

# Weibull - Mixed Weibull - Cox Proportional Hazards Model rely new statistical features

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## 1 Weibull fitting

### 1.1 PDF

Weibull PDF  $f^W$ :

$$f^W(x, \Theta = (\beta, \eta)) = \frac{\beta}{\eta} \left(\frac{x}{\eta}\right)^{\beta-1} e^{-\left(\frac{x}{\eta}\right)^\beta}$$

### 1.2 Likelihood

$$L(\Theta) = \sum_{i=1}^f \ln \left( \frac{\beta}{\eta} \left(\frac{x_i}{\eta}\right)^{\beta-1} \right) - \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{x_i}{\eta} \right)^\beta$$

where  $f$  is the number of failure points (indices from 1 to  $f$ : failures, from  $f+1$  to  $n$ : suspensions).

### 1.3 MLE

Let's take a look at the gradient of the Log-likelihood:

$$\nabla L(\Theta) = \begin{cases} \frac{f}{\beta} + \sum_{i=1}^f \ln \left( \frac{x_i}{\eta} \right) - \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{x_i}{\eta} \right)^\beta \ln \left( \frac{x_i}{\eta} \right) \\ -\frac{f\beta}{\eta} + \frac{\beta}{\eta} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{x_i}{\eta} \right)^\beta \end{cases} = 0$$

The second equation gives us a relation between  $\eta$  and  $\beta$ :

$$\eta = \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^\beta}{f} \right)^{1/\beta}$$

Reinjecting this formula into the likelihood, we get a new objective function

$$\begin{aligned} f(\beta) &= L(\beta, \eta(\beta)) \\ &= f \ln(\beta) - f \ln \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^\beta \right) + (\beta - 1) \sum_{i=1}^f \ln(x_i) + \text{cst} \end{aligned}$$

Deriving it, we obtain a new equation:

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla f(\beta) &= \frac{f}{\beta} - \frac{f \sum_{i=1}^n \ln(x_i) x_i^\beta}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^\beta} + \sum_{i=1}^f \ln(x_i) \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

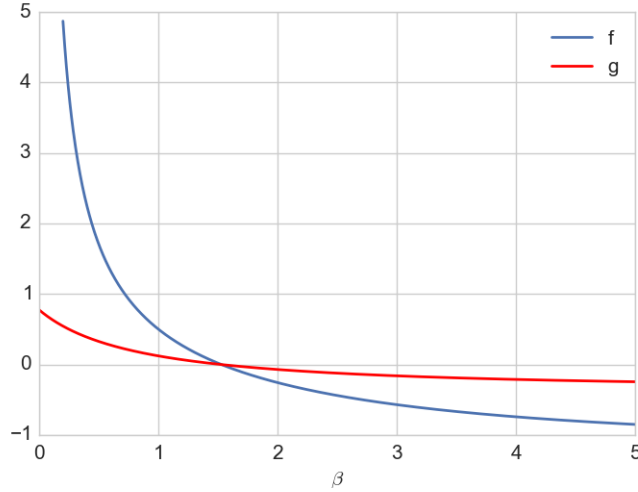
$$\frac{1}{\beta} - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \ln(x_i) x_i^\beta}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^\beta} + \frac{1}{f} \sum_{i=1}^f \ln(x_i) = 0$$

Solving it would give us the optimal  $\beta$ .

To solve it, we need to apply the Newton descent method on either of these 2 functions:

$$\begin{aligned}f(\beta) &= \frac{1}{\beta} - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \ln(x_i) x_i^\beta}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^\beta} + \frac{1}{f} \sum_{i=1}^f \ln(x_i) \\ g(\beta) &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^\beta}{\sum_{i=1}^n \ln(x_i) x_i^\beta} - \frac{\beta}{1 + \beta \frac{1}{f} \sum_{i=1}^f \ln(x_i)}\end{aligned}$$

**f vs. g** Let's look at an example plot of f and g:



f goes to infinity in 0, so if close to 0, Newton will be really inefficient. Also, complicated to find a reliable starting point.

On the other hand, g is globally way flatter, and 0 is finite, so good match for a starting point.

