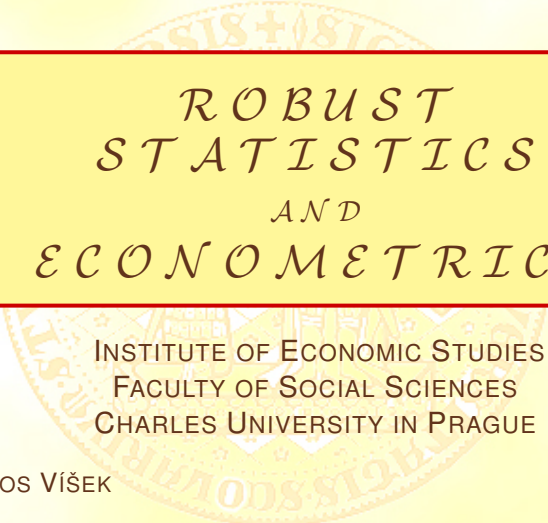




INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC STUDIES, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE *(established 1348)*



*ROBUST
STATISTICS
AND
ECONOMETRICS*

INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC STUDIES
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE

JAN ÁMOS VÍŠEK

Week 3





A problem of the classical statistics and econometrics

A tacit hope in ignoring deviations from ideal models was that they would not matter; that statistical procedures which were optimal under strict model would still be approximately optimal under the approximate model. Unfortunately, it turned out that this hope was often drastically wrong; even mild deviations often have much larger effects than were anticipated by most statisticians.

John W. Tukey (1960)

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(And we gave two examples - Ronald Aylmer Fisher and Peter Huber.)

The main goals of robust statistics

- 1 To describe the structure best fitting the bulk of data.
- 2 To identify deviating data points (outliers) or deviating substructures for further treatment, if desired.
- 3 To identify and give a warning about highly influential data points (leverage points).
- 4 To deal with unsuspected serial correlation, or more generally, with deviations from the assumed correlation structures.

The four main types of deviations from the strict parametric model

- 1 The occurrence of gross errors.
- 2 Rounding and grouping.
- 3 The model may have been conceived as an approximation anyway, e.g., by virtue of CLT.
- 4 Apart of distributional assumptions, the assumption of independence (or of some specific correlation structure) may only be approximately fulfilled.

Three approaches:

- 1 Huber's alternative to classical point estimation via neighbourhoods.
- 2 Huber's alternative to classical testing hypotheses via capacities.
- 3 Hampel's infinitesimal approach via Prokhorov metric and influence function.



The Hampel's approach is based on two basic ideas and a nice fact:

- 1 The first idea - any estimator can be interpreted as a function T (say) from the space of all distribution functions \mathcal{H} to the parameter space Θ (say).
- 2 The second idea - the function T can be studied by an infinitesimal calculus of limits, derivatives, integrals, etc.
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Recalling Taylor's expansion for a real function of real variable

- 1 The real function of one real variable $f(x)$
 - Taylor's expansion of $f(x) = f(x^0) + f'(x^0) \cdot (x - x^0) + \dots$

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- 2 Let's recall the derivative of the function $f(x)$ at a given point x_0 ,

$$f'(x^0) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x^0 + \delta) - f(x^0)}{\delta}$$

→ the derivative offers an information about the behaviour of the function in a neighbourhood of x_0 .

Recalling Taylor's expansion for a real function of finitely-dimensional variable

1 The real function of several real variables $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p)$

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- 2 Let's recall again the partial derivative of the function $f(x)$ at the point x^0 along the j -th coordinate, i.e.

$$\frac{\partial f(x^0)}{\partial x_j} = \lim_{\delta_j \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x^0 + \Delta_j) - f(x^0)}{\delta_j}$$

where $\Delta_j = (0, 0, \dots, \delta_j, \dots, 0)'$.

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- 3 Realize that $\max_{j=1,2,\dots,p} \left| \frac{\partial f(x^0)}{\partial x_j} \right|$ is a hint about the behaviour of the function in a neighbourhood of x^0 .

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Making preparation steps for explanation of Hampel's approach

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Realize that when computing $\frac{\partial f(x^0)}{\partial x_j}$, we change only one coordinate, i.e. we compute the derivative in one direction.

- 3 Realize that $\max_{j=1,2,\dots,p} \left| \frac{\partial f(x^0)}{\partial x_j} \right|$ is a hint about the behaviour of the function in a neighbourhood of x^0 .

Let's think about the partial derivative once again - a bit alternative approach.

Consider the partial derivative of the function $f(x)$ at the point x^0 along the j -th coordinate, i.e.

$$\frac{\partial f(x^0)}{\partial x_j} = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x^0 + \delta \cdot \Delta_j) - f(x^0)}{\delta}$$

where $\Delta_j = (0, 0, \dots, 1, \dots, 0)'$ - the unit is on the j -th position.

