

STATS 205: Final Project Write-Up

Brian Liu

6/14/2019

1. Background of the data and why it is interesting or important

The data we are using is the data from WHO suicide statistics from Kaggle. This gives population-based statistics on suicide rate (Szamil 2018).

The reason this data is interesting and important is that suicide is prevalent in many times and places around the world, but many places and times have different suicide rates. When it comes to suicide, there are many potential factors or attributes that may be correlated with an increased risk of suicide, such as:

- a person's sex
- the age group a person belongs to
- the generation a person was born in

The goal is to find significant correlations between these factors and suicide rates: that is, does x factor positively predict suicide rate?

The simple inspiration is suicide prevention: If we can identify the factors that correlate positively with, or predict high suicide rates, then we can target our suicide prevention efforts towards populations with those high-risk factors or attributes.

2. Explanation of the method studied and its properties

We will use the statistical techniques of nonparametric bootstrap and parametric bootstrap methods to aid in prediction, with linear regression as well, and use cross-validation to test if, given new data for a population, this population is at risk of suicide. In other words, predict if the suicide rate would be abnormally or significantly high, and then compare the performance between the two methods (nonparametric and parametric).

Bootstrapping

In statistics, bootstrapping is any test or metric that relies on random sampling with replacement. Bootstrapping allows assigning measures of accuracy (defined in terms of bias, variance, confidence intervals, prediction error or some other such measure) to sample estimates (Efron and Tibshirani 1993; Efron 2003). This technique allows estimation of the sampling distribution of almost any statistic using random sampling methods. Generally, it falls in the broader class of resampling methods ("Bootstrap Methods," n.d.).

Bootstrapping is the practice of estimating properties of an estimator (such as its variance) by measuring those properties when sampling from an approximating distribution. One standard choice for an approximating distribution is the empirical distribution function of the observed data. In the case where a set of observations can be assumed to be from an independent and identically distributed population, this can be implemented by constructing a number of resamples with replacement, of the observed dataset (and of equal size to the observed dataset).

It may also be used for constructing hypothesis tests. It is often used as an alternative to statistical inference based on the assumption of a parametric model when that assumption is in doubt, or

where parametric inference is impossible or requires complicated formulas for the calculation of standard errors.

Nonparametric vs. Parametric bootstrap

Whereas nonparametric bootstraps make no assumptions about how your observations are distributed, and resample your original sample, parametric bootstraps resample a known distribution function, whose parameters are estimated from your sample. These bootstrap estimates are either used to attach confidence limits nonparametrically - or a second parametric model is fitted using parameters estimated from the distribution of the bootstrap estimates, from which confidence limits are obtained analytically. The advantages and disadvantages of this approach, compared to nonparametric bootstrapping, can be summarised as follows.

In the nonparametric bootstrap, samples are drawn from a discrete set of n observations. This can be a serious disadvantage in small sample sizes because spurious fine structure in the original sample, but absent from the population sampled, may be faithfully reproduced in the simulated data. Another concern is that because small samples have only a few values, covering a restricted range, nonparametric bootstrap samples underestimate the amount of variation in the population you originally sampled. As a result, statisticians generally see samples of 10 or less as too small for reliable nonparametric bootstrapping.

Small samples convey little reliable information about the higher moments of their population distribution function - in which case, a relatively simple function may be adequate.

Although parametric bootstrapping provides more power than the nonparametric bootstrap, it does so on the basis of an inherently arbitrary choice of model. Whilst the cumulative distribution of even quite small samples deviate little from that of their population, it can be far from easy to select the most appropriate mathematical function a priori. Maximum likelihood estimators are commonly used for parametric bootstrapping despite the fact that this criterion is nearly always based upon their large sample behaviour.

Choosing an appropriate parametric error structure for a statistic based upon small samples can be awkward to justify. Bootstrap t statistics present an additional problem, partly because of problems in estimating standard errors analytically, partly because of difficulties in working out a suitable number of degrees of freedom for your pivot's (presumed, but often large-sample-based) distribution.

So although parametric bootstrapping can be relatively straightforward to perform, and may be used to construct confidence intervals for the sample median of small samples, the bootstrap and estimator distribution functions are often very different. In addition, confidence limits may enclose invalid parameter values, and the coverage error is no better than nonparametric intervals.

Confusingly, whilst the parametric bootstrap is sometimes described as a basic bootstrap, resampling residuals is sometimes referred to as being 'semi parametric' - which is also used to describe test-inversion and smoothed sample bootstraps. Resampling residuals is most popularly used to obtain bootstrap confidence intervals for regression coefficients, for example in nonparametric regression. ("A Parametric or Non-Parametric Bootstrap?" n.d.)

