Optimal Subsampling for Large Sample Logistic Regression

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Abstract

For massive data, the family of subsampling algorithms is popular to downsize the data volume and reduce computational burden. Existing studies focus on approximating the ordinary least squares estimate in linear regression, where statistical leverage scores are often used to define subsampling probabilities. In this paper, we propose fast subsampling algorithms to efficiently approximate the maximum likelihood estimate in logistic regression. We first establish consistency and asymptotic normality of the estimator from a general subsampling algorithm, and then derive optimal subsampling probabilities that minimize the asymptotic mean squared error of the resultant estimator. An alternative minimization criterion is also proposed to further reduce the computational cost. The optimal subsampling probabilities depend on the full data estimate, so we develop a two-step algorithm to approximate the optimal subsampling procedure. This algorithm is computationally efficient and has a significant reduction in computing time compared to the full data approach. Consistency and asymptotic normality of the estimator from a two-step algorithm are also established. Synthetic and real data sets are used to evaluate the practical performance of the proposed method.

Keywords: A-optimality; Logistic Regression; Massive Data; Optimal Subsampling; Rare Event.

1 Introduction

With the rapid development of science and technologies, massive data have been generated at an extraordinary speed. Unprecedented volumes of data offer researchers both unprecedented opportunities and challenges. The key challenge is that directly applying statistical methods to these super-large sample data using conventional computing methods is prohibitive. We shall now present two motivating examples.

Example 1. *Census.* The U.S. census systematically acquires and records data of all residents of the United States. The census data provide fundamental information to study socio-economic issues. Kohavi (1996) conducted a classification analysis using residents' information such as income, age, work class, education, the number of working hours per week, and etc. They used these information to predict whether the residents are high income residents, i.e., those with annal income more than $50K, or not. Given that the whole census data is super-large, the computation of statistical analysis is very difficult.

Example 2. *Supersymmetric Particles.* Physical experiments to create exotic particles that occur only at extremely high energy densities have been carried out using modern accelerators. e.g., large Hadron Collider (LHC). Observations of these particles and measurements of their properties may yield critical insights about the fundamental properties of the physical universe. One particular example of such exotic particles is supersymmetric particles, the search of which is a central scientific mission of the LHC (Baldi et al. 2014). Statistical analysis is crucial to distinguish collision events which produce supersymmetric particles (signal) from those producing other particles (background). Since LHC continuously generates petabytes of data each year, the computation of statistical analysis is very challenging.

The above motivating examples are classification problems with massive data. Logistic regression models are widely used for classification in many disciplines, including business, computer science, education, and genetics, among others (Hosmer Jr et al. 2013). Given covariates $\mathbf{x}_i$'s $\in \mathbb{R}^d$, logistic regression models are of the form

$$P(y_i = 1|\mathbf{x}_i) = p_i(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \frac{\exp(\mathbf{x}_i^T \boldsymbol{\beta})}{1 + \exp(\mathbf{x}_i^T \boldsymbol{\beta})}, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n, \tag{1}$$

where y_i's $\in \{0, 1\}$ are the responses and $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ is a $d \times 1$ vector of unknown regression coefficients belonging to a compact subset of $\mathbb{R}^d$. The unknown parameter $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ is often estimated by the maximum likelihood estimator (MLE) through maximizing the log-likelihood function with respect to $\boldsymbol{\beta}$, namely,

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}} = \arg\max_{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \ \ell(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \arg\max_{\boldsymbol{\beta}} \ \sum_{i=1}^{n} [y_i \log p_i(\boldsymbol{\beta}) + (1 - y_i) \log\{1 - p_i(\boldsymbol{\beta})\}]. \tag{2}$$

Analytically, there is no general closed-form solution to the MLE $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}}$, and iterative procedures are often adopted to find it numerically. A commonly used iterative procedure is Newton's method. Specifically for logistic regression, Newton's method iteratively applies the following formula until $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(t+1)}$ converges.

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(t+1)} = \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(t)} - \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(t)}) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T \right\}^{-1} \frac{\partial \ell(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(t)})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\beta}},$$

where $w_i(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = p_i(\boldsymbol{\beta})\{1 - p_i(\boldsymbol{\beta})\}$. Since it requires $O(nd^2)$ computing time in each iteration, the optimization procedure takes $O(\zeta nd^2)$ time, where ζ is the number of iterations required for the optimization procedure to converge. One common feature of the two motivating examples is their super-large sample size. For such super-large sample problems, the computing time $O(nd^2)$ for a single run may be too long to afford, let along to calculate it iteratively. Therefore, computation is a bottleneck for the application of logistic regression on massive data.

When proven statistical methods are no longer applicable due to limited computing resources, a popular method to extract useful information from data is the subsampling method (Drineas et al. 2006, Mahoney & Drineas 2009, Drineas et al. 2011). This approach uses the estimate based on a subsample that is taken randomly from the full data to approximate the estimate from the full data. It is termed *algorithmic leveraging* in Ma et al. (2014, 2015) because the empirical statistical leverage scores of the input covariate matrix are often used to define the nonuniform subsampling probabilities. There are numerous variants of subsampling algorithms to solve the ordinary least squares (OLS) in linear regression for large data sets, see Drineas et al. (2006, 2011), Ma et al. (2014, 2015), Ma & Sun (2015), among others. Another strategy is to use random projections of data matrices to fast approximate the OLS estimate, which was studied in Rokhlin & Tygert (2008), Dhillon et al. (2013), Clarkson & Woodruff (2013) and McWilliams et al. (2014). The aforementioned approaches have been investigated exclusively within the context of linear regres-

sion, and available results are mainly on algorithmic properties. For logistic regression, Owen (2007) derived interesting asymptotic results for infinitely imbalanced data sets. King & Zeng (2001) investigated the problem of rare events data. Fithian & Hastie (2014) proposed an efficient local case-control (LCC) subsampling method for imbalanced data sets, in which the method was motivated by balancing the subsample. In this paper, we focus on approximating the full data MLE using a subsample, and our method is motivated by minimizing the asymptotic mean squared error (MSE) of the resultant subsample-estimator given the full data. We rigorously investigate the statistical properties of the general subsampling estimator and obtain its asymptotic distribution. More importantly, using this asymptotic distribution, we derive **o**ptimal **s**ubsampling methods **m**otivated from the **A**-optimality **c**riterion (OSMAC) in the theory of optimal experimental design.

In this paper, we have two major contributions for theoretical and methodological developments in subsampling for logistic regression with massive data:

1. *Characterizations of optimal subsampling*. Most work on subsampling algorithms (under the context of linear regression) focuses on algorithmic issues. One exception is the work by Ma et al. (2014, 2015), in which expected values and variances of estimators from algorithmic leveraging were expressed approximately. However, there was no precise theoretical investigation on when these approximations hold. In this paper, we rigorously prove that the resultant estimator from a general subsampling algorithm is consistent to the full data MLE, and establish the asymptotic normality of the resultant estimator. Furthermore, from the asymptotic distribution, we derive the optimal subsampling method that minimizes the asymptotic MSE or a weighted version of the asymptotic MSE.

2. *A novel two-step subsampling algorithm*. The OSMAC that minimizes the asymptotic MSEs depends on the full data MLE $\hat{\beta}_{\text{MLE}}$, so the theoretical characterizations do not immediately translate into good algorithms. We propose a novel two-step algorithm to address this issue. The first step is to determine the importance score of each data point. In the second step, the importance scores are used to define nonuniform subsampling probabilities to be used for sampling from the full data set. We prove that the estimator from the two-step algorithm is consistent and asymptotically normal with the optimal asymptotic covariance matrix under some optimality criterion. The two-step subsampling algorithm runs in $O(nd)$ time, whereas

the full data MLE typically requires $O(\zeta nd^2)$ time to run. This improvement in computing time is much more significant than that obtained from applying the leverage-based subsampling algorithm to solve the OLS in linear regression. In linear regression, compared to a full data OLS which requires $O(nd^2)$ time, the leverage-based algorithm with approximate leverage scores (Drineas et al. 2012) requires $O(nd \log n/\varepsilon^2)$ time with $\varepsilon \in (0, 1/2]$, which is $o(nd^2)$ for the case of $\log n = o(d)$.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. In section 2, we conduct a theoretical analyses of a general subsampling algorithm for logistic regression. In section 3, we develop optimal subsampling procedures to approximate the MLE in logistic regression. A two-step algorithm is developed in section 4 to approximate these optimal subsampling procedures, and its theoretical properties are studied. The empirical performance of our algorithms is evaluated by numerical experiments on synthetic and real data sets in Sections 5. Section 6 summarizes the paper. Technical proofs for the theoretical results, as well as additional numerical experiments are given in the Supplementary Materials.

2 General Subsampling Algorithm and its Asymptotic Properties

In this section, we first present a general subsampling algorithm for approximating $\hat{\beta}_{\text{MLE}}$, and then establish the consistency and asymptotic normality of the resultant estimator. Algorithm 1 describes the general subsampling procedure.

Algorithm 1 General subsampling algorithm

- **Sampling:** Assign subsampling probabilities π_i, $i = 1, 2, ...n$, for all data points. Draw a random subsample of size r ($\ll n$), according to the probabilities $\{\pi_i\}_{i=1}^n$, from the full data. Denote the covariates, responses, and subsampling probabilities in the subsample as $\mathbf{x}_i^*$, y_i^*, and π_i^*, respectively, for $i = 1, 2, ..., r$.

- **Estimation:** Maximize the following weighted log-likelihood function to get the estimate $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ based on the subsample.

$$\ell^*(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \frac{1}{r} \sum_{i=1}^{r} \frac{1}{\pi_i^*} [y_i^* \log p_i^*(\boldsymbol{\beta}) + (1 - y_i^*) \log\{1 - p_i^*(\boldsymbol{\beta})\}],$$

where $p_i^*(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \exp(\boldsymbol{\beta}^T \mathbf{x}_i^*)/\{1 + \exp(\boldsymbol{\beta}^T \mathbf{x}_i^*)\}$. Due to the convexity of $\ell^*(\boldsymbol{\beta})$, the maximization can be implemented by Newton's method, i.e., iteratively applying the following formula until $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(t+1)}$ and $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(t)}$ are close enough,

$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(t+1)} = \tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(t)} - \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{r} \frac{w_i^*(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(t)})\mathbf{x}_i^*(\mathbf{x}_i^*)^T}{\pi_i^*} \right\}^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{r} \frac{\{y_i^* - p_i^*(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(t)})\}\mathbf{x}_i^*}{\pi_i^*}, \tag{3}$$

where $w_i^*(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = p_i^*(\boldsymbol{\beta})\{1 - p_i^*(\boldsymbol{\beta})\}$.

Now, we investigate asymptotic properties of this general subsampling algorithm, which provide guidance on how to develop algorithms with better approximation qualities. Note that in the two motivating examples, the sample sizes are super-large, but the numbers of predictors are unlikely to increase even if the sample sizes further increase. We assume that d is fixed and $n \to \infty$. For easy of discussion, we assume that $\mathbf{x}_i$'s are independent and identically distributed (i.i.d) with the same distribution as that of $\mathbf{x}$. The case of nonrandom $\mathbf{x}_i$'s is presented in the Supplementary Materials. To facilitate the presentation, denote the full data matrix as $\mathcal{F}_n = (\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{y})$, where $\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_n)^T$ is the covariate matrix and $\mathbf{y} = (y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n)^T$ is the vector of responses. Throughout the paper, $\|\mathbf{v}\|$ denotes the Euclidean norm of a vector $\mathbf{v}$, i.e., $\|\mathbf{v}\| = (\mathbf{v}^T \mathbf{v})^{1/2}$. We need the following assumptions to establish the first asymptotic result.