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Notice that the influence function $IF(x, T, F)$ has three arguments:

- 1 the point x at which the contamination is assumed,
 - 2 the functional T in question
- and finally
- 3 the d. f. F , as the point of space \mathcal{H} .

of the functional T at the d. f. F .

What is the influence function good for?

- 1 Under some technical conditions

$$T(F_n) \cong T(F) + \int IF(x, F, T) dF_n(x) + \text{remainder}_1,$$

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- 2 It means that if we add new observation, say x_{n+1} , the value of estimator changes approximately from

$$T(F) + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n IF(x_i, F, T) \quad \text{to} \quad T(F) + \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} IF(x_i, F, T).$$

Asymptotic normality of estimator follows from

- 1 We had, under some technical conditions

$$T(F_n) \cong T(F) + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n IF(x_i, F, T) + remainder_1$$

or equivalently

$$\sqrt{n}(T(F_n) - T(F)) \cong \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{i=1}^n IF(x_i, F, T) + remainder_2. \quad (1)$$

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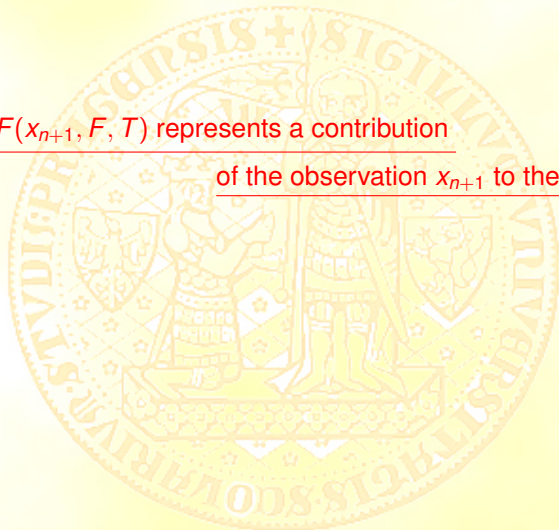
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Please, keep the last two slides in mind for a moment.

So, $\frac{1}{n+1} IF(x_{n+1}, F, T)$ represents a contribution
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And that is what we'll discuss today:

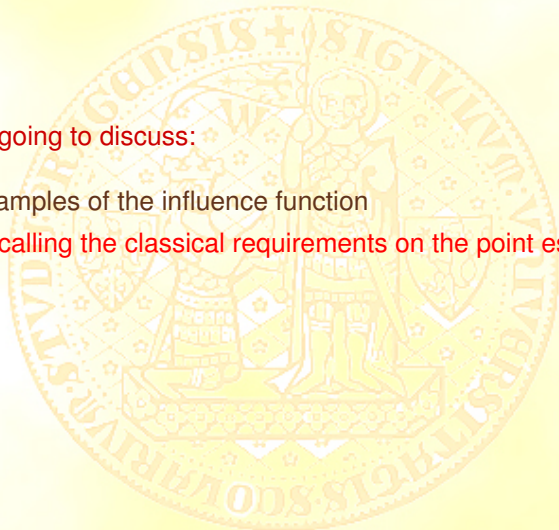
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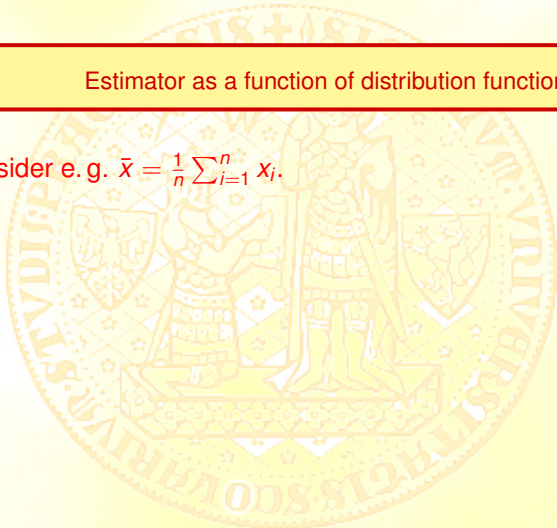
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Prior to it, let's recall the idea of interpreting the point estimator
as a function (functional) of empirical distribution function.

We had at the second lecture:

Estimator as a function of distribution function

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(because $F_n(x)$ has positive $dF_n(x)$ of size $\frac{1}{n}$ just at the points x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n).

