## SHRINKAGE DOMINATION IN A MULTIVARIATE COMMON MEAN PROBLEM

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Consider the problem of estimating the  $p\times 1$  mean vector  $\theta$  under expected squared error loss, based on the observation of two independent multivariate normal vectors  $Y_1\sim N_p(\theta,\sigma^2I)$  and  $Y_2\sim N_p(\theta,\lambda\sigma^2I)$  when  $\lambda$  and  $\sigma^2$  are unknown. For  $p\geq 3$ , estimators of the form  $\delta_\eta=\eta Y_1+(1-\eta)Y_2$  where  $\eta$  is a fixed number in (0,1), are shown to be uniformly dominated in risk by Stein estimators in spite of the fact that independent estimates of scale are unavailable. A consequence of this result is that when  $\lambda$  is assumed known, shrinkage domination is robust to incorrect specification of  $\lambda$ .

**1. Introduction.** This paper considers the following multivariate common mean problem. Suppose we observe two independent  $p \times 1$  multivariate normal vectors,  $p \ge 3$ :

(1.1) 
$$Y_1 \sim N_p(\theta, \sigma^2 I)$$
 and  $Y_2 \sim N_p(\theta, \lambda \sigma^2 I)$ ,

where  $Y_j = (Y_{1j}, \ldots, Y_{pj})'$ ,  $\theta = (\theta_1, \ldots, \theta_p)'$  and  $\lambda$  and  $\sigma^2$  are positive scalars. The problem is to find an estimator  $\delta \equiv \delta(Y_1, Y_2)$  of  $\theta$  when  $\lambda$  and  $\sigma^2$  are unknown, under the risk criterion of expected squared error loss,

$$(1.2) R(\psi, \delta) = E_{\mu} \|\delta - \theta\|^2,$$

where the expectation is taken over the sample space under the distribution determined by  $\psi = (\theta, \lambda, \sigma^2)$ . It is desirable to keep the risk small over the entire parameter space

(1.3) 
$$\Psi \equiv \{ \psi \colon \theta \in \mathbb{R}^p, \lambda \in (0, \infty), \sigma^2 \in (0, \infty) \}.$$

Note that by linear transformation, this problem is identical to estimating  $\theta$  based on observing  $Y_1 \sim N_{\rm p}(\theta,\sigma^2\Sigma)$  and  $Y_2 \sim N_{\rm p}(\theta,\lambda\sigma^2\Sigma)$  under the criterion  $R_{\Sigma}(\psi,\delta) = E_{\psi}(\delta-\theta)'\Sigma^{-1}(\delta-\theta)$ , where  $\Sigma$  is a known covariance matrix.

This common mean problem might arise when p different items are measured by each of two unbiased measuring devices which have unknown and possibly different measurement precisions. For example, suppose the value of each of p parcels of real estate was assessed by two independent assessors. Letting  $Y_{ij}$  be the assessment of parcel i by assessor j and letting  $\theta_i$  be the "true" value of parcel i, the setup (1.1) might be appropriate if one assessor was better (less variable) than the other. Note that it might be necessary to use transformed units to obtain constant variance for each assessor.

Received February 1989; revised March 1990.

AMS 1980 subject classifications. Primary 62H12; secondary 62C99, 62J07.

Key words and phrases. Risk, robustness, shrinkage estimation, Stein estimators.

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The problem of estimating  $\theta$  in the setting (1.1) is also discussed in detail by Zellner (1971). Numerous authors have studied related versions of the above problem in which independent variance estimates are available. References for this work include Bhattacharya (1980), Brown and Cohen (1974) and Cohen and Sackrowitz (1974) who consider the univariate common mean problem (p=1), Chiou and Cohen (1985), Loh (1991) and Krishnamoorty (1989) who consider the multivariate common mean problem and Box and Tiao (1973) and Yancey, Judge and Miyazaki (1984) who consider the problem of making inference about a common vector of regression coefficients based on two independent regressions with unknown and possibly different residual variances. The proposed solutions to each of these problems rely on the availability of independent variance estimates. As will be seen, our multivariate common mean problem is distinguished by the feature that independent variance estimates are unavailable.