Assumption 1. *As $n \to \infty$, $\mathbf{M}_X = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} w_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})\mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T$ goes to a positive-definite matrix in probability and $n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \|\mathbf{x}_i\|^3 = O_P(1)$.*

Assumption 2. *$n^{-2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \pi_i^{-1} \|\mathbf{x}_i\|^k = O_P(1)$ for $k = 2, 4$.*

Assumption 1 imposes two conditions on the covariate distribution and this assumption holds if $E(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T)$ is positive definite and $E\|\mathbf{x}\|^3 < \infty$. Assumption 2 is a condition on both subsampling probabilities and the covariate distribution. For uniform subsampling with $\pi_i = n^{-1}$, a sufficient condition for this assumption is that $E\|\mathbf{x}\|^4 < \infty$.

The theorem below presents the consistency of the estimator from the subsampling algorithm to the full data MLE.

Theorem 1. *If assumptions 1 and 2 hold, then as $n \to \infty$ and $r \to \infty$, $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ is consistent to $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\mathrm{MLE}}$ in conditional probability, given $\mathcal{F}_n$ in probability. Moreover, the rate of convergence is $r^{-1/2}$. That is, with probability approaching one, for any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a finite Δ_ϵ and r_ϵ such that*

$$P(\|\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\mathrm{MLE}}\| \geq r^{-1/2}\Delta_\epsilon | \mathcal{F}_n) < \epsilon \tag{4}$$

for all $r > r_\epsilon$.

The consistency result shows that the approximation error can be made as small as possible by a large enough subsample size r, as the approximation error is at the order of $O_{P|\mathcal{F}_n}(r^{-1/2})$. Here the probability measure in $O_{P|\mathcal{F}_n}(\cdot)$ is the conditional measure given $\mathcal{F}_n$. This result has some similarity to the finite-sample result of the worst-case error bound for arithmetic leveraging in linear regression (Drineas et al. 2011), but neither of them gives the full distribution of the approximation error.

Besides consistency, we derive the asymptotic distribution of the approximation error, and prove that the approximation error, $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\mathrm{MLE}}$, is asymptotically normal. To obtain this result, we need an additional assumption below, which is required by the Lindeberg-Feller central limit theorem.

Assumption 3. *There exists some $\delta > 0$ such that $n^{-(2+\delta)} \sum_{i=1}^n \pi_i^{-1-\delta} \|\mathbf{x}_i\|^{2+\delta} = O_P(1)$.*

The aforementioned three assumptions are essentially moment conditions and are very general. For example, a sub-Gaussian distribution (Buldygin & Kozachenko 1980) has finite moment generating function on $\mathbb{R}$ and thus has finite moments up to any finite order. If the distribution of each component of $\mathbf{x}$ belongs to the class of sub-Gaussian distributions and the covariance matrix of $\mathbf{x}$ is positive-definite, then all the conditions are satisfied by the subsampling probabilities considered in this paper. The result of asymptotic normality is presented in the following theorem.

Theorem 2. *If assumptions 1, 2, and 3 hold, then as $n \to \infty$ and $r \to \infty$, conditional on $\mathcal{F}_n$ in probability,*

$$\mathbf{V}^{-1/2}(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}}) \longrightarrow N(0, \mathbf{I}) \tag{5}$$

in distribution, where

$$\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{M}_X^{-1} \mathbf{V}_c \mathbf{M}_X^{-1} = O_p(r^{-1}) \tag{6}$$

and

$$\mathbf{V}_c = \frac{1}{rn^2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\{y_i - p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})\}^2 \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T}{\pi_i}. \tag{7}$$

Remark. *Note that in Theorems 1 and 2 we are approximating the full data MLE, and the results hold for the case of oversampling ($r > n$). However, this scenario is not practical because it is more computationally intense than using the full data. Additionally, the distance between $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}}$ and $\boldsymbol{\beta}_0$, the true parameter, is at the order of $O_P(n^{-1/2})$. Oversampling does not result in any gain in terms of estimating the true parameter. For aforementioned reasons, the scenario of oversampling is not of our interest and we focus on the scenario that r is much smaller than n, typically, $n - r \to \infty$ or $r/n \to 0$.*

Result (5) shows that the distribution of $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}}$ given $\mathcal{F}_n$ can be approximated by that of $\mathbf{u}$, a normal random variable with distribution $N(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{V})$. In other words, the probability $P(r^{1/2}\|\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}}\| \geq \Delta|\mathcal{F}_n)$ can be approximated by $P(r^{1/2}\|\mathbf{u}\| \geq \Delta|\mathcal{F}_n)$ for any Δ. To facilitate the discussion, we write result (5) as

$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}}|\mathcal{F}_n \overset{a}{\sim} \mathbf{u}, \tag{8}$$

where $\overset{a}{\sim}$ means the distributions of the two terms are asymptotically the same. This result is more statistically informative than a worst-case error bound for the approximation error $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}}$. Moreover, this result gives direct guidance on how to reduce the approximation error while an error bound does not, because a smaller bound does not necessarily mean a smaller approximation error.

Although the distribution of $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}}$ given $\mathcal{F}_n$ can be approximated by that of $\mathbf{u}$, this does not necessarily imply that $\text{E}(\|\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}}\|^2|\mathcal{F}_n)$ is close to $\text{E}(\|\mathbf{u}\|^2|\mathcal{F}_n)$. $\text{E}(\|\mathbf{u}\|^2|\mathcal{F}_n)$ is an asymptotic MSE

(AMSE) of $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ and it is always well defined. However, rigorously speaking, $\mathrm{E}(\|\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\mathrm{MLE}}\|^2|\mathcal{F}_n)$, or any conditional moment of $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$, is undefined, because there is a nonzero probability that $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ based on a subsample does not exist. The same problem exists in subsampling estimators for the OLS in linear regression. To address this issue, we define $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ to be $\mathbf{0}$ when the MLE based on a subsample does not exist. Under this definition, if $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ is uniformly integrable under the conditional measure given $\mathcal{F}_n$, $r^{1/2}\{\mathrm{E}(\|\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\mathrm{MLE}}\|^2|\mathcal{F}_n) - \mathrm{E}(\|\mathbf{u}\|^2|\mathcal{F}_n)\} \to 0$ in probability.

Results in Theorems 1 and 2 are distributional results conditional on the observed data, which fulfill our primary goal of approximating the full data MLE $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\mathrm{MLE}}$. Conditional inference is quite common in statistics, and the most popular method is the Bootstrap (Efron 1979, Efron & Tibshirani 1994). The Bootstrap (nonparametric) is the uniform subsampling approach with subsample size equaling the full data sample size. If $\pi_i = 1/n$ and $r = n$, then results in Theorems 1 and 2 reduce to the asymptotic results for the Bootstrap. However, the Bootstrap and the subsampling method in the paper have very distinct goals. The Bootstrap focuses on approximating complicated distributions and are used when explicit solutions are unavailable, while the subsampling method considered here has a primary motivation to achieve feasible computation and is used even closed-form solutions are available.

3   Optimal Subsampling Strategies

To implement Algorithm 1, one has to specify the subsampling probability (SSP) $\boldsymbol{\pi} = \{\pi_i\}_{i=1}^n$ for the full data. An easy choice is to use the uniform SSP $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\mathrm{UNI}} = \{\pi_i = n^{-1}\}_{i=1}^n$. However, an algorithm with the uniform SSP may not be "optimal" and a nonuniform SSP may have a better performance. In this section, we propose more efficient subsampling procedures by choosing nonuniform π_i's to "minimize" the asymptotic variance-covariance matrix $\mathbf{V}$ in (6). However, since $\mathbf{V}$ is a matrix, the meaning of "minimize" needs to be defined. We adopt the idea of the A-optimality from optimal design of experiments and use the trace of a matrix to induce a complete ordering of the variance-covariance matrices (Kiefer 1959). It turns out that this approach is equivalent to minimizing the asymptotic MSE of the resultant estimator. Since this **o**ptimal **s**ubsampling procedure is **m**otivated from the **A**-optimality **c**riterion, we call our method the OSMAC.

3.1 Minimum Asymptotic MSE of $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$

From the result in Theorem 2, the asymptotic MSE of $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ is equal to the trace of $\mathbf{V}$, namely,

$$\text{AMSE}(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) = \text{E}(\|\mathbf{u}\|^2|\mathcal{F}_n) = \text{tr}(\mathbf{V}). \tag{9}$$

From (6), $\mathbf{V}$ depends on $\{\pi_i\}_{i=1}^n$, and clearly, $\{\pi_i = n^{-1}\}_{i=1}^n$ may not produce the smallest value of $\text{tr}(\mathbf{V})$. The key idea of optimal subsampling is to choose nonuniform SSP such that the $\text{AMSE}(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}})$ in (9) is minimized. Since minimizing the trace of the (asymptotic) variance-covariance matrix is called the A-optimality criterion (Kiefer 1959), the resultant SSP is A-optimal in the language of optimal design. The following theorem gives the A-optimal SSP that minimizes the asymptotic MSE of $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$.

Theorem 3. *In Algorithm 1, if the SSP is chosen such that*

$$\pi_i^{\text{mMSE}} = \frac{|y_i - p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})|\|\mathbf{M}_X^{-1}\mathbf{x}_i\|}{\sum_{j=1}^n |y_j - p_j(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})|\|\mathbf{M}_X^{-1}\mathbf{x}_j\|}, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n, \tag{10}$$

then the asymptotic MSE of $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$, $\text{tr}(\mathbf{V})$, attains its minimum.

As observed in (10), the optimal SSP $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{mMSE}} = \{\pi_i^{\text{mMSE}}\}_{i=1}^n$ depends on data through both the covariates and the responses directly. For the covariates, the optimal SSP is larger for a larger $\|\mathbf{M}_X^{-1}\mathbf{x}_i\|$, which is the square root of the ith diagonal element of the matrix $\mathbf{X}\mathbf{M}_X^{-2}\mathbf{X}^T$. The effect of the responses on the optimal SSP depends on discrimination difficulties through the term $|y_i - p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})|$. Interestingly, if the full data MLE $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}}$ in $|y_i - p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})|$ is replace by a pilot estimate, then this term is exactly the same as the probability in the local case-control (LCC) subsampling procedure in dealing with imbalanced data (Fithian & Hastie 2014). However, Poisson sampling and unweighted MLE were used in the LCC subsampling procedure.

To see the effect of the responses on the optimal SSP, let $S_0 = \{i : y_i = 0\}$ and $S_1 = \{i : y_i = 1\}$. The effect of $p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})$ on π_i^{mMSE} is positive for the S_0 set, i.e. a larger $p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})$ results in a larger π_i^{mMSE}, while the effect is negative for the S_1 set, i.e. a larger $p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})$ results in a smaller π_i^{mMSE}. The optimal subsampling approach is more likely to select data points with smaller $p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})$'s when y_i's are 1 and data points with larger $p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})$'s when y_i's are 0. Intuitively, it attempts to give

preferences to data points that are more likely to be mis-classified. This can also be seen in the expression of tr($\mathbf{V}$). From (6) and (7),

$$
\begin{aligned}
\text{tr}(\mathbf{V}) &= \text{tr}(\mathbf{M}_X^{-1}\mathbf{V}_c\mathbf{M}_X^{-1}) \\
&= \frac{1}{rn^2}\text{tr}\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n}\frac{\{y_i - p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})\}^2\mathbf{M}_X^{-1}\mathbf{x}_i\mathbf{x}_i^T\mathbf{M}_X^{-1}}{\pi_i}\right] \\
&= \frac{1}{rn^2}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\frac{\{y_i - p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})\}^2\text{tr}(\mathbf{M}_X^{-1}\mathbf{x}_i\mathbf{x}_i^T\mathbf{M}_X^{-1})}{\pi_i} \\
&= \frac{1}{rn^2}\sum_{i\in S_0}\frac{\{p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})\}^2\|\mathbf{M}_X^{-1}\mathbf{x}_i\|^2}{\pi_i} + \frac{1}{rn^2}\sum_{i\in S_1}\frac{\{1 - p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})\}^2\|\mathbf{M}_X^{-1}\mathbf{x}_i\|^2}{\pi_i}.
\end{aligned}
$$

From the above equation, a larger value of $p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})$ results in a larger value of the summation for the S_0 set, so a larger value is assigned to π_i to reduce this summation. On the other hand for the S_1 set, a larger value of $p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})$ results in a smaller value of the summation, so a smaller value is assigned to π_i.

