An Approximate Fisher Scoring Algorithm for Finite Mixtures of Multinomials

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Background

- Morel and Neerchal (1991, 1993, 1998, 2005) studied estimation in their multinomial model for overdispersion: "Random Clumped Multinomial".
- They obtained a large cluster approximation to the Fisher Information Matrix (FIM), and used it to formulate an Approximate Fisher Scoring Algorithm (AFSA).
- Liu (2005, PhD Thesis) extended the idea to general mixtures of multinomials, and found some interesting connections between AFSA and Expectation Maximization (EM).
- This work extends Liu (2005), further investigating the quality of the FIM approximation and the connection between AFSA and EM.

Mixture of Multinomials Example

Example: Housing satisfaction survey

Non-metropolitan area				Metropolitan area			
Neighborhood	US	S	VS	Neighborhood	US	S	VS
1	3	2	0	19	0	4	1
2	3	2	0	20	0	5	1
3	0	5	0	21	0	3	2
$\vdots$				$\vdots$			
17	4	1	0	35	4	1	0
18	5	0	0				

With labels, a reasonable likelihood is product of two multinomials

$$L(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \left[\prod_{i=1}^{18} f(\mathbf{x}_i \mid \mathbf{p}_1, m) \right] \left[\prod_{i=19}^{35} f(\mathbf{x}_i \mid \mathbf{p}_2, m) \right], \qquad m = 5.$$

J. R. Wilson, Chi-Square Tests for Overdispersion with Multiparameter Estimates. Journal of the Royal Statistical Society (Series C), 38(3):441–453, 1989.

Mixture of Multinomials Example

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3	0	5	0	21	0	3	2
$\vdots$				$\vdots$			
17	4	1	0	35	4	1	0
18	5	0	0				

Without labels, a reasonable likelihood is mixture of two multinomials

$$L(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \prod_{i=1}^{35} \left\{ \pi f(\mathbf{x}_i \mid \mathbf{p}_1, m) + (1-\pi) f(\mathbf{x}_i \mid \mathbf{p}_2, m) \right\}, \qquad m = 5.$$

J. R. Wilson, Chi-Square Tests for Overdispersion with Multiparameter Estimates. Journal of the Royal Statistical Society (Series C), 38(3):441–453, 1989.

Mixture of Multinomials

- Suppose we have s multinomial populations

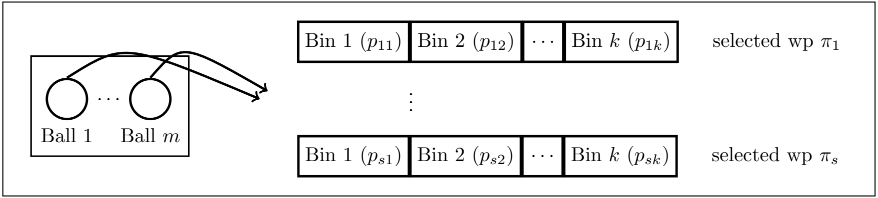
$$f(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{p}_\ell, m) = \frac{m!}{x_1! \dots x_k!} p_{\ell 1}^{x_1} \dots p_{\ell k}^{x_k} \cdot I(\mathbf{x} \in \Omega), \qquad \ell = 1, \dots, s$$

which occur in the total population with probabilities $\pi_1, \dots, \pi_s$.

- If we draw $\mathbf{T}$ from the mixed population,

$$\mathbf{T} \sim f(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \sum_{\ell=1}^{s} \pi_\ell f(\mathbf{x} \mid \mathbf{p}_\ell, m), \qquad \boldsymbol{\theta} = (\mathbf{p}_1, \dots, \mathbf{p}_s, \boldsymbol{\pi})$$

We'll write $\mathbf{T} \sim \text{MultMix}_k(\boldsymbol{\theta}, m)$.



