

Maximum Likelihood Estimation

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Definitions

We denote the random variable T as the number of vaccinated individuals from the 170 COVID cases.

$$T \sim \text{Binom}(n, \pi)$$

We can define $\pi = P(\text{Vaccine}|\text{COVID}) = \frac{\pi_1}{\pi_1 + \pi_2}$ (as proved in lecture). Where π_1 is the proportion of vaccinated individuals who got COVID and π_2 is the proportion of unvaccinated individuals who got COVID. Moreover, we define the vaccine efficacy as $\psi = \frac{1-2\pi}{1-\pi}$.

Log-Likelihood Calculation

We can first write the likelihood function of π :

$$L(\pi) = \binom{n}{t} \pi^t (1 - \pi)^{n-t}$$

Then we write π in the form $\pi = g(\psi)$:

$$\pi = \frac{1 - \psi}{2 - \psi}$$

We can then write the likelihood function for ψ .

$$L^*(\psi) = L(g(\psi)) = L\left(\frac{1 - \psi}{2 - \psi}\right) = \binom{n}{t} \cdot \left(\frac{1 - \psi}{2 - \psi}\right)^t \cdot \left(1 - \left(\frac{1 - \psi}{2 - \psi}\right)\right)^{n-t}$$

Finally, we calculate the log-likelihood function for ψ :

$$\ell(\psi) = \ln\left(\binom{n}{t}\right) + t \ln\left(\frac{1 - \psi}{2 - \psi}\right) + (n - t) \cdot \ln\left(1 - \frac{1 - \psi}{2 - \psi}\right)$$

Now that we have calculated the log-likelihood function for ψ , we can use the Newton Raphson to estimate ψ .

Newton Raphson Method

Observed Values:

$$\pi_1 = 0.047$$

$$\pi_2 = 0.953$$

$$\pi = \frac{\pi_1}{\pi_1 + \pi_2} = 0.047$$

$$\psi = \frac{1 - 2\pi}{1 - \pi} = 0.9507$$

$$t = 8$$

$$n = 170$$

```
loglik <- function(psi, T, n) {  
  return(log(choose(n,T)) + T * log((1 - psi) /  
    (2 - psi)) + (n - T) * log(1 - ((1 - psi) / (2 - psi))))  
}  
  
maxLik(logLik = loglik, start = 0.9507,  
  method = "NR", tol = 1e-4,  
  T = 8, n = 170)
```

```
## Maximum Likelihood estimation  
## Newton-Raphson maximisation, 1 iterations  
## Return code 2: successive function values within tolerance limit (tol)  
## Log-Likelihood: -1.944994 (1 free parameter(s))  
## Estimate(s): 0.9506174
```