

Weibull-Bayesian Estimation Based on Maximum Ranked Set Sampling with Unequal Samples

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Abstract

A modification of ranked set sampling (RSS) called maximum ranked set sampling with unequal sample (MRSSU) is considered for the Bayesian estimation of scale parameter α of the Weibull distribution. Under this method, we use Linex loss function, conjugate and Jeffreys prior distributions to derive the Bayesian estimate of α . In order to measure the efficiency of the obtained Bayesian estimates with respect to the Bayesian estimates of simple random sampling (SRS), we compute the bias, mean squared error (MSE) and asymptotic relative efficiency of the obtained Bayesian estimates using simulation. It is shown that the proposed estimates are found to be more efficient than the corresponding one based on SRS.

Keywords

Bayesian Estimation, Loss Function, MRSSU, SRS, RSS

1. Introduction

In certain practical problems, actual measurements of a variable interest are costly or time-consuming, but the ranking items according to the variable is relatively easy without actual measurement. Under such circumstances McIntyre [1] proposed a sampling scheme called ranked-set sampling (RSS) which can be employed to gain more information than simple random sampling (SRS), while keeping the cost of, or the time constraint on, the sampling about the same. In RSS; one first draws m^2 units at random from the population and partition them into m sets of m units. The m units in each set are ranked without making, an actual measurement. The first set of m units are ranked and the smallest is selected for actual quantification. From the second set of m units, the unit ranked and the second smallest is measured, and so on. This method of selection continues until the unit ranked largest is measured from the m -th set. If a

large sample is required, then the procedure can be repeated r times to obtain a sample of size $n = rm$. These chosen elements are called ranked set sampling. The mathematical support and statistical theory was provided by Takahasi and Wakimoto [2]. Dell and Clutter [3] studied theoretical aspects of this technique on the assumption of perfect and imperfect judgment ranking. Shaibu and Muttlak [4] used median and extreme ranked set sampling method for estimating the parameters of normal, exponential and gamma distributions. Al-Omari *et al.* [5] Used extreme ranked set sampling method to find the estimates of the population mean. Islam *et al.* [6] Obtained the modified maximum likelihood estimator of location and scale parameters depend on selected ranked set sampling for normal distribution. Ibrahim and Syam [7] used stratified median ranked set sampling method for estimating the population mean.

Some research works have investigated ranked set sampling from a Bayesian point of view. Varian [8] and Zellner [9] introduced Bayesian estimation by using asymmetric loss functions. Al-Saleh and Muttlak [10] obtained the Bayesian estimates of the exponential distribution. Ahmed [11] obtained the Bayesian estimators of log-normal distribution based on RSS and SRS using Bayes risk. Sadek *et al.* [12], and Sadek and Alharbi [13] used the asymmetric loss function to obtain the Bayesian estimate of the exponential and Weibull distributions respectively, based on SRS and RSS. Al-Hadhrani and Al-Omari [14] showed that the Bayesian estimation of the mean of normal distribution based on moving extreme ranked set sampling (MERSS) is more efficient than SRS. Hassan [15] obtained the maximum likelihood estimator and Bayesian estimates of shape and scale parameters of the exponentiated exponential distribution based on SRS and RSS. For more research work on Bayesian one may refer to Mohammadi and Pazira [16], Ghafoori *et al.* [17], Said Ali Al-Hadhrani and Amer Ibrahim Al-Omari [18], Mohie El-Din *et al.* [19].

In this paper, we derive the Bayesian estimates of the Weibull scale parameter α based on gamma and Jeffreys prior distributions by MRSSU method proposed by Biradar and Santosha [20]. In Section 2, the preliminaries are discussed. The Bayesian estimates under SEL and LINEX loss functions of the parameter of Weibull distribution using SRS and MRSSU are presented in Section 3. Simulation results and Conclusions are presented in Section 4 and 5 respectively.

