

**ABOUT SOME PROPERTIES OF THE EXPONENTIAL
FAMILIES AND FISHER INFORMATION**

ION MIHOC AND CRISTINA-IOANA FĂTU

ABSTRACT. Fisher information is a fundamental concept of statistical theory and plays an important role in many areas of statistical analysis. Importance of Fisher information as a measure of the information in a distribution is well known. In classical inference with a random sample, the Fisher information appears in the Cramer-Rao lower bound which is a fundamental limit of the variance of an unbiased or biased estimator.

Let $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ be a sample from the population $P = \{P_\theta : \theta \in D_\theta\}$ — a parametric family, where D_θ is called the parameter space, $D_\theta \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ (k is some fixed positive integer, $k \geq 1$) and let $f(x; \theta)$ be the probability density function for some model of the data, which has parameter vector $\theta = (\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k)$.

In this article, under certain regularity conditions, we discuss some properties of the Fisher information then we have in view a random variable X which belongs to the class of exponential dispersion models. This class, introduced by Jorgensen [2], include as a special case, the generalized linear model families of Nelder and Wedderburn [4] as well as many standard families such as Normal, Gamma, Inverse Gaussian and others. Also, using a weight function, $w(x) \geq 0$, we analyse the Fisher information associated to $f_w(x; \theta)$ — the probability density function of the weighted distribution corresponding to the random variable X .

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INTRODUCTION

We recall that, in statistical inference, the data can be represented as a random element X (known as a theoretical random variable)

with values in measurable space (Ω, K) , where K is a σ -algebra. If the distribution P_θ of X is assumed to belong to a parametric family $P = \{P_\theta : \theta \in D_\theta\}$, then the triple (Ω, K, P) will be a statistical model. Also, the data set, $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$, is viewed as a realization of this random element defined on a probability space (Ω, K, P) or as a realization of the random sample vector $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$. Because, generally, the goal is to use the **data** \mathbf{x} to get information on the unknown value of the parameter θ or on $g(\theta)$, where $g : D_\theta \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ is a parametric function, in the next, we consider a family of probability density functions $\{f(x; \theta) : \theta \in D_\theta\}$, where $D_\theta \subset \mathbb{R}^k$, ($k \geq 1$).

In the next, the **parameter space** D_θ can either be an **open subset** of the **real line** \mathbb{R} if $k = 1$ or an open subset of n -**dimensional Euclidian space** \mathbb{R}^k .

Let $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ be a random sample of the size n from a population characterized by the parameter θ and density function $f(x; \theta)$, $\theta \in D_\theta$, where D_θ is an open subset of the **real line** \mathbb{R} (i.e., $k = 1$) and a **statistic**

$$T(\mathbf{X}) = T(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n) \quad (1.1)$$

which is a function of the random sample variables X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n that does not depend upon any **unknown** parameter θ . Evidently, in **the** "suppositional **optics**", this statistic $T(\mathbf{X})$ is a random variable what can be used as an "approximation" for the parametric function $g(\theta)$.

Thus, if x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n are the observed experimental values of X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n , then the real number $y = T(\mathbf{x}) = T(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ can be a good **point estimate** of θ or of the parametric function $g(\theta)$ and $T(\mathbf{X})$ can be a good **point estimator** of θ or $g(\theta)$.

From a probabilistic point of view, the "information" within the statistic $T(\mathbf{X})$ (concerning the unknown distribution of \mathbf{X} , i.e., with respect to the unknown parameter θ) is contained in $\sigma(T(\mathbf{X}))$ —the σ -field generated by the statistic $T(\mathbf{X})$.

2. Score functions and Fisher's information measures

Let X be a continuous random variable with the probability density function $f(x; \theta)$, where $\theta = (\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k)$, $\theta \in D_\theta \subset \mathbb{R}^k$, $k \geq 1$.