The optimal subsampling approach also echos the result in Silvapulle (1981), which gave a necessary and sufficient condition for the existence of the MLE in logistic regression. To see this, let

$$
F_0 = \left\{\sum_{i\in S_0}k_i\mathbf{x}_i\Big|k_i > 0\right\} \quad \text{and} \quad F_1 = \left\{\sum_{i\in S_1}k_i\mathbf{x}_i\Big|k_i > 0\right\}.
$$

Here, F_0 and F_1 are convex cones generated by covariates in the S_0 and the S_1 sets, respectively. Silvapulle (1981) showed that the MLE in logistic regression is uniquely defined if and only if $F_0 \cap F_1 \neq \phi$, where ϕ is the empty set. From Theorem II in Dines (1926), $F_0 \cap F_1 \neq \phi$ if and only if there does *not* exist a $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ such that

$$\mathbf{x}_i^T\boldsymbol{\beta} \leq 0 \text{ for all } i \in S_0, \quad \mathbf{x}_i^T\boldsymbol{\beta} \geq 0 \text{ for all } i \in S_1, \tag{11}$$

and at least one strict inequality holds. The statement in (11) is equivalent to the following statement in (12) below.

$$p_i(\boldsymbol{\beta}) \leq 0.5 \text{ for all } i \in S_0, \quad p_i(\boldsymbol{\beta}) \geq 0.5 \text{ for all } i \in S_1. \tag{12}$$

This means if there exist a $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ such that $\{p_i(\boldsymbol{\beta}), i \in S_0\}$ and $\{p_i(\boldsymbol{\beta}), i \in S_1\}$ can be separated, then the MLE does not exist. The optimal subsampling SSP strives to increase the overlap of these two

sets in the direction of $p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})$. Thus it decreases the probability of the scenario that the MLE does not exist based on a resultant subsample.

3.2   Minimum Asymptotic MSE of $\mathbf{M}_X\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$

The optimal SSPs derived in the previous section require the calculation of $\|\mathbf{M}_X^{-1}\mathbf{x}_i\|$ for $i = 1, 2, ..., n$, which takes $O(nd^2)$ time. In this section, we propose a modified optimality criterion, under which calculating the optimal SSPs requires less time.

To motivate the optimality criteria, we need to define the partial ordering of positive definite matrices. For two positive definite matrices $\mathbf{A}_1$ and $\mathbf{A}_2$, $\mathbf{A}_1 \geq \mathbf{A}_2$ if and only if $\mathbf{A}_1 - \mathbf{A}_2$ is a non-negative definite matrix. This definition is called the Loewner-ordering. Note that $\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{M}_X^{-1}\mathbf{V}_c\mathbf{M}_X^{-1}$ in (6) depends on $\boldsymbol{\pi}$ through $\mathbf{V}_c$ in (7), and $\mathbf{M}_X$ does not depend on $\boldsymbol{\pi}$. For two given SSPs $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{(1)}$ and $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{(2)}$, $\mathbf{V}(\boldsymbol{\pi}^{(1)}) \leq \mathbf{V}(\boldsymbol{\pi}^{(2)})$ if and only if $\mathbf{V}_c(\boldsymbol{\pi}^{(1)}) \leq \mathbf{V}_c(\boldsymbol{\pi}^{(2)})$. This gives us guidance to simplify the optimality criterion. Instead of focusing on the more complicated matrix $\mathbf{V}$, we define an alternative optimality criterion by focusing on $\mathbf{V}_c$. Specifically, instead of minimizing $\text{tr}(\mathbf{V})$ as in Section 3.1, we choose to minimize $\text{tr}(\mathbf{V}_c)$. The primary goal of this alternative optimality criterion is to further reduce the computing time.

The following theorem gives the optimal SSP that minimizes the trace of $\mathbf{V}_c$.

Theorem 4. *In Algorithm 1, if the SSP is chosen such that*

$$\pi_i^{\text{mVc}} = \frac{|y_i - p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})|\|\mathbf{x}_i\|}{\sum_{j=1}^n |y_j - p_j(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})|\|\mathbf{x}_j\|}, \quad i = 1, 2, ..., n, \tag{13}$$

then $\text{tr}(\mathbf{V}_c)$*, attains its minimum.*

It turns out that the alternative optimality criterion indeed greatly reduces the computing time. From Theorem 4, the effect of the covariates on $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{mVc}} = \{\pi_i^{\text{mVc}}\}_{i=1}^n$ is presented by $\|\mathbf{x}_i\|$, instead of $\|\mathbf{M}_X^{-1}\mathbf{x}_i\|$ as in $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{mMSE}}$. The computational benefit is obvious: it requires $O(nd)$ time to calculate $\|\mathbf{x}_i\|$ for $i = 1, 2, ..., n$, which is significantly less than the required $O(nd^2)$ time to calculate $\|\mathbf{M}_X^{-1}\mathbf{x}_i\|$ for $i = 1, 2, ..., n$.

Besides the computational benefit, this alternative criterion also enjoys nice interpretations from the following aspects. First, the term $|y_i - p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})|$ functions the same as in the case of $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{mMSE}}$.

Hence all the nice interpretations and properties related to this term for $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{mMSE}}$ in Section 3.1 are true for $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{mVc}}$ in Theorem 4. Second, from (8),

$$\mathbf{M}_X(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})\big|\mathcal{F}_n \overset{a}{\sim} \mathbf{M}_X\mathbf{u}, \text{ where } \mathbf{M}_X\mathbf{u} \sim N(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{V}_c) \text{ given } \mathcal{F}_n.$$

This shows that $\text{tr}(\mathbf{V}_c) = \text{E}(\|\mathbf{M}_X\mathbf{u}\|^2|\mathcal{F}_n)$ is the AMSE of $\mathbf{M}_X\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ in approximating $\mathbf{M}_X\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}}$. Therefore, the SSP $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{mVc}}$ is optimal in terms of minimizing the AMSE of $\mathbf{M}_X\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$. Third, the alternative criterion also corresponds to the commonly used linear optimality (L-optimality) criterion in optimal experimental design (c.f. Chapter 10 of Atkinson et al. 2007). The L-optimality criterion minimizes the trace of the product of the asymptotic variance-covariance matrix and a constant matrix. Its aim is to improve the quality of prediction in linear regression. For our problem, note that $\text{tr}(\mathbf{V}_c) = \text{tr}(\mathbf{M}_X\mathbf{V}\mathbf{M}_X) = \text{tr}(\mathbf{V}\mathbf{M}_X^2)$ and $\mathbf{V}$ is the asymptotic variance-covariance matrix of $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$, so the SSP $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{mVc}}$ is L-optimal in the language of optimal design.

4 Two-Step Algorithm

The SSPs in (10) and (13) depend on $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}}$, which is the full data MLE to be approximated, so an exact OSMAC is not applicable directly. We propose a two-step algorithm to approximate the OSMAC. In the first step, a subsample of r_0 is taken to get a pilot estimate of $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}}$, which is then used to approximate the optimal SSPs for drawing the more informative second step subsample. The two-step algorithm is presented in Algorithm 2.

Algorithm 2 Two-step Algorithm

- **Step 1:** Run Algorithm 1 with subsample size r_0 to obtain an estimate $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_0$, using either the uniform SSP $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{UNI}} = \{n^{-1}\}_{i=1}^{n}$ or SSP $\{\pi_i^{\text{prop}}\}_{i=1}^{n}$, where $\pi_i^{\text{prop}} = (2n_0)^{-1}$ if $i \in S_0$ and $\pi_i^{\text{prop}} = (2n_1)^{-1}$ if $i \in S_1$. Here, n_0 and n_1 are the numbers of elements in sets S_0 and S_1, respectively. Replace $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}}$ with $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_0$ in (10) or (13) to get an approximate optimal SSP corresponding to a chosen optimality criterion.

- **Step 2:** Subsample with replacement for a subsample of size r with the approximate optimal SSP calculated in Step 1. Combine the samples from the two steps and obtain the estimate $\breve{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ based on the total subsample of size $r_0 + r$ according to the Estimation step in Algorithm 1.

Remark. *In Step 1, for the S_0 and S_1 sets, different subsampling probabilities can be specified, each of which is equal to half of the inverse of the set size. The purpose is to balance the numbers of 0's and 1's in the responses for the subsample. If the full data is very imbalanced, the probability that the MLE exists for a subsample obtained using this approach is higher than that for a subsample obtained using uniform subsampling. This procedure is called the case-control sampling (Scott & Wild 1986, Fithian & Hastie 2014). If the proportion of 1's is close to 0.5, the uniform SSP is preferable in Step 1 due to its simplicity.*

Remark. *As shown in Theorem 1, $\tilde{\beta}_0$ from Step 1 approximates $\hat{\beta}_{\mathrm{MLE}}$ accurately as long as r_0 is not too small. On the other hand, the efficiency of the two-step algorithm would decrease, if r_0 gets close to the total subsample size $r_0 + r$ and r is relatively small. We will need r_0 to be a small term compared with $r^{1/2}$, i.e., $r_0 = o(r^{-1/2})$, in order to prove the consistency and asymptotically optimality of the two-step algorithm in Section 4.1.*

Algorithm 2 greatly reduces the computational cost compared to using the full data. The major computing time is to approximate the optimal SSPs which does not require iterative calculations on the full data. Once the approximately optimal SSPs are available, the time to obtain $\check{\beta}$ in the second step is $O(\zeta r d^2)$ where ζ is the number of iterations of the iterative procedure in the second step. If the S_0 and S_1 sets are not separated, the time to obtain $\tilde{\beta}_0$ in the first step is $O(n + \zeta_0 r_0 d^2)$ where ζ_0 is the number of iterations of the iterative procedure in the first step. To calculate the estimated optimal SSPs, the required times are different for different optimal SSPs. For π_i^{mVc}, $i = 1, ...n$, the required time is $O(nd)$. For π_i^{mMSE}, $i = 1, ..., n$, the required time is longer because they involve $\mathbf{M}_X = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n w_i(\hat{\beta}_{\mathrm{MLE}}) \mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_i^T$. If $\hat{\beta}_{\mathrm{MLE}}$ is replaced by $\tilde{\beta}_0$ in $w_i(\hat{\beta}_{\mathrm{MLE}})$ and then the full data is used to calculate an estimate of $\mathbf{M}_X$, the required time is $O(nd^2)$. Note that $\mathbf{M}_X$ can be estimated by $\tilde{\mathbf{M}}_X^0 = (nr_0)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{r_0} (\pi_i^*)^{-1} w_i^*(\tilde{\beta}_0) \mathbf{x}_i^* (\mathbf{x}_i^*)^T$ based on the selected subsample, for which the calculation only requires $O(r_0 d^2)$ time. However, we still need $O(nd^2)$ time to approximate π_i^{mMSE} because they depend on $\|\mathbf{M}_X^{-1} \mathbf{x}_i\|$ for $i = 1, 2, ..., n$. Based on aforementioned discussions, the time complexity of Algorithm 2 with $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\mathrm{mVc}}$ is $O(nd + \zeta_0 r_0 d^2 + \zeta r d^2)$, and the time complexity of Algorithm 2 with $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\mathrm{mMSE}}$ is $O(nd^2 + \zeta_0 r_0 d^2 + \zeta r d^2)$. Considering the case of a very large n such that d, ζ_0, ζ, r_0 and r are all much smaller than n, these time complexities are $O(nd)$ and $O(nd^2)$, respectively.

4.1 Asymptotic properties

For the estimator obtained from Algorithm 2 based on the SSPs $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{mVc}}$, we derive its asymptotic properties under the following assumption.