Linear regression - Kendall rank correlation coefficient

In statistics, the Kendall rank correlation coefficient, commonly referred to as Kendall's tau coefficient (after the Greek letter τ), is a statistic used to measure the ordinal association between two measured quantities. A tau test is a non-parametric hypothesis test for statistical dependence based on the tau coefficient.

It is a measure of rank correlation: the similarity of the orderings of the data when ranked by each of the quantities. It is named after Maurice Kendall, who developed it in 1938, (Kendall 1938) though Gustav Fechner had proposed a similar measure in the context of time series in 1897. (“Measures of Association for Ordinal Data,” n.d.)

Intuitively, the Kendall correlation between two variables will be high when observations have a similar (or identical for a correlation of 1) rank (i.e. relative position label of the observations within the variable: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) between the two variables, and low when observations have a dissimilar (or fully different for a correlation of -1) rank between the two variables.

Both Kendall’s τ and Spearman’s ρ can be formulated as special cases of a more general correlation coefficient.

Cross validation

3. Data analysis or simulation study

We will use the crude rate of suicide per 100,000 people.

This analysis provides information on age-standardized rates...

```
who_suicide_statistics_df <- read.csv("who_suicide_statistics.csv")
head(who_suicide_statistics_df)
```

```
##   country year    sex      age suicides_no population
## 1 Albania 1985 female 15-24 years         NA      277900
## 2 Albania 1985 female 25-34 years         NA      246800
## 3 Albania 1985 female 35-54 years         NA      267500
## 4 Albania 1985 female 5-14 years          NA      298300
## 5 Albania 1985 female 55-74 years         NA      138700
## 6 Albania 1985 female 75+ years           NA       34200
```

```
colnames(who_suicide_statistics_df)
```

```
## [1] "country"      "year"         "sex"          "age"          "suicides_no"
## [6] "population"
```

Filter and save countries with missing suicide rate.

```
library(tidyverse)
```

```
## Registered S3 methods overwritten by 'ggplot2':
```

```
##   method      from
##   [.quosures  rlang
##   c.quosures  rlang
##   print.quosures rlang
```

```
## -- Attaching packages ----- tidyverse 1.2.1 --
```

```
## v ggplot2 3.1.1    v purrr   0.3.2
## v tibble  2.1.1    v dplyr   0.8.1
## v tidyr   0.8.3    v stringr 1.4.0
## v readr   1.3.1    v forcats 0.4.0
```

```
## -- Conflicts ----- tidyverse_conflicts() --
```

```
## x dplyr::filter() masks stats::filter()
## x dplyr::lag()    masks stats::lag()
```

```
filtered_suicide_df <- drop_na(who_suicide_statistics_df, "suicides_no")
head(filtered_suicide_df)
```

```
##      country year    sex      age suicides_no population
## 25 Albania 1987 female 15-24 years         14    289700
## 26 Albania 1987 female 25-34 years          4    257200
## 27 Albania 1987 female 35-54 years          6    278800
## 28 Albania 1987 female  5-14 years          0    311000
## 29 Albania 1987 female 55-74 years          0    144600
## 30 Albania 1987 female  75+ years          1     35600
```

After filtering countries with missing suicide rate, take a random sample of 100 countries and make sure each continent has approximately equal countries.

Filter countries by continent:

```
library(countrycode)
filtered_suicide_df$continent <- countrycode(sourcevar = filtered_suicide_df[, "country"],
                                             origin = "country.name",
                                             destination = "continent")
```

```
## Warning in countrycode(sourcevar = filtered_suicide_df[, "country"], origin = "country.name", : Some
## Warning in countrycode(sourcevar = filtered_suicide_df[, "country"], origin = "country.name", : Some
head(filtered_suicide_df)
```

```
##      country year    sex      age suicides_no population continent
## 25 Albania 1987 female 15-24 years         14    289700    Europe
## 26 Albania 1987 female 25-34 years          4    257200    Europe
## 27 Albania 1987 female 35-54 years          6    278800    Europe
## 28 Albania 1987 female  5-14 years          0    311000    Europe
## 29 Albania 1987 female 55-74 years          0    144600    Europe
## 30 Albania 1987 female  75+ years          1     35600    Europe
```

```
write.csv(filtered_suicide_df, 'filtered_suicide.csv')
```

Let us find out which continents are counted:

```
# Get list of continents
list_of_continents <- unique(filtered_suicide_df$continent); list_of_continents
```

```
## [1] "Europe" "Americas" "Asia" "Oceania" "Africa" NA
```

Therefore,

$$\frac{100 \text{ countries}}{6 \text{ continents}} \approx 16 \text{ to } 17 \text{ countries per continent}$$

we should randomly sample 17 countries from each continent.

