

Exercise: Variance and MSE of estimators for Gaussian variance

Prove that the standard error for the MLE for a Gaussian variance is

$$\sqrt{\mathbb{V}[\hat{\sigma}_{\text{mle}}^2]} = \sqrt{\frac{2(N-1)}{N^2}}\sigma^2 \quad (1)$$

Hint: use the fact that

$$\frac{N-1}{\sigma^2}\hat{\sigma}_{\text{unb}}^2 \sim \chi_{N-1}^2, \quad (2)$$

and that $\mathbb{V}[\chi_{N-1}^2] = 2(N-1)$. Finally, show that $\text{MSE}(\hat{\sigma}_{\text{unb}}^2) = \frac{2N-1}{N^2}\sigma^4$ and $\text{MSE}(\hat{\sigma}_{\text{mle}}^2) = \frac{2}{N-1}\sigma^4$.