Computational Statistics / Resampling Inference

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StatR 301 - Lecture 1
University of Washington - Seattle

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Outline

- Review of inference and hypothesis testing
- Randomization and Permutation Tests
- The bootstrap
- Timing and profiling your code

The Question:

WHICH IS BIGGER?



Seed ant (Pogonomyrmex salinus)



Thatch ant (Formica planipilis)

Data

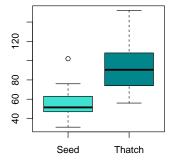
```
Ant <- read.csv("./data/AntSample.csv")</pre>
data.frame(subset(Ant[,c(1,4,5)], Species=="Seed"),
            subset(Ant[,c(1,4,5)], Species=="Thatch"))[1:20,]
##
      Species Weight Headwidth1 Species.1 Weight.1 Headwidth1.1
## 1
          Seed
                   51
                               38
                                      Thatch
                                                    90
                                                                   39
## 2
         Seed
                   55
                               41
                                      Thatch
                                                   104
                                                                   45
## 3
         Seed
                   53
                               37
                                      Thatch
                                                   106
                                                                   40
## 4
         Seed
                   48
                               35
                                      Thatch
                                                    57
                                                                   34
## 5
         Seed
                   31
                               33
                                      Thatch
                                                    90
                                                                   43
                   72
## 6
         Seed
                               39
                                      Thatch
                                                    132
                                                                   40
## 7
         Seed
                   45
                               37
                                      Thatch
                                                    91
                                                                   42
## 8
         Seed
                   65
                               40
                                      Thatch
                                                    110
                                                                   42
## 9
         Seed
                   50
                               38
                                      Thatch
                                                    86
                                                                   41
## 10
         Seed
                  102
                               43
                                      Thatch
                                                    152
                                                                   45
                   57
## 11
         Seed
                               40
                                      Thatch
                                                    74
                                                                   38
## 12
         Seed
                   38
                               39
                                      Thatch
                                                    58
                                                                   33
## 13
         Seed
                   67
                               38
                                      Thatch
                                                    71
                                                                   33
## 14
                   57
         Seed
                               37
                                      Thatch
                                                    79
                                                                   39
## 15
         Seed
                   76
                               43
                                      Thatch
                                                    67
                                                                   35
## 16
         Seed
                   67
                               40
                                      Thatch
                                                    112
                                                                   44
## 17
         Seed
                   43
                               37
                                      Thatch
                                                    103
                                                                   41
## 18
         Seed
                   50
                               38
                                      Thatch
                                                    61
                                                                   41
## 19
         Seed
                   35
                               36
                                      Thatch
                                                    141
                                                                   42
## 20
         Seed
                   65
                               39
                                      Thatch
                                                    81
                                                                   39
```

note: data taken from http://www.stat.ucla.edu/datasets/

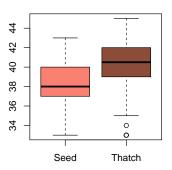
Step 2: Visualize Data

```
col <- c("turquoise", "turquoise4", "salmon", "salmon4")
par(mfrow = c(1, 2))
boxplot(Weight ~ Species, main = "Weight (mg)", col = col[1:2], data = Ant)
boxplot(Headwidth1 ~ Species, main = "Head widths (mm)", col = col[3:4], data = Ant)</pre>
```





Head widths (mm)



Step 3: Summary Statistics

Weight:

```
tapply(Ant$Weight, Ant$Species, function(x) c(mean = mean(x), sd = sd(x)))
## $Seed
## mean sd
## 54.67 13.98
##
## $Thatch
## mean sd
## 92.80 25.96
```

Head width:

```
tapply(Ant$Headwidth1, Ant$Species, function(x) c(mean = mean(x), sd = sd(x)))

## $Seed
## mean sd
## 38.500 2.271
##
## $Thatch
## mean sd
## 39.700 3.495
```



• It certainly *seems* like Thatch ants *might* to be bigger than Seed ants.

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The short answer

It doesn't mean anything stated simply... We need to refine the question!

