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1 Translation of De Haan-Stadt Müller Result to Second-Order Approximations for Extreme Value Distributions

Suppose $n(1 - F(a_n x + b_n)) = y$ — the objective is to derive an asymptotic expression for y as a function of x .

We assume $b_n = U(n)$, $a_n = a(n)$, so this equation may be rewritten

$$a_n x + b_n = a(n)x + U(n) = U\left(\frac{n}{y}\right)$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \frac{U\left(\frac{n}{y}\right) - U(n)}{a(n)} \\ &= \frac{y^{-\xi} - 1}{\xi} + A(n)H(y^{-1}) + o(A(n)). \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

First order solution: ignore $A(n)$, solve $x = \frac{y^{-\xi} - 1}{\xi}$ to get

$$y = (1 + \xi x)^{-1/\xi}.$$

Second-order solution: assume

$$\begin{aligned} y &= (1 + \xi x)^{-1/\xi} + \epsilon \\ &= (1 + \xi x)^{-1/\xi} \left(1 + \epsilon(1 + \xi x)^{1/\xi}\right) \end{aligned}$$

for some ϵ that we have to determine (asymptotically).

We calculate

$$\begin{aligned} y^{-\xi} &= (1 + \xi x) \left(1 - \xi \epsilon (1 + \xi x)^{1/\xi} + \dots\right) \\ &= 1 + \xi x - \xi \epsilon (1 + \xi x)^{1+1/\xi} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

where (here and subsequently) \dots denotes terms that are of smaller order than those considered. Hence

$$\frac{y^{-\xi} - 1}{\xi} = x - \epsilon(1 + \xi x)^{1+1/\xi} + o(\epsilon^2).$$

Comparing with (1), we deduce

$$\epsilon(1 + \xi x)^{1+1/\xi} \sim A(n)H(y^{-1}) \sim A(n)H\left((1 + \xi x)^{1/\xi}\right).$$

Hence

$$\epsilon \sim A(n)(1 + \xi x)^{-1-1/\xi} H\left((1 + \xi x)^{1/\xi}\right).$$

Thus our result is

$$n(1 - F(a_n x + b_n)) = (1 + \xi x)^{-1/\xi} + A(n)(1 + \xi x)^{-1-1/\xi} H\left((1 + \xi x)^{1/\xi}\right) + o(A(n)).$$

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By the usual argument of replacing $1 - F(a_n x + b_n)$ by $-\log F(a_n x + b_n)$ (with an error of $O(n^{-1})$), we also deduce that provided $nA(n) \rightarrow \infty$,

$$F^n(a_n x + b_n) = \exp \left\{ (1 + \xi x)^{-1/\xi} + A(n)(1 + \xi x)^{-1-1/\xi} H \left((1 + \xi x)^{1/\xi} \right) + o(A(n)) \right\}.$$

The stipulation $nA(n) \rightarrow \infty$ is needed because, without it, the error of $O(n^{-1})$ is as large or larger than $O(A(n))$; however, as noted earlier, cases where the error rate is $O(n^{-1})$ or smaller are rather few and generally not of interest since the rate of convergence is so fast.

2 Derivation of De Haan-Stadt Müller Result in Prior Cases

2.1 Example Model 1

Assumption:

$$1 - F(y) = cy^{-\alpha} + dy^{-\alpha-\beta} + o(y^{-\alpha-\beta}), \quad y \rightarrow \infty.$$

To calculate an approximation to $U(t)$, we need to solve $\frac{1}{t} = 1 - F(y)$ so $y = (ct)^{1/\alpha}(1 + \epsilon)$ for some ϵ . Then $y^{-\alpha} = \frac{1}{c}(1 - \alpha\epsilon + \dots)$ so $t^{-1} = t^{-1}(1 - \alpha\epsilon) + d(ct)^{-1-\beta/\alpha} + \dots$ so $\epsilon = \frac{d}{\alpha}c^{-1-\beta/\alpha}t^{-\beta/\alpha}$ and hence

$$U(t) = (ct)^{1/\alpha} \left(1 + \frac{d}{\alpha}c^{-1-\beta/\alpha}t^{-\beta/\alpha} + \dots \right)$$

where ... means smaller order terms that are omitted.

