

MATHEMATICS

A LEAST SQUARES INEQUALITY FOR MAXIMUM LIKELIHOOD  
ESTIMATES OF ORDERED PARAMETERS <sup>1)</sup>

BY

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1. *Introduction*

In this paper the results of a further investigation on the maximum likelihood estimates of partially or completely ordered parameters will be given. One of these results is a generalization of the following inequality for the binomial case, which may be found in [1] (p. 644).

If <sup>2)</sup>

$$(1.1) \quad P[\mathbf{x}_i = 1] = \theta_i, \quad P[\mathbf{x}_i = 0] = 1 - \theta_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, k)$$

and

$$(1.2) \quad a_i \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{\gamma=1}^{n_i} x_{i,\gamma}, \quad b_i \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} n_i - a_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, k),$$

then

$$(1.3) \quad \sum_{i=1}^k n_i \left( y_i - \frac{a_i}{n_i} \right)^2 \geq \sum_{i=1}^k n_i \left\{ \left( t_i - \frac{a_i}{n_i} \right)^2 + (t_i - y_i)^2 \right\}$$

for each point  $(y_1, \dots, y_k) \in D$ .

The inequality (1.3) is equivalent with

$$(1.4) \quad \sum_{i=1}^k n_i (t_i - y_i) \left( t_i - \frac{a_i}{n_i} \right) \leq 0 \quad \text{for each point } (y_1, \dots, y_k) \in D.$$

In this paper the inequality (1.4) will be generalized for the case of partially or completely ordered parameters of other probability distributions. The problem will be treated in section 2 and in section 3 some examples will be given.

2. *The problem*

In this paper we suppose that, for each subset  $M$  of  $E$ , there exists a pair of values  $(i, j)$  with

$$(2.1) \quad \begin{cases} 1. & i \in M, j \in \bar{M}, \\ 2. & \alpha_{i,j} \neq 0. \end{cases}$$

<sup>1)</sup> Report SP 60 of the Statistical Department of the Mathematical Centre, Amsterdam.

<sup>2)</sup> The notation in this paper is the same as the one used in [2] and [3].

This may be supposed without any loss of generality for if there exists a subset  $M$  of  $E$  not satisfying this condition then (cf. theorem IV in [2]) the estimates  $t_1, \dots, t_k$  may be found by separately maximizing  $\sum_{i \in M} L_i(y_i)$  in the domain

$$(2.2) \quad D_1: \begin{cases} \alpha_{i,j}(y_i - y_j) \leq 0 \\ y_i \in I_i \end{cases} \quad (i, j \in M)$$

and  $\sum_{i \in \bar{M}} L_i(y_i)$  in the domain

$$(2.3) \quad D_2: \begin{cases} \alpha_{i,j}(y_i - y_j) \leq 0 \\ y_i \in I_i \end{cases} \quad (i, j \in \bar{M})^3).$$

Let  $J_i$  be the set of all values of  $y$  for which  $F_i(x_i | y)$  is a distribution function ( $i=1, \dots, k$ ); we suppose  $J_i$  to be an interval. Let further for any subset  $M$  of  $E$

$$(2.4) \quad J_M \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigcap_{i \in M} J_i.$$

In this paper we suppose that the following condition is satisfied.

(2.5) Condition: For each  $M$  with  $J_M \neq 0$  the function  $L_M(z)$  is strictly unimodal in  $J_M$ .<sup>4)</sup>

Let  $w_M$  be the value of  $z$  which maximizes  $L_M(z)$  in  $J_M$  and let  $w_i$  denote the value of  $y$  which maximizes  $L_i(y)$  in  $J_i$  ( $i=1, \dots, k$ ). Then if  $I_i$  is the interval  $(c_i, d_i)$  and if (cf. [3], section 2)  $v_M$  is the value of  $z$  which maximizes  $L_M(z)$  in  $I_M$

$$(2.6) \quad \begin{cases} v_M = w_M & \text{if } \max_{i \in M} c_i \leq w_M \leq \min_{i \in M} d_i, \\ v_M = \max_{i \in M} c_i & \text{if } w_M < \max_{i \in M} c_i, \\ v_M = \min_{i \in M} d_i & \text{if } w_M > \min_{i \in M} d_i. \end{cases}$$