Notably, there are countries that are not on any of the listed continents. Let us see which ones those are:

```
not_in_a_continent = filtered_suicide_df[is.na(filtered_suicide_df$continent),]
write.csv(not_in_a_continent, 'not_in_a_continent.csv')
head(not_in_a_continent)
```

```
##      country year    sex      age suicides_no population continent
## 32317 Rodrigues 2001 female 15-24 years          0         NA    <NA>
## 32318 Rodrigues 2001 female 25-34 years          0         NA    <NA>
```

```
## 32319 Rodrigues 2001 female 35-54 years      0      NA      <NA>
## 32320 Rodrigues 2001 female  5-14 years      0      NA      <NA>
## 32321 Rodrigues 2001 female 55-74 years      0      NA      <NA>
## 32322 Rodrigues 2001 female  75+ years      0      NA      <NA>
```

```
unique(not_in_a_continent$country)
```

```
## [1] Rodrigues      Virgin Islands (USA)
## 141 Levels: Albania Anguilla Antigua and Barbuda Argentina ... Zimbabwe
```

Let us make the choice not to include these countries in the analysis, since there are only two countries.

```
# Take off `NA` from list of continents
list_of_continents <- list_of_continents[-length(list_of_continents)]
list_of_continents
```

```
## [1] "Europe"    "Americas"  "Asia"      "Oceania"   "Africa"
```

We will now create six dataframes, filtered by list of countries for each continent.

```
# library(rlist)
countries_per_continent <- list()

for (i in seq_along(list_of_continents))
{
  countries_per_continent[[i]] <- filtered_suicide_df[filtered_suicide_df$continent == list_of_continents[i]]
}

length(countries_per_continent)
```

```
## [1] 5
```

```
length(countries_per_continent)
```

```
## [1] 5
```

```
for (i in seq_along(countries_per_continent))
{
  print(head(countries_per_continent[[i]]))
  print(length(countries_per_continent[[i]]))
  cat("\n")
}
```

```
##      country year    sex      age suicides_no population continent
## 25 Albania 1987 female 15-24 years      14      289700      Europe
## 26 Albania 1987 female 25-34 years       4      257200      Europe
## 27 Albania 1987 female 35-54 years       6      278800      Europe
## 28 Albania 1987 female  5-14 years       0      311000      Europe
## 29 Albania 1987 female 55-74 years       0      144600      Europe
## 30 Albania 1987 female  75+ years       1       35600      Europe
## [1] 7
##
##      country year    sex      age suicides_no population continent
## 373 Anguilla 1983 female 15-24 years       0        NA  Americas
## 374 Anguilla 1983 female 25-34 years       0        NA  Americas
## 375 Anguilla 1983 female 35-54 years       0        NA  Americas
## 376 Anguilla 1983 female  5-14 years       0        NA  Americas
## 377 Anguilla 1983 female 55-74 years       0        NA  Americas
## 378 Anguilla 1983 female  75+ years       0        NA  Americas
```

```
## [1] 7
##
##      country year    sex      age suicides_no population continent
## 1501 Armenia 1981 female 15-24 years         5      348000      Asia
## 1502 Armenia 1981 female 25-34 years         6      242200      Asia
## 1503 Armenia 1981 female 35-54 years         6      333500      Asia
## 1504 Armenia 1981 female 5-14 years          0      295200      Asia
## 1505 Armenia 1981 female 55-74 years        10      164300      Asia
## 1506 Armenia 1981 female 75+ years          7       43100      Asia
## [1] 7
##
##      country year    sex      age suicides_no population continent
## 2161 Australia 1979 female 15-24 years        71     1236800     Oceania
## 2162 Australia 1979 female 25-34 years        86     1138500     Oceania
## 2163 Australia 1979 female 35-54 years       171     1572100     Oceania
## 2164 Australia 1979 female 5-14 years         1     1246500     Oceania
## 2165 Australia 1979 female 55-74 years       135     1137800     Oceania
## 2166 Australia 1979 female 75+ years         15       309900     Oceania
## [1] 7
##
##      country year    sex      age suicides_no population continent
## 7669 Cabo Verde 2011 female 15-24 years         1       56039      Africa
## 7670 Cabo Verde 2011 female 25-34 years         0       38528      Africa
## 7671 Cabo Verde 2011 female 35-54 years         2       49078      Africa
## 7672 Cabo Verde 2011 female 5-14 years          0       56558      Africa
## 7673 Cabo Verde 2011 female 55-74 years         2       19887      Africa
## 7674 Cabo Verde 2011 female 75+ years          0        7582      Africa
## [1] 7
```