2. Preliminaries

Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_m be a sequence of independent and identically distributed (iid) random variables from a Weibull distribution with probability density function (pdf)

$$f(x) = \alpha\beta x^{\beta-1} e^{-\alpha x^\beta}, \quad x \geq 0, \alpha > 0, \beta > 0 \quad (1)$$

And cumulative distribution function (cdf)

$$F(x, \alpha, \beta) = 1 - e^{-\alpha x^\beta}, \quad x \geq 0, \alpha > 0. \quad (2)$$

where α is the scale parameter and β is shape parameter.

In order to derive, and to measure the performance of an estimator we use squared error, loss function (SEL) (see, Berger [21]) and Linex loss function.

The Linex loss function for the parameter α can be expressed as

$$L(\Delta) = d(e^{c\Delta} - c\Delta - 1),$$

where $\Delta = (\hat{\alpha} - \alpha)$; $\hat{\alpha}$ is an estimate of α and, c and d are shaped and scale parameters. The sign and magnitude of the shape parameter c indicate that the direction and degree of symmetry, respectively. When the value of c is zero, the Linex loss function is approximately squared error loss, when c is less than zero, the Linex loss function gives more weight to under-estimation against over-estimation, and it is reversed when c value is greater than zero. The conjugate prior for α , $Gamma(a, b)$ is considered, whose pdf is given by

$$\pi(\alpha) = \frac{b^a \alpha^{a-1}}{\Gamma(a)} e^{-b\alpha}, \quad 0 < \alpha < \infty, \tag{3}$$

where $a, b > 0$. If $a = b = 0$, then $\pi(\alpha)$ becomes the Jeffreys prior.

3. Bayesian Estimates

In this section, we derive the Bayes estimates of the Weibull parameter α based on simple random sampling and maximum ranked set sampling with unequal samples by assuming that the shape parameter β is known. In each case, we use both conjugate and non-informative prior for the scale parameter α . Also, we use the symmetric loss function (squared error loss) and asymmetric loss function (Linear-exponential, Linex) to derive the corresponding Bayesian estimates. And we denote $k(\alpha | \underline{X})$ and $k(\alpha | \underline{Y})$ as posterior densities of α , given SRS(\underline{X}) and RSS(\underline{Y}) respectively.

3.1. Bayesian Estimation Based on SRS

Let X_1, X_2, \dots, X_m be a sequence of iid random variables, has the Weibull distribution with parameters (α, β) and $\pi(\alpha)$ be the conjugate prior. In this case, the posterior density based on SRS is given by

$$k(\alpha | \underline{x}) = \frac{\alpha^{m+a-1} e^{-\alpha \left(b + \sum_{i=1}^m X_i^\beta \right)} \left(b + \sum_{i=1}^m X_i^\beta \right)^{-(m+a)}}{\Gamma(m+a)}. \tag{4}$$

Hence, the Bayesian estimation of α depend on squared error loss (SEL) is $\theta_{Sel}^* = E(\theta | \underline{X})$ because the Bayes estimate with respect to SEL is the posterior mean then

$$\alpha_{Sel}^*(\underline{X}) = \int_0^\infty \alpha k(\alpha | \underline{x}) d\alpha = \frac{m+a}{b + \sum_{i=1}^m X_i^\beta}. \tag{5}$$

While the Bayesian estimate of α based on Linex loss function is

$$\alpha_{Lnx}^* = -\frac{1}{c} \ln \left[E(e^{-c\alpha}) \right]$$

where,

$$E(e^{-c\alpha}) = \frac{\left(b + \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^\beta\right)^{m+a} \int_0^\infty e^{-\alpha\left(b + \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^\beta\right)} \alpha^{m+a-1} d\alpha}{\Gamma(m+a)}$$

Then,

$$\alpha_{\text{Inx}}^*(\underline{X}) = -\frac{1}{c} \ln \left[\frac{b + \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^\beta}{b + \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^\beta + c} \right]^{(m+a)}. \tag{6}$$