We proceed by calculating

$$\begin{aligned} U(tx) - U(t) &= (ctx)^{1/\alpha} \left\{ 1 + \frac{d}{\alpha}c^{-1-\beta/\alpha}(tx)^{-\beta/\alpha} \right\} - (ct)^{1/\alpha} \left\{ 1 + \frac{d}{\alpha}c^{-1-\beta/\alpha}t^{-\beta/\alpha} \right\} + o(t^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha}) \\ &= t^{1/\alpha} \left\{ (cx)^{1/\alpha} - c^{1/\alpha} \right\} + t^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha} \cdot c^{1/\alpha-1-\beta/\alpha} \frac{d}{\alpha} (x^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha} - 1) + o(t^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha}). \quad (2) \end{aligned}$$

Side calculations: with $\xi = 1/\alpha$, $\rho = -\beta/\alpha$, define

$$\begin{aligned} G(x) &= \frac{x^\xi - 1}{\xi} = \alpha(x^{1/\alpha} - 1), \\ H(x) &= \frac{1}{\rho} \left(\frac{x^{\xi+\rho} - 1}{\xi + \rho} - \frac{x^\xi - 1}{\xi} \right) = -\frac{\alpha}{\beta} \left(\frac{x^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha} - 1}{1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha} - G(x) \right) \end{aligned}$$

and hence

$$x^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha} - 1 = -\frac{\beta}{\alpha}(1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha)H(x) + (1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha)G(x).$$

Substituting in (2),

$$\begin{aligned} U(tx) - U(t) &= t^{1/\alpha} \frac{c^{1/\alpha}}{\alpha} G(x) + t^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha} \cdot c^{1/\alpha-1-\beta/\alpha} \frac{d}{\alpha} \left\{ -\frac{\beta}{\alpha}(1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha)H(x) + (1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha)G(x) \right\} \\ &\quad + o(t^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha}). \quad (3) \end{aligned}$$

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We are trying to get a limit of the form $\frac{U(tx) - U(t) - G(x)}{A(t)} \rightarrow H(x)$ which would imply

$$U(tx) - U(t) = G(x)a(t) + H(x)A(t)a(t) + o(A(t)a(t)).$$

Equating coefficients of $G(x)$ and $H(x)$ in (3), it suffices to take

$$\begin{aligned} a(t) &= t^{1/\alpha} \frac{c^{1/\alpha}}{\alpha} + t^{1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha} \cdot c^{1/\alpha - 1 - \beta/\alpha} \frac{d}{\alpha} (1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha), \\ A(t)a(t) &= -t^{1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha} \cdot c^{1/\alpha - 1 - \beta/\alpha} \frac{d\beta}{\alpha^2} (1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha). \end{aligned}$$

Simplifying a bit, an equivalent expression for $A(t)$ is

$$A(t) = -t^{-\beta/\alpha} \cdot c^{-1 - \beta/\alpha} \frac{d\beta}{\alpha} (1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha).$$

It should be noted that in the case $\beta = 1$ (but only that case!) the expression for $H(x)$ reduces to $\frac{\alpha}{\beta} G(x)$, in other words, it is a multiple of $G(x)$, which earlier we excluded from the theory. This confirms our earlier result that the rate of convergence can be improved when $\beta = 1$, but not otherwise.

2.2 Example Model 2

Assumption:

$$1 - F(y) = c|y|^\alpha + d|y|^{\alpha+\beta} + o(|y|^{\alpha+\beta}), \quad y \uparrow 0.$$

In this case if we solve $1 - F(y) = 1/n$ we find

$$U(n) = -(nc)^{-1/\alpha} - \frac{d}{\alpha} n^{-1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha} c^{-1 - 1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha} + o(n^{-1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha})$$

The same formula holds if n is replaced by real $t \rightarrow \infty$ so

$$U(tx) - U(t) = -(tc)^{-1/\alpha} (x^{-1/\alpha} - 1) - \frac{d}{\alpha} t^{-1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha} c^{-1 - 1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha} (x^{-1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha} - 1) + o(t^{-1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha}) \quad (4)$$

In this case with $\xi = -1/\alpha$, $\rho = -\beta/\alpha$, we have

$$G(x) = -\alpha(x^{-1/\alpha} - 1), \quad H(x) = \frac{\alpha^2}{\beta(1+\beta)} (x^{-1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha} - 1) - \frac{\alpha^2}{\beta} (x^{-1/\alpha} - 1)$$

and hence

$$x^{-1/\alpha} - 1 = -\frac{1}{\alpha} G(x), \quad x^{-1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha} - 1 = \frac{\beta(1+\beta)}{\alpha} H(x) - \frac{1+\beta}{\alpha} G(x).$$

Substituting into (4),

$$U(tx) - U(t) = \frac{1}{\alpha} (tc)^{-1/\alpha} G(x) - \frac{d}{\alpha} t^{-1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha} c^{-1 - 1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha} \left\{ \frac{\beta(1+\beta)}{\alpha} H(x) - \frac{1+\beta}{\alpha} G(x) \right\} + o(t^{-1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha}). \quad (5)$$

