TMA4315: Project 1

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Problem 1

a)

Since the response variables $y_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(\pi_i)$, where $\pi_i = \Pr(y_i = 1 \mid \boldsymbol{x}_i)$. The conditional mean is given by $E(y_i) = \pi_i$, which is connected to the covariates via the relationship

$$\boldsymbol{x}_i^T \boldsymbol{\beta} = \eta_i = \Phi^{-1}(\pi_i),$$

or equivalently $\pi_i = \Phi(\eta_i)$. This results in the likelihood function

$$L(\beta) = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \pi_i^{y_i} (1 - \pi_i)^{1 - y_i}$$
$$= \prod_{i=1}^{n} \Phi(\eta_i)^{y_i} (1 - \Phi(\eta_i))^{1 - y_i}.$$

Thus, the log-likelihood becomes

$$l(\beta) = \ln(L(\beta)) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \underbrace{y_i \ln(\Phi(\eta_i)) + (1 - y_i) \ln(1 - \Phi(\eta_i))}_{-l_i(\beta)} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} l_i(\beta).$$

To find the score function, we calculate

$$\begin{split} \frac{\partial l_i(\boldsymbol{\beta})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\beta}} &= \frac{y_i}{\Phi(\eta_i)} \frac{\partial \Phi(\eta_i)}{\partial \boldsymbol{\beta}} - \frac{1 - y_i}{1 - \Phi(\eta_i)} \frac{\partial \Phi(\eta_i)}{\partial \boldsymbol{\beta}} \\ &= \frac{y_i}{\Phi(\eta_i)} \phi(\eta_i) \boldsymbol{x}_i - \frac{1 - y_i}{1 - \Phi(\eta_i)} \phi(\eta_i) \boldsymbol{x}_i \\ &= \frac{y_i(1 - \Phi(\eta_i)) - (1 - y_i) \Phi(\eta_i)}{\Phi(\eta_i)(1 - \Phi(\eta_i))} \phi(\eta_i) \boldsymbol{x}_i \\ &= \frac{y_i - \Phi(\eta_i)}{\Phi(\eta_i)(1 - \Phi(\eta_i))} \phi(\eta_i) \boldsymbol{x}_i. \end{split}$$

Consequently, the score function is given by

$$s(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \frac{\partial l(\boldsymbol{\beta})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\beta}} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\partial l_i(\boldsymbol{\beta})}{\partial \boldsymbol{\beta}} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{y_i - \Phi(\eta_i)}{\Phi(\eta_i)(1 - \Phi(\eta_i))} \phi(\eta_i) \boldsymbol{x}_i.$$

The score function can be written on matrix form as

$$s(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = X^T D \Sigma^{-1} (\boldsymbol{y} - \boldsymbol{\mu}),$$

where X is the design matrix, $D = \operatorname{diag}(\phi(\eta_i))$, $\Sigma = \operatorname{diag}(\operatorname{Var}(y_i)) = \operatorname{diag}(\Phi(\eta_i)(1 - \Phi(\eta_i)))$ and $\mu = [\Phi(\eta_1) \cdots \Phi(\eta_n)]^T$. Next, we find the expected Fisher information, $F(\beta)$. We find it by using the result

$$F(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \operatorname{Var}(\boldsymbol{s}(\boldsymbol{\beta})) = \operatorname{Var}\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{y_{i} - \Phi(\eta_{i})}{\Phi(\eta_{i})(1 - \Phi(\eta_{i}))} \phi(\eta_{i}) \boldsymbol{x}_{i}\right)$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left[\frac{\phi(\eta_{i})}{\Phi(\eta_{i})(1 - \Phi(\eta_{i}))}\right]^{2} \operatorname{Var}(y_{i} \boldsymbol{x}_{i}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left[\frac{\phi(\eta_{i})}{\Phi(\eta_{i})(1 - \Phi(\eta_{i}))}\right]^{2} \boldsymbol{x}_{i} \operatorname{Var}(y_{i}) \boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{T}$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left[\frac{\phi(\eta_{i})}{\Phi(\eta_{i})(1 - \Phi(\eta_{i}))}\right]^{2} \pi_{i}(1 - \pi_{i}) \boldsymbol{x}_{i} \boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{T} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\phi(\eta_{i})^{2}}{\Phi(\eta_{i})(1 - \Phi(\eta_{i}))} \boldsymbol{x}_{i} \boldsymbol{x}_{i}^{T},$$