3.2. Bayesian Estimation Based on MRSSU

Assume that the variable of interest X has density function $f(x|\alpha)$ and distribution function $F(x|\alpha)$ is known. Let $\{X_{i1}, X_{i2}, \dots, X_{ii}\}$, $i=1, \dots, m$ be m sets of random samples from X , and they are independent. Denote, $Y_i = \text{Max}\{X_{i1}, X_{i2}, \dots, X_{ii}\}$, $i=1, \dots, m$. Let Y_1 is taken from the first set, Y_2 is taken from the second set and Y_m is taken from the last set, then $\{Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_m\}$ be a one cycle MRSSU from X and all Y_i 's are independent. In this study we assume that there is no error in ranking. The density of Y_i has the same density as the i^{th} order statistic (maximum) of an SRS of size i from $f(y, \alpha)$, i.e., Y_i has the density

$$f(y_i|\alpha) = i[F(y, \alpha)]^{i-1} f(y, \alpha).$$

Let MRSSU be drawn from Weibull distribution, then the density function of Y_i is

$$f(y_i|\alpha) = i \left[1 - e^{-\alpha y_i^\beta}\right]^{i-1} \alpha \beta y_i^{\beta-1} e^{-\alpha y_i^\beta} = \sum_{q=0}^{i-1} i \binom{i-1}{q} (-1)^q \alpha \beta y_i^{\beta-1} e^{-\alpha y_i^\beta (q+1)}.$$

Then the joint density of MRSSU in this case due to independence of y_i 's is given by

$$\begin{aligned} g(\underline{y}|\alpha) &= \prod_{i=1}^m f(y_i|\alpha) = \prod_{i=1}^m \sum_{q=0}^{i-1} i \binom{i-1}{q} (-1)^q \alpha \beta y_i^{\beta-1} e^{-\alpha y_i^\beta (q+1)} \\ &= \sum_{k_1=0}^0 \sum_{k_2=0}^1 \dots \sum_{k_m=0}^{m-1} \left[\prod_{i=1}^m A_k(i) \right] \alpha^m \beta^m D_k(i) \prod_{i=1}^m y_i^{\beta-1}, \quad y_i > 0 \end{aligned}$$

where $A_k(i) = i \binom{i-1}{k_i} (-1)^{k_i}$ and $D_k(i) = e^{-\alpha \sum_{i=1}^m y_i^\beta (k_i+1)}$.

Then the posterior density of α is

$$\begin{aligned} k(\alpha|\underline{y}) &= \frac{\pi(\alpha) g(\underline{y}|\alpha)}{\int_0^\infty \pi(\alpha) g(\underline{y}|\alpha) d\alpha} = \frac{\sum_{k_1=0}^0 \sum_{k_2=0}^1 \dots \sum_{k_m=0}^{m-1} \left[\prod_{i=1}^m A_k(i) \right] \alpha^{m+a-1} e^{-\alpha \left(\sum_{i=1}^m y_i^\beta (k_i+1) + b\right)}}{\sum_{k_1=0}^0 \sum_{k_2=0}^1 \dots \sum_{k_m=0}^{m-1} \left[\prod_{i=1}^m A_k(i) \right] \int_0^\infty \alpha^{m+a-1} e^{-\alpha \left(\sum_{i=1}^m y_i^\beta (k_i+1) + b\right)} d\alpha} \\ &= \frac{\sum_{k_1=0}^0 \sum_{k_2=0}^1 \dots \sum_{k_m=0}^{m-1} \left[\prod_{i=1}^m A_k(i) \right] \alpha^{m+a-1} e^{-\alpha \left(\sum_{i=1}^m y_i^\beta (k_i+1) + b\right)}}{\sum_{k_1=0}^0 \sum_{k_2=0}^1 \dots \sum_{k_m=0}^{m-1} \left[\prod_{i=1}^m A_k(i) \right] \Gamma(m+a) \left(\sum_{i=1}^m y_i^\beta (k_i+1) + b\right)^{-(m+a)}}. \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

