

Proof of mean of estimator for $\text{Cov}(\mathbf{X})$

Background:

$\mathbf{X}$ has mean $E(\mathbf{X}) = \mu$ and $\text{Cov}(\mathbf{X}) = \Sigma_{p \times p}$

$\mathbf{X}_1, \dots, \mathbf{X}_n$ is a random sample from $\mathbf{X}$.

$$\bar{\mathbf{X}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbf{X}_j$$

Estimator:

$$S = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{j=1}^n (\mathbf{X}_j - \bar{\mathbf{X}})(\mathbf{X}_j - \bar{\mathbf{X}})^T$$

Result:

$$E(S) = \Sigma_{p \times p} \quad \text{unbiased estimator}$$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} & i) \sum_{j=1}^n (\mathbf{X}_j - \bar{\mathbf{X}})(\mathbf{X}_j - \bar{\mathbf{X}})^T \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^n (\mathbf{X}_j - \bar{\mathbf{X}}) \mathbf{X}_j^T - \underbrace{\sum_{j=1}^n (\mathbf{X}_j - \bar{\mathbf{X}}) \bar{\mathbf{X}}^T}_0 \end{aligned}$$

because $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{x}_j = \bar{x}$ $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{x}_j = \bar{x}$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \bar{x}_j \bar{x}^T - \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{x} \bar{x}^T = 0$$

$$n \bar{x} \bar{x}^T - n \bar{x} \bar{x}^T = 0$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n (\bar{x}_j - \bar{x}) \bar{x}_j^T = \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{x}_j \bar{x}_j^T - \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{x} \bar{x}_j^T$$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{x}_j \bar{x}_j^T - n \bar{x} \bar{x}^T$$

so $E(S) = \frac{1}{n-1} E \left[\sum_{j=1}^n \bar{x}_j \bar{x}_j^T - n \bar{x} \bar{x}^T \right]$

$$= \frac{1}{n-1} \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^n E(\bar{x}_j \bar{x}_j^T) - n E(\bar{x} \bar{x}^T) \right\}$$

ii) Know: $Cov(V) = E(VV^T) - E(V)E(V)^T$

$$E(VV^T) = Cov(V) + E(V)E(V)^T$$

so we need to use

$$E(\bar{x}_j \bar{x}_j^T) = Cov(\bar{x}_j) + E(\bar{x}_j)E(\bar{x}_j)^T$$

$$= \Sigma + \mu\mu^T$$

and

$$E(\bar{x} \bar{x}^T) = Cov(\bar{x}) + E(\bar{x})E(\bar{x})^T$$

$$= \frac{1}{n} \Sigma + \mu\mu^T$$

so connecting i) and ii)

$$\begin{aligned} E(S) &= \frac{1}{n-1} \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^n E(\underline{\underline{X_j X_j^T}}) - n E(\underline{\underline{\bar{X} \bar{X}^T}}) \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{n-1} \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^n (\underline{\underline{\Sigma + \mu \mu^T}}) - n (\underline{\underline{\frac{1}{n} \Sigma + \mu \mu^T}}) \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{n-1} \left\{ n \Sigma + n \mu \mu^T - \Sigma - n \mu \mu^T \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{n-1} \left\{ n \Sigma - \Sigma \right\} = \frac{n-1}{n-1} \Sigma = \underline{\underline{\Sigma}} \end{aligned}$$