

Minimum Variance Unbiased Estimation

Unbiased Estimation

Def.: Let $a < \theta < b$. $\hat{\theta} = g(\theta)$ is an unbiased estimator if $E(\hat{\theta}) = \theta$ for all $a < \theta < b$.
i.e. $E(\hat{\theta}) = \int g(x) p(x; \theta) dx = \theta$
for all $a < \theta < b$

Ex: $x[n] = A + w[n]$ $n=0, \dots, N-1$
 $-\infty < A < \infty$ \hookrightarrow white Gaussian

Compare $\hat{A} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n]$

$$E(\hat{A}) = A \quad \forall -\infty < A < \infty$$

unbiased estimator

$$\bar{A} = \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n]$$

$$E(\bar{A}) = A/2$$

$$E(\bar{A}) = A/2$$

$$= A \quad \text{if } A=0$$

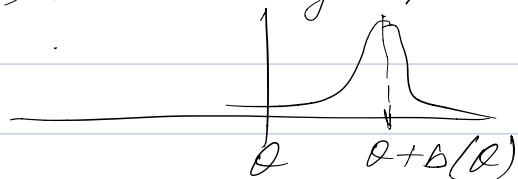
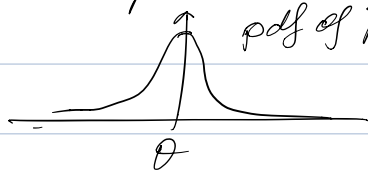
$$\neq A \quad \text{if } A \neq 0.$$

biased estimator

Clearly unbiased is better.

Why?

(Ans. With multiple data sets, the dist. of \hat{A} & \bar{A})



Minimum Variance Criteria

First we try minimizing mean squared errors.

(Not necessarily same as variance)

$$\text{mse}(\hat{\theta}) = E[(\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2]$$

Recall

$$\text{var}(\hat{\theta}) = E(\hat{\theta} - E(\hat{\theta}))^2$$

leads to some problems

$$\begin{aligned} \text{mse}(\hat{\theta}) &= E\{(\hat{\theta} - E(\hat{\theta})) + (E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta)^2\} \\ &= E\{(\hat{\theta} - E(\hat{\theta}))^2\} + E\{(E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta)^2\} \\ &\quad + 2E(\hat{\theta} - E(\hat{\theta}))(E(\hat{\theta}) - \theta) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &E[\hat{\theta}E\hat{\theta} - \hat{\theta}\theta \\ &\quad - E\hat{\theta}E\hat{\theta} + E\hat{\theta}\theta] \\ &= (E\hat{\theta})^2 - \theta E\hat{\theta} \\ &\quad - E\hat{\theta}^2 + \theta E\hat{\theta} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \text{var} \hat{\theta} + (E\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2$$

$$= \text{var} \hat{\theta} + b^2(\theta)$$

Let
 $b(\theta) = \text{bias}$
 $= E\hat{\theta} - \theta$

With suitable assumptions, may not depend on θ

clearly depends on θ (interchange)

Note: Since $\text{mse}(\hat{\theta})$ depends on θ , it cannot be optimized easily.

Ex: $x[n] = A + w[n]$ ← same assumption $w[n] \rightarrow w \in N \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$

Consider $\hat{A} = a \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n]$

Then we saw: $E(\hat{A}) = aA$, $\text{var}(\hat{A}) = \frac{a^2 \sigma^2}{N}$. Then using (1), $\text{mse}(\hat{A}) = \frac{a^2 \sigma^2}{N} + (a-1)^2 A^2$

lets forget about unbiased etc & min. mse. w.r.t a .

