

501 Old Final Hints

December 8, 2025

1 Problem 1

See Chapter 13 page 122 on Hypothesis Testing in a Likelihood model in Joris's lecture notes.

2 Problem 2

2.1 a

The density is

$$f(x) = \frac{x}{\theta_0^2} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\theta_0^2}\right)$$

The Likelihood is then

$$L(\theta; x_1, \dots, x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{x_i}{\theta^2} \exp\left(-\frac{x_i^2}{2\theta^2}\right)$$

The FOC for log-likelihood has

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{x_i^2}{\hat{\theta}^3} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{2}{\hat{\theta}}$$

Hence

$$\hat{\theta} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2}{2n}}$$

2.2 b

We first note that

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - E[x_i^2] \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, \text{Var}(x_i^2))$$

In particular, $\text{Var}(x_i^2) = E(x_i^4) - (E[x_i^2])^2$.

Using change of variables, we have $E(x_i^4) = 8\theta_0^4$ and $E(x_i^2) = 2\theta_0^2$. Therefore, the asymptotic variance is $4\theta_0^4$.

Now apply Delta method to conclude that

$$\sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, \frac{\theta_0^2}{4})$$

One can also apply results on maximum likelihood estimator by computing $(E[\dot{l}_{\theta_0} \dot{l}'_{\theta_0}])^{-1}$

3 Problem 3

See old midterm 2 for ideas

4 Problem 4

This question is essentially about $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E\hat{\theta}$ or about convergence theorems.

$\bar{x}$, $\bar{x}^2$, $\exp(-\bar{x}^2) - 1$, $\exp(-\frac{1}{\bar{x}^2})$ and $\mathbb{1}(|\bar{x}| \geq \epsilon)$ has limit of expectation being zero using direct computation or dominated convergence theorem.

$\exp(-\bar{x}) - 1$ cannot be concluded to have limit of expectation to be zero.

5 Problem 5

5.1 a

We verify the consistency theorem with compact parameter space:

1. The parameter space $\Theta = [-100, 100]^d$ is compact.
2. Assume that θ_0 is the unique minimizer of $\Omega(\theta) = E[\ln(1 + (y - x'\theta)^2)]$
 θ_0 satisfies the FOC of the population objective given the symmetry assumption
3. The population objective $\Omega(\theta)$ is continuous
4. U-WCON: $\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} |\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \ln(1 + (y_i - x'_i \theta)^2) - E(\ln(1 + (y - x'\theta)^2))| = o_p(1)$

The last two conditions can be established by observing that

1. (y_i, x'_i) are iid samples
2. $f(y, x, \theta) = \ln(1 + (y - x'\theta)^2)$ is a continuous function of θ for almost every (y_i, x'_i) .
3. Θ is compact
4. $E(\sup_{\theta \in \Theta} \ln(1 + (y - x'\theta)^2)) < \infty$

Under the above conditions, $\hat{\theta} \xrightarrow{p} \theta_0$

5.2 b

Here θ_0 is in the interior of the parameter space, perform Taylor expansion around the approximate FOC:

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{y_i - \hat{\theta}' x_i}{1 + (y_i - x_i' \hat{\theta})^2} x_i = o_p(n^{-1/2})$$

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{y_i - \theta_0' x_i}{1 + (y_i - x_i' \theta_0)^2} x_i + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(y_i - x_i' \theta^*)^2 - 1}{[1 + (y_i - x_i' \theta^*)^2]^2} x_i x_i' (\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) = o_p(n^{-1/2})$$

where θ^* lies on the line segment between $\hat{\theta}$ and θ_0 .

Scale by $\sqrt{n}$, we have

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(y_i - x_i' \theta^*)^2 - 1}{[1 + (y_i - x_i' \theta^*)^2]^2} x_i x_i' \sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{y_i - \theta_0' x_i}{1 + (y_i - x_i' \theta_0)^2} x_i + o_p(n^{-1/2})$$

As y_i is distributed symmetrically around $\theta_0' x_i$, $\frac{y_i - \theta_0' x_i}{1 + (y_i - x_i' \theta_0)^2} x_i$ has mean zero, and we can apply CLT (assuming existence of second moment for $\frac{y_i - \theta_0' x_i}{1 + (y_i - x_i' \theta_0)^2} x_i$) to get

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{y_i - \theta_0' x_i}{1 + (y_i - x_i' \theta_0)^2} x_i \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, E((\frac{y_i - \theta_0' x_i}{1 + (y_i - x_i' \theta_0)^2})^2 x_i x_i'))$$

Abbreviate the limit variance as Σ .

In addition, assume that within a neighborhood of θ_0 $E(\sup_{\theta \in N(\theta_0)} \|\frac{(y_i - x_i' \theta)^2 - 1}{[1 + (y_i - x_i' \theta)^2]^2} x_i x_i'\|) < \infty$, then we have

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(y_i - x_i' \theta^*)^2 - 1}{[1 + (y_i - x_i' \theta^*)^2]^2} x_i x_i' \xrightarrow{p} E(\frac{(y_i - x_i' \theta_0)^2 - 1}{[1 + (y_i - x_i' \theta_0)^2]^2} x_i x_i')$$

Define the RHS as G , assume that G is full-rank, then we have

$$\sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(0, G^{-1} \Sigma G^{-1})$$

6 Problem 6

6.1 a

We use Bernstein's inequality, here $\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(x_i) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n 2i = n + 1$, the bound of the support of the random variables is a function of n and is given

by $c_n = (n+1)b$. We are looking for B_n such that for any $\epsilon > 0$ there exists a sufficiently large K ,

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} P(B_n | \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - i) | \geq K) \leq \epsilon$$

We bound the above probability using Bernstein's inequality as:

$$\begin{aligned} & P(|\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - i)| \geq \frac{K}{B_n}) \\ & \leq 2 \exp(-\frac{K^2/B_n^2}{2n(n+1) + \frac{2K}{3B_n}b(n+1)}) \\ & = 2 \exp(-\frac{K^2}{2n^2B_n^2 + 2nB_n^2 + \frac{2K}{3}b(n+1)B_n}) \end{aligned}$$

It will be sufficient to choose B_n such that the denominator has limit $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} n^2B_n^2 + nB_n^2 + nB_n < \infty$. Then by choosing K sufficiently large the last line will be very small.

Therefore, B_n should be decreasing faster than $\frac{1}{n}$. In other words, the slowest diverging sequence C_n is n .

6.2 b

As $P(\min_i x_i \geq 1) = 1$, we can apply Markov: $P(\sum_{i=1}^{100} \ln(x_i) > 200) \leq \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n E(\ln(x_i))}{200} \leq \frac{\ln(2)}{2} \leq \frac{1}{2}$, where the second last step is Jensen's inequality.