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## FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Miami, Florida

## INFERENCE ABOUT RELIABILITY PARAMETER WITH UNDERLYING GAMMA AND EXPONENTIAL DISTRIBUTION

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

 $\mathrm{in}$ 

## STATISTICS

by

Zeyi Wang

2011

To: Dean Kenneth Furton College of Arts and Sciences

This thesis, written by Zeyi Wang, and entitled Inference about Reliability Parameter with underlying Gamma and Exponential Distribution, having been approved in respect to style and intellectual content, is referred to you for judgment.

We have read this thesis and recommend that it be approved.

Florence George

Kai Huang

Jie Mi, Major Professor

Date of Defense: September 30, 2011

The thesis of Zeyi Wang is approved.

Dean Kenneth Furton College of Arts and Sciences

Dean Lakshmi N. Reddi University Graduate School

Florida International University, 2011

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## ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS

## INFERENCE ABOUT RELIABILITY PARAMETER WITH UNDERLYING GAMMA AND EXPONENTIAL DISTRIBUTION

by

Zeyi Wang

Florida International University, 2011

Miami, Florida

Professor Jie Mi, Major Professor

The statistical inference about the reliability parameter R involving independent gamma stress and exponential strength is considered. Assuming the shape parameter of gamma is a known arbitrary real number and the scale parameters of gamma and exponential are unknown, the UMVUE and MLE of R are obtained. A pivot is proposed. Some inference about R derived from this pivot is presented. It will be shown that the pivot can be used for testing hypothesis and constructing confidence interval. A procedure of constructing the confidence interval for R is derived. The performances of the UMVUE and MLE are compared numerically based on extensive Monte Carlo simulation. Simulation studies indicate that the performance of the two estimators is about the same. The MLE is preferred because of the simplicity of its computation.

Keywords: Stress-Strength, Exponential Distribution, Gamma Distribution, UMVUE, MLE, MSE, Pivot, Bias.

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#### 1. Introduction

Extensive research has been conducted on the stress-strength model. This model involves two independent random variables X and Y, and the parameter of interest is the probability  $R \equiv P(X \geq Y)$ . This function has attracted a great deal of attention in the literature because of its wide applications. Naturally, from the engineering point of view X and Y can represent the strength of a structure and the stress imposed on it. With this interpretation the probability R is often called the reliability parameter which will be used in this article. In addition to its applications in engineering, stress-strength model is also applied in many other fields. For example, in a medical application let X represent the response for a control group and Y represent the response for a treatment group (Simonoff, Hochberg, and Reiser (1986); Hauck, Hyslop, and Anderson (2000)). In this case the probability  $P(X \ge Y)$  measures the effect of the treatment. The probability  $R \equiv P(X \ge Y)$  can also be used for bioequivalence assessment (Wellek (1993)). It is frequently used to assess the effectiveness of diagnostic markers in distinguishing between diseased and healthy individuals (Reiser (2000)). In biology, this probability is useful in estimating heritability of a generic trait (Schwarz and Wearen (1959)).

An extensive review of this model is presented in Kotz, Lumelsdii, and Pensky (2003). The most recent work on the topic was published by Saracoglu and Kaya (2007), Krishnamoorthy, Mukherjee, and Guo (2007), Baklizi (2008a, b), Eryilmaz (2008a, b, c; 2010), Kundu and Raqab (2009), Rezaei, Tahmasbi, and Mahmoodi (2010) and the references therein.

In the literature, various distributions of X and Y are considered which include exponential, normal, Weibull, etc. Krishnamoorthy et al. (2007) gave the test and interval estimation procedures derived from the generalized variable approach for two-parameter exponential case when both the location and scale parameters are unknown. Baklizi (2008a, b) derived estimators and confidence intervals by considering both one and two-parameter exponential cases with record values and lower record values. Constantine, Karson, and Tse (1986) considered the case when both X and Y have gamma distributions. It was assumed there that the two scale parameters are unknown but the two shape parameters are known integers. Under these assumptions they derived UMVUE and MLE of R and obtained exact interval estimation of R.

In this article we will study the same model while X has exponential distribution and Y has gamma distribution. It is assumed that the shape parameter of the gamma distribution is known, however it can be any positive real number and is not restricted to be an integer. The thesis is organized as follows. The MLE and UMVUE of R are derived in Section 2. A pivotal quantity is presented in Section 3. Some inference about R derived from this pivot will also be shown in Section 3. It has been discovered that the pivot can be used for testing hypothesis, and the rejection region are obtained accordingly. A procedure of constructing the confidence intervals for Ris derived. In section 4, I present results of numerical studies based on Monte Carlo simulations. It is observed numerically that even though the MLE of R is biased, it is superior to the UMVUE for its MSE is about the same as that of the UMVUE, and is actually smaller most the time, and furthermore its computation is much easier.

#### 2. Point Estimation of Reliability Parameter

Let the random strength X have exponential distribution with probability density function

$$f_X(x) = \lambda e^{-\lambda x}, x > 0$$

and the random stress Y have gamma distribution with probability density function

$$f_Y(y) = \frac{\tau^{\gamma}}{\Gamma(\gamma)} y^{\gamma-1} e^{-\tau y}, y > 0$$

where the shape parameter  $\gamma$  is known but the scale parameters  $\lambda$  and  $\tau$  are unknown.

Our quantity of interest is the reliability parameter R defined as

$$R = P(X > Y).$$

Suppose that  $\mathbf{X} = \{X_1, ..., X_m\}$  is a simple random sample from the strength population and  $\mathbf{Y} = \{Y_1, ..., Y_n\}$  is a simple random sample from the stress population, where m and n do not have to be the same.

