

样本方差的无偏估计

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样本方差的无偏估计公式如下：

$$\begin{aligned} E[S^2] &= E\left[\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X})^2\right] = E\left[\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n ((X_i - \mu) - (\bar{X} - \mu))^2\right] \\ &= E\left[\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n ((X_i - \mu)^2 - 2(\bar{X} - \mu)(X_i - \mu) + (\bar{X} - \mu)^2)\right] \\ &= E\left[\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 - \frac{2}{n}(\bar{X} - \mu)\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu) + \frac{1}{n}(\bar{X} - \mu)^2\sum_{i=1}^n 1\right] \\ &= E\left[\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 - \frac{2}{n}(\bar{X} - \mu)\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu) + \frac{1}{n}(\bar{X} - \mu)^2 \cdot n\right] \\ &= E\left[\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 - \frac{2}{n}(\bar{X} - \mu)\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu) + (\bar{X} - \mu)^2\right] \\ &= E\left[\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 - \frac{2}{n}(\bar{X} - \mu) \cdot n \cdot (\bar{X} - \mu) + (\bar{X} - \mu)^2\right] \\ &= E\left[\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 - 2(\bar{X} - \mu)^2 + (\bar{X} - \mu)^2\right] \\ &= E\left[\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2 - (\bar{X} - \mu)^2\right] \\ &= E\left[\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \mu)^2\right] - E[(\bar{X} - \mu)^2] \\ &= \sigma^2 - E[(\bar{X} - \mu)^2] \end{aligned}$$

所以只有样本均值和真值均值相等的时候，样本方差的均值才和真值方差相等。由于样本的随机性，样本均值取值不一定，所以上式的 $E[(\bar{X} - \mu)^2]$ (即样本期望的方差) 可能并不为 0:

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

综上, 方差的无偏估计为:

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

但是当 n 大到一定程度的时候 $E[S^2]$ 是整体方差的相合估计。