Assumption 4. *The covariate distribution satisfies that* $E(\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T)$ *is positive definite and* $E(e^{\mathbf{a}^T\mathbf{x}}) < \infty$ *for any* $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{R}^d$.

Assumption 4 imposes two conditions on covariate distribution. The first condition ensures that the asymptotic covariance matrix is full rank. The second condition requires that covariate distributions have light tails. Clearly, the class of sub-Gaussian distributions (Buldygin & Kozachenko 1980) satisfy this condition. The main result in Owen (2007) also requires this condition.

We establish the consistency and asymptotic normality of $\breve{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ based on $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{mVc}}$. The results are presented in the following two theorems.

Theorem 5. *Let* $r_0 r^{-1/2} \to 0$. *Under Assumption 4, if the estimate* $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_0$ *based on the first step sample exists, then, as* $r \to \infty$ *and* $n \to \infty$, *with probability approaching one, for any* $\epsilon > 0$, *there exists a finite* Δ_ϵ *and* r_ϵ *such that*

$$P(\|\breve{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}}\| \geq r^{-1/2}\Delta_\epsilon|\mathcal{F}_n) < \epsilon$$

for all $r > r_\epsilon$.

In Theorem 5, as long as the first step sample estimate $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_0$ exist, the two step algorithm produces a consistent estimator. We do not even require that $r_0 \to \infty$. If the first step subsample $r_0 \to \infty$, then from Theorem 1, $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_0$ exists with probability approaching one. Under this scenario, the resultant two-step estimator is optimal in the sense of Theorem 4. We present this result in the following theorem.

Theorem 6. *Assume that* $r_0 r^{-1/2} \to 0$. *Under Assumption 4, as* $r_0 \to \infty$, $r \to \infty$, *and* $n \to \infty$, *conditional on* $\mathcal{F}_n$ *and* $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_0$,

$$\mathbf{V}^{-1/2}(\breve{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}}) \longrightarrow N(0, \mathbf{I})$$

in distribution, in which $\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{M}_X^{-1}\mathbf{V}_c\mathbf{M}_X^{-1}$ *with* $\mathbf{V}_c$ *having the expression of*

$$\mathbf{V}_c = \frac{1}{rn^2}\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{n}|y_i - p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})|\|\mathbf{x}_i\|\right\}\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{n}\frac{|y_i - p_i(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}})|\mathbf{x}_i\mathbf{x}_i^T}{\|\mathbf{x}_i\|}\right\}. \tag{14}$$

Remark. *In Theorem 6, we require that $r_0 \to \infty$ to get a consistent pilot estimate which is used to identify the more informative data points in the second step, but r_0 should be much smaller than r so that the more informative second step subsample dominates the likelihood function.*

Theorem 6 shows that the two-step algorithm is asymptotically more efficient than the uniform subsampling or the case-control subsampling in the sense of Theorem 4. From Theorem 2, as $r_0 \to \infty$, $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_0$ is also asymptotic normal, but from Theorem 4, the value of $\mathrm{tr}(\mathbf{V}_c)$ for its asymptotic variance is larger than that for (14) with the same total subsample sizes.

4.2 Standard error formula

As pointed out by a referee, the standard error of an estimator is also important and needs to be estimated. It is crucial for statistical inferences such as hypothesis testing and confidence interval construction. The asymptotic normality in Theorems 2 and 6 can be used to construct formulas to estimate the standard error. A simple way is to replace $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\mathrm{MLE}}$ with $\check{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ in the asymptotic variance-covariance matrix in Theorem 2 or 6 to get the estimated version. This approach, however, requires calculations on the full data. We give a formula that involves only the selected subsample to estimate the variance-covariance matrix.

We propose to estimate the variance-covariance matrix of $\check{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ using

$$\check{\mathbf{V}} = \check{\mathbf{M}}_X^{-1} \check{\mathbf{V}}_c \check{\mathbf{M}}_X^{-1}, \tag{15}$$

where

$$\check{\mathbf{M}}_X = \frac{1}{n(r_0 + r)} \sum_{i=1}^{r_0+r} \frac{w_i^*(\check{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) \mathbf{x}_i^* (\mathbf{x}_i)^{*T}}{\pi_i^*},$$

and

$$\check{\mathbf{V}}_c = \frac{1}{n^2(r_0 + r)^2} \sum_{i=1}^{r_0+r} \frac{\{y_i^* - p_i^*(\check{\boldsymbol{\beta}})\}^2 \mathbf{x}_i^*(\mathbf{x}_i^*)^T}{(\pi_i^*)^2}.$$

In the above formula, $\check{\mathbf{M}}_X$ and $\check{\mathbf{V}}_c$ are motivated by the method of moments. If $\check{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ is replace by $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\mathrm{MLE}}$, then $\check{\mathbf{M}}_X$ and $\check{\mathbf{V}}_c$ are unbiased estimators of $\mathbf{M}_X$ and $\mathbf{V}_c$, respectively. Standard errors of components of $\check{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ can be estimated by the square roots of the diagonal elements of $\check{\mathbf{V}}$. We will evaluate the performance of the formula in (15) using numerical experiments in Section 5.

5 Numerical examples

We evaluate the performance of the OSMAC approach using synthetic and real data sets in this section. We have some additional numerical results in Section **??** of the Supplementary Material, in which Section **??** presents additional results of the OSMAC approach on rare event data and Section **??** gives unconditional results. As shown in Theorem 1, the approximation error can be arbitrarily small when the subsample size gets large enough, so any level of accuracy can be achieved even using uniform subsampling as long as the subsample size is sufficiently large. In order to make fair comparisons with uniform subsampling, we set the total subsample sizes for a two-step procedure the same as that for the uniform subsampling approach. In the second step of all two-step procedures, except the local case-control (LCC) procedure, we combine the two-step subsamples in estimation. This is valid for the OSMAC approach. However, for the LCC procedure, the first step subsample cannot be combined and only the second step subsample can be used. Otherwise, the resultant estimator will be biased (Fithian & Hastie 2014).

5.1 Simulation experiments

In this section, we use numerical experiments based on simulated data sets to evaluate the OSMAC approach proposed in previous sections. Data of size $n = 10,000$ are generated from model (1) with the true value of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$, $\boldsymbol{\beta}_0$, being a 7×1 vector of 0.5. We consider the following 6 simulated data sets using different distributions of $\mathbf{x}$ (detailed definitions of these distributions can be found in Appendix A of Gelman et al. (2014)).

1) **mzNormal**. $\mathbf{x}$ follows a multivariate normal distribution with mean $\mathbf{0}$, $N(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$, where $\Sigma_{ij} = 0.5^{I(i \neq j)}$ and $I()$ is the indicator function. For this data set, the number of 1's and the number of 0's in the responses are roughly equal. This data set is referred to as mzNormal data.

2) **nzNormal**. $\mathbf{x}$ follows a multivariate normal distribution with nonzero mean, $N(\mathbf{1.5}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$. About 95% of the responses are 1's, so this data set is an example of imbalanced data and it is referred to as nzNormal data.

3) **ueNormal**. $\mathbf{x}$ follows a multivariate normal distribution with zero mean but its components have unequal variances. To be specific, let $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, ...x_7)^T$, in which x_i follows a normal

distribution with mean 0 and variance i^2 and the correlation between x_i and x_j is $0.5^{I(i \neq j)}$, $i, j = 1, ..., 7$. For this data set, the number of 1's and the number of 0's in the responses are roughly equal. This data set is referred to as ueNormal data.

4) **mixNormal**. $\mathbf{x}$ is a mixture of two multivariate normal distributions with different means, i.e., $\mathbf{x} \sim 0.5N(\mathbf{1}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}) + 0.5N(-\mathbf{1}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})$. For this case, the distribution of $\mathbf{x}$ is bimodal, and the number of 1's and the number of 0's in the responses are roughly equal. This data set is referred to as mixNormal data.

5) **$\mathbf{T_3}$**. $\mathbf{x}$ follows a multivariate t distribution with degrees of freedom 3, $t_3(\mathbf{0}, \boldsymbol{\Sigma})/10$. For this case, the distribution of $\mathbf{x}$ has heavy tails and it does not satisfy the conditions in Sections 2 and 4. We use this case to exam how sensitive the OSMAC approach is to the required assumptions. The number of 1's and the number of 0's in the responses are roughly equal for this data set. It is referred to as T_3 data.

6) **EXP**. Components of $\mathbf{x}$ are independent and each has an exponential distribution with a rate parameter of 2. For this case, the distribution of $\mathbf{x}$ is skewed and has a heavier tail on the right, and the proportion of 1's in the responses is about 0.84. This data set is referred to as EXP data.

In order to clearly show the effects of different distributions of $\mathbf{x}$ on the SSP, we create boxplots of SSPs, shown in Figure 1 for the six data sets. It is seen that distributions of covariates have high influence on optimal SSPs. Comparing the figures for the mzNormal and nzNormal data sets, we see that a change in the mean makes the distributions of SSPs dramatically different. Another evident pattern is that using $\mathbf{V}_c$ instead of $\mathbf{V}$ to define an optimality criterion makes the SSP different, especially for the case of unNormal data set which has unequal variances for different components of the covariate. For the mzNormal and T_3 data sets, the difference in the SSPs are not evident. For the EXP data set, there are more points in the two tails of the distributions.

Now we evaluate the performance of Algorithm 2 based on different choices of SSPs. We calculate MSEs of $\breve{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ from $S = 1000$ subsamples using MSE $= S^{-1} \sum_{s=1}^{S} \|\breve{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(s)} - \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\text{MLE}}\|^2$, where $\breve{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(s)}$ is the estimate from the sth subsample. Figure 2 presents the MSEs of $\breve{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$ from Algorithm 2 based on different SSPs, where the first step sample size r_0 is fixed at 200. For comparison, we provide

the results of uniform subsampling and the LCC subsampling. We also calculate the full data MLE using 1000 Bootstrap samples.

For all the six data sets, SSPs π^{mMSE} and π^{mVc} always result in smaller MSE than the uniform SSP, which agrees with the theoretical result that they aim to minimize the asymptotic MSEs of the resultant estimator. If components of $\mathbf{x}$ have equal variances, the OSMAC with π^{mMSE} and π^{mVc} have similar performances; for the ueNormal data set this is not true, and the OSMAC with π^{mMSE} dominates the OSMAC with π^{mVc}. The uniform SSP never yields the smallest MSE. It is worth noting that both the two OSMAC methods outperforms the uniform subsampling method for the T_3 and EXP data sets. This indicates that the OSMAC approach has advantage over the uniform subsampling even when data do not satisfy the assumptions imposed in Sections 3 and 4. For the LCC subsampling, it can be less efficient than the OSMAC procedure if the data set is not very imbalanced. It performs well for the nzNormal data which is imbalanced. This agree with the goal of the method in dealing with imbalanced data. The LCC subsampling does not perform well for small r. The main reason is that this method cannot use the first step sample so the effective sample size is smaller than other methods.

To investigate the effect of different sample size allocations between the two steps, we calculate MSEs for various proportions of first step samples with fixed total subsample sizes. Results are given in Figure 3 with total subsample size $r_0 + r = 800$ and 1200 for the mzNormal data set. It shows that, the performance of a two-step algorithm improves at first by increasing r_0, but then it becomes less efficient after a certain point as r_0 gets larger. This is because if r_0 is too small, the first step estimate is not accurate; if r_0 is too close to r, then the more informative second step subsample would be small. These observations indicate that, empirically, a value around 0.2 is a good choice for $r_0/(r_0 + r)$ in order to have an efficient two-step algorithm. However, finding a systematic way of determining the optimal sample sizes allocation between two steps needs further study. Results for the other five data sets are similar so they are omitted to save space.