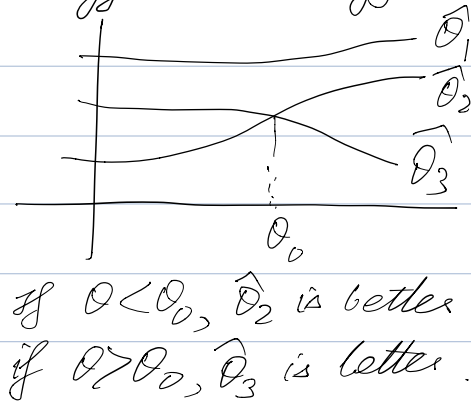
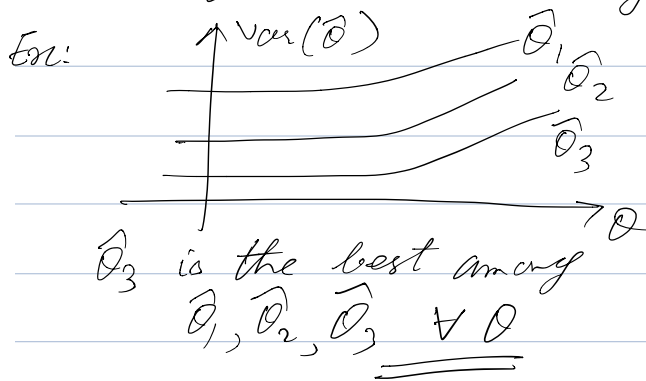
$$\frac{d(\text{mse})}{da} = \frac{2a\sigma^2}{N} + 2(a-1)A^2 = 0$$

$$a_{opt} = \frac{A^2}{A^2 + \sigma^2/N}$$

clearly a_{opt} depends on $A \rightarrow$ not known so unrealizable

Strategy: We require bias = 0. Then $mse = var$. We then min. variance. leading to Minimum Variance Unbiased Est (MVUE) Criterion. (Min must hold at each $\theta \rightarrow$ sometimes called uniform MVUE)

Unfortunately MVUE does not always exist.
The best estimator might differ at different θ .



Q1) Given an estimator, is it MVUE? - CRUB
Q2) Can you synthesize MVUE? \rightarrow NO.

Cramer - Rao Lower Bound on the variance of any unbiased estimator.

\rightarrow we can check if a proposed estimator is MVUE for all θ .

→ we can check how good our estimator is if it is not MVUE.

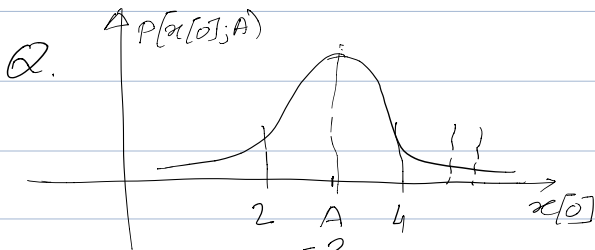
→ Check if the bound satisfies practical requirements (since we know no better estimator can be found)

CRLB → intuition → consider $x[0] = A + w[0]$

$w[0] \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$ (single observation)

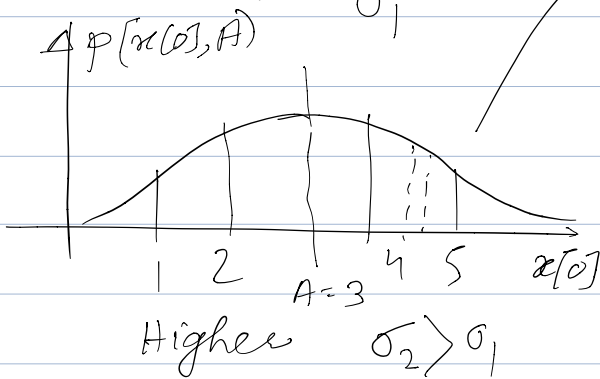
Let $\hat{A} = x[0] \rightarrow$ unbiased, $\text{var}(\hat{A}) = \sigma^2$

Consider:
$$p(x[0]; A) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (x[0] - A)^2\right)$$



Prob of $x[0]$ lying outside $[2, 4]$ negligible

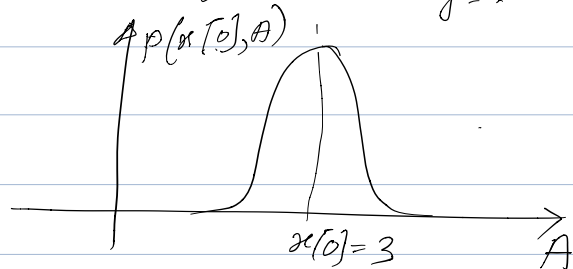
If $A=3$, prob. of $x[0]$ dist. σ_1



→ Prob of $x[0]$ lying outside $[1, 5]$ negligible.

