Practicals

Practical 1: Marginal Models Continuous

- We will use the PBC dataset; this is available as the object pbc2 in the R workspace available on GitHub

- To load this workspace and make the data available execute the following steps:

  1. Open a new Rstudio session

  2. Create a new R script file (File → New File → R Script)

  3. Copy-paste and execute the following three lines
     ```
     con <- url("https://raw.github.com/drizopoulos/Repeated_Measurements/master/Data.RData")
     load(con)
     close(con)
     ```

Practical 1: Marginal Models Continuous (cont'd)

- We will need the following variables:

  * `id`: patient id number
  * `prothrombin`: prothrombin time in sec (the response variable of interest)
  * `year`: follow-up times in years
  * `drug`: the randomized treatment
  * `sex`: the gender of the patients
  * `age`: the age of the patients

> **Aim:** To build an appropriate marginal model to investigate the relationships between the prothrombin time and the aforementioned variables

Practical 1: Marginal Models Continuous (cont'd)

- Q1: We will start by producing some descriptive plots for the prothrombin time, similar to those we have seen in Chapter 1, i.e.,

  ▷ spaghetti plot per treatment group including the loess curve

  ▷ spaghetti plot per sex including the loess curve

  (hint: see code for Section 1.1)

What observations can you make?

• **Remove outliers:** From the plots you produced in Question 1 it was evident that we have some outlying observations

  ▷ for the rest of this practical we will exclude prothrombin times which were larger than 18 sec – to do that use the following piece of code:

```
pbc2 <- pbc2[pbc2$prothrombin < 18, ]
```

Practical 1: Marginal Models Continuous (cont'd)

- We will continue by starting our model building exercise
  Remember

  ▷ we start with a full specification of the mean structure, and investigate the covariance structure

  ▷ based on our chosen covariance structure we can make inferences for the mean structure

- Q2: Start by fitting a marginal model with independent error terms using `gls()` and the following specification of the mean structure (hint: see code for Section 2.4)

  ▷ nonlinear time evolutions using natural cubic splines with 3 degrees of freedom

  ▷ correct for `sex`, `drug` and `age`

  ▷ interactions of the time effect with `sex` and `drug`

Practical 1: Marginal Models Continuous (cont'd)

- Q2:

  ▷ interpret the results you obtained

  ▷ should we simplify the model by excluding the non-significant terms?

- Q3: Continue with the same mean structure and try different covariance structures

  ▷ first try different correlation structures, i.e., compound symmetry, continuous AR1, linear & Gaussian, and

  ▷ then extend the above structures by assuming heteroscedastic errors, i.e., that the variance increases (or decreases) with time

  (hint: see code for Section 2.9)

Practical 1: Marginal Models Continuous (cont'd)

- Q4: Using appropriate tools (hypothesis tests, information criteria) decide which structure is the best

  ▷ which models are nested to which models?

- For the remainder we will use the covariance structure you have chosen in Q4

- Q5: Check if we can drop **all** the interaction terms

  ▷ with an F-test

  ▷ with a Likelihood Ratio Test

  (hint: see code for Section 2.9)

Practical 1: Marginal Models Continuous (cont'd)

- Q6: Continue and check whether you can drop the nonlinear terms for the time effect

    ▷ to do that fit a model that assumes a linear time trend, and

    ▷ then do the likelihood ratio test to compare it to the model that includes the nonlinear terms

- Q7: Interpret the results of your final model

    ▷ regression coefficients

    ▷ covariance structure

Practical 1: Marginal Models Continuous (cont'd)

- Q8: Use an Effect Plot to depict the model with the following settings

  ▷ year: in the range from 0 to 12 years of follow-up

  ▷ sex: both males and females

  ▷ drug: both treatment groups

  ▷ age: fixed at 49 years old

  (hint: see code for Section 2.4 – Effect Plot)

Practical 1: Marginal Models Continuous (cont'd)

- Q9: Check the assumptions of the model using scatterplots of the standardized & normalized residuals versus the fitted values,

  ▷ overall

  ▷ separately per sex

  ▷ separately per treatment group

  (hint: see code for Section 2.11)

  What are your conclusions?

