

## Module C: Estimation

---

Outline:

- Basic Estimation Theory: ML, MAP
- Conditional Expectation, and Mean Square Estimation
- Orthogonality Principle and LMMSE Estimator

# Estimation Theory

---

- Main Question: Given an observation  $Y$  of a random variable  $X$ , how to estimate  $X$ ?
- In other words, what is the best function  $g$  such that  $\hat{X} = g(Y)$  is the best estimator? How to quantify “best”?
- More generally: given a sequence of observation of  $\hat{y}_1, \dots, \hat{y}_k$ , how to estimate  $X$ ?
- Example: Radar detection: Suppose that  $X$  is the radial distance of an aircraft from a radar station and  $Y = X + Z$  is the radar’s observed location where  $Z$  is independent of  $X$  and  $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ . What is the best estimator  $\hat{X} = g(Y)$  of the location  $X$ ?

## Motivating Example

---

- Let  $X$  be a random variable which is uniformly distributed over  $[0, \theta]$ .
- We observe  $m$  samples of  $X$  denoted  $\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2, \dots, \hat{x}_m$ .
- Problem: estimate  $\theta$  given our observations.
- Let the samples be  $\{1, 2, 1.5, 1.75, 2, 1.3, 0.8, 0.3, 1\}$ .
- What is a good estimate of  $\theta$ ?
- Can we find a function  $g(\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2, \dots, \hat{x}_m)$  which will map any set of  $m$  samples into an estimate of  $\theta$ ? Such a function is termed “estimator.”
- We often treat the observations as random variables that depend on the quantities that we are trying to estimate.
- Case 1: The unknown quantity  $\theta$  is assumed to be an unknown parameter/-constant with observation  $X \sim \text{distribution}(\theta)$
- Case 2: The unknown quantity  $\theta$  is assumed to be a random variable.

## Maximum Likelihood Estimation ( $\theta$ is a parameter)

---

- We observe  $X$  which is assumed to be a random variable whose distribution depends on an unknown parameter  $\theta$ .
- When  $X$  is continuous, its density  $f_X(x; \theta)$ .
- When  $X$  is discrete, its pmf  $p_X(x; \theta)$ .
- When the observation is  $\hat{x}$ , we define Likelihood function as

$$\mathcal{L}(\theta|X = \hat{x}) = \begin{cases} f_X(\hat{x}; \theta) & \text{when } X \text{ is continuous,} \\ p_X(\hat{x}; \theta) & \text{when } X \text{ is discrete.} \end{cases}$$

- The maximum likelihood estimate of  $\theta$  when  $X = \hat{x}$  is

$$\hat{\theta}_{ML}(\hat{x}) := \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} \mathcal{L}(\theta|X = \hat{x}).$$

- Thus, maximum likelihood estimate is the value of  $\theta$  which maximizes the likelihood of observing  $\hat{x}$ .

## Log Likelihood Estimation

---

- We rarely estimate a quantity based on a single observation.
- Suppose we have  $N$  i.i.d observations,  $\{\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2, \dots, \hat{x}_N\}$  each drawn from the same distribution.
- Likelihood function is then computed as

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}(\theta|X_1 = \hat{x}_1, X_2 = \hat{x}_1, \dots, X_N = \hat{x}_n) &= f_{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N}(\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2, \dots, \hat{x}_N; \theta) \\ &= f_{X_1}(\hat{x}_1; \theta) \times f_{X_2}(\hat{x}_2; \theta) \dots \times f_{X_N}(\hat{x}_N; \theta) \quad (\text{due to independence of observations}) \\ &= f_X(\hat{x}_1; \theta) \times f_X(\hat{x}_2; \theta) \dots \times f_X(\hat{x}_N; \theta) \quad (\text{each } X_i \text{ has identical distribution}) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^N f_X(\hat{x}_i; \theta) = \prod_{i=1}^N \mathcal{L}(\theta|X_i = \hat{x}_i).\end{aligned}$$

- Product term is difficult to maximize. However, we can compute the log-likelihood as

$$\log(\mathcal{L}(\theta|X_1 = \hat{x}_1, X_2 = \hat{x}_1, \dots, X_N = \hat{x}_n)) = \sum_{i=1}^N \log(f_X(\hat{x}_i; \theta))$$

which is often easier to maximize with respect to  $\theta$ .