→ Accuracy of estimates $\propto \frac{1}{\text{var}}$

\propto Sharpness of likelihood $f_{\hat{A}}$



Sharpness \equiv -ve of 2nd derivative.
(It is convention & convenient to take log)

Log likelihood \hat{L} : $\ln p(x[0]; A)$

$$\text{Here } \ln p(x[0]; A) = -\ln \sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2} - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (x[0] - A)^2$$

$$\text{Then, } - \frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x[0]; A)}{\partial A^2} = \frac{1}{\sigma^2}$$

$$\text{Here } \text{Var}(\hat{A}) = \sigma^2 = \frac{-\partial^2 \ln p(x[0]; A)}{\partial A^2}$$

This is the least var since there is no other information about θ in the pdf.

In general, $\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x[0]; A)}{\partial A^2}$ might depend on $x[0]$
Then $E[\cdot]$ is taken.

Cramer - Rao Lower Bound (Scalar Parameter)

Assume that the pdf $p(x; \theta)$ satisfies the "regularity" condition $E\left[\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta}\right] = 0$ $\forall \theta$

where the expectation is w.r.t $p(x; \theta)$. Then, the variance of any unbiased estimator $\hat{\theta}$ must satisfy:

$$\text{var}(\hat{\theta}) \geq \frac{1}{-E\left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2}\right]} \leftarrow \text{Fisher Information}$$

where derivative is taken at true value of θ & exp. is w.r.t. $p(x; \theta)$. Furthermore, an unbiased estimator may be found that attains the bound for all θ iff

$$\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} = I(\theta) (g(x) - \theta)$$

for some functions g & I . Then that estimator $\hat{\theta} = g(x)$ is MVU with min. var. = $\frac{1}{I(\theta)}$.

Ex: $x[0] = A + w[0] \quad w[0] \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$
 $\hat{A} = x[0]$

From CRLB & our calculations above

$$\text{var}(\hat{A}) \geq \frac{1}{-E\left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2}\right]} = \sigma^2$$

But we know, since $\hat{A} = x[0]$, $\text{var}(\hat{A}) = \sigma^2$
 \Rightarrow Since $\text{var}(\hat{A})$ attains the CRLB, it is the min. var. unbiased estimator.

2nd part: Recall, $\frac{\partial \ln p(x[0]; A)}{\partial A} = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} (x[0] - A)$ Check reg. conditions satisfied.

$\underbrace{\quad}_{I(\theta)} \quad \underbrace{\quad}_{g(x[0])}$

Ex: $x[n] = A + w[n]$ $n = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$

$w[n] \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$

$$p(x; A) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{N/2}} \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} (x[n] - A)^2\right]$$

To evaluate CRLB,

$$\frac{\partial \ln p(x; A)}{\partial A} = \frac{\partial}{\partial A} \left[-\ln \left[(2\pi\sigma^2)^{N/2} \right] - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} (x[n] - A)^2 \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} (x[n] - A) = \frac{N}{\sigma^2} (\bar{x} - A)$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; A)}{\partial A^2} = -\frac{N}{\sigma^2}$$

check: Regularity condition satisfied.

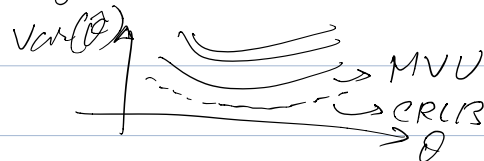
Here CRLB states $\text{Var}(\hat{A}) \geq \frac{\sigma^2}{N}$

On the other hand, we have seen for $\hat{A} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n]$, $\text{Var}(\hat{A}) = \frac{\sigma^2}{N}$ So MVU.

On the other hand, $\bar{A} = x[0]$ has

$\text{Var}(\bar{A}) = \sigma^2 > \text{CRLB}$. So not MVU.

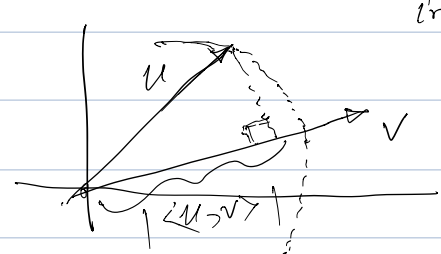
Defⁿ: An estimator which is unbiased & attains the CRLB is said to be efficient.