Figure 4 gives proportions of correct classifications on the responses using different methods. To avoid producing over-optimistic results, we generate two full data sets corresponding to each of the six scenarios, use one of them to obtain estimates with different methods, and then perform classification on the other full data. The classification rule is to classify the response to be 1 if $p_i(\breve{\boldsymbol{\beta}})$

is larger than 0.5, and 0 otherwise. For comparisons, we also use the full data MLE to classify the full data. As shown in Figure 4, all the methods, except LCC with small r, produce proportions close to that from using the full data MLE, showing the comparable performance of the OSMAC algorithms to that of the full data approach in classification.

To assess the performance of the formula in (15), we use it to calculate the estimated MSE, i.e., $\text{tr}(\tilde{\mathbf{V}})$, and compare the average estimated MSE with the empirical MSE. Figure 5 presents the results for OSMAC with $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{mMSE}}$. It is seen that the estimated MSEs are very close to the empirical MSEs, except for the case of nzNormal data which is imbalanced. This indicates that the proposed formula works well if the data is not very imbalanced. According to our simulation experiments, it works well if the proportion of 1's in the responses is between 0.15 and 0.85. For more imbalanced data or rare events data, the formula may not be accurate because the properties of the MLE are different from these for the regular cases (Owen 2007, King & Zeng 2001). The performance of the formula in (15) for OSMAC with $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{mVc}}$ is similar to that for OSMAC with $\boldsymbol{\pi}^{\text{mMSE}}$, so results are omitted for clear presentation of the plot.

To further evaluate the performance of the proposed method in statistical inference, we consider confidence interval construction using the asymptotic normality and the estimated variance-covariance matrix in (15). For illustration, we take the parameter of interest as β_1, the first element of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$. The corresponding 95% confidence interval is constructed using $\breve{\beta}_1 \pm Z_{0.975} S E_{\breve{\beta}_1}$, where $S E_{\breve{\beta}_1} = \sqrt{\breve{V}_{11}}$ is the standard error of $\breve{\beta}_1$, and $Z_{0.975}$ is the 97.5th percentile of the standard normal distribution. We repeat the simulation 3000 times and estimate the coverage probability of the confidence interval by the proportion that it covers the true vale of β_1. Figure 6 gives the results. The confidence interval works perfectly for the mxNormal, ueNormal and T_3 data. For mixNormal and EXP data sets, the empirical coverage probabilities are slightly smaller than the intended confidence level, but the results are acceptable. For the imbalanced nzNormal data, the coverage probabilities are lower than the nominal coverage probabilities. This agrees with the fact in Figure 5 that the formula in (15) does not approximate the asymptotic variance-covariance matrix well for imbalance data.

To evaluate the computational efficiency of the subsampling algorithms, we record the computing time and numbers of iterations of Algorithm 2 and the uniform subsampling implemented

in the R programming language (R Core Team 2015). Computations were carried out on a desk-top running Window 10 with an Intel I7 processor and 16GB memory. For fair comparison, we counted only the CPU time used by 1000 repetitions of each method. Table 1 gives the results for the mzNormal data set for algorithms based on π^{mMSE}, π^{mVc}, and π^{UNI}. The computing time for using the full data is also given in the last row of Table 1 for comparisons. It is not surprising to observe that the uniform subsampling algorithm requires the least computing time because it does not require an additional step to calculate the SSP. The algorithm based on π^{mMSE} requires longer computing time than the algorithm based on π^{mVc}, which agrees with the theoretical analy-sis in Section 4. All the subsampling algorithms take significantly less computing time compared to using the full data approach. Table 2 presents the average numbers of iterations in Newton's method. It shows that for Algorithm 2, the first step may require additional iterations compared to the second step, but overall, the required numbers of iterations for all methods are close to 7, the number of iterations used by the full data. This shows that using a smaller subsample does not increase the required number of iterations much for Newton's method.

To further investigate the computational gain of the subsampling approach for massive data volume, we increase the value of d to $d = 50$ and increase the values of n to be $n = 10^4, 10^5, 10^6$ and 10^7. We record the computing time for the case when $\mathbf{x}$ is multivariate normal. Table 3 presents the result based on one iteration of calculation. It is seen that as n increases, the computational efficiency for a subsampling method relative to the full data approach is getting more and more significant.

5.1.1 Numerical evaluations for rare events data

To investigate the performance of the proposed method for the case of rare events, we generate rare events data using the same configurations that are used to generate the nzNormal data, except that we change the mean of $\mathbf{x}$ to **-2.14** or **-2.9**. With these values, 1.01% and 0.14% of responses are 1 in the full data of size $n = 10000$.

Figure 7 presents the results for these two scenarios. It is seen that both mMSE and mVc work well for these two scenarios and their performances are similar. The uniform subsampling is neither stable nor efficient. When the event rate is 0.14%, corresponding to the subsample sizes of

300, 400, 500, 700, 900, and 1200, there are 903, 848, 801, 711, 615, and 491 cases out of 1000 repetitions of the simulation that the MLE are not found. For the cases that the MLE are found, the MSEs are 78.27907, 23.28546, 34.16891, 42.43081, 26.38999, and 19.25178, respectively. These MSEs are much larger than those from the OSMAC and thus are omitted in Figure 7 for better presentation. For the OSMAC, there are 8 cases out of 1000 that the MLE are not found only when $r_0 = 200$ and $r = 100$.

For comparison, we also calculate the MSE of the full data approach using 1000 Bootstrap samples (the gray dashed line). Note that the Bootstrap is the uniform subsampling with the sub-sample size being equal to the full data sample size. Interestingly, it is seen from Figure 7 that OSMAC methods can produce MSEs that are much smaller than the Bootstrap MSEs. To further investigate this interesting case, we carry out another simulation using the exact same setup. A full data is generated in each repetition and hence the resultant MSEs are the unconditional MSEs. Results are presented in Figure 8. Although the unconditional MSEs of the OSMAC methods are larger than that of the full data approach, they are very close when r gets large, especially when the rare event rate is 0.11%. Here, 0.11% is the average percentage of 1's in the responses of all 1000 simulated full data. Note that the true value of β is used in calculating both the conditional MSEs and the unconditional MSEs. Comparing Figure 7 (b) and Figure 8 (b), conditional inference of OSMAC can indeed be more efficient than the full data approach for rare events data. These two figures also indicate that the original Bootstrap method does not work perfectly for the case of rare events data. For additional results on more extreme rare events data, please read Section **??** in the Supplementary Material.

5.2   Census income data set

In this section, we apply the proposed methods to a census income data set (Kohavi 1996), which was extracted from the 1994 Census database. There are totally 48, 842 observations in this data set, and the response variable is whether a person's income exceeds $50K a year. There are 11,687 individuals (23.93%) in the data whose income exceed $50K a year. Inferential task is to estimate the effect on income from the following covariates: x_1, age; x_2, final weight (Fnlwgt); x_3, highest level of education in numerical form; x_4, capital loss (LosCap); x_5, hours worked per week. The

variable final weight (x_2) is the number of people the observation represents. The values were assigned by Population Division at the Census Bureau, and they are related to the socio-economic characteristic, i.e., people with similar socio-economic characteristics have similar weights. Capital loss (x_5) is the loss in income due to bad investments; it is the difference between lower selling prices of investments and higher purchasing prices of investments made by the individual.

The parameter corresponding to x_i is denoted as β_i for $i = 1, ..., 5$. An intercept parameter, say β_0, is also include in the model. Another interest is to determine whether a person's income exceeds \$50K a year using the covariates. We obtained the data from the Machine Learning Repository (Lichman 2013), where it is partitioned into a training set of $n = 32,561$ observations and a validation set of $16,281$ observations. Thus we apply the proposed method on the train set and use the validation set to evaluate the performance of classification.

For this data set, the full data estimates using all the observation in the training set are: $\hat{\beta}_0 = -8.637$ (0.116), $\hat{\beta}_1 = 0.637$ (0.016), $\hat{\beta}_2 = 0.065$ (0.015), $\hat{\beta}_3 = 0.878$ (0.017), $\hat{\beta}_4 = 0.234$ (0.013) and $\hat{\beta}_1 = 0.525$ (0.016), where the numbers in the parentheses are the associated standard errors. Table 4 gives the average of parameter estimates along with the empirical and estimated standard errors from different methods based on 1000 subsamples of $r_0 + r = 1200$ with $r_0 = 200$ and $r = 1000$. It is seen that all subsampling method produce estimates close to those from the full data approach. In general, OSMAC with π^{mMSE} and OSMAC with π^{mVc} produce the smallest standard errors. The estimated standard errors are very close to the empirical standard errors, showing that the proposed asymptotic variance-covariance formula in (15) works well for the read data. The standard errors for the subsample estimates are larger than those for the full data estimates. However, they are quite good in view of the relatively small subsample size. All methods show that the effect of each variable on income is positive. However, the effect of final weight is not significant at significance level 0.05 according to any subsample-based method, while this variable is significant at the same significance level according to the full data analysis. The reason is that the subsample inference is not as powerful as the full data approach due to its relatively smaller sample size. Actually, for statistical inference in large sample, no matter how small the true parameter is, as long as it is a nonzero constant, the corresponding variable can always be detected as significant with large enough sample size. This is also true for conditional inference based on a subsample

if the subsample size is large enough. It is interesting that capital loss has a significantly positive effect on income, this is because people with low income seldom have investments.

Figure 9 (a) shows the MSEs that were calculated from $S = 1000$ subsamples of size $r_0 + r$ with a fixed $r_0 = 200$. In this figure, all MSEs are small and go to 0 as the subsample size gets large, showing the estimation consistency of the subsampling methods. The OSMAC with π^{mMSE} always has the smallest MSE. Figure 9 (b) gives the proportions of correct classifications on the responses in the validation set for different second step subsample sizes with a fixed $r_0 = 200$ when the classification threshold is 0.5. For comparison, we also obtained the results of classification using the full data estimate which is the gray horizontal dashed line. Indeed, using all the $n = 32,561$ observations in the training set yields better results than using subsamples of much smaller sizes, but the difference is really small. One point worth to mention is that although the OSMAC with π^{mMSE} always yields a smaller MSE compared to the OSMAC with π^{mVc}, its performance in classification is inferior to the OSMAC with π^{mVc}. This is because π^{mMSE} aims to minimize the asymptotic MSE and may not minimize the misclassification rate, although the two goals are highly related.

5.3 Supersymmetric benchmark data set

We apply the subsampling methods to a supersymmetric (SUSY) benchmark data set (Baldi et al. 2014) in this section. The data set is available from the Machine Learning Repository (Lichman 2013) at this link: `https://archive.ics.uci.edu/ml/datasets/SUSY`. The goal is to distinguish between a process where new supersymmetric particles are produced and a background process, utilizing the 18 kinematic features in the data set. The full sample size is $5,000,000$ and the data file is about 2.4 gigabytes. About 54.24% of the responses in the full data are from the background process. We use the first $n = 4,500,000$ observation as the training set and use the last $500,000$ observations as the validation set.

Figures 10 gives the MSEs and proportions of correct classification when the classification probability threshold is 0.5. It is seen that the OSMAC with π^{mMSE} always results in the smallest MSEs. For classifications, the result from the full data is better than the subsampling methods, but the difference is not significant. Among the three subsampling methods, the OSMAC with π^{mVc}

has the best performance in classification.

To further evaluate the performance of the OSMAC methods as classifiers, we create receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves using classification probability thresholds between 0 and 1, and then calculate the areas under the ROC curves (AUC). As pointed out by an Associate Editor, the theoretical investigation of this paper focus on parameter estimation, and classification is not theoretically studied. These two goals, although being different, are highly connected. Since logistic regression models are commonly used for classification, the relevant performance is also important for practical application. Table 5 presents the results based on 1000 subsamples of size $r_0 + r = 1000$ from the full data. For the two step algorithm, $r_0 = 200$ and $r = 800$. All the AUCs are around 0.85, meaning that the classifiers all have good performance.