We apply Newton to g:

$$g'(\beta) = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \ln(x_i)^2 x_i^\beta \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^\beta}{\left( \sum_{i=1}^n \ln(x_i) x_i^\beta \right)^2} - \frac{1}{\left( 1 + \frac{\beta}{f} \sum_{i=1}^n \ln(x_i) \right)^2}$$

## 2 Mixed Weibull fitting

### 2.1 Mixed Weibull probability distribution

See: The Mixed Weibull Distribution

Mixed Weibull PDF  $f^{MW}$ :

$$f^{MW}(x, \Theta) = \sum_{j=1}^S \frac{N_j}{N} \frac{\beta_j}{\eta_j} \left( \frac{x}{\eta_j} \right)^{\beta_j-1} e^{-\left(\frac{x}{\eta_j}\right)^{\beta_j}}$$

where :

- $S$  is the number of subpopulationss
- $N_i$  is the cardinal of subpopulation number  $i$
- $N$  is the total size of the sample
- $\Theta$  is the set of parameters:  $\{\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_S, \eta_1, \dots, \eta_S, N_1, \dots, N_S\}$

We can see this Mixed Weibull PDF as a sum of Weibull distributions weighted by the shares of each subpopoulation  $\pi_j = \frac{N_j}{N}$ , where  $\sum \pi_j = 1$ .

The PDF becomes:

$$f^{MW}(x, \Theta) = \sum_{j=1}^S \pi_j f^W(x, \theta_j)$$

### 2.2 Log-likelihood

Given an input data vector of size  $n$   $X = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$ , the likelihood of the Mixed Weibull is:

$$\begin{aligned} L(\Theta) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \ln(f^{MW}(x_i, \Theta)) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \ln \left( \sum_{j=1}^S \pi_j f^W(x_i, \theta_j) \right) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \ln \left( \sum_{j=1}^S \pi_j \frac{\beta_j}{\eta_j} \left( \frac{x_i}{\eta_j} \right)^{\beta_j-1} e^{-\left(\frac{x_i}{\eta_j}\right)^{\beta_j}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

### 2.3 MLE

The problem becomes: find  $\Theta^*$  such that

$$\Theta^* = \underset{\Theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} L(\Theta) = \underset{\pi_1, \beta_1, \eta_1, \dots, \pi_S, \beta_S, \eta_S}{\operatorname{argmax}} \sum_{i=1}^n \ln \left( \sum_{j=1}^S \pi_j \frac{\beta_j}{\eta_j} \left( \frac{x_i}{\eta_j} \right)^{\beta_j-1} e^{-\left(\frac{x_i}{\eta_j}\right)^{\beta_j}} \right)$$

Under constraint:  $\sum_{j=1}^S \pi_j = 1$

## 2.4 Dealing with suspension data

In case the data shows suspension, we need to tweak the objective function, the same way we would do for a Weibull distribution.

If we have  $f$  failures,  $n - f$  suspensions, the log-likelihood becomes:

$$L(\Theta) = \sum_{i=1}^f \ln \left( \sum_{j=i}^S \pi_j \frac{\beta_j}{\eta_j} \left( \frac{x_i}{\eta_j} \right)^{\beta_j-1} e^{-\left(\frac{x_i}{\eta_j}\right)^{\beta_j}} \right) + \sum_{i=f+1}^n \ln \left( \sum_{j=i}^S \pi_j e^{-\left(\frac{x_i}{\eta_j}\right)^{\beta_j}} \right)$$

To keep it simple, I'll keep using  $f^W$  in the equations, but the form above is the right one to use.

## 2.5 Expectation Maximization Algorithm

We are using the MLE to find the parameters. In order to maximize the Log-Likelihood, we are using the Expectation-Maximization algorithm.

Basically, read wikipedia article: Expectation Maximization Algorithm

French article with a nice example: Algorithme esperance-maximisation

We define the set of random variables  $Z = \{z_{ij} \in \{0, 1\}, i \in \llbracket 1, n \rrbracket, j \in \llbracket 1, S \rrbracket\}$  as:

$$z_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x_i \text{ belongs to population } j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

The Log-likelihood then becomes:

$$L(\Theta) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=i}^S z_{ij} \ln(\pi_j f^W(x_i, \theta_j))$$

We don't have access to  $z_{ij}$ , we can only estimate it with its expectation (expectation step) and then refine this estimation at each iteration.