The main point of this paper is to show that any estimator of the form

(1.4) 
$$\delta_{\eta} = \eta Y_1 + (1 - \eta) Y_2,$$

where  $\eta$  is a fixed number in (0, 1), can be uniformly dominated by a Stein-like shrinkage estimator with respect to the risk in (1.2) for *all* values of  $\psi \in \Psi$ . Note that the risk of  $\delta_{\eta}$  is

(1.5) 
$$R(\psi, \delta_{\eta}) = p\sigma_{\eta}^{2} \text{ where } \sigma_{\eta}^{2} \equiv \left[\eta^{2} + (1 - \eta)^{2}\lambda\right]\sigma^{2}$$

is the variance of  $\delta_{\eta}$ .

When the variance ratio  $\lambda$  is known,  $\delta_{\eta}$  for which  $\eta = \lambda/(1+\lambda)$  is the minimax estimator, the MLE, the BLUE and the best translation-equivariant estimator for  $\theta$ . Indeed, in this case the setup (1.1) can be reduced to observing the sufficient statistics

(1.6a) 
$$Y_{\lambda} \equiv \frac{\lambda}{1+\lambda} Y_1 + \frac{1}{1+\lambda} Y_2 \quad \text{and} \quad S \equiv ||Y_1 - Y_2||^2,$$

which are independently distributed as

(1.6b) 
$$Y_{\lambda} \sim N_{p}(\theta, \sigma_{\lambda}^{2}I), \text{ where } \sigma_{\lambda}^{2} = \frac{\lambda}{1+\lambda}\sigma^{2}$$

and

(1.6c) 
$$S \sim \frac{(1+\lambda)^2}{\lambda} \sigma_{\lambda}^2 \chi_p^2.$$

Thus, if the parameter space can be restricted to

(1.7) 
$$\Psi_{\eta} \equiv \{\psi \colon \psi \in \Psi, \, \lambda/(1+\lambda) = \eta\}$$

on which  $\delta_{\eta} \equiv Y_{\lambda}$ , then our problem can be reduced to that of estimating a multivariate normal mean based on a single observation in which case the estimator  $\delta_{\pi} \equiv Y_{\lambda}$  has the aforementioned properties.

estimator  $\delta_{\eta} \equiv Y_{\lambda}$  has the aforementioned properties. Of course, a consequence of such a reduction is that  $\delta_{\eta} \equiv Y_{\lambda}$  is inadmissible (on  $\Psi_{\eta}$ ), with respect to the risk (1.2), and can be dominated a Stein estimator

of the form

(1.8) 
$$\delta_{\eta}^{S} = \left[1 - \frac{(p-2)\hat{\sigma}_{\eta}^{2}}{\left\|\delta_{\eta}\right\|^{2}}\right]\delta_{\eta},$$

where  $\hat{\sigma}_{\eta}^2 = \eta(1-\eta)S/(p+2)$  is an estimator of  $\sigma_{\eta}^2$ . (Note that on  $\Psi_{\eta}$ ,  $\sigma_{\eta}^2 = \sigma_{\lambda}^2$ .) The known proofs of this dominance [see Stein (1981) or Lehmann (1983)] exploit the independence of  $\delta_{\eta} \equiv Y_{\lambda}$  and S on  $\Psi_{\eta}$  [a consequence of  $\text{Cov}(\delta_{\eta}, Y_1 - Y_2) = (\eta - (1-\eta)\lambda)\sigma^2 = 0$  when  $\eta = \lambda(1+\lambda)$ ], by first conditioning on S, and then making use of the same results used to dominate  $\delta_{\eta} \equiv Y_{\lambda}$  when  $\sigma_{\eta}^2$  is known.

What distinguishes our multivariate common mean problem from the setting above is that  $\lambda$  is unknown, and hence  $Y_{\lambda}$  is unavailable. The MLE does not exist. There is no sufficiency reduction;  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  are the minimal sufficient statistics. Furthermore, the statistics  $\delta_{\eta}$  and S will be dependent for any  $\psi \notin \Psi_{\eta}$ . However, in spite of this dependence, it is shown in the next section that any estimator of the form  $\delta_{\eta}$  will still be uniformly dominated by a shrinkage estimator similar to  $\delta_{\eta}^{S}$  for all  $\psi \in \Psi$ .