In this section we will first derive the uniformly minimum variance unbiased estimator (UMVUE) of R. Then we will derive the maximum likelihood estimator (MLE) of R. **Theorem 1.** The UMVUE of R based on sample  $\{X_1, ..., X_m\}$  and  $\{Y_1, ..., Y_n\}$  is given by

$$\tilde{R} = \begin{cases} \int_{0}^{1} (m-1)(1-s)^{m-2} \left( \int_{0}^{us/v} \frac{1}{B\left(\gamma,(n-1)\gamma\right)} \cdot t^{\gamma-1}(1-t)^{(n-1)\gamma-1} dt \right) ds, \\ & \text{if } u = \sum_{i=1}^{m} x_i \leq \sum_{j=1}^{n} y_j = v \\ \int_{0}^{v/u} (m-1)(1-s)^{m-2} \left( \int_{0}^{us/v} \frac{1}{B\left(\gamma,(n-1)\gamma\right)} t^{\gamma-1}(1-t)^{(n-1)\gamma-1} dt \right) ds \\ & + (1-\frac{v}{u})^{m-1}, \qquad \text{if } u = \sum_{i=1}^{m} x_i > \sum_{j=1}^{n} y_j = v. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Obviously the indicator function

$$I(X_1 > Y_1) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } X_1 > Y_1, \\ 0, & \text{if } X_1 \le Y_1. \end{cases}$$

is an unbiased estimator of R. Moreover, (U, V) is the sufficient and complete statistic, where  $U = \sum_{i=1}^{m} X_i$  and  $V = \sum_{j=1}^{n} Y_j$ . Hence, according to the Blackwell-Rao and Lehmann-Scheffe Theorem  $E(I(X_1 > Y_1)|U, V) = P(X_1 > Y_1|U, V)$  is the unique UMVUE of R.

In order to find  $P(X_1 > Y_1 | U, V)$  we need to derive the conditional distribution of  $X_1$  given U = u and the conditional distribution of  $Y_1$  given V = v. By using the routine way of multivariate change of variables it can be shown that the conditional probability density function (pdf) of  $X_1$  given U = u is

$$f_{X_1|U}(x|u) = \frac{m-1}{u} (1 - \frac{x}{u})^{m-2}, \ 0 < x < u < \infty;$$

and the conditional pdf of  $Y_1$  given V = v is

$$f_{Y_1|V}(y|v) = \frac{\Gamma(n\gamma)}{\Gamma(\gamma)\Gamma((n-1)\gamma)} \cdot \frac{y^{\gamma-1}}{v^{\gamma}} (1-\frac{y}{v})^{(n-1)\gamma-1}$$

$$= \frac{1}{B(\gamma, (n-1)\gamma)} \cdot \frac{y^{\gamma-1}}{v^{\gamma}} (1 - \frac{y}{v})^{(n-1)\gamma-1}, \ 0 < y < v < \infty.$$

Here B(a, b) is the beta function, i.e.,

$$B(a,b) = \frac{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)}{\Gamma(a+b)}$$

Thus, the desired UMVUE  $\tilde{R}$  is given by

.

$$\begin{split} \tilde{R} &= P(X_{1} > Y_{1} | U = u, V = v) \\ &= \int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{\infty} I(x > y) f_{X_{1}|U}(x|u) f_{Y_{1}|V}(y|v) dx dy \\ &= \int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{I(y < v)}{B(\gamma, (n-1)\gamma)} \cdot \frac{y^{\gamma-1}}{v^{\gamma}} (1 - \frac{y}{v})^{(n-1)\gamma-1} \cdot \frac{(m-1)I(x < u)I(y < x)}{u} \\ &\quad \cdot (1 - \frac{x}{u})^{m-2} dx dy \\ &= \int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{(m-1)I(x < u)}{u} (1 - \frac{x}{u})^{m-2} \cdot \frac{I(y < \min\{x, v\})}{B(\gamma, (n-1)\gamma)} \cdot \frac{y^{\gamma-1}}{v^{\gamma}} (1 - \frac{y}{v})^{(n-1)\gamma-1} \\ &\quad dx dy \\ &= \int_{0}^{u} \frac{m-1}{u} (1 - \frac{x}{u})^{m-2} \left( \int_{0}^{\min\{x, v\}} \frac{1}{B(\gamma, (n-1)\gamma)} \cdot \frac{y^{\gamma-1}}{v^{\gamma}} (1 - \frac{y}{v})^{(n-1)\gamma-1} dy \right) dx \\ &= \int_{0}^{u} \frac{m-1}{u} (1 - \frac{x}{u})^{m-2} \left( \int_{0}^{\min\{x, v\}} \frac{1}{B(\gamma, (n-1)\gamma)} \cdot (\frac{y}{v})^{\gamma-1} (1 - \frac{y}{v})^{(n-1)\gamma-1} d\frac{y}{v} \right) \\ &\quad dx. \end{split}$$

In the following let us consider two cases:

Case 1:  $u \leq v$ .

In this case  $x \leq u$  implies  $x \leq u \leq v$  and min(x, v) = x. Let t = y/v and

s = x/u, then from (1)

$$\tilde{R} = \int_{0}^{u} \frac{m-1}{u} (1-\frac{x}{u})^{m-2} \left( \int_{0}^{x} \frac{1}{B(\gamma, (n-1)\gamma)} (\frac{y}{v})^{\gamma-1} (1-\frac{y}{v})^{(n-1)\gamma-1} d\frac{y}{v} \right) dx$$

$$= \int_{0}^{u} \frac{m-1}{u} (1-\frac{x}{u})^{m-2} \left( \int_{0}^{x/v} \frac{1}{B(\gamma, (n-1)\gamma)} \cdot t^{\gamma-1} (1-t)^{(n-1)\gamma-1} dt \right) dx$$

$$= \int_{0}^{1} (m-1)(1-s)^{m-2} \left( \int_{0}^{us/v} \frac{1}{B(\gamma, (n-1)\gamma)} \cdot t^{\gamma-1} (1-t)^{(n-1)\gamma-1} dt \right) ds. \quad (2)$$

Case 2: u > v.

We express the integral in (1) as the sum of two other integrals as follows

$$\tilde{R} = \int_{0}^{v} + \int_{v}^{u} \frac{m-1}{u} (1 - \frac{x}{u})^{m-2} \left(\int_{0}^{\min\{x, v\}} \frac{1}{B\left(\gamma, (n-1)\gamma\right)} \cdot (\frac{y}{v})^{\gamma-1} (1 - \frac{y}{v})^{(n-1)\gamma-1} d\frac{y}{v}\right) dx$$