The problem of finding  $\Theta$  comes down to iterating the sequence  $\{\Theta^k\}$  which converges to  $\Theta^*$ , the desired set of parameters:

$$\Theta^{k+1} = \underset{\Theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} F(\Theta, \Theta^k) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=i}^S E(z_{ij}|x, \Theta^k) \ln(\pi_j f^W(x_i, \theta_j))$$

The algorithm includes 2 steps at each iteration:

- the Expectation (step E): the value of the expectation at iterate  $k$  is estimated using Bayes' theorem

$$a_{ij}^k = E(z_{ij}|x, \Theta^k) = \frac{\pi_j^k f^W(x_i, \theta_j^k)}{\sum_{l=1}^S \pi_l^k f^W(x_i, \theta_l^k)}$$

- the Maximization (step M): computes  $\{\Theta^{k+1}\}$  solving the optimization subproblem under constraint  $\sum \pi_j = 1$ .

$$\Theta^{k+1} = \underset{\Theta}{\operatorname{argmax}} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=i}^S a_{ij}^k \ln(\pi_j f^W(x_i, \theta_j)) \right\}$$

Thanks to the separability properties<sup>1</sup> of the objective function:

$$\begin{aligned}
\max_{\Theta} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=i}^S a_{ij}^k \ln(\pi_j f^W(x_i, \theta_j)) \right\} &= \max_{\Theta} \left\{ \sum_{j=i}^S \sum_{i=1}^n (a_{ij}^k \ln(\pi_j) + a_{ij}^k \ln(f^W(x_i, \theta_j))) \right\} \\
&= \max_{\Pi} \left\{ \sum_{j=i}^S \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij}^k \ln(\pi_j) \right\} + \max_{\theta_j} \left\{ \sum_{j=i}^S \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij}^k \ln(f^W(x_i, \theta_j)) \right\} \\
&= \max_{\Pi} \left\{ \sum_{j=i}^S \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij}^k \ln(\pi_j) \right\} + \sum_{j=i}^S \left\{ \max_{\theta_j} \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij}^k \ln(f^W(x_i, \theta_j)) \right\}
\end{aligned}$$

where  $\Pi$  is the set of parameters  $\Pi = \{\pi_1, \dots, \pi_S\}$ .

It results in 2 optimization sub(sub)problems:

Sspb 1:

$$\begin{cases} \max_{\Pi} \sum_i \sum_j a_{ij}^k \ln(\pi_j) \\ s.t. \sum_j \pi_j = 1 \end{cases}$$

Sspb 2:  $\forall j$ ,

$$\max_{\theta_j} \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij}^k \ln(f^W(x_i, \theta_j))$$

## 2.6 First subproblem

Let's write the Langrangian  $l$  of the problem:

$$l(\Pi, \lambda) = \sum_j \left( \ln(\pi_j) \sum_i a_{ij}^k \right) + \lambda \left( \sum_j \pi_j - 1 \right)$$

According to the KKT conditions, the solution couple  $(\Pi^*, \lambda^*)$  verifies:

$$\lambda^* > 0$$

$$\nabla l(\Pi^*, \lambda^*) = 0$$

resulting in :

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{\sum_i a_{i1}^k}{\pi_1^*} - \lambda^* \\ \vdots \\ \frac{\sum_i a_{iS}^k}{\pi_S^*} - \lambda^* \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

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<sup>1</sup> **Separability property** in a nutshell: Given a function  $f$  of 2 independant sets of variables  $X$  and  $Y$ , if there exist 2 functions  $g$  and  $h$  such that:

$$f(X, Y) = g(X) + h(Y)$$

then:

$$\max_{X, Y} f(X, Y) = \max_X g(X) + \max_Y h(Y)$$

Finally, we obtain that  $\forall j$ ,

$$\pi_j^* = \lambda^* \sum_i a_{ij}^k$$

And thanks to the constraint condition:

$$\lambda^* = \frac{1}{\sum_i \sum_j a_{ij}} = \frac{1}{n}$$

Therefore,  $\forall j$ ,

$$\pi_j^{(k+1)*} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i a_{ij}^k$$

## 2.7 Second subproblem

We can notice that the quantity  $\sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij}^k \ln(f^W(x_i, \theta_j))$  is almost the same as the the log-likelihood function of the Weibull:  $L(x, \theta) = \sum_{i=1}^n \ln(f^W(x_i, \theta_j))$  up to a constant multiplier for each term.

