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Chapter 1

Using LME Models for Method Comparison Problems

1.1 Overview

This chapter discusses the use of LME models in Method Comparison problems. In this section, we provide a brief discussion of each section in this chapter.

Introduction to LME Models, Fitting LME Models to MCS Data

In this section, we introduce the LME model, discuss how it can be applied to MCS problems, and how it is desirable in the case of replicate measurements, giving some examples from previous work (i.e. Carstensen et Al, Lai & Shaio, and Roy).

Carstensen et al recommends that replicate measurements for each method, but recognizes that resulting data are more difficult to analyze. To this end, LME models are advocated.

Further to that, there will be a discussion on fitting various types LME models using freely available software. To fully understand the complexities, a comparison of the **nlme** and **LME4** R Packages is required.

While the MCS problem is conventionally poised in the context of two methods of measurements, LME models allow for a straightforward analysis whereby several methods of measurement can be measured simultaneously. However Simple models only can only indicate agreement or lack thereof, and the presence of inter-method bias. To consider more complex questions, more complex LME models are required. Useful approaches, such as Roy (2009) will be introduced in a later section.

Residual Analysis for LME, Applications to MCS Data

This short section will look at residual analysis for LME models. The underlying assumptions for LME models are similar to those of classical linear models. There are two key techniques: a residual plot and the normal probability plot. Using the nlme package it is possible to create plots specific to each method. This is useful in determine which methods ‘disagree’ with the rest. Analysis of the residuals would determine if the methods of measurement disagree systematically, or whether or not erroneous measurements associated with a subset of the cases are the cause of disagreement. Erroneous measurements are incorrect measurements that indicate disagreement between methods that would otherwise be in agreement.

Case Deletion Diagnostics for LME Data: Cooks Distance, DF-Betas

In this section we introduce influence analysis and case deletion diagnostics. A full overview of the topic will be provided although there are specific tools that are particularly useful in the case of MCS problems.

A discussion of how leave-k-out diagnostics would work in the context of MCS problems is required. There are several scenarios. Suppose we have two methods of measurement X and Y, each with three measurements for a specific case: $(x_1, x_2, x_3, y_1, y_2, y_3)$

- Leave One Out - requires we omit one observation (e.g. x_1)

- Leave Pair Out - we would omit one pair of observation (e.g. x_1 and y_1)
- Leave Case Out - we omit all observations associated with a particular case. (e.g. $x_1, x_2, x_3, y_1, y_2, y_3$)

Using DFBETAs to assess agreement

Suppose an LME model was formulated to model agreement for various (i.e. 2 or more) methods of measurement, with replicate measurements. If the methods are to be agreement, the DFBetas for each case would be the same for both methods.

As such, agreement between any two methods can be determined by a simple scatterplot of the DFBetas. If the points align along the line of equality, then both methods can be said to be in agreement. If they appear not to be agreement, a subsequent analysis using a technique proposed by Roy(2009) can be used to identify the specific cause for this lack of agreement.

The Pearson Correlation coefficient of the DFBetas can be used in conjunction with this analysis. A high correlation confirms good agreement. The Bonferroni Outlier Test and Cook's Distance values can be used to identify unusual cases, when the relationship is modelled as a classical linear model. A test for non-constant variance may also be applied.

Deming Regression can be used to corroborate equality. Significance test for Deming regression estimates are not available, but 95% bootstrap confidence intervals for the slope estimate and intercept estimates can be computed.

Additionally a mean difference plot can be used to identify outliers. This mean-difference plot differs from the Bland-Altman plot in that the plot is denominated in terms of dfbeta values, and not in measurement units.

If lack of agreement is indicated between methods of measurement, use of Roy's Testing is advised.(next section)

Using Roy's Test to Identify cause of Lack of agreement

Barnhart specifies three conditions for method of measurement that are required for two methods of measurement to be considered in agreement.

- (i) No Significant Inter-method bias
- (ii) No significant Difference in Within-Subject Variance
- (iii) No significant Difference in Within-Subject Variance

Roy(2009) demonstrates a LME model specification, and a series of tests that look at each of the criteria individually. If two methods of measurement lack agreement, the specific reason for this lack of agreement can be pinpointed.

Using Roy's Model to Compute LoAs and CR

In this short section, a demonstration of how Roy's technique can be used to compute two common MCS metrics: Limits of Agreement and the Coefficient of Repeatability. While Limits of Agreement are not used in the analysis proposed here, there are ubiquitous in literature, and a demonstration on how to compute them with the Roy Model would assist the adoption of this proposed method.

Model Diagnostics for Roy's Models

Further to previous work, this section revisits case-deletion and residual diagnostics, and explores how approaches devised by Galecki and Burzykowski can be used to appraise Roy's model.

Permutation and Power Tests

This section explores topics such as dependent variable simulation and Power Analysis (Galecki and Burzykowski) and Permutation testing. Using the *predictmeans* R

package, it is possible to perform permutation t-tests for coefficients of (fixed) effects and permutation F-tests.

Chapter 2

Fitting LME Models

Further to previous material, an appraisal of the current state of development for statistical software for fitting for LME models, particularly for `nlme` and `lme4` fitted models.

The `lme4` package is used to fit linear and generalized linear mixed-effects models in the R environment. The `lme4` package is also under active development, under the leadership of Ben Bolker (McMaster Uni., Canada).

Crucially, a review of internet resources indicates that almost all of the progress in this regard has been done for `lme4` fitted models, specifically the *Influence.ME* R package. (Nieuwenhuis et al 2014) Conversely there is very little for `nlme` models. One would immediately look at the current development workflow for both packages.

As an aside, Douglas Bates was arguably the most prominent R developer working in the LME area. However Bates has now prioritised the development of LME models in another computing environment , i.e Julia.

With regards to `nlme`, the package is now maintained by the R core development team. The most recent major text is by Galecki & Burzykowski, who have published *Linear Mixed Effects Models using R*. Also, the accompanying R package, nlmeU package is under current development, with a version being released 0.70 – 3.

2.1 Fitting Models with nlme R package

2.2 Fitting Models with the LME4 R package

Maximum likelihood or restricted maximum likelihood (REML) estimates of the parameters in linear mixed-effects models can be determined using the `lmer` function in the `lme4` package for R. As for most model-fitting functions in R, the model is described in an `lmer` call by a formula, in this case including both fixed- and random-effects terms.

The formula and data together determine a numerical representation of the model from which the profiled deviance or the profiled REML criterion can be evaluated as a function of some of the model parameters. The appropriate criterion is optimized, using one of the constrained optimization functions in R, to provide the parameter estimates. We describe the structure of the model, the steps in evaluating the profiled deviance or REML criterion, and the structure of classes or types that represents such a model.

Sufficient detail is included to allow specialization of these structures by users who wish to write functions to fit specialized linear mixed models, such as models incorporating pedigrees or smoothing splines, that are not easily expressible in the formula language used by `lmer`.

`y` : Response variable

`method` : Method of Measurement

`subject` : Subject

`MCSdata`

```
library(lme4)
```

```
MCS.lme4 <- lmer(y ~ method-1 + (1|subject) , data=MCSdata)
```

2.2.1 Important Consideration for MCS

The key issue is that `nlme` allows for the particular specification of Roy's Model, specifically direct specification of the VC matrices for within subject and between subject residuals.

The `lme4` package does not allow for Roy's Model, for reasons that will be identified shortly. To advance the ideas that emanate from Roy's paper, one is required to use the `nlme` context. However, to take advantage of the infrastructure already provided for `lme4` models, one may change the research question away from that of Roy's paper. To this end, an exploration of what `textbf{influence.ME}` can accomplish is merited.

2.3 Diagnostic Tools for the nlme package

With the nlme package, the generic function `lme()` fits a linear mixed-effects model in the formulation described in Laird and Ware (1982) but allowing for nested random effects.

The within-group errors are allowed to be correlated and/or have unequal variances, which is very important in fitting the models for Roy's Tests

The nlme package has a limited set of diagnostic tools that can be used to assess the model fit. A review of the package manual is sufficient to get a sense of the package's capability in that regard.

residuals.lme The residuals at level i are obtained by subtracting the fitted levels at that level from the response vector (and dividing by the estimated within-group standard error, if `type="pearson"`). The fitted values at level i are obtained by adding together the population fitted values (based only on the fixed effects estimates) and the estimated contributions of the random effects to the fitted values at grouping levels less or equal to i .