Note: An MVU estimator is not necessarily efficient.

$$\left[\int w(x) g(x) h(x) dx \right]^2 \leq \int w(x) g^2(x) dx \int w(x) h^2(x) dx$$

Usual statement: $|\langle u, v \rangle|^2 \leq \langle u, u \rangle \cdot \langle v, v \rangle$
 inner product or $|\langle u, v \rangle| \leq \|u\| \cdot \|v\|$



Exercise: Check $\int \phi(x) g(x) h(x) dx$ is an inner product between $\langle g, h \rangle$. For all ϕ ?

Equality holds if $g(x) = c h(x)$. g, h are arbitrary but $w(x) \geq 0$.

We identify: $w(x) = p(x; \theta)$, $g(x) = \hat{\theta} - \theta$
 $h(x) = \frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta}$

From (1), $(1)^2 \leq \underbrace{\int (\hat{\theta} - \theta)^2 p(x; \theta) dx}_{\text{Var}(\hat{\theta})} \int \left[\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \right]^2 p(x; \theta) dx$

$$\Leftrightarrow \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}) \geq \frac{1}{E \left[\left(\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \right)^2 \right]}$$

Claim: $E \left[\left(\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \right)^2 \right] = - E \left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2} \right]$

Proof: Exercise

Proof of 2nd part:

When equality holds: MVU has been found.

$$g(x) = ch(x)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} = \frac{1}{c(\theta)} (\hat{\theta} - \theta)$$

For calculating $c(\theta)$,
diff. again.

can depend on θ
but not on x .

$$\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2} = -\frac{1}{c(\theta)} + \frac{\partial \left(\frac{1}{c(\theta)} \right)}{\partial \theta} (\hat{\theta} - \theta)$$

Take expectation, $-E \left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2} \right] = \frac{1}{c(\theta)} = I(\theta)$

Hence MVU variance must satisfy

$$\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} = \left\{ \frac{1}{I(\theta)} \right\} (\hat{\theta} - \theta)$$

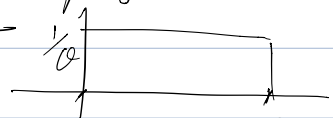
MVU variance.

Ex: Regularity Condition does not hold

Let $x[0], \dots, x[n-1]$ be iid with pdf

$$p(x[i]; \theta) = \frac{1}{\theta}, \quad 0 < x < \theta$$

Joint pdf = $f(x[0], \dots, x[n-1]; \theta) = \frac{1}{\theta^n}$



Regularity condition: $E \left[\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \right] = -\frac{n}{\theta} \neq 0$

So, not valid (CRLB should not be used)

→ Let's try anyway:

$$E\left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2}\right] = -\frac{n}{\theta^2} \Rightarrow \text{Using CRLB, } \text{Var}(\hat{\theta}) \geq \frac{\theta^2}{n}$$

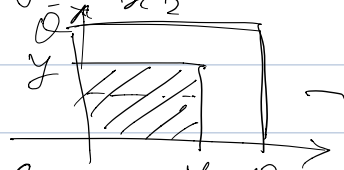
↓
any unbiased estimator

But, consider $Y = \max(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ as estimator
pdf of Y : $p(y; \theta) = \frac{ny^{n-1}}{\theta^n}$; $0 < y < \theta$

Exercise

$$P(x_1 \leq y, x_2 \leq y, \dots, x_n \leq y) = P(Y \leq y) \neq \theta^n$$

↓
diff. this



$$\text{Then } E(Y) = \int_0^{\theta} \frac{ny^n}{\theta^n} dy = \frac{n}{n+1} \theta$$

$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{n+1}{n}\right)Y$ is an unbiased estimator of θ .

$$\text{Var}\left(\frac{n+1}{n}Y\right) = \left(\frac{n+1}{n}\right)^2 \text{Var}(Y)$$

$$= \left(\frac{n+1}{n}\right)^2 \left[EY^2 - (EY)^2 \right] = \left(\frac{n+1}{n}\right)^2 \left[\left(\frac{n}{n+2}\right)\theta^2 - \left(\frac{n\theta}{n+1}\right)^2 \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{n(n+2)} \theta^2$$

uniformly
smaller at
each θ

$\frac{\theta^2}{n} \rightarrow$ CRLB
(invalid)