In the next, we consider the random vector

$$S_n(X) = \mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n), \quad (2.1)$$

which represents a random sample of size n , where the components $X_i, i = \overline{1, n}$, are **random variables statistically independent and identically**

distributed as the theoretical random variable X , that is, we have

$$f(x; \theta) = f(x_i; \theta); \quad i = \overline{1, n}, \theta \in \mathbf{D}_\theta. \quad (2.2)$$

Let

$$L_n(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n; \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k) = L_n(\theta; \mathbf{x}) = \prod_{i=1}^n f(x_i; \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k) \quad (2.3)$$

be the joint probability density for the random sample $S_n(X)$ which, viewed as a function of the unknown parameter θ given \mathbf{x} , is the **likelihood function** and

$$\ln L_n(\theta; \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \ln f(x_i; \theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k) \quad (2.4)$$

is the **log-likelihood function** corresponding to $L_n(\theta; \mathbf{x})$, where $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$ belongs to the **selection space** \mathbb{R}^n and $\theta = (\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k) \in \mathbf{D}_\theta$.

Remark 2.1. Because the parametric measures of information are applicable to regular families of probability distributions, in the next, for the function $f(x; \theta)$, as well as for the likelihood function $L_n(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k; \mathbf{x})$, which are the probability density functions, we assume that are satisfied the following **Fisher information regularity conditions (FIRC)**:

- R₁)** The set $\{x : f(x, \theta) > 0\}$ is the same for all $x \in \Omega$ and all $\theta \in D_\theta$;
- R₂)** $\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_i} [f(x, \theta)]$ exists for all $x \in \Omega$, all $\theta \in D_\theta$ and all $i = \overline{1, k}$;
- R₃)** $\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_i} \left[\int_A f(x, \theta) dx \right] = \int_A \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_i} [f(x, \theta)] dx$ for any $A, A \subset K$, all $\theta \in D_\theta$ and all $i = \overline{1, k}$;
- R₄)** $\int_A \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_i \partial \theta_j} [f(x, \theta)] dx < \infty$ for any $A, A \subset K$, all $\theta \in D_\theta$ and all $i = \overline{1, k}$.

Definition 2.1. *If for the probability distribution $f(x; \theta)$ (either discrete or continuous), that depends on the parameter θ , $\theta \in D_\theta \subset \mathbb{R}^k$, ($k \geq 1$), are satisfied the **FIRC**s, then $L_n(\mathbf{x}; \theta)$ is a differentiable function and the function $\mathbf{U} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ as*

$$\mathbf{U}(\theta; \mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{U} = \frac{\partial \log L_n(\theta; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta} = \frac{1}{L_n(\theta; \mathbf{x})} \frac{\partial L_n(\theta; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta} \quad (2.5)$$

is called the **score of the sample** $S_n(\mathbf{X})$ or, simply, the **score function with respect to** $\theta \in D_\theta \subset \mathbb{R}^k$.

Remark 2.2. Because $\theta = (\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k) \in \mathbf{D}_\theta \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ the score function $\mathbf{U} \equiv \mathbf{U}(\theta; \mathbf{x})$ will be an k -dimensional random vector as

$$\mathbf{U} = (U_1, U_2, \dots, U_k)^\top, \quad (2.6)$$

where

$$U_j = \frac{\partial \ln L_n(\theta; \mathbf{X})}{\partial \theta_j} = \frac{\partial \ln L_n(\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k; \mathbf{X})}{\partial \theta_j}, j = \overline{1, k} \quad (2.7)$$

represents the **score of the sample with respect to the parameter** θ_j , $\theta_j \in D_j \subset \mathbb{R}$, $j = \overline{1, k}$.

We can remark that, in the "suppositional optics", all these **score functions** are random variables because, for a given value of θ , the score functions depend on the sample. Also, the score function can be interpreted as: the value of the score of the sample is a measure of the sensitivity of the sample log-likelihood to small changes of the value of θ . If the value of the score is small for a given value of θ , the likelihood of the sample (that is, its probability density) will be essentially unaffected by small changes of θ .

Lemma 2.1. [4] *Under the FIRC's the expectation of the score function has the value zero (or the score function is centred), that is*

$$E_\theta[\mathbf{U}(\theta; \mathbf{X})] = E_\theta\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} [\ln L_n(\theta; \mathbf{X})]\right] = \mathbf{0} \text{ for all } \theta \in \mathbf{D}_\theta, \quad (2.8)$$

where $\theta = (\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_k) \in D_\theta \subset \mathbb{R}^k$ and E_θ represents expectation with respect to the distribution determined by θ .