Aside from the surprising fact that uniform domination by a shrinkage estimator is possible even when independent estimates of scale are unavailable, this result establishes the following robustness property of the Stein estimator. In some situations, it will be useful and plausible to assume  $\lambda$  is known, rather than treat the general case. For example, an equal variance assumption where  $\lambda=1$  might be justified by symmetry considerations. In this case, one might want to use the Stein estimator  $\delta_{1/2}^S$  which is known to dominate the minimax estimator  $\delta_{1/2}$ . However, if  $\lambda$  is incorrectly specified, one would (or at least should) want to know the consequences. The main results of this paper show that shrinkage estimators continue to dominate  $\delta_{\eta}$  for all  $\lambda$  so that shrinkage domination is robust to incorrect specification of  $\lambda$ .

It is important to emphasize that this paper does not settle the question of how to select a good estimator of  $\theta$  when  $\lambda$  is indeed unknown. In this case, it is probably more reasonable to consider adaptive alternatives to  $\delta_{\eta}$  of the form  $\delta_{\gamma} = \gamma Y_1 + (1-\gamma)Y_2$ , where  $\gamma$  is an adaptive estimator of  $\eta$ . We have obtained such adaptive  $\delta_{\gamma}$  which dominate  $\delta_{\eta}$  everywhere except for a small neighborhood around  $\eta = \lambda/(1+\lambda)$  where they are practically as good. The main results of this paper suggest that analogous shrinkage domination results may also apply to these adaptive  $\delta_{\gamma}$ . We plan to report separately on this problem

**2. Shrinkage domination.** In this section, we prove that any estimator of the form  $\delta_{\eta} = \eta Y_1 + (1 - \eta)Y_2$  from (1.4) will, for certain choices of c, be uniformly dominated by a shrinkage estimator of the form

(2.1) 
$$\delta_{\eta}^{c} = \left[1 - c \frac{\|Y_{1} - Y_{2}\|^{2}}{\|\delta_{\eta}\|^{2}}\right] \delta_{\eta}.$$

It may be of interest to note that our proof is initially directed toward deriving an unbiased estimator of the risk; see Berger (1985). However, this unbiased estimator of the risk turns out to be unbounded, and so must be averaged to obtain a bound. The details regarding the bounding of this average, which may also be of independent interest, have been presented as lemmas in Section 3.

THEOREM 2.1. Let  $C(\eta, 3) = 2\kappa/13$  and  $C(\eta, p) = 2(p-2)\kappa/(p+8)$  for  $p \geq 4$ , where  $\kappa \equiv \min\{\eta^2, (1-\eta)^2\}$ . Then for  $\eta \in (0,1)$ ,  $p \geq 3$  and  $0 < c < C(\eta, p)$ ,  $\delta^c_{\eta}$  uniformly dominates  $\delta_{\eta}$  in risk, that is,  $R(\psi, \delta^c_{\eta}) < R(\psi, \delta_{\eta})$  for all  $\psi \in \Psi$ .

Proof. Letting  $S = \|Y_1 - Y_2\|^2$  as in (1.5), rewrite  $\delta^c_\eta$  in (2.1) as

(2.2) 
$$\delta_{\eta}^{c} = \delta_{\eta} + g_{\eta}^{c} \quad \text{where } g_{\eta}^{c} \equiv g_{\eta}^{c}(Y_{1}, Y_{2}) = -\frac{cS}{\|\delta_{\eta}\|^{2}} \delta_{\eta}.$$

The risk of  $\delta_n^c$  can thus be expressed as

$$(2.3) \quad R(\psi, \delta_{\eta}^{c}) = E_{\psi} \|\delta_{\eta} + g_{\eta}^{c} - \theta\|^{2} = p\sigma_{\eta}^{2} + E_{\psi} \Big[ 2(\delta_{\eta} - \theta)' g_{\eta}^{c} + \|g_{\eta}^{c}\|^{2} \Big].$$

