```
#-----#
# A comparison of full model specification and backward elimination of potential
 confounders when estimating marginal and conditional causal effects on
  binary outcomes from observational data
# Authors: K Luijken, S Strohmaier, M van Smeden, R H H Groenwold, G Heinze
# Author script: K Luijken
# Perform CABG example analysis
#----#
# This script describes the analysis on simulated data of the example CABG study
# presented in manuscript section 2. The following analyses are presented:
## conditional odds ratio of a full model, estimated using FLIC
## marginal risk ratio of a full model, estimated using predicted potential
  outcomes of a FLIC model
## conditional odds ratio of a selected model, estimated using FLIC and backward
   elimination
## marginal risk ratio of a selected model, estimated using predicted potential
  outcomes of a FLIC model and backward elimination
## confidence intervals are obtained using bootstrap, in which the model select-
# ion process is repeated
\#\# computation of the measures of relative conditional bias and root mean
    squared difference ratio.
# All analyses accompanying the manuscript can be found on https://github.com/
KLuijken/CI CovSel
# Load librairies ----
#_____#
library(logistf)
library(ggplot2)
# Generate simulated data ----
#-----#
# (Optional: use simulated data, available from Github repository)
source(file = "./rcode/add-ons/simulated CABG example/simulate data Gregorich.R")
set.seed(20200618)
CABG data<- generate data(N = 2266,
           betaTr.zero = FALSE,
           avsu = FALSE)
# Conditional OR, FLIC, full model ----
#-----#
# Estimate model
Firth full <- logistf(Postoperative.stroke ~ CT + Age + Gender + Smoker +
                     Diabetes.Control + CreaCl+ Dialysis + Hypertension +
                     Peripheral.Vascular.Disease + Cerebrovascular.Accident+
                     Cerebrovascular.Disease + Myocardial.Infarction +
                     Congestive.Heart.Failure + Angina.Type + Afib.flutter +
                     Number.of.Diseased.Coronary.Vessels +
                     Left.Main.Disease + Ejection.Fraction + Status +
                     Dyslipidemia + Lipid.Lowering + Previous.Valve +
                     Previous.Coronary.Artery.Bypass + Year.CABG,
                    data = CABG data,
                    control = logistf.control(maxit = 200, maxstep = 5),
                    firth = TRUE, # set firth = FALSE for max.likelihood est.
                    pl = TRUE,  # compute profile likelihood CIs
                    flic = TRUE) # Perform intercept correction
```

```
# Obtain coefficients + profile penalized likelihood CIs
cOR full Firth Est <- round(exp(coef( Firth full)["CT"]), digits = 2)</pre>
cOR full Firth Low <- round(exp(confint(Firth full)[2,1]), digits=2)</pre>
cOR full Firth Up <- round(exp(confint(Firth full)[2,2]), digits=2)
paste0(cOR full Firth Est,
       "(95% CI, ", cOR full Firth Low,
       "; ", cOR full Firth Up,")")
# Marginal RR, FLIC, full model ----
#----#
# Create potential outcome datasets
All unexposed <- CABG data
All_unexposed$CT <- 0
All_exposed <- CABG_data
All_exposed$CT <- 1
# Obtain predicted potential outcomes
PredA0 <- as.vector(predict(Firth full,</pre>
                           newdata = All unexposed, type = "response"))
PredA1 <- as.vector(predict(Firth_full,</pre>
                           newdata = All_exposed, type = "response"))
# Estimate Marginal RR
mRR full Firth Est <- mean(PredA1)/mean(PredA0)</pre>
\#\#\# NB: CIs are bootstrapped below, such that they can be combined with
### bootstrap estimation of CIs of the selected model
# Conditional OR, FLIC, backward elimination ----
                      _____#
# Estimate model
Firth selected <- backward (Firth full,
                           scope = c("Age", "Gender", "Smoker",
                                    "Diabetes.Control", "CreaCl", "Dialysis",
                                    "Hypertension",
                                    "Peripheral. Vascular. Disease",
                                    "Cerebrovascular.Accident",
                                    "Cerebrovascular.Disease",
                                    "Myocardial.Infarction",
