

Remark on “What You See and What You Don’t See...”

P.J. Fitzsimmons

Department of Mathematics, U.C. San Diego

La Jolla, CA 92093-0112

pfitzsim@ucsd.edu

There is a general expression for the expected hidden tail moment that may be useful. It is this:

$$(1) \quad \mathbf{E}[\mu_{K_n,p}] = \frac{\mathbf{E}[K_{n+1}^p]}{n+1}.$$

(I’m assuming that the i.i.d X_k are strictly positive and have a continuous cdf.) Indeed, for a fixed $k > 0$ write

$$g(k) := \int_k^\infty x^p F(dx) = \mathbf{E}[X_{n+1}^p 1_{\{X_{n+1} > k\}}].$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}[\mu_{K_n,p}] &= \mathbf{E} \left[\int_0^\infty 1_{\{x > K_n\}} x^p F(dx) \right] \\ &= \mathbf{E}[g(K_n)] \\ &= \mathbf{E} [X_{n+1}^p 1_{\{X_{n+1} > K_n\}}] \\ &= \mathbf{E} [X_{n+1}^p 1_{\{X_{n+1} = K_{n+1}\}}] \end{aligned}$$

By symmetry this last expectation is equal to

$$\mathbf{E} [X_k^p 1_{\{X_k = K_{n+1}\}}], \quad k = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

Summing over $k \in \{1, 2, \dots, n+1\}$ we obtain (1).

The expression (1) leads to a heuristic for the order of magnitude of $\mathbf{E}[\mu_{K_n,p}]$. If $\bar{F}(x) := 1 - F(x)$ is the tail for the X_k , then $V := \bar{F}(K_{n+1})$ has the same distribution as the minimum of a sample of $n+1$ uniform $(0, 1)$ random variables. As such $K_{n+1} = \bar{F}^{-1}(V)$ is roughly $\bar{F}^{-1}(1/(n+2))$, and so

$$\mathbf{E}[\mu_{K_n,p}] \approx \frac{[\bar{F}^{-1}(1/(n+2))]^p}{n+1},$$

for large n , which is consistent with your expression for $\mathbf{E}[\mu_{K_n,p}]$ in the power law case.