This text links to very important information about why a `for` loop doesn't print anything.¹

[Link to Pandoc Markdown formatting](#)

Randomly sample 17 countries from each continent:

```
list_of_continents
```

```
## [1] "Europe" "Americas" "Asia" "Oceania" "Africa"
for (i in seq_along(countries_per_continent))
{
  print(list_of_continents[i])
  countries <- unique(countries_per_continent[[i]]$country)
  print(countries)
  print(length(countries))
  cat("\n")
}

## [1] "Europe"
## [1] Albania Austria Belarus
## [4] Belgium Bosnia and Herzegovina Bulgaria
## [7] Croatia Czech Republic Denmark
## [10] Estonia Finland France
```

¹Basically, `for` loops are functions themselves. R prints out the result of a command automatically, but functions are not inherently a command, and since `for` loops are functions, nothing will be printed. The solution is to have `print(command())` within the `for` loop to get output for your `for` loop. You will never again spend hours trying to find out why a `for` loop doesn't print anything because you're no longer an R newbie.

## [13] Germany	Greece	Hungary
## [16] Iceland	Ireland	Italy
## [19] Latvia	Lithuania	Luxembourg
## [22] Malta	Monaco	Montenegro
## [25] Netherlands	Norway	Poland
## [28] Portugal	Republic of Moldova	<NA>
## [31] Romania	Russian Federation	San Marino
## [34] Serbia	Slovakia	Slovenia
## [37] Spain	Sweden	Switzerland
## [40] TFYR Macedonia	Ukraine	United Kingdom
## 141 Levels: Albania Anguilla Antigua and Barbuda Argentina ... Zimbabwe		
## [1] 42		
##		
## [1] "Americas"		
## [1] Anguilla	Antigua and Barbuda	
## [3] Argentina	Aruba	
## [5] Bahamas	Barbados	
## [7] Belize	Bermuda	
## [9] Bolivia	Brazil	
## [11] British Virgin Islands	Canada	
## [13] Cayman Islands	Chile	
## [15] Colombia	Costa Rica	
## [17] Cuba	Dominica	
## [19] Dominican Republic	Ecuador	
## [21] El Salvador	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	
## [23] French Guiana	Grenada	
## [25] Guadeloupe	Guatemala	
## [27] Guyana	Haiti	
## [29] Honduras	Jamaica	
## [31] Martinique	Mexico	
## [33] Montserrat	Netherlands Antilles	
## [35] Nicaragua	Panama	
## [37] Paraguay	Peru	
## [39] Puerto Rico	<NA>	
## [41] Saint Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia	
## [43] Saint Pierre and Miquelon	Saint Vincent and Grenadines	
## [45] Suriname	Trinidad and Tobago	
## [47] Turks and Caicos Islands	United States of America	
## [49] Uruguay	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	
## 141 Levels: Albania Anguilla Antigua and Barbuda Argentina ... Zimbabwe		
## [1] 50		
##		
## [1] "Asia"		
## [1] Armenia	Azerbaijan	
## [3] Bahrain	Brunei Darussalam	
## [5] Cyprus	Georgia	
## [7] Hong Kong SAR	Iran (Islamic Rep of)	
## [9] Iraq	Israel	
## [11] Japan	Jordan	
## [13] Kazakhstan	Kuwait	
## [15] Kyrgyzstan	Macau	
## [17] Malaysia	Maldives	
## [19] Mongolia	Occupied Palestinian Territory	
## [21] Oman	Philippines	

```
## [23] Qatar                Republic of Korea
## [25] <NA>                  Saudi Arabia
## [27] Singapore             Sri Lanka
## [29] Syrian Arab Republic  Tajikistan
## [31] Thailand               Turkey
## [33] Turkmenistan           United Arab Emirates
## [35] Uzbekistan
## 141 Levels: Albania Anguilla Antigua and Barbuda Argentina ... Zimbabwe
## [1] 35
##
## [1] "Oceania"
## [1] Australia   Fiji           Kiribati       New Zealand <NA>
## 141 Levels: Albania Anguilla Antigua and Barbuda Argentina ... Zimbabwe
## [1] 5
##
## [1] "Africa"
## [1] Cabo Verde      Egypt           Mauritius
## [4] Mayotte         Morocco         Reunion
## [7] <NA>            Sao Tome and Principe Seychelles
## [10] South Africa    Tunisia         Zimbabwe
## 141 Levels: Albania Anguilla Antigua and Barbuda Argentina ... Zimbabwe
## [1] 12
```

