

Optimization and Simulation

Statistical analysis and bootstrapping

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Introduction

- The outputs of the simulator are random variables.
- Running the simulator provides one realization of these r.v.
- We have no access to the pdf or CDF of these r.v.
- Well... this is actually why we rely on simulation.
- How to derive statistics about a r.v. when only instances are known?
- How to measure the quality of this statistic?

Sample mean and variance

- Consider X_1, \dots, X_n i.i.d. r.v.
- $E[X_i] = \mu$, $\text{Var}(X_i) = \sigma^2$.

The sample mean

$$\bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i$$

is an unbiased estimate of the population mean μ , as $E[\bar{X}] = \mu$.

The sample variance

$$S^2 = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2$$

is an unbiased estimator of the population variance σ^2 , as $E[S^2] = \sigma^2$.
(see proof: Ross, chapter 7)

Sample mean and variance

Recursive computation

1 Initialize $\bar{X}_0 = 0$, $S_1^2 = 0$.

2 Update the mean

$$\bar{X}_{k+1} = \bar{X}_k + \frac{X_{k+1} - \bar{X}_k}{k+1}$$

3 Update the variance

$$S_{k+1}^2 = \left(1 - \frac{1}{k}\right) S_k^2 + (k+1)(\bar{X}_{k+1} - \bar{X}_k)^2.$$

Mean Square Error

- Consider X_1, \dots, X_n i.i.d. r.v. with CDF F .
- Consider a parameter $\theta(F)$ of the distribution (mean, quantile, mode, etc.)
- Consider $\hat{\theta}(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ an estimator of $\theta(F)$.
- The Mean Square Error of the estimator is defined as

$$\text{MSE}(F) = E_F \left[\left(\hat{\theta}(X_1, \dots, X_n) - \theta(F) \right)^2 \right],$$

where E_F emphasizes that the expectation is taken under the assumption that the r.v. all have distribution F .

- If F is unknown, it is not immediate to find an estimator of MSE.

How many draws must be used?

- Let X a r.v. with mean θ and variance σ^2 .
- We want to estimate the mean θ of the simulated distribution.
- The estimator used is the sample mean: \bar{X} .
- The mean square error is

$$E[(\bar{X} - \theta)^2] = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}$$

- The sample mean \bar{X} is normally distributed with mean θ and variance σ^2/n .
- So we can stop generating data when σ/\sqrt{n} is small.
- σ is approximated by the sample variance S .
- Law of large numbers: at least 100 draws (say) should be used.
- See Ross p. 121 for details.

Mean Square Error

- Other indicators than the mean are desired.
- Theoretical results about the MSE cannot always be derived.
- Solution: rely on simulation.
- Method: bootstrapping.

Empirical distribution function

- Consider X_1, \dots, X_n i.i.d. r.v. with CDF F .
- Consider a realization x_1, \dots, x_n of these r.v.
- The **empirical distribution function** is defined as

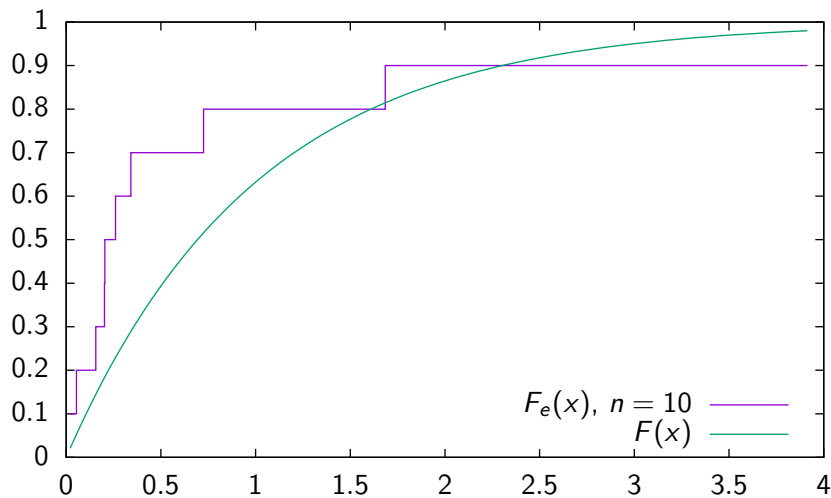
$$F_e(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n I\{x_i \leq x\},$$

where

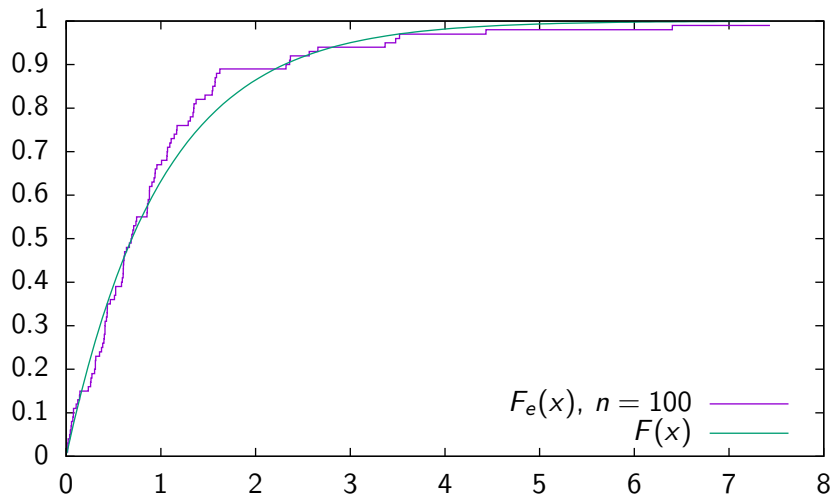
$$I\{x_i \leq x\} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x_i \leq x, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- CDF of a r.v. that can take any x_i with equal probability.