Now let  $E_0$  be a subset of  $E$  with

$$(2.7) \quad \begin{cases} 1. & t_i \neq v_i & \text{for each } i \in E_0, \\ 2. & t_i = v_i & \text{for each } i \in \bar{E}_0, \end{cases}$$

then

Lemma I: The estimates  $t_1, \dots, t_k$  may also be found by separately maximizing  $\sum_{i \in E_0} L_i(y_i)$  in the domain

$$(2.8) \quad D': \begin{cases} \alpha_{i,j}(y_i - y_j) \leq 0 \\ y_i \in I_i \end{cases} \quad (i, j \in E_0)$$

<sup>3)</sup> In the definitions of the domains  $D_1, D_2, D', D''$  and  $D'_v$  (cf. (2.8), (2.9) and (2.21)) the coordinates which are not mentioned may assume any values.

<sup>4)</sup> If  $J_i = I_i$  for each  $i \in E$  then this condition is identical with condition (4.3) in [2].

and  $\sum_{i \in \bar{E}_0} L_i(y_i)$  in the domain

$$(2.9) \quad D'' : y_i \in I_i \quad (i \in \bar{E}_0).^5$$

Proof:

The function  $\sum_{i \in \bar{E}_0} L_i(y_i)$  attains its maximum in  $D''$  for  $y_i = v_i = t_i$  ( $i \in \bar{E}_0$ ).

Further the function  $L(y_1, \dots, y_k)$  attains its maximum under the conditions  $y_i = t_i$  ( $i \in \bar{E}_0$ ) in  $D$  for  $y_i = t_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ), i.e. the function  $\sum_{i \in \bar{E}_0} L_i(t_i) + \sum_{i \in \bar{E}_0} L_i(y_i)$  attains its maximum in  $D$  for  $y_i = t_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ). Thus  $\sum_{i \in \bar{E}_0} L_i(y_i)$  attains its maximum in  $D'$  for  $y_i = t_i$  ( $i \in E_0$ ).

Now let  $M_0$  be a subset of  $E_0$  with

$$(2.10) \quad t_i = t_j \text{ for each pair of values } (i, j) \in M_0.$$

Theorem I: If  $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_k$  satisfy

$$(2.11) \quad \begin{cases} 1. & \sum_{i \in M_0} \delta_i (w_{M_0} - w_i) = 0 \text{ for each } M_0 \subset E_0 \text{ satisfying (2.10),} \\ 2. & \delta_i > 0 \text{ for each } i \in E, \end{cases}$$

then the function

$$(2.12) \quad Q = Q(y_1, \dots, y_k) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{i=1}^k \delta_i (y_i - w_i)^2$$

attains its minimum in  $D$  for  $y_i = t_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ).

Proof:

If  $M$  is a subset of  $E$  then  $-\sum_{i \in M} \delta_i (z - w_i)^2$  is a strictly unimodal function of  $z$ ; thus, analogous to theorem I in [2],  $-Q$  possesses a unique maximum in  $D$ , i.e.  $Q$  possesses a unique minimum in  $D$ .

Every term of the function  $\sum_{i \in \bar{E}_0} \delta_i (y_i - w_i)^2$  (and thus the function itself) attains its minimum in  $D''$  (cf. (2.9)) for  $y_i = v_i = t_i$  ( $i \in \bar{E}_0$ ). Lemma I then implies that it is sufficient to prove that the minimum of

$$\sum_{i \in \bar{E}_0} \delta_i (y_i - w_i)^2$$

in  $D'$  (cf. (2.8)) coincides with the maximum of  $\sum_{i \in \bar{E}_0} L_i(y_i)$  in  $D'$ .