Note that on the interval (0, v) we have  $x \leq v$  and so  $min\{x, v\} = x$ , and on the interval (v, u) it holds that  $x \geq v$  and consequently  $min\{x, v\} = v$ . From these observations we see that

$$\begin{split} \tilde{R} &= \int_{0}^{v} \frac{m-1}{u} (1-\frac{x}{u})^{m-2} \bigg( \int_{0}^{x} \frac{1}{B(\gamma, (n-1)\gamma)} \cdot (\frac{y}{v})^{\gamma-1} (1-\frac{y}{v})^{(n-1)\gamma-1} d\frac{y}{v} \bigg) dx \\ &+ \int_{v}^{u} \frac{m-1}{u} (1-\frac{x}{u})^{m-2} \bigg( \int_{0}^{v} \frac{1}{B(\gamma, (n-1)\gamma)} \cdot (\frac{y}{v})^{\gamma-1} (1-\frac{y}{v})^{(n-1)\gamma-1} d\frac{y}{v} \bigg) dx \\ &= \int_{0}^{v} \frac{m-1}{u} (1-\frac{x}{u})^{m-2} \bigg( \int_{0}^{x/v} \frac{1}{B(\gamma, (n-1)\gamma)} \cdot t^{\gamma-1} (1-t)^{(n-1)\gamma-1} dt \bigg) dx \\ &+ \int_{v}^{u} \frac{m-1}{u} (1-\frac{x}{u})^{m-2} \bigg( \int_{0}^{1} \frac{1}{B(\gamma, (n-1)\gamma)} \cdot t^{\gamma-1} (1-t)^{(n-1)\gamma-1} dt \bigg) dx \end{split}$$

$$= \int_{0}^{v/u} (m-1)(1-s)^{m-2} \left( \int_{0}^{us/v} \frac{1}{B(\gamma, (n-1)\gamma)} \cdot t^{\gamma-1}(1-t)^{(n-1)\gamma-1} dt \right) ds$$
  
+  $\int_{v}^{u} \frac{m-1}{u} (1-\frac{x}{u})^{m-2} dx$   
=  $\int_{0}^{v/u} (m-1)(1-s)^{m-2} \left( \int_{0}^{us/v} \frac{1}{B(\gamma, (n-1)\gamma)} \cdot t^{\gamma-1}(1-t)^{(n-1)\gamma-1} dt \right) ds$   
+  $\int_{v/u}^{1} (m-1)(1-s)^{m-2} ds$   
=  $\int_{0}^{v/u} (m-1)(1-s)^{m-2} \left( \int_{0}^{us/v} \frac{1}{B(\gamma, (n-1)\gamma)} \cdot t^{\gamma-1}(1-t)^{(n-1)\gamma-1} dt \right) ds$   
+  $(1-\frac{v}{u})^{m-1}.$  (3)

Finally, from (2) and (3) we obtain the desired result.  $\blacksquare$ 

The expression of  $\tilde{R}$  given in Theorem 1 is complicated because the known shape parameter  $\gamma$  can be any positive real number. However, in the case when  $\gamma$  is an integer, then simple expression for  $\tilde{R}$  can be obtained as follows.

**Theorem 2**. Suppose that the shape parameter  $\gamma$  is a known integer. Then it follows that

$$\tilde{R} = \begin{cases} \frac{m-1}{B\left(\gamma,(n-1)\gamma\right)} \sum_{j=0}^{(n-1)\gamma-1} \binom{(n-1)\gamma-1}{j} \frac{(-1)^{(n-1)\gamma-1-j}B\left(n\gamma-j,\ m-1\right)}{n\gamma-j-1} \\ \cdot \left(\frac{u}{v}\right)^{n\gamma-j-1}, & \text{if } u = \sum_{i=1}^{m} x_i \le \sum_{j=1}^{n} y_j = v \\ \frac{m-1}{B\left(\gamma,(n-1)\gamma\right)} \sum_{i=0}^{m-2} \sum_{j=0}^{(n-1)\gamma-1} \binom{m-2}{i} \binom{(n-1)\gamma-1}{j} \frac{(-1)^{(n-1)\gamma-j+m-i-3}}{(n\gamma-j-1)(n\gamma-j+m-i-2)} \\ \cdot \left(\frac{v}{u}\right)^{m-i-1} + \left(1 - \frac{v}{u}\right)^{m-1}, & \text{if } u = \sum_{i=1}^{m} x_i > \sum_{j=1}^{n} y_j = v \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* For the case of  $u = \sum_{i=1}^{m} X_i \le \sum_{j=1}^{n} Y_j = v$ , according to Theorem 1 the UMVUE  $\tilde{R}$  is given as

$$\begin{split} \hat{R} &= \int_{0}^{1} (m-1)(1-s)^{m-2} \bigg( \int_{0}^{us/v} \frac{1}{B(\gamma,(n-1)\gamma)} \cdot t^{\gamma-1}(1-t)^{(n-1)\gamma-1} dt \bigg) ds \\ &= \int_{0}^{1} (m-1)(1-s)^{m-2} \bigg( \int_{0}^{us/v} \frac{1}{B(\gamma,(n-1)\gamma)} \cdot t^{\gamma-1} \sum_{j=0}^{(n-1)\gamma-1} \binom{(n-1)\gamma-1}{j} \bigg) \\ &(-t)^{(n-1)\gamma-1-j} dt \bigg) ds \\ &= \int_{0}^{1} \frac{(m-1)(1-s)^{m-2}}{B(\gamma,(n-1)\gamma)} \sum_{j=0}^{(n-1)\gamma-1} \binom{(n-1)\gamma-1}{j} (-1)^{(n-1)\gamma-1-j} \\ &\cdot \bigg( \int_{0}^{us/v} t^{n\gamma-j-2} dt \bigg) ds \\ &= \int_{0}^{1} \frac{(m-1)(1-s)^{m-2}}{B(\gamma,(n-1)\gamma)} \sum_{j=0}^{(n-1)\gamma-1} (-1)^{(n-1)\gamma-1-j} \binom{(n-1)\gamma-1}{j} \frac{1}{n\gamma-j-1} \\ &\cdot \bigg( \frac{us}{v} \bigg)^{n\gamma-j-1} ds \\ &= \frac{m-1}{B(\gamma,(n-1)\gamma)} \sum_{j=0}^{(n-1)\gamma-1} \binom{(n-1)\gamma-1}{j} \frac{(-1)^{(n-1)\gamma-1-j}}{n\gamma-j-1} (\frac{u}{v})^{n\gamma-j-1} \\ &\cdot \int_{0}^{1} s^{n\gamma-j-1}(1-s)^{m-2} ds \\ &= \frac{m-1}{B(\gamma,(n-1)\gamma)} \sum_{j=0}^{(n-1)\gamma-1} \binom{(n-1)\gamma-1}{j} \frac{(-1)^{(n-1)\gamma-1-j}B(n\gamma-j,m-1)}{n\gamma-j-1} \\ &\cdot \bigg( \frac{u}{v} \bigg)^{n\gamma-j-1} \end{split}$$