Exc: Signal dependence on parameter

$$x[n] = s[n; \theta] + w[n] \quad n=0, \dots, N-1$$

↳ WGN

$$p(x; \theta) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{N/2}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} (x[n] - s[n; \theta])^2 \right\}$$

$$\frac{\partial p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} (x[n] - s[n; \theta]) \frac{\partial s[n; \theta]}{\partial \theta}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2} = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \left\{ (x[n] - s[n; \theta]) \frac{\partial^2 s[n; \theta]}{\partial \theta^2} - \left(\frac{\partial s[n; \theta]}{\partial \theta} \right)^2 \right\}$$

$$E \left(\frac{\partial^2 p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2} \right) = -\frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \left(\frac{\partial s[n; \theta]}{\partial \theta} \right)^2$$

So $\text{Var}(\hat{\theta}) \geq \frac{\sigma^2}{\sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \left(\frac{\partial s[n; \theta]}{\partial \theta} \right)^2}$. If $s[n; \theta]$ changes fast with θ , it is possible to have a better estimate.

CRLB: Vector Parameters: $\theta = [\theta_1 \dots \theta_p]^T$

$\hat{\theta} = g(x[0], \dots, x[N-1])$ is unbiased if

$$\begin{cases} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\theta}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \hat{\theta}_p \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} g_1(x[0], \dots, x[N-1]) \\ \vdots \\ g_p(x[0], \dots, x[N-1]) \end{bmatrix} & \begin{cases} E \hat{\theta}_i = \theta_i; a_i < \theta_i < b_i \\ \text{OR} \\ E \hat{\theta} = \theta \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

$\hat{\theta}$ is MVU if for any unbiased estimator $\bar{\theta} = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{\theta}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \bar{\theta}_p \end{bmatrix}$
 $\text{Var}(\hat{\theta}_i) (i=1, \dots, p)$ satisfy
 $\text{Var}(\hat{\theta}_i) < \text{Var}(\bar{\theta}_i) \quad i=1, \dots, p$

CRLB: Assume $p(x; \theta)$ satisfies "regularity" condition

$$E \left[\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} \right] = 0 \quad \forall \theta$$

Recall $\theta = [\theta_1 \dots \theta_p]^T$

where expectation is w.r.t. $p(x; \theta)$. Then the covariance matrix of any unbiased estimator $\hat{\theta}$ satisfies:

$$E([\hat{\theta} - E\hat{\theta}][\hat{\theta} - E\hat{\theta}]^T) = I^{-1}(\theta) \geq 0$$

$$\text{Cov}(\hat{\theta}) = I^{-1}(\theta) \geq 0 \rightarrow \underline{\text{PSD}}$$

The Fisher information matrix $I(\theta)$ is given as

$$[I(\theta)]_{ij} = -E\left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta_i \partial \theta_j}\right]$$

Derivative at true value of θ
 \Rightarrow Exp. w.r.t $p(x; \theta)$

Furthermore, an unbiased estimator may be found that attains the bound i.e.

$$C(\hat{\theta}) = I^{-1}(\theta) \text{ iff}$$

$$\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} = I(\theta) (g(x) - \theta)$$

\downarrow
 $p \times 1$

\downarrow
 $p \times p$

\downarrow
 $p \times 1$

\downarrow
 $p \times 1$

The MVU estimator is $\hat{\theta} = g(x)$ with covariance $I^{-1}(\theta)$.

Note: $\text{Var}[\hat{\theta}_i] = [C(\hat{\theta})]_{ii} \geq [I^{-1}(\theta)]_{ii}$ (Why?)

Ex: $x[n] = A + Bn + w[n]$ $n = 0, \dots, N-1$
 \hookrightarrow WGN

Here $\theta = [A \ B]^T$. $I(\theta) = -E \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial A^2} & \frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial A \partial B} \\ \frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial B \partial A} & \frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial B^2} \end{bmatrix}$

$$p(x; \theta) = \frac{1}{(2\pi\sigma^2)^{N/2}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} (x[n] - A - Bn)^2 \right\}$$

Calculations — Exercise.

$$I(\theta) = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \begin{bmatrix} N & \frac{N(N-1)}{2} \\ \frac{N(N-1)}{2} & \frac{N(N-1)(2N-1)}{6} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$I^{-1}(\theta) = \sigma^2 \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2(2N-1)}{N(N+1)} & -\frac{6}{N(N+1)} \\ -\frac{6}{N(N+1)} & \frac{12}{N(N^2-1)} \end{bmatrix}$$

Hence $\text{Var}(\hat{A}) \geq \frac{2(2N-1)\sigma^2}{N(N+1)}$ $\text{Var}(\hat{B}) \geq \frac{12\sigma^2}{N(N^2-1)}$