Estimation Problem

- Suppose our sample is $\mathbf{X}_i \overset{\text{ind}}{\sim} \text{MultMix}_k(\boldsymbol{\theta}, m_i), \qquad i = 1, \ldots, n$
- Likelihood

$$L(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} f(\mathbf{x}_i; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \left\{ \sum_{\ell=1}^{s} \pi_\ell \left[\frac{m_i!}{x_{i1}! \ldots x_{ik}!} p_{\ell 1}^{x_{i1}} \ldots p_{\ell k}^{x_{ik}} \cdot I(\mathbf{x}_i \in \Omega) \right] \right\}$$

- To find MLE $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = (\hat{\mathbf{p}}_1, \ldots, \hat{\mathbf{p}}_s, \hat{\boldsymbol{\pi}})$, which maximizes the log-likelihood
  - subject to each vector being a valid probability distribution
- How?
  - No nice closed form
  - Newton-Raphson, **Fisher Scoring**, Quasi-Newton methods

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(g+1)} = \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(g)} - \alpha \mathbf{H}^{-1} S(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(g)}), \quad g = 1, 2, \ldots$$

  - Expectation Maximization (EM)

Score: $S(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}} \log L(\boldsymbol{\theta})$

FIM: $\mathcal{I}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \text{E}\left\{ -\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta} \partial \boldsymbol{\theta}^T} \log L(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \right\}$

Fisher Scoring Algorithm

- The iterations become

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(g+1)} = \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(g)} + \mathcal{I}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(g)}) S(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(g)}), \quad g = 1, 2, \ldots,$$

  but $\mathcal{I}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ may not be easy to compute.

- Naive summation works when sample space Ω is small

$$\mathcal{I}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) := \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \Omega} \left\{ -\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta} \partial \boldsymbol{\theta}^T} \log f(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}) \right\} f(\mathbf{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}).$$

- Monte Carlo approximation
- For large clusters ($m \uparrow$), Morel & Nagaraj (1991) and Liu (2005, PhD thesis) propose an approximation (shown for $\mathbf{X}_1 \sim \text{MultMix}_k(\boldsymbol{\theta}, m)$)

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{I}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) := \text{Blockdiag}\left(\pi_1 \mathbf{F}_1, \ldots, \pi_s \mathbf{F}_s, \mathbf{F}_\pi\right),$$

$$\mathbf{F}_\ell = m \left[\text{Diag}(p_{\ell 1}^{-1}, \ldots, p_{\ell, k-1}^{-1}) + p_{\ell k}^{-1} \mathbf{1}\mathbf{1}^T \right]$$

$$\mathbf{F}_\pi = \text{Diag}(\pi_\ell^{-1}, \ldots, \pi_{s-1}^{-1}) + \pi_s^{-1} \mathbf{1}\mathbf{1}^T$$

Approximate FIM Properties I

- **Result:** $\widetilde{\mathcal{I}}_m(\boldsymbol{\theta}) - \mathcal{I}_m(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \to \mathbf{0}$ as $m \to \infty$.

- $\widetilde{\mathcal{I}}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ is a block diagonal matrix of Multinomial FIMs.
  - Simple forms for inverse, trace, and determinant

- **Result:** $\widetilde{\mathcal{I}}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ is "complete data" FIM of $(\mathbf{X}, Z)$

$$Z = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{wp } \pi_1 \\ \vdots & \\ s & \text{wp } \pi_s, \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad (\mathbf{X} \mid Z = \ell) \sim \text{Mult}_k(\mathbf{p}_\ell, m).$$

Then we have $\widetilde{\mathcal{I}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \equiv \mathrm{E}\left\{-\frac{\partial^2}{\partial\boldsymbol{\theta}\partial\boldsymbol{\theta}^T} \log f(\mathbf{x}, z \mid \boldsymbol{\theta})\right\}$

- Note that EM is based on maximizing

$$Q(\boldsymbol{\theta}, \boldsymbol{\theta}') = \mathrm{E}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}'}\left[\log f(\mathbf{x}, z \mid \boldsymbol{\theta}) \mid \mathbf{x}\right].$$

Approximate FIM Properties II

- Can also show that the inverses converge

$$\mathcal{I}_m^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) - \widetilde{\mathcal{I}}_m^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \to \mathbf{0} \quad \text{as } m \to \infty.$$

- $\mathcal{I}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ may be singular if identifiability fails to hold on the model.
  - See Rothenberg (1971) about the connection.