Chapter 3

Residual Analysis

A residual is the difference between an observed quantity and its estimated or predicted value. In LME models, there are two types of residuals, marginal residuals and conditional residuals. A marginal residual is the difference between the observed data and the estimated marginal mean. A conditional residual is the difference between the observed data and the predicted value of the observation. In a model without random effects, both sets of residuals coincide.

3.1 Residual diagnostics

3.1.1 Introduction to Residual Analysis

Residual analysis is a widely used model validation technique. A residual is simply the difference between an observed value and the corresponding fitted value, as predicted by the model. The rationale is that, if the model is properly fitted to the model, then the residuals would approximate the random errors that one should expect; if the residuals behave randomly, with no discernible trend. If some sort of non-random trend is evident in the model, then the model can be considered to be poorly fitted.

For classical linear models, residual diagnostics are typically implemented as a plot of the observed residuals and the predicted values. A visual inspection for the presence

of trends inform the analyst on the validity of distributional assumptions, and to detect outliers and influential observations. Statistical software environments, such as the R programming language, provides a suite of tests and graphical procedures for appraising a fitted linear model, with several of these procedures analysing the model residuals.

However, for LME models the matter of residual is more complex, both from a theoretical point of view and from the practical matter of implementing a comprehensive analysis using statistical software. As the LME model can be tailored to the needs of the particular research question, the rationale behind the model appraisal must follow accordingly.

3.1.2 Residuals in the Blood Data Example

The fitted model used in the Blood data example, `JS.roy1`, was fitted using the `lme()` function from the `nlme` package, and as such, is stored as an `lme` object. The `residual` functions extracts residuals of a fitted LME model, depending on the type of residual required.

For an `lme` object, the residuals at level i are obtained by subtracting the fitted levels at that level from the response vector (and dividing by the estimated within-group standard error, if `type="pearson"`). The Pearson residual is the raw residual divided by the square root of the variance function (here, the Within-group standard error for both methods, 6.11 and 9.11 respectively). The fitted values at level i are obtained by adding together the population fitted values (based only on the fixed effects estimates) and the estimated contributions of the random effects to the fitted values at grouping levels less or equal to i .

"response" : the raw residuals (*observed - fitted*) are used. This is the default option.

"pearson" : the standardized residuals (raw residuals divided by the corresponding standard errors) are used;

"normalized" : the normalized residuals (standardized residuals pre-multiplied by

the inverse square-root factor of the estimated error correlation matrix) are used.

```
data.frame( response = resid(JS.roy1, type = "response"),
  pearson   = resid(JS.roy1, type = "pearson"),
  normalized = resid(JS.roy1, type = "normalized") )
```

```
response      pearson      normalized
1    -4.65805902 -0.761587227 -0.7615872269
2    -0.88701342 -0.145025661  0.0776238081
3    -5.16580898 -0.844603753 -0.8446037530
4     2.29041830  0.374480726  0.6450898404
5     7.87508366  1.287567009  1.2875670086
6    -6.57048659 -1.074266908 -1.5090772378
.....
```

For the J observations, the variance is 6.116252 whereas for the S observations, the denominator is 9.118144. (with the expected ratio of 1.490806)

```
> pearson %>%
+   as.numeric %>%
+   matrix(nrow=85) %>%
+   round(4)

[,1]    [,2]    [,3]    [,4]    [,5]    [,6]
[1,] -0.7616  0.2194  0.3829 -0.2983  0.3597 -0.0790
[2,] -0.1450  0.1820 -0.1450 -0.5014  0.1567  0.2663
[3,] -0.8446  0.4634  0.1364 -0.1630 -0.2727  0.1660
[4,]  0.3745 -0.2795 -0.2795 -0.2658 -0.2658  0.6115
```

```
[5,]  1.2876 -0.6744 -0.6744  0.8935 -0.0935 -0.8612
[6,] -1.0743  1.8687 -0.7473 -0.0383  0.2908 -0.3673
.....
```

We can plot the residuals against the fitted values, to assess the assumption of constant variance.

```
# standardized residuals versus fitted values
plot(JS.roy1, resid(., type = "pearson") ~ fitted(.) ,
     abline = 0, id = 0.05)
```

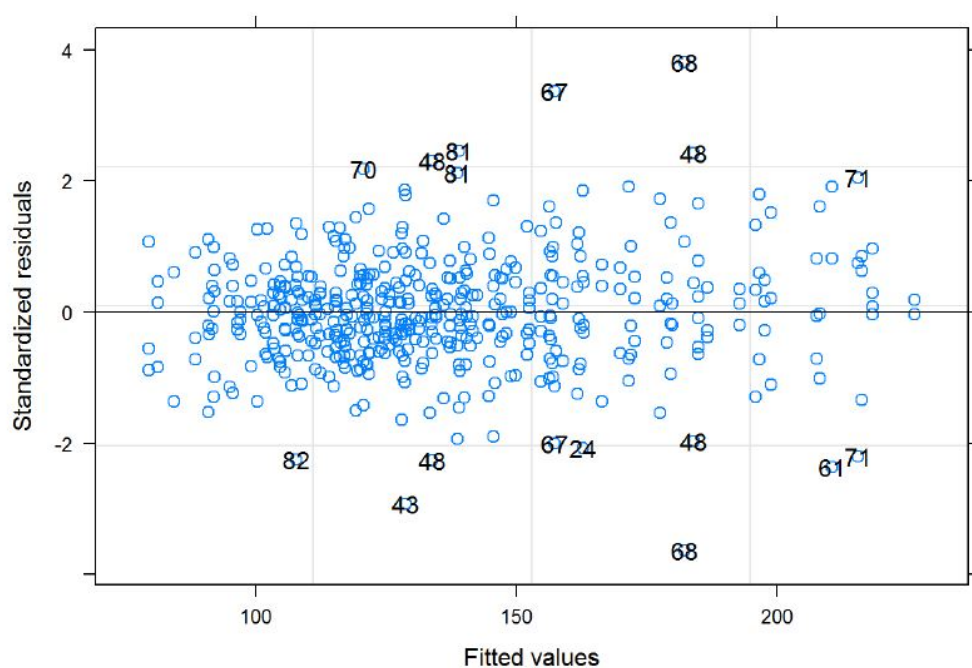


Figure 3.1.1:

3.1.3 Normality of Residuals in the Blood Data Example

LME models assume that the residuals of the model are normally distributed. The residuals can be divided according to groups according to the method of measurement. In the following examples, we separately assess normality the J method residuals (the first 255 residuals) and S method residuals (the remaining 255). Importantly the residuals from the J method are normally distributed, but there is non-normality of the residuals according to the S method.

```
> shapiro.test(resid(JS.roy1)[1:255])
```

```
Shapiro-Wilk normality test
```

```
data:  resid(JS.roy1)[1:255]
```

```
W = 0.9931, p-value = 0.2852
```

```
> shapiro.test(resid(JS.roy1)[256:510])
```

```
Shapiro-Wilk normality test
```

```
data:  resid(JS.roy1)[256:510]
```

```
W = 0.9395, p-value = 9.503e-09
```

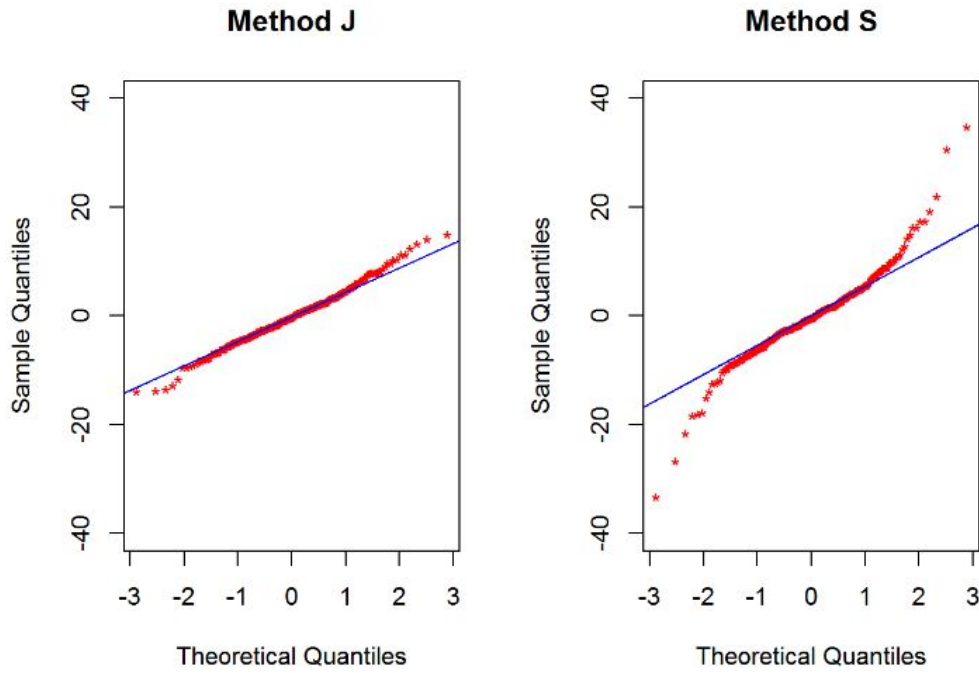



Figure 3.1.2:

3.1.4 Conditional and Marginal Residuals

A residual is the difference between an observed quantity and its estimated or predicted value. For LME models, ? describes two types of residuals, marginal residuals and conditional residuals.