We first prove this (by induction<sup>6</sup>) under the following stronger condition for  $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_k$

$$(2.13) \quad \begin{cases} 1. & \sum_{i \in M} \delta_i (w_M - w_i) = 0 \text{ for each } M \subset E_0, \\ 2. & \delta_i > 0 \text{ for each } i \in E_0. \end{cases}$$

<sup>5</sup>) Cf. footnote 3.

<sup>6</sup>) Cf. the proof of theorem I in [2], which runs along the same ways.

Let  $M_\nu (\nu = 1, \dots, N)$  be subsets of  $E_0$  with

$$(2.14) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1. \quad \bigcup_{\nu=1}^N M_\nu = E_0, \\ 2. \quad M_{\nu_1} \cap M_{\nu_2} = 0 \text{ for each pair of values } (\nu_1, \nu_2) \text{ with } \nu_1 \neq \nu_2, \\ 3. \quad I_{M_\nu} \neq 0 \text{ for each } \nu = 1, \dots, N. \end{array} \right.$$

Let further (cf. (4.6) in [2])

$$(2.15) \quad G_N \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \prod_{\nu=1}^N I_{M_\nu}$$

and (cf. (4.7) and (4.8) in [2])

$$(2.16) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} Q_{M_\nu}(z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{i \in M_\nu} \delta_i (z - w_i)^2, \\ Q'(z_1, \dots, z_N) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{\nu=1}^N Q_{M_\nu}(z_\nu) \end{array} \right.$$

and (cf. (4.9) in [2])

$$(2.17) \quad D'_{N,s} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} D' \cap G_N,$$

where  $s$  denotes the number of essential restrictions defining  $D'$ . Then the function  $Q_{M_\nu}(z)$  attains its minimum in the interval  $(-\infty, +\infty)$  for

$$(2.18) \quad z = \frac{\sum_{i \in M_\nu} \delta_i w_i}{\sum_{i \in M_\nu} \delta_i} = w_{M_\nu} \quad (\text{cf. (2.13)})$$

and the fact that  $-Q_{M_\nu}(z)$  is strictly unimodal in the interval  $(-\infty, +\infty)$  then entails that  $Q_{M_\nu}(z)$  attains its minimum in  $I_{M_\nu}$  for  $z = w_{M_\nu}$  (cf. (2.6)). The minimum of  $Q'$  in  $G_N$  thus coincides with the maximum of  $L'$  in  $G_N = D'_{N,0}$ .

Now suppose that it has been proved that the minimum of  $Q'$  in  $D'_{N,s}$  coincides with the maximum of  $L'$  in  $D'_{N,s}$  for each  $s \leq s_0$ , for each partition  $M_1, \dots, M_N$  of  $E_0$  satisfying (2.14) and for each  $N$ .

We then prove that the same holds for  $s_0 + 1$  essential restrictions. Consider, for a given partition  $M_1, \dots, M_N$  satisfying (2.14) a domain  $D'_{N,s_0+1}$  and the domain  $D'_{N,s_0}$  which is obtained by omitting one of the essential restrictions defining  $D'_{N,s_0+1}$ . Let this be the restriction  $z_{\nu_1} \leq z_{\nu_2}$ . Then  $D'_{N,s_0+1} \subset D'_{N,s_0}$ . The minimum of  $Q'$  in  $D'_{N,s_0}$  coincides with the maximum of  $L'$  in  $D'_{N,s_0}$  in (say) the point  $(z_1^0, \dots, z_N^0)$  and the following two cases may be distinguished:

1.  $z_{\nu_1}^0 \leq z_{\nu_2}^0$ ; then  $(z_1^0, \dots, z_N^0) \in D'_{N,s_0+1}$ . Thus in this case the minimum of  $Q'$  in  $D'_{N,s_0+1}$  coincides with the maximum of  $L'$  in  $D'_{N,s_0+1}$ .

