \theta_0^{x_i}) / x_i!} = \underbrace{e^{-(\theta-\theta_0)}}_{\neq 1 \text{ if } \theta \neq \theta_0} \underbrace{\left[\frac{\theta}{\theta_0}\right]^{x_i}}_{\neq 1 \text{ if } \theta \neq \theta_0} \neq 1$$

$$\Rightarrow f_{x_i}(x_i, \theta) \neq f_{x_i}(x_i, \theta_0).$$

$\neq 1 \text{ if } \theta \neq \theta_0$

↳ this is not trivial, though

(b) uniform convergence: (Proposition 1.3)

Need:  $\bullet X_i$  iid  $\bullet$  cannot check this

$\bullet \Theta$  compact  $\bullet$  already satisfied

$\bullet \ln f(x_i, \theta)$  continuous in  $\theta$   $\bullet$  already satisfied

$$\bullet E \left[ \sup_{\theta \in \Theta} |\ln f_{x_i}(w_i, \theta)| \right] < +\infty$$

dominated  
convergence  
theorem

$$\Rightarrow \sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \left| \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ln f_{x_i}(w_i, \theta) - E[\ln f_{x_i}(\theta)] \right| \xrightarrow{P} 0$$

$$\text{Then, } \hat{\theta}_n^{\text{MLE}} \xrightarrow{P} \theta. \quad \square$$

Normality (Thm 1.5):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Recall: } Q_n(\theta) &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ln f(x_i, \theta) \\ &= \frac{1}{n} \sum \ln \left( \frac{e^{-\theta} \theta^{x_i}}{x_i!} \right) = \frac{1}{n} \end{aligned}$$

$$m(x_i, \theta) \equiv \ln f(x_i, \theta) = -\theta + x_i \ln \theta - \ln x_i!$$

Based on a single observation.  $s(x_i, \theta) = \frac{\partial m(x_i, \theta)}{\partial \theta} = -1 + \frac{x_i}{\theta}$

Mean value theorem around  $\theta_0$

$$0 = \underbrace{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n s(x_i, \hat{\theta}_n^{MLE})}_{= 0 \text{ by FOC}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n s(x_i, \theta_0) + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \underbrace{\frac{\partial s(x_i, \hat{\theta})}{\partial \theta'}}_{\equiv H(x_i, \hat{\theta})} (\hat{\theta}_n^{MLE} - \theta_0)$$

where  $\hat{\theta} \in (\hat{\theta}_n^{MLE}, \theta_0)$

Notation for Hessians

$$g(\tau_1, \tau_2) = 3\tau_1^2 \tau_2 \Leftrightarrow g(\tau), \tau = \begin{bmatrix} \tau_1 \\ \tau_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{\partial g(\tau)}{\partial \tau} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial g(\tau)}{\partial \tau_1} \\ \frac{\partial g(\tau)}{\partial \tau_2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6\tau_1 \tau_2 \\ 3\tau_1^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 g(\tau)}{\partial \tau \partial \tau'} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau'} \begin{bmatrix} 6\tau_1 \tau_2 \\ 3\tau_1^2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial 6\tau_1 \tau_2}{\partial \tau_1} & \frac{\partial 6\tau_1 \tau_2}{\partial \tau_2} \\ \frac{\partial 3\tau_1^2}{\partial \tau_1} & \frac{\partial 3\tau_1^2}{\partial \tau_2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 6\tau_2 & 6\tau_1 \\ 6\tau_1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt{n}' (\hat{\theta}_n^{MLE} - \theta_0) = - \underbrace{\left[ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n H(x_i, \hat{\theta}) \right]}_{(1)}^{-1} \underbrace{\left[ \sqrt{n} \left[ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n s(x_i, \theta_0) \right] \right]}_{(2)}$$

[ cf  $(\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i' x_i) \rightarrow \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i' x_i$  ]

Since  $\hat{\theta}_n^{MLE} \xrightarrow{P} \theta_0$ , and  $\hat{\theta} \in (\hat{\theta}_n^{MLE}, \theta_0)$ ,  $\hat{\theta} \xrightarrow{P} \theta_0$

$$(1) \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n H(x_i, \hat{\theta}) \xrightarrow{P} E[H(x_i, \theta_0)] \text{ if } E[\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \|H(x_i, \theta)\|] < \infty$$

VLLN  $\nearrow$   $\ln(x_i, \theta) \in C^2$

By the continuity theorem  $\left[ \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n H(x_i, \hat{\theta}) \right]^{-1} \xrightarrow{P} \left[ E[H(x_i, \theta_0)] \right]^{-1} \equiv H_0$

$$(2) : \sqrt{n} \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n s(\bar{X}_i, \theta_0) \right) \xrightarrow{d} N(0, \Omega_0) \text{ by CLT}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{where } \Omega_0 &\equiv \text{Var} [s(\bar{X}_i, \theta_0)] \\ &= E [s(\bar{X}_i, \theta_0) s(\bar{X}_i, \theta_0)'] \\ &= I_0 = -H_0 \end{aligned}$$

CLT holds since we have iid data and if we assume  $\Omega_0 < +\infty$

Then, by Slutsky's theorem,

$$\sqrt{n} (\hat{\theta}_n^{\text{MLE}} - \theta_0) \xrightarrow{d} N(0, (-H_0)^{-1} \Omega_0 (-H_0)^{-1})$$

Here, since  $\Omega_0 = -H_0 = I_0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{n} (\hat{\theta}_n^{\text{MLE}} - \theta_0) &\xrightarrow{d} N(0, (I_0)^{-1} I_0 (I_0)^{-1}) \\ &= N(0, (I_0)^{-1}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Recall: } \ln f(\bar{X}_i, \theta_0) = -\theta + x_i \ln \theta - \ln x_i!$$

$$s(\bar{X}_i, \theta_0) = \frac{x_i}{\theta} - 1$$

$$H_0 \equiv E \left[ -\frac{x_i}{\theta_0^2} \right] = -\frac{1}{\theta_0}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sqrt{n} (\hat{\theta}_n^{\text{MLE}} - \theta_0) \xrightarrow{d} N(0, \theta_0) \text{ for our case.}$$