- A marginal residual is the difference between the observed data and the estimated (marginal) mean, $r_{mi} = y_i - x'_0 \hat{b}$
- A conditional residual is the difference between the observed data and the predicted value of the observation, $r_{ci} = y_i - x'_i \hat{b} - z'_i \hat{\gamma}$

In a model without random effects, both sets of residuals coincide (?) . We shall revert to this matter in due course.

In linear mixed effects models, diagnostic techniques may consider ‘conditional’ residuals. A conditional residual is the difference between an observed value y_i and the

conditional predicted value \hat{y}_i .

$$\hat{\epsilon}_i = y_i - \hat{y}_i = y_i - (X_i\hat{\beta} + Z_i\hat{b}_i)$$

However, using conditional residuals for diagnostics presents difficulties, as they tend to be correlated and their variances may be different for different subgroups, which can lead to erroneous conclusions.

3.1.5 Residual Analysis for MCS

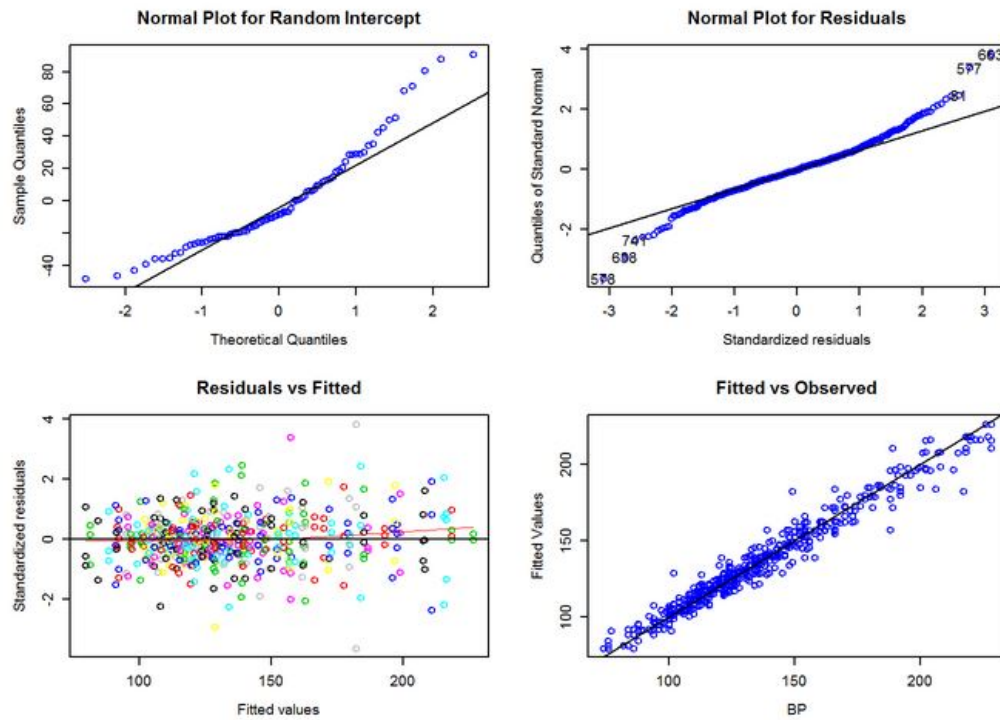


Figure 3.1.3:

3.1.6 PRESS Residuals and PRESS Statistic

In statistics, the predicted residual sum of squares (PRESS) statistic is a form of cross-validation used in regression analysis to provide a summary measure of the fit of a model to a sample of observations that were not themselves used to estimate the model. It is calculated as the sums of squares of the prediction residuals for those observations.

A fitted model having been produced, each observation in turn is removed and the model is refitted using the remaining observations. The out-of-sample predicted value is calculated for the omitted observation in each case, and the PRESS statistic

is calculated as the sum of the squares of all the resulting prediction errors:[4]

$$PRESS = \sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \hat{y}_{i,-i})^2$$

Given this procedure, the PRESS statistic can be calculated for a number of candidate model structures for the same dataset, with the lowest values of PRESS indicating the best structures. Models that are over-parameterised (over-fitted) would tend to give small residuals for observations included in the model-fitting but large residuals for observations that are excluded.

An (unconditional) predicted value is $\hat{y}_i = x_i' \hat{\beta}$, where the vector x_i is the i th row of \mathbf{X} . For an `lme` object, such as our fitted model `JS.roy1`, the predicted values for each subject can be determined using the `coef.lme` function.

```
> JS.roy1 %>% coef %>% head(5)
methodJ    methodS
74      84.31724  91.08404
36      91.54994  97.05548
3       81.16581  96.48653
62      92.09493  90.89073
31      88.41411 103.38802
```

The (raw) residual is given as $\varepsilon_i = y_i - \hat{y}_i$. The PRESS residual is similarly constructed, using the predicted value for observation i with a model fitted from reduced data.

$$\varepsilon_{i(U)} = y_i - x_i' \hat{\beta}_{(U)}$$

The PRESS statistic is the sum of the squared PRESS residuals:

$$PRESS = \sum \varepsilon_{i(U)}^2$$

where the sum is over the observations in \mathbf{U} .

Pinheiro and Bates provide some insight into how to compute and interpret model diagnostic plots for lme models. Unfortunately this aspect of LME theory is not as expansive as the corresponding body of work for Linear Models.

3.2 Checking the Assumption by Method

3.2.1 Residual Analysis

qqnorm.lme Normal Plot of Residuals or Random Effects from an lme Object

Description

Diagnostic plots for assessing the normality of residuals and random effects in the linear mixed-effects fit are obtained. The `form` argument gives considerable flexibility in the type of plot specification. A conditioning expression (on the right side of a `—` operator) always implies that different panels are used for each level of the conditioning factor, according to a Trellis display.

Residuals plots

`lme` allows to plot the residuals in the following ways:

```
res_lme=residuals(model_lme)
plot(res_lme)
qqnorm(res_lme)
qqline(res_lme)
plot(model_lme)
```

3.2.2 Diagnostic Plots for LME models

When the `plot` function calls the model object, the residual plot is produced.

```
plot(JS.roy1, which=c(1) )
```

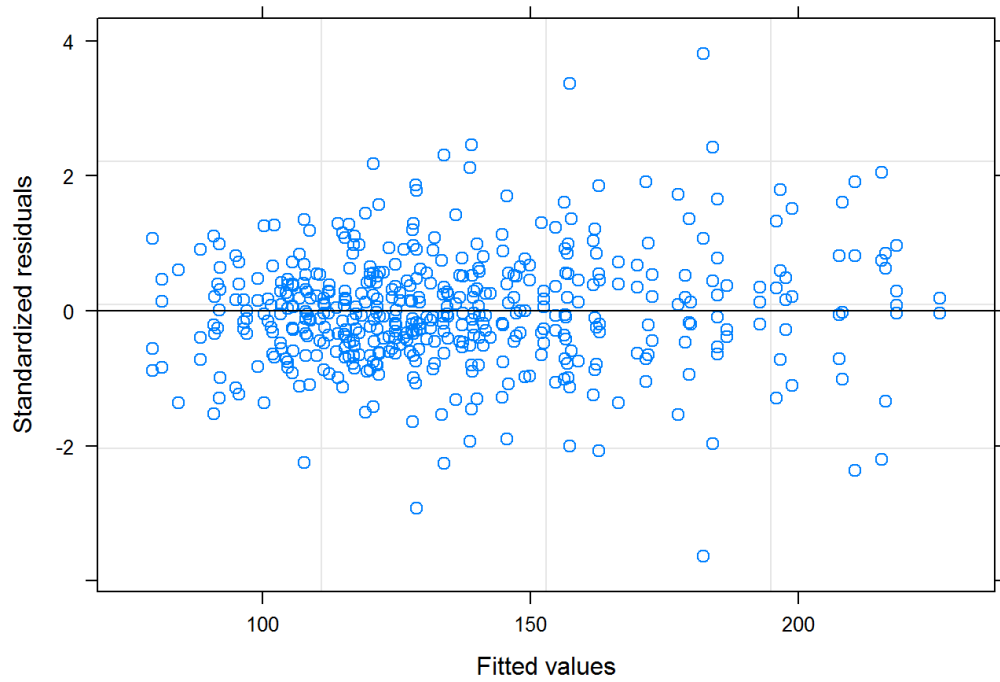


Figure 3.2.4:

LME models assume that the residuals of the model are normally distributed. A Normal probability plot can be constructed to check this assumption. Commonly used R commands can be used to construct the plot.

```
qqnorm(resid(JS.roy1),pch="*",col="red")
qqline(resid(JS.roy1),col="blue")
```

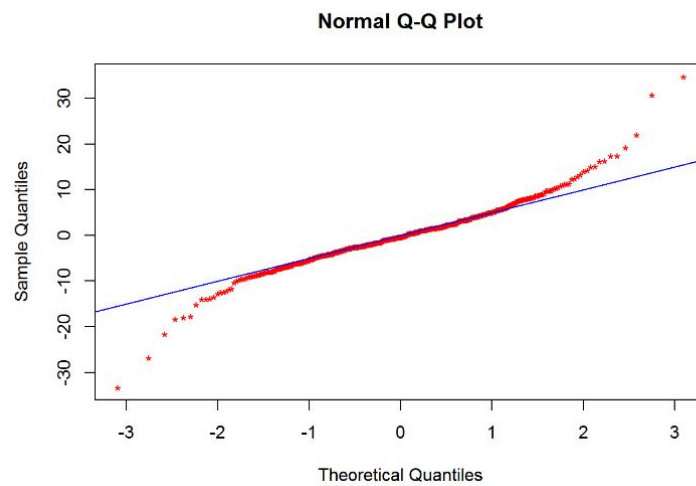


Figure 3.2.5:

```
table(dat$method[1:255])
##
##    J    S
## 255    0
table(dat$method[256:510])
##
##    J    S
##    0 255
```

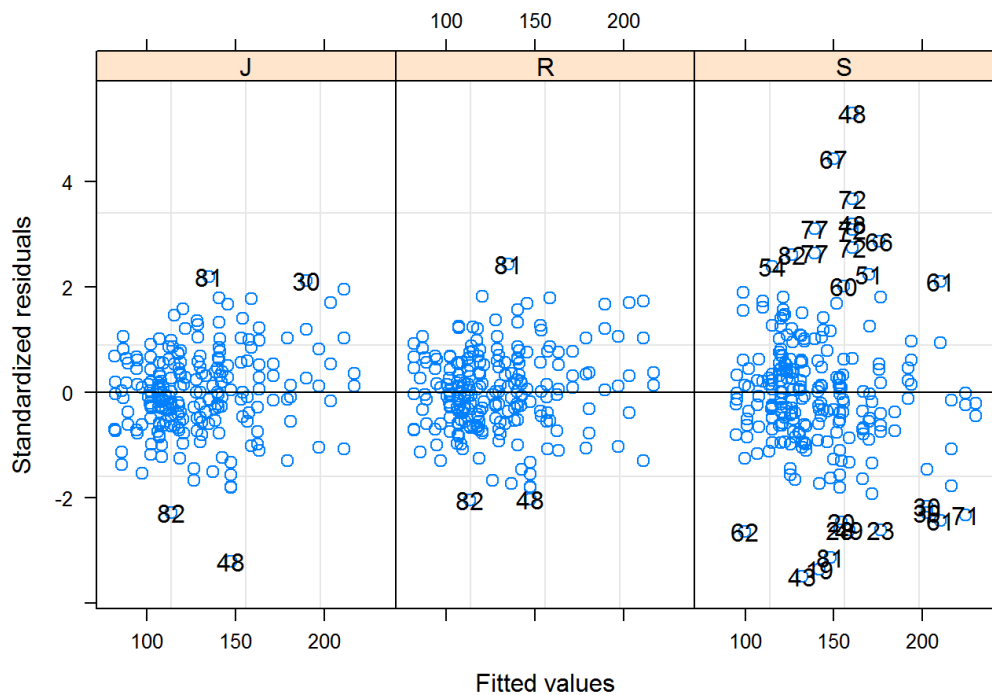


Figure 3.2.6:

```
plot(roy.NLME, resid(., type = "p") ~ fitted(.) | method,
     abline = 0, id=.05)
```

Cooks distance- Predict means thing here

Cook's Distance is a model diagnostic measure of an observation that is a measure of aggregate impact of each observation on the group of regression coefficients. Observations, or sets of observations, that have high Cook's distance usually have high residuals. We will revisit Cook's distance fully in due course.

Cook's Distance is a good measure of the influence of an observation that is a measure of aggregate impact of each observation on the group of regression coefficients, as well as the group of fitted values.

The `CookD` function, from the `predictmeans` R package, produces Cook's distance plots for an LME model (`predictmeans`)

```
library(predictMeans)
CookD(model, group=method, plot=TRUE, idn=5, newwd=FALSE)
```

Cook's Distance

The particular cases that we will omit for the subsequent analysis are subjects 68, 78 and 80.

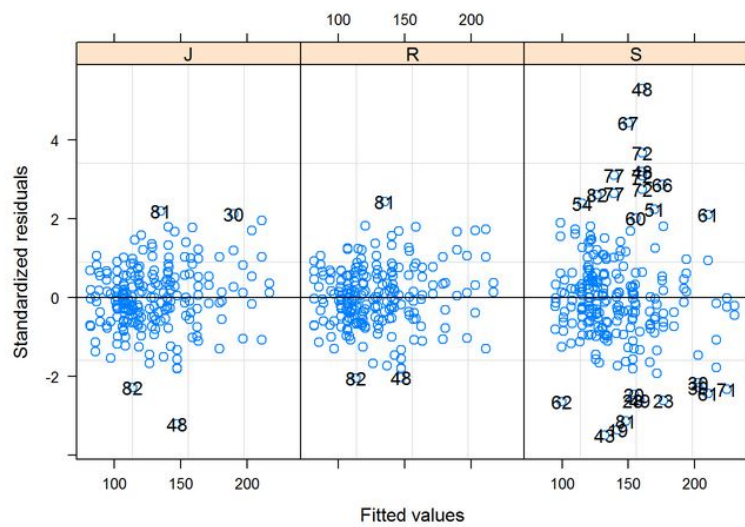
Reduced Data Set

It is important to determine if a specific group of cases or subjects give rise to the lack of agreement in the methods. If one were to examine fitted model if these cases were removed.

```
blood.red <- blood[!(blood$subject %in% c(68,78,80)),]
dim(blood.red)
# 27 observations should be removed.

roy.NLME.red <- lme(BP ~ method-1, random=~1|subject, data = blood.red)
plot(roy.NLME.red, resid(., type = "p") ~ fitted(.) | method, abline = 0, id=.05)
```

In this instance, we conclude that there is a systemic disagreement between method S and the other two methods, and that lack of agreement can not be sourced to a handful of cases.