2.  $z_{\nu_1}^0 > z_{\nu_2}^0$ ; then (cf. theorem II in [2])  $Q'$  attains its minimum (and  $L'$  its maximum) in  $D'_{N,s_0+1}$  for  $z_{\nu_1} = z_{\nu_2}$ . The domain  $D'_{N,s_0+1}$  reduces, with  $z_{\nu_1} = z_{\nu_2}$ , to a domain  $D'_{N-1,s_0'}$  with  $s_0' \leq s_0$  and the minimum of  $Q'$  under the condition  $z_{\nu_1} = z_{\nu_2}$  in  $D'_{N-1,s_0'}$  coincides with the maximum of  $L'$  under



Proof:

If  $t_i \neq w_i$  for at least one value of  $i \in E$  then  $(t_1, \dots, t_k)$  is a borderpoint of  $B$  and  $(w_1, \dots, w_k) \notin B$ . Further, if  $0 < \beta \leq 1$ , then

$$\{\beta w_1 + (1 - \beta)t_1, \dots, \beta w_k + (1 - \beta)t_k\} \notin B.$$

This may be seen as follows. From lemma I in [2] it follows that

$$\sum_{i=1}^k L_i \{\beta w_i + (1 - \beta)t_i\}$$

is a monotone increasing function of  $\beta$  in the interval  $0 \leq \beta \leq 1$ . Thus if  $0 < \beta \leq 1$  then

$$\sum_{i=1}^k L_i \{\beta w_i + (1 - \beta)t_i\} > \sum_{i=1}^k L_i(t_i).$$

The fact that  $L$  attains its maximum in  $B$  in the point  $(t_1, \dots, t_k)$  then implies  $\{\beta w_1 + (1 - \beta)t_1, \dots, \beta w_k + (1 - \beta)t_k\} \notin B$ .

Now let

$$(2.24) \quad \begin{cases} y_i \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqrt{\delta_i} \left( y_i - \frac{t_i + w_i}{2} \right), \\ w_i' \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqrt{\delta_i} \left( w_i - \frac{t_i + w_i}{2} \right) = \sqrt{\delta_i} \frac{w_i - t_i}{2}, \\ t_i' \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqrt{\delta_i} \left( t_i - \frac{t_i + w_i}{2} \right) = -\sqrt{\delta_i} \frac{w_i - t_i}{2}, \end{cases} \quad (i = 1, \dots, k)$$

then (2.23) reduces to

$$(2.25) \quad \sum_{i=1}^k y_i'^2 = \sum_{i=1}^k t_i'^2 \quad \left( = \sum_{i=1}^k w_i'^2 \right)$$

and  $B$  reduces to a domain  $B'$ . Further  $(t_1', \dots, t_k')$  is a borderpoint of  $B'$ ,  $(w_1, \dots, w_k) \notin B'$  and, for each  $\beta$  with  $0 < \beta \leq 1$ ,

$$\{\beta w_1' + (1 - \beta)t_1', \dots, \beta w_k' + (1 - \beta)t_k'\} \notin B'.$$

From (2.24) follows

$$(2.26) \quad \sum_{i=1}^k \delta_i (y_i - w_i)^2 = \sum_{i=1}^k (y_i' - w_i')^2.$$

From theorem I and remark 1 then follows that  $\sum_{i=1}^k (y_i' - w_i')^2$  attains its minimum in  $B'$  in the point  $(t_1', \dots, t_k')$ , thus the sphere (2.25) touches  $B'$  in  $(t_1', \dots, t_k')$ ; i.e. the ellipsoid (2.23) touches  $B$  in  $(t_1, \dots, t_k)$ .

