

8th problem set,

Since you're not all math majors I include this "reminder": If A is a set of real numbers then "sup A " does not quite mean the same thing as "max A ". For example, the set $A = [2, 3] = \{x : 2 \leq x \leq 3\}$ has a "max", which is 3, but the set $B = [2, 3) = \{x : 2 \leq x < 3\}$, although it has no "max", still has a "sup", which is also 3. That is because 3 is the smallest number that no member of B exceeds (even though B has no largest member). And similarly 3 is the smallest number that no member of A exceeds (because 3 is the largest member of A).

In class we have seen likelihood-ratio statistics of the form $\frac{\sup\{f(x | \theta) : \theta \in \Omega_0\}}{\sup\{f(x | \theta) : \theta \in \Omega_0 \cup \Omega_1\}}$. Here we will work with a simpler kind of likelihood ratio:

$$\Lambda(x) = \frac{f(x | \theta = \theta_1)}{f(x | \theta = \theta_0)} = \frac{L(\theta_1)}{L(\theta_0)}.$$

With a lower-case " x ", this defines a function. With a capital " X ", this is a random variable. We will consider how this random variable is distributed when θ_0 rather than θ_1 is the "true" value of θ . Assume X is a continuous random variable whose density, given that $\theta = \theta_0$, is $f(x | \theta = \theta_0)$. Use " $\mathbf{E}_{\theta_0}(\)$ ", " $\mathbf{var}_{\theta_0}(\)$ ", " $\mathbf{cov}_{\theta_0}(\)$ ", etc., to mean these operators are to be evaluated assuming $\theta = \theta_0$.

1. Show that $\mathbf{E}_{\theta_0}(\Lambda(X)) = 1$.
2. (a) The following may or may not be useful in doing part (b), perhaps depending on your tastes: Suppose $\mathbf{E}(U) = \mu$ and $\mathbf{E}(V) = \nu$. Show that $\mathbf{cov}(U, V)$ can be written in any of these forms (the second one is the definition, so there is nothing to show):

$$\mathbf{E}(U(V - \nu)) = \mathbf{E}((U - \mu)(V - \nu)) = \mathbf{E}((U - \mu)V).$$

(b) Suppose $T(X)$ is an unbiased estimator of θ . Show that $\mathbf{cov}_{\theta_0}(T(X), \Lambda(X)) = \theta_1 - \theta_0$.

3. Use the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality in the form $|\mathbf{cov}(U, V)| \leq \mathbf{SD}(U) \mathbf{SD}(V)$ and the result of #2(b) to show that when $\theta = \theta_0$ then the mean squared error of $T(X)$ as an estimator of θ cannot be less than

$$\frac{(\theta_1 - \theta_0)^2}{\mathbf{var}_{\theta_0}(\Lambda(X))}.$$

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4. Briefly comment on the justification for, and validity of, each step below.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mathbf{var}_{\theta_0}(\Lambda(X))}{(\theta_1 - \theta_0)^2} &= \mathbf{var}_{\theta_0} \left(\frac{\Lambda(X) - 1}{\theta_1 - \theta_0} \right) \\ &= \mathbf{var}_{\theta_0} \left(\frac{1}{f(X | \theta = \theta_0)} \cdot \frac{f(X | \theta = \theta_1) - f(X | \theta = \theta_0)}{\theta_1 - \theta_0} \right) \\ &\rightarrow \mathbf{var}_{\theta_0} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(X | \theta) \Big|_{\theta=\theta_0} \right) \quad \text{as } \theta_1 \rightarrow \theta_0. \end{aligned}$$

5. Let $I(\theta) = \mathbf{var}_{\theta} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(X | \theta) \right)$. This quantity $I(\theta)$ is called the “Fisher information” in the sample X . It is thought of as a measure of how much information about θ is conveyed by the sample X . If X happens to be a sample of size n , so that $X = (X_1, \dots, X_n)$, then let us denote this by $I_n(\theta)$, so that, in particular, $I_1(\theta)$ would be the amount of information in a sample of size 1. Show that n times as much information is in a sample of size n than in a sample of size 1, i.e., show that $I_n(\theta) = nI_1(\theta)$.
6. Use conclusions from #3 and #4 to show that the mean squared error of an unbiased estimator $T(X)$ of θ cannot be less than $1/I(\theta)$. (This is the “Cramer-Rao inequality” or the “information inequality.” The quantity $1/I(\theta)$ is the “Cramer-Rao lower bound.”)
7. The Fisher information $I(\theta)$ can sometimes be more readily computed by the result you will derive in this problem than by using the definition of it given in #5. In this problem you may assume that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \dots \dots dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \dots \dots dx.$$

(This is valid if the function being integrated is sufficiently well-behaved.)

