

Module 4.2 Exercise

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Exercise 1. Considering different probability distributions for different types of data

1. Consider appropriate distribution for penguin trait data

I mentioned in class that many ‘quantitative traits’ (traits with a genetic basis, determined by many genes with small effects) follow a normal distribution (as noticed by R.A. Fisher, who developed the ANOVA test in 1921 to evaluate differences in normally distributed data sampled from different populations). Let’s look closely at some trait data - measures of body mass and flipper length in a population of Gentoo penguins that inhabit 3 islands in the Palmer Archipelago (Antarctica).

A. Load the data

```
# library(palmerpenguins)
data("penguins")
# The data is now saved to a new variables called
# 'penguins'
head(penguins)

## # A tibble: 6 x 8
##   species island   bill_length_mm bill_depth_mm flipper_length_mm body_mass_g
##   <fct>   <fct>         <dbl>         <dbl>         <int>         <int>
## 1 Adelie  Torgersen         39.1          18.7          181          3750
## 2 Adelie  Torgersen         39.5          17.4          186          3800
## 3 Adelie  Torgersen         40.3          18           195          3250
## 4 Adelie  Torgersen         NA           NA           NA           NA
## 5 Adelie  Torgersen         36.7          19.3          193          3450
## 6 Adelie  Torgersen         39.3          20.6          190          3650
## # i 2 more variables: sex <fct>, year <int>
```

B. Create a new variable that contains only body mass and flipper length for Gentoo penguins (and get rid of rows with NA values)

Hint: the variable `penguins` is a data frame. I can use `$` to index columns in the data frame, and I can use `[]` to index particular positions in the data frame, like this:

```
unique(penguins$species) # Check exactly how the species names are entered
new_variable <- penguins[penguins$species == "Chinstrap", ] # all columns
```

I can also index particular columns in the dataset this way:

```
# Chinstrap penguins, data frame columns 3 and 4
new_variable <- penguins[penguins$species == "Chinstrap", c(3,
4)]
```

C. Create histograms for body mass and flipper length

Use the R command `hist` to draw those.

D. Calculate mean and standard deviation for both traits

Use the R commands `mean` and `sd`

E. Use ‘fitdistrplus’ to estimate parameters for data fit to a normal distribution

Load the library `fitdistrplus`, and look through the help menu for the command `fitdist`. Use this command for each trait to estimate the parameters of a normal distribution for each dataset. The command asks you to specify what distribution you would like to fit the data to. The options are: `norm`, `lnorm`, `exp`, `pois`, `cauchy`, `gamma`, `logis`, `nbinom`, `geom`, `beta`, `weibull`, `invgamma`, `llogis`, `invweibull`, `pareto1`, `pareto`. Use `norm` for the normal distribution.

F. Use ‘rnorm’ to generate random values of flipper length and body mass from the normal distribution

We have now estimated the mean and standard deviation for the Gentoo penguin population that these individuals came from. I want you to use these parameter values and the R command `rnorm` to draw random values for penguin flipper length and body mass. Draw 3 different values for each trait.

G. Use ‘dnorm’ to calculate the probability of observing a flipper length of 250 and of 216 from this distribution. Which value is more likely? Please also to estimate the probability of observing a body mass of 4000 and of 5000 from that distribution. Which value is more likely?

2. Consider appropriate distribution for Italian football league goal data

A. Load the data

```
italy <- read.csv("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/jhpantel/ude-ecomod/main/data/italy.csv",
header = TRUE, row.names = 1)
```

B. Create a new variable that contains two columns: data for goals scored by the home team (hgoal) and scored by the visiting team (vgoal)

C. Create histograms for home goals and visitor goals

D. Use ‘fitdistrplus’ to estimate parameters for data fit to a Poisson distribution

Use the command `fitdist`, with `distr="pois"` to estimate the parameters of a Poisson distribution for each variable (hgoal, vgoal). The Poisson distribution is not the same as the Normal distribution - we do not need the mean and standard deviation to describe it. Instead, we need the “rate parameter” λ . Here is more information about the Poisson distribution (from [Wikipedia](#)):

- “The Poisson distribution is a discrete probability distribution that expresses the probability of a given number of events occurring in a fixed interval of time or space if these events occur with a known constant mean rate and independently of the time since the last event. It is named after French mathematician Siméon Denis Poisson.”
- “The distribution was first introduced by Siméon Denis Poisson (1781–1840) and published together with his probability theory in his work *Recherches sur la probabilité des jugements en matière criminelle et en matière civile* (1837). The work theorized about the number of wrongful convictions in a given country.”

- “ λ is the expected rate of occurrences”

So we are using `fitdistr` to estimate the rate parameter λ for Italian football league goals - it represents the expected rate of scoring a goal in a match.

E. Use ‘rpois’ to generate random values of hgoals and vgoals from the Poisson distribution

We have now estimated the rate parameter λ for the Italian football goal data. Use these parameter values and the R command `rpois` to draw random values for hgoals and vgoals. Draw 3 different values for each variable. (in other words, simulate 3 matches!!)

F. Use ‘dpois’ to calculate the probability of the home team scoring 2 goals in a match, and 8 goals in a match. Which value is more likely? Please also to estimate the probability of observing visitor goals of 2 and 8 from that distribution. Which value is more likely? Who is more likely to win a match, a home team or a visiting team?