Refining the question...

E.g. what is the probability that any given Thatch Ant is bigger than any given Seed Ant?

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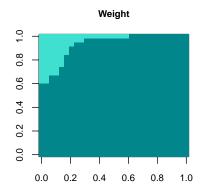
Introduce some crazy comprehensive comparison statistic:

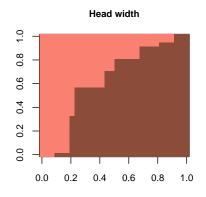
$$C_w = \frac{1}{N_t N_s} \sum_{i=1}^{N_t} \sum_{j=1}^{N_s} I(Wt_i > Ws_j) = \frac{872}{900} = 0.92$$

$$C_h = \frac{1}{N_t N_s} \sum_{i=1}^{N_t} \sum_{i=1}^{N_s} I(Ht_i > Hs_j) = \frac{559}{900} = 0.62$$

8

Visualize!





sum(W.M > 0)/prod(table(Ant\$Species))

sum(H.M > 0)/prod(table(Ant\$Species))

nn 517 a ann

Getting there, but more questions!

The statement that $\bf A$ is bigger than $\bf B$ about $\bf X$ % of the time is an improvement ... But how do we know that this comparison isn't an artifact of random sampling?

The short answer

Again, there is no short answer. We need to rely on the framework of *hypothesis testing* - in which we assume a simpler version of reality, and see what the probability of our data is if the added *structure* (model) were not there.

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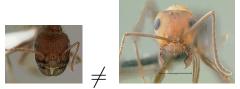
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 - ② If $\hat{\theta}^*$ is not "extreme", we fail to reject the null hypothesis, calling the probability that we might be wrong the Type II error.

Example: Step 1-2

Null and Alternative Hypotheses



*H*₀: Seed and Thatch ants can be considered to come from the "same" population.



 \mathcal{H}_A : Seed and Thatch ants come from different sized populations.

Choose some test statistic

We could do something crazy, like the count statistic:

$$C_{w} = \frac{1}{N_{t}N_{s}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{t}} \sum_{j=1}^{N_{s}} I(W_{ti} > W_{sj})$$

$$C_{h} = \frac{1}{N_{t}N_{s}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{t}} \sum_{j=1}^{N_{s}} I(H_{ti} > H_{sj})$$

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$$C_{h} = \frac{1}{N_{t}N_{s}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{t}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{s}} I(H_{ti} > H_{sj})$$

Or something simpler... like the difference between the sample means:

$$D_W = \overline{W_t} - \overline{W_s}$$

$$D_H = \overline{H_t} - \overline{H_s}$$

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 - lacktriangle shuffle all weights W

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 - Repeat steps 1-3 a bunch of times.
- Repeat for Heights

Randomization in R

Obtain observed statistic:

```
getD.means <- function(Y, X) mean(Y[X == levels(X)[1]] - Y[X == levels(X)[2]])
(D.weight.obs <- getD.means(Ant$Weight, Ant$Species))
## [1] -38.13
(D.head.obs <- getD.means(Ant$Headwidth2, Ant$Species))
## [1] -0.05047</pre>
```

Repeat many times, resampling the response (or the covariate) each time:

```
nreps <- 1000
D.weight.sim <- rep(0, nreps)
for (i in 1:nreps) D.weight.sim[i] <- getD.means(Ant$Weight, sample(Ant$Species))
D.head.sim <- rep(0, nreps)
for (i in 1:nreps) D.head.sim[i] <- getD.means(Ant$Headwidth2, sample(Ant$Species))</pre>
```

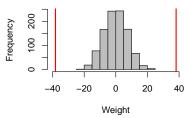
The above is the most basic template for a randomization test ... we will talk about some other ways to code this later.