On the other hand, if u > v, then

$$\tilde{R} = \int_{0}^{v/u} (m-1)(1-s)^{m-2} \left( \int_{0}^{us/v} \frac{1}{B(\gamma, (n-1)\gamma)} t^{\gamma-1} (1-t)^{(n-1)\gamma-1} dt \right) dt + (1-\frac{v}{u})^{m-1}$$

$$\begin{split} &= \frac{m-1}{B(\gamma,(n-1)\gamma)} \sum_{j=0}^{(n-1)\gamma-1} \binom{(n-1)\gamma-1}{j} \frac{(-1)^{(n-1)\gamma-j-1}}{n\gamma-j-1} (\frac{u}{v})^{n\gamma-j-1} \\ &\cdot \int_{0}^{v/u} s^{n\gamma-j-1} (1-s)^{m-2} ds + (1-\frac{v}{u})^{m-1} \\ &= \frac{m-1}{B(\gamma,(n-1)\gamma)} \sum_{j=0}^{(n-1)\gamma-1} \binom{(n-1)\gamma-1}{j} \frac{(-1)^{(n-1)\gamma-j-1}}{n\gamma-j-1} (\frac{u}{v})^{n\gamma-j-1} \\ &\cdot \sum_{i=0}^{m-2} \binom{m-2}{i} (-1)^{m-2-i} \int_{0}^{v/u} s^{n\gamma-j+m-i-3} ds + (1-\frac{v}{u})^{m-1} \\ &= \frac{m-1}{B(\gamma,(n-1)\gamma)} \sum_{j=0}^{(n-1)\gamma-1} \binom{(n-1)\gamma-1}{j} \frac{(-1)^{(n-1)\gamma-j-1}}{n\gamma-j-1} (\frac{u}{v})^{n\gamma-j-1} \\ &\cdot \sum_{i=0}^{m-2} \binom{m-2}{i} \frac{(-1)^{m-2-i}}{n\gamma-j+m-i-2} \binom{v}{u}^{n\gamma-j+m-i-2} + (1-\frac{v}{u})^{m-1} \\ &= \frac{m-1}{B(\gamma,(n-1)\gamma)} \sum_{i=0}^{m-2} \sum_{j=0}^{(n-1)\gamma-1} \binom{m-2}{i} \binom{(n-1)\gamma-1}{j} \\ &\cdot \frac{(-1)^{(n-1)\gamma-j+m-i-3}}{(n\gamma-j-1)(n\gamma-j+m-i-2)} \binom{v}{u}^{n-i-1} + (1-\frac{v}{u})^{m-1} \end{split}$$

Therefore, the desired result follows.  $\blacksquare$ 

To derive the MLE  $\hat{R}$  of R we need to derive the closed-form formula of R.

**Theorem 3.** The reliability parameter R is given as

$$R = \left(\frac{\tau}{\lambda + \tau}\right)^{\gamma}.$$

*Proof.* The reliability parameter R is given by R = P(X > Y). By conditioning on Y we have

$$R = \int_{0}^{\infty} P(X > y) f_Y(y) dy$$

$$= \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda y} \cdot \frac{\tau^{\gamma}}{\Gamma(\gamma)} y^{\gamma-1} e^{-\tau y} dy$$
$$= \tau^{\gamma} \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\Gamma(\gamma)} y^{\gamma-1} e^{-(\lambda+\tau)y} dy$$
$$= \frac{\tau^{\gamma}}{(\lambda+\tau)^{\gamma}} \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{(\lambda+\tau)^{\gamma}}{\Gamma(\gamma)} y^{\gamma-1} e^{-(\lambda+\tau)y} dy$$
$$= (\frac{\tau}{\lambda+\tau})^{\gamma}$$

So, the result follows.  $\blacksquare$ 

With the help of Theorem 3 the MLE of R is readily available.

**Theorem 4**. The MLE  $\hat{R}$  of R is given as

$$\hat{R} = \left(\frac{\gamma \bar{X}}{\bar{Y} + \gamma \bar{X}}\right)^{\gamma}.$$
(4)

*Proof.* It is easy to see that the MLEs of  $\lambda$  and  $\tau$  are

$$\hat{\lambda} = \frac{1}{\bar{X}}$$
 and  $\hat{\tau} = \frac{\gamma}{\bar{Y}}$ 

respectively where

$$\bar{X} = rac{\sum\limits_{i=1}^{m} X_i}{m}$$
 and  $\bar{Y} = rac{\sum\limits_{j=1}^{n} Y_j}{n}$ .

Because of the invariance property of MLE we immediately obtain

$$\hat{R} = \left(\frac{\hat{\tau}}{\hat{\lambda} + \hat{\tau}}\right)^{\gamma} = \left(\frac{\gamma/\bar{Y}}{(1/\bar{X}) + (\gamma/\bar{Y})}\right)^{\gamma} = \left(\frac{\gamma\bar{X}}{\bar{Y} + \gamma\bar{X}}\right)^{\gamma}.$$

Thus, the desired result follows.  $\blacksquare$ 

## 3. Inference about R Based on Pivot

We will keep the same notation used in the previous section. For example, the MLE of  $\lambda$  is  $\hat{\lambda} = 1/\bar{X}$  and the MLE of  $\tau$  is  $\hat{\tau} = \gamma/\bar{Y}$ .

First let us search for a pivot.

Theorem 5. Define

$$Q = \frac{\lambda}{\tau} \cdot \frac{\gamma \bar{X}}{\bar{Y}} = \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\gamma \bar{X}}{\bar{Y}}$$

where  $\rho = \tau/\lambda$ . Then Q is a pivotal quantity and has F-distribution with numerator degrees of freedom 2m and denominator degrees of freedom  $2n\gamma$ , i.e.,  $Q \sim F(2m, 2n\gamma)$ .

*Proof.* Note that  $2\lambda X_i \sim \chi^2(2)$ , where  $\chi^2(\nu)$  denote Chi-Square distribution with  $\nu$  degrees of freedom, since  $X_i$  follows exponential distribution with mean  $1/\lambda$ . Thus

$$2\lambda \sum_{i=1}^{m} X_i \sim \chi^2(2m).$$

Similarly, we see that

$$2\tau \sum_{j=1}^{n} Y_j \sim \chi^2(2n\gamma).$$

Therefore,

$$Q = \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\gamma \bar{X}}{\bar{Y}} = \frac{\gamma \lambda \sum_{i=1}^{m} X_i/m}{\tau \sum_{j=1}^{n} Y_j/n} = \frac{2\lambda \sum_{i=1}^{m} X_i/2m}{2\tau \sum_{j=1}^{n} Y_j/2n\gamma} \stackrel{\mathrm{d}}{=} F(2m, \ 2n\gamma),$$

because of the independence of  $\bar{X}$  and  $\bar{Y}$ .