- (a) Show that $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} f(x | \theta) dx = 0$.
- (b) Show that $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} f(x | \theta) dx = 0$.
- (c) Show that

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} \log f(x | \theta) = \frac{\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} f(x | \theta)}{f(x | \theta)} - \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \log f(x | \theta) \right)^2.$$

Then take expected values of all three terms, use the result of part (b) to show that one of the expected values is 0, and finally draw the conclusion that

$$I(\theta) = -\mathbf{E}_{\theta} \left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} \log f(X | \theta) \right).$$

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8. Suppose $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim \text{i. i. d. } N(\theta, 1^2)$. The result of #6 then says no function of X_1, \dots, X_n that is an unbiased estimator of θ can have smaller variance than something. Find and simplify what goes in the role of “something” in the previous sentence. You can use the result of #7(c), but you are not required to do so.
9. Suppose $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim \text{i. i. d. } \text{Bin}(10, \theta)$. Answer the same question as in #8. (The results you use work just as well if the probability distributions involved are discrete.)
10. Suppose $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim \text{i. i. d. } \text{Poisson}(\theta)$. Answer the same question as in #8.
11. Suppose $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim \text{i. i. d.}$ have a “memoryless” (continuous) exponential distribution with expected value θ , i.e., each X_i is distributed as the (continuous) waiting time in a Poisson process with intensity $1/\theta$ occurrences per unit time. Answer the same question as in #8.

Now we move on from estimation to hypothesis testing, but $\Lambda(X)$ is still defined as above.

12. Consider testing the null hypothesis $H_0 : \theta = \theta_0$ against the alternative hypothesis $H_1 : \theta = \theta_1$. The likelihood-ratio test rejects the null hypothesis if and only if $\Lambda(X) > c$ (where $c =$ the “critical value”). Suppose this test’s probability of Type I error is 3%, i.e., $\Pr(\text{this test rejects } H_0 \mid H_0) = 0.03$. The power of the test is $\Pr(\text{this test rejects } H_0 \mid H_1)$. Some other test, based on some statistic $K(X)$ different from $\Lambda(X)$, rejects the null hypothesis if and only if $K(X) > d$. Suppose this test’s probability of Type I error is also 3%, i.e., $\Pr(\text{this test rejects } H_0 \mid H_0) = 0.03$. The power of the test is $\Pr(\text{this test rejects } H_0 \mid H_1)$. These are different tests. That means one test could reject H_0 while the other does not, with the same data, and the probability that the two tests disagree on whether to reject H_0 is more than 0.

Let $A =$ [the likelihood-ratio test rejects H_0 and the other test does not],
 $B =$ [the other test rejects H_0 and the likelihood-ratio test does not],
and $C =$ [both tests reject H_0].

- (a) Explain and justify each of the seven relations marked by “?” below.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & & \boxed{?} & & \boxed{?} & & \boxed{?} \\
 & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \Pr(A \mid H_1) & = & \int_A f(x \mid \theta = \theta_1) dx & > & \int_A c f(x \mid \theta = \theta_0) dx & = & c \Pr(A \mid H_0) \\
 = & c \Pr(B \mid H_0) & = & \int_B c f(x \mid \theta = \theta_0) dx & \geq & \int_B f(x \mid \theta = \theta_1) dx & = & \Pr(B \mid H_1). \\
 \boxed{?} \uparrow & & \boxed{?} \uparrow & & \boxed{?} \uparrow & & \boxed{?} \uparrow
 \end{array}$$

- (b) By thinking about $\Pr(A \text{ or } C \mid H_1)$ and $\Pr(B \text{ or } C \mid H_1)$, explain why the conclusion of part (a) can be summarized by saying that the likelihood-ratio test is better than the other test. (This is the “**Neyman-Pearson lemma.**”)

HINT: The verbal statement

“[The likelihood-ratio test rejects H_0 and the other test does not] **or** [both tests reject H_0]” can be enormously simplified!