For the same data set considered here, the deep learning method (DL) in Baldi et al. (2014) produced an AUC of 0.88 while the AUCs from the OSMAC approach with different SSPs are around 0.85. However the DL used the full data set and had to optimize a much more complicated model ("*a five-layer neural network with 300 hidden units in each layer*" (Baldi et al. 2014)), while OSMAC just used $r = 1000$ observations and the target function to optimize is the log-likelihood function of a logistic regression model. Due to computational costs, the optimization in Baldi et al. (2014) included "*combinations of the pre-training methods, network architectures, initial learning rates, and regularization methods.*" For the OSMAC, the optimization was done by using a standard Newton's method directly. The computations of Baldi et al. (2014) "*were performed using machines with 16 Intel Xeon cores, an NVIDIA Tesla C2070 graphics processor, and 64 GB memory. All neural networks were trained using the GPU-accelerated Theano and Pylearn2 software libraries*". Our analysis was just carried out on a normal PC with an Intel I7 processor and 16GB memory. Clearly, Baldi et al. (2014)'s method requires special computing resources and coding skills, but anyone with basic programming ability is able to implement the OSMAC. Due to the special requirements of Baldi et al. (2014)'s method, we are not able to replicate their results and thus cannot report the computing time. For our OSMAC with π^{mMSE} and π^{mVc}, the average CPU seconds to obtain parameter estimates are 3.400 and 1.079 seconds, respectively. The full data MLE takes an average of 24.060 seconds to run.

6 Discussion

In this paper, we proposed the OSMAC approach for logistic regression in order to overcome the computation bottleneck resulted from the explosive growth of data volume. Not only were theoretical statistical asymptotic results derived, but also optimal subsampling methods were given. Furthermore, we developeded a two-step subsampling algorithm to approximate optimal subsampling strategies and proved that the resultant estimator is consistent and asymptotically normal with the optimal variance-covariance matrix. As shown in our numerical experiments, the OSMAC approach for logistic regression is a computationally feasible method for super-large samples, and it yields a good approximation to the results based on full data. There are important issues in this paper that we will investigate in the future.

1. In our numerical experiments, the formula in (15) underestimates the asymptotic variance-covariance matrix and thus does not produce an accurate approximation for rare events data. It is unclear whether the technique in King & Zeng (2001) can be applied to develop an improved estimator of the asymptotic variance-covariance matrix in the case of rare event. It is an interesting question worth further investigations.

2. We have chosen to minimize the trace of $\mathbf{V}$ or $\mathbf{V}_c$ to define optimal subsampling algorithms. The idea is from the *A*-optimality criterion in the theory of optimal experimental designs (Kiefer 1959). There are other optimality criteria emphasizing different inferential purposes, such as the *C*-optimality and the *D*-optimality. How to use these optimality criteria to develop high quality algorithms is undoubtedly a topic worthy of future study.

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Table 1: CPU seconds for the mzNormal data set with $r_0 = 200$ and different r. The CPU seconds for using the full data is given in the last row.

Method	r					
	100	200	300	500	700	1000
mMSE	3.340	3.510	3.720	4.100	4.420	4.900
mVc	3.000	3.130	3.330	3.680	4.080	4.580
Uniform	0.690	0.810	0.940	1.190	1.470	1.860
Full data CPU seconds: 13.480						

Table 2: Average numbers of iterations used in Newton's method (3) for the mzNormal data set with $r_0 = 200$ and different r. For the full data, the number of iterations is 7.

r	mMSE		mVc		uniform
	First step	Second step	First step	Second step	
100	7.479	7.288	7.479	7.296	7.378
200	7.479	7.244	7.479	7.241	7.305
300	7.482	7.230	7.482	7.214	7.259
500	7.458	7.200	7.458	7.185	7.174
700	7.472	7.190	7.472	7.180	7.136
1000	7.471	7.181	7.471	7.158	7.091

Table 3: CPU seconds with $r_0 = 200$, $r = 1000$ and different full data size n when the covariates are from a $d = 50$ dimensional normal distribution.

Method	n			
	10^4	10^5	10^6	10^7
mMSE	0.050	0.270	3.290	37.730
mVc	0.030	0.070	0.520	6.640
Uniform	0.010	0.030	0.020	0.830
Full	0.150	1.710	16.530	310.450

Table 4: Average estimates for the Adult income data set based on 1000 subsamples. The numbers in the parentheses are the associated empirical and average estimated standard errors, respectively. In the table, β_1 is for age, β_2 is for final weight, β_3 is for highest level of education in numerical form, β_4 is for capital loss, and β_5 is for hours worked per week.

	uniform	mMSE	mVc
Intercept	-8.686 (0.629, 0.609)	-8.660 (0.430, 0.428)	-8.639 (0.513, 0.510)
β_1	0.638 (0.079, 0.078)	0.640 (0.068, 0.071)	0.640 (0.068, 0.067)
β_2	0.061 (0.076, 0.077)	0.065 (0.067, 0.068)	0.063 (0.061, 0.062)
β_3	0.882 (0.090, 0.090)	0.881 (0.079, 0.075)	0.878 (0.072, 0.072)
β_4	0.232 (0.070, 0.071)	0.231 (0.058, 0.059)	0.232 (0.060, 0.057)
β_5	0.533 (0.085, 0.087)	0.526 (0.068, 0.070)	0.526 (0.071, 0.070)

Table 5: Average AUC (as percentage) for the SUSY data set based on 1000 subsamples. A number in the parentheses is the associated standard error (as percentage) of the 1000 AUCs.