On the basis of Theorem 5 the reliability parameter R can be expressed in terms of F-distribution.

**Theorem 6.** The reliability parameter R is given by  $R = R(\rho) = 1 - F(\gamma/\rho; 2, 2\gamma)$ and strictly increase in  $\rho$ .

*Proof.* By the definition of the reliability parameter R it follows that

$$R = P(X > Y)$$

$$= P(\frac{X}{Y} > 1)$$

$$= P(\frac{2\lambda X}{2\tau Y} > \frac{\lambda}{\tau})$$

$$= P(\frac{2\lambda X/2}{2\tau Y/2\gamma} > \frac{\gamma}{\rho})$$

$$= P(\xi > \frac{\gamma}{\rho})$$

$$= 1 - F(\frac{\gamma}{\rho}; 2, 2\gamma)$$
(5)

where random variable  $\xi \sim F(2, 2\gamma)$  and  $F(\cdot; 2, 2\gamma)$  is its cumulative distribution function (CDF).

From Eq.(5) it is clear that R strictly increases in  $\rho > 0$ .

For any  $R_0 \in (0, 1)$  it is easy to see that there exists a unique  $\rho_0 > 0$  such that  $R(\rho_0) = R_0$ . Actually  $\rho_0$  is determined by the equation

$$F(\gamma/\rho_0; 2, 2\gamma) = 1 - R_0 \tag{6}$$

according to Theorem 6.

Now we can use Q for testing hypothesis about R.

Theorem 7. (Two-Sided Test) Consider testing hypothesis

$$H_0: R = R_0 \quad \text{vs.} \quad H_a: R \neq R_0.$$

Then statistic  $Q_0 = \gamma \bar{X} / \rho_0 \bar{Y}$  can be used as test statistic with rejection region

$$R.R. = \{ (\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) : Q_0 \le F_{1-\alpha/2}(2m, 2n\gamma) \text{ or } Q_0 \ge F_{\alpha/2}(2m, 2n\gamma) \}$$

where  $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, ..., X_m)$  and  $\mathbf{Y} = (Y_1, ..., Y_n)$ .

*Proof.* Note that the null hypothesis  $R = R_0$  is equivalent to  $H'_0 : \rho = \rho_0$ . From Theorem 5, it follows that  $Q_0 \sim F(2m, 2n\gamma)$ . Therefore, the size of this test is  $\alpha$ .

Following the similar argument, we can obtain the two results below.

**Theorem 8**. The pivot  $Q_0$  can be used for testing hypothesis

$$H_0: R \le R_0 \qquad \text{vs.} \qquad H_a: R > R_0.$$

The associated rejection region is

$$R.R. = \{ (\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) : Q_0 \ge F_\alpha(2m, 2n\gamma) \}.$$

*Proof.* It is sufficient to show that the size of this test is  $\alpha$ , i.e.,

$$\sup_{R \le R_0} P_R(\text{rejecting H}_0) = \alpha.$$
(7)

Then null hypothesis  $R \leq R_0$  is equivalent to  $H'_0 : \rho \leq \rho_0$  by Theorem 6, where  $\rho_0$  is determined by Eq.(6). Hence, it suffices to show that

$$\sup_{\rho \le \rho_0} P_{\rho}(\text{rejecting } \mathbf{H}'_0) = \alpha.$$
(8)

We have

$$P_{\rho}(\text{rejecting } \mathbf{H}_{0}') = P_{\rho}\left(\frac{\gamma \bar{X}}{\rho_{0} \bar{Y}} \ge F_{\alpha}(2m, 2n\gamma)\right)$$
$$= P_{\rho}\left(\frac{\gamma \bar{X}}{\rho \bar{Y}} \ge \frac{\rho_{0}}{\rho}F_{\alpha}(2m, 2n\gamma)\right)$$
$$= 1 - F\left(\frac{\rho_{0}}{\rho}F_{\alpha}(2m, 2n\gamma); 2m, 2n\gamma\right).$$

Thus

$$\sup_{\rho \le \rho_0} P_{\rho}(\text{rejecting H}'_0)$$

$$= \sup_{\rho \le \rho_0} \{1 - F\left(\frac{\rho_0}{\rho}F_{\alpha}(2m, 2n\gamma); 2m, 2n\gamma\right)\}$$

$$= 1 - F\left(F_{\alpha}(2m, 2n\gamma); 2m, 2n\gamma\right)$$

$$= 1 - (1 - \alpha)$$

$$= \alpha.$$

This ends the proof.  $\blacksquare$ 

Theorem 9. Consider testing hypothesis

$$H_0: R \ge R_0 \qquad \text{vs.} \qquad H_a: R < R_0.$$

The test that uses test statistic  $Q_0$  along with rejection region

$$R.R. = \{ (\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{Y}) : Q_0 \le F_{1-\alpha}(2m, 2n\gamma) \}$$

has size  $\alpha$ .

*Proof.* It is the same as Theorem 8.  $\blacksquare$ 

At the end of this section we derive a procedure for constructing confidence interval of R can be obtained as

$$\left(1-F\left(\frac{\bar{Y}}{\bar{X}}F_{\alpha/2}(2m,2n\gamma);2,2\gamma\right),1-F\left(\frac{\bar{Y}}{\bar{X}}F_{1-\alpha/2}(2m,2n\gamma);2,2\gamma\right)\right).$$