Using the fact due to Stein (1981), that  $E(X - \mu)h(X) = \sigma^2 E h'(X)$  for  $X \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$  and any differentiable function h satisfying  $E|h'(X)| < \infty$ , it follows that

$$\begin{split} E_{\psi} & \left[ \left( \delta_{\eta} - \theta \right)' g_{\eta}^{c} \right] \\ & = E_{\psi} \left[ \left( \eta (Y_{1} - \theta) + (1 - \eta) (Y_{2} - \theta) \right)' g_{\eta}^{c} \right] \\ & (2.4) \quad = E_{\psi} \left[ \left( \eta \sigma^{2} \nabla_{1} \cdot + (1 - \eta) \lambda \sigma^{2} \nabla_{2} \cdot \right) g_{\eta}^{c} \right] \\ & = E_{\psi} \left[ -c \sigma_{\eta}^{2} (p - 2) \frac{S}{\|\delta_{\eta}\|^{2}} - 2c \sigma^{2} (\eta - (1 - \eta) \lambda) \frac{(Y_{1} - Y_{2})' \delta_{\eta}}{\|\delta_{\eta}\|^{2}} \right], \end{split}$$

where  $\nabla_t \cdot g_{\eta}^c = \sum_{i=1}^p (\partial g_{\eta}^c / \partial Y_{it})$ . Thus, the risk in (2.3) may be expressed as

(2.5) 
$$R(\psi, \delta_n^c) = p\sigma_n^2 + (c^2A_1 - 2c(p-2)A_2)\sigma_n^2 - 4cA_3,$$

where

$$(2.6) \hspace{1cm} A_{1} = \sigma_{\eta}^{-2} E_{\psi} \left[ S^{2} / \| \delta_{\eta} \|_{+}^{2} \right], \hspace{1cm} A_{2} = E_{\psi} \left[ S / \| \delta_{\eta} \|^{2} \right],$$

$$(2.7) A_3 = (\eta - (1 - \eta)\lambda)\sigma^2 E_{\psi} \left[ \frac{(Y_1 - Y_2)'\delta_{\eta}}{\|\delta_{\eta}\|^2} \right].$$

By Lemma 3.1,  $A_1/A_2 < 13\kappa^{-1}$  for p = 3, and  $A_1/A_2 \le (p+8)\kappa^{-1}$  for  $p \le 4$ . Furthermore,  $A_3 > 0$  by Lemma 3.5. Thus, for  $0 < c < C(\eta, p)$ ,

$$egin{aligned} Rig(\psi,\delta_{\eta}^{c}ig) & \leq p\sigma_{\eta}^{2} + ig(c^{2}A_{1} - 2c(p-2)A_{2}ig)\sigma_{\eta}^{2} \\ & \leq p\sigma_{\eta}^{2} + ig(c(p+8)\kappa^{-1} - 2(p-2)ig)cA_{2}\sigma_{\eta}^{2} < p\sigma_{\eta}^{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Although there is no minimax estimator for the general problem where  $\lambda$  is unknown, it may be useful to regard  $\delta_{1/2}=(1/2)(Y_1+Y_2)$  as a benchmark competitor for the general problem. Note that  $\delta_{1/2}$  is the "safest" estimator of the form  $\delta_{\eta}$ , in the sense that  $RR(\delta_{1/2},\lambda) \leq RR(\delta_{\lambda/(1+\lambda)},1)$ , where we define  $RR(\delta_{\eta},\lambda) = R(\psi,\delta_{\eta})/R(\psi,Y_{\lambda})$ , the risk efficiency of  $\delta_{\eta}$  at  $\lambda$ . The following is just Theorem 2.1 applied to  $\delta_{1/2}$ .

COROLLARY 2.1. Let  $C^*(3) = 1/26$  and  $C^*(p) = (p-2)/2(p+8)$  for  $p \ge 4$ . Then for  $p \ge 3$  and  $0 < c < C^*(p)$ ,  $\delta_{1/2}^c$  uniformly dominates  $\delta_{1/2}$  in risk.

Evidently, the bounds on c in Theorem 2.1 and Corollary 2.1 are not the largest possible. It appears from strong simulation evidence that the bound on  $A_1/A_2$  given in Lemma 3.1 can be lowered to at least  $A_1/A_2 < 6\kappa^{-1}$  for p=3, and to  $A_1/A_2 \le (p+2)\kappa^{-1}$  for  $p\ge 4$ . If this is the case, the bound for c can be increased to  $C(\eta,3)=\kappa/3$  and  $C(\eta,p)=2(p-2)\kappa/(p+2)$  for  $p\ge 4$  in Theorem 2.1, and to  $C^*(3)=1/12$  and  $C^*(p)=(p-2)/2(p+2)$  for  $p\ge 4$  in Corollary 2.1. However, even these bounds are probably conservative since the amount of risk reduction captured by the term  $A_3$  in (2.7) has not been exploited by the proof of Theorem 2.1.