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Do you remember?
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Estimator as a function of distribution function - another example

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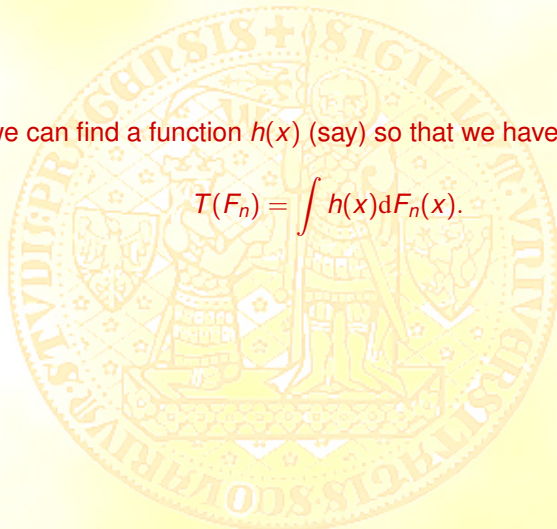
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$$T(F_n) = \int h(x) dF_n(x).$$

In previous examples we had

① for $T^{(1)}(F_n)$ the function $h^{(1)}(x) = x$

and

② for $T^{(2)}(F_n)$ the function $h^{(2)}(x) = \frac{n}{n-1}x^2$.



Let's recall that for the standard normal distribution we use usually Φ and for its density ϕ .

Returning to the definition of influence function

Fix a functional $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow R$ (now T is given by $h(x) = x$) and consider the partial derivative of the functional T at the point F along the x -th coordinate, i. e.

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And compute the $IF(x, T, \Phi_{\mu, \sigma^2})$.

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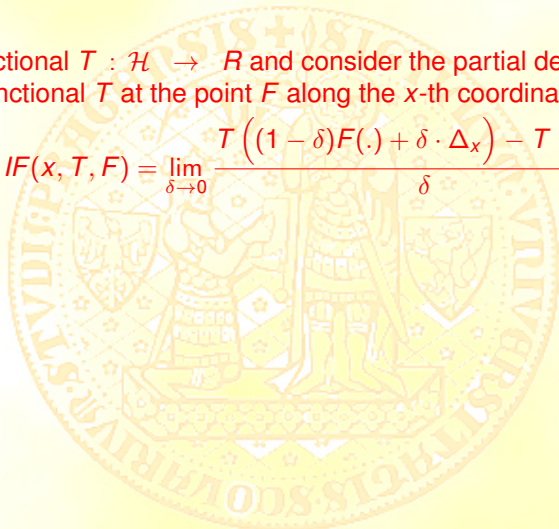
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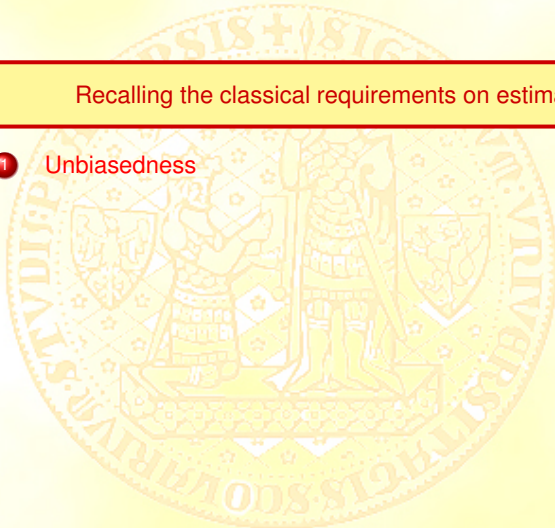
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Recalling the classical requirements on estimators

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Let's discuss them from the point of view of robust procedures -
- we know already enough about it to be able to do it.

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Let's start with admissibility, recalling its definition.

- 5 Efficiency
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Definition of Mean Square Error (MSE):

Let $\hat{\theta}$ be an estimator, then

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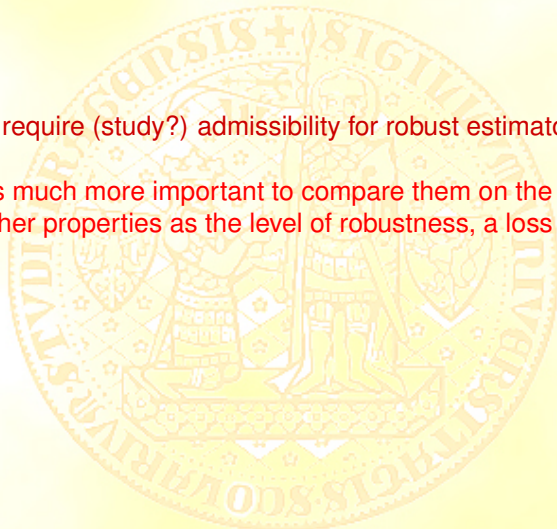
Definition of admissible estimator:

Let $\hat{\theta}$ be an estimator, then we say that $\hat{\theta}$
is admissible if there is not an estimator better than $\hat{\theta}$.

(And we assume that it holds independently on number of observations.)