*Proof.* According to Eq.(5) the reliability parameter R is given as

$$R = 1 - F\left(\frac{\gamma}{\rho}; 2, 2\gamma\right).$$

It then follows from Theorem 5 that

$$\begin{split} &1 - \alpha \\ = P \Big( F_{1-\alpha/2}(2m, 2n\gamma) < Q < F_{\alpha/2}(2m, 2n\gamma) \Big) \\ = P \Big( F_{1-\alpha/2}(2m, 2n\gamma) < \frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\gamma \bar{X}}{\bar{Y}} < F_{\alpha/2}(2m, 2n\gamma) \Big) \\ = P \Big( \frac{\bar{Y}}{\bar{X}} F_{1-\alpha/2}(2m, 2n\gamma) < \frac{\gamma}{\rho} < \frac{\bar{Y}}{\bar{X}} F_{\alpha/2}(2m, 2n\gamma) \Big) \\ = P \Big( F \Big( \frac{\bar{Y}}{\bar{X}} F_{1-\alpha/2}(2m, 2n\gamma); 2, 2\gamma \Big) < F \Big( \frac{\gamma}{\rho}; 2, 2\gamma \Big) < F \Big( \frac{\bar{Y}}{\bar{X}} F_{\alpha/2}(2m, 2n\gamma); 2, 2\gamma \Big) \Big) \\ = P \Big( 1 - F \Big( \frac{\bar{Y}}{\bar{X}} F_{\alpha/2}(2m, 2n\gamma); 2, 2\gamma \Big) < 1 - F \Big( \frac{\gamma}{\rho}; 2, 2\gamma \Big) < \\ 1 - F \Big( \frac{\bar{Y}}{\bar{X}} F_{1-\alpha/2}(2m, 2n\gamma); 2, 2\gamma \Big) \Big) \\ = P \Big( 1 - F \Big( \frac{\bar{Y}}{\bar{X}} F_{1-\alpha/2}(2m, 2n\gamma); 2, 2\gamma \Big) \Big) \\ = P \Big( 1 - F \Big( \frac{\bar{Y}}{\bar{X}} F_{1-\alpha/2}(2m, 2n\gamma); 2, 2\gamma \Big) < R < 1 - F \Big( \frac{\bar{Y}}{\bar{X}} F_{1-\alpha/2}(2m, 2n\gamma); 2, 2\gamma \Big) \Big). \end{split}$$

and consequently the desired result.  $\blacksquare$ 

#### 4. Numerical study

In this section we will conduct simulation studies in which the shape parameter of the gamma distribution is  $\gamma = 1.25$  and  $\gamma = 4.5$  in Example 1 and Example 2 respectively. Three cases of R = 0.3, 0.6 and 0.9 are considered. Using N = 10000replications, in Tables 1-3 we list the average of  $\tilde{R}$ ,  $MSE(\tilde{R})$  which is the estimates of MSE of  $\tilde{R}$ , and the counterparts of the MLE  $\hat{R}$  corresponding to various sample sizes  $m = n = 5, 6, \dots, 40$ , for the case of  $\gamma = 1.25$ . Tables 4-6 show the results for the case of  $\gamma = 4.5$ . In these tables  $e_{\hat{R},\tilde{R}} = MSE(\hat{R})/MSE(\tilde{R})$  is the relative efficiency.

#### Example 1.

In this example, shape parameter of gamma distribution  $\gamma = 1.25$  is used. The scale parameters  $\lambda = 2$  and  $\tau = 1.235$ , 3.962, 22.742 so that the reliability parameter R = P(X > Y) equals to 0.3, 0.6, 0.9 accordingly based on Theorem 6. From the table 1-3, it is obvious that the average of the 10000 values of the UMVUE  $\tilde{R}$  is very close to the true value of R, which is certainly consistent with the unbiasedness property of  $\tilde{R}$ , the estimate MSE of  $\tilde{R}$  is only 0.02 even the sample sizes are only m=n=5 and it decreases to 0.0025 as the sample sizes increase to m=n=40. As far as the MLE  $\hat{R}$ , similar pattern is also observed. In addition, the bias of  $\hat{R}$  is positive when R = 0.3, 0.6 and is negative when R = 0.9. Tables and Figures can be found in the Appendix.

Figure 1 is the plot of the average of the observed N = 10000 values of  $\hat{R}$  and the average of the observed N = 10000 values of  $\hat{R}$  versus the true value of  $R \in (0, 1)$ . Because of the unbiasedness property of  $\tilde{R}$ , the average of  $\tilde{R}$  is almost a straight line from (0,0) to (1,1). The average of  $\hat{R}$  has only very slight deviation from the true R.

For the case of m = n = 5 the solid line curve in Figure 2 shows the behavior of the difference between the average of the observed N = 10000 values of  $\tilde{R}$  and the true value of  $R \in (0, 1)$ . The difference is of the order of  $10^{-3}$ . The dotted curve in Figure 2 shows the similar picture for the MLE  $\hat{R}$  with error of order of  $10^{-2}$ . And it is notable that the MLE  $\hat{R}$  overestimates when R is small and underestimates when R is large.

For the case of  $\gamma = 1.25$  Figure 3 shows the behavior of the Mean Squared Error of  $\tilde{R}$  for sample sizes m = n = 5, 10, 20, 30, 40. It is obvious that the MSE of  $\tilde{R}$ decrease while the sample sizes increase. And the decreasing speed is also decelerated with the increasing sample sizes. The behavior of the MSE of  $\hat{R}$  follow the same pattern as shown in Figure 4.

#### Example 2.

In this second example, similar computation is done but with shape parameter of gamma distribution  $\gamma = 4.5$  and the scale parameter  $\lambda = 2$  and  $\tau = 6.520$ , 16.638, 84.425 according to R = 0.3, 0.6, 0.9 following Theorem 6. The estimates of R and MSE in the cases R = 0.3, 0.6 and 0.9 are listed in the Table 4-6. For m = n = 5 the average of the observed N = 10000 values of  $\tilde{R}$  and the average of the observed N = 10000values of  $\hat{R}$  versus the true value of  $R \in (0, 1)$  is given in Figure 5. The difference of R and the average of N = 10000 simulated values are plotted in Figure 6. Figure 7 and Figure 8 show the behavior of the MSE of  $\tilde{R}$  and  $\hat{R}$  respectively.

From the above two examples, it is noticed that even though  $\hat{R}$  is a biased estimator of R its MSE is about the same as that of  $\tilde{R}$  and actually is smaller than the MSE of  $\tilde{R}$ . Considering this and the fact that the computation of  $\tilde{R}$  based on Theorem 1, is more complicated than that of  $\hat{R}$  based on Theorem 4, the MLE  $\hat{R}$  is recommended for estimating the reliability parameter R.