We now prove the following lemma:

**Lemma II:** *Let  $C$  be a convex domain and  $S$  a point on its boundary. Let  $K_S$  be an ellipsoid touching  $C$  on the outside in  $S$  and let the diameter of  $K_S$ , passing through  $S$ , intersect  $K_S$  in a point  $U$ . Let further  $Y$  be a point inside  $C$  or on its boundary and  $K_Y$  an ellipsoid with diameter  $YU$ , with axes parallel to those of  $K_S$  and with the length of the axes proportional to those of  $K_S$ . Then  $S$  lies inside or on  $K_Y$ .*

Proof:

We apply a linear transformation such that  $K_S$  reduces to a sphere  $K'_S$ ; then  $K_Y$  reduces to a sphere  $K'_Y$ ,  $C$  to a convex domain  $C'$ ,  $S$  to a point  $S'$  on the boundary of  $C'$  and  $Y$  to a point  $Y'$  inside or on the boundary of  $C'$ . The sphere  $K'_S$  touches  $C'$  in  $S'$  and it may easily be seen that  $S'$  lies inside or on  $K'_Y$ .

Theorem III: If  $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_k$  satisfy (2.11) then

$$(2.27) \quad \sum_{i=1}^k \delta_i (t_i - w_i)(t_i - Y_i) \leq 0 \text{ for each point } (Y_1, \dots, Y_k) \in B.$$

Proof:

If  $t_i = w_i$  for each  $i \in E$  then (2.11) reduces to

$$(2.28) \quad \delta_i > 0 \text{ for each } i \in E.$$

Then the theorem is immediately clear.

If  $t_i \neq w_i$  for at least one value of  $i \in E$  then (cf theorem II) the ellipsoid (2.23) touches  $B$  in the point  $(t_1, \dots, t_k)$ . Thus if  $(Y_1, \dots, Y_k)$  is a point in  $B$  then it follows from lemma II that  $(t_1, \dots, t_k)$  lies inside or on the ellipsoid

$$(2.29) \quad \sum_{i=1}^k \delta_i \left( y_i - \frac{w_i + Y_i}{2} \right)^2 = \sum_{i=1}^k \delta_i \left( \frac{w_i - Y_i}{2} \right)^2,$$

i.e.  $t_1, \dots, t_k$  satisfy

$$(2.30) \quad \sum_{i=1}^k \delta_i \left( t_i - \frac{w_i + Y_i}{2} \right)^2 \leq \sum_{i=1}^k \delta_i \left( \frac{w_i - Y_i}{2} \right)^2$$

and (2.30) is identical with

$$(2.31) \quad \sum_{i=1}^k \delta_i (t_i - w_i)(t_i - Y_i) \leq 0.$$

Further it follows from the foregoing that the following theorem holds.

Theorem IV: If  $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_k$  satisfy (2.11) then there exists exactly one point  $(y_1, \dots, y_k) \in B$  satisfying the inequalities

$$(2.32) \quad \sum_{i=1}^k \delta_i (y_i - w_i)(y_i - Y_i) \leq 0 \quad (Y_1, \dots, Y_k) \in B.$$

Thus if  $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_k$  satisfy (2.11) and are independent of  $t_1, \dots, t_k$  then the estimates  $t_1, \dots, t_k$  may also be found by minimizing  $Q(y_1, \dots, y_k)$  in  $D$  or by solving the inequalities (2.32) with  $(Y_1, \dots, Y_k) \in D$ .

### 3. Examples

If (cf. section 1)

$$(3.1) \quad P[\mathbf{x}_i = 1] = \theta_i, \quad P[\mathbf{x}_i = 0] = 1 - \theta_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, k)$$

and

$$(3.2) \quad a_i \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{\gamma=1}^{n_i} x_{i,\gamma}, \quad b_i \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} n_i - a_i \quad (i = 1, \dots, k),$$

then

$$(3.3) \quad w_M = \frac{\sum_{i \in M} a_i}{\sum_{i \in M} n_i} = \frac{\sum_{i \in M} n_i w_i}{\sum_{i \in M} n_i}.$$