Lemma 2.2.[4] *Under the FIRC's, the second moment of the score function, when $k = 1$ (i.e., $\theta \in D_\theta \subset \mathbb{R}$), has the following property*

$$E_\theta \left\{ \left[\frac{\partial \ln L_n(\theta; \mathbf{X})}{\partial \theta} \right]^2 \right\} = -E_\theta \left\{ \frac{\partial^2 \ln L_n(\theta; \mathbf{X})}{\partial \theta^2} \right\} \text{ for all } \theta \in D_\theta \subset \mathbb{R}. \quad (2.9)$$

Corollary 2.1. *The variance of the score function has the following expression :*

$$Var [\mathbf{U}(\theta; \mathbf{X})] = Var \left[\frac{\partial \log L_n(\theta; \mathbf{X})}{\partial \theta} \right] = \quad (2.10)$$

$$= E_\theta \left[\frac{\partial \log L_n(\theta; \mathbf{X})}{\partial \theta} \cdot \frac{\partial \log L_n(\theta; \mathbf{X})}{\partial \theta} \right] = \quad (2.11)$$

$$= -E_\theta \left[\frac{\partial^2 \log L_n(\theta; \mathbf{X})}{\partial \theta \partial \theta^\tau} \right] \text{ if } \theta \in \mathbf{D}_\theta \subset \mathbb{R}^k, \quad k > 1, \quad (2.12)$$

respectively

$$Var [\mathbf{U}(\theta; \mathbf{X})] = Var \left[\frac{\partial \log L_n(\theta; \mathbf{X})}{\partial \theta} \right] = \quad (2.13)$$

$$= -E_\theta \left[\frac{\partial^2 \log L_n(\theta; \mathbf{X})}{\partial \theta^2} \right] \text{ if } \theta \in \mathbf{D}_\theta \subset \mathbb{R}, \quad k = 1. \quad (2.14)$$

Definition 2.2. *The quantity*

$$\mathbf{I}_1(\theta) = E_\theta \left\{ \left[\frac{\partial \ln f(\theta; X)}{\partial \theta} \right]^2 \right\} = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left[\frac{\partial \ln f(\theta; x)}{\partial \theta} \right]^2 f(\theta; x) dx = \quad (2.15)$$

$$= - \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln f(\theta; x)}{\partial \theta^2} \right] f(\theta; x) dx = -E_\theta \left\{ \left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln f(X; \theta)}{\partial \theta^2} \right] \right\}, \quad (2.16)$$

where $\theta \in D_\theta \subset \mathbb{R}$, represents the **Fisher information** which measures the information about the univariate unknown parameter θ which is contained in an observation of the random variable X .

Definition 2.3. *The quantity $\mathbf{I}_n(\theta)$, defined by the relation*

$$\mathbf{I}_n(\theta) = E_\theta \left\{ \left[\frac{\partial \ln L_n(\theta; X)}{\partial \theta} \right]^2 \right\} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left[\frac{\partial \ln L_n(\theta; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta} \right]^2 L_n(\theta; \mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} = \quad (2.17)$$

$$= - \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln L_n(\theta; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta^2} \right] L_n(\theta; \mathbf{x}) d\mathbf{x} = -E_\theta \left\{ \left[\frac{\partial^2 \ln L_n(\theta; \mathbf{x})}{\partial \theta^2} \right] \right\}, \quad (2.18)$$

where $\theta \in D_\theta \subset \mathbb{R}$, represents the Fisher information measure which measures the information about univariate unknown parameter θ contained in a random sample $S_n(X) = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$.