To write this in the form $a(t)G(x) + A(t)H(x) + o(A(t))$, it would suffice to take

$$a(t) = \frac{1}{\alpha} (tc)^{-1/\alpha} + \frac{d(1+\beta)}{\alpha^2} t^{-1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha} c^{-1 - 1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha}, \quad A(t) = \frac{d\beta(1+\beta)}{\alpha} t^{-\beta/\alpha} c^{-1 - \beta/\alpha}. \quad (6)$$

2.3 Example Model 3

Assumption:

$$F(t) = \Phi(t) \text{ (standard normal cdf), } -\infty < t < \infty.$$

Recall the formula that $1 - \Phi(b_n) = \frac{1}{n}$ leads to

$$b_n = \sqrt{2 \log n} - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2 \log n}} (\log 4\pi + \log \log n) + o\left(\frac{\log \log n}{\sqrt{2 \log n}}\right),$$

where we write t in place of n and $U(t) = b_t$, we deduce

$$U(t) = \sqrt{2 \log t} - \frac{\log 4\pi + \log \log t}{2\sqrt{2 \log t}} + o\left(\frac{\log \log t}{\sqrt{2 \log t}}\right),$$

and hence

$$U(tx) - U(t) = \sqrt{2 \log tx} - \sqrt{2 \log t} - \frac{\log \log tx - \log \log t}{2\sqrt{2 \log t}} + o\left(\frac{\log \log t}{\sqrt{2 \log t}}\right).$$

Side calculations: as $t \rightarrow \infty$ for fixed x ,

$$\begin{aligned} \log \log tx - \log \log t &= \frac{\log x}{\log t} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\log^2 x}{\log^2 t} + O\left(\frac{1}{\log^3 t}\right), \\ \sqrt{2 \log(tx)} - \sqrt{2 \log(t)} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \log t}} \left\{ \log x - \frac{1}{4} \frac{\log^2 x}{\log t} + O\left(\frac{1}{\log^2 t}\right) \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Also, if we define $\mu_n = -\frac{1}{b_n^2}$, $\psi_n = 1 - \frac{1}{b_n^2}$, $\xi_n = -\frac{1}{b_n^2}$, we have

$$\left(1 + \xi_n \frac{x - \mu_n}{\psi_n}\right)^{-1/\xi_n} = e^{-x} \left\{ 1 + \xi_n \left(1 + x - \frac{x^2}{2}\right) + O(\xi_n^2) \right\}.$$

probably not needed

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} U(tx) - U(t) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \log t}} \left(\log x - \frac{1}{4} \frac{\log^2 x}{\log t} + \dots \right) - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2 \log t}} \frac{\log x}{\log t} + \dots \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \log t}} \left\{ \left(1 - \frac{1}{2 \log t}\right) \log x - \frac{1}{4} \frac{\log^2 x}{\log t} + \dots \right\} \end{aligned}$$

so we set

$$\begin{aligned} a(t) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2 \log t}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2 \log t}\right), \\ A(t) &= -\frac{1}{2 \log t}, \\ G(x) &= \log x, \\ H(x) &= \frac{1}{2} \log^2 x. \end{aligned}$$

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Covered previously

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It can be readily checked that this implies

$$y = (ct)^{1/\alpha} \left\{ 1 + \frac{d}{\alpha} c^{-1-\beta/\alpha} t^{-\beta/\alpha} + o(t^{-\beta/\alpha}) \right\}. \quad (2.38)$$

Therefore, $U(t)$ satisfies the right hand side of (2.38).

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} U(tx) - U(t) &= (cxt)^{1/\alpha} \left\{ 1 + \frac{d}{\alpha} c^{-1-\beta/\alpha} (xt)^{-\beta/\alpha} \right\} - (ct)^{1/\alpha} \left\{ 1 + \frac{d}{\alpha} c^{-1-\beta/\alpha} t^{-\beta/\alpha} \right\} + o(t^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha}) \\ &= (ct)^{1/\alpha} (x^{1/\alpha} - 1) + \frac{d}{\alpha} c^{1/\alpha-1-\beta/\alpha} t^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha} (x^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha} - 1) + o(t^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha}). \end{aligned} \quad (2.39)$$

If we define $a(t) = \alpha^{-1}(ct)^{1/\alpha}$, we get

$$\frac{U(tx) - U(t)}{a(t)} - \frac{x^{1/\alpha} - 1}{1/\alpha} = dc^{-1-\beta/\alpha} t^{-\beta/\alpha} (x^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha} - 1) + o(t^{-\beta/\alpha}),$$

which, however, does not give the form of limit function we are aiming at.