## Example

---

- Consider a random variable  $X$  defined as

$$X = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{with probability } \theta \\ 0 & \text{with probability } 1 - \theta \end{cases}, \quad \theta \in [0, 1].$$

- We observe  $\{\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2, \dots, \hat{x}_N\}$  with each  $\hat{x}_i \in \{0, 1\}$ .
- Problem: find  $\hat{\theta}_{ML}(\hat{x}_1, \hat{x}_2, \dots, \hat{x}_N)$
- The likelihood function  $\mathcal{L}(\theta|X_1 = x_1, X_2 = x_2, \dots, X_N = x_n) = \dots$ .
- The log-likelihood function  $\log(\mathcal{L}(\theta|X_1 = x_1, X_2 = x_2, \dots, X_N = x_n)) = \dots$ .
- Optimizing log-likelihood function with respect to  $\theta$  yields

- ML Estimator  $\hat{\theta}_{ML}(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N)$  is a r.v that is function of  $X_1, \dots, X_N$  given by

$$\hat{\theta}_{ML}(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N) = \dots$$

- When  $X$  is a discrete random variable with p.m.f.  $[\theta_1 \ \theta_2 \ \dots \ \theta_N] = \theta$  with

$$\mathbb{P}(X = 1) = \theta_1, \quad \mathbb{P}(X = 2) = \theta_2 \quad \dots \quad \text{and so on.}$$

Then, the likelihood function  $\mathcal{L}(\theta|X = i) = \theta_i$ . What is the likelihood function after  $N$  observations?

## Conditional distribution

---

- Recall that conditional probability of two events  $A$  and  $B$  is defined as

$$\mathbb{P}(A|B) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(A \cap B)}{\mathbb{P}(B)}.$$

- Example: let  $X_1$  : outcome of one coin toss with

$$X_1 = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{with probability } p \\ 0, & \text{with probability } 1 - p. \end{cases}$$

- Let  $X_2$  : be outcome of second coin toss, and  $X_2$  has same distribution as  $X_1$ .

- Joint pmf:  $p_{X_1 X_2}(x_1, x_2) = \begin{cases} p^2 & \text{when } (x_1, x_2) = (1, 1) \\ p(1 - p) & \text{when } (x_1, x_2) = (1, 0) \\ p(1 - p) & \text{when } (x_1, x_2) = (0, 1) \\ (1 - p)^2 & \text{when } (x_1, x_2) = (0, 0) \end{cases}$

- Conditional pmf of  $X_1$  conditioned on  $X_2$ :

$$p_{X_1|X_2}(x_1|X_2 = x_2) = \mathbb{P}(X_1 = x_1|X_2 = x_2) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(X_1 = x_1, X_2 = x_2)}{\mathbb{P}(X_2 = x_2)}.$$

- Conditional pmf of  $X_1$  given  $X_2 = 0$  is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} p_{X_1|X_2}(0|X_2 = 0) &= \mathbb{P}(X_1 = 0|X_2 = 0) = \\ p_{X_1|X_2}(1|X_2 = 0) &= \mathbb{P}(X_1 = 1|X_2 = 0) = \end{aligned}$$

## Conditional Distributions

---

- Consider two discrete random variables  $X$  and  $Y$ . Let  $X$  takes values from the set  $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$  and let  $Y$  takes values from the set  $\{y_1, \dots, y_m\}$ .
- Conditional pmf of  $X$  given  $Y = y_j$  is given by:

$$p_{X|Y}(x_i|Y = y_j) = \mathbb{P}(X = x_i|Y = y_j) = \frac{\mathbb{P}(X = x_i, Y = y_j)}{\mathbb{P}(Y = y_j)} \quad \forall i \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}.$$