Remark 2.3. The Fisher information has several good properties, namely:

1⁰ – non – negativity, i.e., $\mathbf{I}(X; \theta) \geq 0$ and is 0 only when $f(X; \theta)$ is free of θ ;

2⁰ – additivity and subadditivity, i.e., $\mathbf{I}(X, Y; \theta) \leq \mathbf{I}(X; \theta) + \mathbf{I}(Y; \theta)$, with equality if X, Y are independent;

3⁰ – maximal information, i.e., $\mathbf{I}[\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{X}); \theta] \leq \mathbf{I}(X; \theta)$ for any statistic \mathbf{T} , and equality holds if and only if $\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{X})$ is sufficient;

4⁰ – convexity, i.e., if X_i has probability density function f_i , $i = 1, 2$, and Y has probability density function $f(y) = \alpha f_1(x) + (1 - \alpha) f_2(x)$; $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$, then $\mathbf{I}(Y; \theta) \leq \alpha \mathbf{I}(X_1; \theta) + (1 - \alpha) \mathbf{I}(X_2; \theta)$.

3. Exponential family and Fisher information

3.1. Exponential dispersion family

The early development of exponential dispersion models is often attributed to Tweedie, M.C.K. (1947) although a more thorough and systematic investigation of its statistical properties was done by Jorgensen, B. (1997).

Definition 3.1. The random variable X is said to belong to the **Exponential Dispersion Family (EDF)** of distribution if its probability measure $P_{\theta, \lambda}$ is absolutely continuous with respect to some measure Q_λ and can be represented as

$$f(x; \theta, \lambda) = \exp \{ \lambda [\theta x - k(\theta)] \} q_\lambda(x), \quad x \in S \subset \mathbb{R}, \quad (3.1.1)$$

where :

- the parameter θ is named the **canonical parameter**,
 $\theta \in D_\theta = \{ \theta \in \mathbb{R} \mid k(\theta) < \infty \}$;
- the parameter λ is a **dispersion (or index) parameter**, $\lambda \in D_\lambda = \{ \lambda \mid \lambda > 0 \} = \mathbb{R}_+$;
- the function $k(\theta)$ is named the **cumulant function**;
- the function $q_\lambda(x)$ is the Radon – Nikodim derivative of the measure Q_λ , i.e., $q_\lambda(x) = \frac{dQ_\lambda}{dx} > 0$.

The representation in (3.1.1) is called the **reproductive form of EDF** and we shall denote by $X \sim \mathbf{ED}(\theta, \lambda)$ for a random variable belonging to this family.

Theorem 3.1.1. *If X is a random variable distributed according to $P_{\theta, \lambda}$, then*

$$\mu = \mu(\theta) = E_{\theta, \lambda}(X) = \int_S x f(x; \theta, \lambda) dx = k'(\theta), \quad (3.1.2)$$

and

$$V_{\theta, \lambda}(X) = \text{Var}(X) = \frac{1}{\lambda} k''(\theta) = \text{Var}(\mu) \sigma^2, \quad (3.1.3)$$

where

$$\text{Var}(\mu) = k''(\theta) \quad (3.1.3a)$$

is called the **variance function** and

$$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{\lambda} \quad (3.1.3b)$$

is called the **dispersion parameter**.

Proof. If we consider the reproductive form of **EDF** then its cumulative generating function can be derived as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} K_X(t) &= \log_e E(e^{Xt}) = \log \left\{ \int_S e^{xt} e^{\lambda[\theta x - k(\theta)]} q_\lambda(x) dx \right\} = \\ &= \log_e \left\{ \int_S e^{\{\lambda[(\theta+t/\lambda)x - k(\theta)]\}} q_\lambda(x) dx \right\} = \\ &= \log_e \left\{ \int_S e^A q_\lambda(x) dx \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.1.4)$$

