

# Nonnegative Definiteness of the Estimated Dispersion Matrix in a Multivariate Linear Model

by

Friedrich PUKELSHEIM and George P. H. STYAN

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**Summary.** Estimation is considered in a model where both the mean vector and the dispersion matrix have linear decompositions. It is shown that after an invariance reduction with respect to mean translation, MINQUE provides a nonnegative definite estimate of the dispersion matrix, when the decomposing matrices span a quadratic subspace of symmetric matrices. With normality, MINQUE is seen to equal the restricted maximum likelihood estimate and to be of uniformly minimum variance.

**1. Introduction.** Consider independent and identically distributed random  $R^n$ -vectors  $\mathbf{Y}_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha=1, \dots, N$ , with common mean vector  $\sum_{\pi=1}^p b_\pi \mathbf{x}_\pi$  and common dispersion matrix  $\sum_{\kappa=1}^k t_\kappa \mathbf{V}_\kappa$ , where interest concentrates on estimating the vector  $\mathbf{t} := (t_1, \dots, t_k)'$  of dispersion coefficients. Various procedures have been put forward and discussed in the literature: (i) minimum norm unbiased quadratic invariant estimation (MINQUE, C.R. Rao [8, p. 302]), and, under normality, (ii) uniform minimum variance unbiased invariant estimation (UMVU, Seely [9]), and (iii) restricted (by invariance) maximum likelihood estimation (REML, Corbeil, Searle [2]). In this paper invariance is to be understood with respect to the group of all mean translations  $\{\mathbf{y} \rightarrow \mathbf{y} + \Sigma b_\pi \mathbf{x}_\pi \mid (b_1, \dots, b_p)' \in R^p\}$ , a maximal invariant statistic being  $\mathbf{M}\mathbf{Y}$  where  $\mathbf{M}$  projects orthogonally onto the orthogonal complement of the space spanned by  $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_p$ ; hence reduction by invariance yields the residual vectors  $\mathbf{M}\mathbf{Y}_\alpha$  with mean  $\mathbf{0}$  and dispersion matrix  $\Sigma t_\kappa \mathbf{M}\mathbf{V}_\kappa \mathbf{M}$ .

Our main result may be roughly summarized as follows: If estimates according to each of the three procedures above exist, then they coincide, and the common estimate  $\hat{\mathbf{t}}$  yields a nonnegative definite estimate  $\Sigma \hat{t}_\kappa \mathbf{M}\mathbf{V}_\kappa \mathbf{M}$  of the dispersion matrix in the invariance reduced model. This holds true for any *finite* sample size  $N \geq v := \text{rank } \mathbf{M}$ , in contrast to asymptotic results on consistency as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ , cf. Anderson [1].

In Section 2, the invariance reduced model is discussed in a normal setting, and Section 3 is concerned with the linear model situation.

\*) Address for correspondence: George P. H. Styan, Department of Mathematics, McGill University, Burnside Hall, 805 Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal, Québec, Canada H3A 2K6.



The vital assumption is the condition of Seely [9] that  $MV_1 M, \dots, MV_k M$  span a  $k$ -dimensional quadratic subspace  $\mathcal{B}$  of symmetric  $n \times n$  matrices. The subspace  $\mathcal{B}$  is quadratic if and only if  $A^2 \in \mathcal{B}$  whenever  $A \in \mathcal{B}$ , i.e.,  $\mathcal{B}$  is closed under the multiplication  $A \circ B := \frac{1}{2}(AB + BA)$ . Jensen [4] points out that the latter property makes  $\mathcal{B}$  into a  $k$ -dimensional special Jordan algebra, and we shall adopt this more informative terminology. For a discussion with no initial invariance reduction see Gnot, Klonecki, Zmyślony [3].

**2. The Normal Model.** We will use the isomorphism *vec* that maps a matrix into a vector by ordering its entries lexicographically, see Pukelsheim [7].