Lets check the 2nd part of the Thm. here.

$$\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial A} \\ \frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial B} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} (x[n] - A - Bn) \\ \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} (x[n] - A - Bn)n \end{bmatrix}$$

Exercise

$$\downarrow$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} \frac{N}{\sigma^2} & \frac{N(N-1)}{2\sigma^2} \\ \frac{N(N-1)}{2\sigma^2} & \frac{N(N-1)(2N-1)}{6\sigma^2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{A} - A \\ \hat{B} - B \end{bmatrix}$$

where $\hat{A} = \frac{2(2N-1)}{N(N+1)} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n] - \frac{6}{N(N+1)} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} n x[n]$

$$\hat{B} = -\frac{6}{N(N+1)} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} x[n] + \frac{12}{N(N^2-1)} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} n x[n]$$

Q. Is $\hat{A}, \hat{\beta}$ unbiased \rightarrow Here & in general?

Transformation of Parameters: Sometimes we want to estimate $\alpha = h(\theta)$ \rightarrow One can of course solve θ in term of α if possible $\theta = h^{-1}(\alpha)$ & then use CRLB on θ . OR

$$\text{Var}(\hat{\alpha}) \geq \frac{\left(\frac{\partial g}{\partial \theta}\right)^2}{-E\left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2}\right]} \quad \text{in scalar case}$$

For vector case,
$$\begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_r \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} g_1(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_p) \\ \vdots \\ g_r(\theta_1, \dots, \theta_p) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\alpha = g(\theta)$$

CRLB:
$$C(\hat{\alpha}) - \frac{\partial g(\theta)}{\partial \theta} I^{-1}(\theta) \left[\frac{\partial g(\theta)}{\partial \theta} \right]^T \geq 0$$

\downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow
 $r \times r$ \quad $r \times p$ \quad $p \times p$ \quad $p \times r$

The above model is called a linear model & is useful in many contexts.

\rightarrow MVU can be found from CRLB directly.

In general: $x = H\theta + w \rightarrow$ linear model

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x(0) \\ \vdots \\ x(N-1) \end{bmatrix} \quad w = \begin{bmatrix} w(0) \\ \vdots \\ w(N-1) \end{bmatrix} \quad \theta = \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix} \quad H = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & N-1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$w \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 I)$$

$$\frac{\partial \ln p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left[-\ln(2\sigma^2)^{N/2} - \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} (x - H\theta)^T (x - H\theta) \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sigma^2} [H^T x - H^T H \theta] = \frac{H^T H}{\sigma^2} [(H^T H)^{-1} H^T x - \theta]$$

↳ When is this invertible? Exercise

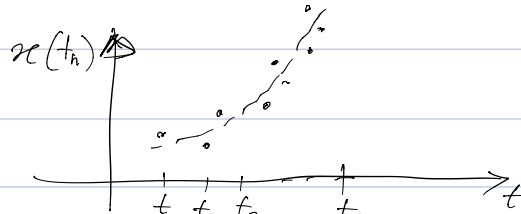
Using the 2nd part of CRLB:

$$\hat{\theta} = (H^T H)^{-1} H^T x \quad \& \quad C(\hat{\theta}) = \sigma^2 (H^T H)^{-1}$$

Additionally, it is easy to calculate (linear transformation of x) that

$$\tilde{\theta} \sim \mathcal{N}(\theta, \sigma^2 (H^T H)^{-1})$$

Ex: Curve Fitting:



Assume: $x(t_n)$, $n=0, \dots, N-1$ is observed.

Assume $x(t_n) = \theta_1 + \theta_2 t_n + \theta_3 t_n^2 + w(t_n)$, $n=0, \dots, N-1$

Surprisingly this is an example of linear model.

$$x = H\theta + w$$

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x(t_0) \\ \vdots \\ x(t_{N-1}) \end{bmatrix}^T \quad \theta = \begin{bmatrix} \theta_1 \\ \theta_2 \\ \theta_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & t_0 & t_0^2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & t_{N-1} & t_{N-1}^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

↳ Vandermonde matrix

$$\hat{\theta} = (H^T H)^{-1} H^T x$$

→ estimated / fitted curve

$$\hat{x}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^3 \hat{\theta}_i t^{i-1}$$

Check invertibility of $H^T H$!