The Bayes estimate of α based on the squared error loss function is

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\alpha}_{Sel}(\underline{Y}) &= E(\alpha | \underline{Y}) = \int_0^\infty \alpha k(\alpha | \underline{y}) d\alpha \\ &= \frac{\sum_{k_1=0}^0 \sum_{k_2=0}^1 \cdots \sum_{k_m=0}^{m-1} \left[\prod_{i=1}^m A_k(i) \right] \int_0^\infty \alpha^{m+a-1} e^{-\alpha \left(\sum_{i=1}^m y_i^\beta (k_i+1) + b + c \right)} d\alpha}{\sum_{k_1=0}^0 \sum_{k_2=0}^1 \cdots \sum_{k_m=0}^{m-1} \left[\prod_{i=1}^m A_k(i) \right] \Gamma(m+a) \left(\sum_{i=1}^m y_i^\beta (k_i+1) + b \right)^{-(m+a)}} \\ &= \frac{\sum_{k_1=0}^0 \sum_{k_2=0}^1 \cdots \sum_{k_m=0}^{m-1} \left[\prod_{i=1}^m A_k(i) \right] (m+a) \left(\sum_{i=1}^m y_i^\beta (k_i+1) + b \right)^{-(m+a+1)}}{\sum_{k_1=0}^0 \sum_{k_2=0}^1 \cdots \sum_{k_m=0}^{m-1} \left[\prod_{i=1}^m A_k(i) \right] \left(\sum_{i=1}^m y_i^\beta (k_i+1) + b \right)^{-(m+a)}}. \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

Next, in order to derive the Bayesian estimation of α based on LINEX loss function, first we need to compute the posterior expectation of $e^{-c\alpha}$ from Equation (7) as

$$E(e^{-c\alpha}) = \frac{\sum_{k_1=0}^0 \sum_{k_2=0}^1 \cdots \sum_{k_m=0}^{m-1} \left[\prod_{i=1}^m A_k(i) \right] \left(\sum_{i=1}^m y_i^\beta (k_i+1) + b + c \right)^{-(m+a)}}{\sum_{k_1=0}^0 \sum_{k_2=0}^1 \cdots \sum_{k_m=0}^{m-1} \left[\prod_{i=1}^m A_k(i) \right] \left(\sum_{i=1}^m y_i^\beta (k_i+1) + b \right)^{-(m+a)}}. \tag{9}$$

Now the Bayesian estimation of α on LINEX is

$$\tilde{\alpha}_{Lnx} = -\frac{1}{c} \ln \left[E(e^{-c\alpha}) \right]. \tag{10}$$

where $E[e^{-c\alpha}]$ is as derived in Equation (9).

3.3. Bayesian Estimation Based on Non-Informative Prior

The non-informative prior distribution of the parameter α is obtained from Equation (3) and it is given by $\pi(\alpha) \propto \frac{1}{\alpha}, \alpha > 0$. Then, we obtain the Bayesian estimates of α in this case as follows:

1) Simple Random Sample:

$$\alpha_{Sel}^{*j}(\underline{X}) = \frac{m}{\sum_{i=1}^m x_i}. \tag{11}$$

and

$$\alpha_{Lnx}^{*j}(\underline{X}) = -\frac{1}{c} \ln \left[\frac{\sum_{i=1}^m x_i^\beta}{\sum_{i=1}^m x_i^\beta + c} \right]^m. \tag{12}$$

2) Maximum ranked set sampling with unequal samples:

$$\tilde{\alpha}_{Sel}^j(\underline{Y}) = \frac{\sum_{k_1=0}^0 \sum_{k_2=0}^1 \cdots \sum_{k_m=0}^{m-1} \left[\prod_{i=1}^m A_k(i) \right] m \left(\sum_{i=1}^m y_i^\beta (k_i+1) \right)^{-(m+1)}}{\sum_{k_1=0}^0 \sum_{k_2=0}^1 \cdots \sum_{k_m=0}^{m-1} \left[\prod_{i=1}^m A_k(i) \right] \left(\sum_{i=1}^m y_i^\beta (k_i+1) \right)^{-m}}. \tag{13}$$

and

$$\tilde{\alpha}_{Lnx}^j = -\frac{1}{c} \ln \left[\frac{\sum_{k_1=0}^0 \sum_{k_2=0}^1 \dots \sum_{k_m=0}^{m-1} \left[\prod_{i=1}^m A_k(i) \right] \left(\sum_{i=1}^m y_i^\beta (k_i + 1) + c \right)^{-m}}{\sum_{k_1=0}^0 \sum_{k_2=0}^1 \dots \sum_{k_m=0}^{m-1} \left[\prod_{i=1}^m A_k(i) \right] \left(\sum_{i=1}^m y_i^\beta (k_i + 1) \right)^{-m}} \right]. \tag{14}$$