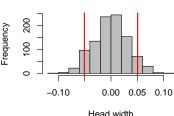
Visualize null-distribution and compute p-value

```
hist(D.weight.sim, col = "grey", xlim = c(-40, 40), xlab = "Weight")
abline(v = c(-1, 1) * D.weight.obs, col = "red", lwd = 2)
hist(D.head.sim, col = "grey", xlab = "Head width")
abline(v = c(-1, 1) * D.head.obs, col = "red", lwd = 2)
```

Histogram of D.weight.sim

Histogram of D.head.sim





Obtain randomization p-values $= 2 \text{Pr}(\theta > |\widehat{\theta^*}|)$

```
c(p.weight = 2 * sum(D.weight.sim > abs(D.weight.obs))/nreps, p.height = 2 *
sum(D.head.sim > abs(D.head.obs))/nreps)

## p.weight p.height
## 0.000 0.134
```

What conclusions do we make based on these p-values?

R-Programming: Passing a function as a variable

Remember, you can always pass a function into a function. This makes it very easy to perform randomization tests on ANY statistic. Don't forget the powerful ellipsis either: "..."

```
getD.fun <- function(Y, X, fun, ...) fun(Y[X == levels(X)[1]] - Y[X == levels(X)[2]].
    ...)
getD.fun(Ant$Weight, Ant$Species, sd)
## [1] 27.14
getD.fun(Ant$Weight, Ant$Species, quantile)
       0%
              25%
                      50%
                              75%
                                     100%
## -106.00 -55.25 -41.00 -17.75
                                    9.00
getD.fun(Ant$Weight, Ant$Species, quantile, 0.75)
##
     75%
## -17.75
```

R-Programming: the mosaic package and do()

The mosaic package - which is designed to provide some easy-to-use tools for randomization - makes naive loops more efficient with a funny little function called do():

```
require(mosaic)
do(5) * getD.fun(Ant$Weight, sample(Ant$Species), quantile)

## 0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

## 1 -60 -21.50 -6.0 8.50 50

## 2 -38 -18.50 -2.5 15.50 52

## 3 -74 -13.50 4.0 18.50 60

## 4 -74 -11.50 3.0 33.50 62

## 5 -101 -25.75 -1.5 22.25 66
```

PRACTICE

Using the functions above, test to see whether the variance of the Weights are significantly different between the two species of ant.

Randomization vs. Permutation

Note that every time we perform the operation above, we get a slightly different result and our test is therefore provides only an approximate p-value. With 30 of each kind of ant, it is prohibitive to try EVERY possible permutation (there are: $\binom{60}{30} = 1.18 \times 10^{17}$ possible ways to subsample these data for this test). With much smaller samples we can compute an *exact* permutation test p-value.

Permutation test



Here are some data on mandible lengths of male and female jackals (*Canis Aureus*) from the British museum in London:

```
Y.m <- c(120, 107, 110, 116, 114, 111, 113)
Y.f <- c(110, 111, 107, 108, 110, 105)
```

There are 7 males and 6 females, so only 1716 ways to break up the data into those groups. The sample means are 113 and 108.5 mm, respectively, for males and females ... so are males larger? Or, more precisely, what is the probability that D=0 given that $D_{obs}=4.5$?

Permutation test: code

```
require(gtools) # For the combinations function

Z <- c(Y.m, Y.f)
C <- combinations(length(Z), length(Y.m))
getD.means <- function(index) mean(Z[index]) - mean(Z[-index])</pre>
```

Obtain observed statistics, and permutation distribution:

```
D.observed <- mean(Y.m) - mean(Y.f)
D.permuted <- apply(C, 1, getD.means)
sum(D.permuted > D.observed)/length(D.permuted)
## [1] 0.01282
sum(D.permuted >= D.observed)/length(D.permuted)
## [1] 0.02448
```

Of ALL the possible combinations of 6 and 7 males and females, in only 22 was the null-male subset still larger than the observed difference of 4.5 mm. [Note, that another 20 had a difference of EXACTLY 4.5! This frequently happens with small datasets].

Flashback: How did we do this before?

Without recourse to pretty rapid computation, statisticians had to pull all kinds of tricky and elegant contortions to obtain null distributions based not on *resampling* but on the central limit theorem and asymptotic results.

