

In lecture 16, we looked at precipitation amounts in Madison County (at Morrisville station). We found that the Weibull distribution had a good fit to the monthly precipitation amounts.

We found that the MLEs for the Weibull distribution were

$$\hat{a} = 2.1871$$

$$\hat{\sigma} = 3.9683$$

and

$$-\mathcal{L}(\{\hat{a}, \hat{\sigma}\}|\mathbf{x}) = 2166.496$$

is the realized negative log-likelihood. Note this means that the log-likelihood is

$$\mathcal{L}(\{\hat{a}, \hat{\sigma}\}|\mathbf{x}) = -2166.496,$$

and the usual likelihood is

$$L(\{\hat{a}, \hat{\sigma}\}|\mathbf{x}) = e^{[\mathcal{L}(\{\hat{a}, \hat{\sigma}\}|\mathbf{x})]} \approx e^{-2166.496},$$

which R cannot differentiate from 0.

1. Someone asked “why Weibull?” in class. That is, why wouldn’t we use another right-skewed distribution like the Gamma (see Lecture 15), or the Log-Normal (see Lecture 17).

```
# Load and clean data about precipitation in Madison County
dat.precip <- read_csv(file = "agacis.csv")

dat.precip.long <- dat.precip |>
dplyr::select(-Annual) |> # Remove annual column
pivot_longer(cols = c(Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, # pivot the column data into one col
                      May, Jun, Jul, Aug,
                      Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec),
              values_to = "Precipitation", # store the values in Precipitation
              names_to = "Month") |> # store the months in Month
#switch 'M' to NA values and convert numbers to integers from Strings
mutate(Precipitation = case_when(Precipitation == "M" ~ NA_character_,
                                TRUE ~ Precipitation))|>
mutate(Precipitation = as.numeric(Precipitation))
```

- (a) Compute the MLEs for these data using a Gamma distribution.

```
#Function to compute Maximum Likelihood
llgamma <- function(par, data, neg = F){
  alpha <- par[1] #get alpha and beta
  beta <- par[2]

  #compute log likelihood
  loglik <- sum(log(dgamma(x = data, shape = alpha, rate = beta)), na.rm = T)

  return(ifelse(neg, - loglik, loglik))
}

#Compute MLE
MLE.gamma <- optim(par = c(1,1),
                  fn = llgamma,
                  data=dat.precip.long$Precipitation,
                  neg=T)

#extract alpha and beta
alpha.MLE <- MLE.gamma$par[1]
beta.MLE <- MLE.gamma$par[2]

#print the values
alpha.MLE

## [1] 4.174581

beta.MLE

## [1] 1.189099
```

We computed the MLEs for these data using a Gamma distribution to obtain $\alpha = 4.1745814$ and $\beta = 1.1890993$.

- (b) Compute the MLEs for these data using the Log-Normal distribution.

```
#Function to compute Maximum Likelihood
lllognorm <- function(par, data, neg = F){
  mu <- par[1] #get mu and sigma
  sigma <- par[2]

  #compute log likelihood
  loglik <- sum(log(dlnorm(x = data, meanlog = mu, sdlog = sigma)), na.rm = T)

  return(ifelse(neg, - loglik, loglik))
}

#Compute MLE
MLE.lognorm <- optim(par = c(1,1),
  fn = lllognorm,
  data=dat.precip.long$Precipitation,
  neg=T)

#extract alpha and beta
mu.MLE <- MLE.lognorm$par[1]
sigma.MLE <- MLE.lognorm$par[2]

#print the values
mu.MLE

## [1] 1.131261

sigma.MLE

## [1] 0.5333417
```

We computed the MLEs for these data using a Log-Normal distribution to obtain $\mu = 1.1312609$ and $\sigma = 0.5333417$.