Because the exponent A can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
 A &= \lambda \left[\left(\theta + \frac{t}{\lambda} \right) x - k(\theta) \right] = \\
 &= \lambda \left[\left(\theta + \frac{t}{\lambda} \right) x + k \left(\theta + \frac{t}{\lambda} \right) - k \left(\theta + \frac{t}{\lambda} \right) - k(\theta) \right] = \\
 &= \lambda \left[k \left(\theta + \frac{t}{\lambda} \right) - k(\theta) \right] + \lambda \left[\left(\theta + \frac{t}{\lambda} \right) x - k \left(\theta + \frac{t}{\lambda} \right) \right], \quad (3.1.4a)
 \end{aligned}$$

the above function $K_X(t)$ can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned}
 K_X(t) &= \log_e \left\{ \int_S e^{\lambda[k(\theta+\frac{t}{\lambda})-k(\theta)]} e^{\lambda[(\theta+\frac{t}{\lambda})x-k(\theta+\frac{t}{\lambda})]} q_\lambda(x) dx \right\} = \\
 &= \log_e \left\{ e^{\lambda[k(\theta+\frac{t}{\lambda})-k(\theta)]} \cdot \underbrace{\int_S e^{\lambda[(\theta+\frac{t}{\lambda})x-k(\theta+\frac{t}{\lambda})]} q_\lambda(x) dx}_{=1 \text{ (see (3.1.1))}} \right\} = \\
 &= \log_e e^{\lambda[k(\theta+\frac{t}{\lambda})-k(\theta)]} = \lambda \left[k \left(\theta + \frac{t}{\lambda} \right) - k(\theta) \right],
 \end{aligned}$$

that is

$$K_X(t) = \lambda \left[k \left(\theta + \frac{t}{\lambda} \right) - k(\theta) \right] \quad (3.1.5)$$

and the **moment generating function** can be written as

$$M_X(t) = e^{\lambda[k(\theta+\frac{t}{\lambda})-k(\theta)]} = e^{K_X(t)}. \quad (3.1.6)$$

Using the relations (3.1.5), respectively (3.1.6), we obtain relations

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial K_X(t)}{\partial t} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left\{ \lambda \left[k \left(\theta + \frac{t}{\lambda} \right) - k(\theta) \right] \right\} = \\
 &= \lambda \left[k' \left(\theta + \frac{t}{\lambda} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{\lambda} \right] = k' \left(\theta + \frac{t}{\lambda} \right), \quad (3.1.5a)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 K_X(t)}{\partial t^2} = k'' \left(\theta + \frac{t}{\lambda} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{\lambda}, \quad (3.1.5b)$$

respectively relations

$$\frac{\partial M_X(t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} [\exp \{K_X(t)\}] = \frac{\partial K_X(t)}{\partial t} \exp \{K_X(t)\} \quad (3.1.6a)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 M_X(t)}{\partial t^2} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left[\frac{\partial K_X(t)}{\partial t} \exp \{K_X(t)\} \right] = \\ &= \left[\frac{\partial^2 K_X(t)}{\partial t^2} + \left(\frac{\partial K_X(t)}{\partial t} \right)^2 \right] \exp \{K_X(t)\}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.1.6b)$$

Now, using the property

$$\left. \frac{\partial^r M_X(t)}{\partial t^r} \right|_{t=0} = E(X^r), r \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}, \quad (3.1.7)$$

and the fact that $K_X(0) = 0$, from the last four relations, we get

$$\left. \frac{\partial M_X(t)}{\partial t} \right|_{t=0} = \left. \frac{\partial K_X(t)}{\partial t} \right|_{t=0} = k' \left(\theta + \frac{t}{\lambda} \right) \Big|_{t=0} = k'(\theta) = E(X) = \mu, \quad (3.1.7a)$$

that is, the mean of X has the form

$$\mu = E(X) = k'(\theta). \quad (3.1.8)$$

Also, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left. \frac{\partial^2 M_X(t)}{\partial t^2} \right|_{t=0} &= E(X^2) = \left[\frac{\partial^2 K_X(t)}{\partial t^2} + \left(\frac{\partial K_X(t)}{\partial t} \right)^2 \right] \Big|_{t=0} = \\ &= \left. \frac{\partial^2 K_X(t)}{\partial t^2} \right|_{t=0} + \left. \left(\frac{\partial K_X(t)}{\partial t} \right)^2 \right|_{t=0} = \\ &= \left[k'' \left(\theta + \frac{t}{\lambda} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{\lambda} \right] \Big|_{t=0} + \left. \left(k' \left(\theta + \frac{t}{\lambda} \right) \right)^2 \right|_{t=0} = \\ &= \frac{1}{\lambda} k''(\theta) + (k'(\theta))^2, \end{aligned}$$

that is, we have a new relation

$$E(X^2) = \frac{1}{\lambda}k''(\theta) + (k'(\theta))^2 = \frac{1}{\lambda}k''(\theta) + \mu^2, \quad (3.1.9)$$

respectively relation

$$Var(X) = \frac{1}{\lambda}k''(\theta) = \sigma^2k''(\theta), \text{ where } \sigma^2 = \frac{1}{\lambda}. \quad (3.1.10)$$