- The numerator is obtained from the joint distribution of  $X$  and  $Y$ . The denominator is obtained from the marginal distribution of  $Y$ .
- For two continuous random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  conditional CDF is given by

$$F_{X|Y}(x|y) = \mathbb{P}(X \leq x|Y \leq y) = \frac{F_{X,Y}(x, y)}{F_Y(y)}.$$

- In this case, the conditional density is given by

$$f_{X|Y}(x|y) = \frac{f_{X,Y}(x, y)}{f_Y(y)}.$$



## Example

---

Consider two continuous random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  with joint density

$$f_{XY}(x, y) = \begin{cases} x + y & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 1, 0 \leq y \leq 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Determine  $\mathbb{P}(X < \frac{1}{4} | Y = \frac{1}{3})$  by deriving and using the conditional density of  $X$  given  $Y$ .

## Example

---

Consider a random variable  $X$  whose density is given by

$$f_X(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & , 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0 & , \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

The conditional density of  $Y$  given  $X = x$  is given by

$$f_{Y|X=x}(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{1-x}, & x \leq y \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Determine the marginal density of  $Y$ .

## Maximum A-Posteriori (MAP) Estimation

---

- ML estimators assume  $\theta$  to be an unknown parameter. If instead  $\theta$  is a r.v with some distribution that is known, we use a Bayesian approach to estimate  $\theta$ .
- We assume prior distribution:  $f_{\theta}(\theta)/p_{\theta}(\theta)$  of  $\theta$  that is known to us beforehand.
- Conditional distribution:  $f_{X|\theta}(x|\theta)$  is also as some to be known. The distribution of the observed quantity is known if the unknown parameter is exactly known.
- Once we observe  $X = \hat{x}$ , we find posterior distribution using Baye's law as:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{\theta|X}(\theta|X = \hat{x}) &= \frac{f_{\theta,X}(\theta, \hat{x})}{f_X(\hat{x})} \\ &= \frac{f_{X|\theta}(\hat{x}|\theta)f_{\theta}(\theta)}{f_X(\hat{x})} \\ &= \frac{f_{X|\theta}(\hat{x}|\theta)f_{\theta}(\theta)}{\int_{\theta} f_{X|\theta}(\hat{x}|\theta)f_{\theta}(\theta)d\theta}. \end{aligned}$$

- The MAP estimate is defined as:

$$\hat{\theta}_{\text{MAP}}(\hat{x}) = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} f_{\theta|X}(\theta|X = \hat{x}) = \operatorname{argmax}_{\theta} f_{X|\theta}(\hat{x}|\theta)f_{\theta}(\theta),$$

which is the mode of the posterior distribution.

## Example (Previous year End Semester Question)

---

Suppose  $\Theta$  is a random parameter, and given  $\Theta = \theta$ , the observed quantity  $Y$  has conditional density

$$f_{Y|\Theta}(y|\theta) = \frac{\theta}{2}e^{-\theta|y|}, y \in \mathbb{R}.$$

1. Find the Maximum Likelihood (ML) estimate of  $\Theta$  based on the observation  $Y = -0.5$ .

Suppose further that  $\Theta$  has prior density given by  $f_{\Theta}(\theta) = \frac{1}{\theta}, 1 \leq \theta \leq e$  (and  $f_{\Theta}(\theta) = 0$  for  $\theta < 1$  and  $\theta > e$ ). Then,

2. find the Maximum A-Posteriori (MAP) estimate of  $\Theta$  based on the observation  $Y = -0.5$ .

Answer:  $\hat{\Theta}_{ML}(Y = -0.5) = 2, \hat{\Theta}_{MAP}(Y = -0.5) = 1$ .