Therefore, we return to (2.39) and rewrite

$$\begin{aligned} U(tx) - U(t) &= \left\{ (ct)^{1/\alpha} + \frac{(1-\beta)d}{\alpha} c^{1/\alpha-1-\beta/\alpha} t^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha} \right\} (x^{1/\alpha} - 1) \\ &\quad + \frac{(1-\beta)d}{\alpha^2} c^{1/\alpha-1-\beta/\alpha} t^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha} \cdot \frac{\alpha}{1-\beta} \left\{ x^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha} - 1 - (1-\beta)(x^{1/\alpha} - 1) \right\} + o(t^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha}). \end{aligned}$$

This seems to be wrong.

Now define $a(t) = \alpha^{-1} \left\{ (ct)^{1/\alpha} + \frac{\beta d}{\alpha} c^{1/\alpha-1-\beta/\alpha} t^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha} \right\}$, $A(t) = -\frac{(1-\beta)d}{\beta} c^{-1-\beta/\alpha} t^{-\beta/\alpha}$, then

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{U(tx) - U(t)}{a(t)} - \frac{x^{1/\alpha} - 1}{(1/\alpha)}}{A(t)} = -\frac{\alpha}{\beta} \left(\frac{x^{1/\alpha-\beta/\alpha} - 1}{1/\alpha - \beta/\alpha} - \frac{x^{1/\alpha} - 1}{1/\alpha} \right).$$

This is precisely of the form (2.37) with $\xi = \frac{1}{\alpha}$, $\rho = -\beta/\alpha$.

2.5 Estimation theory based on second-order asymptotics

We focus here on a paper by Dombry and Ferreira [58], but this is just one of a series of papers going back to the 1980s [224, 61, 56, 74, 57, 174].

Consider an IID random sequence $\{X_i, i = 1, 2, \dots\}$ where the common distribution function is F . Suppose the observations are grouped into blocks of length m , and let $M_{k,m} = \max\{X_i : (k-1)m + 1, \dots, km\}$ be the maximum of the k 'th block. We assume F is in the domain of attraction of the GEV, so that

$$\Pr \left\{ \frac{M_{k,m} - b_m}{a_m} \leq x \right\} = F^m(a_m x + b_m) \rightarrow G_{\xi_0}(x) = \exp \left\{ -(1 + \xi_0 x)_+^{-1/\xi_0} \right\}. \quad (2.40)$$

for some "true value" ξ_0 which we write that way to distinguish it from the unknown parameter ξ in the following likelihood analysis. We define $g_{\xi_0}(x) = \frac{dG_{\xi_0}(x)}{dx} = (1 + \xi_0 x)^{-1/\xi_0 - 1} \exp\left\{- (1 + \xi_0 x)^{-1/\xi_0}\right\}$ defined whenever $1 + \xi_0 x > 0$ to be the density of G_{ξ_0} and let

$$\ell(\mu, \psi, \xi; x) = \log \psi + \log g_{\xi} \left(\frac{x - \mu}{\psi} \right) \quad (2.41)$$

be the log density for arbitrary ξ when the distribution is extended to include a location and scale parameter. The idea is that we treat the block maxima $M_{i,m}$ for $1 \leq i \leq k$ as if their exact distribution was GEV with parameters $\theta = (\mu, \psi, \xi)$ though we know that for finite m this is only an approximation. Define the log likelihood

$$L_{k,m}(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^k \ell(\theta, M_{i,m}) \quad (2.42)$$

In the following, we shall consider a sequence of sample sizes and block lengths k_n, m_n where both k_n and M_n are indexed by n . We define $\hat{\theta}_n = (\hat{\mu}_n, \hat{\psi}_n, \hat{\xi}_n)$ to be a local maximizer of the log likelihood function, or just the MLE for short, if it satisfies the likelihood equations

$$\frac{\partial L_{k,m}(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = 0 \quad (2.43)$$

and if the hessian matrix $\frac{\partial^2 L_{k,m}}{\partial \theta \partial \theta^T}$ is positive definite at $\hat{\theta}_n$.