                                    "Congestive.Heart.Failure", "Angina.Type",
                                    "Afib.flutter",
                                    "Number.of.Diseased.Coronary.Vessels",
                                    "Left.Main.Disease", "Ejection.Fraction",
                                    "Status", "Dyslipidemia", "Lipid.Lowering",
                                    "Previous. Valve",
                                     "Previous.Coronary.Artery.Bypass",
                                    "Year.CABG"),
                           slstay = 0.157,
                           trace = TRUE,
                           control = logistf.control(maxit = 200, maxstep = 5),
                           pl = TRUE)
Firth selected <- flic(Firth selected)
# Obtain coefficient + profile penalized likelihood CIs (invalid CIs)
cOR selected Firth Est <- round(exp(coef( Firth selected)["CT"]), digits = 2)
cOR selected naive Firth Low <- round(exp(confint(Firth selected)[2,1]),
                                    digits=2)
cOR selected naive Firth Up <- round(exp(confint(Firth selected)[2,2]),
                                    digits=2)
```

```
paste0(cOR selected_Firth_Est,
      "(95% CI, ", cOR_selected_naive_Firth_Low,
      "; ", cOR selected naive Firth Up,")")
# Marginal RR, FLIC, backward elimination ----
#-----#
# Obtain predicted potential outcomes
PredA0 <- as.vector(predict(Firth selected,</pre>
                         newdata = All unexposed, type = "response"))
PredA1 <- as.vector(predict(Firth selected,</pre>
                         newdata = All_exposed, type = "response"))
# Estimate Marginal RR
mRR selected Firth Est <- mean(PredA1)/mean(PredA0)</pre>
# Bootstrap confidence interval ----
#-----#
b rep <- 500
seeds <- 1:b_rep
log cOR full <-
 log cOR selected <-</pre>
   log cOR selected naive <- matrix(NA,</pre>
                                 ncol = length(coef(Firth full)),
                                 nrow = b rep,
                                 dimnames=list(NULL, names(coef(Firth full))))
log mRR full
             <-
 log mRR selected <-</pre>
   log mRR selected naive <- matrix(NA, nrow = b rep, ncol = 1)</pre>
# Run for 500 bootstrap resamplings
for(i in 1:b rep){
  # Sample bootstrap data using prespecified seeds
 set.seed(seeds[i])
 # Bootstrap sampling ----
 # Stratified sampling, events
 size = nrow(events), replace = TRUE)
 bs events <- events[sampled_events,]</pre>
 # Sample non-events
 nonevents <- CABG data[CABG data$Postoperative.stroke == 0,]</pre>
 sampled nonevents <- sample(1:nrow(nonevents),</pre>
                          size = nrow(nonevents), replace = TRUE)
 bs nonevents <- nonevents[sampled nonevents,]</pre>
  # Complete bootstrap sample
 bs sample <- rbind(bs events,bs nonevents)</pre>
 # Remove variables with no variance from the full model
 drop <- colnames(bs sample)[sapply(bs sample, function(x)</pre>
   ifelse(class(x) == "factor",
          all(duplicated(x)[-1L]),
          var(x) == 0))]
 bs sample <- bs sample[,!(colnames(bs sample) %in% drop)]
```

```
# Create potential outcome datasets
All unexposed bs <- bs sample
All unexposed bs$CT <- 0
All exposed bs <- bs sample
All exposed bs$CT <- 1
# Full model ----
# Estimate Firth model in bootstrap sample
Firth full bs <- logistf(as.formula(paste0("Postoperative.stroke ~ ",
                                 paste(colnames(bs sample[,2:ncol(bs sample)]),
                                 collapse = "+"))),
                            data = bs sample,
                            control = logistf.control(maxit = 200, maxstep = 5),
                            firth = TRUE, # firth = FALSE for ML estimation
                            pl = FALSE,
                                          # no profile likelihood CIs
                            flic = TRUE)
# Store coefficients
log cOR full[i, names(coef(Firth full bs))] <- coef(Firth full bs)</pre>
# Obtain predicted potential outcomes
PredA0 <- as.vector(predict(Firth full bs,</pre>
                             newdata = All unexposed bs, type = "response"))
PredA1 <- as.vector(predict(Firth full bs,</pre>
                             newdata = All exposed bs, type = "response"))