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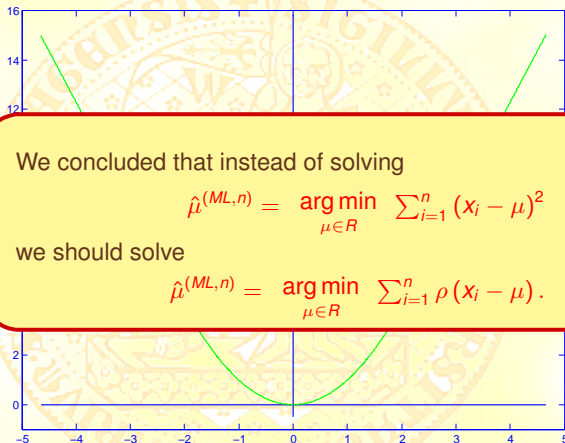
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Now, let's return to the first lecture and discuss the unbiasedness.

Recalling that we found on the first lecture



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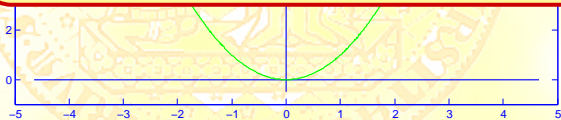


We concluded that instead of solving

$$\hat{\mu}^{(ML,n)} = \arg \min_{\mu \in \mathbb{R}} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mu)^2$$

we should solve

$$\hat{\mu}^{(ML,n)} = \arg \min_{\mu \in \mathbb{R}} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho(x_i - \mu).$$



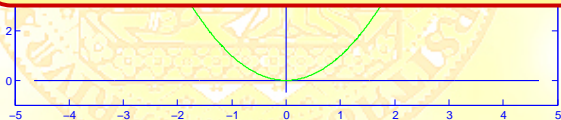
Notice the bottom line in the frame !!

Recalling that we found on the first lecture



In such a way the robust estimators will be defined,
e. g. estimator of regression coefficients

$$\hat{\beta}^{(M,n)} = \arg \min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho(Y_i - X_i' \beta)$$

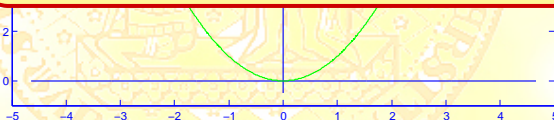


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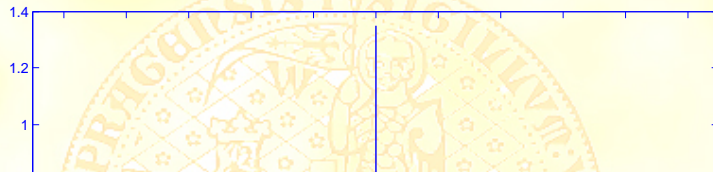
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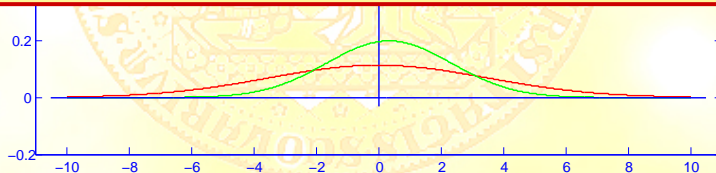
But then we cannot (typically) find a formula for (robust) estimators
and hence we cannot prove (compute !?) unbiasedness.

Possible density of unbiased and biased estimator

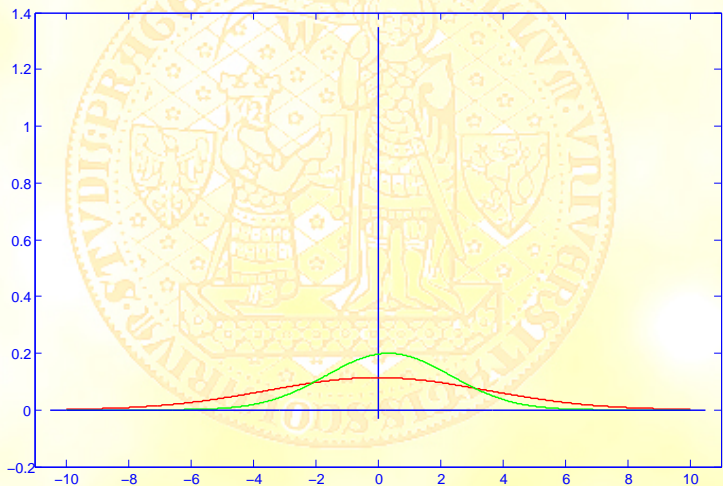


Moreover we discussed in the first lecture the situation:

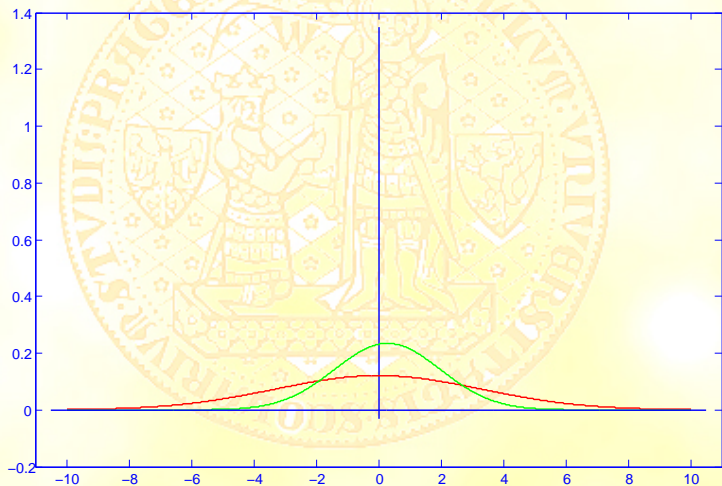
Unbiased estimator has slowly (if any) decreasing variance,
while the variance and the bias of other (green) estimator decrease rapidly.