Method	AUC % (SE)
uniform	85.06 (0.29)
mMSE	85.08 (0.30)
mVc	85.17 (0.25)
Full	85.75
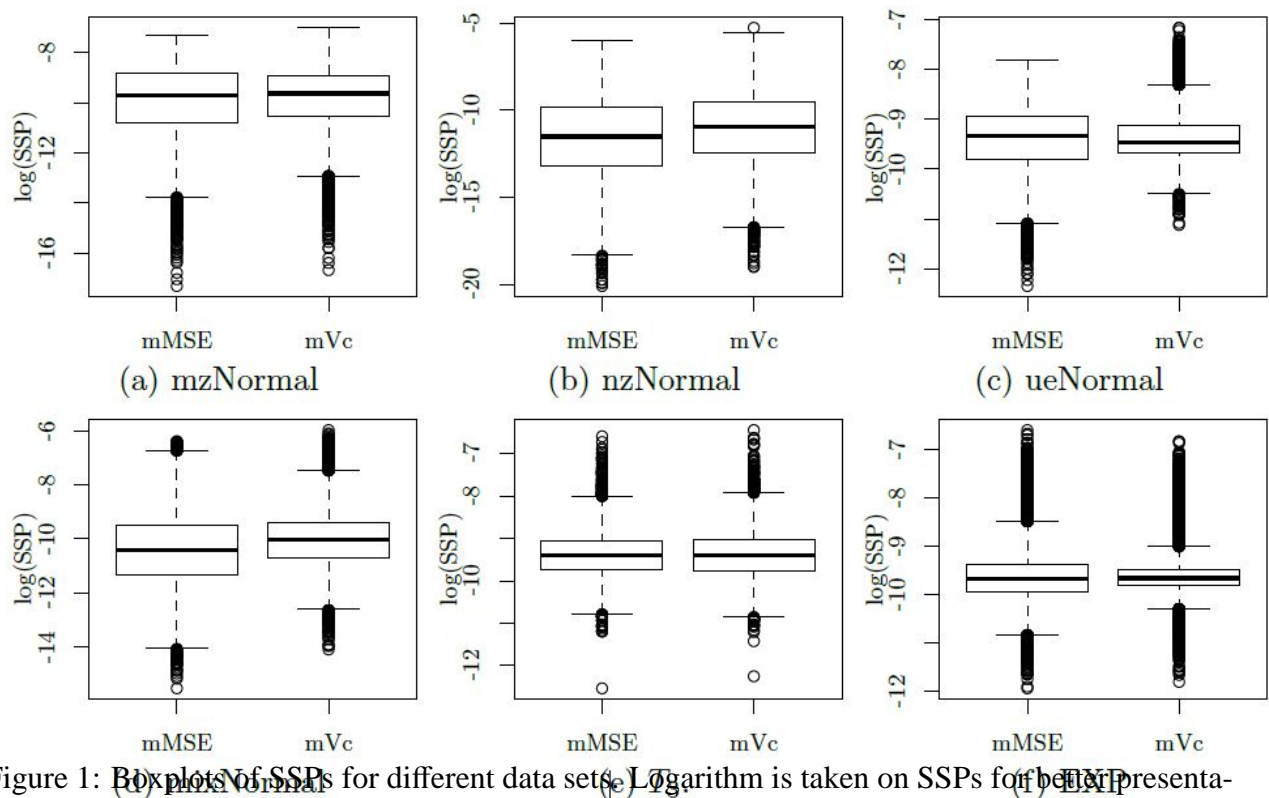
Figure 1: Boxplots of SSPs for different data sets. Logarithm is taken on SSPs for better presentation of the figures.
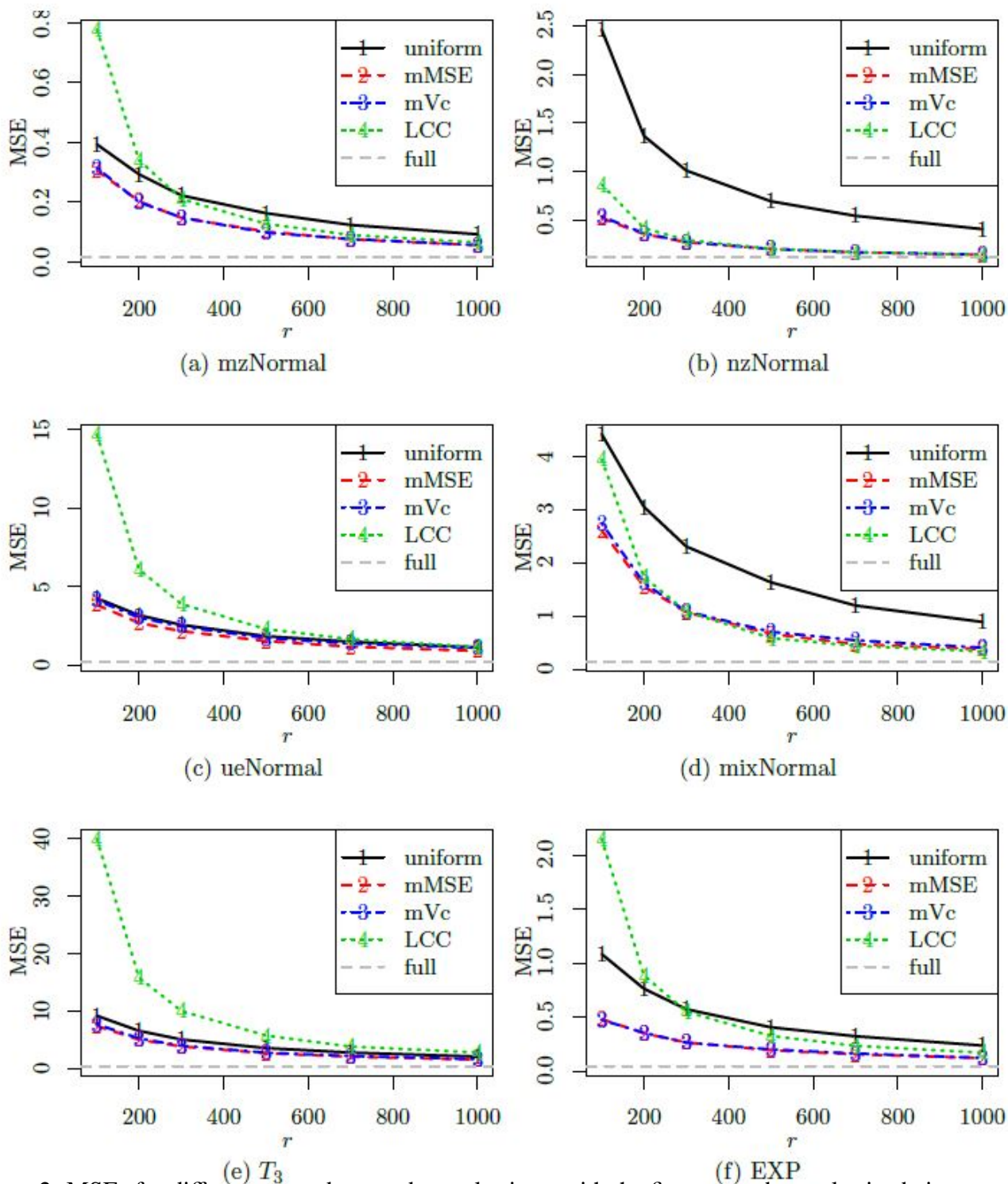
Figure 2: MSEs for different second step subsample size r with the first step subsample size being fixed at $r_0 = 200$.
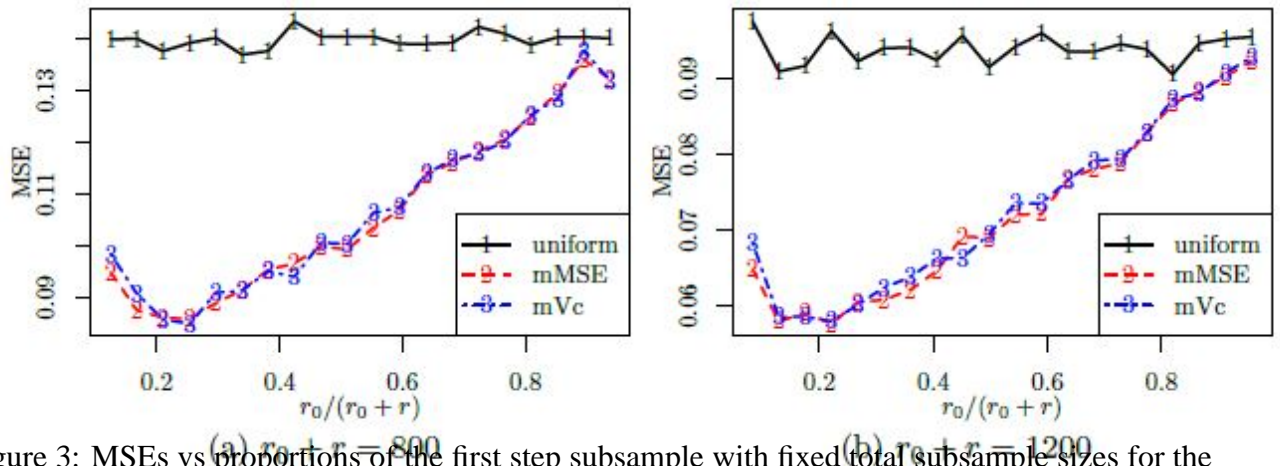
Figure 3: MSEs vs proportions of the first step subsample with fixed total subsample sizes for the mzNormal data set.
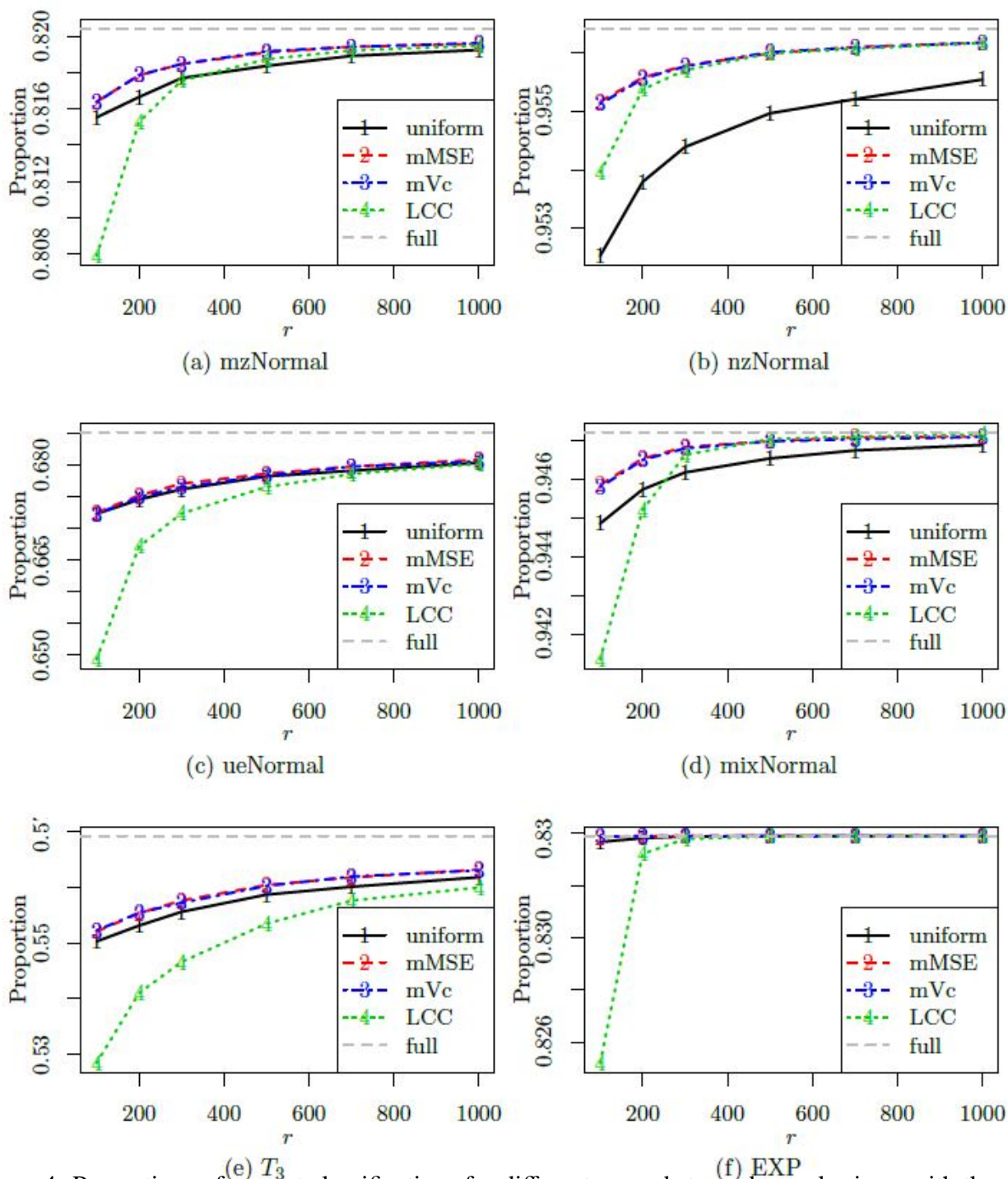
Figure 4: Proportions of correct classifications for different second step subsample size r with the first step subsample size being fixed at $r_0 = 200$. The gray horizontal dashed lines are those using the true parameter.