# Estimate mRR in bootstrap sample
log mRR full[i,] <- log(mean(PredA1)/mean(PredA0))</pre>
# Selected model do not repeat selection (naive) ----
# Perform backward elimination in the bootstrap sample
select predictors <- all.vars(Firth selected$formula)</pre>
Firth selected naive bs <- logistf(as.formula(paste0("Postoperative.stroke~",
                                                       paste(select predictors[
                                                       !(select predictors %in%
                                                       c("Postoperative.stroke",
                                                         drop))],
                                                         collapse = "+"))),
                                               # take into account that covs.
                                                # may be removed from bs sample
                                    data = bs sample,
                                    control = logistf.control(maxit = 200,
                                                               maxstep = 5),
                                    firth = TRUE,
                                    pl = FALSE,
                                    flic = TRUE)
# Store coefficients
log cOR selected naive[i, names(coef(Firth selected naive bs))] <-</pre>
  coef(Firth selected naive bs)
# Obtain predicted potential outcomes
PredA0 <- as.vector(predict(Firth selected naive bs,
                             newdata = All unexposed bs, type = "response"))
PredA1 <- as.vector(predict(Firth selected naive bs,</pre>
                             newdata = All exposed bs, type = "response"))
```

```
# Estimate mRR in bootrap sample
  log mRR selected naive[i,] <- log(mean(PredA1)/mean(PredA0))</pre>
  # Selected model repeat selection (correct) ----
  # Perform backward elimination in the bootstrap sample
  Firth selected bs <- backward (Firth full bs,
                                 scope = colnames(bs sample)[
                                   !(colnames(bs sample) %in%
                                       c("Postoperative.stroke", "CT"))],
                                 slstay = 0.157,
                                 trace = FALSE,
                                 pl = FALSE,
                                                 # waste of computational power
                                 data = bs_sample,
                                 control = logistf.control(maxit = 200,
                                                            maxstep = 5)
  # Re-estimate intercept in bootstrap sample
  Firth selected bs
                     <- flic(Firth selected bs)
  # Store coefficients
  log cOR selected[i, names(coef(Firth selected bs))] <-</pre>
    coef(Firth selected bs)
  # Obtain predicted potential outcomes
  PredA0 <- as.vector(predict(Firth selected bs,</pre>
                               newdata = All unexposed bs, type = "response"))
  PredA1 <- as.vector(predict(Firth selected bs,</pre>
                               newdata = All exposed bs, type = "response"))
  # Estimate mRR in bootrap sample
  log mRR selected[i,] <- log(mean(PredA1)/mean(PredA0))</pre>
}
# Summarize results
# Obtain valid cOR CIs
cOR selected Firth Low <- round(quantile(exp(log cOR selected), 0.025),
                                 digits = 2)
cOR selected Firth Up <- round(quantile(exp(log cOR selected), 0.975),
                                 digits = 2)
paste0(round(cOR selected Firth Est, digits=2),
       "(95% CI, ", cOR_selected_Firth_Low,
       "; ", cOR selected Firth Up,")")
# Obtain mRR + CI
mRR full Firth Low <- round(quantile(exp(log mRR full), 0.025, na.rm = T),
                             digits = 2)
mRR full Firth Up <- round(quantile(exp(log mRR full), 0.975, na.rm = T),
                             digits = 2)
paste0(round(mRR full Firth Est, digits=2),
       "(95% CI, ", mRR full Firth Low,
       "; ", mRR full Firth Up,")")
# Obtain mRR + CI model with backward elimination
mRR selected Firth Low <- round(quantile(exp(log mRR selected), 0.025),
                                 digits = 2)
mRR selected Firth Up <- round(quantile(exp(log mRR selected), 0.975),
                                 digits = 2)
```

```
paste0(round(mRR selected Firth Est, digits=2),
       "(95% CI, ", mRR selected Firth Low,
       "; ", mRR selected Firth Up,")")
# Relative Conditional Bias and Root Mean Squared Difference Ratio ----
#-----#
# Stability measure: selection frequencies full model
boot_01_full <- (log_cOR_full != 0) * 1</pre>
boot_inclusion_full <- apply(boot_01_full, 2, function(x)</pre>
 sum(x, na.rm=T)/length(x)*100)
# Stability measure: selection frequencies backward eliminated model
boot 01 selected <- (log cOR selected != 0) * 1</pre>
boot_inclusion_selected <- apply(boot_01_selected, 2,
                                function(x) sum(x, na.rm=T)/length(x)*100)
# Conditional OR ----
## Visualize the distributions of log conditional OR
type_boot <- c(rep("full",500), rep("selected",500), rep("selected-naive", 500))</pre>
log_cOR <- c(log_cOR_full, log_cOR_selected, log_cOR_selected_naive)</pre>
ggplot(NULL, aes(log cOR, fill=type boot)) + geom density()
## Relative conditional bias
cat("RCB (%):\n")
(RCB log cOR <- (mean(log cOR selected)/Firth full)-1)*100
## Root mean squared difference ratio
RMSD log cOR <- sqrt(mean((log cOR selected - Firth full)**2))
se full log cOR <- sd(log cOR full)
cat("RMSDR:\n")
(RMSDR log cOR <- RMSD log cOR/se full log cOR)
## Illustration that not repeating selection underestimates standard error
cat("Standard error full:\n")
sqrt(mean((log cOR full - Firth full)**2))
cat("Standard error selected:\n")
sqrt(mean((log cOR selected - Firth selected)**2))
cat("Standard error selected-naive:\n")
sqrt(mean((log cOR selected naive - Firth selected)**2))
# Marginal RR ----
## Visualize the distributions of log marginal RR
type boot <- c(rep("full",500), rep("selected",500), rep("selected-naive", 500))
log mRR <- c(log mRR full, log mRR selected, log mRR selected naive)</pre>
ggplot(NULL, aes(log mRR,fill = type boot)) + geom density()
## Relative conditional bias
cat("RCB (%):\n")
(RCB log mRR <- (mean(log mRR selected)/Firth full)-1)*100
## Root mean squared difference ratio
RMSD log mRR <- sqrt(mean((log mRR selected - Firth full)**2))
se full log MRR <- sd(log mRR full)</pre>
cat("RMSDR:\n")
```

```
(RMSDR_log_mRR <- RMSD_log_mRR/se_full_log_MRR)

## Illustration that not repeating selection underestimates standard error
cat("Standard error full:\n")
sqrt(mean((log_mRR_full - Firth_full)**2))
cat("Standard error selected:\n")
sqrt(mean((log_mRR_selected - Firth_selected)**2))
cat("Standard error selected-naive:\n")
sqrt(mean((log_mRR_selected_naive - Firth_selected)**2))</pre>
```