3. Consider appropriate distribution for Paramecium interaction coefficients

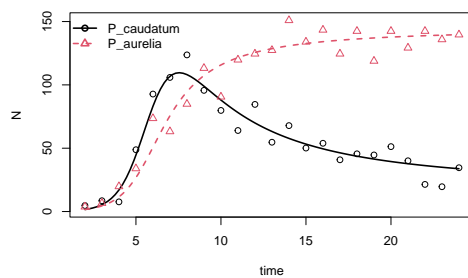
Recall at the end of exercise 4.1, we used data for Gause’s Paramecium from the library `gauser`. We used automated commands in that library to consider data for two competing Paramecium species and estimate parameters in a Lotka-Volterra competition model. I repaste the code here for that exercise:

We will use data from Gause’s experiments with Paramecium, tracking competitive interactions between *P. aurelia* and *P. caudatum*.

$$\frac{dN_1}{dt} = r_1 + \alpha_{11}N_1 + \alpha_{12}N_2$$

$$\frac{dN_2}{dt} = r_2 + \alpha_{22}N_2 + \alpha_{21}N_1$$

```
# load competition data
data("gause_1934_science_f02_03")
# subset out data from species grown in mixture
mixturedata <- gause_1934_science_f02_03[gause_1934_science_f02_03$Treatment ==
  "Mixture", ]
# extract time and species data
time <- mixturedata$Day
species <- data.frame(mixturedata$Volume_Species1, mixturedata$Volume_Species2)
colnames(species) <- c("P_caudatum", "P_aurelia")
# run wrapper
gause_out <- gauser::gause_wrapper(time = time, species = species)
```



```
# parameter estimates
gause_out$parameter_intervals
```

```
##           lower_sd           mu           upper_sd
## P_caudatum0 0.01033120 1.595268713 2.463299e+02
## P_aurelia0 0.08812049 1.631618399 3.021066e+01
## r1         0.34795149 1.259232133 4.557145e+00
## r2         0.47571115 1.026156214 2.213521e+00
## a11        -0.02061162 -0.005157869 -1.290709e-03
## a12        -0.02361279 -0.008000167 -2.710508e-03
## a21        -0.01100428 -0.001974871 -3.544183e-04
## a22        -0.01459709 -0.006851130 -3.215572e-03
```

A. Consider a beta or uniform distribution for Lotka-Volterra interaction coefficients.

We are slowly getting to a point where we start to think about data, AND parameters in models, not as fixed values. We instead *embrace uncertainty* and recognize that we can't be perfectly sure the exact value for parameters, so we think of them as drawn from a probability distribution. Let's shift that mindset to think about interaction coefficients α_{ii}, α_{ij} . Is there a probability distribution that can help us draw potential values for these coefficients? We will look at a uniform distribution and a beta distribution.

Read about the uniform distribution here: [Wikipedia uniform distribution](#)

Read about the beta distribution here: [Wikipedia beta distribution](#)

Use `runif` and `rbeta` to draw random values from a uniform and a beta distribution. For the uniform distribution, you need to specify the minimum and maximum value. Use `runif(1,min=0,max=1)`. For the beta distribution, you need to specify the `shape1` and `shape2` parameters. A beta distribution is scaled between 0-1. The `shape1` parameter gives information about the 'central', expected, most likely value. The `shape2` parameters gives information about the 'spread' or overall variation (the likelihood of values away from the central value). Use `rbeta(1,shape1=1,shape2=50)`

B. Draw 10,000 values from the uniform and the beta distribution, and plot a histogram for those, to visualize the distribution

```
# solution
par(mfrow = c(1, 1))
hist(runif(10000, min = 0, max = 1))
```

```
hist(rbeta(10000, shape1 = 1, shape2 = 50))
```

C. Use random value draws for Lotka-Volterra interaction coefficients, run simulation of LV competition dynamics using these values

First, use the uniform distribution - draw 1 random value for `alpha_11`, a second random value for `alpha_22`, a third random value for `alpha_12`, and a fourth random value for `alpha_21`. Use these, and the code you see below, to run a simulation of Lotka-Volterra dynamics for 2 competing species with these parameter values. You can use `r1 = 1.7`, `r2 = 1.5`, `N1_0 = 5`, `N2_0 = 3`. Plot the results of the simulation with your random parameter values.

I supply you with a discrete-time model for Lotka-Volterra competition here.

We use the following model:

$$N_{1,t+1} = N_{1,t} \cdot (r_1 e^{(-\alpha_{11} N_{1,t} - \alpha_{12} N_{2,t})})$$

$$N_{2,t+1} = N_{2,t} \cdot (r_2 e^{(-\alpha_{22} N_{2,t} - \alpha_{21} N_{1,t})})$$

```

# Parameter values to use for simulation
r_1 <- 1.7
r_2 <- 1.5
alpha_11 <- 0.01
alpha_22 <- 0.005
alpha_12 <- 0.03
alpha_21 <- 0.007
N1_0 <- 5
N2_0 <- 3
t <- 23
# model function
disc_lv <- function(r_1, r_2, N1_0, N2_0, alpha_11, alpha_22,
  alpha_12, alpha_21) {
  Nt1 <- (N1_0 * r_1)/(1 + alpha_11 * N1_0 + alpha_12 * N2_0)
  Nt2 <- (N2_0 * r_2)/(1 + alpha_22 * N2_0 + alpha_21 * N1_0)
  return(cbind(Nt1, Nt2))
}
# Simulation of model for t time steps
N <- array(NA, dim = c(t, 2), dimnames = list(NULL, c("N1", "N2")))
N[1, 1] <- N1_0
N[1, 2] <- N2_0
for (i in 2:t) {
  N[i, ] <- disc_lv(r_1, r_2, N1_0, N2_0, alpha_11, alpha_22,
    alpha_12, alpha_21)
  N1_0 <- N[i, 1]
  N2_0 <- N[i, 2]
}

```

Now, use the beta distribution for random draws for the alpha parameters - draw 1 random value for alpha_11, a second random value for alpha_22, a third random value for alpha_12, and a fourth random value for alpha_21.