- Large cluster size (m) needed for good approximations

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{I}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \approx \mathcal{I}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \quad \text{and} \quad \widetilde{\mathcal{I}}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \approx \mathcal{I}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\theta}).$$

  Therefore approximate FIM and inverse are not recommended for general inference purposes.

Approximate Fisher Scoring Algorithm

- Using the approximate FIM in place of the true FIM gives AFSA

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(g+1)} = \boldsymbol{\theta}^{(g)} + \widetilde{\mathcal{I}}^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(g)}) S(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(g)}), \quad g = 1, 2, \ldots$$

until $\left|\log L(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(g+1)}) - \log L(\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(g)})\right| < \varepsilon$.

- **Result:** Under $\mathbf{X}_1, \ldots, \mathbf{X}_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{MultMix}_k(\boldsymbol{\theta}, m)$, EM and AFSA iterations are "equivalent", given the same starting place $\boldsymbol{\theta}^{(g)}$

$$\tilde{\pi}_\ell^{(g+1)} = \hat{\pi}_\ell^{(g+1)}, \qquad \tilde{p}_{\ell j}^{(g+1)} = \left(\frac{\hat{\pi}_\ell^{(g+1)}}{\pi_\ell^{(g)}} \right) \hat{p}_{\ell j}^{(g+1)} + \left(1 - \frac{\hat{\pi}_\ell^{(g+1)}}{\pi_\ell^{(g)}} \right) p_{\ell j}^{(g)}.$$

- If EM is close to convergence ($\hat{\pi}_\ell^{(g+1)} / \pi_\ell^{(g)} \approx 1$) then EM $\approx$ AFSA

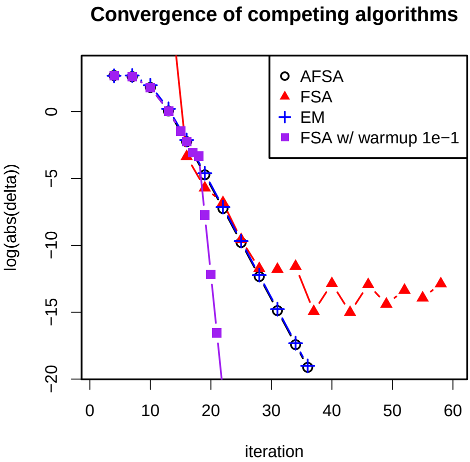
- Titterington (1984) has shown that EM $\approx$ "AFSA" for missing data problems in general (under regularity conditions)
  - What about a general result for $\mathcal{I}_m(\boldsymbol{\theta}) - \widetilde{\mathcal{I}}_m(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ convergence?

Comparison between algorithms

Consider the mixture of two trinomials

$$\mathbf{X}_i \overset{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{MultMix}_3(\boldsymbol{\theta}, m = 20), \qquad i = 1, \dots, n = 500$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{p}_1^T \\ \mathbf{p}_2^T \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 & 1/3 & 1/3 \\ 0.1 & 0.3 & 0.6 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \begin{pmatrix} \pi \\ 1-\pi \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.75 \\ 0.25 \end{pmatrix}.$$



method	tol	iter
AFSA	4.94×10^{-09}	36
FSA	-1.26×10^{-07}	100

Monte Carlo Comparison of EM and AFSA

Consider a scenario with varying cluster sizes

$$\mathbf{Y}_i \stackrel{\text{ind}}{\sim} \text{MultMix}_k(\boldsymbol{\theta}, m_i), \qquad i = 1, \ldots, n = 500, \qquad \boldsymbol{\pi} = (0.75, 0.25)$$

$$W_1, \ldots, W_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta), \qquad m_i = \lceil W_i \rceil.$$