## Mean Square Estimation Theory

---

- The best is subjective and need to set a criteria. One popular criteria is *Mean Square Error (MSE)*.
- For measurements  $X_1, \dots, X_k$  of a random variable  $X$ , we define the MSE of (a measurable) an estimator (function)  $g : \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  to be

$$\mathbb{E}[|g(X_1, \dots, X_k) - X|^2].$$

- In this setting, we view  $\mathbb{E}[|U - X|^2]$  as the squared *distance* of random variables  $U$  and  $X$ .
- Once we fix the MSE criteria for the best estimator, then the problem of finding the best MSE estimator for  $X$  based on the measurements  $X_1, \dots, X_k$  can be formulated as:

$$\arg \min_{g: \mathbb{R}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{R}} \mathbb{E}[|g(X_1, \dots, X_k) - X|^2].$$

- Any  $g$  that minimizes the above criteria is called a Minimum Mean Square Error (MMSE) estimator.
- When solving for MMSE, we always assume that all the random variables involved have finite mean and variance.

# MMSE

---

- In practice: finding the MMSE *might be* hard.
- We can restrict our attention to special classes of functions  $g$ .
- Let  $k = 0$ , and suppose that we want to find the best *constant*  $c$  that estimates  $X$ . Note that in this case, we view  $c$  as a constant random variable.

$$\text{objective: finding } c \in \operatorname{argmin}_c \mathbb{E}[|X - c|^2]. \quad (1)$$

- Let  $\bar{X} = \mathbb{E}[X]$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[|X - c|^2] &= \mathbb{E}[|X - \bar{X} + \bar{X} - c|^2] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[|X - \bar{X}|^2 + 2(\bar{X} - c)\mathbb{E}[X - \bar{X}] + (\bar{X} - c)^2] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[(X - \bar{X})^2] + \mathbb{E}[(\bar{X} - c)^2]. \end{aligned}$$

- Therefore, (1) is minimized when  $c = \bar{X}$  and MMSE value is going to be  $\operatorname{Var}(X)$ .
- **Estimation theory interpretation of mean and variance:** The best constant MMSE estimator of  $X$  is  $\mathbb{E}[X]$  and the corresponding MMSE value is  $\operatorname{Var}(X)$ .

## Conditional Expectation

---

Example: Let  $X, Y$  be discrete r.v with  $(X, Y \in \{1, 2\})$  and joint pmf:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}[X = 1, Y = 1] &= \frac{1}{2}, & \mathbb{P}[X = 1, Y = 2] &= \frac{1}{10} \\ \mathbb{P}[X = 2, Y = 1] &= \frac{1}{10}, & \mathbb{P}[X = 2, Y = 2] &= \frac{3}{10}\end{aligned}$$

- Determine the marginal pmf of  $X$  and  $Y$ .
- Show that the conditional pmf of  $X$  given  $Y = 1$  is

$$\mathbb{P}[X|Y = 1] = \begin{cases} \frac{5}{6} & \text{if } X = 1 \\ \frac{1}{6} & \text{if } X = 2. \end{cases}$$

- We can then compute

$$\mathbb{E}[X|Y = 1] = \sum_{x \in X} x \mathbb{P}[X = x|Y = 1] = \quad .$$

- Similarly, show that the conditional pmf of  $X$  given  $Y = 2$  is

$$\mathbb{P}[X|Y = 2] = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{4} & \text{if } X = 1 \\ \frac{3}{4} & \text{if } X = 2. \end{cases}$$

- Then,  $\mathbb{E}[X|Y = 2] = \quad .$
- We can view  $\mathbb{E}[X|Y]$  as a function of  $Y$  as

$$g(Y) = \mathbb{E}[X|Y] = \begin{cases} \mathbb{E}[X|Y = 1] & \text{with probability } \mathbb{P}[Y = 1] \\ \mathbb{E}[X|Y = 2] & \text{with probability } \mathbb{P}[Y = 2] \end{cases}$$

- Now, determine  $\mathbb{E}[g(Y)]$ .
- Determine  $\mathbb{E}[X]$ . What do you notice?