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	R = 0.3						
	UM	UMVUE MLE					
n=m	$ar{ ilde{R}}$	$\widehat{MSE}(\tilde{R})$	$ar{\hat{R}}$	$\widehat{MSE}(\hat{R})$	$e_{\hat{R}, ilde{R}}$		
5	0.299369975	0.021279000	0.310376827	0.01829164	0.859609965		
6	0.299523479	0.017760656	0.308708997	0.015683022	0.883020411		
7	0.299292717	0.014429986	0.307318211	0.012968356	0.898708837		
8	0.300009584	0.012872568	0.306994261	0.011736233	0.911724289		
9	0.299753452	0.011397359	0.305995936	0.010497408	0.921038646		
10	0.300468633	0.010144365	0.306096257	0.009427346	0.929317856		
15	0.297289393	0.006532654	0.301154861	0.006203776	0.949656208		
20	0.299774005	0.004927652	0.302650196	0.004749709	0.963888827		
30	0.300264421	0.003291566	0.302169468	0.003214554	0.976603089		
40	0.300526101	0.002447211	0.301964775	0.002404573	0.982577042		

Table 1:  $\gamma=1.25,\,N=10000,\,R=0.3$ 

Table 2:  $\gamma = 1.25, N = 10000, R = 0.6$ 

	R = 0.6						
	UMVUE MLE		UMVUE		UMVUE MLE		
n=m	$ar{ ilde{R}}$	$\widehat{MSE}(\tilde{R})$	$ar{\hat{R}}$	$\widehat{MSE(\hat{R})}$	$e_{\hat{R}, ilde{R}}$		
5	0.599437387	0.025788302	0.584773681	0.022158098	0.859230578		
6	0.598951392	0.021275287	0.586602364	0.018790494	0.883207535		
7	0.599970666	0.017585521	0.589170604	0.015815761	0.899362678		
8	0.600670353	0.015258057	0.591108310	0.013906348	0.911410146		
9	0.601236847	0.013549913	0.592677321	0.012478542	0.920931571		
10	0.598439557	0.012276553	0.590800967	0.011435631	0.931501813		
15	0.601083104	0.007743077	0.595824107	0.007374462	0.952394235		
20	0.601455459	0.005807437	0.597482208	0.005594458	0.963326552		
30	0.600660345	0.003859331	0.597988242	0.003765890	0.975788279		
40	0.598942225	0.002933121	0.596957569	0.002886043	0.983949489		

	R = 0.9						
	UM	VUE	MLE				
n=m	$ar{ ilde{R}}$	$\widehat{MSE}(\tilde{R})$	$ar{\hat{R}}$	$\widehat{MSE}(\hat{R})$	$e_{\hat{R}, ilde{R}}$		
5	0.899956395	0.003996736	0.883237769	0.004917556	1.230393001		
6	0.899237509	0.003331532	0.885480325	0.004000368	1.200759341		
7	0.900913634	0.002561014	0.889323033	0.003006483	1.173942495		
8	0.899956223	0.002219019	0.889836889	0.002584197	1.164567713		
9	0.900111754	0.001893262	0.891174761	0.002175035	1.148829488		
10	0.899542968	0.001704741	0.891516085	0.001946139	1.141603929		
15	0.900531192	0.001072896	0.895301095	0.001167840	1.088493108		
20	0.900265017	0.000796210	0.896371635	0.000850527	1.068218699		
30	0.900390881	0.000503877	0.897815471	0.000526223	1.044348352		
40	0.900002028	0.000389978	0.898075443	0.000403973	1.035885512		

Table 3:  $\gamma=1.25,\,N=10000,\,R=0.9$ 

Table 4:  $\gamma = 4.5, \, N = 10000, \, R = 0.3$ 

	R = 0.3						
	UMVUE		MLE				
n=m	$ar{ ilde{R}}$	$\widehat{MSE}(\tilde{R})$	$ar{\hat{R}}$	$\widehat{MSE}(\hat{R})$	$e_{\hat{R}, ilde{R}}$		
5	0.296872619	0.025408893	0.287073599	0.019896770	0.783063229		
6	0.300113926	0.021019930	0.291196503	0.017083109	0.812710063		
7	0.300667283	0.018255329	0.292798374	0.015255130	0.835651899		
8	0.298696893	0.016043637	0.291807129	0.013724330	0.855437620		
9	0.299821243	0.013995597	0.293504456	0.012166139	0.869283352		
10	0.299779049	0.012428744	0.293990368	0.010948896	0.880933413		
15	0.299262754	0.008531467	0.295251008	0.007840245	0.918979678		
20	0.299880526	0.006128631	0.296777791	0.005748820	0.938026761		
30	0.299364740	0.004188645	0.297256181	0.004014880	0.958515092		
40	0.300307335	0.003101096	0.298688676	0.003002087	0.968072876		

	R = 0.6						
	UM	VUE	MLE				
n=m	$ar{ ilde{R}}$	$\widehat{MSE}(\tilde{R})$	$ar{\hat{R}}$	$\widehat{MSE}(\hat{R})$	$e_{\hat{R}, ilde{R}}$		
5	0.599389361	0.024387944	0.564472844	0.023398279	0.959419910		
6	0.599688353	0.019630258	0.570183433	0.019129410	0.974485892		
7	0.600578072	0.016886692	0.575131398	0.016559874	0.980646452		
8	0.599963775	0.014397779	0.577551599	0.014264567	0.990747739		
9	0.599991750	0.012655836	0.579975345	0.012571633	0.993346729		
10	0.600430646	0.011223082	0.582347269	0.011178991	0.996071413		
15	0.600478265	0.007443647	0.588302793	0.007449730	1.000817231		
20	0.600086320	0.005312875	0.590917543	0.005334720	1.004111740		
30	0.600607212	0.003530196	0.594446145	0.003536547	1.001799057		
40	0.600846263	0.002605547	0.596235883	0.002608081	1.000972441		

Table 5:  $\gamma=4.5,\,N=10000,\,R=0.6$ 

Table 6:  $\gamma=4.5,\,N=10000,\,R=0.9$ 

	R = 0.9						
	UMVUE MLE		UMVUE				
n=m	$ar{ ilde{R}}$	$\widehat{MSE}(\tilde{R})$	$ar{\hat{R}}$	$\widehat{MSE}(\hat{R})$	$e_{\hat{R}, ilde{R}}$		
5	0.899390142	0.003219176	0.879422528	0.004501926	1.398471344		
6	0.899063717	0.002563739	0.882758182	0.003463913	1.351117541		
7	0.900024744	0.001992949	0.886356606	0.002590682	1.299923891		
8	0.900258673	0.001690681	0.888467592	0.002135483	1.263090530		
9	0.899443294	0.001464135	0.888995104	0.001825548	1.246843941		
10	0.899677805	0.001296352	0.890367763	0.001580357	1.219080431		
15	0.900546980	0.000773028	0.894525921	0.000879501	1.137734760		
20	0.900092707	0.000575634	0.895614830	0.000637670	1.107769709		
30	0.900036277	0.000376961	0.897085859	0.000403962	1.071627494		
40	0.900065063	0.000286674	0.897866175	0.000301752	1.052595974		