We can use a slightly modified version of fitWeibull to solve it, using the Newton algorithm.

Equation to solve for Weibull:

$$\frac{1}{\beta} - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \ln(x_i) x_i^\beta}{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^\beta} + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^r \ln(x_i)}{r} = 0$$

Equation to solve for Mixed Weibull:

$$\forall j, \quad \frac{1}{\beta} - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} \ln(x_i) x_i^\beta}{\sum_{i=1}^n a_{ij} x_i^\beta} + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^r a_{ij} \ln(x_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^r a_{ij}} = 0$$

## 3 Cox-Proportional Hazards model

### 3.1 Definition of the model

See: Relia-Wiki

The model is defined thanks to the instantaneous failure rate  $\lambda$ . Given:

- a failure time  $t$
- a set of covariates  $X = [x_1, \dots, x_m]$
- a set of weights  $A = [a_1, \dots, a_m]$
- a baseline failure rate  $\lambda_0$ ,

the instantaneous failure rate in the Cox-Proportional hazard model is defined as:

$$\lambda(t, X) = \frac{f(t, X)}{R(t, X)} = \lambda_0(t) e^{\sum a_j x_j}$$

where  $f$  is the PDF of the distribution and  $R$  is the reliability function.

The baseline failure rate  $\lambda_0$  determines the underlying distribution that is going to be used.

For the Weibull distribution, it is:

$$\lambda_0(t) = \frac{\beta}{\eta} \left( \frac{t}{\eta} \right)^{\beta-1}$$

### 3.2 Log-likelihood

$$L(\Theta) = \sum_{i=1}^f \ln(\beta t_i^{\beta-1} e^{\sum_{j=0}^m a_j x_{ij}}) - \sum_{i=1}^n t_i^{\beta} e^{\sum_{j=0}^m a_j x_{ij}}$$

Here, we are adding a new constant covariate equal to 1  $x_0 = [x_{10}, \dots, x_{n0}] = [1, \dots, 1]$  to go with a new weight  $a_0$  so that we can include  $\eta$  in the sum:

$$a_0 = -\beta \ln(\eta)$$

### 3.3 MLE

Solving for  $a_0$ :

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial a_0} = f - e^{a_0} \sum_{i=1}^n t_i^{\beta} e^{\sum_{j=1}^m a_j x_{ij}} = 0$$

This equation gives us  $a_0$  function of the other parameters:

$$a_0 = \ln \left( \frac{f}{\sum_{i=1}^n t_i^{\beta} e^{\sum_{j=1}^m a_j x_{ij}}} \right)$$

New objective function obtained by reinjecting this expression into the Likelihood:

$$L(\beta, A) = f \ln(\beta) + (\beta - 1) \sum_{i=1}^f \ln(t_i) - f \ln \left( \sum_{i=1}^n t_i^{\beta} e^{\sum_{j=1}^m a_j x_{ij}} \right) + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_j a_j x_{ij}$$

Gradient:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial L}{\partial \beta} &= \frac{f}{\beta} + \sum_{i=1}^f \ln(t_i) - \frac{f \sum_{i=1}^n \ln(t_i) t_i^{\beta} e^{\sum_{j=1}^m a_j x_{ij}}}{\sum_{i=1}^n t_i^{\beta} e^{\sum_{j=1}^m a_j x_{ij}}} \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial a_j} &= \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij} - \frac{f \sum_{i=1}^n x_{ij} t_i^{\beta} e^{\sum_{j=1}^m a_j x_{ij}}}{\sum_{i=1}^n t_i^{\beta} e^{\sum_{j=1}^m a_j x_{ij}}} \end{aligned}$$

Hessian (you can do the calculations yourself and check in the code ;)):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \beta^2} &= \dots \\ \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial a_j^2} &= \dots \\ \frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial \beta \partial a_j} &= \dots \end{aligned}$$