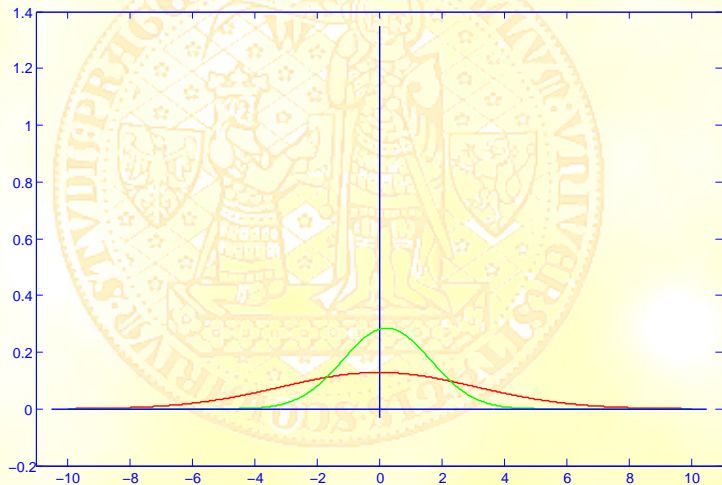
Notice decreasing variance and bias



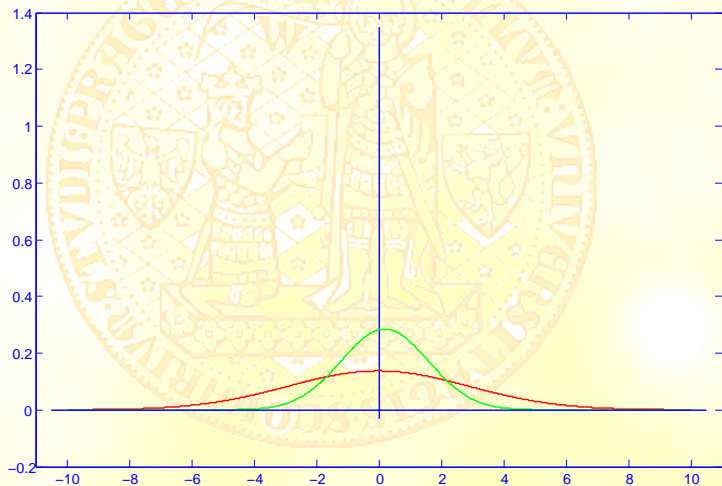
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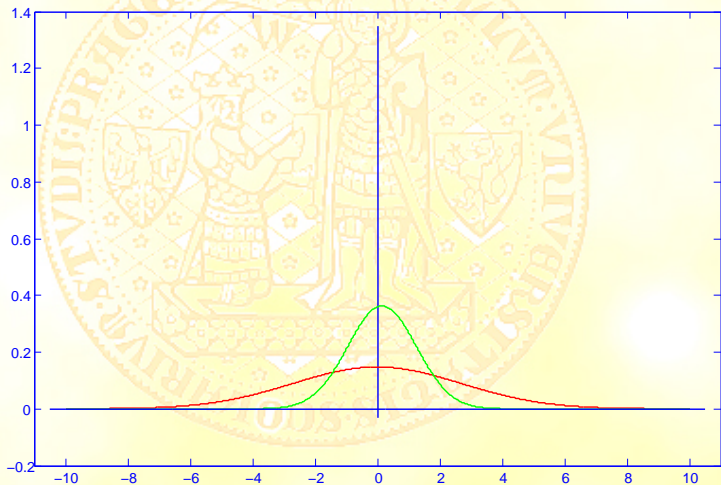
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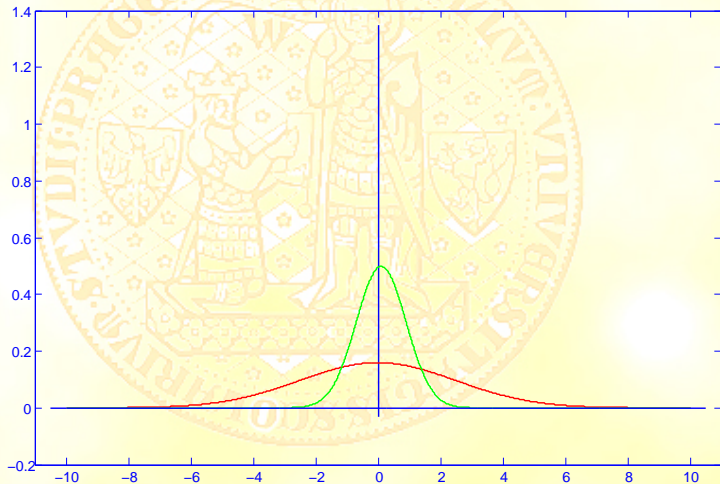
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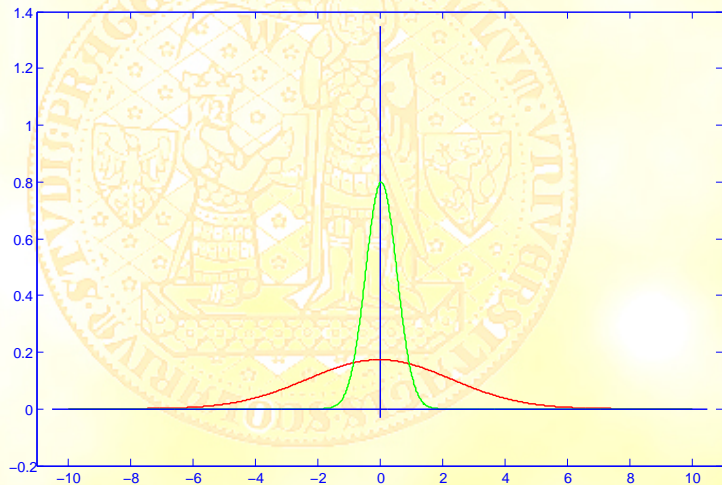
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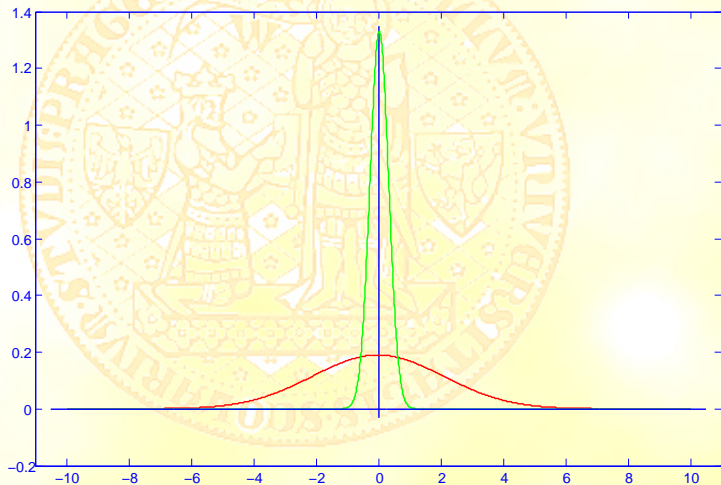
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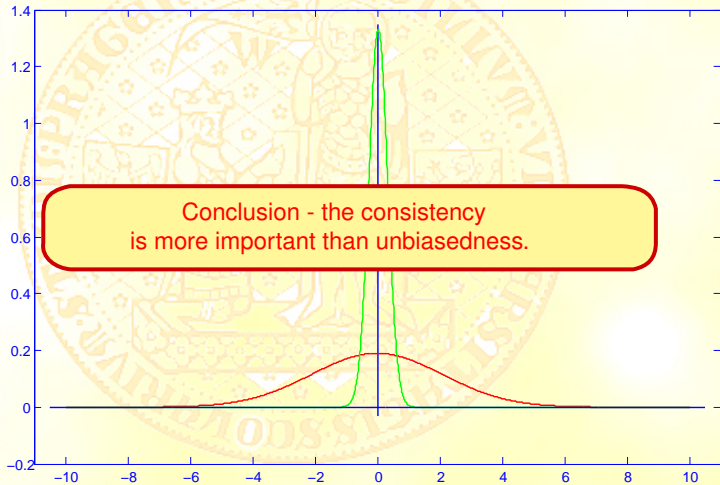
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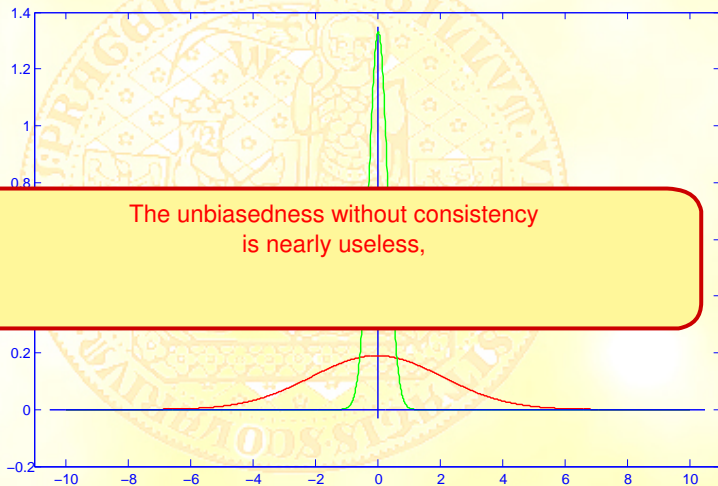
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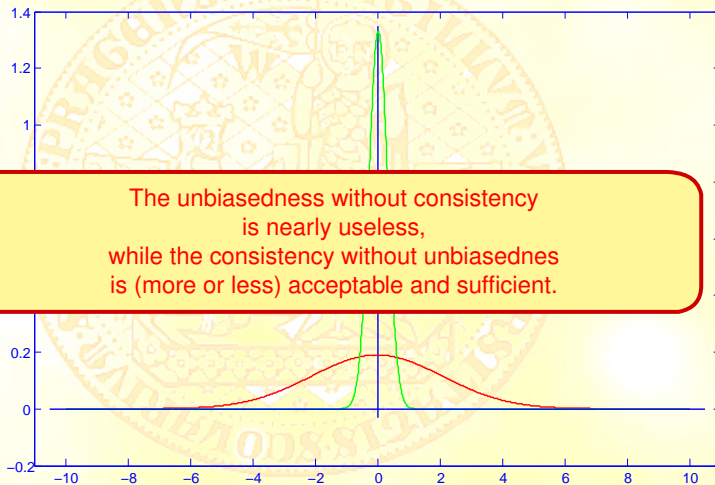
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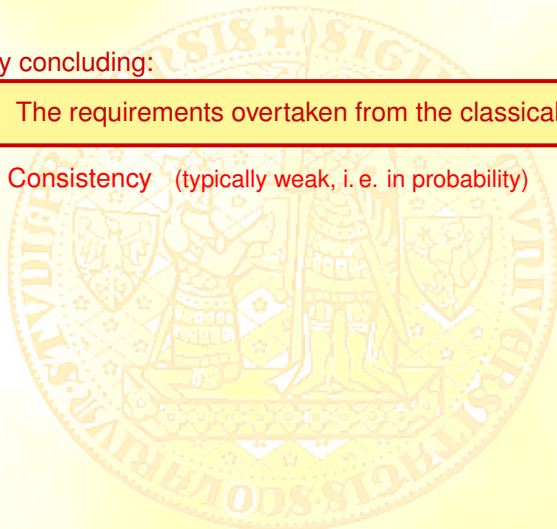
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- 2 \sqrt{n} -consistency (root-n-consistency)
- 3 Asymptotic normality
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Nearly concluding:

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We still didn't discuss scale- and regression-equivariance
- so let's do it.

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- 5 **Scale-** and **regression-equivariance**

Framework: $Y_i = X_i' \beta^0 + e_i$
 $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$

Equivariance of $\hat{\beta}^{(n)}$

$$\hat{\beta}(Y, X) : M(n, p+1) \rightarrow R^p$$

scale-equivariant : $\forall c \in R^+$ $\hat{\beta}(cY, X) = c\hat{\beta}(Y, X)$

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$$\hat{\beta}^{(L_1, n)} = \arg \min_{\beta \in R^p} \sum_{i=1}^n |Y_i - X_i' \beta|$$

Framework: $Y_i = X_i' \beta^0 + e_i$
 $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$

Equivariance - invariance of $\hat{\sigma}^2$

$$\hat{\sigma}^2(Y, X) : M(n, p + 1) \rightarrow R^+$$

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Examples : $s_n^2 = \frac{1}{n-p} \sum_{i=1}^n r_i^2(\hat{\beta}^{(OLS, n)})$



What is the equivariance of $\hat{\beta}^{(n)}$ good for ?

- 1 When the units of measurement have been changed, we don't need to recalculate the estimator
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- 1 When the units of measurement have been changed, we don't need to recalculate the estimator
 - we just shift the decimal point (we are used to it from classical statistics).
- 2 The requirement of invariance and equivariance removed superefficiency.