where in the third equality we have used that the y_i 's are independent. The expected Fisher information can also be verified to have this form by the general relationship

$$F(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{h'(\eta_i)^2}{\operatorname{Var}(y_i)} \boldsymbol{x}_i \boldsymbol{x}_i^T,$$

where $h'(\eta_i) = \Phi'(\eta_i) = \phi(\eta_i)$ and $Var(y_i) = \pi_i(1 - \pi_i) = \Phi(\eta_i)(1 - \Phi(\eta_i))$. We also note that the expected Fisher information can be written on matrix form as

$$F(\boldsymbol{\beta}) = X^T W X,$$

where $W = \operatorname{diag}\left(\frac{\phi(\eta_i)^2}{\Phi(\eta_i)(1-\Phi(\eta_i))}\right)$.

b)

The Fisher scoring algorithm is given by

$$\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(t+1)} = \boldsymbol{\beta}^{(t)} + F(\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(t)})^{-1} s(\boldsymbol{\beta}^{(t)}).$$

The deviance is defined as

$$D = 2(l_{\text{saturated}} - l(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})),$$

where the saturated model is a model with as many explanatory variables as there are observations. This implies that we can fit a parameter for each data point. For the Bernoulli distribution this parameter is $\hat{\pi}_i = y_i$. This means that the likelihood function of the saturated model is given by

$$L_{\text{saturated}} = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \hat{\pi}_{i}^{y_{i}} (1 - \hat{\pi}_{i})^{1 - y_{i}} = \prod_{i=1}^{n} y_{i}^{y_{i}} (1 + y_{i})^{1 - y_{i}} = 1,$$

Where we have used $0^0 = 1$. Consequently, the log-likelihood $l_{\text{saturated}} = \ln(1) = 0$ and the deviance becomes $D = -2l(\hat{\beta})$. Next follows the implementation of myglm in R:

```
Phi <- function(x) return (pnorm(x))
phi <- function(x) return (dnorm(x))</pre>
myglm <- function(formula, data, start = NULL){</pre>
  # response variable
  resp <- all.vars(formula)[1]</pre>
  y <- as.matrix( data[resp] )</pre>
  # model matrix
  X <- model.matrix(formula, data)</pre>
  n \leftarrow dim(X)[1]
  p <- dim(X)[2]
  # starting beta
  if (is.null(start)){
    beta = rep(0, p)
  else {
    beta = start
  # Fisher scoring algorithm
  max_iter <- 50</pre>
  tol <- 1e-10
  iter <- 0
  rel.err <- Inf
  F.inv = NULL
  eta = NULL
  while (rel.err > tol & iter < max_iter){</pre>
    # Calculate eta.
    eta <- X %*% beta
    # Calculate score.
    D <- diag(as.vector(phi(eta)), n, n)</pre>
    Sigma <- diag(as.vector(Phi(eta)*(1 - Phi(eta))), n, n)
    mu.vec <- as.vector(Phi(eta))</pre>
    score = t(X) %*% D %*% solve(Sigma) %*% (y - mu.vec)
    # Calculate Fisher information and its inverse.
    W <- diag(as.vector(phi(eta)^2 / (Phi(eta)*(1-Phi(eta)))), n, n)
    F <- t(X) %*% W %*% X
    F.inv <- solve(F)
    # Update beta.
    beta.new <- beta + F.inv %*% score
    iter <- iter + 1
    rel.err <- max(abs(beta.new - beta) / abs(beta.new))</pre>
    beta <- beta.new
  }
```

c)

