

Consider the following constrained likelihood function

$$\mathcal{L} = \log L(\theta) + \lambda'G(\theta), \quad (1)$$

where  $G$  is the vector of active constraints,  $\theta$  is a  $P \times 1$  vector of parameters, and  $\lambda$  is a  $R \times 1$  vector of Lagrange multipliers.

The first order condition is

$$\frac{\partial \log L(\hat{\theta})}{\partial \theta} - \hat{\lambda}'\dot{G}(\hat{\theta}) = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$G = 0 \quad (3)$$

Under some regularity conditions,  $\hat{\theta} \rightarrow \theta_0$ , and we can assume

$$\hat{\lambda}'\dot{G}(\hat{\theta}) \approx \hat{\lambda}'\dot{G}(\theta_0) \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{\partial \log L(\hat{\theta})}{\partial \theta} \approx \frac{\partial \log L(\theta_0)}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial^2 \log L(\hat{\theta})}{\partial \theta \partial \theta'}(\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) \quad (5)$$

$$G(\hat{\theta}) \approx \dot{G}(\theta_0)(\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) \quad (6)$$

Let

$$H = \frac{\partial^2 \log L}{\partial \theta \partial \theta'} \quad (7)$$

denote the Hessian of the (unconstrained) log likelihood, and

$$\dot{G} = \frac{\partial G}{\partial \theta}, \quad (8)$$

the Jacobian of the active constraints. Upon substituting our approximations and dividing by  $\sqrt{n}$  and rearranging, we obtain

$$\begin{bmatrix} \sqrt{n}(\hat{\theta} - \theta_0) \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}\hat{\lambda} \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{n}H & \dot{G}' \\ \dot{G} & 0 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}\frac{\partial \log L(\theta_0)}{\partial \theta} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

Since the score is normal with variance  $-H$ , our vector  $(\theta, \lambda)'$  has variance

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{n}H & \dot{G}' \\ \dot{G} & 0 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{n}H & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{n}H & \dot{G}' \\ \dot{G} & 0 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \quad (10)$$

Let  $A$  denote the top left hand block ( $P \times P$ ) of the inverse we need to calculate. Using the formula for the inverse of partitioned matrices yields

$$A = -n(H^{-1} - H^{-1}\dot{G}'(\dot{G}H^{-1}\dot{G}'))\dot{G}H^{-1} \quad (11)$$

and

$$\text{Var}(\theta) = \frac{1}{n}A(-\frac{1}{n}H)A \quad (12)$$

defining  $\bar{A} = -A/n$ ,  $\text{Var}(\theta) = -\bar{A}H\bar{A}$ , which after some simplification reduces to  $\text{Var}(\theta) = \bar{A}$ .