Recall that to compare two sample means, we used the T statistic:

$$t^* = rac{ar{X_1} - ar{X_2}}{s_p \sqrt{rac{1}{n_1} + rac{1}{n_2}}}$$

where

$$s_p^2 = \frac{(n_1 - 1)s_1^2 + (n_2 - 1)s_2^2}{n_1 + n_2 - 2},$$

and that under the null hypothesis the statistic has a known distribution:

$$t^* \sim \mathcal{T}_{n_1+n_2-2}$$

allowing us to compute p-values by merely looking up values of the cumulative probability in a table. Mathematically and manually - this is a much more complicated procedure, but computationally trivial (easy to do even by hand).

Some T-tests

```
t.test(Weight ~ Species, data = Ant)

##

## Welch Two Sample t-test

##

## data: Weight by Species

## t = -7.084, df = 44.52, p-value = 8.093e-09

## alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0

## 95 percent confidence interval:

## -48.98 -27.29

## sample estimates:

## mean in group Seed mean in group Thatch

## 54.67 92.80
```

```
##
## Welch Two Sample t-test
##
## data: Headwidth2 by Species
## t = -1.575, df = 49.75, p-value = 0.1217
## alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## -0.11485 0.01392
## sample estimates:
## mean in group Seed mean in group Thatch
## 1.621 1.671
```

How do these p-values compare to ours?

Some comments on classical inference

All of the so-called "pivot-quantities" - z-scores, t, Chi-squared and F statistics - all exploit the central limit theorem to fold up on themselves and reduce data to scale-free quantities with asymptotically known distributions with minimal free parameters. This contortion is very elegant (one Shakespeare versus a billion monkeys!), and a large amount of 20th century statistics was devoted to obtaining these quantities and understanding their properties and applicability. But their use comes with certain constraints:

- Variances between groups must be equal,
- Residuals must be normally distributed,
- A heavy reliance on the mean as a measure of comparison between groups,
- A strong assumption of independence in the sampling,
- An assumption of an observation arising from an infinite population.

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Open Question: how much longer will we be teaching these tools as a core component of statistics? Are they the equivalent of Newton's Mechanics 101 or Daguerrotyping 101?

The development of **computational statistics** allows for relaxations of all of these constraints in different ways to different extents. In particular: permutation tests exist for *any* statistic, regardless of whether its distribution is known. There is absolute freedom in choosing a statistic which best discriminates between null and alternative hypotheses. Quick example **medians** of regional GDP:

```
GDP <- c(49683, 3163, 7983, 3228, 2962, 1950, 15741, 4171, 10373, 14621, 8866)

Region <- factor(c(rep("SEAsia", 6), rep("SAmerica", 5)))

tapply(GDP, Region, function(x) c(mean(x), median(x)))

## $SAmerica
## [1] 10754 10373
##

## $SEAsia
## [1] 11495 3196
```

T-test of means:

```
t.test(GDP ~ Region)$p.value
## [1] 0.9291
```

Permutation test of medians:

```
C <- combinations(length(GDP),table(Region)[1])
getD.median <- function(index, Y)
  median(Y[index]) - median(Y[-index])
D.observed <- diff(tapply(GDP, Region, median))
D.permuted <- apply(C, 1, getD.median, Y=GDP)
sum(D.permuted >= abs(D.observed)) / length(D.permuted)
## [1] 0.08009
```