Since there are only 5 countries in Oceania and 12 countries in Africa, we will use all 5 countries of Oceania and all 12 countries of Africa.

```
samples_of_countries <- list()
num_samples <- 17
for (i in seq_along(countries_per_continent))
{
  countries <- unique(countries_per_continent[[i]]$country)
  current_sample <- list()
  if (length(countries) >= num_samples)
  {
    current_sample <- sample(countries, 17)
  } else {
    current_sample <- sample(countries, length(countries))
  }
  samples_of_countries[[i]] <- current_sample
}
```

Let's see the countries that we will be sampling:

```
total <- 0
for (i in seq_along(samples_of_countries))
{
  print(list_of_continents[i])
  print(samples_of_countries[[i]])
  print(length(samples_of_countries[[i]]))
  total <- total + length(samples_of_countries[[i]])
  cat("\n")
}
```

```
## [1] "Europe"
## [1] France           Germany           Slovakia
## [4] Republic of Moldova Hungary           Iceland
```



```
## [7] <NA> Luxembourg Finland
## [10] Belgium Bosnia and Herzegovina Slovenia
## [13] Austria Bulgaria Italy
## [16] Ireland TFYR Macedonia
## 141 Levels: Albania Anguilla Antigua and Barbuda Argentina ... Zimbabwe
## [1] 17
##
## [1] "Americas"
## [1] Falkland Islands (Malvinas) Dominican Republic
## [3] Guadeloupe Antigua and Barbuda
## [5] Martinique French Guiana
## [7] Bolivia Argentina
## [9] Puerto Rico Belize
## [11] Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) Guatemala
## [13] Saint Vincent and Grenadines Haiti
## [15] Anguilla Netherlands Antilles
## [17] Cayman Islands
## 141 Levels: Albania Anguilla Antigua and Barbuda Argentina ... Zimbabwe
## [1] 17
##
## [1] "Asia"
## [1] Turkey Bahrain Qatar
## [4] Iran (Islamic Rep of) Syrian Arab Republic Oman
## [7] Cyprus Macau Saudi Arabia
## [10] Kyrgyzstan Armenia Mongolia
## [13] Georgia Uzbekistan Malaysia
## [16] Singapore Sri Lanka
## 141 Levels: Albania Anguilla Antigua and Barbuda Argentina ... Zimbabwe
## [1] 17
##
## [1] "Oceania"
## [1] <NA> Australia New Zealand Kiribati Fiji
## 141 Levels: Albania Anguilla Antigua and Barbuda Argentina ... Zimbabwe
## [1] 5
##
## [1] "Africa"
## [1] Mayotte South Africa Seychelles
## [4] Tunisia Reunion Mauritius
## [7] Morocco Egypt Cabo Verde
## [10] Sao Tome and Principe Zimbabwe <NA>
## 141 Levels: Albania Anguilla Antigua and Barbuda Argentina ... Zimbabwe
## [1] 12
```

```
total
```

```
## [1] 68
```

Let's filter the original dataframe only to include countries that we have sampled:

```
countries_to_test <- list()
a <- 0
for (i in seq_along(samples_of_countries))
{
  # find out a way to access each country name
  # print each country name
  for (j in seq_along(samples_of_countries[[i]]))
```

```

{
  sample <- samples_of_countries[[i]]
  country_string <- toString(sample[[j]])
  countries_to_test[a] <- country_string
  a <- a + 1
}
}

length(countries_to_test)

## [1] 67
# countries_to_test

```

4. Interpretation of the results or discussion

5. References

- “A Parametric or Non-Parametric Bootstrap?” n.d. *Parametric or Non-Parametric Bootstrap*. https://influentialpoints.com/Training/nonparametric-or-parametric_bootstrap.htm.
- “Bootstrap Methods.” n.d. *From Wolfram MathWorld*. <http://mathworld.wolfram.com/BootstrapMethods.html>.
- Efron, Bradley. 2003. *Second Thoughts on the Bootstrap*. Department of Biostatistics, Stanford University.
- Efron, Bradley, and Robert Tibshirani. 1993. *An Introduction to the Bootstrap*. Chapman; Hall.
- Kendall, M. G. 1938. “A New Measure of Rank Correlation.” *Biometrika* 30 (1/2): 81. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2332226>.
- “Measures of Association for Ordinal Data.” n.d. *Measures of Association*, 64–85. <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781412984942.n5>.
- Szamil. 2018. “WHO Suicide Statistics.” *Kaggle*. <https://www.kaggle.com/szamil/who-suicide-statistics>.