3.2.3 Residual Plots

A residual plot is a graph that shows the residuals on the vertical axis and the independent variable on the horizontal axis. If the points in a residual plot are randomly dispersed around the horizontal axis, a linear regression model is appropriate for the data; otherwise, a non-linear model is more appropriate.

```
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
qqnorm((resid(JS.roy1)[1:255]),
pch="*",col="red",
ylim=c(-40,40),
main="Method J")
qqline(resid(JS.roy1)[1:255],col="blue")
qqnorm((resid(JS.roy1)[256:510]),
pch="*",col="red",
ylim=c(-40,40),
main="Method S")
qqline(resid(JS.roy1)[256:510],col="blue")
par(mfrow=c(1,1))
```

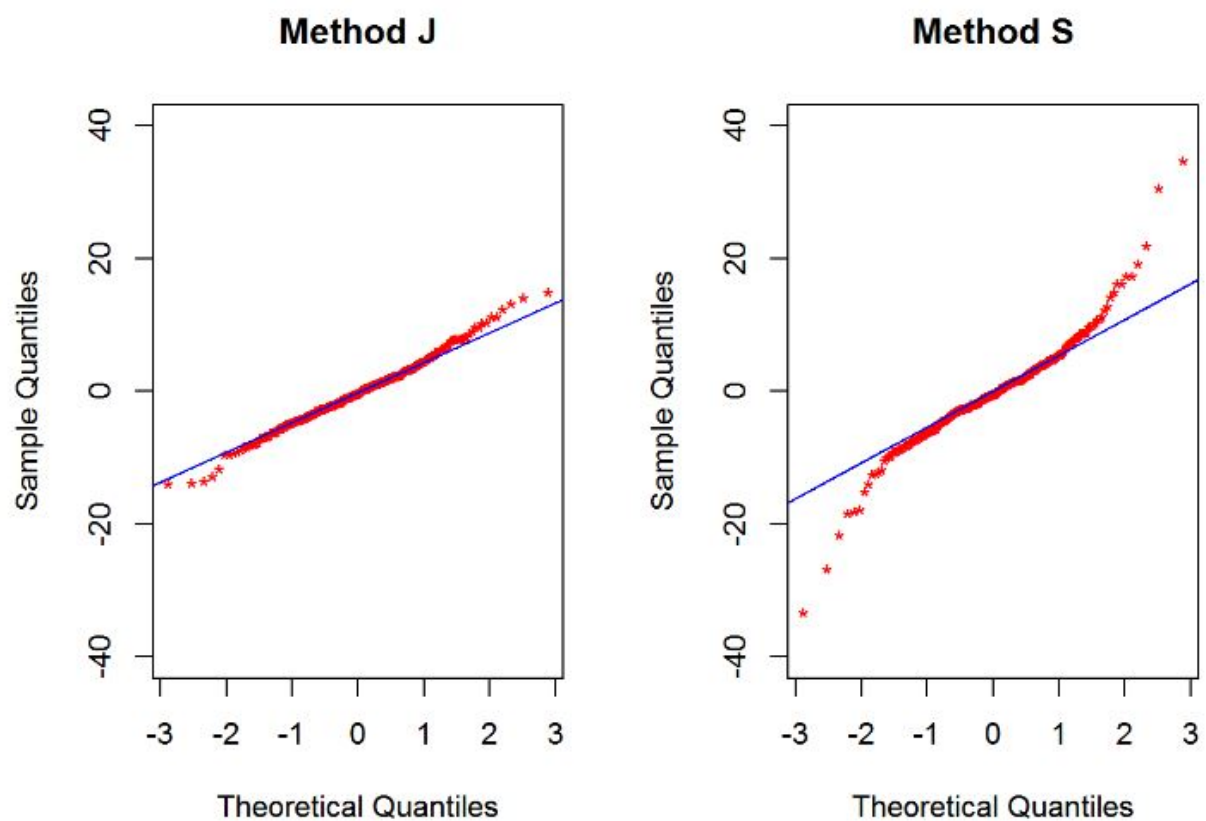
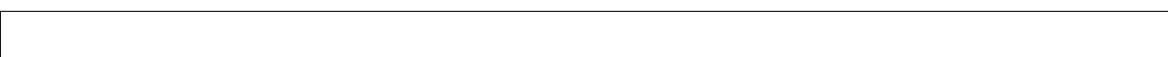
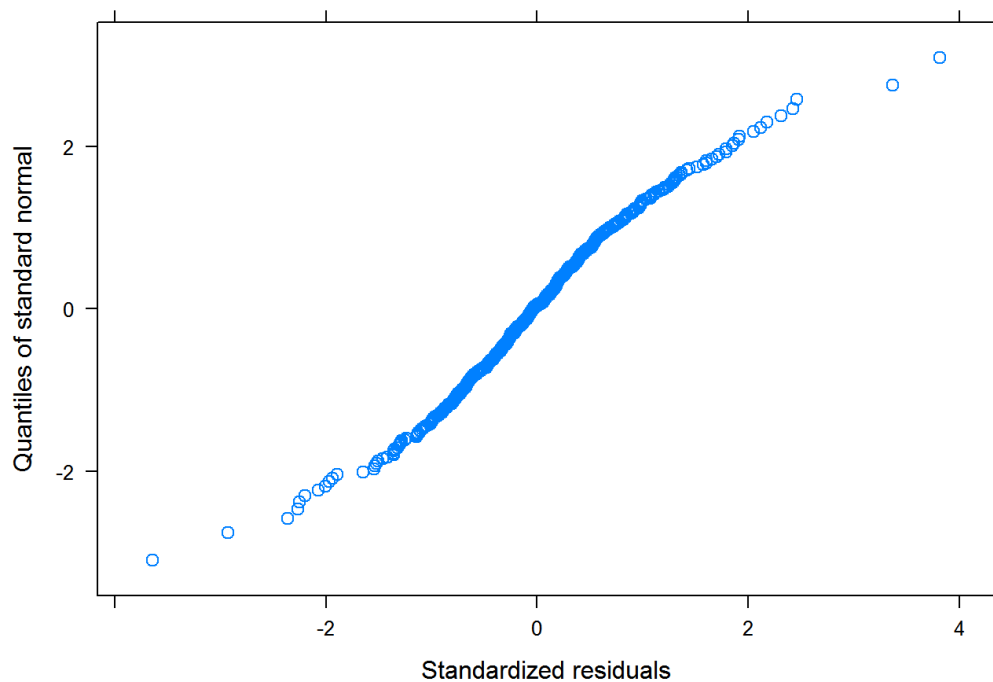


Figure 3.2.7:

This code will allow you to make QQ plots for each level of the random effects. LME models assume that not only the within-cluster residuals are normally distributed, but that each level of the random effects are as well. Depending on the model, you can vary the level from 0, 1, 2 and so on

```
qqnorm(JS.roy1, ~ranef(.))  
  
# qqnorm(JS.roy1, ~ranef(.,levels=1))
```



3.3 Preliminaries: Useful R commands

`vcov` returns the variance-covariance matrix of the main parameters of a fitted model object.

```
> vcov(JS.roy1)
methodJ  methodS
methodJ 11.01701  9.30105
methodS  9.30105 11.75301
```

`getVarCov` extract the variance-covariance matrix from a fitted model, such as a mixed-effects model.

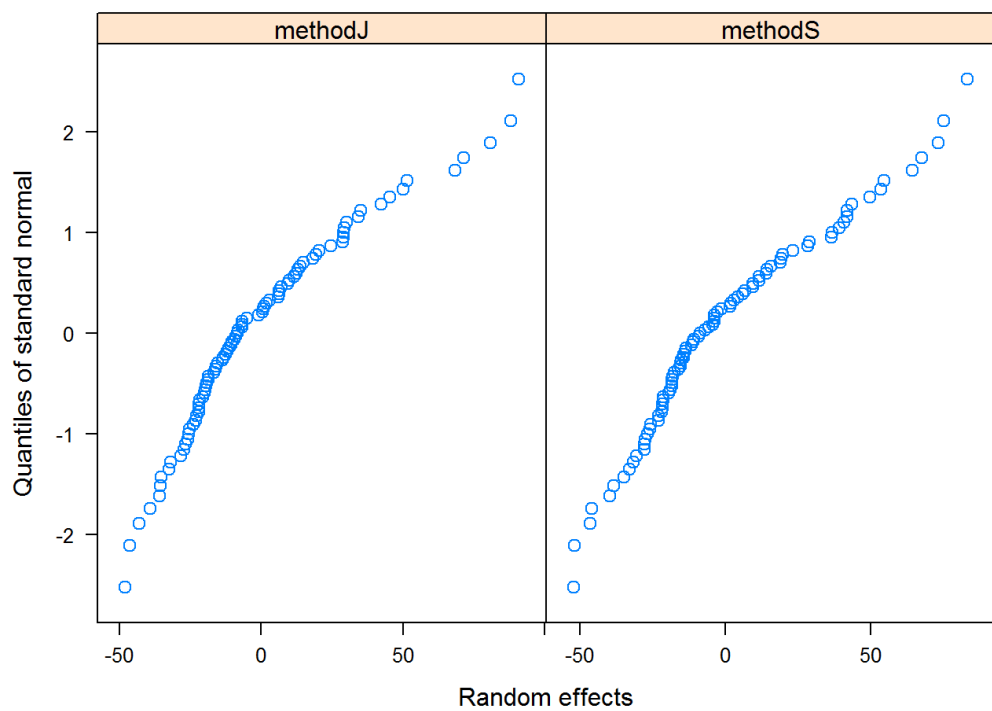


Figure 3.2.8:

```
> getVarCov(JS.roy1)
Random effects variance covariance matrix
methodJ methodS
methodJ  923.98  785.23
methodS  785.23  971.29
Standard Deviations: 30.397 31.166
```