Simulation evidence also suggests that for  $\eta=1/2$ ,  $A_1/A_2$  is bounded below—by  $^-4p$  when  $\theta=0$  and  $\lambda\to 0$  or  $\infty$ , and is close to its apparent maximum of about 4(p+2) in the rest of the parameter space. Because of this relatively small variation of  $A_1/A_2$  over  $\Psi$ , it follows from (2.5) that a good choice for the constant in  $\delta^c_{1/2}$  would be c=(p-2)/4(p+2). This is exactly the choice in (1.8) recommended by Stein (1966) for the situation when it is known that  $\lambda=1$ . Unfortunately, the choice of c for other  $\delta^c_\eta$  is less clear, especially when  $\eta$  is close to 0 or 1, where  $A_1/A_2$  can have large variation. Of course, in all these cases, a positive-part version would probably be better.

To get some sense of the amount of improvement available by  $\delta_{\eta}^{c}$  over  $\delta_{\eta}$ , we simulated the risk of  $\delta_{\eta}^{S}$  in (1.8) for  $\eta=0.5,\ 0.75,\ 0.9$  when  $|\theta|^{2}=0,10,1000$  and  $\lambda=1,3,9$ . The results are presented in Table 1. The risks of the corresponding  $\delta_{\eta}$  [which can be computed exactly from (1.5)] are also given for comparison. Of these  $\delta_{\eta},\,\delta_{0.5}$  is best when  $\lambda=1,\,\delta_{0.75}$  is best when  $\lambda=3$  and  $\delta_{0.9}$  is best when  $\lambda=9$ . What is most striking in the table is that  $\delta_{\eta}^{S}$  dominates the corresponding  $\delta_{\eta}$  in every setting, sometimes substantially. This underscores the shrinkage domination robustness of the Stein estimator discussed in the previous section. Finally, note that when  $\eta=0.75$  or 0.9, the choice  $c=\eta(1-\eta)(p-2)/(p+2)$  for  $\delta_{\eta}^{S}$  is larger than  $C(\eta,p)$ , the bound for domination given in Theorem 2.1. The observed shrinkage domination in these cases further supports the conclusion that the bounds on c given by Theorem 2.1 are conservative.

**3. Lemmas for proving Theorem 2.1.** In this final section, we present the details required for obtaining the risk bounds in Theorem 2.1. These are organized as a series of interconnected lemmas which may also be of independent

Table 1
Simulation estimates of risk $R(\psi, \delta)$
$p=10,\sigma^2=1$

δ	$ \boldsymbol{\theta} ^2$	$\eta = 0.5$	$\eta = 0.75$	$\eta = 0.9$
		λ = 3	1	
	0.	1.66	2.64	6.03
$\delta_{\eta}^{S}$	10.	3.99	4.95	7.25
,	1000.	4.99	6.23	8.19
$\delta_{\eta}$		5.00	6.25	8.20
		λ = 3	3	
	0.	2.69	2.50	4.59
$\delta_{\eta}^{S}$	10.	6.52	5.51	6.76
''	1000.	9.94	7.47	8.38
$\delta_{\eta}$		10.00	7.50	8.40
		λ = 5	9	
	0.	4.52	5.47	3.01
$\delta_{\eta}^{S}$	10.	10.42	8.48	6.33
"	1000.	24.58	11.20	8.96
$\delta_{\eta}$		25.00	11.25	9.00

Note: All standard errors are less than or equal to 0.004 for  $\lambda=1$  and  $\lambda=3$ , and they are less than or equal to 0.012 for  $\lambda=9$ . The risk entries for  $\delta_{\eta}$  are computed exactly using (1.5). The simulation was based on 1,000,000 repetitions.

dent interest. Related results can be found in Casella and Hwang (1982). Note that many of the bounds provided by the lemmas here are not the tightest possible.

