

**Exercise 1:** What is a likelihood in general? What does it mean when an estimator is a maximum likelihood estimator?

**Solution:**

Likelihood is used to describe the joint probability of achieving our sampled data given certain model parameters. Said another way, we fix our sample  $x$  and we vary our model parameters  $\theta$  the likelihood gives us the probability of achieving  $x$  for a certain  $\theta$ . Generally this is written in the form of a function  $P(x|\theta)$  and the maximum likelihood estimator involves selecting model parameters which maximize said function.

**Exercise 2:** We are doing a small mark-recapture study. First we catch 20 fish in a lake and tag each one. Then, a few days later we catch 40 fish and notice that 6 were tagged.

- a. Is this direct or indirect sampling? Why?

**Solution:**

This method would be direct mark-recapture sampling. In an indirect scheme we would decide prior to the sample the number of units we would mark and recapture, then on the recapture survey we would continue to survey fish until we reach the desired number of recaptures. In this method the size of the recapture sample is random  $m$ , not the number of recaptures themselves.

- b. Produce a 95 percent confidence interval for the population size (using either Lincoln-Petersen or Chapman estimator).

**Solution:**

Since the text describes the Chapman estimator as the one often used in practice, it is how we will proceed.

**Code:**

```
> n = 20
> m = 40
> r = 6
> N = ((n+1)*(m+1))/(r+1) - 1
[1] 122
```

```

> Var = ((n+1)*(m+1)*(n-r)*(m-r))/(((r+1)^2)*(r+2))
[1] 1045.5
> CI95 <- c(N + 2*sqrt(Var), N - 2*sqrt(Var))
[1] 186.66838 57.33162

```

- c. What assumptions do we need to compute the mark-recapture estimator in (b)?

**Solution:**

For direct mark recapture sampling estimators we assume that the second sample is indeed a SRS, without replacement, we assume that the population is closed, and we assume that our marked samples stayed mark for the second sample.

**Exercise 3:** Suppose we visited a site at five different equally- spaced times and trapped, marked and released animals each time. We will assume a closed model.

- a. What is a closed model? When is it reasonable to assume that the population is closed?

**Solution:**

A closed model is one that does not allow immigration, emigrations, births, or deaths. It is reasonable to assume that a population is closed when the sampling sessions are closer together in time.

- b. If the following data is what we obtained, look at the data (don't analyze it) and try to explain what might be happening (and which model,  $M_0$ ,  $M_t$ ,  $M_h$ ,  $M_{th}$ , etc., would be appropriate).

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Solution:**

Given that the last sample session has no recaptures, and the total number of recaptures at each session seems to decrease I think the  $M_t$  model, which allows the capture probability of each animal to change from session to session, would be appropriate.

Now, try to explain what type of closed population model might fit with this data:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Here I would say the probability of capture varies from animal to animal. We can see that there is large variation in the row sums of the matrix, while the column sum stay relatively that same. I would say the  $M_h$  model would be appropriate.

**Exercise 4:** Run the following code in R and choose which model (based on AIC) seems to have the best fit. What abundance does this model estimate?

**Solution:**

Fitting the capture data with the `closedp()` function, we get that the  $M_b$  model achieves the best fit with the lowest AIC. I would also consider the  $M_0$  given its relatively similar score and greater simplicity,

**Code:**

```
> library(Rcapture)
> dat <- matrix(ncol=5, byrow=TRUE,
+   c(0,0,1,0,
+     0,0,0,1,
+     0,0,1,1,
+     0,0,0,1,
+     0,0,0,1,
+     1,0,0,1,
+     0,1,0,0,
+     0,0,0,1,
+     0,0,1,1,
+     0,1,0,1))

> out <- closedp(dat)
> out
```

Number of captured units: 8

Abundance estimations and model fits:

	abundance	stderr	deviance	df	AIC	BIC	infoFit
M0	9.9	2.1	18.784	29	37.397	37.556	OK
Mt	9.5	1.8	14.228	25	40.842	41.319	OK
Mh Chao (LB)	9.9	2.1	18.784	29	37.397	37.556	OK
Mh Poisson2	8.5	1.1	17.803	28	38.417	38.655	OK
Mh Darroch	8.3	0.8	17.850	28	38.463	38.702	OK
Mh Gamma3.5	8.1	0.6	17.874	28	38.488	38.726	OK
Mth Chao (LB)	9.5	1.8	14.228	25	40.842	41.319	OK
Mth Poisson2	8.5	1.1	13.451	24	42.064	42.621	OK
Mth Darroch	8.3	0.8	13.494	24	42.108	42.664	OK
Mth Gamma3.5	8.2	0.6	13.516	24	42.130	42.686	OK
Mb	8.1	0.3	15.276	28	35.890	36.128	OK **
Mbh	8.1	1.4	15.219	27	37.833	38.151	OK

**Exercise 5:** Consider the  $M_t$  model, where the probabilities are different for each time period. If there are 3 time periods, the parameters are  $p_1, p_2, p_3$ . Suppose we have the dataset (one animal per line):

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Write down the likelihood for this data.