Thus if  $\delta_i = n_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ), then  $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_k$  satisfy (2.11) and are independent of  $w_1, \dots, w_k$ ; i.e. the estimates  $t_1, \dots, t_k$  may also be found by minimizing

$$(3.4) \quad Q(y_1, \dots, y_k) = \sum_{i=1}^k n_i (y_i - w_i)^2$$

in  $D$  and  $t_1, \dots, t_k$  satisfy

$$(3.5) \quad \sum_{i=1}^k n_i (t_i - w_i) (t_i - Y_i) \leq 0 \quad \text{for each point } (Y_1, \dots, Y_k) \in B.$$

If  $\mathbf{x}_i$  possesses a normal distribution with mean  $\theta_i$  and variance  $\sigma_i^2$  ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ), where  $\sigma_i^2/\sigma_j^2$  is known for each pair of values  $(i, j)$  then

$$(3.6) \quad w_M = \frac{\sum_{i \in M} \frac{1}{\sigma_i^2} \sum_{\gamma=1}^{n_i} x_{i,\gamma}}{\sum_{i \in M} \frac{n_i}{\sigma_i^2}} = \frac{\sum_{i \in M} \frac{n_i w_i}{\sigma_i^2}}{\sum_{i \in M} \frac{n_i}{\sigma_i^2}},$$

thus  $\delta_i = n_i/\sigma_i^2$  ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ) satisfies (2.11); i.e. the estimates  $t_1, \dots, t_k$  may also be found by minimizing<sup>9)</sup>

$$(3.7) \quad Q(y_1, \dots, y_k) = \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{n_i}{\sigma_i^2} (y_i - w_i)^2$$

in  $D$  and  $t_1, \dots, t_k$  satisfy the inequalities

$$(3.8) \quad \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{n_i}{\sigma_i^2} (t_i - w_i) (t_i - Y_i) \leq 0 \quad \text{for each point } (Y_1, \dots, Y_k) \in B.$$

In the same way it may be proved that  $\delta_i = n_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ) satisfies (2.11) if

1.  $\mathbf{x}_i$  possesses a normal distribution with known mean  $\mu_i$  and variance  $\theta_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ),
2.  $\mathbf{x}_i$  possesses an exponential distribution

$$(3.9) \quad P[\mathbf{x}_i \leq x] = 1 - e^{-\frac{x}{\theta_i}} \quad (i = 1, \dots, k).$$

In all these cases the estimates  $t_1, \dots, t_k$  are the ordinary least squares estimates in  $D$ .

If on the other hand  $\mathbf{x}_i$  possesses a rectangular distribution "between"

<sup>9)</sup> This also follows from

$$\begin{aligned} L(y_1, \dots, y_k) &= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^k n_i \ln 2\pi\sigma_i^2 - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\sum_{\gamma=1}^{n_i} (x_{i,\gamma} - y_i)^2}{\sigma_i^2} = \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^k n_i \ln 2\pi\sigma_i^2 - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{\sum_{\gamma=1}^{n_i} (x_{i,\gamma} - w_i)^2}{\sigma_i^2} - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{n_i}{\sigma_i^2} (y_i - w_i)^2. \end{aligned}$$



0 and  $\theta_i (i=1, \dots, k)$  then

$$(3.10) \quad w_M = \max_{i \in M} \max_{1 \leq \gamma \leq n_i} x_{i,\gamma} = \max_{i \in M} w_i.$$

Thus in this case there are no numbers  $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_k$  satisfying (2.11).

*Note added in proof*

If  $v'_M$  is the value of  $z$  which maximizes  $Q_M(z)$  in  $I_M$  then the theorems I–IV also hold if  $\delta_1, \dots, \delta_k$  are chosen in such a way that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1. \max_T v'_{T \cap E_\nu} = \min_S v'_{S \cap E_\nu} = v_{E_\nu} \quad (\nu=1, \dots, K), \\ 2. \delta_i > 0 \text{ for each } i \in E. \end{array} \right.$$

The proof, which is based on formula (2.5) in [3] will be given in a following paper.

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