(a) mzNormal

(b) nzNormal

(c) ueNormal

(d) mixNormal

(e) T_3

(f) EXP
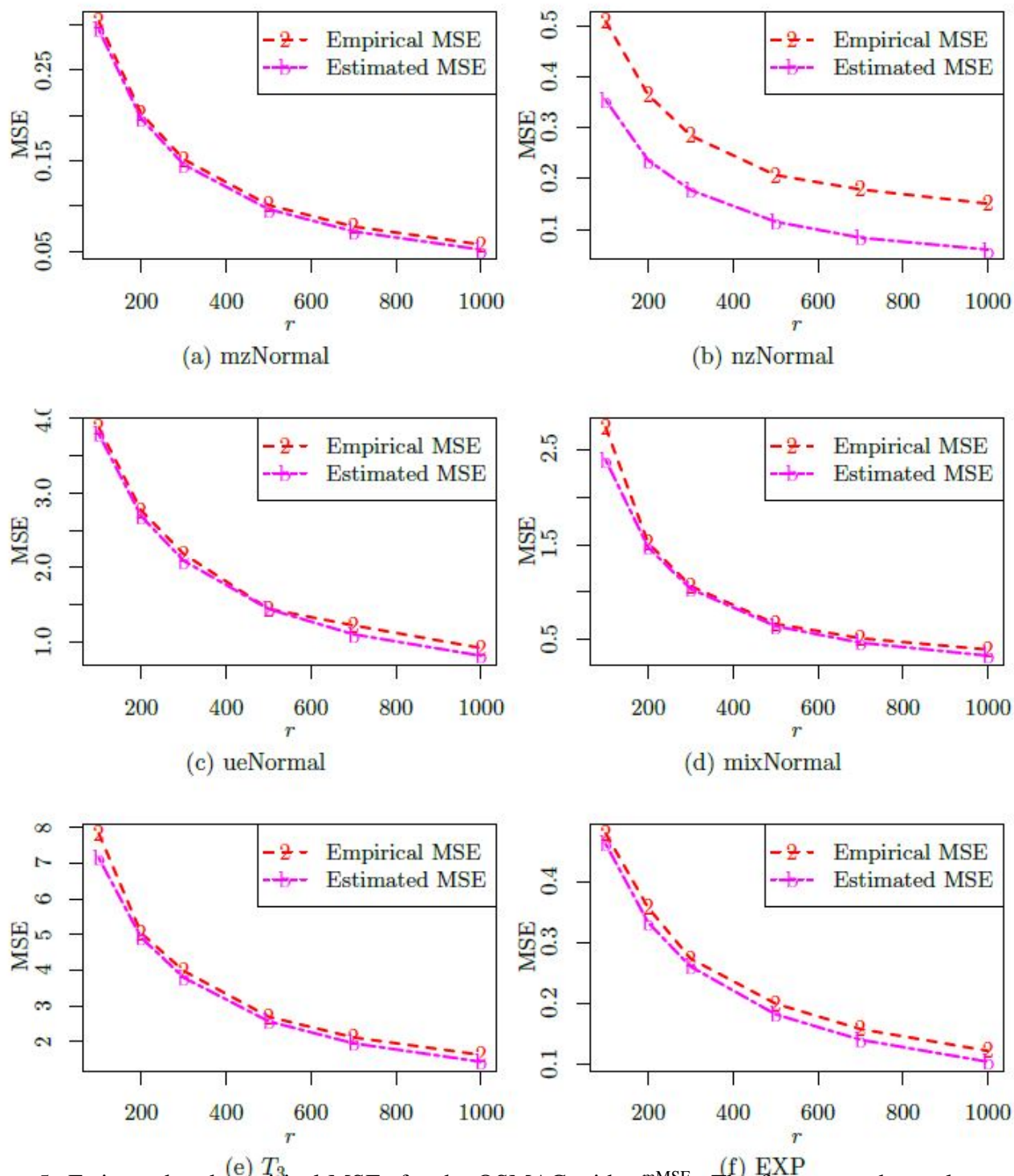
Figure 5: Estimated and empirical MSEs for the OSMAC with π^{mMSE}. The first step subsample size is fixed at $r_0 = 200$ and the second step subsample size r changes.
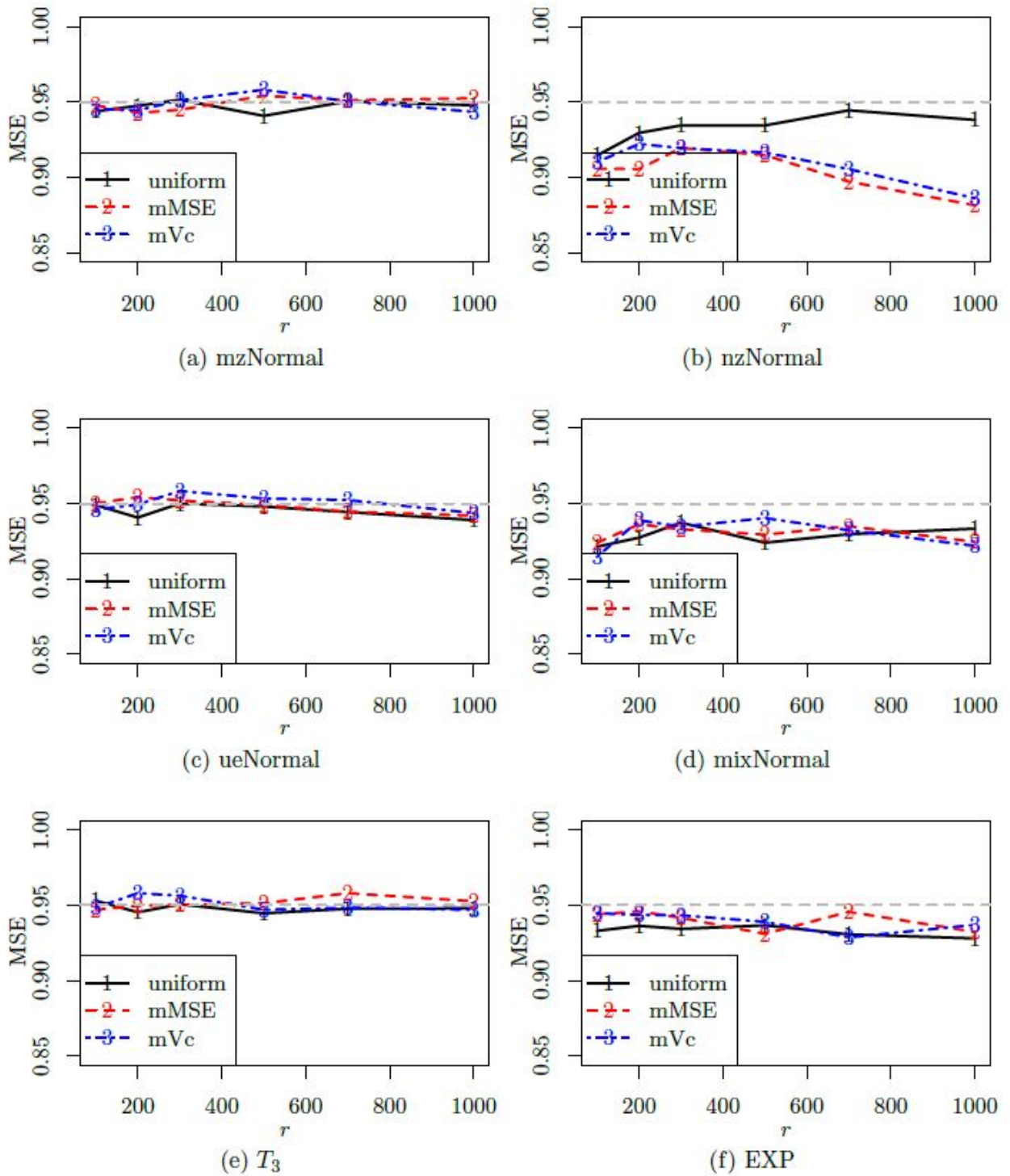
Figure 6: Empirical coverage probabilities for different second step subsample size r with the first step subsample size being fixed at $r_0 = 200$.
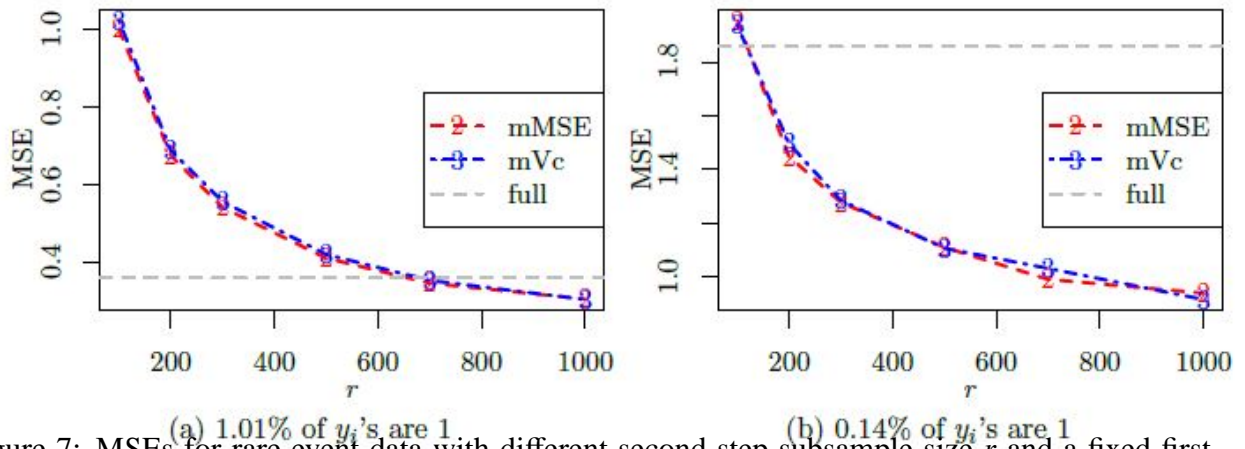
(a) 1.01% of y_i's are 1   (b) 0.14% of y_i's are 1

Figure 7: MSEs for rare event data with different second step subsample size r and a fixed first step subsample size $r_0 = 200$, where the covariates follow multivariate normal distributions.
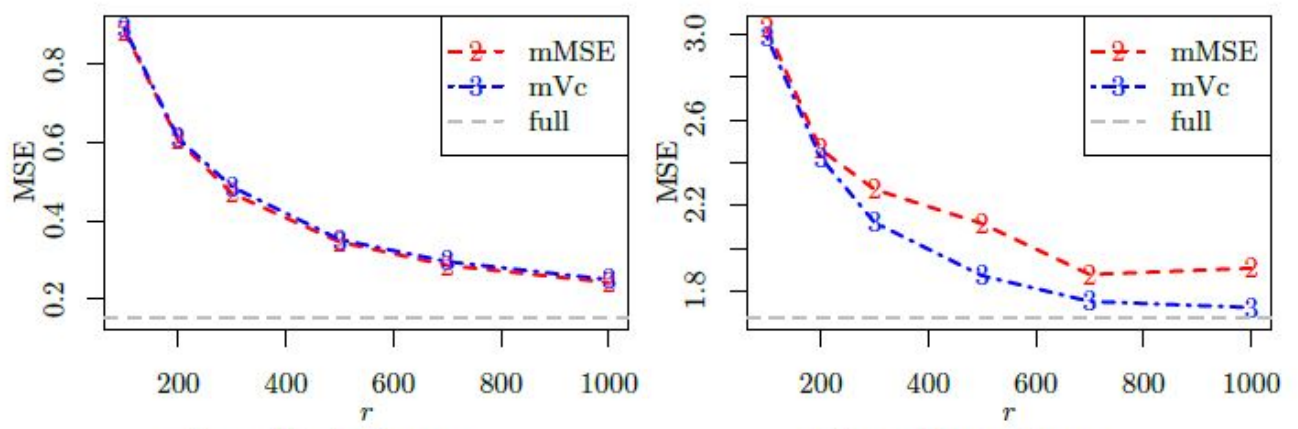
Figure 8: Unconditional MSEs for rare event data with different second step subsample size r and a fixed first step subsample size $r_0 = 200$, where the covariates follow multivariate normal distributions.

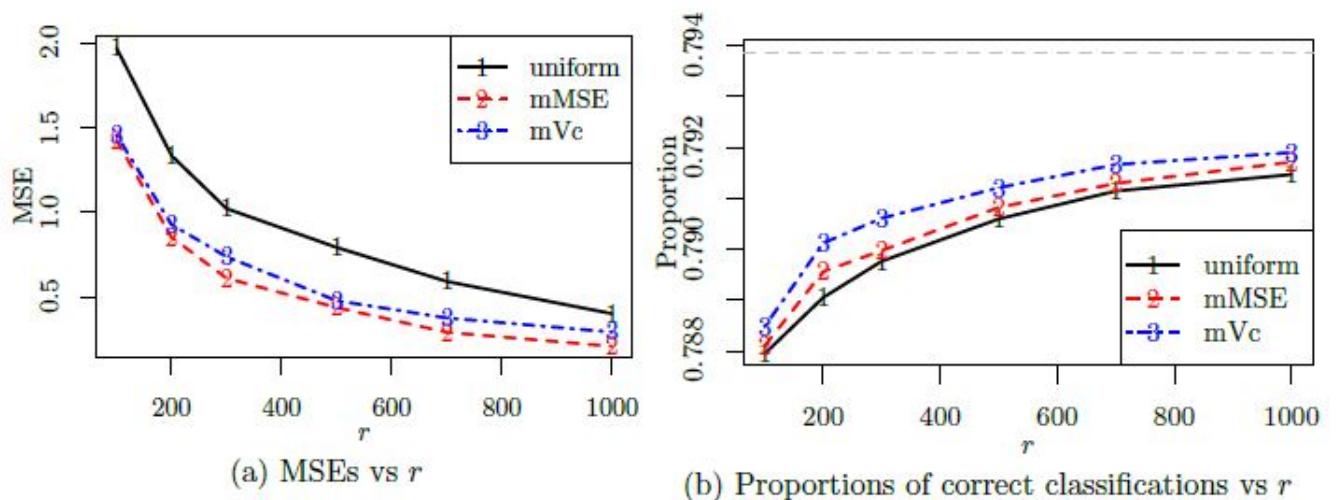(a) MSEs vs r

(b) Proportions of correct classifications vs r

Figure 9: MSEs and proportions of correct classifications for the adult income data set with $r_0 = 200$ and different second step subsample size r. The gray horizontal dashed line in figure (b) is the result using the full data MLE.

(a) MSEs vs r
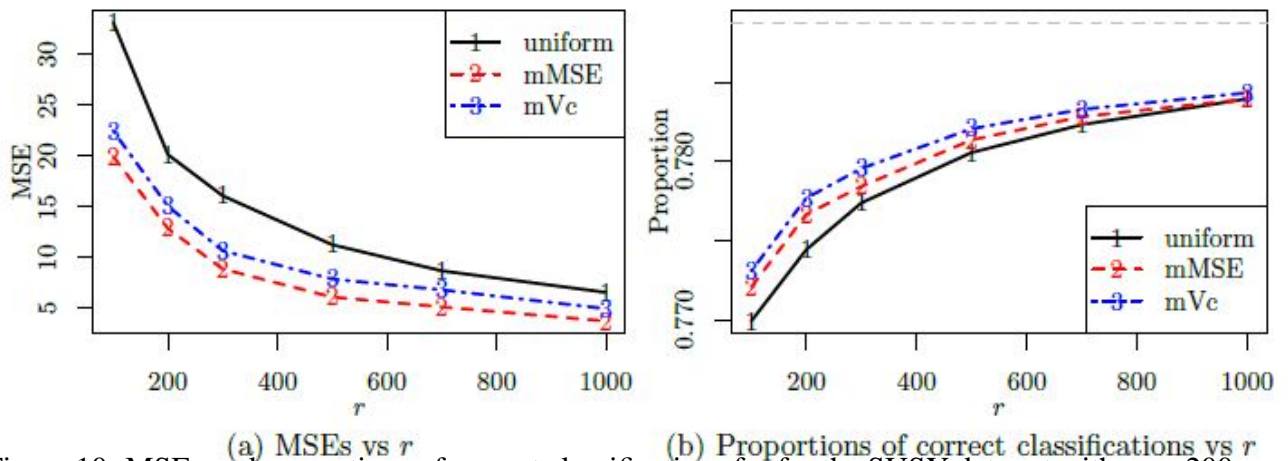
(b) Proportions of correct classifications vs r

Figure 10: MSEs and proportions of correct classifications for for the SUSY data set with $r_0 = 200$ and different second step subsample size r. The gray horizontal dashed line in figure (b) is the result using the full data MLE.