Remark 3.1.1. Notice that we can view the mean μ as a function of θ , *i.e.*,

$$\mu = E(X) = \tau(\theta) = k'(\theta) \quad (3.1.11)$$

so that

$$\theta = \tau^{-1}(\mu). \quad (3.1.12)$$

and if we define the **unit variance function** (or the **variance function**) as

$$Var(\mu) = k''(\theta) = k''[\tau^{-1}(\mu)], \quad (3.1.13)$$

then $Var(X)$ can be represented as

$$Var(X) = \sigma^2V(\mu), \quad (3.1.10a)$$

where $\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{\lambda}$ is the **dispersion parameter**. Therefore, in the next, we will can write that $X \sim \mathbf{EDF}(\theta, \sigma^2)$.

Remark 3.1.2. The interest in the **EDF** was given by Jorgensen, who outline the **EDF** as one of the main classes of dispersion models, which includes most standard distribution families such that as Normal (an example of a symmetric distribution), Gamma, Inverse Gaussian (examples of non-symmetric and no-negative defined distributions), for the absolutely continuous case, and the Poisson, Binomial, and Negative Binomial for the discrete case.

Thus, if $X \sim \mathbf{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ is a normal random variable with mean μ and variance σ^2 then its probability density function can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} f(x; \mu, \sigma^2) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{x - \mu}{\sigma} \right)^2 \right] = \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp \left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2} \right) \cdot \exp \left[\frac{1}{\sigma^2} (\mu x - \frac{1}{2}\mu^2) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (3.1.14)$$

One can easily see that it belongs to the additive **EDF** by choosing:

$$\mu = \theta, \lambda = \frac{1}{\lambda}\sigma^2, k(\theta) = \frac{1}{2}\mu^2 = \frac{1}{2}\theta^2 \text{ and } q_\lambda(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2}\right). \quad (3.1.14a)$$

3.2 Fisher information in weighted distributions

Let $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$ be a sample from the population $P = \{P_\theta : \theta \in D_\theta\}$ – a parametric family, where D_θ is called the parameter space, $D_\theta \subset \mathbb{R}$. Standard inference procedures assume a such random sample from the population P with the probability density function $f(x; \theta)$ for estimating the parameter unknown θ . Using a weight function, $w(x) > 0$, to model ascertainment bias, Fisher (1934) constructed a weighted distribution with a probability density function $f_w(x)$ that is proportional to $w(x)f(x; \theta)$. In this paper, we study some properties of the Fisher information about the parameter θ using the observations obtained from some weighted distributions.

Definition 3.2.1.[1] *If the probability density function $f(x; \theta)$ of the random variable X belongs to the following exponential family of distributions*

$$f(x; \theta) = a(x) \cdot \exp\{\theta T(x) - C(\theta)\}, \theta \in D_\theta \subset \mathbb{R}, \quad (3.2.1)$$

then, using a known weight function, $w(x; \theta) > 0$, a random variable Y will have a **weighted distribution** if its probability density function, denoted by $f^w(y; \theta)$, has the form

$$f^w(y; \theta) = \left[\frac{w(y; \theta)}{E_\theta[w(X; \theta)]} \right] f(y; \theta) = \quad (3.2.2)$$

$$= \left[\frac{w(y; \theta) \cdot a(y) \cdot \exp\{\theta T(y) - C(\theta)\}}{E_\theta[w(X; \theta)]} \right], \theta \in D_\theta \subset \mathbb{R}, \quad (3.2.3)$$

where the expectation $E_\theta[w(X; \theta)]$ is assumed to exist, i.e.,

$$E_\theta[w(X; \theta)] = \int_0^\infty w(x; \theta) f(x; \theta) dx < \infty. \quad (3.2.4)$$

The extension proof of the next theorem is based both on the above definition, on the sketch which was presented in the paper [1] as well as on the regularity conditions which was mentioned in the Remark 2.1 of this paper.