R tool: 1mPerm

A very powerful package called lmPerm boasts the use of permutation tests to do anything lm(). Let's see how it works. Consider the following data on lettuce growth as a function of nitrogen (N) and potash (P) treatments:

```
summarv(lmp(v ~ P * N. data = CC164, perm = "Exact"))
                                      ## Call:
                                     ## lmp(formula = y ~ P * N, data = CC164, perm = "Exact")
                    N
                                      ##
     449
               1
                     1
                                      ## Residuals:
     413
                                     ## ALL 9 residuals are 0: no residual degrees of freedom!
     326
                                      ## Coefficients:
     409
                                                Estimate Pr(Exact)
     358
                     2
                                      ## P T.
                                                  -60.58
                                                             0.079 .
6
     291
                                      ## P.Q
                                                    0 41
                                                             1 000
                                      ## N.L
                                                  -63.64
                                                             0.064 .
7
              3
                     1
     341
                                                   4.08
                                                             0.893
     278
                                      ## P.L:N.L
                                                   47.00
                                                             0 466
                                      ## P.O:N.L
                                                   24.25
                                                             0.708
     312
                                      ## P.L:N.Q
                                                   42.72
                                                             0.505
                                      ## P.O:N.O
                                                   13.00
                                                             0.852
                                      ## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

This is "Exact", because it computes all the p-values for all 9!=362,880 permutations. With 9, this is pretty instant. According to authors: "12 needs 3 minutes, while 14 is an overnighter. No wonder permutations are seldomly used!"

R tool: 1mPerm

Easy enough to obtain approximtae p-values, which are computed efficiently because of a stoppage rule, e.g. when standard deviation of p-value falls below some fraction of the estimated p-value

```
summary(lmp(y ~ P * N, data = CC164, perm = "Prob"))
## [1] "Settings: unique SS "
##
## Call:
## lmp(formula = y ~ P * N, data = CC164, perm = "Prob")
## Residuals:
## ALL 9 residuals are 0: no residual degrees of freedom!
## Coefficients:
          Estimate Iter Pr(Prob)
## P T.
          -60 575 1371
                          0.069
           0.408 51
## P.Q
                        1.000
      -63.640 1581
## N T.
                        0.060 .
## N.Q
           4.082 51 0.863
## P I · N I 47 000 190 0 347
## P.Q:N.L 24.249 51 0.824
## P.L:N.Q 42,724 56 0.643
## P.Q:N.Q 13.000 51
                          0.843
## ---
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
## Residual standard error: NaN on O degrees of freedom
## Multiple R-Squared: 1, Adjusted R-squared: NaN
## F-statistic: NaN on 8 and 0 DF, p-value: NA
```

Also: ANOVA

```
anova(lmp(y ~ P * N, data = CC164, perm = "Prob"))
## [1] "Settings: unique SS "
## Analysis of Variance Table
## Response: y
           Df R Sum Sq R Mean Sq Iter Pr(Prob)
            2 11009
## P
                           5504 913
                                        0.26
           2 12200
                           6100 1263
                                        0 19
## P·N
            4 4791 1198 142
                                        0.83
## Residuals O
```

R tool: 1mPerm

Also:

- P-values for saturated models
- Polynomial surfaces
- Multiple responses
- Nice vignette!

BUT:

 You are limited to the typical regression type statistics (means, sums of squares, etc.)

So: if you can have complex data structure, multiple covariates, multiple responses, and you are interested in comparing **means**, but are (understandably) uncomfortable with the normality assumptions of ANOVA, are nervous about outliers, there is no reason not to use lmPerm, which is (by definition) more robust to assumption violations than lm(). As an added bonus if the number of *rows* in your data is small (or you have a megacomputer), you can always brag that your p-value is EXACT, and not dependent on some hundred-year-old asymptotics.

The Bootstrap



The idea is simple: Assume your sample represents the population, and that any time you resample from your sample, you are effectively sampling from the population, and the distribution of any statistic that you observe by resampling from your own sample reflects the distribution of that statistic in the population.

Because you are relying only on your own data - without any of the heavy-handed innovation-killing tax-happy bureaucracy of asymptotics - it is as if you are raising yourself up by your bootstraps (or pony-tail).



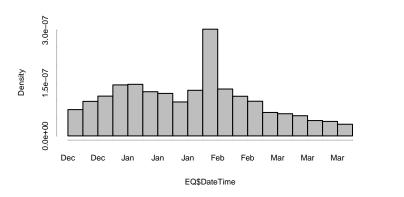
The Bootstrap: Confidence Intervals

Simplest example: Confidence intervals. Let's find a highly non-normal data set (our old - yet every renewing friend - the earthquakes of the world):

