Stochastic epidemic models with inference

Exercise Session 2

Fanny Bergström, Stockholm University

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Exercise 2.1

Estimation of R_0 (a)

- Assume a homogeneous mixing population and all individuals are **initially susceptible**.
- No prevention measures.
- In case of a large outbreak, we observe that a fraction $\tilde{\tau}$ get infected.

The estimate of R_0 is given by the observed value:

$$\hat{R}_0 = -\ln(1-\tilde{\tau})/\tilde{\tau}.$$

Estimation of R_0 (b)

Now if we know that a fraction r was **initially immune**, and there were a fraction $\tau_{overall}$ infected during the outbreak.

- The fraction infected among those initially susceptibles $\tilde{\tau} = \tau_{overall}/(1-r)$.
- The estimate of R_0 is now given by

$$\hat{R}_0 = -\ln(1-\tilde{\tau})/(1-r)\tilde{\tau}.$$

Exercise 2.2

Estimating parameters: Gaussian observations

- We have n observations $y_i = I(t_i)$ at time points $t_1, \cdots, t_n$ with mean $\mathbf{E}[y_i; \theta]$, which is determined by the SIR differential system.
- Least squares estimates $\theta = (\beta, \gamma)$ minimizing the function

$$l(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \mathbf{E}[y_i; \theta])^2,$$

corresponds to Maximum Likelihood Estimate for Gaussian observations with

$$I(t_i) \sim N(\mathbf{E}[y_i; \theta]; \sigma^2),$$

with the variance of the observation noise σ^2.

Estimating parameters: MLE for CSFV Data(1)

Define the log-likelihood function

```
 ll.gauss <- function(theta){
#determine the solution of SIR ODE
...  <- lsoda(...)
return(sum(dnorm(data, mean =..., sd = 1, log =
TRUE))
}.
```

Estimating parameters: MLE for CSFV Data(2)

Maximize the log-likelihood and compute MLE

```
mle <- optim(
#initial values for theta to be optimized over
...,
#log-likelihood function
fn = ll.gauss,
#maximize the function
control = list(fnscale = -1) ).
```