Finally, concluding:

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Finally, concluding:

The requirements overtaken from the classical statistics

- 1 Consistency (typically weak, i. e. in probability)

And now we add some others which correspond to the spirit of the discussion we have passed up to this moment.

- 4 Loss of efficiency as small as possible
- 5 Scale- and regression-equivariance

Returning to IF once again

Let's recall that if we add new observation, say x_{n+1} ,
the value of estimator changes from

$$T(F) + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n IF(x_i, F, T) \quad \text{to} \quad T(F) + \frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} IF(x_i, F, T).$$

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So, let's define a couple of new requirements by it.

Hampel's approach - characteristics of the functional T at the d. f. F

- Clearly,

$$\gamma^* = \sup_{x \in R} |IF(x, T, F)|$$

represents a **maximal possible contribution of observation x** to the value of the functional T provided the d. f. which generated data was F .

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- γ^* is called gross-error sensitivity.

Hampel's approach - characteristics of the functional T at the d. f. F

- Similarly, the maximal Lipschitz ratio

$$\lambda^* = \sup_{x, y \in R} \left| \frac{IF(x, T, F) - IF(y, T, F)}{x - y} \right|$$

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- λ^* is called local-shift sensitivity.

Hampel's approach - characteristics of the functional T at the d. f. F

- Finally,

$$\rho^* = \inf \{r \in R^+ : IF(x, T, F) = 0, |x| > r\}$$

represents a value such that any observation which is in absolute value larger then ρ^* brings no contribution to the value of the functional T provided the d. f. which generated data was F .

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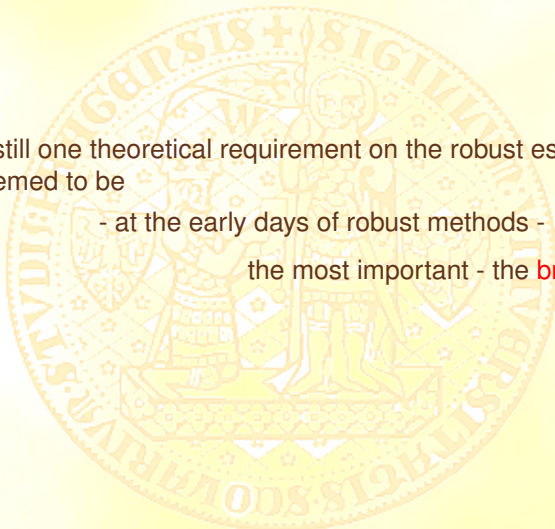
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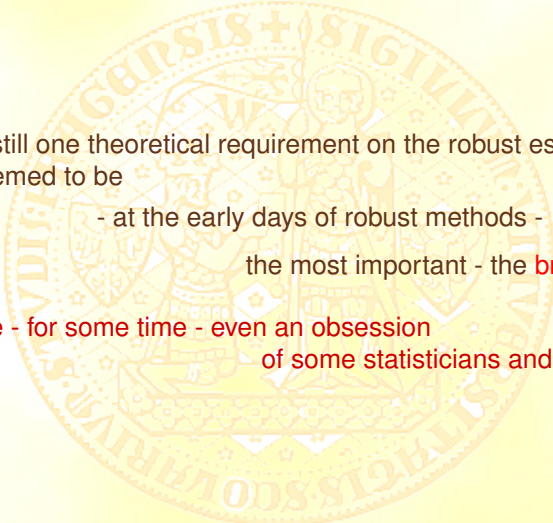
- ρ^* is called rejection point.

There is still one theoretical requirement on the robust estimator which seemed to be

- at the early days of robust methods -

the most important - the **breakdown point**.





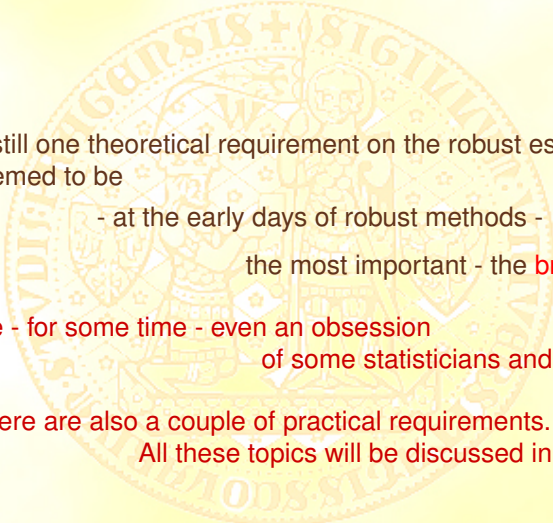
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Finally, there are also a couple of practical requirements.

- All these topics will be discussed in the next lectures.



THANKS FOR ATTENTION