3.4 coef.lme

The command `coef.lme` extract lmes coefficients

The estimated coefficients at level i are obtained by adding together the fixed ef-

fects estimates and the corresponding random effects estimates at grouping levels less or equal to i . The resulting estimates are returned as a data frame, with rows corresponding to groups and columns to coefficients. Optionally, the returned data frame may be augmented with covariates summarized over groups.

```
> JS.roy1 %>% coef %>% head(10)
methodJ    methodS
74  84.31724  91.08404
36  91.54994  97.05548
3   81.16581  96.48653
62  92.09493  90.89073
31  88.41411 103.38802
42  95.56881 104.70922
11 103.46092 111.33625
41  94.97700 108.08384
55  79.44762 110.02055
17 101.53470 112.46964
```

Suppose we refit the model, with a reduced data set (for example, with subject 68 missing)

```
x=68
datred <- dat[dat$subject !=x,]

# datred is other 84 cases (504 observations)

JS.roy1.red = lme(BP ~ method-1,
```

```

data = datred,
random = list(subject=pdSymm(~ method-1)),
weights=varIdent(form=~1|method),
correlation = corSymm(form=~1 | subject/repl),
method="ML")

```

```

> JS.roy1.red %>% coef %>% dim
[1] 84  2
>
> JS.roy1.red %>% coef %>% head(10)
methodJ    methodS
74  84.31425  90.89550
36  91.54526  96.86813
3   81.17663  96.36665
62  92.07933  90.64629
31  88.42473 103.27726
42  95.57027 104.56000
11 103.46071 111.18930
41  94.98491 107.96791
55  79.48324 110.02963
17 101.53939 112.34591

```

Chapter 4

Using DFBETAs from LME Models to Assess Agreement

? examines the use and implementation of influence measures in LME models.

Influence is understood to be the ability of a single or multiple data points, through their presences or absence in the data, to alter important aspects of the analysis, yield qualitatively different inferences, or violate assumptions of the statistical model (?).

Outliers are the most noteworthy data points in an analysis, and an objective of influence analysis is how influential they are, and the manner in which they are influential.

? describes a simple procedure for quantifying influence.

- Firstly a model should be fitted to the data, and estimates of the parameters should be obtained.
- The second step is that either single or multiple data points, specifically outliers, should be omitted from the analysis, with the original parameter estimates being updated.
- The final step of the procedure is comparing the sets of estimates computed from the entire and reduced data sets to determine whether the absence of observations changed the analysis.

This is known as ‘*leave one out* or *leave k out*’ analysis.

4.1 Measures of Influence

The impact of an observation, or a case with multiple observations, on a regression fitting can be determined by the difference between the estimated regression coefficient of a model with all observations and the estimated coefficient when the particular observation is deleted. The measure DFBETA is the studentized value of this difference.

4.1.1 Overall Influence

An overall influence statistic measures the change in the objective function being minimized. For example, in OLS regression, the residual sums of squares serves that purpose. In linear mixed models fit by maximum likelihood (ML) or restricted maximum likelihood (REML), an overall influence measure is the likelihood distance [Cook and Weisberg].

4.2 `influence.ME`

influence.ME allows you to compute measures of influential data for mixed effects models generated by `lme4`.

influence.ME provides a collection of tools for detecting influential cases in generalized mixed effects models. It analyses models that were estimated using `lme4`. The basic rationale behind identifying influential data is that when iteratively single units are omitted from the data, models based on these data should not produce substantially different estimates.

To standardize the assessment of how influential a (single group of) observation(s) is, several measures of influence are common practice, such as DFBETAS and Cook’s Distance. In addition, we provide a measure of percentage change of the fixed point estimates and a simple procedure to detect changing levels of significance.

4.3 Case Deletion Diagnostics

? develops case deletion diagnostics, in particular the equivalent of Cook's distance, for diagnosing influential observations when estimating the fixed effect parameters and variance components.

4.3.1 Deletion Diagnostics

Since the pioneering work of Cook in 1977, deletion measures have been applied to many statistical models for identifying influential observations.

Deletion diagnostics provide a means of assessing the influence of an observation (or groups of observations) on inference on the estimated parameters of LME models.

Data from single individuals, or a small group of subjects may influence non-linear mixed effects model selection. Diagnostics routinely applied in model building may identify such individuals, but these methods are not specifically designed for that purpose and are, therefore, not optimal. We describe two likelihood-based diagnostics for identifying individuals that can influence the choice between two competing models.

Case-deletion diagnostics provide a useful tool for identifying influential observations and outliers.

The computation of case deletion diagnostics in the classical model is made simple by the fact that estimates of β and σ^2 , which exclude the i th observation, can be computed without re-fitting the model. Such update formulas are available in the mixed model only if you assume that the covariance parameters are not affected by the removal of the observation in question. This is rarely a reasonable assumption.

4.4 Effects on fitted and predicted values

$$\hat{e}_{i(U)} = y_i - x\hat{\beta}_{(U)} \tag{4.1}$$

4.4.1 Case Deletion Diagnostics for Mixed Models

? notes the case deletion diagnostics techniques have not been applied to linear mixed effects models and seeks to develop methodologies in that respect.

? develops these techniques in the context of REML

4.5 Terminology for Case Deletion diagnostics

? describes two type of diagnostics. When the set consists of only one observation, the type is called 'observation-diagnostics'. For multiple observations, Preisser describes the diagnostics as 'cluster-deletion' diagnostics.

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Linear models for uncorrelated data have well established measures to gauge the influence of one or more observations on the analysis. For such models, closed-form update expressions allow efficient computations without refitting the model.

Since the pioneering work of Cook in 1977, deletion measures have been applied to many statistical models for identifying influential observations. Case-deletion diagnostics provide a useful tool for identifying influential observations and outliers.

The key to making deletion diagnostics useable is the development of efficient computational formulas, allowing one to obtain the case deletion diagnostics by making use of basic building blocks, computed only once for the full model.

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scribes the diagnostics as ‘*cluster-deletion*’ diagnostics. When applied to LME models, such update formulas are available only if one assumes that the covariance parameters are not affected by the removal of the observation in question. However, this is rarely a reasonable assumption.

4.6.1 Influence

`influence()` is the workhorse function of the `influence.ME` package. Based on a priorly estimated mixed effects regression model (estimated using `lme4`), the `influence()` function iteratively modifies the mixed effects model to neutralize the effect a grouped set of data has on the parameters, and which returns the fixed parameters of these iteratively modified models. These are used to compute measures of influential data.

4.7 Cook’s Distance

Cook’s Distance is a measure indicating to what extent model parameters are influenced by (a set of) influential data on which the model is based. This function computes the Cook’s distance based on the information returned by the `estex()` function.

4.8 DFBETAs

DFBETAS (standardized difference of the beta) is a measure that standardizes the absolute difference in parameter estimates between a (mixed effects) regression model based on a full set of data, and a model from which a (potentially influential) subset of data is removed. A value for DFBETAS is calculated for each parameter in the model separately. This function computes the DFBETAS based on the information returned by the `estex()` function.

4.8.1 Influence

Influence arises at two stages of the LME model. Firstly when \mathbf{V} is estimated by $\hat{\mathbf{V}}$, and subsequent estimations of the fixed and random regression coefficients β and u , given $\hat{\mathbf{V}}$.

4 It is a multi-dimensional generalization of the idea of measuring how many standard deviations away P is from the mean of D.

This distance is zero if P is at the mean of D, and grows as P moves away from the mean: Along each principal component axis, it measures the number of standard deviations from P to the mean of D. If each of these axes is rescaled to have unit variance, then Mahalanobis distance corresponds to standard Euclidean distance in the transformed space. Mahalanobis distance is thus unitless and scale-invariant, and takes into account the correlations of the data set.

Case Deletion Diagnostics

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Deletion diagnostics provide a means of assessing the influence of an observation (or groups of observations) on inference on the estimated parameters of LME models.