- (c) Compute the likelihood ratio to compare the Weibull and the Gamma distribution. Which has a better fit according to the likelihood ratio?

$$Q = \frac{L(\{\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\sigma}\}|\mathbf{x})}{L(\{\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}\}|\mathbf{x})} = e^{[\mathcal{L}(\{\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\sigma}\}|\mathbf{x}) - \mathcal{L}(\{\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}\}|\mathbf{x})]}$$

```
#compute log-likelihood for Gamma distribution
Gamma.loglik <- llgamma(par = c(alpha.MLE, beta.MLE), data = dat.precip.long$Precipitation, neg = F)

#compute the likelihood ratio
Weibull.loglik <- -2166.496
q.gamma.weibull <- exp(Weibull.loglik-Gamma.loglik)

#print Q
q.gamma.weibull

## [1] 2.161318e-07
```

The likelihood ratio of the Weibull and the Gamma distribution is 2.1613179×10^{-7} . Because $Q < 1$, the Gamma distribution is a better fit according to the likelihood ratio.

- (d) Compute the likelihood ratio to compare the Weibull and the Log-Normal distribution. Which has a better fit according to the likelihood ratio?

$$Q = \frac{L(\{\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\sigma}\}|\mathbf{x})}{L(\{\hat{\mu}, \hat{\sigma}\}|\mathbf{x})} = e^{[\mathcal{L}(\{\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\sigma}\}|\mathbf{x}) - \mathcal{L}(\{\hat{\mu}, \hat{\sigma}\}|\mathbf{x})]}$$

```
#compute log-likelihood for Log-Normal distribution
Lognorm.loglik <- lllognorm(c(mu.MLE, sigma.MLE), data = dat.precip.long$Precipitation, neg = F)

#compute the likelihood ratio
q.lognorm.weibull <- exp(Weibull.loglik-Lognorm.loglik)

#print Q
q.lognorm.weibull

## [1] 2.370668e+16
```

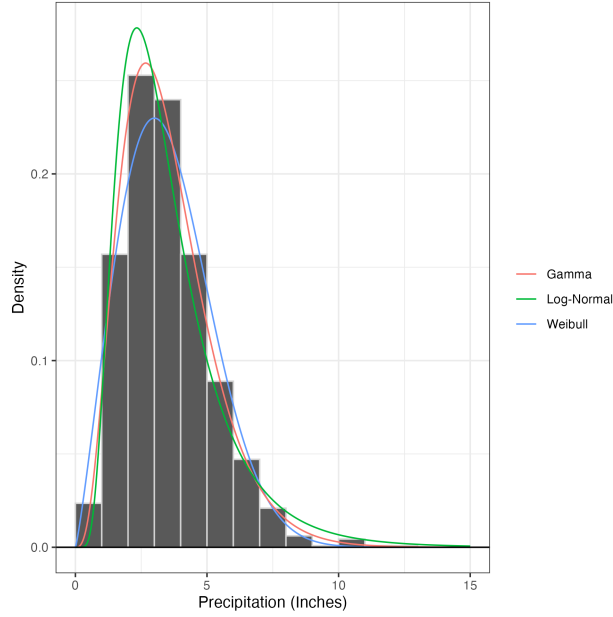


Figure 1: Superimposed distributions onto the percipitation data

The likelihood ratio of the Weibull and the Log-Normal distribution is 2.3706676×10^{16} . Because $Q > 1$, the Weibull distribution is a better fit according to the likelihood ratio.

- (e) Compute the likelihood ratio to compare the Gamma and the Log-Normal distribution. Which has a better fit according to the likelihood ratio?

$$Q = \frac{L(\{\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}\}|\mathbf{x})}{L(\{\hat{\mu}, \hat{\sigma}\}|\mathbf{x})} = e^{[\mathcal{L}(\{\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}\}|\mathbf{x}) - \mathcal{L}(\{\hat{\mu}, \hat{\sigma}\}|\mathbf{x})]}$$

```
#compute the likelihood ratio
q.gamma.lognorm <- exp(Gamma.loglik-Lognorm.loglik)

#print Q
q.gamma.lognorm

## [1] 1.096862e+23
```

The likelihood ratio of the Gamma and the Log-Normal distribution is 1.096862×10^{23} . Because $Q > 1$, the Gamma distribution is a better fit according to the likelihood ratio.