

ESTIMATING FUNCTION : AN OVERVIEW

B.K. Kale
University of Poona
Pune, India

and

V.P. Godambe
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Canada

Estimating functions are functions of the observations and the parameter(s) and are used to obtain estimators of the unknown parameters. Such functions have been used in Statistical Inference for a long time starting with pivots of Fisher and least square and likelihood equations. This paper shows how the estimating function theory provides a method for constructing optimum estimating function where the standard least square and/or maximum likelihood approach fails. It is also shown that the estimating function approach unifies the maximum likelihood as well as unbiased minimum variance estimation approach by eliminating their respective weaknesses namely the nuisance parameter case and non-invariance under one-to-one transformation of the parameter space.