LEMMA 3.1. For  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  in (2.6) and  $\kappa = \min\{\eta^2, (1-\eta)^2\}$ ,

(i) 
$$A_1/A_2 < 13\kappa^{-1}$$
 for  $p = 3$ ,

(ii) 
$$A_1/A_2 \le (p+8)\kappa^{-1} \quad for \ p \ge 4.$$

Proof.  $A_1$  and  $A_2$  may be expressed as

$$A_1 = (1+\lambda)^2 \sigma^4 \sigma_\eta^{-4} E \big( \|U\|^4 / \|V\|^2 \big), \qquad A_2 = (1+\lambda) \sigma^2 \sigma_\eta^{-2} E \big( \|U\|^2 / \|V\|^2 \big),$$

where U and V are two  $p \times 1$  normal vectors such that

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} U \\ V \end{array} \right) \sim N_{2p} \Big( \left( \begin{array}{cc} 0 \\ \mu \end{array} \right), \left( \begin{array}{cc} I & \alpha I \\ \alpha I & I \end{array} \right) \Big),$$

with  $\mu = \theta/\sigma_{\eta}$  and  $\alpha = (\eta - (1 - \eta)\lambda)\sigma/(1 + \lambda)^{1/2}\sigma_{\eta}$ . Thus

$$A_1/A_2 = (1 + \lambda)\sigma^2 \sigma_n^{-2} h(\mu, \alpha),$$

where

$$h(\mu,\alpha) \equiv \frac{E_{\mu,\alpha}(\|U\|^4/\|V\|^2)}{E_{\mu,\alpha}(\|U\|^2/\|V\|^2)}.$$

Since  $(1+\lambda)\sigma^2\sigma_\eta^{-2}=(1+\lambda)[\eta^2+(1-\eta)^2\lambda]^{-1}\leq \kappa^{-1}$ , it suffices to show that  $h(\mu,\alpha)<13$  for p=3, and  $h(\mu,\alpha)\leq p+8$  for  $p\geq 4$ . Conditioning on V yields

$$E(||U||^{2}|V) = \alpha^{2}||V - \mu||^{2} + (1 - \alpha^{2})p,$$

$$E(||U||^{4}|V) = \alpha^{4}||V - \mu||^{4} + 2\alpha^{2}(1 - \alpha^{2})(p + 2)||V - \mu||^{2} + (1 - \alpha^{2})^{2}p(p + 2).$$

Thus, letting

 $h(\mu, \alpha)$  may be rewritten as

$$\begin{split} h(\mu,\alpha) &= \frac{\alpha^4 x_3 + 2\alpha^2 (1-\alpha^2)(p+2)x_2 + (1-\alpha^2)^2 p(p+2)x_1}{\alpha^2 x_2 + (1-\alpha^2)px_1} \\ &= \alpha^2 \left[\beta \frac{x_3}{x_2} + (1-\beta) \frac{p+2}{p} \frac{x_2}{x_1}\right] + (1+\alpha^2)(p+2), \end{split}$$

where  $\beta = \alpha^2 x_2/(\alpha^2 x_2 + (1 - \alpha^2)px_1)$ . The desired bounds on  $h(\mu, \alpha)$  now follow directly from this last equality and Lemma 3.2.  $\square$ 

LEMMA 3.2. For  $V \sim N_p(\mu, I)$ , let  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $x_3$  be as in (3.1). Then

(i) 
$$for p = 3$$
,  $x_2/x_1 < 5$  and  $x_3/x_2 < 13$ ,

(ii) 
$$for p \ge 4$$
,  $x_2/x_1 \le p$  and  $x_3/x_2 \le p + 8$ .

PROOF. As in Lemma 3.3, define  $\varphi(q) \equiv E[q+2Z]^{-1}$  for  $q \neq 0, -2, -4, \ldots$ , where Z is a Poisson random variable with mean  $\lambda = \|\mu\|^2/2$ . Making use of Lemma 3.4,  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $x_3$  may be expressed as

$$(3.2a) x_1 = \varphi(p-2),$$

(3.2b) 
$$x_2 = E_{\mu} \Big[ 1 - 2V'\mu/\|V\|^2 + \|\mu\|^2/\|V\|^2 \Big]$$

$$= \Big[ 2(p-2) + 2\lambda \Big] \varphi(p-2) - 1,$$

$$x_3 = E_{\mu} \Big[ \|V\|^2 + 4(V'\mu)^2/\|V\|^2 + \|\mu\|^4/\|V\|^2$$

$$-4V'\mu - 4\|\mu\|^2 V'\mu/\|V\|^2 + 2\|\mu\|^2 \Big]$$

$$= \Big[ 4(p-1)(p-2) + 8\lambda(p-2) + 4\lambda^2 \Big] \varphi(p-2)$$

$$+ 4 - 3p - 2\lambda$$

For p = 3, applying (3.3b) to (3.2a)–(3.2c) yields.