**Solution:**

First let's consider the probability under  $M_t$  for each pattern in the data,

$$\begin{array}{cc|cc} & \text{Pattern} & & \text{Prob under } M_t \\ \hline 1 & 0 & 0 & (p_1)(p_2 - 1)(p_3 - 1) \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & (p_1)(p_2 - 1)(p_3 - 1) \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & (p_1 - 1)(p_2)(p_3 - 1) \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & (p_1 - 1)(p_2)(p_3) \end{array}$$

Multiplying we get the following likelihood function,

$$L(p_1, p_2, p_3) = (p_1)^2(p_1 - 1)^2(p_2)^2(p_2 - 1)^2(p_3)(p_3 - 1)^3$$

**Exercise 6:** The following data will cause problems with the open population model unless we force equal capture probabilities across all times. Why do you think that is the case? (The last column is the number of times that pattern occurred, so that the pattern 1 0 0 0 occurred 7 times.)

**Solution:**

It is problematic to have only four sampling sessions and allow unequal capture probability mainly because we already have to throw out the first and last sessions because we cannot determine the difference between the capture probability and survival probability at the endpoints (if the last session was a zero, is it because the animal died or because we simply didn't recapture it). If we are going to allow unequal probability it is best if we do many, many recaptures.

When we let capture probabilities be constant, survival probabilities can be calculated, as is shown in the following code example,

**Code:**

```
> dat = matrix(ncol=5,byrow=TRUE,
+   c(1, 0, 0, 0, 7,
+     0, 1, 0, 0, 20,
+     0, 0, 1, 0, 37,
+     0, 0, 0, 1, 70,
+     1, 1, 0, 0, 7,
+     1, 0, 1, 0, 11,
+     1, 0, 0, 1, 20,
+     0, 1, 1, 0, 22,
+     0, 1, 0, 1, 52,
+     0, 0, 1, 1, 55,
+     1, 1, 1, 0, 4,
+     1, 1, 0, 1, 13,
+     1, 0, 1, 1, 15,
+     0, 1, 1, 1, 38,
+     1, 1, 1, 1, 14))
```

```
> openp(dat,dfreq=TRUE,m="up")
```

Model fit:

	deviance	df	AIC
fitted model	6.011	8	91.887

Test for trap effect:

	deviance	df	AIC
model with homogenous trap effect	3.555	7	91.431

## Note that capture probabilities are not constant.

Capture probabilities:

	estimate	stderr
period 1	--	--
period 2	0.4176	0.0517
period 3	0.4664	0.0334
period 4	--	--

## Not all Survival probabilities can be computed.

Survival probabilities:

	estimate	stderr
period 1 -> 2	1	0
period 2 -> 3	1	0
period 3 -> 4	--	--

Abundances:

	estimate	stderr
period 1	--	--

period 2	407.1	44.4
period 3	420.3	20.6
period 4	--	--

Number of new arrivals:

	estimate	stderr
period 1 -> 2	--	--
period 2 -> 3	13.2	49.1
period 3 -> 4	--	--

Total number of units who ever inhabited the survey area:

	estimate	stderr
all periods	421.1	9

Total number of captured units: 385

---

```
> openp(dat, dfreq=TRUE, m="ep")
```

Model fit:

	deviance	df	AIC
fitted model	43.867	11	123.743

Test for trap effect:

	deviance	df	AIC
model with homogenous trap effect	21.82	10	103.696

## Note that capture probabilities are constant.

Capture probabilities:

	estimate	stderr
period 1	0.5387	0.019
period 2	0.5387	0.019
period 3	0.5387	0.019
period 4	0.5387	0.019

## Survival probabilities can be computed.

Survival probabilities:

	estimate	stderr
period 1 -> 2	1	0
period 2 -> 3	1	0
period 3 -> 4	1	0

Abundances:

	estimate	stderr
period 1	168.9	13.4
period 2	336.0	16.9
period 3	428.8	8.8

period 4        428.8        8.8

Number of new arrivals :

	estimate	stderr
period 1 -> 2	167.1	23.0
period 2 -> 3	92.8	19.4
period 3 -> 4	0.0	0.0

Total number of units who ever inhabited the survey area :

	estimate	stderr
all periods	428.8	8.8

Total number of captured units : 385

The data gives us a population estimate of 428.8 when the capture probabilities are constant, otherwise we get 421.1.