Practical 2: Mixed Models Continuous

- We will use the PBC dataset; this is available as the object pbc2 in the R workspace available on GitHub

- To load this workspace and make the data available execute the following steps:

  1. Open a new Rstudio session

  2. Create a new R script file (File → New File → R Script)

  3. Copy-paste and execute the following three lines
     ```
     con <- url("https://raw.github.com/drizopoulos/Repeated_Measurements/master/Data.RData")
     load(con)
     close(con)
     ```

• We will need the following variables:

  * `id`: patient id number

  * `prothrombin`: prothrombin time in sec (the response variable of interest)

  * `year`: follow-up times in years

  * `drug`: the randomized treatment

  * `sex`: the gender of the patients

  * `age`: the age of the patients

> **Aim:** To build an appropriate linear mixed effects model to investigate the relationships between the prothrombin time and the aforementioned variables

Practical 2: Mixed Models Continuous (cont'd)

- Q1: Compute summary statistics for the number of repeated measurements per patient

    ▷ do we have enough information to model potential nonlinearities in the subject-specific trajectories?

- Q2: Examine graphically for samples of patients
  (hint: see code for Section 1.1)

    ▷ How do the individual longitudinal trajectories of the prothrombin time look like?

    ▷ What observations can you make?

Practical 2: Mixed Models Continuous (cont'd)

- Q3: Start by fitting a linear mixed effects model using `lme()` with the following specification of the fixed and random effects

  (hint: see code for Section 3.2)

  ▷ *fixed effects:*

  * linear & quadratic time evolutions, nonlinear effect of age using natural cubic splines with 3 degrees of freedom
  * correct for `sex` and `drug`
  * interactions of time with `sex` and `drug`, and `age` with `sex` and `drug`

  ▷ *random effects:* random intercepts

Note: As in Practical 1, in the analysis requested above, and for the remainder of this practical exclude the prothrombin times that were above 18 sec.

Practical 2: Mixed Models Continuous (cont'd)

- Q4: Keeping the mean structure (i.e., the fixed effects as is), start elaborating the random-effects structure that captures the within subject correlations, i.e., consider

  ▷ random intercepts & random slopes

  ▷ random intercepts, linear & quadratic random slopes

  ▷ random intercepts, linear, quadratic & cubic random slopes

  For each extra random effect that you add, perform the likelihood ratio test to see if it is required to add it

  ▷ which are the null and alternative hypotheses for each of these tests?

Practical 2: Mixed Models Continuous (cont'd)

- Q5: Based on the model you selected Question 4, test whether you can drop all the *interaction terms* in order to simplify the model

  ▷ first perform the omnibus test for all the interaction terms

  ▷ if it is (highly) non-significant, you can drop them

  ▷ if it is significant, find which group(s) are the significant ones

- Q6: In the same spirit as in Question 5, test whether you can drop all the *nonlinear terms* to simplify the model

  ▷ first perform the omnibus test for all the nonlinear terms

  ▷ if it is (highly) non-significant, you can drop them

  ▷ if it is significant, find which group(s) are the significant ones

Practical 2: Mixed Models Continuous (cont'd)

- Q7: Interpret the results of your final model

  ▷ regression coefficients

  ▷ covariance structure

- Q8: Compare the marginal and subject-specific predictions from your final model, i.e.,

  ▷ add in you data frame the marginal and subject-specific fitted values from the final model (remember to use the dataset that excludes the outliers)

  ▷ select the following patients from the data set: 133, 36, 180, 11, 168, 116, 70, 58, 82, 104, 43, 21, 101, 210, 176, 157

  ▷ create the plot that compares the predictions

  (hint: see code for Section 3.4)

Practical 2: Mixed Models Continuous (cont'd)

- Q9: Use an Effect Plot to depict the model with the following settings

  ▷ year: in the range from 0 to 12 years of follow-up

  ▷ sex: both males and females

  ▷ drug: both treatment groups

  ▷ age: the median age from the original data for the respective four groups of patients (i.e., the median age of male in placebo, females in placebo, males in active treatment & females in active treatment)

  (hint: see code for Section 3.2 – Effect Plot)

- Q10: Check the assumptions of the model using scatterplots of the standardized subject-specific & standardized marginals residuals versus the fitted values,

  ▷ overall

  ▷ separately per sex

  ▷ separately per treatment group

  (hint: see code for Section 3.11)

  What are your conclusions?