## Conditional Expectation

---

- If the value of  $Y$  is specified, then  $\mathbb{E}[X|Y = y]$  is a scalar.
- Otherwise,  $\mathbb{E}[X|Y]$  is a random variable which is a function of  $Y$ .  
if for  $\omega_1 \neq \omega_2, Y(\omega_1) = Y(\omega_2) \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}[X|Y = Y(\omega_1)] = \mathbb{E}[X|Y = Y(\omega_2)]$ .

- For two continuous random variables  $X, Y$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}[X|Y = y] = \int_x x f_{X|Y}(x | Y = y) dx = \int_x x \frac{f_{X,Y}(x, y)}{f_Y(y)} dx.$$

- Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[h(X)|Y = y] &= \int_x h(x) f_{X|Y}(x, Y = y) dx \\ \mathbb{E}[l(X, Y)|Y = y] &= \int_x l(x, y) f_{X|Y}(x, Y = y) dx\end{aligned}$$

- If the value of  $Y$  is not specified,  $\mathbb{E}[l(X, Y)|Y]$  is a random variable.



## Example

---

Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be two random variables and independent with

$$X = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{with probability } \frac{1}{2}, \\ 0 & \text{with probability } \frac{1}{2}. \end{cases}$$

Let  $Y$  have the same distribution as  $X$ . Let  $Z = X + Y$ .

- Determine the pmf of  $Z$ .
- Find conditional distribution and expectation of  $X$  when  $z = 1$  and  $z = 2$ .
- Find conditional distribution and expectation of  $z$  when  $X = 1$ .

## Properties of Conditional Expectation

---

- Linearity:  $\mathbb{E}[aX + bY|Z] = a\mathbb{E}[X|Z] + b\mathbb{E}[Y|Z]$  a.e.
- Monotonicity:  $X \leq Y \Rightarrow \mathbb{E}[X|Z] \leq \mathbb{E}[Y|Z]$  a.e.
- Identity:  $\mathbb{E}[Y|Y = y] = y$ . What is the conditional distribution of  $Y$  when its value is specified? Determine  $\mathbb{E}[Y|Y]$  and  $\mathbb{E}[g(Y)]$ .
- Independence: Suppose  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent. Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[X | Y = y] &= \int_x x f_{x|Y=y}(x | Y = y) dx \\ &= \int_x x \frac{f_{xy}(x, y)}{f_Y(y)} dx = \int_x x f_X(x) dx = \mathbb{E}[X]\end{aligned}$$

independent of the value of  $Y = y$ .

In other words,

$$\mathbb{E}[X | Y] = \int_y \mathbb{E}[X | Y = y] f_Y(y) dy = \mathbb{E}[X] \int_y f_Y(y) dy = \mathbb{E}[X].$$

Similarly,  $\mathbb{E}[g(X) | Y] = \mathbb{E}[g(X)]$ .

- $\mathbb{E}[Xg(Y)|Y] = g(Y)\mathbb{E}[X|Y]$ .

## Tower Property and Orthogonality

---

**Tower Property:**

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathbb{E}[X|Y]] = \mathbb{E}[X].$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}_Y[\mathbb{E}[X|Y]] &= \int_y \mathbb{E}[X|Y = y] f_Y(y) dy \\ &= \int_y \left( \int_x x f_{X|Y}(x | Y = y) dx \right) f_Y(y) dy \\ &= \int_y \int_x x \underbrace{f_{X|Y}(x | Y = y) f_Y(y)}_{f_{XY}(x,y)} dy dx \\ &= \int_x x \left( \underbrace{\int_y f_{XY}(x, y) dy}_{=: f_X(x)} \right) dx \\ &= \int_x x f_X(x) dx = \mathbb{E}[X]\end{aligned}$$

**Orthogonality:** for any measurable function  $g$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X|Y])g(Y)] = 0.$$

That is,  $(X - \mathbb{E}[X|Y])$  is orthogonal to any function  $g(Y)$  of  $Y$ .