Theorem 3.2.1. **The Fisher information** $I_X(\theta)$ based on single observation X , with the probability density function $f(x; \theta)$, defined by the relation

$$I_X(\theta) = -E_\theta \left[\frac{d^2 \log f(X; \theta)}{d\theta^2} \right], \quad (3.2.5)$$

can be expressed in the form

$$I_X(\theta) = \frac{d^2 C(\theta)}{d\theta^2} = C''(\theta), \quad (3.2.6)$$

respectively in the form

$$I_Y(\theta) = I_X(\theta) + \frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} \{ \log E_\theta [w(X; \theta)] \} - E_\theta \left\{ \frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} [\log_\theta w(Y; \theta)] \right\}, \quad (3.2.7)$$

in the case of the random variable X , where E_θ represents expectation with respect to the distribution determined by θ .

Proof. Indeed, from (3.2.1), we obtain relation

$$\log f(x; \theta) = \log a(x) + \theta T(x) - C(\theta), \quad \theta \in D_\theta \subset \mathbb{R}, \quad (3.2.8)$$

respectively, relations

$$u_X(\theta) = \frac{d}{d\theta} [\log f(x; \theta)] = T(x) - C'(\theta) \quad (3.2.8a)$$

and

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} [u_X(\theta)] = \frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} [\log f(x; \theta)] = -C''(\theta) \quad (3.2.8b)$$

which represent the first and the second derivative of the log-likelihood function (3.2.1).

Then, using (3.2.5), from (3.2.8b), we get

$$-E_\theta \left[\frac{d^2 \log f(X; \theta)}{d\theta^2} \right] = I_X(\theta) = C''(\theta). \quad (3.2.8c)$$

Analogous, using the probability density function $f^w(y; \theta)$, defined in (3.2.3), we obtain for the log-likelihood function the following form

$$\log f^w(y; \theta) = \log w(y; \theta) + \log a(y) + \theta T(y) - C(\theta) - \log E_\theta[w(X; \theta)]. \quad (3.2.9)$$

Also, the first and the second derivatives of this function can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} u_Y(\theta) &= \frac{d}{d\theta} [\log f^w(y; \theta)] = \\ &= \frac{d}{d\theta} [\log w(y; \theta)] + T(y) - C'(\theta) - \frac{d}{d\theta} \{\log E_\theta[w(X; \theta)]\} \end{aligned} \quad (3.2.9a)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{d\theta} [u_Y(\theta)] &= \frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} [\log f^w(y; \theta)] = \\ &= \frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} [\log w(y; \theta)] - C''(\theta) - \frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} \{\log E_\theta[w(X; \theta)]\}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.2.9b)$$

Now, using this last relation, one can easily see that

$$\begin{aligned} -E_\theta \left\{ \frac{d}{d\theta} [u_Y(\theta)] \right\} &= -E_\theta \left\{ \frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} [\log f^w(y; \theta)] \right\} = I_Y(\theta) = \\ &= \underbrace{C''(\theta)}_{I_X(\theta)} + E_\theta \left(\underbrace{\frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} \{\log E_\theta[w(X; \theta)]\}}_{a \text{ constant}} \right) - E_\theta \left\{ \frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} [\log w(Y; \theta)] \right\} = \\ &= I_X(\theta) + \frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} \{\log E_\theta[w(X; \theta)]\} - E_\theta \left\{ \frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} [\log w(Y; \theta)] \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

that is, the property (3.2.7) is holds.

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Ion Mihoc, Cristina-Ioana Fătu
Faculty of Economics, Christian University "Dimitrie Cantemir",
Cluj-Napoca, Str. T. Mihali nr.56, Romania
Email: ion.mihoc@cantemircluj.ro