Data from single individuals, or a small group of subjects may influence non-linear mixed effects model selection. Diagnostics routinely applied in model building may identify such individuals, but these methods are not specifically designed for that purpose and are, therefore, not optimal. We describe two likelihood-based diagnostics for identifying individuals that can influence the choice between two competing models. Case-deletion diagnostics provide a useful tool for identifying influential observations and outliers.

The computation of case deletion diagnostics in the classical model is made simple by the fact that estimates of β and σ^2 , which exclude the i th observation, can be computed without re-fitting the model. Such update formulas are available in the mixed model only if you assume that the covariance parameters are not affected by the removal of the observation in question. This is rarely a reasonable assumption.

4.8.2 Terminology for Case Deletion diagnostics

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Influence() - Description

`influence()` is the workhorse function of the `influence.ME` package.

Based on a priorly estimated mixed effects regression model (estimated using `lme4`), the `influence()` function iteratively

modifies the mixed effects model to neutralize the effect a grouped set of data has on the parameters, and which

returns the fixed parameters of these iteratively modified models.

These are used to compute measures of influential data.

Usage

```
influence(model, group=NULL, select=NULL, obs=FALSE,  
gf="single", count = FALSE, delete=TRUE, ...)  
\
```

The `influence()` function was known as the `estex()` command in previous versions of the `influence.ME` package

4.8.3 Influential Observations : DFBeta and DFBetas

The `dfbeta` refers to how much a parameter estimate changes if the observation or case in question is dropped from the data set. Cook's distance is presumably more important to you if you are doing predictive modeling, whereas `dfbeta` is more important in explanatory modeling.

4.8.4 DFBETA

DFBETAS (standardized difference of the beta) is a measure that standardizes the absolute difference in parameter estimates between a (mixed effects) regression model based on a full set of data, and a model from which a (potentially influential) subset of data is removed. `dfbeta()`

The DFBETAS statistics are the scaled measures of the change in each parameter estimate and are calculated by deleting the *th* observation:

where $\hat{\beta}_a$ is the a th element of $\hat{\beta}$. In general, large values of DFBETAS indicate observations that are influential in estimating a given parameter. Belsley, Kuh, and Welsch (1980) recommend 2 as a general cutoff value to indicate influential observations and $2/\sqrt{n}$ as a size-adjusted cutoff.

$$DFBETA_a = \hat{\beta} - \hat{\beta}_{(a)} \quad (4.2)$$

$$= B(Y - Y_{\bar{a}}) \quad (4.3)$$

In the case of method comparison studies, there are two covariates, and one can construct scatterplots of the pairs of dfbeta values accordingly, both for LOO and LSO calculations. Furthermore 95% confidence ellipse can be constructed around these scatterplots. Note that with k covariates, there will be $k + 1$ dfbetas (the intercept, β_0 , and 1 β for each covariate). For example there would be 2 sets of dfbeta, 510 values for each in the case of LOO, and 85 for LSO diagnostics.

4.8.5 DFFITS

DFFITS is a statistical measure designed to show how influential an observation is in a statistical model.

$$DFFITS = \frac{\hat{y}_i - \widehat{y_{i(k)}}}{s_{(k)}\sqrt{h_{ii}}}$$

It is closely related to the studentized residual. For the sake of brevity, we will concentrate on the Studentized Residuals.

4.8.6 PRESS

The prediction residual sum of squares (PRESS) is a value associated with this calculation. When fitting linear models, PRESS can be used as a criterion for model selection, with smaller values indicating better model fits.

$$PRESS = \sum (y - y^{(k)})^2 \quad (4.4)$$

- $e_{-Q} = y_Q - x_Q \hat{\beta}^{-Q}$
- $PRESS_{(U)} = y_i - x \hat{\beta}_{(U)}$

4.9 Application of DFBETAs in MCS Analysis

When in an MCS study, DFBetas can be used as a proxy measurement, allowing simple techniques to be used for assessing agreement.

Chapter 5

Model Diagnostics for MCS

Abstract

Model diagnostic techniques, well established for classical models, have since been adapted for use with linear mixed effects models. However, diagnostic techniques for LME models are inevitably more difficult to implement, due to the increased complexity.

? describes the examination of model-data agreement as comprising several elements;

- residual analysis,
- goodness of fit,
- collinearity diagnostics
- influence analysis.

This chapter is comprised of two sections:

1. Residual Diagnostics
2. Influence Diagnostics

5.1 Introduction

In statistical modelling, the process of model validation is a critical step, but also a step that is too often overlooked. A very simple procedure is to examine well known metrics, such as the AIC and R^2 measures. However, using a small handful of simple measures and methods is insufficient to properly assess the quality of a fitted model. To do so properly, a full and comprehensive analysis that tests of all of the assumptions, as far as possible, must be carried out.

A statistical model, whether of the fixed-effects or mixed-effects variety, represents how you think your data were generated. Following model specification and estimation, it is of interest to explore the model-data agreement by raising pertinent questions. Further to the analysis of residuals, ? recommends the examination of the following questions.

- Does the model-data agreement support the model assumptions?
- Should model components be refined, and if so, which components? For example, should certain explanatory variables be added or removed, and is the covariance of the observations properly specified?
- Are the results sensitive to model and/or data? Are individual data points or groups of cases particularly influential on the analysis?

5.2 Introduction to Influence analysis

Model diagnostic techniques determine whether or not the distributional assumptions are satisfied, and to assess the influence of unusual observations. In classical linear models model diagnostics have become a required part of any statistical analysis, and the methods are commonly available in statistical packages and standard textbooks on applied regression. However it has been noted by several papers that model diagnostics do not often accompany LME model analyses. For linear models for uncorrelated data, it is not necessary to refit the model after removing a data point in order to measure the impact of an observation on the model. The change in fixed effect estimates, residuals, residual sums of squares, and the variance-covariance matrix of the fixed effects can be computed based on the fit to the full data alone. By contrast, in mixed models several important complications arise. Data points can affect not only the fixed effects but also the covariance parameter estimates on which the fixed-effects estimates depend.

5.2.1 What is Influence

Broadly defined, influence is understood as the ability of a single or multiple data points, through their presence or absence in the data, to alter important aspects of the analysis, yield qualitatively different inferences, or violate assumptions of the statistical model. The goal of influence analysis is not primarily to mark data points for deletion so that a better model fit can be achieved for the reduced data, although this might be a result of influence analysis (?).

5.2.2 Importance of Influence

The influence of an observation can be thought of in terms of how much the predicted values for other observations would differ if the observation in question were not included in the model fit. Likelihood based estimation methods, such as ML and REML, are sensitive to unusual observations. Influence diagnostics are formal techniques that

assess the influence of observations on parameter estimates for β and θ . A common technique is to refit the model with an observation or group of observations omitted. The basic procedure for quantifying influence is simple as follows:

1. Fit the model to the data and obtain estimates of all parameters.
2. Remove one or more data points from the analysis and compute updated estimates of model parameters.
3. Based on full- and reduced-data estimates, contrast quantities of interest to determine how the absence of the observations changes the analysis.

5.2.3 Measures of Influence

The impact of an observation on a regression fitting can be determined by the difference between the estimated regression coefficient of a model with all observations and the estimated coefficient when the particular observation is deleted. DFBETA and DFFITS are well known measures of influence. The measure DFBETA is the studentized value of this difference. DFFITS is a statistical measure designed to show how influential an observation is in a statistical model. DFFITS is closely related to the studentized residual.

$$DFBETA_a = \hat{\beta} - \hat{\beta}_{(a)} \quad (5.1)$$

$$= B(Y - Y_{\bar{a}}) \quad (5.2)$$

$$DFFITS = \frac{\hat{y}_i - \widehat{y_{i(k)}}}{s_{(k)}\sqrt{h_{ii}}} \quad (5.3)$$

The prediction residual sum of squares (PRESS) is a value associated with this calculation. When fitting linear models, PRESS can be used as a criterion for model selection, with smaller values indicating better model fits.

$$PRESS = \sum (y - y^{(k)})^2$$

5.2.4 DFBETAs

The measure that measures how much impact each observation has on a particular predictor is DFBETAs. The DFBETA for a predictor and for a particular observation is the difference between the regression coefficient calculated for all of the data and the regression coefficient calculated with the observation deleted, scaled by the standard error calculated with the observation deleted.