$$x_1 = \varphi(1),$$
  $x_2 = 2\varphi(1) + \varphi(-1),$   $x_3 = 8\varphi(1) + 4\varphi(-1) + 3\varphi(-3).$ 

Applying (3.3d) to  $x_2/x_1$  here yields  $x_2/x_1 < 5$ . From  $x_3/x_2$  here, we obtain

$$\frac{x_3}{x_2} \le 4 + \frac{3\varphi(-3)}{\varphi(1)} < 13,$$

where the first inequality follows from  $-1 \le \varphi(-1)/\varphi(1)$ , and the second inequality follows from (3.3e).

For  $p \ge 4$ , applying (3.3c) to (3.2a) and (3.2b) yields  $x_2 \le px_1$ . We also obtain

$$\begin{split} x_3 &\leq \big[12(\,p-2)\,-2\lambda(\,p-4)\big]\varphi(\,p-2)\,+(\,p-4) \\ (3.2\mathrm{d}) &\leq \big[12(\,p-2)\,-2\lambda(\,p-4)\,+(\,p-4)(\,p-2+2\lambda)\big]\varphi(\,p-2) \\ &= (\,p-2)(\,p+8)x_1, \end{split}$$

where the first inequality follows by applying (3.3c) twice, and the second inequality follows by applying (3.3a). Coupled with the fact that  $(p-2)x_1 \le x_2$ which follows from (3.3a), (3.2d) yields  $x_3 \le (p+8)x_2$ .  $\square$ 

The proofs of Lemmas 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 have been omitted for the sake of brevity. These proofs can be found in George (1990).

Lemma 3.3. For a Poisson random variable Z with mean  $\lambda$ , define  $\varphi(q) \equiv$  $E[q + 2Z]^{-1}$  for  $q \neq 0, -2, -4, ...$  Then

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{(3.3a)} & \text{(i)} & 1 \leq (q+2\lambda)\varphi(q) & \textit{for } q \geq 1, \\ \text{(3.3b)} & \text{(ii)} & 2\lambda\varphi(q+2) = 1 - q\varphi(q) & \textit{for } q \neq 0, -2, -4, \dots, \\ \text{(3.3c)} & \text{(iii)} & 2\lambda\varphi(q+2) \leq 1 - q\varphi(q+2) & \textit{for } q \geq 0, \\ \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{lll} \text{(3.3c)} & \text{(iii)} & 2\lambda\varphi(q+2) \leq 1-q\varphi(q+2) & \textit{for } q \geq 0, \\ \text{(3.3d)} & \text{(iv)} & \varphi(-1) < 2\varphi(1), \end{array}$$

(3.3d)(iv)

(3.3e) (v) 
$$\varphi(-3) < 3\varphi(1)$$
.

LEMMA 3.4. For  $V \sim N_p(\mu, I)$  and a Poisson random variable Z with mean  $\lambda = \|\mu\|^2/2,$ 

(i) 
$$E||V||^{-2} = E\left[\frac{1}{p-2+2Z}\right],$$

(ii) 
$$E(V'\mu)||V||^{-2} = E\left[\frac{2Z}{p-2+2Z}\right],$$

(iii) 
$$E(V'\mu)^2 ||V||^{-2} = 2\lambda - (p-1)E\left[\frac{2Z}{p-2+2Z}\right].$$

LEMMA 3.5. For  $A_3$  given in (2.7) and a Poisson random variable Z with mean  $\lambda = \|\theta\|^2/2\sigma_n^2$ ,

$$A_3 = \frac{\left(\eta - (1 - \eta)\lambda\right)^2 \sigma^4}{\sigma_n^2} E\left[\frac{p - 2}{p - 2 + 2Z}\right].$$

**Acknowledgments.** The author would like to thank George Casella, Dean Foster, Jiunn Hwang and anonymous referees for helpful suggestions, and Jayaram Muthuswamy for programming assistance. This research was supported by the Graduate School of Business at the University of Chicago.

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