To test that our implementation of myglm works, we will simulate 1000 Bernoulli draws, each with a random probability $\Phi(x_i)$, where we simulate the x_i 's from a uniform distribution. Then the response can be written as $y_i \sim \text{Bernoulli}(\Phi(x_i))$. First we create the data set in R:

```
# simulate covariates.
x = runif(1000, 0, 1)

# draw n Bernoulli with prob Phi(x)
y <- rbinom(1000, 1, pnorm(x))
df <- data.frame(y, x)</pre>
```

Next, we fit a model using myglm and print the betas, standard error, variance covariance matix and the deviance:

```
deviance:
### fit using myglm
mymodel <- myglm(y ~ x, data = df)</pre>
# beta and SE
mymodel$coefficients
                  Estimate Std.Error
## (Intercept) 0.08817264 0.08193569
## x
                0.76322132 0.14504255
# υςου
mymodel$vcov
##
                 (Intercept)
## (Intercept) 0.006713457 -0.01023613
## x
                -0.010236129 0.02103734
# deviance
mymodel$deviance
## [1] 1227.189
Now we can compare these results to the inbuilt 'glm' function:
### fit using glm
```

```
model <- glm(y ~ x, family = binomial(link = "probit"), data = df)

# beta and SE
s <- summary(model)
s$coefficients[1:2,1:2]</pre>
```

```
## Estimate Std. Error
## (Intercept) 0.08817264 0.08193568
```

deviance

model\$deviance

[1] 1227.189

We see that our implementation gives the same numerical values.

Problem 2

a)

```
#install.packages("ISwR")
library(ISwR) # Install the package if needed
data(juul)
juul$menarche <- juul$menarche - 1</pre>
juul.girl <- subset(juul, age>8 & age<20 & complete.cases(menarche))</pre>
mod.probit <- glm(menarche ~ age, family=binomial(link="probit"), data= juul.girl)</pre>
anova(mod.probit, test = "Chisq")
## Analysis of Deviance Table
##
## Model: binomial, link: probit
## Response: menarche
##
## Terms added sequentially (first to last)
##
##
##
        Df Deviance Resid. Df Resid. Dev Pr(>Chi)
                           518
## NULL
                                   197.39 < 2.2e-16 ***
## age
         1
                522
                           517
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
```

The low p-value suggests that age has an effect on the response variable.

b)

Relating to the juul data set, we define for each observation/individual

$$y_i = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if menarche has occured.} \\ 0, & \text{if menarche has not occured.} \end{cases}$$

and t_i as the age at the time of examination, which corresponds to age in the data set. Let $T_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$, where T_i is the time until menarche occurs for the *i*'th individual. Furthermore, let

$$\pi_i := P(y_i = 1) = P(T_i \le t_i)$$

$$= P\left(\frac{T_i - \mu}{\sigma} \le \frac{t_i - \mu}{\sigma}\right) = \Phi\left(\frac{t_i - \mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

This, in turn, gives

$$\Phi^{-1}(\pi_i) = -\frac{\mu}{\sigma} + \frac{1}{\sigma}t_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 t_i,$$

where $\beta_0 = -\mu/\sigma$ and $\beta_1 = 1/\sigma$. Or equivalently:

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{\beta_1}, \quad \mu = -\frac{\beta_0}{\beta_1}.$$

Due to the functional invariance of the maximum likelihood estimator, we can write the MLEs of σ and μ as

$$\hat{\sigma}(\hat{\beta}_1) = \frac{1}{\hat{\beta}_1}, \quad \hat{\mu}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1) = -\frac{\hat{\beta}_0}{\hat{\beta}_1},$$

where $\hat{\beta}_0$ and $\hat{\beta}_1$ denote the MLEs of β_0 and β_1 , respectively. Thus, the maximum likelihood estimates for this data set can be computed as in the code below.

```
mod.probit <- glm(menarche ~ age, family = binomial(link = 'probit'), data = juul.girl)
b <- mod.probit$coefficients
mle.mu <- -b[1]/b[2]
mle.sigma <- 1/b[2]</pre>
```