Proof:

## Minimum Mean Square Estimator (MMSE)

---

Proposition: Let  $g(Y)$  be an estimator of  $X$ , and the mean square estimation error be defined as  $\mathbb{E}[(X - g(Y))^2]$ . Then,

$$\mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X|Y])^2] \leq \mathbb{E}[(X - g(Y))^2], \quad \text{for all measurable } g.$$

Proof:

$$\mathbb{E}[(X - g(Y))^2] = \mathbb{E}[(X - \mathbb{E}[X | Y] + \mathbb{E}[X | Y] - g(Y))^2]$$

=

## $L_2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ Space of Random Variables

---

- We define  $L_2(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$  (or simply  $L_2$ ) to be the set of random variables with finite second moment, i.e.,  $L_2 = \{X \mid \mathbb{E}[X^2] < \infty\}$ .

- Properties of  $L_2$ :

–  $L_2$  is a linear subspace of random variables:

(i)  $aX \in L_2$  for all  $X \in L_2$  and  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  as  $\mathbb{E}[(aX)^2] = a^2\mathbb{E}[X^2] < \infty$ ,  
and

(ii)  $X + Y \in L_2$  for all  $X, Y \in L_2$

– **The most important property:**  $L_2$  is an inner-product space. For any two random variables  $X, Y \in L_2$ , let us define their inner product

$$X \cdot Y := \mathbb{E}[XY].$$

– Then this operation satisfies the axioms of an inner product:

(i)  $X \cdot X = \mathbb{E}[X^2] \geq 0$ .

(ii)  $X \cdot X = 0$  iff  $X = 0$  almost surely.

(iii) *linearity*:  $(\alpha X + Y) \cdot Z = X \cdot Z + \alpha Y \cdot Z$ .

- Therefore,  $L_2$  is a normed vector space, with the norm  $\|\cdot\|$  defined by

$$\|X\| := \sqrt{X \cdot X} = \sqrt{\mathbb{E}[X^2]}.$$

- Similarly, we have  $\|X - Y\|^2 := (X - Y) \cdot (X - Y) = \mathbb{E}[(X - Y)^2]$ .

## $L_2$ -norm and $L_2$ convergence

---

- Since  $L_2$  is a normed space, we can define a new limit of random variables:

**Definition 1.** We say that a sequence  $\{X_k\}$  converges in  $L_2$  (or in MSE sense) to  $X$  if  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|X - X_k\| = 0$ .

- Note that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \|X - X_k\| = 0$  iff  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}[|X - X_k|^2] = 0$ .

- **Definition:** We say that  $H \subseteq L_2$  is a linear subspace if

(i) for any  $X, Y \in H$ , we have  $X + Y \in H$ , and

(ii) for any  $X \in H$  and  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $aX \in H$ .

- **Definition:** We say that  $H \subseteq L_2$  is closed if for any sequence  $\{X_k\}$  with

$$\lim_{m, n \rightarrow \infty} \|X_m - X_n\|^2 = \lim_{m, n \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}[|X_m - X_n|^2] = 0,$$

we have  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} X_k \xrightarrow{L_2} X$  for some random variable  $X \in L_2$ .

- Showing linear subspace is easy, but closedness might be hard.

- Important Cases:

1. For random variables  $X_1, \dots, X_k \in L_2$ , the set  $H = \{\alpha_1 X_1 + \dots + \alpha_k X_k \mid \alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}\}$  is a closed linear subspace.