```
EQ <- read.csv("http://neic.usgs.gov/neis/gis/qed.asc")
```

And convert the times to POSIX.It object:

```
EQ$DateTime <- strptime(paste(EQ$Date, EQ$Time), format = "%Y/%m/%d %H:%M:%S")
hist(EQ$DateTime, col = "grey", breaks = 20, main = "")
```



Classical Confidence Intervals

Let's pick out the waiting times just in April:

And obtain the pivoted 95% Confidence Interval around the mean:

$$\widehat{\mu} = \overline{X} \pm t_{0.975, n-1} \frac{s_x}{\sqrt{n}}$$

```
n <- length(dEQ.apr)
mean(dEQ.apr) + c(-1, 1) * qt(0.975, df = n - 1) * sd(dEQ.apr)/sqrt(n)
## [1] 50.81 176.04</pre>
```

Or just:

```
t.test(dEQ.apr)$conf.int

## Time differences in mins
## [1] 50.81 176.04
## attr(,"conf.level")
## [1] 0.95
```

The Bootstrapped Confidence Intervals

Bootstrapped confidence interval, by hand:

```
nreps <- 1000
mean.BS <- rep(0, nreps)
for (i in 1:nreps) mean.BS[i] <- mean(sample(dEQ.apr, replace = TRUE))
quantile(mean.BS, c(0.025, 0.975))
## 2.5% 97.5%
## 63.25 170.92</pre>
```

OR, with mosaic's do():

```
mean.BS <- do(nreps) * mean(sample(dEQ.apr, replace = TRUE))
quantile(mean.BS[, 1], c(0.025, 0.975))

## 2.5% 97.5%
## 62.87 177.08</pre>
```

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## 62.87 177.08
```

Just as easy to do for the median (of course):

```
median.BS <- do(nreps) * median(sample(dEQ.apr, replace = TRUE))
quantile(median.BS[, 1], c(0.025, 0.5, 0.975))

## 2.5% 50% 97.5%
## 38.07 74.09 121.82</pre>
```

The boot package

This provides the powerful boot() function, which acquires the bootstrapped distribution of any statistic applied to any data or model object. Here, we obtain a bootstrap on the correlation between magnitude and depth of earthquakes in March:

```
require(boot)
EQ.mar <- EQ[EQ$DateTime$mon == 3, ]
cor(EQ.mar$Magnitude, EQ.mar$Depth, use = "complete.obs")
## [1] -0.09485</pre>
```

It is negative. But is it *significantly* negative? The correlation coefficient, even under null-assumptions of normality, does not have a trivial distribution. But the bootstrapped version is quick and easy to obtain:

```
cor.bs <- boot(EQ[EQ$DateTime$mon == 3,],
    function(x, i)
    cor(x$Magnitude[i], x$Depth[i],
        use= "complete.obs"),
    R = 1000)

## Error: could not find function "boot"

## Error: object 'CI' not found

## Error: object 'COT.bs' not found</pre>

## Error: object 'CI' not found
```

So, at least so far in April (by mid-afternoon on the 2nd), deeper earthquakes have not been weaker than shallower earthquakes.

Practice:

- What about for a larger sample, e.g. March?
- How would we adapt this code to obtain a bootstrapped confidence interval around the regression slope of Magnitude against Depth?

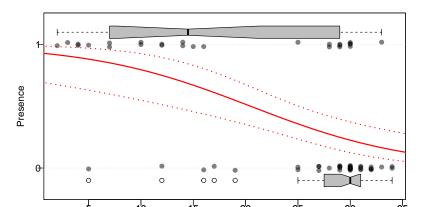
Bootstrapped Prediction Intervals: on a glm

Using the example with the Portuguese sole posted here: http://faculty.washington.edu/eliezg/StatR201/VisualizingPredictions.html Loading the data and fitting a binomial glm:

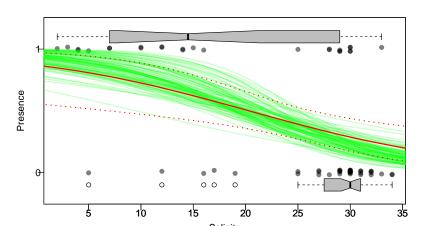
```
Solea <- read.csv("./data/Solea.csv")
Y <- Solea$solea_solea
X <- Solea$salinity
Sole.glm <- glm(Y ~ X, family = "binomial")
expit <- function(x) exp(x)/(1 + exp(x))
Sole.predict <- predict(Sole.glm, newdata = data.frame(X = 0:40), se.fit = TRUE)</pre>
```



Parametric prediction intervals



The boot package: Bootstrapped Prediction Intervals



Exercise (to think about):

How would you use the boot() function to obtain a 95% bootstrapped envelope around those prediction intervals?

Resampling places just as much (or more!) emphasis on *well-formulated hypotheses* and awareness of the *assumptions* when designing tests and making inference on them!

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For example, can you design a permulation/randomization test that compares the means of two samples with unequal variance? It's not easy!

Resampling places just as much (or more!) emphasis on *well-formulated hy-potheses* and awareness of the *assumptions* when designing tests and making inference on them!

For example, can you design a permulation/randomization test that compares the means of two samples with unequal variance? It's not easy!

In general, permutation/randomization-type tests test equality of distibutions: $F_1 = F_2$, whereas BOOTSTRAP methods (coming after the break) are better at testing parameters $\theta_1 = \theta_2$.

R Programming: Some tools for speeding up your code

Now that we are in randomization / resampling territory, it is becoming impossible to avoid loops. Because loops multiply any little inefficiency many times, it becomes worth our while to try to figure out how to speed some operations up. Here, the system.time() function is a useful initial diagnostic.

Lets compare two versions of my getD.mean function, for finding the difference in the means of Y sorted by a categorical vector X with two levels.

```
getD.meanA <- function(Y, X) as.numeric(diff(tapply(Y, X, mean)))</pre>
system.time(a <- do(1000) * getD.meanA(Ant$Weight, Ant$Species))
     user system elapsed
##
##
     2.67 0.00 2.84
getD.meanB <- function(Y, X) mean(subset(Y, X == unique(X)[1])) - mean(subset(Y,
    X == unique(X)[2])
system.time(a <- do(1000) * getD.meanB(Ant$Weight, Ant$Species))</pre>
##
     user system elapsed
## 2.85
             0.02
                     2.95
getD.meanC <- function(Y, X) sum(Y[X == levels(X)[1]])/sum(Y == levels(X)[1]) -
    sum(Y[X == levels(X)[2]])/sum(Y == levels(X)[2])
system.time(a <- do(1000) * getD.meanC(Ant$Weight, Ant$Species))</pre>
##
     user system elapsed
      0.62
             0.00
                      0.64
##
```

Why is the last one SO much faster? ...

herause it uses more basic functional sum(x) /length(x) always heats mean(x)

R Programming: Profiling your code

The Rprof() function allows for detailed profiling of the time it takes to perform certain tasks.

```
Rprof("Rprof.out")
a <- do(1000) * getD.meanB(Ant$Weight, Ant$Species)
Rprof(NULL)</pre>
```

This opens a connection to a file called: Rprof.out, writes a lot of information into it, which you can then summarize using:

```
summaryRprof("Rprof.out")
```

Because the output is complex, we're better off looking at "live" in R proper.

Trade-offs

Remember that there is often a trade-off between faster code and more lucid and understandable code

We are often told to "Vectorize! Vectorize! Vectorize!" in R. It is often assumed that is for speed. But in fact, it is not always faster, but often more legibible. I, for one, find:

```
diff(tapply(Y,X,mean))
```

to be far more understandable than the champion:

```
 \begin{aligned} & \sup(Y[X==levels(X)[1]]) / \sup(Y == levels(X)[1]) - \\ & \sup(Y[X==levels(X)[2]]) / \sup(Y == levels(X)[2]) \end{aligned}
```