4. Simulation Results

To illustrate the performance of the derived Bayesian estimates of scale parameter (α) of the Weibull distribution with informative and non-informative prior based on SRS and MRSSU, we carry out the Monte Carlo simulations using R-Software version 3.1.1. We compute bias, mean squared error and relative efficiency of the estimators by assuming the shape parameter $\beta (= 0.5)$ is known. The numerical results obtained for fixed values of α , [$\alpha = 0.5$ and 1] and sample size m [3, 4 and 5] for 1000 runs. The bias of the Bayesian estimates based on SRS and MRSSU are presented in **Table 1** and **Table 2**, and MSE of the Bayesian estimates based on SRS and MRSSU is presented in **Table 3** and **Table 4**.

Table 1. Bias of the Bayesian estimates based on SRS and MRSSU. For $\alpha = 0.5$ (when $\beta = 0.5$, $a = 1$, $b = 0.5$).

m	Bias(α_{Srs})		Bias(α_{Srs})		c	Bias(α_{Lnx})		Bias(α_{Lnx})	
	SRS	MRSSU	SRS	MRSSU		Jeffrey prior	MRSSU	SRS	MRSSU
3	0.2487	0.1151	0.3420	0.1811	1	0.1379	0.0750	0.2433	0.1401
					-1	0.4071	0.1689	0.5318	0.2335
4	0.1585	0.0636	0.2355	0.1068	1	0.0914	0.0429	0.1733	0.0853
					-1	0.2454	0.0874	0.3207	0.1314
5	0.1255	0.0424	0.1936	0.0731	1	0.0794	-0.0538	0.1481	0.0231
					-1	0.1831	-0.0064	0.2536	0.0664

Table 2. Bias of the Bayesian estimates based on SRS and MRSSU. For $\alpha = 1$ (when $\beta = 0.5$, $a = 1$, $b = 0.5$).

m	Bias(α_{Srs})		Bias(α_{Srs})		c	Bias(α_{Lnx})		Bias(α_{Lnx})	
	SRS	MRSSU	SRS	MRSSU		Jeffrey prior	MRSSU	SRS	MRSSU
3	0.4975	0.2302	0.4778	0.2781	1	0.1369	0.0853	0.2209	0.1484
					-1	0.8876	0.4671	1.0272	0.4803
4	0.3171	0.1271	0.3422	0.1700	1	0.0883	0.0493	0.1626	0.0954
					-1	0.7232	0.2321	0.6499	0.2657
5	0.2510	0.0848	0.2939	0.1190	1	0.0864	-0.1250	0.1523	-0.0088
					-1	0.5139	0.0508	0.5115	0.1397

The relative efficiency of the Bayesian estimates based on maximum ranked set sampling with unequal samples with respect to simple random sampling can be defined as follows

$$eff_{(Sel)} = \frac{MSE_{SRS}(\alpha_{Sel})}{MSE_{MRSSU}(\alpha_{Sel})} \quad \text{and} \quad eff_{(Lnx)} = \frac{MSE_{SRS}(\alpha_{Lnx})}{MSE_{MRSSU}(\alpha_{Lnx})}$$

And are presented in **Table 5**.

Table 3. MSE of the Bayesian estimates based on SRS and MRSSU. For $\alpha = 0.5$ (when $\beta = 0.5$, $a = 1$, $b = 0.5$).