2. For any random variables  $X_1, \dots, X_k \in L_2$ , the set  $H = \{\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 X_1 + \dots + \alpha_k X_k \mid \alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}\}$  is a closed linear subspace.

## Orthogonality Principle

---

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $H$  be a closed linear subspace of  $L_2$  and let  $X \in L_2$ . Then,*

a. *There exists a unique (up to almost sure equivalence) random variable  $Y^* \in H$  such that*

$$\|Y^* - X\|^2 \leq \|Z - X\|^2, \quad \text{for all } Z \in H.$$

b. *Let  $W$  be a random variable.  $W = Y^*$  a.e. if and only if  $W \in H$  and*

$$\mathbb{E}[(X - W)Z] = 0, \quad \text{for all } Z \in H.$$

Note:

- $Y^*$  is called the projection of  $X$  on the subspace  $H$  and is denoted by  $\Pi_H(X)$ .
- Two random variables  $X, Y$  are orthogonal,  $X \perp Y$ , if  $\mathbb{E}[XY] = 0$ .
- Relate MSE estimator with the above theorem.

# Linear Minimum Mean Square Error (LMMSE) Estimation

---

- Let  $Y$  be a measurement of  $X$  and we want to find an estimate of  $X$  which is a linear function of  $Y$  minimizing the mean square error. The estimator is of the form:  $\hat{X}_{\text{LMMSE}}(Y) = aY + b$ . The goal is to find coefficients  $a^*, b^* \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$\|X - (a^*Y + b^*)\| \leq \|X - (aY + b)\|, \quad \text{for any } a, b \in \mathbb{R}.$$

- Let  $\mathcal{L}(Y) := \{Z \mid Z = aY + b, \quad a, b \in \mathbb{R}\}$  be the set of random variables that are linear functions of  $Y$ . One can show that  $\mathcal{L}(Y)$  is a closed linear subspace.
- Then,  $\hat{X}_{\text{LMMSE}}(Y) = \Pi_{\mathcal{L}(Y)}(X)$ .
- From orthogonality property, we know that  $\mathbb{E}[(X - \hat{X}_{\text{LMMSE}}(Y))Z] = 0$  for all  $Z \in \mathcal{L}(Y)$ .
- Show that the coefficients  $a^*, b^*$  satisfy

$$a^* = \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\text{Var}(Y)}, \quad b^* = \mathbb{E}[X] - a^*\mathbb{E}[Y].$$

- Thus, the LMMSE estimate

$$\hat{X}(Y) := a^*Y + b^* = a^*(Y - \mathbb{E}[Y]) + \mathbb{E}[X] = \mathbb{E}[X] + \frac{\text{Cov}(X, Y)}{\text{Var}(Y)}(Y - \mathbb{E}[Y]).$$

- We can verify that  $(X - \hat{X}) \perp (\alpha Y + \beta)$  for all  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ .
- What is the mean square estimation error?



## Derivation of LMMSE Coefficients

---

## LMMSE Coefficients for Multiple Observations

---

- Let  $Y = [Y_1, \dots, Y_k]^\top$  be measurements available to us.
- We wish to determine  $\hat{X}_{\text{LMMSE}}(Y) = a_0 + \sum_{i=1}^k a_i Y_i = \Pi_{\mathcal{L}(Y)}$ .
- The goal is to find coefficients that minimize the mean square error

$$\min_{a_0, a_1, \dots, a_k} \mathbb{E}[(X - (a_0 + \sum_{i=1}^k a_i Y_i))^2].$$

- Due to the orthogonality property, the LMMSE estimator satisfies

$$\mathbb{E}[(X - (a_0^* + \sum_{i=1}^k a_i^* Y_i))Z] = 0 \quad \forall Z \in \mathcal{L}(Y).$$

- We need to cleverly choose  $k + 1$  elements from  $\mathcal{L}(Y)$  to set up a system of  $k + 1$  linear equations and solve for the coefficients.