Dombry and Ferreira differ slightly from the notation of the previous section by defining $V = (-1/\log F)^{\leftarrow}$ (instead of $U = (1/(1-F))^{\leftarrow}$ as previously, though in most cases the two definitions will lead to the same asymptotics). In that context they assume, first, that there exists a_m such that

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{V(mx) - V(m)}{a_m} = \frac{x^{\xi_0} - 1}{\xi_0} \quad (2.44)$$

and, second, that for some positive function $a(t)$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ and some positive or negative function $A(t)$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ with $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} A(t) = 0$,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{V(tx) - V(t)}{a(t)} - \frac{x^{\xi_0} - 1}{\xi_0}}{A(t)} = \int_1^x \int_1^s s^{\xi_0 - 1} u^{\rho - 1} du ds = H_{\xi_0, \rho}(x), \quad x > 0, \quad (2.45)$$

where $\xi_0 > -\frac{1}{2}$, $\rho \leq 0$, the function A is regularly varying with index ρ , and $H_{\xi_0, \rho}$ is given by (2.37) with $\xi = \xi_0$. As noted previously, in any case where a limit of the form (2.45) exists, we can without loss of generality, redefining the functions $a(t)$ and $A(t)$ is necessary, assume that the right hand side is $H_{\xi_0, \rho}(x)$ for suitable $\rho \leq 0$.

Dombry and Ferreira consider limiting cases as $k = k_n \rightarrow \infty$, $m = m_n \rightarrow \infty$ where

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{k_n} A(m_n) = \lambda \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (2.46)$$

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They define $\theta_0 = (0, 1, \xi_0)$ and then

$$Q_{\xi_0}(s) = \frac{(-\log s)^{-\xi_0} - 1}{\xi_0}, \quad s \in (0, 1)$$

$$\mathbf{b}(\xi_0, \rho) = \int_0^1 \frac{\partial^2 \ell}{\partial x \partial \theta}(\theta_0, Q_{\xi_0}(s)) H_{\xi_0, \rho} \left(\frac{1}{-\log s} \right) ds,$$

$$I_{\xi_0} = - \int_0^1 \frac{\partial^2 \ell}{\partial \theta \partial \theta^T}(\theta_0, Q_{\xi_0}(s)) ds.$$

Note that I_{ξ_0} is the Fisher information for the GEV evaluated at θ_0 ; this is the same matrix as was shown in Chapter 1 following [185].

With these preliminaries, Theorem 2.2 of [58] states:

(a) There exists a sequence of estimators $\hat{\theta}_n = (\hat{\mu}_n, \hat{\psi}_n, \hat{\xi}_n)$ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Pr \{ \hat{\theta}_n \text{ is a MLE} \} = 1,$$

$$\sqrt{k_n} \left(\frac{\hat{\mu}_n - b_{m_n}}{a_{m_n}}, \frac{\hat{\psi}_n}{a_{m_n}} - 1, \hat{\xi}_n - \xi_0 \right) \xrightarrow{d} \mathcal{N}(\lambda I_{\xi_0}^{-1} \mathbf{b}, I_{\xi_0}^{-1}).$$

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(b) If $\hat{\theta}_n^i = (\hat{\mu}_n^i, \hat{\psi}_n^i, \hat{\xi}_n^i)$, $i = 1, 2$ are two sequences of estimators satisfying

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Pr \{ \hat{\theta}_n^i \text{ is a MLE} \} = 1,$$

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Pr \left\{ \sqrt{k_n} \left(\frac{\hat{\mu}_n^i - b_{m_n}}{a_{m_n}}, \frac{\hat{\psi}_n^i}{a_{m_n}} - 1, \hat{\xi}_n^i - \xi_0 \right) \in H_n \right\} = 1,$$

where H_n is a ball in \mathbb{R}^3 of center 0 and radius r_n , where $r_n = O(k_n^\delta)$, $0 < \delta < \min(\frac{1}{2}, \xi_0 + \frac{1}{2})$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, then

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \Pr \{ \hat{\theta}_n^1 = \hat{\theta}_n^2 \} = 1.$$

2.5.1 Side Section 1: A heuristic on biased estimation

Suppose we have a sequence of experiments indexed by n , where in the n th experiment there are k_n observations X_1, \dots, X_{k_n} whose true joint density is g_n , but for reasons of convenience or because we don't know how to exactly calculate g_n , we replace g_n by a known joint density f_n indexed by a parameter vector θ_n . The examples of interest to us include the X_i 's being either block maxima or exceedances over a threshold and their density f_n being approximated by a GEV or GPD density. We will always want $f_n - g_n \rightarrow 0$ under some suitable metric (e.g. total variation norm or Hellinger distance) but we won't worry about precise modes of convergence for the moment — that can come later.

Suppose we estimate θ by defining a set of equations

$$\sum_{i=1}^{k_n} \mathbf{T}(X_i; \theta) = 0$$