Ran 1000 reps of nine scenarios and looked at the quantity

$$\frac{1}{1000} \sum_{r=1}^{1000} \left\{ \bigvee_{j=1}^{q} \left| \frac{\tilde{\theta}_j^{(r)} - \hat{\theta}_j^{(r)}}{\tilde{\theta}_j^{(r)}} \right| \right\}.$$

(kth probability not shown) $\mathbf{p}_1$	$\mathbf{p}_2$	m_i equal $m_i = 20$	$\alpha = 100$ $\text{Var}(m_i) \approx 4.083$	$\alpha = 25$ $\text{Var}(m_i) \approx 16.083$
(0.1)	(0.5)	2.178×10^{-6}	2.019×10^{-6}	2.080×10^{-6}
(0.3)	(0.5)	4.073×10^{-5}	3.501×10^{-5}	3.890×10^{-5}
(0.35)	(0.5)	8.683×10^{-4}	2.625×10^{-4}	2.738×10^{-4}
(0.4)	(0.5)	9.954×10^{-3}	6.206×10^{-2}	6.563×10^{-2}
$(0.1, 0.3)$	$(1/3, 1/3)$	1.342×10^{-3}	1.009×10^{-3}	1.878×10^{-3}
$(0.1, 0.5)$	$(1/3, 1/3)$	1.408×10^{-6}	1.338×10^{-6}	1.334×10^{-6}
$(0.3, 0.5)$	$(1/3, 1/3)$	3.884×10^{-6}	3.943×10^{-6}	3.885×10^{-6}
$(0.1, 0.1, 0.3)$	$(0.25, 0.25, 0.25)$	8.389×10^{-7}	8.251×10^{-7}	8.440×10^{-7}
$(0.1, 0.2, 0.3)$	$(0.25, 0.25, 0.25)$	1.523×10^{-6}	1.472×10^{-6}	1.408×10^{-6}

Conclusions

AFSA is obtained as a Newton-type algorithm using an approximate FIM.

- Nearly equivalent to EM iterations — similar solutions are obtained at similar rates of convergence.
- (EM advantange) M-step can be formulated so it won't wander outside parameter space.
- (AFSA advantange) May be easier to formulate when missing data structure is complicated.
  E.g. Random-Clumped Multinomial (Morel & Neerchal 1993).

Result of Titterington (1984) suggests AFSA approach is reasonable for finite mixtures in general.

Both EM and AFSA suffer from a slow convergence rate.

- Hybrid is recommended for fast convergence and robustness.
- . . . if true FIM is feasible to compute.

References I

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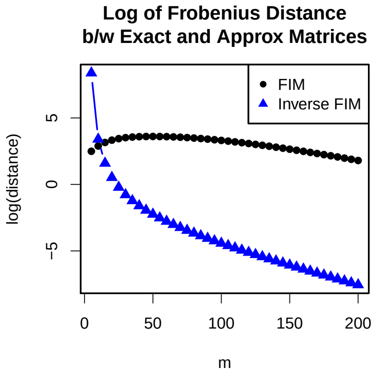
How good is the FIM approximation?

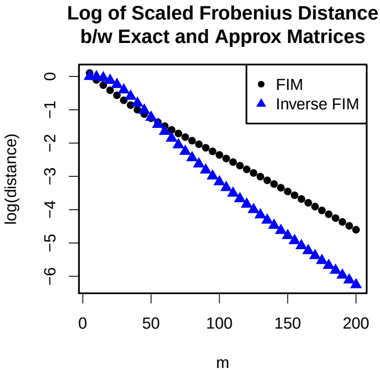
Consider a mixture $\text{MultMix}_2(\boldsymbol{\theta}, m)$ of three binomials, with parameters

$$\begin{pmatrix} p_1 & p_2 & p_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/7 & 1/3 & 2/3 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \boldsymbol{\pi} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/6 & 2/6 & 3/6 \end{pmatrix},$$

and two matrix distances

$$d(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}) = \|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}\|_{\mathsf{F}} \qquad\qquad d(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}) = \frac{\|\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}\|_{\mathsf{F}}}{\|\mathbf{B}\|_{\mathsf{F}}}$$





Large m is needed for a good approximation. Inverses are converging faster.