

# Base Case TMLE Procedure

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## Step 1: Simulate from above, 10 time points

Assume the end time,  $\tau = 10$  and we start with binaries  $W(0), A(0), Y(0)$ . From there,

$W(t)$  depends on  $C_w(t) = (Y(t-1), A(t-1))$

$A(t)$  depends on  $C_a(t) = (W(t), Y(t-1))$

$Y(t)$  depends on  $C_y(t) = (A(t), W(t))$

## Step 2: Estimate the W,A,Y mechanisms which determine the likelihood

$g^*(A(1) = 1 | W) = 1$  is the intervention, leaving everything else in tact.

First we use the data to estimate coefficients of previous variables so we have  $Pr(Y(t) = 1) = \text{expit}(\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 A(t) + \alpha_2 W(t))$  estimates and likewise for  $W(t)$  and  $A(t)$ .

## Step 3: Compute the estimate

Perform monte-carlo sampling on the initial estimates to estimate  $EY_{g^*}$ . Let us assume we have fit the following functions from Step 2:

$W(t) = \text{rbern}(f_w(C_w(t)))$

$A(t) = \text{rbern}(f_a(C_a(t)))$

$Y(t) = \text{rbern}(f_y(C_y(t)))$

1. sample  $W(1)$  as a random bernoulli based on  $C_w(1)$
2. Intervene on  $A(1)$  to set it to 1 (for the remaining time points we will sample a random bernoulli based on  $C_a(t)$ )
3. sample  $Y(1)$  as a random bernoulli based on  $C_y(1)$
4. repeat steps 1 to 3 until you sample the outcome of interest,  $Y_{g^*}(100)$
5. repeat steps 1 to 4 many times and average to get the mean outcome under the current estimated model

## Step 4: Compute the EIC and Clever Covariate

Now we will refer to chapter 19 in the new book on [tstmle github](#).

## computing the clever covariate for the $\bar{Q}_y$ update as well as IC

First, this component of the influence curve is given by  $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{D}_{\bar{Q}_y}(Y(i), C_y(i)) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^n H_y(C_y(i))(Y(i) - \bar{Q}_y(1, C_y(i)))$ .

Note that:

$$C_y(i) = (A(i), W(i)),$$

$$C_a(i) = (W(i), Y(i-1))$$

$$C_w(i) = (Y(i-1), A(i-1))$$

Notice that the key here is to compute  $H_y(C_y(i))$  because this will be our typical clever covariate for the  $i^{th}$  time point for dependent observation,  $Y(i)$ .

In a loop for i in 1:N

for a nested loop from s in 1:N

compute

$$H_{y(s)}(C_y(i)) = \mathbb{E}[Y_{g^*} | Y(s) = 1, C_y(s) = C_y(i)] - \mathbb{E}[Y_{g^*} | Y(s) = 0, C_y(s) = C_y(i)]$$

This will take montecarlo sampling using the binaries already estimated in step 2. This will be the same as outlined in Step 3, except for each expectation, start with generating  $W(s+1)$ , then  $A(s+1)$  etc until the outcome at time,  $\tau = 100$ . Do this a lot of times. Then average the resulting differences. The

clever covariates:  $\frac{h_{c_y(s)}^*(C_y(i))}{h_{c_y}(C_y(i))}$  are accomplished via page 327, which entails generating B outcomes under intervention and not under intervention. Again, we just montecarlo sample as in step 2, except save the entire observation,  $O^N$ . We also (as it says in the book) need not apply logistic regression here as we can do it nonparametrically. Now store  $H_{y(s)}(C_y(i)) \frac{h_{c_y(s)}^*(C_y(i))}{h_{c_y}(C_y(i))}$ . Concurrently, do the same thing for

$H_{g(s)}(C_a(i)) = \mathbb{E}[Y_{g^*} | W(s) = 1, C_a(s) = C_a(i)] - \mathbb{E}[Y_{g^*} | W(s) = 0, C_a(s) = C_a(i)]$  and  $\frac{h_{c_y(s)}^*(C_a(i))}{h_{c_y}(C_a(i))}$ , except only do so on non-intervention nodes as there is no such component in the IC for intervention nodes as usual. On intervention nodes  $H_{a(s)}(C_a(i)) \frac{h_{c_a(s)}^*(C_a(i))}{h_{c_a}(C_a(i))} = 0$ . Do likewise for  $w$  on all nodes.

end the inner loop

store  $H_y(C_y(i))$ ,  $H_a(C_a(i))$  and  $H_w(C_w(i))$

store  $\bar{D}^N(O(i)) = H_y(C_y(i))(Y(i) - \bar{Q}_y(1 | C_y(i)) + H_a(C_a(i))(A(i) - \bar{g}(1 | C_a(i)) + H_w(C_w(i))(W(i) - \bar{q}_w(1 | C_w(i)))$  where  $\bar{Q}_y$ ,  $\bar{g}$  and  $\bar{q}_w$  are the initial estimates.

end outer loop

## Step 4: check tolerance

compute the sample mean of  $\bar{D}^N(O)$  and see if below  $\frac{\hat{\sigma}}{N}$ . If so, your last estimate is used as well as the influence curve  $\bar{D}^N(O(i))$  to get inference. Otherwise go to Step 5. We note, that  $\hat{\sigma}$  is just the sample standard deviation of the influence curve we computed. Each term of the influence curve,  $\bar{D}^N(\bar{O}_i)$ , has mean 0, conditioned on the past,  $\bar{O}_{i-1}$  so we just need sum the squares of each term as an estimate of the conditional variance as given by the Martingale Central Limit Theorem.

## Step 5: Run the TMLE and compute estimate

Create a  $3N-1$  length vector with all the clever covariates and use as outcome,  $W(t)$ ,  $A(t)$  and  $Y(t)$ . The offset is the corresponding initial estimate (each is one of 4 binomial probabilities, considering they are functions of two binaries). Note that for the intervention nodes there is no outcome and clever covariate. Use logistic regression to find  $\epsilon_n$ , our fluctuation parameter. Update as usual and return to step 1.