<i>m</i>	MSE(α_{Sel})		MSE(α_{Sel})		<i>c</i>	MSE(α_{Lnx})		MSE(α_{Lnx})	
	Jeffrey prior		Gamma prior			Jeffrey prior		Gamma prior	
	SRS	MRSSU	SRS	MRSSU		SRS	MRSSU	SRS	MRSSU
3	0.4193	0.1147	0.3899	0.1357	1	0.1849	0.0800	0.2179	0.0980
					-1	1.0296	0.1870	1.2535	0.2015
4	0.2850	0.0555	0.2470	0.0651	1	0.1389	0.0450	0.1524	0.0528
					-1	0.4709	0.0712	0.4577	0.0823
5	0.1584	0.0304	0.1696	0.0355	1	0.1004	0.0387	0.1170	0.0505
					-1	0.2593	0.0615	0.2823	0.0542

Table 4. MSE of the Bayesian estimates based on SRS and MRSSU. For $\alpha = 1$ (when $\beta = 0.5$, $a = 1$, $b = 0.5$).

<i>m</i>	MSE(α_{Sel})		MSE(α_{Sel})		<i>c</i>	MSE(α_{Lnx})		MSE(α_{Lnx})	
	Jeffrey prior		Gamma prior			Jeffrey prior		Gamma prior	
	SRS	MRSSU	SRS	MRSSU		SRS	MRSSU	SRS	MRSSU
3	1.6772	0.4586	0.8381	0.3874	1	0.4288	0.2397	0.3299	0.2208
					-1	3.9104	1.2337	3.8436	0.8687
4	1.1400	0.2220	0.5929	0.2103	1	0.3550	0.1507	0.2771	0.1453
					-1	3.0419	0.3914	1.7406	0.3360
5	0.6337	0.1215	0.4605	0.1228	1	0.2852	0.1327	0.2464	0.1168
					-1	1.6544	0.3654	1.0991	0.2718

Table 5. Relative efficiency when $\alpha = 0.5$ and $\alpha = 1$.

<i>m</i>	$eff_{(Sel)}$ -Jeffrey		$eff_{(Sel)}$ -Gamma		<i>c</i>	$eff_{(Lnx)}$ -Jeffrey		$eff_{(Lnx)}$ -Gamma	
	$\alpha = 0.5$	$\alpha = 1$	$\alpha = 0.5$	$\alpha = 1$		$\alpha = 0.5$	$\alpha = 1$	$\alpha = 0.5$	$\alpha = 1$
3	3.6570	3.6570	2.8736	2.1630	1	2.3096	1.7889	2.2232	1.4942
					-1	5.5066	3.1696	6.2195	4.4246
4	5.1355	5.1355	3.7963	2.8197	1	3.0854	2.3558	2.8862	1.9076
					-1	6.6168	7.7715	5.5641	5.1806
5	5.2143	5.2143	4.7793	3.7483	1	1.7104	2.1492	2.3176	2.1088
					-1	2.3269	4.5273	5.2070	4.0432

5. Conclusions

We present Bayesian estimation based on SRS and MRSSU. The Weibull distribution is used as an application example to illustrate our results. We compute bias, MSE and relative efficiency of the derived Bayesian estimates and then make a comparison between SRS and MRSSU. Our observations of the results are stated in the following points:

1) From **Table 1** and **Table 2**, first, we found that the Bayesian estimates of α are all biased. Next, we found that the Bayesian estimates based on Jeffreys prior are less biased than gamma prior. Also, we observed that the Bayesian estimates based on MRSSU are considerably less biased than SRS.

2) From **Table 3** and **Table 4**, it is observed that the mean squared error of all estimates decreases when sample size m increases. Next, we observed that the Bayesian estimates based on MRSSU have a much smaller mean squared error than the corresponding Bayesian estimates based on SRS in all cases considered.

3) From **Table 5**, we observe that the relative efficiency of the Bayesian estimator based on MRSSU w.r.t. SRS Bayesian estimators are greater than 1 and increases with m . Also, decreases in Linex function as m increases for $m = 5$.

Therefore, we conclude that the Bayesian estimates based on maximum ranked set sampling with unequal samples are more efficient than the corresponding Bayesian estimates of simple random sampling.

Finally, we conclude that the results of the simulation experiment showed that the Bayesian estimates based on maximum ranked set sampling with unequal samples are more efficient, when compared with the Bayesian estimates of simple random sampling.

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