That is, $\hat{\mu} = 13.1856339$ and $\hat{\sigma} = 1.1596528$. The standard errors (estimates of the standard deviation) of $\hat{\mu}$ and $\hat{\sigma}$ can then be computed using the delta method. A first order Taylor expansion of $\hat{\mu}$ gives

$$\hat{\mu} \approx \hat{\mu}(\boldsymbol{b}) + \nabla \hat{\mu}(\boldsymbol{b})^T (\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \boldsymbol{b}),$$

where we have used the notation $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = (\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{\beta}_1)^T$ and expanded around $\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = \boldsymbol{b} = (b_0, b_1)^T$. Next, we take the variance of this linear approximation, such that

$$Var(\hat{\mu}) \approx Var\left(\nabla \hat{\mu}(\boldsymbol{b})^T \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}\right)$$
$$= \nabla \hat{\mu}(\boldsymbol{b})^T Var(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) \nabla \hat{\mu}(\boldsymbol{b}).$$

Using $\nabla \hat{\mu} = (-1/\hat{\beta}_1, \hat{\beta}_0/\hat{\beta}_1^2)^T$, we can calculate the standard error as in the code below:

```
mod.probit <- glm(menarche ~ age, family = binomial(link = 'probit'), data = juul.girl)
b <- mod.probit$coefficients
grad.mu <- c(-1/b[2], b[1]/b[2]^2)
se.mu <- t(grad.mu) %*% vcov(mod.probit) %*% grad.mu
se.mu</pre>
```

```
## [,1]
## [1,] 0.01404909
```

That is, $SE(\hat{\mu}) = 0.0140491$. We follow the same procedure to estimate the standard error of $\hat{\sigma}$. First, we approximate it by a first order Taylor series expansion:

$$\hat{\sigma} \approx \hat{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{b}) + \nabla \hat{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{b})^T (\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} - \boldsymbol{b}),$$

which implies that the variance can be approximated as

$$Var(\hat{\sigma}) \approx Var\left(\nabla \hat{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{b})^T \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}\right)$$
$$= \nabla \hat{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{b})^T Var(\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}) \nabla \hat{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{b}).$$

Using that $\nabla \hat{\sigma} = (0, -1/\beta_1^2)^T$, we calculate the standard error as in the code below.

```
grad.sigma <- c(0, -1/b[2]^2)
se.sigma <- t(grad.sigma) %*% vcov(mod.probit) %*% grad.sigma
se.sigma</pre>
```

```
## [,1]
## [1,] 0.01188363
```

That is, $SE(\hat{\sigma}) = 0.0118836$.

 $\mathbf{c})$

We fit the desired model in R:

```
mod.logit <- glm(menarche ~ age, family = binomial(link = 'logit'), data = juul.girl)
mod.logit$coefficients</pre>
```

```
## (Intercept) age
## -20.013212 1.517289
```

To find the distribution of the T_i 's, we start with the cumulative distribution:

$$\Pr(T_i \le t_i) = \Pr(y_i = 1 \mid t_i) = \pi_i = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\eta_i}}.$$

The pdf of T_i is then given as

$$f_{T_i}(t_i) = \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t_i} \left(\frac{1}{1 + e^{-\eta_i}} \right) = \frac{\beta_1 e^{-\beta_0 - \beta_1 t_i}}{(1 + e^{-\beta_0 - \beta_1 t_i})^2}$$

$$= \frac{e^{-(t_i - (-\beta_0/\beta_1))/(1/\beta_1)}}{1/\beta_1 (1 + e^{-(t_i - (-\beta_0/\beta_1))/(1/\beta_1)})^2} = \frac{e^{-(t_i - \mu)/s}}{s(1 + e^{-(t_i - \mu)/s})^2}.$$

This is the logistic distribution, with parameters $\mu = -\beta_0/\beta_1$ and $s = 1/\beta_1$, where we have used the parametrization from Wikipedia. We compute estimates of the mean and variance from the estimates of β_0 and β_1 , which are given in the code output above. We then estimate the mean, given by $E(T_i) = -\beta_0/\beta_1 \approx 13.1901147$. Next, we estimate the standard deviation, given by $\sqrt{\text{Var}(T_i)} = s\pi/\sqrt{3} = \pi/(\sqrt{3}\beta_1) \approx 1.1954214$.