**THEOREM 1.** Consider independent and identically normally distributed random  $R^v$ -vectors  $Z_\alpha$  with common mean  $\mathbf{0}$  and common dispersion matrix  $\Sigma t_\kappa \mathbf{W}_\kappa$ , where  $N \geq v$ . Assume that the  $k$  decomposing matrices  $\mathbf{W}_\kappa$  span a  $k$ -dimensional special Jordan algebra  $\mathcal{B}$ . Define  $G \subset R^k$  to be the region of those values  $\mathbf{t}$  of the dispersion parameter such that  $\Sigma t_\kappa \mathbf{W}_\kappa$  is positive definite, and assume  $G \neq \emptyset$ . Then:

(a) The maximum likelihood estimator for  $\mathbf{t} \in G$  is almost surely equal to the uniform minimum variance unbiased estimator  $\hat{\mathbf{t}} := (\mathbf{D}' \mathbf{D})^{-1} \mathbf{D}' \cdot \text{vec } \mathbf{S}$ , where  $\mathbf{D} := [\text{vec } \mathbf{W}_1; \dots; \text{vec } \mathbf{W}_k]$ , and  $\mathbf{S} := \Sigma Z_\alpha Z_\alpha' / N$ .

(b) The estimated dispersion matrix  $\hat{\mathbf{W}} := \Sigma \hat{t}_\kappa \mathbf{W}_\kappa$  is nonnegative definite; in fact, if the sample dispersion matrix  $\mathbf{S}$  is positive definite, so is  $\hat{\mathbf{W}}$ .

**Proof.** (a) Since  $G$  is open and connected it is a region, and its boundary  $\partial G$  consists of those  $\mathbf{t} \in R^k$  such that  $\Sigma t_\kappa \mathbf{W}_\kappa$  is nonnegative definite and singular. The sample dispersion matrix  $\mathbf{S}$  is almost surely positive definite. If  $\mathbf{t}$  tends to  $\partial G$ , or  $\|\mathbf{t}\|$  tends to  $\infty$ , the likelihood function  $L$  tends to zero [1, p. 5]. Since  $L$  is positive in  $G$  there exists a maximum in  $G$ , and no maximum lies on the boundary  $\partial G$ . Hence the maximum likelihood estimate is a solution of the likelihood equations

$$(1) \quad \mathbf{D}' \mathbf{F}^{-1} \mathbf{D} \hat{\mathbf{t}} = \mathbf{D}' \mathbf{F}^{-1} \text{vec } \mathbf{S},$$

where the matrix of fourth moments

$$(2) \quad \mathbf{F} = \mathbf{F}(\hat{\mathbf{t}}) := (\Sigma \hat{t}_\kappa \mathbf{W}_\kappa) \otimes (\Sigma \hat{t}_\kappa \mathbf{W}_\kappa).$$

If  $\mathbf{F}$  in (1) is put equal to  $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{t}_0)$  for some given  $\mathbf{t}_0 \in G$ , then (1) is a set of weighted normal equations, cf. [7, p. 628], and hence yields a minimum variance unbiased estimator for the vector parameter  $\mathbf{t}$ . Since the matrices  $\mathbf{W}_\kappa$  span a special Jordan algebra, there exists an almost surely unique uniform minimum variance unbiased invariant estimator which does not depend on the choice of  $\mathbf{t}_0 \in G$ . Thus

$$(3) \quad \hat{\mathbf{t}} = (\mathbf{D}' \mathbf{D})^{-1} \mathbf{D}' \text{vec } \mathbf{S},$$

since  $G \neq \emptyset$  implies the existence of a nonsingular matrix  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathcal{B}$ , and so  $\mathbf{B}^{-1} \in \mathcal{B}$  and  $\mathbf{I}_v = \mathbf{B} \circ \mathbf{B}^{-1} \in \mathcal{B}$ ; the matrix  $\mathbf{F}$  in (1) may, therefore, be set equal to  $\mathbf{I}_{v^2} = \mathbf{I}_v \otimes \mathbf{I}_v$ .

(b) As a linear operator on the space of symmetric matrices,  $\hat{\mathbf{t}}$  is surjective and hence open, and so if for some positive definite matrix  $\mathbf{S}_0$  the value  $\hat{\mathbf{t}}(\mathbf{S}_0) \notin G$ ,



the same is true for an open neighbourhood of  $S_0$ , i.e., for a set of positive Lebesgue measure. This contradicts part (a) that  $\hat{t}$  maps into  $G$  almost surely. For a singular sample dispersion matrix  $S$ , consider the limit  $S + \varepsilon I_v$  as  $\varepsilon$  tends to zero. Q.E.D.