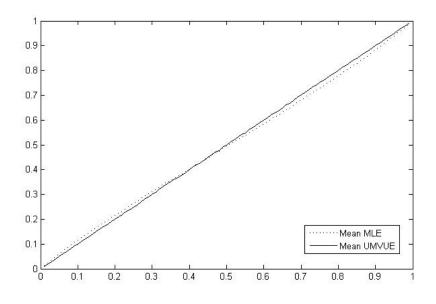


Figure 1:  $\gamma = 1.25, m = n = 5, N = 10000$ 

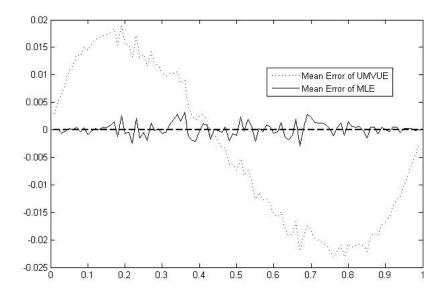


Figure 2:  $\gamma = 1.25, m = n = 5, N = 10000$ 

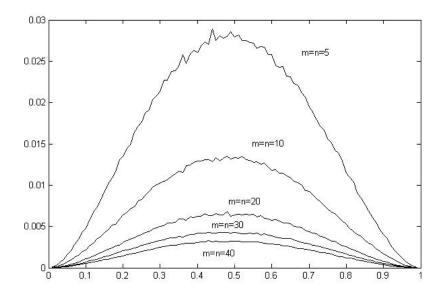


Figure 3:  $\gamma=1.25,\,N=10000,\,\mathrm{UMVUE}$ 

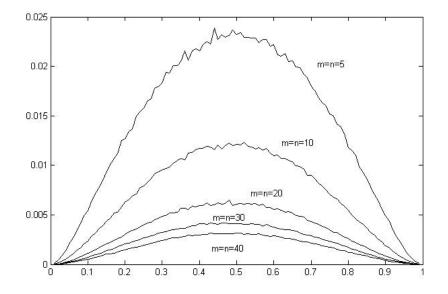


Figure 4:  $\gamma = 1.25,\, N = 10000,\, {\rm MLE}$ 

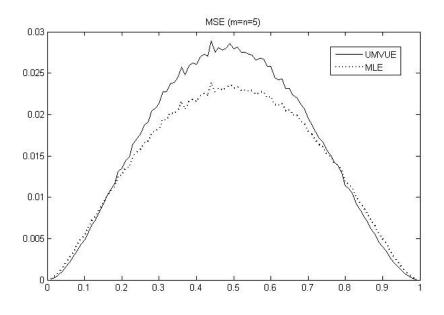


Figure 5:  $\gamma=1.25,\,N=10000$ 

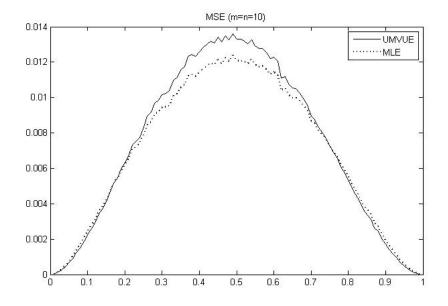


Figure 6:  $\gamma=1.25,\,N=10000$ 

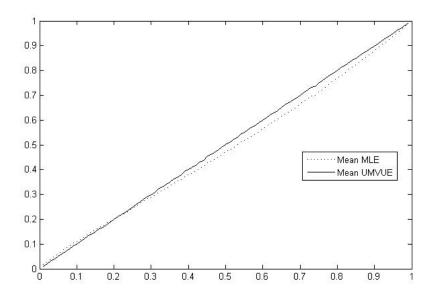


Figure 7:  $\gamma=4.5,\,m=n=5,\,N=10000$ 

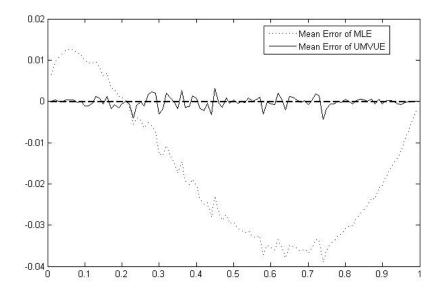


Figure 8:  $\gamma = 4.5, m = n = 5, N = 10000$ 

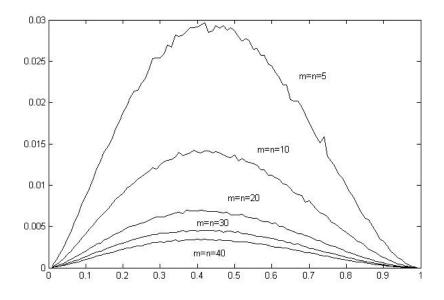


Figure 9:  $\gamma=4.5,\,N=10000,\,\mathrm{UMVUE}$ 

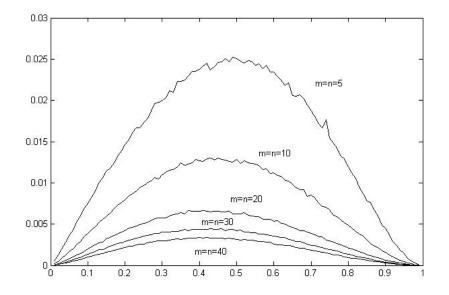


Figure 10:  $\gamma=4.5,\,N=10000,\,\mathrm{MLE}$ 

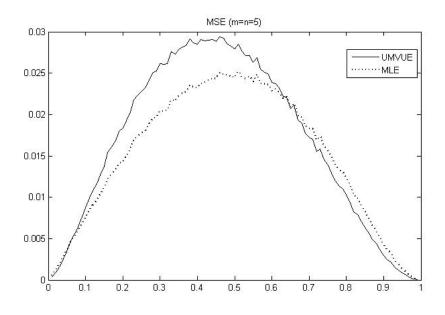


Figure 11:  $\gamma=4.5,\,N=10000$ 

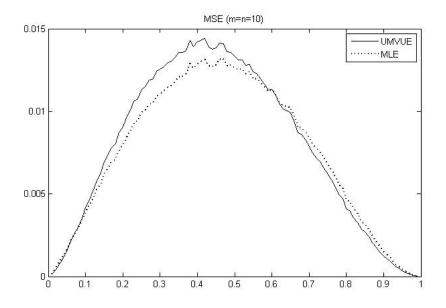


Figure 12:  $\gamma=4.5,\,N=10000$