DFBETA is a measure found for each observation in a dataset. The DFBETA for a particular observation is the difference between the regression coefficient for an included variable calculated for all of the data and the regression coefficient calculated with the observation deleted, scaled by the standard error calculated with the observation deleted.

The cut-off value for DFBETAs is $\frac{2}{\sqrt{n}}$, where n is the number of observations. However, another cut-off is to look for observations with a value greater than 1.00. Here cutoff means, this observation could be overly influential on the estimated coefficient.

DFFITS

DFFITS is a diagnostic meant to show how influential a point is in a statistical regression. It was proposed in 1980. It is defined as the change ("DFFIT"), in the predicted value for a point, obtained when that point is left out of the regression, "Studentized" by dividing by the estimated standard deviation of the fit at that point:

$$\text{DFFITS} = \frac{\hat{y}_i - \widehat{y_{i(i)}}}{s_{(i)}\sqrt{h_{ii}}}$$

DFbetas for Blood Data

```
plot(JS.roy1.dfbeta$all.res1[1:255],JS.roy1.dfbeta$all.res2[256:510],  
pch=16,col="blue")  
abline(v=JS.roy1.dfbeta$all.res1[256],col="red")  
abline(h=JS.roy1.dfbeta$all.res2[1],col="red")
```

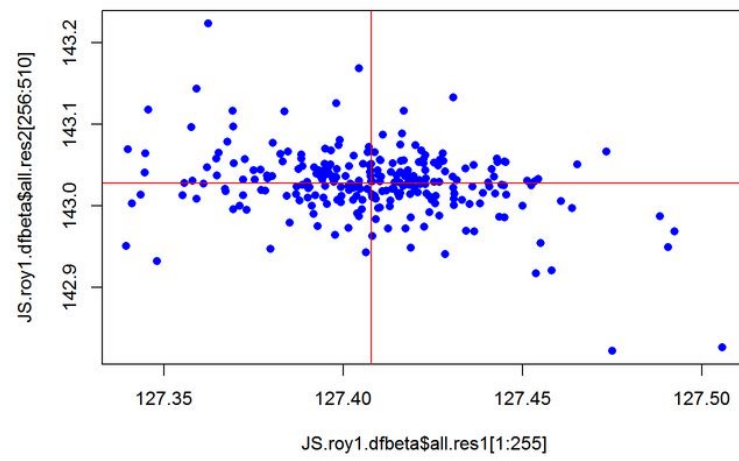



Figure 5.2.1:

5.2.5 Local Influence Analysis

Beckman, Nachtsheim and Cook (1987) applied the local influence method of Cook (1986) to the analysis of the linear mixed model.

While the concept of influence analysis is straightforward, implementation in mixed models is more complex. Update formulae for fixed effects models are available only when the covariance parameters are assumed to be known.

If the global measure suggests that the points in U are influential, the nature of that influence should be determined. In particular, the points in U can affect the following

- the estimates of fixed effects,
- the estimates of the precision of the fixed effects,
- the estimates of the covariance parameters,
- the estimates of the precision of the covariance parameters,
- fitted and predicted values.

5.2.6 Likelihood Distances

The likelihood distance is a global summary measure that expresses the joint influence of the subsets of observations, U , on all parameters in ϕ that were subject to updating. For classical linear models, the implementation of influence analysis is straightforward. ? points out the likelihood distance gives the amount by which the log-likelihood of the model fitted from the full data changes if one were to estimate the model from a reduced-data estimates. Importantly $LD(\psi_{(U)})$ is not the log-likelihood obtained by fitting the model to the reduced data set. It is obtained by evaluating the likelihood function based on the full data set (containing all n observations) at the reduced-data estimates.

$$LD((U)) = 2[l(\hat{\phi}) - l\hat{\phi}_{\omega}]$$

$$RLD((U)) = 2[l_R(\hat{\phi}) - l_R(\hat{\phi})_{\omega}]$$

An overall influence statistic measures the change in the objective function being minimized. For example, in OLS regression, the residual sums of squares serves that purpose. In linear mixed models fit by maximum likelihood (ML) or restricted maximum likelihood (REML), an overall influence measure is the likelihood distance (?). In LME models, fitted by either ML or REML, an important overall influence measure is the likelihood distance (?). The procedure requires the calculation of the full data estimates $\hat{\psi}$ and estimates based on the reduced data set $\hat{\psi}_{(U)}$. The likelihood distance is given by determining

$$LD_{(U)} = 2\{l(\hat{\psi}) - l(\hat{\psi}_{(U)})\} \tag{5.4}$$

$$RLD_{(U)} = 2\{l_R(\hat{\psi}) - l_R(\hat{\psi}_{(U)})\} \tag{5.5}$$

For classical linear models, the implementation of influence analysis is straightforward. However, for LME models, the problem is more complex. Update formulas for the fixed effects are available only when the covariance parameters are assumed to be known. A

measure of total influence requires updates of all model parameters. This can only be achieved in general is by omitting observations or cases, then refitting the model. This is a very simplistic approach, and computationally expensive.

? examines a group of methods that examine various aspects of influence diagnostics for LME models. For overall influence, the most common approaches are the *likelihood distance* and the *restricted likelihood distance*.

The logLik Function

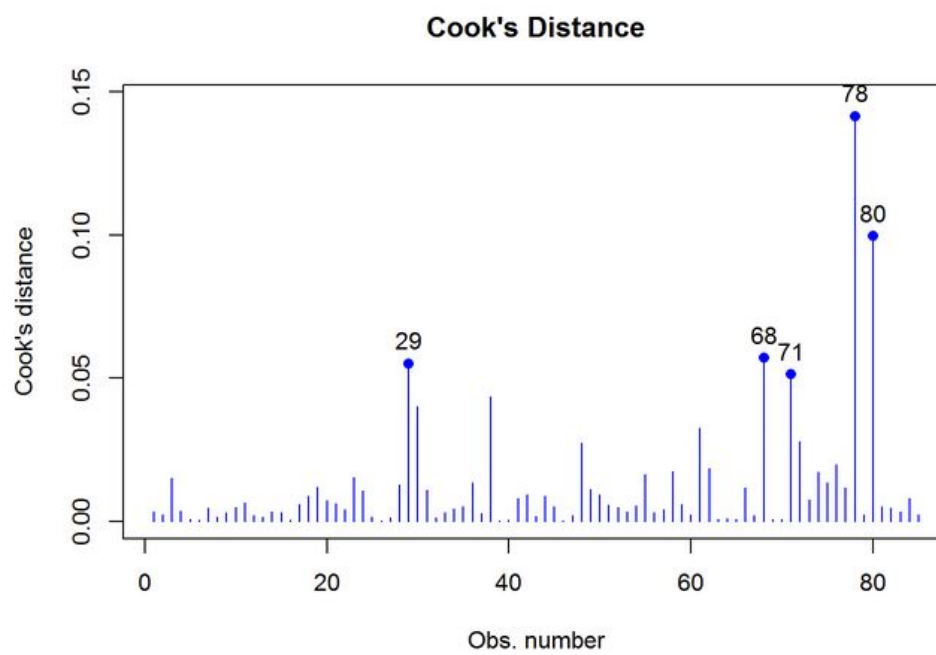
logLik.lme returns the log-likelihood value of the linear mixed-effects model represented by object evaluated at the estimated coefficients. It is also possible to determine the restricted log-likelihood, if relevant, using this function. For the Blood Data Example, the loglikelihood of the JS.roy1 model can be computed as follows.

```
> logLik(JS.roy1)
'log Lik.' -2030.736 (df=8)
```

5.2.7 Cook's Distance

? develops case deletion diagnostics, in particular the equivalent of Cook's distance, a well-known metric, for diagnosing influential observations when estimating the fixed effect parameters and variance components. Deletion diagnostics provide a means of assessing the influence of an observation (or groups of observations) on inference on the estimated parameters of LME models. Cook's Distance is a good measure of the influence of an observation that is a measure of aggregate impact of each observation on the group of regression coefficients, as well as the group of fitted values. If the predictions are the same with or without the observation in question, then the observation has no influence on the regression model. If the predictions differ greatly when the observation is not included in the analysis, then the observation is influential.

Cook's Distance for Blood Data



5.2.8 Deviance

In statistics, deviance is a quality of fit statistic for a model that is often used for statistical hypothesis testing. It is a generalization of the idea of using the sum of squares of residuals in ordinary least squares to cases where model-fitting is achieved by maximum likelihood.

Bibliography