

0.1 Sample mean

An estimator for the mean value would be:

$$\hat{\mu} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i \quad (1)$$

The expected value of this estimator:

$$E[\hat{\mu}] = E\left[\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i\right] = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N E[x_i] = \mu \quad (2)$$

Since the expected value of $\hat{\mu} = \mu$ this is an unbiased estimator.

$$\begin{aligned} E[\hat{\mu}^2] &= E\left[\left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i\right)^2\right] = E\left[\frac{1}{N^2} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N x_i x_j\right)\right] \\ &= \frac{1}{N^2} E\left[\sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 + \sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{i=1, i \neq j}^N x_i x_j\right] \\ &= \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{i=1}^N E[x_i^2] + \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{i=1, i \neq j}^N E[x_i x_j] = \frac{1}{N} E[x^2] + \frac{N-1}{N} \mu^2 \quad (3) \end{aligned}$$

This leads to the following variance for the estimator:

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{\hat{\mu}}^2 &= E[\hat{\mu}^2] - E^2[\hat{\mu}] = \frac{1}{N} E[x^2] + \frac{N-1}{N} \mu^2 - \mu^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{N} E[x^2] - \frac{1}{N} \mu^2 = \frac{E[x^2] - \mu^2}{N} = \frac{\sigma^2}{N} \quad (4) \end{aligned}$$

So:

$$\sigma_{\hat{\mu}} = \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{N}} \quad (5)$$

0.2 Sample variance

An estimator for the variance using $\hat{\mu}$ would be:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\sigma}_N^2 &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \hat{\mu})^2 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i^2 - 2x_i \hat{\mu} + \hat{\mu}^2) \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 - \frac{2}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i \hat{\mu} + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{\mu}^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 - \frac{2}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left(x_i \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N x_j\right) + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \left(\frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N x_j\right)^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 - \frac{2}{N^2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N x_i x_j + \frac{1}{N^2} \left(\sum_{i=1}^N x_i \right)^2 \\
&= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 - \frac{2}{N^2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N x_i x_j + \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N x_i x_j \\
&= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 - \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N x_i x_j \\
&= \frac{N}{N^2} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 - \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 - \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{i=1, i \neq j}^N x_i x_j \\
&= \frac{N-1}{N^2} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 - \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{i=1, i \neq j}^N x_i x_j \tag{6}
\end{aligned}$$

The expected value of this estimator is:

$$\begin{aligned}
E[\hat{\sigma}_N^2] &= E\left[\frac{N-1}{N^2} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2 - \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{i=1, i \neq j}^N x_i x_j\right] \\
&= E\left[\frac{N-1}{N^2} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2\right] - E\left[\frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{j=1}^N \sum_{i=1, i \neq j}^N x_i x_j\right] \\
&= \frac{N-1}{N} E[x^2] - \frac{N-1}{N} \mu^2 = \frac{N-1}{N} (E[x^2] - \mu^2) \\
&= \frac{N-1}{N} \sigma^2 \tag{7}
\end{aligned}$$

This estimator is therefore not unbiased. The following estimator obviously is (which is the sample variance):

$$\hat{\sigma}_{N-1}^2 = \frac{N}{N-1} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \hat{\mu})^2 = \frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \hat{\mu})^2 \tag{8}$$