 \mathbf{d}

We now assume that the latent ages follow a log-normal distribution, i.e.

$$T_i \sim \text{Lognormal}(\mu, \sigma^2).$$

This is equivalent to stating that $\ln T_i \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$. Now we can follow the same approach as in 2b):

$$\pi_i := \Pr(y_i = 1) = \Pr(T_i \le t_i) = \Pr(\ln T_i \le \ln t_i)$$
$$= \Pr\left(\frac{\ln T_i - \mu}{\sigma} \le \frac{\ln t_i - \mu}{\sigma}\right) = \Phi\left(\frac{\ln t_i - \mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

This, in turn, gives

$$\Phi^{-1}(\pi_i) = -\frac{\mu}{\sigma} + \frac{1}{\sigma} \ln t_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln t_i,$$

where $\beta_0 = -\mu/\sigma$ and $\beta_1 = 1/\sigma$. Consequently, we fit GLM with a probit link-function on $\ln t_i$:

```
mod.lognorm <- glm(menarche ~log(age), family = binomial(link = "probit"), data = juul.girl)
mu.hat <- -mod.lognorm$coefficients[1]/mod.lognorm$coefficients[2]
sigma.hat <- 1/mod.lognorm$coefficients[2]
summary(mod.lognorm)</pre>
```

```
##
## Call:
  glm(formula = menarche ~ log(age), family = binomial(link = "probit"),
       data = juul.girl)
##
##
## Deviance Residuals:
##
                   10
                         Median
                                       30
                                                Max
  -2.28617 -0.11683
                        0.00315
##
                                  0.10715
                                            2.54738
##
##
  Coefficients:
               Estimate Std. Error z value Pr(>|z|)
## (Intercept) -29.060
                             2.704 -10.75
## log(age)
                 11.287
                             1.049
                                     10.76
## Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
  (Dispersion parameter for binomial family taken to be 1)
##
##
##
       Null deviance: 719.39 on 518 degrees of freedom
## Residual deviance: 198.05 on 517 degrees of freedom
## AIC: 202.05
## Number of Fisher Scoring iterations: 8
```

Exactly as in 2b), due to the functional invariance of MLEs, we can estimate the mean of T_i as

$$\exp\left(\hat{\mu} + \frac{\hat{\sigma}^2}{2}\right) = 13.1797035,$$

and we can estimate the standard deviation as

$$\sqrt{\left[\exp(\hat{\sigma}^2) - 1\right] \exp(2\hat{\mu} + \hat{\sigma}^2)} = 1.1700147.$$

The formulas for mean and standard deviation of the log-normal distribution are gathered from Wikipedia.

 $\mathbf{e})$

The cloglog link function is given by

$$g(\pi) = \operatorname{cloglog}(\pi) = \ln(-\ln(1-\pi)).$$

Since our model is assumed to have the form menarche ~ log(age) with the cloglog link, η becomes

$$\eta = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln(t)$$

where t is age. Thus the probability that menarche has occurred is given as

$$\pi = g^{-1}(\eta) = 1 - e^{-e^{\eta}} = 1 - e^{-e^{\beta_0 + \beta_1 \ln t}} = 1 - e^{-(e^{\beta_0} t^{\beta_1})},$$

where it was used that $e^{\beta_1 \ln t} = t^{\beta_1}$. Using that π is the cumulative distribution function of T, i.e. $\Pr(T \le t) = \pi$, it follows that the distribution of T is given by

$$T \sim \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \pi = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(1 - e^{-(e^{\beta_0} t^{\beta_1})} \right) = \beta_1 e^{\beta_0} t^{\beta_1 - 1} e^{-(e^{\beta_0} t^{\beta_1})}.$$