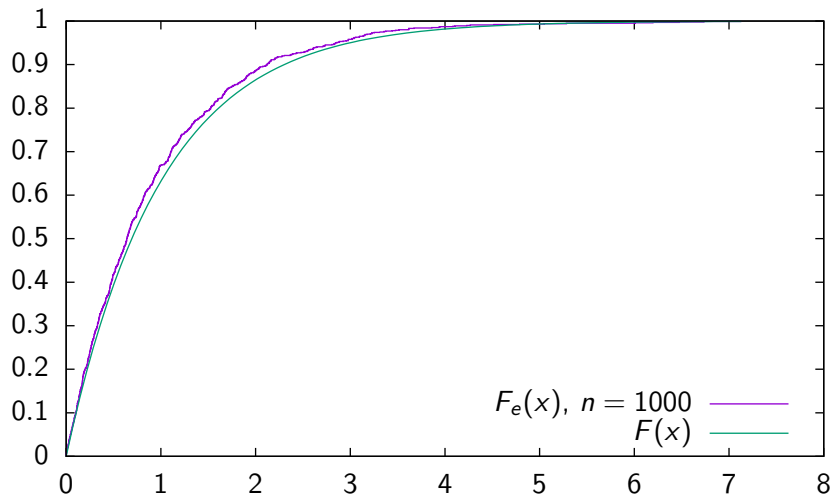
Empirical CDF



Empirical CDF



Empirical CDF



Mean Square Error

- We use the empirical distribution function F_e
- We can approximate

$$\text{MSE}(F) = E_F \left[\left(\hat{\theta}(X_1, \dots, X_n) - \theta(F) \right)^2 \right],$$

by

$$\text{MSE}(F_e) = E_{F_e} \left[\left(\hat{\theta}(X_1, \dots, X_n) - \theta(F_e) \right)^2 \right],$$

- $\theta(F_e)$ can be computed directly from the data (mean, variance, etc.)

Mean Square Error

- We want to compute

$$\text{MSE}(F_e) = E_{F_e} \left[\left(\hat{\theta}(X_1, \dots, X_n) - \theta(F_e) \right)^2 \right],$$

- F_e is the CDF of a r.v. that can take any x_i with equal probability.
- Therefore,

$$\text{MSE}(F_e) = \frac{1}{n^n} \sum_{i_1=1}^n \cdots \sum_{i_n=1}^n \left[\left(\hat{\theta}(x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_n}) - \theta(F_e) \right)^2 \right],$$

- Clearly impossible to compute when n is large.
- Solution: simulation.

Bootstrapping

- For $r = 1, \dots, R$
- Draw x_1^r, \dots, x_n^r from F_e , that is draw from the data:
 - 1 Let s be a draw from $U[0, 1]$
 - 2 Set $j = \text{floor}(ns)$.
 - 3 Return x_j .

- Compute

$$M_r = \left(\hat{\theta}(x_1^r, \dots, x_n^r) - \theta(F_e) \right)^2,$$

- Estimate of $\text{MSE}(F_e)$ and, therefore, of $\text{MSE}(F)$:

$$\frac{1}{R} \sum_{r=1}^R M_r$$

- Typical value for R : 100.

Bootstrap: simple example

- Data: 0.636, -0.643, 0.183, -1.67, 0.462
- Mean= -0.206
- $\text{MSE} = E[(\bar{X} - \theta)^2] = S^2/n = 0.1817$

r						$\hat{\theta}$	$\theta(F_e)$	MSE
1	-0.643	-0.643	-0.643	0.462	0.462	-0.201	-0.206	2.544e-05
2	-0.643	0.183	0.636	0.636	0.636	0.2896	-0.206	0.2456
3	-1.67	-1.67	0.183	0.462	0.636	-0.411	-0.206	0.04204
4	-1.67	-0.643	0.183	0.183	0.636	-0.2617	-0.206	0.003105
5	-0.643	0.462	0.462	0.636	0.636	0.3105	-0.206	0.2667
6	-1.67	-1.67	0.183	0.183	0.183	-0.5573	-0.206	0.1234
7	-0.643	0.183	0.183	0.462	0.636	0.1642	-0.206	0.137
8	-1.67	-1.67	-0.643	0.183	0.183	-0.7225	-0.206	0.2667
9	0.183	0.462	0.462	0.636	0.636	0.4756	-0.206	0.4646
10	-0.643	0.183	0.183	0.462	0.636	0.1642	-0.206	0.137
								0.1686

Summary

- The number of draws is determined by the required precision.
- In some cases, the precision is derived from theoretical results.
- If not, rely on bootstrapping.
- Idea: use simulation to estimate the Mean Square Error.

Appendix: MSE for the mean

- Consider X_1, \dots, X_n i.i.d. r.v.
- Denote $\theta = E[X_i]$ and $\sigma^2 = \text{Var}(X_i)$.
- Consider $\bar{X} = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i/n$.
- $E[\bar{X}] = \sum_{i=1}^n E[X_i]/n = \theta$.
- MSE:

$$\begin{aligned} E[(\bar{X} - \theta)^2] &= \text{Var } \bar{X} \\ &= \text{Var} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n X_i/n \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \text{Var}(X_i)/n^2 \\ &= \sigma^2/n. \end{aligned}$$