## Derivation of LMMSE Coefficients

---

- Hint: Choose 1 and  $Y_i - \mathbb{E}[Y_i]$  for all  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$ .
- If  $Z = 1$ , then orthogonality yields

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\left(X - \left(a_0^* + \sum_{i=1}^k a_i^* Y_i\right)\right)\right] = 0.$$

- If  $Z = Y_j - \mathbb{E}[Y_j]$ , then orthogonality yields

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\left(X - \left(a_0^* + \sum_{i=1}^k a_i^* Y_i\right)\right)\left(Y_j - \mathbb{E}[Y_j]\right)\right] = 0.$$

## Derivation of LMMSE Coefficients

---

- Finally, from the above analysis, we obtain

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_1^* \\ a_2^* \\ \vdots \\ a_k^* \end{bmatrix} = [\text{Cov}(Y)]^{-1} \text{Cov}(X, Y).$$

- The LMMSE is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{X}_{\text{LMSE}}(Y) &= a_0^* + \sum_{i=1}^k a_i^* Y_i \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X] + \sum_{i=1}^k a_i^* (Y_i - \mathbb{E}[Y_i]) \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X] + (a^*)^\top [Y - \mathbb{E}[Y]] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[X] + \text{Cov}(X, Y)^\top [\text{Cov}(Y)]^{-1} [Y - \mathbb{E}[Y]]. \end{aligned}$$

- When  $X$  is also a random vector  $\begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ \vdots \\ X_n \end{bmatrix}$ , the LMMSE is given by

$$\hat{X}_{\text{LMSE}}(Y) = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{X}_{1,\text{LMSE}}(Y) \\ \hat{X}_{2,\text{LMSE}}(Y) \\ \vdots \\ \hat{X}_{n,\text{LMSE}}(Y) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{E}[X_1] + \text{Cov}(X_1, Y)^\top [\text{Cov}(Y)]^{-1} [Y - \mathbb{E}[Y]] \\ \mathbb{E}[X_2] + \text{Cov}(X_2, Y)^\top [\text{Cov}(Y)]^{-1} [Y - \mathbb{E}[Y]] \\ \vdots \\ \mathbb{E}[X_n] + \text{Cov}(X_n, Y)^\top [\text{Cov}(Y)]^{-1} [Y - \mathbb{E}[Y]] \end{bmatrix}.$$

## Example (Previous year End-Sem Question)

---

$X$  is a three-dimensional random vector with  $E[X] = 0$  and autocorrelation matrix  $R_X$  with elements  $r_{ij} = (-0.80)^{|i-j|}$ . Use  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  to form a linear estimate of  $X_3$  :  $\hat{X}_3 = a_1X_1 + a_2X_2$ , i.e., determine  $a_1$  and  $a_2$  that minimizes mean-square error.

## MMSE and LMMSE Estimator Comparison

---

- An estimator  $\hat{X}(Y)$  is **unbiased** if  $\mathbb{E}[\hat{X}(Y)] = \mathbb{E}[X]$ .
  - Is MMSE estimator unbiased?
  - Is LMMSE estimator unbiased?
- Among MMSE and LMMSE estimators, which one has smaller estimation error?
- If  $X$  and  $Y$  are uncorrelated, what does the LMMSE estimator give us? What about MMSE estimator?
- What do you need to know to determine MMSE and LMMSE estimators?
- What if  $\text{Cov}(Y)$  is not invertible?
- When  $X$  and  $Y$  are jointly Gaussian,

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{X}_{\text{LMMSE}}(Y) &= \hat{X}_{\text{MMSE}}(Y) \\ \iff \mathbb{E}[X|Y] &= \mathbb{E}[X] + \text{Cov}(X, Y)^\top [\text{Cov}(Y)]^{-1} [Y - \mathbb{E}[Y]].\end{aligned}$$

Conditional expectation of  $X$  given  $Y$  is a linear function of  $Y$ .