Part (a) may also be obtained from a reparametrization by  $\theta = \theta(t)$ , where the bijection  $\theta$  from  $G$  onto  $G$  solves  $\Sigma \theta_{\kappa}(t) W_{\kappa} = (\Sigma t_{\kappa} W_{\kappa})^{-1}$ , as introduced by Seely [9, p. 715]. In this case one obtains an exponential family in the vector parameter  $\theta$  and standard theory applies, cf. Anderson [1]. A theorem proved by Mäkeläinen, Schmidt, Styan [6] may be used to obtain uniqueness of the solution to the likelihood equations (1).

**3. The Multivariate Linear Model.** We now return to the linear, but not necessarily normal, model discussed in Section 1.

**THEOREM 2.** *Consider independent and identically distributed random  $R^n$ -vectors  $Y_{\alpha}$ ,  $\alpha=1, \dots, N$ , with common mean vector  $\Sigma b_{\pi} x_{\pi}$  and common dispersion matrix  $\Sigma t_{\kappa} V_{\kappa}$ , where  $N \geq v = \text{rank } M$ . Assume that the  $k$  matrices  $MV_{\kappa}M$  span a  $k$ -dimensional special Jordan algebra  $\mathcal{B}$  that contains  $M$ . Let  $D_M := [\text{vec } MV_1 M : \dots : \text{vec } MV_k M]$ . Then the MINQUE*

$$(4) \quad \hat{t} = (D'_M D_M)^{-1} D'_M \cdot \text{vec } S$$

for  $t$  yields a nonnegative definite estimate  $\Sigma \hat{t}_{\kappa} MV_{\kappa} M$  of the invariance reduced dispersion matrix, this estimate being of rank  $v$  if  $S := \Sigma MY_{\alpha} (MY'_{\alpha})' / N$  is of rank  $v$ .

**Proof.** It is easily checked that  $\hat{t}$  is the MINQUE in the enlarged model  $[Y'_1 M : \dots : Y'_N M]' \sim (0, \Sigma t_{\kappa} I_N \otimes MV_{\kappa} M)$ . The rest will be proved by reference to Theorem 1. Choose an  $n \times v$  full rank  $v$  factor  $Q$  of  $M$ , i.e.,  $M = QQ'$  and  $Q'Q = I_v$ ; then  $Q'Y$  is another maximal invariant statistic [5, p. 707]. For the sole reason of proof, add a normality assumption. Then Theorem 1 is applicable to  $Z_{\alpha} := Q'Y_{\alpha}$  and yields the same  $\hat{t}$  as in (4); and the results on  $\Sigma \hat{t}_{\kappa} Q'V_{\kappa}Q$  imply the assertions on  $\Sigma \hat{t}_{\kappa} MV_{\kappa} M$ . Q.E.D.

If a normality assumption is added to Theorem 2, then using Theorem 1, we obtain the following:

**COROLLARY.** *If the common distribution of  $Y_1, \dots, Y_N$  is normal, then  $\hat{t}$  is the UMVU and REML estimate of  $t$ , as well as the MINQUE.*

Examples may be found in Corbeil and Searle [2]. In each one of their four cases a special Jordan algebra is present: equality of MINQUE (i.e., ANOVA estimators) and REML is implied by the Corollary and need not be checked explicitly, nor need the likelihood equations be solved iteratively.

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INSTITUT FÜR MATHEMATISCHE STOCHASTIK, ALBERT-LUDWIGS-UNIVERSITÄT, D-7800 FREIBURG IM BREISGAU (FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY) AND DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS, STANFORD UNIVERSITY, STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305 (USA)

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, MCGILL UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL, QUEBEC, H3A 2K6 (CANADA)

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Ф. Пукельшейм, Д. П. Х. Стыан, **Неотрицательная определенность оценивания дисперсионной матрицы в многомерной линейной модели**

**Содержание.** В работе рассматривается оценка в модели, где средний вектор и дисперсионная матрица обладают линейными разложениями. Показано, что после инвариантности редукции по отношению к среднему переносу, MINQUE даёт неотрицательную определенную оценку дисперсионной матрицы, когда разложимые матрицы охватывают квадратные подпространства симметричных матриц. По нормальности, MINQUE считается равным ограниченному наибольшему правдоподобию оценки и есть равномерным минимумом дисперсии.