Recall that the probability density function of a Weibull distribution is given by

Weibull
$$(x; \lambda, k) = \frac{k}{\lambda} \left(\frac{x}{\lambda}\right)^{k-1} e^{-(x/\lambda)^k}$$

where k is the shape parameter and λ is the scale parameter. If $k = \beta_1$ and $\lambda = e^{-\frac{\beta_0}{\beta_1}}$, then

Weibull
$$\left(t; e^{-\frac{\beta_0}{\beta_1}}, \beta_1\right) = \frac{\beta_1}{e^{-\frac{\beta_0}{\beta_1}}} \left(\frac{x}{e^{-\frac{\beta_0}{\beta_1}}}\right)^{\beta_1 - 1} e^{-\left(t e^{\frac{\beta_0}{\beta_1}}\right)^{\beta_1}}$$

= $\beta_1 e^{\beta_0} t^{\beta_1 - 1} e^{-(e^{\beta_0} t^{\beta_1})},$

which shows that $T \sim \text{Weibull}\left(t; e^{-\frac{\beta_0}{\beta_1}}, \beta_1\right)$. The shape and scale parameters are given as

$$k = \beta_1, \qquad \lambda = e^{-\beta_0/\beta_1}.$$

Due to the functional invariance of the maximum likelihood estimator, we can write the MLEs of k and λ as

$$\hat{k} = \hat{\beta_1}, \qquad \hat{\lambda} = e^{-\hat{\beta_0}/\hat{\beta_1}}.$$

Fitting the appropriate model in R and finding the estimate for the shape and scale parameter:

```
mod.cloglog <- glm(menarche ~ log(age), family = binomial(link = 'cloglog'), data = juul.girl)</pre>
```

```
## Warning: glm.fit: fitted probabilities numerically 0 or 1 occurred
```

```
beta0 <- mod.cloglog$coefficients[1]
beta1 <- mod.cloglog$coefficients[2]

k <- beta1
lam <- exp(-beta0/beta1)
k</pre>
```

log(age) ## 13.57193

lam

(Intercept) ## 13.71689

The estimated values for the shape parameter is k = 13.572 and the scale parameter is $\lambda = 13.717$.

If $W \sim \text{Weibull}(x; \lambda, k)$, the mean and variance of W are given as

$$E[W] = \lambda \Gamma\left(1 + \frac{1}{k}\right), \quad Var[W] = \lambda^2 \left(\Gamma\left(1 + \frac{2}{k}\right) - \Gamma^2\left(1 + \frac{1}{k}\right)\right),$$

where Γ is the gamma function. In R, we get

```
mu <- lam * gamma(1+1/k)
SE <- lam * sqrt( gamma(1+2/k) - gamma(1+1/k)^2 )
mu
```

(Intercept) ## 13.20256 SE

```
## (Intercept)
## 1.188294
```

The mean is 13.20 and the standard error is 1.19.

f)

First, a short summary of the different models:

- (a) probit link, $T \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$
- (b) logit link, $T \sim \text{Logistic}(\mu, s)$
- (d) probit link, $T \sim \text{Lognormal}(\mu, \sigma^2)$
- (e) cloglog link, $T \sim \text{Weibull}(\lambda, k)$

The first model (a) is perhaps the most intuitive, as we know that the normal distribution seemingly arises in countless situations in nature. It may also be the simplest model to implement and interpret/explain to people from other disciplines. Model (b) is also a natural choice, as it constitutes a standard logistic regression. However, both model (a) and (b) allows a small probability that the age, T, is negative, which could be disconcerting. Models (d) and (e) remedy this problem, since the log-normal and Weibull distribution only have a non-zero pdf for positive values. These models also allow for a skewed distribution which could more reasonable depending on the distribution of the sample.