Practical 3: Marginal Models Discrete

- We will use the PBC dataset; this is available as the object pbc2 in the R workspace available on GitHub

- To load this workspace and make the data available execute the following steps:

  1. Open a new Rstudio session

  2. Create a new R script file (File → New File → R Script)

  3. Copy-paste and execute the following three lines
     ```
     con <- url("https://raw.github.com/drizopoulos/Repeated_Measurements/master/Data.RData")
     load(con)
     close(con)
     ```

Practical 3: Marginal Models Discrete (cont'd)

- We will need the following variables:

  * `id`: patient id number

  * `prothrombin`: prothrombin time in sec (the response variable of interest)

  * `year`: follow-up times in years

  * `drug`: the randomized treatment

  * `sex`: the gender of the patients

  * `age`: the age of the patients

> **Aim:** To build an appropriate GEE model to investigate the relationships between a dichotomized version of the prothrombin time and the aforementioned variables

Practical 3: Marginal Models Discrete (cont'd)

- **Q1:** A normal prothrombin time is between 11 and 13 sec

  ▷ create a dichotomous variable, with '0' denoting a normal prothrombin time, and '1' an abnormal one

- **Q2:** Examine graphically the probability of abnormal prothrombin time
  (hint: see code for Section 1.1)

  ▷ separately per treatment including the loess curve

  ▷ separately per sex including the loess curve

  ▷ separately for each age category $[25, 43]$, $[43, 50]$, $[50, 55]$ and $[55, 80]$ including the loess curve

  ▷ what observations can you make?

Practical 3: Marginal Models Discrete (cont'd)

- Q3: The researchers in this study made the following conjectures

  ▷ the log odds of abnormal prothrombin time may evolve nonlinear during follow-up;

  ▷ in addition, it is plausible that the log odds evolutions in time are different between males and females, and between placebo and treated patients;

  ▷ furthermore, age is an important risk factor, and the effect of age may be modified by sex

  Translate the above conjectures into a suitable GEE model for the log odds of abnormal prothrombin time

  ▷ use the exchangeable working correlation matrix, and

  ▷ for the nonlinear terms use natural cubic splines with 2 degrees of freedom

  (hint: see code for Section 4.3)

Practical 3: Marginal Models Discrete (cont'd)

- Q4: Re-fit the model you fitted in Question 3 by assuming

    ▷ an independence working correlation matrix, and

    ▷ an AR1 working correlation matrix

    ▷ Compare the estimated coefficients and the corresponding naive and sandwich standard errors using a coefficients' plot

    (hint: see code for Section 4.5)

    ▷ Which working correlation matrix do you choose and why?

Practical 3: Marginal Models Discrete (cont'd)

- Q5: The researchers in the study want to see if the model can be simplified by dropping the *interaction terms*

  ▷ first perform the omnibus test for all the interaction terms

  ▷ if it is (highly) non-significant, you can drop them

  ▷ if it is significant, find which group(s) are the significant ones

- Q6: Do the same for the *nonlinear terms*, i.e.,

  ▷ first perform the omnibus test for all the nonlinear terms

  ▷ if it is (highly) non-significant, you can drop them

  ▷ if it is significant, find which group(s) are the significant ones

Practical 3: Marginal Models Discrete (cont'd)

- Q7: Interpret the results of your final model

- Q8: Use an Effect Plot to depict the model with the following settings

  ▷ year: in the range from 0 to 12 years of follow-up

  ▷ sex: both males and females

  ▷ drug: both treatment groups

  ▷ age: 49 years old

  (hint: see code for Section 4.3 – Effect Plot)

Do the plot in both the log odds and probability scales

Practical 3: Marginal Models Discrete (cont'd)

- Q9: From the effect plot we observe that the trajectories of the log odds for males and females in the D-penicillamine group are nonlinear (more so for the females)

  ▷ test in males and females separately

  ▷ with age 49 years old

  ▷ whether there are differences in the log odds of abnormal prothrombin time

  ▷ at the follow-up years 2, 6, 8 and 10

  ▷ in other words, perform all the pairwise comparisons for the aforementioned follow-up times

  ▷ should you adjust for multiple comparisons?

  (hint: see code for Section 4.6 – complex effects)

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